Trusted local news since 1923

The Apopka Chief

A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION

Friday, November 6, 2026 / FREE



Apopka, Wekiva cap off football season

Read More | B1

Commission to vote on 4 directors for city leadership

Appointments come after HR director's resignation

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Commission will hold a special meeting on Friday to consider ratifying four department director appointments, including a new human resources director following Joseph Patton's resignation, as Mayor Nick Nesta reorganizes leadership at City Hall.

According to the meeting agenda, Nesta will seek ratification of Zandra Balkcom as human resources director, Marcel Lee as chief financial officer, Cynthia Edwards as permanent Parks and Recreation director, and Robert Hippler as information technology director, his current position.

The meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St.

Balkcom, currently the city's human resources administrator, would succeed Patton, whose resignation was confirmed on Oct. 29 by city spokesperson Steve Montiero.

A separation agreement signed on Oct. 26 by Patton and Nesta states that Patton's voluntary resignation takes effect Nov. 30. Under the agreement, Patton will receive six weeks of severance pay and paid administrative leave from Nov. 1 through Nov. 30.

City Clerk Susan Bone confirmed on Tuesday that the agreement had become final and Patton's administrative leave began on Sunday. She also confirmed that his annual salary at the time of resignation was $180,000.

The agreement includes provisions releasing the city from employment-related claims and prohibiting Patton from making statements disparaging the city or its operations unless compelled

PATTON, A4



Joseph Patton, seen here at the May 13 city budget workshop, has resigned as human resources director. | Photo by Dana O'Connor

Moore Russell, Brown win big



Orange County Mayor-elect Tiffany Moore Russell (right) speaks as County Commission District 2 winner Kamia Brown looks on during the Orange County Democrats' election-night watch party on Tuesday at The Abbey in Orlando. | Photo by Teresa Sargeant

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Tiffany Moore Russell made history on Tuesday, becoming the first Black woman elected Orange County mayor, while Kamia Brown defeated appointed incumbent Mike Crabb in the County Commission District 2 race.

Moore Russell received 278,746 votes—or almost 59%—to Chris Messina's 164,941, according to unofficial results from the Orange County Supervisor of Elections. All 263 precincts had reported, and the totals remained unchanged as of midday Wednesday.

Brown received 39,959 votes—more than 59%—to Crabb's 23,190.

Moore Russell, the outgoing Orange County clerk of courts and a former county commissioner, celebrated her victory with supporters at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Orlando, reflecting on her upbringing in Tangelo Park and her years of public service.

"History may remember my name, but this victory belongs to all of us," Moore Russell said during her election-night celebration.

She pledged to serve all Orange County residents, regardless of whether they supported her candidacy, and identified housing, transportation, public safety, infrastructure and economic opportunity among her priorities.

BIG WINS, A7



Brian Mater is the new interim city administrator. | Courtesy city of Apopka

Nesta taps former campaign manager as interim city admin

Brian Mater replacing Radley Williams

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

Mayor Nick Nesta announced his former campaign manager, Brian Mater, as Apopka's new interim city administrator in a Monday morning email to city staff.

"I am reaching out to express my excitement for Mr. Brian Mater joining the team as Interim City Administrator," Nesta said in the email. "He will be an incredible asset to tap into for each and every department."

City spokesperson Steve Montiero confirmed that Mater began his new role Monday in a text message to The Apopka Chief, saying that "no ratification is required," according to the city charter.

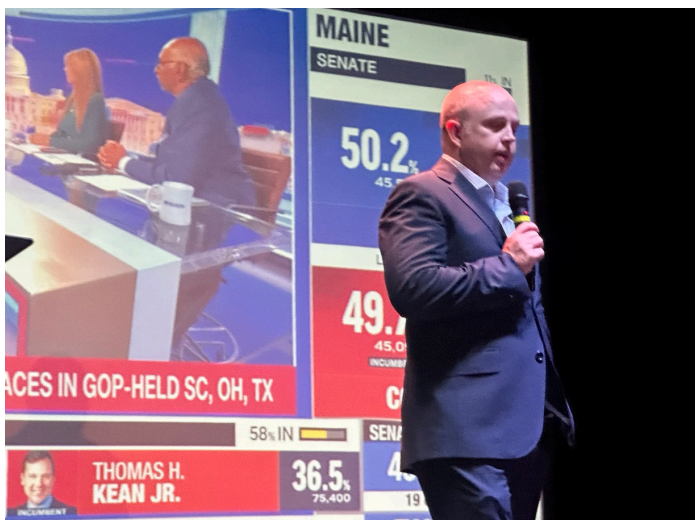
"I'm very lucky to have the mayor's trust — he trusted me during the time on the campaign trail, he trusted me during the transition of helping him design a transition team that could help lead his vision and passion forward, and that's kind of where we've been this entire time — trying to implement

MANAGER, A5

Fox upsets Bankson in District 39 race, flipping seat to Democrats

Physician wins first election as two-term Republican incumbent reflects on legislative record

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter



Democrat Jarod Fox addresses attendees at the Orange County Democrats' election-night watch party Tuesday, Nov. 3, at The Abbey in Orlando after defeating Republican incumbent Doug Bankson in the race for Florida House District 39. | Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Democrat Dr. Jarod Fox defeated two-term Republican incumbent Doug Bankson in Tuesday's general election for Florida House District 39, flipping the seat to Democrats and ending Bankson's four-year tenure in the Legislature.

Fox, an infectious disease physician with Orlando Health in his first bid for public office, received a combined 40,469 votes, or 55.46%, compared with Bankson's 32,503 votes, or 44.54%, according to unofficial results from the Orange and Seminole county supervisors of elections.

District 39 includes Apopka and portions of Orange and Seminole counties. Fox carried the Orange County portion of the district with 29,909 votes to Bankson's 20,806. Bankson won Seminole County with

DISTRICT 39, A8

Voters approve Amendment 3

Results cast uncertainty on local budgets

By J.C. Derrick
Publisher

Florida voters approved the much-debated Amendment 3 on Tuesday, paving the way for lower property tax bills and uncertainty in city and county budgets across the state.

Amendment 3 garnered 62% of the vote, surpassing the 60% threshold it needed to pass. It is set to take effect in January.

Amendment 3 will raise the homestead exemption for non-school property taxes from $50,000 to $150,000 in 2027, followed by an increase to $250,000 in 2028. The threshold will grow automatically with inflation in subsequent years.



Mayor Nick Nesta estimated the city would lose $60 million over five years with Amendment 3's passage. | File photo

Local government officials around the state opposed the measure, saying it would throw budgets into disarray.

Mayor Nick Nesta did not respond to a request for comment, but in July, he estimated the city would lose about $60 million in revenue over five years, if Amendment 3 passed.

"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," Nesta wrote in an Apopka Chief column discussing the property tax issue.

In addition to increasing the homestead exemption, Amendment 3 limits local government expenditures, requiring property taxes to be spent only on infrastructure, public safety, education, natural resources, debt service, retirement benefits and government operations and administration. The language prevents assessed values of non-homestead properties from rising more than 5% year over year, compared to the current 10% cap.

AMENDMENT 3, A3

INDEX
VOL. 104 ISS. 45

SECTION A
OPINION.....A2 PUBLIC NOTICE.....A4 CROSSWORD.....A7

SECTION B
SPORTS.....B1 KAPERS & EVENTS....B5 LEGAL NOTICES.....B6-B7 CLASSIFIEDS.....B8

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

Trusted local news since 1923

Publisher
J.C. Derrick

Interim Editor
Josh Peterson

Copy Editor
Nancy Thomas

Administrative Assistant
Debrah Hayden

Media Advisor
Shane Reeve
Patsy Whitely-Beckett

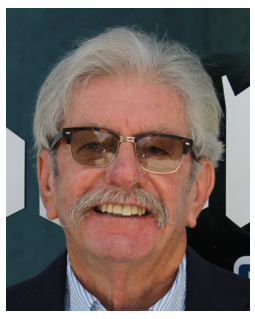
Legal Clerk
Lesbia Toruño

Publication Coordinator
Christina Geiger

Reporters
Sarah Merly | Teresa Sargeant
Vinnie Cammarano

We were soldiers once – but it wasn't our idea

Columnist



Jake Vest

The U.S. Army and my 19-year-old self had two things in common. Neither of us was enthusiastic about the idea of me being a soldier; and neither of us had much choice.

They needed people and I was one. So, I got drafted.

At a nearsighted 135 pounds, I was hardly a five-star recruit. I couldn't have been more than a C-minus, but when I arrived at Fort Polk, I found that I wasn't much worse than most and a little better than some. As has often been said, despite its name, the Selective Service wasn't very selective.

The draftees were just a bunch of scrawny, fat, athletic, frail and tough, tall and short, country and city boys of assorted colors, backgrounds, social standing and ethnicities. There were so many of us that we were, by definition, nothing special.

That was then. The Compulsory Service Club is getting more exclusive because fewer of us can meet the membership requirement of still being alive. The last of the draftees pulled their unwanted boots on in 1973 and the youngest are nearing their mid-70s.

Not to be overly morbid about it, but there is an appropriate word for their condition, a term soldiers used when their tours of duty were just about up: Short timers.

It seems to me that there should be some sort of recognition while some of them are still around to appreciate it. All our veterans are special, but in a way, these guys are especially special. Everybody who served ended up doing some things they didn't want to do -- these guys didn't want to do any of it.

But here's the part that matters: They did it anyhow, because it had to be done by somebody. That's about as close to a definition of "duty" as you are going to get.

This isn't taking anything away from anybody else, just acknowledging that this particular experience deserves a salute of its own – something a little nicer than the one-fingered version a lot of us got in airports back then.

This Veterans Day, the other guys can have the parade and the discounts and we can do our own thing. No invitations necessary. Just pick an inconvenient time and tell us we have to be there, or else. Dress code would include boots that don't fit and hats that make the wearer look like a dork. Forget menus. Just feed us whatever you want, have us show up early and make us cook it ourselves, holler at us to hurry, then require half the guests to clean the kitchen while the rest duckwalk around the grounds picking up cigarette butts.

Just like old times.

And as a keynote speaker, we could have one of those rich and famous draft dodgers say a few words about how he would have gone except he had some other stuff to do. Instead of applauding, we could all stand up and salute. Not the regular one. The special one we learned in the San Francisco airport.

Don't stop at thanking a veteran

Publisher



J.C. Derrick

I sometimes tell people that the atomic bomb saved my life. And I'm only half joking.

In 1945, my 18-year-old maternal grandfather was stationed on Okinawa, the southernmost prefecture of Japan, about 400 miles southwest of the mainland.

Even though the island was not fully cleared of enemy combatants (he used to tell stories about gunshots randomly coming out of the trees), he was there as part of the buildup for a potential ground invasion of Japan.

In a span of three days in August 1945, atomic bombs devastated the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrendered days later, mercifully ending the war and rendering a ground invasion unnecessary.

My grandfather would go on to get married, have six children, 15 grandchildren, and live another 68 years.

My paternal grandfather also served in World War II before later starting a family and living to the age of 80.

Each Veterans Day, I remember them and their service. They fought for their country and were willing to die for it and future generations they would never meet.

They could have easily been among the more than 400,000 U.S. soldiers who died in World War II. If they had been, I would not be writing these words.

We owe more than a debt of gratitude to those who died so we could live. We owe them a life of service dedicated to making our homes, families, communities and country a better place for those who will come after us.

In "The Fellowship of the Ring," part of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic "Lord of the Rings," stouthearted protagonist Frodo Baggins makes a statement we can all relate to: "I wish it need not have happened in my time."

We could say this about any number of things, from personal difficulties, to wars, to the divisive times in which we live. But, in his response to Frodo, the wise Gandalf the Grey well summarizes the decision we all have before us: "So do I, and so do all who live in such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

As Veterans Day approaches next week, I hope you will go out of your way to sincerely thank the veterans in your life. I would also suggest we give thought to how we can show appreciation to those who are no longer here to thank.

What will we do with the time that is given to us?

Hiring? People with developmental disabilities are ready to work

Columnist



John Gill

The value of having a job encompasses far more than a paycheck; it's a declaration of purpose, structure and independence.

And for those with developmental disabilities, such as autism and cerebral palsy, the benefits of being employed can hold even more weight. Yet about 8 in 10 people with developmental disabilities don't have a job. Compare that to the country's overall unemployment rate, which is hovering around 4%.

The disparity is jarring, and it's not because people with disabilities lack interest or skill. Rather, it's the result of physical, societal and attitudinal barriers ranging from accessibility and transportation to bias and stigma, hurdles that can make launching a career feel like an insurmountable task.

It's a widespread issue that's also an avoidable one.

I encourage our community to commit to progress. If you're a business owner or part of a hiring team, open your door just a little wider. Make the hiring process more accessible by welcoming people of all abilities into internships or job training programs. Many of our community partners are surprised to learn that individuals with developmental disabilities have an exceptionally high job retention rate and excel at precise tasks and pattern recognition. The folks we place in community employment and training positions have a retention rate of more than 90% after ninety days.

When a person with a disability joins your team, keep in mind that everyone learns and works differently. Changes that help one employee thrive, such as clearer expectations, better training, or more consistent communication, often make the workplace more effective for everyone. Inclusive practices don't create barriers to success; they create pathways to it.

This journey to professional success doesn't start at the workplace. Parents can walk down this road with their child years before they're old enough to apply for a job. Think of your home as a simulated work environment in which everyday chores – like unloading the dishwasher or gathering ingredients for a meal – are a chance to learn. What may seem like inconsequential moments are, in fact, vital in building your child's confidence as they develop new skills.

And if you're a community member who doesn't know someone with developmental disabilities, there's still a role to play. Strive to be accepting and create an environment where anyone can flourish across all areas of their life. Be patient when a grocery store cashier with disabilities rings up your items – kindness can go a long way.

And remember: when we embrace a world built on equality, everyone wins.

That's what we call the "curb-cut effect," a phenomenon that began with sidewalk ramps. Initially designed for wheelchair users, these infrastructure changes have made it easier for everyone to get around – whether you're pushing a stroller or out on a walk with an older loved one. It just goes to show that one modification made for a specific group can end up benefiting us all.

However small, change makes a difference. If just a single person creates a new workplace opportunity for people with developmental disabilities, that's one more layer of support for Central Floridians. Now imagine what could be done if we all came together for this mission.

Year-round, Quest, Inc. celebrates opportunity, advocacy and achievement through our services, including resume assistance, workplace training and job placements. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our programs, visit QuestInc.org or call 407.218.4300.

John Gill is president and CEO at Quest, Inc., a local nonprofit organization that helps people with developmental disabilities in all stages of life through education, skill-acquisition, housing, employment, therapy and recreational programs.

About The Apopka Chief

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

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

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

www.theapopkachief.com

God Bless America

You may pick up The Apopka Chief at the following locations in and around Apopka

- **7-Eleven:** 1439 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **AdventHealth Apopka:** 2100 Ocoee Apopka Road
- **Al's Pizza & Wings:** 7153 Rose Avenue
- **Apopka City Hall:** 120 E. Main Street
- **Apopka High School:** 555 Martin Street
- **Apopka Life Care Center:** 1443 Clarcona Road
- **Apopka Pack & Ship:** 2246 E. Semoran Boulevard
- **Apopka Utilities Billing:** 150 E. 5th Street
- **Apopka Vape Shop:** 216 N. Park Avenue
- **Beef 'O' Brady's:** 1410 Rock Springs Road
- **BP Station:** 2684 E. Semoran Boulevard
- **Breakfast Barn Country Kitchen:** 2651 N. Orange Blossom Trail
- **BWI Companies, Inc.:** 3700 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Chase Bank:** 1 E. Main Street
- **Chevron Apopka:** 1025 S. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Circle K:** 277 E. Main Street
- **City Discount Beverage & Smoke:** 370 E. Main Street
- **Clarcona Resort Condominium Association:** 3000 Clarcona Road
- **Cohil Family Dentistry:** 2525 E Semoran Blvd
- **CVS Pharmacy:** 2311 E. Semoran Boulevard
- **CVS Pharmacy:** 65 E. Main Street
- **Dream Lake Elementary School:** 500 N. Park Avenue
- **Fairwinds Credit Union:** 1621 S. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Griffin's General Store:** 262 W. Michael Gladden Boulevard
- **Hampton Inn & Suites Orlando-Apopka:** 321 S. Lake Cortez Drive
- **Hall's on 5th:** 15 E. 5th Street
- **Hands 4 You Inc.:** 920 S. Central Ave.
- **HCA Apopka:** 2757 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Jeff's Bagel Run:** 2107 E. Semoran Boulevard, Suite C
- **John Bridges Community Center:** 445 W. 13th Street
- **KOA Journey Apopka:** 3800 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Loomis Funeral Home:** 420 W. Main Street
- **Lula Mae's Eatery:** 940 S. Central Avenue
- **Marvin C. Zanders Funeral Home:** 232 W. Michael Gladden Blvd.
- **McDonald's:** 223 E. Main Street
- **Mullinax Ford (Quick Lane):** 1551 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **Mullinax Ford (Service Dept.):** 1551 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **Nauti Lobstah:** 311 S. Forest Avenue
- **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church:** 927 S. Central Avenue
- **North Orange Branch Library:** 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard
- **One Florida Bank:** 21 E. 3rd Street
- **Optical Eyeland:** 730 S. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Orange County Clerk of Courts:** 1111 Rock Springs Road
- **Personal Mini Storage:** 1365 E. Semoran Blvd.
- **Pro Kutz Barber:** 7220 Edgewater Drive
- **Publix Super Market at Kelly Park Crossing:** 3080 W. Kelly Park Road
- **Publix Super Market at Wekiva Plaza:** 1545 Rock Springs Road
- **P&W Market:** 1209 Clarcona Road
- **Robinson Family Restaurant:** 301 W. Main Street
- **Rock Springs Bar & Grill:** 4939 Rock Springs Road
- **Rodeway Inn:** 1317 S. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Sam's Discount Food Store:** 2662 Apopka Boulevard
- **Seacoast Bank:** 345 E. Main Street
- **Shear Country Barber:** 5704 Jones Avenue
- **Solaris Healthcare Apopka: 305 E. Oak Street**
- **St. Paul A.M.E. Church: 1012 S. Park Avenue**
- **Stephie's Pub & Irish Eatery:** 1061 W Orange Blossom Trail
- **Sub Hub:** 247 W. Main Street
- **Sunoco:** 2971 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Sunrise Market:** 1025 S. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Temple of Faith:** 1028 Marvin C. Zanders Avenue
- **The Apopka Chief:** 400 N. Park Avenue
- **The Hills:** 1100 Roger Williams Road
- **The UPS Store:** 1631 Rock Springs Road
- **The Valley:** 5100 Round Lake Road
- **Trader Mae's Decor Market:** 2001 Rock Springs Road
- **Trulieve:** 2121 W Orange Blossom Trail
- **United States Post Office – Apopka Branch:** 581 N. Park Avenue
- **United States Post Office – Plymouth Branch:** 900 Plymouth Sorrento Road
- **Unity Missionary Baptist Church:** 465 Oakland Ave
- **Valencia Estates Mobile Home Park:** 547 Drage Drive
- **Verona Café:** 220 Edgewood Drive
- **Victoria Plaza:** 1003 W. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Walgreens:** 125 E. Main Street
- **Wawa:** 1615 S. Orange Blossom Trail
- **Wekiva High School:** 2501 Hiawassee Road
- **Wellsprings Assisted Living:** 700 E. Welch Road
- **World o' Suds Coin Laundry:** 430 E. Main Street
- **Zellwood Station:** 2126 Spillman Drive
- **Zellwood Water:** 3262 Robinson Street

400 N. Park Ave, Apopka, FL 32712 • www.theapopkachief.com • 407-886-2777

City Commission suspends elected officials' discretionary funding

Commission also approves $8,344 reimbursement for festival expenses

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Commission unanimously suspended elected officials' discretionary funding and complimentary city facility use on Wednesday, then approved an $8,344.32 budget amendment to replenish Recreation Department funds spent on the Heart and Soul Music Festival.

