

Gas district

A longtime leader for Lake Apopka Natural Gas District has died. See page 8A.



Sports

Sink or swim: The Rock Springs Regatta at Kelly Park See page 1B.



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Volume 103 Number 2

Friday, January 10, 2025 / 50 cents

Churches open cold weather shelter for homeless this week

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Two churches have opened their doors as a shelter for some nights this week to bring the homeless in from the overnight cold weather.

The First Presbyterian Church of Apopka opened the cold weather shelter on Tuesday, January 7, and Wednesday, January 8, at the church building, 500 S. Highland Ave., Apopka. Dinner and breakfast were provided.

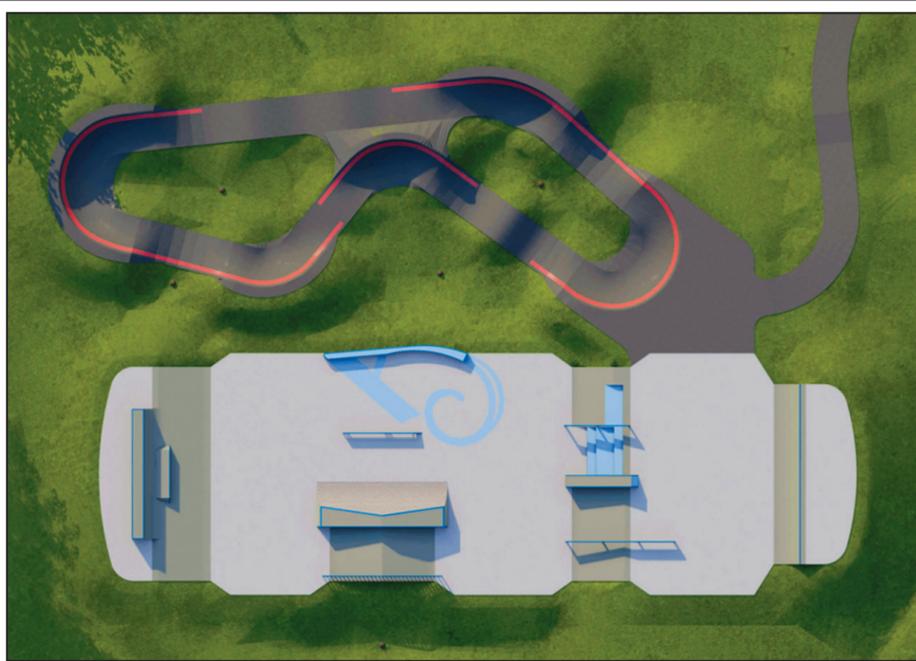
According to Pastor David Schorejs of the First Baptist Church of Apopka, One Family Church would organize the Thursday, January 9, cold weather shelter

if needed. Dinner was also provided that night. One Family Church is a partner of First Presbyterian Church.

"I have had conversations with the Mayor (Bryan Nelson) concerning the upcoming cold weather. First Presbyterian Church of Apopka/One Family Church has tentatively agreed to open their doors for shelter on necessary evenings. This will be for anyone who is without shelter or without heat," Schorejs wrote in a Sunday, January 5 email.

Schorejs said in an interview with *The Apopka Chief* that churches would

See SHELTER Page 3A



This rendering by the American Ramp Company depicts the new Apopka Action Sports Park, that will consist of a skate park and pump track north of the Fran Carlton Center in Apopka.

City to host groundbreaking for new Apopka skate park and pump track

The city of Apopka Parks and Recreation Department will host a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$500,000 skate park and pump track park, which will include a skate

park area for skateboarders and skaters, and pump track area for BMX bikers.

The ceremony will take place on Friday, January 10, at 4 p.m., at the site of the new park, located

just north of the Fran Carlton Center, 11 N. Forest Ave., Apopka. Parking for the ceremony will be at the Fran Carlton Center.

The new Apopka Action Sports Park is an

Apopka Community Re-development Agency project using tax increment fund revenue from the city of Apopka and Orange

See PARK Page 12A

Gift card winner



Michael Posluszny of Apopka won a \$100 Publix gift card from *The Apopka Chief* for responding to a reader survey that was published in December 2024. He picked up the gift card at the newspaper office on North Park Avenue on Monday, January 6.

Lodge installs 2025 officers



The Apopka Masonic Lodge, the oldest Lodge in continuous use in the state of Florida, Orange Lodge No. 36 F&AM, had their 169th annual installation of officers for 2025 on December 27, 2024, at the Lodge building on East Main Street in Apopka. The Orange Lodge No. F&AM has been an integral part of the Apopka community since the town was chartered in 1882 and has been a staple in the area since 1856.

Pictured (l to r) are Brother Ken Cottrell, Worshipful Patrick Tessier, Brother Ruben Guzman, Worshipful George Bockleslaugh, Worshipful Keith Potter, Worshipful Master Rolando Vargas, Brother Michael Berry, Brother Andrew Haas, Brother Hector Rodriguez, Brother Joseph Morse.

Photo courtesy of Patrick Tessier.

Traffic concerns, charter review led 2024 in Apopka

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Note: This is the first of a four-part series reviewing the news in Apopka in 2024 as written in the pages of *The Apopka Chief*. This week covers January, February, and March.

January

An initiative was introduced, intended to eliminate fatalities and several injury crashes from the Apopka area's roadways. Pamela Richmond, city traffic coordinator, explained the plan at the Wednesday, January 3, City Council meeting in City Hall. ... On December 19,

2023, AdventHealth recognized three Apopka firefighters with certificates of excellence for their level of care and service provided during a recent call for a medical emergency. ... A scam left an Apopka woman without a driveway, and now she has finished raising money for a new driveway.

The Apopka City Council reviewed the city charter in regard to its current mandate of the strong-mayor form of government and the benefits of changing that to the proposed council-manager form. ... Alonzo Williams Jr., who made history as the first African-American Apopka

city commissioner, died on Tuesday, January 9, in Albany, Georgia. He was 85. ... Ryan Tucker announced this week that he is withdrawing from the Apopka City Council Seat 3 race.

The Apopka City Center hit the ground running this year with a groundbreaking for Miller's Ale House, a sports and entertainment casual dining restaurant that, along with Winn-Dixie, will anchor the mixed-use development. ... The Apopka City Council voted, 5-0, for the ratification of a new city economic development director, who will manage policies and direction and thus spearhead the city's economic

growth and influx of businesses into the community. ... The city and its partners broke ground on the permanent Fire Station 6, an 8,065 square-foot building that will get built on northeast corner of Harmon Road and Ocoee Apopka Road, on Friday, January 12. ... The 15th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade marched on Monday, January 15, beginning at the Apopka Community Center and ending at the John H. Bridges Community Center, where a program was performed to honor the civil rights leader.

The groundbreaking of the 215-acre mixed use development in the north-

western corner of Orange County will boost economic development, relieve the regional affordable housing crisis, and bring more vibrancy to the Orlando area, according to several speakers at the event. ... Nearly 100 people listened to the four candidates running for two City Council seats discuss a wide scope of community topics including the city charter, duties as a commissioner, and decorum on social media and at council meetings at the 2024 Debate for City Council Seat 3 and Seat 4. ... Apopka Foliage Garden Club members, the Apopka

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This week

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



Apopka Event of the Week

English Conversation Hour will be held in the meeting room of the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E Semoran Blvd., on Tuesday, January 14, from 3-4 p.m., for those with a basic understanding of English. A series of workshops in which students can practice their English speaking and listening skills.

Quotable

Despite being nominally private universities, the Ivy League receives several billion dollars each year from taxpayers in research grants and student loans.

