

Donation

Loaves & Fishes receives donation of toys from Truist Bank for Christmas distribution. See page 6A.



Be like Mike

Apopka boys basketball challenges Lake Brantley Patriots. See page 1B.



Subscribe online today for 52 editions a year! \$30 in Orange County

(\$35 out of county) Price Includes E-Edition

The Apopka Chief

Your trusted local news source

©2024 The Apopka Chief

Volume 102 Number 48

Friday, November 29, 2024 / 50 cents

Two cemeteries will receive wreaths from Wreaths Across America

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, at Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery and Bay Ridge Cemetery. This is a free event open to all, and the organization encourages community members to participate by volunteering locally or sponsoring a wreath for an American hero.

The VFW Post 10147 Apopka/Altamonte Springs/VFW Post 10147 Auxiliary will be helping Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery and Bay Ridge Cemetery to re-

member and honor veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of the country's fallen heroes.

Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery is located at 141 Edgewood Drive, Apopka. Bay Ridge Cemetery is located at 4528 Plymouth Sorrento Road, Apopka.

Wreaths Across America (WAA), the national nonprofit whose year-long mission

See WREATHS Page 12A

Woman charged with DUI manslaughter for car crash that killed 4-yr. old daughter

This week, a Debarry woman was arrested and charged with five felonies related to a vehicular crash on S.R. 429 in Apopka, which killed her four-year-old daughter and seriously injured another child in the vehicle, Apopka police say.

On September 22, Caitlyn N. Swatkowski, 34, was involved in the S.R. 429 single-vehicle crash. Following a comprehen-

sive investigation, Apopka police obtained arrest warrants for Swatkowski on the following felony charges: aggravated manslaughter of a child (bond amount: \$10,000), DUI manslaughter (\$5,000), vehicular homicide (\$1,000), child neglect with great bodily harm (\$500), and DUI causing serious bodily inju-

See ARREST Page 5A



Swatkowski

City will begin Piedmont Lakes Phase 2 tree removal



This map, from the city of Apopka website, shows where tree removal will take place in Piedmont Lakes Phase 2, which will go from December 2 to December 20. Phase 2 is shown in pink lines. Other different colored lines represent other tree removal phases in the subdivision.

The city of Apopka released a notice of tree removal for Piedmont Lakes Phase 2, which will take place from December 2 to December 20.

Maintenance of transportation may be set up for one lane closures on certain areas, please plan accordingly for any traffic delays. Please remove any

vehicles on the road, trash bins and any other debris that can hinder the tree removal process. Delays

See CITY Page 5A

Thanksgiving food distribution



Photos courtesy of Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. Winn-Dixie and Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida teamed up to distribute 600 turkeys and sides for a traditional Thanksgiving meal for families facing hunger ahead of the holiday. The distribution was done at Operation Love Outreach at City of Destiny Church on Monday, November 18. Above left, volunteers sort food into bags for distribution to families. Above right, volunteers load



bags of food into families' cars.

Second Harvest estimates one in eight Central Floridians – and one in six kids – are facing hunger this holiday season. While the food bank is distributing enough food for 300,000 meals a day, the need for food assistance remains elevated, hence the reason for partnerships like the one with Winn-Dixie, according to a press release from Second Harvest Food Bank.

Apopka Tree Lighting to have more than tree lighting



Photo courtesy of city of Apopka (2023 file photo)

The city will host its Apopka Tree Lighting on Friday, December 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Kit Land Nelson Park as the community comes together to celebrate the holiday season. Kit Land Nelson Park is located at 10 N. Park Ave., Apopka.

This free, family friendly event will feature holiday music, local vendors, and fun activities for kids. Craft vendors will be stationed around the park, offering a variety of unique holiday gifts. Guests can shop, browse local business booths, and enjoy a selection of savory and dessert

food trucks.

Throughout the evening, holiday classics will be performed by local organizations and schools from Apopka and neighboring areas, each bringing their own festive arrangement to share with the community.

Santa Claus will also make a special appearance, giving children the opportunity to meet with him, share their holiday wish list, and capture the moment with a photo. Additional activities include bounce houses, face painting, and more.

Anyone interested in

See TREE Page 5A

This week

Section A

Opinion 2A
Worship 8A
Golden Chief 9A
Business Rev. 10A
Kapers 11A
Dining & Ent. 12A

Section B

Sports 1B
Legal ads 8-10B
Classified 10-12B
Service Dir. 12B

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



Apopka Event of the Week

The Apopka Fire Department and Apopka Police Department, in partnership with Re-Imagine Communities, are hosting the Apopka Reading Heroes Scholastic Book Fair on December 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Apopka Fire Station No. 5, located at 1685 Firehouse Lane, Apopka.

Quotable

The argument is the latest legal salvo by states against the federal government over the changes to include gender identity under the law prohibiting sex discrimination at the nation's educational institutions.

Title IX's inclusion of gender identify is reason for states' dispute

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher Emeritus John Ricketson Mar. 5, 1940 - July 16, 2024

Publisher T. Jerrod Ricketson

Marketing Director Jackie Trefcer

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

Reporters Teresa Sargeant Marshall Tempest Neal Fisher

General Mgr Emeritus Neoma Knox Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

States say court must block Dept. of Education's Title IX controversial rule

By: Brendan Clarey The Center Square

States and private organizations argued this month that the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals should overturn a district court decision allowing the Biden administration to implement its expanded Title IX rules ahead of oral arguments next month.

The Department of Education previously argued that the appellate court should side with a district court's ruling to allow the rule to go into effect while litigation continues. The argument is the latest legal salvo by states against the federal government over the changes to include gender identity under the law prohibiting sex discrimination at the nation's educational institutions.

Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina asked the court to enter a preliminary injunction to stop the Department of Education from enforcing the rule in those states based on the Supreme Court's decision in DOE v. Louisiana in August.

In that case, the Supreme Court sided with states to block the Biden administration's rule. In this month's filing, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina told the appellate court that they are similarly situated to those already granted relief through a preliminary injunction.

"The Supreme Court's opinion in Louisiana requires this Court to hold that Plaintiffs were entitled to a preliminary injunction," the legal filing reads. "But even ignoring all nine Justices (and every other court), Plaintiffs were entitled to that relief."

The states also told the Court of Appeals that states shouldn't have to implement the rule piecemeal. The Department of Education maintains the non-controversial parts of the rule should go into effect.

"The Department's arguments for making the States immediately comply with a judicially redlined version of the rule remain unpersuasive," the court filing from the states reads. "And importantly, the Department doesn't dispute that the best way to issue a preliminary injunction is for this Court to issue one itself."

The Department of Education previously told the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals that the district denied the preliminary injunction because it found that the states "were unlikely to succeed in demonstrating that the handful of amendments they challenged were unlawful and that plaintiffs had failed to demonstrate irreparable harm."

The department maintains that it has the ability and responsibility to protect students under the federal antidiscrimination law, which it expanded earlier this year. The rule went into effect Aug. 1 and has been challenged by dozens of states and advocacy organizations.

Because of the legal challenges, courts have blocked it from going into effect in over half of states and thousands of K-12 schools, colleges and universities through preliminary injunctions.

This story initially published at Chalkboard News, a K-12 news site that, like The Center Square, is also published by Franklin News Foundation.



Awards presented to honor communities

I must say that the 2024 Corridor of the Year Celebration last Thursday was fast paced, enjoyable, and full of energy. I gave out dozens of awards. My team honored the mandatory HOA's or neighborhood leader who participated in the Corridor of the Year Contest through organizing clean-ups or even just asking their landscaper to make improvements.

Each of the four streets - Votaw, Sheeler, Rose, and Powers had several miles of entranceways and frontage to improve. The corridors were evaluated by a team of judges on their grassy right-of-way area, condition of the wall or

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

fencing, signage and landscape beds, and adherence to law enforcement safety standards - tree limbs cut up, bushes cut down, and proper lighting.

Each of the four streets had a top scoring neighborhood. These folks worked hard on improving their frontage and regularly picking up trash. They care

very much about their community and making it safer, engaging, and prosperous. These individuals were resoundingly cheered on by their respective teams for their successful revitalizations.

Votaw Road representing People of Wekiwa Springs - Lori Thompson & Lk. McCoy Forest

Sheeler Road representing People of Southern Apopka - Sharon Lusk & Royal Oak

Rose Avenue representing People of Lockhart - Susan Branran & Rose Cove

Powers Drive repre-

See MOORE Page 4A

I am thankful personally, professionally

Happy Thanksgiving! As many of us do, I enjoy spending time this week reflecting on all that I'm thankful for.

While I am, of course, so thankful for so much in my personal life, like my loving family, my supportive friends and my home, I am also thankful for so much professionally.

First of all, I am incredibly thankful that my community and the voters have chosen me to represent them on the school board for the past six years.

As I was sworn in last week for another four-year term, I couldn't help but feel extremely blessed to be able to continue this important work every day.

While the work on the school board has been

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

extremely challenging at times, it has also been extremely rewarding. As I said in my swearing-in speech, I firmly believe that there is nothing more important to the success and future of our society than ensuring that all children, no matter where they come from, are provided the opportunity for a high-quality, free and equitable public education.

I am honored that I get

to work every day fighting for that right of our children, for our teachers and schools and most of all for the future of our community.

I am also thankful for all the teachers, administrators and staff that work in our schools every day. These are people who do not do this for fame, recognition or money. They do it because they love what they do and love our children.

Often our educators are not only teaching content, but they have to be parents for children without them, counselors for children who are struggling, and most of all supporters for children who don't have

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. — Proverbs 17:9

Mema Says

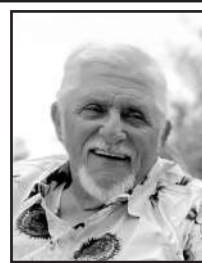
Don't mock a pain you haven't endured.

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 N. 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, PO Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.



Life and Liberty are necessary qualities for us to secure happiness

AMERICA, WAKE UP! Have we digressed so far that we cannot tell freedom from bondage? When you look in the mirror after waking up from your nightly slumber, what do you see? Do you see someone who has sold their liberty for the gifts that have been offered to keep you in bondage? Alexis de Tocqueville, a 19th century political philosopher, speaking about what people call "rights" stated, "It's not an endlessly expanding list of rights - the 'right' to edu-



Ike Hayden

cation, the 'right' to health-care, the 'right' to food and housing. That's not freedom, that's dependency. Those aren't rights, those are the rations of slavery - hay and a barn for human cattle."

Can't you see it in our culture today? The rights promised by our constitution called "inalienable" by the founders are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The first two are necessary for the last to be secured. Happiness is to be secured by pursuit, not given by the government using taxpayer money. It is remarkable that anyone should think they are more worthy or more adept at using my money for happiness than I am.

I believe Edward R.

Murrows hit the nail on the head when he made this observation: "A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves." We certainly have become "sheep" and we're following those who are wearing the big bell of diversity and detraction. It has been said, "The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money." Well, here we are. This administration has reached the discovery and have now

implemented it. We are to be the governing body, not the governed, but I fear we have become too mesmerized by the opiates promised by the government to react in a sensible manner.

