

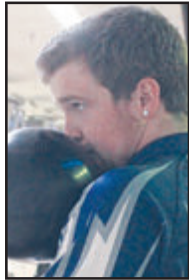
Lifestyle

A migrant farm worker turned community activist has died. See page 1B.



Sports

Apopka bowler extraordinaire Pete Vergos has received another honor. See page 1C.



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Volume 94 Number 38

Friday, September 16, 2016 / 50 cents

First budget vote passed 3-2 by City Council



As he speaks, Commissioner Kyle Becker holds a printed version of the city's 2016-2017 budget.

Commissioners spar over divided vote after public hearing

By John Peery Apopka Chief Staff

A divided City Council narrowly approved the first of two necessary votes on both the property tax rate and the city budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins October 1. Commissioners Kyle Becker and Diane Velazquez joined Mayor Joe Kilsheimer in separate 3-2 votes to approve the tax rate as well as the budget on Wednesday, September 14. The final approval is set for a vote

on September 28 at 5:05 p.m. at City Hall. The new property tax rate, if approved on September 28, will mean a rate hike of a half-mill, which is equal to \$50 in taxes for every \$100,000 of taxable property value. Commissioners Billie Dean and Doug Bankson voted no both times, first when the property tax rate of 3.7876 mills was approved, then when the \$104-million spending plan was given the OK. Velazquez 'disappointed' Things got a bit testy late in the meeting after Commissioner Velazquez said she was "disappointed" in the no votes of Dean and Bank-

son, adding that after five budget workshops of about five hours each, she didn't understand why they still had issues with the budget. Both Dean and Bankson responded, but Mayor Kilsheimer had to gavel Dean and Velazquez down as they argued. It was after the millage rate vote but prior to the vote on the budget, that Velazquez took exception. "I just want to add that I'm disappointed in the two commissioners who voted no because I think we spent five workshops an average of four to five hours. We literally went page-by-page and expense-by-ex-

See BUDGET Page 9A

Apopkans turn out for dedication of Boy Scout's 9-11 memorial

Dozens of people were on hand Sunday, September 11, for the dedication of a 9-11 memorial that was the brainchild of Apopka Boy Scout Christian Lamphere. Held on the front lawn of City Hall where the memorial is located, the event lasted just under an hour and included bagpipers, special speakers, and a ribbon cutting to officially open the memorial. The memorial features a 10-foot exterior building panel from the World Trade Center acquired by City Commissioner Diane Velazquez and her husband, Ed. Two pieces of Pennsylvania granite were donated by Brandywine Quarry in Parkesburg, Penn. The memorial, which sits on a pentagon-shaped foundation, includes fountains, flowerbeds and brick pillars with plaques dedicated to first re-



Apopka Boy Scout Christian Lamphere stands with his father Phil in front of the piece of the World Trade Center that fell on September 11, 2001, during the terrorist attacks on the United States. The 9-11 memorial stands on the front lawn of City Hall and Christian raised funds and received help from the city of Apopka as well as many businesses and organizations from throughout the community and beyond.

See SCOUT Page 10A



Apopka firefighter Dwight Ashton rang the bell to honor those who died in the terrorist attacks.

Parking Committee finalizing work

By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

Members of Apopka's Parking Advisory Committee reviewed a drafted parking ordinance at their Monday, September 12, meeting, after which the Apopka Police Department will rework the document using the proposed suggestions in preparation for public commentary. The committee hopes the document will be finalized at the end of the next Parking Advisory Committee meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, September 26, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Once the parking ordinance is finalized by the committee, it will go to City Council for a vote at a future date. The biggest change in the proposed parking ordinance compared

to the current parking ordinance is the allowance of street parking with restrictions, according to Police Chief Michael McKinley, who is heading up the parking committee. At the September 12 meeting, the Parking Advisory Committee reviewed 19 pages of the city's parking ordinance section by section with the Apopka Police Department. Committee members asked questions and commented on each section. According to Captain Randy Fernandez, some of the drafted sections of the ordinance haven't changed from the current ordinance. The goal of the committee's draft review was for substance. The parking ordinance draft covered many aspects of parking including but not limited to the manner of stopping, standing or parking, ob-

structing traffic, under what circumstances parking is prohibited, parking of commercial vehicles, the issuing of loading zone permits, the removal of illegally parked, abandoned or disabled vehicles, and citations and penalties. In the section covering the manner of stopping, standing or parking, vehicles have to park in accordance with whether the street is indicated for parallel or angle parking. In either case, the vehicle must be parked within 12 inches of the edge of the street. Constantly addressed concerns at the Parking Advisory Committee meetings include using the parking ordinance as a one-size-fits-all jurisdiction on every subdivision in the city, and parking when residents invite guests for special occasions and get-togethers.

State rep. will hold office hours locally

State Rep. Jennifer Sullivan, District 31, will hold office hours at Apopka City Hall Monday, September 26, from 9 a.m. to noon for constituent outreach. Those wishing to make an appointment may do so by calling Morgan Hatfield at Sullivan's office at 352-742-6275. For normal assistance, visit or contact the Eustis office located at 2755 South Bay Street, Unit D, Eustis, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This week Section A Opinion.....2A,6A Public Notices..... 3A Section B Lifestyle 1B Worship 2B Bus. Rev3B,4B Dining & Ent..... 7B Kapers 8B Section C Sports 1C Classified..... 8C-10C Service Dir..... 10C Section D Chief Jr. 1D-4D Legal ads 6D-10D



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Apopka Event of the Week

“Cookies and Milk with a Cop (Story-time, Too”) Saturday, September 17 at North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, 10:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by APD and McDonald’s located at 233 E. Main St.

Quotable

It should help yield a safer and better community as additional police officers, an additional fire station and new fire fighters are needed and added.

The Apopka Chief on city budget

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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Our position

City budget seems fair for all

At first glance, an increase in property taxes doesn’t seem like a good thing for Apopka property owners.

