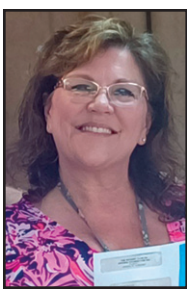


Recharge

Rotary Club of Apopka presents check to speech and debate club
See page 4A.



Sports

Special teams, defense lead Darters to spring-game win
See page 1B.



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Volume 101 Number 22

Friday, June 2, 2023 / 50 cents

Summer Youth Program kicks off

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

At least 14 businesses and 45 youths are participating in the Apopka Youth Works (AYW) Summer Youth Program, which kicked off this week.

The Summer Youth Program, which is for students ages 15 through 19, is a collaboration between CareerSource Central Florida, Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, the city of Apopka, and Apopka Youth Works.

The first week of work training took place this week to include soft skills and interviewing skills for student applicants. The four weeks of employment will begin on June 12.

Now in its sixth year, Apopka Youth Works helps young participants get an understanding of what they'd like to do for a career and see which jobs are to their liking while earning money, according to Mayor Bryan Nelson.

The 45 youths that ap-

plied are entering AYW Experience program starting this week. In this program, they could earn \$15 an hour for a 30-hour week and gain resume-worthy work experience. The Experience program offers a five-week paid internship with the potential to work beyond that period.

According to Stephen Cribb, special project specialist for Apopka Youth Works, students in this track will give them "real-life idea of applying for the job."

The other two AYW programs are Explore and Engage.

In the Explore program, participants can earn up to a \$1,200 incentive, five-weeks getting to know careers, with the opportunity to try out a day-in-the-life in careers and discover college life and financial aid.

In Engage, participants can earn up to a \$1,200 incentive, a five-weeks train-

See YOUTH Page 3A

Memorial Day remembers the fallen



The city of Apopka and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10147 held a Memorial Day service on Monday, May 29, at the Edgewood/Greenwood Cemetery. The ceremony honored the lives and legacy of fallen military heroes at the cemetery's Veterans Memorial (pictured above). One highlight of the event was a gun salute (below). See more photos from the ceremony on page 1C.



Wekiva High School Class of 2023 graduates



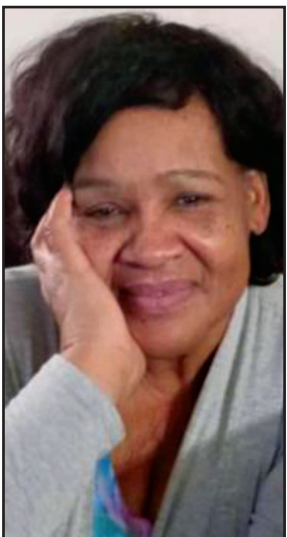
The Wekiva High School Class of 2023 holds its commencement ceremony on Tuesday, May 30, at the University of Central Florida's Addition Financial Arena in Orlando (above). In the top left photo, valedictorian Truc Pham addresses her fellow graduates. In the bottom left picture, Wekiva Principal Dr. Tamara Baker-Drayton presents John Louis Oteni Smith with his diploma.

Police recover missing woman

An elderly Apopka woman with disabilities who had been missing for nearly three weeks was recovered in good health on Monday, May 29, in Orlando, according to police.

Jay Ruth Sheppard, 72, was last seen on May 9 after being discharged from AdventHealth Apopka.

She is diagnosed with dementia, Alzheimer's, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.



Jay Ruth Sheppard

Historical societies host quarterly sharing session

The Zellwood Historical Society, Museum and Library hosted the quarterly Museum Sharing Sessions on Thursday, May 25. There were four local museums represented at the meeting with a total of 14 in attendance.

President Charles Grinnell, Jr. spoke about the Zellwood Historical Society's past activities this year. The society participated in the Eastlake Heritage Festival and Scott's Farms 60th anniversary with agriculture displays, A Night

Out at the Museum, "Charlie on Charlie" with Grinnell Jr. speaking about his father Charles Grinnell, Sr., Zellwood History Harvest Day, and hosting two days of school field trips at the

See MUSEUMS Page 3A

Disaster preparedness items are tax free

The 2023 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, which launched on Saturday, May 27, will end on Friday, June 9.

