



See the stories and pictures on this page about the Apopka Blue Darters and Wekiva Mustangs football teams beginning practice this week for the upcoming season. Both

teams will have eight games this season and their first contests will be on Thursday, September 17, as Apopka will host Ocoee and Wekiva will face East River at home.

Sports



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Blue Darters happy to be practicing even with changes

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

For Apopka Blue Darters football coach Jeff Rolson, even a day of his players just running through the motions of a few plays along with some teaching of fundamentals was exciting even if there was no contact.

After being delayed five weeks due to COVID-19, the start of high school football practice started Monday, August 31, for the Blue Darters and all other Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) high school football teams.

And, for that, Rolson was happy even if rain did play havoc with the team's practice effort.

"It's a semblance of normalcy. Kids are out there with helmets and jerseys, running around. We've got a football and everything. It's kind of nice," Rolson said.

"We're happy to be out there and happy to get our staff out there. It's been wait-and-see, pushed back. Yes, we're here and I just pray we can stay at it."

For Rolson, his assistant coaches, and players returning from the 2019 state runner-up team, it's been since that nightmare finish in Daytona Beach that the team has been able to gather other than to have some socially distanced conditioning drills over the past several weeks.

There was no spring practice or serious summer workouts to wash the taste of the 21-20 loss to Miami Christopher Columbus out of their psyches.

Then, add to that the fact that everyone has been

dealing with the pandemic, and life is certainly different as the Blue Darters look to what is now their first game, a Thursday, September 17, contest at home against the Ocoee Knights.

Staying healthy is always a key for football players, but now it not only includes healthy knees and ankles, but staying away from COVID-19 or even being around anyone who has it.

This past weekend, OCPS said that football players had to use the LaunchED online program that OCPS is offering either at home or on their campus in a bubble of sorts with other football players. Only players who had been on the face-to-face program will be allowed to stay on campus in the bubble. Players who have been using LaunchED at home must continue to do so.

For teenagers who normally aren't worried about getting sick and love to socialize with their peers, staying apart from their fellow students won't be easy for the football players.

"It's going to test their resolve and it's going to test their maturity," Rolson said. "They're going to have to make decisions to keep themselves healthy and safe."

Being on LaunchED either at school in the bubble or at home could cause havoc for the players' academics.

"We're (coaches) not going to have access to them throughout the day like we might. You've got kids coming into this year who have a 3.0 (GPA) and they're college-bound, and now they're using LaunchED at the house,



Running back Anthony Joseph takes a handoff Monday, August 31, on the first day of practice.

and if they don't have somebody making sure they're doing what they're supposed to be doing, they're going to fall behind. That's my No. 1 concern."

Rolson said he's not as concerned as others that players may not get enough football on film so that college coaches can evaluate their talent level. He's more concerned about them missing out on a scholarship opportunity because their grades suffer due to the online education.

"If you can play, and whether we play or not, (college) coaches recognize that and you'll have an opportunity. But if we lose guys who are scholarship guys because

they did not have the mental toughness and the discipline to handle their business academically online without somebody's thumb on them, that's what concerns me."

The Blue Darters have several returners on both sides of the ball from last year's 12-2 team, Rolson's first year as Apopka High's head coach.

Fans can certainly expect some of the run-oriented offense out of the single wing, but Rolson promises there will be more passing this season, as well as other formations for offensive coordinator Bill Caughell to utilize.

The Blue Darters were allowed to use a football dur-



Apopka head coach Jeff Rolson talks to his players following the Monday, August 31, practice.

ing one week of the summer conditioning drills.

"We've got some wrinkles and we've got some stuff that we like that I think is going to help us, but until you've run it against a defense in pads, you don't really know what the timing situation's going to look like. I feel good about it," Rolson said.

One thing that Apopka fans will notice is that Jaquan Lowman, who played quarterback last season as a junior after lining up strictly as a defensive back during his sophomore season, will play on both sides of the ball this season.

And he'll move from wearing No. 1 to No. 11.

"My thought process is he took one for the team last year and played quarterback for us, and I felt like if he could play DB, he could get some offers, maybe Power 5. I think he could play at those levels. Not having spring ball did not help us, but I'm still planning on playing him as long as he's healthy," Rolson said.

Lowman has made a commitment to Appalachian State as a wide receiver, but could also see some time at defensive back.

At this time, there is no definitive player lined up and ready to go at quarterback

See APOPKA Page 6B

Wekiva looking to continue being among the best teams

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief

The Wekiva High football team is in the best possible situation to prepare for a season of the unexpected.

The Mustangs have progressed from being an afterthought and compiling almost exclusively .500 records into a state power over the past four seasons. Two district championships, a regular-season record of 32-8, and qualification for the FH-SAA's Class 8A postseason tournament consecutively are among the watershed marks achieved over the course of the last four seasons.

The 2020 team will include 17 returning starters.

"Talent is at the level of remaining relatively stable," Wekiva coach Rich Bedesem said. "A significant drop isn't going to occur because one or two classes graduate. There were several players at every general position competing to become the starter last season because the talent of level is high, not lacking. And if unable to win the starting position, the player was good enough to be counted on to make significant contributions. Most players return this season after being good enough to replace the seniors graduating from the 2019 team."

Experience is always an important component of consistent winning. During a season of unexpected circumstances and having to implement new normal, though, the importance of experience becomes even more magnified.

Practices began this week with 17 of last season's starters taking to the field.

"All teams are in the unable to prepare position beyond the basic elementary purposes of fall practice," Bedesem said. "Reacclimate the players to the fundamentals of football, philosophical approach, and schemes, determining strengths and weakness is the extent of what teams can do in two weeks alone. Then protocols limit the extent."

Seventeen starters returning is certainly helpful in any situation. There was only so much time for preseason preparation in any sport even before the pandemic. Less time is needed to progress through the process. However, with the experience possessed, the Mustangs need less time in a situation of limited time.