The editorial reflects on the quality of professors at higher education institutions

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher Emeritus John Ricketson

Mar. 5, 1940 - July 16, 2024

Consultant Emeritus John Peery

Mar. 28 1956 - Oct. 12, 2023

Publisher T. Jerrod Ricketson

Reporters Teresa Sargeant Marshall Tempest Neal Fisher

Marketing Director Jackie Trefcer

General Mgr Emeritus Neoma Knox

Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Seniors need to think about what they may be taught

As school is now back in session in Apopka, it is time for seniors to begin consideration of which school, college or university they will be choosing for continuation of additional education.

The following article gives information to consider when choosing to apply to an institution of higher learning.

Jay P. Greene

Blair Arch Princeton University December 20, 2024 Heritage Foundation

Elite universities have been so thoroughly captured by the left that they are no longer capable of reforming themselves to offer an ideologically balanced and intellectually diverse education.

Declaring that institutions are beyond repair should not be done lightly. The Bible offers an instructive lesson on this. Before judging the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham bargains with God so that the cities would be spared if even 10 righteous people could be found there. If there are fewer than 10, the cities lack the critical mass required for making improvements.

Let's apply the Sodom and Gomorrah test to the Ivy League. If we can find even 10 openly conservative professors at these universities, it might be possible for them to form a critical mass and make progress in getting their institutions to hire other conservative scholars to achieve meaningful ideological balance. Without even 10, these universities would not only lack the motivation to seek greater ideological diversity, but they would have great difficulty identifying quality conservative scholars and convincing them to join an organization without any like-minded colleagues.

The point here is not that conservative faculty are the righteous ones, but that a critical mass of conservative professors is necessary to achieve internal reform.

To search for these 10 conservative scholars who might redeem the

Ivy League, I looked at campaign contributions from people who described themselves as professors at these eight universities in support of Donald Trump during the most recent election. There were only two professors, both at Cornell University, from the entire Ivy League who contributed to Trump's campaign.

At the other seven Ivy League universities, there wasn't a single professor who contributed to Donald Trump. By comparison, there were around 900 contributions from Ivy League professors to Kamala Harris' campaign.

Of course, there could be conservative professors who didn't make a campaign contribution or didn't even vote for Trump. (Manhattan Institute's) Rick Hess and Riley Fletcher recently analyzed the faculty websites of 10 selective universities, including Harvard and Princeton, to classify professors as being on the left, center, or right. At none of these universities could they find more than five professors who are ideologically on the right. Again, elite universities fail the Sodom and Gomorrah test, with none of them coming close to having 10 identifiably conservative faculty members.

Given that half of the American electorate supported Donald Trump, the inability of elite universities to have even 10 conservative professors is a political as well as an educational problem. Despite being nominally private universities, the Ivy League receives several billion dollars each year from taxpayers in research grants and student loans. This includes \$1.8 billion in overhead on grants that university administrators can use as a slush fund to pay for anything they want, as well as \$344 million in subsidies for student loans beyond what is expected to be paid back.

With full control of the federal government and most state governments, Republicans may judge

See COLLEGE Page 12A



Teachers, parents can work together

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful winter break and is ready to start the spring semester. As we start the third nine-week grading period, it's always a good time to check in and make sure our students are on track to finish the school year strong.

For our youngest learners, parents should reach out to their teachers and get an update on their child's academic and social progress. Find out if any areas seem to be an area of difficulty for your child and work with their teacher to come up with a plan to address it.

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

By this time, teachers know their students well and can share insights with parents that they may not see or recognize at home. For some students, these challenges may just need some adjustments at home like more sleep or extra practice. But for some chal-

lenges, outside resources might be a consideration. Remember, your teacher is your partner and will welcome your collaboration in helping your child.

For our older students, this is also the perfect time to review grades in Skyward and discuss with your students their progress in each of their classes. If your child is struggling in a class, talk to them or schedule a conference with the teacher.

Staying connected and updated on our child's progress can be challeng-

See BYRD Page 4A

Highlights are from OC's 2025 budget

Orange County is a diverse and dynamic community. District 2 encompasses Tangerine, Zellwood, Apopka, Wekiwa Springs, Lockhart, Lee Road, Rosemont, North Pine Hills, and Ocoee.

The current budget was developed utilizing the following guidelines by Mayor Jerry L. Demings. The county prioritized initiatives such as affordable housing, homelessness, transportation, mental health, economic development, environmental preservation, and public safety. New positions were based on a needs analysis prioritizing life, health, and safety considerations, or the necessity to fulfill service obligations for new or current

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

programming. Strategic objectives include public safety and health, sense of community, economic development, infrastructure, efficiency, fiscal responsibility, and sustainability.

A major revenue resource is from property taxes. Our total property values for 2024 are \$218 billion. Property tax revenues are expected to equal \$969 million - an approximate

increase of 7.8 percent over the FY 2023-24 budget.

Operating Budget Highlights include \$433.9 million for Public Safety which includes an additional \$11 million for school resource officers. The transportation department's operating budget is \$182 million and the capital program for public works is \$268 million which is used to construct new roadways, intersections, improve pedestrian safety, sidewalks, streetlights, and other transportation capital expenditures. A \$50-million state-of-the-art training facility is being constructed for Orange County Fire Rescue. We look forward

See MOORE Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor. Proverbs 12:24

Mema Says

Pressing the control button way too long makes a good love go oh so wrong.

Money received from the government first comes from taxpayers

It starts out, "How would you like to receive an extra \$888.00 from Social Security because of a legal loophole in the system?" Or "I just received an extra Social Security check for \$XXX.XX, and it's all legal!" Why do people think they are entitled to any extra money from Social Security, or any other government entity for free?

It's no wonder our Social Security and Medicare programs are going to be insolvent in a few



Ike Hayden

years, if those are possible "gimme's." It is amazing that those scammer's play on people's greedy natures, and I'm sure there are some people who respond to those "Come On's" thinking they are getting free

money from the government.

I want to remind those that the government does not earn money, and the only money they get is from taxes they receive from Mr. & Mrs. Taxpayer.

There is no such thing as free money from the government. It is taken straight from those workers who are taxed from each paycheck they receive.

I learned from childhood there is no such thing as free money, and accepting free money is the same

as stealing.

I had an acquaintance a few years ago who was a "cracker-jack" carpenter, but toward the middle of the week he would stop going in to work. He never seemed to suffer from lack of funds however, and one Friday evening as we sat imbibing our adult beverages, I asked him about how he could afford the playboy lifestyle without working a full week. Remember, he was a top-paid carpenter, but what he told me stopped us from being

close.

He told me he would go downtown and stand in front of a restaurant and bum quarters. He stated he didn't have to "bust his tail," and he averaged \$250.00 a day! Many would just give him a dollar or two and there were those who would give him five or ten. Even as a practicing alcoholic, his story left a bad taste in my mouth, and eventually we drifted apart. Oh, the reason he kept his carpenter's job was the insurance they

paid for, and get this, the paid holidays!! This was just in the start of the seventies, and that was super benefits!

I think of him every time I come across the street beggars on most corners, and it makes me consider how thankful I should be for my parent's guidance and example in my raising. I have no idea what it would take for our local government to assist those living on the streets, and

See HAYDEN Page 4A

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Orange County launches free financial counseling program

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Orange County became the first local government in the state to launch a Financial Empowerment Center (FEC), which offers one-on-one certified financial counseling as a free public service to everyone who lives and works in Orange County.

On Wednesday, January 8, the Financial Empowerment Center was officially kicked off at the John Bridges Community Action Center in Apopka. The Bridges Center will serve as one of Orange County's three in-person sites of the Financial Empowerment Center, along with the Hal P. Marston Community Action Center and the Pine Hills Community Action Center, both in Orlando. The county plans to expand FEC services to more sites this year.

Held in person as well as virtually, FEC sessions with professional financial counselors will focus on budgeting, increasing

personal savings, paying down debt, improving credit scores and more.

