

Clay Springs Elementary celebrates its 100th day of school with a parade, food donating.
See page 8A.



Skateboarders and YouTube stars the Dern brothers take new skate park for a ride.
See page 1B.



The Apopka Chief

Volume 103 Number 8 Your trusted local news source Friday, February 21, 2025 / FREE



OPINION
J.C. Derrick
PUBLISHER

Introducing the new Apopka Chief

Commitment to trusted local news remains steadfast

On a spring day in 2022, John Ricketson and I spent several hours together and developed an immediate rapport. We swapped journalism war stories and talked about the past, present and future of The Apopka Chief, where he had devoted more than four decades of his storied career.

John had seen a lot of highs in the business, from breaking major stories to winning statewide awards and serving as the chair of the Florida Press Association board of directors. He was also well aware of the challenges facing our industry.

The impending retirement of longtime Chief editor John Peery is what had sparked our meeting, but that wasn't the only thing on J.R.'s mind. He said he knew the Chief needed to modernize and that he was not the person to lead that transition.

"Someone is going to have to buy it on potential," he said about the Chief's next owner.

That's exactly what Mainstreet Daily News did last week when we closed on the sale of the Chief.

See **DERRICK** Page 6A

Ricketson family sells Chief after 45 years

Newspaper switches to free distribution

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The Apopka Chief is closing a chapter in its 102-year-old existence and opening a new one with the transfer of ownership from the Ricketson family to Mainstreet Daily News, a subsidiary of Orlando-based MARC Media. The acquisition was completed on Thursday, Feb. 13.

The late John "J.R." Ricketson spearheaded The Apopka Chief's operations for almost 45 years before his death

last year. The Chief's new publisher is J.C. Derrick, who is also the publisher of Mainstreet Daily News, a weekly newspaper and online news outlet that covers Gainesville and the surrounding area.

The company has begun implementing several major changes at the Chief, which will maintain its focus on Apopka. While the publication will remain a print newspaper published each Friday, all of its content will now publish at TheApopkaChief.com throughout the week.

"Just because we're digital first doesn't mean we're digital only," Derrick said. "We are bullish on the future of print, and it will remain a

key part of what we do."

The Apopka Chief will also switch from paid subscription to a free print edition while boosting its circulation to 10,000 copies. Of those 10,000 copies, 8,000 will be home delivered in the city, and 2,000 will be made available for free in stores and other locations throughout the area.

"We identified our first zone based on where we had the highest concentration of paid subscribers," Derrick said. "We would love to expand home delivery even more in the future."

The Apopka Chief will drop its online paywall and

See **SALE** Page 7A



Photo by J.C. Derrick

The Apopka Chief will continue to operate at its office on North Park Avenue.

County breaks ground on connector project

Extension to include 10- to 14-foot wide shared-use path, boardwalk section

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Orange County staff and local community members celebrated the groundbreaking for the \$10-million second phase of the Lake Apopka Connector Trail that will connect two existing trails—West Orange Trail along McCormick Road and Lake Apopka Loop Trail in Magnolia Park, Apopka.

The groundbreaking happened on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Orange County Utilities Northwest Water Reclamation Facility on West McCormick Road in Apopka.

The second phase's construction will create 3.23 miles of a shared-use path and varies between 10 to 14 feet in width to accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians. Amenities will include two rest areas, fences, gates, and bicycle/



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

County officials and staff break ground on the \$10 million phase 2 Lake Apopka Connector Trail project on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

pedestrian picket railing, and a 100-foot boardwalk section in the Northwest Orange Water Reclamation Facility.

The finished Connector

Trail is scheduled to open to the public by March 2026, according to a December 2024 news release from Orange County.

Two portions of the Connector Trail now open to the public were previously completed as part of the Oak Pointe North and Wynwood develop-

ments.

"I'm excited for our community because of what the

See **TRAIL** Page 8A

State Sen. Geraldine Thompson, 76, dies

Officials, family hail Thompson as civil rights champion

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Florida Sen. Geraldine Thompson, a staunch civil rights advocate during her nearly two decades as a legislator, died on Thursday, Feb. 13, following complications from knee replacement surgery. She was 76.

From November 2024 until her passing, Thompson served as senator of Florida Senate District 15 for West Orange County, which includes Apopka.

Thompson's family released a statement on Friday



Florida Sen. Geraldine Thompson

morning announcing the Democratic leader's passing.

"Senator Geraldine Thompson was so much more than a dedicated public servant and visionary leader. She was a devoted wife, mother,

grandmother, and great-grandmother whose love, wisdom, and compassion shaped their lives and the lives of so many in their community and across the state," the statement reads. "Her tireless work in education, healthcare, and civil rights, including her leadership to establish the Wells' Built Museum of African American History and Culture in Orlando, reflected her unwavering commitment to creating a better world for future generations."

Many people on social media celebrated Thompson's legacy and contributions as a legislator and educator and offered condolences to her loved ones.

"It is with great sadness

See **THOMPSON** Page 5A

Several projects under development at community parks

\$13.1 million county grant to fund some Northwest Recreation Complex projects

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

Several park projects around the community are now under development including many amenities at the Northwest Recreation Complex with some help

from a \$13.1 million Tourism Development Tax (TDT) Grant, according to Radley Williams, city parks and recreation director, who spoke at the Wednesday, Feb. 19, Apopka City Council meeting.

"We're excited. This is a lot of fun," Williams said after he finished the presentation. "It's always exciting to bring new facilities to the community and I think we have some very valuable amenities coming that the community's going to enjoy."

See **PROJECTS** Page 10A

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Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher

J.C. Derrick

Reporters

Teresa Sargeant Marshall Tempest

Copy Editor

Nancy Thomas

Business Development

Jackie Trefcer

Legal Clerk

Lesbia Toruño

Administrative assistant

Debrah Hayden

Publication Coordinator

Josué Toruño

Celebrating the Lake Apopka Connector Trail project

Today, most of us recognize the value and impact of a quality trail system. However, most people do not know what a heavy lift it is for local government to fund and build a trail system.

