

The Apopka Chief

A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS
PUBLICATION

Friday, January 30, 2026 / FREE

Commission dismisses complaint against Nesta



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Commissioner Nick Nesta
Resident claimed
conflict of interest

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Florida Commission on Ethics has dismissed a complaint against City Commissioner Nick Nesta, finding the allegations legally insufficient to warrant a full investigation.

The complaint, filed by Apopka resident Dale Lind, centered on Nesta's advocacy for city funding of a local nonprofit, Main Street Apopka, and its then-executive director, Caitlin Kasheta.

The commission released its decision Wednesday, following an executive session held Jan. 23. In its public report, the commission clarified that its review was limited to the legal sufficiency of the complaint and did not involve a factual investigation into the accuracy of the allegations.

The complaint alleged that Nesta advocated for the city to provide funding to Main Street Apopka, a local nonprofit organization. Specifically, it cites a 2025 allocation of \$50,000 the City Council awarded to the organization.

Lind said Nesta's support for the funding constituted a conflict of interest, particularly given his vocal advocacy for the group in city workshops and meetings.

"The complaint claims [Nesta] — who is a real estate broker — was advocating that the funding be included in the budget in exchange for the private op-

DISMISSAL, A7

Mayoral debate moves to Apopka High

Public demand
surpasses
expectations

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The venue for the Tuesday Apopka mayoral debate has moved from Highland Manor to the Apopka High School Performing Arts Center after tickets sold out quickly on Jan. 22 amid higher-than-expected public demand.

Organizers announced the change on Jan. 23, saying



Courtesy of WESH 2

Greg Fox

the original location could not accommodate the large number of residents who wanted to attend. The debate will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m., with doors opening at 5 p.m.

Whereas registration for Highland Manor was limited to 100 people, the Apopka High School Performing Arts Center can seat more than 800, opening the door for hundreds more to attend in person.

On Wednesday, RSVPs surpassed the 500 mark. To reserve tickets, visit tinyurl.com/3bnu5pj or search "Apopka mayoral debate" on the Eventbrite website.

The debate is a partnership between The Apopka Chief and WESH 2 News and is free and open to the public, though tickets are

required for entry. WESH 2 will also livestream the event for those who cannot attend.

"We were shocked to see how quickly the tickets went, but running out of space is a good thing: It shows this community cares," said Apopka Chief publisher J.C. Derrick. "We are grateful to Apopka High School for agreeing to host the debate in a venue with ample space for everyone who would like to attend."

All three candidates in

MAYORAL DEBATE, A4

Shelters open amid frigid temperatures

City working with local churches

Staff Reports

The city of Apopka is working with local churches and faith-based volunteers to operate cold weather shelters through at least Sunday to help residents as unusually cold temperatures continue to blanket Central Florida.

A hot meal — dinner and breakfast — will be served, but pets are not allowed at the shelter.

Although these cold shelters will be open through the weekend, forecasters project lows will dip well into the 20s through at least next Tuesday. As of press time Thursday, the city and Orange County had not responded to questions about whether they intend to extend cold shelter operations as frigid temperatures continue.

Orange County-operated shelters, which are listed at www.orangecountyfl.net, were scheduled to remain open through Feb. 2.

Below are the city of Apopka shelter times, dates and places:

• 6 p.m. — 7 a.m., Friday, Jan. 30

One Family Church (First Presbyterian Church of Apopka), 500 S. Highland Ave., Apopka

• 6:30 p.m. — 7 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 31

First Methodist Church Apopka, 201 S. Park Ave., Apopka

• 6:30 p.m. — 7 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 1

First Methodist Church Apopka, 201 S. Park Ave., Apopka



Photo by Teresa Sargeant
First Methodist Church Apopka will be one of the cold shelter locations this week.

APOPKA ELECTION 2026:

Voter registration deadline: Monday, Feb. 9

Early voting dates: Monday, Feb. 23 through Sunday, March 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Election Day: March 10, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

What's on the ballot: Mayor; City Council seats 1, 2 and 4; eight city charter amendments

Mayoral candidates talk personal background, experience

Candidates to square off in Tuesday debate

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Apopka voters will go to the polls to elect the next mayor in just over five weeks. Ahead of Tuesday's mayoral candidate debate, which will focus on the issues, the three candidates completed an Apopka Chief questionnaire to help set a baseline for the event.

Orange County Com-

missioner Christine Moore, incumbent Mayor Bryan Nelson and Apopka City Commissioner Nick Nesta responded to questions about their backgrounds, experience in public office, and the issues they believe are most important to Apopka's future. Their answers are included in full below — appearing in alphabetical order.

The municipal election, which also includes three City Council seats and eight charter amendments, is scheduled for March 10, with a potential runoff on April 14.

Christine Moore, Orange County District 2 commissioner

What is your non-political occupation?

Professional flautist, music teacher, and aspiring historian

What elected office positions have you held?

Orange County School Board — 2008-2018

As an OCPS School Board Member, I set policy, established the district's vision and goals, approved budgets and audits, shaped curriculum, and promoted student achievement. My



Courtesy of Christine Moore

Commissioner Christine Moore

peers elected me to the Florida School Boards' Association for strategic planning

and leadership. Further, I led the OCPS Communications Committee for eight years to embrace school choice, increase student access to technology, and promote art and athletics.

Orange County Commissioner — 2018-present

As Commissioner, I helped update ordinances, approved balanced budgets, managed growth, and supported county operations. My peers elected me vice mayor and board member of the Florida Association of

CANDIDATES, A6

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Opinion

The Apopka Chief

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Don't like the Super Bowl halftime show? Ignore it

"Nyaah, what's up Doc?"

If you are old enough to recognize that reference, there's a good chance that up until recently, the only Bad Bunny you had ever heard of was Bugs. And now we've got one at the heart of a heated controversy and an internet hissy fit.

That makes it official. We will fight over anything.

The latest "line in the sand" has been drawn between those who do and those who don't want a Puerto Rican rap singer who calls himself Bad Bunny performing at the Super Bowl. It is slightly political because of bandwagon jumping, but it is mostly cultural and demographic.

And for the most part silly.

I went to a Super Bowl once, and from what I saw, even the people in the stadium don't really watch the halftime show. You have to skip something if you want to use the restroom, and most opt to pass up that middle portion when nobody is playing football.

And almost everybody who is hollering about this will be watching on a TV that has a mute button and choice of 200 other channels. I don't know whether to admire or pity people who can care this much about something they don't have to watch.

To get an idea of what was going on, I Googled a video of Bad Bunny in action. I was neither impressed nor shocked. He looks and sounds like a whole bunch of other wildly popular entertainers that I had never heard of until they became controversial. The closest thing to a difference was that he performs exclusively in Spanish, and I listen exclusively in English.

It was clear, however, that whoever picked this show did not take into account the musical tastes of a lot of people who might be expected to tune in for the football.

But why the kerfuffle? Super Bowl

Columnist



Jake Vest

entertainment nominees don't have to be approved by the Senate. Once selected, there is no policy in place for impeachment. They're like federal judges. We're just stuck with them.

The only part of this that riled me up was NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell acting like this

was reasonable and impartial and saying "you can't please everybody."

Fair enough, but when is it OUR turn?

Last year, as you may recall, the Super show was an angry young man squatting on a car hood, then strutting around hollering angrily among people dancing weirdly. That fandango of freakishness came on the heels of the almost naked blue man at the opening ceremony for the Paris Olympics, a sacrilegious romp that managed to be simultaneously offensive and incomprehensible.

Now Bad Bunny? This is impartial? Shouldn't it be time for Perry Como or Up With People doing show tunes?

Of course, that would only create a mirror image controversy and make the other side mad, and you haven't gained anything when you just trade out who is shaking fists and venting.

What's called for here is a spirit of compromise, and I have one.

Let Bad Bunny do his thing for a while, then for us old folks, you could have somebody dressed like Elmer Fudd interrupt the show. He could run in yelling, "I'll get you now, you was-cally wabbit" and chase Mr. Bunny off the stage. Then George Strait could come in and sing a few songs backed up by the Marine Corps Band.

It wouldn't please everybody, but it would add some diversity to the displeasure and spread it around more evenly.

And as a bonus, the hip and trendy people would finally get their chance to use the restroom.

About The Apopka Chief

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879 (USPS545-440). The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Mainstreet Daily News from 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. Phone 407-886-2777.

The Apopka Chief is an award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. Email news tips to news@theapopkachief.com.

Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged, but they should be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapopkachief.com



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School board enjoys delicious visit to Wekiva High School

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

Anyone who knows me knows that I am extremely proud of the Wekiva High School Culinary Magnet program. I never miss an opportunity to brag about this program and all it has accomplished in the five short years since it became a full magnet program.

From state and national awards to millions of dollars in grant funding and student scholarships, to say this program is a success is an understatement. Helping this program first become a magnet and then thrive has been a highlight of my time on the board.

So when the program director, Chef Christopher Bates, came to me and suggested we host the school board at the school to show the impressive facilities we have worked so hard to build, I jumped at the opportunity.

Last week, the plan came to fruition when the entire school board, the superintendent and her cabinet all came out to Wekiva to spend the day meeting and, of

course, enjoying an amazing lunch cooked by our Culinary students.

The experience began with the JROTC students greeting guests in the parking lot and escorting them to the media center, where the meetings were being held. The students were professional as well as personable. Every visitor was very impressed with the attention to detail, respect and leadership shown by these future leaders.

The culinary students continued this professionalism in the kitchen, where they set up cook-

ing stations demonstrating their industry-ready skills while preparing several dishes that rivaled the best restaurants in town. Our OCPS leadership team was very impressed with not only the delicious food, but also the conversations they had with students.

Many of these students have been introduced to a career that they didn't know they would love, and nearly every student has plans to pursue a career in the culinary or hospitality industry upon graduation. Their passion for their art was palpable in each interaction and an absolute joy to witness.

The entire day was fantastic, and the overall environment at Wekiva High School was a delight. We experienced a beautiful school filled with happy faces and positive spirits. Under the direction of the new principal, Anthony Russell, the school is thriving, and I'm so grateful I was able to share it with the leadership at OCPS.

The year was about 1984, and I was a cast member in a church Christmas play in Henderson, Kentucky. My role was the town drunk — but that's a story for another time.

In this play, there was an absolutely hilarious scene with a hard-nosed, wealthy businessman in the southside of Chicago — who was known to be gruff, demanding, and one who belittled his poor staff in his house — especially the butler, who seemingly was always apologizing.

During one of those conversations, the head of the house was railing out the butler, who repeatedly said, "I'm sorry."

Finally, the tycoon shouted, "Stop saying you're sorry!"

With perfect timing and a stoic face, the butler replied, "I'm sorry for being sorry." The crowd roared in laughter, and the whole scene was incredibly memorable.

Sadly, our culture today really doesn't understand the heart and meaning of the saying, "I'm sorry." I have often heard someone attempt to be apologetic as they uttered the expression, "Well, if you feel that I've offended you, I'm sorry."

Now, that is NOT the heart of either a sincere apology or of an admission to any guilt in

their actions. That saying does not express anything of true contrition, or of the sorrow that is the root of the phrase, I'm sorry."

It actually puts the responsibility on the offended party, with the insinuation that they "felt" offended — while the person who caused the offense in the beginning never admits to any wrongdoing.

The Bible is not vague at all when it comes to this subject. It teaches us that we are indeed guilty. Guilty of being sinful, something into which we are born, thanks to the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden.

Their sin was so great that it was imputed into every man and woman who ever lived afterwards — we were born in sin. And in our guilt, we should sense sorrow for our actions before God.

The good news of the Gospel

was, and still is, the only thing

that could reverse our direction, the only way we could ever see a change in our lives, both here and in eternity.

This state of separation from God that we were in, prior to our hearing and responding to the Gospel, is described in the Bible this way: "For if we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:10).

Jesus was and is our answer, and in the beginning of His public ministry, His first declaration to us began with "Repent..." (Matthew 4:17).

The Greek for this word is "metanoia" — it means a change of direction. Think of it like this: You were walking one direction, then you repent and turn 180 degrees to walk in a new direction. The opposite direction.

And it also carries the understanding of sorrow. Not just a fleeting moment of wishing we hadn't done or said something that we now regret. Instead, repentance carries the understanding of "godly sorrow."

It brings to us a deep conviction over our wrong actions. A state of unmistakable awareness that we were guilty. It gives us a clear call to make a turnaround in the way we live.

FBI: Florida on “front line” of elder fraud following 18-year conviction

Courier overstayed student visa, scammed \$15 million

By Seth Johnson
Mainstreet Daily News

Neither the Secret Service nor the FBI accepts gold as payment. In fact, if anyone asks you to pay in gold or cryptocurrency, you should probably contact local law enforcement and tell them you’re involved in a scam.

Florida is already on the front lines as a top three state for number of fraud reports and total losses because of these schemes, according to FBI Jacksonville Special Agent in Charge Jason Carley.

