

Commission split over property tax increase

Proposal would generate \$6.6M in new revenue

By Teresa Sargeant Reporter

The Apopka City Commission on Monday postponed setting a tentative property tax rate for fiscal year 2026-27 after commissioners failed to reach consensus on a proposed increase.

The commission took no action in the special meeting, leaving the matter to be revisited at another special meeting Thursday evening, which occurred after press time.

Finance Director Blanche Sherman reiterated city staff's recommendation for a tentative operating millage of 5.1876 mills, a 0.75-mill increase over the current 4.4376 mills. She outlined several alternative millage scenarios but said the recommended rate would generate about \$6.6 million in additional property tax revenue from the increase itself, on top of roughly \$4.4 million expected from growth in the tax base.

Mayor Nick Nesta emphasized that Monday's discussion was limited to setting a tentative millage rate rather than approving the city's final budget.

"The goal for this is to then bring it back to our staff members," he said.

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"The goal for this is to then bring it back to our staff members," he said.



Mayor Nick Nesta | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

PRIMARY ELECTION 2026

Mail ballot request deadline: Thursday, Aug. 6, 5 p.m.

Early voting dates: Monday, Aug. 3, to Sunday, Aug. 16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Election Day: Tuesday, Aug. 18, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Commission repeals legal fees policy, changes board rep

Anderson calls special meeting 'personal attack'

By Teresa Sargeant Reporter

The Apopka City Commission voted Monday to repeal a policy allowing the city to advance legal fees to elected officials facing certain non-criminal proceedings and to change the city's representation on the MetroPlan Orlando Board, actions Commissioner Nadia Anderson repeatedly characterized as "a personal attack" against her.

The commission approved Resolution 2026-32 by a 3-2 vote, repealing a policy adopted in January that authorized the advancement of city funds to the mayor or city commissioners for legal expenses in certain non-criminal actions, subject to reimbursement requirements and other conditions. Commissioners Anderson and Yesenia Baron voted against the repeal.

ed in January that authorized the advancement of city funds to the mayor or city commissioners for legal expenses in certain non-criminal actions, subject to reimbursement requirements and other conditions. Commissioners Anderson and Yesenia Baron voted against the repeal.

According to the staff report, the city already carries legal fee reimbursement coverage through the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust, which reimburses the city for qualifying legal expenses paid on behalf of elected officials, up to \$100,000 per covered action, provided the official is ultimately cleared of wrongdoing.

METROPLAN, A10



Commissioner Nadia Anderson speaks at a recent meeting. | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

Chief editor joins Apopka Sports HOF



Kristin Peery Martin (left), Grace Peery and Adam Shaw pose with the Voice of the Community Legacy Award after accepting the posthumous honor on behalf of John Rainey Peery during the Apopka Sports Hall of Fame Induction Gala on Saturday. Martin is John and Grace Peery's daughter, and Shaw is Grace Peery's son and John Peery's stepson. | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

John Peery's widow reflects on his passion for sports, journalism, Apopka

By Teresa Sargeant Reporter

When Grace Peery accepted the Voice of the Community

ty Legacy Award on behalf of her late husband at the Apopka Sports Hall of Fame Induction Gala on Saturday, she carried with her far more than a plaque.

She carried the memory of a man who spent more than four decades chronicling Apopka's stories, covering its athletes and quietly becoming part of the community's own history.

"I wanted to honor him well with what I said," Grace Peery said. "They only gave us two minutes to speak. I can't consolidate John Peery in two minutes with everything that I would have liked to have said."

John Peery, longtime editor of The Apopka Chief and longtime sports editor, received the Hall of Fame's Voice of the Community

Legacy Award posthumously. The honor recognized not only his journalism but also his decades of service to Apopka and its athletic community.

To Grace, however, John was first a husband, father, grandfather and man of faith.

"He was consistent," she said. "He felt family was important to

EDITOR, A9

Proposed property tax amendment could reshape city budget, Nesta says

Panel focused on legislation approved during 2026 session

By Teresa Sargeant Reporter

Apopka could lose approximately \$60 million in revenue over the next five years if Florida voters approve a proposed constitutional amendment to reduce property taxes, Mayor Nick Nesta said Tuesday during the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce's Capitol Connection Legislative Wrap-Up luncheon.

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Speaking on a panel with state Sen. LaVon Bracy Davis, state Rep. Doug Bankson and Greater Orlando Builders Association Government and Legal Affairs Director Lee Steinhauer, Nesta said the city is already preparing for the possibility of reduced revenues while trying to preserve the services residents have come to expect.

The panel focused on legislation approved during the 2026 session, but much of the discussion centered on the proposed property tax amendment that will appear before Florida voters.

Nesta said the city will "figure it out" and that he will

"continue to work day in and day out for the residents to get what they want and demand and need," even if the transition is "a little painful."

Nesta said the potential loss in revenue could affect discretionary spending, including grants to nonprofit organizations and community events that help define Apopka's identity.

fine Apopka's identity.

"If we get rid of those events that create community, we're going to lose that feel," he said. "We're going to lose our residents to that because they're going to go to other municipalities that have figured it out."

The discussion repeatedly reinforced the importance of

PROPERTY TAX, A6

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Opinion

The Apopka Chief

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Family caregivers struggling to get by

High temperatures and higher AC costs. Climbing prices at the grocery store. The competing needs of kids, grandkids and aging parents. Florida families are feeling the financial heat this summer, and the pressure is highest on the “sandwich generation” – the adults in their 40s, 50s and 60s who are supporting both older and younger relatives.

That pressure forces families to make difficult decisions – and across Second Harvest Food Bank’s network of feeding partners, I’ve seen Central Floridians come to us in search of a lifeline. “I don’t know what we’d have done without Second Harvest,” people have told me.

To me, that’s not something to be proud of. It’s a painful reality.

As many as one in four Americans provide care for an adult and almost a third of them are also raising children, according to a 2025 AARP report. Just imagine trying to stretch one paycheck across three generations – covering groceries, clothing, school supplies, medications, utilities, rent and more.

For low-income families, pooling resources can be one of the only ways to stay afloat. A 2025 report from the National Association of REALTORS® noted an increase in multigenerational home buying.

In theory, it’s an effective stopgap: When grandma moves into the spare bedroom to save on rent and utility costs, she might also be able to babysit the kids while parents are at work.

While combining households can reduce some financial pressures, it also exacerbates others. Benefits

Guest columnist



Derrick Chubbs

like SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called food stamps) are calculated in part based on an individual’s household expenses and living arrangements, and any changes can complicate

eligibility.

If grandma no longer contributes toward rent or utilities while living with her adult children, the amount of SNAP benefits she qualifies for will also decrease.

Multigenerational housing isn’t a true solution – it’s a symptom of underlying problems. When just one adult in the household loses their job or faces an unexpected crisis, everyone in the family is impacted. And when a caregiver’s savings run dry, they and their dependents have no safety net to fall back on.

At Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, we and our network of feeding partners are seeing the impact of food insecurity in real time. Seniors and older adults who “did everything right” – worked, saved, and tried to plan ahead – are finding themselves in line at the local food pantry because they simply don’t have enough to make ends meet.

This summer, don’t turn a blind eye to hunger in your community. This is a crisis we can solve together – and if you or someone you know needs help putting food on the table, Second Harvest’s team is here to help.

—Derrick Chubbs is president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida (SHFB-CF). To learn more, visit [Feed-HopeNow.org](#).

Understanding our city’s future: Summarizing the big picture

Editor’s note: This is the fourth in a four-part series.

Over the past three weeks, we’ve explored one of the most significant public policy discussions taking place in Florida today. We’ve examined the role property taxes play in funding local government, the reasons many Floridians support eliminating them, and the possible alternatives that could emerge if Florida changes the way cities and counties are funded.

This week, I’d like to step back and look at the bigger picture.

Every major policy decision comes with both opportunities and challenges. Eliminating property taxes is no exception. For some Floridians, it represents an opportunity to reduce the financial burden of homeownership, increase disposable income, and encourage economic growth. For others, the focus is on ensuring that local governments continue to have stable, reliable funding for the services that residents depend on every day.

Neither perspective is unreasonable. Both are rooted in legitimate concerns about Florida’s future.

Regardless of how this discussion unfolds, one fact remains unchanged:

Apopka Mayor



Nick Nesta

local governments have a responsibility to provide essential services. Police officers will continue to answer emergency calls. Firefighters and paramedics will continue to respond when lives are on the line. Roads, parks, utilities and public infrastructure will still require maintenance and investment. Our responsibility to serve our residents does not change, even if the way those services are funded does.

As your mayor, my commitment is not to a particular funding model. My commitment is to the people of Apopka. Whatever decisions are ultimately made by the voters and the Florida Legislature, my administration will work to adapt responsibly, manage your tax dollars wisely, and continue

delivering the services that make our city a great place to live, work and raise a family.

One of the most important responsibilities of local government is to provide transparency throughout the governing process.

That means explaining not only what decisions are made, but why they are made and how they affect our community. My hope is that this series has provided a clearer understanding of how city government is funded and the considerations that come with any major change to that system.

The future of Apopka will not be determined by a single vote or a single budget. It will be shaped by thoughtful planning, responsible leadership, and an engaged community willing to ask questions, seek facts, and participate in the decisions that affect us all.

Thank you for taking the time to follow this series. I encourage you to stay engaged, continue asking questions, and most importantly, make your voice heard. An informed community is the foundation of a strong community, and together we can continue building an Apopka that is prepared for whatever the future holds.

Those who teach teachers never seem to learn

Columnist



Jake Vest

There are thousands of teachers going back to school this week, and you would be wise to give them a wide berth. They are liable to have already been pushed close to the limits of their endurance, sick and tired of silly questions and outrageously useless answers and fed up with childish games in general.

And the kids have yet to arrive.

This is Teacher Work Week, one of the most poorly executed good ideas in the long and often addle-witted history of educational bureaucracy. There is no doubt that the time is desperately needed. There is a lot of work to be done by returning teachers preparing for a new year, but if they plan on getting it done, they’d better plan on staying after school.

The week belongs primarily to those who tell people how to do the job, not those who do it. This includes principals, assistant principals, administrators, superintendents and their various assistant superintendents, counselors, the occasional inspirational speaker, and sometimes a brown-noser who went to a seminar over the summer and says, “I just want to share something with the other teachers.”

While I cannot say that this “pre-planning” did not have some value, I can say that whatever we were accomplishing when I did it was not apparent. Maybe listening to a principal who thinks she’s Knute Rockne

giving a locker room speech was more important than making sure I had a desk and a math book for each student, but I couldn’t see how. Perhaps standing in a circle, clapping and shouting in unison “we are (pause) one pack!” puts somebody in the mood to explain prepositions to 9-year-olds. It did not for me, but who knows?

I went through a dozen or so of these weeks and this is what I observed: Nothing has ever been accomplished during teacher training except maybe the trainees getting better at Sudoku; there has never been a staff meeting that couldn’t be made more productive by canceling it; there has never been a principal who couldn’t be improved by taking the microphone away from her; and the ninth time you take Bloodborne Pathogen Training, you will not learn much that wasn’t covered the second, fifth and eighth time.

Based on my teaching experience, a round of golf would be better preparation than a round of seminars.

The game has a lot to teach teachers. Everybody starts off with unrealistically high expectations, hopes and dreams that will be regularly dashed, often through no fault of the player. Your best shots are liable to hit trees, roll into sand traps or find water that shouldn’t have been there.

There are no gimmies. Easy-looking putts lip out and sometimes you are just going to come up short. You will frequently wonder why you are doing this.

All your fellow players will tell you what you are doing wrong and give advice on how to do it better, even though they aren’t doing it any better than you are. There’s always a new driver on the market, a chipper that “can’t miss,” more accurate rangefinders and ten thousand instructional videos that promise to add distance, eliminate slices, and fix everything that’s wrong.

You might try it all, buy it all and believe it all—but your scores won’t change.

If you can’t see the parallels here, you either don’t play golf or have never been a teacher. My “expert” advice is the same for either: Tee it high and let it fly.

As for all you others, pretend you just heard somebody yell “FORE” and get out of the way.

About The Apopka Chief

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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.

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- **City Discount Beverage & Smoke:** 370 E. Main Street
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- **Cohil Family Dentistry:** 2525 E Semoran Blvd
- **Coin Laundry:** 805 N. Park Avenue
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- **HCA Apopka:** 2757 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Jeff's Bagel Run:** 2107 E. Semoran Boulevard, Suite C
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Chief opens nominations for Best of Apopka 2026

Nomination period runs until Aug. 23

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

After successfully relaunching the Best of Apopka Reader's Choice Awards in 2025, The Apopka Chief opened nominations for its 2026 contest Friday.

"We are excited to bring back this Apopka tradition again in 2026," said J.C. Derrick, the Chief's publisher. "This annual contest provides a great opportunity for readers to engage with the Chief and let their voices be heard while also recognizing local businesses and organizations who are contributing to the strong fabric of our community."

Locals may submit nominations at www.theapokkachief.com/best-of-apopka from now through Sunday, Aug. 23. Afterward, the link will convert to a voting page beginning Monday, Aug. 31, with the voting period ending Monday, Sept. 28.

Each year, Best of Apopka invites readers and community members of all ages to recognize the achievements of the city's lo-

cal businesses, individuals, and organizations. This year's contest will work similarly to last year's, but with one key change, according to Gigi Cohen, digital solutions manager for the Chief's parent company, MARC Media.

"In 2025 voting and nominations were both happening in real time," Cohen said. "With over 8,000 ballots being cast in 2025 and enormous interest from our readers and business community, we decided that it would be a better experience for all if the nominations could be entered during an initial time frame and checked by our team for validity BEFORE anyone could place their first vote."

After a four-year hiatus, the contest returned last year with a Best of Apopka special section.

The Apopka Chief will announce the majority of this year's Best of Apopka winners in a special section of the Nov. 6 edition of the newspaper. Winners in the following categories will be announced at the Dec. 1 Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce 113th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Gala:

- Apopka Chamber Business-



Ella Duke (left) and Jay Kleinrichert (right) hold the 2025 Best of Apopka certificate for Propagate Social House. | FILE PHOTO

man of the Year

- Apopka Chamber Business-woman of the Year
- Chamber Member of the Year
- Community Champion
- Community Focused Restaurant
- Legacy Award
- Rookie of the Year

"The Best of Apopka celebrates the businesses, organizations, and individuals who make our community a great place to live, work, and do business,"

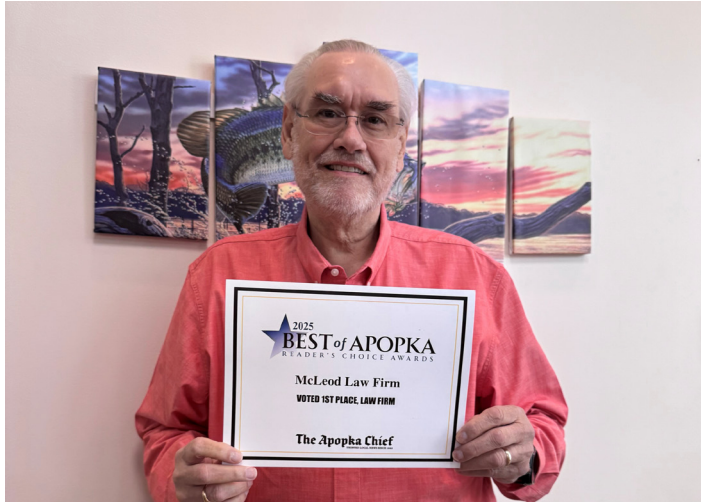
said Gerald Rooks, chairman of the board for the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce. "We encourage everyone to participate by submitting nominations and recognizing those who make a positive impact."

During the nominations period, community members can nominate any business that serves Apopka. They do not have to have a physical location within the city limits, although most will.

For more information, call The Apopka Chief at 407-886-2777.



Flooring Master of Apopka sales and operations manager Samuel Bencomo (right) holds his 2025 Best of Apopka certificate alongside sales and interior design team member Elsybel Aponte (left), who holds the 2025 Best of Apopka special section. | FILE PHOTO



Raymond McLeod holds McLeod Law Firm's 2025 Best of Apopka certificate. | FILE PHOTO

DRC approves construction site plans for AutoZone, pickleball courts

Wekiva Shopping Center among proposals requiring additional revisions

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka Development Review Committee approved construction site plans Wednesday for a proposed AutoZone store on Rock Springs Road and new tennis and pickleball courts at the city's Northwest Recreational Complex, while requiring additional revisions before several other development proposals can move forward.

The committee also reviewed plans for the proposed Wyld Oaks C Store, a revision to Building H at Wekiva Riverwalk Shopping Center, the Springhaven subdivision amenity site and the Villas at Wekiva

multifamily development.

The city-sponsored tennis and pickleball courts project at 2500 Bush Drive received approval after project manager Amer Hamza said the applicant had addressed all previously issued Planning and Zoning comments.

During discussion of the tennis and pickleball courts project, Public Works Director Dale Smith asked whether a previously discussed traffic-impact analysis had resulted in recommendations for turn-lane improvements.

"I didn't put the comment because I'm not sure where that ended up at," Smith said.

The completed study found that no additional turn lanes or lane extensions were necessary, according to Michael Munier, an engineer with project applicant Newkirk Engineering.

With no outstanding com-



The Development Review Committee on Wednesday required additional revisions before it could approve a proposed construction site plan revision for Building H at Wekiva Riverwalk Shopping Center, 2121 E. Semoran Blvd. | PHOTO BY TERESA SARGEANT

ments remaining, the committee approved the construction site plan.

The committee also approved the third construction site plan submittal for a 6,815-square-foot AutoZone at 1788 Rock Springs Road after staff report-

ed no outstanding comments.

Other projects were sent back for additional revisions.

The proposed Wyld Oaks C Store on West Kelly Park Road remained denied because of outstanding review comments. The applicant said photometric

information had been prepared and irrigation plans would be included with the next submittal.

According to the meeting agenda, the project calls for a 6,300-square-foot, multi-tenant retail and restaurant development with a fueling station on West Kelly Park Road between Effie Drive and State Road 429.

A construction site plan revision for Building H at Wekiva Riverwalk Shopping Center, 2121 E. Semoran Blvd., also remained denied pending a second submittal. The revision would add 242 square feet to the originally approved 8,288-square-foot building, according to project manager Jun Sohn.