Commissioner Nadia Anderson proposed the suspension after Commissioner Yesenia Baron's motion to retain two complimentary facility uses per elected official, with a combined $5,000 limit including staffing costs, failed for lack of a second.

"There's a true cost to that, and we need to start budgeting with those true costs in mind," Mayor Nick Nesta said of community events.

Anderson called for suspending discretionary funds while citing infrastructure needs. The motion adopted by commissioners included free facility rentals, facility uses and associated staffing costs.

Nesta clarified that commissioners could continue meeting with residents at City Hall without charge. Other events requiring city resources could be brought before the commission for consideration through a budget amendment, he said.

The separate festival amendment, Resolution No. 2026-48, transfers $8,344.32 from reserves to reimburse the Recreation Department for expenses associated with the Oct. 10 event. According to the staff report, those expenses were not included in the originally approved budget.

Anderson disputed descriptions of the festival's financial support, saying organizers received no direct monetary contribution and the expenses paid for city personnel, including police and fire staffing.

She also said she spent only $1,000 of her $10,000 discretionary allocation during fiscal year 2025-26, leaving $9,000 to return to the city's reserves.

"This is what responsible partnership looks like," Anderson said.

Nesta said approximately $8,300 in staffing expenses and $4,500 in forgone rental revenue accounted for the roughly $13,000 previously discussed. He also said the city refunded money organizers had already paid.

"The frustration didn't come from the event; it came from how the process of payment from the city came about," Nesta said.

Nesta also said he had spoken with festival organizer Paul Billings, recognized the event's economic value and encouraged him to return.



The Apopka City Commission at its Wednesday meeting, where members unanimously suspended elected officials' discretionary funding and complimentary city facility use. | Photo by Teresa Sargeant

The dispute began with Anderson's request to use a provision in Resolution No. 2025-34 allowing the mayor and each commissioner two free uses of city rental facilities annually, including staffing. The policy did not establish a cost ceiling for those uses.

Commissioners tabled a review Sept. 16 and again postponed the issue Oct. 21.

Wednesday's discussion also addressed how the city accounts for other community events. Nesta said previous budgets did not consistently capture police, fire and other overtime expenses, understating their overall costs. He said future event budgeting would account for those expenses.

Commission reverses decision, approves $30K code enforcement settlement

Concerns raised over lengthy violations at 718 S. Park Ave

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka City Commission unanimously approved a $30,000 code enforcement settlement for 718 S. Park Ave. on Wednesday, reversing its October decision to reject the agreement involving more than $5.6 million in accumulated fines.

At its Oct. 7 meeting, the commission unanimously rejected the proposed settlement after questioning why the property owner had taken years to correct violations dating back to 2017. The city had initiated foreclosure proceedings before the property was brought into compliance.

Vice Mayor Diane Velazquez, who raised concerns about the settlement in October, said the length of the case remained her primary concern on Wednesday.

"The only thing that I had a concern with, and I did express that to an attorney, I expressed that to [city building official] John Hanson, is that we should not allow code enforcement to go as long as this one did, which was 3,299 days," she said.

Velazquez said she had visited the property twice and observed that outdoor garbage and some abandoned vehicles had been removed. However, she said she still considered the units to be in poor condition.

"But my understanding [is] that the owner of those units complied with what code enforcement had asked them to do," she said.

Mayor Nick Nesta defended the city's settlement policy, explaining that its purpose is to encourage property owners to correct violations rather than generate revenue through fines.

"We want compliance more than we want money," Nesta said.

Nesta said the city's policy establishes settlement percentages of 5% for residential properties and 10% for rental properties. He argued that changing the settlement terms after the owner had complied could create problems.

Nesta also emphasized that city code enforcement officers address exterior property conditions, not the interiors of residential units.

During public comment, residents questioned why the settlement returned for approval after its October rejection. They also raised concerns about transparency and whether property owners facing enforcement actions receive consistent treatment.

City officials said they are reviewing the settlement policy to clarify the definition of residential real estate and the use of Orange County Property Appraiser market values in calculating settlements.



The rental property at 718 S. Park Ave., photographed on Thursday. | Photo by Teresa Sargeant

Velazquez also called for shortening the time allowed for enforcement cases, a change Nesta said could be incorporated into the policy revisions that will return to the commission for consideration.

Velazquez said she intends to continue monitoring the South Park Avenue property to ensure it remains in compliance.

AMENDMENT 3

FROM A1

Apopka City Commissioner Nadia Anderson said she raised concerns that the city's 2026-27 budget failed to account for the possible passage of Amendment 3, but "those concerns were largely ignored." She cited her opposition to the city's new public information director position and new senior leadership roles.

"We should not be expanding government by adding unnecessary layers of executive-level positions and administrative expenses," Anderson said in a text message to The Apopka Chief. "We should be identifying wasteful spending, hiring qualified leadership, prioritizing essential services, and directing our resources toward the infrastructure needs of our growing city."

Amendment 3 garnered more than 4.8 million votes, including a majority in 64 of the 67 counties in Florida.

Meanwhile, voters rejected two other statewide amendments on the ballot. Amendment 1 (modify budget stabilization fund) failed, with nearly 60% of voters opposing the referendum, and Amendment 2 (exempt tangible personal property on agricultural land) fell just short with 58% of the vote.

— With reporting from Seth Johnson

PHILIP JOHN CIUFO JR.

January 31, 1947 - November 1, 2026

Philip John Ciufo Jr., 79, Seneca, SC, passed away on November 1, 2026. Philip was born in Rochester, NY to the late Philip Anthony Ciufo Sr. and Antoinette Denaro Ciufo.

Philip lived a life of service, care, and devotion to the people around him. He served in the United States Navy for 23 years and retired from the military with the rank of CWO4.

After his military service, Philip worked for many years as a physician assistant. In that role, he continued a life centered on helping others. He was also part of Mended Hearts, an organization that supports cardiac patients.

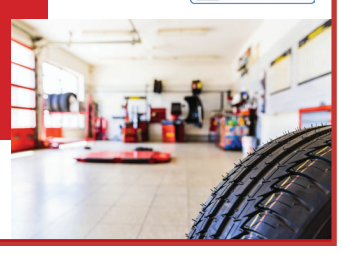
Philip also enjoyed fishing, a simple pleasure that brought him happiness. Above all, he loved his family, and being a father was one of his proudest accomplishments.

Philip is survived by his daughter, Carie Sargent (Matt); sons, Philip Anthony Ciufo, Christopher Daugherty, and Sean Daugherty; brothers Jim Ciufo (Lynne), Thomas Ciufo (Lorie); sisters, Cathlene Broman (Carl), and Christine Rybolt (Douglas); 10 Grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Philip is preceded in death by his cherished wife Nola Jane Ciufo; daughter, Michelle Ciufo; and brother, Gerald Ciufo.

Visit RobinsonFuneralHomes.com or Duckett-Robinson Funeral Home & Cremations, Central-Clemson Commons.

FREEDOM
EST. 2022
TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE
LIKE US ON facebook
- Family owned & operated
- Large selection of all tire brands
- Complete automotive repairs
- Located across from Mullinax Ford
- Open Monday - Saturday
- Accepts all major credit cards



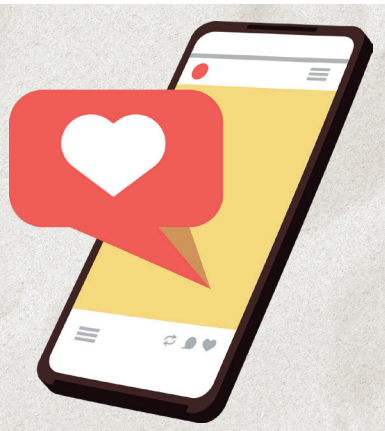
1440 E. Semoran Blvd.,
Apopka, FL 32703
407-886-0031

WORKPLACE
SCREENING INTELLIGENCE
Helping Employers and Employees Get Back to Work Safely and Stay COVID Free
LABORATORY TESTING
✓ Drug Screen Nationally
✓ Covid Screens ✓ Titer Testing
✓ New Transferring Gold TB Test
Call: 800-338-5515 or Email: Info@workplacescreening.com
www.workplacescreening.com

Shelley's Septic Tanks

FREE ESTIMATES 407-889-8042
1st Place 2025 Best of Apopka
Hours: Monday - Friday 7AM - 5PM
Environmentally Friendly Company!
Licensed & Insured
State Certified
Emergency Services Available After Hours
6505 W. Jones Ave., Zellwood, FL 32798

RSR
Rock Springs Realty, LLC
Residential & Investment Real Estate
1st Place 2025 Best of Apopka
• Selling: What's your home worth in the current market?
Call for a No-Obligation "Home Evaluation" Report
• Buying: Search "ALL" homes for sale in Apopka
www.RockSpringsRealty.com
CALL Joe Bornstein, Broker: (407) 252-8092
VOTED "BEST OF APOPKA" REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL

SEE WHY PEOPLE LOVE US
TRUSTED LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1923

The Apopka Chief
A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION
WWW.THEAPOPKACHIEF.COM
400 N. PARK AVENUE APOPKA, FL 32712
407-886-2777

Strada wins race to replace U.S. Rep. Webster

Freshman to join minority as GOP loses House seats

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

Republican businessman Joe Strada won Florida's 11th U.S. Congressional District seat Tuesday night with 53% of the vote, according to unofficial results from AP.

"I am incredibly grateful to have earned the trust and support of Central Floridians and look forward to serving them in Congress," Strada said in a post. "I want to thank my beautiful wife Karen and our family for their love, patience and support."

Strada, owner and executive chairman of Strada Services, finished the race with 192,783 votes. He had earned the Republican nomination over former state representative Carey Baker in the Aug. 18 primary.

"Joe and I faced each other in what was the closest congressional primary in the nation," Baker said in a post before results arrived. "It was a grueling, expensive, hard-fought campaign, and we both gave it everything we had. Joe earned that victory and he has earned your vote today."

Strada defeated Democrat James Pericola, who won the Democratic primary against Royal Webster and Dan Williams. Pericola left Tuesday night with 166,788 votes, or 45.9% of the vote.

"We did this on a shoestring and then some, and to go from 20 points, 21 points, whatever it is, to six, to seven, a loss is a loss," said Pericola in a Tuesday night phone interview with The Apopka Chief. "We were outspent 40 to one, and that's on the low end. It just overwhelms any ship in the sea."

Pericola attributed the loss to 'big money,' saying that "a thoughtful and fruitful discussion" with Strada would have helped voters "make a more informed decision."



James Pericola | Courtesy of James Pericola



Joe Strada | Courtesy of the Joe Strada for Congress campaign



Ralph Groves | Courtesy of Ralph Groves

Strada had not participated in any post-primary debate opportunities with Pericola. A Sept. 12 news release from the Pericola campaign announced that Strada had "turned down another non-partisan invitation to present his positions to the district's voters."

"Voters deserve to hear from each of us, and anyone running to represent them in elected office," Pericola said in the release.

Pericola expressed gratitude for and pride in each of his supporters and is looking forward to spending time with his family, "what this has always been about."

"The idea that you have all of these programs being canceled and healthcare, like my mom has been experiencing and being mistreated on, people are tired of hearing about my mom and her healthcare issues, but it's not unique to her," Pericola said. "It's what's happening to tens of millions of Americans because they're breaking these systems on purpose, and I think that's worth the fight, whether you win or lose. It's worth the fight, even if it's in the reddest area."

Libertarian Ralph Groves received 3,927 votes, or 1.1% of the vote. Groves did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Strada will replace Congressman Daniel Webster, a longtime politician of over four decades who championed home education, helped fund State Road 429, and returned almost $32 million to constituents. House District 11 spans portions of several counties in west Central Florida.

Strada's victory came in a blue wave that cost Republicans control of Congress. Democrats won majorities in both the U.S. House and Senate, flipping Senate seats in seven states: James Talarico in Texas, Adam Hamilton in Kansas, Troy Jackson in Maine, Annie Andrews in South Carolina, Sherrod Brown in Ohio, Josh Turek in Iowa and Roy Cooper in North Carolina. Strada will take office in the minority.

Florida was one of the rare bright spots for Republicans. Sen. Ashley Moody held her seat against Democrat Angie Nixon, and U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds was elected governor, defeating Democrat David Jolly to become the first Black governor in Florida history.

PATTON

FROM A1

by lawful authority. It does not specify the circumstances prompting his resignation.

"The City of Apopka appreciates Dr. Joseph Patton's years of service and contributions to our organization," Montiero said in an emailed statement. "We wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors."

Patton did not respond to requests for comment.

According to his May 25, 2021, offer letter, Patton began working as human resources director June 21, 2021, at an annual salary of $105,000.

Balkcom's Oct. 29 offer letter, signed by her and Nesta, lists her annual starting salary at $180,000 and anticipated start date as Nov. 6, subject to background checks and commission ratification.

According to her résumé, Balkcom has worked for the city since July 2021, serving as human resources specialist II until becoming human resources administrator in April 2024. She has more than 20 years of HR experience.

Lee's Oct. 29 offer letter lists an annual starting salary of $210,000 and anticipated start date of Nov. 23, subject to employment conditions and commission ratification.



Mayor Nick Nesta, pictured at the Oct. 7 Apopka City Commission meeting, is scheduled to present four department director appointments for ratification Friday. | Photo by Dana O'Connor.

His résumé lists more than 20 years of experience in accounting, financial planning and business operations, including leadership positions with Fidelity National Information Services.

The proposed CFO position is part of Nesta's reorganization, publicly presented at a Sept. 28 town hall. The CFO would oversee the Finance Department and report directly to the mayor.

Edwards currently serves as interim parks and recreation director, a leadership role she has held since at least July 2025, according to previous coverage by The Apopka Chief.

Hippler has served as IT director since at least the 2017-18 fiscal year, according to city budget records.

In a Tuesday email, Montiero said the previous administration placed Hippler in charge of IT without commission ratification. He said Nesta is seeking to formalize the appointment under the city charter, which requires commission ratification of department heads.

The proposed appointments follow Nesta's September dismissals of Interim City Administrator Radley Williams and Finance Director Blanche Sherman.

The special meeting will be livestreamed on the city's YouTube channel.

A PUBLIC HEARING ADOPTING A NON-AD VALOREM TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR WEST KELLY PARK – CRESCENT RIDGE STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the City Council for the City of Apopka will conduct a public hearing and subsequently adopt a resolution to Adopt a Non-Ad Valorem Tax Assessment Roll for the West Kelly Park – Crescent Ridge Street Lighting District for the imposition of annual non-ad valorem special assessment in the areas designated by the specified herein. Each individual non-ad valorem special assessment shall be billed on the Orange County Annual Tax Bill for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2027, and annually thereafter for the collection of all associated costs and expenses applied to the designated areas as applicable.

The public hearing for the West Kelly Park – Crescent Ridge Street Lighting District Assessment shall be before the City Commission of the City of Apopka in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the imposition of the assessments, as follows:

Development/Sub-Division Name	1st Reading Final Certification
West Kelly Park – Crescent Ridge Street Lighting District	December 2, 2026 1:30 P.M.

Florida Statutes (F.S.) require us to advise you that a failure to pay the assessment will cause a tax certificate to the issued against the property which may result in the loss of title, F.S. 197.3632(4)(b).

The non-ad valorem assessment is for the West Kelly Park – Crescent Ridge Street Lighting District as provided.