In 1994, the first segment of the West Orange Trail was opened. The trail was the brain trust of Orange County Chairwoman Linda Chapin. Eventually the trail was expanded, and it now stretches 22 miles – through Oakland, Winter Garden, Apopka, and Ocoee.

The concept of building a multi-use pedestrian trail dates back 20 years. Phase One was opened in 2012. It provided access to the shore from Magnolia Park. This second phase will connect the Clarcona Horse Park to Magnolia Park. Replace this sentence with: Eventually, a 42-mile loop entirely around Lake Apopka will be completed, connecting the North Shore Trail and West Orange Trail in Orange Coun-

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

ty with the South Lake Trail and the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook Trail in Lake County.

Back to the phase that is the subject of this week's groundbreaking. I joined Mayor Jerry L. Demings on Wednesday at the groundbreaking for the 10 ft. multi-use path that will be 3.23 miles in length and cost \$10 million to construct.

Many entities have been involved in this latest phase. They include the Florida Department of Transportation, MetroPlan Orlando, officials and staff from the cities of Apopka and Ocoee, and Or-

ange County Public Works who coordinated construction. WBQ Design and Engineering and Gibbs and Register Construction are responsible for building the trail.

I could always count on regular progress updates on this trail segment from Parks & Recreation Manager Matt Suedmeyer and his staff. Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to a long-term advocacy group, Joe Dunn and the Friends of Lake Apopka. I must add that Joe regularly and persistently traveled to Tallahassee to lobby legislators. He also met with scores of local elected officials and staff members to make the trail segment a reality. Advocacy truly takes time and persistence.

I hope when the Lake Apopka Loop Trail Connector opens next year, you and your family take the time to go for a bike ride. It is only when trails are used regularly that they can be declared a success.

Storm problem has working solution

The city of Apopka, Orange County, Seminole County and DOT have had two flooding episodes in the Border Lake, Lake Ruden, Lake Cortez, Piedmont Lake and Lake Page area in the last three years.

This past October, hurricanes Milton and Helene brought over 12 inches of rain within a 24-hour period, which constitutes a 100-year flood event.

The latest excessive rainfall last October flooded Piedmont Wekiwa Road, the Garibaldi's shopping center parking lot and the Wekiwa Village neighborhood and came close to flooding two homes near Lake Cortez and several others off Piedmont Wekiwa Road.

The city has been awarded \$4.5 million in grants after Hurricane Irma to come up with a long-term solution for the flooding in this area. Since we already have a utility easement from Border Lake to our wastewater plant on Cleve-

Apopka Mayor



Bryan Nelson

land Street to pipe excess water from Utilities Inc. and Altamonte Springs, we thought the best approach would be to take the excess water off Border Lake and run a pipe along our easement from Border Lake to our wastewater plant five miles away.

We will treat the water and then put this treated water into our reclaimed water system to be used in our neighborhoods.

Right now, the only way that excess water is getting removed from the Border/Cortez/Page/Piedmont Lake basin is the drainage well at Lake Page and natural percolation into the ground in the affect-

ed region. Since the groundwater table is still extremely high, the amount of percolation has been greatly reduced, which has slowed the natural percolation.

Although this is an effective method, the water that goes down the drainage well has not been filtered and should only be used in emergency situations to protect the water quality of our springs.

By treating the water at our wastewater plant, we are able to save these water assets and keep from using groundwater to supplement water needed for our irrigation system across the city. With our funding partners as well as help from St. Johns Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection, we can solve these 100-year flood events and protect our springs from excessive nutrients.

It's a win for the environment and the people who live, work and play in the Piedmont Wekiwa area.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: These comments are a sampling of those provided in our recent reader survey.

- “I have been reading the Chief since we moved to Apopka and I started teaching in local OCPS schools. The coverage of our students is appreciated by students, parents and educators alike. I am also very interested in the rezoning and growth of the area and also like to read about the local issues, whether I like the information or not.”
- “Offer more local updates and be a source of dynamic information throughout the week. Increase online presence.”
- “Would love some more information on the growth of North Apopka.”
- “I like reading about all the new businesses that are opening up in the area.”

- “I miss the old "society page" articles. I remember the stories about engagements, weddings, vacations, out-of-town visitors, and the like.”
- “I would like to see you feature more in-depth interviews with people who run local businesses, city council, local teachers, principals, administration and students, as well people in our community.”
- “My wife enjoys the Sudoku puzzles, and I like the crosswords.”
- “I'd like to see more news on growth in area and new businesses arriving.”
- “Coverage of area schools is important. Not only are readers kept up to date on the business of education, nothing thrills a nine-year-old like seeing their name in the newspaper.”

There's lots to love at OCPS

Last week we celebrated Valentine's Day. While I enjoy the cards, flowers and candy as much as the next girl, I also like to think about all the things that I love in my life.

My work on the school board is one of those things I love most. While children are at the heart of that love, it is the love for public education and the people that make it work every day that inspires me as well.

From our administrators and teachers to our bus drivers and custodians, every one of these professionals goes to work each day not for the big paychecks or glory, but for the children.

I had the opportunity to take part in an annual celebration that OCPS does each year in February called Love the Bus at the Apopka bus compound. This is a month-long celebration at the six bus compounds across the district.

The celebration in-

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

cludes a food truck, games, employee wellness representatives and community vendors with treats and information for the employees.

I always enjoy visiting the compound to chat with the drivers. Last week, I spent some time talking to one very special driver.

Mr. James Wallace has been driving for OCPS for nearly 35 years. He even trained drivers for many years, but when he talks about the children on his route, his eyes really light up.

He drives elementary children with autism, and he is so passionate about their care. He knows each child on his bus, what they like and what they can tolerate. He is quite knowledgeable about Autism Spectrum Disorder and he is adamant about setting “his” kids up for success for the school day every morning.

The students on his routes love him, and over the years he's even inspired a few to become bus drivers as well. I met one of them last week. She told me that he was a great driver, that he trained her and now she works beside him at the Apopka compound. How about that for inspiration and love?

