

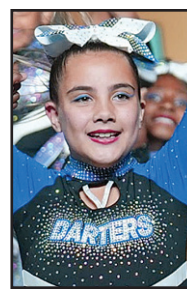
Turkey drive

City Commissioner Nadia Anderson organizes a turkey giveaway for 300 families. See page 7A.



Nationals

Harper sisters are headed to the Pop Warner National Cheer and Dance Championships. See page 1B.



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Volume 102 Number 49

Friday, December 6, 2024 / 50 cents

Deputy Chief Miller retires from APD after 28 years

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

After over 28 years of service with the Apopka Police Department, including the last three years

serving as the first African-American deputy police chief in the department's history, Deputy Chief Je-

See MILLER Page 6A



Police Chief Michael McKinley (l) presents Deputy Police Chief Jerome Miller (r) with his service weapon, a custom done for retiring officers. Miller's last day of service with the Apopka Police Department is today, Friday, December 6. He will serve as deputy chief for the Orange Clty Police Department.

County secures \$11M for Apopka affordable housing

Orange County voted to approve \$11 million for a 300-unit affordable rental housing project, planned for construction on Spring Lane in Apopka, as part of the county's ongoing mission to address its affordable housing crisis.

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the financing as part of the board's consent agenda at the Tuesday, December 3, meeting.

The vote was for the approval and execution of a multi-family affordable housing developer's agreement between Orange County and Apopka Leased Housing Associates I,

See HOUSING Page 6A

Roads to close for Christmas parade

The Apopka Police Department announced upcoming road closures and detour routes for the Apopka Christmas Parade in downtown Apopka, which will take place on Satur-

day, December 14, 10 a.m. to noon. The Apopka Police Department sent out a December 1 letter about the

See PARADE Page 8A

WHS Culinary students bake for Great Christmas Cookie Gift Box Sale

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Students of the Magnet Academy of Culinary Arts at Wekiva High School are making delectable cookies of various flavors for the Great Christmas Cookie Gift Box Sale.

Each gift box includes a collection of at least 10 different types of cookies: classic chocolate chip, butter shortbread, triple chocolate peppermint, M&M cookie bars, decorated lofthouse "ornament" cookies, chocolate-dipped pretzels, snickerdoodles, peanut butter sandwich cookies, Grinch Crinkle sandwich, Christmas tree sugar cookies, and Wekiva Culinary's signature,

See COOKIES Page 3A



Photo courtesy of Wekiva Culinary/website The Magnet Academy of Culinary Arts at Wekiva High School are baking, decorating (pictured), and selling gourmet cookies for their Great Christmas Cookie Gift Box Sale. Each box includes over 10 types of cookies.

School board to discuss SROs in Apopka

Orange County School Board members will discuss the use of school guardians on campuses located in the municipalities of Apopka, Ocoee, Winter Garden, Winter Park and Windermere.

The school board will hold a

work session on the topic of school guardians on campuses at the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center on Tuesday, December 10, at 1 p.m. Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center's address is 445 W. Amelia St., Orlando.

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) currently has a one-year contract with the law enforcement agencies in Apopka, Ocoee, Winter Garden, Winter Park and Windermere.

See SROs Page 5A

Shop With A Cop brings joy to 150 kids



Photo courtesy of Apopka Dog Mayor Asher/Facebook

A total of 150 kids are participating in this year's Apopka Police Department Shop With a Cop, which kicked off its 10-night run on Monday, December 2, and will end on December 13. School resource officers and guidance counselors selected the children. Shop With a Cop is also hosting children from Re-Imagine Communities and N.A.O.M.I. Kids.

Police department swears in three new officers



Photo courtesy of city of Apopka

At the December 3 swearing-in ceremony at Apopka City Hall are (l to r) City Commissioner Nick Nesta, new Officer Joel Sanabria, new Officer Nahamie Edouard, new Officer Zakai Patterson, Police Chief Michael McKinley, City Commissioner/Vice Mayor Diane Velazquez, Clty Commissioner Alexander H. Smith, and Mayor Bryan Nelson.

Three new police officers were sworn in on Tuesday, December 3, at Apopka City Hall Council Chamber. Nahamie Edouard, Joel Sanabria, and Zakai Patterson. Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley administered the oath.

Nahamie Edouard

Nahamie Edouard was born in Orlando and raised in both the Orlando and Apopka area. Edouard attended Apopka High for three years and later transferred to Maynard Evans High School, where she graduated in 2017.