The imposition of the annual non-ad valorem assessment may only apply to the Designated District Area, identified herein, where the City Commission intends to impose an assessment for the purpose of providing West Kelly Park – Crescent Ridge Street Lighting District for the safety and welfare of the residents whom reside within the designated district area.

The costs of the assessment shall be entirely apportioned to the property owners within the subdivision receiving the benefited service. The assessment will continue to be billed by the Orange County Tax Collector on the annual Orange County Tax Bill until all emergency costs expended are recovered by the City. Parcel owners may elect to pay their proportionate share in whole in lieu of paying the annual assessment should they elect to do so but must notify the city of their intentions prior to July 1, 2027.

All affected property owners have the right to appear at the public hearing and the right to file a written objection with the City Clerk's Office within 20 days of the publication of this notice. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office at 407-703-1794 at least three (3) days prior to the date of the hearing.

Copies of the Resolutions detailing the legal description of the areas to be assessed are available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall, located at 120 E. Main Street, Apopka Florida, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions regarding the assessments, please contact the Special Assessments Coordinator at 407-703-1700, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Publish dates: October 30, 2026, November 6, 2026

BETTI NELL HARDEE

October 27, 1938 - October 27, 2026



Betti Nell Hardee, a longtime resident of Apopka, Florida, passed away on October 27, 2026, on her 88th birthday.

Born in Georgia to Annie and Jessie James Hardee, Betti moved to Apopka at a young age and graduated from Apopka High School in 1955 at just 16 years old. One of seven surviving children, she grew up alongside her siblings Kathi Gibson, Kris Dickerson, John, Walter, Ronnie, and Bobby.

Bright, athletic, and independent, Betti enjoyed softball, playing marbles, and reading. She later spent many years working at Entenmann's, where she formed lasting friendships. She loved traveling, beach trips, shopping, and visiting casinos. Betti was known for her youthful spirit, infectious laugh, teal Camaro, love of Betty Boop and weekly salon visits.

Above all, family was at the heart of her life. Her home was a gathering place filled with home-cooked meals, weekend visits, laughter, and generations of memories. She cherished family outings, theme parks, beach trips, and celebrating her grandchildren's accomplishments.

Betti was the mother of: Angela Brown, Arthur Jasmer III and Traci Knight. She leaves behind grandchildren: Starla Kenny, Summer Hayes, Jennifer Jasmer, Heather Smith , Malissa Nelson, Brandon Smith, Joshua Ryals, Taylor Knight, Kali Knight, Michael and Drew Brown, along with great-grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, beloved former daughter-in-law, Mary Clubb and many dear friends.

Independent, spirited, and forever young at heart, Betti will be remembered for her laughter, her love of family, and the countless memories she leaves behind.



Hampton-Johnson, Walton Johnson win judge and clerk of courts runoffs

Candidates win respective races by wide margins

By Sarah Merly
Reporter

Ninth Judicial Circuit candidate Temika Hampton-Johnson and Orange County Clerk of Courts candidate Roberta Walton Johnson won their respective runoff races by large margins on Tuesday night. Read below for more information on each race.

Ninth Judicial Circuit, Group 1

Hampton-Johnson, partner at Hampton Law, won the Group 1 runoff with 348,869 votes, or 65% of the vote, according to results available on ClickOrlando.com.

"I'm looking forward to getting on the bench and just bringing that justice-with-integrity mentality and my hard work to the bench every day to make sure that we can make it a place where people feel heard, seen, and understood, and that they are treated fairly in our court system," she said in a Tuesday night phone interview with The Apopka Chief.



Temika Hampton-Johnson addresses attendees at her Tuesday watch party celebrating her victory in the runoff race for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge. | Photo by Dana O'Connor

Her opponent, Charles Hart, won 191,027 votes, or 35% of the vote. Hart did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Hampton-Johnson will replace incumbent Mikaela Nix-Walker, who lost to Hampton-Johnson and Hart in the Aug. 18 primary.

Orange County Clerk of Courts

Walton Johnson won the Orange County Clerk of Courts race with 312,269 votes, or 65.83% of the vote, according to unofficial results from Orange County. She is currently the general counsel for the Orange County 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," Walton Johnson told the Chief in a July questionnaire. "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."


Roberta Walton Johnson, center, smiles as she hugs an attendee at her Tuesday watch party, celebrating her victory in the Orange County Clerk of Courts runoff. | Photo by Dana O'Connor

Her opponent, Dev.G9 Digital owner Terrell Thomas, won 131,727 votes, or 27.77% of the vote.

"Tonight, while the election results were not what we had hoped for, my heart is filled with gratitude, humility, and appreciation for every person who believed in me and the Clerk Forward vision," Thomas said in a Tuesday night Facebook post. "I want to extend my sincere congratulations to Roberta Walton Johnson on her victory. She ran a respectful and dignified race, and I commend her for that. I wish her tremendous success as she prepares to lead the Orange County Clerk of Courts."

Walton Johnson will succeed Tiffany Moore Russell, who won the Orange County mayoral election Tuesday night.

"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," Walton Johnson previously told the Chief. "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."

MANAGER

FROM A1

his vision of what really got him elected," Mater said in a Monday phone call with the Chief.

Mater said he is particularly excited for his involvement with Golden Gem Pond and parks and recreation, along with strengthening the water pressure near Rock Springs Ridge.

"I know a lot of people are stating that they've been waiting for the mayor to do something, do something, do something," he said. "I think that the citizens are now going to see some action. I think you're going to see a lot of positivity... I'm very fortunate because I have the construction background and been able to implement getting projects done on time, below budget."

Mater is replacing Radley Williams, who was dismissed from his position in September along with then-finance director Blanche Sherman. He said his base salary is set for $175,000.

According to his LinkedIn page, Mater has worked as a general adjuster for American Family Insurance since May 2021, with previous experience as the owner of Southside Fitness and vice president of AllStar Roofing. He has confirmed he will still coach volleyball at Apopka High School.

In his Monday email, Nesta said an announcement of the permanent city administrator would arrive later this month, along "with an associated timeline for appointment to the position." Mater said he anticipates the permanent administrator will start by March.

The announcement comes a few days before Friday's special commission meeting, which will consider the ratification of four department heads: Cynthia Edwards as parks and recreation director, Robert Hippler as IT director, Zandra Balkcom as human resources director, and Marcel Lee as chief financial officer.



City Hall | File photo



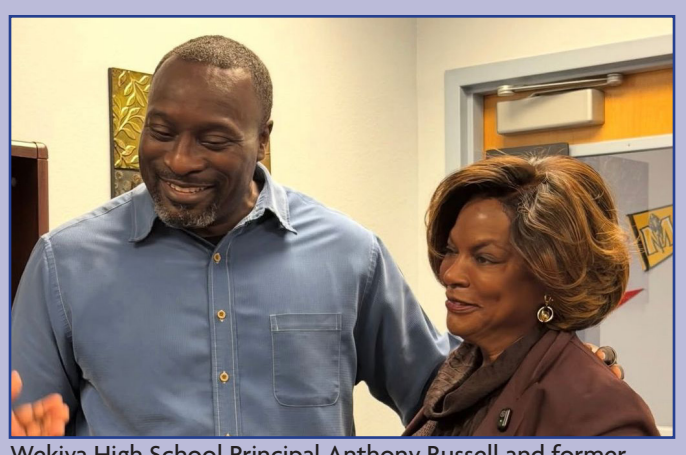
FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN VAL DEMINGS ENCOURAGES WEKIVA STUDENTS TO LEAD WITH PURPOSE AND SERVICE



From L-R Yearbook Committee Members Kimarha Joseph, England Browder and Wing Commander Taaliyah Rivers join former Congresswoman Val Demings for a group photo at a recent visit to the school campus. | Courtesy of Nora Pachnik



Forming part of the welcoming entourage for Val Demings is journalism Advisor La Sana Groome and AFJROTC Wing Commander Taaliyah Rivers. | Courtesy of Kimarha Joseph



Wekiva High School Principal Anthony Russell and former Congresswoman Val Demings share a joke with Wekiva's Journalism Advisor La Sana Groome during the special visit on Oct. 28. | Photo by Nora Pachnik



Demings is escorted by Wekiva JROTC Wing Commander Taaliyah Rivers with Colonel Scott Stewart in the background. | Courtesy of Kimarha Joseph



Journalist England Browder interviews Demings at Wekiva High School on Oct. 28. | Courtesy of Kimarha Joseph



The interview session at Wekiva High School. | Photo by Nora Pachnik

POLICE BEAT

Apopka police arrest 30, issue 33 citations Oct. 25-31

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

In the period from October 25-31, 2026, the Apopka Police Department received 1,538 calls for service, responded to 44 crashes, issued 33 citations, and made 30 arrests. Burglaries: 2 vehicles, 1 residence, 1 business. Juveniles were charged with battery-touch or strike (X3); damage property-criminal mischief damage property $200-$1,000; aggravated assault-with deadly weapon without intent to kill; disorderly conduct-commit affray fight in public; resist officer-obstruct without violence; battery on public/private education employee.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Shamara Denise Martin, 44, Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence; battery-touch or strike.

Adalberto Vazquez-Gonzalez, 47, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Derek Stephen Brown, 56, P.O. Box 210, Harris, resist officer-obstruct without violence; larceny petit theft-merchandise farm transit 2+ prior conviction.

Hans Billewicz, 40, 1926 Pia Ct., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle; DUI-unlawful blood alcohol refusal submit DUI testing subsequent offense; neglect child without great bodily harm.

Brian Espinoza, 31, 2000 Park Cir. U 18, Leesburg, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs.

Abrielle Marie Barbera, 21, 1510 Marden Ridge Loop #309, Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Joseph Howard Stubblefield, 56, 1437 Green Ridge Dr., Apopka, simple assault-intent threat to do violence; battery-prior conviction battery-commit 2nd subsequent battery.

Quandria Briana Henderson, 33, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Danny Lee Mobley, 57, Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence; out-of-county warrant.

Leroy Gomez-Vera, 19, Apopka, battery-cause bodily harm.

Demetrice Tremaine Longley, 44, 3646 Hogshead Rd., Apopka, failure to appear.

Shane Allen Baisden, 42, 2493 W. Highland Ave., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription; possession of weapon or ammo by convicted Florida felon.

Luis Manuel Nivar, 20, Apopka, battery-cause bodily harm.

Jose Efrain Rodriguez-Mendoza, 34, 1242 Peach St., Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license, 1st conviction.

Elizabeth Grace Holzhauer, 39, 3000 Clarcona Rd. Apt. 806, Apopka, larceny-petit theft merchandise $100-$750.

Te`Koy Akeed Fahie, 19, 2956 Breezy Meadow Rd., Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence; moving traffic violation-reckless driving 1st offense; battery on specified personnel.

Jose Armando Vela, 33, Apopka, robbery with no firearm or weapon; simple assault-intent threat to do violence; burglary of occupied dwelling unarmed.

Maurice Lenard Reed, 60, general delivery, Orlando, drug equipment-possession and/or use; drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (methamphetamine).

Kameron Deshawn Wilson, 30, general delivery, Jacksonville, battery-touch or strike; obstructing justice-tamper witness alter/destroy object, noncriminal proceeding; larceny-grand theft property value $750-$5,000; robbery-sudden snatch without firearm/weapon.

Mark Antonio Justice, 45, 105 E. 15th St. #A, Apopka, resist officer-obstruct without violence; drug equipment-possession and/or use; drugs-possession of controlled substance (methamphetamine); drugs-possession of controlled substance (fentanyl); aggravated assault-with deadly weapon without intent to kill.

Estuardo Rocael Deleonajanel, 27, 1225 Sassy Wy., Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license 1st conviction; hit and run-failure to stop, remain at crash involving injury, other than serious bodily injury.

Gina Marie Mullins, 38, general delivery, Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription; drug equipment-possession and/or use; obstructing justice-tamper with evidence in criminal proceeding.

Haydee Estrada Orozco, 43, 2006 Lake Page Ln., Apopka, kidnap-false imprisonment of person; battery-touch or strike.

Alvaro Ernan Domingo Castanon, 49, 549 Maineline Blvd., Apopka, sex assault by 18 years of age or older, sex battery victim under 12 years of age.

Trinidad Hernandez Sanchez, 43, 2006 Lake Page Ln., Apopka, failure to appear, felony warrant.

Mario Humberto Lopez Simaj, 45, 721 E. 13th St., Apopka, out-of-county warrant, failure to appear methamphetamine.

Pedro Alberto Betancourt, 45, 452 Red Cedar Ct., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription.

Melvin Deloney, 71, 2694 McQueen Rd., Apopka, drugs-possession intent sell/manufacture/deliver controlled substance schedule II.

Rebecca Marie Cook, 39, 260 N. Lake Ave., Apopka, battery on specified personnel (X4); resist officer with violence; battery-touch or strike.

Andres Jose Avendano, 30, 1004 High Meadow Rd., Apopka, kidnap-false imprisonment of person; resist officer-obstruct without violence; burglary-occupied conveyance unarmed.



Your local bank is now one of Forbes' Best Banks.

On August 1, One Florida Bank proudly joined Hancock Whitney Bank.

You'll continue to work with the bankers you know and trust, backed by the added strength, stability, and resources of Hancock Whitney—recognized by Forbes as one of America's Best Banks.

Welcome to Hancock Whitney.

HANCOCK WHITNEY BANK

hancockwhitney.com

Hancock Whitney Bank, Member FDIC. All loans and accounts subject to credit approval. Terms and conditions apply.

Park Square wins judgment in Emerson Park road-cost lawsuit

Developer owes no share of public-road upgrades, judge says in ruling

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

An Orange County circuit judge entered final judgment on Oct. 30 in favor of Park Square Enterprises in a lawsuit brought by Emerson Park's homeowners association over costs to rebuild Alston Bay Boulevard for transfer to the city of Apopka.

Circuit Judge Kevin B. Weiss's Oct. 30 judgment resolves all claims against Park Square in the roadway case and states that the HOA shall recover nothing from the company. It expressly leaves the claim against another defendant, Apopka Propco LLC, undecided.

The judgment follows Weiss's Sept. 24 ruling that the parties' development agreement does not require Park Square to fund upgrades undertaken to convert a private roadway into a public street. Weiss denied the HOA's request for rehearing and clarification on Oct. 27.

The dispute continued after road construction was completed in October 2025 and city officials and residents celebrated the dedication in January.

The HOA sued Park Square in July 2025, seeking a declaration that the company must pay its share of replacement costs under a 2018 property development agreement. An amended complaint filed that December added Apopka Propco as a defendant.

The agreement divides covered Alston Bay Boulevard costs among the HOA and two other property owners, assigning shares of 49%, 30% and 21%. The HOA contends Park Square is responsible for the 21% share.



The Emerson Park entrance at the intersection of Ocoee Apopka Road and Alston Bay Boulevard. | File photo

Those provisions concern the boulevard segment between Ocoee Apopka Road and Seburn Road, rather than the entire neighborhood roadway system.

In his September order, Weiss distinguished private-road upkeep from reconstruction required for public acceptance. He found that the agreement does not obligate Park Square to fund capital improvements or municipal code-compliance upgrades undertaken to convert the road into a public street.

In its Oct. 9 rehearing motion, the HOA argued that the ruling did not separately address ordinary repairs included in the project. The association maintained that the road had deteriorated and needed repaving regardless of the proposed dedication.

The motion identified a $60,338.12 invoice to Park Square. The HOA acknowledged that the invoice's existence did not conclusively establish compliance with reimbursement requirements or which work was covered.

Park Square argued that the claim concerned the city-directed reconstruction project as a whole and that the HOA had not established a separate, payable ordinary-repair claim.

The HOA's motion stated that it intended to seek appellate review of an adverse appealable judgment.

The Chief previously reported that the city and Emerson Park developed a financing arrangement to improve the subdivision's privately owned infrastructure to city standards before transferring the main roads to public ownership.

Under that arrangement, the city oversaw the work and arranged financing, with homeowners repaying the financed costs through annual assessments over 15 years. The partnership provided financing and technical assistance rather than a city subsidy for reconstruction.

In January, the Chief reported a total project cost of $2.65 million, including more than $700,000 contributed upfront by the HOA. The city would maintain the main roads, while the HOA retained responsibility for alleyways.

Attorneys for the HOA and Park Square did not respond to requests for comment.

Construction begins on 325-unit apartment community at Wyld Oaks

Exchange at Wyld Oaks is the first multifamily development to reach this stage

Staff report

Above-ground construction has begun on a 325-unit apartment community at Wyld Oaks, the 215-acre mixed-use development near State Road 429 and West Kelly Park Road in Apopka, according to an Oct. 15 news release.

Exchange at Wyld Oaks is being developed by Dewfall Hathaway, an affiliate of Atlanta-based Hathaway Development, with equity backing from Carlyle Realty Partners X.

The apartments are the first multifamily development at Wyld Oaks to reach this stage of construction, according to the release. The announcement did not provide an opening date or rental rates.

Plans include one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments averaging 741, 1,081 and 1,307 square feet, respectively. The community will be next to the planned Yonder park and near a future town center.


Wood framing rises at Exchange at Wyld Oaks, a 325-unit apartment community under construction in Apopka. | Photo by Patsy Whitely

"Rooftops bring customers, patients, guests and diners," Wyld Oaks founder Joseph Beninati said in the release.

Wyld Oaks said completed infrastructure includes roads, sidewalks, landscaping, streetlights, utilities and underground conduit for its fiber internet network.

The broader development includes plans for more than 300,000 square feet of retail space, along with dining, hotels, medical offices and additional housing.

Wyld Oaks announced Hathaway's involvement in June, describing plans to place apartments within walking distance of businesses, health services, recreation and public gathering spaces. In July, the development named Taylor Edwards its chief operating officer.

The development's current online plan identifies a future AdventHealth emergency department and medical campus. The plan labels the Wyld Market site "Sale Pending" and shows proposed restaurant sites, hotel space and additional commercial and residential opportunities.