Yes, there are so many things to love about our public schools, but it's the people who work day in and day out to make sure that our children feel loved, valued and inspired that make our community thrive.

About The Apopka Chief

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 (USPS545-440). The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Mainstreet Daily News from 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. Phone 407-886-2777.

The Apopka Chief is an award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. Email news tips to news@theapokchief.com.

Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged, but they should be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapokchief.com



ALL ABOUT APOPKA

City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall.....	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator	407-703-1649
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.....	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement.....	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.....	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-703-1741
Police Chief.....	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.)	407-703-1771
Job Line.....	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance	407-703-1731
Utility Billing.....	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services.....	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000
Building Dept.	407-836-8550
County Mayor.....	407-836-7370
County Commission.....	407-836-7350
County Attorney.....	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue.....	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.....	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.....	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative.....	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities.....	407-836-5515
All other departments.....	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency.....	911

www.orangecountyfl.net

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators

Rick Scott (Rep.) 202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.) 407-254-2573

U.S. Representative

Daniel Webster (Dist. 11) 352-241-9220

State Representatives

Doug Bankson..... 407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45)..... unknown

State Senators

Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) 407-297-2045

Orange County Commissioner

Christine Moore..... 407-836-7350

Orange County Public Schools

Pupil assignment..... 407-317-3233
Bus routes 407-317-3800
Superintendent..... 407-317-3200
School Board..... 407-317-3200

Miscellaneous

The Apopka Chief 407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans 407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce 407-886-1441

Apopka Black History Month event to celebrate 28 legends

Some honored legends died as recently as 2024

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

The third annual Celebrating Legends of Apopka Black History Month event will celebrate a new group of 28 Black community members who left indelible marks in the Apopka area and its history.

Organized by the Apopka Youth Council (AYC), the 2025 Celebrating Legends of Apopka event is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka.

That night, the AYC will recognize this year's legends and their families. Volume 3 of the booklet titled "Celebrating Legends of Apopka in Honor of Black History Month" will be available for purchase at the event for \$10 (cash only). The booklet is a collaboration between the AYC, the city of Apopka, and Francina Boykin, vice president of the Apopka Historical Society.

In addition, the event will feature a special proclamation by Mayor Bryan Nelson, a reception for attendees, and special music performances by Mark Wright-Ahern and the Wekiva High School Chorus.

A Feb. 14 city of Apopka Facebook post announced the Legends recognized this year: Charlotte Branch, Elvie Nazareth Brannon, Simuel "Bubby" Burrell, Lennell "Lucy" Cooks-Shaw, Clarence "Sonny" Cunningham, Jr., Walter A. Davis, Sr., Cora "Nora" Edwards, Mabel Ellison, Betty



Mayor Bryan Nelson poses for a photo with Francina Boykin and members of the Apopka Youth Council.

"Hundo" Garrett-Jacobs, Maxwell Howard, Charlie Hughley, Josiah Kirkland, Dr. Rodell Lawrence, Pearl Louise Mason, Van Grady McKinney, Donald B. "D-MO" Morse Jr., Dr. Henry Pearson, Samuel Perry, Prince E. Pollard Jr., Romelia Bridges Prince, Dr. Carolyn Richardson-Frazier, Maxey Stanley Rose, Ernest Swift, Charles "Charlie" Taylor, Sr., Bill Arthur Thomas, Hattie Bridges Thomas, Apostle G.H. Washington, and Dover Wynn, Sr.

Legends were selected from a collection of obituaries in the Historical Society's possession. Also, families in the community have conferred with the Historical Society regarding the history and people



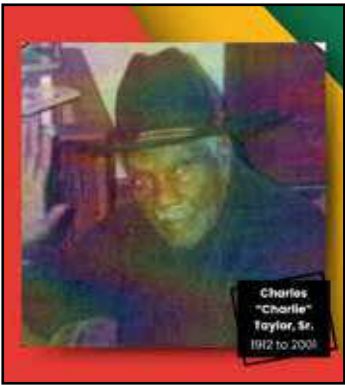
who impacted or changed Apopka for the better; for example, individuals who were born in the late 19th century during a difficult period, when many were just coming out from under slavery, Boykin said.

In 2024, Apopka lost several key figures who greatly in-



fluenced the community, such as midwives like Charlotte Branch, who lived to be 100 years old and was a nurse practitioner as well as a farmer.

"When you're asking about the substance of the individuals who were selected, we are trying to acknowledge the older people who passed



on, like Miss Branch; Charlotte Branch passed in 1982," Boykin said. "We talked about where they came from and the hardships and what contributions we have, persons who were musicians or Ph.D.s in the community."

Another legend who will be recognized this year is

Charlie Taylor, who owned and operated a citrus fruit company for 60 years. Then there is Mayor John Land's maid of many years, Pearl Mason, a poet born in Zellwood who lived into her late 90s.

The booklet project "is a beautiful takeaway from the Youth Council, a beautiful group of young people," Boykin said. "I've enjoyed working with putting this book together. We are not experts, but we put it in the best (light) we know how."

The AYC is the ideal group to organize the Celebrating Legends of Apopka event because, like the honorees, the youth council is diverse, said Stephen Cribb, city special project manager.

"It is certainly something that the youth have enjoyed doing the past two years," he said. "They are the ones that put a lot of the booklet together, and that's why it makes sense for them to host the event."

One criterion for someone to be named an Apopka legend is that he or she must be deceased, because if one were alive, that person isn't forgotten yet, Nelson said.

"I think what's unique about what we're doing is that we, everybody's got the historical leaders, national and international Black leaders that have obviously made big impacts," Nelson said. "But I thought it's also important for us to remember our roots and that we want to recognize those that have made an impact here in the Apopka area. So that was our whole reason."

To learn more about the booklet and the celebration, go to Apopka.gov/BlackHistoryMonth.

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Plat for repurposing Eighth Street property subject of CRA meeting

Forego proposed park to expand affordable housing?