Regional project manager Jim Hanson of Woolbright Development apologized for the resubmittal, explaining that the project's architect had initially provided only a preliminary design. He said the preliminary

design did not substantially affect the rest of the plans and thanked city staff for reviewing the change.

The committee approved the Springhaven amenity site construction plan after Public Works said its lone outstanding comment regarding a backflow preventer could be addressed later during utility installation.

The proposed 16-unit Villas at Wekiva development at 734 Piedmont Wekiwa Road remained denied because of outstanding staff comments and will require another submittal before returning to the committee.

The Development Review Committee serves as the city's technical review body for development proposals, ensuring site plans comply with city codes and engineering standards before projects advance in the development process.

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Q&A

Candidates for U.S. House District 11 discuss affordability, education

Candidates include James Pericola, Royal Webster, Dan Williams

By Sarah Merly Reporter

In anticipation of the Aug. 18 primary, The Apopka Chief is running questionnaires for several major local and regional races affecting Apopka-area voters. Last week, we asked the five Republican candidates for U.S. House District 11 to share their motivations for running, experience and reflections on U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster's priorities and votes, who announced his retirement from the District 11 seat in April. This week, Democratic candidates James Pericola, Royal Webster and Dan Williams answered the same five questions. Read the full Q&A below.

JAMES PERICOLA, FOUNDER OF SEWARD SQUARE GROUP
What prompted you to run for the U.S. House of Representatives?

Families across Central Florida are working harder than ever and still falling further behind. I have spent the past year helping my aging mother navigate a healthcare system that is too expensive and too difficult to use. I have also seen firsthand how dysfunction and corruption in Washington prevent government from solving the problems people face every day. Life costs too much, the benefits people earned are under attack, and too many leaders are more interested in protecting their own power than serving the public. I am running to confront that failure and deliver results for the people of this district.

What professional and community experience would you bring to the role?

I would bring more than 30 years of experience in public service, law, government, and advocacy. I began my career working for Senator Bob Graham, where I learned that good public service starts with listening and showing up. I later served in the Clinton administration and worked with Congress, federal agencies, local governments, labor organizations, businesses, and nonprofits to solve difficult problems. I was raised in Central Florida and moved home to help care

for my aging mother. I understand both how Washington works and how its failures affect families here. I am ready to put that experience to work for District 11.

What are the top three issues on your platform and why?

My top priorities are protecting Social Security and Medicare, making healthcare more affordable, and cutting taxes for working families. Seniors paid into Social Security and Medicare throughout their lives, and they deserve to know those benefits will be there when they need them. I will fight any effort to cut or privatize them.

I will also work to restore Medicaid funding and protect the Affordable Care Act. Helping my aging mother navigate the healthcare system showed me how quickly an illness, insurance denial, or unexpected bill can overwhelm a family.

Finally, I will work to cut taxes for working and middle-class families. Families across Central Florida are working harder than ever while the cost of housing, insurance, groceries, and utilities continue to rise. Our tax system should give working and middle-class families more breathing room instead of continuing to reward large corporations.

Longtime District 11 Rep. Daniel Webster championed several issues, including adding a Social Security income tax credit, infrastructure improvement, and fiscal responsibility. What, if anything, would you adopt from his priorities and votes, and what would you alter?

Congressman Webster represented this district for years, and I respect anyone willing to serve. But during his tenure, too little substantive legislation was passed that improved life in this district. I agree that we need to be responsible with taxpayer dollars, invest in infrastructure that keeps our communities moving, and protect the natural resources that make Central Florida home.

Where I would take a different approach is in what Congress should focus on. Families across this district are worried about the cost of groceries, housing, insurance, and healthcare. Seniors want to know that Social Security and Medicare will be there when they need them. That's where my attention will be. I'll work to lower costs, protect the benefits peo-

ple have earned, and focus on solving problems instead of scoring political points. People are looking for practical leadership that delivers results, and that's exactly what I'll bring to Congress.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

Visit jamespericola.com or follow me at @votejamespericola on Instagram and Facebook to learn more about my campaign and its priorities.

ROYAL WEBSTER, FORMER PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

What prompted you to run for the U.S. House of Representatives?

I didn't run for Congress because it was part of some lifelong political ambition. I ran because after serving our country in the Army and in the classroom, I watched too many hardworking families struggle while Washington became more divided and less effective. As a teacher, I saw firsthand how literacy shapes every opportunity in life, and as a veteran, I believe public service means solving problems—not scoring political points. I'm running to fight for affordable living, stronger public education, better care for veterans, and a government that puts people ahead of partisan politics.

What professional and community experience would you bring to the role?

I bring a lifetime of service. I served in the U.S. Army as a military intelligence analyst and Spanish linguist, and now as a public school teacher and coach, mentoring thousands of students and families. I have volunteered throughout Central Florida supporting veterans, youth, and community organizations. As a grassroots candidate, I've spent countless hours listening directly to residents, giving me a firsthand understanding of the challenges families face and the practical solutions they expect from their representative.

What are the top three issues on your platform and why?

My top three priorities are affordability, education, and veterans. Affordability affects every family—from housing and insurance to groceries and healthcare. I support policies that lower everyday costs and help working families build financial security. Education is the foundation of opportuni-



James Pericola | COURTESY OF JAMES PERICOLA

ty. As a former public school teacher, I will fight to strengthen public education and launch Project Literacy 2040, a national initiative to ensure every student graduates with strong reading skills. Finally, as an Army veteran, I believe we have a moral obligation to fully fund the VA, expand access to quality healthcare, and ensure every veteran receives the care and respect they earned through their service. These priorities reflect my lifelong commitment to service and creating opportunity for all Americans.

Longtime District 11 Rep. Daniel Webster championed several issues, including adding a Social Security income tax credit, infrastructure improvement, and fiscal responsibility. What, if anything, would you adopt from his priorities and votes, and what would you alter?

I respect Representative Daniel Webster's years of public service, and I believe good ideas deserve support regardless of party. I share his commitment to fiscal responsibility because every taxpayer dollar should be spent wisely, but fiscal responsibility should never come at the expense of investing in education, veterans, or essential infrastructure. I also support modernizing roads, bridges, broadband, and water systems to keep our communities safe and our economy competitive.

Where we differ is on priorities. I believe Congress must do more to address affordability, strengthen public education, protect Social Security and Medicare, and expand access to quality healthcare. I would also make literacy a national priority through my Literacy 2040 initiative, because improving educational outcomes strengthens our workforce, economy, and national security. My fo-



Royal Webster | COURTESY OF ROYAL WEBSTER

cus is on practical, bipartisan solutions that improve the daily lives of the people of Florida's 11th District.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

Learn more at ElectRoyalWebster.org, follow Elect Royal Webster on Facebook, or email info@electroyalwebster.org. I welcome your questions, ideas, and support.

DAN WILLIAMS, PROFESSOR AT FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY

What prompted you to run for the U.S. House of Representatives?

I am frustrated with how our government currently functions and would like to change Congress at a fundamental level. I believe representatives should listen to their constituents and be accountable on every single vote. My platform of Direct Democracy allows every person in our district to vote on bills and make sure their voices are heard in D.C.

What professional and community experience would you bring to the role?

I have been an educator for over 20 years now with a degree in engineering. My plan is to combine education and technology to update how Congress works. Both of these skillsets are severely lacking in the House of Representatives. There are only five of the 435 members that have any kind of technological background. We need people up there that understand AI, crypto, and digital privacy rights in order to legislate them to make sure all Americans are protected.

What are the top three issues on your platform and why?

My top issue is stopping the corruption in our government. I believe we need to start closing



Dan Williams | COURTESY OF DAN WILLIAMS

the loopholes in our laws and hold people accountable for their actions. I also believe in term limits and a stock trading ban for all representatives.

Pausing construction of AI data centers: I believe that technology is vital to the future of America, but not at the expense of our environment or our people. I will champion solutions that make sure we do not fall behind in the technology race while ensuring these data centers do no harm to our communities.

Protecting and expanding Medicare and Social Security: We need to fight for everyone to have health care. I believe that Medicare for All is the answer for this. I also believe that we need to raise the tax cap to ensure Social Security will not run out and our promises are kept.

Longtime District 11 Rep. Daniel Webster championed several issues, including adding a Social Security income tax credit, infrastructure improvement, and fiscal responsibility. What, if anything, would you adopt from his priorities and votes, and what would you alter?

If an idea is good and helps our district, then I will support it no matter where it came from. Webster's plan to ensure that Social Security income is not double taxed is needed, and I would support that. I will also continue his work to make sure we fully fund the Everglades' restoration and local infrastructure. I would alter his plans for fiscal responsibility by ensuring that we focus on accountability and transparency.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

Find out more information at DanWilliamsForCongress.com. There is a short video that explains my plan for our future.

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8:35am; 1:15; 4:15; 7:15; 10:10

MINIONS & MONSTERS (PG)
8:45am; 11:30; 2:00; 4:25

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (PG-13)
8:40am; 9:40am; 10:35am; 11:05am; 11:35am; 12:05; 12:35; 2:30; 3:00; 3:30; 6:00; 6:30; 7:00; 7:20; 9:30; 10:00; 10:30

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Q&A

County Clerk of Courts candidates discuss priorities, Russell’s tenure

Candidate field down to three after Maribel Gomez Cordero withdraws from race

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

In anticipation of the Aug. 18 primary, The Apopka Chief is running questionnaires for several major local and regional races affecting Apopka-area voters. This week, Orange County Clerk of Courts candidates Rick Singh, Terrell Thomas and Roberta Walton Johnson discussed their community backgrounds, ideas for improving the clerk’s office and views of outgoing clerk Tiffany Moore Russell’s administration.

According to WESH 2 News, Singh sued former candidate Maribel Gomez Cordero for allegedly filing her “resign-to-run” papers incorrectly. Cordero then told the Chief on Monday that she had withdrawn from the race, saying she does “not believe it is in the best interest of the public or the campaign to continue expending taxpayer resources and campaign funds litigating this matter.” As a result, Singh and Walton Johnson will square off in the Democratic primary, with the winner facing Thomas, an independent candidate, in November.

Read the full Q&A below.

RICK SINGH, FORMER ORANGE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

What about your professional and community backgrounds makes you the best candidate?

As a U.S. Army veteran and former two-term Orange County Property Appraiser, I led a constitutional office with a focus on efficiency, accountability and customer service. We modernized operations, reduced paper, built community partnerships and earned national recognition for serving taxpayers.

What prompted you to run for Orange County Clerk of Courts?

Having served Orange County in a constitutional office, I understand that public

trust is earned through competence, integrity and results. I am running to bring that experience to the clerk’s office by modernizing operations, protecting court records, improving access to services and delivering responsive, professional service to every resident!

What are the three most pressing areas for improvement in the Orange County Clerk of Courts’ administrative operations, and how would you address them?

First, modernize technology by expanding secure online services, streamlining filings, reducing wait times and strengthening cybersecurity to better protect court records. Second, improve customer service by setting clear performance standards, reducing processing delays, expanding multilingual resources and exploring innovative employee childcare options to help recruit and retain a dedicated workforce. Third, strengthen transparency and accountability by publishing meaningful performance measures, practicing responsible financial management and regularly reporting results to the public.

Outgoing clerk Tiffany Moore Russell, who is now running for Orange County mayor, was first elected Orange County Clerk of Courts in 2014. During her tenure, she established a self-help center, launched Operation Greenlight to create payment plans, and extended branch office hours to Saturdays, according to her campaign website. Which of her priorities do you support, and where might you have taken a different approach?

I support programs that make the court system more accessible, including the self-help center, Operation Greenlight and expanded office hours. Those initiatives help residents resolve issues and navigate the court system more effectively. I would build on that foundation by expanding secure online services, strengthening cybersecurity and making more routine transactions available digitally. For example, jury summons should be offered electronically, while those who prefer paper notices should continue to have that

option.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

Visit VoteRickSingh.com to learn more about my background, priorities, endorsements, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and how to get involved.

TERRELL THOMAS, OWNER OF DEV.G9 DIGITAL

What about your professional and community backgrounds makes you the best candidate?

I offer nearly 30 years of court technology and public service experience, including nearly 20 years with the Orange County clerk’s office and leadership modernizing courts nationwide. My deep civic engagement through serving churches across Central Florida has strengthened my commitment to community.

What prompted you to run for Orange County Clerk of Courts?

Serving in the clerk’s office shaped my career and my life. After gaining additional leadership and technology experience in the private sector, I felt called to return and serve the organization that invested in me by preserving its legacy while preparing it for the future.

What are the three most pressing areas for improvement in the Orange County Clerk of Courts’ administrative operations, and how would you address them?

My vision is built on three priorities: People First, Community Focused, and Future Ready. First, I will invest in employees by strengthening leadership development, improving workplace culture, and creating opportunities for professional growth because exceptional public service begins with engaged employees. Second, I will expand community accessibility by increasing outreach, improving awareness of clerk services, and exploring mobile service opportunities that bring government closer to residents. Third, I will modernize operations by maximizing existing technology investments, improving cybersecurity, simplifying online services, and using data-driven decision-making and responsible



Rick Singh | COURTESY OF THE RICK SINGH CAMPAIGN

artificial intelligence to enhance efficiency, transparency, and customer service.

Outgoing clerk Tiffany Moore Russell, who is now running for Orange County mayor, was first elected Orange County Clerk of Courts in 2014. During her tenure, she established a self-help center, launched Operation Greenlight to create payment plans, and extended branch office hours to Saturdays, according to her campaign website. Which of her priorities do you support, and where might you have taken a different approach?

I support initiatives that expand access to justice and improve customer service, including the Self-Help Center, Operation Greenlight, and expanded service opportunities. Those programs demonstrate a commitment to meeting residents’ needs. Building on that foundation, I would place additional emphasis on employee engagement, community outreach, and continuous innovation. My experience implementing court technology has shown me how modern tools can improve efficiency while making government more accessible and transparent.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

Visit ThomasForClerk.com to learn about my vision, campaign priorities, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and how we’re moving Orange County Clerk Forward.

ROBERTA WALTON JOHNSON, GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

What about your professional and community backgrounds makes you the best candidate?



Terrell Thomas | COURTESY OF TERRELL THOMAS

As a licensed attorney, public servant, and the current general counsel for Orange County Clerk’s Office, I am uniquely qualified to serve as the next elected Clerk of Courts. For over a decade, I have worked inside the Clerk’s Office protecting public records and expanding access to justice with integrity.

What prompted you to run for Orange County Clerk of Courts?

The clerk’s office is the gateway to our justice system. My experience affords me a firsthand opportunity about how important this office is to the daily lives of our community. I’m running because Orange County deserves experienced leadership that is accessible, accountable, and ready to lead on day one.

What are the three most pressing areas for improvement in the Orange County Clerk of Courts’ administrative operations, and how would you address them?

My priorities include investing in our workforce, expanding technology to leverage public access to the courts, strengthening public education about the clerk’s role, increasing multilingual services, and making it easier for residents to navigate court services.

Many residents don’t understand the services the clerk provides until they’re faced with a stressful moment in life. We can do more through technology, community outreach, multilingual resources, educational partnerships, and user-friendly online services.

My vision is for the clerk’s office to be more than a place people visit when they have a problem. It should be a trusted community resource that connects people to the courts with professionalism, trans-



Roberta Walton Johnson | COURTESY OF ROBERTA WALTON JOHNSON

parency, and compassion.

Outgoing clerk Tiffany Moore Russell, who is now running for Orange County mayor, was first elected Orange County Clerk of Courts in 2014. During her tenure, she established a self-help center, launched Operation Greenlight to create payment plans, and extended branch office hours to Saturdays, according to her campaign website. Which of her priorities do you support, and where might you have taken a different approach?

As the inaugural Operations Manager tapped to carry out Clerk Russell’s vision for the Self Help Center, I will certainly expand upon the initiative to help residents navigate complex legal and quality of life issues to further position the clerk’s office as the first stop for residents who are overwhelmed by the court system. Additionally, I will expand on both virtual and in-person opportunities like “Saturday Service” and “Operation Greenlight” to help residents address the life issues that often bring them into contact with the court system among a few other transformative initiatives to bridge justice and community.

This work impacts real people, real families, and our entire community every day. I thoroughly understand the responsibilities of the role of clerk, and I have the experience to lead the office successfully on day one.

Where can voters go to learn more about you?

I respectfully ask for your vote on August 18th for Orange County Clerk. To learn more, visit our social media @Roberta4Clerk or online at voteroberta.com.

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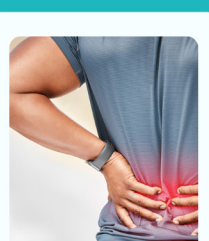
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Se Habla Español



7 things to know before visiting Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

A quick local guide to hours, route basis, wildlife etiquette, what to check before taking the drive

By Josh Peterson
Correspondent

More than 200,000 people visit Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive each year, but the 11-mile route is different from a casual drive through a park. Its limited access days, one-way layout and wildlife-viewing rules reward a little planning

- before heading out.
- 1. Start at the right gate.**
The drive entrance is at 2850 Lust Road in Apopka. The route is one way, beginning at Lust Road and ending on Jones Avenue in Zellwood. This is not a loop that drops visitors back at the starting point, which is important to know for first-timers.
 - 2. Time the visit for an open day.**
Vehicle access is limited to Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. The entrance gate is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and all vehicles must be off the drive by 5 p.m. The St. Johns River Water Man-

- agement District (SJRWMD) also flags holiday closures on its recreation pages, so the district’s announcements page is worth checking before leaving.
- 3. Enjoy the ride.**
The posted speed limit is 10 mph, and SJRWMD says the drive can take one to three hours, depending on traffic and stops. The slower pace is part of the point: visitors share parts of the property with trail users, and stopping is technically limited to designated pullouts — although you’ll see frequent brake lights as people slow to snap photos of those sunning gators.

- 4. Bring water and simple comforts.**
The property has a few restrooms and picnic pavilion areas, but drinking water is not provided. Summer visitors will be better served by packing water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray and anything young children may need before the car is committed to the route.
- 5. Know the vehicle and pet rules.**
The district lists a maximum vehicle length of 25 feet and does not allow trailers on the drive. Dogs are allowed but must remain leashed. Those rules are easy to miss when the plan is spontaneous, but

- they determine whether a family outing or out-of-town guest visit starts smoothly.
- 6. Look for birds, but keep distance from wildlife.**
Lake Apopka North Shore is one of Florida’s best-known birding areas, with 377 bird species recorded on the property, according to SJRWMD. Alligators and other wildlife, including eagles, also live there. The district’s guidance is straightforward: do not approach or feed wild animals and give everything room.
 - 7. Use the audio tour for the backstory.**
The Wildlife Drive audio tour adds context at signed

stops along the route, including the former agricultural land, the historic pump house, water-quality work, restoration projects and wildlife habitat. It can turn the outing from a pretty drive into a short local history lesson.