Carley and top officials from IRS-Criminal Investigations and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Florida met Monday in Gainesville to announce the successful conviction and sentencing of Atharva Shailesh Sathawane.

Sathawane, 23, was arrested in a sting by the Gainesville Police Department in early 2025. Following a successful conviction in October 2025, he’s now been sentenced to 18 years in federal prison on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and



Photo by Seth Johnson

Brian Oliver lost \$200,000 in a fraud scheme.

to commit money laundering. Trial documents said he helped defraud at least 28 victims of \$15 million.

“This man did not just steal money, he targeted trust, exploited fear and preyed on our most vulnerable members of our community, eroding the sense of security they had,” Carley said. “But cases like this are just a piece of a bigger problem that is widespread, and Florida is on the front line.”

Sathawane was a courier, and according to trial evidence, he drove across the East Coast to collect fraud payments in cash and gold, nicknamed “gold rushes” by him and his conspirators. But officials said Sathawane pri-



Courtesy U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Florida

Atharva Shailesh Sathawane collected gold and cash from elderly victims.

marily operated in Florida, with victims in Jacksonville, Boca Raton, Coral Gables and Gainesville.

When arrested, Sathawane was residing in South Florida illegally after overstaying his student visa. He’s from India and officials said the international scheme included orchestrators in India and multiple domestic couriers.

Sathawane was arrested in a sting operation at a condo in Gainesville. The arrest came after Brian Oliver, 84, gave Sathawane a cardboard box with 68 gold coins worth \$200,000. Oliver realized afterward that it had been a fraud and contacted the local police who set up a trap.

Oliver spoke with Main-

street Daily News, a sister publication of The Apopka Chief, after the conviction about how he got embroiled in the scam.

U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida John Heekin said Oliver took the right steps instead of trying to confront or reach out to the scammers.

“He helped turn the hunters into the hunted, and we were able to catch Sathawane in the act and ultimately secure his conviction of these crimes,” Heekin said.

None of the cash or gold taken by Sathawane was recovered, and Heekin said as soon as couriers pick up the money, it changes hands, gets laundered and is lost.

Gainesville Police Chief Nelson Moya thanked the partner agencies and his staff who worked to bring the case to completion nearly one year after the arrest.

“Fraud complaints come into our office daily,” Moya said. “We do our best to triage them. In this case, we knew right away that this was something that needed our immediate attention.”

But the FBI’s Carley said fraud cases are already trending higher in Florida compared with last year, with double the number of complaints so far. In total, the FBI received fraud reports that totaled \$16 billion in 2025.

Carley said government agencies will never call with threats of arrest or fines. He said fraudsters can sound like the real deal, but government agencies will never require gold, cash, gift cards or cryptocurrency payments or meet in person for the exchange.

“If something feels off or seems too good to be true, it is,” Carley said. “Don’t believe it. I want people to be suspicious when they get these types of calls. Resist the pressure to act quickly.”

IRS-Criminal Investigations Special Agent in Charge Ronald Loecker addressed the family and friends of elder-

ly adults. He said you should speak with loved ones about scams and plan a response before the phone rings with a fraudster on the other end.

His advice: just hang up. He said that simple message and action will send the fraudster down the road looking for another victim and save your loved one hundreds, thousands or millions of dollars.

Loecker also had a message for scammers working in the state. Florida has built an outstanding investigative team and coalition of agencies to work on the fraud cases.

“We have an outstanding investigative team here in Florida,” Loecker said. “Our partnerships from the state, local and federal law enforcement are going to work tirelessly to put you in jail for the crimes you commit. Do not think that your minor role in simply being a courier gives you a free pass. You’re going to end up in jail.”

Oliver, the Gainesville victim, also spoke. He emphasized using your local law enforcement agency to double check claims sent by phone or email.

“If this information gets out into the public, we’re not going to be able to stop it, but perhaps, just maybe, we can slow it down a little bit,” Oliver said.

Council approves second reading of Paulucci Acres rezoning

Development is for northwest Apopka

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Council unanimously approved the second reading of a major rezoning request on Jan. 21, making way for a 618-acre planned development east of Vick Road in the northwest region of the city.

The ordinance rezones property owned by Paulucci Acres LLC from Transitional/RSF-1 and Mixed Use East Shore Gateway to a Planned

Development (PD) district.

The site is located east of Vick Road and Jason Dwellley Parkway, north and south of Ponkan Road, south and east of Pittman Road and east of Ponkan Summit Drive.

During public comment, Rod Olsen, a resident of Rock Springs Ridge, raised concerns about traffic impacts along Ponkan Road and connections to Vick Road and Jason Dwellley Parkway.

Responding on behalf of the applicant, Elesa Sowell of Shutts and Bowen outlined a package of improvements along Ponkan Road within

the project’s frontage, including a roundabout, street lighting, a trail and right-of-way dedications.

She clarified that these upgrades would extend from just east of Vick Road all the way to Jason Dwellley, on both sides of Ponkan Road, where the property is adjacent.

After that explanation, Olsen said that the project could add roughly 2,500 cars to an already burdened network and therefore create a situation similar to Jason Dwellley, where traffic flows from a “nice wide area” and

a roundabout back into a two-lane road.

“They go back to two lane road,” he said. “This is crazy.”

On Jan. 7, the City Council approved the first reading of the Paulucci Acres rezoning.

The rezoning means that Paulucci Acres is poised to go from the 1990s-era entitlements that could allow up to 1,829 homes and 6.3 million square feet of commercial/mixed-use to a total of 1,034 residential units — 876 single-family detached homes and 158



Courtesy of city of Apopka

Paulucci Acres, outlined in red, is proposed as a 618-acre property comprised of over 1,000 homes located east of Vick Road and north of Ponkan Road.

townhomes — according to Howell at the City Council on Jan. 7.

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Council approves \$32K in grants for nonprofits

Seven groups applied in October 2025, all approved

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Council unanimously approved a second round of nonprofit grants for fiscal year 2026, awarding \$32,000 to seven local organizations that serve youth, seniors and at-risk residents.

The funding recommendations came from the city's Nonprofit Grant Program Selection Committee, which met Jan. 8 to score applications submitted during the first FY26 grant window. Seven groups applied in the window that opened Oct. 1 and closed Oct. 31.

Interim City Administrator Radley Williams told the City Council at its Jan. 21 meeting that the program was created to support school organizations, booster clubs



Photo by Dana O'Connor

The City Council unanimously approved a second round of nonprofit grants totaling \$32,000 for fiscal year 2026 to seven local organizations.

and nonprofits focused on youth at risk, individuals in need and senior initiatives in the Apopka community. The committee recommended awards for all seven applicants.

The approved grants include:

- Apopka Innovation and Technology Academy, \$5,000 with a 100% match

- Apopka Woman's Club,

\$5,000 with a 100% match

- Inspiration and Change Inc., \$5,000 with a 100% match

- Main Mission Foundation Inc., \$5,000 with a 100% match

- Meeting at the Well Inc., \$5,000 with a 100% match

- Open Heart Farm, \$2,000 with a 75% match

- Salt Outreach Inc.,



Photo by Dana O'Connor

Lorena Potter chairs the city's Nonprofit Grant Program Selection Committee.

\$5,000 with a 50% match

With \$100,000 budgeted for the program in FY26, the \$32,000 allocation leaves sufficient funds for a second grant application window, which is expected to open in April.

In addition to the awards, the selection committee proposed improvements to streamline the process and broaden participation. Com-

mittee Chair Lorena Potter said the group has been refining the program as it grows and recently added short presentations by applicants during the scoring meeting.

"Six of the seven groups did a five-minute presentation, and that was very helpful," she said, noting it put "a face to the organization" and allowed the committee to ask questions beyond what was on paper.

Potter said she recused herself from voting on the second round of applicants, since they included the Apopka Woman's Club, of which she is a member.

The committee also recommended that city staff conduct a technical review of applications before they reach the committee, checking for required documents and completeness. Potter said that would prevent delays caused by missing or incorrect paperwork, such as submitting an insurance proposal instead of a certificate of insurance.

Another key recommendation was a pre-application workshop for nonprofits, particularly newer or smaller groups unfamiliar with grant terminology and requirements. Potter said some applicants struggled with items like financial disclosure statements because they did not know what was being requested.

"We think a workshop would be really beneficial for the applicants and also just to get the word out there," she said. "The city is providing this opportunity, but we're not getting the doors broken down by applicants."

Mayor Bryan Nelson encouraged local media and the city to highlight the work of each funded organization to raise awareness and potentially attract volunteers and donors.

Williams said the grants process will transition to the city's finance department grants team for the next cycle.

MAYORAL DEBATE FROM A1

the March mayoral election have committed to participate: Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore, incumbent Mayor Bryan Nelson and City Commissioner Nick Nesta.

Principal Lyle Heinz welcomed the opportunity to make the Performing Arts Center available for the community event, which will be co-presented by the Apopka High School PTSA.

"We are thrilled to host the mayoral debate, offering our students a hands-on opportunity to learn about civic engagement while bringing our community together for thoughtful discussion," Heinz said.

The Winter Park law firm Maynard Nexsen is sponsoring the event, ensuring it remains free to the public.

The debate will be co-moderated by Derrick and WESH 2 political reporter



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Apopka High School will be the new venue of the Feb. 3 mayoral candidate debate.

Greg Fox, a veteran journalist and seven-time Emmy Award winner.

Apopka Chief members will receive reserved seating and may submit questions in advance. Other residents who wish to submit questions must attend in person and fill out a question card.

School board member earns Advanced CBM distinction

Melissa Byrd completed 30 continuing education hours in 2025

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) recently awarded Orange County School Board District 7 member Melissa Byrd the Advanced Certified Board Member (Advanced CBM) distinction.

"I am proud to have earned this designation as it reflects the commitment I have always had to learn more and work harder for my constituents," Byrd said in a statement

to The Apopka Chief. "The extra hours of training and learning I put into this are a true reflection of my passion for public education, my community and most of all, the students and families I serve."

The Certified Board Member (CBM) Program requires participants to complete 96 hours, or "points," of continuing education in various topics, including school finance, policy governance and bargaining. To maintain CBM status, a participant must complete 15 points per calendar year. Advanced CBMs like Byrd must complete at least 30 points per year.

"School Board Member Byrd's continued pursuit of pro-

fessional growth is truly inspiring," said Tina Pinkoson, FSBA Director of Leadership Services, in an FSBA press release. "Since her initial election in 2018, she has consistently demonstrated a passion for learning and a dedication to serving students, families, and her community. Earning Advanced Certified Board Member status reflects not only her personal commitment, but also her leadership mindset and willingness to go above and beyond."

Byrd is one of 36 Advanced CBM award recipients listed on the FSBA website. She and Angie Gallo are the only two recipients from the Orange County School Board.

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SEND HELP (REALD 3D)(R) 4:30; 10:30	MELANIA (R) 12:50; 3:50; 6:50; 9:50	THE HOUSEMAID (R) 3:30
SEND HELP (R) 12:30; 1:10; 4:00; 7:10; 7:40*; 10:00	MERCY (PG-13) 1:00; 3:40; 7:30; 10:25	IRON LUNG (R) 7:00; 10:10
	ZOOTOPIA 2 (PG) 1:20; 4:10; 6:40; 9:40	NOTE Asterisk * Saturday & Sunday Only TUES. VALUE DAYS NOW ONLY \$6.99 + TAX with Regal Crown Club card. (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)

THEME: LOVE'S IN THE AIR

ACROSS

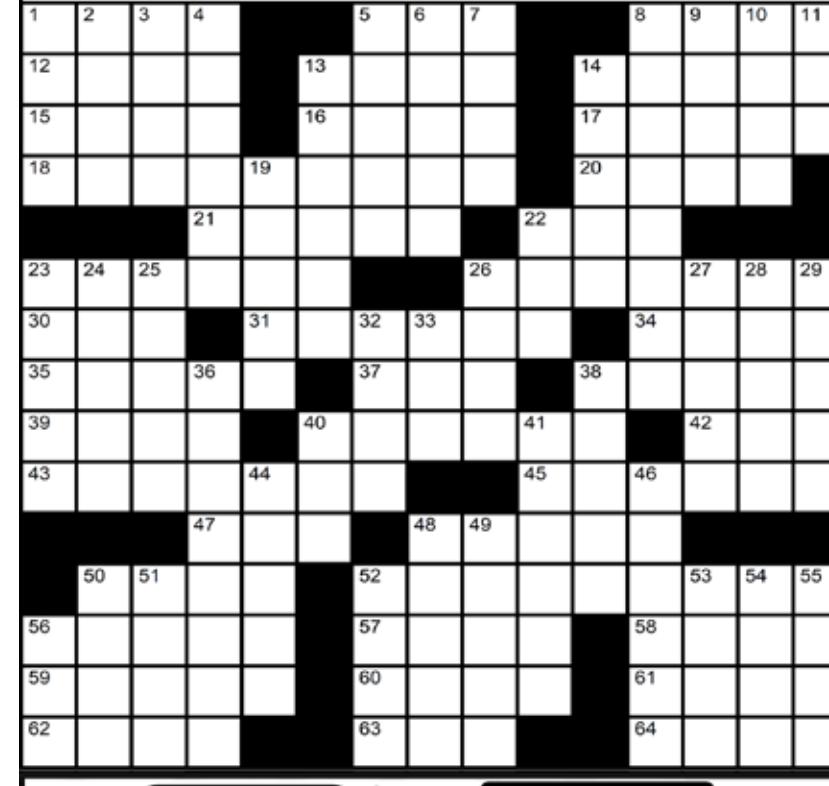
- Biology lab supply
- Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
- *Certain Courtney
- Tear violently
- Color of a bruise
- Al Roker's show
- Pupil control
- Any minute, to Shakespeare
- Sheep-like
- *H. P. of science fiction fame
- Hibernation stations
- Boat station
- Tennis shot
- Packed in container
- User-friendly interface, acr.
- Genetic info carrier, acr.
- *Love unquestioningly
- Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
- Not a minor