Quarterback is one of the five positions which the starter needs to be replaced, though. And some good fortune visited Wekiva during the offseason. At least, the first stage of finding a new quarterback was avoided. At 6-foot-1 and 180 pounds, Junior Muratovic transferred from Oak Ridge.

The Mustangs' offense does not fall directly under the umbrella of a specific classification. Elements from multiple offenses are used and incorporated. However, the individual means by which Wekiva attacks remains for the most part direct.

Philosophical approach remains the traditional 50/50 rush-to-pass ratio. And the rushing game sets up the passing game.

Sets are designed for the offense's ability to have positive influence growing out of a strong power rushing game.



Wekiva head coach Rich Bedesem watches as his team practices on Monday, August 31.

Power zones are the favored plays and the quarterback is required to make the reads, including rushing the ball himself from time to time. Counters are also called on a regular basis.

The Mustangs forged above-average success at the power rushing game with Chad Davis and Amari Thomas serving as running backs. Both return for 2020 season.

Returners on the offensive line are Gunter Williams, Tariq Green, J.R. Harshman. Not a starter, but a part of the main rotation last season, P.J. Warren returns as well.

Three or four wide receiver sets are used. With four wide receivers, no tight end or fullback will be used. Play action is an integral part of the traditional philosophical approach and frequently used



A Wekiva wide receiver snags a pass on Monday, August 31, during the first practice.



The Wekiva offense prepares to run through a play.

when passing. The main rotation of calls consists of over-the-top, hitches, and slants.

Harleontai Reed and Asaad Waseem return as the primary wide receivers. The rotation has grown to three with T.K. Purdy's return from

a torn ACL. Only a handful of plays into the 2019 season, the ACL tear occurred.

Lining up as the athlete or wildcat is Jymon Coleman, also a returning starter.

Wekiva's defense employs the 3-4 formation with

two high safeties in an attempt to create the gaps as well as angles through which the offense and ball carriers can be attacked. As a whole, the Mustangs' defense slants.

See WEKIVA Page 6B

Eustis, drug equipment-possess and/or use, drugs- possession of heroin, evidence destroying-tamper with or fabricate physical.

Heather Marie Hall, 44, 31624 Orange St., Sorrento, drugs-possession of heroin, drugs-possession of methamphetamine.

Donna Lee Harvey, 36, 37512 County Rd. 439, Eustis and 202 M.A. Board St.#13, Apopka, larceny-retail theft/shoplifting petit theft second degree third subsequent offense, burglary of conveyance (no parts) unarmed without person inside.

Keith Terrell Hodge, 22, 580 Marden Meadows Dr., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Tommy Lee Jackson, 24, 560 S. Hawthorne Ave., Apopka, battery-touch or strike, conditional release violation-pretrial release conditional violation for domestic violence, kidnapping-false imprisonment of adult, moving traffic violation-drive while license suspended first offense.

Robert Lee Johnson, 46, 14840 49th St. N., Clearwater, fail to appear-failure to appear for felony offense 1705818CF1.

Mary Catherine Liv-

ington, 72, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Cynthia Lorraine Olfson, 51, 547 Drage Dr., Apopka, drug equipment-possess and/or use, drugs-possess controlled substance without prescription includes marijuana over 20 grams.

Destiny Faith Powell, 25, 720 E. 10th St., Apopka, trespassing-fail to property upon order by owner.

Jorge Luis Ruiz Acevedo, 47, 4347 McDonald Gley Rd., Apopka, moving traffic violation-drive with suspended revoked license.

Willie James Samuel, 61, confidential address, Apopka, battery-commit domestic battery by strangulation, battery-touch or strike (domestic battery).

Jeremiah Tavares Stokes, 22, confidential address, Apopka, cruelty toward child abuse without great bodily harm.

Shakeila Latrice Ward, 35, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike (domestic battery).

John Joseph Westcott, 49, 336 Sterling Rose Ct., Apopka, drug equipment-possess and/or use, vehicle theft-grand theft of motor vehicle.



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Where: Darlington Raceway
When: Saturday, 12:30 p.m. (ET)
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2019 Winner: Cole Custer

GANDER RV & OUTDOORS TRUCK SERIES
Race: South Carolina Education Lottery 200
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TV: FS1 **Radio:** MRN
No 2019 Race

NASCAR INSIDER

by RICK MINTER / Andrews McMeel Syndication

William Byron secures playoff berth with first Cup win at Daytona

Saturday night's Coke Zero Sugar 400 showed, at least for one race, that NASCAR's decision to move the final regular race to Daytona International Speedway was a stroke of genius.

Three drivers — Jimmie Johnson, William Byron and Matt DiBenedetto — entered the race battling for the two remaining berths in the 10-race, season-ending run for the Cup Series championship.

The three each entered the race with compelling stories propelling them. Johnson, a seven-time champion and winner of 83 Cup races, is in the final year of his full-time Cup career and was trying to earn one last shot at a record eighth championship.

Byron, working with Johnson's former crew chief, Chad Knaus, was surging after a strong run in the second half of a double-header the week before at Dover, where he struggled mightily in the opening race.

DiBenedetto, who thought he might be

out of a Cup ride in 2019 after losing his job with Leavine Family Racing, had landed in the Wood Brothers' No. 21 Ford, but saw a comfortable cushion in the playoff standings erased by two mediocre finishes at Dover.

To top that off, any driver behind that trio could have joined the playoff field with a victory at Daytona, which added even more drama to Saturday night's race.

For much of Saturday's race, Johnson, Byron and DiBenedetto engaged in a seesaw battle among themselves, with the outcome very much in doubt.

Johnson was the first to falter: After a stirring run that saw him in the lead pack for most of the race, he was swept up in a multi-car crash on Lap 159 of a scheduled 160.

Still, he and his No. 48 crew didn't give up. They patched up his battered racer, and he continued to circle the track.

At that point, some assumed that DiBenedetto and Byron were in the playoffs,

but they ignored the fact that others like Christopher Bell and Chris Buescher were in position to win and take one of the two remaining playoff spots.