See OFFICERS Page 7A

This week

Section A

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Business Rev. 8A
Worship 9A
Dining & Ent. 10A

Section B

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Kapers 5B
Legal ads 7-8B
Classified 8-10B
Service Dir. 10B

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FloridaPublicNotices.com



Apopka Event of the Week

Celebrating 50 years of Sertoma, the 48th annual Christmas Parade with the theme of “A Golden Christmas in Apopka,” will take place on Saturday, December 14, beginning at 10 a.m., and ending around 12 p.m. The parade route runs northbound on Park Avenue from United Methodist Church of Apopka to Votaw Road.

Quotable

In less than 2 hours, the U.S. Pacific Fleet was devastated, and more than 3,500 Americans were killed or wounded. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor catapulted the United States into World War II.

Editorial written in 2022 to explain significance of remembering

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

December 7, 1941 - a day in U.S. history to never forget

On December 7, 1941, the U.S. naval base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, was subjected to an attack that was one of the greatest military surprises in the history of warfare. In less than 2 hours, the U.S. Pacific Fleet was devastated, and more than 3,500 Americans were killed or wounded. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor catapulted the United States into World War II.

The American people were outraged. Though diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan were deteriorating, they had not yet broken off at the time of the attack. Instantly, the incident united the American people in a massive mobilization for war and strengthened American resolve to guard against any future lapse of military alertness.

Early in the afternoon of December 7, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his chief foreign policy aide, Harry Hopkins, were interrupted by a telephone call from Secretary of War Henry Stimson and told that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. At about 5 p.m., following meetings with his military advisers, the President calmly and decisively dictated to his secretary, Grace Tully, a request to Congress for a declaration of war. He had composed the speech in his head after deciding on a brief, uncomplicated appeal to the people of the United States rather than a thorough recitation of Japanese treachery, as Secretary of State Cordell Hull had urged.

President Roosevelt then revised the typed draft—marking it up, updating military information, and selecting alternative wordings that strengthened the tone of the speech. He made the most significant change in the critical first line, which originally read, “a date which will live in world history.” Grace Tully then prepared the final reading copy, which Roosevelt subsequently altered in three more places.

On December 8, at 12:30 p.m., Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress and, via radio, the nation. The Senate responded with a unanimous vote in support of war; only Montana pacifist Jeanette Rankin dissented in the House. At 4 p.m. that same afternoon, President Roosevelt signed the declaration of war.

On December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt delivered this “Day of Infamy Speech.” Immediately afterward, Congress declared war, and the United States entered

World War II.

“Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well

See HARBOR Page 4A



MASOCHISTS

Part 2 of growing corridor competition

Our brain trust was author, Peter Kageyama of St. Petersburg, Florida. Peter wrote several books on the value of art and small projects to gain the love and support of residents. One volume is titled, Love Where You Live. After all, anyone who throws trash on a local roadway demonstrates no care or concern for their community. But a resident who comes out multiple times to add art or beautify their local corridor demonstrates clearly, they care about where they live. My goal is to engage more of these community lovers. I failed in engaging

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

about 50 percent of the mandatory HOAs. I’m not sure why this is. It is a bit mindboggling why someone would serve on the HOA Board of Directors and not care about their entranceway or corridor. Property values, community engagement, and safety are all tied to this level of

commitment and involvement by neighborhoods. So, I, my staff, and four, or hopefully, five teams are going to focus more on partnering with local businesses. Partnerships between local businesses and “people groups” are vital for longevity and effectiveness.

We were successful collaborating with Orange County Public Works. One department was our partner in picking up debris after tree trimming. Many weeks it was substantial, and the staff had it all removed

See MOORE Page 4A

Christmas holiday is about giving

Well, we are officially in the holiday season. This is a wonderful time of year when we gather together with family and friends to celebrate and carry on traditions. It can be a very special time of year that lasts in the memories of our children for years to come.

As we enter this time of giving and celebrating, let us not forget about our children whose families might be struggling this time of year.

While this season can bring great joy, it can also be a time of great stress for some of our students as families worry about how to pay bills and afford gifts for their children. As a community, my hope is that

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

we who are able to, look for ways to help those families that need a little help this season.

Many schools are collecting items for families in need or gifts for children in need as well. They rely on the community’s help.

This would be a great way to directly make a child’s holiday season better. You can contact your child’s school as well and

ask if there is a child in need that you can help this holiday season.

This is also a good time to remind you about Renewal Church’s Renewal Boutique at Apopka High School. The boutique provides resources to students in need like free deodorant and other toiletries, socks, underwear, backpacks, hoodies, leggings, and school supplies and more. Wekiva High School also collects items for a closet for students in need.

At Wekiva High School, the counselors have a holiday wish list for children who are experiencing homelessness, and the list

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God’s Word

Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do. — Ecclesiastes 9:7

Mema Says

Your day will go the way the corners of your mouth turn.

