

The Zellwood Church of God is celebrating its 100th anniversary this weekend. See page 6A.



Carson May travels to Bonneville to become the youngest person ever to hit 200 mph. See page 1B.



# The Apopka Chief

Your trusted local news source

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Volume 102 Number 31

Friday, August 2, 2024 / 50 cents

## City launches new database to assist property owners

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The city is preparing to launch a new economic development database this month, one that will display available commercial and industrial sites and buildings for sale or lease.

At the Wednesday, July 17, City Council meeting, Michelle Boylan, city economic development director, explained how the new database will assist property owners, developers, property management companies, realtors and brokers.

The sites and buildings database will include centralized information, promotion of local assets, and

facilitation of site selection. The centralized information will feature available sites and buildings' specifications, zoning, infrastructure, and proximity to amenities.

The sites and buildings database is the result of one of Boylan's goals and initiatives for her department's growth.

"One of the items I discussed was an inventory of the assets that we have available, whether that is industrial or commercial land or buildings, and how we're going to get the information out there," Boylan said. "We are currently promoting that infor-

See CITY Page 3A

## Political Hob Nob brings out voters



Hundreds of attendees showed up at the annual Political Hob Nob, where they met up to 25 candidates who are running in the upcoming primary election on Tuesday, August 30. On Tuesday, July 30, the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Political Hob Nob at Highland Manor at the Apopka City Center in Apopka. This event was a special opportunity to speak with the candidates personally and ask them about their positions on the issues. Voters participated in a straw poll which was taken to see which candidates the attendees preferred.

## Former commissioner refutes mayor's quid pro quo allegations

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

Former City Commissioner Kyle Becker refuted allegations that Mayor Bryan Nelson previously made about the former Apopka official arranging a quid

pro quo with a city employee regarding the mayor's censure.

At the July 17 City Council meeting, Becker, who moved to Winter Springs last spring, read his statement that was in response to the June 19 Apop-

ka City Council, where Nelson asked the city commissioners to rescind a censure put on him. That censure was passed by a council majority on August 2, 2023, for lying about the employment status of previous city attorney Michael

Rodriguez.

"There was an outrageous accusation made of me by the mayor as documented and passed in the meeting minutes from the beginning of today's meeting," Becker said at the July 17 meeting.

Becker read a quote from Nelson's statement that the mayor made at the June 19 meeting, Nelson's statement incorrectly using the word "censorship" when the correct word should have been "censure":

"The censorship vote was brought forward by a former City Commissioner for political reasons and had nothing to do with public policy. Prior to the censorship vote, the prior City

See STATEMENT Page 8A

## Christmas in July



The Women's Tuesday Bible Study Group at Sweetwater Baptist Church collected 186 toys for Christmas in July to donate to the Christian food pantry, Loaves & Fishes in Apopka.

## Incumbent Dog Mayor wins 2nd term, raises most money

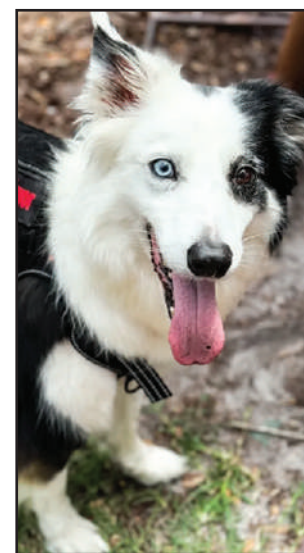
The Apopka community has elected its 2025 Apopka Dog Mayor.

Incumbent Dog Mayor Asher won his second term with the most votes, tallying \$9,945 for The Heartland Haven Foundation.

Asher will now begin his second term as Dog Mayor to promote the Apopka community, advocate on behalf of all animals who call Apopka home, and support the city of Apopka commissioners in their projects.

In addition, as part of

See DOG Page 5A



Asher ... elected 2024 Dog Mayor

## Apopka man pleads guilty to trafficking firearms

On Friday, July 26, United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg announced that Yessen Vasquez Tolentino, 37, of Apopka has pleaded guilty to one count of smuggling goods from the United States. Vasquez Tolentino faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to the plea agreement, Vasquez Tolentino arranged for a freight forwarding company to pick up a refrigerator that he knew contained multiple firearms, firearms parts, and rounds of ammunition concealed inside the refrigerator's main door and freezer

door, and to ship the refrigerator to the Dominican Republic.

The defendant agreed to forfeit the 17 firearms, 33 firearms parts, and over 140 rounds of ammunition that were found inside the refrigerator.

This case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Diane Hu.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all lev-

See PENALTY Page 3A



Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Justice

Some of the firearms that Yessen Vasquez Tolentino, 37, of Apopka agreed to forfeit, which were found inside a refrigerator. Vasquez Tolentino has pleaded guilty to one count of smuggling goods from the U.S. He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

### This week

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Find Public Notices Online at: [TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices](http://TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices) OR [FloridaPublicNotices.com](http://FloridaPublicNotices.com)





**Apopka Event of the Week**

Zellwood Church of God, 5213 King Ave., Zellwood, will celebrate its 100th year on Saturday, August 3, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., with free food, DJ music, games and prizes, and also a bounce house and water slide for the children. See page 6A.

**Quotable**

Unless the insurance market is stabilized, the high rates could push some residents to leave Florida.

Center Square's opinion about high insurance rates

# Opinion

## The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

**Publisher**  
John Ricketson  
**Consultant Emeritus**  
John Peery  
Mar. 28 1956 - Oct. 12, 2023

**Reporters**  
Teresa Sargeant  
Marshall Tempest  
Neal Fisher

**Marketing Director**  
Jackie Trefcer  
**General Mgr Emeritus**  
Neoma Knox  
Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

### Our position

## Sunshine State property owners face increased rates

By Andrew Powell

The Center Square contributor—

A new report shows that insurance rates for property owners in the Sunshine State have increased exponentially over the past few years.

Florida TaxWatch released an in-depth analysis of Florida's property insurance market, examining underlying factors contributing to its instability and 42.5 percent rise since 2019. These include damages from hurricanes and litigation, which have put pressure on insurers and forced some to leave the state.

According to the report, Florida's property insurance market is fragile and reliant on state-run insurers as a backstop for homeowners who have no other options. Despite being a last-resort insurer, the Florida Citizens Property Insurance Company insures at least 17 percent of the state's property insurance market and is also the most expensive.

The report notes that the rising enrollment in Citizens is "alarming" because if funds are exhausted to pay claims, state law requires assessments to be levied, which can then be passed on to every policyholder, including private policyholders, homeowners, renters, automobile, and pet insurance.

According to a 2021 report from Florida TaxWatch, approximately 70 percent of Floridians live in coastal counties and

are at risk of chronic flood damage. The report points out that as sea levels rise, more properties are put at risk. This equates to around 64,000 homes, with an estimated value of \$26 billion, at risk of severe flooding.

Florida TaxWatch estimates that by 2100, over 1 million homes will be at risk and this increased risk will, in turn, increase property insurance rates even further. Unless the insurance market is stabilized, the high rates could push some residents to leave Florida.

Florida outdoes every other state in insurance costs, accounting for 10.8 percent of all premium costs in the U.S. According to the report, premiums vary between counties, ranging from \$1,824 in Sumter County to \$8,162 in Monroe County.

Since 2019, the Legislature has passed a series of reforms in an effort to combat insurance fraud and ease the burden on insurers. The report notes that legislative efforts are beginning to show promise. However, it also advises that lawmakers remain vigilant to prevent the market from spiraling and work to enhance resiliency.

Florida TaxWatch recommends that Florida limit its reliance on Citizens by depopulating the number of policies it holds and encouraging new private insurance companies to enter the state.



## Chamber establishes scholarship fund

In honor of John Ricketson, a prominent community business leader and publisher for *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter* newspapers for more than 45 years, the Apopka Serves Foundation 501(c)(3) is proud to introduce the John Ricketson Career Education Scholarship Fund.

This scholarship aims to support local students with a focus on budding leaders in business, entrepreneurship, and technical careers.

John Ricketson was a dedicated supporter of business leaders and DECA in high schools for many years. John's commitment to education and belief in the potential of young leaders inspired many.