That Lap 159 multicar crash set up an overtime finish. Byron took the lead from Denny Hamlin and led the final two circuits to get the win over Chase Elliott, Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr. and Bubba Wallace.

DiBenedetto, with damage from the final crash, crossed the finish line in 12th place to take the final playoff berth by six points over Johnson, who passed five drivers in the final two laps to finish 17th in his badly battered car.

Byron, 22, got the win in his 98th career Cup start. He said there were times during the race that he didn't think things would go his way.

"This was kind of one of those do-or-die situations," Byron said in his winner's interview. "Kind of crossed that fork in the road. We were able to be aggressive and make it happen."

"Really just the final, probably, 10 laps of the race I was on offense, trying to just win the race and take whatever run I could. Luckily, I was able to make the moves that I needed to. Got just enough daylight between the 22 [Joey Logano] and the 43 [Bubba Wallace] to kind of split that gap."

"I pushed the 43 really aggressively up, and he had done a great job to hold onto his car, get us to that place and position. From there, the next restart got a great push from the 14 [Clint Bowyer]. I was fortunate that things worked out to where I had the 9 [Chase Elliott] with me on the last lap, was able to make it work."

Byron agreed with many that the style of racing that occurs at Daytona make it the perfect place to end the regular season and decide the final playoff spots.

"You couldn't have picked a more pressure-packed race," he said. "When you're at a superspeedway, the running order changes every two laps practically. ..."

"You really can't points race, which I think is probably what [NASCAR officials] want. They want us to go for wins, try to compete hard. It was a perfect format for that."

DiBenedetto said that while a 12th-place finish isn't ordinarily something to cel-

ebrate, he was happy to finish there and secure his first playoff appearance, something he once feared might never happen.

"I'm glad we were able to take it home, because I wasn't happy with the finish, but I came in here saying all that mattered was I just wanted to make these playoffs and the finishing position didn't matter too much," he said, adding that having family members on hand at Daytona made the moment of his first playoff appearance even more special.

"My parents are here in the stands. They drove all the way down from North Carolina. My brother in the military, [he] and his girlfriend were able to make it here, so this is really special to make it in the playoffs."

"My career has been one I had to fight, claw, scratch for everything, and it makes me so appreciative. I say the little things, but this is a big one, making the playoffs for the Wood Brothers."

"This is very big, really special."

Johnson, being the class act he's always been, was among the first to congratulate his teammate Byron and his former crew chief Knaus.

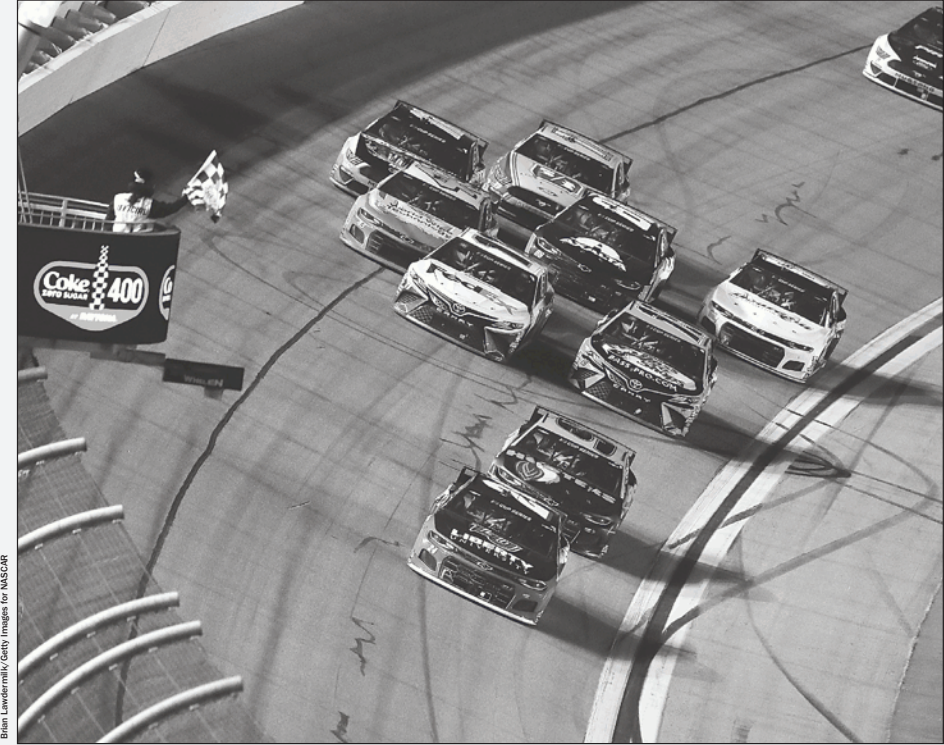
"First and foremost, congratulations to my teammate getting his first Cup win like that," Johnson said. "This setting and the drama to go with it — that's a big win for Chad Knaus and William Byron. I'm really happy for those guys."

"I really felt like we had a way to transfer, to win, or point our way in the way it went in the first two stages. Things just got ugly down in Turn One. Unfortunate, but that's plate racing."

Johnson pointed out that he came within six points of making the playoffs despite being disqualified after finishing second at Charlotte in May, receiving no points, and missing the race at Indianapolis due to a positive COVID-19 test.

"We did all that we could this year," he said. "I'm so thankful for Hendrick Motorsports and the career that I've had there, the relationship with [sponsor] Ally and their continued support for this race team."

"[Crew chief] Cliff Daniels and these guys on my team — they pour their guts out for me. There's 10 races left, 10 trophies to go chase, and we'll have to focus our efforts there."



William Byron in the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet leads the field to the checkered flag at Daytona International Speedway.

Ross Chastain takes out a Kaulig Racing teammate and himself in wild Xfinity finish at Daytona

The drivers and cars fielded by Xfinity Series team owner Matt Kaulig have become a potent force when it comes to racing at Daytona and Talladega — two tracks where engines are restricted, drivers tend to run in large packs, and teamwork on the track is a big part of success.