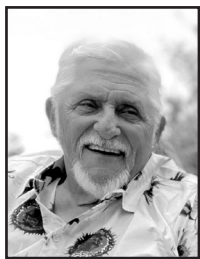
The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 23, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 N. Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription 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.



Getting along with one another is about taking time to understand

“Let’s talk about it.” What a concept! No knives, guns, clubs, or any other weapons. If we could take a quick minute to consider the other side of an argument, and practice self-control, I’m positive the outcome of many of today’s conflicts would be without bloodshed, or the violence we see.

When I first came home from the Navy, I was arrogant, belligerent, had a chip on my shoulder ... but even then, after a knuckle-



Ike Hayden

bruising, nose-bleeding, jaw-swelling, knock-down fight, we combatants would finish and sit down together. The victor (the one with a straight nose, or less teeth in their hand) would buy

the beers, or other refreshments, and we’d laugh over the fight itself, or whatever the fight was over.

Even though we were angry when the fight started, the fight itself was the release of angry energy, and when it was over, most of the anger had dissipated.

Today, there seems to be anger for more than the offence would warrant, as it seems many people have deeper, seething, hatred that looks for an opening to be released, at any opportu-

nity. Things that used to be not worthy of anything but a “California wave” (extended middle finger up) now causes an outbreak of unhealthy, uninhibited exercise of angry energy. Society seems to accept these outbreaks of rage as something to be tolerated rather than condemned.

In the past, the people involved used to be separated by those in close proximity and were kept apart until they agreed to shake hands and settle their

differences by discussion. So, what’s changed? Is it something in the air? Is it caused by the violence shown on TV? What is causing all the violence in our responses to minor infractions?

In that question lies the answer to our lack of temperance. Notice, I said “minor,” because we elevate the wrongdoings. In my opinion, we seem to have to know the reason for the offence before we charge the crime. In the

news reports of a crime that has been committed, the why always comes before the what! When someone murders someone in cold blood, it seems we almost want to “Pontius Pilate” the victim by having to know why the murderer committed the heinous act before we act on judgment, giving us the moment to wash our hands of the blood of the individual murdered.

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Cookies: Free delivery is available for local businesses, Ronald Blocker Center

Continued from page 1A

the oversized gingerbread Mustangs.

“The advanced students of Wekiva Culinary have been working hard for months, experimenting with different recipes to get just the *right* combination of flavors to make our one-of-a-kind gift box,” states the Wekiva Culinary website. “Each box has

lots of the delightful flavors you associate with the holidays. We are making 12 different types of cookies, each one individually packaged to stay fresh as long as possible ... a great gift for everyone on your shopping list!

Inside the Great Cookie Gift Box there are at least 10 different kinds of cookies, 20 in all!”

Delivery on Decem-

ber 10 to local businesses, as well as the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center in Orlando, is free.

All deliveries will leave the school by 11 a.m. and be delivered before 2:30 p.m. Wekiva High School staff will have their order delivered during the school day.

Students can pick up their orders on December

10 during lunch. All others can pick up their orders from the Wekiva High School’s bus loop from 3-5:30 p.m. from the Wekiva Culinary trailer.

The gift boxes, each containing 20 cookies, are now available to order for \$30 each.

For more information and to order, visit wekivaculinary.org/cookies/

Jingle Mingle has S’mores and Santa

The 2024 Jingle Mingle Tree Festival will take place on Saturday, December 7, 5-8:30 p.m. at Camp Wewa, 221 S. Binion Road, Apopka.

Seacoast Bank Apopka and AdventHealth Apopka are presenting the event.

Santa will open the doors at 5 p.m. to a won-

derland of beautifully decorated trees, wreaths, and holiday treasures for silent auction, raffles, holiday plant sale, Christmas caroling, S’mores around the

campfire, food served up at the Jingle Mingle Diner and more.

All proceeds benefit the Epilepsy Association of Central Florida.



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Criticism can be badge of honor

By Amber Jo Cooper, *Florida's Voice*
Published Dec. 3, 2024, 10:08 a.m. ET |
Updated Dec. 3, 2024

Ingraham (Laura Anne Ingraham, American conservative television presenter) asked DeSantis what he would say to the senators who are “quietly vowing to put up roadblocks” for Trump’s Federal Bureau of Investigation director pick, Kash Patel.

I think you do owe the President a great deal of deference on his picks,” DeSantis said.

The governor said he believes Patel “understands the problems” with the FBI.

“He is a reformer that will not be captured by the bureaucrats. Contrast that to our current FBI director, Christopher Wray. We remember when he got appointed back in 2017, he immediately became a company man and was captured by that institution, he has not reformed it in any way, shape or form,” DeSantis said.

DeSantis said he believes Trump is “making sure he’s getting people who have the proper posture to these institutions.”