In addition to increased values that would push taxes higher even if the City Council kept the property tax rate the same next year as it is this year, city leaders have voted to increase the tax rate by a half-mill.

Nobody likes higher taxes (well, almost nobody), but sometimes an increase is necessary.

The proposed half-mill increase as voted on by the City Council earlier this week will mean an additional \$50 in taxes per \$100,000 in taxable property value. That may not be ideal, but it’s certainly not an onerous amount. It should help yield a safer and better community as additional police officers, an additional fire station and new fire fighters are needed and added.

In addition to the new police officers and fire fighters, the equipment that must be purchased for those new employees means the city will pay for 20 new police vehicles, as well as a new fire station, a fire truck, and an ambulance.

The city will also buy two new garbage trucks.

There are more capital projects such as an additional communications tower to help fill in the gaps in coverage for the police and fire departments as the city continues to expand, especially to the north. That tower alone will cost \$2.8 million.

The property tax rate will give the city nearly \$2 million more with which to provide services. While property taxes get the most attention because they come right out of our pockets and they are easily controlled by the City Council, there are

many revenue sources the city has to make up additional funding for the \$104-million budget.

One area that does concern us is one that Commissioner Doug Bankson has raised since the first budget workshop held by the City Council and that is the use of reserves.

In this budget, the city will use \$1.792 million in unrestricted reserves. According to the city budget, that still leaves 21.6 percent in the city’s rainy-day fund. A national group, Government Financial Officers Association, says that municipalities should have 16.7 percent, or two months of expenses in the bank.

We think that a two-month supply of reserves is too low and should be closer to three months or about 25 percent.

As the city moves ahead, it cannot afford to continue dipping into reserves and that amount should never dip below 20 percent. The city must be able to handle the costs associated with a massive hurricane or other disaster, natural or man-made.

The city’s employees will have to earn their raises, which is always a good thing. In times of high inflation, a cost-of-living increase in pay can be necessary, but that’s not included in this city budget and each employee must earn his or her raise.

Overall, this budget seems fair to employees and citizens, but double-digit increases in what citizens pay in taxes need to be the exception rather than the rule. It is, after all, the public’s money that is being spent. We would all love to have a major increase in income, but that rarely happens.

The city needs to make sure its additional major increases in income are a rare occurrence as well.



Health services has outstanding year

The Health Services Department is among one of the most diverse departments within Orange County.

The department is responsible for providing a wide range of services. From providing medical services, mental health and homelessness support, and providing crisis assistance, the Health Services Department is a major resource for all Orange County residents.

The department oversees eight different divisions and manages Corrections Health Services. The eight divisions include: Animal Services, Mental Health and Homeless Issues, the Drug Free Community Office, Medical Examiner, Medical Clinic,

County Commissioner
District 2



Bryan Nelson

the Office of the Medical Director/EMS, Mosquito Control, and the Ryan White Program.

Each division is responsible for providing a specific service. For instance, the Ryan White Program provides assistance for persons who are HIV positive by helping them pay for expensive treatment and care with the use of federal dollars. The Mental Health and Home-

less Issues division ensures that quality mental health services for all individuals in the community, including children, are accessible. It also provides shelter and assistance to individuals and families who find themselves homeless.

Mosquito Control is responsible for an array of initiatives aimed at controlling mosquitos and mosquito-borne diseases. This division inspects and surveys mosquito larvae and adult mosquitos throughout the county. Currently, Mosquito Control is under special strain as they work hard to prevent the spread of the Zika virus, a mosquito-transmitted disease, in Orange County.

See NELSON Page 6A

TIME article raises many questions

By Dr. David J. Ayers
Center for Vision & Values

I am a Baby Boomer who grew up with *TIME* magazine. From before I was born, it arrived at our home every week. We were subscribers, and I devoured every issue. *TIME* was solid – carefully researched and cogently written. When I read the magazine, I was educated, not indoctrinated. Regardless of viewpoint, they asked hard questions. They had integrity.

How the mighty have fallen.

For evidence of this ruin, look no further than the recent *TIME* essay, “My Brother’s Pregnancy

and the Making of the New American Family.”

OK, it was penned by the lesbian sister of a pregnant female-to-male transgender; thus, it’s no surprise that bias was evident, even over-the-top. But was that the right choice for *TIME* to use to depict the birthing and nursing experience of a transgender male as a new normal for American families? The author, Jessi Hempel, has been involved in professional journalism for years with publications such as *Fortune*, *Business Week*, *TIME Asia*, and *Wired*. I reasonably expected a smidgen of objectivity and solid reporting.

Unfortunately, this es-

say never raises a single question or concern that most people other than a social-secular progressive would have.

Perhaps someone with a little more distance should have been given this assignment? Such was the kind of decision that editors used to make when handling controversial and potentially divisive stories, back when news magazines left indoctrination to others.

Instead, we are introduced to Evan, born as one of three female siblings. About 16 years ago, while Evan’s parents were going through a divorce and his dad was coming out as

See AYERS Page 6A

This Week In God’s Word

“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, it is finished. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.” Revelation 16:17 and 18.

Mema Says

Life wasn’t meant for us to have two catcher’s mitts on; we need to be able to throw something back.

World’s hatred of Israel only proves they’re God’s chosen

SEPTEMBER 16 – When President Harry Truman ordered our U. N. Security Council member to vote for the rebirth of Israel in 1948, little did he know what a blessing he was giving to the world in the future of medicine, science and technology.

Despite the immediate attacks by the surrounding Muslim nations, Israel managed to hold on to most of its tiny territory, although it lost the Old City part of Jerusalem, until regaining it in the 1967 Six Day War.

Adding to the many

Corbeil’s Corner



Richard Corbeil

blessings I have written about over the years are two new ones in implant dentistry, and hip and spine surgery

In the first one, Abigail Klein Leichman’s article in the September *Levitt Letter* should brighten the outlook of those fac-

ing the basic process of “an artificial root anchored in the jawbone in order to hold a replacement tooth (crown).”