Planned outdoor features include trails through Yonder, open green space, a dog park and an entertainment venue called Wyld Green.

The website states that plans and amenities are subject to change and that described community improvements are not guaranteed to be completed.

BIG WINS

FROM A1

During a subsequent press conference, Moore Russell discussed plans to establish a transition team with representation from across the county. She also emphasized cooperation with Orange County's 13 municipalities.

"We're going to have to work smarter and work together to provide services to our residents," she said.

In a statement posted Wednesday to his campaign's Facebook page, Messina thanked supporters and acknowledged his defeat.

"We did not win the Mayor's seat," Messina said. "You invested so much in our 21st Century Vision for Orange County. But now it is uncertain if any of it will come to life."

Messina also celebrated the passage of Amendment 3, a property-tax measure he supported, and warned against efforts to impose new taxes.

Brown, a former state representative, expressed gratitude to voters in a text message to The Apopka Chief late Tuesday.

"I am deeply honored and grateful to have earned the trust of the people of Orange County District 2," Brown said. "Tonight's victory reflects our shared belief in leadership that shows up, listens, and delivers results."

Brown said she plans to focus on managing growth responsibly, investing in neighborhoods, strengthening the local economy and ensuring residents have a voice in county decisions.

In a Wednesday afternoon telephone interview with The Apopka Chief, Crabb said he was disappointed and surprised by the results. He attributed his defeat partly to Republican turnout and the political climate.

"I felt like I was a good candidate at the wrong time," Crabb said.

Crabb said he would not have changed his campaign strategy and described the challenges of balancing campaigning with his responsibilities as county commissioner.

Reflecting on his brief tenure, Crabb said he was particularly pleased that tourist development tax funding supported projects outside downtown Orlando, including projects in Apopka, Ocoee and Winter Garden.

He identified Amendment 3's potential effects on local government revenue as a major challenge facing Brown and other county officials. Crabb estimated that Amendment 3 could reduce Orange County's general fund revenue by $165 million, based on a $1.8 billion budget, and expressed concern about potential funding challenges for Orange County Fire Rescue.

Crabb also urged Brown to work with Apopka Mayor Nick Nesta to identify opportunities for cooperation between city and county governments.

"I think she needs to collaborate with Mayor Nesta and figure out ways to be more efficient with what we're doing close to the city-county line," Crabb said.

Crabb said he had congratulated Brown and offered to assist with her transition, including inviting her to meetings and rescheduling others until after she takes office.

He encouraged Brown to listen to constituents and prepare for commission meetings, emphasizing that commissioners must consider countywide issues as well as district concerns.

Crabb said he plans to retire from public service on Dec. 7 and concentrate on expanding his small business in Ocoee.

Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Crabb to the District 2 seat after former Commissioner Christine Moore resigned to run for Apopka mayor.

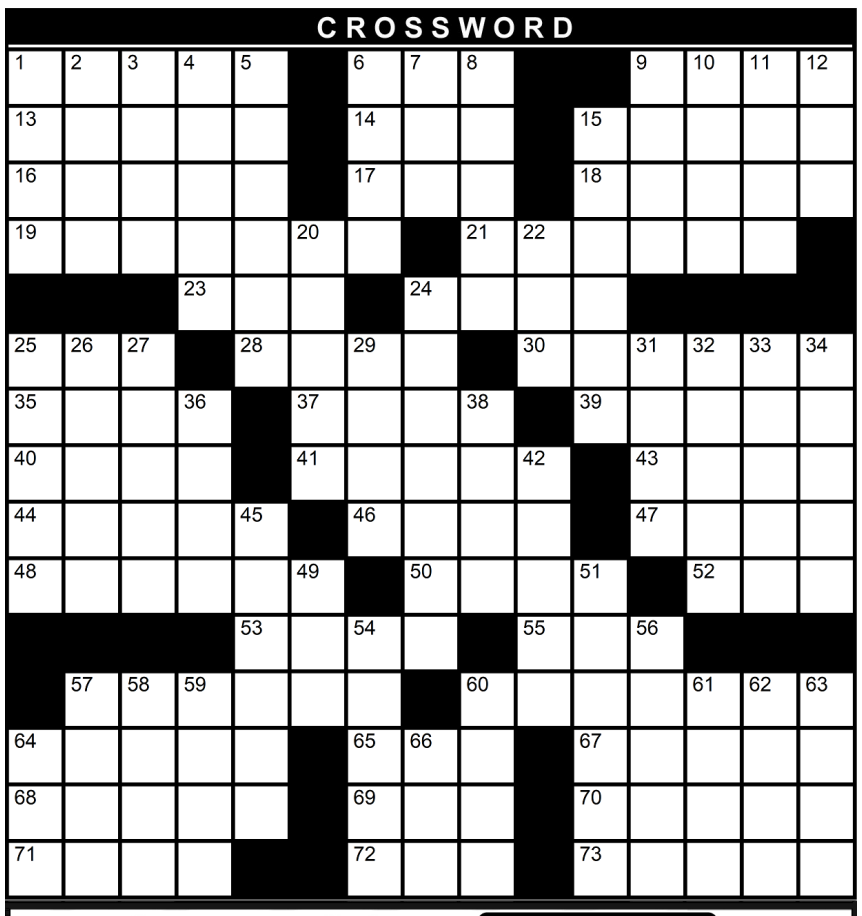
Both county election results remain unofficial until certified.

THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

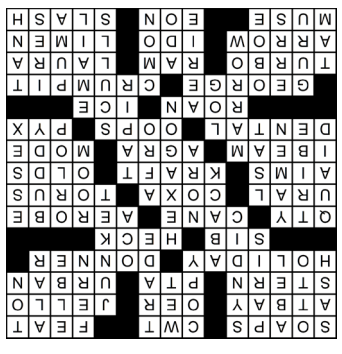
ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

CROSSWORD



THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE ANSWERS



5	7	6	4	8	2	1	9	3
4	8	3	5	1	9	7	6	2
2	1	9	6	3	7	4	5	8
1	2	4	7	9	3	5	8	6
7	9	5	8	6	4	3	2	1
3	6	8	1	2	5	9	4	7
6	4	7	3	5	8	2	1	9
8	3	2	9	4	1	6	7	5
9	5	1	2	7	6	8	3	4



© StatePoint Media

Rock Springs Ridge golf course set for revival under 99-year sublease

Clubhouse, driving range targeted to reopen in May 2027

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Rock Springs Ridge homeowners association has granted Tamarack Golf Management a 99-year, rent-free sublease to restore and operate the community's closed golf course, according to representatives of both parties. The clubhouse and driving range are targeted to reopen May 1, 2027.

The arrangement calls for Tamarack to finance the rehabilitation while residents continue paying toward the HOA's separate acquisition of the property, HOA President Simon McKenna said in an interview with The Apopka Chief on Oct. 29.

"As an HOA, we're extremely pleased," McKenna said. "It was a dream for us to be able to reopen the golf course."

Tamarack owner Rocky Hodge confirmed the 99-year arrangement in a Monday interview. He said the first 18 holes are targeted to reopen between October and December 2027, followed by the remaining nine holes in late 2028.

The HOA continues paying toward the property's acquisition through a previously announced 15-year lease-to-own agreement, funded by increased resident dues. McKenna said that agreement covers 310 acres and permits subleasing for golf course use, while Tamarack will fund the restoration.

"We are not investing anything in the golf course," he said. "That's purely up to the Tamarack Group."



Tamarack Golf Management plans to restore the closed Rock Springs Ridge golf course (pictured) under a 99-year sublease, with the first 18 holes targeted to reopen in late 2027. | File photo

Hodge said the total investment has not been determined. Tamarack expects to have more details about the clubhouse and course renovation costs within four to six weeks.

The company took over responsibilities at the property on Oct. 1, including utilities, Hodge said. It is still conducting due diligence and working with the HOA on approvals for the planned improvements.

The clubhouse will undergo a complete renovation. Hodge plans to preserve the course's existing layout and ground elevations while replacing grass and repairing irrigation, with irrigation work expected to continue into early 2027 before new grass is planted.

"The layout was really nice, so I don't foresee us having to do any massive renovations or massive changes to the golf course," Hodge said.

Resident benefits are still being developed, but Hodge said the agreement requires a minimum 10% discount. Details will address access to golf, the clubhouse and driving range, including different membership and guest arrangements.

Hodge said growth in Rock Springs Ridge and surrounding communities gives him confidence in the course's prospects. Tamarack also plans a golf academy lodge serving about 15 to 40 full-time students, with that component anticipated in 2029 or 2030.

McKenna said the partnership developed through a roofing contractor who had worked at the clubhouse and suggested a connection with Hodge. The HOA had considered other proposals, but Hodge's was the strongest, he said.

The sublease contains investment and condition requirements, according to McKenna. Both McKenna and Hodge declined to provide the agreement to The Apopka Chief. McKenna said residents can review it through the HOA's resident portal.

The arrangement does not affect the HOA's separate tortoise preserve property or ongoing consideration of a potential sale of that land, McKenna said.

Tamarack Golf Management also manages Stoneybrook West Golf Club in Winter Garden. The Stoneybrook West homeowners association selected the company in 2022 as part of an effort to restore golf operations, according to Winter Garden commission minutes.

DISTRICT 39

FROM A1

11,697 votes to Fox's 10,560.

The combined results gave Fox a 7,966-vote victory.

In an election-night interview with The Apopka Chief at the Orange County Democrats' watch party at The Abbey in Orlando, Fox said he was grateful and humbled that voters had chosen him to represent the district in Tallahassee.

"I think it shows that people in this district across Central Florida are ready for some change in Tallahassee," Fox said.

Fox attributed his victory partly to voters' concerns about health care costs, an issue he emphasized throughout his campaign.

He identified expanding Medicaid as his first legislative priority, saying the state should provide greater access to health coverage for eligible residents.

"That would be my first bill that I would like to introduce," Fox said.

Fox also identified reducing property insurance costs and establishing a state-level cap on insulin prices among his priorities.

As a physician, Fox has said his experiences treating patients who struggle to afford medication and medical care influenced his decision to seek office.

Asked about issues affecting Apopka, Fox recalled conversations with South Apopka residents who described recurring flooding, aging infrastructure and prolonged electricity outages following hurricanes.

He said he wants to work with local governments to address infrastructure needs in communities throughout the district.



State Rep. Doug Bankson, joined by his wife, Jeri, addresses supporters in Apopka during his election-night watch party Tuesday, Nov. 3, after losing his reelection bid to Democrat Jarod Fox for Florida House District 39. | Photo by Sarah Merly

Fox, who was part of the Democratic gains on Tuesday in a Legislature Republicans will still control, pledged to work across party lines to advance proposals benefiting constituents.

"If you have good ideas, I'm willing to work with you," he said.

Bankson acknowledged his defeat while addressing supporters Tuesday night at a watch party in Apopka.

"It's disappointing on one level," Bankson said, adding that he was at peace with the outcome.

The Republican thanked his family, campaign volunteers and legislative staff for their support during his time in office.

Reflecting on his four years in Tallahassee, Bankson said his legislative work resulted in 20 bills passed and $20 million returned to the district.

"I went up there to go to work," Bankson said, adding that he sought to serve constituents with integrity.

During his reelection campaign, Bankson highlighted his legislative work, including efforts to secure funding for recreational trails and Lake Apopka restoration. He also identified property insurance affordability as an issue he wanted to continue addressing if reelected.

Bankson was first elected to the Florida House in 2022, defeating Democrat Tiffany Hughes. He won reelection in 2024 against Democrat Marsha Summersill.

Before serving in Tallahassee, Bankson represented Seat 3 on the Apopka City Commission.

He advanced to Tuesday's general election after defeating Carlos Johary in the Aug. 18 Republican primary. Fox was unopposed for the Democratic nomination.

Fox will represent District 39 for a two-year term. Election results remain unofficial until certified.

—With reporting by Sarah Merly



Florida Blue

Protect what matters most with a plan that helps you save.

Open Enrollment for 2027 is on! Take this opportunity to find a health plan that fits your busy life, makes getting care simpler, and works harder for you and your family.

Look to Florida Blue for benefits like:

- $0 labs and wellness checkups[1]
- $0 virtual care available 24/7 on most plans
- A large selection of doctors, specialists, pediatricians, and hospitals

Our local agents are here to help you enroll in the right plan for your family.

Don't miss out on health coverage for 2027!

Call 1-844-396-1909 or visit FloridaBlue.com/ForYou

[1]Many Florida Blue plans cover annual wellness checkups, including covered vaccinations, lab work, and screenings, for a $0 copay. During your checkup, if you need medical tests or treatments, prescriptions, or a referral, you may have a cost share. When scheduling your checkup with a new doctor for the first time, ask if you need a new patient visit before your checkup. If so, you may have a cost share for the new patient visit. Policies have limitations and exclusions. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., DBA Florida Blue, and HMO from Health Options, Inc., DBA Florida Blue HMO, are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. 125919 0926

The Apopka Chief
A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION

SPORTS

B1

November 6, 2026

Apopka shuts out Wekiva for Mayor's Cup victory

Blue Darters' first-half fireworks trigger running clock after break

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter



Apopka celebrates their win with the band in the end zone. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

The Mayor's Cup stayed with Apopka for another year as the Blue Darters delivered a dominant performance against Wekiva, shutting out the Mustangs 35-0 Friday night at Mustang Field.

Apopka wasted little time taking control of the rivalry matchup, scoring three touchdowns in the first quarter and adding two more before halftime. The win marked the Blue Darters' fourth consecutive victory in the series and their second straight 35-0 result in the Mayor's Cup.

The game was also Senior Night for Wekiva, which honored 13 football seniors along with members of its cheerleading, band and JROTC programs.

Apopka opened the game with a trick play that immediately put the Mustangs on their heels. After Jakyvion Kemp picked up four yards, receiver Nyzier Collington took a reverse, stopped and launched a deep pass to a wide-open Kemp. The 54-yard completion set up the Blue Darters inside the Wekiva 15-yard line.

Kemp continued to move the offense toward the goal line before quarterback Kai Goodling finished the opening drive with a one-yard touchdown sneak. The extra point gave Apopka a 7-0 lead just over two minutes in.

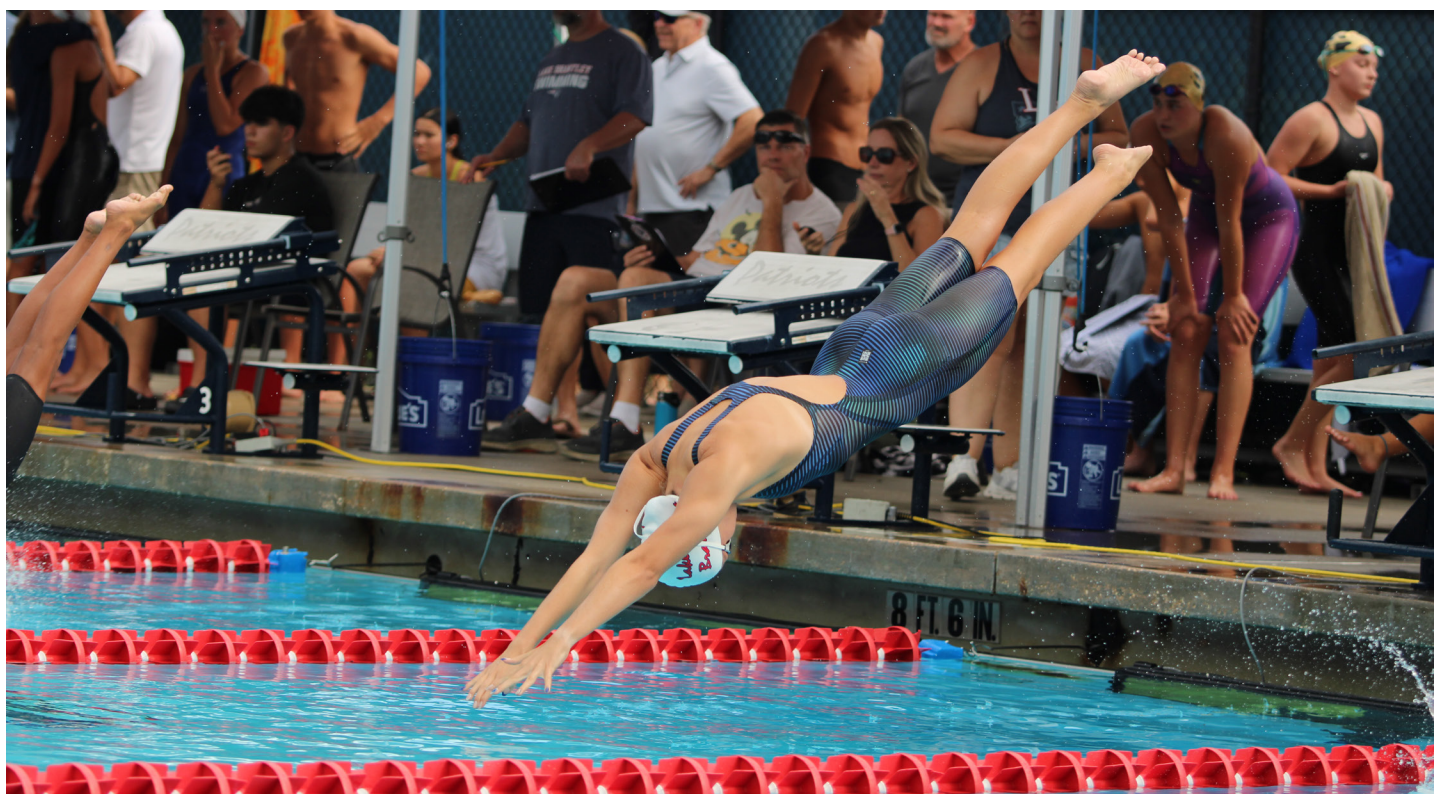
Apopka took advantage of a short field after a Wekiva punt. Goodling connected with Kemp for a 29-yard completion, and Kemp followed with a 10-yard run to bring the Blue Darters to the one-yard line. After a two-yard loss, Kemp powered in for a three-yard touchdown. The extra point pushed the lead to 14-0 with 6:17 left in the opening quarter.