“These are not the revered institutions that they may have been 30 years ago. These are very problematic institutions. Kash understands that. I think a lot of Republican

senators understand that, but apparently, not enough do,” DeSantis said.

DeSantis said he believes Patel will be confirmed by the Senate.

The governor was also asked about former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, Trump’s pick for U.S. attorney general.

“I think the mission there is to understand that this is an institution that’s run amok, and you got to go in there, and I think Pam will, don’t try to be liked by the bureaucrats, expect to be attacked relentlessly by the corporate press, and know that when that happens, that’s a badge of honor, that means you’re doing the right thing,” DeSantis said.

He believes a plan is necessary to “bring accountability” and “restore the rule of law.”

“There’s a lot that needs to be done. I was back in the day a special assistant US Attorney, 20 some years ago. It was an institution then, I think we thought of a lot differently than now. So just understand, this isn’t your father’s DOJ, this has this is an institution run amok. You are going to ruffle feathers,” DeSantis said.

“People are going to be upset when you do the right thing, but take that as positive feedback,” he said

Harbor: All but one responded

Continued from page 2A
understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.”

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/joint-address-to-congress-declaration-of-war-against-japan>

Editorial written by
John Peery in 2022

Moore: Program has positive impact

Continued from page 2A

within days. Another employee hired companies who pressure-washed sidewalks along the four competing corridors. A third manager assisted with the procurement and management of companies to install sidewalks in neighborhoods where none previously existed.

While I must deal with significant complaints at the beginning of a project, gratitude and happiness with new sidewalks occurs within a few weeks of seeing the new driveway aprons and fresh sod.

The winner always receives prizes from Orange County Public Works. The 2021 winner received upgraded LED street lighting. The 2022 winner received resurfaced pavement, and while it took about a year and a half, the prize was completed this past summer. The 2023 winner is awaiting roadway safety improvements at one intersection.

The 2024 winner is receiving a four-way stop and two raised intersections.

The winner also receives beautiful utility pole banners and congratulatory signage. My staff and I worked diligently from the date the judges selected the winners until now to facilitate the prizes.

Now, that isn’t to say that improvements weren’t scheduled and planned while we worked on all four roadways. They were. But I must say a commissioner is an advocate for their area, prioritizing non-regularly maintained public works improvements closely.

While working on Sheeler Avenue, I regularly crossed intersections and rode my bike down the roadway to get a better handle on what was needed for improvements. I must say many times I was scared out of my wits at the speeders, lack of sidewalks, and

no crosswalks at Sheeler and Apopka Boulevard. Even though the team did not win the contest, I am still committed to making the street safer. So don’t be surprised to see more law enforcement in the short term until the safety improvements are constructed.

The Corridor of the Year Program has a multitude of benefits. This column details growing the sense of place and love of community. It detailed great collaboration between the neighborhood leaders, commissioner, and public works department. The Corridor Chiefs and the Artistic Corridor of the Year Program were great additions to the success of the Neighborhood Leader Program.

Thank you to the more than 300 volunteers who participated in at least one event during 2024. You made a big difference in your community.

Byrd: Community responds to needs

Continued from page 2A

has nearly 50 students on it unfortunately. Items being requested are mostly clothing and shoes, as well as gift cards. Many of these students also requested items for their younger siblings. If you are interested in helping these students, feel free to reach out to me or Wekiva High School directly.

I’m so proud of our Apopka Kiwanis Club for taking leadership with this. All of the organization members are being asked

to sponsor one child. It is this type of effort all of our community should undertake!

No matter where you look, there is a need in our community, and, for our youngest community members, this should be a season of joy. If we are able to help bring that joy to our children, I hope we can.

Parents, remember this is also a time of many assessments and exams for the end of the semester. It’s important for us all to remember this and help where we can.

Hayden: Common sense is necessary

Continued from page 2A

Notice I said “cold blooded” murder. Not justifiable killing. In the Garden of Eden, the serpent told Eve that if they would eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would be as “gods,” knowing good from evil. They already knew the difference, but Eve was distracted by the word “gods” and the fact that, as gods, *they* could define what was good and what was bad.

I believe that is where our society is today. We want to know why, when it happens to someone else so that we can decide whether it was good or bad. That is where we are in our daily living. When we (personally) are confronted with an unpleasant situation, we want to be the judge, jury, and hangman. At that moment, we do not *care* why; we want retribution!

I believe most road-

rage occurrences, as well as domestic violence cases, most of the crimes relating to uncontrolled anger could be reduced if we could return to the guide given to us in our love letter from our Creator.

Years ago, even people who were outside the Christian fellowship respected the Word of GOD and what it stood for. Most of them could even quote scripture from hearing it in their home while growing up.