Presently the “two-part procedure begins with screwing a titanium root into the jaw bone and waiting three to six months until the bone grows firmly around it – called “osseointegration.” This is followed, at that stage, with a healing cap that is placed on the implant to help the gum heal, to be replaced with a regular cap, in which the crown gets connected to the implant.

Israeli company Maydent states that their revolutionary MED (miniaturized electronic device) built into the healing cap, makes the bone grow at triple the speed by “transmitting an electromagnetic field into the implant and the surrounding bone graft.”

Also, the company proved in animal studies that MED causes the bone to grow more densely than usual. Maydent states that for many people who are risky bone plant candidates because of poor bone quality, this is a significant im-

provement.

MED is now on the European market, and will be submitted for U.S. Food and Drug approval next year.

Right now, in the U.S., “nearly 260,000 patients require hip fracture repair every year,” reports Judy Siegel-Itzouich of the *Jerusalem Post*, “while 350,000 have special spinal fusion operations.”

She reports: “Common procedures such as hip and pelvis surgery, as well as spinal fusion operations, require the exact positioning of a thin metallic wire

to guide a fixating screw. But, the procedure is often hampered by the guide wire being deflected, bent, or even broken, which then requires repair, complicating and prolonging the patient’s recovery.”

Prof. Meir Liebergall, chairman of the orthopedic surgery department of Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem, put together a multidisciplinary team of doctors, engineering and business students from the Hebrew University’s BioDesign:

See CORBEIL Page 6A



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DON'T BREATHE (R) 10:50A*; 1:50; 4:40; 7:45; 10:15
PETE'S DRAGON (PG) 10:15A*; 1:10; 3:50
SUICIDE SQUAD (PG13) 10:10A*; 1:05; 4:05; 7:10; 10:00
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Ribbon cutting for Hair Cuttery



A ribbon cutting for Hair Cuttery in Hunt Club Plaza, 554 S. Hunt Club Blvd., was held Tuesday, September 13. Holding the ceremonial scissors is Julie Brown, salon leader, next to Apopka City Commissioner Doug Bankson along with salon employees and Apopka Area Chamber of Commercial officials.

Rotary Pancake Supper set for Oct. 13

The annual Apopka Rotary Pancake Supper is headed for a Thursday evening.

The Apopka Rotary Club event has been held

for several years when the two local high school teams lock horns on the football field. Since the Wekiva-Apopka high school football game is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, that's when the yearly Rotary fundraiser will be held.

This year, the game will be played on a Thursday due to a school holiday on Friday, October 14, and the Rotary Club followed suit.

The pancake supper will be held at Wekiva High School where the football game will be played and Rotary members will serve all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The football game will

kick off at 7 p.m.

The food will be served under a large tent just north of the football field. There will be some inside seating available near the tent. The event will be held in the Wekiva High cafeteria in case of inclement weather.

Tickets have been reduced to \$5, and children 5 years of age and under eat free with a paying adult.

Funds raised from the event will be returned to the community through the Rotary Club's donations to many local organizations.

For tickets, call 407-464-7024 or visit the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, 180 E. Main Street.

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Former Apopkan among those at ‘One Voice Orlando’

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

On the eve of the three-month anniversary of the June 12 Pulse nightclub shooting in downtown Orlando, Opera Orlando coordinated a one-night-only concert on Sunday, September 11, to benefit six Central Florida organizations, including one that

treated the Pulse massacre survivors.

With Apopka native Gabriel Preisser, who now resides in Winter Garden, as the executive and artistic director, Opera Orlando coordinated “One Voice Orlando: A Celebration in Song,” an 80-minute concert that featured music from classic opera and musical theater at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. The concert featured the world-premiere composition “Light Shall Lift Us” by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec.

Money raised from One Voice Orlando will benefit the following organizations that serve a strong presence in the Central Florida community: Orlando Regional Medical Center, the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida, Proyecto Somos Orlando, the LGBT Center of Central Florida, the Interfaith Council of Central Florida and the Zebra Coalition.

According to Preisser in a press release, One Voice Orlando is a way to give back to the community and recognize the organizations that have always helped Central Florida, especially during the Pulse tragedy.



Small American flags dot the landscape in front of the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando. Planted by the Camaraderie Foundation with help from the Orlando Fire and Police departments, these flags represent the service members since September 11, 2001, that need the foundation’s help.



The Way I See It

Patti Bankson

Open Up and Say Ahhhh...

I’m not a doctor. Haven’t even played one on tv, but I *have* had pneumonia... three times... and, believe me, you don’t collapse, go somewhere... like, to your daughter’s Manhattan apartment, instead of to the ER... rest for 90 minutes, and then come out smiling, waving, and talking about feeling great, and commenting on what a beautiful day it is. Especially, when that very beautiful day is being blamed for your collapse. Guess that’s why I’m not inclined to believe the story coming out of the Clinton campaign about what happened to her Sunday at the 9-11 ceremony. That, and, the fact that, she and her campaigns... past and present... wear Secrecy and Lies, like their favorite worn-out, used-to-be-fluffy, robe and slippers.

Prior to Sunday, there had already been talk about Hillary’s health, which she had deflected with “*suggestions*” that

she would release her medical records, if Trump would release his tax returns. And, you know what? That approach might have worked, and worked, and worked, but for the fact that, her health issues... however large or small... began to become public knowledge. Here a fall, there a stumble... here a cough, there a cough, and there, a coughing fit... one of which she cleverly pinned on an allergy to Donald Trump, himself. Not surprisingly, her people and her supporters wanted to downplay the whole thing, as completely irrelevant. Of course, anyone with half a brain realizes that it’s *very* relevant.

Now, don’t get me wrong, as much as I believe Hillary to be the worst possible candidate for the presidency, I didn’t cheer when she stumbled... I didn’t feel good about watching her collapse; It was as sad to watch her that day, as it would’ve been watching anyone else. But, as I said at the beginning, I don’t believe her/ their story. And, I think the American people have the right to know whether a candidate is healthy enough to do the very demanding job she, or he, would be elected to do. And, yes, I believe Donald

Trump should release *his* health records, too. I also think both records should be complete and comprehensive; more than just their blood pressure, height and weight. People in lesser jobs have to prove they’re healthy, so why not the top job in the country??