John's own journey was influenced by a teacher from a DECA chapter who

convinced him to come back and finish high school when he dropped out to help his family after his father had suffered a heart attack. John's personal experience underscores the importance of mentorship, education, and the guidance of business leaders in shaping the future for students.

DECA Inc., a nonprofit career and technical student organization, played a pivotal role in John's educational and professional development. It is with this spirit of mentorship and empowerment that the Apopka Serves Foundation has formed the John Ricketson Career Education Scholarship Fund seeking to provide opportunities for students to pursue their aspirations in business, entrepreneurship, and technical fields.

Through the generosity and support of the community, the Apopka Serves Foundation is dedicated to keeping John (JR) Ricketson's legacy of service and community alive for years to come.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests tax-deductible donations be made to:

\*ApopkaFoundation.org "Donate";  
\*or by check mailed to Apopka Serves Foundation c/o John Ricketson Scholarship, 10 N. Park Avenue, Ste B, Apopka, FL 32703;  
\*or Synovus Bank, Apopka Serves Foundation, 130 S. Park Ave., Apopka, FL 32703, Routing #061100606, Account #1017120427.

To learn more or to donate online, go to ApopkaFoundation.org.

## Schools notified of earned grades

It's that time of year again. School grades were released last week by the Florida Department of Education and I am very pleased with our local results.

The big news is that OPCS received an "A" grade from the state. The last time our district was an "A" was in 2019 and prior to that was 2010. Only twenty-two districts received this high mark out of the sixty-seven school districts in Florida.

This district grade is the direct result of the data driven decisions of Superintendent Maria Vazquez and the hard work of our

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

teachers and staff. We are truly blessed to live in an area with such great local public schools.

The number of "A" schools in OPCS continues to rise with 88 traditional schools earning an "A" in 2023-24 compared to 77 last year. The percent

of schools earning an "A" or "B" grade this year increased to 69 percent, compared to 62 percent the year before. This is higher than the state average of 64 percent this year. No schools in OPCS received an "F" grade.

I'm so incredibly proud of not only our district and the direction it is headed, but of our local schools here in Apopka as well. We saw some big improvements that deserve a shout out.

First, I would like to congratulate both Wolf Lake Middle School and

See BYRD Page 4A

### Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

Send, bring or email your signed letters of approximately 250 words to the Editor,

The Apopka Chief

400 N. Park Ave., Apopka 32712

For info: 407-886-2777 Fax: 407-889-4121

Email: news@theapopkachief.com

Submit your letter online at theapopkachief.com

### This Week In God's Word

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4

### Mema Says

Failure is a prison of choice.

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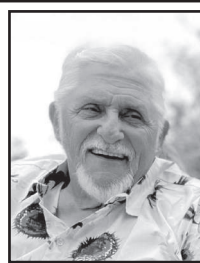


## The secret: never give up, but 'buckle down', do it, do it, do it

Editor's Note:

This is a reprint from a previous issue.

The older I get, the more understanding I have about my lack of knowledge. It was told to me, "The older you get the more wisdom you gain." Somewhere I must have lost my way, as I do not feel any wiser, just older! I am not complaining though, it beats the alternative. Some of my youthful exuberance has led me into many learning experiences that almost have to be learned by



Ike Hayden

"hands on."

I tell my children that a college degree costs a lot of money, and although we learn a lot faster through the school of hard knocks, the cost requires flesh more than money. Some-

times wisdom is evident by the scars that are carried by a person, and yet there are times when scars are there because the lesson was not fully learned the first time. The secret is, never stop trying. When the trial gets so hard you cannot see your way out, I like the advice given by Tom T. Hall. He said, "Knuckle down, buckle down, do it, do it, do it!" Remember the Grand Canyon started because of a small stream that persevered.

Our nation is in tur-

moil, and it seems that every effort we make toward sanity seems futile. When I compare what we are experiencing today with what our Constitution guarantees us as citizens of the greatest nation of the world, I see a vast discrepancy.

For instance, the preamble of our Constitution states: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the

general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Our "more perfect Union" is to be established by "We the People." That means all of us, not a chosen few. That Union is to be formed for the securing of the rights given to us by our Creator; not given by the Union. The government today is dictating to us what rights we have, not defending them. This

administration has taken away or distorted our rights to the point our nation almost resembles a Socialist/Marxist regime. Our "common defense" is slowly being bastardized by making it a social experiment, not a fighting, protecting military.

Our police forces are being made to second guess every move they make to the detriment of their life or limb. They have been ridiculed, harassed by those

See HAYDEN Page 4A



# City: Database form is now available through city e-newsletter

Continued from page 1A

mation through the Orlando Economic Partnership, which is the regional partner. But I think it's also important for us to advertise that ourselves and to put out there specifically Apopka sites, not just be blended in with the other communities that OEP represents."

The database would also highlight the Community Redevelopment Agency District, a 633-acre section located downtown that has a mix of residen-

es, businesses and historic properties.

To gather information on the properties to feature on the database, Boylan collaborated with the city's media team to create a property solicitation form. The city also wants to do a social media campaign surrounding the database and advertise it on the city website, Boylan said.

City Commissioner Diane Velazquez praised Boylan for marketing the city's available properties to interested parties.

"We discussed that, that when we're driving through the (state roads) 429 and the 451, a lot of our residents see the warehouses and for some they see it as we are losing all this green space," Velazquez said. "But for some of us, we look at it as progress. We look at it as revenue and businesses and jobs for Apopka. So, the best way is to realize what you are doing and, and I really thank you for marketing us, and that's a good thing."

City Commissioner Nick

Nesta pointed out that many agents, brokers, and developers may not be as proactive in submitting their property information to the city database. Therefore, he suggested, the city could cull information from the Orange County Property Appraiser to fill the database and later, agents, brokers, and developers interested in filling in their lease data may add to the information.

City Commissioner Nadia Anderson asked about potential liability with the city regarding

the database's accuracy. City attorney Cliff Shepard said that the database needs to have appropriate disclaimers.

"That's what I thought. So, if we can add that disclaimer, I think that'll kind of alleviate potential lawsuits. But I think great job, and I'm looking forward to seeing it," Anderson replied.

The property solicitation form is now available through the city e-newsletter through the web link [shorturl.at/bBwBP](http://shorturl.at/bBwBP).

## Penalty: Case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods

Continued from page 1A

els of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make neighborhoods safer for everyone.

On May 26, 2021, the department launched a violent crime reduction strat-

egy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in local communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.

Tell them you saw it in  
The Apopka Chief

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# Report indicates that Florida's growing population needs more physicians

**By: Andrew Powell**  
(The Center Square) —  
A new report says many people in Florida don't receive needed health care because they lack easy access to adequate services. Florida TaxWatch recently released its report, Social Determinants of Health: Health Care Access and Quality. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, social determinants of health are environmental factors

that can impact individuals' health outcomes. These include health care access and quality; education access and quality; social and community context; neighborhood and built environment; and economic stability. According to the report, these factors can majorly impact a person's health, well-being and quality of life. The report notes that 80 percent of a person's health is determined by social factors,

while the remaining 20 percent results from receiving medical care. In Florida, many people lack access to health care services, with the biggest barrier being the cost. In a 2019 survey of 1,200 Floridians, 55 percent had experienced health care cost burdens, while 78 percent worried they would not be able to afford health care in the future. The report states Florida ranked 41st in 2021 for

overall health care and access, which was attributed to the growing number of uninsured adults, rising insurance costs and policies that make health care less accessible. The report further notes that Florida has consistently ranked in the bottom 10 states for uninsured citizens. Florida currently has a physician shortage and the report notes this plays a role in access to quality health care. With Florida's popu-

lation growing, especially in rural areas, the number of physicians in the Sunshine State is insufficient. By 2030, an additional 22,000 physicians are needed to bridge the gap. The report notes that as of 2023, only 40 percent of Florida's population has employer-sponsored health insurance, while the rate of uninsured Floridians was 11.2 percent in 2022 — higher than the national average of 8 percent. Also, in 2022,

Florida ranked 46th in the nation for the uninsured population. Compounding this are the 979,000 people who have been disenrolled from Medicaid, 460,000 of whom are children. Furthermore, access depends on where the person lives. In rural areas, there are roughly 1.3 physicians for every 1,000 people available in the U.S., while urban areas have around 3.1 physicians for every 1,000 people.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