Apopka's offense continued to find ways to move the ball, even after a sack by Wekiva's senior Ya'Terrius Jackson and a holding penalty. Goodling connected with Johnson Navilssaint on a screen for 13 yards, then found Nyzier Collington on a pair of completions to move the chains.

After Goodling scrambled for a short loss, he went back to Collington across the middle for a 13-yard first down. Following an incompletion on a contested attempt, Goodling kept trust in his lead receiver. For the third straight

SHUTOUT, B2

Local swimmers compete in FHSAA regional meet



Keira Druck dives in the water for her 500-yard freestyle race. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Druck earns state berth in the 200 and 500 freestyle

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

Swimmers Keira Druck and Mason Marco competed at the FHSAA regional swimming meet Saturday, with Druck securing two state qualifications while Marco represented the Blue Darters in two individual events.

Apopka native Keira Druck, a sophomore swimming for Lake Brantley, competed in four events at Patriot Aquatics after a strong performance at districts. The top two finishers in each event automatically qualify for the state meet, with additional swimmers advancing based on times across all regions.

Druck opened the morning in the 200-yard medley relay, swimming the third leg in 26.74 seconds to help Lake Brantley finish third among 16 teams.

About 20 minutes later, she returned to the pool for the individual 200-yard freestyle. Druck finished second among 24 swimmers with a time of 1:50.72, just one-tenth of a second behind the winner. The finish earned her an automatic spot at the state meet.

Druck continued her strong day in the 500-yard freestyle, holding second place throughout her heat and finishing third overall in 5:00.38. That performance secured her second state qualification.

Lake Brantley coach Gabe Parnell noted that Druck had been competing with minimal rest between events after a demanding week of preparation. He said she had been working extremely hard and remained focused on returning to the state meet.

Druck closed her regional competition in the 400-yard freestyle relay, swimming the opening leg in 52.8 seconds as Lake Brantley finished third.

She will compete in all four events at the state meet in Ocala,

SWIMMING, B4

Apopka 12U falls in Mid-Florida championship

Blue Darters close Pop Warner's 2026 season

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter


Ayden Lowman gets hit out of bounds while attempting to dive for the end zone. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Apopka's 12U Pop Warner team closed its season Saturday with a 46-12 loss to the Central Florida Knights in the Mid-Florida Championship held at Lake Brantley High School.

The Blue Darters were the lone Apopka Pop Warner team to reach the championship, earning their spot after defeating the Lake Mary Rams 34-24 on Oct. 17.

Apopka, coached by Mike Lowman, opened the title game with a strong defensive stand, stopping the Knights on fourth down to take possession near the 18-yard line. After a turnover gave Central Florida the ball back, Apopka's defense again came up with a key stop, as Kaiden Johnson recorded a sack on fourth down.

Quarterback Ayden Lowman put Apopka on the board with a touchdown on a quarterback sneak, giving the Blue Darters a 6-0 lead with 4:05 remaining in the first quarter. The Knights answered with a touchdown of their own to tie the game 6-6.

Central Florida took control in the second quarter, scoring twice to build a 22-6 advantage. Apopka continued to battle, with Lowman making plays on the ground and through the air.

After a defensive stop in Knights territory just before halftime, Lowman connected with Sire Warren on a 14-yard jump ball in the back of the end zone for a touchdown. This sent the

POP WARNER, B3

Apopka dismantles Timber Creek, 49-14



Ceon Cotton and the playmakers run off the field all smiles and hyped up after Cotton's touchdown. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Blue Darters score 35 points in the second half

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

Apopka closed its season with a statement, scoring five second-half touchdowns to defeat Timber Creek 49-14 in the continuation of their Oct. 16 matchup suspended by inclement weather.

The Blue Darters resumed play Tuesday with a 12-7 lead and 7:30 remaining in the second quarter. With the offense stalling on third and 17, Jacobo Trujillo opened the continuation with a 50-yard punt that pinned Timber Creek at its 15.

Trujillo continued to deliver when Apopka needed him. After the Blue Darters' next drive stalled, he sent another punt down to the Timber Creek 5. The Wolves were called for intentional grounding in the end zone, giving Apopka a safety and a 14-7 lead with 40 seconds left in the half. Trujillo then boomed a punt to the 20 as Apopka carried its lead into halftime.

The Blue Darters found their offensive rhythm after the break. Following a defensive stop and another Timber Creek punt, freshman quarterback Kai Goodling launched a deep pass to Nyzier Collington, who beat his defender along the right sideline for a 49-yard touchdown. The score extended Apopka's lead to 21-7 with 8:30 remaining in the third quarter.

Collington's touchdown added to a performance that began before the suspension, when he caught a jump-ball score and threw a touchdown pass to Jakyvion Kemp.

Apopka's defense continued to create opportunities.

APOPKA, B3


Hunter McNenney sneaks across the goal line for Apopka's second touchdown of the half. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

Game-changing rain finally arrives in area



GOIN' FISHIN'
Jim Keck
Correspondent

Hello Folks,

Well, we prayed for rain, and - boy, oh boy - did we ever get our prayers answered! I believe it's about time to slow down some of our prayers in the rain category for a while! Thanks again to everyone who prayed.

We're gettin' a new moon on Monday, Nov. 9, so that should help get those ole bass to bitin' again… *everywhere*!

After we get done with all this rain, we've got some cooler temperatures headed our way. Pretty soon, it's gonna be down in the 60s with highs in the 80s. We should see the speck fishin' get *real* good.

Folks… I've been fishin' for a long time, but just this past week, we *finally* have a bass fisherman who's a millionaire… *because* he went fishin'! Congrats to Matt Robertson who won the inaugural World Bass Enterprises championship, The Champions, on Ole Hickory Lake in Tennessee. The three-day tournament drew 62 anglers, and Matt came out on top! All the big names in bass fishin' were there for the tournament, but Matt ended up winnin' $1,250,000! Yep, that's right! That's *one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars*! Tell *that* to your better half who might think you pay a little more attention to fishin' than she might think is warranted! It's kinda hard to wrap your head around somethin' like this in today's bass fishin' tournaments. You can go online and see all the anglers who fished, and how they finished in the standings.

We've had so much rain that the St. Johns River is out of its banks, and it's floodin' in a lot of areas up and down the river. I would suggest that we all stay off the SJR for a while and give it a chance to recede before tryin' to navigate the river again.

Folks are catchin' some specks just trollin' jigs tipped with a minner in Lake Woodruff up on the St. Johns west of Daytona Beach. I don't know how all this rain is goin' to affect the fishin', so before you drive all the way up there with your rig in tow, you might wanta check with the fish camps in that area.

The bass fishin' over on the Harris Chain is startin' to pick up with all the rain we've been gettin', too. And, the rain has cooled the water temperature down in the lakes, and that's got the fish to bitin' a little better.

And, the bass are also bitin' down on West Lake Toho. Most folks are fishin' with shiners, and they're catchin' some bass along the edges of the hydrilla grass beds. The lake has a lotta hydrilla right now, so you'll have to do some searchin' to find the edge of the hydrilla.

The specks are still bitin' down there in Lake Kissimmee, with most folks driftin' open water with minners. And, a few folks are catchin' some pretty nice specks on jigs tipped with a minner.

In spite of all this rain, the bass are bitin' like crazy down at the Headwaters Lake. The water temperature is down to 73 degrees, and that's got'em to feedin' on shiners and topwater baits early in the mornin'. Some folks are even catchin' some big'uns! See? It pays off to get up early and get goin'!

Before I get outta here, next Wednesday is Veterans Day! And I just want to thank all you Veterans, men and women, who served our country to keep us safe, *and* their families! There's no one who could have done any better!

Tip of the week: Cooler Temperatures!

SAVE A FEW AND GOOD LUCK!

SHUTOUT

FROM B1

week, Collington hauled in a 13-yard contested touchdown catch over a defender to give the Blue Darters a 21-0 lead with one minute remaining in the first quarter.

Wekiva began to put together a response in the second quarter. A 12-yard run by Landon Jerome and a 15-yard penalty for a horse-collar tackle moved the Mustangs into Apopka territory. Wekiva quarterback Dominick Sanguine connected with DeAndre Adams for 10 yards, and the Mustangs eventually reached the Apopka 15.

The Blue Darter defense held. Wekiva failed to convert on fourth down after a reverse by Dominique Walker lost two yards, giving Apopka possession.

Apopka's next scoring drive featured a little more creativity. Goodling tossed backward to Collington, who then threw back across the field to Goodling with an entourage of blockers in front for a 12-yard gain. After a late-hit penalty moved the Blue Darters to the Wekiva 14, Goodling found Collington again. The receiver made a spectacular one-handed catch with a defender draped over him for his second touchdown of the night. This marked his sixth touchdown in just five games.

The extra point made it 28-0 with 1:40 remaining in the first half.

Apopka wasn't finished. With 52 seconds left, Goodling connected with Navilssaint on a screen to the left. The speedy receiver found a lane behind his blockers, broke into the open field and outran the defense for a 51-yard touchdown. The score made it 35-0 with 42 seconds remaining, triggering a running clock.

The Blue Darters totaled 286 yards of offense in the first half. Kemp accounted for 124 all-purpose yards and a touchdown, while Collington had 65 receiving yards and two scores. Goodling completed 10 of 12 passes for 161 yards and accounted for four total touchdowns.

"It's all credit to the players," head coach Marcus Neeson said. "I put the script together, we go through the script, they understand what's expected and the execution's there tonight."



Apopka gathers and poses with the Mayor's Cup. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano



Blue Darter and Mustang lines face off. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

The second half featured little scoring action, as Apopka's defense continued to keep Wekiva out of the end zone.

Apopka's offense was unable to add to its lead, and the clock ran out on the 35-0 victory.

The victory marked Neeson's second Mayor's Cup win in as many seasons as Apopka's head coach. He said the result was satisfying but acknowledged the Blue Darters still have things to clean up, particularly avoidable penalties.

Neeson also credited Wekiva head coach Ashton Watts and said the rivalry is something both programs can look forward to continuing.

"He told me after the game, 'Hey, the rivalry is back. It's real next year,'" Neeson said. "Which you love to see that. It's our small town, and, of course, we want Apopka to dominate. But Wekiva, they're little brother, and little brother is always going to try to fight back."

The matchup was the 20th meeting between the schools, with Apopka now holding a 16-4 advantage in the series.

For Wekiva, the loss brought its season to a close at 2-8. Watts reflected on his first season leading the Mustangs, saying the year passed quickly and did not unfold the way he expected.

"I learned it goes by fast," Watts said. "You know, I kind of feel just like these seniors, I feel like we just started, and now we're at the end of it. It wasn't the way I expected, but, you know, you kind of go with what God gives you, and you take your lumps."

Apopka defeated Timber Creek 49-14 Tuesday in the resumption of their suspended game. See the game story on B1.



Ya'Terrius Jackson (left) drags down Jakyvion Kemp in the backfield. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano



LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
CELEBRATING OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

• Tree Trimming & Removal
• Stump Grinding
• Grapple Truck Services

JAMES MALTBY
(Owner) 321-689-5866

Call us today for a free consultation and estimate. Licensed and Insured

INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME WITH NATURAL GAS AND SAVE MONEY.

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.



At Lake Apopka Natural Gas, we're helping families connect to affordable, reliable, and efficient natural gas, with appliances that pay dividends for years to come. Studies show a home with natural gas has a **6% greater resale** value than an all-electric home.

Lake Apopka Natural Gas District
ENERGY CHOICE
www.langd.org
407-656-2734

CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY
CLAEAGLES.COM
WE ACCEPT STEP UP SCHOLARSHIPS & VOUCHERS
NOT APPROVED? WE CAN HELP!
750 Roger Williams Rd., Apopka, FL 32703
School Entrance in Bldg. #300
407-410-0049
Mr. Bryce: 407-712-0475

SUDOKU

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS $1600 OFF
SPECIAL OFFER
SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653
With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

4			6					9
			1	4		2		
	1	2		5				
					1		6	3
	2		4		8		9	
6	8		3					
				3		9	1	
		7		1	5			
3					4			5

© StatePoint Media

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

And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Joel 2:27

Visit us online for all the Apopka area church listings

POP WARNER

FROM B1

Blue Darters into the break with some momentum down 22-12.

The Knights extended their lead at the beginning of the third quarter, adding two touchdowns as Apopka struggled to maintain possession. Central Florida capitalized on fumbles and sustained drives filled with power runs and screen plays, including a 36-yard touchdown run that helped widen the gap.

Their final score of the quarter pushed the advantage to 46-12, which held through the finish.

Although the championship game ended with a difficult result, Apopka's season included a meaningful postseason run. The Blue Darters advanced through the Mid-Florida field to earn their place in the final, representing Apopka as the area's only Pop Warner team in the championship.



Ayden Lowman slings a pass across the middle. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano



Sire Warren tackles the Central Florida Knight ballcarrier. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

APOPKA

FROM B1

Kamron Medina covered a deep pass on fourth down to force a turnover, and Goodling helped lead a scoring drive that ended with Hunter McNenney's quarterback sneak. Kemp gashed the Wolves on multiple runs up the field, and McNenney's touchdown put Apopka ahead 28-7.

Timber Creek responded with a touchdown early in the fourth quarter off a busted play that was scored by a lineman, 28-14. Trujillo again flipped the field after Apopka's offense was unable to convert a third-and-20. His punt traveled 58 yards and landed at the Wolves' 12.

The Blue Darters' defense soon delivered another turnover. After pressuring the quarterback and forcing a fumble, Marcus Young recovered at the Timber Creek 25 and had a dance party with Kentral Baker. Apopka capitalized, with Goodling finding Aiden Bolden on an out route in the end zone to make it 35-14.

Apopka kept its foot on the gas. Le'Melle Griffin and Jakendall Kemp combined for a sack, and Kemp followed with consecutive runs of 13 and 16 yards before scoring from the 3-yard line. The touchdown pushed the lead to 42-14 with 3:08 remaining.

The Blue Darters added one more highlight. Goodling tossed a jump ball to Ceon Cotton, who went up over a defender and came down near the pylon for a touchdown. Trujillo's extra point made it 49-14, and the running clock ended the game.

Apopka finished the season 5-5, with its playoff hopes hinging on results elsewhere in Class 6A Region 1.

Goodling, who accounted for 22 total touchdowns through the air and on the ground, reflected on the possibility of Friday being the final game for the seniors.

"It's definitely emotional, for the seniors especially. I can just imagine emotions playing on this field one last time," Goodling said. "I just wanted to give them my all. It's a team sport, so it's not all me. It's the team."

The freshman quarterback is already looking ahead.

"I gotta do more. I gotta limit the mistakes and just keep learning. That's the biggest thing," he said.

Goodling also made clear where he sees his future.

"This is my home now. I'm a Darter for life."

McNenney, who scored in the final game, said the moment reflected the work he put into the team.

"Man, it feels so good. It's almost relieving to the point where I feel like I deserve it because of how hard I've worked. I've given everything to this team," McNenney said. "It's like an addicting feeling of like the eruption and everybody around you, your teammates, the crowd, the band. It's a feeling that you just want every time you wake up in the morning."

Head coach Marcus Neeson credited the team's ability to refocus and the impact of special teams.

"I told the guys before the game, just control what we can control," Neeson said. "And I told them, tonight we got to put as many points up on the board as possible to have a fighting chance and say, hey, look at us. We deserve to be in the playoffs."

Neeson praised Trujillo's work and their defensive dominance.

"Special teams was huge. Jacobo putting them down on the other end of the field was huge. Defense scored two points and kept them off the board, that's all you can ask for."



Jacobo Trujillo and Brodie Bolly hit the 6-7 celebration after the fifth extra point of the half, Trujillo's first of the season. | Photos by Vinnie Cammarano



Marcus Young superman dives on the loose football and recovers it in enemy territory.



Kai Goodling looks to the sideline for an audible.



Central Florida Prep opens basketball history in inaugural game



Croix Nelthropp dribbles the ball up the court. | Photos by Vinnie Cammarano



Christian Pedro contests a Bison shot near the basket.



Aaron Lu picks up the Bison ball handler.

Mariners fall to Apopka Christian Academy, 44-20, in first high school game

By Vinnie Cammarano
Reporter

Central Florida Prep's first high school basketball game was a night of firsts for the Mariners, who opened their inaugural season at home Tuesday against the Apopka Christian Academy Bisons.

Apopka Christian Academy (ACA) jumped out to an early 4-0 lead before Aaron Lu made the first basket in Mariners history with a putback layup.

ACA's center added free throws before the Bisons scored twice in transition to take control. Central Florida Prep's 2-3 zone helped slow the offense, but ACA carried a 10-2 lead into the second quarter.

After another ACA free throw, Christian Pedro connected on a midrange jumper. Croix Nelthropp followed with a deep 3-pointer, marking the first three in school history. ACA answered with a midrange shot to make it 13-7 with five minutes remaining in the half.

The Bisons held a 17-7 advantage at halftime.

Jayden Knight scored his first two points in the third quarter, while Lu, Pedro and Nelthropp each added baskets. Knight knocked down a 3-pointer in the fourth, and Isaac Powell scored his first two points of the season as the Mariners continued to build their foundation.

ACA went on to win 44-20.

Despite the result, Central Florida Prep coach Mark Washington said his team showed resilience under difficult circumstances. The Mariners entered the game with their leading player sidelined by injury and only three official practices completed, with a roster made up of first-time players.