No longer do we seek happiness, rather we seek someone to make us happy. We forget the people in our past that made America what it is. Speaking of those who lived, loved, married, had children, and survived by small heroic acts of selflessness. In her book "Middlemarch,"

George Eliot wrote: "Unhistoric acts of those who live faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs." All part of the making of the land we call America, and its history. We think of the grander, more extraordinary happenings when we talk of history, but without those who were a part of daily life in general, there would be no history. History is propagated by ordinary people doing extraordinary

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Orange County, nonprofit partner to give rooftop solar installations

Orange County property owners now have access to affordable rooftop solar installations through a partnership with the nonprofit Solar United Neighbors. The newly named program – “Solar Switch” – provides information on solar energy and offers an opportunity to consider installing rooftop solar and optional battery storage at a competitive price.

“This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about using clean, renewable energy from the sun to power your home and save money,” Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings said in a news release. “In addition, the bonus of battery storage provides relief during power outages and is another step toward resilience for our community.”

To learn more, residents should register at SolarSwitch.com/Orange-

County by January 15, 2025. Based upon the information provided, Solar Switch will follow up with a personal recommendation and offer that includes estimated costs, savings, and expected electricity generation. There is no obligation to accept.

Solar United Neighbors is a nonprofit organization that represents the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters. Solar co-ops are part of the organization’s mission to create a new energy system with rooftop solar at the cornerstone. Solar United Neighbors holds events and education programs to help people become informed solar consumers, maximize the value of their solar.

For more information, visit SolarSwitch.com/OrangeCounty.

County clerk extends Sat. hours at two sites

Orange County Clerk of Courts Tiffany Moore Russell is extending Saturday hours at two branch locations for another year throughout 2025 to provide more convenient times for customers.

The Clerk’s Office began these extra days in June 2023 as a pilot project to determine if the public would find the hours helpful. Due to the positive response, the Clerk’s office is continuing the extra Saturdays.

The Winter Park and Ocoee branches will be

open for services such as marriage licenses and ceremonies, passports, and payments on one Saturday of every month for the entire year of 2025.

These branch offices are open on the following Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon in 2025: January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 17, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13.

Customers will be able to access the same services offered during the week at the branch locations

on these select Saturdays. Appointments will also be available on these days for passports and marriage services.

Visit the Clerk’s Office website for the latest Saturday dates at MyOrangeClerk.com.



Russell

Do you need to receive or send a FAX?

If so, you can use our fax: **407-889-4121***

Apopka Office Supply
400 N. Park Ave., Apopka, FL 32712 • 407-889-4455

**There is a small fee for this service.*

HEARD ABOUT NEW CHANGES TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PLAN?

PLACE A CALL TO US FIRST, YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE THE BENEFITS!

METRO
HEALTH OF APOPKA
Dedicated Primary Care for Seniors
701 S. ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL
APOPKA, FL 32703

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A TOUR AND GET A FREE GIFT!
(407) 349-8155
(407) 803-4622 | SE HABLEA ESPAÑOL

ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL
701 S. ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL
APOPKA, FL 32703

Colin Watts, M.D.
Physician

Yatima Maccucci, M.D.
Physician

It’s more than just cremation; it’s a tribute to a life well-lived.

Explore our compassionate cremation options at Highland Memory Gardens and Funeral Home.

HIGHLAND FUNERAL HOME
HIGHLAND MEMORY GARDENS

We Make It Personal.®

3329 East Semoran Blvd.
Apopka, FL 32703
407-869-1188
highlandfh.com

The average person waits **SEVEN YEARS** to get their hearing checked.

That’s seven years of missed laughs.
Seven years of missed conversations.
Seven years of missed moments.

Schedule an appointment to hear what the next seven years hold for you.

407.358.7045 | APOPKA
352.326.5253 | LEEBSBURG

Apopka
200 North Park Ave, Ste B
Leesburg
1108 W Dixie Ave
CentralFloridaAudiology.com

CENTRAL FLORIDA
Audiology

Amy Davis, Au.D.
Cynthia Quintana, Au.D.

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!

THE LEAFILTER ADVANTAGE

1. WE CLEAN CLOGGED GUTTERS
2. WE SEAL + ALIGN GUTTERS
3. WE INSTALL LEAFILTER

20% OFF + **10% OFF**
Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

Promo: 285

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!
1-866-549-6518

BEFORE **AFTER**

FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION – SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION NOW! 1-866-549-6518

SERTOMA

FOLIAGE SERTOMA CLUB of APOPKA

48th Annual Apopka Christmas Parade

A Golden Christmas in Apopka!
Celebrating 50 years of Sertoma

Saturday, December 14, 2024 • 10AM - 11:30AM
We Hope To See You There!

THANK YOU SPONSORS

The City of Apopka • John Land Community Trust • Seacoast Bank
Elks Lodge # 2422 • GEICO Local Office Apopka • AdventHealth
Lake Apopka Natural Gas • The Apopka Chief & The Planter

First Presbyterian Church • John Cloran • One Florida Bank • Lou Haubner Realty
Two Peas in a Pod • Loomis Funeral Home • Matthew Olash • Shoot Straight
Foliage Garden Club • Apopka Police & Fire Departments • Apopka Recreation
Apopka Streets and Grounds • Fast Signs Apopka • Blue Jay Academy 4 Kidz
First United Methodist Church Apopka • Freedom Fellowship
Spurlock Group Real Estate Solutions • MMR Consulting Service, Inc.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka • Apopka Rotary Club
Westside Community Church

For More Information, Visit FoliageSertoma.org

FEMA has extended grace periods for affected policyholders

TALLAHASSEE –

As a result of the severe damage and historic flooding in Florida caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, FEMA extended the policy renewal deadline for certain National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders to prevent a lapse in NFIP flood coverage.

These policyholders have until Dec. 10, 2024, to renew their policies. This is a significant extension from the standard 30-day renewal grace period.

If they have not done so, policyholders should be sure to ask their insurance agent

or company about advance claims payments to help start their recovery. Advance payments may be available of up to \$20,000 prior to a visit from an adjuster.

The grace period for policyholders affected by Helene and Milton in Florida will be extended based on the below schedule.

If the policy term ended on: August 28, 2024, September 26, 2024, October 5, 2024 or November 1, 2024, the grace period has been extended to December 14, 2024. If the policy ended on November 15, 2024, the grace period extends to December 14, 2024.

Policyholders whose NFIP policy renewal date is within this range should contact their agent or insurance company.

For example, if the original policy expiration date was Aug. 28, 2024, the policy may be renewed on or before Dec. 10, 2024. Holders of active policies can file claims for damage received from Hurricanes Helene or Milton if the premium is paid.

Other Actions to Help Policyholders

The NFIP has extended the proof of loss requirement for policyholders who suffered flood damage from Hurricanes

Helene and Milton from the standard 60 days to 120 days from the date of loss.

The NFIP also authorized its Write Your Own program. Insurance company partners and the NFIP Direct pay claims based on the adjuster's report without requiring policyholders to sign a proof of loss. When a policyholder seeks additional payment for any reason or disagrees with the adjuster report, they may still submit a signed proof of loss to the insurer along with supporting documentation. This can include a contractor's estimate, bills, receipts, photographs and other related documents.

ments.

Anyone affected by Helene or Milton who has an NFIP flood insurance policy and has suffered flood damage should file their claim now. Evacuated policyholders can still start their claim and provide specifics later once local officials say it's safe to return home.

Policyholders who wish to take advantage of the grace period should contact their agent or insurance company. Those who don't have their insurance agent or company's contact information should call 877-336-2627 for assistance.

FEMA also encourages NFIP policyholders affected by Helene or Milton to apply for federal disaster assistance. The three ways to apply are visiting disasterassistance.gov, calling 800-621-3362 or using the FEMA App. Survivors may receive funds to help with essential items like food, water, baby formula and other emergency supplies. Funds may also be available to repair storm-related damage to homes and personal property, as well as assistance to find a temporary place to stay.

To learn more about how to file a flood insurance claim visit floodsmart.gov.

Moore: Ultimate winner worked hard to secure support from owners

Continued from page 2A

sending People of Clarcona-Ocoee – Fred Ray and Horseshoe Bend

One neighborhood in particular took a significant amount of time to improve. This subdivision required new fencing, wall repair, significant tree trimming, gutted landscape beds, tree planting and a new entranceway sign. And thus, I awarded the **Most Improved Neighborhood to Tealwood Cove on Rose Avenue**. The neighborhood leaders were **Larry Bran-an, Greg Mellowe and Judy Clark**.

Judy Clark loves fill-

ing beds with native plantings and has maintained her entranceway for over seven years. And after applying for a Neighborhood Grant and recognizing the new signage wasn't in keeping with the style of her native plantings, she made her own sign. Judy is truly an inspiration to all of us. Greg Mellowe keeps up with necessary advocacy with local governments, and Larry Bran-an was the very active Corridor Chief for all of Rose Avenue. He organized no less than six clean-ups, fence repair and staining, and the painting of three dozen roses on the fencing just for this one neighborhood. I would say

it took a team, but in the case of Tealwood Cove, it took an army. I'm now seeing, internal to the subdivision, fewer code violations, greater care, and concern for front yards, and I hope collegiality. Next steps include organizing social events to bring greater comradery.

As part of Orange County's Neighborhood Services Department, which incidentally, gives out \$15,000 grants to neighborhoods for making improvements to walls, signage, irrigation, etc. I chose a gentleman as the **District 2 Person of the Year** for the annual conference. This man, his wife and crew

stained much of the Tealwood Cove fencing. He, regularly and without remuneration, mows a large pond area near Riverside Park and Magnolia Homes Road and pressure-washes portions of sidewalk along Rose Avenue. He cleaned up all the residual Hurricane Milton debris along Rose Avenue the day before the judges arrived. I would like to recognize the **District 2 Person of the Year – Pastor Mike Bardwell**.

And finally, the granddaddy award for the program is the **2024 Corridor of the Year trophy**. Four teams competed with the following corridors - Votaw Road, Sheeler Road, Powers Drive, and Rose Avenue. The program runs February through November with two months off during the high heat of summer. Monthly or weekly in October clean-ups took place, correspondence, or personal visits to all property owners along the corridor, recruitment of auxiliary groups for assistance

where residents wouldn't engage (Apopka Professional Firefighters, students from Apopka High School, Devereux, Dismas Charities, and other non-profits) and monthly collaborative planning meetings. Yes, it was a full year's worth of improvement.

The ultimate winner started out near the bottom in initial scoring. They had to cajole property owners to replace fencing, clean up dozens of individual yards for elderly or infirm residents, replant entranceway landscaping, convince HOAs to participate, trim up areas of severely neglected natural tree canopy, contend with blighted businesses along an industrial section, and paint dozens of flowers to hide the true condition of fencing.

The 2024 Corridor of the Year winner is Rose Avenue represented by the People of Lockhart. It is their second win in four years. The 2021 winner was Wekiwa Springs Road. The 2022 winner was Mag-

olia Homes Road. The 2023 winner was Clarcona-Ocoee Road. Southern Apopka is still in search of a win – the team just ran out of steam at the end.

For my final year as county commissioner, (we are only allowed to serve two consecutive terms), the teams will focus on commercial areas. POWS will work on the north side of SR 436 from Line Drive to Lake Pleasant Road. POCO will improve US 441 from Rose Avenue to Clarcona Ocoee Road. POL will work on Edgewater Drive also from Rose to Clarcona-Ocoee. POSA will work on Clarcona or Park Avenue from Keene Road north to US 441. I will also be trying to recruit and pull together members for a North Apopka Team with the goal of working along Rock Springs Road from Rock Springs Ridge to Welch Road.