Before going, check SJRWMD’s recreation announcements. The district currently lists Conrad Road between Lust Road and the Lake Apopka Loop Trail as closed until further notice for contract work, while noting that the Loop Trail and Lust Road remain open. Even on a simple outing, fresh access notes are worth one last look.

PROPERTY TAX

FROM A1

turned to the proposed property tax amendment, with panelists offering differing perspectives on its potential impact.

The proposed constitutional amendment, which Florida voters will consider in November, would further reduce property taxes on homesteaded properties. Supporters say it would provide homeowner tax relief, while critics argue it could significantly reduce revenue available to cities, counties and other local governments. The amendment would need at least 60% voter approval to take effect.

Bracy Davis, who voted against the proposal in the Legislature, said lawmakers moved too quickly before sending the amendment to voters.

“I am all for letting the voters decide,” she said. “I believe we gave the voters a bad product.”

She said many residents don’t realize property taxes fund services such as libraries and argued lawmakers should have done more analysis before plac-

ing the proposal before voters.

Bankson defended the proposal, saying homeowners need meaningful tax relief as housing costs continue to rise. While acknowledging implementation challenges, he said lawmakers can address those issues if voters approve the amendment.

“That’s something that I know, I know myself going in, that’s going to be job one when we get there, if the people choose this, is to sharpen the pencil and say, ‘Now here’s how we can make this happen, and everybody can succeed,’” Bankson said.

Steinhauer said the proposal could have far-reaching consequences beyond homeowners by changing how local governments fund services and evaluate future development.

“Local governments are already looking at it and saying, ‘We might have a revenue shortfall, so where are we going to make that revenue shortfall up?’” Steinhauer said.



From left, Greater Orlando Builders Association Government and Legal Affairs Director Raleigh “Lee” Steinhauer, state Rep. Doug Bankson, state Sen. LaVon Bracy Davis and Apopka Mayor Nick Nesta discuss the proposed property tax amendment and other issues from the 2026 legislative session during Tuesday’s Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce Capitol Connection Legislative Wrap-Up luncheon. | PHOTO BY TERESA SARGEANT

He added that while the amendment could produce positive outcomes, it also carries significant uncertainty because cities and counties may have to rethink how they fund services and encourage growth.

Following the luncheon, attendee Sue Jordan, owner of Sue Jordan Sales Coaching and Consulting, said she appreciated the discussion and came

away thinking more about how the issue could affect residents.

“I think the growth in Apopka is critical,” Jordan said. “I loved the comment about collaboration because I agree. Apopka is a very diverse community ... and I think that is what will make Apopka stronger than some other municipalities if we can find a way for everybody to work together.”

ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS LOAVES & FISHES WITH \$5,000 CHECK



Bill Spiegel (right) of the Rotary Club of Apopka presents a \$5,000 donation to Lory Reeves of Loaves & Fishes during a recent Rotary Club meeting at First Methodist Church Apopka. Reeves said the donation will help the nonprofit purchase food in bulk and provide assistance during the slower summer months. | COURTESY OF LOAVES & FISHES

The Apopka Chief

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OCPS superintendent to retire after 2026-27 school year

Vazquez has served in role since 2022

Staff Reports

Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Maria F. Vazquez announced Monday that she plans to retire at the end of the 2026-27 school year, concluding a 35-year career in public education.

In a press release, Vazquez said she intends to remain focused on leading the district throughout the coming school year while helping prepare for a smooth leadership transition.

“Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life,” Vazquez said. “Throughout my career, I have believed that education is ultimately about people, relation-

ships, and creating opportunities for students to thrive. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of working alongside extraordinary employees, supportive families, dedicated community partners, and inspiring students. While I look forward to the next chapter, I remain fully committed to making this final school year one of our very best.”

Vazquez has spent her entire career in education, serving in classroom, school-based and district leadership positions. She began as an elementary school teacher before becoming a reading and language arts resource teacher. She later served as an assistant principal and principal before moving into district administration, where she held positions including area superintendent, chief academic officer and deputy superintendent. She



Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Maria F. Vazquez delivers remarks during the district's State of the Schools address earlier this year. Vazquez announced Monday that she will retire at the conclusion of the 2026-27 school year after a 35-year career in public education. | COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

was promoted to deputy superintendent in 2018 and became superintendent in 2022.

OCPS credits Vazquez with helping expand academic oppor-

tunities for historically underserved students, recruiting teachers to schools with the greatest needs and directing district resources toward classroom in-

struction and learning initiatives.

During her tenure as superintendent, the district has received an “A” grade from the Florida Department of Education for three consecutive school years. According to OCPS, nearly 80% of its schools earned either an “A” or “B” grade, and the district has not had any schools receive a “D” or “F” grade during the past two years.

Vazquez also became the first Hispanic superintendent in OCPS’ history. In 2023, she received the Don Quijote Award for Excellence in recognition of her leadership.

Vazquez has served in her position through a period of disruption, including declining enrollment, rising costs and funding uncertainty.

“The lack of funding is not allowing us to provide raises that

are going to help our teachers and our employees be able to have a livable wage,” Vazquez told The Apopka Chief last month after her 2026 State of the Schools address.

As a result of the funding challenges, the school board voted earlier this year to close a slate of schools, although none were in Apopka.

While announcing her retirement more than a year in advance, Vazquez said she intends to spend her remaining time as superintendent continuing efforts to improve student achievement, support district employees and strengthen relationships with families and the community.

According to OCPS, the district and the Orange County School Board will release information about the superintendent selection process at a later date.

TAX INCREASE

FROM A1

bers and really start to drill down and remove what we can remove,” Nesta said. “There are going to have to be cuts at the end of the day. That’s a non-negotiable. There will be cuts and hefty cuts.”

Residents offered sharply differing views on whether the city should increase the millage rate.

Resident Rod Olsen said the city can no longer postpone infrastructure investments.

“We’ve hit the wall,” Olsen said. “We have got to put the infrastructure in place.”

Retiree Jim Grumberg said he supports the increase, describing it as the cost of essential services rather than a simple tax hike.

“I don’t want to see a tax increase, but ... I see it as paying

for services,” Grumberg said. “I look at it as how quick do I want that fire department to be at my house if I have a fire. I look at it as how quick do I want my police there when I get a break-in. I look at it as—and I’ve had many an EMT come to my house—and I want to know how fast they’re going to be there the next time I call them.”

Business owner Matthew Hutchinson said rising property insurance and taxes have already strained homeowners and commercial property owners.

“I’m not saying you shouldn’t go up on the millage, but I think I’m really happy that you’re having this dialogue here because the community kind of pushed back on it,” Hutchinson said. “I



Resident Rod Olsen, seen here speaking at a March City Commission meeting, criticized the city for postponing prioritizing infrastructure. | PHOTO BY DANA O’CONNOR

think you got to dive a little bit deeper into it.”

Hutchinson also questioned the timing of creating new executive positions while asking residents to absorb a tax increase.

Commissioner Sam Ruth said overtime costs have been “systemic” for years and called the

current spending levels “daunting.”

“I’m comfortable where we are,” Ruth said. “I don’t see us going backwards. I see us, even at where we’re at the 0.75, we’ve got to do a lot. I see frivolous spending that we can actually hone into, and we can push these

numbers back towards the traffic infrastructure to support these.”

Commissioner Yesenia Baron also supported the tentative 0.75-mill rate increase, saying the city can continue reducing expenditures before adopting a final budget.

“We need to be able to take care of what we have, make sure that we are going through line by line items and making sure that we are removing the fat, if you will, on what we have in our budget,” Baron said.

Vice Mayor Diane Velazquez said she spent the weekend reviewing the budget line by line and believes departments should prioritize projects they can realistically complete during the upcoming fiscal year.

“Allocating money for projects that we know we’re not going to get to is hurting this bud-

get,” Velazquez said, while also citing overtime and unfinished infrastructure projects as concerns.

Commissioner Nadia Anderson maintained her opposition to a 0.75-mill increase, arguing the commission should identify spending reductions before asking taxpayers to pay more.

“If we’re able to go back and make cuts later, why can’t we make the cuts now?” Anderson asked. “How are we able to obtain the trust of the residents if we campaign on low taxes and the first thing we do when we get in office, we agree to raise all these taxes?”

After Baron indicated she would move to set the tentative rate at 0.5 mills, no motion was made before Nesta postponed consideration until Thursday’s special meeting.

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THEME: HISTORY 101

ACROSS

- Charlie “Bird” Parker’s sax
- Mary ____, businesswoman extraordinaire
- Downloadable smartphone purchase
- In ____ of
- Greek salad staple
- Appraisal
- Law school prerequisite, acr.
- “Once ____ a Time in America”
- Dictum, pl.
- * ____ press, Johannes Gutenberg’s invention
- “Sittin’ On the Dock of the Bay” singer
- In need of a muffler
- Make a choice
- *Genghis Khan’s ____ Empire
- Intima, pl.
- Fertility clinic stock
- Tranquil
- Famous Steeler coach, Chuck
- Twisted cotton thread

- Key next to spacebar
- Like a gymnast
- Naysayer’s favorite prefix
- Develop, as in story
- ____-AFTRA
- Famous fox of fable
- Like a smell of soil
- *World’s first 24-hour TV news network, acr.
- Molten rock
- Smoke plus fog
- *First Roman emperor
- Part of foot, pl.
- Chowder protein
- Pelvic parts
- Are not
- *Homesteader’s purchase, sing.
- “ ____ the good die young”
- *Pres. during the Cuban Missile Crisis
- It is
- Fermented rice brew

DOWN

- Pledge of Allegiance ending

- Talk like Daffy
- Eye drop
- Day trip
- Flat-topped military caps
- Lack of muscle tension
- Opposite of yin
- Mushroom spore sacs
- Benatar and Morita, e.g.
- Money in Myanmar
- Pointless
- Take as one’s own
- * ____ Bull, Lakota’s famous leader
- Gallows’ rope
- *World War ____, 1914-18
- Wisdom tooth, e.g.
- Sheep-like
- Highly unpleasant
- “He’s Just Not That ____ You”
- Damp
- Islam’s Supreme Being
- Lament for the dead
- Writer Ayn
- Rudolph’s friend Hermey, e.g.
- *One of Mount Rushmore presidents
- *First President in the White House
- Cremation ashes container
- Peanut or pea, e.g.
- Emotional turmoil
- 2:1 and 3:1, e.g.
- Defraud
- Petri dish jellies
- Feudal lord’s servant
- Humble and docile
- Frozen bowl berry
- Arm bone
- *The ____ Road, ancient East-West trade route
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Pirate’s “yes”

THIS WEEK’S PUZZLE ANSWERS

E	X	A	S		S	T	I		K	E	F				
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9	7	8	L	9	6	L	Z	E
Z	9	9	E	7	L	8	6	L
E	8	L	6	L	Z	9	9	7
7	L	6	9	8	9	E	L	Z
6	L	L	Z	9	9	7	E	8
8	E	Z	7	L	L	6	9	9
9	9	7	8	6	E	Z	L	L

CROSSWORD

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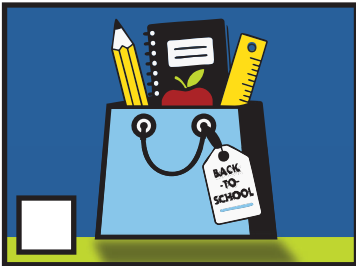
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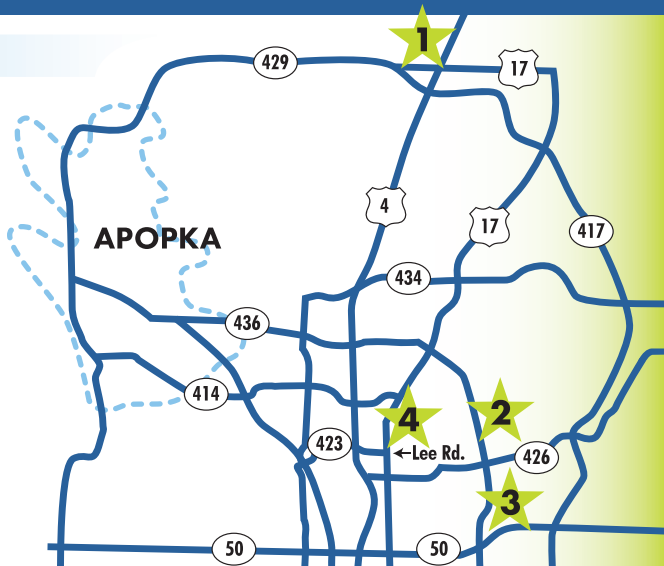


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Scouts BSA Troop 601 to dissolve at end of year

Troop held final outdoor flag ceremony Monday

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

Scouts BSA Troop 601 will dissolve on Dec. 31, according to a post on the BSA Troop 601 Facebook page.

“With heavy hearts we must share that Troop 601 will be dissolving its charter with First Presbyterian Church of Apopka,” the June 9 post said. “This is not a decision that comes lightly, and Troop 601 is immensely grateful for their support.”

The troop held its last out-

door flag ceremony on Monday, inviting all supporters and community members to attend. Woodmen Life Chapter 825 donated the flag and flagpole, while scout Jayden Collier built the pedestal for his Eagle Scout project.

Among the attendees were the wife and children of Arlen Mizell, who supported the scouting troop until his death in 2023.

“He was always the one that went to the people for the Apopka Christmas parade, and we would get a spot there at Kit Land Nelson Park — he would pay for a spot there, and also donate the funds to get the food and the drinks that we would offer to sell



From left to right: Kristian Colon, Jason Jessop, Jayden Collier and Maxwell Watkins | COURTESY OF PRISCILLA COLON

there,” said committee chair Priscilla Colon in an interview with The Apopka Chief. “He did it every single year that I remember... When I walked

solving due to its small size, Colon said it has been small for as long as she can remember, reaching only 12-15 members at its peak since she became committee chair.

“We’re small, but we’re mighty,” she said. “It’s a lot easier to go places. We’ve been to Georgia, we’ve been to South Carolina, we’ve been to North Carolina, we’ve been to the Keys... I mean, we’ve been so many amazing places that some troops might have not been able to go because they’re so big.”

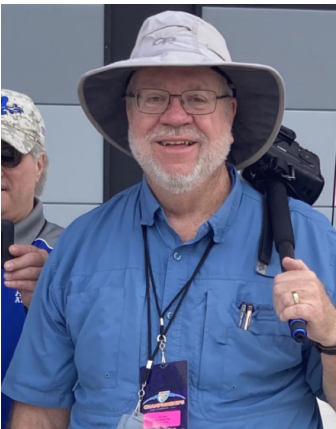
Colon believes scouting was crucial for her son Kristian’s development as he grew up with autism, especially because he gained a mentor

along the way. She also believes her son is just one of many children whose lives have been changed for the better through scouting.

“You just see the difference in the kids over all of these years that have come in with histories, back histories, whatever the case may be in their life, and they’ve just come back, and I’ve seen their lives turn around,” she said. “At the end of the day, it’s an amazing thing. We touched hearts. We did it. We did what the program wanted us to. Boy Scouts was programmed to that — it was put to helping kids achieve in life and putting them on the right path and not on the streets.”

EDITOR

FROM A1



John Peery stands ready to cover one of Apopka football's state championship games. | COURTESY OF ROGER WILLIAMS

Whether it was daughter Kristin’s dance recitals, youth sports or later spending time with his grandchildren, Grace said John was always present.

“He was just there,” she said. “He wanted to be a part of kids’ lives and support them in what they did.”

Born in Tennessee in 1956, John Peery moved to Apopka with his family as a toddler. A 1974 graduate of Apopka Memorial High School, he earned degrees from the University of Tennessee and the University of Central Florida before joining The Apopka Chief in 1978.

During his more than 40-year journalism career, Peery became widely known for his extensive knowledge of Apopka history and sports, covering generations of Blue Darter athletes while earning numerous Florida Press Association awards. He retired in 2022 but continued covering Apopka High School sports until his death on Oct. 12, 2023.

John’s passion for sports began long before he ever carried a camera or notebook.

His father operated the clock during Apopka High School basketball games, and as a young boy John would sit beneath the scorer’s table, absorbing every

detail of the game. Grace believes that experience sparked a fascination that never left him.

By the time he retired, many had come to regard him as an encyclopedia of Apopka sports.

“He had more knowledge than anybody around about Apopka sports,” Grace said. “He could quote statistics from players from years back and tell you what player ran what big play and what game, on what date it was, how much time was left on the clock and how many yards they ran. It was all stored in his brain somehow.”

Even coaches relied on him. When the high school football playoff system changed several years ago, Grace recalled, John spent hours studying the new format until he understood it well enough to explain it to coaches. His love for journalism matched his love for sports. Community journalism, Grace said, wasn’t simply John’s career — it was his calling.

“He just really loved what he did,” Grace said. “He was one of

the few people that I knew that truly loved what he did.”

That passion was rooted in faith.

After finding his retirement column during the interview, Grace read one of the passages that remained especially meaningful to her.

“As a person of faith and as a Christian, I must thank Jesus for His goodness to me,” John wrote. “There have been times when I have had a hard time balancing my representing the Lord and doing my job... I have always tried to make sure that someone who saw me and dealt with me during the week wouldn’t think less of the Lord or me if they saw me at church on Sunday.”

Grace said she never fully understood the depth of John’s impact until after his death.

“I always knew that he was respected and loved by Apopka as a whole,” she said, “but I never really comprehended how much until after he died.”

She recalled how, the day after

his death, Apopka High School’s football program painted John’s initials on the field, distributed helmet decals bearing his initials and added commemorative patches to players’ uniforms.

Now almost three years later, she said, the Hall of Fame recognition showed that his influence had not faded.

“People are still honoring him and still miss the contribution that he made in his job,” she said.

Grace believes John would have been humbled by Saturday night’s ceremony.

“He probably would have said something to the effect that, ‘This is really nice, but y’all really didn’t have to do this,’” she said.