One of Kaulig's drivers, Ross Chastain, won at Daytona in July 2019, and another, Justin Haley, entered Friday's race at Daytona having won at Talladega in June.

Not surprisingly, the Kaulig team was fast again in the Wawa 250 at Daytona.

But the teamwork that has been the key to the Kaulig team's success went haywire on the final lap as Chastain, running second to his teammate AJ Allmendinger, spun Allmendinger out of the way, collecting himself in the process. That opened the door for Haley to speed past and take the victory.

Allmendinger, who led a race-high 58 laps and won the second stage, was credited with 15th place. Chastain wound up sixth and

offered no apology for his failed attempt to pass his teammate.

"Coming to the checkered [flag], what am I supposed to do? Finish second?" Chastain said. "Not this guy."

Allmendinger, the former Cup regular now running a limited schedule for Kaulig, said he was disappointed, but didn't overtly criticize Chastain.

"It's the way it is," Allmendinger said. "I try to take care of my teammates, but it is what it is, and it was going for the win. Ross is going for the championship and going for the win there."

"I saw him get low and thought maybe he would take care of me a little bit considering I was there. But he's going for the win. It is what it is, and just disappointing because we were going to have another one-two-three Kaulig finish at Daytona."

Haley, in his winner's interview, was asked to comment on his teammates' crash.

"Obviously, just a little delayed reaction,

obviously not intentional," he said, adding that he got lucky after being out of contention for the win prior to his teammates' crash. "I got shucked out and I was a little frustrated, but that's why you never give up. These things are so unpredictable."

Part-time driver Gray Gaulding scored a surprising second-place finish in the No. 07 Chevrolet fielded by journeyman car owner Bobby Dotter. Chase Briscoe finished third, with Riley Herbst fourth after having to start from the rear and serve a pass-through-the-pits penalty for improperly attached ballast on his No. 18 Toyota. Harrison Burton completed the top five.

In the battle for the 12th and final playoff spot, Brandon Brown heads to Darlington with a 32-point lead over Jeremy Clements. Both were involved in a crash at Daytona, but Brown, who finished 26th to Clements' 20th, picked up seven points due to a fourth-place finish in the first stage. Four races remain before the start of the Xfinity playoffs.



AJ Allmendinger was all smiles prior to the start of Friday's Xfinity Series race at Daytona, though his smile was gone at race's end.

NASCAR STANDINGS
1. Kevin Harvick, 2,057
2. Denny Hamlin, 2,047
3. Brad Keselowski, 2,029
4. Joey Logano, 2,022
5. Chase Elliott, 2,020
6. Martin Truex Jr., 2,014
7. Ryan Blaney, 2,013
8. Alex Bowman, 2,009
9. William Byron, 2,007
10. Austin Dillon, 2,005
11. Cole Custer, 2,005
12. Aric Almirola, 2,005
13. Clint Bowyer, 2,004
14. Kyle Busch, 2,003
15. Kurt Busch, 2,001
16. Matt DiBenedetto, 2,000

Sheldon Creed finds Victory Lane at Gateway

With his victory on at World Wide Technology at Gateway on Sunday, Gander RV and Outdoors Truck Series driver Sheldon Creed now has three wins this season and two in the past three races.

Creed's two most recent wins came during the Truck Series' Triple Truck Challenge, and therefore earned him and his team a \$150,000 bonus.

But his big payday came after a move on the track that strained his friendship with fellow driver Todd Gilliland, who led a race-high 75 laps, won the race's first two stages and appeared headed for victory before Creed ran into him and knocked him into the wall.

Gilliland dropped to 24th at the finish, while Creed went on to take the lead from Sam Mayer on a late restart and drove away to vic-

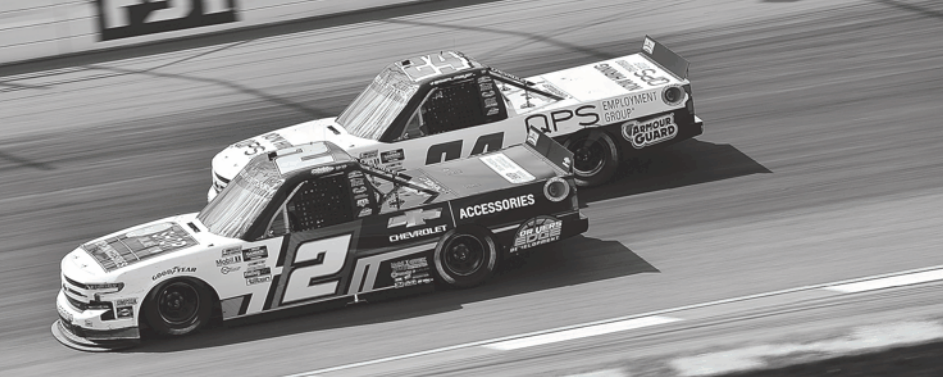
tory. Brett Moffitt took the runner-up spot, with Austin Hill finishing third. Mayer was fourth and Stewart Friesen fifth.

Creed apologized to Gilliland in his winner's interview.

"The [win] feels great but I want to start by apologizing to the 38 [Gilliland]," Creed said. "It's so hard to pass here, and I got down into his inside and just was really loose getting in. He was really close to my door."

"They were having such a good day, and me and Todd are buddies. I hate doing that to him. They are a strong team. He owes me one."

Mayer, who was making his fifth Truck Series start, had his own incident, with Christian Eckes, who spun after contact from Mayer but wound up dropping out of the race due to a broken driveshaft.