All in all, it has been a great year. Thank you to the more than 300 volunteers who made it all happen

What's happening in your community?

Read Florida's public notices in this newspaper or online to find out.

- Foreclosures
- Property Auctions
- Ordinances
- Notices to Contractors
- Warnings to Appear
- Bid Notices
- Hearing Notices
- And More!

FLORIDA PRESS ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA PUBLIC NOTICES
WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

www.theapokkachief.com

www.FloridaPublicNotices.com

Byrd: Community workers are thanked

Continued from page 2A

anyone else in their corner. They dedicate enormous amounts of their time to our children by finding ways to engage them and inspire them.

It's no wonder that these community members are often referred to as heroes.

I am also incredibly thankful for a community that supports our

schools the way they do. Our school district has thousands of business partners across Orange County that support the work and our children. We also have thousands of volunteers who work with our schools each day.

The amount of time and talent that is shared with our public schools is inspiring and powerful. Not every community has this kind of support, and our

public schools are better because of it.

Finally, I am thankful for all the sweet children I am lucky enough to interact with as a school board member. From the kindergarteners who make me laugh to the seniors whose hands I get to shake on graduation day, they each are a bright shining reminder of why I do what I do and of the bright future that lies ahead for all of us.

Hayden: Encouragement is necessary

Continued from page 2A

things.

We need to become that people again. We need to encourage one another to stand and be counted. In society today, we have an administration that states we can think what we want to, but you will be ignored, and you will be mocked to the point people will think you are losing it. The master no longer says, "Think as I think or die." Now we are told we can go our own way, but you will be ostracized from humanity. You will be shunned, and people will point at you, call you

a detractor, devisor, racist, and you will be treated as a stranger. Even those that you call friends will turn away in fear of joining you in your non-person status.

Oh, they tell you they will not take your life, but the life of subordination they offer is worse than death.

Patrick Henry said it best: "Give me liberty or give me death!" The only thing democracy and socialism have in common is the word "equality." The difference is democracy seeks equality in justice and liberty while socialism seeks equality in bond-

age and slavery. You can follow the "Judas goat" up the ramp to slaughter as the sheep do, to their own butchering, or you can make the decision to bring back our Democratic Republic by being secure in your belief in America and getting up and getting busy.

We do not need the government telling us what they can give us for our happiness. We need to pursue our own happiness by getting down to the "nitty-gritty," by going to work, and as Roger Miller once said, "Knuckle down, buckle down, do it, do it, do it!"

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.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.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. 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	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)	352-241-9220
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

Brooks Rehabilitation to host inaugural walk at UCF

Brooks Rehabilitation will present its inaugural "Celebrate Independence: Brooks Orlando Challenge Mile" on Saturday, December 7, at 2 p.m. at the UCF campus (located at Memory Mall, University of Central Florida, 4356 Scorpis Street, Orlando, FL 32816). Check-in time is 1:30 p.m.

This free, one-mile event was created for all ages and abilities to participate with family and friends in this signature race to celebrate independence. Participants can walk, jog, wheel or run. Anyone from the community is invited to participate. Participants do not have to be a Brooks patient.

"We are excited to host the inaugural 'Celebrate Independence: Brooks Orlando Challenge Mile' for our Central Florida community," Tom Langer, Brooks Rehabilitation outpatient regional director for Orlando, said in a news release. "This event embodies our commitment to empowering others to achieve their goals by offering individuals of all ages and abilities a chance to come together, challenge themselves and celebrate independence in a supportive and fun atmosphere."

Go to <https://shorturl.at/rpiOg> to register and for additional details.

Brooks Rehabilitation,

a nonprofit headquartered in Jacksonville, has been a comprehensive system of care for physical rehabilitation for more than 50 years. Brooks operates three inpatient hospitals in Florida, and provides outpatient services in more than 50 locations, including 16 in Central Florida in Apopka, Ocoee, the SoDo District, Winter Garden (two clinics - Winter Garden and Horizon West), MetroWest, Clermont, Rio Pinar, Oviedo, Winter Park, Kissimmee (two clinics - Osceola and S. Kissimmee), Buenaventura Lakes, Sand Lake, Poinciana, and Waterford Lakes.

City: Residents may contact public services with questions

Continued from page 1A

on the start time may occur due to weather or storm events.

The tree removal will be on the following streets:

*Piedmont Lakes Boulevard from Deermeadow Drive to Bent Way Court

*Bent Way Court from Piedmont Lakes Boulevard to end

*Lake McDade Court from Piedmont Lakes Boulevard to end

*Cricket Wood Court from Piedmont Lakes Boulevard to end

*Deermeadow Drive from Piedmont Lakes Boulevard to end

Contact Public Services for any questions at 407-703-1731.

Tree: Local groups are invited to participate at tree lighting event

Continued from page 1A

getting involved as a sponsor or vendor at the Apopka Tree Lighting event may visit <https://shorturl.at/pEl6s> and submit the 2024 Tree Lighting vendor inquiry form.

Local organizations and schools are invited to come out and perform holiday classics at this year's event. Interested groups may email the city's events team at Events@apopka.net.

Arrest: Swatkowski was booked into Volusia County Jail

Continued from page 1A

(\$1,000).

All bond amounts are according to Volusia County

On Tuesday, November 26, Swatkowski was taken into custody while attending an unrelated court

hearing in Volusia County. She was subsequently booked into the Volusia County Jail, Apopka police say.

REGAL
 Fri., Nov. 29, 2024 thru Sun., Nov. 31, 2024

3D SHOWINGS

MOANA 2 (PG) 10:00A; 12:50; 3:40
WICKED (PG) 7:00; 10:40

MOANA 2 (PG) 10:30A; 12:20; 1:20; 3:10; 4:10; 6:10; 7:10; 7:40; 9:00; 9:50; 10:20
WICKED (PG) 11:20A; 12:20; 3:00; 4:00; 6:30; 10:00
GLADIATOR II (R) 11:40A; 12:40; 3:10; 3:50; 6:40; 7:20; 10:10; 10:50
RED ONE (PG-13) 12:30; 4:20; 7:30; 10:30

TUES. VALUE DAYS
 NOW ONLY \$6.99 + TAX with Regal Crown Club card. (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)

WEKIVA RIVERWALK
 WEKIVA SPRINGS RD, APOPKA
www.regmovies.com

SEND US YOUR NEWS
 Visit TheApopkaChief.com
 Phone: 407-886-2777
 Fax: 407-889-4121
 Email: news@theapokachief.com

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief



The Way I See It Patti Bankson

Thanksgiving's Not Just One Day

If not always being able to remember which day of the week it is, or when a holiday or special event is coming up, is cause for concern that my brain is aging. I should have started being concerned right after I got out of school! That's part of the reason I'm always writing about something after the fact. Coupling that with deadlines early in the week with the fact that I actually prefer writing about something after the fact. That way I don't have to try to imagine what is going to happen, I can write about what did happen, and all the details.

I said all that to say that, once again, I've been blissfully unaware of Thanksgiving sneaking up on me, then rushing by, leaving behind lots of leftovers, and, of course ... the memories.

One of the contributing factors to my being so unaware is one of the many things I'm thankful for ... my children. With three daughters and a daughter-in-law ("who's more of another daughter than an "in-law") who are great cooks and big-hearted hostesses, along with a son and son-in-law (see "above" who are willingly recruited as helpers, they've thoughtfully and graciously taken over our family holidays, leaving me with nothing to do but enjoy being with them.

I know that for many this is just a time for turkey and all that goes with it; a football game, a gathering of family and, unfortunately, all too often, a reminder of family splits and disagreements, reminders of what they don't have.

For too many life is ... what, empty? Dismal? Hope-

less? I can't walk in another's shoes and I realize that "I understand" can often seem not to be enough, but I do understand some things ...

I understand what it's like to not have "enough" ... I've lived those times. I understand what it's like to live a life that's falling to pieces around you ... I've lived those times. I understand addiction ... I've lived that. I understand what it's like to see your marriage failing, believing there's no rescue ... I've lived that, too. I understand what it's like to lose the love of your life ... I'm living that now. This is the second Thanksgiving since losing my husband and it's still so surreal, like nothing I could have imagined.

I don't know how long the pain of his loss will be with me, but this much I understand, and know ... that God, having sent His only Son to die for me, also knows that pain, and understands.

I know that Jesus can take away addiction. I know He can pick up the pieces of a broken life and put it back together. I know He can heal broken hearts and homes. I know He can fill empty places. I know He can bring peace into chaos. I know He can do all that and more ... whatever it is you wished you could be thankful for this Thanksgiving, He can provide. If you ask, He hears and answers ... He can make every day Thanksgiving Day.

In the midst of all the holiday hustle and bustle, talking and laughter, when, unbidden, memories of holidays-past swirl around me, I'm reminded of how quickly time goes by and how easily one event can turn your life, as you know it, upside down. I'm reminded that, even though I believe in eternal life with Jesus, all we have on this Earth is now, so don't waste a minute. With Him, it's possible to enjoy "the moment," and to be thankful for it. And, I am.

We'd like to know What YOU think?
barefootwahine1@yahoo.com
 ©2024 Patti Bankson

The Best Compliment You Can Give Is A Referral. Please support these local businesses and organizations.

Faith Works
 Lawn Maintenance
 Pressure Washing
 Yard Clean-Up
 Leaf Removal

Total Ground Maintenance

352-729-2507
www.faithworkstotalground.com

RSR
 Rock Springs Realty, LLC
 Residential & Investment Real Estate

- Selling: What's your home worth in the current market? Call for a No-Obligation "Home Evaluation" Report
- Buying: Search "ALL" homes for sale in Apopka www.RockSpringsRealty.com

CALL Joe Bornstein, Broker: (407) 252-8092
 VOTED "BEST OF APOPKA" REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL

WORKPLACE
 SCREENING INTELLIGENCE
 Helping Employers and Employees
 Get Back to Work Safely and Stay COVID Free

LABORATORY TESTING

- ✓ Drug Screening Nationally
- ✓ Covid Screens
- ✓ Titer Testing
- ✓ New Transferrin Gold TB Test

Call: 800-338-5515 or Email: info@workplacescreening.com
www.workplacescreening.com

Shelley's Septic Tanks

FREE ESTIMATES 407-889-8042

Hours: Monday - Friday 7AM - 5PM

Environmentally Friendly Company!
 Licensed & Insured
 State Certified

Emergency Services Available After Hours

6505 W. Jones Ave., Zellwood, FL 32798

IN NEED OF A CHURCH HOME?
 Perhaps a Sunday service is not the best time for you.

Ministries of Good Life

Offers a nondenominational service every Saturday at 11AM.
 Join us for praise and worship and the word of God.

Pastor Glenn and Myrna Morris • 2501 Apopka Blvd., Apopka, FL
 For more information email MinistriesofGoodLife@gmail.com
 Watch us live on Facebook @ 11 AM Saturday mornings!

See Why People Love Us
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
The Apopka Chief
 The Voice of the Community since 1923

400 N. Park Avenue Apopka, FL 32712
 407-886-2777
www.theapokachief.com

Please Support These Businesses & Service Organizations. They Care About You & Are Investing in the Community.

GIVE A LITTLE, GET A LOT
 with Just A Taste!