During the sales tax holiday period, tax is not due on the retail sale of eligible items related to disaster preparedness.

A second Disaster Preparedness Holiday will begin on Saturday, August 26, and

end on Friday, September 8.

In Tax Information Publication (TIP) dated Thursday, May 25, the Florida Department of Revenue lists the eligible items that qualify to not carry a sales tax during the sales tax holiday, as well as eligible

See HOLIDAY Page 4A

This week

Section A

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Graduation 1D

Find Public Notices
Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices OR
FloridaPublicNotices.com



Apopka Event of the Week

At the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, the following class is offered: Bring Your Art to Life with AR (Ages 7-9), Tuesday, June 6, from 2-3 p.m., in the North Orange-Computer Lab. Fill in a magic coloring page and watch the picture come to life. Registration is required.

Quotable

And partnerships with peer utilities provide additional resources to shorten response times and get communities back on their feet faster.

Duke Energy plans ahead for storm damage from hurricanes

Opinion

The Apopka Chief
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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Our position

Hurricane season has begun; prepare for stormy weather

Duke Energy Florida urges customers to plan for active 2023 hurricane season

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – Memorial Day weekend means the unofficial start of summer, which is followed by another summer passage, the beginning of hurricane season, which runs June 1 through Nov. 30.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a hurricane season with 12 to 17 named storms this season. Of those storms, the organization estimates 5 to 9 could become hurricanes with 1 to 4 of those to be a Category 3 or higher with winds of 111 mph or greater.

Duke Energy encourages its customers to prepare for potential hurricanes and other severe storms and to have a plan to protect their family and property during the storm season.

Duke Energy also takes steps to prepare. Throughout the year, the company makes improvements to its electric grid to make it stronger and more resistant to outages from extreme weather and enable faster restoration of power when disruptions occur. Improvements include pole and line upgrades, placing outage-prone lines underground and installing smart, self-healing technology that automatically detects power outages and quickly reroutes power to restore service faster.

In 2022, self-healing technology helped to avoid approximately 513,000 customer outages in Florida, saving more than 3.8 million hours of total lost outage time. Crews also trim trees and remove vegetation year-round that threaten the reliable operation of the electric grid. These measures are particularly beneficial to customers during storms when vegetation is a leading cause of outages.

“We’ve been making upgrades across our system throughout the year to build a stronger and smarter power grid to serve our customers,” said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. “Years of investments in strengthening our grid, along with our year-round training and strong community partnerships, mean we’re ready to respond when and where our cus-

tomers need us.”

Duke Energy has a comprehensive storm response plan built upon decades of experience and improvement. Advanced forecasting and damage modeling processes help the company to place crews, support resources and equipment strategically ahead of a storm to respond quickly as outages occur. And partnerships with peer utilities provide additional resources to shorten response times and get communities back on their feet faster. This collaboration is increasingly important as utilities face storms that are growing in frequency and intensity.

Just as Duke Energy prioritizes the safety of its crews and communities, it also encourages its customers to do the same and have a plan in place in case they experience an extended power outage after severe weather. Below are some recommended safety tips:

Before the storm:

*Create (or update) an emergency supply kit to save valuable time later. The kit should include everything an individual or family would need for at least two weeks, especially medicines, water, non-perishable foods and other supplies that might be hard to find after a storm hits.

*Keep a portable radio or TV or a NOAA weather radio on hand to monitor weather forecasts and important information from state and local officials.

*Charge cellphones, computers and other electronic devices in advance of storms to stay connected to important safety and response information. Consider purchasing portable chargers and make sure they are fully charged as well.

*Maintain a plan to move family members – especially those with special needs – to a safe, alternative location in case an extended power outage occurs or evacuation is required.

During the storm:

*If an outage occurs, disconnect or turn off any nonessential electrical equipment that may start automatically when power is restored to avoid overloading circuits and

BIDEN HITS THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL...



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KIRK

Public programs are supported

The goal of a Community Redevelopment Agency is for a municipality to aggressively apply county resources to a series of public programs which seek to induce or grow the flow of private capital into the area. The funding, required by Florida Statutes, is meant to address a “substantial number of deteriorating structures and blight.” The state defines blight as bad traffic management, insufficient roadway networks, infrastructure deficiencies such as streetlighting, sanitary sewer, stormwater drainage, vacated properties, and high-crime areas.