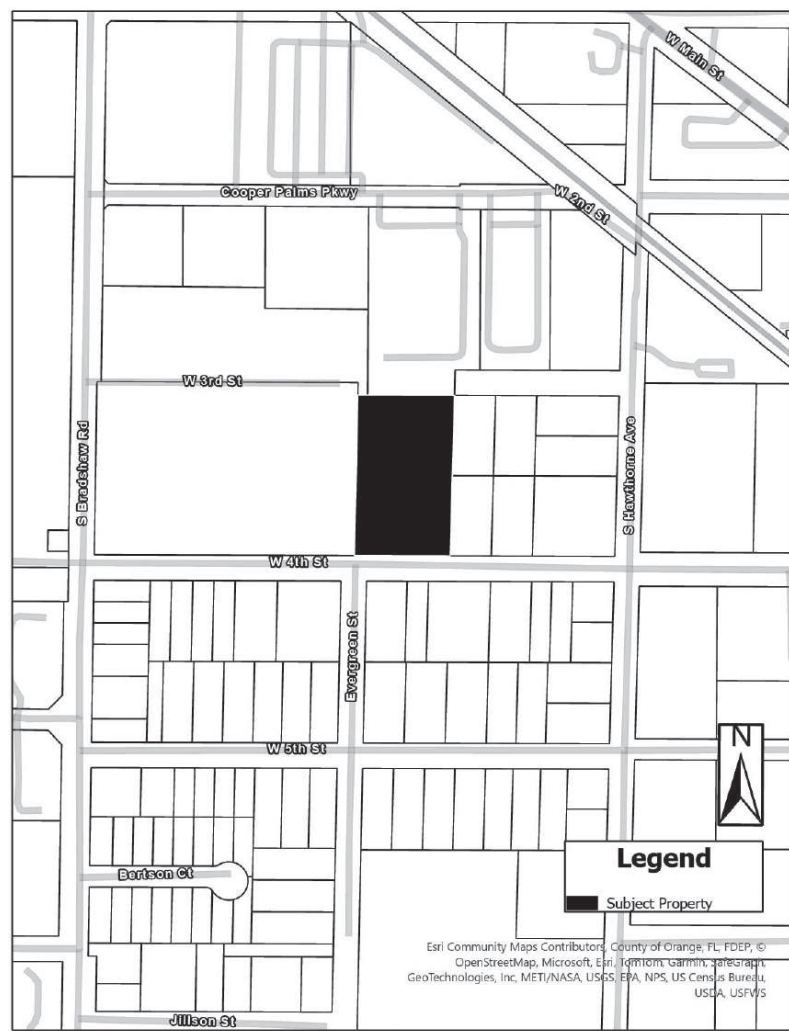
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Albert Iglesias** has made application relating to the following described property.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3058

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY LOW MEDIUM TO INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE; COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3059

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY R-2 (RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE; COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 09-21-28-0868-01-510  
Contains: 1.97 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3058 and 3059 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M. AND Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 1:30 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

August 2, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177168

## Byrd: School grades have improved

Continued from page 2A

Zellwood Elementary School on achieving an "A" grade this year. Both schools worked incredibly hard to bring their grades up to this level. This is the first time Wolf Lake Middle School has been an "A" school since 2010.

For Zellwood Elementary, this grade has not been achieved since 2004! More impressive is their rise from a "D" grade in 2016, consistently improving since that grade all the way to the top with an "A" this year.

Of course, these are not our only "A" schools in Apopka. Wolf Lake Elementary kept up its consistent "A" rating again this year and our newest school Kelly Park School received its second "A" grade since opening two years ago.

But "A" grades are not the only thing to celebrate. Lakeville Elementary went up from a "C" grade to a "B" grade this year. This is the first time Lakeville has been a "B" since 2015. I'm so proud of their hard work and dedication to improvement.

Another school worth mentioning is Apopka High School, which continues to improve. The school came in with a "B" again, continuing to improve since dropping to a "C" in 2022. In fact, they were

only 5 percentage points away from an "A".

Other close calls were Piedmont Lakes Middle School and Apopka Middle School. Both schools remained a "C", yet made significant gains and are very close to achieving their "B" grades. Piedmont Lakes was 4 percentage points away and Apopka Middle was only 1 percentage point away. I'm incredibly proud of the hard work by both these schools.

While I always love celebrating these results, I will always continue to profess that a single letter grade does not tell the whole story. Every single day in every one of our schools, there are amazing things happening.

Our schools help children make connections and learn despite the challenges many of our students come to school with each day. Each time I visit one of our local schools I am amazed at what I see. The creativity and passion of our educators and staff is truly miraculous.

As a school board member and a mom who has raised two children through our public schools, I am grateful. Grateful for those that go to work each day to educate our next generation so well.

Congratulations to all our schools on another year of hard work.

## Hayden: When tested, stand strong

Continued from page 2A

who have an ideology that does away with police presence. Our policemen and all first responders need to know we support them, and we do not want to live in a community without them. I was pleasantly surprised to see an individual jump in to help protect an Officer of the Law when she was being over-powered by a criminal.

Where are the men that used to be the protectors of justice? Have we given up the privilege of being the daddy (a little girl's first love, and a boy's first hero), the provider, the family unit, and the example of leadership for daily living?

It is time to promote the general Welfare by standing up to those who will disparage our police and our first responders and therefore we will insure domestic tranquility. Let all of us be lovers of

the "Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity." Love is not the tingling that comes from an emotional encounter, but a solid, unconditional commitment that is a choice we make. Once made, that commitment may waiver, but never fails.

Are our emotions involved with our commitment? Ask me when I see "Old Glory" being raised to the "Star Spangled Banner" and the tears start when I think of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of what that banner stands for. Is our love of nation being tried? You bet it is!

Look at today's headlines and listen to the news-casts that promote progressive ideals and wok attitudes to bring our nation to its knees. We must be ready to stand in the gap and not back down when we are faced with the forces of the left.

The Marine motto, "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful), should be the beat of our hearts. Our national motto, "In GOD we trust" should sustain us when we feel we cannot do this by ourselves. As I said in the beginning, it is not the "flash in the pan" that makes a difference, but the one who, when being tested, holds his or her head up and stands solid in the freedoms given to us by our Creator.

Keep on keepin' on. Start with your neighbors. Let them know you are concerned for them and you are willing to defend them and your neighborhood because we are all in this boat together. Race has nothing to do with it if we stand together as Americans, blessed to be together in the greatest nation the world has ever experienced, the United States of America.

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## ALL ABOUT APOPKA

### The Apopka Chief

Established 1923  
(USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$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.theapokachief.com](http://www.theapokachief.com), [news@theapokachief.com](mailto:news@theapokachief.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
Police Chief.....	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1771
Job Line.....	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance.....	407-703-1731
Utility Billing.....	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. <a href="http://www.apopka.net">www.apopka.net</a>	

#### 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
<a href="http://www.orangecountyfl.net">www.orangecountyfl.net</a>	

#### Other Area Numbers of Note

<b>U.S. Senators</b>	
Rick Scott (Rep.).....	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
<b>U.S. Representative</b>	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11).....	352-241-9220
<b>State Representatives</b>	
Doug Bankson.....	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....	unknown
<b>State Senators</b>	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11).....	407-297-2045
<b>Orange County Commissioner</b>	
Christine Moore.....	407-836-7350
<b>Orange County Public Schools</b>	
Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
The Apopka Chief.....	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441



# Dog: Election raised over \$22K

Continued from page 1A

his second term, Dog Mayor Asher has created the "Paw It Forward" Fund with a goal of \$5,000 to continue raising money for animal rescues. Donations for the "Paw It Forward" Fund can be made by visiting <https://shorturl.at/jMocT>

The Apopka Dog Mayor program is a Main Street Apopka program that was established in 2023. Last year's inaugural election raised more than \$19,800 in \$1 donation votes for five animal rescues throughout Central Florida.

This year's election raised \$22,832 for four animal rescues.

In this year's race, Joy came in second place and raised \$7,238 for All Hound Rescue of Florida.