REG. \$34.99
NOW \$24.99
 + \$5.99 SHIPPING
 #PROGB - Just A Taste Gift Box

SAVE 38%

Affordable, Delicious & Ready to Ship

4 Fruit Varieties & Snacks to Share!
 Treat a special friend, teacher, neighbor or co-worker to a personal-sized sampling of Pittman & Davis's most loved fruits and sweets. This affordable gift box introduces your recipient to our famous premium fruit.

- 1 Navel Orange
- 1 King Comice Pear
- 1 Rio Ruby™ Red Grapefruit
- 1 Fuji Apple
- 2.5 oz. Gourmet Chocolate Chip Cookies
- 5 oz. Honey Roasted Peanuts

Satisfaction completely guaranteed. Order by Dec. 15, 2024 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

Pittman & Davis
 Farm Fresh Gifts Since 1926

CALL 1-844-881-7096
 OR VISIT PITTMANDAVIS.COM/P5YF84
 Order Item #PROGB, mention Code P5YF84
 PITTMAN & DAVIS • HARLINGEN, TX 78552 IC: P5YF84

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 407-753-7287 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

AdventHealth Central Fla. hospitals earned 'A' safety grade from Leapfrog Group

All of AdventHealth's Central Florida hospitals earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 perfor-

mance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

AdventHealth announced its Leapfrog Group status on Friday, November 15.

The "A" grades went to the following AdventHealth hospitals: Altamon-

te Springs, Apopka; Celebration, East Orlando, Kissimmee, Orlando, Winter Garden, and Winter Park.

"Patient safety is at the core of our mission at AdventHealth. I'm proud the commitment to excellence is embedded across all our hospitals in Central Florida," said Brian Adams, president and CEO of AdventHealth's Central Florida Division. "To once again be recognized by The Leapfrog Group speaks to our team members' devotion and skill in providing whole-person care."

"Achieving an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade is a significant accomplishment for AdventHealth," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "It reflects enormous dedication to your patients and their families, and your whole community should be proud. I extend my congratulations to AdventHealth's Central Flori-

Toys donated by Truist Bank



Photo courtesy of Loaves & Fishes
Truist Bank donated toys to Loaves & Fishes on November 6 to help with Loaves & Fishes' Christmas distribution to all the qualified clients and their children. Loaves & Fishes is a nonprofit, non-denominational Christian mission that serves nine local ZIP codes and over 300 qualified families weekly.

Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church

Would like to invite you and your family to join us

Sunday school @ 9:00am
Sunday morning service @ 10:15am
Evening service:
Sunday/Wednesday @ 6:00pm

Worship music and message from GOD's word
Everyone welcome!

584 N. Wekiwa Springs Road Apopka, FL 32712
 407-886-7864 • www.wsbcapopka.org

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

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

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.
Lake Apopka Natural Gas District
 www.langd.org 407-656-2734 ext. 307

Faith Works

Lawn Maintenance
Pressure Washing
Yard Clean-Up
Leaf Removal

Total Ground Maintenance

352.729.2507

www.faithworkstotalground.com

LET US TELL YOUR BUSINESS STORY!

Call **407-886-2777** to find out about our Business Profile program or visit **www.TheApopkaChief.com**.
Helping you is our business!

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

The Christmas Story

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus

On December 13th, 2024 The Apopka Chief will publish the traditional Christmas Story.

This special section is a salute from The Apopka Chief and you, our customers, to the birth of the most significant person in the world's history - Jesus Christ. Contained in this section are Christmas greetings to the community that you may personalize with your message, as well as a thank you to your customers, friends & family.

Space Deadline: Friday, Dec. 6th • Copy Deadline: Monday, Dec. 9th

Buy One Ad at Regular Price...
Get 2nd ad Half-Price in the New Years Greeting Section!

For more information call or email our office today!

www.TheApopkaChief.com
 400 N. Park Ave., Apopka

Call 407-886-2777
 or e-mail
ads@theapokachief.com

Like us on Facebook
Get important news when it happens

News that can affect you and your family

- In Depth Business & Economic News
- Social & Political Changes
- Park & Recreational News
- School & Youth Sports
- Advertising Opportunities
- Elementary & Middle School Updates in Chief Junior
- Developments that can affect you and your family

Subscribe, Renew or Pay Online!
www.TheApopkaChief.com

The Apopka Chief
 Your Trusted News Source

400 N. Park Ave., Apopka, FL 32712
 P.O. Box 880, Apopka, FL 32704-0880
 407-886-2777 • Fax 407-889-4121

E-mail: News@TheApopkaChief.com • Ads@TheApopkaChief.com

Florida surpasses 6,400 bonuses for new police recruits in November

By Bethany Blankley
The Center Square

Florida surpassed giving 6,400 bonuses to new law enforcement recruits this month.

Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that Florida was making 300 new bonus awards to law enforcement officers this month, reaching the milestone of 6,400 bonuses awarded to new recruits through the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.

“Florida welcomes law enforcement officers from across the country to a state where they will be recognized and appreciated,” DeSantis said. “Florida celebrates the law enforcement profession and encourages people to join the force. Law enforcement officers make enormous personal sacrifices for the communities they serve, and they deserve higher pay and more support.”

The latest round of 300 bonuses were awarded to officers serving in counties impacted by hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton.

DeSantis launched the program in 2022 after blue states began implementing anti-police initiatives in-



Image courtesy of Gov. Ron DeSantis/Rumble Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis presents the state's 4,000th bonus check to new recruit Bay County Sheriff's Deputy Matthew Belthrop.

cluding defunding their police departments.

Florida's recruitment bonus program provides a one-time, \$5,000 bonus – after taxes – to newly employed officers in the state. So far, more than \$43.3 million worth of bonuses have been distributed through the program.

To date, more than 1,560 law enforcement officers from 49 states and two territories have relocated to Florida because of the program. More than 470 came “from anti-police states like California, Illinois, and

New York,” according to the governor's office.

The 6,400 milestone is a significant increase from when DeSantis in February presented the 4,000th bonus check to a Bay County Sheriff's deputy who relocated from Virginia to take advantage of the program.

In July, Attorney General Ashley Moody also welcomed new police officers to Florida after they relocated from Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico and New York, *The Center*

Square reported.

“Florida is the most pro-law enforcement state in the nation because we back our blue,” Moody said. “We've been spreading the word about all the great incentives to join our ranks, and individuals like the new Sarasota recruits have answered the call – leaving behind places where their service was not as appreciated as it is here.”

“This is a law-and-order state. Officers want to be able to do their job,”

See POLICE Page 8A



COME SEE US AT OUR NEW LOCATION!

108 S. Park Ave, Suite 100 Apopka, FL 32703

20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER
EXP. 12/31/24
Can not be combined with insurance. Call for more details.



Dr. David Dada, Owner

essentialeyecareoptical.com
407-893-2733



— Get Black Friday Savings Now —



2024 Explorer 2024 Expedition 2024 F-150 2024 Escape

1.9% APR
Financing For
60 Months

\$1,000
Special
Holiday
Cash

No
Payments
for 90 days

Available on the following models: 24MY Explorer, 24MY Escape, 24MY Expedition, 24MY F-150. Excludes Lightning and Raptor. Savings include \$1,000 manufacturer rebate. Customer can defer first payment up to 90 days. 1.9% APR financing for 60 mos. at \$17.48 per mo. per \$1,000 financed, regardless of down payment. Offer requires credit approval and financing through Ford Motor Company Credit. Not all buyers will qualify. Residency restrictions apply. See salesperson for qualifications. Ends 12/2/2024.

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



CAC1817219

NICK'S
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

HVAC PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Duct Cleaning
- Attic Insulation
- HVAC Maintenance and Installation
- Equipment and Duct Repair

407-489-5060

More Info www.nicksacandheat.com

JOB NOW HIRING



Pediatrics

OB/GYN

Family Medicine

Dental

Internal Medicine

Pharmacy

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

407-905-8827

225 E 7TH ST, APOPKA, FL 32703

WWW.CHCFL.ORG

CENTERS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL FLORIDA!

Home & auto. Bundle & save.

Call me for a quote




Shren Yeager
Agent

49 E 3rd St Ste A
Apopka, FL 32703-4245

Bus: 407-880-3167
www.theyeagerbomb.com

Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.
StateFarm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, StateFarm Indemnity Company,
StateFarm Fire and Casualty Company, StateFarm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
StateFarm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, StateFarm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
StateFarm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

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



As always, a good deal can be yours when you use the

Classified Section of
The Apopka Chief & The Planter

Place your Ad Today!
VISIT US ONLINE: www.theapokkachief.com
Or EMAIL us at classifieds@theapokkachief.com
Or CALL 407-886-2777 or FAX to 407-889-4121.

15 Words are only \$9.50 when you prepay, or \$11.50 when billed. You can run your ad 4 weeks for the price of 3. That's only \$28.50 for the 3/4 special.

Classification: # _____

_____ (15)

Ad Deadline: Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's paper.
If using this form, mail to P. O. Box 880, Apopka, FL 32704-0880, or bring it by 400 N. Park Ave., Apopka 32712. Cash, check or credit cards are ok for payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Police: Officers may be eligible for home purchase assistance

Continued from page 7A

Sarasota Police Chief Rex Troche said at the time with Moody, noting that his office has greatly benefitted from new recruits. "There is no better feeling than when you know that you can go out there and be supported in enforcing the law. I've talked with officers all around the country and

when state attorneys are not assisting them, it makes those officers not want to do their jobs. Thanks to the work of Attorney General Moody and Gov. DeSantis, officers know that when you come to the state of Florida, you are going to be able to do, and be supported in, doing your job."

DeSantis has argued that communities are strugg-

ling nationwide in jurisdictions where politicians embraced defunding law enforcement and "soft on crime policies" like implementing no cash bail. In 2020, the Florida legislature passed protections against defunding law enforcement and began allocating funding to give law enforcement officers \$1,000 bonuses for three

consecutive years. In 2022, the recruitment program was created. Every legislative session, funding is renewed for the program.

Moody also launched several pro-law enforcement initiatives, including the Thin Line Tribute and Sunshine Salute Series to recognize those in law enforcement statewide.

In addition to the new

recruit bonus program, law enforcement officers may be eligible for the Home-town Heroes Housing Program, which provides frontline workers in more than 100 eligible professions with down payment and closing cost assistance to help purchase a primary residence in the communities where they work.

Visit FloridaJobs.org/

Recognition-and-Recruitment for more information about applying.

SEND US YOUR NEWS
Visit www.TheApopkaChief.com
Phone: 407-886-2777
Fax: 407-889-4121
Email: news@theapokkachief.com

BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide to Local Businesses

DO YOU HAVE CHURCH NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PUBLICIZE?
Use Our Online Forms at www.theapokkachief.com
Call The Apopka Chief at 407-886-2777, fax 407-889-4121, or email news@theapokkachief.com

SMILE WITH Confidence!

Schroeder Dental Group **Katrina M. Schroeder, DMD**
COSMETIC & GENERAL DENTISTRY
Call Now For An Appointment **407-886-1611**

\$45 CLEANING
Schedule Your Next Cleaning and Save!

Valid for new patients only. Subject to exam by doctor. Does not include periodontal gum disease treatment. Not to be combined with any other offer. Transferable. Please share with your family and friends. Expires 12/31/24.

New Patients Welcome!