Ceremony speakers were Kate Wilson, the senior vice president for philanthropy and community impact at Wells Fargo; Catherine Steck McManus, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County; and Jerry L. Demings, Orange County mayor. Habitat Orlando & Osceola is the program's nonprofit provider.

The initiative is a partnership between Orange County Government, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County and the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund.

The Orange County Financial Empowerment Center is an example of the county's ongoing efforts to help people who are struggling in the community, according to Demings. He cited that according to Heart of Florida United Way, 32 percent of Orange County households are As-

set Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, or ALICE.

"We will change it. We're going to lower that (percentage). We will work holistically every day to make sure the Financial Empowerment Centers provide the tools and the resources that can assist ALICE households as well as other families and individuals struggling to reach financing specifically," the mayor said.

Piloted in New York City in 2008, FECs across the nation have worked with nearly 173,000 clients. Through the FEC, clients have reduced their personal debts by over \$276 million and increased household savings by nearly \$54 million.

Wells Fargo collaborates with partners in developing and support of programs to help people improve long-term financial security.

"It's the way to create positive change and it's really at the core of what we do. We understand that financial health is a

continuum and we want to help people move from financial instability to financial security and wealth creation. We also believe that financial counseling and coaching can be instrumental in that journey," Wilson said.

Calling the launch of the Orange County Financial Empowerment Center "a truly historic day" and a "milestone," McManus explained how the financial empowerment center aligns well with Habitat Orlando and Osceola's mission. Habitat Orlando and Osceola has been building energy-efficient homes that local families purchased with an affordable mortgage. Homeowners involved in Habitat go through educational programs including helping homeowners keep their affordable mortgage through our home preservation program, including roof replacements and major home repairs.

"First, to Habitat Orlando and Osceola, we know that housing is the cornerstone of commu-

nity progress," McManus said. "Stable and accessible housing leads to better outcomes in education, health and more. But the system is broken, and we've long ago realized that we can't build our way out of the housing crisis. That's why our impact strategy to face the housing crisis focuses on two overarching goals: pioneer housing solutions and empower through knowledge."

In September 2024, Orange County Government announced that it received a \$150,000 grant to support the launch of the county's Financial Empowerment Center. The FEC movement is supported by seed funder Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Wells Fargo Foundation and other partners. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided additional funding for the project's implementation.

For more information and to sign up for appointments at HabitatOrlando.org/FEC.

Shelter: May be needed next week based on weather, pastor says

Continued from page 1A

open a cold weather shelter next week depending on the weather.

"If it looks like it's going to get back down near freezing next week, too, we will certainly work on doing the same thing again

next week," Schorejs said. In a Monday, January 6, email, community advocate Dr. Phyllis Olmstead expressed her support for the cold weather shelter.

"This has been a long time coming, and I was grateful for my in-person conversation with

Rev Melo [of One Family Church] and his love for his neighbors and eagerness [and] willingness to welcome them into his home with a smile on his face! This congregation and its

pastor is a great asset to our community," she wrote.

In her email, she also made the following recommendation: "I would like to suggest that since many of our local residents with

that limited heat and clothing, they are often also limited in nutrition and medical access. If we could have a person with medical credentials volunteer, it would be a phenomenal advantage

to the population."

To volunteer for a shift at the shelter or to donate food, email Schorejs at dndschorejs@gmail.com or text 407-334-5786.

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CITY OF APOPKA

OCOEE APOPKA ROAD COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

INFORMATIVE AND PUBLIC INPUT SESSION & SURVEY

Monday, January 13, 2025

from 5:30 PM to 7 PM

in Apopka City Hall Council Chambers

Please join us for an informative and public input session covering the northern section of Ocoee-Apopka Road Complete Streets Project (OACSP). The OACSP proposes the widening of Ocoee-Apopka Road (CR) 437A from two to four lanes, beginning at Harmon Road to Hawthorne Avenue, increasing safety and capacity for current and future users. This is a "Complete Streets" project that will include enhancements to existing corridor drainage, as well as, roadway and multi-modal improvements.

The City of Apopka is committed to transforming this vital corridor using a Complete Streets approach to modernize the existing infrastructure assets. Lighting, signage, drainage systems, median islands, traffic signals, a shared-use path and sidewalks will all be improved, added (if lacking) and modernized to ensure all users feel safe and are safe using the improved corridor.

Take the survey by scanning the QR Code or visiting: <https://app.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/oacsp/map>
This public input tool will be open December 13, 2024, to January 15, 2025.

VICINITY MAP

SCAN
ME!

Byrd: Graduation time will be here on the 28th and 29th of May

Continued from page 2A

ing at times with the everyday demands on our time and energy as parents, but it is certainly much easier to correct a problem soon-

er rather than later and that is why mid-year is a good time to reassess and check in.

As we look forward to the end of the semester, it will be graduation time be-

fore we know it. The class of 2025 is ready and excited for what lies ahead. Graduation dates and times were announced over the break, so it's time to share those as well.

Our Apopka Blue Darters will be crossing the stage on May 28 at 2 p.m. at the Kia Center downtown, and our Wekiva Mustangs will graduate on May 29 at 8:30 a.m. at the Ad-

ditions Financial Arena at UCF. Both ceremonies will be a wonderful celebration of all that these young people have accomplished and all they have to look forward to in their bright fu-

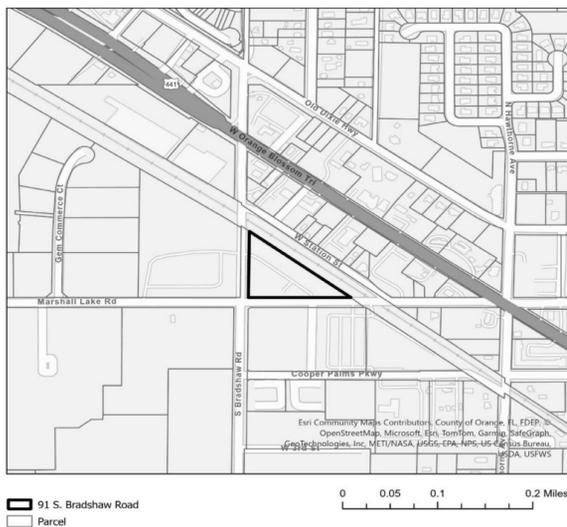
tures. I look forward to both the ceremonies and shaking all of our Apopka graduates' hands as they receive their diplomas.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL-SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinance, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **STEVEN ANDERSEN** has made an application to the City of Apopka Planning Commission and the City Council for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COMMERCIAL TO INDUSTRIAL FOR 2.28 +/- ACRES.** This application relates to the following described properties:

ORDINANCE NO. 3085

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COMMERCIAL TO INDUSTRIAL FOR STEVEN ANDERSEN GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF MARSHALL LAKE ROAD, OWNED BY ANDERSEN APOPKA LLC, COMPRISING 2.28 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Numbers: 09-21-28-5451-01-000
Contains: 2.28 +/- acres

Notice is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3085 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** or soon thereafter.

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

January 10, 2025

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177797

**Everybody has an opinion.
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The Apopka Chief

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Submit your letter online at theapopkachief.com

Moore: Tourism is very important

Continued from page 2A

to the grand opening early in 2025.

Affordable Housing has \$16.1 allocated for 2025 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This brings the county's total investment in affordable and workforce housing to \$83.8 million over six years and \$160 million over 10 years. Several projects are in progress in the Apopka and Pine Hills communities.

Green PLACE Program is one of the most impactful conservation initiatives in the budget. In 2021 the board approved \$100 million to preserve our natural habitats. So far, the county has acquired 24,000 acres and opened more than 18,000 acres for public recreation.