John preferred to stay behind the camera, she said, never seeking personal recognition. Instead, he wanted each week’s newspaper to be something the staff could be proud of and something that reflected Apopka well.

For Grace, the award reflects

something larger: the lasting impression John left on the community he loved.

“He isn’t just missed by family,” she said. “He’s missed by a lot of Apopka.”

Eileen Ricketson, former business manager of The Apopka Chief and widow of the newspaper’s late publisher John Ricketson, remembered Peery as someone whose love of sports shaped both his journalism and his lasting influence on generations of Apopka athletes.

“J.P. made a big difference in Apopka area sports because he loved sports and enjoyed being able to write about the activity,” she said in an email to the Chief. “I remember his friend Pat McGuffin said that early on in their friendship, he saw JP sitting under the timekeeper’s table in the gym watching and learning. JP loved the teams and enjoyed being able to write about them and promote the players’ achievements. It is recognition well deserved from the Apopka Sports Hall of Fame.”

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POLICE BEAT

Apopka police make 37 arrests, respond to 6 crashes July 19-25

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In the period from July 19-25, 2026, the Apopka Police Department received 1,793 calls for service, responded to 6 crashes, issued 71 citations, and made 37 arrests. Burglaries: 2 vehicles, 0 residences, 2 businesses. No juveniles were charged.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Jason Lee Bence, 39, 1434 Ustler Rd., Apopka, battery-touch or strike; damage property-criminal mischief damage property \$1,000+; burglary with assault or battery.

Eddie McCoy, 64, 355 E. 14th St., Apopka, larceny-petit theft \$100-\$750.

Dheianir Mijares Ramirez, 51, 6178 Galloping Dr., Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Kenneth T. Reese, 58, 808 Marvin C Zanders Ave., Apopka, larceny-grand theft property value \$750-\$5,000; burglary-unoccupied conveyance unarmed.

Cyd Chetram Paul, 69, Apopka, battery-touch or strike. Chrissandra Janel Wicker, 45, Winter Garden, battery-touch or strike.

Jhawnee Auriel Ferguson, 20, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Pedro Jolomnayay, 35, 1242 Peach St., Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, refusal submit DUI testing; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs.

Craciala Leana Gonzalez, 67, 5475 Plymouth Sorrento Rd., Apopka, larceny-grand theft, property value \$750-\$5,000.

Francheska Lenea Jones, 27, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Tchaney Dorson, 27, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Allihondra Clarence Moody, 45, 3417 Fudge Rd., Apopka, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Alma Delia DeSantiago, 52, Orlando, simple assault-intent threat to do violence.

Dan Minh Vo, 33, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Richard Lee Steeves, 53, Apopka, simple assault-intent threat to do violence.

Steven Kinchens Velasquez, 44, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Marco Dantrell Eubanks, 38, 6646 Greenwell St., Baton Rouge, trespassing-structure or conveyance.

Austin Scott Blankenship,

29, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Michol Marie Richardson, 34, 922 Kentucky Blvd., Eustis, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs.

Henry Lee Brown, 60, 46 W. 7th St., Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Saraya W. Bailey, 49, 960 Windsong Cir., Apopka, burglary with assault or battery.

Lee Enrique Garcia Santiago, 34, 558 Sparrow Ct., Apopka, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended revocation. Equivalent status 2nd subsequent offense; moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license 1st conviction.

Lashana Lynett Williams, 44, Apopka, contempt of court-offender violate no contact order.

Shane Allen Baisden, 41, 2493 W. Highland Ave., Apopka, damage property-criminal mischief, damage property

\$200-\$1,000.

Efrain Eleuterio Roblero-Roblero, 30, 129 W. Tahoe St., Apopka, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended, revocation equivalent status.

Delfina Chen Suc, 27, 1753 Mid Summer Ave., Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license 1st conviction.

Genevieve Evangeline Berry-Lett, 50, 5122 Karl Lane, Orlando, larceny-other theft.

Derrick Undra Whitted, 43, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Lenick Telfort, 47, 2681 Palmetto Ridge Cir., Apopka, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended, revocation equivalent status.

Wilberson Jerome, 32, 1729 Alambra Cir., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Maria Lopez Perez, 28, 412 Dominish Estates Dr., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Bernave Lopez Perez, 24,

412 Dominish Estates Dr., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Ryan Remy James Sterrett, 31, general delivery, Altamonte Springs, failure to appear, felony warrant.

Debora Marleny Lopez Perez, 23, 412 Dominish Estates Dr., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Lee Enrique Garcia Santiago, 34, 558 Sparrow Ct., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Romelia Domingo Godinez, 42, 6921 Turquoise Ln., Orlando, out-of-county warrant (X3).

Tenina Lishay McCoy, 37, 611 Business Park Blvd. #101, Winter Garden, out-of-county warrant.

Editor's note: The Police Beat reported on the arrest of Sofia Asano, 34, in January. On July 16, the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court expunged her record and deemed her "at all pertinent times a victim of human trafficking."

METROPLAN

FROM A1

Mayor Nick Nesta said repealing the policy would avoid advancing taxpayer dollars when insurance coverage is already available.

"We want to make sure we're not double paying," Nesta said.

City Attorney Cliff Shepard said the insurance endorsement reimburses legal expenses only after an official has first paid an attorney, and the city reimburses the official before seeking reimbursement from the insurance carrier.

Anderson argued the insurance policy and the repealed resolution served different purposes because the city policy authorizes advancement of legal fees rather than reimbursement after the fact.

Anderson said, noting she is defending an ongoing lawsuit challenging her residency as a commissioner. She said the policy could help elected officials who cannot afford legal representation while defending lawsuits arising from their public service.

Also in the special meeting, which was announced Friday, the commission changed Apopka's representation on the MetroPlan Orlando Board, a regional transportation planning partnership for Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.

The item was presented as an opportunity to reconsider an appointment made by the previous City Commission in March, when it appointed Anderson to fill the seat of former Mayor Bryan Nelson. Staff recommended appointing Nesta as the city's representative and Vice Mayor Diane Velazquez as the alternate.

Nesta said he had advocated since serving as a commissioner for the mayor to occupy the city's MetroPlan seat, saying the arrangement better aligns Apopka with other governments represented on the regional transportation planning board.

Anderson opposed the change, calling it "a straight attack on me as a commissioner" and arguing the commission should instead devote its attention to ongoing budget decisions.

After discussion, the commission unanimously approved Velazquez's proposal to appoint Nesta as Apopka's MetroPlan representative, remove Anderson from the position and designate all four commissioners as alternates.

Throughout the meeting, Anderson said the agenda items targeted her.

"This special meeting was all a personal attack on me," she said.

Several residents questioned the timing of both agenda items and urged the commission to treat Anderson fairly, while another supported revisiting appointments made by the previous

commission shortly before new elected officials took office.

The legal fee advancement policy, adopted Jan. 21 as Resolution 2026-06, allowed the City Commission to approve advances of up to \$5,000 for legal expenses in certain non-criminal actions, subject to repayment if an official was ultimately unsuccessful in the underlying action.

The repeal eliminates that standing policy while preserving any existing reimbursement obligations created under the original resolution.

The special meeting followed immediately after the commission's first special meeting of the day, during which the commission tried and failed to reach an agreement on the millage rate.



Diane Velazquez, pictured here at an Apopka City Commission meeting earlier this month, will serve as an alternate for Mayor Nick Nesta on the MetroPlan Orlando Board. | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

GEORGE OLIVER III

FOR ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

DISTRICT 2



Together,
We Shape
The Future.

Ocoee Commissioner George Oliver III Enters District 2 Race, Citing Audit Expertise and Conflict Resolution Skills

George Oliver III, a four-term Ocoee City Commissioner and retired federal Revenue Officer, has launched his campaign for the Orange County Commission District 2 seat. Positioning himself as a candidate with the Strategic DNA required to oversee the county's \$8.3 billion budget, Oliver is running to ensure that West Orange County, specifically Apopka, Lockhart, Ocoee, and rural communities like Tangerine and Zellwood receives its fair share of resources.

A Foundation in Conflict Resolution and Professional Rigor

Oliver's qualifications extend beyond his political and financial background. He served as Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator, a credential that he emphasizes as a vital tool for bringing effective conflict resolution to the Board of County Commissioners. His professional history is further distinguished by a career with the U.S. Treasury Department, where he served as an auditor. Combined with his Master of Business Administration (MBA) and background as a Navy veteran, Oliver argues he possesses the discipline and analytical skills to provide rigorous oversight of taxpayer dollars.

Visionary Leadership on the Ocoee City Commission

As the first African American elected to the Ocoee City Commission, Oliver has been a catalyst for structural and social change. He was instrumental in creating a city-wide vision and mission to guide leadership, developing a 10-point, 40-year strategic plan during his 2023 mayoral run, several points of which were incorporated into the city's 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

HIS TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OCOEE INCLUDE:

- Securing a \$9 million agreement for the Clarke Road Extension Project.
- Worked with other elected officials to obtain a 25 Million dollar bond for large scale down town projects
- Lead the charge for a new fire station and a law enforcement training facility
- Establishing the Ocoee Youth Council to cultivate future civic leaders.
- Demanding transparency through the consistent call for operational audits of city finances.

A DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE

Oliver differentiates himself from his opponents by highlighting that he is the **ONLY** candidate in the race with direct local government executive experience and qualified via petition to get on the ballot. He maintains that his history of voting on municipal budgets and negotiating local contracts makes him ready to lead on day one without a learning curve. His leadership style is defined by a Boots on the Ground philosophy, rejecting ivory tower governance in favor of being accessible by having office hours in Apopka and Ocoee to hear from residents at least once per month.

A BOLD VISION FOR DISTRICT 2

If elected, Oliver has identified three primary pillars for his platform:

- **Affordability:** He is championing a District 2 Affordable Housing Action Plan, demanding that at least 15% of the county's Affordable Housing Trust Fund be directed specifically to West Orange County. He also supports creating a joint county municipal fast-track permitting process for workforce housing.
- **Infrastructure and Growth:** Oliver intends to defend firm rural boundaries for Tangerine and Zellwood to protect them from urban sprawl. He supports the Sunshine Corridor and demands that LYNX prioritize expanded service frequency in District 2.
- **Public Safety:** Following a Listen to the Badge philosophy, Oliver will work directly with frontline personnel to ensure they have competitive salaries and the tools to address silent killers like PTSD and occupational cancer.

Oliver has retired from his federal position to dedicate his full focus to the residents of District 2 ahead of the August 18th election.



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Apopka football season arrives



Defensive back group sprints off the field together after their drill. | PHOTO BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

2026 Blue Darters officially kick off fall practice

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The offseason is officially over in Apopka.

After months in the weight room, summer workouts and seven-on-seven competitions, the Blue Darters have shifted their fo-

cus toward the games that count. Preseason practice opened this week as Apopka began its final preparations for the 2026 football season, with the Aug. 14 opener at West Orange just two weeks away.

Head coach Marcus Neeson enters his second season at the helm looking to build on the foundation established during his first year. After finishing 2-8 in 2025, the Blue Darters have spent the

APOPKA FOOTBALL, B4

Mustangs stampede into a new season



Mustangs' offensive line makes callouts before the snap. | PHOTO BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

Wekiva football begins in-season practice

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Wekiva Mustangs are entering the 2026 football season with a renewed focus on building a stronger foundation, led by a senior class determined to help change the direction of the program.

At 407 Media Day on Saturday, July 25, head coach Ashton Watts brought five seniors — Avantae Scott, Dominick Sanguine, Kyle Sylvester, Landon Jerome and Jaylyn Noel — to represent the Mustangs as they prepare for the upcoming season.

For the seniors, the message was consistent: improvement starts with the work put in every day.

Scott said he wants to be a force that helps Wekiva return to its winning ways, while Jerome enters the season with high expectations for himself. The senior running back has set goals of rushing for more than 1,000 yards and reaching double-digit touchdowns.

Sylvester emphasized the importance of staying disciplined and continuing to work hard throughout the

season. Sanguine said he wants to be a leader who brings teammates together and helps inspire those around him. Instead of looking too far ahead, he said the team's focus will remain on taking the season one week at a time.

"I always try to inspire others," Sanguine said. "I believe in my senior teammates to help lead and bring the team together. We're going to take it one week at a time and try to win each day."

For Watts, the biggest change he has seen during the offseason has been the team's approach and commitment to discipline.

"We can always ask for more. No one here is perfect, so there's always something to strive for," Watts said. "I've seen the change in discipline. They know our word for the summer has been urgency."

Watts said he wants the Wekiva community to see a different standard from the Mustangs, one built around commitment on and off the field.

"Once you put that focus on God, family, education, everything else is going to fall into place," Watts said.

WEKIVA FOOTBALL, B2



Dominick Sanguine hands the ball off to Landon Jerome running across his body. | PHOTO BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

Alexis camp brings 4 days of fun



Young camper dribbles around a current Blue Darter. | PHOTO BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

Scott Williams hosts Sam Alexis Basketball Camp

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

Forty-eight campers between the ages of 7 and 13 took part in the annual Sam Alexis Basketball Camp, held Monday through Thursday at Apopka High School. The camp brought together current Blue Darter basketball players, former standout Rafi Betancourt and several longtime coaches to teach basketball fundamentals while continuing a tradition that has impacted generations of Apopka athletes.

Current varsity players stepped into coaching roles throughout the week, leading drills, offering instruction and

encouraging campers during every station and game.

Campers were divided into two age groups, with younger participants competing in the NCAA Division and older campers playing in the NBA Division. Betancourt served as the commissioner for the NCAA Division. The format allowed players to compete against others their own age while building friendships and confidence throughout the week.

Each morning began with ball-handling drills designed to sharpen fundamentals before campers lined up for one of the week's most anticipated competitions. Three players raced simultaneously through a cone course stretching the length of the court, weaving basketballs up the court in a test of both

speed and control. The three fastest times from each division earned a spot in Thursday's championship round.

From there, players rotated through stations around each basket, working on finishing around the rim before moving into team free-throw competitions. Groups battled to become the first team to knock down 10 free throws, creating plenty of cheering and friendly competition as teammates celebrated every made shot.

Campers later focused on midrange shooting from both baselines and the elbows before putting everything they had practiced into action during five-on-five league play.

The older NBA Division featured teams representing the Knicks, Spurs and Thunder, while younger campers com-

peted on teams representing Florida, UConn and Michigan. Throughout each game, current Blue Darter players coached from the sidelines, offering encouragement, correcting mistakes and celebrating hustle plays just as enthusiastically as made baskets.

Additional shooting competitions and open shootarounds filled the schedule before campers returned to live game action, keeping the gym buzzing from start to finish.

Head coach Scott Williams believes in the camp as more than just basketball, and hopes the week can build a positive mindset for their future.

"If I can affect one camper into thinking about choices and consequences, and applying their love for basketball

CAMP, B4

Apopka celebrates 2026 Sports Hall of Fame class



Inductee Johnny Robinson speaks during Saturday's gala. | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

Inductees honored at Saturday gala

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

The Apopka Sports Hall of Fame welcomed its 2026 class with an induction gala on July 25 at the Apopka Community Center, honoring 28 individuals whose accomplishments spanned across the entire Blue Darter athletic department.

While each inductee followed a different path to the stage, the evening carried a common message of faith, family and a commitment to giving back to the community that helped launch their journeys.

Basketball player and coach

Mark Washington described the honor as deeply humbling while thanking the countless people who helped shape his journey.

Washington reflected on a winding path that led from a basketball injury at Apopka to pursuing sports journalism at Florida A&M University and landing professional opportunities with ESPN and the Orlando Magic. He later built an impressive coaching résumé at both the middle and high school levels and became the only coach in city history to win county championships at two different middle schools (Apopka Memorial and Wolf Lake).

Washington credited his late father, his brothers, coaches,

teammates and support system for helping him reach the Hall of Fame. He also congratulated the other members of the class, calling it an honor to be inducted alongside them.

Several speeches focused on the importance of family, a theme that resonated throughout the evening.

Gerald Wright, a member of Apopka's class of 1997, was a state track champion and set the school's 200-meter record of 21.2. He was an NCAA All-American in 2001 and ranked fourth in the nation for the 55-meter with a time of 6.18. He continued coaching young people in his community, leading two Apopka middle schools to three Orange County Track Championships,

including two alongside his daughter at Wolf Lake.

Wright shared memories of the sacrifices his parents made to support his athletic career, recalling long road trips to competitions and the encouragement he received from his siblings. He also credited fellow Hall of Famers and coaches who helped build both his athletic ability and confidence before thanking his own children for inspiring him to return to coaching.

"I just hope to inspire the future Hall of Famers by continuing my coaching career," Wright said.

Moments later, his sister, Sharonda Wright, echoed those same sentiments while

HALL OF FAME, B3

Buck Moon bodes well for weekend fishing

Hello Folks,

I hope you are havin’ a good week, and you’re gettin’ out on the water and catchin’ some fish!

We just had the full moon on Wednesday, July 29th, so the fishin’ should still be good this weekend. This July’s full moon is what they call the Buck Moon, and the reason it’s called the Buck Moon is because male deer (Bucks) grow new velvet-covered antlers around this time of the year. And when the new antlers appear they’re covered in a layer of velvety fur. This July’s full moon is also called



GOIN’ FISHIN’
Jim Keck
Correspondent

the Thunder Moon or Hay Moon. Well, that’s my history lesson for this week, anyway.

The bass fishin’ is holdin’ its own in most of the lakes in our area. The bass fishin’ on the Maitland Chain is doin’ pretty good, as well. My buddy Ken caught some nice bass last week right at dark-thirty on the new urchin baits. His biggest bass hit the scales at 4

pounds. The Maitland guys are still fishin’ Lake Fairview each Wednesday night. Last week they had 8 boats that fished and it took 15.62 pounds to win. Congrats to Dumas and John on their win. They also caught Big Bass for the night. Their Big Bass hit the scales at 7.82 pounds.

The bass fishin’ is still pretty good on the Butler Chain, as well. Most folks are catchin’ plenty of smaller bass along the shoreline grass early in the mornin’ hours. Once that ole sun gets up, you’ll have to move to deeper water and fish the offshore grass and the peppergrass patches through-

out the chain. If you’d like to put in at R.D. Keene Park, the park opens at 6:30 a.m., and closes at 8 p.m. There are 49 places to park your boat and trailer. When the park hits capacity, the park will close and open back up after 2 p.m. No waiting and no drop-and-go will be allowed.