MyApopkaDentist.net Emergency Appointments Available
527 Wekiva Commons Cir., Apopka, FL **invisalign/ZOOM!**

The Schroeder Dental Group can help keep smiles healthy and bright at every age

Are you someone who shudders at the thought of visiting the dentist? If so, the **Schroeder Dental Group** makes it a priority to ensure every patient has a positive experience during every visit. Their office is bright, clean, and relaxing. There is no need for stress because their staff will take the utmost care with you and your entire family. They offer routine cleanings, fillings, bridges, crowns, dental bonding, dental implants, laser dentistry, oral surgery, orthodontics, reconstruction, veneers and more complex dental work, such as root canals.

When an emergency arises, **Schroeder Dental Group** is ready. No one plans on a dental emergency, because they happen very suddenly and unexpectedly. They tend to be either painful, embarrassing or both. At the **Schroeder Dental Group**, emergency patients are seen promptly so they don't have to suffer overnight or through a weekend. Time is of the essence in these urgent dental cases.

They're also helping "little" smiles in a big way. Children need not worry, because they do their very best to make every visit as quick and painless as possible. Prioritizing and creating a positive basis for their dental care involves educating, treating, pre-

venting, maintaining a balanced diet, and instilling effective brushing and flossing habits. They take time to educate your entire family on the techniques and practices of proper oral care.

Once you meet the staff at **Schroeder Dental Group**, you'll soon understand why they're preferred by their patients. They're committed to repairing and enhancing your smile by utilizing state-of-the-art techniques with long-lasting results. The staff's mission is to deliver the highest quality care, unprecedented comfort, and service to ensure that all patients are relaxed while they work on their great smile!

Schroeder Dental Group is Invisalign® certified. Invisalign® (braceless braces) is the latest offering for orthodontics. This is the ideal solution for patients who have their permanent teeth. The product is virtually invisible and removable for meals, brushing, and flossing. They also offer Zoom! Whitening.

They use the Waterlase MD Laser for both hard and soft tissues, such as teeth and bone. The Waterlase MD Laser can be used to treat cavities, in many cases without the patient having to receive the shots to be numb. Most patients only feel the cool water spray of the laser.



Dr. Katrina Schroeder, founder and owner of the Schroeder Dental Group knows that prevention pays for itself, and even small steps can make visible changes to your smile and your well-being.

The Waterlase MD Laser can also be used for soft tissue procedures, such as reshaping the gum tissue for a more aesthetic appearance and periodontal procedures. One benefit of utilizing the laser for soft tissue procedures is minimizing post-operative discomfort.

Schroeder Dental Group provides digital imaging with minimal radiation and immediate results. The digital images can be seen from every patient room and be immediately available to the patient.

Schroeder Dental Group offers a comprehensive approach to your entire dental care needs. Whether it's a routine checkup or an advanced procedure, they're trained in the newest dental techniques. They have ex-

perience in the most up-to-date dental technology and treatments and gladly accept most insurance plans. Plus, they offer a payment plan that allows patients without dental insurance to afford the best possible dental care.

Call 407-886-1611 for appointments that are always customized for the patient. Each visit is designed with careful consideration given to your financial needs, time requirements, comfort levels and cosmetic wishes. All treatments are planned to meet the needs you have expressed and are provided with exception skill and care.

The **Schroeder Dental Group** office is located at 527 Wekiva Commons Circle in Apopka.

Advertisement

IN THE END, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M THANKFUL FOR MOST OF ALL?

ALL OF YOU.

...AND ALSO, SQUEAKERS.

Best of APOPKA!
PARK AVENUE ANIMAL HOSPITAL
847 N. Park Ave, Apopka FL **407-880-9446**
WWW.PARKAVENUEVETS.COM

STOP BY TODAY!

Gracework Community Church

SATURDAY SERVICES

Bible Study 10:00 AM
Worship 11:30 AM
Livestream:
tinyurl.com/4ak7933j

9913 Bear Lake Rd., Apopka, FL
graceworkcc@gmail.com
321-228-4599

Would You Like Extra Copies?

You may purchase **The Apopka Chief** at the following locations in and around Apopka

- 7-11, Highway 436 & Thompson Rd.
- 7-11, Highway 441 & Piedmont-Wekiva Rd.
- 7-11 (Mobil), Highway 441 (Errol Pkwy Errol Estate entrance)
- 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
- Chevron Market, Hwy 441 & Roger Williams Rd.
- Chuck's Wagon, Main St., (Hwy 441)
- Circle K & BP, Hwy 441 S. of Walmart
- Circle K, Keene Rd / Clarcona
- Citgo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd (Plymouth)
- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)
- CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av & Hwy 441
- Discount Beverage & Smoke (Across from Checkers, Highway 441)
- Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #6157, S. Park Avenue
- Circle K (Shell) #2334, Rock Springs Rd & Kelly Park Rd
- Circle K #1288, Welch Rd & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
- Compare Fresh Market, 436 behind Aaron's
- Crosby's Motor Inn, Hwy 441 & Errol Parkway (Errol Estate)
- Lula Mae's Eatery, Central Ave S.
- Marathon, Main St. (midland downtown)
- McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Mobil, (Citgo) Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)
- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)
- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)
- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
- Sam's Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.
- Trader Mae's, Rock Springs Rd
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
- Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441
- Walgreens, N. Park Ave/Welch Rd.
- 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)
- Zellwood Station (inside MHP)
- Zellwood Truck Stop Diner, Hwy 441
- Zellwood Water Users, Inc., 3262 Robinson St.

Subscribe today for only \$25 per year in Orange County - delivered with your mail! Add E-Edition for an additional \$5.

Subscribe Online at www.TheApopkaChief.com

Office Location: 400 N. Park Avenue, Apopka
www.theapokkachief.com • Ph: 407-886-2777 • Fax: 407-889-4121 • email: news@theapokkachief.com • ads@theapokkachief.com

Thanksgiving is mentioned many times biblically

1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word "thanksgiving" the most times at eight? Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah

2. In 2 Timothy 3:1 - 2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? Adulterers, Sun worshippers, Renegades, Unthankful people

3. From Psalms 106:1:



"O give thanks unto the Lord; for his _____ endureth for ever." Love, Good, Mercy, Spirit

5:18: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the _____ of God." Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail

5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant

6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? Fish's belly, Aboard ship, In the wilder-

ness, Mountaintop

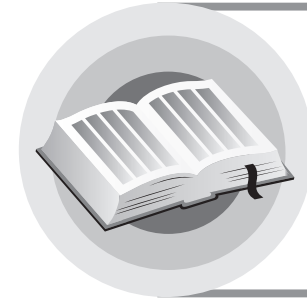
ANSWERS: 1) Psalms, 2) Unthankful people, 3) Mercy, 4) Will, 5) At your own will, 6) Fish's belly
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

A Plea for Tolerance

Tolerant persons respect and accept persons who are different from themselves. Tolerant persons not only learn more about others—and other cultures—but they also tend to have more friends and promote peace and understanding in their lives. We live in an era where many people are leaving their home countries in search of better lives for themselves and their families. It is unfortunate that so many countries are so poorly governed that people feel compelled to leave, but that is the state of today's world. Those of us who live in more affluent, better-run countries may be inclined to feel that the immigrants who come here drag us down, but that is usually not the case. Most

immigrants desire to work and contribute to the common good, which they usually do after being here for a short time. Statistics show that first-generation immigrants commit fewer crimes than native born citizens, are more likely to start their own businesses, and they usually bring with them a sense of gratitude for all that their new country offers. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a country which is sought by so many throughout the world. We should be tolerant of those who come here seeking a better life. They may need some extra help at first, but eventually they will add much to the common good. And finally, remember that all of us ultimately came from somewhere else.
—Christopher Simon



Do you have church news you would like us to publicize?

Use Our Online Forms: www.theapokkachief.com

Call **The Apopka Chief & The Planter** at 407-886-2777, fax 407-889-4121, or email news@theapokkachief.com



LOOMIS FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES
VISIT OUR ONLINE OBITUARY
LOOMISFUNERALHOMES.COM

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

Add Your Church To Our List. Call (407) 886-2777

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Holy Tabernacle Church
2501 Apopka Blvd.
Call for more info: **407-928-8617**

407-886-3388
"Attend your place of worship this week!"
MARVIN C. ZANDERS FUNERAL HOME
232 W. Michael Gladden Blvd. Apopka, Florida 32703

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.
Proverbs 14:26

State Farm
Shren Yeager
49A East 3rd Street, Apopka
407-880-3167
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

What is the shortest verse in the Bible?

Maximize your marketing dollars by FOCUSING your advertising campaign on a concentrated market!

Visit us online at TheApopkaChief.com

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

When you advertise in this section, you get the best of both worlds: low-cost ads AND targeted advertising!

Newspaper readers are ACTIVE CONSUMERS!
As a group, they have tremendous buying power!

A Plea for Tolerance

(See message above.)

"Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt."
Exodus 23:9 NIV



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

Maximize your marketing dollars by FOCUSING your advertising campaign on a concentrated market!