Actually, the United States has already set a record for not having a president die, or be assassinated, while in office, in over 18,967 **days** and, that’s something to be proud of. I’m sure we can attribute that record to many things; two that readily come to mind are: better, and constantly improving health care, and our traditionally peaceful passing of the torch from a president leaving office to one coming in. I see no reason to break that record by allowing either current candidate to keep any possible health issues, serious or otherwise, from the people. That’s just one of the many things we must consider when choosing for whom we’ll vote. But, it *is* a very big one. And, we can’t make an informed decision about *anything* politic, without being given all the information we need to do so.

Comments Welcome
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Mayor appointed to statewide committee

Mayor Joe Kilsheimer has been appointed to the Florida League of Cities’ Energy and Environmental Policy Committee. The mayor will serve in the 2016-2017.

Energy and Environmental Policy Committee members are appointed annually by the league president. Any city official is eligible to serve on a policy committee, and appointments typically are based upon a city official’s sup-

port and advocacy of the league’s adopted Legislative Action Agenda, participation at meetings, Legislative Action Day, and other legislative-related activities.

“Municipal officials are the driving force behind the league’s legislative success. In addition to setting the legislative priorities, the League’s policy committee members help to provide League staff with a better understanding of the

real world implications of proposed legislation,” said Florida League of Cities Legislative Director Scott Dudley.

“We appreciate their willingness to serve, as there is a significant commitment of time and energy that goes into developing a policy direction for our legislative efforts.”

For more information about the Florida League of Cities, visit www.floridaleagueofcities.com.



Joe Kilsheimer
... Apopka mayor

Corbeil: Jerusalem has always been a Jewish city

Continued from page 2A

Medical Innovation program called “BendGuide.”

This is “an optoelectronic drilling system that monitors and detects minute changes in guide wire trajectory during surgery. It allows surgeons to correct drilling trajectories during the procedure itself. The system eliminates guide wire bending or breakage, significantly reduces operating time and increases safety.”

And yet, a recent report by *Breaking Israel News (BIN)* says that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at a recent meeting in Istanbul, wants to adopt a resolution “that would declare the Temple Mount, site of the ancient Jewish temples, is sacred to Muslims only.”

BIN reported that, “UNESCO’s very unholy action would deny that there is any Jewish link at all.”

If there needs to be any more proof that the U.N. has become anything more than a “make Israel and all Jews disappear” nutcase, I can’t think of what other purpose they have displayed without end.

When one considers that the one-and-a-half billion Muslims worldwide have contributed nothing medicinal, scientific, or

technological to our world throughout history, the U.N. has become nothing but a Muslim weapon for another Jewish Holocaust, with Obama’s Iran deal being a giant step in that direction.

Undoubtedly, the worst thing since The Hitler Youth is the Palestinian Authority’s TV children’s program “The Best Home,” with young brainwashed girls reciting false poems of condemnation.

“Oh, you who murdered Allah’s pious prophets, Oh, you who were brought up on spilling blood,

“Oh, Sons of Zion, Oh most evil among creations, Oh, barbaric monkeys, Jerusalem opposes your throngs, Jerusalem vomits from within your impurity. Oh, you who murdered Allah’s pious prophets.”

Israel is supposed to make peace with maniacal murderers who have contributed nothing to this world. And, who use young girls to incite ignoramuses looking for an excuse to commit violence and mass murder!

“They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.’” Psalm 83:3 and 4.

Nelson: Funding for Health Services Dept. varies

Continued from page 2A

This crucial Orange County department is primarily funded through the General Fund. The General Fund is made up of a series of funding sources that include property taxes, sales taxes, gas taxes, and revenue shared with the state, among others. Funding for Health Services from this source is projected to decrease for fiscal year 2016-2017 by 1.5 percent due to grant rollover from the Mental Health and Homeless issue division and the Animal Services Division. The second funding category is Special Revenue funds, and the third is Capital Construction funds. Funding for the 2016-2017 fiscal year is projected at \$80,885,438.

Proposed operating expenditures for the Health Services Department includes \$20 million for Medicaid and \$13.3 million for the Primary Care Access Network (PCAN).

PCAN is a collaborative agency operated between Orange County

and other local organizations. They work to provide health care coverage for uninsured residents. The Mental Health and Homelessness Division has a proposed operating budget of \$5.6 million. The Animal Services Division proposed operating budget is \$7.8 million with \$258,215 included in grants for heartworm prevention, adoption, rescues, and spay and neuter projects. The Mosquito Control Division has a proposed operating budget of \$2.2 million.

The Health Services Department hopes the 2016-2017 fiscal year is another year full of accomplishments. With the imminent threat of the Zika virus, the Mosquito Control Division is working tirelessly to prevent the virus from reaching Orange County. The division has been working in conjunction with the Florida Department of Health to address the Zika threat by conducting special surveys. Since February 1, when the division first started surveying for Zika carrying mosquitos, 15,950

properties have been surveyed. While the virus has been found south of us in the Miami area, no cases have been reported in Orange County to date.

Among other accomplishments, the Animal Services Division was named “Agency of the Year” by the Florida Animal Control Association, and the Ryan White Program was recognized in the top 10 programs in the country.

For more information about any of the services provided by the Health Services Department, please visit www.ocfl.net. For assistance with medical assistance and health insurance PCAN can be contacted at 407-836-PCAN (7226). To report a mosquito control issue or concern, the division can be contacted by email at mosquitocontrol@ocfl.net and by phone at 407-254-9120.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other state issue, please feel free to contact me at bryan.nelson@myfloridahouse.gov.