- Poem addressed to certain subject
- Hundred, in Italian
- Nothing
- Relating to clone
- Division, abbr.
- Sloughed off skin
- Fluffy dessert
- All good things come to this?
- Between Octs and Novs
- Verde National Park
- *B-52's "little old place" (2 words)
- Singing femme fatale
- Deed hearing
- Reverberated sound
- Blue-Green scum, pl.
- Misery cause
- Actress Perlman
- Scheme
- Right coast time
- Made by tailor

DOWN

- Seed cover
- Biking helmet manufacturer
- Tel ___, Israel
- #64 Across, redone
- Like 1969 landing
- Laugh with contempt
- Fender-bender damage
- *a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
- Norse deity
- "Off The Wall" shoe
- Needle hole
- Macy's Thanksgiving offering
- Commotions
- Silica variety
- NaOH
- Solder together
- Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative
- Pleasant Island
- Small songbird
- Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
- Bigfoot's cousins
- *Hand cover, with love
- Lemming relative, or anagram of love
- Tokyo, formerly
- Couch for two
- Lumps in liquid
- Knave
- Unit of electric current flow
- Absurd
- Theater guides
- Nutritious beans
- Black tie one
- Grain grinder
- "Cogito, ___ sum"
- Stud site
- Occasional heart condition
- Prepare to swallow
- Riddle without solution
- Tree juice

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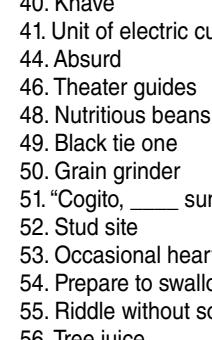
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This WEEK'S PUZZLE ANSWERS



Apopka voters group schedules 2 election forums

Events to focus on mayoral, council races

By Teresa Sergeant
Reporter

Local group Apopka Involved Voters has announced two upcoming candidate forums aimed at helping residents evaluate contenders in the March municipal elections.

The first event, featuring mayoral candidates, is set for 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9, at Victory Church, 509 S. Park Ave.

The second forum, focused on City Council candidates, will take place also starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12, at the same location.

According to an announcement from Apopka Involved Voters, both forums are designed to inform voters on current and emerging issues that could impact quality of life in Apopka and to help distinguish candidates based on their answers and vision for the community.

"The best we can do is have the candidates come to the forum, present their ideas,

their vision, answer the questions, and then it's up to the public to decide of the candidates that answer the questions, which one in their opinion — their meaning the community and voters — would be best suited to be elected," John Drago, member of the Apopka Involved Voters, said in a Monday interview with the Apopka Chief. "What we don't do is we don't endorse candidates."

Dr. Hank Dunn will moderate both forums, which will take place before a live audience. The events will also be live streamed in cooperation with The Apopka Chief,

providing access for residents who cannot attend in person.

The announcement describes the mission of Apopka Involved Voters as educating the community about candidates' platforms and how they align with voter priorities.

The forums come as the city prepares for the March 10 municipal election, which will include races for mayor and City Council Seat 1 and Seat 2, a special Seat 4 election, and eight proposed city charter amendments on the ballot. If needed, a special runoff election will take place on April 14.

75 YEARS FROM A1

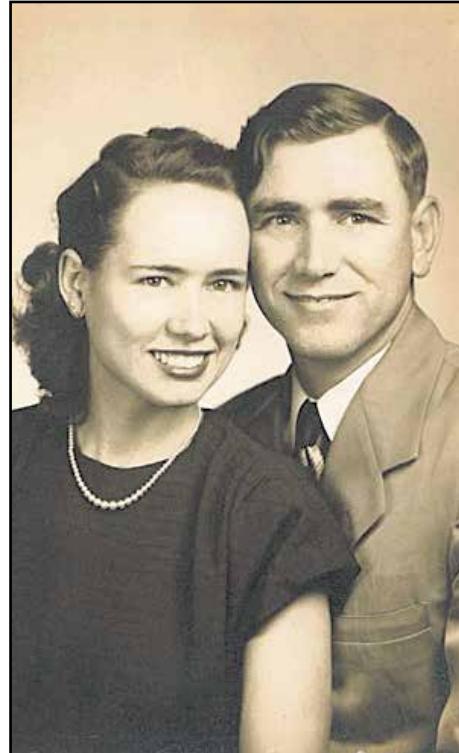
Bill McLeod said there hasn't been a single defining case for the brothers' career trajectory since the brothers are "meat and potato attorneys." Ray and Bill said they focus instead on carrying out their father's commitment to honesty in legal practice.

"Some [lawyers] don't like to satisfy cases," Ray McLeod said. "They don't want to settle them. They want to keep it running up a big fee. And we tell the client, 'This guy's going to cost a lot more money because they're not reasonable, so you need to keep that in mind when you're negotiating settlements.'"

Charles Nelson said Johnie Nelson's principles even meant ruling against friends.

"He'd have court cases where he would serve papers on some of his dear friends," Nelson said. "And they remained friends because the friends knew he was doing what was correct."

The McLeod brothers attribute the longevity of their firm to the loyalty of their clientele. They said they also appreciate the ability to choose which clients they want to represent based on the clients' integrity and manners.



Courtesy of Anne Nelson

Eloise and Johnie McLeod early in their marriage.

"I want a good workplace," Ray McLeod said. "We've had clients that got ugly with assistants or they were in-

appropriate, and we don't put up with that."

However, most of their clients are located outside of Apopka.

"When you're in a small town, they don't want you to know what their problems are," Ray McLeod said.

The McLeods had to travel across multiple counties as a result, including Lake, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia. Since COVID-19's arrival, however, the brothers spend most of their work time in the office.

"We've been fortunate, but we're slowing down," Ray McLeod said. "We're not working 60 hours a week or whatever. You still have to have quality time with family — we still get along with our wives."

The brothers said they do not expect the business to last another 75 years, since there is no one in the family to inherit it. Unless someone purchases McLeod Law Firm, the brothers will close the firm when they wish to. In the meantime, they continue to work from the historic red brick Hawthorne building downtown.

"We have represented multiple generations of clients," Ray McLeod said. "We're there to protect our clients."

THE CHALLENGER TRAGEDY

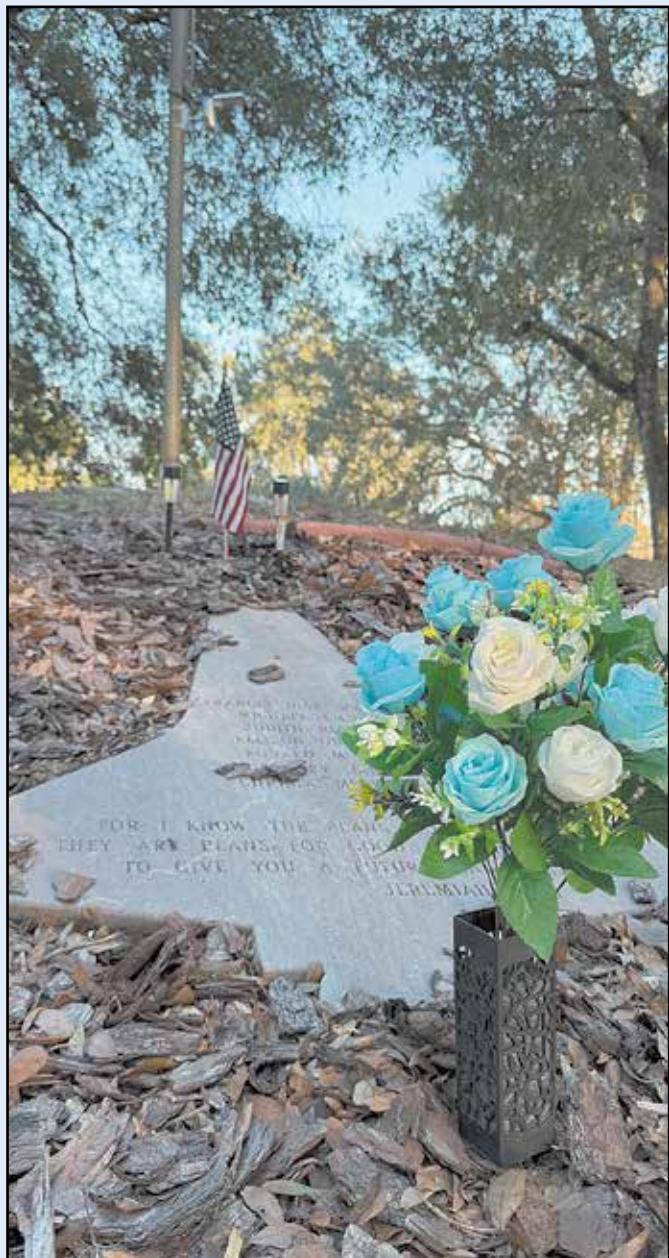


Photo by Sarah Merly

The Challenger tragedy occurred 40 years ago, on January 28, 1986. Following the explosion, Apopka Memorial Middle School dedicated the pictured memorial to the seven fallen explorers. The Apopka Chief released the following statement with a photo of the smoke in the January 31, 1986 edition of the paper: "American dreams and aspirations, up in smoke with the lives of seven American space pioneers on that tragic Tuesday morning. The Space Shuttle Challenger painted an eerie sky over Apopka as a nation's spirit fell to half-mast in instant mourning. We salute their courage and conviction. Now, we cannot afford to let the dream die. The price they paid is far too high to permit the voyage to end in a cloud of smoke."

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CANDIDATES

FROM A1

Counties.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

On my website (Christine4Apopka.com), I analyze Apopka's deficiencies regarding infrastructure, sprawl, utilities, taxes, housing transportation, and more. I then outline plans to address them. Additionally, my 15 years of columns are available at TheApopkaChief.com.

What in your background makes you the best candidate?

Successful mayors possess integrity, vision, and empathy, are strategic, collaborative, and courageous, are results-driven, financially astute, and innovative. These are the qualities I've demonstrated.

I'm uniquely positioned to address Apopka's transportation and infrastructure woes because I chair Metro-PLAN and serve on Central Florida's Expressway Authority. Because I pushed passage of a rural boundary amendment, Apopka's rural west areas can now fight off additional sprawl development. Because I coordinated \$125 million in funding, 2,000 Apopka homeowners, are converting septic systems to sewer, reducing springs pollution. Finally, because I have established contacts to better position Apopka to partner with other agencies for funding and shared improvements.

What prompted you to run for mayor?

I was alarmed with Mayor Nelson's lack of transparency, last minute "checkbook register" budgets, 6,000 inoperable water meters, collapse of Golden Gem pond into the aquifer, callous handling of our young fire fighter's death, lack of sewer capacity, violation of the federal fair housing law, lack of civic partnership with Orange County to expand roadway capacity, and incivility permeating city council meetings.

I was appalled to see that Apopka's future land use map no longer contained ample rural spaces, which belies massive overdevelopment, in fact over 10,000 homesites approved. By contrast, Orange County protects undeveloped areas through rural settlements, cluster housing, rural boundaries, and purchase of natural lands.

Furthermore, it distresses me that Mayor Nelson's and Cmsr. Nesta's personal animosity on display at board meetings has left Apopka behind on infrastructure, business development, and ame-

nities residents seek and must drive elsewhere to obtain.

What vote from last year are you most proud of?

All my votes as Commissioner have improved lives, which makes me happy. So, I'm proud of them all. The votes concerned county functions and responsibilities. They included funding for sidewalks — street lighting supporting Vision Zero, which seeks to address critical safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike. The new animal shelter and surgical center will meet the needs of our furry creatures. Allocation of tourist development tax dollars will expand Camping World Stadium, UCF's Roth Tower, and Apopka's Amphitheater. Other important votes sought enhanced services for the homeless, including a sleeper bus, and tougher stormwater and tree removal standards.