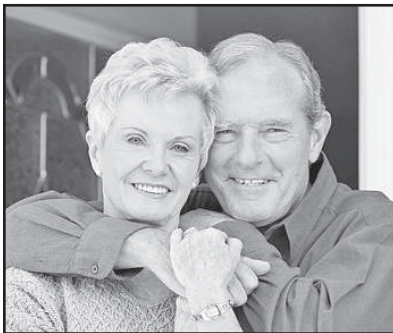
- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>AME
St. Paul AME
407-889-4464</p> <p>Anglican
Anglican Community Fellowship
Find us at: theacf.net</p> <p>Apostolic
Apostolic Church of Jesus
407-886-2556</p> <p>Assembly of God
Apopka Assembly of God
407-886-2806
One Church
Markham Woods
407-774-0777</p> <p>Baptist
Apopka First Baptist
407-886-2628
First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
407-963-5398
First Baptist Church of Mount Dora
352-385-2222
First Baptist Church of Sanlando Springs
407-788-6801
First Baptist Sorrento
352-383-2241
First Baptist Church of Sweetwater
407-862-3893
First Baptist Church of Tangerine
352-383-7920
First Baptist Church of Zellwood
407-889-0509
Forest Avenue Baptist Church
407-886-4374
Fountain of Life Baptist Church of Apopka, Inc.
407-814-8322
Gospel Centered Church
800-924-6850
Hope Baptist Church
407-886-6980
Lockhart Baptist Church
407-295-1133
Northside Baptist Church
407-884-4443
One Way Christian Church
www.onewaychristianchurch.com
The Church at Oak Level
407-656-1523
Pleasant View Baptist Church
407-886-6717
Riverside Baptist Church
407-295-3850
Springs Community Baptist Church
407-889-2240
St. Luke's Full Gospel Baptist Church
352-735-9199</p> | <p>Trinity Baptist Church
407-886-2966
Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church
407-886-7864</p> <p>Bible
Bear Lake Bible Chapel
407-563-3931</p> <p>Biblical Science
IDMR
321-948-3298</p> <p>Catholic
St. Francis of Assisi
407-886-4602</p> <p>Charismatic Episcopal
Ascension Church, CEC
407-880-9555</p> <p>Christian
Christ Centered Christian Church
321-331-0036
Journey Christian Church
407-884-7223
Real Life Christian Church
352-735-LOVE</p> <p>Christian Science
Christian Science Church
407-389-4200</p> <p>Church of Christ
Apopka Church of Christ now with Plymouth*
Central Church of Christ
407-869-1419
Plymouth (and Apopka) Church of Christ*
407-886-1466
Church of Christ of West Orange
407-656-2770
Tri-City Church of Christ
407-920-1757
10th Street Church of Christ
407-884-4835</p> <p>Church of God
Church of God of Zellwood
407-886-3074
Grace Street Church of God
407-298-9188
Healing Waters Church of God
407-886-3780
Park Avenue Worship Center
407-886-2696
Sorrento Church of God
352-735-4245</p> <p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Apopka Ward
407-880-9877</p> <p>Episcopal
Church of the Holy Spirit
407-886-1740</p> <p>Faith and Word
Word of Life
407-886-7427</p> <p>Full Gospel
Millenium of Glory
407-814-0041</p> | <p>New Covenant Perfecting Ministries
407-880-8898</p> <p>Holiness
End Time Word Ministry
407-369-0148
St. Elizabeth Church of God by Faith
407-886-6290
St. Matthew Holiness
407-889-2274
Temple of Faith Church
407-884-6960</p> <p>Independent
True Temple of God
407-880-8181</p> <p>Interdenominational
New Vision Community Church
407-886-3619
Northwest Community Church
407-578-2088
One Accord Christian Fellowship Church
407-523-3002</p> <p>Jewish
Congregation Beth Am
407-862-3505
Congregation of Reform Judaism
407-645-0444</p> <p>Lutheran
St. Paul Lutheran
407-889-2634</p> <p>Methodist
First United Methodist
407-886-3421
Bear Lake United Methodist
407-862-1531
Zellwood United Methodist
407-889-4426</p> <p>Moravian
Rolling Hills Moravian Church
407-332-8380</p> <p>Nazarene
Calvary Church of the Nazarene
407-889-2148
Apopka Springhill Church of the Nazarene
407-884-8322</p> <p>Non-Denominational
Anointed Word Family Worship Center
407-886-4989
Casa De Oración Internacional
321-239-7680
Center of Faith Church for All People
407-464-9375
Church on the Edge
407-869-1133
City of Destiny (The)
407-884-6322</p> | <p>Compass Community Church
407-880-6110
Dayspring Community Church
407-814-4996
Everlasting Covenant Christian Center
407-884-8598
Faithworks Church
302-293-1391
Freedom Fellowship
407-299-6311
Freedom Ministries
407-886-6006
Grace Gospel Church
321-438-4554
Grace Pointe Church
407-889-3383
Graceworx Community Church
321-228-4599
Happy Hill Ministries
407-889-0583
Holy Tabernacle Church
407-928-8617
Hosanna To The Highest
407-491-4266
Inspire
407-415-6218
Ministries of Good Life
407-703-7464
New Life Praise Worship Center
407-880-3421
New Beginning Worship Center
352-455-9173
New Life Word of Faith
321-460-8205
Orlando Church of Christ
407-823-7370
Philemon Ministries
407-718-7179
Rejoice in the Lord Ministries
407-814-7643
Remnant Christian Center
407-703-7346
Renewal Church
407-410-5378
Servants of God Ministries
407-814-8255
Sorrento Christian Center
352-735-4447
Spirit of Life Christian Church
407-886-4570
Tangerine Community Church
352-383-4173
The Shabach Church
407-445-1230
True Words of God
Tabernacle of Meeting
407-227-8829
Victory Church World Outreach Center</p> | <p>407-889-7288</p> <p>Pentecostal
Church in the Son
407-246-0001
Faith Fellowship Church
407-741-3750
Ministerios Getsemani
407-310-8672
Prince of Peace Pentecostal Missionary Church, Inc.
407-889-9269
Pentecostals of Apopka
407-889-3802
Way of Grace Ministries
407-292-9998</p> <p>Presbyterian
First Presbyterian of Apopka
407-886-5943
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
407-293-6802</p> <p>Reformed Church in America
Rolling Hills Community Church
407-886-7664</p> <p>Seventh-day Adventists
Apopka Seventh-day Adventist
407-889-2812
Florida Living SDA Church
407-284-7472
Forest Lake
407-869-0680
Franco-Haitian
407-296-4368
Genesis Spanish
509-264-4873
Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist
407-290-1800
Mount Olive
407-886-0430
Orlando Filipino Seventh-day Adventist
407-292-9210
Orlando Vietnamese Seventh-day Adventist
407-339-4974
Patmos Chapel SDA
321-870-8583
Pine Hills
407-291-4816
Plymouth-Sorrento
407-884-0595</p> <p>Templo Bíblico
Templo Asamblea Bíblica Lake Howell Branch Chapel
407-814-4465</p> <p>Unity
Unity Church of Christianity
407-295-9181</p> <p>Ukrainian
St. Mary's (Protectress) Ukrainian
386-848-9888</p> |
|---|--|--|--|---|

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Congress cannot make a law that favors the establishment of one particular religion; that prohibits the free exercise of religion; or that restricts freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people to gather and engage in peaceful demonstration and to petition the government for redress of their grievances.

www.TheApopkaChief.com | news@theapokkachief.com | 407-886-2777

Please support these advertisers that support your freedom to worship.



Golden Chief

A FOCUS ON SENIOR CITIZENS



Documentation of Island Pond Cemeteries and Island Pond Primitive Baptist Church

We are working with the descendants of former slaves from the Delk plantation to restore, preserve and maintain their family cemeteries. We know that Anthony Frazier, who is buried in the Wekiva Springs State Park, is connected to this family group. We believe that Joseph Delk Roberts, Anthony's half brother, may be related to this family group. There is a chance he is buried in one of the Island Pond cemeteries. We may never know for sure. Having a clear photo of any of these early figures is on our wish list. That is why we are appealing to *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter* to reach out to their readers to help us find a better copy of a long-lost photograph that first appeared in the pages of the newspaper. To me, it feels like the words of the editor/writer were almost prophetic when readers were directed to cut out and save the story of the article on Rock Springs. Indeed, we should never lose touch with the early history of the place again.

Island Pond Cemeteries Restoration and Preservation, Inc
Legacy Preservation and Education Group, Inc. 407-342-3084 LegacyPEG@gmail.com

Previous writings related to this history has been slim and contain some inaccuracies. Online at the Sorrento, Lake Co., FL USA (franmuse.com) website, is the passage that is quoted below.

"These first white settlers found several colored families living about a mile north of Sorrento. They were slaves and children of slaves from the plantation of Mr. Delk at Rock Springs. When freed at the beginning of the Civil War, some joined the Union Army, but at the close of the war they returned to settle near the home of their mother, Aunt Hettie Weir, from whom many of the early settlers bought their first orange trees. Two other colored families lived on the Rock Springs road - Uncle Pete and Aunt Mary Frazier and their children and Joe Jenkins and his family. Their descendants still live in this section."

"Weir" is a misspelling. The correct spelling is Ware. Hettie shows up first in the 1870 Census as Hetty Bacon, a 40-year-old woman living with her 16-year-old daughter, Nancy Bacon. In 1873, Hettie marries Jackson Clipper. On December 25, 1876 Hettie marries Isaac Ware in Volusia, Florida. Further searches have turned up deeds in Hettie and Isaac Ware's names. Her last will and testament was drawn up on November 14, 1898 and filed on March 12, 1915.

Pioneer Trails of Lake County, by William F. Gouveia may be found in both the Sorrento and Eustis libraries in a spiral bound photo copied book. It is

registered with the Library of Congress but does not contain a bibliography so that sources may be verified. It is believed that William Gouveia pulled information from an article published in the book *Pioneer Florida* by newspaperman D.B. McKay of the Tampa Tribune. In *Pioneer Trails of Lake County*, Gouveia says that after the Civil War, Joseph Delk returned in 1868 to Sorrento to homestead. Joseph's fellow freed men joined him and Aunt Hettie Weir in Sorrento in a section called "Benton's Prairie." There they planted citrus groves and later sold the root stock to arriving white settlers.

Gouveia falsely attributes D.B. McKay as the one who interviewed Joseph Roberts but in reading the passage from *Pioneer Florida*, McKay says he learned of the story when a woman named Mrs. W.P. Link sent him a large collection of old newspaper clippings. Among them was the article from the May 13, 1926 issue of the *Apopka Chief*. McKay goes on to quote much of the article in his column that is published in the book, *Pioneer Florida*. Joseph Roberts claims to have been a former slave and the son of planter William Shelton Delk. Delk owned Rock Springs where Kelly Park is located today. The 1860 Slave Schedule of the U.S. Census does document that Delk was a slave holder living at Rock Springs. There is no reason to doubt Joseph Roberts interview in the *Apopka Chief*. The article is included below.

(above and to the left.)

Originally published in an April 1926, edition of *The Apopka Chief*



Joseph G. Roberts, who lived on a Cotton Plantation at Rock Springs 75 years ago.

A weird tale, rich in romance and history and in which stories of the early pioneering days in Central Florida, adventure, war, feudalism and bloodshed are strangely mingled, is that of the early settlement and development of the country around Rock Springs, about five miles North of Apopka.

Rock Springs has long been known as one of the most

delightful spots in Florida. The natural beauty of the place fairly entrances one, while the spring itself, gushing from under a huge lime rock at the rate of 26,000 gallons a minute, pure and cold, is one of the natural wonders of the State. The water flowing from the spring during the centuries that are gone, has worn a picturesque amphitheatre in the rock. Making a semi-

circular turn, it goes on its merry jaunt toward the St. Johns River, making glad music on its way over the shallows and under great cypress trees and oaks that form a canopy over the bed of the stream.

(As published in the April 1926, edition. The layout is different but the photograph and words are the same.)

Profile of Island Pond and Island Pond Primitive Baptist Church

Island Pond was a settlement of African Americans created after the United States Civil War. Many of the early residents were already living near the area prior to the end of the war. Some were slaves of William Shelton Delk, a landowner of what is today known as Rock Springs at Kelly Park in Apopka. Little is known about these first settlers of Island Pond. Burrell Reese and Jackson Knight were among them. Through the Homestead Act, Jackson Knight acquired his nearly 160 acres in 1883 and Burrell acquired his in 1885. They owned adjoining parcels, both of which would contain cemeteries in the southwest corners of their parcels. Today those cemeteries are known as Island Pond Cemetery One and Island Pond Cemetery Two. A third site of significance was the Island Pond Primitive Baptist Church. The one-acre parcel for the church was provided by Mack Reese, a son of Burrell Reese, from his own property acquired through the Homestead Act. These two cemeteries are the only tangible evidence of the existence of this early community. The economic hardships caused by the freezes that devastated the citrus crops, the dying out of the pines used in the turpentine and timber industry, employment opportunities in the booming towns of Eustis and Mt. Dora, along with the arrival of northerners looking to invest in land were all factors that likely contributed to the movement of people from Island Pond to the surrounding towns. Over time, the lands have changed hands from private owners, to timber companies, to citrus cooperatives, to residents, and now land developers. The community of Island Pond no longer exists. It is now only the name of a small body of water south of Lake Seneca in Eustis. It is safe to say that most residents of East Lake County have not heard of Island Pond or its historic cemeteries.

Island Pond does not show up on the road map of history again until the year 2010 when two women from Ft. Pierce, Florida

came to Central Florida looking for their roots. Grieving the loss of their father, Margaret Reese-Williams and her sister Ethel Reed began tracing their family tree. Margaret uncovered death certificates that listed the location of Island Pond as the final resting spot of many of their ancestors. Margaret learned that Burrell Reese is her great-great grandfather. Jackson Knight was married to a Betty Reese. Both Island Pond One and Island Pond Two hold Margaret's and Ethel's ancestors. That revelation set the sisters on a path, much of it uphill, to restoring and preserving the two cemeteries.