Ayers: Evan desired to have a personally fulfilling experience

Continued from page 2A

homosexual, and both his sisters had been lesbians for some time, Evan decided to become male – but with a twist: Desiring to give birth someday, and averse to double mastectomy, Evan kept all the “girl parts.”

The reader would immediately like to know more, but because such deeper questions are apparently off limits, even from sisters, we are not told much. Evan’s breasts – that is, his biological chest – shrunk because of male hormone injections. But even then, it still needed to be taped flat. The beard was soft but pretty full, the voice manly. Evan ceased male hormone injections and took medications to trigger ovulation and, as his partner is female, was artificially inseminated.

Hempel disapprovingly notes that Evan encountered all sorts of discriminatory assumptions and practices. Of course, in truth, our medical insurance and diagnostic regime have understandably failed to adjust language, forms, and protocols around the idea that males may give birth and nurse infants.

Understandably, insurers still kick back paperwork requesting payment for pregnancy and birth services from someone who checked the “male” box under “gender.” Wearied with

lengthy explanatory phone calls, Evan reluctantly agreed to start checking “female” to avoid this.

Hempel’s case of alleged discriminatory assumptions and practices gets worse: Insensitive people are startled by bearded men with large mammary glands nursing infants, and often fail to properly identify this as “chestfeeding.” They speak as if Evan has “breasts.” Thank goodness, notes Hempel, for supportive groups such as the “Birthing and Breast or Chestfeeding Trans People and Allies.” (Yes, such a group indeed exists.)

Alas, Hempel’s perspective and biases aside, here are some questions from an American who is not motivated by hate or fear. May I suggest a follow-up piece of journalism exploring them?

First, why didn’t Evan’s female partner have the baby? That certainly seems less risky and medically intrusive. And if Evan really considered himself to be a male and wants to be categorized as such, shouldn’t he forego the anatomy and possibility of pregnancy, birth, and nursing with the rest of us males? The only rationale that appears in this essay is Evan’s desire to have a personally fulfilling experience. Doesn’t that make Evan’s child a means to a personal end? Reading this, one gets the feeling that the baby is almost a kind of commodity. Do we as a society really need

one more reason to devalue children and put adult desires and rights ahead of their needs and our duties to them?

Second, are these children going to be OK? Gay parenting research, problematic as it is, doesn’t really help here. How many decades will it be before we have sufficient numbers of children born and raised this way to know what the impact is? If it is negative, will political correctness make sure that the negative reality never surfaces? Asking if infants, especially those conceived with this much intentionality, are being given optimal environments to thrive as human beings is, well, kind of important.

Third, getting into the politically-correct mindset a bit, this seems a bit biased, but here’s a stark reality: Male-to-female transgendered people don’t get to nurse, get pregnant, have vaginal births. And as “her” and “she,” they actually fit into the feminine category normally associated with that. Should we be working to change this, too?

Fourth, according to the latest June 2016 report of the Williams Institute at UCLA, about 0.6 percent of Americans “identify” as transgender. This is higher than their previous estimate of 0.3 percent, but that’s still awful tiny. Moreover, the percentage that would have been diag-

nosed as such and taken through the kind of medical treatment Evan received is still much lower than six-tenths of one percent. And then, how many of these are female-to-male who keep their female anatomy so they can get pregnant, give birth, and nurse?

That said, consider the necessity of accurate information for appropriate diagnoses and treatment, the need to build in cross-checks to pick up fraud and error, and everything else that goes into administrating and safeguarding hospitals, medical practices, clinics, and health insurance. Is it reasonable to ask for adjustments of the type that would have made Evan more comfortable to accommodate what is probably less than one-tenth of one percent obtaining elective medical care? Consider the time and cost associated with creating and installing all the new forms, database categories and software, and doing all that training. Does this make sense? My spell-checker doesn’t even know the term “chestfeeding.” Should someone sue Microsoft?

And all this is without considering the wide range of changes being pressed by the Obama administration. Nursing stations in male restrooms? (Yes, that’s being demanded.) Pregnant female-to-male transgendered persons, with fitted uniforms, in Marine platoons?

Gosh, how will Census workers classify this family? Is it headed by a gay couple? A heterosexual couple? How many of the hundreds of reports, tables, graphs need to be modified?

Fifth, what next? When conservatives were predicting this kind of thing 10 years ago as a consequence of accepting gay adoption and redefining marriage and family, they were accused of being bigots and alarmists. Now it is here, and they are bigots and alarmists for objecting to it. What if Evan and his female partner want to take turns having babies? So why not add a third person and make it a trio? Why not a fourth, or a close relative? Why not?

Journalists are supposed to ask the questions we cannot or are afraid to. The ones we know reasonable people think about. Can’t we do better than this fawning essay in *TIME* magazine when we are dealing with something of this much consequence to so many people – many of whom are little children who have to live with what we adults choose for them? Is that unreasonable to ask?

Dr. David J. Ayers is Dean of Alva J. Calderwood School of Arts and Letters at Grove City College and Fellow for Marriage and Family with The Center for Vision & Values.

All About Apopka

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923

(USPS 545-440)

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. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$30 with E-Edition in Orange County and \$35 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group’s award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor’s Office	407-703-1703
City Administrator	407-703-1750
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.....	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
Finance Dept	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.)	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-703-1741
Police Chief.....	407-703-1789
Police (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1771
Job Line	407-703-1721
Solid Waste Collect.	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance.....	407-703-1731
Utility Billing	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 44,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

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Auto/Boat Tags	407-836-4145
Building Dept.....	407-836-5760
County Chairman	407-836-7370
County Commission.....	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor ...	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-9111
Garbage Collecting	407-836-6601
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.....	407-836-4143
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6280
Property Appraiser	407-836-5000
Sheriff Administrative.....	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments.....	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	911

www.orangecountyfl.net

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Bill Nelson (Dem.).....	407-872-7161
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
U.S. Representatives	
Corrine Brown (Dist. 5)	407-872-2208
John Mica (Dist. 7)	407-657-8080
Daniel Webster (Dist. 10).....	407-654-5705
State Representatives	
Jennifer Sullivan (Dist. 31).....	352-742-6275
Randolph Bracy (Dist. 45).....	407-660-6672
State Senators	
Alan Hays (Dist. 11)	1-352-742-6441
Geri Thompson (Dist. 12)	407-245-1511
Orange County Commissioner	
Bryan Nelson (Dist. 2)	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes	407-317-3800
Superintendent	407-317-3202
School Board	407-317-3236
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apokkans	407-703-1707

Briefly

AHS receives grant

Apopka High School scored a \$3,245 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, which will support 450 students in their program to promote life-long reading skills for underachieving students.