Being a part-time citizen historian, I can tell you that downtown areas suffered nationally when big

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

box stores came on the scene. They caused many local emporiums and small businesses to go bankrupt. Today, with so much home delivery of goods and services, we are seeing even more shopping centers become blighted. Best practices in the 2020’s include retrofitting inner city shopping centers into much needed multi-family housing or renovated govern-

ment buildings.

Knowing I will be tasked with making the motion to approve or deny a 10-year extension of the Apopka Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) led me to a month-long period of personal research on the subject. I’m still researching thriving small city downtowns and will be touring more cities across the state.

I have four cities in District 2: Ocoee, Apopka, Eatonville, and Orlando. Plus, I’m trying to create a main street for Lockhart. I have a passion for improving downtown areas. I believe character main streets are pivotal for economic

See MOORE Page 7A

Can I claim SS at 65 if I’m working?

Dear Rusty:

I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security. Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time. Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working:

Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy, and you’re very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security pur-

poses is 66 years and 8 months. Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some (or perhaps all) of your benefits. Here’s what will happen if you claim Social Security (SS) to start in August when you are 65:

* Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you’ll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change

thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA).

* If you start your benefits in August you will be subject to an earnings limit - either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren’t entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit.

Social Security will use whichever method

See SECURITY Page 7A

This Week In God’s Word

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”
Exodus 14:14

Mema Says

Your greatness is not what you have, but what you give.

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See DUKE Page 7A

Comfort is one thing to be grateful for, but civil unrest is not

Many times, I have started my articles remembering the years gone by, and I think of my youthful shenanigans as lessons learned, (and forgotten), but I realize that living in the past does not promote today’s efforts for progress, but remembering the past is crucial.

I love the changes made with our comfort in mind but the one thing I miss is the civility practiced between people of yesteryear. Even when people had odds with one another, they practiced self-



Ike Hayden

control, and in most cases, they worked out their schism with mutual respect. We have a generation now that seems to have no respect for anything, or anyone.

How did we get here? It seems to have started with the “Great Society”

brought about by President Lyndon B. Johnson. All at once it became common for the fathers and the men of the house to be absent because then the mother’s and homemakers became eligible for food stamps and all manner of government assistance. Moral correctness fell by the wayside. It became popular to be immoral, illegal, and anti-American. Political correctness, identity politics, radical feminism, moral relativism, postmodernism, social justice, and constructivism are tearing up

and leading to the downfall of our wonderful nation and making us the laughing stocks on the world stage. As a veteran it causes me to shed tears when I think of friends that never came home because they gave their lives for the freedoms we have since seen abused by the haters of America.

I would love to see those that really are in love with this great nation stand up, and regardless of the abuse and ridicule, stand fast. The young Marine on the subway that stopped a dangerous situation and

put himself in harm’s way for the protection of others is now suffering prosecution for doing exactly what he was trained to do. I’m proud of him and his actions.

It is unfortunate that the imbecile he neutralized died, but it was his disregard for others’ lives and their personal safety that set this episode in action. Not so long ago, the Marine would have been given a medal from a grateful city for the heroic stand he took for the protection of others.

Where do we start

if we are going to bring our society back from the brink of complete destruction? Remember, our society is made up of individuals that, like it or not, are on the same spaceship called Earth. It may seem as though there is a lot of space on our spaceship, but there really is no hiding place to get away. Each one of us needs to recognize our responsibility for one another, act like a super-sized family, and start using our GOD-given abili-

See HAYDEN Page 7A

Youth: Program has grown since its 2017 launch

Continued from page 1A

ing for a specific career, build a project portfolio to get gigs, and get out and explore workplaces.

All programs include one-week of work readiness training. Once the students finish the Experience

Track, they will move on to the Engage Track.

"That track is for students that already have an idea of an area they'd like to go in," Cribb said. "That job placement has already taken place so that they can work and be in an area that they're specifically excited

about."