"Under the circumstances I feel the team showed a lot of heart and grit to stick with it through the ups and downs," Washington said.

Washington said he reminded the players that mistakes were part of the process and that they did not need to put additional pressure on themselves.

"As long as they continuously display the '3 E's' of energy, effort and execution the results will come in due time," Washington said.

SWIMMING

FROM B1

matching the maximum number of events a swimmer is allowed.

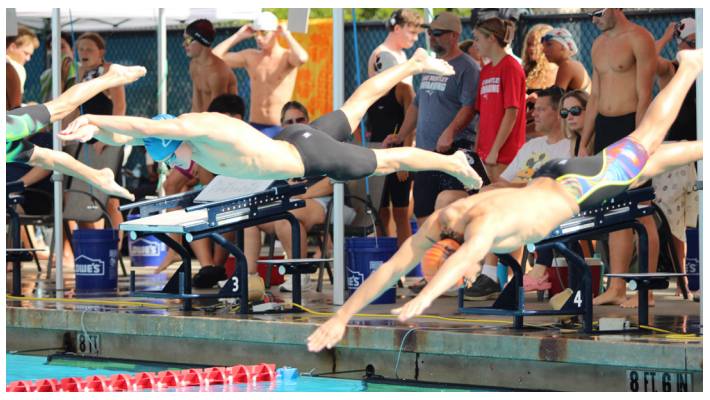
Marco competed in the boys 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke for Apopka. He finished 10th overall in the freestyle with a time of 48.72 seconds after placing among the top three in his heat. He later swam 1:01 in the breaststroke to finish 14th.

Apopka also had representation in the regional meet through its boys 200-yard freestyle and 200-yard medley relay teams. Colin Plotkin, Preston McReynolds, Isaac Sanchez and Travis Novak represented the Blue Darters.

The Class 4A state meet will take place Saturday at FAST in Ocala.



Mason Marco competes in the 100-yard breaststroke at the regional meet. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano



Mason Marco dives in the water to start his 100-yard freestyle race. | Photo by Vinnie Cammarano

















CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Friday, November 6

Fiel a la Vega | 30 Anos Tour
8 p.m. – Dr. Phillips Center (445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando)
Puerto Rican rock legends Fiel a la Vega bring three decades of socially conscious, guitar-driven rock en español to the stage. From $94.57.

Saturday, November 7

Fall Plant Sale for Do Unto Others Assistance Dogs
8 a.m. – Lakeside United Methodist Church (121 N. Henderson Lane, Sanford)
This first fall plant sale will benefit Do Unto Others Assistance Dogs, a small, Seminole County based non-profit that raises and trains service dogs for disabled individuals throughout Florida. Free.

Apopka Police Department's Horsepower for Heroes Car Show
9 a.m. – Kit Land Nelson Park (10 S. Forest Ave., Apopka)
Horsepower for Heroes will feature vendors, food, a display of law enforcement vehicles, music, and a lineup of cool cars. Open to all years, makes, and models, the show will feature multiple awards. Free.

55th Annual Fall Fiesta in the Park
10 a.m. – Lake Eola Park (195 N. Rosalind Ave., Orlando)
Bring the family and take in the beauty of the season at the heart of downtown Orlando as you stroll around Lake Eola while browsing hundreds of unique artist, crafter, and food booths, plus family-friendly fun and live entertainment. Free.



A heart for serving others is the driving force behind everything we do. Joy is not just a byproduct of our work; it is a fundamental component that enriches our journey and enhances the lives of everyone we touch. | Courtesy of Do Unto Others

Taino and Yaqui Nation Native Event with Story and Dance
10:30 a.m. – OCLS North Orange Branch (1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka)
Learn about indigenous culture and heritage. Join in and listen to a Taino story and witness the traditional Deer Dance from the Yaqui Nation. Registration required. Free with registration.

Resonate Festival: Beethoven Symphony No. 5
1 p.m. – Dr. Phillips Center (445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando)
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra presents Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* and Caroline Shaw's *The Mountain that Loved a Bird* for the whole family. $23.60.

Orlando Masonic Lodge No. 69 Community Event
1 p.m. – Orlando Masonic Lodge No. 69 (1204 E. South St., Orlando)
A community open house marking 150 years of the lodge, with historical presentations, free tacos, and a chance to meet neighbors and masons. Bring school supplies to support local students. Free.

Create Your Signature Scent: Aromatherapy Perfume Workshop
2 p.m. – Harry P. Leu Gardens (1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando)
Guided by clinical aromatherapist Xiaoya Gao, create a 30 ml custom perfume spray in a beautiful take-home bottle. From $49.87.

Resonate Festival: Beethoven Symphony No. 4
7:30 p.m. – Dr. Phillips Center (445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando)
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra performs Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4*, Caroline Shaw's *The Mountain that Loved a Bird*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. From $23.60.

Sunday, November 8

Resonate Festival: Beethoven Symphony No. 6
2:30 p.m. – Dr. Phillips Center (445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando)
Become immersed in Beethoven's beloved "Pastoral" *Symphony No. 6*, a groundbreaking work that paints vivid musical scenes of nature, countryside celebrations, flowing streams, and dramatic thunderstorms. From $23.60.

Monday, November 9

Workshop: A Taste of Marbling on Glass Baubles and Papers
10 a.m. – Art and History Museum Maitland (231 W. Packwood Ave., Maitland)
Peggy will teach how to create eight decorative glass baubles (ornaments) and marbled papers. $110, plus $40 material fees.

Tuesday, November 10

Rollins Wind Ensemble Concert
7:30 p.m. – Tiedtke Concert Hall (1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park)
Concert featuring student performers and community members from the Rollins Wind Ensemble. Free.

Wednesday, November 11

BBMak
7 p.m. & 9 p.m. – Judson's Live (445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando)
Known for their tight harmonies and guitar-driven melodies, BBMak made waves with their debut album Sooner or Later, featuring chart-topping songs "Still on Your Side" and "Back Here," which Billboard named the ninth greatest boy band song of all time. From $46.91.

Thursday, November 12

Biz & Coffee
7:45 a.m. – Propagate Social House (40 E. Fifth St., Apopka)
Join the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce at Propagate for a relaxed yet purposeful gathering designed to foster connections, spark collaboration, and strengthen the local business community. Free with registration.

Who knows what language we would be speaking without our U.S. veterans?



In honor of all U.S. military veterans, we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11 this year. Many of our veterans just happen to have fond memories of a dish called 'SOS,' which they were often served during the time of their enlistment. Some even now cook it themselves or order it out for breakfast or other meals. SOS, affectionately known by other names we won't mention here, is pretty much any creamed meat, usually hamburger or chipped beef, served over toast. It is very tasty. I've prepared this dish myself and even like serving it over rice or with grits for breakfast or supper.

The below-listed *allrecipes.com* recipe for USMC SOS was submitted by flossi, who says, "My dad was in the Marine Corps and remembers eating this dish often. It's a simple recipe consisting of ground beef mixed with milk, margarine, and beef broth. USMC SOS is also good using ground sausage. Serve this dish over toast."

Our friends in Georgia share Sybil Carter's Grits and Egg Casserole in their wonderful publication, *Plains Pot Pourri*. The following information is adapted from eathealthy365.com: "Long before European ships ever reached the Americas, the story of grits began with the land's original inhabitants. What we call grits has its direct lineage in a dish prepared by Native American tribes, particularly the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in the southeastern woodlands.

"They cultivated a variety of corn that they would grind, often using a stone mortar and pestle. The ground corn was then passed through a sifting basket to separate the finer particles from the coarser ones. The coarser pieces of hominy were then boiled into a thick, nourishing porridge they called 'rockahominy.'

"This wasn't just a meal; it was a cornerstone of their diet. It was portable, long-lasting, and incredibly versatile—a true survival food that sustained them through seasons of plenty and scarcity. When European settlers arrived, they were introduced to this fundamental food technology, which they quickly adopted. The name itself, 'grits,' is believed to be a derivative of the Old English word 'grytt,' meaning coarse meal."

Lemon Buttered Carrots promises to be a tasty dish. It has a sliced apple added to the skillet after the carrots have been mostly cooked. The recipe comes from the cookbook titled *Paths of Sunshine*, published by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. This book was gifted to us years ago with the notation, "Compliments, Joan Lasek."

We have a recipe simply titled "Bread." It appears in *Charleston Receipts* and was contributed by Mrs. John Andrew Hamilton (Elizabeth Verner). She gives you choices with this basic recipe that will get you prepared for the holidays ahead. You can opt for loaf bread, rolls, or coffee cake. Mrs. Hamilton must have a very good electric mixer! My mixer (not top-of-the-line) would be crying for mercy and smoking with the workout! And for you younger folks, if you never heard the term "ice box," we now call them "refrigerators."

USMC SOS

Contributed by flossi,
From *allrecipes.com*

INGREDIENTS:
1 pound ground beef
1-1/2 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup beef broth
1/2 cup evaporated milk
Salt and ground black pepper to taste
DIRECTIONS:

1) Brown ground beef in a medium skillet over medium-high heat until no longer pink. Drain excess fat; set beef aside. 2) Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. 3) Slowly add flour, stirring constantly, to form a brown roux. 4) Stir in beef broth and milk until well combined. 5) Add ground beef; season with salt and black pepper. 6) This recipe makes four servings. 7) Note: Keep in mind that the USDA recommends cooking all hamburger meat and ground beef mixtures to a safe minimum internal temperature of 160°F (71.1°C) as measured with a food thermometer.

SYBIL CARTER'S GRITS AND EGG CASSEROLE

Recipe from
Food Favorites of Plains, Georgia
Plains Pot Pourri

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup grits
4 cups water
2 egg yolks
2 egg whites, stiffly beaten
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup sharp cheese, grated
Salt and pepper to taste
DIRECTIONS:

1) Cook grits with dash of salt and let cool slightly. 2) Add all remaining ingredients: egg yolks, egg whites, baking powder, sharp cheese, salt and pepper. 3) Blend well with grits and turn into baking dish. 4) Bake 45 minutes at 325 degrees.

LEMON BUTTERED CARROTS

Recipe from *Paths of Sunshine Cookbook*

INGREDIENTS:
3 tablespoons butter
6 medium carrots, sliced
1 medium apple, peeled and sliced
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
Salt
DIRECTIONS:

1) In medium skillet combine butter or margarine and carrots. 2) Cook, covered, about 10 minutes or until almost tender, stirring occasionally. 3) Add apple and continue cooking about 5 minutes. 4) Stir in parsley and lemon peel; salt lightly. 5) Serve hot. Serves 4 to 5.

MRS. JOHN ANDREW HAMILTON'S BREAD

Recipe from *Charleston Receipts*

INGREDIENTS:
1 package dry yeast
3/4 cup lukewarm water
3 tablespoons sugar
1 can (14-1/2 ounces) evaporated milk
4 tablespoons cooking oil
2 eggs
1 tablespoon salt
6-7 (approx.) cups flour
Cooking oil (small amount)
DIRECTIONS:

1) Dissolve yeast in water in large bowl of electric mixer. 2) Add sugar, beat 5 minutes, add milk, then cooking oil, then eggs. 3) Continue beating at high speed. (Go dust the dining room or make a couple of beds – fifteen minutes is not too long at this stage.) 4) Add salt. 5) Add flour in following manner: with the beater going very slowly, add flour a little at a time; let the speed increase and beat for 5 minutes after adding 1-1/2 cups. 6) Then continue adding until dough becomes too stiff for beater. 7) Remove from beaters and add remaining flour and stir with wooden spoon. 8) When little pockets no longer form in the dough, pat a little cooking oil on top and place in ice box! There, it will rise like mad for several hours until it reaches the top of the bowl. 9) Rolls, coffee cake or bread can now be made.

LOAF BREAD:

1) Divide dough into 2 parts and put in oiled loaf pans. 2) Let rise until it nearly reaches the top of the pans. 3) Bake in 250-degree oven for one hour. The smell of it makes your family feel home is really the place it's cracked up to be.

ROLLS:

1) Dip your fingers in oil. 2) Pick up small balls of dough, put them in muffin tins, three at a time. 3) Let rise. 4) Bake in hot oven until brown.

COFFEE CAKE:

1) Put half the dough on a well-floured board. 2) Knead more flour into it until it becomes elastic and easy to handle. 3) Roll, with rolling pin, as thin as possible. 4) Dot with butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, raisins, nuts. 5) Roll up, place on a cookie sheet, shape into a crescent, slash the top and sprinkle with cinnamon and brown sugar rubbed together. 6) Let rise. 7) Bake in moderately hot oven about 25 minutes.

The Apopka Chief

LEGAL ADVERTISING

B6 - B7

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR ORANGE COUNTY,
FLORIDA
File No. 2026-CP-003262-O
IN RE: ESTATE OF
PROBATE DIVISION
MARTIN J. MELIA, JR.
Deceased.**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of MARTIN J. MELIA, JR., deceased, whose date of death was April 17, 2026; File Number 2026-CP-003262-O, is pending in the Circuit Court for ORANGE County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 North Orange Ave., Room 355, Orlando, FL 32801. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representatives' attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The Personal Representatives have 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 §§732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by the surviving spouse or a beneficiary as specified under 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.
The date of first publication of this notice is: November 6, 2026.
Signed on 9/22/2026.
JAMES PATRICK MELIA
Personal Representative
1810 Silver Pine Circle
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
MARILEE MELIA FLINT
1132 Fairway Drive
Winter Park, FL 32792
Attorney for Personal Representative
Mary Merrell Bailey
Florida Bar No. 541265
Your Caring Law Firm
2323 Lee Road
Winter Park, FL 32789
Telephone: 407-622-1900
Email:
Merrell@YourCaringLawFirm.com
Secondary Email:
Paralegals@YourCaringLawFirm.com
November 6, 13, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR ORANGE COUNTY,
FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2026-CP-003285-O
IN RE: ESTATE OF
DANILO MARQUEZ BAMBICO,
Deceased.**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of DANILO MARQUEZ BAMBICO deceased, whose date of death was May 8, 2026, 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.
I am disclosing that AI has been or may have been used in the filing, and certify, that each and every citation to the law or the record in the document, has been independently verified as accurate.
The date of first publication of this notice is November 6, 2026.
Personal Representative:
GWENDOLYNE BAMBICO
3320 PAISLEY CIRCLE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32817
Attorney for Personal Representative:
DAVID W. VELIZ, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar No. 846368
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
November 6, 13, 2026

**IN THE NINTH CIRCUIT
COURT OF FLORIDA,
ORANGE COUNTY**
PROBATE
CASE NO. 2026-CP-003399-O
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
ANDREW SEMINAZZI,
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the ESTATE OF ANDREW SEMINAZZI, deceased, File Number 2026-CP-003399-O, is pending in the Circuit Court in and for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Ave., Room 335, Orlando, FL 32801.
The names and addresses of the personal representative and that 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 DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
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 the first publication of this Notice is October 30, 2026.
Personal Representative:
Lorraine K. Seminazzi
7933 Gun Cay Ave.
Orlando, FL 32822
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Edward P. Blaisdell, Esq.
Florida Bar No. 0043336
Email:
eblaisdell@dyerblaisdell.com
DYER & BLAISDELL, P.L.
416 N. Ferncreek Ave.,
Ste. A
Orlando, FL 32803
Phone: 407.648.1153
October 30, November 6, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR ORANGE COUNTY,
FLORIDA PROBATE
DIVISION
File No. 2026-CP-002517-O
IN RE: ESTATE OF
AGRIPINA AROCHO VELEZ,
Deceased.**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of AGRIPINA AROCHO VELEZ deceased, whose date of death was September 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.
I am disclosing that AI has been or may have been used in the filing, and certify, that each and every citation to the law or the record in the document, has been independently verified as accurate.
The date of first publication of this notice is October 30, 2026.
Personal Representative:
RONALD JAMES
CARRASQUILLO
1601 SHADY OAK DRIVE
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34744
Attorney for Personal Representative:
DAVID W. VELIZ, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar No. 846368
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
October 30, November 6, 2026