What are the three most important issues facing Apopka?

Apopka voters have repeatedly voiced to me their frustration with overdevelopment, lack of transportation and infrastructure improvements, and the absence of a lively beautiful "hallmark" downtown. They fault the current City Council for approving multiple housing and apartment developments without first addressing increased road capacity. They're tired of a lack of street lighting, poorly timed traffic signals, and overcrowded roads such as Welch, US441 through town and Ocoee-Apopka Road near the hospital. They deeply crave a fun downtown filled with entertainment, dining, shopping and service businesses.

And they are troubled by the lack of civility occurring at council meetings, which has hurt our economic development, and squelched collaboration with the county to improve worsening road conditions and capacity. Their anger over higher water rates, and the city's inaction to increase critical sewer capacity trace directly to the council's mismanagement over the past eight years.

Bryan Nelson, incumbent mayor

What is your non-political occupation?

I am the current mayor of Apopka.

What elected office positions have you held?

I served in the Florida House from 2006-2014, served as an Orange County



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Commissioner Nick Nesta

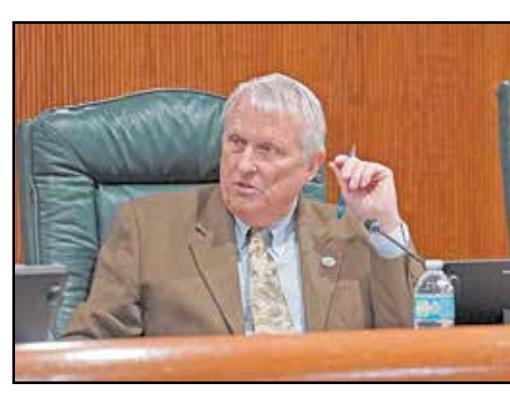


Photo by Marshall Tempest

Mayor Bryan Nelson

Commissioner from 2014-2018 and served as the mayor of Apopka from 2018 to present.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

My website is MayorNelsonForApopka.com and my Facebook page is Mayor Bryan Nelson, City of Apopka.

What in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have years of executive experience in the public and private sector. Along with leading our city as mayor, I've successfully built multiple companies. I grew our family nursery, Nelson's Florida Roses, into one of the top 100 nurseries in the country. I helped grow a small tech company to the point where it could be sold to a large publicly-listed company, and also started, grew and sold Nelson's Insurance Services. I'm the only candidate who has executive experience to manage over 500 employees and the only candidate who truly understands state government.

What prompted you to run for mayor?

I still have many projects that the City Council has approved and would like to see them to fruition. We have assimilated a great team of professionals who share our vision for the future but need a leader who understands the past and wants to be a part of Apopka's bright future.

Having been in this position for eight years, I understand the challenges and opportunities that the city has in front of it. We have reduced the overall debt by 96% and increased reserves to prepare for any property tax cuts that the Legislature might consider this year. We have accomplished a lot but need four more years to complete.

What vote from last year are you most proud of?

Three votes, which required months of work to achieve, included: securing a \$17.3 million-dollar Federal BUILD Grant to improve Apopka-Ocoee Road, giving

greater access to our hospital from the central core of Apopka. The second vote involved securing the \$13.1 million grant to improve the Apopka Amphitheater with additional bathrooms, food-truck pads, staging areas and ADA accessibility.

The city of Apopka's Parks and Recreation application scored the highest rating of all submissions. With this grant we are also building four additional softball fields which will make our Northwest Complex even more competitive when it comes to hosting regional and national baseball and softball tournaments right here in Apopka.

The third vote involves the partnership between Apopka, CFX, Advent Health and the Legislature to complete Fire Station Six.

What are the three most important issues facing Apopka?

The three most important issues facing Apopka include managing growth, increasing the number of quality jobs so that citizens of Apopka can actually live, work and play and never leave Apopka, and the third issue would include keeping Apopka safe and affordable for all.

The mayor of Apopka needs to advocate to our legislative leaders in Tallahassee that Senate Bill 180 has completely tied our hands as it relates to managing our growth. Because of my legislative background having served with the current and future Senate presidents, I am uniquely qualified to help make changes to the current state law, giving Apopka, along with other cities, a voice in how we manage growth.

A safe and affordable city will help us attract new high wage employers, add new shopping destinations and unique dining experiences.

Nick Nesta, city commissioner

What is your non-political occupation?

Father, husband, licensed Realtor, and real estate con-

city faces crumbling infrastructure, skyrocketing utility rates, and unchecked growth masked by low millage rates, promised projects (which end up incomplete or extremely disappointing), and fictional budgets. The current trajectory is unsustainable.

I can no longer sit on the sidelines while Apopka continues down this path. I have the knowledge, experience, and determination to address these challenges immediately. My vision includes restoring fiscal responsibility, improving city services, managing growth responsibly, and creating a transparent, resident-focused government. I will lead with integrity and accountability, ensuring every decision benefits the residents of Apopka today and secures a brighter future for tomorrow.

What vote from the last year are you most proud of?

I am proud of many votes, including opposing the increase in water utility rates, approving a partnership with Matthew's Hope to support those in need, and raising developer impact fees to protect current residents from bearing the costs of new growth.

The vote I am most proud of is moving the public comment section to the front of the City Council agenda after it had been unilaterally and divisively placed at the end to deter residents from speaking. This restored residents' voices, increased transparency, and reinforced that Apopka's government should always serve its people first.

What are the three most important issues facing Apopka?

I was raised and built my family in Apopka. I've started and grown a customer-first business here, giving me firsthand insight into our city's opportunities and challenges. With higher education, extensive real estate and development experience, I understand the impact of poorly planned growth and how to implement solutions.

As a sitting commissioner, I have the unique perspective and hands-on experience to act immediately for our city. My deep roots in Apopka, professional expertise, and commitment to residents make me uniquely qualified to lead our city into a stronger, more sustainable future.

What prompted you to run for mayor?

I am running for mayor of Apopka to be the change our community deserves, change I wanted when I grew up here, change our residents need now, and change our future generations deserve. Our

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- Education
- Seniors (Elderly)
- The Unhoused
- Annexation of Unincorporated Orange County

VOTE MARCH 10, 2026

PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY ALEXANDER H. SMITH COMMISSIONER SEAT 1 CAMPAIGN

POLICE BEAT

Apopka police issue 119 citations Jan. 18-24

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this news outlet reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to dhayden@theapopkachief.com.

In the period from January 18-24, 2026, the Apopka Police Department received 1,561 calls for service, responded to 22 crashes, issued 119 citations, and made 23 arrests. Burglaries: 1 vehicle, 0 residences, 0 business. Juveniles were charged with damage property-criminal mischief, occupy dwelling/commercial property cause \$1,000+ damages (X2); larceny grand theft-property dwelling/curtilage \$40-\$750; trespassing-trespass on property intent to commit an offense.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Juan Carlos Agustin Lopez, 29, 1861 Parkglen Cir., Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction.

Jhayla Pearl Barnes, 26, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Aneshia Janay Barr, 39, 1233 Seburn Rd., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-breath alcohol 0.08 or more per 210 L.

Anyela Dan Barrueco-bordonado, 21, 320 Avalone Dr., Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Robert William Berger, 48, 612 Orange Dr. Apt. 190, Altamonte Springs, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription; moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle.

Jarvis Brandon Clayton, 45, 516 W. 13th St., Apopka, drug equipment-

possession and/or use; possession of weapon or ammo by convicted Florida felon.

Daniel Lee Gonzales Coon, 22, 519 W. Ella J. Gilmore St., Apopka, larceny-other theft.

Bryan Charles Derrick, 45, 18 N. Terry Ave., Orlando, other agency warrant.

David Christopher Garcia, 42, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Analya Shanaa' Gauntlet, 25, 1772 Chatham Cir., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Alfonso Ical Jom, 36, 1017 Aspen Way, Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle.

Bruce Michael Iron Necklace, 43, 620 E. Orange St., Apopka, aggravated assault-with deadly weapon without intent to

kill; weapon offense-misuse into dwelling vehicle/building or aircraft; damage property-criminal mischief occupy dwelling/commercial property cause \$1,000+ damages; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Fredrick Charles Jackson, 67, 1322 S. Apopka Blvd., Apopka, hit and run-failure to stop, remain at crash involving injury other than serious bodily injury.

Trichelle Keyonna Jackson, 31, 30 E. Ella J. Gilmore St., Apopka, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended revocation, equivalent status 3rd subsequent violation.

Bobby Ray Jones, 35, general delivery, Orlando, damage property-criminal mischief, damage property less than \$200; burglary of unoccupied dwelling, unarmed; larceny-grand theft \$20,000 or more less than \$100,000; stolen property-deal in dealing traffic, stolen property.

Arnulfo Pineda, 57, 1758 White Cloud Ave., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Reshawn Rovelle Sims, 38, 812 Scott St., Clermont,

trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Richard Arthur Snow, 43, Apopka, obstructing justice-tamper witness withhold testimony/infor-

mation felony 1st proceeding; battery-prior conviction, battery commit 2nd subsequent battery; arson-1st degree arson; resist officer-obstruct without violence; battery on specified personnel.

Dwayne Herman Woodall, 45, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Travis Carlin Charles Zipperer, 39, 2109 Boy Scout Rd., Apopka, possession of weapon or ammo by convicted Florida felon; stolen property-deal in dealing, traffic stolen property.

Arnulfo Pineda, 57, 1758 White Cloud Ave., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription; resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Reshawn Rovelle Sims, 38, 812 Scott St., Clermont,

trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Richard Arthur Snow, 43, Apopka, obstructing justice-tamper witness withhold testimony/infor-

DISMISSAL

FROM A1

portunity to sell two pieces of property owned by Main Street Apopka's founder, from which he received 'a large commission check,'" the commission wrote in its decision.

Under Florida law, a voting conflict exists if a public official votes on a measure that provides a special private gain or loss to themselves, a relative or a

business associate.

The complaint also suggested Nesta failed to properly file a CE Form 8B, a required disclosure for officials with such conflicts.

However, the Commission on Ethics determined that the complaint failed to show how the \$50,000 appropriation would personally benefit Nesta. The report noted that the funds were al-

located to a nonprofit organization, not to Nesta or a direct real estate client.

In a Wednesday phone interview following the Ethics Commission's dismissal of the complaint, Nesta characterized the filing as "meritless." He said the process confirmed his transparency and cost the city nothing.

"[A] finding of no legal

sufficiency is that there was nothing there, and although I do appreciate that the state provides a safety net for our residents to file for, this one is a meritless complaint," he said. "I'm happy there's a system in place for that, and I just feel bad for the commission for even having to review such a meritless complaint."

In a Tuesday statement

provided before the commission announced the dismissal, Nesta, who is running for mayor, said there are more important issues facing the community, including active lawsuits involving other sitting council members. Last September, local attorney Bill McLeod filed a suit challenging Commissioner Nadia Anderson's residency, while earlier this month

Mayor Bryan Nelson filed a suit against County Commissioner Christine Moore, his mayoral challenger, also over a residency issue.

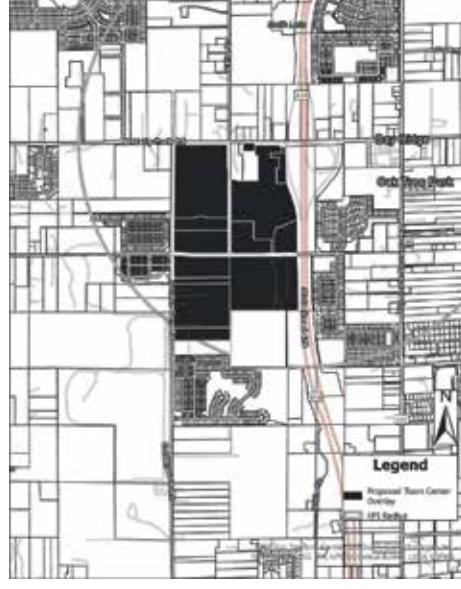
On Jan. 21, the City Council voted 3-1 — with Nesta voting against and Anderson recusing herself — for the city to advance funds to cover legal fees accrued by council members.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE APOPKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tara L. Tedrow, Esq. has made application to amend the Land Development Code of the City of Apopka, Florida, specifically the Mixed-Use Kelly Park Interchange (MU-KPI) Form-Based Code, to create and establish a Town Center Overlay District. The proposed amendment affects, or may affect, the use of property, the development of buildings and structures, and the development review process for land located within the jurisdiction of the City of Apopka, Florida. Accordingly, the City of Apopka proposes to adopt the following ordinance affecting properties within the MU-KPI area:

ORDINANCE NO. 3118

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF APOPKA BY AMENDING PART III, APPENDIX A, MIXED-USE KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE (MU-KPI) FORM-BASED CODE, APPENDIX C, TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH A TOWN CENTER OVERLAY DISTRICT AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3118 will be held by the City of Apopka Planning Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703, on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 beginning at 5:30 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3118 will be held by the City of Apopka City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703, on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 beginning at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible.