The bass fishin’ over on Johns Lake isn’t doin’ quite as good as it was. There were 21 boats that fished last week and it only took 10.75 pounds to win. Congrats to Gary Batchelor and Lou Gibbs on their win. They had Big Bass for the night that hit the scales at 3.70 pounds. So, you can see

there’s a slight difference in weights at each of these tournaments.

As for the bass fishin’ on the Harris Chain, the Lake County Bass Anglers held their tournament last Sunday out of Venetian Gardens. Congrats to Tom Lee on his win. Tom brought 5 bass to the scales, and they weighed in at 11.26 pounds. Tom also had Big Bass of the day, which hit the scales at 6.76 pounds.

The shellcrackers are still bitin’ in Lake Kissimmee on red worms. Some folks are catchin’ their limit just about every day. The limit is fifty panfish per day here in Flori-

da. So, if you want to get in on the action, get you a bucket of red worms and head on down to the lake and... catch some fish!

And, to wrap it up, the bass fishin’ on the Headwaters Lake is still doin’ good... if you get on the water as early as possible.

Well, that’s it for this week. I hope you get a chance to get on the water this week and, hopefully... you will catch some fish!

See y’all next week.

Tip of the week: Get on the water early!

SAVE A FEW AND GOOD LUCK!

CAMP

FROM B1

into being more successful as a person.” Williams said. “We hope that they leave camp feeling that someone has filled into their lives and given into them, and that they feel seen and cared for.”

While campers spent the week improving their jump shots and ball handling, current Blue Darter players experienced the camp from an entirely different perspective.

Senior Alex Congdon remembers attending the same camp as a young player. Now, instead of standing in line waiting for instruction, he’s the one teaching the next generation.

“It’s great because now I see it from both perspectives,” Congdon said. “I’ve been one of these kids at the camp, and I just try to be the best mentor I could be so that hopefully the kids feel as encouraged and loving to play basketball as I was when I had current players as coaches.”

For Congdon, creating an en-

joyable experience matters just as much as teaching the game itself.

“Just having fun with people has been my favorite,” he said. “If you’re not having fun, then what’s the point of coming here? So having fun is the most important and the best part.”

Junior Jacques Evariste shared similar thoughts, saying one of the most rewarding aspects of the week was watching younger players develop while remembering his own experiences growing up around the game.

“Honestly, it’s good because helping out the younger kids and seeing stuff that we used to do when we were little is pretty cool,” Evariste said. “Everybody wants to be good. Helping the young get better is pretty fun too. The kids are competitive, they listen, and it’s a great experience all in all.”

That connection between generations has long been one of the camp’s defining char-



Campers and coaches get together for a photo with Sam Alexis for the Sam Alexis Basketball Camp. | PHOTOS BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

acteristics. Young campers arrive hoping to learn basketball skills, but they also spend four days building relationships with the high school players they cheer for during the winter season.

For the Blue Darters, the opportunity to coach offers lessons of its own, challenging them to become leaders while giving back to the same community that once invested in them.

“It’s the secret sauce of what

we do.” Williams said. “Our guys are just amazing with the kids, and our camp keeps kids coming year after year because of our players... They just do a remarkable job.”

The camp concluded Thursday with championship competitions, league games and a special appearance by former Blue Darter standout Sam Alexis, whose basketball journey from Apopka to the collegiate and professional levels inspired the camp’s new name.



Campers listen to Sam Alexis giving advice.

While playing hard and winning games brought excitement throughout the week, the camp’s lasting impact extended well beyond the scoreboard.

For four days, campers learned how to dribble faster, shoot more consistently and compete with confidence. Just as importantly, they learned those lessons from players who once stood in their shoes, continuing a tradition that has helped shape Apopka basketball for years.



2026 graduate Rafi Betancourt returns as a camp commissioner.

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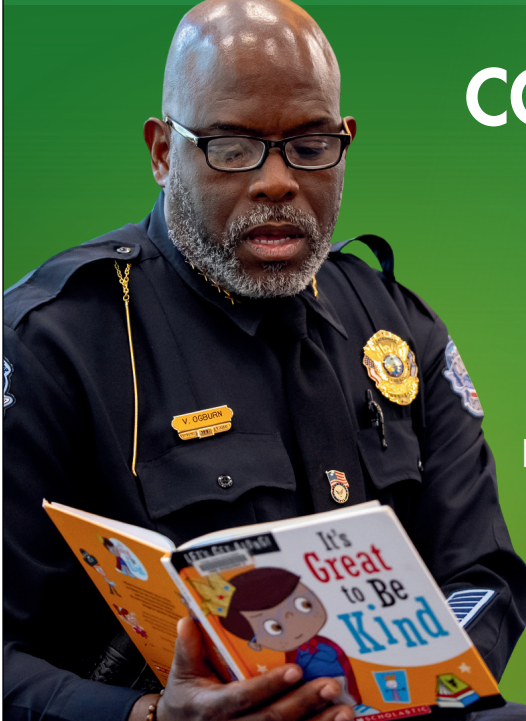
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Jalen Carter becomes highest-paid NFL defensive tackle



Jalen Carter points out some familiar campers that he remembers from prior camps. | PHOTOS BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

Former Blue Darter makes history with \$152M extension

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

From Apopka High School to the top of the NFL market, Jalen Carter has reached another milestone in his remarkable

football career. The Philadelphia Eagles signed the Apopka native and former Blue Darter to a four-year contract extension worth \$152 million that could reach \$160 million with incentives, making Carter the highest-paid defensive tackle in NFL history. The deal includes \$106 million guaranteed and keeps the two-time Pro Bowler un-



Jalen Carter in the crowd of his camp after being soaked for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

der contract through the 2031 season.

Since being selected ninth overall in the 2023 NFL Draft, Carter has quickly established himself as one of the league's premier defensive linemen. He has earned Pro Bowl honors in each of the past two seasons while helping anchor one of the NFL's top defenses and playing a key role in Philadel-

phia's Super Bowl LIX championship.

Before becoming an NFL star, Carter built his reputation at Apopka High School, where he was one of the nation's top defensive line prospects. He had 64 tackles and 12 sacks to help lead the Blue Darters to the 2018 Florida Class 8A state championship before continuing his career at the University



Jalen Carter works with linemen on exploding off the ball.

of Georgia.

At Georgia, Carter developed into one of college football's most dominant defensive players, helping the Bulldogs win back-to-back national championships in 2021 and 2022 before declaring for the NFL Draft.

Less than four years after hearing his name called on draft night, Carter has reached

another historic milestone. His record-setting extension not only secures his future in Philadelphia but also marks another accomplishment for one of Apopka's greatest football products, whose journey from Blue Darter standout to Super Bowl champion has culminated in his becoming the highest-paid defensive tackle in NFL history.

HALL OF FAME

FROM B1

thanking her mother, siblings, children and coaches. After a successful high school career in basketball, volleyball and cheerleading, she later became the cheer coordinator for Apopka Pop Warner and earned consecutive national championships. After being inducted, Wright encouraged former athletes to stay connected to the game by investing in young athletes.

"If anyone in here is an athlete or ever played sports and you're not doing it anymore, what has brought me so much joy these past couple of years is going back and coaching," Wright said. "Please go back and give back because you never know what you bring to these young people and how you inspire them."

Giving back to the Apopka community became one of the defining messages of the evening.

Rodney Washington was honored for his accomplishments in football, wrestling, shot put and coaching and thanked his family before speaking about the responsibility that comes with success. He joins his brother Mark and mother Betty in the Hall of Fame.

"The world needs more

great men," Washington said. "Everything that Apopka has given to me, I will give it back to Apopka."

Washington said he hopes to continue expanding sports opportunities and mentoring programs for young people throughout the city, leaving the community better for future generations.

Rodney Hartsfield, inducted for accomplishments in basketball, football and track and field, delivered one of the night's most passionate tributes to his hometown.

"You cut me, I bleed blue and white," Hartsfield said. "Everywhere I went, I took everybody in here with me and that comes from my heart."

Hartsfield thanked his parents, coaches, relatives and teammates while expressing his appreciation for being recognized alongside the rest of the class.

Education and perseverance also became recurring themes during the ceremony.

Former Apopka football standout and coach Markeefe Beckett Sr. shared how athletics helped redirect his life after struggling academically as a young student. He credited legendary coach Tim Gerrells for giving him another oppor-



Inductee Mark Washington (right) speaks at Saturday's event. | PHOTO BY DANA O'CONNOR

tunity before eventually building a career in education.

Now serving as an assistant principal at Catalina Elementary, Beckett encouraged young athletes to view sports as a vehicle for greater opportunities.

"Don't let sports be your end all, be all," Beckett said. "Use sports as a tool to further your education."

Johnny Robinson was inducted for an exceptional football career as a player and coach. He was Apopka's Defensive Lineman of the year in 1992 and earned a full scholarship to Marshall University. He came back and coached Pop Warner for ten years.

Robinson reflected on overcoming a massive stroke in 2016, thanking God for car-

rying him through one of the most difficult periods of his life. Now, he offers his time and expertise to stroke victims and individuals with physical limitations in the community.

Pastor Charles Williams looked back on representing both Apopka and Plymouth during his baseball career, sharing memories of choosing baseball over football and the support he received from teammates and classmates throughout the years.

Mark Seelig, honored for football and coaching, credited God and longtime Apopka coach Tim Gerrells for helping him earn the opportunity to play at one of college football's premier programs before thanking military veterans in attendance for their service.

He earned a scholarship in 1982 to play for the University of Miami, won a national championship and appeared in other high-stake bowl games. He went back to Apopka in the 90s to teach and coach for four years.

Derrick A. Clark was inducted for his accomplishments in football and volleyball and his service in the Army. He reflected on how sports prepared him for careers in the military and law enforcement while reminding young people to always have a backup plan.

"Always have a Plan B," Clark said. "Give 100 percent in your Plan B just as much as you give your Plan A, and keep God first."

Longtime baseball coach Brian King closed his remarks by recognizing the coaches who mentored him throughout his life, including Tim Gerrells, Phil King, Red Johnson, Dewey Varner Sr., Ralph Schuller Sr. and Fred Arnett.

"I'm very fortunate that those guys were in my life, and I hope that I've had the same impact on players who played for me."

Those mentors, King said, taught him what it meant to lead with integrity and invest in others.

Also recognized as members of the 2026 Apopka Sports Hall of Fame class were

Charles Cook (basketball), Ophelia McMath (flag football), Martez Ivey (football), Anthony Gibson (football and basketball), Monica Zow (basketball and soccer), who was also recognized as a community advocate for bicycle safety, Robert Hardwick (football, basketball and track and field), Keith Hardwick (football and basketball), Anthony Beckett (football), Jimmy Miller (football and baseball), Pete Vergos (bowling), Sylvester Smith (track and field), Tanya Smith Williams (multi-sport) and Darryl Rutland (football and basketball), along with Sandra Bridges Brooks, who was honored for her contributions as a multi-sport athlete.

While every inductee brought a unique story to the podium, the message shared throughout the evening extended well beyond trophies, records and championships. The 2026 class represented decades of athletic excellence, but more importantly, it celebrated individuals who have continued to serve as mentors, coaches, educators and role models across the Apopka community.



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APOPKA FOOTBALL

FROM B1

past eight months emphasizing strength, discipline and revenge in hopes of returning one of Central Florida's most tradition-rich programs to its winning standard. That work began long before the first practice whistle. On July 22, Apopka concluded its annual Super Darter Testing, an offseason evaluation measuring strength, speed, agility and academics. Players earned points through events including the power clean, bench press, squat, 40-yard dash, L-drill, shuttle run, vertical jump and weighted GPA before being placed into performance categories ranging from Duck (0-114) to the program's highest distinction, War Eagle (235+).

Senior defensive captain Marcus Young became the first Blue Darter in four years to earn War Eagle status, posting 237 points to lead the program. Senior running back Joshua Taylor followed with 222 points, joining the Bad Bird category. Several other players eclipsed the 200-point mark as Ultra Darters, including Elijah Adams, Markel Ashley, Jayden Caban, Jakyvion Kemp, Jaylen Laster, Jalen Parmley and Demetri Tarp-ley, while Johnson Navilssaint recorded the fastest 40-yard dash with a blazing 4.41-second time. The Blue Darters carried that momentum into one final offsea-son tune-up July 23 during a sev-en-on-seven event at Jones High School after a scheduled Fellow-ship of Christian Athletes camp was canceled.

Despite being shorthanded, Apopka continued to develop younger players by asking sev-eral athletes to fill unfamiliar roles. Freshman Kai Goodling and junior Brodie Bolly rotated between quarterback and running back while also contributing de-fensively. Senior wide receiver Xavier Cruz emerged as one of the offense's top targets, find-ing the end zone multiple times, while upcoming varsity players Irish Ferrer and Ezra Dady gained valuable experience competing against varsity-level talent. On Saturday, Apopka was rep-



Apopka Blue Darters run conditioning on the practice field. | PHOTO BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

resented at the Central Florida Media Day hosted by 407 Sports in Ocoee. Neeson brought senior leaders Marcus Young, Xavier Cruz, Joshua Taylor and Wilgains Vaval, along with standout junior defensive tackle Demetri Tarp-ley, as representatives of the Blue Darters program. Now, the attention has turned entirely toward Week 1. Apopka opened preseason camp Monday with 148 players across its freshman, junior varsity and varsity programs. A projected varsity roster of 52 players has begun taking shape as coaches evaluate personnel through the opening practices.

The first several days of camp have focused on fundamentals, communication and establishing the tempo that will carry the Blue Darters into the season. Quarterbacks spent time refin-ing pitching mechanics, footwork and exchanges with centers while continuing to master the termi-nology and process of Apopka's read-option and run-pass option offense. Wide receivers worked through hand-eye coordination drills using tennis balls before building timing with quarterbacks through route-running sessions. Running backs emphasized agility, vision and pass protec-tion, while offensive linemen

learned proper run-blocking and pass-protection techniques under offensive line coach Janko Beras, including pulls and trap blocks. On the defensive side, line-backers practiced filling gaps and shedding blockers, defensive line-men focused on exploding from proper stances under coach Matt Anderson, and defensive backs sharpened their footwork through backpedaling, coverage recogni-tion and tackling angles. Offensive skill players came together as quarterbacks, running backs and receivers executed read-option and RPO concepts that are expected to be key pieces of the offense this fall. Every practice concluded with demanding conditioning sessions, as players encouraged one ano-th-er through each sprint across the practice field. Anderson reminded players that conditioning is not a punish-ment but another opportunity to improve. He laid out reasons why it is important and told players to not let the difficulty deter them because conditioning is part of the game they signed up for. For Neeson, the progress made during the opening days of camp has been encouraging, even as a young roster continues to gain ex-perience. "We're moving in the right di-rection," Neeson said. "I'm see-ing lots of good things. We still have some growing pains with guys who are inexperienced and haven't fully matured yet, but we're doing a lot of really great things." The second-year head coach also believes the biggest differ-ence entering this season extends beyond the players on the field. "For myself, it's experience," Neeson said. "Being able to have a coaching staff around that un-derstands my vision and where I'm wanting to be. My staff on campus, the AD and principal just did a phenomenal job with getting the right guys hired, and it makes my job a whole lot easier." With the opening kickoff draw-ing closer, the Blue Darters un-derstand the work accomplished throughout the offseason has laid the foundation for a bounce-back season. Each completed day brings the Blue Darters closer to day 138, with their focus set on bringing a state championship back to Apopka.

WEKIVA FOOTBALL



Defensive coach Jerry Middleton drills the defensive backs. | PHOTOS BY VINNIE CAMMARANO

"If we put this work in and grind our hardest together, God will take care of the rest. They should look forward to seeing a more disciplined team." That commitment has al-ready begun creating op-



Coach Ashton Watts instructing the offense on pre-snap adjust-ments.

portunities for Wekiva players. During offseason competitions, senior Gavin Anderson-Brown earned an offer from Warner University. As the season approaches, Wekiva's focus is not on pre-season expectations or outside



Mustangs QB Dominick Sanguine listens to the offensive line callouts during the pre-snap.

opinions. Instead, the Mus-tangs are focused on creating a new standard built around discipline, urgency and lead-ership. Wekiva opens its 2026 sea-son on Aug. 14 on the road against Tavares.