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

At the latest Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board meeting, the plat for repurposing a property for use of affordable houses and a public park was front and center after the Apopka City Council voted to table the plat at its Jan. 15 meeting.

The CRA Board conducted its meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at the Apopka Community Center. After discussion among the CRA Board, the city will take the plat back to the drawing board to recreate a more favorable solution regarding the Eighth Street property, said CRA member (Mayor) Bryan Nelson.

The 0.83-acre community park will be located in the northern portion of the parcel, and the four lots—each 0.22 to 0.17 acres in size—are adjacent to East Eighth Street. Access to the lots is provided via South Highland Avenue and East Eighth Street.

Located downtown, the Apopka Community Redevelopment Area is comprised of 633 acres and has a mix of residences, businesses, and historic properties. The area is bound on the south by 10th and 11th Streets, Hawthorne Avenue to the west, Oak



Photo by Teresa Sargeant

The Community Redevelopment Agency Board met on Feb. 12.

Street to the north, and sections of multiple streets to the east, including but not limited to Highland Avenue, Monroe Avenue, and Alabama Avenue.

The local government created the Apopka CRA Board to direct the agency. This board comprises Apopka City Council members and two other representatives appointed by the local government.

“There were some concerns with the park that was being proposed to be constructed there, possible criminal activities that could hap-

pen in the park,” interim CRA director Howell said, referencing the discussion brought up at the Jan. 15 City Council meeting. “So, we were directed to bring this back for discussion and direction from the board as to what your pleasure is with this.”

At the CRA Board meeting, CRA member (City Commissioner) Nadia Anderson brought up the same concerns she had about the plat at the Jan. 15 City Council meeting; specifically that the city should eliminate the park and increase the lot sizes.

CRA member (City

Commissioner) Alexander H. Smith said he still finds value in having the park as an amenity of the plat for the community youth, and because there is no walkable section in that area. He added that he visited the Eighth Street property and didn’t believe having a park there would devalue the neighborhood.

Anderson disagreed with Smith. She said a park wouldn’t devalue the neighborhood, but larger lot sizes would increase property values.

CRA member John Drago said that based on his sev-

eral drives through the Eighth Street neighborhood, he noticed the streets needed repair and parking is “hodgepodge around the neighborhood.” He said having a park in the Eighth Street property is “superfluous.” He recommended taking all four lots on the plat, adding them up, and dividing that sum by four, there would be enough property behind the four lots without a park there.

“Now why is that important? It’s important from the standpoint that you want to try to eliminate parking on the street if, in fact, you can’t

accommodate the vehicles,” Drago said. “By allowing a deeper lot, you can move the houses back and you can have the driveway long enough to accommodate six vehicles, possibly eight with the two-car garage. So, anybody that comes to visit those neighborhoods or those particular houses would have a parking adequate on property.”

Drago also recommended that in order to increase the value of the property as well as the value of the area, the city could include four housing templates in its request for proposal including architectural details, and have the builder construct the houses according to those templates.

CRA member (City Commissioner) Nick Nesta said that a conversation must happen not only about the properties the Eighth Street plat focuses on, but on all of the parcels in the CRA District regarding not only efficiency and affordability, but also make a cohesive plan of activating the entire CRA District.

CRA member Nikki Williams recommended that the city come up with restrictions for how the plat properties should be used. Therefore, the developer owning the property won’t flip it and build out the lot in a way it was not originally intended.

An open public comment at the CRA Board meeting followed board discussion.

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Amanda Simpson at
imsimpson@cochlear.com
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NOTICE OF INTENT TO VACATE RIGHT OF WAY

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka City Council has received an application from Angel Garcia and Stan Henry to vacate the unimproved W Oak Street right of way, as recorded in the Public Records of Orange County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:

RESOLUTION 2025-09
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO VACATE THE WEST OAK STREET RIGHT OF WAY, AS APPEARING IN PLAT BOOK F, PAGE 57, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



(THIS IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO SCALE)

W Oak Street Right of Way Vacate Description:
That portion of oak street right of way lying north of Lots 8 through 11, according to the plat of highland park davis and mitchill's addition as recorded in Plat Book F, Page 56, Public Records of Orange County, Florida, lying south of lot 85 lakeside homes as recorded in plat book B, page 69, of the public records of orange county, florida, lying east of hawthorne oaks phase 1, according to the plat thereof as recorded in plat book 42, page 85, of the public records of orange county, florida, and lying west of n. washington avenue a 60 foot right of way and more particularly described as follows:

begin at a point on the east line of aforesaid hawthorne oaks phase 1 and being the southwest corner of the aforesaid lot 85 of lakeside homes; thence run east a distance of 200 feet along the south line of said lot 85 to the southeast corner of lot 85 lying on the west right of way line of n. washington avenue; thence south along said line a distance of 60 feet to the northwest corner of aforesaid lot 11 of highland park davis and mitchill's addition; thence west a distance of 200 feet along said north lines of said lots 8 through 11 of highland park davis and mitchill's addition to at a point on the east line of said hawthorne oaks phase 1 and being the northwest corner of said lot 8; thence north along said line a distance of 60 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing: 0.28 acres, more or less.

NOTICE is hereby given that the **CITY OF APOPKA CITY COUNCIL** will consider this plat vacate application at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Hall City Council Chambers, 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida, on **Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

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, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The proposed subdivision plat vacation and resolution may 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. 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.

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Apopka pastor appointed to lead White House Faith Office

By Teresa Sargeant
Reporter

President Donald Trump has appointed Apopka Pastor Paula White-Cain to lead the newly created White House Faith Office, the White House announced on Friday, Feb. 7.

White-Cain previously served as an advisor to Trump in the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative during his first term.

“I have been appointed to lead the White House Faith Office,” White-Cain said in an X post. “The office will work alongside Attorney General Pam Bondi to combat discrimination against Christians in federal institutions and ensure religious liberties are upheld across the country!”

White-Cain is the president of City of Destiny and the overseer and teaching pastor at StoryLife Church in Apopka. She is the founder and president of Paula White Ministries and the National Faith Advisory Board.