Community and Family Services is part of the county's core mission. The adopted budget includes \$150 million which covers programs that address social challenges, child welfare, and services to preserve the high-quality of life to enrich a diverse population.

This includes after-school programs and summer youth programs that offer a haven, as well as community programs to provide outreach services.

As Parks & Recreation celebrates its 100th anniversary of serving residents

at 113 parks and trails, the division provides a host of your recreation programs and activities. We are looking forward to the renovation of the West Orange Trail Bridge across US 441 in downtown Apopka.

Mental & Health Services has been receiving \$49 million annually for mental and behavioral health services. The county is closing the gap by providing more than \$10 million additional county general fund dollars and using various federal grant sources.

The Economic Environment includes the Orange County Convention Center and the visitors and business it attracts. Over 1,200 local businesses depend on the center's events. Funding comes primarily from the fees the center collects for services and the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) proceeds are utilized for any operating shortfalls. No property taxes are used for the convention center.

I have not yet mentioned the great work of our Utilities Department with water, sewer, reclaimed water, and solid waste.

These are large operations which must meet all their operational and capital expenses by charges and impact fees.

They are often accounted for in what is known as enterprise funds.

One of the key components of Orange County's economic development is the Travel and Tourism Industry. In 2023, Orange County welcomed 74 million visitors, generating \$92.5 billion in economic impact. Nearly 43 percent of the region's workforce works in tourism. The county has made investments in accommodations, technology, and amenities to allow the area to remain one of the top convention destinations. TDT dollars were \$350 million in FY 2023.

Universal Studios is moving forward with "Epic Universe," a new theme park opening in 2025 that is expected to bring 14,000 new jobs to the region. In addition, the new Reedy Creek or Central Florida Tourism Oversight District recently approved a new development proposal by Walt Disney Companies to spend up to \$17 billion which may include an entirely new theme park at Disney World.

The county budget is large and complex. Rest assured that competent staff, the comptroller, and commissioners provide superior guidance and oversight. As many of you have seen, we have recently provided oversight and accountability for the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Happy New Year.

Hayden: Share knowledge of Jesus

Continued from page 2A

begging for their daily sustenance, but I do know that throwing taxpayer money at the problem only makes it bigger, and many times it increases the size of government with all its' problems.

I believe most of the homeless need help getting their priorities right, but books, videos, and do it yourself programs seem to have no impact on the situation. We need to instill in people the understanding of their true worth and how they can be assured of the world's need of each one of them by finding their niche that GOD has ordained for them.

Our local government needs to find people who love one another and those that love their neighbors to go into the streets to talk, cry, rejoice, and give encouragement to those who have lost hope. We need to

support them so they can concentrate on their task. Yes, I'm talking about a department of Christian Outreach! We have departments now that are supposed to take care of those things, but they are dismal failures because most of the workers are looking for a paycheck and the benefits of government employment.

The workers for Christian Outreach would be working for the elimination of the homeless and allowing each individual to see their worth in the sight of their Creator, and His love for them by the giving of His only begotten Son, Jesus on the cross of Calvary. The only thing those workers would need is to be reimbursed for their vehicular usage. I know all the arguments against religion in our government, but has anything else helped?

I believe that one day (soon) our government - local, state, and federal - will

stand before the throne of GOD, and give an account about how we ignored the opportunity to give those street dwellers and the homeless the message of their immense worth, and importance to the GOD who knitted them in the womb and called them by name, at their conception.

We are all called to be ambassadors for Christ, but it's improbable to find a parking place, and also, it would be hard to find the time to spend talking instead of keeping appointments.

There was a time I felt it was me against everybody else, until I met my risen Savior, Jesus Christ, and He showed me my true worth.

Don't stop telling the story; i.e., Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

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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
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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
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Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
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www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

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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

Gadson makes dean's list

Ka'lea Gadson of Apopka has been named to the Georgia Southern University's fall 2024 dean's list, according to a news release from the university.

Gadson was one of approximately 4,100 students that Georgia Southern University recently recognized on the latest dean's list. To be eligible for the distinction, a student must have at least a 3.5

grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers approximately 155 different degree programs serving more than 26,100 students through 10 colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction.

Figueroa named to dean's list

Janitza Ayala Figueroa, of Apopka, was named to Columbia College's fall 2024 semester dean's list, according to the institution's January 2 press release.

Columbia College recently announced its dean's list for the fall 2024 se-

mester (August-December 2024). To be named to the dean's list, a student must have completed 12 credit hours in a 16-week period and achieved a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0-point scale.

Founded in 1851 in Columbia, Mo., Columbia

College has been helping students advance their lives through higher education for more than 170 years. As a private, nonprofit institution, the college has several classes across the country, about half of which are on military installations.

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 Sun., Jan. 12, 2025
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PANTERA (R) 12:00;
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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 government, 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 Cruzes, 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!

We'd like to know What YOU think?
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Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast to feature keynote speaker

AdventHealth Faith Care Partners is hosting the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, a celebration of unity, service, and justice, on Monday, January 20, 7:30-9 a.m. at the St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 861 Maitland Ave., Altamonte Springs. Larry Williams will be the keynote speaker.

Dr. Ann A. Ashley-Gilbert, a gynecologist who has served Altamonte Springs for nearly

50 years will be honored at the breakfast. She delivered the first baby at AdventHealth Altamonte hospital.

Visit shorturl.at/5V5cK to RSVP.

Larry Williams

Williams entered the field of public service in 1983 as a health service representative with the Orange County Health Department. His tenure with Orange

County Health Department lasted for 25 years. He was one of the first African Americans in the 1980's in Orange County and the state of Florida to address HIV among African Americans. He also established one of the first Office of Minority Health (at the health department) in the state.

He retired early to pursue his life's calling to serve the inner city. Currently he is the executive director of Simeon Resource and

Development Center, Inc., which helps people who have somehow fallen through the cracks come up with an immediate and practical strategy to create financial independence and self-esteem.

Dr. Ann A. Ashley-Gilbert

Dr. Ashley-Gilbert, an identical twin, is a native of Florida, and a pioneer in "women's health". She has practiced in Central Florida since 1980. After

completing her residency in California she served as a LTJG in the U.S. Public Health Service, then provided OB/GYN care to migrant women in Central Florida. Dr. Ashley-Gilbert is a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Eatonville, Florida. She has served on many committees and has articles published in various magazines.

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U.S. Surgeon General issues advisory on warning labels

By Brett Rowland
The Center Square

The U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory Friday recommending updated warning labels on alcoholic beverages.

Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy's advisory includes a series of recommendations to increase awareness to reduce alcohol-related cancer cases and deaths. The advisory outlines the direct link between alcohol consumption and increased cancer risk. Murthy said alcohol consumption is the third lead-

ing preventable cause of cancer in the U.S. after tobacco and obesity, increasing risk for at least seven types of cancer.

"Alcohol is a well-established, preventable cause of cancer responsible for about 100,000 cases of cancer and 20,000 cancer deaths annually in the United States—greater than the 13,500 alcohol-associated traffic crash fatalities per year in the U.S.—yet the majority of Americans are unaware of this risk," Murthy said. "This Advisory lays out steps we can all take to increase awareness

of alcohol's cancer risk and minimize harm."

Dr. Bruce Scott, the president of the American Medical Association, praised the move.

"The American Medical Association applauds the Surgeon General's work to make completely clear the link between alcohol consumption and increased cancer risk. For years, the AMA has said that alcohol consumption at any level, not just heavy al-

cohol use or addictive alcohol use, is a modifiable risk factor for cancer. And yet, despite decades of compelling evidence of this connection, too many in the public remain unaware of alcohol's risk," he said in a statement. "Today's advisory, coupled with a push to update the Surgeon General's health warning label on alcoholic beverages, will bolster awareness, improve health, and save lives."