Eventual winner Sheldon Creed, in the No. 24 Chevy, races Sam Mayer at World Wide Technology at Gateway on Sunday.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

5 Drivers in the top 10 in Gander RV and Outdoors Truck Series points without a win this year

7 Top-five finishes this season by Austin Hill and Matt Crafton to top all Truck Series drivers

6 Cup wins by Toyota in the past nine races at Darlington Raceway

3 Xfinity Series wins by Ford in the past three races at Darlington Raceway

Kathy King's Barbecue Beef is a super dish for outdoor dining

Kathy King's Barbecue Beef is a super dish for family meals or outdoor dining. Crock Pot meals are simple and beloved by cooks of all levels. This one happens to come from First Presbyterian Church of Apopka's *Treasures and Pleasures*. Thank you, folks!



The "R" months are back. You remember... the months with an "R", when we can safely begin eating oysters again. Thus, we have for your enjoyment, Oyster Stew Herb River from *Savannah Style* cookbook.

We found a family casserole contributed by Helen Donnan in *Pot Pourri* from Food Favorites of Plains, Georgia, made with canned vegetables and mushroom soup. You can add shrimp, chicken, or turkey if you would like to add them for a main course.

Spinach Salad is a favorite for many of our readers. This one is from *Savannah Style* and looks fit for a special occasion.

Boiled peanuts, Cajun-style, is contributed by Holland Farms of Milton in the cookbook titled, *Field to Feast*. Boiled peanuts are enjoyed by many of us here in the South. We just love 'em! But, for some of us from other areas of the nation, it may be an acquired taste. You owe it to yourself to try them. You might just decide you LOVE them as many of us already do.

From our old friends in Plains, Georgia, we have Caron Carter's Apple or Peach Crisp, contributed in *Pot Pourri*. This is a simple recipe that uses fresh fruit. As Caron doesn't state amounts for fruit, we have added our best estimate.

Isabel Beach's Three-Day Coconut Cake is a joyful event all by itself. Isabel is my sister, and this is one of her claims to fame in the kitchen. It is a terrific cake, but you have to leave it alone in the refrigerator for three days to age properly.

That is the hardest part. Use two long widths of plastic wrap to lay on the cake plate, then build the cake up from there with enough wrap to pull up the sides and lay on top to seal over the finished cake.

You pack the coconut up the sides and on top of the cake. The coconut keeps the plastic from sticking.

KATHY KING'S BARBECUE BEEF from 1990 Presbyterian Women First Presbyterian Church of Apopka *Treasures and Pleasures*

3 pounds beef (chuck)
3 green peppers (chopped)
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup chili powder
2 teaspoons Worcestershire
2 cups chopped onion
1 6-ounce can tomato paste
1/4 cup cider vinegar
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon dry mustard

Combine all ingredients in crock-pot. Add 1 cup of water and simmer 3 to 4 hours. Serve on rolls.

OYSTER STEW HERB RIVER Recipe from *Savannah Style, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.*

2 or 3 stalks celery, diced
1 small onion, minced
1/2 cup butter
1 pint oysters
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
Fresh parsley, chopped
1/8 teaspoon mace
1 pint Half-and-Half

Saute celery and onions in butter until soft. Add oysters including liquid. Add salt, pepper, parsley and a little mace. Simmer until oysters curl. Add Half-and-Half. Heat until bubbles form around the edges, but do not boil. Remove from heat and serve.

HELEN DONNAN'S FAMILY CASSEROLE Recipe from Food Favorites of Plains, Georgia *Plains Pot Pourri*

1 can English peas, drained
1 can bean sprouts, drained
2 cans mushroom pieces, drained
1 can water chestnuts, drained and diced
1 can French fried onions
1/2 pound cheddar cheese, grated
1 can mushroom soup

Heat and drain peas. Add bean sprouts, mushroom pieces and water chestnuts. Mix and pour into 9-inch

casserole dish. Heat mushroom soup and pour over mixture. Top with grated cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove from oven; sprinkle French fried onions on top. Return to oven and bake for 15 minutes or until brown.

You can add shrimp, chicken, or turkey and make this a main course. If not, serve with ham, fowl, roast, etc.

SPINACH SALAD Recipe from *Savannah Style, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.*

1 pound fresh spinach, washed and drained
2 apples, peeled and diced
8 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
1/2 cup almonds, slivered and sautéed in bacon grease
2 green onions, sliced

Dressing:
1 cup oil
3 tablespoons sugar
2-2/3 teaspoons dry mustard
5 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
 Blend dressing thoroughly and toss lightly over salad.

HOLLAND FARMS' CAJUN-STYLE BOILED PEANUTS

Recipe from *Field to Feast*

2-1/2 pounds green peanuts
1 small white onion, peeled and cut in half
1 green bell pepper, halved and seeded
2 tablespoons granulated garlic
1 tablespoon red paper flakes
1 tablespoon cayenne pepper
2 to 3 jalapeno peppers, fresh or pickled
2 tablespoons rock salt
2 tablespoons spicy crab boil, such as Tony Chachere's or Zatarain's
1 lemon sliced

Combine peanuts, onion, green pepper, granulated garlic, red pepper flakes, cayenne, jalapenos, rock salt, crab boil, and lemon in a large stock-pot.

Add enough cold water to cover by three inches. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a vigorous simmer.

Simmer for three hours or until peanuts are soft. Cool completely in liquid. Rewarm before serving, if de-

sired.

CARON CARTER'S APPLE OR PEACH CRISP Recipe from Food Favorites of Plains, Georgia *Plains Pot Pourri*

1 stick butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
4 to 6 apples or peaches (this is our estimate as recipe does not state amount)

Mix first three ingredients together to make crust mixture. Slice apples or peaches in bottom of casserole dish. (Add sprinkling of brown sugar to apples.) Sprinkle crust mixture over top of fruit.

Put in 450 degree oven for ten minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and cook 30 minutes more or until fruit is well done and crust is crisp.

ISABEL BEACH'S THREE-DAY COCONUT CAKE

Recipe from Reader of *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter newspapers*

1 cup butter flavor Crisco or Parkay margarine
2 cups sugar
5 eggs
3-1/2 cups White Lily Self-Rising flour, sifted before measure
1 cup milk or coconut milk
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add flour and milk alternately. Pour batter in three 9-inch pans. Line each pan with wax paper. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Cool. Mix filling.