I know, I know, I’m preaching. But what do you use as a guide to daily living? I understand that social media influences our young people, and I wonder if many of us adults are not being led by what Facebook says, or the other forms of communication we use. Many of us are led by emotions, and that is a sorry guide. When you allow emotions to drive, you bypass the conscience,

and at that moment, you are running on instinct, *not* common sense.

That is exactly what animals use. An animal has the spirit of life, and in place of a conscience, they use their instinct. Humans possess a soul, the conscience, and the spirit of life. In B.C. (Before Computers), people would *read* to gain understanding, direction for their lives, and answers to questions raised by daily living. We were blessed to have the Old Masters to choose from, and common sense was the theme of those authors, and their discourse on human behavior.

Each one of us is *responsible* for each one of us. That means we influence someone every day. We need to be examples. Even when anger raises its head and says, “REVENGE,” we need to take a deep breath and say, “Let’s talk about it!”

Public notices don't affect me. Right?

The property next to the lot you just bought was rezoned as land fill. Maybe you should have read the public notice in your local paper.

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ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

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

www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator	407-703-1649
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-703-1741
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

SROs: Meeting will give an overview of district's safety and security program

Continued from page 1A

This agreement secures School Resource Officers on campuses for the 2024-25 school year in compliance with the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

OCPS currently has a three-year contract with the remaining four agencies: Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando Police Department, Maitland Police Department, and Eatonville Police Department.

The work session will provide an overview of the safety and security program in OCPS. Meetings to discuss a new contract

with the five municipalities will begin in January 2025. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Guardian Program is the only option allowed by Florida law to provide the added security to school campuses, according to an OCPS news release.

The five municipalities cover the following schools:

Apopka – Apopka High, Apopka Memorial and Wolf Lake middle schools, Kelly Park School, Dream Lake, Apopka, Lakeville, Rock Springs and Wolf Lake elementary schools.

Ocoee – Orange Tech-

nical College (West), Ocoee High, Ocoee Middle, Citrus, Ocoee, Spring Lake, Thornebrooke and Westbrooke elementary schools.

Windermere – Windermere Elementary

Winter Garden – Hospital Homebound/Esteem Academy, SunRidge and Lakeview middle schools, Maxey, SunRidge, Dillard Street and Whispering Oaks elementary schools.

Winter Park – Orange Technical College (East), Winter Park High and Winter Park Ninth Grade Center, Brookshire and Lake-mont elementary schools.



The Way I See It
Patti Bankson

Making Sense of the Nonsense

While trying to figure out how, as a country, we got from where we started to where we are today, I've realized: we don't need to go back to where we started, but, rather, *back to where we got off-track!*

Mentioning the 60s would be no mention at all without the Vietnam war. Not so much the war itself, maybe, but definitely the decisions made by politicians. One of those decisions - called *student deferment* - allowed college and university students to stay in school, living their normal lives while others who *didn't have the means*, didn't have that luxury were sent, voluntarily or otherwise, to lose limbs and lives intervening in another country's war ... only to come home to face another war declared on them by their fellow Americans. Proving that, sometimes, a diploma from a "prestigious" school doesn't mean you're smart.

Anyway, Christopher Caldwell, *Claremont Institute Senior Fellow* and, *New York Times contributing opinion editor*, explained it so much better: "*If you were rich enough to study art history, you could go to Woodstock, and make love. If you worked in a garage, you went to Da Nang and made war.*"

In 2020, a talk by Mr. Caldwell at *Hillsdale College's Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship* in D.C. entitled, *The Roots of Our Partisan Divide*, explained, "*our partisan polarization concerns how the civil rights laws of the 1960s, and particularly the Civil Rights Act of 1964, divided the country...*" "*They did so by giving birth to what was, in effect, a second constitution, which would eventually cause Americans to peel off into two different and incompatible constitutional cultures. It happened so slowly that many people did not notice.*"

In his book, *The Age of Entitlement: America since the Sixties*, he suggests that the Civil Rights Act pulled the country apart, while today's conventional wisdom maintains that it brought the country

together. Mentioning outrage over his book, he went on to say (*especially for those who haven't read it*) that he wanted to "*make crystal clear*" his book is *not* a defense of segregation or Jim Crow, and that when he criticizes the long-term effects of the civil rights laws of the 60s, that "*I do not criticize the principle of equality in general, or the movement for black equality, in particular.*"

His concern is regarding the authority given to Washington by the 1964 Civil Rights Act to override what had been thought of by Americans as their democratic institutions.

I'm certainly not a Christopher Caldwell, but as an American citizen and voter, I share his concerns and have for many years. If you take even a casual look at our governance, you'll see not only power, but also, *abused* power. We now have entities created because *some person* (previously unheard of, outside of a D.C. insider's group) has an often-dopey idea which didn't come from legislation and was never presented to the citizens to approve or not.