Walter came in third place and raised \$3,046 for The C.A.R.E. Foundation.

Hank came in fourth place and raised \$906 for Suncoast Basset Rescue.

Throughout their six-week campaign, each candidate chose and advocated

for a local animal rescue. Proceeds from all votes and sponsorships collected were donated back to each respective charity.

For more information about the Apopka Dog Mayor 2024 program, visit [apokkadogmayor.com](http://apokkadogmayor.com).

SEWER, I TOLD YOU TO STOP DOING YOUR BUSINESS IN THE LIVING ROOM!

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**3D SHOWINGS**

**DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (R)** 10:30A; 1:50; 3:40; 5:10; 8:30

**DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (R)** 10:00A; 11:20A; 12:20; 1:20; 2:40; 4:40; 6:00; 7:00; 8:00; 9:20; 10:20

**TWISTERS (PG-13)** 10:10A; 1:00; 4:10; 7:30; 10:10

**TRAP (PG-13)** 10:20A; 1:10; 4:20; 7:20; 10:30

**DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG)** 10:40A; 1:30; 4:00; 6:50; 9:30

**HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYONS (PG)** 11:10A; 2:00; 4:30; 7:10; 9:50

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SUDOKU ANSWERS: PAGE 7A

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Elisabeth Duer PA-C  
Kristen Consiglio PA-C  
Roshani Levister PA-C

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# Zellwood Church of God celebrates its 100th year on August 3 and 4

The Zellwood Church of God will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a celebration all weekend.

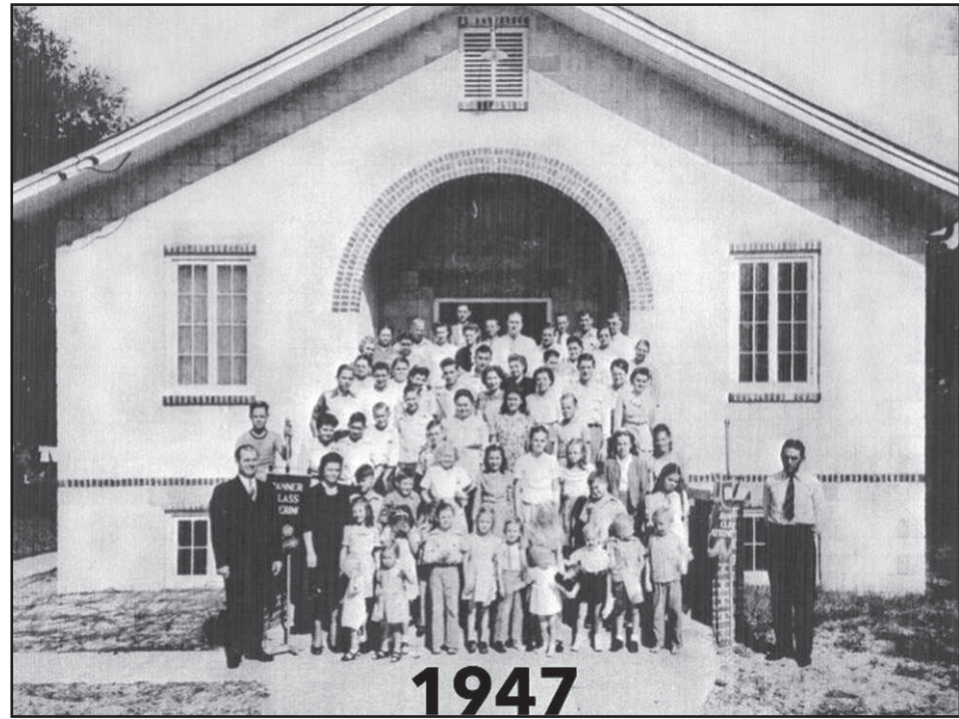
First, a 100th anniversary celebration will take place on Saturday, August 3, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. There will be free food, DJ music, games and prizes, and a bounce house and water slide for the children. The Zellwood Church of God is located at 5213 King Ave., Zellwood.

The two-day event will then culminate on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. with a morning service. Special guest speaker will be Bishop Stanley Holder, the newly appointed State Overseer of the Florida Church of God, and his wife Dr. Teresa Holder. There will be no Sunday School this Sunday only.

The Zellwood Church of God was established on August 3, 1924.

The 100-year-old Zellwood Church of God in 1947 and as it appears in its 100th year.

Photo courtesy of Zellwood Church of God



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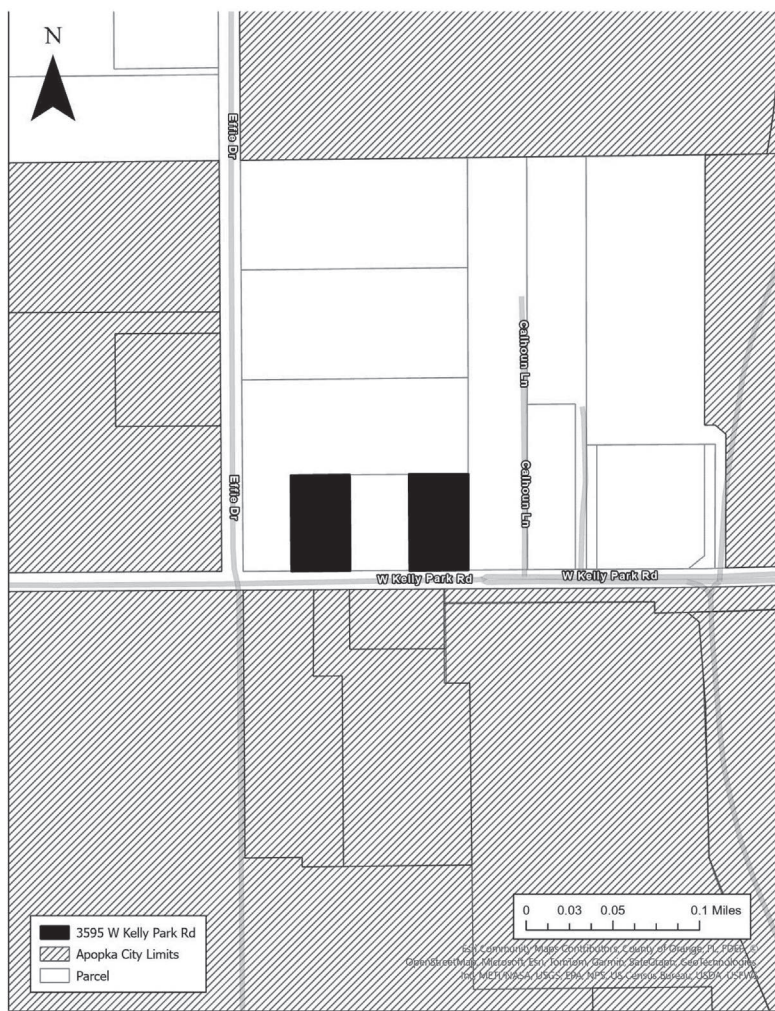
See salesperson for details.  
 1551 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL  
 www.MullinaxFordFL.com • 407-972-1678

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **Jesse Anderson** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located at 3595 W Kelly Park Road and 3611 W Kelly Park Road. This application relates to the following described property:

**ORDINANCE NO. 3069**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY EFFIE ROAD HOLDINGS LLC; LOCATED AT 3595 W KELLY PARK ROAD AND 3611 W KELLY PARK ROAD, COMPRISING 2.32 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 12-20-27-0000-00-018, 12-20-27-0000-00-016  
 Contains: 2.32 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for **Ordinance No. 3069** will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, August 7, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** AND **Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