"Then the Explore track is one that is just for those kids that really don't know (what to do) – like I was when I was a high school student, I didn't necessarily know which way I wanted to go," Cribb continued. "(Explore) will give

them experience in many different areas this summer as well as introduce them to some college campuses and just kind of give a little taste of a lot of different things to help them with try along their decision making of deciding which step to take next."

Since Apopka Youth Works launched in 2017, its success has been building.

"Kids love it," Nelson said. "Our last year's keynote speaker was a girl that interned for Coca-Cola, and it's now like, kind of almost managing the whole warehouse, distribution center."

Museums: Groups will meet again this August

Continued from page 1A

museum. The Zellwood Elementary and Hampton Dubose Academy were treated to Zellwood's history.

Zellwood History Harvest Day consisted of photos being brought to the museum for scanning by UCF history professor Dr. Connie Lester and her interns. Pearl Mason, gave an oral history. She was an iconic person in Zellwood.

Docent Deloris Lynch remarked that the children were fascinated to see encyclopedias, and an atlas book, manual typewriter, adding machines, our exhibit of vintage cameras, and an old railroad tie and iron spikes that holds the rails on the tracks.

Maureen Miller of Eastlake Heritage Historical Society spoke about the launch of the book, "Images of America: Sorrento,

Mount Plymouth and East Lake County." One of the features in the book is the restoration of Sunken Gardens that was a feature of the Mount Plymouth Hotel, which is no longer standing.

Lake County Parks and Trails has begun the restoration and preservation process.

Maribel Brinkle, presi-

dent of the Museum of the Apopkans, reported that they are planning a gala to celebrate their 55 years as a museum. They have published a book "Celebrating Legends of Apopka" in honor of Black History Month. The cost is \$10.

Susan Myers of the Mount Dora Historical Society spoke about the first annual walking tour. Presi-

dent Barrett Schwartzman remarked that they gained several new members from the tour. Mount Dora is planning an event to collect and scan photos for a historical photo wall in October.

The next Museum Sharing Sessions meeting will be hosted by Mount Dora in August, date to be determined.

Fri., June 2, 2023 thru Sun., June 4, 2023

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THE LITTLE MERMAID (PG) 3:40

SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG) 9:50A; 11:00A; 12:00; 1:00; 2:30; 3:00; 4:30; 6:00; 7:00; 8:00; 9:30; 10:30

THE BOOGEYMAN (PG-13) 11:10; 1:50; 4:40; 7:20; 10:10

THE LITTLE MERMAID (PG) 10:10A; 11:40A; 1:10; 4:10; 6:40; 7:10; 9:50; 10:20

FAST X (PG-13) 12:20; 4:00; 7:30; 10:40

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 (PG-13) 11:50A; 3:20; 6:50; 10:00

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The Way I See It
Patti Bankson

Who Pays the Piper?

Here's my question about the current state of our country: *How did we get here?* Here being, the unreal costs of daily necessities like food, gas, and housing. That's assuming they're even available, which, as we've seen, isn't necessarily guaranteed. In spite of what we've experienced, to hear this WH, this administration and most members of this party tell it, everything is better. That begs the question, *better than what?* Certainly not better than when they took office.

Okay, so they've been busy ... busy doing things that don't make sense and, contrary to their claims, Have. Not. Made. Things. Better. How is going from energy independence to raiding our oil reserves better? How have higher prices for everything from gas to chicken, cereal and housing made things better?

How does it make things better to literally throw open our borders to any and all who choose to break our laws to enter? Do they have their reasons? Yes. Murderers and thieves have their reasons for what they do, too. But laws don't come with an option to "obey" or "not obey." They exist for a purpose. Sometimes, as we're seeing now, laws are passed for purely political purposes, thus don't necessarily serve a *good* purpose, but we're still required to obey them. Supposedly, it's obey or pay a price. Ironically, sometimes, we're not the ones who disobey laws, yet we end up being the ones who pay the price.