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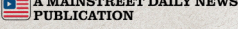


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FOR DETAILS

The Apopka Chief



A MAIN STREET DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

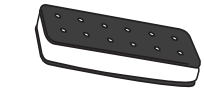
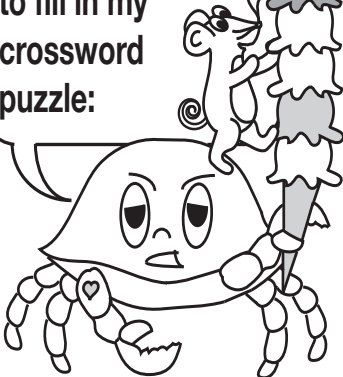
"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:4-5

Visit us online for all the Apopka area church listings



What's your favorite frozen dessert? Ice cream is one of the world's most popular treats. **Read my clues to find out the history of ice cream and to fill in my crossword puzzle:**

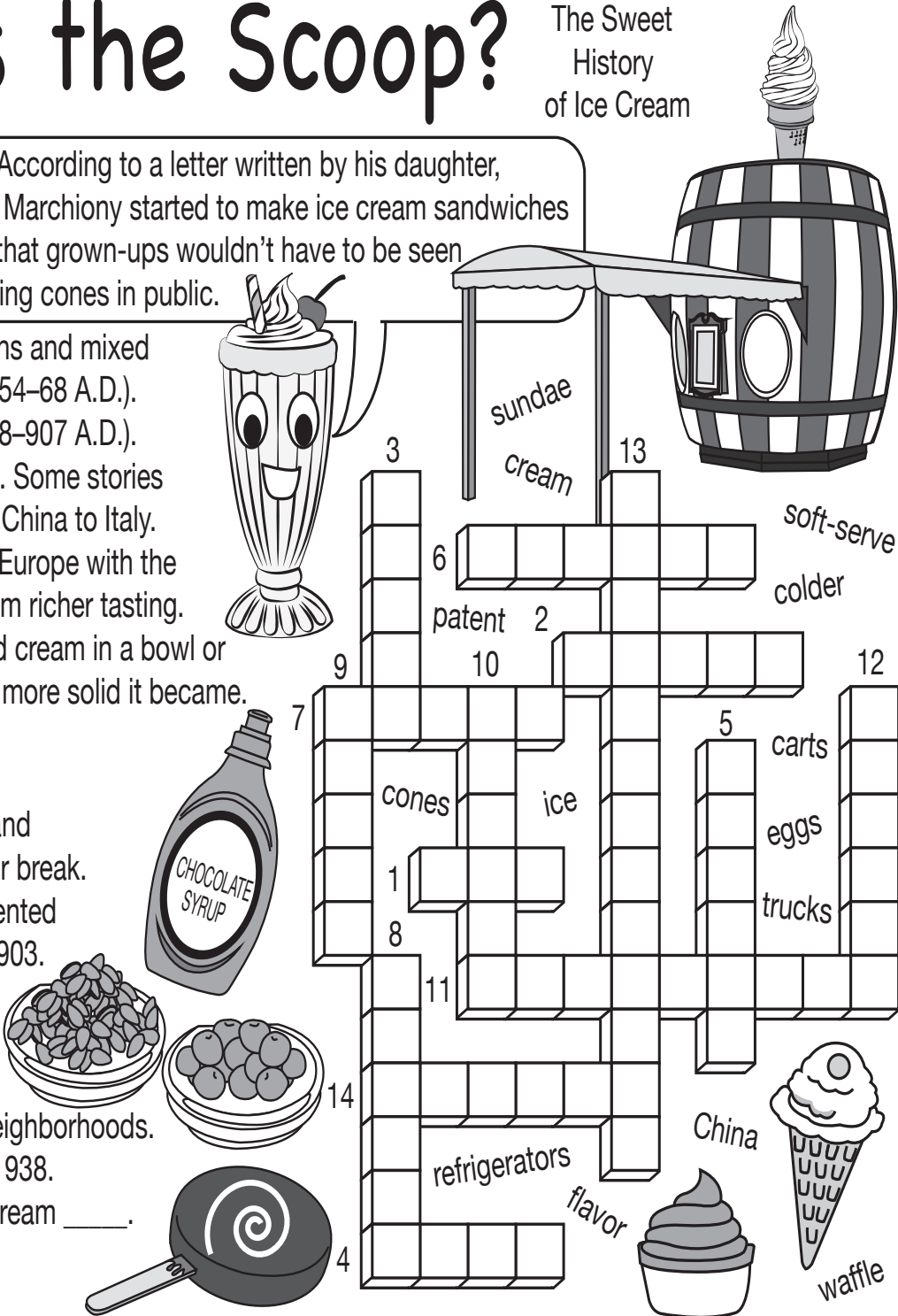


What's the Scoop?

The Sweet History of Ice Cream

According to a letter written by his daughter, Mr. Marchiony started to make ice cream sandwiches so that grown-ups wouldn't have to be seen licking cones in public.

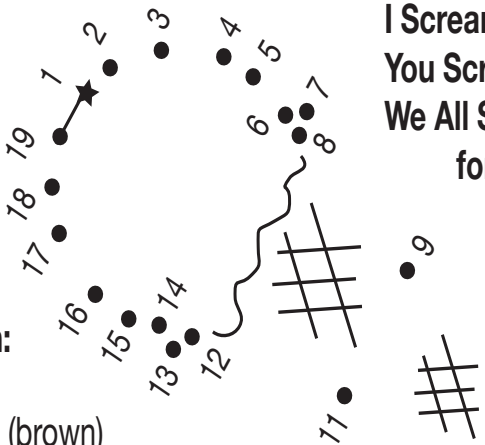
- The ancient Greeks of Athens enjoyed _____ mixed with honey and fruit (400 B.C.).
- Some people think that the Emperor Nero ordered ice to be brought back from the mountains and mixed with _____ or juice and fruit for banquets (Rome, 54–68 A.D.).
- "Ice cream" in _____ during the Tang Dynasty (618–907 A.D.) had milk mixed into it and maybe even some rice. Some stories say Marco Polo may have brought fruit ices from China to Italy.
- The popularity of "ice cream" moved throughout Europe with the French people adding _____ to make the ice cream richer tasting.
- Making ice cream was simple at first – sweetened cream in a bowl or pot was put into ice to cool. The _____ it got, the more solid it became.
- In 1843, Nancy M. Johnson of Philadelphia got the first _____ for a small hand-cranked ice cream freezer. It made smoother ice cream.
- Some newcomers to America, like Italo Marchiony from Italy, sold lemon ices and ice cream from _____ in little glasses that people often would walk away with or break.
- He started to make little _____ bowls by hand, which was a lot of work. He invented a machine that could make 10 waffle cups at a time and got a patent for it in 1903.
- In 1904, Mr. Marchiony sold ice cream at the World's Fair in St. Louis. He ran out of waffle cups and began to roll up waffles from a waffle maker into _____ and filled them with ice cream, starting "walk-away" ice cream cones.
- In 1920, Good Humor sold their ice cream from white _____ driven through neighborhoods.
- The _____ - _____, a favorite ice cream, was first sold by J. F. McCullough in 1938.
- In 1983, Ben and Jerry's ice cream was used to build the world's largest ice cream _____.
- Thanks to the invention of _____ most people have ice cream in their homes.
- Vanilla is the most popular _____ followed by chocolate!



Cool Treats!

During summer vacation we keep a lookout for cool treats. We ride our bikes or walk together to the stores with this sign on it. **Follow the color key to see the sign:**

S = strawberry (pink) C = chocolate (brown)



C	C	C	C	S	S	S	C	S	S	S	C	S	S	S	C	C	C	C	C
C	C	C	C	C	S	C	C	S	C	C	C	S	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
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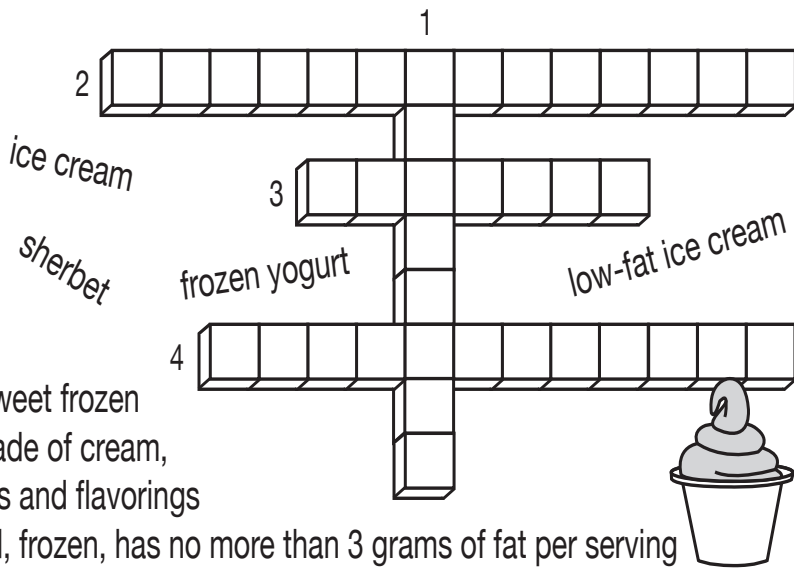
I Scream ...
You Scream ...
We All Scream
for ...

What Kind of Treat?

Today, there are a lot of different kinds of cold or frozen treats. The U.S. government has regulations that tell manufacturers what they must have in their ice cream to be able to market and sell a product as "ice cream." At home, families can make their own treats using any ingredients that they like. **Read the descriptions in the clues below. Fill in the crossword puzzle with the item being made:**



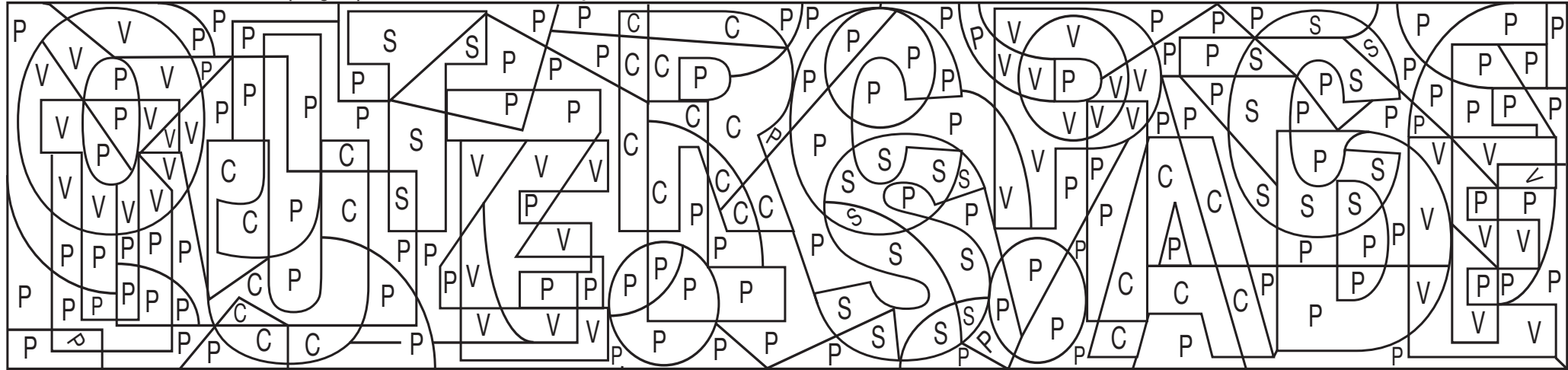
- smooth, sweet frozen dessert made of cream, sugar, eggs and flavorings
- sweetened, frozen, has no more than 3 grams of fat per serving
- mostly made of water, sugar, flavoring and a small amount of milk
- like a custard, it is made from milk; it has a slight sour-sweet taste



Astronaut Ice Cream!

Even astronauts want dessert! A sweet, freeze-dried ice cream treat was developed for them. This ice cream doesn't need refrigeration and can be taken on a hiking or camping trip. **Follow the color key to see where astronauts take it:**

S = strawberry (pink) P = purple (grape)
C = chocolate (brown) V = vanilla (yellow)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Friday, July 31

Outdoor BBQ Pig'nic with Richard Blais
6:30 p.m. – Four Flamin-gos, A Richard Blais Florida Kitchen (1 Grand Cypress Blvd., Orlando)
Chef Richard Blais will host a classic summer tradition: a barbecue picnic. The evening will also feature an in-person Q&A with Chef Blais, and guests can also add a sommelier's selection of wine and beer for \$45. Starting at \$126.97.

The Outsiders
7 p.m. – PaperMap Theater & Co. (2 N. Summerlin Ave., Orlando)
Featuring an all-youth cast, ages 9-17, The Outsiders fol-lows Ponyboy Curtis and his tight-knit group of Greasers as they navigate loyalty, violence, friendship, and growing up too fast. \$15.

Saturday, August 1

Create Your Own Whimsi-cal Fairy Door Workshop
10 a.m. – Harry P. Leu Gar-dens (1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando)
Create a whimsical fairy door using natural ele-ments, tiny windows, and a mushroom made from a champagne cork. Starting at \$44.52.

YMCA Healthy Family Day

10 a.m. – All YMCA of Cen-tral Florida locations
This year's Healthy Family Day is part of ESPN's Take Back Sports movement, in partnership with Disney, featuring free multisport clinics and hands-on YMCA experiences across a variety of program areas. Families can try new activities, build confidence, stay active, and explore new interests in a fun, supportive environ-ment. Free.

Backpack Giveaway Event
10 a.m. – Barnett Park (4801 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando)
Families can enjoy a variety of activities, entertainment, community resources, and more throughout the day. Free backpacks will be distributed to school-aged children in attendance while supplies last. Free.

Sunday, August 2

Creative Connections
12 p.m. – Orlando Museum of Art (2416 N. Mills Ave., Orlando)
This program connects visitors of all ages with developmental and learn-ing disabilities and those on the autism spectrum to art and the world around them. Free with preregistra-tion.

Tasting with Master Som-melier George Miliotes - The Blind Tasting Expe-rience
1 p.m. – Judson's Live (445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando)



Visit Faire of the Dog, a vintage & makers market that also raises donations for OC Animal Services | COURTESY OF WILL'S PUB

Challenge your palate with six curated wines, expert guidance and a charcuterie pairing. \$159.30.

Monday, August 3

Crochet/Knit
8 a.m. – Beardall Senior Center (800 Delaney Ave., Orlando)
Come work on your craft project with friends. Any project, any skill level wel-come! Free.

Free Back-to-School Phys-

icals
5:30 p.m. – Orange County Medical Clinic (101 S. West-moreland Drive, Orlando)
These no-cost physicals are specifically for children and teens without health insur-ance, removing financial barriers to required school health forms and care. No county restrictions. Free.

Alzheimer Association's In-Person Caregiver Sup-port Group
7 p.m. – Forest Lake Sev-enth-day Adventist Church

(515 Harley Lester Lane, Apopka)
Support groups create a safe, confidential, support-ive environment and a chance to develop infor-mal mutual support and social relationships. They educate and inform partic-ipants about dementia and help participants develop methods and skills to solve problems. To register, please call the Alzheimer Association's 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900. Free.

Tuesday, August 4

Hannah McGinley Lemas-ters - Standards in Time
7 p.m. – Judson's Live (445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando)
Singer-songwriter Hannah McGinley Lemasters deliv-ers honest and intimate folk and Americana songs at Judson's Live. Starting at \$35.40.

Wednesday, August 5

Luminary Market and KaleidoScope 360° Movie Night
5:30 p.m. – Luminary Green Park (437 N. Terry Ave., Orlando)
This monthly market show-cases between 20 to 25 unique vendors, featuring local favorites and curated goods. Visitors are encour-aged to stay for Kaleido-Scope 360°, an outdoor movie series hosted the same evening. Free.

Faire of the Dog: Night

Market
6 p.m. – Will's Pub (1042 N. Mills Ave., Orlando)
A vintage & makers market that also raises donations for Orange County Animal Services. 25+ vendors at Will's Pub and Lil Indies + on the front and back pati-os. Food vendors, vintage, plants, records, handmade goods & more. Free.

Apopka Foliage Toastmas-ters
7 p.m. – Apopka Museum (120 E. Fifth St., Apopka)
Toastmasters is a club that allows you to improve your public speaking, listening and leadership skills. Come and meet with us and enjoy a fun, friendly and helpful atmosphere. And it doesn't cost anything to look! Free.

Thursday, August 6

Biz & Coffee Morning at The Bloom Lounge
7:45 a.m. – The Bloom Lounge – Apopka Florist & Creative Space (2271 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka)
Don't miss this chance to build connections, amplify your voice, and grow along-side your peers. Free with registration.

First Thursday Abstract Painting Workshop
7 p.m. – Messy Craft (1595 Meeting Place, Orlando)
This exploration of abstract painting is designed for all skill levels to succeed and enjoy. Not your average paint & sip. \$43.

Forgo that trip to the pokey and try our Jail-House Chili

From *Paths of Sunshine Cookbook*, we found Jail-House Chili. This way, you won't have to experience that much-avoided experience to enjoy the so-named chili! I wonder if the jail-house can even *afford* ground beef to-day. It's becoming almost a luxury item! They warn you in the directions, "This is fairly hot chili, above average." So, keep in mind... you can always add more seasoning, but you can't take it out once it's in there!



We have a wonderful cookbook given to us by Claire Ellington called *Pot-Pourri of Zellwood, Recipes & Reflections*, 1983. In the back, under no particular category, we find a recipe for Tomato Gravy. You often hear Southern ladies talking about serving tomato gravy. This is described as "a traditional North Florida Panhandle recipe." I believe it is likely more of a "Southern" recipe, because my sister in South Carolina serves tomato gravy. Everyone ladles it over their rice at supper time.

From *Charleston Receipts*, first published in 1950, we found Best Beets from Mrs. Henry P. Staats (Juliette Wiles). Beets are delicious if you take the time to cook them and season them with orange or lemon and a little butter and honey.

From Leah Perez at the Pioneer Woman website, we have asparagus salad. You can get asparagus just about any time of year in today's supermarkets. It is packed with vitamins A, C, E, K, and folate, plus dietary fiber to help digestion. This salad recipe has got a little bit of everything: crisp-tender asparagus, smoky bacon, toasted wal-nuts, peppery radishes, and plenty of shaved parmesan, all tossed with fresh herbs and a bright, lemony vinaigrette. The combina-tion is refreshing, savory, crunchy, and just rich enough to feel satisfying without being heavy. Because asparagus can be woody and tough at the bottoms, trimming them is essential. The easiest method is to gather the asparagus into a small bunch and slice off an inch or two from the bottoms with a sharp knife. Asparagus salad holds up very well in the fridge, making it a great option for entertaining or meal prep. You can store it in an airtight container in the refrigerator

for up to two days. Wait to add the walnuts and bacon until just before serving.

Florida Orange Meringue Pie is a recipe that Byron McCoy shared with *Pot-Pourri of Zellwood*. You will notice and possibly wonder about the direction, "Add a little hot mixture to beaten egg yolks." This is meant to "temper" the eggs; to *gradually* moderate the temperature so the eggs don't actually cook when exposed to a large amount of ex-tremely hot mixture.

JAIL-HOUSE CHILI

Recipe from

Paths of Sunshine Cookbook

INGREDIENTS:
1/4 cup olive oil
3 pounds lean beef, diced
1 quart water
8 chili pods (or 6 tablespoons chili powder)
3 teaspoons salt
10 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon oregano
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon sugar
3 tablespoons paprika (for color)
3 tablespoons flour
6 tablespoons cornmeal
1 cup water
DIRECTIONS:

In a 6-quart pot heat the oil and add the meat to sear over high heat, stirring con-stantly, until the meat is grey – *not* brown. Add water, cover, and cook at a bubbling simmer 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Add all the other ingredients except the thickening (flour and cornmeal). Cook at simmer for another 30 minutes. If much fat was left on the meat, it will rise to the top after the spices have been added. Skim the fat before thickening. Mix flour and cornmeal with 1 cup water; add to chili mixture, stirring constantly to prevent sticking. Cook five minutes more to determine if more water is necessary to reach desired consistency. This is fairly hot chili, above average. Serves six.

TOMATO GRAVY

"A Traditional North Florida Panhandle recipe."