“In the last 40 years, White-Cain has expanded her influence globally in almost 200 countries, ministering, fighting for religious freedom and humanitarian rights, and advocating for the voiceless,” the White House said in its Feb. 7 news statement.

Also on Feb. 7, Trump signed an executive order creating the White House Faith Office “to assist faith-based entities, community organizations, and houses of worship in their efforts to strengthen American families, promote work and self-sufficiency, and protect religious liberty,” the White House said in a separate statement.



Pastor Paula White-Cain

“What an honor for her, what an honor for Christianity to have a pastor, especially a pastor that was associated with our town to be invited to that key advisory position to the President of the United States,” said Pat McGuffin, president of the Apopka Christian Ministerial Alliance.

McGuffin said he thinks it’s a fantastic move that the White House Faith Office was created.

“President Trump has already made it aware that Christianity that has been taken a real hit in recent years from many politicians, is not to be a degraded religion especially realizing that our nation has deep roots with Christianity. So, I’m excited that he is taking a look at people of faith to draw insight from, and I’m especially excited for Christianity being put back out in the forefront of our nation’s life.”

White-Cain is also a New York Times bestselling author. In 2016, she served as chairwoman of the Evangelical Advisory Board in 2016.

She is married to singer/songwriter Jonathan Cain of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame band Journey.

POLICE BEAT

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this paper reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped, or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, 32704–0880.

In the period from February 9–15, 2025, the Apopka Police Department received 1,360 calls for service, responded to 27 crashes, issued 36 citations, and made 19 arrests. There was one residential burglary and two vehicle burglaries. Juveniles were charged with other agency warrant.

The following adults were arrested and charged:

Armand Lony Datilmar, 21, Apopka, battery-cause bodily harm.

Hermando Dachannel Deer, 26, 6900 Silver Star Rd., Orlando, burglary-unoccupied structure unarmed; damage property-criminal mischief \$1,000 or more.

Daniela Desilien, 38, Apopka, cruelty toward child-abuse without great bodily harm; battery-touch or strike.

Jeffery Lamont Gunn, 58, 2013 Nobscot Pl., Apopka, trespassing-occupied structure or conveyance.

Nicholas Michael Halm, 32, 5324 Mt. Plymouth Rd., Apopka, other agency warrant.

Rachelle Moro Hoffman, 65, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Bruce Michael Iron Necklace, 42, 620 E. Orange St., Apopka, burglary of occupied dwelling unarmed.

Michael Robert Johnson, 58, 426 S. Central Ave., Apopka, trespassing-trespass occupied structure or conveyance.

Tyrone Tramell Johnson, 48, 329 E. 15th St., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Mark Andrew Land, 44, 38000 FL-19 U13, Umatilla, other agency warrant (X4).

Ashley Stefanie Leonard, 39, general delivery, Melbourne, battery-touch or strike.

Brandon Clark Moore, 50, Apopka, battery-cause bodily harm; battery-commit domestic battery by strangulation.

Steven Andrew Pagan, 37, 2707 Patty Way, Orlando, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Chenelle Chynese Pollock, 31, 800 Georgia Ave., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Jason William Scott, 46, general delivery, Apopka, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Luis C. Tindall, 25, 227 S. Forest Ave., Apopka, other agency warrant (X3).

Lashana Lynett Williams, 48, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Marvin Lee Williams, 80, transient, Orlando, other agency warrant (X2).

Jeremiah James Williams, 27, 3328 Dewberry Ave., Apopka, trespassing-trespass not structure/conveyance violation posted notice.

THOMPSON

Continued from page 1A

that we learned of the passing of Senator Thompson,” Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings wrote in an X post. “She was a tireless advocate for the underprivileged, and her effectiveness will be missed in the Florida Legislature. On behalf of Orange County, I offer heartfelt condolences to her family.”

“We are deeply saddened by the passing of Florida Senator Geraldine Thompson, a former OCPS teacher and a true champion for civil rights and public education,” Orange County Public Schools posted on its Facebook page. “Her impact as an educator, legislator and community advocate will never be forgotten. OCPS extends our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones.”

Before serving in the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, Thompson was an Orange County Public Schools educator for six years, and later an administrator at Valencia Community College for 24 years.

From 2006 to 2012 and then from 2018 to 2022, Thompson served in the Florida House of Representatives. She was elected to the Florida Senate in 2012 and served until 2016, before becoming senator for District 15 last year.

Thompson became first female Democrat and person of color to serve Florida House District 44 when she was elected in November 2018, according to her biography on the Florida Division

of Historical Resources website.

Thompson developed a reputation as a historian after compiling the history of African Americans in Central Florida and authoring the book “Black America: Orlando, Florida,” the biography states.

“Thompson led the campaign to preserve one of Orlando’s unique landmarks, the Wells’Built Hotel which, during the days of segregation, provided lodging to some of America’s most prominent citizens including Justice Thurgood Marshall. Today, that landmark is known as the Wells’Built Museum of African American History and Culture,” the biography continues.

According to her on-

line biography, Thompson’s most significant legislative accomplishments included bills to exonerate the Groveland Four, provide compensation to James Joseph Richardson, who was wrongfully incarcerated for 22 years, and create a specialty license plate to benefit scholarships for students at historically Black Greek-letter organizations at the University of Florida.

Thompson is survived by her husband, the Honorable Emerson R. Thompson, Jr.; her three children Laurise, Emerson III, and Elizabeth; and six grandchildren.

In the statement, Thompson’s family requested for privacy to mourn her passing and will announce details about her funeral services in the coming days.

Dorothy (Dot) Brooks Jordan

September 29, 1929 - February 11, 2025

Dorothy (Dot) Brooks Jordan, age 95, of Zellwood, FL, passed away on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. Born September 29, 1929, Dot was originally from Arkansas. She is preceded in death by her parents, John Dewey Downey and Goldie High Downey, her sisters, Margaret Edwards, Pat Maddox, Peggy Ann Wolfe, and Mary Francis Taylor, her brother, John Dewey Downey, Jr., her first husband, Allen Cone Brooks, and stepson, Kevin Jordan. Dot is survived by her second husband of 23 years, Tim Jordan, Jr. of Zellwood, FL, along with her children, Ron Brooks (Kay), Richard Brooks, and Billy Brooks, 4 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchild, 3 step-children, 8 step-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren.