Interested parties and members of the public may appear at the above-listed hearings and be heard. Ordinance Number 3118, along with any additional information regarding the application and review process, may be inspected at the City of Apopka Community Development Department, Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka Florida 32703, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Pursuant to State law, any person deciding to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703, telephone (407) 703-1704, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the hearing.

Written public comments regarding the application for the proposed ordinance may be submitted by mail to the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

January 30, 2026

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

NOTICE is hereby given that TARA L. TEDROW, ESQ. has made application to amend the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) of the City of Apopka Comprehensive Plan, including updates to policies, tables, map references, and supporting text related to the Kelly Park Interchange Form-Based Code and the Town Center Overlay District. The proposed amendment may affect the use and development of land, buildings, and structures within the jurisdiction of the City of Apopka. Accordingly, the City of Apopka proposes to adopt the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 3150

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA BY AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT (FLUE) TO UPDATE POLICIES, TABLES, MAP REFERENCES, AND SUPPORTING TEXT RELATED TO THE KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE FORM-BASED CODE AND THE TOWN CENTER OVERLAY DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3150 will be held by the City of Apopka Planning Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703 on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 beginning at 5:30 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3150 will be held by the City of Apopka City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703 on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 beginning at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible.

Interested parties and members of the public may appear at the above-listed hearings and be heard. Ordinance Number 3150, along with any additional information regarding the application and review process, may be inspected at the City of Apopka Community Development Department, Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka Florida 32703, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Pursuant to State law, any person deciding to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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Written public comments regarding the application for the proposed ordinance may be submitted by mail to the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

January 30, 2026

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Wekiva rides 5-game win streak into postseason

Mustangs fourth quarter barrage seals the 35 point win on senior night

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Wekiva boys basketball team showed out in style on senior night, delivering a dominant 67-32 win over Jones in the group's final game of the regular season. Seniors Dariion Thomas, Louvens Saint Pierre, Jasen

Francillon, and Markel Anderson were honored, then led their Mustangs into the postseason with momentum on their side.

Jones struck first with a putback layup and followed it with a dunk on the next possession, but the Mustangs answered. Dariion Thomas opened Wekiva's scoring at the free-throw line before Markel Anderson powered in a tough layup and Jasen Francillon finished in the paint off a forced turnover.

The early back-and-forth

pace energized the packed crowd as Saint Pierre added a pull-up jumper at the elbow late in the quarter. Wekiva carried an 11-8 lead after one, setting the tone with defense and transition play. The Mustangs began to separate in the second quarter. Francillon drilled a 3 from the top of the key, and Kenny Dieujuste began asserting himself on the glass with a strong rebound and finish inside. Then Wekiva's leading scorer, Eric Nichols, checked in and caught fire.

Nichols buried a triple off the dribble, then knocked down a catch-and-shoot 3 off a pass from Anderson. He followed it with a smooth shot off one foot to push the Mustangs ahead by seven with two minutes left in the half. Free throws from Jace Moore closed out a strong quarter as Wekiva entered halftime up 26-17.

Dariion Thomas opened the third quarter with two free throws, and Anderson's

WEKIVA BOYS, B2



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Mustangs lock arms for the National Anthem ahead of senior night.

Apopka boys erupt for season-high 79 points



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Xavier Bell splashes a shot from the wing during Apopka's big win over Lake Minneola on Jan. 23.

Blue Darters disruptive defense leads to second half onslaught

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Blue Darters used a dominant second half and relentless defensive pressure to overwhelm Lake Minneola 79-36 on Jan. 23, honoring seven basketball seniors in their final

regular season home game before the playoffs.

After spotlighting Rafi Béttancourt, Jarquavion McClain, Trent Jean, Zee Davis, Noah Ferrer, Xavier Bell and Matthew Murray, the game began slower than expected. Lake Minneola struck first with a basket in the paint, but Ferrer opened his senior night with a 3-pointer to put Apopka on the board. The Hawks continued to find openings early, mixing inside finishes with perimeter

shots to jump out to a 16-9 lead after one quarter.

Apopka's response came quickly in the second.

Ferrer ignited the turnaround with energy on both ends of the floor. After hitting another 3, he scored inside, then immediately stole a pass and finished at the rim. Moments later, he pump-faked from deep and dished to McClain for a layup before picking off another pass. He drove and converted again to give

Apopka the lead.

"Once we got into the second quarter, we all showed up and played together," Ferrer said. "We got a lot of steals, turnovers, made them pay and finished at the basket."

Trent Jean added to the momentum with a steal and fast-break layup that forced a Lake Minneola timeout. Out of the break, Jean found Xavier Freeman in the corner for a

APOPKA BOYS, B3

Wekiva girls defense keys 41-point blowout win

Mustangs go wire-to-wire, dominate Winter Springs 59-18

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

Wekiva made sure senior night was one to remember, overwhelming Winter Springs with relentless defense and balanced scoring in a 59-18 victory.

Before tipoff, the Mustangs honored seniors Paris Blackwood, Jasmine Pooler, Makayla Bell, and Tiana Washington. Once the ball went up, the seniors helped set the tone early as Wekiva used a full-court press to jump out to a commanding first-quarter lead.

Jakayla Johnson opened the scoring with a steal and layup on the Mustangs' first



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Senior Lady Mustangs pose with their coaches.

possession. Winter Springs did not record a field goal in the quarter, as Wekiva's pressure forced multiple turnovers.

Poole attacked the lane for an early basket, and Alexis Hill added a putback after grabbing her own rebound. A series of steals and transition

finishes followed, capped by a bounce pass from Bell to Blackwood for a layup. She then swooshed a mid-range jumper after another Johnson steal.

By the end of the first quarter, Wekiva had built a 16-1 advantage.

The Mustangs continued

their dominance in the second quarter, answering Winter Springs' first 3-pointer with efficient offense and more defensive pressure. Poole knocked down a jumper, then followed it with a steal and fast-break layup. Blackwood sparked another sequence by diving for a loose ball and tipping it to Poole, who led Johnson for an easy transition basket.

Bell orchestrated the offense, finding Hill inside for a finish before delivering a touch pass that led to a Hill 3-pointer. Poole then drilled a contested 3 of her own and later added another from the corner after a drive-and-kick pass from Bell. Johnson closed the half with a triple of her own, and Bell finished the second quarter by posting

WEKIVA GIRLS, B4



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Ariana Obregon looks for a pass to her back line in the second half.

Apopka girls fight hard against elite Lake Mary

Blue Darters defensive gameplan gets them through the final whistle, 6-0

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

After the break, the Blue Darters began to find small moments of possession and attempted to connect on forward runs, but Lake Mary's back line held firm. For a stretch of nearly 12 minutes, Apopka allowed only one shot on goal, which goalkeeper Nicole Garcia saved.

Late in the half, Lake Mary's pressure paid off again. A long shot caught the corner of the net with six minutes left, and another deep shot just before half-time pushed the Rams' lead to 4-0.

In the second half, Apopka showed even more resilience. With usual attacking players Nevaeh Nguyen and Robyn Pickard anchoring the back line, the Blue Darters blocked shots and disrupted passing lanes. Garcia continued to play her best in goal, making a key save in the 58th minute.

Apopka even generated a few rare opportunities forward. The Blue Darters nearly connected on a through ball inside Lake Mary's half, and later tried to spring Jillian Kurz up the field, but the Rams goalkeeper, who was 30 yards out of net, intercepted both chances.

Apopka held Lake Mary scoreless for much of the second half until the Rams broke through again near the water break to make it 5-0. A final rebound goal in the 77th minute closed the scoring at 6-0.

Despite the margin, Sangster viewed the performance as a major step forward compared to last season.

"Last year, halftime, we were home already," he said. "By measuring tonight's game, I thought it was a success tonight by not getting mercied. The girls showed character, they showed grit, and they fought hard. They didn't give up."

GIRLS SOCCER, B4

Specks still bitin' no matter how cold it gets

Hello Folks,

If you've been waitin' on some cold weather, welcome to Florida! It's cold, and it's gonna be cold again next week. Whatever you had goin' on as far as bass fishin' goes, well... that's probably gonna be thrown out the window for now.

I got some reports that some of the bass were goin' on the beds, but they'll most likely pull back after this week's cold spell. The bass in Florida *don't like* cold weather, and they get what we call "lockjaw." You can still catch'em, but they'll be a little bit finicky as to what they *want* to eat, and when



**GOIN'
FISHIN'**

Jim Keck
Correspondent

they want to eat it.

The cold weather won't keep the specks from bitin', but they won't be jumpin' in the boat, either. It'll take a little time for the specks to get adjusted to the cold, but at least they adjust faster than the bass do. So, if you can stand the cold weather, you should be able to catch some

specks later in the week.

This weekend, Saturday January 31st, the folks at Highland Park Fish Camp are havin' a FREE Kids Fishin' Rodeo at their pond. You can get your tickets at signup, which is from 8:30 until 9:00 a.m. The tournament goes from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. The kids have to be 12 years old *or younger* to fish. They hope to see you this Saturday.

The bass fishin' down at The Headwaters is still goin' strong. Most of the guides are takin' folks out and catchin' lotsa bass on shiners and artificials. The bass fishin' on the Kissimmee Chain was good last week.

The BassMaster held a college series tournament out of Kissimmee last week. Congrats to Trace Antunes and Garrett Ring from the University of Montevallo in Alabama, on their win. They had a two-day total of 47 pounds 12 ounces of bass... and they took home the trophy! They traveled all the way down to the lower end of Lake Kissimmee to catch their fish. They fished in and around some off-shore hydrilla clumps on the south end of the lake. They caught all of their bass on a 6th Sense Provoke jerk bait.

Congrats to Trent Gilmore and Cooper Moon who caught the biggest bass of the

tournament. They won the Phoenix Boats Big Bass award with a 9-pound 13-ounce bass on day 2 of the tournament. Congrats to all those college anglers who fished the tournament.

Kyle at Bitter's B&T reports that a few folks are gettin' out and catchin' some specks in Lake Monroe and Lake Jesup. Most folks are driftin' with minnows and Road Runner jigs, and they're catchin' some *nice* specks. Folks're still catchin' limits of specks in Lake Woodruff and the upper parts of the St. Johns River.

We have a full moon on Sunday, this weekend, so

that oughta help keep those speckled perch to bitin'... at least once they get accustomed to this cold weather! If you're ready to take some time off and fish for a few days, you might wanna go to Lake Okeechobee and fish down there. The bass fishin' has been pretty good there, and folks are catchin' plenty of specks, too.

Well, that's it for this week. I hope you get a chance to do some fishin', but *please* stay warm! I hope the fishin' is great for y'all!

Tip of the week: Full Moon!

SAVE A FEW AND GOOD LUCK!

WEKIVA BOYS

FROM B1

on-ball defense led to a steal and another Francillon bucket inside. Francillon later stepped out and hit a 3 after an offensive rebound bounced his way, and Anderson pushed the pace before finding Nichols in the corner for a wide-open 3. By the end of the third, Wekiva had built a commanding 40-24 advantage.

What followed in the fourth quarter was a full celebration of senior night.

Khai Orr ignited the period by jumping a passing lane, finishing through contact, and completing the three-point play. Dieujuste cleaned up another offensive rebound, Francillon added a putback of his own, and Saint Pierre sliced through the defense for a reverse layup.

With three minutes left, Nichols brought the gym to its feet with a step-back 3 after dancing on the perimeter.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Senior Mustangs and managers pose for photos on their special night.

The Mustangs kept pressing, forcing turnovers and turning them into points. Thomas hit a 3, then Saint Pierre stole the ball and found him again for another trey.

The night ended with a bang. As the clock wound down, Saint Pierre tossed the ball off the backboard to Francillon, who rose up and ham-

mered home an alley-oop slam dunk at the buzzer, sending the crowd into one final eruption as Wekiva closed out the 35-point win.

Nichols led all scorers with 17 points. Francillon finished with 14 points, six rebounds, a block, and two steals. Dariion Thomas added 12 points, five steals, and a



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Mustang student section goes wild for Francillon's alley oop slam at the buzzer.

block in a complete two-way performance.

After the game, Francillon reflected on his senior night showing.

"I worked the inside and shot the ball when I needed to," he said. "It feels good, honestly. I know we have a lot of stuff to work on, but I feel like with this team, we got a

good chance at making states."

Markel Anderson, who set the tone defensively, emphasized the team's identity heading into the playoffs.

"It was expected," Anderson said. "If we play hard, play together, play defense, and we're into the game, it's just us at our best potential. Hopefully we carry this into the postsea-

son. We're gonna bring a lot of energy, a lot of defense, and run in transition."

Head coach Gersino Lubin praised his team's effort and especially his seniors.