The Covid *rules* depriving us our Constitutional freedoms comes to mind. I have yet to hear someone "in charge" explain how Rules magically became Laws, and we could be arrested - handcuffs and all - for "disobeying." That's why I'm grateful for the Christopher Caldwells, Ted Cruzs, and Donald Trumps of the country, to name just three, who are willing to ask the questions and *not accept* answers thrown at us in the name of maintaining some ambitious, self-serving person's power.

There will be changes, when Donald Trump is back in office, of course, but I believe they'll be good changes. Maybe, because *he* didn't become rich on the tax payers' backs and doesn't have to return any favors. And maybe because he knows how to get things done! Example: Amazingly, he's not even been sworn in yet, but our neighbors, Canada and Mexico, have already agreed to change their damaging immigration policies, which will benefit us all. We've needed bold leadership, coupled with common sense and a genuine love for our country, for a long time. I, for one, am looking forward to a new day in America!

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MOANA 2 (PG) 11:00A; 11:40A; 12:30; 2:20; 3:30; 4:20; 5:00; 6:20; 7:00; 7:40; 9:10; 10:30
Y2K (R) 11:10A; 1:50; 4:30; 7:10; 9:50
WICKED (PG) 11:20A; 3:00; 6:30; 10:10
GLADIATOR II (R) 11:30A; 3:10; 6:40; 10:00
RED ONE (PG-13) 12:20; 4:00; 7:20; 10:20

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Commissioner gives out 300 turkeys



About 300 turkeys and meal sides were given to Apopka families at the Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway on Wednesday, November 27, at House Representative for District 39 Doug Bankson's (center) Victory Church on South Park Avenue. The giveaway was presented by City Commissioner Nadia Anderson (second from right), and sponsored by Hicks Seafood, Walmart, Berglund Construction, CarePlus Health Plans, HTG, Anthony-Smith Law P.A., and the city of Apopka.

Officers: Backgrounds include Orange County Jail and deployment with Army

Continued from page 1A

Edouard began her career in law enforcement at the Orange County Jail, where she was a corrections officer for two years. Her hobbies include trying new foods/restaurants and hanging out with friends.

She said she chose a career in law enforcement to help create and maintain a safe community within

Apopka.

Joel Sanabria

Joel Sanabria, 36, is originally from New Jersey. Sanabria is a U.S. Army veteran with two deployments to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division.

Prior to applying to the Apopka Police Department, Sanabria was a dispatcher for the Seminole

County Sheriff's Office, which was what led him to wanting to make an even bigger difference as a law enforcement officer.

Sanabria has been married to his lovely wife Jennifer for seven years and has two children. Sanabria and his wife first moved to Apopka in 2017, where his wife worked as a ER nurse.

Zakai Patterson

Zakai Patterson, 20, was born in Lakenheath, England, and raised in Apopka, graduating from Wekiva High School in 2022. His hobbies are digital art/graphic design, plastic model kits, cars, and video games. Patterson said he chose the career of law enforcement to help reinforce the bond within the community and inspire the youth.

December 8 concert is by community bands

Music to My Mind will present "A Holiday Journey" on Sunday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka. The audience will

see community bands, the Harmony Symphonic Winds and Fusion Jazz Ensemble play holiday favorites. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (cash only).

Public input needed for Ocoee Apopka Road


The city of Apopka will be seeking residents' input for upcoming improvements to Ocoee Apopka Road through a public survey launching in this month, the city


announced on its website Apopka.gov on Tuesday, November 26. A public input meeting will also be announced to gather feedback from residents.

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Parade: Police will try to restore normal traffic flow ASAP

Continued from page 1A

parade road closures to Florida Hospital Apopka, Orange County Fire Department, Lynx Transportation Florida Highway Patrol, Duke Energy, and Orange County Sheriff's Office.

Road closures from

8 a.m. until noon will be on Forest Avenue between Main Street and Third Street.

The following road closures will take place from 9 a.m. to noon:

*Park Avenue between Main Street and Martin Street

*Votaw Road between

Park Avenue and Christina Avenue

*Third Street between Park Avenue and Forest Avenue

*Second Street between Park Avenue and Highland Avenue

*First Street between Park Avenue and Highland Avenue

*Forest Avenue between Third Street and Oak Street

*Orange Street between Park Avenue and Forest Avenue

*Summit Street between Park Avenue/Central Avenue

*Central Avenue between Summit Street/Mar-

tin Street mid-block of Central Avenue

Uniformed officers from the Apopka Police Department will be posted at these locations for assistance if needed.

The times listed are approximate and could be shorter or longer depending on the duration of the

parade itself. The Apopka Police Department will endeavor to restore the normal traffic flow as soon as possible, the letter states.