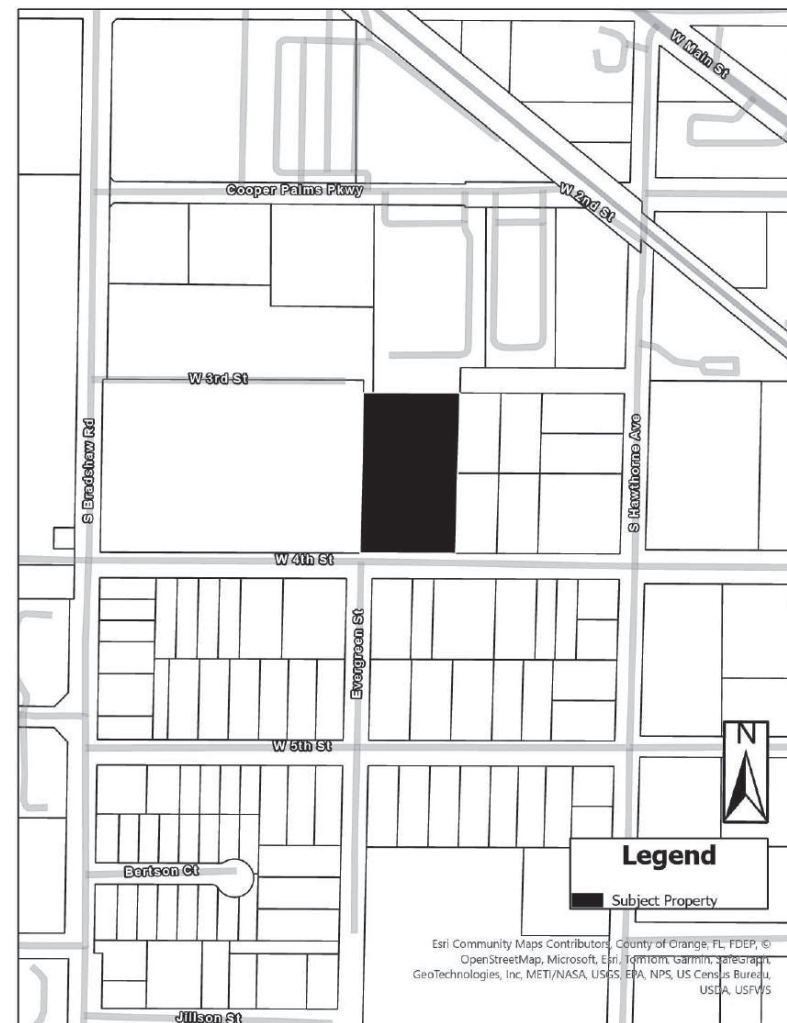
Apopka City Council  
 Apopka Planning Commission  
 Community Development Department

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **ALBERT IGLESIAS** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located north of Fourth Street, east of Bradshaw Road and west of Hawthorne Avenue. This application relates to the following described property:

**ORDINANCE NO. 3057**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE; COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 09-21-28-0868-01-510  
 Contains: 1.97 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for **Ordinance No. 3057** will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, August 7, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council  
 Apopka Planning Commission  
 Community Development Department



## Vision Car Wash has grand opening



Vision Car Wash celebrated its grand opening on Friday, May 31, with city officials, members of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, and community members. The celebration included a ribbon cutting and a tour of the car wash. Vision Car Wash is located at 355 W. Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka.

## Need to send or receive a FAX?

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**SUDOKU ANSWERS**  
PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 5A

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

**Puzzle Solution**

H	A	E	T		O	C	C	U	L	T						
A	B	B	R	E	V	I	A	T	I	O	N					
S	O	L	I	D	E	R		A	C	R	O	S	S			
	S	A	M	A	R			E	E	R	I	E	R			
					M	S	B			C	O	C	O			
						T	A	M	E	S		O	N	C	E	
						I	A	S	C	A	B		S	O	S	
						S	T	P		T	L	C				
S	S	T		M	E	E	D			A	D					
T	E	E	S		S	A	H	I	B							
A	U	B	E							D	I	M				
T	S	E	T	S	E					L	A	B	E	L		
		S	T	A	L	L	S			M	I	N	A	R	E	T
				L	A	B	O	R	A	T	O	R	I	E	S	
					P	A	P	A	C	Y		D	E	S	K	

**The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 10A**

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# Statement: 'I want to see the evidence,' Becker tells mayor

Continued from page 1A

Commissioner asked a city employee to meet him at a restaurant near his place of business. During the meeting, the City Employee was told that if I (Nelson) would not run for another term as

Mayor, the Commissioner would drop the censorship vote. The City Employee has agreed to swear under oath and/or take a lie detector test to prove that this meeting actually happened."

"His accusation that I

made a quid pro quo type of offer to a city employee is a complete fabrication and not supported by any ounce of evidence. Said differently, it's what normal individuals would call a lie," Becker said after quoting Nelson's statement. "I would like to call out and have you pay close attention to his words. He said the city employee has quoted, and again, quote, 'agreed to swear under oath or take a lie detector test to prove that the meeting actually happened.' End quote. What the mayor did not say was the employee would swear under oath or take a lie detector test to prove that the quid pro quo request that the mayor has accused me of saying.

"To that end, hold the cost of the lie detector test. As I freely admit, I had lunch with a few city employees at restaurants around my office in Maitland during my time of service, all within the limitations of our city charter. However, there was only one employee I had lunch with during the period leading up to the cen-

sure proceedings, and that was Mr. Glen Brooks on July 19th, 2023. To claim as the mayor did that I was the one to ask the employee to the restaurant flies in the face of his 'Facts are a funny thing' mantra. The real fact is that Mr. Brooks texted me, to which I actually have evidence. I've got the text messages that I can provide and furnish to the clerk. On July 12th, 2023, at 2:13 p.m. with the following message: 'You available tomorrow or Friday for lunch? Question. I can come towards your work if that would be better.' End quote.

"The lunch itself was at Applebee's on Southhall Lane in Maitland, down from my office, and I would have a tough time believing that Mr. Brooks could or would (A) claim that I made that quid pro quo request the mayor is accusing me of saying, or (B) say that the primary intention for the meeting was anything other than discussing Mr. Brooks' funding priorities for water expenditures and the public services budget being dis-

cussed in city budget workshops the following week from that lunch.

"All said, this is yet another pathetic – and I say pathetic, bolded, period, underlined, capital – anything that I can say is, it's a pathetic example of this mayor falsely disparaging my name in a public hearing with zero evidence to support this claim. This from a person who, at every turn, has the audacity to say I'm the one playing politics. Apopka, you deserve better – and I'm going to look right into the camera – you deserve better. You should demand better and more importantly, you should vote for better."

Becker wrapped up his four-minute speaking time by asking the mayor for evidence to back up his quid pro quo claims: "I want you to name the employee that you said in your comments the last meeting that apparently said that I made these accusations because I had already filed to say that I was not running for reelection. And why didn't you bring it up during the

censure vote a year ago or over, almost a year ago? Thank you."

In 2023, Becker announced his decision to not run for re-election on the City Council.

Last April, he resigned as city commissioner of Seat 3 and vice mayor, citing the sale of his Apopka home and moving out of the city as the reason. As such, he missed what would have been his last City Council meeting on April 17.

Nadia Anderson was elected as Becker's successor in Seat 3 against rival Darryl Richardson in the March 19 City Council election. She and Nick Nesta, the Seat 4 incumbent who won his second term against challenger Eric Mock, took their oath of office on April 30.

On June 19, the City Council voted 3-2 to reimburse Nelson's attorney fees amounting to \$1,527.50 related to an ethics complaint filed against him, but regarding rescinding of the censure put on Nelson in 2023, the City Council allowed the vote to die on the floor.

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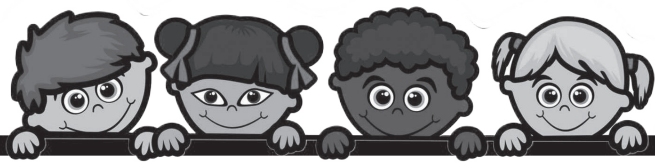
fic hazards; be sufficiently agile to move swiftly to avoid danger; be able to comprehend and communicate fluently in verbal and written English; be legally eligible to work in the United States, be at least 18 years of age, and have a clean criminal history (any arrest history will be individually evaluated).

To view job postings and/or to ap-

ply online, visit the school crossing guard unit on the website at [www.ocso.com](http://www.ocso.com), or call 407-836-4082.