That takes me back to our southern border. It's easy to think that those crossing and the residents and landowners along the

border itself are the only ones who suffer, but that's not the case. According to Border Patrol, it's impossible to estimate how many illegal aliens entered the country undetected, but 34,547 individuals were detected and not apprehended as they continued into the interior. In January, 2022, the average daily apprehension rate of those crossing the border illegally was 4,700, compared to May when more than 7,500 were apprehended per day. Also in May, agents from Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego, California apprehended the highest monthly total of people crossing the border illegally in at least 23 years: 232, 628. The statistics show that 79 illegal immigrants were either found dead, or died, while crossing the border in May alone, while the hotter summer months will cause more deaths. In fact, in one day, May 17, last year, it was reported that border patrol found 2 people dead in the desert in the morning, assumed to have been left behind by a smuggler and a third body was found in the river. (Charlotte Cuthbertson, Epoch Times)

Once the illegals manage to actually be in this country, we know who pays to house, feed, educate and medicate them ... that would be us, American tax payers. And, as an aside, who pays for damages – physical and emotional – done to border properties and residents there? Then - perhaps someone has asked and answered this question and I just missed it - but I wonder how people who live in such poverty in these other countries, manage to come up with the thousands of dollars the human traffickers charge them? And, who foots the bill for the caravans? And, please don't tell me: they just want a better life for themselves and their families.

That's what legal citizens want, too.

What do YOU think?
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“Circle Up” Swap Meet




Sat., June 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Westside Community Church
1937 Lakeville Rd., Apopka
Front Lawn & Drive Circle

Old-fashioned rock swap meet. Come ready to buy or trade. mineral specimens, rough rocks, slabs, cabochons, faceted stones, hand-made jewelry, even tools and equipment. Don’t let the heat stop you, everyone will be set up in the shade.

For info or vendor, call 407-949-1416.
Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society Inc.

Rotary Club presents check



Rotary Club of Apopka supports AHS Speech and Debate Club for an event being held in June. John De-Clue (l) a member of Rotary, is presenting Cathy Brown, sponsor of the AHS Speech and Debate Club, and Samuel Nuebel, a junior who is captain of the debate team with a check to help with expenses for their trip to the NSDA Nationals in Arizona.

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Holiday: Some pet supplies are eligible

Continued from page 1A

common household consumable items (new for this year), and eligible pet evacuation supplies.

Sales tax holidays do not apply to commercial purchases of eligible pet

evacuation supplies; sales within a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment, or airport; or the rental of any of the eligible items listed in TIP.

For more information, visit floridarevenue.com.

Calixte graduates from U. of S. Miss.

Shelove Calixte of Apopka graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) with a master of arts in the teaching of languages, according to a Tuesday, May 23, university news release.

USM awarded undergraduate, graduate and specialist degrees to approxi-

mately 2,017 students graduating in the spring 2023 semester.


USM has campuses in Hattiesburg and Long Beach, teaching and research sites in central and southern Mississippi and offers online programs.



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Apopka police visit city museum, speak with staff

A squad of about 10 officers from the Apopka Police Department visited the Apopka Museum to tour the exhibits and learn more about the city's history and culture.

At the request of Officer Gregory Abrignani, the Apopka Museum, located on East Fifth Street in Apopka, created an early morning event on April 14 to accommodate the schedule of his squad, according to a Tuesday, May 30, statement from the museum.

At 6 a.m., the officers were greeted by the museum president and staff who were themselves eager to learn more about the department's work in the local community. Officers were given a guided tour of the museum's exhibits by museum technician Justin Baker. The tour introduced the officers to the history and culture of Apopka and the surrounding area.

"The tour was such a success that more Police squads have requested to

have a tour of our exhibits throughout the year," Apopka Historical Society President Maribel Brinkle said in the statement. "We are committed to promoting a greater understanding and appreciation of Apopka's cultural heritage, and we believe that partnerships with local organizations like the police department are key to achieving that goal."

The visit was part of the department's ongoing efforts, under the lead-

ership of Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley, to strengthen ties with the local community and build trust and understanding between law enforcement and residents.

The visit to the museum was just one of many community engagement initiatives undertaken by the Apopka Police Department in recent months. From hosting community events and neighborhood patrols to working with lo-

cal schools and businesses, the department is striving to build strong relationships with the people it serves and keep Apopka safe and vibrant.

N.A.O.M.I. Kids will host Family Fun Day June 17

N.A.O.M.I. Kids will have Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kit Land Nelson Park, 10 S. Forest Ave., Apopka. There will be free admission, free parking, free games and vendors.