Margaret and her family have had some help along the way. Both cemeteries are currently owned by private residents. In a 2010 Orlando Sentinel newspaper article covering Margaret's story, both property owners are quoted giving their support to the restoration of these sites. This news article caught the attention of Mount Dora Fire Lieutenant Bobby Liles. He reached out to Margaret and offered to help her clean up the cemeteries. Two attempts were made to clear away decades worth of vegetation at Island Pond One. The East Lake Historic Society took the project under their wings and made great strides at documenting the historic site. Sadly, with the passing of time, the vegetation quickly reclaimed Island Pond One.

On May 25, 2023, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 49 into law. With his signature, the Historic Cemeteries Program was created within the Division of Historical Resources of the Florida Department of State. This program encourages and supports the collaborative effort to preserve, rehabilitate and share information related to abandoned and historic cemeteries. In addition to support from professionals at the Department of State, a grant program has been established. State universities, state agencies, units of local governments, cities, towns, counties, and non-profit organizations may apply. Private property owners are

not eligible for state grant funding.

The news of potential grant funding to restore the Island Pond Cemeteries is what prompted the formation of two non-profit organizations; Island Pond Cemeteries Restoration and Preservation, Incorporated and Legacy Preservation and Education Group, Incorporated. During the course of researching Island Pond, other local abandoned historic cemeteries were discovered. The first nonprofit is dedicated only to Island Pond, whereas the second was created to fund the research and restoration of any cemetery project in the State of Florida.

While there are established procedures for researching, documenting, restoring, and maintaining abandoned cemeteries, the approach and journey for each project varies due to any number of circumstances. Each cemetery has its own unique story to tell. One fact that cannot be disputed is that it takes a collaborative effort from start to finish to ensure a successful project.

The restoration and preservation of the Island Pond cemeteries presents a number of challenges. Island Pond One is land locked with limited access to the site. There is no power or running water. The majority of grave markers have disappeared over time making it difficult to locate burials. Access down a private road has been granted on a temporary basis so there are time constraints to work within. Care must be given not to disturb the neighboring property owners and to respect their privacy. Tools and equipment will be needed and funds do not yet exist to cover the costs. The dense vegetation will be a challenge to remove. The work will be hot and tiring. People will be exposed to insects, poison ivy, and snakes. The initial work is not for the faint of heart. Once the vegetation has been cleared then the process of creating grids, identifying graves, and recording data will begin. Ground penetrating radar will be used to collect information below the sur-

face of the soil. Markers will be placed to acknowledge the unmarked grave sites. And the history will be published that tells the stories of these early settlers whose labor laid the foundation for what would become Sorrento, Mount Dora, and Eustis. A management plan will be designed to ensure the site is maintained. In a few short years the construction of the Round Lake Road Extension will bring a modern road past the cemetery. Lake County has offered to install a driveway apron from this new road and the current land owner has offered to provide parking so that visitors may come to the site and pay their respects and learn about these pioneers of our area. This will happen under the guidance of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, the Florida Department of Historical Resources, university professors from the University of South Florida and the University of Central Florida. What has started out as two women's dream is poised now to become an historic endeavor. There is room for you on this journey. We welcome any offer of support.

Edward Jones

Edward Jones | Member SIPC

Happy Thanksgiving
We are thinking of you this season and hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving



Kerry D. Luellen, CFP
Financial Advisor
3316 E State Road 436
Apopka, FL 32703
407-389-0167
www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY



\$1000 OFF*

No Payments & No Interest for 18 Months**

Military & Senior Discounts Available

OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/2024

BCI BATH & SHOWER

CALL NOW!
(855) 729-3984

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and well surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 12/31/2024. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI Acrylic Inc.

These holiday recipes will certainly create delicious memories

Emily Meggett's Meatloaf uses inexpensive ingredients and can last for days, even for large families. She says "this dish for my family when I wanted to cook something simple that would serve everybody. Because of the heartiness of this dish, we'd usually" enjoy meatloaf in the fall or winter.



From *What's Cookin'?*, we have Shrimp or Chicken Curry. This recipe was contributed by Mrs. Myrtle Womble who suggests serving it over hot, steamy rice.

Spinach au Gratin from *Charleston Receipts* looks like a dish suitable for a special occasion. It was contributed by Mrs. Thomas A. Huguenin (Mary Vereen).

We have Violet Schoening's fresh apple cake from the in-house recipe book given us by Northside Baptist Church. Ms. Schoening's advice is to use a glass baking dish and says it is good even with no frosting. It can be frozen for use later.

From the *Stay at Home Chef*, we have Old Fashioned Homemade Eggnog from Rachel Farnsworth. This is a real treat for me because I remember while celebrating at my Grannie's house, she served a very thick and creamy eggnog. That eggnog is the "nonpareil" by which I judge all others. And, of course, they never measure up to Grannie's eggnog. I sincerely hope Ms. Farnsworth's eggnog will prove to be its equal. I was way too young to realize I was missing a wonderful opportunity to ask for Grannie's recipe. Now, I don't have my Grannie to ask.

EMILY MEGGETT'S MEATLOAF

Recipe from
Gullah Geechee Home Cooking
by Emily Meggett
2 pounds ground beef
1 pound lean bulk sausage,
preferably Jimmy Dean
1/2 cup breadcrumbs

- 1 large onion, grated
- 1 bell pepper, grated
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2 large eggs
- 1-1/2 teaspoons seasoning salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tomato, roughly chopped
- Ketchup, to taste
- Bell pepper slices (optional), for garnish

1) Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. 2) In a large mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients, excluding the ketchup and water. Form the mixture into a loaf and place on a sheet of foil on the non-shiny side, then drizzle the top of the meatloaf with ketchup. 3) Tightly close the foil around the meatloaf. Place in a 5 by 9-inch loaf pan. Pour 3/4 cup water around the foil package so the dish will not burn. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes, until well done. Garnish with bell peppers, if using.

MRS. MYRTLE WOMBLE'S SHRIMP OR CHICKEN CURRY

Recipe from *What's Cookin'?*
Published by
The Apopka Woman's Club
3 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup minced onion
1/2 teaspoon curry powder
3 tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
1 cup chicken broth (or 1 chicken bouillon cube dissolved in 1 cup hot water)
1 cup milk
2 cups cooked, cleaned shrimp or 2 cups cut-up cooked chicken
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
Melt butter over low heat in heavy saucepan. Saute onion and curry powder in melted butter. Blend in flour and seasonings. Cook over low heat until mixture is smooth and bubbly. Remove from heat. Stir in chicken broth and milk. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil 1 minute. Add shrimp or chicken and the lemon juice. Serve

over rice. Makes 4 servings.

MRS. THOMAS A. HUGUENIN'S SPINACH AU GRATIN

Recipe from *Charleston Receipts*
2 pounds fresh spinach
4 tablespoons melted butter
2 tablespoons flour
1-1/2 cups sharp cheese (grated)
4 hard-boiled eggs (chopped)
Salt and cayenne to taste
Wash spinach thoroughly, then place moist spinach in a saucepan without adding more water. Cover and cook for seven minutes or until tender. Drain well. Mix two tablespoons butter and the flour and add spinach. Season well with salt and cayenne. Add the other tablespoons melted butter, chopped eggs and one cup grated cheese. Mix well. Put in buttered casserole and cover with 1/2 cup grated cheese. Brown for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Serves six.

VIOLET SCHOENING'S FRESH APPLE CAKE

Recipe from
Northside Baptist Church cookbook
1-1/4 cup oil
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla
2-1/2 cups flour
1 cup pecans
3 cups raw apples
Mix in order. Pour batter into 9- x 13-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 55-60 minutes. Cool, slice and serve from pan. Best if pan is glass.
Frosting:
1 stick butter, soft
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons evaporated milk
1 cup dark brown sugar
Powdered sugar, as needed.
Cream butter, salt, milk and brown sugar. Stir in powdered sugar until it takes form and spread over cooled cake.
This cake may be frozen. And it is

good even without the frosting.

RACHEL FARNSWORTH'S OLD FASHIONED HOMEMADE EGGNOG

Recipe from the *Stay at Home Chef*
by Rachel Farnsworth
2-1/2 cups milk
4 whole cinnamon sticks
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
7 egg yolks
3/4 cup white sugar
2 cups heavy cream or half and half for a light version
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1) Put the milk, cinnamon sticks, cloves, and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla into a large saucepan. Put it over the lowest heat setting on your stove for 5 minutes. 2) In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg yolks and sugar for 1 minute. 3) Turn the heat under the milk up to medium-high heat. Remove the cinnamon sticks. 4) Slowly whisk in about 1/4 of the hot milk into the egg/sugar mixture. Then pour all of the egg/sugar mixture back into the saucepan and whisk it all together. Put it over medium heat, whisking constantly, for 3 minutes. It will thicken a bit. 5) Pour the hot eggnog into a large bowl or beverage container and let cool at room temperature for 1 hour. Add cinnamon sticks back in (optional). 6) After 1 hour, stir in the heavy cream, 2 teaspoons vanilla, and nutmeg. Store in the fridge and allow to cool for at least 4 hours before serving.
Note: Ms. Farnsworth says that it can be made uncooked as it is traditionally with raw eggs. To keep it safe for everyone, she has written the recipe as cooked. For an uncooked version, whisk egg yolks, sugar, cloves, and nutmeg in a large mixing bowl. Replace the cinnamon sticks with 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon and whisk in with the egg yolks. Slowly pour in milk, cream and vanilla extract, whisk until thoroughly combined. Alcohol can be added if you wish: dark rum, cognac, bourbon.

NOV. / DEC. 2024 ★★ EVENTS ★ WEEKLY ★ UPCOMING ★ ONGOING ★★

SCHOOL BEGAN AUGUST 12 - Traffic patterns will change. Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those school children ... and ducks. **DON'T TEXT WHILE DRIVING** - Please! YOU WILL PAY A FINE.

Children must be five years old on or before September 1 to start kindergarten. To enter first grade, a child must be six years old on or before September 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten (Florida Statute 1003.21). Immunizations must be current.

UNLESS CHANGED: School Start Times for Elementary School & K-8: 8:45 a.m., Middle School: 9:30 a.m., High school: 7:20 a.m.

City of Apopka's Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelliey Parkway, Apopka 32712, 407-703-1784. On any given weekend, you can see many, many families in attendance at the beautiful complex setting participating in various organized sport programs.

Amenities at the complex include: Soccer Fields, Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, Multi-Purpose Fields, Sand Volleyball Courts, Outdoor Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, **Walking Trail**, Amphitheater, Playground, Concession Stands.

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

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

OPEN
for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center.
CALL 407-703-1642 FOR INFORMATION.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29
HAPPY DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING!

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, FRIDAY at 9:00 a.m. at 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center.. Call 407-703-1642 for information.

CENTRAL FL CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 1806 S Bay St., Eustis, has Fellowship Friday meetings. For complete details of all chamber events, visit cfchristianchamber.com/events-chamber. Contact: latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the **third Saturday each month**. Next one is Dec. from 8-10 a.m. at 519 S. Central Avenue. Cost is only \$7.