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# Obituaries

**CHARLENE R. CECIL**, 88, of Zellwood, passed away on July 16, 2024. Mrs. Cecil was born on September 15, 1935 in North Adams, Massachusetts. Mrs. Cecil is preceded in death by: children, Randy Dean Cecil, Sandra Cecil, and Dori Cecil. She is survived by: husband, Ralph Cecil; son, Bart Cecil; as well as 9 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

**BERTON RONALD CARRIER (BERT)**, 73, passed away on July 21, 2024. He was born on May 12, 1951, in Bogalusa, LA. Berton was preceded in death by: parents, Elbert and Vera Carrier; brother, Kenneth Carrier; He is survived by: brother, Arthur Gene Carrier; wife, Cheryl (Tynes) Carrier; son, Justin Carrier (wife, Charlotte); daughters; Leah Beth Carrier and Allison (Rhodes) Westover (husband, Shayne); four grandchildren.

**BREANA NICOLE UPCHURCH**, 29, passed away on July 22, 2024. She was born in Longwood, on October 27, 1994. She is survived by: great-grandmothers, Francis Upchurch, and Lenora Ferguson; grandparents Betty and Danny Oliver, Fran and Roy Rimmer; father, John Upchurch; mother, Stacy Upchurch; sisters, Amanda Cleveland, Rachel, and Autumn; one brother-in-law; one nephew; one aunt; four cousins.



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## Johnnie E Ricketson

3/5/40-7/16/24

There will be a celebration of life for JR, as he was known, at **The Victory Church, 509 S. Park Ave., on Saturday, August 3, at 11 a.m.** **We know he is at peace in his heavenly home.**

## A Plea For Modesty

Having come of age in the 1970s—an era of “free love” and radical disinhibition—I am not easily shocked, nor particularly prudish. But last summer at the beach was a bit surprising, if not shocking.

I was amazed at how revealing many women’s bathing suits were; I’ve since learned that these are “thong bikinis.” Having thought that thongs were a type of underwear it seemed to me that women are now going about in their underwear. And yes, they’ve been doing this for a while (the “bra and blazer” outfit dates to at least the 1990s).

Areas of our bodies which previously were kept hidden (and still are in some societies) are now displayed without shame. We have seemingly arrived at a point in time where the distinction

between high fashion and semi-nudity are difficult to discern.

There is a reason why one of the first stories in the Bible is of Adam and Eve discovering their nakedness and seeking to cover it up. Innocent babes need not cover their nakedness (perhaps harking back to the primeval time in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve were unashamedly naked), but as we grow up and develop “secondary sexual characteristics” perhaps we should keep certain parts covered.

Ask yourself: would you wear this to church? Of course, the beach and church call for different styles of dress, and yet even the beach could use a bit more modesty.

— Christopher Simon

See **Obituaries on page 10A**



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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

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Matthew 5:16

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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

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## A Plea For Modesty

(See message above.)

“Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.” Revelation 16:15 NIV



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

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*Breana Nicole Upchurch*

Breana Nicole Upchurch was born in Longwood, Florida on October 27th, 1994 raised in Apopka where she attended and graduated from Apopka High School in 2013. She was a proud member of the FFA and Apopka wranglers 4-H. She attended Seminole State College where she earned her associate's degree in science and also her EMT and paramedic degree. Breana worked at SeaWorld of Orlando as a paramedic and was a proud Christian and member at Pine Lakes Baptist in Eustis, Florida.



In March of 2023 she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. On July 22nd 2024 after a 2-year battle, she passed with her family and close friend by her side.

She is survived by her father John Upchurch mother

*Be different. Be nice. I promise it will change your life.*

er Stacy Upchurch sisters, Amanda Cleveland, Rachel and Autumn of church brother-in-law Sean Cleveland nephew John Thomas Cleveland. Grandparents Betty and Danny Oliver, Fran and Roy Rimmer great-grandmothers Francis Upchurch Lenora Ferguson of Ohio Aunt Tracy Honeycutt cousin Courtney Taylor, Peyton Honeycutt cousins Charles Miller and Justin Manning.

**For this life we have been blessed. I could die today. Give thanks and praise.**

# Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday will run through August 11

The Florida Department of Education, along with the Department of Revenue, highlighted the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday, which started Monday, July 29 and extends through Sunday, August 11. The sales tax holiday allows Florida families to save money on essential items students need for the upcoming school year.

"Students can achieve remarkable things when provided with the right tools for success," said Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz,

Jr. "Thanks to Governor DeSantis and the Legislature, Florida continues its promise of helping parents purchase school supplies for the coming school year. I encourage all families to take advantage of this great opportunity to save money."

"The Back to School Sales Tax Holiday is an excellent way for Florida families to save money on the supplies students need for a successful school year," said Jim Zingale, executive director of the Florida Department of Revenue. "Information about

qualifying items is available on the Department of Revenue's website at [floridarevenue.com/backtoschool](http://floridarevenue.com/backtoschool)."

There will be a second Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday during the spring semester of the school year to help families replenish their student's school supplies.

For more information and to view the lists of qualifying items, visit the Department of Revenue's Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday website at [floridarevenue.com/backtoschool](http://floridarevenue.com/backtoschool).

## Two workers hurt in scaffolding collapse

Two Orange County contract workers were injured as a result of a partial scaffolding collapse during ongoing repair work.

The scaffolding collapse occurred at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, at the pedestri-

an bridge connected to the West Orange Trail in Apopka, according to the Apopka Fire Department.

The injured workers were promptly assessed by on-site crews and subsequently transported to the hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

"We are relieved to report that no other injuries were sustained, and all other workers at the site were accounted for and are safe. The cause of the collapse is currently under investigation," according to a state-

ment released by the Apopka Fire Department. "We will continue to monitor the situation and provide assistance as needed. Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available."

## Joseph Anthony Migliori

Joseph Anthony Migliori, known affectionately as Joe, passed away on July 3, 2024, at the age of 87, in Tavares, Florida. Born on March 1, 1937, in Woodville, Ohio, Joe was a star athlete and a pillar of strength in his community.

Joe's passion for sports was evident from his youth in Woodville, Ohio, where he excelled as a star athlete. His talent earned him a baseball scholarship to Wisconsin University in 1956. He completed his college career at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. After college, he continued to engage in athletics by playing semi-professional football for the Toledo Tornadoes. Joe dedicated over 30 years to educating young minds as a Physical Education teacher in both Ohio and Lake County,

Florida, a career that reflected his love for sports and commitment to youth development.

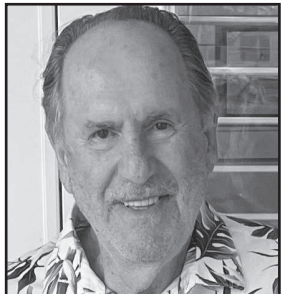
Aside from his professional life, Joe was a devout member of St Patrick's Catholic Church in Mt. Dora, Florida. His faith was an important aspect of his life, providing him with strength and guidance.

Joe's personal life was filled with joy and love. He was a loving husband to Rosalie Migliori and a father to Greg Migliori, Amy Hardesty, Jamie June, Sue Miller, and Todd Migliori. He was also blessed with 14 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren who brought him immense happiness. Sadly, he was preceded in death by his son, Greg Migliori.

A man of many interests, Joe cherished the moments spent attending his children and grand-

children's sporting events across central Florida, cheering them on and providing constant support. All five of Joe's children played sports at Apopka High School.

The Migliori family has entrusted Harden Funeral Home in Mt. Dora, Florida, with the arrangements. Joe's life and legacy was celebrated and remembered by his family, friends and all who know him. His commitment to his family, faith and community leaves a lasting imprint that will not be forgotten.



## Berton Ronald Carrier (Bert)

May 12, 1951 - July 21, 2024

Berton Ronald Carrier (Bert), beloved husband, father, grandfather, and esteemed member of the community, passed away on July 21, 2024, at the age of 73. Born on May 12, 1951, in Bogalusa, LA, Bert passed peacefully with his family by his side in his home in Apopka, FL.

Bert had a zest for life that was evident in his favorite hobbies, which included golfing (far too often!), travel, and passionately rooting for LSU football, his alma mater where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in 1982. He loved nothing more than cheering on his beloved LSU Tigers during football season, and occasionally yelling at them through the TV. The only thing Bert passionately hated was onions and garlic, a fact that anyone who knew him was bound to know.