The advisory makes

additional recommendations, in addition to calling for an update on the health warning label on alcohol-containing beverages to include cancer risk. It calls for a reassessment of the guideline limits for alcohol consumption to account for cancer risk and advises people to be aware of the relationship between alcohol consumption and increased cancer risk when considering whether or how much to drink.

It also calls for public health professionals and community groups to highlight alcohol consumption as a leading modifiable cancer risk factor and strengthen and expand education efforts to increase general awareness. Healthcare providers should inform patients in clinical settings about this link and promote the use of alcohol screening and treatment referrals as needed.

Golf tourney to be hosted in Zellwood

The 18th annual Zellwood Community Center Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, January 18, at the Zellwood Station Golf and Country Club, 2126 Spillman Dr., Zellwood.

Event includes lunch and door prizes. Registration begins at 7 a.m., tee off at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$260 per foursome, \$150 to sponsor a hole. For questions, call Denny Shiver, 407-625-1503 or Aaron Barrett, 321-303-0582.

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Gas district pays tribute to late retired employee

By **Dahlia Rochell**
Special to the Chief

When Everett Holmes first approached us about employment in 2006, he didn't know much about natural gas. He had experience in sales and as an account manager in other industries, but not gas.

When we interviewed him, however, he told us if we would just give him

the ground rules, he'd get the job done. He also added that he had *some* knowledge of gas because he had gas as a child in New York.

Everett didn't lack confidence, and his personality, charisma and ability to communicate well won him the job of the District's marketing representative, with his first date of employment being July 31,

2006.

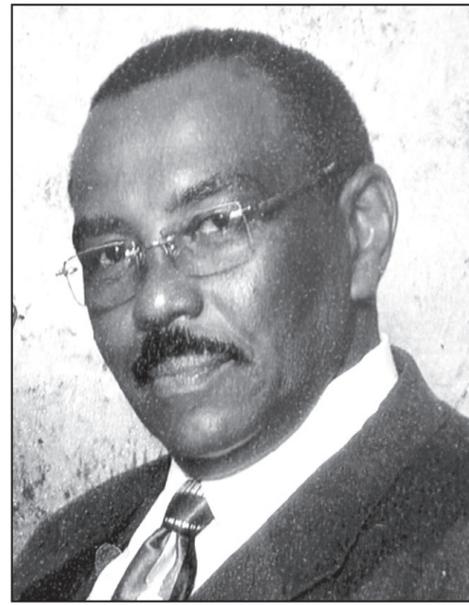
We found out fairly quickly that Everett meant what he said. He was eager to learn and he certainly did "get the job done!" And that's what he's been doing since 2006. He has won accolades from both his peers and industry associates for his ability to connect and communicate in such a positive manner. He has worked hard to learn the natural gas industry from the ground up and be able to talk to customers and builders about the advantages of natural gas and has been a strong advocate for putting natural gas into homes and businesses within our service area.

After 10 years as a marketing specialist, Everett was promoted to senior marketing specialist and

his enthusiasm for the natural gas industry, once ignited, remained strong. He has been a force to be reckoned with as he dealt with all who crossed his path with his engaging personality and his passion for people, his job, and, of course, natural gas.

Now, however, effective September 30th, Everett has decided it's time to retire. We will sure miss him, but he deserves a long, happy and healthy retirement and that's exactly what all Everett's friends at the District want him to have. Thanks, Everett, for gracing us with your presence the last 17 years!

Dahlia Rochell is the director of human resources for Lake Apopka Natural Gas District.



Everett Holmes was with the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District for 17 years before retiring in September 2024. He died on December 18, 2024, at age 80.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **John Ryan Adams** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of property generally located East of Plymouth Sorrento Road and North of W. Ponkan Road. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3089
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY GLOBAL INVESTMENTS VAULT LLC; GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF PLYMOUTH SORRENTO ROAD AND NORTH OF W. PONKAN ROAD; COMPRISING 11.12 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 19-20-28-0000-00-006
Contains: 11.12 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3089 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M and Wednesday, February 19, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

January 10, 2025

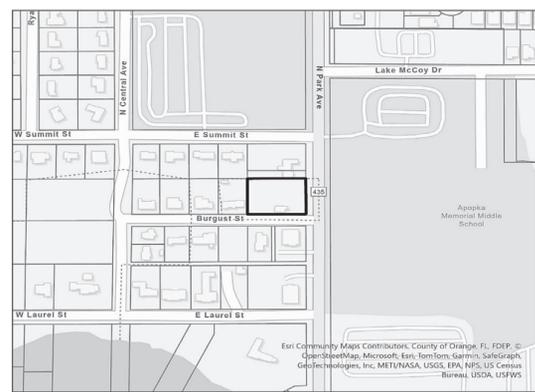
Publish: The Apopka Chief

177798

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **Nick Diangelis** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of property generally located on the Northwest corner of N. Park Avenue and Burgust Street. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3090
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY NICHOLAS DIANGELIS AND STEPHANIE DIANGELIS; LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF N. PARK AVENUE AND BURGUST STREET; COMPRISING 0.66 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 04-21-28-2204-01-110
Contains: 0.66 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 3090 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M and Wednesday, February 19, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM** or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

January 10, 2025

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177799

Obits

AYDELOTTE, ANGELA "SUSAN", 79, of Apopka, passed away on Saturday, December 28, 2024. Susan moved to Apopka with her parents, Amos Alvin, Fannie Mae (Branum) Drummond, and sisters, Linda, Gayle and Cathy. She is survived by: husband, Fred Allen Aydelotte; children, Scott (Jill) Aydelotte, and Mark (Jennifer) Aydelotte; siblings, Linda Barr, Gayle Brewer, and Cathy Fuhrman; 3 grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and their families.

EVERETT WESLEY HOLMES JR., 80, of Orlando, passed away on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Everett was born on March 7, 1944.

COMMUNITY Remembrance

Commemorating

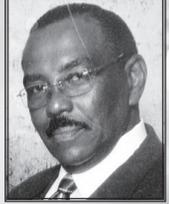
Everett Wesley Holmes Jr.

MARCH 7, 1944 – DECEMBER 18, 2024

Everett Wesley Holmes Jr., age 80, of Orlando, Florida passed away on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

A visitation for Everett will be held Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Woodlawn Memorial Park & Funeral Home, 400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road, Gotha, FL 34734. A Celebration of Life Service will occur Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, 400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road, Gotha, FL 34734. A Graveside Service will occur Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, 400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road, Gotha, FL 34734. Repass to follow at Woodlawn Funeral Home.

Everyone is asked to wear Everett's favorite colors: Navy Blue, Beige and Grey as we celebrate his life. **DO NOT WEAR BLACK!**



The Truth Will Set You Free

That the truth will set you free is a well-worn cliché, but anyone who has ever unburdened themselves of some closely-guarded but perhaps embarrassing secret knows the truth of this.

Those who work in criminal justice know that while some people carry their secrets to the grave, many more are compelled to confess their misdeeds. People in recovery from drugs and alcohol, or any addiction, know how liberating it can be when they finally admit that they are addicted and that they need help.

There is usually a whole host of other admissions that come along with this, such as admitting how we had wronged others. Many of us have secrets which we simply cannot admit to others—or sometimes, even ourselves—and sadly, those are

the secrets which keep us imprisoned and isolated from our families and friends.

Working with recovering substance abusers has taught me that most substance abusers live very lonely lives. Many say that they have no close friends, or very few, and they are often alienated from family by their habits. They have to be alone in order to keep up their addiction, and while it is tempting to think this is something that only alcoholics or drug addicts are afflicted with, we all have areas of our lives which imprison us.

Reflect on the areas of your life which are imprisoning you and consider unburdening yourself once and for all and truly being free.