Besides Apopka High School, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation gave two Kissimmee schools, one Minneola school, three Orlando schools and one Umatilla school grant money, part of over \$4.5 million in youth literacy grants awarded to approximately

1,000 organizations across the 43 states that Dollar General serves.

Given at the beginning of the academic school year, these grants are aimed at supporting teachers, schools and organizations with resources to strengthen and enhance literacy instruction.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awards grants each year to nonprofit organizations, schools and libraries within a 20-mile radius of a Dollar General store or distribution center to support adult,

family, summer and youth literacy programs.

Grant applications for the 2017 grant cycle to benefit adult, family, summer and youth literacy programs will be available on January 2, 2017.

Marriage license applications online

Engaged and getting married? The Orange County Clerk of Courts recently launched the new eMarriage Application to make wedding planning a little easier on couples when they apply for a marriage license.

Couples can begin the marriage license application process from the comfort of their own homes at the Clerk's Office new website under eMarriage Application in the "Marriages" section.

Gone are the days of couples having to fill out the marriage license application form at the Orange County Clerk's Office or having to remember to present the completed form to a deputy clerk at a front counter, where the clerk would re-enter the same information in the computer. At eMarriage, couples are able to fill out their marriage license application form online and directly submit it to the Clerk's Office once it is complete.

"Getting married is a very happy time for many, but it can also be a very busy and stressful time," said Orange County Clerk of Courts Tiffany Moore Russell. "Therefore, we wanted to make the marriage license application process easier and more convenient for our customers."

The application online is not an actual marriage license.

The first step is to fill out a marriage license application form. Couples are then required by law to appear in person, with the required documentation, to complete the application

process within 60 days from the date in which they submit their application online.

For more information on eMarriage, the marriage application process and required documentation, visit www.myorangeclerk.com.

Water district says most areas had low rainfall in August

Continuing an unusually low rainfall pattern from July, rainfall during August was below average across most of the St. Johns River Water Management District. All counties except Brevard, Indian River and Okeechobee had below average rainfall.

"August's dry conditions are a reminder that water conservation remains a year-round priority," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle.

"Water conservation is something we can all do which plays a significant role in water supply resiliency."

The greatest deficits occurred in Clay, Nassau and Putnam counties. Rainfall totals in these counties were less than 60 percent of the average rainfall for August.

The low rainfall for the month is noteworthy given August is part of the rainy season.

As a districtwide average, total rainfall over the past 12 months is now more than 7.5 inches lower than average.

Baker and Flagler counties have the greatest deficits, with 26 percent and 24 percent lower than

average rainfall respectively.

Indian River, Osceola and Okeechobee counties remain above average for the previous 12 months.

The month's end was punctuated by Hurricane Hermine. During the first three days of September, Hurricane Hermine brought significant rainfall to the northern and western areas of the district with rainfall totals between six and eight inches in Baker and western Duval counties.

The full report was presented at the Tuesday, September 13 Governing Board meeting. County-by-county precipitation reports and other data is available online at www.sjrwmd.com/hydroconditionsreport.

The district's hydrologic data collection program collects, processes, manages and disseminates hydrologic and meteorological data that are used for consumptive use permitting, water shortage management, establishment of minimum flows and levels, water supply planning and management, environmental protection and restoration projects, and operation of district flood control facilities.

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Voice: Opera groups from around the state participated in the event

Continued from page 5A

members from the following opera companies: Opera Naples, Opera Tampa, St. Petersburg Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Orlando, Florida Grand Opera, and First

Coast Opera.

David Charles Abell was the conductor and Robert Hill was the choreographer. The Timucua Arts Foundation coordinated the orchestra.

Legendary baritone Sherrill Milnes, whom



Participants wearing angels' wings greeted those who attended the 'One Voice Orlando' event Sunday, September 11, in honor of the Pulse victims.

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- Argos Family Diner, 3346 E. Semoran Blvd.
- Beekays, N. Park Ave. (across from Fla. Hosp.)
- CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436
- Chuck's Wagon, Main St., (Hwy 441)
- Circle K (BP) Highway 441, Downtown
- Circle K, Ocoee-Apopka Blvd.
- Circle K, N. Park Ave.
- Circle K & BP, Hwy 441 S. of Walmart
- Citgo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd (Plymouth)
- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail)
- Citgo, Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)
- Chevron, Highway 441 & Bradshaw Rd. (across from Wawa)
- CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av & Hwy 441
- CVS #3225, corner SR 436 & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Diamond Gas – Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rds
- Discount Beverage & Smoke (Across from Checkers, Highway 441)
- Kangaroo #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
- Kangaroo #6157, S. Park Avenue
- Kangaroo #2334, Rock Springs Rd & Kelly Park Rd
- Kangaroo #1288, Welch Rd & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Kangaroo #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
- Marathon, Highway 436
- McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
- Parten's Convenience Store, S. Central
- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)
- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
- Plymouth Woodshed Restaurant (Highway 441 & Boy Scout Rd)
- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441
- Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)
- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
- Robinson's Restaurant, Highway 441 & Hawthorne
- Sam's Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Save-A-Lot, SR 436 at Sheeler
- Starbucks, Hwy 441/Wal-Mart
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.
- Chevron Market, Hwy 441 & Roger Williams Rd.
- Tangerine Post Office
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
- Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441
- Walgreens, N. Park Ave/Welch Rd.
- Walmart, Hwy 441
- Wawa Store #5112 (Across from Walmart)1615 S. Orange Blossom Trail
- Wawa Store, 449 W. Main St. - corner of Hwy 441 and Bradshaw
- Wekiva High School, Hiawasee Rd.
- Winn Dixie #2246 – Hwy 441 (beside Lowe's)
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Topping-out ceremony for new hospital in Apopka may be viewed live online

Florida Hospital’s new Apopka campus, scheduled to open in fall 2017, is celebrating a major construction milestone with a topping-out ceremony on Friday, September 16, at 11:30 a.m.