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Gilland: Time to get back in the saddle

I don’t have a clue when I first heard the old adage about the importance of “getting back into the saddle.” The context of this old saying includes the implication that one had been on a horse riding until... they fell off!

I was always intrigued by this saying—most likely due to the fact that I once fell off a horse myself. Well, more accurately, it was a pony. And I didn’t really fall off. I was bucked off and went flying over the pony’s head and managed to land on the hard Indiana farmland without even breaking a bone.

That was a pretty terrifying experience to my 10-year-old self.

The backstory to this incident: My grandfather owned a lot of property that included a horse barn. While he didn’t own horses, he rented out the barn and associated corral to a guy who owned those ponies. That owner allowed me to ride them in exchange for helping to care for them, feeding and brushing these beautiful animals.

I had no idea that ponies can be so given to tempers, but I learned the hard way. That pony knew exactly how to pitch me off its back and send me flying to the ground.

As I was getting back up, that pony stared me down in a taunting manner the whole time I was dusting myself off.

Whether it was out of sheer stupidity, or fueled by a rock-solid determination, I did indeed get right back on that pony, and continued the ride.

It is funny how such stories from our youth teach us lessons, weaving in truths that will help transform us into who we are today.

It’s funny that, when I think of my own children and how I would never have let them ride such an ill-tempered steed, I see clearly how grateful I am that I wasn’t hurt, and even laughed off the accident as just another story.

But one truth still calls out to me from that distant memory, reminding me of a well-known Bible verse, Proverbs 24:16:

“...for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.”

Don’t let temporary setbacks take you out of the game. Life isn’t always easy, and sometimes it knocks us to our bottoms.

But when it does, we must get back up, stare at the situation in the face, and get on with life.

Mike Gilland is a longtime pastor and operations manager for The Shepherd Radio Network which airs on 1270 AM in Orlando.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things."
~ Psalm 98:1

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church listings



DERRICK
Continued from page 1A

The Ricketson family has offered us their full support as we implement much of the Chief's modernization in the very first issue, which wouldn't have been possible without their collaboration.

The changes all start with you—the reader. In December we conducted a survey in which we asked readers what you enjoy most about the Chief and what you would like to see more of in the paper.

Two themes stood out: You asked for 1) less opinion and more reporting, and 2) less national focus and more local government, business and community news. We are seeking to deliver on these requests from this very first issue, with more originally reported local content and an opinion section that is limited to a single page featuring Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore, Orange County School Board Member Melissa Byrd, and starting this week, Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson.

We want you to hear from your elected officials about lo-



Photo by Kristie Scott

L-R standing: Marshall Tempest, Josué Toruño, J.C. Derrick; L-R seated: Teresa Sargeant, Jackie Trefcer, Lesbia Toruño and Nancy Thomas; not pictured: Debrah Hayden.

cal issues on the opinion page, but we also want to hear more from you in what we hope will be a robust letters to the editor section.

Other survey feedback included inconsistency with mail delivery of the paper, which we are aiming to solve with implementation of home delivery starting this week in the heart of Apopka. Those who live out-

side the delivery zone will continue to receive the paper by mail.

While we're excited to bring a larger broadsheet format and full color to the Chief, probably the biggest shift is making the paper free. This is why we are suspending publication of The Planter, a 60-year-old free newspaper that was ahead of its time.

The controlled delivery model is today a rising force in local news. Mainstreet Daily News has found success with it in Gainesville, expanding weekly print circulation to 20,000 across two zones, and Tampa Bay Newspapers (TBN)—part of the Tampa Bay Times family of companies—has grown to a dozen titles using controlled delivery in Pi-

nellas, Pasco, Hillsborough and Hernando counties.

This model is what is allowing us to increase circulation to 10,000, and it's what attracted Publix to begin inserting its ads in the Chief starting with the Feb. 21 issue. We're excited to have those running in the Chief each week.

Of the 10,000 copies, 8,000 will be home delivered, while 2,000 will appear in the dozens of Chief racks and boxes around town—only now they'll be free. We don't want anyone to have to go far to pick up a free newspaper.

We drew the lines for the home delivery area to encompass as many paid subscribers as possible. For those who live outside the home delivery area and wish to continue receiving the paper via mail, you can continue to do so by paying to cover the mailing cost.

We are also dropping the paywall at theapopkachief.com and shifting to a digital-first approach, meaning stories will go online when they are ready, not when the print edition is published.

We hope you will begin sharing these timely Chief stories with your friends and family online.

While the traditional subscription model is going away for most people, reader revenue remains an important part of a successful news business. We'll have more to announce soon on how you can get involved. Good local news requires community support—something the Chief has always enjoyed from Apopka residents.

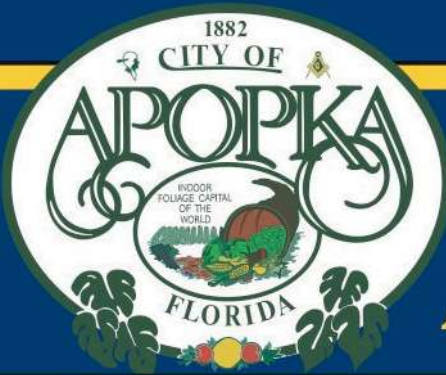
We appreciate your patience as we implement these changes at the Chief, which we know will come with their fair share of challenges. The delivery model is changing, but we are unwavering in our commitment to keep delivering local news you can trust.

John always called himself the caretaker of the Chief, because it belongs to the community. Mainstreet sees itself the same way. We are doing everything we can do be a good steward of this community jewel and put the Chief on a firm footing for its next 100 years.

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Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce to host Women in Leadership Luncheon, 2025 Business Expo

Staff Reports

The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce announced two community and networking events: the Women in Leadership Luncheon, and the 2025 Business Expo.