Filling:
2 cups frozen coconut, thawed
2 cups sour cream
2 cups powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla

Split all three cake layers with thread or dental floss.

Put filling in between all layers but not on top. Cake will be about 8 inches tall. Frost the cake with Cool Whip or whipped cream. Sprinkle two cups coconut all over and around the sides of the cake. Refrigerate for three days.

Previous recipes can be found online at www.theapopchief.com/recipes.

9/4/2020: FOOTBALL PRACTICE HAS BEGUN. OTHER SPORTS HAVE ALSO BEGUN PRACTICING.

OCPS - SCHOOLS ARE SET TO RE-OPEN, BUT DECISIONS MUST BE MADE AS TO HOW. Traffic patterns will change. Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those pedestrians... and ducks. DON'T TEXT WHILE DRIVING - Please! YOU WILL PAY A FINE.
Children must be five years old on or before September 1 to start kindergarten. To enter first grade, a child must be six years old on or before September 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten (Florida Statute 1003.21). Immunizations must be current.

Start Times for Elementary School: 9:05-3:20, Middle School: 9:50-4:15, High school: 7:40-2:40

City of Apopka's Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwellie Parkway, Apopka 32712, 407-703-1784. On any given weekend, you can see **many, many families in attendance** at the beautiful complex setting participating in various organized sport programs, Amenities at the complex include: Soccer Fields, Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, Multi-Purpose Fields, Sand Volleyball Courts, Outdoor Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Walking Trail, Amphitheater, Playground, Concession Stands.

11-mile wildlife drive (complete with directional signs) (opened in 2015) on Lake Apopka shores, by entering from Lust Road off Binion Road, about a mile south of Camp Wewa in the Plymouth area, for one-way drive, 10 miles per hour, with possible wildlife spotting stops. **DO NOT FEED THE GATORS - IT MAY CAUSE CLOSING OF THE TRAIL** If you are stopping, drive will take more than 1 hour. Drive runs by canals used in muck-farming days. The one-way drive exits on Jones Road in Zellwood. You will see a freshwater marsh system and wildlife dependent on that type of system. The drive is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and federal holidays and is controlled by the county. Open during daylight hours only (one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset). Official sunrise and sunset hours can be found online. The road is closed on other days due to ongoing restoration work. The trail is 11 miles long..

WEKIWA SPRINGS STATE PARK is a 7,000-acre Florida State Park in Apopka, Florida. It is located 20 minutes north of Orlando, off Interstate 4 at exit 94, near Altamonte Springs and Longwood. The park also contains the head water of the Wekiwa River. Address: 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka 32712, open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call 407-884-4311.

LISTED ARE EVENTS THAT WERE ROUTINELY AVAILABLE.
 CALL FIRST. 407-703-1640

FRAN CARLTON CENTER REMAINS CLOSED until further notice

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

AVIAN RECONDITIONING CENTER, for birds of prey, 323 Lester Rd., Apopka, hours: 9:30-1:30 p.m., The center is open on Saturdays to the public, weather permitting. Call 407-461-1056 for information.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 CITY OFFICES CLOSED LABOR DAY! - TAKE A BREAK!!

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, MONDAYS at 9:00 a.m., at Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Avenue. Call 407-703-1642 for information.
Beginning Racewalking Program: 5:00 p.m. - 5:55 p.m., at the Orange County Parks' Magnolia Park, 2929 Binion Rd., Apopka. The program is for people age 12 and older, and is free. Pre-registration is required by calling 407-886-4231. For park information, visit www.orangecountyparks.net.

Overeaters Anonymous meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 601 S. Highland Avenue. If you have a problem with food - overeating, anorexia, bulimia - there is a solution for you. For more information, visit OA.org or call Laura 407-484-7736.

Toastmasters: Forest Lake Church Room 9, 515 Harley Lester Lane, Apopka, Florida 32703. Time: 7 p.m., Open to everyone interested. For information, call 407-761-2943. Club Number: 4899556, District 84, Area D42. Orators of Excellence.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 Walk and Talk: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., at Magnolia Park. Call 407-886-4231 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, WEDNESDAYS at 8:00 a.m. at Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Avenue. Call 407-703-1642 for information.

USING SOCIAL DISTANCING, MASKS/GLOVES, the Altamonte Springs / ApopkaVFW POST 10147, is NOW OPEN Wednesday and Saturday Mornings from (TIME CHANGE) 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. (other hours by appointment only). Call 407-889-8266, or email info@vfwpost10147.com The VFW Auxiliary has been formed and is active.

City of Apopka DRC (Development Review Committee) meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m.-10 a.m. at City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka.

Check for the online version.

TOPS Chapter #646. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), TOPS, a non-profit organization, will help you reach a weight goal with support from friendly, caring members, education, and rewards. Each Wednesday a.m. - weigh-in begins at 8:45 - meeting ends at 10:30. Come to 9635 Bear Lake Road, Apopka, to meet with others who have a like-minded goal to lose weight. No products, no specific diet to follow, no meds. Call 407-312-7123 for more information.

Cards & Bridge: 9:30 a.m. for SENIORS. Come and join the fun, or bring in some friends and start your own. Call 407-703-1631 for information.

Crafts & Chatter and Board Games, 9:30 a.m. for SENIORS. This is an informal gathering of senior adults who enjoy playing board games, cards or creating projects. Call 407-703-1631 for information.

Tiny Tales - Rhyme Time for You and Baby: At 10:15 a.m., lasts approximately 15 min. every Wed. For infants birth to 18 months, OCLS North Orange Branch.*

Toddler Time: At 10:45 a.m., every Wed., Especially for children ages 18 to 36 months and lasts approximately 20 minutes. OCLS North Orange Branch.*

EARLY BIRD BINGO at Bahia Shrine Center, 3101 E. Semoran Blvd., Doors open at 5 p.m., and the early bird game starts at 6 p.m. For more info, call 407-660-8811.