Recipe from F. E. "Red" Turner

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 pound bacon
1/3 cup chopped onion
1 can stewed or canned tomatoes

Salt and pepper to taste
All-purpose flour
Water, as needed
DIRECTIONS:

Fry 1/2-pound bacon until crisp. Set aside. Drain off all except about 3 tablespoons of fat. Saute 1/3 cup chopped onion in fat until opaque. Add 1 can stewed or canned toma-toes at once and mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Flour may be added for thickening if desired. Water may be add-ed if necessary. Crumble crisp bacon into mixture just before serving. Serve over grits to accompany fried fish and hushpuppies.

MRS. HENRY P. STAATS' BEST BEETS

Recipe from *Charleston Receipts*

INGREDIENTS:
2 cups beets
3/4 tablespoon flour
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons butter
DIRECTIONS:

1) Cook whole beets until tender. If baby beets, leave whole, otherwise slice. 2) Then cover beets with the following sauce: Mix flour with sugar and salt. Pour on vinegar and stir until dissolved. 3) Let come to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook for 5 minutes and add butter. 4) Pour sauce over beets and serve hot. Serves 4.

ASPARAGUS SALAD WITH BACON AND WALNUTS

From thePioneerWoman.com

INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup walnuts
2 slices bacon
1 pound asparagus, ends trimmed and spears cut into thirds on the diagonal
1/2 bunch radishes, cut into 1/4-inch half-moon slices
1/2 cup shaved parmesan cheese, plus more for serving
1/4 cup chopped tender herbs (parsley, chives, basil, dill, mint, or a combination), plus more for serving
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon honey
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
1 shallot, finely chopped
1/4 teaspoon black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1) In a medium skillet, toast the walnuts over medium heat, stirring frequently so they don't burn, until they are toasted and fragrant, 4 to 6 minutes. Remove to a cut-ting board, let cool, then coarsely chop. 2) Wipe out the skillet and add the bacon. Cook over medium heat, flipping occasion-ally, until brown and crispy, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer to a paper-towel lined plate to cool; crumble. 3) Bring 2 cups water to a boil in a large pot fitted with a steamer basket. Fill a large bowl with ice water. Add the aspar-agus to the basket and steam until tender, 3 to 4 minutes; immediately transfer to the ice water to *stop the cooking*. Pat the asparagus dry with a clean kitchen towel or paper tow-els. 4) In a large bowl, combine the aspara-gus, radishes, parmesan, herbs, and walnuts. Season with 1/2 teaspoon salt. 5) In a small mason jar, combine the oil, mustard, honey, lemon zest, lemon juice, shallot, pepper, and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Secure the lid and shake vigorously to combine. Drizzle over the asparagus mixture and toss to coat. 6) Transfer to a serving bowl and sprinkle with the bacon and more parmesan and herbs.

BYRON MCCOY'S FLORIDA ORANGE MERINGUE PIE

Recipe from Pot-Pourri of Zellwood

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup orange juice
1 cup orange sections, cut into pieces
2 tablespoons grated orange rind
1 cup sugar
5 tablespoons cornstarch
3 egg yolks, beaten
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
Meringue from the egg whites
DIRECTIONS:

Combine orange juice, sections, grated rind, sugar and cornstarch. Cook on low heat until clear. Add a *little* hot mixture to the beaten egg yolks just *gradually* to tem-per them, stirring constantly, and finally stir-ring all the egg mixture into the hot mixture. (You just don't want a clump of scrambled eggs in the middle of your pie!) Cook about five minutes longer. Remove from heat. Blend in lemon juice, butter or margarine. Pour into BAKED pie shell. (Be sure filling and shell are *both hot* or *both cold*.) Cover filling with meringue. Bake in 350-degree oven until lightly browned.

The Apopka Chief

LEGAL ADVERTISING

B7 - B9

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on **08/21/2026** 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. **2012 NISS 1N4AL2EP5CC159831**
Publish: The Apopka Chief
July 31, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on **08/24/2026** 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. **2022 FORD 1FT8W2BT1NEF44649**
Publish: The Apopka Chief
July 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. **2026-CP-000942-O**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ VAZQUEZ, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JONATHAN RODRIGUEZ VAZQUEZ, deceased, whose date of death was September 27, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 350, 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.

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.

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 July 31, 2026.

Personal Representative:

NORIBEL PRINCIPE
86 PINE ARBOR DRIVE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32825

Attorney for Personal Representative:

DANIELLE WHITE, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar No. 1035906
VELIZ KATZ LAW
630 North Wymore Road,
Suite 330
Maitland, Florida 32751
Telephone: (407) 849-7072
Facsimile: (407) 849-7075
E-Mail:
VelizKatz@VelizKatzLaw.com

Secondary:

Probate@VelizKatzLaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner
July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. **2026-CP-000635-O**

IN RE: ESTATE OF

DANY CRUZ ACOSTA, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of DANY CRUZ ACOSTA, deceased, whose date of death was October 25, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N Orange Avenue, Suite 335, 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.

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.

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 July 31, 2026.

Personal Representative:

DANEYSI CRUZ DURAN
2206 ROSE BOULEVARD
ORLANDO, FL 32839
Attorney for Personal Representative:
DANIELLE WHITE, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar No. 1035906
VELIZ KATZ LAW
630 North Wymore Road,
Suite 330
Maitland, Florida 32751
Telephone: (407) 849-7072
Facsimile: (407) 849-7075
E-Mail:
VelizKatz@VelizKatzLaw.com

Secondary:

Probate@VelizKatzLaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner
July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE MENTAL

HEALTH DIVISION

CASE NUMBER: **2024-CP-000370-O**

DIVISION Probate

IN RE: BARBARA MCCORMICK

AMBERTNSON

DECEASED

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED

PROBATE FUNDS

DEPOSITED IN COURT

REGISTRY

Notice is given that, pursuant to section 733.816, Florida Statutes, unclaimed probate funds of \$977.50 are being held for CONWAY UNITED METHOD-IST CHURCH in the registry of court, deposited per order of 04/14/2026 in the Estate of BARBARA MCCORMICK AMBERTNSON, deceased; case number 2024-CP-000370-O.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court will deposit these funds with the Department of Financial Services no less than six months after the posting or the first publication of this notice, after deducting fees and any costs of publication. Any person or entity entitled to such funds may obtain them by compliance with applicable provisions of Section 733.816, Fla. Stat., within 10 years from the date of deposit with the Department of Financial Services, after which time the funds will escheat to the state.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of this Court, on this the 28th day of July 2026.
Tiffany Moore Russell
Orange County
Clerk of the Circuit Court
425 N. Orange Ave.,
Ste. 335
Orlando, FL 32801
By: /s/ Carissa Bundy
Deputy Clerk
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
July 31, August 28, 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 **19th Day of August, 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.

Loovens Sabbat–

Unit 2047–

Personal Property

July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NUMBER: **2026-CA-007801-O**

DIVISION NUMBER: 39

IN RE: FORFEITURE OF

\$207,383.25 IN U.S. CURRENCY

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

COMPLAINT

TO: VAGNER SOARES DE ALMEIDA**5151 TARRAGONA DRIVE****ORLANDO, FL 32837**

and all others who claim an interest in \$207,383.25 in U.S. Currency, which was seized on or about the 8th day of June, 2026, at or near Bank of America, Orange County, Florida. Said property is in the custody of the Sheriff of Orange County. A Complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the above-styled Court.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Notice is being served pursuant to the notice provisions of Florida Statutes 932.701-707, this 23rd day of July, 2026.

/s/ Jose C. Campa

Jose C. Campa

Assistant General Counsel

Florida Bar No. 105781

Orange County

Sheriff's Office

Legal Services

P.O. Box 1440

Orlando, FL 32802

(407) 254-7170

Jose.campa@ocsofl.com

July 31, August 7, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on **08/21/2026** 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. **2014 CHEV 1G1PA5SHXE7229403**
Publish: The Apopka Chief
July 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. **2025-CA-003839-O**

DIV NO.: 39

MARRIOTT RESORTS HOSPITALITY

CORPORATION, a South Carolina Cor-

poration, Management Agent on behalf of

MVC TRUST OWNERS ASSOCIATION,

INC., a Florida not for profit corporation,

and All Owners as Agent,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROBERT L. HOWARD, et. al.,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

AS TO COUNT IV

TO: ANDREW L. MEYER, DECEASED,

THE ESTATE OF ANDREW L. MEYER,

DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN

SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES,

GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS,

CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER

CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UN-

DER OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT

777 N PROSPECT AVE

UNIT 203

MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-4001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 27th, 2026, in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-003839-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT IV

6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: AA8201 & AA8202 & AA8203 & AA8204 & AA8205 & AA8206) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 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).

Mariotti 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 January 01, 2019 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd of September, 2026 online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 29, 2026.

/s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
FLORIDA BAR NO 0010391
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

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 ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. OUR FILE #129710.0113

MRHC #ORANGE
July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NUMBER: **2026-CA-007921-O**

DIVISION NUMBER: 40

IN RE: FORFEITURE OF

\$3,960.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

COMPLAINT

TO: DARON L. JONES JR.**7600 MAJORCA PLACE****APT. 2046****ORLANDO, FL 32819**

and all others who claim an interest in **\$3,960.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY**, which was seized on or about the 9th day June 2026, at or near 7600 Majorca Place, Orange County, Florida. Said property is in the custody of the Sheriff of Orange County. A Complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the above-styled Court.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Notice is being served pursuant to the notice provi-

the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 27, 2026.

DATED July 27, 2026.

/s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD

EDWARD M. FITZGERALD

FLORIDA BAR NO 0010391

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

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 ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. OUR FILE #129710.0108

MRHC #ORANGE

July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT IN AND FOR

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NUMBER: **482026CA7087-O**

DIVISION NUMBER: 48

IN RE: FORFEITURE OF

\$4,041.00 IN US CURRENCY

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

COMPLAINT

To: Chappelle Teague**and/or Jennifer Dukes****or/ or Carmen Danley****1112 LEGG DRIVE****Apopka, Florida 32712**

And all others who claim interest in \$4,041.00, which was seized on or about May 21, 2026, at or near 1112 Legg Drive, Apopka, Florida.

Said property is in the custody of the Apopka Police Department. A Complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the above-

Styled Court.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Notice is being served

Pursuant to the notice provisions of Florida Statute

932.701-937.707, this July 31, 2026.

Erin L. DeYoung,

General Counsel

Apopka Police Department

112 E. 6th Street

Apopka, Florida 32703

Edeyoung@apopka.net

(407)703-1771

July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL

CIRCUIT IN AND FOR

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. **2025-CA-003839-O**

DIV NO.: 39

MARRIOTT RESORTS HOSPITALITY

CORPORATION, a South Carolina Cor-

poration, Management Agent on behalf of

MVC TRUST OWNERS ASSOCIATION,

INC., a Florida not for profit corporation,

and All Owners as Agent,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROBERT L. HOWARD, et. al.,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

AS TO COUNT VIII

TO: PHILLIP J. BARKER,

DECEASED AS INDIVIDUAL AND AS

TRUSTEE OF THE PHILLIP J. AND

KATHRYN D. BARKER TRUST OF

2003 DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2003

PO BOX 88

CEDARVILLE, CA 96104

KATHRYN D. BARKER, J. AND

KATHRYN D. BARKER TRUST OF

2003 DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2003

PO BOX 88

CEDARVILLE, CA 96104

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursu-

ant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 27th, 2026, in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-003839-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT VIII

14 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: C99851 & C99852 & C99901 & C99902 & C99903 & C99904 & C99905 & C99906 & C99917 & C99918 & C99919 & C99920 & C99921 & C99922) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 3500 Points (250 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),

Mariotti 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 January 01, 2015 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd of September, 2026 online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com

The Apopka Chief

AND MARTHA ISABEL MUNIAN-DE-FREYRIA CALLE CALZ. DE LA NARANJA 166, 5E NAUCALPAN, ESTADO DE MEXICO 53370 MEXICO

The above named Defendants are not known to be dead or alive and, if dead, the unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, 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 OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC., upon the filing of a complaint to foreclose a mortgage and for other relief relative to the following described property:

COUNT II
8 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: #22626 & #22627 & #22628 & #36308 & #36309 & #36310 & #37930 & #37931) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 2000 Points (250 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 January 01, 2016 (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 21st day of July, 2026.
Tiffany Moore Russell
Clerk of the Court
BY: Stanley Green
As Deputy Clerk,
425 North Orange Ave.
Suite 310
Orlando, Florida 32801
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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
HK#126435.9598/MP119
July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2026-CP-001122-O
IN RE: ESTATE OF URSULA SINGLETON, Deceased.
NOTICE OF ACTION (formal notice by publication)
TO: JATOVA SINGLETON, 1460 Heber Circle, Orlando, Florida 32811
DONTE SINGLETON, 1460 Heber Circle, Orlando, Florida 32811
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Petition for Administration, Petition to Waive Bond of Personal Representative and Notice of Administration has been filed in this court. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, as Petitioner's attorney, whose name and address are: David W. Veliz, 630 North Wymore Road, Suite 330, Maitland, Florida 32751 on or before August 31, 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 07/17/2026
Tiffany Moore Russell
As Clerk of Court
Kevin Drumm
As Deputy Clerk
Probate Mental Health Division
425 N. Orange Avenue
Room 335
Orlando, Florida 32801
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
July 31, August 7, 14, 21, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 2026-CA-007641-O DIVISION NUMBER: 35 IN RE: FORFEITURE OF \$2,460.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT
TO: RAYMOND K. STOVER
4358 PRINCE HALL BOULEVARD
ORLANDO, FL 32811-5644
and all others who claim an interest in \$2,460.00 in U.S. Currency, which was seized on or about the 5th day of June, 2026, at or near 106 Ferguson Drive, Orlando, in Orange County, Florida. Said property is in the custody of the Sheriff of Orange County. A Complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the above-styled Court. **I HEREBY CERTIFY** that this Notice is being served pursuant to the notice provisions of Florida Statutes 932.701-707, this 20th day of July, 2026.
/s/ Jose C. Campa
Jose C. Campa
Assistant General Counsel
Florida Bar No. 105781
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Legal Services
P.O. Box 1440
Orlando, FL 32802
(407) 254-7170
Jose.campa@ocsofl.com
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2026-CA-004028-O

SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., Plaintiff, vs. DANIEL VEGA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DANIEL VEGA; MDC HOME INVESTMENTS LLC; WALDEN PALMS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 and #2, et.al. Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF ACTION TO: DANIEL VEGA (Current Residence Unknown) (Last Known Address(es))
7458 UNIVERSAL BOULEVARD, #4328
ORLANDO, FL 32819
4704 WALDEN CIRCLE, #21
ORLANDO, FL 32811
4614 OAK HAVEN DR
ORLANDO, FL 32839
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described property:
UNIT NO. 21, BUILDING 19, WALDEN PALMS CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 8444, PAGE 2553, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA. A/K/A: 4704 WALDEN CIRCLE, #21, ORLANDO, FL 32811.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire, POPKIN & ROSALER, P.A., 1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard, Suite 400, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442, Attorney for Plaintiff, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in THE APOPKA CHIEF and file the original with the Clerk of this 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.

If you are a person with a disability who needs special accommodation, you are entitled to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at the address or phone number below at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance or immediately upon receiving an official notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
ADA Coordinator
Orange County Courthouse
425 N. Orange Avenue,
Suite 510,
Orlando, Florida, 32801
(407) 836-2303
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 20th day of July, 2026.
TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL
As Clerk of the Court:
Stanley Green
Signature
425 North Orange Ave.
Suite 310
Orlando, Florida 32801
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
25-52606
July 31, August 7, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Pursuant to FL Self-storage Facility Act & to satisfy Owner's lien Storage Sense located at 10906 Moss Park Rd, Orlando, FL, 32832, 407-725-5277 intends to sell the personal property described below in order to satisfy Owner's lien. Everything sold is purchased AS-IS for CASH ONLY. See and bid on all units 24/7 ending on August 19th 2026, at 11:00 am @ www.lockerfox.com. Storage Sense reserves the right to refuse any bid or rescind any purchase until the winning bidder takes possession of the property. TERMS listed on auction, **Lissette Torres-272-** Household Goods; **Paulina Alvarez-331-** Household Goods; **Ali Warthen-830** Household Goods; July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CA-007570-O DIV NO.: 40 MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff, vs. WILLIAM R. JOBBINS, et al., Defendants. NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT XIV TO: DANIEL T. YOUNG 862 W 1400 N. OREM, UT 84057 JESSICA B. YOUNG 862 W 1400 N. OREM, UT 84057 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 14, 2026 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-007570-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as: **COUNT XIV**
8 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: Y45227 & Y45228 & Y45229 & Y45230 & Y45231 & Y45232 & Y45233 & Y45234) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 2000 Points (250 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 January 01, 2020 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

AND
10 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: C31312 & C31313 & C31314 & C31315 & C31316 & C31317 & C31318 & C31319 & C31320 & C31321) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 2500 Points (250 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 January 01, 2014 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 a.m., on the 27th day of August, 2026, online at www.myorangelclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in

the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 15, 2026. DATED this 15th day of July, 2026.
/s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ.
FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
OUR FILE #126435.9557
MORI #ORANGE
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2026-CP-000784-O
Division 09
IN RE: ESTATE OF SHERRY MONTEZ BARNES Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Sherry Montez Barnes, deceased, whose date of death was August 23, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, Florida 32801. The name 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 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. 732.221, 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 July 31, 2026.