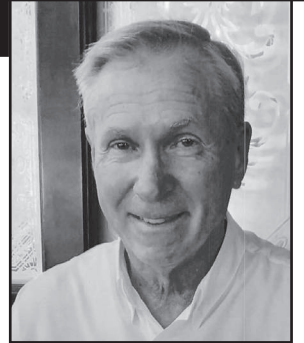
Throughout his life, Bert's career showcased his varied gifts and talents. He served as an Investigator for the Washington Parish Sheriff's Office, was a Radio DJ in Bogalusa and had a long and successful career in sales. Bert retired after nearly 30 years of dedicated service to SC Johnson (Johnson Diversey) as

a senior executive in the retail business.

Bert had a strong commitment to family and community. He dedicated over a decade of his life as a member and Chairman of the Orange County School Board, serving from 1992 to 2004, where he played a vital role in shaping the education system in his community. He also served as a director for the Florida Hospital Foundation - Apopka, further displaying his unwavering commitment to serving others and giving back to his community. Bert believed in treating each person with the same dignity and respect, asking little of others, giving much to others and loving unconditionally.

Bert was an active member of his church, First Baptist Sweetwater, where he made many of his longest friendships and touched the lives of even more. Whether giving of his time as a Sunday School teacher or serving as a Deacon, Bert left his mark on those he met and worshiped with each week.

Berton was preceded in death by his parents, Elbert and Vera Carrier, and his younger brother Kenneth Carrier. He is



survived by his older brother, Arthur Gene Carrier, his loving wife, Cheryl (Tynes) Carrier, his son, Justin Carrier (wife, Charlotte) and their children Andrew and Caroline, his daughters, Leah Beth Carrier and Allison (Rhodes) Westover (husband, Shayne) and their children Kelsey (Tyler) and Parker (Ashley).

Bert will be remembered for his dedication to his family, community, and his unwavering love for LSU football. He will be deeply missed by all those whose lives he touched. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Memorial services will take place at First Baptist Sweetwater, in Longwood, Florida, on Saturday, August 10th at 2 PM with visitation prior to the service at 1 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dementia Society of America or the American Diabetes Association.

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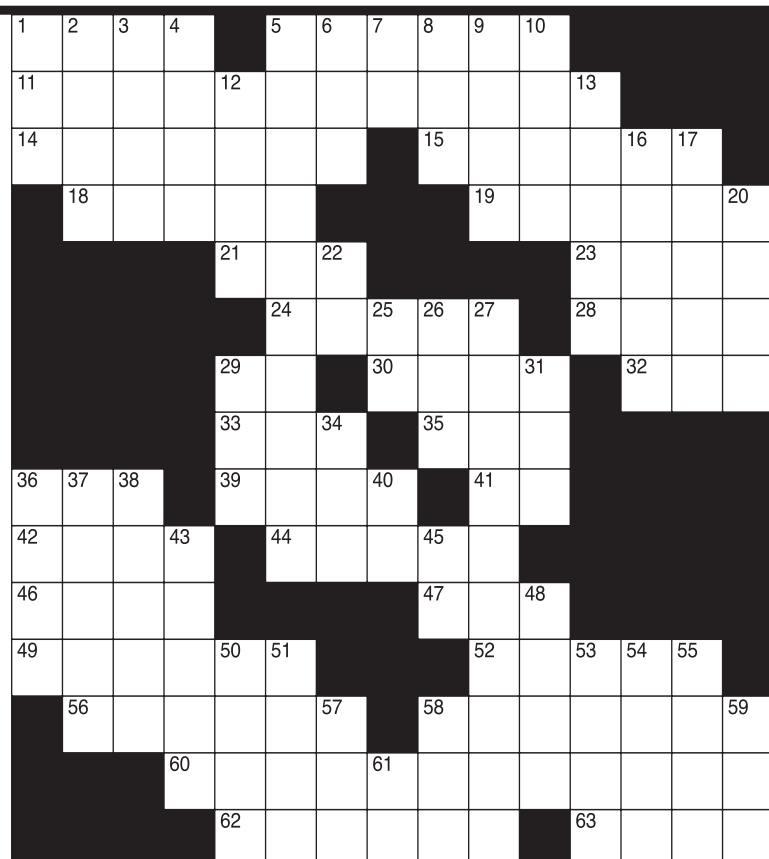
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. A minute amount (British)
5. Mystical or magical
11. Shortening
14. More satisfying
15. Other side
18. Philippine island
19. More unnatural
21. Mutual savings bank
23. Famed designer Chanel
24. Makes less wild
28. At some prior time
29. The cops who investigate the cops
30. Immune system response
32. Distress signal
33. Engine additive
35. "No Scrubs" trio
36. Very fast airplane
39. A reward (archaic)
41. Commercial
42. Spots where golfers start
44. Polite form of address (Indian)
46. French river
47. Reduce the light
49. Famed designer Chanel
52. A way to categorize
56. Procrastinates
58. Tall slender tower
60. Where researchers work
62. Office of the Pope
63. Office furnishing

### CLUES DOWN

1. Possesses
2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery
3. Ancient Syrian city
4. Clip
5. In a way, misleads
6. Human gene
7. The Golden State (abbr.)
8. Lizard genus
9. Parasites that invade the skin
10. Took apart
12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
13. S. California town
16. Suffix plural
17. Painting technique
20. Small Eurasian deer
22. Mr. T character
25. Microsoft
26. Shock therapy
27. Able to be sold
29. A doctrine
31. These three follow A
34. Pulse
36. Quantitative fact
37. Doctor \_ : children's book author
38. Hebrew calendar month
40. Designated hitter
43. Northern Poland village
45. A passport is one form
48. Hand (Spanish)
50. Hit with the open hand
51. Actor Idris
53. Shakespeare's nickname "The \_"
54. Northern U.S. lake
55. Marvin and Horsley are two
57. Soak
58. Partner to cheese
59. Expression of disappointment
61. College dorm employee



Solutions can be found on page 7A of this newspaper.



# Orange County Public School earned 'A' grade from state

The Florida Department of Education announced on Wednesday, July 24, the release of the 2023-24 School and District Grades. Overall, Orange County Public Schools earned an "A" grade.

Key highlights include:

- The number of "A" traditional schools in OPCS continues to rise with 88 traditional schools earning an "A" in 2023-24 compared to 77 in 2022-23. The percentage of traditional schools earning an "A" increased to 43 percent, up from 38 percent in 2022-23.

- The percentage of traditional schools earning an "A" or "B" this year increased to 69 percent, compared to 62 percent in 2022-23.

- No schools in OPCS received a school grade of F.

"I'm so proud of the work by our students,

teachers, principals, administrators, support staff and parents. It is truly a combined effort," said Superintendent Maria Vazquez. "While a single letter grade does not tell the whole story of our schools or school district, we are very pleased with the gains. We are committed to student success

and making data-driven decisions. This year's progress monitoring assessments allowed that to happen in a way that benefited our students. Congratulations, to the fabulous OPCS team on a job well done!"

The Florida State Board of Education approved a new school and

district grading scale July 24, 2024. The results demonstrate that the district remained the same or increased in all seven components included in the 2022-23 baseline grades and improved all learning gains components that were last reported in the 2021-22 district grades.

# FDOT to host public meeting on repaving S.R. 436 section

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold a public meeting regarding project plans on State Road (S.R.) 436 (East Semoran Boulevard) from U.S. 441 (South Orange Blossom Trail) to the Seminole County line in Apopka on Thursday, August 8, at 5:30 p.m.

The purpose of this project is to repave this section of S.R. 436 to rehabilitate the asphalt and maintain a safe and reliable roadway surface.

The FDOT is offering multiple ways for the community to participate in the meeting. All participants, regardless of platform they choose, will participate

in the same live meeting.

FDOT encourages community involvement and is offering this public meeting in a hybrid format to provide more ways to participate. All attendees, regardless of which platform they choose, will receive the same information.

Public participation is solicited; persons wishing to express their concerns relative to FDOT compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting Melissa McKinney, FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator, at melissa.mckinney@dot.state.fl.us.

Persons who require accommodations under the Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Carolyn Fitzwilliam at 386-943-5215 or carolyn.fitzwilliam@dot.state.fl.us at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Anyone who is hearing or speech impaired may contact FDOT by using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice).