TOASTMASTERS: (change of day from Monday) Every WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., in the Museum of Apopkans, 122 E 5th St, Apopka, FL 32703. For more information, call 407-765-2629 or visit www.Apopkatostmasters.org.

CITY COUNCIL Meetings are public and will also be broadcast on this shortened link: <https://bit.ly/2ABrmsb>, and are normally held the first Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and **third Wednesday at 7 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. **Subject to change with notice.** For info., call City Clerk 407-703-1704. **Agenda and minutes of meeting can be found online. Once posted, check for any revisions by Tuesday at 5 p.m. before the meeting.**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Walking Club: SENIORS 8:00 a.m. City of Apopka. Will meet at Magnolia Park. Call 407-886-4231 for information.

Chair Exercise Class for seniors, 9 a.m., Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest

Avenue, Apopka. Call 407-703-1784.

ROTARY CLUB OF APOPKA - For information, call 407-415-6588. **Call for updated information on meetings.**

Motorcycle Night: CANCELLED. 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at Porkie's BBQ, 256 E. Main St., Apopka. Used to be every Thursday night featuring drawings, prizes, trophies and just plain showing off. For information, call 407-880-3351

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, FRIDAYS at 8:00 a.m. at Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Avenue. Call 407-703-1642 for information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FARMERS MARKET - NEW DATE FOR OPENING - OCTOBER 1. CDC Coronavirus guidelines will be in place: social distancing, face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. Visitors must wear face masks. The afternoon rains have made October 1 a wiser date to open.

Central Florida Railway Historical Society welcomes the public to a free lecture presented (to be announced). Meetings postponed until future dates. Call 407-760-5827 for information.

SEPTEMBER BREAKFAST TO BE HELD ON THE THIRD SATURDAY: SEPTEMBER 19TH. VFW POST 10147 FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST from 8-10 at 519 S Central Avenue, Apopka.

ONGOING EVENTS

PLANT CLINICS BY TELEPHONE FOR RESIDENTIAL HORTICULTURE. You may call the Plant Clinic from 8-Noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call into the Extension Service Plant Clinic with questions relating to residential landscape problems or care. A Master Gardener Volunteer will be on hand to answer your questions at (407) 254-9200 or visit orange.ifas.ufl.edu/res_hort/.

The **FOLIAGE SERTOMA CLUB** normally meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 11:45-noon, at Beef 'O' Brady's in The Back Room, 1410 Rock Springs Rd., Apopka. Interested community members are encouraged to attend and get acquainted. **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** - coronavirus fallout.

Storybook Fun for Your Little One: At 11:15 a.m. every Wed. Recommended for children ages three to five. The programs are free and last approximately 30 minutes. OCLS North Orange Branch*.

KIWANIS CLUB OF APOPKA meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month for lunch at Caffe Positano, 3030 E Semoran

Bld., Apopka. The 4th Tuesday of the month, Kiwanis meets at Kat's Vine & Tap, 1061 W. Orange Blossom Trail, (Victoria Plaza) Apopka, for a 5:30 p.m. meeting Call Frances at 407-889-7434 for information

COOKIES AND MILK WITH A COP (Storytime, Too") every third Saturday of the month at North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, 11:00 a.m. This event is sponsored by APD and McDonald's located at 233 E. Main St.

BROWN BAG LUNCH - Third Saturday of each month, Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit at the corner of Highland and 6th St., Apopka, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., offer to all who come a brown bag lunch. In addition, men's socks, flip flops, stuffed animals, some clothing, children's books and pet food which is donated by My Pet World, Apopka, may be available. If interested in volunteering, call Debbie at 407-620-5081 for information.

APOPKA FOLIAGE TOASTMASTER'S CLUB, Monday, 7 p.m., Museum of the Apopkans, 122 E. 5th St., Apopka. Guests free. 407-765-2629.

COFFEE WITH A COP is scheduled Sat., from time to time at McDonald's on 233 E. Main Street. Meet with Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley and other officers to discuss matters of concern to you, and enjoy a cop of coffee

NWOC FFA Alumni - Monthly meetings (usually the 4th Monday evening in a month during the school year) are open to anyone. You do not have to have been a member of FFA, nor is it necessary to have a child in an FFA chapter. **All that is required is a desire to help these young people, both for FFA and 4-H.** For information, contact nwocffa@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed - The Debbie Turner Cancer Center needs volunteers to help in the office Monday thru Friday from 10-4. Help for an hour or two would be great. Call Joann at 407-880-2111 or 407-920-2882 cell.

Museum of Apopkans, 122 E 5th Street, Hours open: Tuesday through Friday, 1:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Contains displays and information about Apopka's history, and **has history books for sale.** Monthly meetings of Apopka Historical Society are normally held on a Sunday afternoon. For more information, call 407-703-1707.

The Apopka Elks Lodge 2422 meets first and third Tuesdays of month, 201 W. Orange. For more information, call 407-886-1600 or email apopkaelks@aol.com.

GFWC Apopka Woman's Club, meets at First United Methodist Church, 201 N. Park Avenue. Call 407-880-2111 for

more information.
Foliage Garden Club - meets the first Thursday of each month, at 9:30 a.m., at the Museum of Apopkans, 122 E. 5th St., Apopka, September through June.

Apopka Garden Club - meets the first Tuesday each month at First United Methodist Church, 201 S. Park Ave., September through May. For information, call Kathy 407-886-6970.

City of Apopka Planning & Zoning - usually the second Tuesday of the month. **5:30 p.m.** City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. All meetings open to the public. Subject to change with notice. For info., call David Moon, 407-703-1739.

Bridge Games and Classes: Every Monday and Friday morning at 9:15 a.m., at the Lake County Duplicate Bridge Club, 510 W. Key Ave., Eustis. For more information, call 352-315-9934 or visit lakeduplicate.com.