Famly Fund Day will include bounce house, music, raffle, and celebrity dunking. Guests can check in at the N.A.O.M.I. Kidz welcome booth and get a thank you bag, vendor card, and free raffle ticket. Guests visit each vendor and get their card stamped. The first 100 kids to return the vendor card will get a surprise pack.

Those who are helping to organize

Family Fun Day include members of the Apopka Fire department, members of the Apopka Police Department, Austin's Army, the City Council, Kasheta Farms, Pepsi, N.A.O.M.I. Kids staff and board, and vendors and volunteers.

N.A.O.M.I. Kids aims to support the community to help meet families' needs by providing services such as summer camps. N.A.O.M.I. stands for "Never Alone Overcoming Many Issues."

For more information about the non-profit, visit naomikids.com.



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What Prophets Do

We tend to think of prophets as people who foretell the future, but that is only one aspect of prophecy. If we read the Old Testament carefully, we see that the prophets were wise men and social critics, people who were often called upon by kings to give them advice. The kings didn't always like the advice they received, but the good prophets always gave it straight, without sugar-coating, and in speaking the unvarnished truth to power, often ended up in dire straits. Consider the prophet Micaiah, who advised King

Ahab that he would be defeated by the Syrians, despite all of the other prophets telling him he would be victorious. (1 Kings 22) Micaiah ended up imprisoned for his trouble, and King Ahab ended up killed in battle, with the dogs licking up his blood, as prophesied. Are there prophets today, holy men and women who hear the voice of God and speak truth to power, despite negative consequences? The people in power frequently do not like to be told the truth, but that is what prophets do. Where are the prophets today? –Christopher Simon

Obituaries

MICHAEL DEAN GALLAGHER, 65, of Apopka, Florida passed away on May 20, 2023. Mr. Gallagher was born on October 6, 1957 in Altus, Oklahoma. He passed away surrounded by his loving friends. He will be dearly missed by all of his friends and fishing buddies.

...

OSCAR DOUGLAS HOWARD, 89, of Altamonte Springs, Florida passed away on May 27, 2023. Mr. Howard was born on February 3, 1934 in Bell County, Kentucky. Mr. Howard is preceded in death by his parents John and Sarah Howard; siblings Thelma Howard Asher, Jean Howard Thompson, Mildred Howard Osborne, Betty Howard Mills, JW Howard, and Robert Howard; as well as his grandson's Travis Jon Backus and Robert Douglas Backus. He is survived by his children Shan (Robert) Backus and Robin (Bill) McGaughy; siblings Orville (Helen) Howard and Henry Howard; brother-in-law Tom Mills; grandchildren Britany (Dennis) Harper and Kendahl (Chase) Steele; as well as his great grandchildren Kendrek Josiah Harper and Atleigh Rae Harper.

...

NANCY LAMONTE, age 66, passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2023 at her home in Apopka, Florida surrounded by loved ones. She was born Nancy Jean Nesbit on March 22, 1957, in Ontario, Canada. She was the second of eight children born to Robert and Ann Nesbit. Nancy married Phillip Shaun Flavin in June of 1978, and together they raised their beautiful daughters. Nancy is survived by her children; Julie (Buddy) De la Fuente, Nicole Flavin and Lindsay (Alan) Johnson, brothers; Robert Nesbit, Barton Nesbit, Dean Nesbit, Sisters; Dawn Cole and Karen (Mark) Dakel, five grandchildren; Landon, Karis, Cruz, Cyrus and Zeke and countless nieces and nephews, all of whom brought her great joy and happiness in her life. She was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Ann Nesbit and her two sisters Patricia Rector and Barbara St Pierre.

...

See Obituaries on page 7A

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But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

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Proverbs 14:26

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Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

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Continued from page 2A

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Moore: The city of Apopka created a positive CRA plan in 2017

Continued from page 2A

vitality, private sector redevelopment, quality of life, and community pride.

I researched the original CRA documents from Apopka, Ocoee, and Winter Garden. Unfortunately, the 1994 Apopka document, while aspirational, is lacking a plan, vision, or detail.