### In-person open house option

Participants may attend in person by going Fran Carlton Recreation Center, 11 North Forest Ave., Apopka, anytime between 5:30-7 p.m. to view a looping presentation and project dis-

plays, speak with project team members, and submit comments or questions.

If attending in person, please remember to follow all safety and sanitation guidelines. Anyone who feels unwell should consider attending the meeting virtually.

### Virtual option

Interested persons may join over the internet from a computer, tablet or mobile device at 5:30 p.m. For this option, advance registration is required by visiting bit.ly/3UFP6Rr.

Once registered, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about

joining the meeting online.

If using a mobile device, use the GoToWebinar app to be able to view the presentation and submit comments. If joining online, please allow adequate time to log in to view the presentation in its entirety.

Those who cannot attend the meeting may view all meeting materials, including the presentation, and provide comment through the project website at cflroads.com/project/450640-1. People may also contact FDOT Project Manager Randy Turner directly by phone at 386-943-5207 or email at randall.turner@dot.state.fl.us.

# Green Tomato Pie recipe is different from the 'usual' fruit pie

Rio Grande Pork Roast is shared with us by Loraine Wright through *Pot-Pourri of Zellwood's* publication put out by the Zellwood Community Center.



Our friend Susan Nethercote gave us a copy of her family memories named *The Jones-Morris Family Treasury*. Therein, we find Nancy Mahusay's recipe for Mrs. Olson's Sloppy Joe Mix.

We have Marvin Woods' Macaroni Salad recipe. This recipe makes 6 servings, enough for most family meals. He says, "Most macaroni is tube-shaped, but there are other forms including shells, twists, and ribbons. Elbows are, of course, the favorite. Beware, most macaroni doubles in size during cooking. This is one of the celebrated salads of the South. Whether it is an indoor or an outdoor function, you will usually see a few different versions of this salad. I also like to add flaked crabmeat or fresh tuna to this basic recipe. Other ingredients to think about using are ham, boiled eggs, sausage, and tomatoes."

Marvin says about his Marv Spice (Savory), "I use this spice mixture in my Macaroni and Cheese as well as in fish, chicken, and meat dishes that I feel can use a touch of inspiration." The recipe for Marv's spice is below.

Mrs. Harrison Smith shares a different slant on biscuits with her Crisp Cheese Biscuits. She leaves with us this caution: "Don't let them get too brown." We found this recipe in *Plains Pot Pourri*, shared with us by our friends in Plains, Georgia.

Green Tomato Pie comes from *Treasures and Pleasures*. This is a recipe from Betty Land, a dear lady and great friend of ours who is "gone, but not forgotten."

From *Charleston Receipts*, which is America's oldest Junior League Cook in print (1950), we have Huckleberry Pie from Mrs. Thomas Legare, Jr. You need 3-1/2 cups fresh berries or canned, large lemon, butter, and a little cream, along with the usual suspects in making pie! They don't actually list the pie crust ingredients. You may use

premade pie crust if you like.

**LORAIN WRIGHT'S RIO GRANDE PORK ROAST**  
Recipe from  
*POT-POURRI OF ZELLWOOD*  
THE ZELLWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

- 4-5 pound boneless rolled pork loin roast
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder – twice
- 1/2 cup apple jelly
- 1/2 cup catsup
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 cup crushed corn chips

1) Place pork, fat side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. 2) Combine the salt, garlic salt and the first 1/2 teaspoon chili powder, and rub into roast. 3) Roast in 325-degree oven for 2 to 2-1/2 hours or if you use a meat thermometer, until it registers 165 degrees. 4) In small saucepan, combine jelly, catsup, vinegar, and the remaining chili powder. 5) Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 2-3 minutes. 6) Brush roast with glaze. 7) Sprinkle top with crushed corn chips. 8) Continue roasting for 15 minutes more or until thermometer registers 170 degrees. 9) Remove roast from oven. Let stand 10 minutes. 10) Measure pan drippings, including any chips. Add water to make 1 cup. 11) Heat to boiling and pass around with meat.

**MRS. OLSON'S SLOPPY JOE MIX**  
Recipe from

The Jones-Morris Family Treasury

- 1-1/2 pounds ground chuck
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/3 cup minced onion
- 1/3 cup minced celery
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 cup hot water

Mix all ingredients together. Cook gently 30-40 minutes. Serve on rolls, bread, rice or potato.

**MACARONI SALAD**

*The New Low-Country Cooking*  
by Marvin Woods

**1-1/2 pounds elbow macaroni, cooked according to package directions, drained, and cooled**

- 1/2 cup sweet pickle relish
- 1/2 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Marv Spice (Savory) (see below)
- 1/2 teaspoon celery salt
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Place the macaroni in a large bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and stir gently to combine. Add the remaining ingredients and stir gently to combine. Taste and check the seasoning, adding salt and pepper if needed. Because of the mayonnaise, I serve this salad chilled. It can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for 7 to 10 days.

**MARV SPICE (SAVORY)**

*The New Low-Country Cooking*  
by Marvin Woods

- 1 tablespoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon celery salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

In a small bowl, mix all of the ingredients together until combined. Store in an airtight container for up to 6 months.

**MRS. HARRISON SMITH'S CRISP CHEESE BISCUITS**

Recipe from Food Favorites of Plains, Georgia, *PLAINS POT POURRI*

- 1 stick butter
- 1 stick margarine
- 1/2 pound New York sharp cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 cups Rice Krispies

Cream butter, margarine, cheese, salt and red pepper. Add flour which has been sifted and measured. Dip in Rice Krispies by hand. Roll to size of marbles. Put on ungreased baking sheet. Dip table fork in ice water and

mash flat. Bake at 325 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Don't let them get too brown.

**BETTY LAND'S GREEN TOMATO PIE**

Recipe from

First Presbyterian Church of Apopka, *Treasures and Pleasures*

- 4 medium size green tomatoes, unpeeled and diced
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup brown sugar
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon butter
- Pastry for 2-crust pie

Mix flour, cinnamon and brown sugar. Stir into tomatoes along with vinegar, lemon rind and diced butter. Spoon into unbaked pastry shell. Make slits in top pastry and roll onto pie filling. Seal edges. Brush lightly with cream and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake 30 to 40 minutes longer. Lay foil under dish while baking; sometimes it will run over. Makes 9-inch pie.20.3

**MRS. THOMAS LEGARE, JR'S HUCKLEBERRY PIE**

Recipe from *Charleston Receipts*, America's Oldest Junior League Cookbook in Print, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Charleston, Inc.

- 3-1/2 cups berries, fresh or canned
- 3/4 cups plus 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon flour
- Little bit of butter
- 1 lemon
- Little bit of cream

Wash and drain fresh berries or drain canned berries. Put in pastry-lined 9-inch pie plate. Mix flour with 3/4 cup sugar. Pour over berries. Dot with butter. Sprinkle with lemon juice and some of the rind cut in small pieces. Cover with top crust, brush with cream, sprinkle with sugar. Bake in hot oven (425 degrees Fahrenheit) 15 minutes. Decrease heat to moderate (350 degrees Fahrenheit) and bake 20-30 minutes longer.

View Kitchen Kapers by Nancy online at [www.theapokkachief.com/recipes](http://www.theapokkachief.com/recipes)

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- Ace Meat & Grocery, 439 S. Central Ave. & 5th St.
- Apopka Chief rack, 400 N. Park Ave.
- Apopka High School
- Apopka Quick Mart (BP), Hwy 436 & Lake Cortez Dr.
- Apopka Vape, N. Park Ave. (across from the old Fla. Hosp. location)
- CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436
- Chevron Diamond Gas – Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rds

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- Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
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- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)

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- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
- Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441
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- Wawa Store, 449 W. Main St. - corner of Hwy 441 and Bradshaw
- Wawa Store, 441 & Piedmont Wekiva across from Walmart
- Wekiva High School, Hiwassee Rd.
- Winn Dixie #2246 - Hwy 441 (beside Lowe's)
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• "How do I know if my transmission is slipping?" – Slipping is the most common driving symptom of transmission trouble. When the transmission slips, the gear changes become drawn out and a slight hesitation is felt as the shifts occur. A vehicle owner should NOT delay in having the prob-

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