"The guys just work hard," Lubin said. "Markel said it in a nutshell. We work really hard at practice. This is what we work on every day. We're going to win or lose by it. Markel is like a heartbeat. The kid is just amazing. He's a senior. That's the bad news."

Looking ahead to the postseason, Lubin believes this group has all the tools to make another deep run like their 2022-23 state semifinal team.

"This team doesn't lack anything," he said. "This is the best team I've ever coached. They love each other. They play hard for each other. That's what tonight was about."

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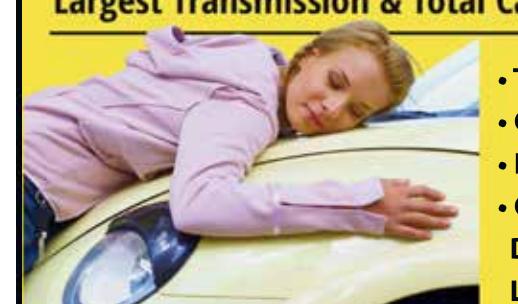
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Apopka girls basketball celebrates senior night

Dr. Phillips' sharpshooting duo hand Blue Darters 47-30 loss

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Apopka girls basketball team couldn't overcome a hot-shooting Dr. Phillips squad on senior night, falling 47-30.

The Blue Darters honored seniors Abigail Henry and Elyse Pringle before tipoff, but once the game began, Dr. Phillips controlled the tempo early behind efficient perimeter shooting. The Panthers struck first with a layup inside, before Apopka answered with a strong post finish from Amari Dillon and a wing 3 from Destiny Gelin off a pass from Deriyon Brinson.

After a slow offensive stretch from both teams, Dr. Phillips found its rhythm from beyond the arc. The Panthers



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Abigail Henry and Coach Brittany Hardy hug.

drilled three straight corner 3-pointers to take control, forcing Apopka into a timeout trailing 11-5. A fourth 3 followed, but Pringle responded just before the buzzer, burying a pullup jump shot to end the first quarter down 14-7.

Dr. Phillips continued its run into the second quarter, opening with another 3 and a free throw before Peyton Giguere connected on her fourth 3-pointer of the half. Apopka struggled to gener-

ate offense against the Panthers' pressure defense and went scoreless in the quarter, heading into halftime trailing 25-7.

The Blue Darters showed more fight coming out of the locker room. Henry grabbed two offensive rebounds and earned a trip to the free-throw line, and Pringle again found Gelin on the wing for another 3. Dr. Phillips answered back with a trey of its own, but Pringle countered with a long jump-



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Blue Darters at the end of the National Anthem.

er with her foot on the line.

Apopka was able to score consistently in the third quarter, but the Panthers continued to match them bucket for bucket. By the end of the period, Dr. Phillips maintained control with a 36-18 lead.

The fourth quarter opened with a short jumper from Mikayla Wiggins and a strong finish inside by Gelin. Dr. Phillips responded with more inside scoring from Ariel Edri, who persevered through an

early injury scare and reached 17 points on the night. Dillon provided a late spark for Apopka, scoring five straight points by finishing through contact twice and adding a free throw.

With two minutes left, Dr. Phillips broke the press for two more points, then Brinson knocked down a 3-pointer, but the Panthers closed out the final minute to secure the 47-30 win.

Giguere and Edri com-

bined for 35 points to lead Dr. Phillips.

For Apopka, Pringle finished with eight points, two assists and two steals, while Dillon added nine points, seven rebounds and a block.

After the game, head coach Brittany Hardy reflected on Senior Night and her departing players.

"I'll miss my seniors," Hardy said. "I had one of them for three years, and I had the other for four years. It's just hard that their senior night game had to go like this. But we just got to get in the gym and get better."

With three games remaining in the season, Hardy emphasized consistency and effort as the key to finishing strong.

"They got to come out and play hard these last games," Hardy said. "I'm continuing to say if they do what we do in practice, it will come onto the court. As of right now, they're on their own journey."

APOPKA BOYS FROM B1

trey, and the Blue Darters' defense began to suffocate the Hawks with well-timed traps and quick rotations.

Jaden Andino buried a 3 off the bench, and Jean located Bell on the wing for another deep shot — his fifth assist of the half — as Apopka closed the second quarter on a surge to take a 33-23 lead into halftime.

Ferrer opened the third by stealing the inbound pass and feeding McClain for a basket. McClain scored again moments later, then finished another cut to the rim after Jean forced a turnover. Lake Minneola called timeout as Apopka's lead ballooned.

Fresh out of the break, Jacques Evariste delivered a huge block at the rim and followed it with three clean free throws on the other end. Jean went to work offensively, hitting a floater and a tough turnaround jumper in the paint be-

fore finding Zee Davis in the corner for 3.

Davis drained another triple, Andino followed with one of his own, and the Blue Darters poured in 26 points in the third quarter to take a commanding 59-32 advantage.

The fourth quarter became a senior night celebration.

Evariste scored off an offensive rebound, Bell knocked down a moving mid-range jumper, and McClain added two more points to cap his night. Bell finished the scoring with a tough and-one as Apopka closed out the 43-point victory.

In Apopka's highest scoring game of the season, Ferrer led the balanced attack with 12 points, five rebounds, four assists and six steals. McClain added 12 points and five rebounds. Jean controlled the game with six points, eight assists and three steals, while



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Seniors and coaches postgame.

Bell finished with nine and Davis chipped in eight.

"It felt great," Ferrer said. "I'm just trying to take it into playoffs, next game at a time. We always say here, next play, go on to the next game."

For Jean, senior night brought mixed emotions.

"It felt great to win, but at the same time it's kind of sad because it was my last regular season game here," he said.

"From here, every day has got to be a dogfight in practice. Now that it's playoffs, we've got to up it to 200 percent every day."

Head coach Scott Williams credited the seniors for setting the tone after a sluggish start.

"Noah totally affected the game at the start of the second quarter," Williams said. "He dominated for about three or

four minutes. We've got seven wonderful seniors, wonderful young men. How everybody cares on a senior night is a culture thing, and I'm really proud of them for that."

Williams said the focus now shifts fully to postseason basketball.

"The program's mentality is next play," he said. "That's what we live by. We're going to come in tomorrow and prac-

tice and get better. Our guys are grounded. We've handled success and adversity fairly well, and it's not going to change now."

With the win, Apopka improves to 14-10 and closes the regular season 7 p.m. Friday at Kathleen. The Blue Darters have secured the No. 2 seed in the district tournament and will face East Ridge in next week's semifinal.

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WEKIVA GIRLS

FROM B1

up and firing a cross-court pass to Hill for another 3 at the buzzer.

Wekiva outscored Winter Springs 27–13 in the second quarter to take a commanding 43–14 lead into halftime. Pooler led all scorers with 14 points and three steals in the opening half alone.

With the game firmly in control, Wekiva eased its defensive pressure in the second half but continued to move the ball and attack in transition. Washington opened the third quarter with two free throws, and Pooler finished through contact on a fast break as the Mustangs pushed their lead to 53–16.

In the fourth quarter, Johnson opened with a fin-



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Jasmine Pooler walks out for senior night.

ger-roll layup before Bell connected from beyond the arc midway through the period. Pooler sealed the win with a free throw in the closing minutes, completing a

41-point senior night victory.

Pooler finished her senior night with 21 points, five steals, and four assists. Hill recorded 14 points,



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Wekiva Mustangs hold up signs on their bench for the seniors.

seven rebounds, and two steals, while Johnson added 10 points and three steals. Bell contributed seven points, seven assists, and five steals in a complete all-

around performance.

The win marked Wekiva's fourth straight victory, improving the Mustangs to 13–10 on the season. They currently sit fourth in the re-



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Makayla Bell looks for the set inbound play.

gion, placing them in strong position heading into the regional tournament. Wekiva closed the regular season with a loss to Lake Highland Prep on Wednesday night.

GIRLS SOCCER

FROM B1

That's the biggest thing for me as a coach."

Senior captain and leading scorer Robyn Pickard, who finished the season with 14 goals, played her final game on the back line. For her, the night was about more than the scoreboard.

"I had a lot of fun," Pickard said. "The most important part was just playing with my girls and just having a good time. Obviously, no one likes to lose, but as long as we had fun, that was really our main goal."

Pickard hopes soccer will remain part of her future.

"I hope to keep soccer part of my life, whether that's college or club," she said. "It's a very important part of my life, so I hope to keep strong ties with it."

Sangster reflected proudly on the season as a whole, which included a five-game winning streak and a playoff run.

"I thought the girls started a little shaky, but that rough patch propelled us forward," he said. "We picked up momentum."

The semifinal loss also marked the final match for Sangster as head coach of Apopka girls soccer. He recently earned his B coaching license and plans to advance his career at the collegiate or professional level.

Although the team did not send off Sangster with a win, it delivered a performance defined by effort, unity and growth against one of the best teams in the country.

"I'm super proud of what



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Presley Perrone looks to send a through ball to Jillian Kurz.

the girls did every day — quitting and not giving up," Sangster said.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Nevaeh Nguyen sends out a free kick from Apopka's side of the field.



Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Nicole Garcia goes up with a Ram attacker to save a ball.

The Apopka Chief

A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS
PUBLICATION

Membership Program

What's included?



1

Access to free event tickets

Special access to sporting events, theme parks, restaurant gift cards & more.



2

Exclusive newsletter

A member-only monthly newsletter with bonus content.



3

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Membership allows The Apopka Chief to bring you free and trusted news.



Join the club!

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SCAN ME



CURIOUS ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER?
EMAIL: NMITCHELL@THEAPOPKACHIEF.COM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To submit an event, you can email them to news@theapopkachief.com.

Friday, Jan. 30

David LaChapelle Exhibition Premiere

6 p.m. at 2416 N. Mills Ave., Orlando One-night-only premiere with DJ, food, and cocktails. Ages 18+.

GoldFord: Space of the Heart Tour

6 p.m. at 46 N. Orange Ave., Orlando

GoldFord brings his Space of the Heart Tour to The Beacham.

Opening Reception: The Situated Body

6:30 p.m. at 210 W. Packwood Ave., Maitland Jacobo Alonso's contemporary sculpture exhibition with music and food.

Faculty Recital

7 p.m. at 4000 Central Florida Blvd., Orlando

Faculty recital presented by UCF School of Performing Arts.

Stand-Up Comedy

7:30 p.m. at 6300 Parc Corniche Dr., Orlando An evening of stand-up comedy with Michael Lenoci.

Justin Bieber Night (18+)

8:30 p.m. at 1490 E. Buena Vista Dr., Lake Buena Vista Dance party celebrating Justin Bieber.

Saturday, Jan. 31

Wild Florida 5K

9 a.m. at 4990 New Broad St., Orlando

A flat, waterfront 5K benefiting Conservation Florida. Proceeds support protecting wild Florida.

Auditions: "A Rock's Story"

10 a.m. at 6900 Aloma Ave., Winter Park Open auditions about the Pet Rock phenomenon.

UCF Trumpet Day

10 a.m. at 4000 Central Florida Blvd., Orlando A day of recitals and activities for trumpet players.

Push Your Pace with Pure Barre & Track Shack

10:30 a.m. at 511 W. Fairbanks Ave., Winter Park One-mile run followed by an outdoor Pure Barre class and complimentary beer.

Craft Beer & Wine Festival

1 p.m. at 1014 Miami Springs Dr., Longwood A celebration of craft beer, wine, and local vendors.

Grow Your Own Florida Vegetable Garden

2 p.m. at 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando Introductory workshop on seasonal Florida vegetable gardening.

WWE Royal Rumble Watch Party

2 p.m. at 8986 International Dr., Orlando Watch WWE Royal Rumble with giveaways and special game card deals.

The Bingo Experience

6 p.m. at 10749 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando



School, 555 Martin St., Apopka Debate hosted by The Apopka Chief and WESH 2 News. Register online for tickets. See page A6.

Chemical-X with Toxic Intent, Avernum, and In Detriment
7 p.m. at 1042 N. Mills Ave., Orlando Live metal show. Ages 18+.

Stand-up Comedy
7 p.m. at 9101 International Dr., Suite 2310, Orlando Comedy show featuring Adam Bush and Chris Munch.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

Lifeguard Job Fair
Noon at 400 E. Kelly Park Rd., Apopka Orange County Parks and Recreation is hiring summer lifeguards.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
6 p.m. at 92 N. Dean Road, Suite 100, Orlando A confidential support group offering education and peer connection for caregivers.

Portraits in Charcoal
6 p.m. at 2416 N. Mills Ave., Orlando An adult workshop exploring expressive charcoal portrait techniques.

Studio Film Night & Nonprofit Launch
6:30 p.m. at 2155 Aloma Ave., Winter Park A screening of short films celebrating All the Line Studio's nonprofit launch.

Runners will take part in the Wild Florida 5K on Saturday, Jan. 31, a flat, waterfront race benefiting Conservation Florida and efforts to protect wild Florida.