The 48th annual Apopka Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 14, beginning at 10 a.m.

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Your Guide to Local Businesses

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For many busy households, the holiday season is a time for family, friends, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Unfortunately, overgrown or dead tree branches can dim the brightness of your landscaping. **Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping** can magically transform your property to help highlight your home and your winter wonderland displays.

Trees are both beautiful and majestic. Trees have even helped record the history of families as the trees grow and develop alongside you and your family. Many childhood memories include the trees in your backyard or old neighborhood. The sentimental value of a special tree is simply immeasurable. Tree care, including tree trimming, pruning and shaping, is an investment that can lead to substantial returns.

With all the joy and benefits people get from trees, the importance of professional tree care is vital to your family and property. Well cared for trees are attractive and will add considerable value to your property. Appropriate pruning techniques are essential for development of strong tree structure and desirable form. Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability, and improper pruning can cause long-lasting damage.

"During this season, it's important to make sure your home



Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping can help maintain the health and aesthetic beauty of your trees and yard. Call them soon at 321-689-5866 for a free estimate and consultation.

and property are shining bright and protected from any overgrown or damaged trees. Many people don't realize there is an issue with their trees, and it is important to identify and treat potential problems before they result in damage to people, property, or the trees themselves," stated **Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping** owner and operator James Maltby.

A tree's condition will determine the safety and aesthetic value of your home and property. The **Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping** professionals can assess any signs of potential tree problems and recommend ways to maintain healthy, beautiful trees.

Some important warning signs of potential tree trouble can include: dead, hanging, or broken branches; and branches that are too close to a house or structure, or utility wires.

Proper pruning can reduce the risk of damage, and crown reduction or thinning could reduce any wind or storm damage, as wind resistance is important for a tree to remain standing.

If a tree's structure is found to be damaged or unsound, the team at **Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping** can determine whether mitigation with cabling and/or bracing is warranted. They can also evaluate the impact of removal should it become necessary.

Remember to leave the trimming up to the experts. Trees can be very dangerous to remove or trim, but prompt trimming of any overgrown branches or injured limb(s) will help encourage healthy growth. The experts at **Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping** can assist in performing the job in a safe and timely manner, while reducing further risk of damage to the

tree or your property.

Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping is an established Apopka family business that is fully licensed and insured, including Workers' Compensation on all employees. For your convenience and peace of mind, a management team member is always on site for all services and property evaluations.

Maltby's Tree Service & Landscaping would be happy to quote commercial tree trimming or a removal job. With over 15 years in business, you can rest assured you're in good hands with a company that prides themselves on a job well done.

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

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Obituaries

Clyde “Wayne” Barrington Junior died at home November 27th 2024. Called Wayne by those that knew and loved him, he left behind his ex-wife and companion of 44 years Janet Sue Pearce of Orlando, his daughter Mrs. Stephanie Lore of Titusville, his beloved grandchildren Nicholas Daniels of Denver, Mack and Benjamin Lore of Titusville and Mina Read of Austin.

... Carolyn Grossenbacher Ditch passed away November 14, 2024 in San Pedro, CA. She was born in Apopka, FL, September 26, 1946 to

Calvin Smoot and Elizabeth Markey Grossenbacher. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, James A. Ditch, and brother, John C. Grossenbacher. Surviving siblings are Mary G. Frisbie (S. L.) of Bartow, FL, Mark Grossenbacher (Joan) and Betsy G. Townsend of Apopka; children Jennifer J. Ditch of San Pedro and James R. Ditch of Mission Viejo, CA; grandsons Schroeder Ditch, Delano Ditch and Nolan Garland; 11 nieces and nephews and numerous great nieces and great nephews.



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See Obituary on page 10A



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Clyde “Wayne” Barrington Junior

Clyde “Wayne” Barrington Junior died at home November 27th 2024. Called Wayne by those that knew and loved him, he left behind his ex-wife and companion of 44 years Janet Sue Pearce of Orlando, his daughter Mrs. Stephanie Lore of Titusville, his beloved grandchildren Nicholas Daniels of Denver, Mack and Benjamin Lore of Titusville and Mina Read of Austin. A former fireman and true Jack of All Trades, Wayne made a wonderful tapestry for his life of his many ventures, many friends and many feuds (often one and the same). He will be remembered well and missed often. Services to be held at Loomis Funeral Home Apopka, Friday 12/06/2024 at 12:00 pm following a viewing at 11:00am.