**IN THE COUNTY COURT,
IN AND FOR ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000741-O
ASCENT GLOBAL
LOGISTICS LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.
PS FREIGHT SYSTEMS
INC.,
Defendants,
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 10th day of September, 2026, and have levied upon the following described real property, situated, lying and being in Orange County, Florida, to-wit:
Any and all of the right, title and interest of PS FREIGHT SYSTEMS INC., in and to the following described real property, to-wit:
The N 160 Feet of the W ½ of the N ½ of Lot 43, LESS the E 50 feet and LESS State Road Right of Way of WEISSINGER'S FAIRVILLA SUBDIVISION, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book H, Page 93, of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida; with a physical address of 1934 Silver Star Rd., Ste. A, Orlando, FL 32801. SUBJECT TO ALL TAXES, JUDGMENTS, LIENS OF RECORD OR OTHER ENCUMBRANCES. PURCHASER TO PAY FOR DEED.
as the property of the above named defendant, of PS FREIGHT SYSTEMS INC., and that on the 9th day of December 2026, beginning at ten thirty o'clock in the forenoon or soon there-after on said day at **Civil Process Unit, 425 North Orange Avenue, Room 240, Orlando, Florida 32801,** in 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 Civil Process Unit, 425 North Orange Avenue, Room 240, Orlando,
Florida 32801.
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact Eric Nieves or Anestajia Williams, Civil Process Sales Coordinators not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at Orange County Sheriff's Office, at the address given on notice. Telephone: (407)836-4570; If hearing impaired 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) 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
November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2026-CA-007687
DIVISION 34
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF
$2,440.00 U.S. CURRENCY
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**
To Nathaniel Robinson, Nathan R. Robinson, and all persons who claim an interest in a $2,440.00 U.S. CURRENCY seized on or about 06/04/2026 at or about 904 W. Anderson St., Orlando, FL, Orange Co., FL. Said property is in the custody of the City of Orlando Police Dept. Any owner, entity, bonafide lienholder, or person in possession of the property when seized has the right to request an adversarial preliminary hearing for a probable cause determination from the circuit court within 15 days after initial receipt of notice by sending a written request to undersigned counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested. A petition for forfeiture has been or will be filed in the above-styled court.
/s/Shannon Hesse
Shannon Gridley Hesse
Police Legal Advisor
Orlando Police Department
1250 W. South Street
Orlando, Florida 32805
(407) 246-2464
Fla. Bar No. 528633
shannon.hesse@orlando.gov
November 6, 13, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2025-CA-011175-O
NEWREZ LLC
D/B/A SHELLPOINT
MORTGAGE SERVICING,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JAMES L. MUIR, IV;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JAMES L. MUIR, IV; WATERMARK AT HORIZON WEST
HOMEOWNERS'
ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 and #2, and ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, et.al.,
Defendant(s).
RE-NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 31, 2026 and an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated October 30, 2026, entered in Civil Case No.: 2025-CA-011175-O of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Orange County, Florida, wherein NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff, and JAMES L. MUIR, IV; WATERMARK AT HORIZON WEST HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., are Defendants. TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL, The Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com, at 11:00 AM, on the 28th day of January, 2027, the following described real property as set forth in said Judgment, to wit:
LOT 171, OF WATERMARK PHASE 1B, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 84, PAGES 32 THROUGH 37, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you fail to file a timely claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After the funds are reported as unclaimed, only the owner of record as of the date of the Lis Pendens may claim the surplus.
**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**
Dated: November 3, 2026
/s/ Brian L. Rosaler
By: Brian L. Rosaler
Florida Bar No.: 0174882.
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire
Popkin & Rosaler, P.A.
1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard
Suite 400
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 360-9030
Facsimile: (954) 420-5187
25-52387
Published in:
THE APOPKA CHIEF
November 6, 13, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2026-CA-008778
DIVISION 37
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF $5,983.00
U.S. CURRENCY REMAINING FROM TOTAL AMOUNT
ORIGINALLY SEIZED
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**
To Algernon O. Leeks, Jr., and all persons who claim an interest in a $5,983.00 U.S. CURRENCY seized on or about 7/1/2026 at or about 77 Dorcan Ct., Orlando, FL, Orlando, Orange Co., FL. Said property is in the custody of the City of Orlando Police Dept. Any owner, entity, bonafide lienholder, or person in possession of the property when seized has the right to request an adversarial preliminary hearing for a probable cause determination from the circuit court within 15 days after initial receipt of notice by sending a written request to undersigned counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested. A petition for forfeiture has been or will be filed in the above-styled court.
/s/Shannon Hesse
Shannon Gridley Hesse
Police Legal Advisor
Orlando Police Department
1250 W. South Street
Orlando, Florida 32805
(407) 246-2464
Fla. Bar No. 528633
shannon.hesse@orlando.gov
November 6, 13, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2025-CA-012575-O
DIV NO.: 39
MARRIOTT RESORTS HOSPITALITY CORPORATION, a South Carolina Corporation, Management Agent on behalf of MVC TRUST OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation, and All Owners as Agent,
Plaintiff,
vs.
EDMUND ROBERT STEWARD, et. al.,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE
AS TO COUNT XII
TO: RAYMOND T. BAZILIO**
94 CLINTON ST
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735-2604
SABRINA T. BAZILIO
94 CLINTON ST
FARMINGDALE, NY 11735-2604
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on October 21, 2026, in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2025-CA-012575-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of the Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:
COUNT XII
6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: F60818 & F60819 & F60820 & F60821 & F60822 & F60823) 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 September 01, 2014 (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 18th day of November, 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 October 21, 2026.
DATED October 21, 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 #129710.0152
MRHC #ORANGE
October 30, November 6, 2026

Public Notice is hereby given that **Johnsons Wrecker Service,** will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION, free of all prior liens, the following vehicle(s)/vessel(s) that remain unclaimed in storage, with charges unpaid, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Sec 713.78, to the highest bidder. The sale will be held at 580 Wilmer Avenue.
The following vehicle(s) will be sold on 12/17/2026 at 0700.
2017 Nissan
5N1AT2MT5HC781308
1998 Ford
1FAFP42X3WF138571
1995 Ford
1FALP42T4SF174196
2015 Lexus
JTHHE5BC0F5008814
2019 Chevrolet
1G1BE5SM7K7144588
2019 Nissan
3N1AB7AP3KY212440
2006 Hyundai
5NPEU46F26H036927
2019 Volkswagen
3VWC57BU7KM108328
2015 Ford
1FTEW1EF2FFC07812
2015 Audi
WA1CGAFE4FD033144
2008 Chevrolet
2G1WB58K181270953
2014 Nissan
1N4AL3AP0EC281527
2008 LEXUS
2T2GK31U48C040879
2021 Toyota
4T1KZ1AK0MU055692
2013 CADILLAC
1G6AB5RA4D0143453
2004 Lexus
JTHBA30G645011614
2016 Chevrolet
1G1YT2D65G5603939
2019 Land Rover
SALGS2SV2KA539318
Terms of the sale are CASH. No checks will be accepted. Seller reserves the right to final bid. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. No refunds will be made. Vehicle(s)/ vessel(s) are sold "AS IS", "WHERE IS", with no guarantees, either expressed or implied.
November 6, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2026-CA-10206
DIVISION 39
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF
2018 KTM AG MOTORCYCLE
VIN #MD2JPJ40XJC270251
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**
To Janpaul G. Rivera Rodriguez, and all persons who claim an interest in a 2018 KTM AG Motorcycle VIN#MD2JPJ40XJC270251 seized on or about 8/16/2026 at or about S. Orange Ave. & Columbia St., Orlando, FL, Orlando, Orange Co., FL. Said property is in the custody of the City of Orlando Police Dept. Any owner, entity, bonafide lienholder, or person in possession of the property when seized has the right to request an adversarial preliminary hearing for a probable cause determination from the circuit court within 15 days after initial receipt of notice by sending a written request to undersigned counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested. A petition for forfeiture has been or will be filed in the above-styled court.
/s/Shannon Hesse
Shannon Gridley Hesse
Police Legal Advisor
Orlando Police Department
1250 W. South Street
Orlando, Florida 32805
(407) 246-2464
Fla. Bar No. 528633
shannon.hesse@orlando.gov
October 30, November 6, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No: 2025-CA-010630-O
SEACOAST NATIONAL BANK,
Plaintiff,
v.
RICHARD RUSSELL;
THOMAS OUELLETTE;
DANIEL PELLI;
FIGURE LENDING LLC D/B/A FIGURE;
PHIL KEAN DESIGNS, INC.;
JPB7US HELOC TRUST 1;
UNKNOWN TENANT #1;
UNKNOWN TENANT #2,
Defendants.
AMENDED
NOTICE OF SALE**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., through the Courthouse of Orange County, Florida, at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com, in accordance with chapter 45, Florida Statutes, Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court, shall offer for sale the following described real property:
Lots 5, 6, Block 69, Revised Map of the Town of Winter Park, according to the map or plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book A, Page 67, of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida together with the North one-half of vacated alley lying South of and adjacent to said lot.
The aforesaid sale will be made pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure in Civil Case No. 2025-CA-010630-O, now pending in the Circuit Court in Orange County, Florida.
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, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, 407.836.2303, fax: 407.836,2204, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
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 before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.
Interested parties/bidders are advised that the property is being sold without any warranties or representations of any kind whatsoever as to the state of the title of the subject property, and there may be unpaid real estate taxes on the property. Interested parties/bidders are advised to do their own investigation as to the state of the title and the state of the real property taxes on the subject property.
Dated October 27, 2026.
By: /s/ Eric B. Jontz
ERIC B. JONTZ
Bar No.: 64905
Eric B. Jontz, Esq.
Fishback Dominick LLP
1947 Lee Road
Winter Park, Florida 32789
Telephone: (407) 262-8400
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Seacoast National Bank
October 30, November 6, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR ORANGE COUNTY,
FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2026-CP-001270-O
IN RE: ESTATE OF
DAVID ANTHONY
MCCONOUGHEY
Deceased.**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of David Anthony McConoughey, deceased, whose date of death was August 1, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Ave. #340, Orlando, FL 37801. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is October 30, 2026.
Personal Representative:
Jeremy McConoughey
40973 Parsons Road
Lagrange, Ohio 44050
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Lisa A. Musial Esq.
(FL Bar #495972)
Musial Law Firm, LLC
923 Del Prado Blvd S 207
Cape Coral, FL 33990
Telephone: (239) 772-0639
Fax: (239) 772-1273
E-Mail:
lamusial@musiallawfl.com
Secondary E-Mail:
legalasst@musiallawfl.com
October 30, November 6, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2026-CA-10207
DIVISION 37
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF
$15,920.00 U.S. CURRENCY
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**
To Klisha N. Roberson, and all persons who claim an interest in a $15,920.00 U.S. CURRENCY seized on or about 9/7/2026 at or about 617 Mercy Dr., Orlando, FL, Orlando, Orange Co., FL. Said property is in the custody of the City of Orlando Police Dept. Any owner, entity, bonafide lienholder, or person in possession of the property when seized has the right to request an adversarial preliminary hearing for a probable cause determination from the circuit court within 15 days after initial receipt of notice by sending a written request to undersigned counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested. A petition for forfeiture has been or will be filed in the above-styled court.
/s/ Shannon Hesse
Shannon Gridley Hesse
Police Legal Advisor
Orlando Police Department
1250 W. South Street
Orlando, Florida 32805
(407) 246-2464
Fla. Bar No. 528633
shannon.hesse@orlando.gov
October 30, November 6, 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 SALE
AS TO COUNT II
TO: RONALD P. GOLD**
46 BUCCANEER LANE
EAST SETAUKET, NY 11733
EILEEN J. HATTERSLEY
46 BUCCANEER LANE
EAST SETAUKET, NY 11733
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on October 22, 2026, in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2026-CA-004961-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of the Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:
COUNT II
Unit Week 50 in Unit 4271, 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.
at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of December, 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 October 22, 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 #110520.0312
MRHC #ORANGE
October 30, November 6, 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 11/19/26 at approx. 9:00 am. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on the website. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted.
Unit#–Name–Description:
#1058-Kianna Gray
#1128-Jose Rodriguez
#1155-Evelyn Lowe
#1159-Aspen Burks
#1163-Lakrissa Davis/ Davis Lakrissa Davis
#1178-Latoya Andrews
#1218-Chantilly Ruff
#1221-Corneil Alce
#B014-Mathew Partlow
Household Goods, Furniture,boxes,
#B024-Berthony Hyppolite
#B026-Teresa Roberts
#B032-Wilbert Pierre
#B038-Berthony Hyppolite
#B109-Deborah Martinez
#C056-Julian Hamilton
Spades Cuts/
Julian Hamilton
#C057-Frantz Rendel
#E019-021-Berthony Hyppolite
#E020-022-Roberto Joseph
#E039-Marqus Alston
#E044-Mathew Partlow
Household goods, Furniture,Boxes
October 30, November 6, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2026-CA-003900-O
DIV NO.: 37
MARRIOTT RESORTS HOSPITALITY CORPORATION, a South Carolina Corporation, Management Agent on behalf of IMPERIAL PALM VILLAS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation, and All Owners as Agent,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JOHNNY D. BRANCH, et. al.,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE
AS TO COUNT I
TO: JOHNNY D. BRANCH**
2816 BRIARCLIFF RD
PANAMA CITY, FL 32405-4340
BRENDA D. BRANCH
1413 KESTREL ST
PANAMA CITY, FL 32405-2775
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on November 2nd, 2026, in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2026-CA-003900-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of the Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:
COUNT I
Unit Week 30 in Unit 4685, in IMPERIAL PALM VILLAS CONDOMINIUM, according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof, as recorded in Official Records Book 4894 at Page 2645 in the Public Records of Orange County, Florida, and any amendments thereof.
at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 a.m. on the 1st day of December, 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 November 2nd, 2026.
DATED 2nd of November, 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 #110519.0165
MRHC #ORANGE
November 6, 13, 2026

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NUMBER:**

2026-CA-011262-O
DIVISION NUMBER: 33
IN RE: FORFEITURE OF
$7,880.00 IN U.S CURRENCY
NOTICE OF FORFEITURE
COMPLAINT
TO: JAMES DELLAFIELD JR.
P.O. BOX 4970
ORLANDO, FL 32802
and all others who claim an interest in $7,880.00 IN U.S CURRENCY, which was seized on or about the 8th day September 2026, at or near 3127 San Leo Dr.., 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 October 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
October 30, November 6, 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 October 21st 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,
Ana Senac-259-
HouseholdGoods;
Diani Lopez-101-
HouseholdGoods;
October 30, November 6, 2026

A-AAA Key Mini Storage
1001 S Semoran Blvd
Orlando FL 32807
407-401-9422
M30@trustedstoragepros.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.storagetreasures.com on November 24th, 2026 at 11:30AM.
IAN STEPHENS: Couch, dolly, moving supplies, boxes
IAN CHRISTOPHER STEPHENS: Couch, dolly, moving supplies, boxes
MICHELLE ROSS: Kid's car bed, totes, bags, kid's toys, luggage
KATHERINE JARAMILLO: Reclining couch, adult bike, outdoor furniture, scooter, boxes, kid's toys, bags, crutches, decor
IRIS ESTER TORRES TURELL: Decor, boxes, dryer, ladder, bags, totes, kid's toys, luggage, baby items
CYNTHIA D SMITH: Boxes, bags
CYNTHIA DIANE SMITH: Boxes, bags
MICHAEL DAVIS: Boxes, totes, dresser, decor, holiday decor, lock boxes, flat screen TV
MICHAEL BRADLEY DAVIS: Boxes, totes, dresser, decor, holiday decor, lock boxes, flat screen TV
MICHAEL B DAVIS: Boxes, totes, dresser, decor, holiday decor, lock boxes, flat screen TV
ANGEL LUIS GARCIA ALICEA: Mattresses
JOSEPH MARIN: Mattress, boxes, bag, bed frame, decor, basket, furniture, kid's toys, chair
JOSEPH LOUISE MARIN VELOZ: Mattress, boxes, bag, bed frame, decor, basket, furniture, kid's toys, chair
JUAN MARTINEZ: Bags, totes
JUAN ANTONIO MARTINEZ PORTALATIN: Bags, totes
Publish: The Apopka Chief
October 30, November 6, 2026