I stand by the President Reagan quote, “If you fail to plan, you plan to

fail.”

Fortunately, in 2017, the City of Apopka created a CRA plan. This plan has many aspects and details, which if followed, would result in a successful rebirth of downtown Apopka. One positive development from the written plan has been the repaving of the 6th Street parking lot. Most of us have enjoyed the new establishments and are looking forward to the new murals. I’m also hear-

ing city staff speak of going out for procurement for a new trail and upgraded sidewalks to connect the downtown area to the West Orange Trail. This will be a positive development once completed.

The 2017 plan lists some other positive strategies such as improved infrastructure – directional signage, wayfinding features, and upgraded streetscape. The plan recommends the city adminis-

tration develop an awards program which matches citizen contributions for beautification. Economic development efforts could go a long way to realizing private sector investment.
Business support from the Apopka Chamber could lead to new businesses locating in previously residentially zoned areas. For our restaurants to thrive we need more employees in the area. Also, a historical property recognition

program headed up by the Apopka Historical Society could bring more tourism and interest downtown.
Finally, I am not oblivious to all the rancor and hostility currently circulating through Apopka. It pains me to see folks spending so much time and

energy fighting one another. There is a solution. Get busy doing something positive.
I believe, together, we could positively improve the trajectory of the area and extend ten more years of county funding for downtown Apopka.

Security: Benefit limits do change yearly

Continued from page 2A

yields the smallest penalty.

• Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security’s annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn’t yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) which will increase his benefit when he later claims. DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per

year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA. Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim (vs. claiming at FRA). FYI, average life expectancy for a man your husband’s current age is about 84; for you about 87.

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that – depending on your combined income from all sources – your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year (using your normal IRS tax rate). I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still

working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you (and your husband) now have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your employer (“creditable” is a group plan with at least 20 participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

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Hayden: Treat others as you want to be treated

Continued from page 2A

ties to make this work.

Oh, wait a minute! You mean, I have to put up with that neighbor that plays the radio so loud it rattles my windows? Have you ever tried to be a friend when the radio is off? Have you ever asked him, or her, to turn the radio down? Yeh, but.... We all use the “yeh, but’s” too much and then we find fault because they should have read our minds. Turn it around. I love classical country music, and I like it loud when I’m outside. I keep thinking that if I expose my neighbors to it, they will start to like it too. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

My Mexican-born neighbors on the one side seem to be more in tune with Spanish style music, and my oth-

er neighbors seem to enjoy different genre so, I keep my volume down out of respect for their choices of music. I have come to realize I’m not the reason this planet goes round ‘n round. None of us are the pilots of this craft but all of us have responsibilities, as fellow passengers, to keep our space in tune with all the other passengers’ spaces. If we practiced tolerance and concern for others the way we want to be treated, this ship would sail much smoother, and we would be more aware of those in need of help and those who cannot seem to get it together.

If you think this solution is impossible to accomplish, you may be part of the problem. Something must be done. We are getting close to the breaking point, and it is up to “We the

People” to show the world that self-government can work. If you are one of those that think this nation is down for the count, pack your ditty bag, and take a hike! The United States of America fought two wars on our soil, one was for freedom from a nation led by a monarchy, and the other for freedom from bondage, and to provide equality for every person.

Have we been perfect in all our dealings? Absolutely not, but our constitutional republic is the closest thing you can get to freedom for all, and that starts with civility being exercised by all of us.

Like I stated before, even those that bellyache about the United States of America being so bad, they still stay and enjoy the benefits.

It starts with you and I, NOW!



Oscar Douglas Howard

Oscar Douglas Howard, 89, of Altamonte Springs, Florida passed away on May 27, 2023. Mr. Howard was born on February 27, 1934 in Bell County, Kentucky. Mr. Howard is preceded in death by his parents John and Sarah Howard; siblings Thelma Howard Asher, Jean Howard Thompson, Mildred Howard Osborne, Betty Howard Mills, JW Howard, and Robert Howard; as well as his grandson’s Travis Jon Backus and Robert Douglas Backus. He is survived by his children Shan (Robert) Backus and Robin (Bill) McGaughy; siblings

Orville (Helen) Howard and Henry Howard; brother-in-law Tom Mills; grandchildren Brittany (Dennis) Harper and Kendahl (Chase) Steele; as well as his great grandchildren Kendrek Josiah Harper and Atleigh Rae Harper.