Women in Leadership Luncheon

Laura Halfpenny, senior director of soccer growth for the U.S. Soccer Federation, will be the guest speaker at the Women in Leadership Luncheon, which took place on Wednesday, March 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Highland Manor, 604 E. Main St., Apopka.

In her role as senior director of soccer growth at the

U.S. Soccer Federation, which she assumed in February 2024, Halfpenny leads strategic initiatives aimed at broadening the sport's appeal and participation nationwide.

Her responsibilities encompass developing strategies that engage communities, increase youth and adult participation, and enhancing the overall infrastructure to support soccer's growth in the United States.

Prior to joining the U.S. Soccer Federation, Halfpenny held leadership roles in various soccer organizations, namely Georgia State Soccer Association, a member organization of U.S. Soccer, and Orlando City Youth Soccer Club, where her extensive experience equipped

her with a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics involved in promoting and developing soccer at grassroots level.

Under her leadership, the Georgia State Soccer Association became a leading educational arm of U.S. Soccer, delivering coaching and referee education.

Halfpenny's educational background includes a master of business administration.

Registration is required to attend the luncheon. Chamber members is \$50, and non-Chamber members is \$75. Visit shorturl.at/xFk08 to register.

2025 Business Expo

The Chamber is presenting the 2025 Business Expo,

a networking and business showcase event for entrepreneurs, professional, and industry leaders, on Wednesday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Apopka Community Center, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka.

The expo is designed to connect businesses of all sizes with potential clients, partners, and resources to help them grow and thrive in today's competitive market.

Event highlights are:

- Meet and connect with local business owners, industry experts, and decision-makers
- Explore exhibitor booths featuring innovative products and services across various industries

Attend expert-led workshops and panel discussions on business growth, marketing, technology, and finance

Gain insights into funding opportunities, business expansion strategies, and economic trends

Network with potential clients, partners, and investors in a collaborative environment

Exhibitors can register at Zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-business-expo to showcase their business to a targeted audience. Lunch will be provided to vendors for two people. Chamber members is \$100; non-chamber members, \$150.

Visit Zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-business-expo



Laura Halfpenny

ticketing/2025-business-expo-sponsors for sponsorship opportunities.

General admission is open and free to the public. However, registration is preferred by visiting Apopka-Chamber.org. It's not necessary to be a Chamber member to attend.



Photo by J.C. Derrick

The Apopka Chief has changed hands for just the seventh time in its 102-year history.

SALE

Continued from page 1A

make all digital content free for readers to view and share. Derrick said the Chief plans to introduce an optional membership program that he plans to unveil soon.

Since the newspaper's founding in 1923, The Apopka Chief has only had six publishers. In 1969, when W.R. "Mac" McGuffin and his wife Delores McGuffin purchased the newspaper, he became publisher and she the business manager. The purchase came five years after W.R. McGuffin had launched "The Planter" as a rival publication to The Apopka Chief.

In 1979, the Ricketsons reached an agreement to purchase both newspapers under

their family company Foliage Enterprises. Patrick McGuffin, W.R.'s son, served as publisher, followed briefly by interim John Shore, until 1982. John Ricketson took up the mantle as publisher the same year, according to "Tales of The Big Potato," a Jack Christmas book about Apopka history.

After the Ricketsons bought The Planter, the family turned it into a free publication. Since the Chief is now becoming a free publication, Mainstreet has suspended publication of The Planter.

Pat McGuffin said he supports the latest acquisition and helped facilitate it. He acknowledged the legacies of the two newspapers and the Rick-

etsons and the family's struggle to sustain the newspapers since John Ricketson's passing last July.

"When John passed, I knew that it would be too much for (his wife) Eileen to take on by herself, and that chances are a transition was going to occur, whether it's the closing of a 102-year-old newspaper or a new owner," McGuffin said. "I spoke to Eileen, and I spoke to other interested parties in Apopka that care about the continuance of the 102-year-old newspaper and am delighted that another owner has come forth, especially one that has the same DNA as what The Apopka Chief has had for years."

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On Wednesday, Jan. 29, Clay Springs Elementary celebrated its 100th day of school in a special way. As part of their 100th-day parade, students collected donations for Loaves & Fishes, with each grade contributing specific items and aiming for 100 items per class. Photos courtesy of Loaves & Fishes.



TRAIL

Continued from page 1A

trails mean to our community,” Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings said during remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony. “It’s part of making our community the community that it can be, and these beautiful trails are crucial to preserving the local ecosystem by providing access to our diverse natural landscapes and connecting nearby communities.”

Over 30 years ago, the first segment of the West Orange Trail opened. Since then, the West Orange Trail has been expanded and now stretches 22 miles through Oakland, Winter Garden, Apopka and Ocoee, Demings said.

The concept of a multi-modal path surrounding Lake Apopka goes back about 20 years, Demings said. In 2012, phase 1 opened to provide access from Magnolia Park to the Lake Apopka North Shore Trail, maintained by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

No trail would have been built if Lake Apopka was still in the polluted condition it used to be in, said Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore. Lake Apopka was once deemed as the state’s most polluted lake due to the runoffs from the lake’s farms on its north shore.

“If you had seen this lake in the 1970s, it was brown. It was green. And ... we had white alligators. It was just a terrible situation,” Moore said. “So today really is a celebration of what we’ve all been doing since the 1990s to restore this lake, and just think about where we’re going to be, where we have people coming from all over the world to ride the Coast-to-Coast Trail, and now they’re going to have the opportunity to take this 40-mile ride all the way around Lake Apopka.”

Former Orange County District 1 Commissioner Betsy VanderLey said the Connector Trail phase 2 groundbreaking is the fruition of her late father’s dream.

When Jon VanderLey was Oakland mayor in the late 1990s, Friends of Lake Apopka and Oakland Nature Preserve were forming, and the West Orange Trail in Oakland was under construction. Friends of Lake Apopka is the citizen advocacy group committed to Lake Apopka’s restoration.