A-AAA Key Mini Storage
5285 S Orange Blossom Trail
Orlando, FL 32839
M29
m29@trustedstoragepros.com
689-800-7333
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 5285 S Orange Blossom Trail Orlando, FL 32839, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, payment will only be accepted with Credit/Debit at www.storagetreasures.com on October 28th, 2026 at 11:00AM
Marielie Petion-Furniture
Luggage Crib Linens
Headboards TV Clothes
Jeana Thelusma-
Houseware Luggage Totes
Boxes Household Items
Bags
Mitchina Michel- Shoes
Boxes Bags Toys Tools
Misc. Items
Publish: The Apopka Chief
October 30, November 6, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN AND FOR ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2026-CA-010752-O
VICTORIA GRACE BATES,
Plaintiff,
vs.
HENRY H. BERRY A/K/A HERBERT H. BERRY; the unknown heirs, legatees, beneficiaries and Grantees of The ESTATE OF HENRY H. BERRY a/k/a HERBERT H. BERRY; ELMINA BERRY a/k/a ELMIRA BERRY; the Unknown heirs, legatees, beneficiaries and grantees of The ESTATE OF ELMINA BERRY a/k/a ELMIRA BERRY and CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC., as SUCCESSOR TO THE ORLANDO AND WINTER PARK RAILWAY COMPANY OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Defendants.
NOTICE OF ACTION – CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE
TO: HENRY H. BERRY A/K/A HERBERT H. BERRY; the unknown heirs, legatees, beneficiaries and Grantees of The ESTATE OF HENRY H. BERRY a/k/a HERBERT H. BERRY; ELMINA BERRY a/k/a ELMIRA BERRY; the Unknown heirs, legatees, beneficiaries and grantees of the ESTATE OF ELMINA BERRY a/k/a ELMIRA BERRY and CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC., as SUCCESSOR TO THE ORLANDO AND WINTER PARK RAILWAY COMPANY OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA. **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an action to quiet title described in the Complaint on the following described property has been filed by the Plaintiff:
THE WEST 19.97 FEET OF THE NORTH 12.5 FEET OF THAT CERTAIN 25 FOOT STRIP OF ABANDONED CSX RAILROAD (FORMERLY KNOW AS S.A.L.) RIGHT OF WAY LYING NORTH OF LOT 4, BLOCK A, KENILWORTH SHORES SECTION ONE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK T, PAGE 128, PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND LYING SOUTH OF LOT 3, BLOCK B, FREMAR, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK T, PAGE 82, PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on JENNIFER BEAMAN CLARK, ESQ., Beaman & Clark Law Firm, P.A., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 501 S. New York Ave, Ste 220, Winter Park, FL 32789, on or before 30 days from the first date of publication 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.
DATED on October 14, 2026
Joyce Boudoin,
Clerk Ad Interim
Clerk of Courts
/s/ Takiana Didier
Deputy Clerk
Civil Division
425 N Orange Ave
Room 350
Orlando, FL 32801
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENDED DISPOSITION OF FOUND/ ABANDONED PROPERTY
The Apopka Police Department is intending to dispose of found/ abandoned property & currency currently being held in the property room. Lawful owners who believe that the property belongs to them must appear at the Apopka Police Department, 112 E. 6th Street by **November 13th**. Contact may be made between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday to claim ownership. After **November 13th**, the Apopka Police Department will retain the items for its own use, donate the property to charity, give the property to the finder, or auction off the property.
Property and Evidence Unit
407-703-1669
October 30, November 6, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2026-CA-004701-O
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2018-RPL1 TRUST,
Plaintiff,
vs.
WILFRID MIRVILLE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF WILFRID MIRVILLE; HIAWASSEE POINT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; FLAGSTAR ASSOCIATION BANK, F/K/A NATIONAL NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANK; CITIBANK, N.A.; TD BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 and #2, and ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, et.al.,
Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 16, 2026, entered in Civil Case No.: 2026-CA-004701-O of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Orange County, Florida, wherein WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2018-RPL1 TRUST, Plaintiff, and WILFRID MIRVILLE; HIAWASSEE POINT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; FLAGSTAR BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION F/K/A NEW YORK COMMUNITY BANK; CITIBANK, N.A.; TD BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 N/K/A CHRISTINE MIRVILLE, are Defendants. TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL, The Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com, at 11:00 AM, on the 1st day of December, 2026, the following described real property as set forth in said Judgment, to wit:
LOT 33A, HIAWASSEE POINT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGES 74, 75 AND 76, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you fail to file a timely claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After the funds are reported as unclaimed, only the owner of record as of the date of the Lis Pendens may claim the surplus.
If you are a person with a disability 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
Dated: October 21, 2026
/s/ Brian L. Rosaler
By: Brrian L. Rosaler
Florida Bar No.: 0174882.
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire
Popkin & Rosaler, P.A.
1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard
Suite 400
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 360-9030
Facsimile: (954) 420-5187
Published in:
THE APOPKA CHIEF
25-52471
October 30, November 6, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2026-CA-003641-O
CITIBANK, N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE NEW NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2024-RPL1,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JAMES D. BERLUS A/K/A JAMES DAVID BERLUS; JUDINE BERLUS; VILLA CAPRI AT METROWEST ASSOCIATION, INC.; ALLIANT CREDIT UNION; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 and #2, and ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, et.al.,
Defendant(s).
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 26, 2026, entered in Civil Case No.: 2026-CA-003641-O of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Orange County, Florida, wherein CITIBANK, N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2024-RPL1, Plaintiff, and JAMES D. BERLUS A/K/A JAMES DAVID BERLUS; JUDINE BERLUS; VILLA CAPRI AT METROWEST ASSOCIATION, INC.; ALLIANT CREDIT UNION, are Defendants.
TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL, The Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com, at 11:00 AM, on the 10th day of December, 2026, the following described real property as set forth in said Judgment, to wit:
LOT 12, OF VILLA CAPRI AT METROWEST, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 58, PAGES 57 THROUGH 61, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you fail to file a timely claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After the funds are reported as unclaimed, only the owner of record as of the date of the Lis Pendens may claim the surplus.
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
Dated: October 27, 2026
/s/ Brian L. Rosaler
By: Brian L. Rosaler
Florida Bar No.: 0174882.
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire
Popkin & Rosaler, P.A.
1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard
Suite 400
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 360-9030
Facsimile: (954) 420-5187
26-52867
Published in:
THE APOPKA CHIEF
October 30, November 6, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2026-CA-005177-O
JAMIE LIM,
Plaintiff,
vs.
PATRICIA A. DOLEZAL, GLENN L. LANGE, ANGELA M. DUTSCH, SUSAN WOODRUFF, JOHN J. MEYER, JR., JOSEPH D. BURLESON, EARL BURLESON, NAOMI BURLESON, LONA S. HAYES, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF CRYSTAL REILLY, DECEASED,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: PATRICIA A. DOLEZAL, JOSEPH D. BURLESON, LONA S HAYES, UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES FOR JOSEPH D. BURLESON, AND UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES FOR LONA S. HAYES
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Complaint for Quiet Title by Adverse Possession without Color of Title on the following described lands located in Orange County, Florida, to wit:
Lot 125, CREEKSIDE VILLAS AT MEADOW WOODS, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 13, Pages 103 and 104, Public Records of Orange County, Florida.
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on Rania A. Soliman, Esq., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 415 Montgomery Road, Suite 141, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714 on or before thirty (30) days from the first date of publication, 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.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on October 12th, 2026I
Joyce Boudoin,
Clerk Ad Interim
Civil Division
425 N Orange Ave
Room 350
Orlando, Florida 32801
Clerk of Court
BY: s// Lauren Scheidt
Deputy Clerk
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No.: 26-DR-9569
Division: 29
JEAN PAUL MARTINIANO GARCIA,
Petitioner,
and
MARIA EMILIA LOZADA BOADA,
Respondent,
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)
TO: MARIA EMILIA LOZADA BOADA
54 JEFFERSON AVE,
WHITE PLAINS, NY, 10606
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on JEAN PAUL MARTINIANO GARCIA, whose address is 10720 LARISSA ST, ORLANDO, FL. 32821 on or before 11-19-2026, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 425 N. ORANGE AVE, ORLANDO, FL, 32801 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided: {insert "none" or, if applicable, the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located}
NONE
Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: 9-28-2026
CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT
By: Keydrah Gumbs
Deputy Clerk
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
IF A NONLAWYER HELPED YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, HE/SHE MUST FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW: This form was prepared for the Petitioner. This form was completed with the assistance of:
MARIA OSORIO
4745 HOFFNER AVE,
Orlando, FL, 32812,
407-780-2336
October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 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 **Harborwatch,** with a mailing address of 410 Setter Trl, Winter Park FL 32789 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: Harborwatch Concierge LLC
November 6, 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 **GLURPIT,** with a mailing address of 1317 Edgewater Dr # 2410, Orlando, Florida, 32804 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: ADEPT VISUAL PRODUCTIONS INC
November 6, 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 **EverKind Place,** with a mailing address of 185 Winding Cove Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703 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: Jennea Lyking
November 6, 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 **BLACK MOON,** with a mailing address of 7065 Westpointe Blvd, Suite 310, Orlando, Florida 32835 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: ZOHARA GROUP LLC
November 6, 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 **Jady's Luxury Transportation,** with a mailing address of 1568 Margarete Crescent Dr, Apopka, Florida, 32703 and a principal office located in Orande County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida. Owner: Jady's Limo Luxury LLC
November 6, 2026

The Apopka Chief Legal Notices can also be found online at theapopkachief.com/public-notices or floridapublicnotices.com

The Apopka Chief
TRUSTED LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1923
MOTOR MARKETPLACE



New
2026 Ford Super Duty F-250 SRW
XL
MSRP: $74,545
List Price: $64,230*
Additional Fees: $1,399
Total Price: $65,629*
Holler Ford 10 Miles

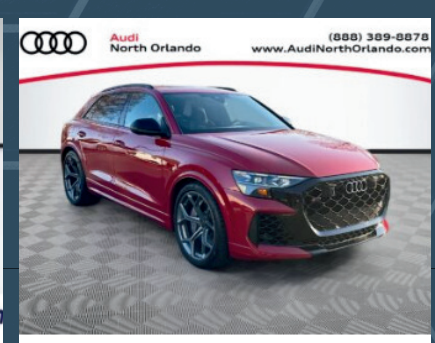

New
2026 Mazda CX-90
Premium Plus
MSRP: $53,370
List Price: $46,870*
Additional Fees: $1,399
Total Price: $48,269*
Classic Mazda 8 Miles



New
2026 Hyundai Elantra
SEL Sport
MSRP: $26,175
List Price: $24,175*
Additional Fees: $1,399
Total Price: $25,574*
Holler Hyundai 0 Miles



New
2026 Ford Bronco
Badlands
MSRP: $63,560
List Price: $54,429*
Additional Fees: $1,399
Total Price: $55,828*
Holler Ford 3K Miles



New
2026 Audi RS Q8
performance
MSRP: $154,410
List Price: $154,410*
Additional Fees: $1,399
Total Price: $155,809*
Audi North Orlando 11 Miles

SHOP ONLINE FOR LOCAL CARS AND TRUCKS
marketplace.theapopkachief.com/
Contact dealer for pricing details

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

21. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH CARE FOR Entire family: Pediatrics, Family, Internal, OB/GYN, Dental and Pharmacy. www.chcfl.org. Community Health Centers throughout Central Florida. 225 E 7th Street, Apopka. 407-905-8827.
HOU 1030-1120 TFN 21

70. MERCHANDISE MISC.

TRAILER PARTS FOR sale. Largest stocking dealer in NW Orange County (Apopka). 407-293-5788. www.surplus-steel.com.
B 1016-1106 SUR 70

BUY Something! SELL Something! Perhaps you want to TRADE something!

15 words, one week, $12.00; OR, you can run your ad 4 weeks for the price of 3 for only $36.00

Use the Classified Section of www.TheApopkaChief.com
Email: classifieds@theapopkachief.com
Call 407-886-2777

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

81. AUTOS FOR SALE

USED CARS. NEW CAR. Low upfront pricing. No dealer fees. 407-972-1678. Mullinaxfordfl.com
HOU 1030-1120 MUL 81

114. PROFESSIONAL

ROSE HEART LAWN Care & Tree Service, commercial & residential. 407-435-1792 jeromegrantsr@gmail.com
CC 1016-1106 GRA 114

FAST IN HOME APPLIANCE repair service. Same day or next day repair service. $50 off if repaired. 407-497-7458
cc 1016-1106 APO 70

Pique Their Interest!
Advertise in this space!
Use our online forms:
TheApopkaChief.com
or give us a call at:
407-886-2777
classifieds@theapopkachief.com

Place Your Classified Today

66. "CLIP 'N SAVE" FRIDAY-SUNDAY

ADVERTISE YOUR WEEKEND Garage, Yard or Estate Sale

BIG YARD SALE!! SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7 FROM 9AM-2PM. 147 W. OAK ST. Many items to explore, electric scooter, clothes etc...
CC 1107 DEC 66

BEAR LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1010 BEAR LAKE RD., Saturday November 7, 8-12PM . pictures, household, Christmas and miscellaneous items.
cc 1106 BEA 66

130. REAL ESTATE

133. HOMES FOR SALE

BUYING, SELLING, Rentals $700 and up. We're your friend in the business. Rogers & Rogers Realty. 407-454-2729.
CC1030-1120 ROG 133

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them inot practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. the rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It didn't fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. Matthew 7:24-25

Call: 407-886-2777
or email us: classifieds@theapopkachief.com

Tell Them You Saw It In The Classifieds



Never Miss a Word.
GLT Captioning Screen puts captions right on screen, helping you follow conversations with ease.
- No strings, FREE equipment from FTRI.
- No internet or cell service required.
- No income limits.

Florida residents with hearing loss or a speech disorder qualify.
Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.
APPLY AT FTRI.ORG/FREE
800-222-3449
RFC 2026

142. ROOMS FOR RENT

SWEENEY'S ROOMS Cleanest. Quietest. WIFI, Internet. Multiple locations. Call Dwayne 321-271-6773. sweeneysrooms4rent.com
CC 1023-1113 RUD 142

ROOMS FOR RENT Zell-wood area, weekly rentals. 407-435-1792 jeromegrantsr@gmail.com
CC 1016-1106 GRA 142

ROOM FOR RENT EVERYTHING included, use of washer/dryer, kitchen, internet. Outside smoking area! $250 weekly, no deposit! Text only: 407-952-5119.
cc 1030-1120 HUR 142

142. ROOMS FOR RENT

APOPKA ROOMMATE wanted, to share 3bd/3ba condo with couple in a gated Errol Estate community. Room is furnished. Person is to be employed, non-smoker with a savings acct. & checking acct. $800 monthly, $200 deposit, share half utilities. Tony 407-919-9785.
cc 1016-1106 PAS

Service Directory Ad!
$188.50 for 13 weeks!
Claim your spot!

Local Advertising *That Makes the Cut*

WE ARE HIRING!
Join us!

Sales Specialists
Service Advisors
Service Valet
Service Technicians
(Line, Master, Express, and Diesel)

Holler-Classic Family of Dealerships
Full-time and part-time opportunities available in Orlando, Winter Park, Maitland, and Sanford.
View All of Our Career Opportunities:
www.HollerClassic.jobs

FLORIDA STATEWIDE

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR WEEK OF: 10/26/2026-11/1/2026

Wanted to Buy

1. CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES. Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-877-377-4727.

2. We Buy Vintage Guitars! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins/Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-877-706-0656.

3. We Buy Houses for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-321-603-3026.

Home Improvement

4. PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-877-641-1916. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

5. BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-317-0311.

Miscellaneous

6. Donate your vehicle to help find missing children and prevent abduction. Fast free pickup, running or not, 24 hr response. No emission test required, maximum tax deduction. Support Find the Children, call: 1-877-907-0087.

Medical

7. ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with you with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-748-9960.

8. STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! Reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs while getting the coverage you need! Call now for a competitive free quote. 1-877-351-3442. Plus... Income-based government subsidies are available for those that qualify!

REACH FLORIDA
October 26, 2026

SERVICE DIRECTORY

AIR CONDITIONING

AC Drain Line Flush System

Is your AC not working? It could possibly be due to the AC drain line being clogged and backed up. We have a solution to unclog the drain line and install a permanent solution.

- Keeps your AC Drain Line clean and free of clogs, 99%
- Prevents the dispatch of costly AC Technicians to clear a clogged drain line
- Cost effective, easy to use
- Simple regular flushing keeps your AC drain line clear; no chemicals, no electrical wiring, environmentally safe
- Can be installed on existing AC units, during a new installation or when replacing an AC unit

The AC Drain Flush System is $45.95, plus installation fee.

Valas Innovative Products, Inc.
www.valasip.com
Ph. 321-978-8834
Email;vmalasjr @valasip.com

APPLIANCE REPAIR

A. Edwards
Apopka Appliance
936 S. Orange Blossom Tr. Apopka
$59.99 Service Call
Full In–Home Service · 5 Star Rated
90 Day Free L.Warranty
Washers & Dryers · Refrigerators
Ranges · Dishwashers · Disposals
Installations · Used Appliances
For Quick Response, Please Call:
407-497-7458•407-886-2255
www.ApopkaAppliance.com
Serving Apopka and Greater Orlando Area

AUTO DETAILING

L&J Restore and Shine LLC
WE DETAIL CARS & PRESSURE CLEAN
WE RESTORE IT. YOU ENJOY THE SHINE!
Driveways • Sidewalks • Patios • Pool Areas
Upholstery & Carpet • Full Car Wash • And More
FIRST-TIME CUSTOMERS RECEIVE 15% OFF
CALL (469) 595-2297 TODAY!
LICENSED & INSURED ★ FREE QUOTES

AUTO REPAIR

ATW
ALLTRANSMISSIONWORLD
Central Florida's Oldest & Largest Transmission & Total Car Care Company
- Transmission
- Clutches
- CV Axles
- Foreign
- Domestic
- Check Engine & Dashboard Warning Lights

1150 E Semoran Blvd. Ste. B
Apopka, FL, 32703
alltransmissionworld.com
407-880-9300

GAS

Lake Apopka Natural Gas District
ENERGY CHOICE
P: 407.656.2734
F: 407.877.3893
www.LANGD.org
811
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

HANDYMAN

Champion Services Handy Man LLC
Serving Apopka & the Surrounding Areas
- Painting
- Interior
- Exterior
- Flooring
- Power Wash
- Plumbing
- Deck Railing
- Drywall
- Electrical
- All Repairs

Vincent Corbett, Champion
(740) 508-2354

IRRIGATION

Larkin Landscape Irrigation
INSTALLATION WITH INTEGRITY
Flood Prevention (French Well Drain)
Yard Clean-Up
Sprinkler Repair
Resodding * Pavers
Fill Dirt * Mulch
Tree Trimming
Pressure Wash (hot & cold)
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
Larkin45@yahoo.com
407-739-7334

MEDICAL

WORKPLACE SCREENING INTELLIGENCE
Helping Employers and Employees Get Back to Work Safely and Stay COVID Free
LABORATORY TESTING
✓ Drug Screening Nationally
✓ Covid Screens
✓ Titer Testing
✓ New Transferrin Gold TB Test
Call: 800-338-5515 or Email: info@workplacescreening.com

PACKING & SHIPPING

Apopka Pack & Ship
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE · FedEx Authorized ShipCenter · UPS Authorized Shipping Outlet
- Shipping Services
- Package Drop Off
- Office Supplies
- Pro Packing

407 220 0410
2246 E Semoran Blvd
Apopka, FL 32703

PRESSURE WASHING

We specialize in pressure washing, softwashing, and more to transform your residential or commercial property from dull to dazzling.
1st Place 2025 Best of Apopka
NUGS PROPERTY WASHING
10% Discount With This Ad!
(407) 729-5049
https://nugspropertywashing.com

ROOFING

EVANS ROOFING
40+ Years Experience
Reroofs & Repairs
407-295-4944
CCC1333038

ROOFING RESTORATION

ALLEGIANCE
ROOF RESTORATION & COATINGS
$$$ Save Money vs. Replacement On:
Flat Roofs • Metal Roofs • Mobile Homes • Tile Roofs • Rubber Roofs • Asphalt Roofs
15-Year Warranty
Superior Durability & Energy Efficient
Senior | Military Discounts
Residential • Commercial
407-455-2636

TREE SERVICE

MALTBY'S TREE SERVICE & LANDSCAPING
All Your Outdoor Needs!
- Irrigation
- Tree Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Grapple Truck Service
- Landscape Maintenance & Installation

JAMES MALTBY Owner
Licensed & Insured
321-689-5866

The Apopka Chief
A MAINSTREET DAILY NEWS PUBLICATION
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
JOIN NOW!
Visit - theapopkachief.com/become-a-member