The public may view the ceremony online at www.youtube.com/FloridaHospital.

To mark the “topping out,” a steel beam and a fir tree will be hoisted atop the hospital building by crane.

Speakers at the topping-out ceremony will include Apopka Mayor Joe Kilsheimer, Florida Hospital Apopka Administrator Tim Cook, and Peyton Roberson of contractor Brasfield & Gorrie.

“Topping out” is a construction ceremony held when a building reaches its highest point. Traditionally the beam that will be at the top of the building is signed by the construction crew



This beam, signed last week at the Apopka Food Truck Roundup, will be placed today, Friday, September 16, on the new Florida Hospital Apopka that is under construction.

and members of the community.

The beam is then lifted into place by crane, along with a fir tree, to mark the milestone. The beam has been taken to events around Apopka to gather signatures, and there will be another opportunity to sign at the topping-out ceremony.

Florida Hospital Apop-

ka’s new, 70-acre location will include a seven-story, 600,000-square-foot hospital building, a 200,000-square-foot medical office building and a helipad.

The building will have 120 private patient rooms, additional surgical services, an expanded Women’s Center, outpatient rehabil-

itation program and intensive care unit. As well, the hospital will continue to offer its current services after its relocation such as emergency room, cardiology and imaging services.

Florida Hospital lets local communities sign topping beams for every hospital built by the hospital group.

Darters down Mustangs



Lauren Sabiston of the Apopka Blue Darters girls volleyball team sets the ball for teammate Alexa Barral on Tuesday, September 13, during the team’s 3-0 victory over the Wekiva Mustangs.

Budget: Mayor bangs gavel to quell argument between Dean, Velazquez

Continued from page 1A

pense,” Velazquez said.

“For me, it’s a disappointment because so much time was dedicated to this. Not just by us here, but by the staff. I know I worked on this on my own hours and hours and hours. Here we are today with a 3-2 vote. I’m disappointed. I’m very disappointed right now.”

Bankson was the first to respond.

“Yes, we all did work real hard,” he said. “I thought we did work together but remember, during those meetings, not everything was agreed on but there was consensus. And that’s the way we have to move forward, by consensus. The things I brought up today were things I disagreed on (during the workshops).”

Velazquez said that Bankson should have spoken with Glenn Irby, city administrator.

“From the last workshop until today, you had an opportunity to go to Glenn and say, ‘Glenn, even though we spent all these hours, there was some question. Can we tweak this?’”

“There was opportunity for that and for us to come on the day that we’re asking the public to come and speak, that all of a sudden, we have two commissioners who say let’s cut all

these things out. We don’t have time to do what you’re asking. So, it’s disappointing.

“I’m sorry, Commissioner Bankson, I am disappointed. I’m here today and all of a sudden there’s disagreement over what we – this book, we went page by page, Commissioner Bankson.

Bankson said he thought the half-mill tax increase would mean that the city wouldn’t have to dip into reserves to help balance the budget. As it stands, the city will use \$1.792 million of its unrestricted reserves.

“I also said today that I was ready to go forward because I thought that all of the tax money that was coming in was going to go toward reserves,” Bankson said to Velazquez. “I said in our last meeting, one of the last things of the meeting, was that was my sticking point and if I misunderstood, then I misunderstood.”

Dean then responded to Velazquez, saying, “I reserve the right to say what I want to say.”

He and Velazquez then began arguing over each other before Mayor Kilsheimer banged the gavel twice, which halted their building disagreement.

Prior to the exchange between Velazquez, and Dean and Bankson, Commissioner Becker held up

a printed copy of the 728-page budget document, responding to the three citizens who spoke prior to the millage rate vote with all three asking that the City Council not approve the tax increase.

“It’s pretty thick, right? We’ve gone through every single word of this budget, every single page of this budget through these five workshops,” Bekcer said. “We’ve had conversations about every single line in this book. We’re not just going here and saying, ‘This looks great. Let’s vote to approve the millage rate and let’s just break out the checkbook.’”

“I think we’re all up here trying to bust our humps trying to be fiscally responsible for the city of Apopka. To hear people from the public say that, ‘Spend, spend, spend’ and talk about programs that aren’t even in the budget for this year that we’re spending money on is disconcerting.

“I think that through the budget process that was open to the public, all members of the public were invited to come and be a part of it, to witness it. Unfortunately, it wasn’t very heavily attended.

“Is it perfect? Absolutely not. Are there areas where we can trim? Certainly, and we had that conversation a lot, all five of us up here, in each one of



Commissioner Doug Bankson gestures as he speaks Wednesday, September 14, during the public hearings on the tax rate and budget.

those workshops. Do we need to corral unnecessary spending? Absolutely. Let’s do that, but I don’t think we can get to a spot between now and October where we’re going to be able to trim as much out of this as what we’ve just heard that we need to trim and be able to pass a budget by October 1.

“I think it’s a maturation process to go through this budget every year and re-evaluate it. Personally, I’m in a good spot where this budget is at.”

Capital projects, employees

From \$16 million for a new sewage treatment plant to \$2.8 million for a new communications tower on the north side of Apopka to \$1.9 million for fire Station No. 5, equipment, and per-

sonnel next to the Northwest Recreation Complex off Jason Dwelley Parkway, the city will spend \$33.8 million on capital projects in the next budget year, a number that represents 32 percent of the \$104 million spending plan.