— Christopher Simon

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The Truth Will Set You Free

(See message above.)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 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

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Authorities struggle in tracking homeless sex offenders

By Steve Wilson
The Center Square

Keeping track of homeless sex offenders is becoming a tougher task for law enforcement officials, says a report by the Florida Legislature's research arm.

The report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability says 7 percent of registered sexual offenders and 12 percent of sexual predators list a transient address, meaning they're likely homeless. These offenders are located in 49 of the state's 67 counties.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's sex offender

registry lists more than 86,000 offenders and predators. More than 30,000 on the sex offender registry reside in Florida communities while 63 percent are either confined or do not live in the state.

Under state law, sex offenders convicted of a crime against a victim less than age 16 are banned from living within 1,000 feet of any school, child care facility, park or playground and required to check in with local authorities periodically.

Local governments can also institute increased prohibitions, with 196 local sex offender ordinances. Most of those are in cities (129, or 31 percent of municipal-

ities), but 48 percent of counties (32) have at least one of these ordinances.

These can include 2,500-foot prohibitions from offenders living near any place where children can gather. Five counties have ordinances governing sex offenders and their use of emergency shelters.

According to the report, several sheriffs' offices stated that contacting homeless offenders was difficult because they frequently moved.

Transient offenders are required to check in every 30 days with the county sheriffs' offices, a law passed by the Legislature

in 2014. Not doing so can get the offender charged with a third-degree felony.

One reason cited by the report from county sheriffs' offices is that residence restrictions by local governments play a role in sex offender homelessness.

Broward and Miami-Dade counties have the highest rates of homeless sex offenders and predators with 34 percent and 31 percent, respectively.

The report says arrests for offender registration violations have increased by 38 percent over the past 10 years – from 1,612 arrests in 2014 to 2,200 in 2023 – but conviction numbers haven't

increased. The conviction rate was 60 percent in 2014 and 45 percent in 2022.

The report says the "decline in conviction rate is reflective of the overall decline in prosecution rates for registration violation offenses."

According to the report, Florida is one of 18 states substantially compliant with federal sex offender registry requirements.

Since 2021, 2,500 offenders have been removed from the sex offender registry, which is permissible under state law under certain circumstances. Most of those removed from the registry were dead.

Orange County plans for the future with Vision 2050

As Orange County prepares for the next 30 years, it must change the way it manages growth. This strategy for the future is laid out in the County's new long-term comprehensive plan called Vision 2050. Vision 2050 aims to build a better Orange County by focusing on five key P's:

- *Preserve established neighborhoods
- *Protect natural places and rural spaces
- *Promote walkability
- *Prioritize affordable housing
- *Practice smart, sus-

tainable and responsible growth

Stuck in the 1950s?

Since the 1950s, Orange County has managed development based on how land is used. This outdated practice kept things like homes, shops, offices, and restaurants separate from each other. It's why we have such sprawling communities, and why it feels like you can't do anything without a car! Hello, traffic jams.

For Vision 2050 to be successful, the county must

change its antiquated zoning rules to something a little more modern. These new development rules are called Orange Code. Orange Code is focusing more on the look, shape and architecture of buildings instead of how the buildings are used. This will create more walkable destinations where people can live, work, play and learn. Think of Vision 2050 as the end destination and Orange Code as the road map to get us there.

What about my neighbor-

hood?

A key element of Vision 2050 is to direct growth to the right places. That means preserving established suburban neighborhoods, rural places and natural spaces. It also means steering most new development to the urban sector, which is where 44 percent of the future population growth in Orange County is expected to go. These "targeted sectors" include high population centers in unincorporated Orange County, such as areas around the I-Drive tourism

corridor, near UCF, along Semoran Boulevard and near downtown Orlando.

What about other areas?

The Vision 2050 development framework includes a sector map that identifies six distinct areas defined by their existing characteristics and development potential. These sectors address new development, where development should be limited, and areas that should be protected or preserved. A guiding principle in the Vision 2050 plan is to pro-

tect and strengthen existing neighborhoods while creating healthy and sustainable new communities.

When will this be voted on?

Vision 2050 is tentatively scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners for final adoption consideration in the spring of 2025.

Visit shorturl.at/8pZgJ to learn more about the Vision 2050 – Orange County's Comprehensive Plan.

2024: Four candidates competed for two City Council seats

Continued from page 1A

Department of Parks and Recreation, Mayor Bryan Nelson and city officials commemorate the planting of a live oak – a tree native to Florida – on Friday, January 19, at Alonzo Williams Park/Billie Dean Community Center on M A Board Street.

February

The four City Council candidates discussed a wide scope of community topics including the homelessness crisis in the area, elected officials having to report assets worth more than \$1,000, and the city-owned Camp Wewa at the Apopka City Council Candidate Forum for Seats 3 and 4. ... A memorial service was held for the late former Apopka City Commissioner Alonzo Williams Jr., who died on January 9 at age 85 in Albany, Ga., at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, on Saturday, January 27. ... At the first meeting of the year, the Next Step Foundation reminded attendees that it's still seeking land to build the Apopka Resource Center (ARC) to assist the homeless in getting back on their feet, as well as discussing legislation passing through the Florida Legislature that would create green spaces for the unsheltered to stay by permit.

Apopka Police Officer Emmanuel Sosa introduced his department's special needs registry, created to alert emergency responders of a person with autism or other special needs in a home or vehicle, at the Wednesday, February 7, City Council meeting. ... U.S. District Judge Wendy W. Berger has sentenced Jeremy Middleton, 25, of Apopka to three years and 10 months in federal prison for possession of stolen firearms. The court also ordered Middleton to forfeit the 13 stolen firearms he had in his possession. ... The HUD Jacksonville Florida Office of Field and Policy Management collaborated with several state, city and county agencies to present the summit on Thursday, February 1, at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building on South Central Avenue. The summit's pur-

pose was to educate Central Florida community service agencies, caseworkers and support agencies on services available for surviving families and victims of violence, which includes domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault and stalking. ... Clay Springs Elementary School held its food drive celebrating its 100th day of school by collecting food and toiletry items for Loaves & Fishes.

City officials and hospital representatives had a groundbreaking for Acadia Orlando Health at 1452 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka, on Thursday, February 15. Representatives for the hospital estimated that the facility may bring the city an estimated \$21 million annual economic impact and about 220 full-time jobs. ... Bringing enough food to feed about 200 people on Thursday, January 25, the Gary Sinise Foundation served lunch to Apopka first responders at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building. ... The Apopka Planning Commission and the Apopka City Council conducted a joint workshop to discuss suggested edits for the Kelly Park Interchange form based code as it affects the 215-acre mixed use development Wyld Oaks, which is located at the 429 Beltway and West Kelly Park Road Interchange in Apopka. ... This Saturday, February 17, Austin Duran's family, friends and fellow firefighters will climb 25 stories of City National Bank Tower as a tribute to his legacy. They will be participating in the American Lung Association's Fight For Air Climb Orlando, which raises critical funds for local programming, research and advocacy initiatives. ... In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Apopka Progressive Senior Citizens Club held its Valentine's Day party on Tuesday, February 13, at the John H. Bridges Community Center, 445 W. 13th St., Apopka.

The Apopka City Council voted 4-1 on approving a multi-use development planned for Station Street in downtown Apopka – known as the Apopka Station Street Project – and to proceed with its development agreement

at the Wednesday, February 21, meeting. ... With humble hearts, leadership at Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law graciously accepted the desk used by the late defense attorney Alexander Akerman, Jr., who fought against racism, prejudice, and hatred in the 1940s and 1950s. The historic desk is a gift from the Apopka Historical Society. ... Foliage Sertoma Club President Lorena Potter presented a check to the educational foundation Two Peas in a Pod at the club luncheon on Tuesday, February 20, to founders John Cloran and Commissioner Alexander Smith. ... The Northwest Orange Republican Women Federated hosted a forum for the Apopka City Council candidates on Thursday, February 15, at The Hilton Garden Inn, Apopka City Center.