High-energy bingo night with music, games, and prizes.

Brazilian jazz quartet performing standards and originals.

The Wombats

6 p.m. at 46 N. Orange Ave., Orlando The indie rock band brings its latest tour to downtown Orlando.

Line Dancing

6:30 p.m. at 36 E. 5th St., Apopka Beginner-friendly line dancing.

Tribute to The Beatles

6:30 p.m. at 2416 N. Mills Ave., Orlando A candlelit string quartet concert featuring music by The Beatles.

"Be My Valentine" Tour

7 p.m. at 445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando A romantic candlelit evening with jazz-pop vocalist Emmaline.

Ella & The Bossa Beat

8 p.m. at 460 E. New England Ave., Winter Park

Sunday, Feb. 1

Creative Connections

Noon at 2416 N. Mills Ave., Orlando A free, inclusive art program for adults and youth with developmental disabilities or autism.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

A Fragile Peace: An Ongoing Journey

3 p.m. at 4000 Central Florida Blvd., Orlando A screening of the award-winning documentary.

African American Illustrators

3 p.m. at 4600 S. Orange Blossom Tr., Orlando A hands-on art program for preschoolers.

Apopka Mayoral Debate

5:30 p.m. at Apopka High

Old favorites and fresh flavors for the family table

Stan Smith's Chicken a la King, found in *A Taste of Heaven*, is wonderful when served

over toast points, rice, noodles, or bread. There is no salt called for in this recipe, but it is probably salted with the addition of the one bouillon cube.

In her book titled *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking*, Mrs. Emily Meggett says, "Frying Seafood can be a tricky thing. It's a fast process, but the key is to add just enough oil, and make sure the oil is hot enough for the oysters to actually fry instead of just soaking up the cooking oil. If you have a deep-fry thermometer, clip it to the side of the skillet and heat the oil over medium heat until the thermometer registers 350 degrees Fahrenheit. If you don't have a thermometer, just drop one oyster in on its side and cook: It should be golden brown on that side within one minute."

Charleston Receipts shares Hush Puppies from Mrs. Taft Walker. This will go very well with the oysters recipe, above.

Spinach au Gratin from *Charleston Receipts* looks like a dish suitable for supper or a special occasion. It was contributed by Mrs. Thomas A. Huguenin (Mary Vereen). It calls for fresh spinach, chopped hard-boiled eggs, and grated sharp cheese.

The Apopka Historical Society shares their recipe for Potatoes Italian in *Preserving the Big Potato*. We thank those wonderful folks for all the good work they do for our community.

Nana Morris' Bran Muffins looks like a great recipe, especially if you choose to use the optional raisins. I might use a whole cup of raisins! Nana's recipe comes from our friend Susan's *The Jones-Morris Family Treasury*. Nana adds a few cautionary notes at the end.



Verlina's Calamondin Pie recipe came from one of our readers a while back. Our contributor, Verlina Keener said, "This is in response to your encouraging Apopkans to send in their traditional family recipes." She adds, "The Calamondin is a small citrus fruit that is a cross between a lime and mandarin orange. It is grown in Southeast Asia and the Philippines. They were imported from China and have been grown throughout Florida since the early 1900s. Growing season is in the early spring and summer months. I get mine from my father's tree or the Asian supermarket (Dong Ah Supermarket on Mills Avenue). I am part Filipino and make this traditional pie for my family."

Simply as a reminder, Verlina sent in her recipe for calamondin pie because of our encouragement to all of our readers to send in their traditional family recipes. We encourage you to send in any of your recipes that stand out in your mind as a food that would be enjoyed by our readership! Please don't be shy about sharing. They don't have to be old family recipes, simply recipes that you love and wish to share.

STAN SMITH'S CHICKEN A LA KING

Recipe from First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda, *A Taste of Heaven*

1/4 cup margarine
1 to 2 cups mushrooms
Green pepper, chopped
1/4 cup flour
1 chicken bouillon cube
1/8 teaspoon pepper
Thyme
Tabasco
2 cups milk
1/4 cup sherry
2 cups chopped chicken
9 ounces frozen peas, thawed and drained
2 ounces pimento, drained

In a medium saucepan, melt margarine and sauté mushrooms

and green pepper. Stir in flour, bouillon cube, pepper, thyme and Tabasco. Gradually add milk. Cook over medium-high heat until thickened, stirring constantly. Add sherry, chicken, peas and pimento. Simmer 5 minutes. Serve over toast points, rice or biscuits.

EMILY MEGGETT'S FRIED OYSTERS

Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett

2 large eggs, beaten
1 tablespoon grated onion
1/3 cup self-rising flour
1 pint shucked oysters
2 cups vegetable oil
1 lemon, quartered

Cocktail sauce for serving

1) In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs. Add the onion and flour, creating a batter. Set aside. 2) Drain the shucked oysters, and add them all at once to the batter. Mix the oysters and batter together, coating the oysters in the batter. 3) Pour the oil into a large cast-iron skillet. Heat the oil over high heat. There must be enough oil for the oysters to float, and the oil should be hot enough so the oysters don't sit and soak up all the oil. Once you have enough hot oil, reduce the heat to medium. 4) In batches, spoon the oysters into the hot oil and cook for about 1 minute on each side, until golden brown. Remove the fried oysters to a plate covered with a paper towel to drain. Serve the oysters with the lemon quarters and cocktail sauce.

MRS. TAFT WALKER (MARY TAFT) HUSH PUPPIES

Recipe from *Charleston Receipts*

2 cups corn meal
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
Red pepper, to taste
6 tablespoons chopped onion
1 egg
2 cups buttermilk

Mix all dry ingredients, add chopped onion; then buttermilk and egg, beaten together. Drop by small spoonfuls into boiling deep fat. They will float when done. Drain on brown paper. Serves 8.

MRS. THOMAS A. HUGUENIN'S SPINACH AU GRATIN

Recipe from *Charleston Receipts*

2 pounds fresh spinach

4 tablespoons melted butter

2 tablespoons flour

1-1/2 cups sharp cheese (grated)

4 hard-boiled eggs (chopped)

Salt and cayenne to taste

Wash spinach thoroughly, then place moist spinach in a saucepan without adding more water. Cover and cook for seven minutes or until tender. Drain well. Mix two tablespoons butter and the flour and add spinach. Season well with salt and cayenne. Add the remaining melted butter, chopped eggs and one cup grated cheese. Mix well. Put in buttered casserole and cover with 1/2 cup grated cheese. Brown for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves six.

POTATOES ITALIAN

Recipe from Apopka Historical Society

Preserving the Big Potato

4 large baking potatoes

1 teaspoon olive oil

3 medium tomatoes, sliced

1 large Spanish onion, sliced thin

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 cup provolone cheese

1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

1/2 teaspoon oregano

1/2 teaspoon pepper

1-1/2 tablespoons butter

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Peel and slice potatoes 1/4-inch thick. Oil a 9 x 13-inch casserole with the olive oil. Combine the three cheeses. Arrange potatoes, tomatoes, and onion slices in layers, sprinkling each layer with the cheese mixture. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake for 15 minutes. Cool to room temperature and then refrigerate until chilled.

with cheeses and seasonings, ending with a layer of potatoes sprinkled with the cheeses and seasonings. Dot with butter and bake uncovered for 50 minutes or until vegetables are tender and the top brown.

NANA MORRIS' REFRIGERATED BRAN MUFFINS

Recipe from *The Jones-Morris Family Treasury*

1-1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup shortening

2 eggs

2-1/2 cups flour

2-1/2 teaspoons baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 cups buttermilk

1 cup boiling water

1 cup 100% Bran Buds

2 cups ALL BRAN</

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on **02/23/2026** at 08:30 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at **2252 APOPKA BLVD, STE B, APOPKA, FL 32703** to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

2020 HYUN
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Publish: The Apopka Chief
January 30, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
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2012 ACUR
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Publish: The Apopka Chief
January 30, 2026

Public Notice
is hereby given that **Johnson's Wrecker Service**, will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION, free of all prior liens, the following vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) that remain unclaimed in storage, with charges unpaid, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Sec. 713.78, to the highest bidder. The sale will be held at **7777 Narcoosee Road, Orlando, FL 32822**. The following vehicle(s) will be sold on **02/12/2026** at **0700**.

Year Make VIN

2015 Volvo

4V4NC9E4JFN913413

2004 Honda

JH2RC50094M003609

2022 Honda

1HGCV1F49NA072834

2024 Fangyuan

H0DTAEG15RX077150

2016 International

3HSDJAPRGN153530

2011 Hyundai

KMHDH4AE4BU134870

2016 VANGUARD NATION

5V8VA5321GM609238

Terms of the sale are CASH. No checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right to final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. No refunds will be made. Vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) are sold "AS IS", "WHERE IS", with no guarantees, either expressed or implied.

January 30, 2026

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Year Make VIN

2013 Chrysler

1C3CC8BB7DN672794

2009 Chevrolet

2G1WB57K691256386

2018 Nissan

1N4AL3AP1JC134031

2017 Ram

C6RR7LG1H5755874

2018 Ford

1FM5K6F86JGB05070

2015 Ford

1FA6P8A9MF5343865

2014 Dodge

3C4PDDG4ET171958

2006 Audi

WAUML44E96N010556

2004 Honda

2HGES16584H639772

2005 Honda

1HFT30065A109327

2012 Chrysler

2C3CCAC9CH191375

2007 Ford

1FMCU02Z47KA49256

2007 Honda

JHLRE38317C057604

2002 Buick

1G4HP54K324119823

2000 Ford

1FMZU63X5YUA44213

2006 Honda

JHMC56426C010754

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No refunds will be made.

Vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) are sold "AS IS", "WHERE IS", with no guarantees, either expressed or implied.

January 30, 2026

NOTICE OF SALE OF

MOTOR VEHICLE

Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.585, **Auto Service Orlando LLC**, will sell at public sale for cash the following described vehicle(s) 2019 BMW X4 **Vin: 5UXUJ3C55KLG55877** located at: lienor's place to satisfy a claim of lien. Lien Amt: \$10,120.24. Sale Date: February 23, 2026 08:00 AM. At Location Address **6239 South Orange Blossom Trail Orlando FL 32809, phone # 407-956-0278**. Said Vehicle (s) may be redeemed by satisfying the lien prior to sale date. You have the right to a hearing at any time prior to sale date by filing a demand for hearing in the circuit court. Owner has the right to recover possession of the vehicle by posting a bond in accordance with F.S. 559.917. Any proceeds in excess of the amount of the lien will be deposited with the Clerk of Circuit Court in the county where the vehicle is held.

January 30, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2026-CP-000107-O

IN RE: ESTATE OF

ERLENE HOLT SMITH

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Erlene Holt Smith, deceased, whose date of death was March 13, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida.

Probate Division, the address of which is

425 N. Orange Ave., Suite 335, Orlando, FL 32801. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court on OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands

against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is January 30, 2026.

Personal Representative:

Debra Lynne Smith Seiber

19925 Jetton Road,

Suite 201

Cornelius,

North Carolina 28031

Attorney for Personal

Representative:

ABIGAIL EDELSTEIN, ESQUIRE

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 107324

Vollrath Law PA

1757 W. Broadway,

Suite 3

Oviedo, Florida 32765

Telephone: (407) 366-0087

Fax: (407) 264-6650

E-Mail: abigail@vollrath-law.com

Secondary E-Mail:

stephanie@vollrathlaw.com

January 30, 2026, February 6, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2025-CP-002624-O

IN RE: ESTATE OF

JAMES VICTOR NERI, SR.

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JAMES VICTOR NERI, SR, deceased, whose date of death was February 6, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court on OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is January 30, 2026.

Personal Representative:

William J. McLeod.

P.O. Box 950

Apopka, Florida 32703

Attorney for Personal Representative:

William J. McLeod

Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 322024

MCLEOD MCLEOD &

MCLEOD PA

48 E. Main Street

APOPKA, FL 32703

Telephone: (407) 886-3300

Fax: (407) 886-0087

E-Mail: wjm@mcleodlawfirm.com

Secondary E-Mail:

sallen@mcleodlawfirm.com

January 23, 30, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2025-CP-003908-O

AS TO COUNT VII
TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT
WHOSE RESIDENCE IS UNKNOWN:
TO: MICHAEL W. WELDON, DECEASED
4769 MAYBANK AVE
LAKEWOOD, CA
90712-3345

The above named Defendant is believed to be dead and, if dead, the unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, liens, creditors, trustees, or other claimants, by, through under or against said Defendant and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described below.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of the institution of the above-styled foreclosure proceedings by the Plaintiff, MARRIOTT RESORTS HOSPITALITY CORPORATION, upon the filing of a complaint to foreclose for other relief relative to the following described property:

COUNT VII

16 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: R79045 & R79046 & R79047 & R79048 & R79049 & R79050 & R79051 & R79052 & R79101 & R79102 & R79103 & R79104 & R79105 & R79106 & R79107 & R79108) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 4000 Points (25 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a. MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum").