Personal Representative:
Calvin Barnes
7445 Holly St.
Mount Dora, Florida 32757
Attorney for Personal Representative:
MAUREEN A. ARAGO, Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 835821
Arago Law Firm, PLLC
230 E. Monument Ave., Suite A
Kissimmee, FL 34741
Telephone: (407) 344-1185
E-Mail: maureenarago@aragolaw.com
Secondary E-Mail: colleen@aragolaw.com
July 31, August 7, 2026

A-AAA Key Mini Storage 1001 S Semoran Blvd Orlando FL 32807 407-401-9422 M30etrustsdstoragepros.com
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
In order to satisfy a contractual landlord's lien, under the provisions of the Florida Self Service Storage Act, public notice is hereby given that the following described property located at A-AAA Key Mini Storage 1001 S Semoran Blvd Orlando FL 32807, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for Credit/Debit only at www.storageauctions.com on August 19th, 2026 at 11:30AM.
YADIEL EMIL RIVERA ORTIZ: Mattresses, chair, boxes, bags, clothes
HECTOR ZELAYA: Construction materials, ladders, boxes, coolers, tires
HECTOR EZEQUIEL ZELAYA: Construction materials, ladders, boxes, coolers, tires
FRANCISCO JAVIER SANTOS SANTIAGO: Bags, furniture, flat screen TV
JOSE MANUEL ARREDONDO GUERRERO: Clothes, fishing pole
JOSE CALDERON RIVERA: Luggage, clothes, cords, power tools, totes, circular saw, speaker, misc tools
Publish: The Apopka Chief
July 31, August 7, 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 08/21/26 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 ~ Tenant's name ~ description, #xxx ~ Tenant's name ~ description ...
#1002-Ludjina Saintil-
#1178-Latoya Andrews-
#1218-Chantilly Ruff-
#B004-Elmer Moto-
#C027-Gage M Cooper-
#C056-Julian Hamilton-
#D010-Toccarra Ford
July 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 2026-CA-007470-O DIVISION NUMBER: 36 IN RE: FORFEITURE OF \$1,305,252.07 IN U.S. CURRENCY NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT
TO: VAGNER SOARES DE ALMEIDA
5151 TARAGONA DRIVE
ORLANDO, FL 32837
and all others who claim an interest in \$1,305,252.07 in U.S. Currency, which was

seized on or about the 4th day of June, 2026, at or near Truist Bank, in Orange County, Florida. Said property is in the custody of the Sheriff of Orange County. A Complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the above-styled Court. **I HEREBY CERTIFY** that this Notice is being served pursuant to the notice provisions of Florida Statutes 932.701-707, this 15th day of July, 2026.
/s/ Jose C. Campa
Jose C. Campa
Assistant General Counsel
Florida Bar No. 105781
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Legal Services
P.O. Box 1440
Orlando, FL 32802
(407) 254-7170
Jose.campa@ocsofl.com
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 2026-CA-007457-O DIVISION NUMBER: 39 IN RE: FORFEITURE OF A 2015 NISSAN ALTIMA, VIN 1N4AL3AP4FN328175 NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT
TO: JOHN VAGNIER
7152 KEEL COURT
ORLANDO, FL 32835
and all others who claim an interest in 2015 Nissan Altima, VIN 1N4AL3AP-4FN328175, which was seized on or about the 1st day of June, 2026, at or near 5535 Conroy Road, Orange County, Florida. Said property is in the custody of the Sheriff of Orange County. A Complaint for forfeiture has been filed in the above-styled Court.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Notice is being served pursuant to the notice provisions of Florida Statutes 932.701-707, this 15th day of July, 2026.
/s/ Jose C. Campa
Jose C. Campa
Assistant General Counsel
Florida Bar No. 105781
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Legal Services
P.O. Box 1440
Orlando, FL 32802
(407) 254-7170
Jose.campa@ocsofl.com
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CA-005648-O DIV NO.: 35 MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff, vs. JERRY L. BUTLER, et. al., Defendants. NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT III TO: ROLAND SODEINDE 6A WYATTS ROAD GRATIA DIUS CHORLEYWOOD HERTFORDSHIRE, OF WD3 5TE GBR UNITED KINGDOM VALERIE O. SODEINDE 6A WYATTS ROAD GRATIA DIUS CHORLEYWOOD HERTFORDSHIRE, OF WD3 5TE GBR UNITED KINGDOM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 14, 2026 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-005648-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT III
6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: 126404 & 126405 & 126406 & 126407 & 126408 & 126409) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 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 January 01, 2011 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).
at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 a.m., on the 27th day of August, 2026, online at www.myorangelclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 15, 2026. DATED this 15th day of July, 2026.
/s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ.
FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
OUR FILE #126435.9529
MORI #ORANGE
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CA-005648-O DIV NO.: 35 MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff, vs. JERRY L. BUTLER, et. al., Defendants. NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT I TO: JERRY L. BUTLER 125 N AIKEN AVE PITTSBURGH, PA 15206-3401
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 14, 2026 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-005648-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT I
8 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: 093101 & 093102 & 093103 & 093104 & 093122 & 093123 & 093124 & 093125) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 2000 Points

(250 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 December 01, 2010 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 a.m., on the 27th day of August, 2026, online at www.myorangelclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 15, 2026. DATED this 15th day of July, 2026.
/s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ.
FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
OUR FILE #126435.9528
MORI #ORANGE
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2024-CC-017099-O ARBOR RIDGE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF APOPKA, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation, Plaintiff, vs. MADELINE A. AGUILERA, et al., Defendant(s). NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Amended Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 10, 2025 and entered in Case No.: 2024-CC-017099-O, of the County Court in the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Orange County, Florida, where in **Arbor Ridge Homeowners' Association of Apopka, Inc.** is Plaintiff and **Madeline A. Aguilera** is the Defendant, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.myorangelclerk.realforeclose.com on **September 1, 2026 at 11:00 AM ET**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: **"Lot 336 of Arbor Ridge Phase 2, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 67, Page(s) 105 through 107, of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida."**

The Property is located at the street address of: **2514 Sugarsand Ct., Apopka, FL 32712.**
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.
DATED this 20th day of July 2026.
GARFINKEL LAW
Attorney for Plaintiff
300 N. Maitland Avenue
Maitland, Florida 32751
Tel: (407) 539-3900
Fax: (407) 386-8486
BY: /s/ Karen M. Marcell
Karen M. Marcell, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 51640
Primary email address: karen@garfinkel.law
Secondary email address: rachel@garfinkel.law

The Ninth Judicial Circuit is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations are provided for qualified court participants with disabilities, in accordance with the law. As required by the ADA, the determination of an individual's disability and the option for a reasonable accommodation for a disability is made on a case-by-case basis. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact us as follows at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately if you receive less than a 7-day notice to appear: Orange County ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, (407) 836-2303, fax: 407-836-2204. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO. 2026-CA-004961-O DIV NO.: 35 MARRIOTT RESORTS HOSPITALITY CORPORATION, a South Carolina Corporation, Management Agent on behalf of ROYAL PALMS OF ORLANDO CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation, and All Owners as Agent, Plaintiff, vs. ROBERT BLUM, et. al., Defendants. NOTICE OF ACTION BY PUBLICATION AS TO COUNT I TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT WHOSE RESIDENCE IS UNKNOWN: RE: ROBERT BLUM 2125 CAMBRIDGE T BALTIMORE, MD 21231-3207

AND ROBERT BLUM
1892 CROSS CREEK LN
MINTURN, CO 81645-5100
AND LYNNE ANN BLUM
2125 CAMBRIDGE ST
BALTIMORE, MD 21231-3207
AND LYNNE ANN BLUM
1892 CROSS CREEK LN
MINTURN, CO 81645-5100
The above named Defendants is not known to be dead or alive and, if dead, the unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, 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 a lien and for other relief relative to the following described property:

COUNT I
Unit Week 31 in Unit 4363, in ROYAL PALMS CONDOMINIUM, according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof, as recorded in Official Records Book 3965 at Page 2031 in the Public Records of Orange County, Florida, and any amendments thereof.

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 18 day of June, 2026.
Tiffany Moore Russell,
Clerk of Courts
/s/ Takiana Didier
Deputy Clerk
Civil Division
425 N Orange Ave
Room 350
Orlando, FL 32801
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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CA-005648-O DIV NO.: 35 MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff, vs. JERRY L. BUTLER, et. al., Defendants. NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT II TO: HUGO RODRIGO ARAYA BUSTAMANTE LA GIOCONDA 4344 APTO. 213 LAS CONDES-SANTIAGO, 7550046 CHILE LORENA DEL PILAR TEJADA MOYA LA GIOCONDA 4344 APTO. 213 LAS CONDES-SANTIAGO, 7550046 CHILE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 14, 2026 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-005648-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT II
6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: 085750 & 085751 & 085752 & 085801 & 085802 & 085803) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 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 January 01, 2011 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 a.m., on the 27th day of August, 2026, online at www.myorangelclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 15, 2026. DATED this 15th day of July, 2026.
/s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ.
FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
OUR FILE #126435.9527
MORI #ORANGE
July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 9TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2010-CA-16889-O WALDEN LIFE PENSION CAPITAL, LLC, PLAINTIFF vs. JASON LIVINGSTON; HARRY'S HAUL, LLC a Florida corporation; MELINDA LIVINGSTON, DAVIND FINKELSTEIN, ESQ., DEFENDANT(S) NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that I, John W. Mina, as Sheriff of Orange County, Florida, under and by virtue of a Judgment and Writ of Execution, therein issued out of the above entitled court in the above styled cause, dated the 3rd day of March, 2025,

10:30 A.M. AT ACE WRECKER, 5601 SOUTH ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL, ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32809. **SOLD AS IS AND WITH NO WARRANTY. SOLD SUBJECT TO ALL TAXES AND LIENS OF RECORD. PURCHASER TO PAY FOR BILL OF SALE.** as the property of the above named defendant, MELINDA LIVINGSTON, and that on the 18th day of August, 2026, beginning at ten thirty o'clock in the forenoon or soon there-after on said day at **ACE WRECKER, 5601 SOUTH ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL**, in Orlando, Orange County, Florida. I will offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder at hand for cash on demand the above described property of said defendant, to satisfy said Judgment and Writ of Execution. Prospective bidders may register the day of the sale between the hours 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Ace Wrecker, 5601 South Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, Florida 32809. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Eric Nieves, Judicial Process Sales Coordinator, not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at Orange County Sheriff's Office, 425 North Orange Avenue, suite 240, Orlando, FL 32801. Telephone: (407)836-4570; If hearing impaired, (TDD) 1-800-955-8771, or Voice (V) 1-800-955-8770, via Florida Relay Service. JOHN W. MINA, AS SHERIFF Orange County , Florida BY: SGT. NORBERTO GONZALEZ As Deputy Sheriff July 17, 24, 31, August 7, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CA-005648-O DIV NO.: 35 MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff, vs. **JERRY L. BUTLER, et. al.,** Defendants. **NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT VI TO: JENNY L. MC CRACKEN, DECEASED.** THE ESTATE OF JENNY L. MC CRACKEN, DECEASED AND ANY UNKNOWN SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS BY AND THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST, SAID DEFENDANT C/O EVAN M. HATTHAWAY, ESQ., HITE FANNING & HONEYMAN LLP 100 N BROADWAY AVE STE 95 WICHITA, KS 67202 **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 14, 2026 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-005648-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as: **COUNT VI** 6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: J09638 & J09639 & J09640 & J09641 & J09642 & J09643) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 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 January 01, 2016 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement), at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. on the 27th day of August, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 15, 2026. DATED this 15th day of July, 2026. /s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 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 ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. OUR FILE #126435.9532 MORI #ORANGE July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.2026-CP-000637-O IN RE: ESTATE OF JENSERMIENE TORRES JORGE, NOTICE OF ACTION TO: JAMES TORRES, 142 Naomi Road, Orlando, Florida 32822 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Petition for Administration, Petition to Waive Bond of Personal Representative and Notice of Administration 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: David W. Veliz, 630 North Wymore Road, Suite 330, Maitland, Florida 32751 on or before August 11, 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 June 19, 2026. Tiffany Moore Russell As Clerk of Court /s/ Mayra I. Cruz Mayra I. Cruz As Deputy Clerk Probate Mental Health Division 425 N. Orange Avenue Room 335

Orlando, Florida 32801 **CIRCUIT COURT SEAL** July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 **IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CA-005648-O DIV NO.: 35 MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.** Plaintiff, vs. **JERRY L. BUTLER, et. al.,** Defendants. **NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT IV TO: JUAN PABLO MONTALVO** SANTA ANA RIO ORO URB. HACIENDA DEL SOL AV 27 SAN JOSE, OF 00000 COSTA RICA **MIREYA EUGENIA NOBOA OCHOA** SANTA ANA RIO ORO URB. HACIENDA DEL SOL AV 27 SAN JOSE, OF 00000 COSTA RICA **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 14, 2026 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-005648-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as: **COUNT IV** 6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: 151013 & 151014 & 151015 & 151016 & 151017 & 151018) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 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 January 01, 2011 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement), at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 a.m., on the 27th day of August, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 15, 2026. DATED this 15th day of July, 2026. /s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange

Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. OUR FILE #126435.9530 MORI #ORANGE July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2026-CP-1278-O IN RE: ESTATE OF KEYSHA FENELON, Deceased. NOTICE OF ACTION (formal notice by publication) TO: EDWIGE NORISMA, 24 Rue Lorimer Denis, Port-Au **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that Petition for Administration, Petition to W Bond of Personal Representative and Notice of Administration 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: David W. Veliz, 630 North Wymore Road, Suite 330, Maitland, Florida 32751 on or before August 24, 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 July 1, 2026 Tiffany M Russell As Clerk of Court /s/ Carissa Bundy As Deputy Clerk Probate Mental Health Division 425 N. Orange Avenue Room 335 Orlando, Florida 32801 **CIRCUIT COURT SEAL** July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CA-007570-O DIV NO.: 40 MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff, vs. **WILLIAM R. JOBBINS, et al.,** Defendants. **NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT XII TO: AYANNA JENKINS-TONEY** 3 MARBLEHEAD LN NOVATO, CA 94949 **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on July 14, 2026 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-007570-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as: **COUNT XII** 16 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: S51346 & S51347 & S51348 & S51349 & S51350 & S51351 & S51352 & S51401 & S51402 & S51403 & S51404 & S51405 & S51406 & S51407 & S51408 & S51409) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 4000 Points (250 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 October 01, 2017 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement), at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 a.m., on the 27th day of AUGUST, 2026, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on July 15, 2026. DATED this 15th day of July, 2026. /s/ EDWARD M. FITZGERALD EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP 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 the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. OUR FILE #126435.9555 MORI #ORANGE July 24, 31, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2026-CP-001609-O IN RE: ESTATE OF MARIE MARLENE JEAN, Deceased. NOTICE OF ACTION (formal notice by publication) TO: SAINCA JEAN, Unknown **IRANY JEAN, Unknown** **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that Petition for Administration, Petition to Waive Bond of Personal Representative and Notice of Administration 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: David W. Veliz, 630 North Wymore Road, Suite 330, Maitland, Florida 32751 on or before August 24th, 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 7/8/2026. Tiffany Moore Russell As Clerk of Court /s/ Kevin Drumm As Deputy Clerk Probate Mental Health Division 425 N. Orange Avenue Room 335 Orlando, Florida 32801 **CIRCUIT COURT SEAL**

July 24, 31, August 7, 14, 2026

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of **The Coconut Palm Kitchen**, with a mailing address of 1626 West Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka, Florida 32712 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: A & R Kitchen Concepts, LLC July 31, 2026

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of **Kizme's Cosmic Kitchen**, with a mailing address of 1420 Foxforrest Cir, Apopka, Florida 32712 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: Janiece Bedell July 31, 2026

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of **Keyfox Locksmith**, with a mailing address of 15484 Blackbead St, Winter Garden FL 34787 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: Smyrna Motors LLC July 31, 2026

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of **Casa Welthy & Co.,** with a mailing address of 5764 N Orange Blossom Trail PMB 60016, Orlando, Florida 32810 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: Epicurean Element, LLC July 31, 2026

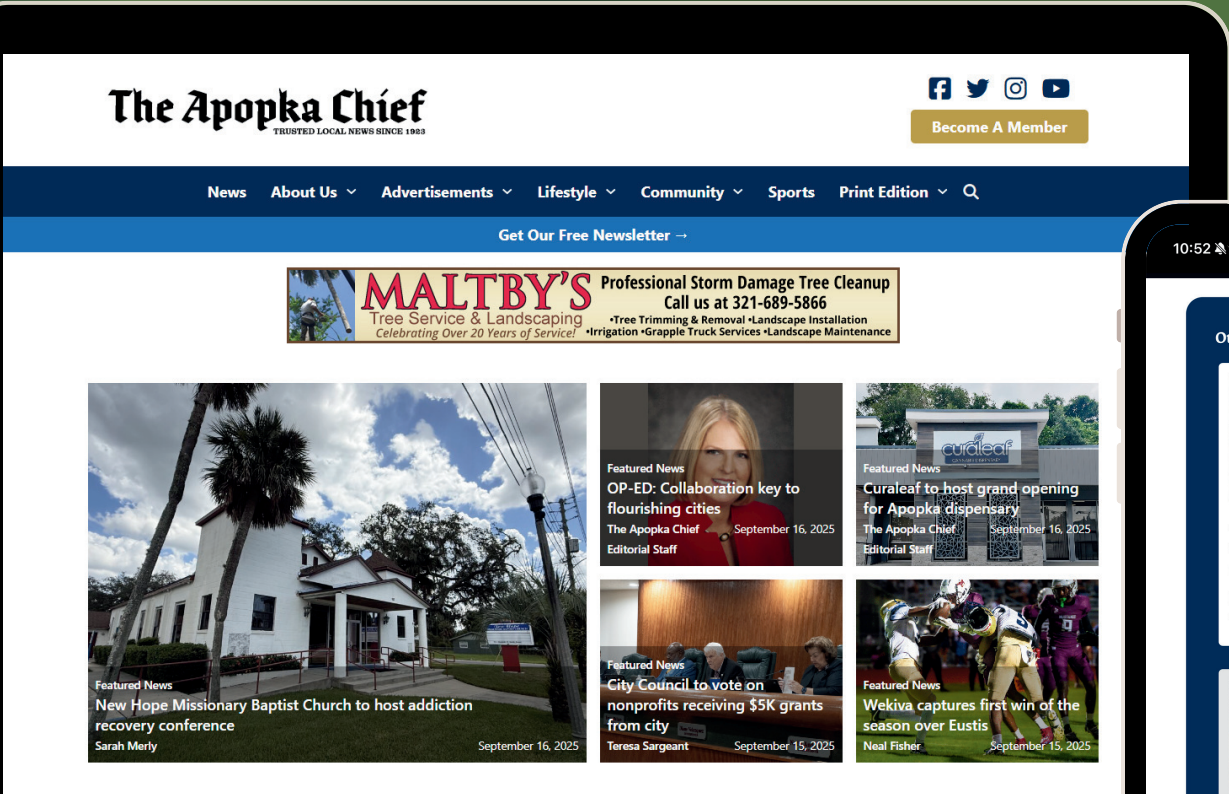
NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT TO SECTION 865.09 FLORIDA STATUTES NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of **Wear. Renew. Repeat.,** with a mailing address of 382 NE 191st Street #789102, Miami, Florida 33179 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: Creative Wants LLC July 31, 2026

The Apopka Chief

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 JT 0724-0814 TFN 21

32. HELP WANTED

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