March

The city of Apopka honored 29 legends – one individual for each day of this month – who have left a legacy in the community for the city's second annual Black History Month book project and event celebrating the legends. ... The Apopka Progressive Senior Citizens Club celebrated Black History Month on Tuesday, February 27, at the John H. Bridges Community Center, 445 W. 13th St., Apopka. The celebration included lunch, a musical performance by club members, and vendors. Club members wore traditional African garments to the event. ... The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive is scheduled to reopen on Friday, March 1. This follows the drive's temporary closure on Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, due to wet conditions and forecasted rain on the night of Friday, February 23. ... Last weekend, hundreds of people helped celebrate the completion of the Wekiva Parkway – and Central Florida's beltway – at a community festival organized by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Early voting for Apopka City Council Seats 3 and 4 began on Monday, March 4, and will end on March 17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. ... The city of Apopka is collaborating with several partners to

implement a measles vaccination initiative in the Apopka area, where vaccination events will take place this week and the next. ... On Tuesday, March 5, the Orange County's Board of County Commissioners approved \$3 million of local Housing Trust Fund and federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to assist the 195-unit planned Southwick Commons, an affordable housing development planned for downtown Apopka at the Apopka City Center. ... The second-grade students at Trinity Christian School had a contest between girls and boys to see who could bring in the most items to Loaves & Fishes; girls had macaroni and cheese, and boys had deodorant. The girls won by a close margin. They delivered all the items to the Loaves & Fishes facility on Thursday, February 22. They also presented Loaves & Fishes with a check for \$1,242.35. ... Daylight saving time will begin on Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m. local time, when clocks will spring forward by one hour. ... Apopka has a rich history of business and civic leaders who commit to community service at a young age and are still going strong after 50 years or more. William J. (Bill) Arrowsmith who retired after 50 years as an Apopka banker Friday, March 1, is the most recent example.

The tradition of capturing Apopka's cultural essence via the Apopka Fair and for a special 96 hours began Thursday, March 7. Held at Kit Land Nelson Park every year, the fair is organized by the Rotary Club of Apopka and with the city of Apopka's support. ... The city's first responders and Austin Duran's family gathered along with community members to dedicate a street sign to the fallen city firefighter/emergency medical technician on the morning of Saturday, March 9, at the northeast corner of South Park Avenue and Fifth Street. ... The Historic Ethel Trail was officially launched with a ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 9, coinciding with the East Lake Historical Society's 10th annual Heritage Festival that was held at Rock Springs Run State Reserve in Sorrento. ... The Central Florida Council of

the Boy Scouts of America honored Apopka Vice Mayor/Commissioner Kyle Becker and the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District at the Golden Eagle Dinner on Tuesday, March 12, at the Apopka City Center's Highland Manor.

The Apopka City Council authorized 5-0 a ground lease with the Orange Audubon Society to convert a Lake Apopka North Shore property into an approximately 70-acre nature based education facility called the Apopka Birding Park. ... In the Tuesday, March 19, city election, Nadia Anderson won Apopka City Council Seat 3 race, while incumbent Nick Nesta won re-election of Seat 4. ... The city of Apopka and Quality Vaults and Monuments, based in Ocoee, installed two columbariums at the Edge-wood-Greenwood Cemetery on Monday, March 11, as part of the city's cemetery expansion. ... Apopka police are searching for information or anyone associated with a vehicle connected to the March 9 shooting that happened in the Myrtle Street/Lake Avenue area of Apopka, which injured a 33-year-old man.

Due to AdventHealth Apopka's expansion that includes adding more parking spaces on their campus, the neighboring temporary Fire Station 6 is moving to its new location on Harmon Road. ... The Lake Apopka Natural Gas District (LANGD) will present to its three parent cities an ordinance introducing an energy choice initiative that would give homeowners the freedom to select which energy source is best for their budget and lifestyle. ... The city of Apopka continues to update its comprehensive plan's transportation element, which contains policies for creating and maintaining the community's multi-modal transportation network, so the Planning Commission and City Council would eventually approve it. ... On Thursday, March 21, Homes in Partnership, Inc. broke ground on the development of 29 single-family homes to be priced in the mid-\$200,000s in the second phase of its affordable Holly Creek community in Zellwood.

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AOS
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Make Mississippi Mud Cake from scratch, or use brownie mix

SouthernLiving.com says, "A pork butt is the ultimate multi-tasking meal. A 4- to 5-pound pork butt can feed a dozen folks at once or a family of four for a few meals. And the great thing about this one? You don't need a special smoker or grill. Your oven will do the work. It takes its inspiration from low-and-slow barbecue cooking, but instead it's cooked in the oven until it's fork-tender. A delicious sweet-and-smoky barbecue rub made of brown sugar, smoked paprika, and other spices imbues the meat with flavor as it cooks, and gives it a delectable, sticky-sweet crust. Your kitchen will smell amazing as the meat roasts all afternoon in the oven."



Here is a recipe for sweet potatoes that you will quite possibly want to add to your family's repertoire of favorite dishes. It comes from Goodhousekeeping's food and recipes department. It's called Rosemary-Pecan Mashed Sweet Potatoes. The GH writer says, "Mashed potatoes are tasty and all, but mashed sweet potatoes? That's my carb go-to, every time! Add a little rosemary and sprinkle the whole shebang with roasted pecans, and watch your guests scrape the bowl clean!"

We found a Spinach Souffle recipe in our treasured copy of "What's Cookin' in Apopka?" that was published by The Apopka Woman's Club... we aren't sure just when, but it was way back yonder! It has some wonderful recipes that were contributed by the fine ladies of the club, many of whom are no longer with us, but fondly remembered.]

From the book titled *The Southern Slow Cooker*, we have Frito Pie with Chili con Carne. The author, Kendra Morris, says, "It's hard to go wrong when you combine homemade chili, onions, and cheddar cheese with addictively crunchy Fritos corn chips." She goes on to say, "One theory argues that the first Frito pie was created by Frito-Lay founder Elmer Doolin's mother in Texas, but New Mexico also stakes claim to the first Frito and bean combo as originating from a lunch counter in Santa Fe."

Mississippi Mud Cake. Ummm, ummm. We have Southern Living's recipe for this renowned delicacy from Southern Living All-Time Favorites.

SOUTHERN LIVING'S OVEN-ROASTED PORK BUTT
Recipe from SOUTHERNLIVING.COM
4 teaspoons seasoned salt

2 teaspoons dark brown sugar
1-1/2 teaspoon granulated sugar
1-1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/8 teaspoon dry mustard
1/8 teaspoon ground cumin
0.0625 teaspoon ground ginger (no kidding! Or about 1/16th of a teaspoon, or a teensy bit!)
1 4- to 5-pound bone-in Boston butt pork roast

1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Stir together salt, brown sugar, granulated sugar, paprika, garlic powder, pepper, dry mustard, cumin, and ginger in a medium bowl. 2) Trim one (4- to 5-pound) Boston butt pork roast. Pat dry. 3) Sprinkle with seasoning mixture. Let stand at room temperature 30 minutes. 4) Place pork in an aluminum foil-lined (12 x 9-inch) pan. Bake 4 to 4-1/2 hours or until a meat thermometer inserted into thickest portion registers 195 degrees Fahrenheit. Let stand 15 minutes. Shred pork with two forks.