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E. FIFTH STREET, APOPKA. Managed by Apopka Historical Society. Call 407-703-1624 for info.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

FITNESS CLASS, MONDAYS 9-10 a.m. 11 N. Forest Ave at Fran Carlton Center. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

CRAFTS & CHATTER: 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks not required. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 601 S. Highland Avenue. If you have a problem with food - overeating, anorexia, bulimia - there is a solution for you. For more information, visit OA.org or call Carrie 781-867-1071.

TOASTMASTERS: Apopka Foliage Toastmasters #840, meets Wednesdays promptly at 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., in person and zoom at the Museum of Apopkans, 122 E. 5th St., Apopka, 32703. Call 407-765-2629 for information.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 11:30-noon, at Beef 'O' Brady's in The Back Room, 1410 Rock Springs Rd., Apopka. Interested community members are encouraged to attend and get acquainted. Meetings have resumed on first and third Tuesdays. Masks are encouraged.

SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave. at Fran Carlton Center. Masks no longer required. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info

ART CLASS, 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks required. Temperature taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Altamonte Springs / Apopka VFW POST 10147, is NOW OPEN Wednesday and Saturday Mornings from (TIME CHANGE) 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. (other hours by appointment only). 3rd Saturday of the month is VFW's fundraising breakfast. Also, evenings of Tribute music are planned. Call 407-889-8266, or email info@vfwpost10147.com for information. The VFW Auxiliary has been formed and is active as well. Don't forget to visit its excellent Military Museum.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks no longer required. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 10-11 a.m., Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M.A. Board St., . Masks are no longer required! Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info

CITY OF APOPKA DRC (Development Review Committee) meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (or as long as necessary) at City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka. Check for the online version.

BRIDGE CLASS, 10:15 a.m.-1 p.m. (approximately) at Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks are no longer required. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

TOPS CHAPTER #646. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), TOPS, a non-profit organization, will help you reach a weight goal with support from friendly, caring members, education, and rewards. Each Thursday weigh-in begins at 9:00 a.m. - meeting ends at 10:15 a.m. Come to its NEW location 220 W. Horatio Avenue, Matland, FL 32751 to meet with others who have a like-minded goal to lose weight. No products, no specific diet to follow,

no meds. Call 407-580-0897 for more information.

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 12 noon-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E Fifth St. 407-703-1642 for info.

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

TOASTMASTERS: still meeting every WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., by zoom. For more information, call 407-765-2629 or visit www.Apopkatoastmasters.com.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks are no longer required. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

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

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. 120 E Fifth St. Call 407-703-1624 for info.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks are no longer required. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info

UPCOMING EVENTS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, at Museum of Apopkans, 122 E 5th St., Sat., Dec. 7, 8:30-10:30 a.m., with food, crafts, games and 2 bike give-aways. Suggested donation \$5. adult, \$3 children. 407-703-1707.

APOPKA CHRISTMAS PARADE Saturday, December 14, sponsored by Foliage Sertoma Club for the 48th year. Foliage Sertoma is in its 50th year. Starts at 10 a.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

Florida Railroad Museum, 101 S. Boyd Street, Winter Garden, is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11-3 each week excluding holidays. For info, call 407-656-0559. . Must see.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS are public and will also be broadcast on this shortened link: <https://bit.ly/2ABrnsb>, and are normally held the first Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. Subject to change with notice. For info., call City Clerk 407-703-1704.

Agenda and minutes of meeting can be found online. Once posted, check for any revisions by Tuesday at 5 p.m. before the meeting

FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF APOPKA, meets the first Thursday of each month, September through May, at 9:45 a.m. at the Alonza William Park / Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M.A. Board St., Apopka. Contact: apopkafgca@gmail.com. NO MEETINGS JUNE-AUGUST.

FREE PLANT CLINIC in Apopka is open on Tuesdays. Do you have problems with your plants or lawn? Let a Master Gardener help. Orange County residents can bring their questions and samples to UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers at the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research Education Center (MREC), 2725 Binion Road, Apopka, 32703; 9 a.m.-12 Tuesdays; 407-254-9200. Questions and photos can be emailed to orangecomg@ifas.ufl.edu. to be answered by Master Gardeners. A free plant clinic for commercial growers is open Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at the same location.

KIWANIS CLUB OF APOPKA IS now meeting MONTHLY on the 3rd Tuesday at 8 a.m. at Seacoast Bank, 345 E Main Street, Apopka. Contact 407-464-4606 for information

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

APOPKA FOLIAGE TOASTMASTER'S CLUB, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., on Zoom, Apopka. 407-765-2629.

NWOC FFA Alumni - Monthly meetings (usually the 4th Monday evening in a month during the school year) are open to anyone. (Looking for more information)

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, 122 E 5th Street, Hours open: Wednesday to Friday. from noon-5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m... Admission is free. Contains displays and information about Apopka's history, and has history books for sale. Monthly meetings of Apopka Historical Society are normally held on a Sunday afternoon. For more information, go to www.theapopkamusium.com.

THE APOPKA ELKS LODGE 2422 meets first and third Tuesdays of

month, 201 W. Orange. For more information, call 407-886-1600 or email apopkaelks@aol.com Bar Bingo every Monday night at 7 p.m. promptly.

GFWC APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB, meets at First Methodist Church, 201 N. Park Avenue. Call 407-880-2111 for more information.

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

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

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

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

(OCLS) Orange County Public Library North Orange Branch Address: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. www.oclis.info. **10-28-24: LIBRARY HAS RE-OPENED.**

*Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, 180 E. Main St., Apopka. For more info, call 407-886-1441

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR INFORMATION

Events, fund raisers, and non-profit organizations Info: fax 407-889-4121, or email ads@theapopkachief.com

Subscribe to The Apopka Chief E-Edition or Home Delivery Call 407-886-2777 or Visit www.theapopkachief.com In County: \$30 with E-Edition, or \$25 for just postal delivery. Out-of-County: \$35 with E-Edition or \$30 for postal delivery

COMPASS HEALTH
YOUR PLAN. YOUR CHOICE.

LET US GUIDE YOU

- HEALTH
- MEDICARE
- CREMATION
- ACCIDENT
- DENTAL
- LIFE
- CRITICAL ILLNESS

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

Compass Health Insurance.com
3030 East Semoran Blvd., #184
Apopka, FL 32703 407-758-9487
Next to Gators Dockside (in Colonial Shoppes at Bear Lake)
Your Local Agency for
Florida Blue

STAY CURRENT WITH APOPKA'S NEWS
Subscribe today at: www.TheApopkaChief.com

Wreaths: In 2023, over 3 million sponsored veterans' wreaths were placed

Continued from page 1A

is to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach our children the value of freedom, proudly announces its theme for 2024: "Live with Purpose." Each year, millions of volunteers and patriots gather in local, state, and national cemeteries across all 50 states and abroad to pay tribute to our nation's service members and their families. This year's theme, "Live with Purpose," draws inspiration from the remarkable stories of these volunteers whose impactful work in their communi-

ties is a beacon of inspiration for all. "Over the course of the last year, and then especially on the escort to Arlington last December, I listened to people who had gone through great adversity, and they'd taken that adversity and turned it around as a call to action to spend the rest of their lives making sure that every day was meaningful and that they lived with purpose," Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America, said in a statement. "For me, to live with purpose is a mindset." As part of this year's

theme, WAA will be sharing a monthly video series and corresponding lesson plans starting in February that speak to the 10 bouquets that make up a veteran's wreath – these are the 10 attributes or characteristics that WAA believes define our nation's service members – a symbol of honor, respect and victory. In 2023, over three million sponsored veterans' wreaths were placed by volunteers on headstones at 4,225 participating locations worldwide. Wreaths Across America volunteers tirelessly work year-round to Remember, Honor, and

Teach, with each name spoken out loud in grateful acknowledgment of the sacrifices made by our veterans for our freedoms. Follow the impactful stories of those volunteers and supporters living with purpose throughout the year using the tag #Live-WithPurpose and tune in to Wreaths Across America Radio, available on the iHeart Radio app, TuneIn, and the Audacy app, or listen at WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/radio.

TELL THEM YOU READ IT
IN *The Apopka Chief*

REG \$44.99
NOW ONLY \$33.74
A Taste of Christmas Gift Basket #5206

IT'S A WRAP!
CLICK. SHIP. DELIVERED. DONE ✓

GourmetGiftBaskets.com

JUST FOR YOU!
ENJOY 25% OFF

REG \$74.99
NOW ONLY \$56.24
Christmas Gift Basket Classic #5210

ORDER TODAY:
844.459.3525
GourmetGiftOffer/MB111X
Use Code: MB111X

Physicals and Vision Screenings available for students up to age 18

The Department of Health-Orange County offers physicals and vision screenings to Orange County students up to 18 years of age by appointment. Appointments must be made for Wednesdays only, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Neighborhood Center for Families (NCF) for Apopka/Zellwood, 6565 Willow St., Zellwood, phone number: 407-254-9430.

Neighborhood Centers for Families (NCF) are one-stop centers that provide residents with a multitude of valuable services within their communities. Funded by the Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children (4C), services are offered at 13 different locations throughout the County. They offer counseling programs, tutoring, employment skills, case management, senior activities, limited health services, and so much more.

Each NCF is made up of non-profit organizations, government agencies, churches and community groups working together to address the specific needs of the surrounding community. These organizations collaborate to provide intergenerational programs, services and activities that address the needs of the entire family. Most services are offered free of charge.

Each NCF is uniquely designed to address the needs of its surrounding community and offers flexible hours of service in a family-friendly and accessible location. Child care stipends, through 4C, are also available for clients who are actively enrolled in services.

Dining AND Entertainment

Please support our local businesses.

Stephie's Pub & IRISH EATERY
Full-Service Restaurant & Irish Pub
Traditional Irish Food served at its BEST.
We only use air fryers & convection ovens.

OPEN 11am to 11pm 7 days a week!
* Lunch Specials Every Day, \$8, \$10, \$12.
THIS WEEK: Pulled Pork Crunchies 5 for the price of 4 \$11.95 & Crispy Cod on a bun w/Cheese & Tartar \$9.95

Events & Entertainment
Every Tuesday: Karaoke with Krazy James 7pm
Wednesday: "The Best" Music Bingo with Chuck & Bettina
Thursday: Closed for Family Thanksgiving
Friday: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT! With Johnny & the Moondogs 7pm
Saturday: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!
The Famous "O'Keefe Brothers" 7pm
Sunday: Sunday Afternoon Sports. Come & Enjoy!

Check out our Full Menu at WWW.STEPHIESPUB.COM
1061 W Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka
407-703-8195

Welcome to Caffé Positanos,
where food is our passion

- Our sauces are made fresh daily
- The house salad dressing is made from scratch
- Only the finest ingredients are used

Caffé Positano
Call us for take out orders!

We are located at
3030 E. Semoran Blvd,
Apopka, FL 32703 • 407-774-8080
1665 WP Ball Blvd, Sanford, FL 32771 • 407-531-1151
Visit us at www.caffepositanos.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS
PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST
YOU WANT OMAHA STEAKS

When you want to experience a steak that delivers rich, juicy, exquisite flavor and unparalleled quality in every bite, you don't want just any steak. You want Omaha Steaks.

Butcher's Deluxe Package
4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)

77318MQW separately \$221.94
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$99.99

8 FREE BURGERS (A \$37 VALUE)

Order Now! » OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe9417 | 1.877.694.0131
Ask for your 8 FREE burgers with offer 77318MQW

Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B