The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 01, 2017 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

And you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the complaint, upon EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQUIRE, Holland & Knight LLP, 200 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 2600, Orlando, Florida 32801, attorneys for the Plaintiff, on or before thirty (30) days from the first day of publication herein and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

DATED on this 12th day of January, 2026.

Tiffany Moore Russell

Clerk of the Court

By: /s/ Nancy Garcia

As Deputy Clerk

CIRCUIT COURT SEAL

CONFORMED COPY TO:

EDWARD M. FITZGERALD

HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP

200 S. Orange Avenue,

Suite 2600

Orlando, Florida 32801

Ph. (407) 244-5198

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2100, Orlando, Florida 32801, telephone (407) 836-2303 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this document. If hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

HK#129710.0163/MP27

January 23, 30, 2026

STORAGE SENSE SELF STORAGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Storage Sense Apopka Located at 2208 Stillwater Ave., Apopka, Florida 32703 Phone 407-703-8854 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property Under the Florida Facility Act Statutes. The Sale shall take place online at www.lockerfox.com and closes on the 18th Day of February, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Property will be sold for cash only. Unit must be cleaned out within 72 hours of purchase with a \$100 cash cleaning Deposit.

Vanessa Medina

-Unit 2087-

Personal Property

Darius Johnson

-Unit 1001-

Personal Property

Sugey Cuellar/PGP

Painting LLC

-Unit 3016-

Personal Property

Kimberly Dixon

-Unit 2032-

Personal Property

Abigail Putnam

-Unit 2005-

Personal Property

Christy Cider

-Units 1008 and 4001-

Personal Property

January 30, February 6, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

Case No: 2025-CA-004302-O

Div:

AMG BROOKS LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROBERT KRAKOWIAK, ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; THE VILLAGE, A CONDOMINIUM, ALL UNKNOWNN; TENANTS AND PERSONS IN POSSESSION;

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER F.S. CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with the Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 8, 2026, in the above-styled cause, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the following described property situated in Orange County described as follows:

Building 13, Unit C-5, THE VILLAGE, A Condominium, according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof as recorded in Official Records Book 2407, Page 1102, of the Public Records

of Orange County, Florida, as amended in Official Records Book 2465, Page 1082 and Official Records Book 2612, Page 1950, and further amended in Official Records Book 2826, Page 1786, together will all appurtenances thereto, including undivided interest in the common elements of said condominium as set forth in the said Declaration and amendments thereto.

Commonly known as:
3996 Crayrich Circle,
Unit C-5,
Orlando, FL 32839

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00AM on the 25th day of February, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of its pendents must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.

REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Court Administration, ADA Coordinator, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Ave, Suite 501, Orlando, FL 32801 (407)836-2303, Fax (407)836-2204, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before your scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated: January 14, 2026

STEFFENS LAW FIRM PLLC
1540 International Pkwy
Ste 2000

Lake Mary, FL 32746

T: 407-492-8660

s/ **Erick P. Steffens**

Attorney for Plaintiff

FBN: 059553

Primary Email:

Erick.steffens@lawfirm.com

January 23, 30, 2026

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2025-CC-012550-O

THE PRESERVE AT CROWN POINT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation, Plaintiff,

vs.

TRENESSA L. WILLIAMS, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Uniform Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 14, 2026 and entered in Case No.: 2025-CC-012550-O, of the County Court in the Ninth Judicial Circuit and for Orange County, Florida, wherein Plaintiff, THE PRESERVE AT CROWN POINT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., Defendants, TRENESSA L. WILLIAMS, et al., the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at myorangeclerk.com. realforeclosure.com at 11:00 a.m. on April 13, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Uniform Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to-wit:

LOT 99 OF PRESERVE AT CROWN POINT PHASE 2A, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 92, PAGE(S) 97, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

The property is located at: **2018 Donahue Drive, Ocoee, FL 34761**

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE FORECLOSURE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

THE WHYNOT LAW FIRM

2003 Longwood-

Lake Mary Rd

Suite 1007

Longwood, FL 32750

Phone: (407) 541-0055

Telefax: (407) 205-0030

By: /s/ Erik Whynot

Erik Whynot, Esq.

Florida Bar No.: 325170

Primary email address:

EWHynot@WhynotLaw.com

Secondary email address:

DCoggin@WhynotLaw.com

20024-043

January 23, 30, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2025-CP-3904

Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF CONSTANCE A. GRAHAM

Deceased.

NOTICE OF ACTION (formal notice by publication)

TO: THE UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN/ HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF CONSTANCE A. GRAHAM, if alive, and if dead, their unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors, and all other parties claiming by, through, under or against them, and all unknown natural persons if alive, and if dead or not known to be dead or alive, their several and respective unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees and creditors, or other parties claiming by, through, under or against those unknown natural persons; and the several and respective unknown assigns, successors in interest.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Petition for Administration and a Last Will & Testament has been filed in this court. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on petitioner's attorney, whose name and address are:

Michelle A. Berglund-Harper,
1101 Douglas Avenue,
Suite 1006,
Altamonte Springs,
Florida 32714

on or before April 26, 2026, and to file the original of the written defenses with the clerk of this court either before service or immediately thereafter. Failure to serve and file written defenses as required may result in a judgment or order for the relief demanded, without further notice.

Signed on this 18 day of December, 2025

Tiffany Moore Russell

As Clerk of the Court

By: /s/Mary I Cruz

As Deputy Clerk

CIRCUIT COURT SEAL

January 23, 30, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE: Our client is proposing to build a 140-foot Monopole Telecommunications Tower. Anticipated

lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The site is approximately located at 3820 Yothers Road, Apopka, Orange County, Florida 32712 (28° 42' 45.7" North and 81° 34' 28.6" West) The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1358571.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. January 30, 2026

Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that **Northwest Orlando Storage** at 5330 N Pine Hills Rd Orlando, FL 32808 will sell the contents of the units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien (pursuant to Chapter 83 of the Florida Statutes). The sales will be held online at StorageTreasures.com on 2/19/26 at approx 9:00 am. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on the website. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. Unit # - Name - Description: #xxx - Tenant's name - description, #xxx

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: MONDAY 5 P.M.
classifieds@theapopkachief.com

Call 407-886-2777
 Fax 407-889-4121

21. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH CARE FOR entire family: Pediatrics, Family, Internal, OB/GYN, Dental and Pharmacy. www.chcfi.org. Community Health Centers throughout Central Florida. 225 E 7th Street, Apopka. 407-905-8827. JT 0116-0206 TFN 21

32. HELP WANTED

DEWAR NURSERIES, Inc. seeks Operations Manager in Apopka, FL to manage nursery ops to maintain highest level of quality & efficiency. Requires Bachelor's (or foreign equiv) in agri or indust'l engn or rel field + 2yrs exp. in production or agri engn. Up to 10% dom. travel to other FL worksites. To apply, submit resume to careers@ dewar.com.

cc0130 ROT

ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE/YARD SALES IN "CLIP 'n SAVE" 407-886-2777

61. LARGE APPLIANCES

81. AUTOS FOR SALE

APOPKA APPLIANCE offers in home service on washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers installed. \$50 off service calls with installation. All help vaccinated for virus. Be safe! Free haul away (no matter where you bought your new one). Used appliances available. Service call \$39.99 with repairs. 407-886-2255 or 407-497-7458

CC 1016-0206 APO 61

70. MERCHANTISE MISC.

TRAILER PARTS FOR sale. Largest stocking dealer in NW Orange County (Apopka). 407-293-5788. www.surplussteel.com

B 0109-0130 SUR 70

OVER 400 LP ALBUMS for sale. \$400 OBO. You pick up! 407-399-6359

CA 0123-0213 BLA

GOOD WEEKEND FOR A YARD SALE!
IT MIGHT BE PARTLY CLOUDY

130. REAL ESTATE

5 ACRE PLOT: 541 E. Osceola Rd., \$250k "no Realtors"

407-682-7898 leave message, financing available.

B 0109-0130 IRV 131

133. HOMES FOR SALE

BUYING, SELLING, rent-als or property management. We're your friend in the business. Rogers & Rogers Realty. 407-880-8888.

CC 0123-0213 ROG 133

140. HOMES / DUPLEXES FOR RENT

USED CARS. NEW cars. Low upfront pricing. No dealer fees. 407-972-1678. Mullinaxfordfl.com JT 0130-0220 MUL 81

CC 1226-0116 DEL 140

2004 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE in good condition. Runs and drives well. Great for daily driving. \$4,000 239-633-3968

cc0130-0220 REA

DUPLEX FOR RENT:

2bd/2 full baths, utilities included. \$2,000 a month, \$2,000 security. call Larry 407-947-6041

cc0130-0220 CLA

141. MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

SWEENEY'S ROOMS Cleanest. Quietest. WIFI, Internet. Multiple locations. Call Dwayne 321-271-6773.

sweeneyrooms4rent.com

CC 0116-0206 JAC 142

ROOMMATE WANTED: furnished room, \$700 monthly. Non-smoker. Apopka/Mt. Dora line, private bath, senior community. Applicant 45 & 407-747-4410

CC 0109-0130 MAR 142

142. ROOMS FOR RENT

TWO STORY HOUSE 3BD/2.5BA. 30527 Brae Burn St., Sorrento, Barbara DeLoach, Black Tie Realty. 321-229-5968

CC 0116-0206 GRA 142

143. ROOMS FOR RENT

ROOMS FOR RENT: ZELLWOOD area, weekly rentals available. 407-435-1792

CC 0116-0206 GRA 142

ADVERTISE YOUR WEEKEND. Garage, Yard or Estate Sale

#66 "CLIP 'n SAVE"
Friday - Sunday

In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
Philippians 4:6

Place Your Classified Today: 407.886.2777

FLORIDA STATEWIDE

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR WEEK OF: 01/26/2026 - 02/01/2026

1. Home Improvement/ Service

PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today! 1-833-542-1732 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

2. Miscellaneous

Donate your vehicle to help find missing children and prevent abduction. Fast free pickup, running or not, 24 hr response. No emission test required, maximum tax deduction.

3. Medical

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-3729

4. Medical

Attention: VIAGRA and

CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high

drugstore prices! 50 Pill

Special - Only \$99! 100%

guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-877-349-1243

1-877-351-3442. Plus...

Income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

3. Medical

ATTENTION OXYGEN

THERAPY USERS! Dis-

cover Oxygen Therapy

That Moves with You with

Inogen Portable Oxygen

Concentrators. FREE

information kit. Call 1-833-

661-3729

4. Medical

Attention: VIAGRA and

CIALIS USERS! A cheaper

alternative to high

drugstore prices! 50 Pill

Special - Only \$99! 100%

guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-877-349-1243

1-877-351-3442. Plus...

Income based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

6. Home Improvement/ Service

BATH & SHOWER UP-

DATES in as little as ONE

DAY! Affordable prices

- No payments for 18

months! Lifetime warranty

& professional installs. Se-

nior & Military Discounts

available. Call: 1-833-754-2465

7. Wanted to Buy

CASH PAID FOR HIGH-

END MEN'S SPORT

WATCHES. Rolex, Breit-

ling, Omega, Patek

Philippe, Heuer, Daytona,

GMT, Submariner and

Speedmaster. These

brands only! Call for a

quote: 1-833-641-6789

9. Wanted to Buy

We Buy Houses for Cash

AS-IS! No repairs. No

fuss. Any condition. Easy

process: Call, get cash

offer and get paid. Call to-

day for your fair cash offer:

1-321-603-3026

10. Wanted to Buy

We Buy Houses for Cash

AS-IS! No repairs. No

fuss. Any condition. Easy

process: Call, get cash

offer and get paid. Call to-

day for your fair cash offer:

1-321-603-3026

11. Wanted to Buy

We Buy Houses for Cash

AS-IS! No repairs. No

fuss. Any condition. Easy

process: Call, get cash

offer and get paid. Call to-

day for your fair cash offer:

1-321-603-3026

12. Wanted to Buy

We Buy Houses for Cash

AS-IS! No repairs. No

fuss. Any condition. Easy

process: Call, get cash

offer and get paid. Call to-

day for your fair cash offer:

1-321-603-3026

13. Wanted to Buy

We Buy Houses for Cash

AS-IS! No repairs. No

fuss. Any condition. Easy

process: Call, get cash

offer and get paid. Call to-

day for your fair cash offer:

1-321-603-3026

14. Wanted to Buy

We Buy Houses for Cash

AS-IS! No repairs. No

fuss. Any condition. Easy

process: Call, get cash

offer and get paid. Call to-

day for your fair cash offer:

1-321-603-3026

15. Wanted to Buy

We Buy Houses for Cash

AS-IS! No repairs. No

fuss. Any condition. Easy