Mr. Howard worked for Orange County Public Schools where he taught at Apopka Memorial Middle School. He also coached basketball and football at Apopka Memorial Middle School. Mr. Howard was a huge Kentucky Wildcats fan, he loved the Lord and his family was everything to him. He will be dearly missed by his many loved ones and friends.
His legacy will live on through us forever.

Nancy LaMonte

Nancy LaMonte, age 66, passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2023 at her home in Apopka, Florida surrounded by loved ones.

She was born Nancy Jean Nesbit on March 22, 1957, in Ontario, Canada. She was the second of eight children born to Robert and Ann Nesbit. She grew up in Michigan and in the summer of 1973, the family moved to Florida where she attended Lyman High School. Nancy married Phillip Shaun Flavin in June of 1978, and together they raised their beautiful daughters.

Nancy loved classic rock, traveling and was a devoted Tampa Bay Buccaneer football fan. She worked several jobs in the field of Optometry and Ophthalmology which included the Florida Eye Clinic in Altamonte Springs. In February of 1999, she married Gary LaMonte.

After moving to Immokalee, Florida, she worked as a cashier for the Seminole Casino Hotel.

Nancy is survived by her children; Julie (Buddy) De la Fuente, Nicole Flavin and Lindsay (Alan) Johnson, brothers; Robert Nesbit, Barton Nesbit, Dean Nesbit, Sisters; Dawn Cole and Karen (Mark) Dakel, five grandchildren; Landon, Karis, Cruz, Cyrus and Zeke and countless nieces and nephews, all of whom brought her great joy and happiness in her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Ann Nesbit and her two sisters Patricia Rector and Barbara St Pierre.

Please send all flowers and condolences to Waldon Funeral & Cremation Services, at 3560 Plymouth Sorrento Rd., Apopka, FL. Memorial service will be held there on Saturday, June 3, 2023 @ 2:00 pm.

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 23, 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 \$25 in Orange County and \$30 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.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator	407-703-1649
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
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1771
Job Line.....	407-703-1743
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 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services.....	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000
Building Dept.....	407-836-8550
County Mayor	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	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser.....	407-836-5044
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	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Maxwell Frost (Dist. 10)	202-225-2176
State Representatives	
Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)	unknown
State Senators	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner	
Christine Moore	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441

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Daycare cuts ribbon



The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of Blue Jay Academy 4 Kidz Tuesday, May 16, at the school's location, 229 E. Fifth St., Apopka. The summer camp opened on Monday, May 29, for a 10-week run until August 4, and the daycare itself opens in August. Tania Rosario (in pink dress) is the daycare director, and Daniel Rosario, her husband (in blue shirt), is the office manager.

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State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX.

State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL.

Foliage Garden Club installs officers



The Foliage Garden Club of Apopka installed officers for 2023-2024 at the May luncheon meeting. Gwen Carter FFGC District VII Director (far left) officiated at the installation. New officers (l-r) are President Pat D'Amico, First Vice Presidents Pamela Smith-Groseclose and Leslie Dempsey (absent), Second Vice President Charlotte White, Treasurer Carol Johns, Corresponding Secretary Jeanne Gorman, and Recording Secretary Ann Mixson.

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Friday - Saturday 11am-10pm

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Apopka, FL 32712

SUDOKU PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 6C

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

Puzzle Solution

		A	M	U		P	A	N		S	S	B	
		R	E	P		A	G	E		A	L	E	
A	M	E	N	D		R	A	M		D	E	R	M
S	A	T	I	A	T	E		E	N	D	E	M	I
P	R	E	S	T	O	S		S	O	L	V	E	N
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A	S	S	I	S	T	S		S	E	S	S	I	O
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D	R	U	M	L	I	N		S	I	E	R	R	A
I	N	S	P	I	R	E		E	N	G	R	A	V
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			R	E	T			S	A	E		N	E
			P	S	T			E	R	N		O	D

The Crossword Puzzle is found
on page 6C

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