Also among the capital projects will be 26 new vehicles, including 20 new police cars. Additionally, new sidewalks, street resurfacing, and two new garbage trucks are among the capital purchases the city will make.

The city will also spend \$750,000 for a splash pad.

At this time next year, there will be 33 new city employees, including 18 firefighters for Station No. 5, five more police officers, two fleet mechanics, and others ranging from a hu-

man resources specialist to an economic development coordinator.

Two civilian traffic enforcement officers will be hired to replace sworn police officers to administer the city’s red-light camera program.

City employees will receive no cost-of-living raise but will be eligible for merit-based pay increases.

Next budget meeting

The second and final vote by the City Council for the property tax rate and the budget will take place on Wednesday, September 28, in a 5:05 p.m. meeting at City Hall.

The tax rate and budget must be approved before October 1, the start of the 2016-2017 fiscal year which ends September 30, 2017.

A personalized brick, installed near the Mayor John Land statues, is a perfect way to pay tribute to this iconic Apopkan while supporting the Community Trust. Brick sale proceeds will be used for the Mayor Land Statue Fund, and any funds raised beyond the cost of the project will fund future benevolent causes.

The goal of the Trust is to maintain Mayor Land’s tradition of generosity while providing invaluable support to the Apopka community.

The John Land Apopka Community Trust, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, and your contributions are tax deductible.

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TWO Ways To Pay: 1) **Mail your completed form and check** (payable to John Land Apopka Community Trust) to 1420 W. Orange Blossom Trl, Apopka, FL 32712, **OR** 2) **Email your form to** JLACTrust@gmail.com, and a PayPal invoice will be sent to you to purchase your brick.



Each brick costs \$75.

Personalized bricks may contain a maximum of three lines of text with 13 characters per line, including spaces between words. Please clearly write the characters you would like to include on your brick. **Please complete one form per brick.**





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Assisted living center changes given OK

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

On Tuesday, September 13, the Apopka Planning Commission recommended approval in amending development plans of a proposed assisted living facility.

Canterwood Manor is a proposed assisted living facility designed to be two stories that will include up to 125 beds, a central courtyard, and a large community room for meetings and activities.

Developers are eyeing a seven-acre property north of Old Dixie Highway, east of Richard L. Mark Drive, and south of Errol Parkway as Canterwood Manor's location.

The only amendment the developers put forth was to increase Canterwood Manor's maximum floor area to property ratio from 0.25 sq. ft. to 0.30 sq. ft. That would mean the property's maximum square footage would get bumped up from 76,121 to 91,345 square feet.

Through an ordinance, the City Council adopted Canterwood Manor's Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning and a master plan/preliminary development plan on April 14, 2014.

With the exception of the request to change the building's footprint, no details of the PUD have changed since the adoption.

At the Planning Commission's Tuesday, September 13, meeting, representatives from Canterwood Manor's developers presented engineering designs and discussed the facility as an advantage to the Apopka community.

Canterwood Manor seeks to help people with special needs, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease, and to provide facility residents with quality care, said Joel Hass of MJM Associates, Canterwood Manor's property developer.

Canterwood Manor will employ 80 people with salaries ranging from \$17,650 to \$85,000 a year, according to Hass.

The proposal will go to

City Council for first reading on Wednesday, September 21.

Transfer of property

The Planning Commission recommended approval for ownership of two tracts to be changed from the city of Apopka to a homeowners association of a subdivision currently under construction.

According to information in the Planning Commission's agenda packet, the city did not need the two tracts, totaling about 17 acres at the site of a proposed fire station in the Northwest Recreation Complex because an alternative site was identified. That site, which the city owns, is located along the east side of Jason Dwellley Parkway, across from the Northwest Recreation Complex.

City staff informed JTD Land, the developer of Orchid Estates, that the original two tracts will not be needed by the city. JTD Land had agreed to change the PUD to reflect the switched ownership, according to the agenda packet. Orchid Estates is located on the west side of Jason Dwellley Parkway, generally south of Spinfisher Drive, and north of Appy Lane. Model homes have been proposed for construction within a few months.

No other changes were proposed to the master plan.

The amended PUD will go before City Council for a first reading on October 5.

Northwest Distribution Facility

The Planning Commission recommended approval for a new expansion of the Northwest Distribution Facility on Ocoee Apopka Road near State Road 429.

Oakmont Industrial Group seeks to construct a 180,270-square-foot distribution warehouse on 16 acres near the proposed highway interchange on S.R. 414 and Marden Road.

When occupied with new tenants, the large building is expected to employ more than 150 people, according to a representative from the developer.

The proposal will go to City Council on September 21.



A member of the Fire Department of New York salutes during the ceremony.

Scout: Many businesses, city contributed to cause

Continued from page 1A

sponders and the city of Apopka.

Among those who spoke included Lamphere, Mayor Joe Kilsheimer, and Commissioner Velazquez. Ceremonial bell ringing during the event honored those who died in the terrorist attacks.

Sonia Padilla sang the National Anthem, and the three bagpipers played "Finlandia/Be Still My Soul," "Amazing Grace," and "Going Home."

Christian Lamphere originally proposed the memorial in 2015 and spent much of the past year putting it all together. His idea is to recognize first responders and others lost in the tragic terrorist attacks that flew hijacked passenger jets into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Virginia on September 11, 2001. Another jet crashed that day into a field near Shanksville, Penn.

The 14-year-old scout worked diligently with his family to make the memorial into reality. The Lamphere family and others from the Apopka community also raised donations for First Responder Day on Saturday, September 10, when they brought meals and gift packages to Apopka's firefighters, police officers, police canines and emergency dispatchers.

Local businesses and organizations including Copart, The Home Depot, Mullinax Ford, Bowk and Sarmo Construction, Construct Rite Masonry, Apopka firefighters and city staff, T-3 Fabrications and others contributed funding, materials and labor to help Lamphere put the memorial together. Lamphere organized a car wash and other fundraisers to collect donations.