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Finding Jesus in the Temple

There is very little written or known definitively about Jesus’ adolescence. The one story in the Gospels which can be dated to this period of his life is the story of Jesus getting lost while he was on a pilgrimage with his family and them finding him discussing with the teachers of the law in the temple. This story is told only in Luke (Luke 2:41-52), and it mentions that he was 12 years old at the time. Several things are noteworthy about this story. The most obvious is that what Jesus said amazed the people listening. The other thing that is noteworthy is that Jesus appears to understand at this point that he has a special relationship with God, that is, that he is a “son of God.” He says to his

parents “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49 NIV)

It is interesting to ponder what it was like for Jesus to wonder about his relationship with God. Did this knowledge come to him suddenly or only gradually dawn on him?

We can’t know this definitively, but the fact that at 12 years old Jesus is quite confident about who his “real father” is tells us something, i.e., that there must have been some awareness of his divine mission from a very young age. Just as Jesus had to come to terms with what his mission here on earth was meant to be, so too do we have to wrestle and come to terms with our mission.

–Christopher Simon

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

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

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

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“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?

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

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

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Thankful for Thanksgiving service in Apopka

By Dr. Phyllis Olmstead
Special to the Chief

Many hundreds of hot meals were served Thanksgiving week in Apopka by people from around Central Florida. What a blessing it was to see our citizens eating fresh cooked turkey, ham, homemade dressing, cranberry sauce, cornbread, rolls, pie, cake, hot chocolate and carrying out bags of snacks, drinks, necessities, clothes, blankets, and shoes.

Sandra and Willie

Bell started buying groceries and supplies in October then began cooking days ahead of Thanksgiving Day. Their extended family and friends wrapped their arms around them adding supplies and support. Sandra refers to the program as Caring Hands of Apopka, a grassroots operation. The Bells have a well-oiled system that has evolved over the years of service feeding anyone wanting a meal three times a year. Management from ACE Hardware meet Willie early in the morning on the grounds of New Hope Baptist Church at East Michael Gladden Boulevard and South Central Avenue to prepare for the hive of workers at 10 a.m. to serve at 11 a.m. The citizens arrive and the plates full of hot meals and treats flow to people walking up and driving

through the lot. There were 238 overstuffed meal boxes of dinners distributed. Hundreds of bags of baked goods were passed out from two other tents. Housing items were available this year. The 24th of November, the grassroots organization H.O.P.E. of Apopka made up of churches, organizations, and individuals from all around Central Florida fed people at Just Like Momma's and distributed even more meals afterwards at points of need. The warm restaurant was fully decorated with Thanksgiving theme tablecloths and decorations made the hungry feel like they were in a home. As always, there were clothes, shoes, blankets, personal needs, and bags of take-away snacks and food from the various organizations.

Unfortunately, H.O.P.E. was back outside on the 1st of December, at McGee and Main Street but fed many people with even more deliveries the next day. They had choices from many hot soups and chili with a variety of sandwiches, breads, snacks, and hot cocoa. Mmmm. It would be great to find a building with restroom for serving for three hours every Sunday at 4:30 in the winter and 5:30 summer in central Apopka. Do you know of one? Also, having a heated building with a restroom in Apopka on cold nights below 45 degrees for 12 hours of warm sleep for our citizens would be wonderful. Volunteers are welcome. Facebook.com/H.O.P.E.ofApopka Text 1-321-900-7593 to volunteer or for a facility. Thank you.



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Sertoma recognizes Duke Energy

By Beverly Winesburgh
Special to the Chief

Elected officials and club members attending the Foliage Sertoma Club Luncheon on Tuesday, December 3, at the Back Room Steakhouse in Apopka presented a certificate of appreciation to Lisa Curran, Duke Energy government and community relations representative for Orange and Osceola counties. In October, she facilitated funding from the Duke Energy Foundation to Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka to qualify citizens with dire

need for financial assistance to mediate tree removal and hauling from fences, buildings, backyards, streets and driveways. In cooperation with Mayor Bryan Nelson's office, the Apopka City Commissioners and Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore's office and staff, nominations were submitted to a committee of the club to qualify and review. The grants were distributed over the past three weeks allowing many recipients to have their large tree debris moved to the roadside

in time for their FEMA pick-up. The good communication and quick response of city and county elected officials enabled Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka to expedite getting these Duke Foundation funds into the hands of needy residents rapidly. The 50-year-old Foliage Sertoma Club's mission is to be of Service to Mankind in the Apopka area. The Duke Energy Foundation funding was a prime example of the many ways the club accomplishes that on an annual basis.





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SUDOKU ANSWERS
PUZZLE CAN BE
FOUND ON PAGE 2B

7	4	8	2	3	5	6	9	1
1	2	6	8	4	9	5	3	7
9	5	3	7	6	1	8	2	4
3	1	7	6	5	2	4	8	9
4	9	5	3	8	7	2	1	6
8	6	2	9	1	4	7	5	3
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P	I	L	E	I	P	R	O	M	S	U	S	E	
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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B