ROSEMARY-PECAN MASHED SWEET POTATOES
Recipe from Goodhousekeeping.com

3 pounds small sweet potatoes
1-1/2 cups pecans, broken into pieces
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/8 teaspoon cayenne
3 teaspoons roughly chopped fresh rosemary
3 tablespoons pure maple syrup
Kosher salt

1) Heat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Prick sweet potatoes with fork and place on plate. Microwave on high for 6 minutes. Turn each potato over and cook until soft, 6 minutes more. Let stand until cool enough to handle. 2) Meanwhile, on rimmed baking sheet, toss pecans with oil, then Parmesan, cayenne, 2 teaspoons rosemary, and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Roast until fragrant, about 3 minutes. Toss with remaining teaspoon of rosemary. 3) Peel potatoes and mash with maple syrup and 1/2 teaspoon salt until smooth. Transfer to serving dish and top with pecans.

NOTE: Make-ahead tip: This dish can be refrigerated for up to two days in advance. To serve, microwave potatoes just until heated through. Warm pecans in 400-degree F oven. Transfer potatoes to serving dish and top with pecans.

MRS. L. B. JOHNSON'S SPINACH SOUFFLE
WHAT'S COOKIN' IN

APOPKA, FLORIDA
THE APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB
Butter for sauté plus 2 tablespoons for sauce

2 tablespoons flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
3 eggs, separated
1 cup rich milk or light cream
1 cup chopped cooked spinach
1/2 cup thick white sauce
1/4 cup chopped onions
1/2 cup grated cheese

Sauté onions in small amount of butter. Make sauce of 2 tablespoons of butter, 2 tablespoons flour, 1 cup of milk – rich milk or light cream, 1/2 teaspoon of salt, and 1/8 teaspoon pepper. Beat yolks until thick and lemon colored. Stir into white sauce and add spinach and cheese. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites and turn into greased casserole. Set in pan of hot water and bake in moderate oven 350 degrees about 50 minutes. Serve at once.

FRITO PIE WITH CHILI CON CARNE

Recipe from *The Southern Slow Cooker* by Kendra Bailey Morris

1 teaspoon bacon grease or vegetable oil
2 pounds extra-lean ground beef
4 cloves garlic, minced
3 tablespoons chili powder
1-1/2 teaspoons cumin
1 teaspoon dried oregano, preferably Mexican
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
2 (8-ounce) cans tomato sauce
1 (10-ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chiles (such as Rotel brand) with its juice
2 (14-ounce) cans kidney beans, rinsed and drained

For serving:
8 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 cup minced sweet onion
Sliced pickled jalapenos
Sour cream
Large (14-ounce) bag Fritos brand corn chips, or 8 (1- or 2-ounce) individual serving-size bags

1) Spray the inside of the slow cooker with cooking spray. 2) Heat a large skillet or cast-iron pan on the stovetop over medium-high heat and add the bacon grease. Crumble in the ground beef and cook until the meat is no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another minute.

3) Pour the beef mixture into the slow cooker and add the tomato sauce, tomatoes and chiles, and kidney beans. Stir well. Cover and cook on low for at least 8 hours and up to 9 hours. 4) To serve, spread the chips in a 9 by 13-inch casserole dish or divide among eight smaller bowls. Pour in the chili, then top with the cheddar cheese, sweet onion, jalapenos, and sour cream and serve. Alternatively, cut open eight individual serving size bags of chips, divide the chili and toppings evenly among the bags, and eat straight from the bags with a fork!

MISSISSIPPI MUD CAKE
Recipe from Southern Living
All-Time Favorites

1 cup butter, melted
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
4 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/8 teaspoon salt
1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1-1/2 cups coarsely chopped pecans, toasted
1 (10.5 ounce) bag miniature marshmallows
Chocolate Frosting

1) Whisk together melted butter and next 5 ingredients in a large bowl. Stir in flour and chopped pecans. Pour batter into a greased and floured 15- x 10-inch jelly-roll pan. 2) Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted into center comes out clean. Remove from oven; top warm cake evenly with marshmallows. Return to oven, and bake 5 more minutes. 3) Drizzle Chocolate Frosting over warm cake. Cool completely. Makes 15 servings.

Note: Substitute 2 (19.5-ounce) packages brownie mix, prepared according to package directions, for first 7 ingredients, if desired. Stir in chopped pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Proceed with marshmallows and frosting as directed.

CHOCOLATE FROSTING
Recipe from Southern Living
All-Time Favorites

1 (16-ounce) package powdered sugar
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup butter, softened
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa
1) Beat all ingredients at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Makes 2 cups.

View Kitchen Kapers by Nancy online at www.theapokkachief.com/recipes

JANUARY 2025 ★★ 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 for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center. CALL 407-703-1642 FOR INFORMATION.

CHECK CLASSES BEFORE GOING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, FRIDAYS 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: latondra@cfchristianchamber.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the **third Saturday each month**. Next one is Jan. 18, 2025 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, JANUARY 12

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

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, JANUARY 14

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, JANUARY 15

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 Thurs-

day weigh-in begins at 9:00 a.m. – meeting ends at 10:15 a.m.. Come to its NEW location 220 W. Horatio Avenue, Maitland, 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, JANUARY 16

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

16th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, Monday, January 20, at 2 p.m. beginning at 519 S. Central Ave., ending at John H. Bridges Center

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/2ABrmb5>, 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: apopkatgca@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 orangecomvg@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.

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.ocls.info)

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

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Park: American Ramp Co. leads project

Continued from page 1A

County Government. "The park will bring an exciting new amenity to the Apopka community for both the youth and adults to enjoy," Parks and Recreation Director Radley Williams said in a news release. "Bringing a skate park to Apopka is an initiative that has been discussed over many years throughout the Apopka community and the Parks and Recreation Department is excited to be able to bring this park to life with the funding assistance and support of the Apopka Community Redevelopment Agency, City of Apopka Council, and Orange County Government."



This rendering by the American Ramp Company shows where the skate park and pump track would be located in relation to the Fran Carlton Center.

The parks and recreation department looked to the American Ramp Com-

pany to help with the design and construction of this new exciting park. The American Ramp Company

has vast experience working for over 20 years developing skate and bike park facilities across the

country, and throughout 44 countries across the world.

College: Federal money can not be the answer

Continued from page 2A

leftist-captured universities and, like a wrathful God, wipe those institutions clean of any taxpayer funding. Even wealthy private universities are highly exposed to Republicans raining the fire and brimstone of funding cuts on them.

According to an analysis by Stand Columbia, the university has \$3.5 billion, or 55 percent of its budget, that could be placed in jeopardy by the incoming Trump administration.

Even with more than \$14 billion in its endowment, Columbia would be financially devastated by significant cuts or the elimination of government funding. Every other Ivy League and selective university is similarly vulnerable.

If universities are determined to have facul-

ty that are ideological monoliths, they can find students and private donors who are willing to indulge this indoctrination and pay for it themselves. These institutions are not entitled to a dime of taxpayer money, especially when they have displayed nothing but contempt for half of the American electorate.

And taxpayers should be untroubled if these universities are unable to survive on their own. New universities will arise, and others that can meet the Sodom and Gomorrah test will reform themselves to offer an intellectually diverse and ideologically balanced education.

Jay P. Greene is a senior research fellow in the Center for Education Policy at The Heritage Foundation

Dining AND Entertainment

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SPECIAL Entertainer: January 10
Adele Impersonation by local star Andrea 6-8 pm. Reservations are suggested
Lunch Specials Every Day 12 pm - 3 pm \$9.95
Darts league starting soon!

Events & Entertainment

- Every Monday: Darts - league starting soon
- Every Tuesday: Karaoke with Crazy James 7pm
- Every Thursday: Texas Hold'em Poker 7pm
- Friday: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT with Andrea as ADELE 7pm
- Saturday: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT with Celtic House band McIntyre 7pm
- Sunday: Afternoon Sports.

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Visit us at www.caffepositanos.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS
PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 10B

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

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Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 10B