Computer Classes in both English and Spanish: Available daily or weekly at OCLS North Orange Branch.* Classes are: Computer Basics, Excel, Word Resume Writing, Email for Seniors, ELLIS English Lab, Word, Online Job Searches, Power Point, Internet, Open Lab, How to use a mouse and keyboard, etc. Call OCLS North Orange Branch* for more details.

Habitat Volunteers: Go to www.habitatseminoleapopka.org, click on volunteers. There are a number of opportunities available at the Restores. Call 407-696-5855 or 407-880-8881 to sign up for information.

"Open Heart Kitchen": The Golden Years Senior Ministry of St. Paul AME Church will sponsor a soup kitchen, on the third Monday of every month, from noon-4:00 p.m., at the Church at 1012 S. Park Ave., Apopka. For more information, call 407-889-4464.

***(OCLS) Orange County Public Library North Orange Branch** Address: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. www.ocls.info. To reserve a space, call 407-835-7323.
****Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce,** 180 E. Main St., Apopka. For more info, call 407-886-1441.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR INFORMATION
For community events, fund raisers, and non-profit organizations
Send info: fax 407-889-4121, or email ads@theapopkachief.com
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Wekiva: Mustangs have 4 road games in a row

Continued from page 1B

Blitzing or aggressive line-backers will be a prevalent means of executing that approach.

Cedric Blair, Simeon McKell, and Pierre Warren will line up at defensive line.

Forming the linebacking unit is Luther Johnson, Johnny Chaney, and Kendall Wilson II.

Antwon Johnson is the only defensive back. Safeties positions are fulfilled by Tamareon Foster and Tony Newsome.

Wekiva begins the 2020 season against East River at home on Thursday, September 17.

Other regular-season home contests are against Ocoee (September 25), Edgewater (October 2), and Apopka (November 6).

All four away contests are in succession, against Dr. Phillips (October 9), Jones

(October 16), South Lake (October 22), and Lakeland (October 30).

Victories totaled at least seven for nine of the 10 opponents and five are state-ranked.

Kickoff for all contests is 7 p.m.

District standings and berths based on district standings will not be calculated this season as every team will land a spot in the playoffs and postseason seedings will be determined by a blind draw.

"Before the pandemic started, the coaches spoke to the players about the 2020 schedule," Bedesem said. "The overwhelming desire was to face as many quality opponents which require playing our 'A' game to win as many as possible. This is a team wanting a challenge and the opportunity to prove capable of matching the best's play and even winning. Again, 17 returning starters



Wekiva offensive coordinator Buddy Hurd works with a running back on handoffs.

and several other returners who saw significant time last season return. A lot of opportunity to complete the high school career with strong credentials.

"However, a schedule of state-ranked and the most challenging opponents also provides the opportunity to attract attention from colleges."

Apopka: Blue Darters have several returners

Continued from page 1B

when Lowman is seeing time on defense or if he is injured, but Rolson said there are several candidates he has confidence in.

"We're trying to find a guy who can operate our offense if Lowman goes down. We also could just go to our regular single wing with no quarterback and just pound the ball," Rolson said.

Just a junior after starting as a sophomore early last season until he was lost for the season due to a knee injury suffered against Dr. Phillips, Anthony Joseph will enter his junior season as Apopka's top option at running back, although he'll have plenty of guys he'll be sharing reps with.

Among the others are Javen Robinson, Caleb Hicks, and Keondre Jones.

Anthony Summerlin and Rocky Rudolph will line up at wide receiver, although they'll be supplemented by some of the running backs when the Blue Darters are looking to open up the offense.

Up front, Rolson said, Apopka has some returning starters, but will also have some new guys vying for playing time.

Joshua Campbell and Anquawn Pringle, along with Dyson Hurlburt, re-

turn from last year's squad. Jace Wright and Tai Ray will likely see some time on the offensive line, while sophomore Antonio Ferguson will hold down the tight end spot.

"I feel good about our O-line," Rolson said.

On the defensive side of the ball, Kaven Call and Devin Barnes will return to anchor the defensive line. Joining them up front will be Lorenzo Payne, Troy Lea, Yamin Betancourt, Aarion Canahuat, and Joe Johnson.

"Kaven's big enough to play inside," Rolson said about Call. "We've got some slider guys who can play outside. We'll move them around, maybe play them a little bit like we played Jalen (Carter in 2019) where you don't know where he's going to be each week. Coach (Matt) Anderson does a great job. We've got enough athletes over there that we'll be alright."

The top two linebackers for Apopka will be Josiah Robinson and Travion Barnes, both of whom were starters and significant contributors last season for the Darters.

Curtis Spivey played on both sides of the ball last year, but found a spot on offense after injuries decimated the blocking back position in the single

wing. This year, he's expected to play middle linebacker for the Blue Darters.

Sophomore Dylan Horne and freshman Matthew Campbell will also be looking for playing time at linebacker.

"We've got four guys, maybe five who can play on varsity," Rolson said about his linebackers.

Junior cornerback Nikai Martinez will lead the defensive backfield for the Darters. He begins his third season as a starter.

Senior Jaquan Harris will also be a stalwart back there, while juniors Andre Phillips and Myller Terameau are also penciled in to play serious minutes.

Lowman will move over from his quarterback slot to also play some in the defensive backfield.

Titus Vandiver has decided to concentrate on his choice of joining the Army after high school graduation and will no longer serve as the Blue Darters' placekicker.

Kobie Vasquez, who was able to kick off for Apopka for one game last season, returns for the entire season this year. He and Nick Gonzalez and Andy Kennedy will be the kickers for the Blue Darters.

Rolson said he is still looking for a punter.

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The top three placements in each category will be announced in the "2020 Best of Apopka" publication.

Best of Apopka 2020
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Winners will be announced October 23 & 29 in the **Best of Apopka 2020** publication.

- #1 BANK
- #1 BEST LUNCH
- #1 BEST PRINTING
- #1 BEST OPTICAL