When Betsy VanderLey chaired MetroPlan Orlando, Joe Dunn of Friends of Lake Apopka approached her with the concept of the Lake Apopka Loop Trail. She recalled her father discussing the same vision.

“If you stop and think about Commissioner Moore’s comments about what the lake looked like at that point in time and what it looks like now, for him (Jon VanderLey) to have that vision of a Lake Apopka Loop Trail and that being an amenity was quite a stretch of imagination at that point in time,” she said. “So happily, I got to find myself in a position of leadership to help secure some of the land, to complete that loop trail and find some of the funding to complete that loop trail.”

VanderLey said she does not often come to groundbreakings, since she is no longer in office, but Wednesday was different.

“I wouldn’t want to have missed this one,” she said. “This is really a fruition of my dad’s dream and the fact that I got to take a part in that.”

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CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD (PG-13) 4:20; 10:30

THE MONKEY (R) 10:40A; 1:30; 4:40; 7:40; 10:20

CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD (PG-13) 9:30A; 10:00A; 11:00A; 12:00; 12:40; 1:10; 2:00; 3:00; 3:50; 5:00; 6:00; 7:00; 7:30; 8:00; 9:00; 10:00

LOVE HURTS(R) 9:50

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG) 10:10A; 1:00; 4:00; 6:50; 9:40

DOGMAN (PG) 10:50A; 1:20; 4:10; 7:10

HEART EYES (R) 11:10A; 1:40; 4:30; 7:20; 10:10

TUES. VALUE DAYS

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

Puzzle Solution

C	A	N	S	T			S	S	B		P	O	N	S			
O	L	E	A	N			P	O	C	O		A	S	I	A		
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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page B4

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS: PAGE B4

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

‘Potato-eating place’ (Apopka) can use recipe for Potato Pie

Celebrated in the 2012 book, ***Field to Feast***, award-winning chef Hari Pulapaka, who founded, along with his wife, Jennifer, Cress Restaurant in Deland, grew up in Mumbai, India, and he is a leader in the sustainable-foods movement in Volusia County. He has formal training at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando. Among his numerous accolades, he has been nominated for the James Beard Award. A busy individual, who has passed the torch in ownership of the Cress Restaurant, he is an author and associate professor of mathematics at Stetson University. We have one of his recipes, Grilled Wahoo and Shrimp with Creole Vegetables and Shitake-Thyme Grits.

How about Potato Pie that looks absolutely decadent? Allison Chase contributed her recipe to ***Feeding the Flock***, and we have it for you right here.

Savannah Style cookbook has loads of lovely recipes. We are passing on to you some of the great food ideas contained therein, and Sunday Cabbage appears in the top rankings of cabbage recipes.

Spinach Salad is a favorite for many of our readers. This one is from ***Savannah Style*** and looks fit for a special occasion.

We have a Hummus recipe for you from ***Southern Living's 1996 Annual Recipes***. This recipe was contributed by Joan Ranzini of Waynesboro, Virginia.

CHEF HARI PULAPAKA'S GRILLED WAHOO AND SHRIMP WITH CREOLE VEGETABLES AND SHIITAKE-THYME GRITS

Recipe from ***Field to Feast***
Grilled Wahoo and Shrimp:
4 (6-oz) wahoo filets
12 large wild-caught American shrimp, peeled and deveined
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon low-sodium Creole spice blend, or to taste
1 tablespoon minced garlic
Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Creole Vegetables:
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 cup diced Spanish onion
1 cup diced celery



1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
1/2 cup diced green bell pepper
Coarse salt, to taste
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1 cup diced andouille or Cajun sausage
1 dry or 3 fresh bay leaves
1 cup fresh corn kernels
1 cup fresh lima beans
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
1 tablespoon minced garlic
2 cups diced ripe tomatoes
2 cups low-sodium vegetable or chicken stock
1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley

Shiitake-Thyme Grits:
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 medium Spanish onion, finely diced
1 dry or 3 fresh bay leaves
1/2 cup thinly sliced shiitake mushrooms
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1/2 cup heavy cream, or more as needed
1-1/2 cups water, or more as needed
1/2 cup cup yellow corn grits
Sweet potato chips, for garnish
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Marinate the Fish and Shrimp:
Place wahoo and shrimp in a shallow bowl. Drizzle with oil, rubbing to coat. Sprinkle with Creole spice blend and garlic, rubbing to coat. Refrigerate, covered, for 1 hour.

Make the Vegetables:
1) Heat the oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add onion, celery and red and green peppers and cook 5 minutes or until onion and celery are translucent. Season lightly with salt and pepper. 2) Add sausage and sauté 2 to 3 minutes. Add bay leaves, corn, and lima beans and cook 1 minute. Stir in thyme, rosemary, and garlic and cook 30 seconds. Add tomatoes and let mixture simmer for about 2 minutes. Add stock and season with additional salt and pepper to taste. 3) Simmer, stirring periodically, about 30 minutes. Add heavy cream and fresh parsley just before serving.

Prepare the Grits:
1) Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions, bay leaves, mushrooms, and thyme and cook until onions turn golden brown. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Add cream and water. 2) When water and cream to a simmer, slowly whisk in grits. Stir for 1 to 2 minutes, or until mixture is smooth. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cook grits, stirring occasionally, 30 to 40 minutes, or until thick and creamy.

Grill the Wahoo and Shrimp and assemble the dish:

1) Season wahoo and shrimp with salt and pepper. Grill shrimp 2 to 3 minutes, turning once. Grill wahoo, turning once, about 5 to 6 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fillet. 2) For each serving, spoon about 1/2 cup cooked grits in a bowl. Top with grilled wahoo and shrimp. Ladle Creole vegetables evenly among servings. Garnish plates with sweet potato chips and parsley.

ALLISON CHASE'S POTATO PIE FEEDING THE FLOCK
NEW VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH
3 large baking potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
1 prepared 9-inch pie crust
3/4 cup grated Swiss, Gruyere, Cheddar, or Parmesan cheese
1 large egg
1-1/2 cup low-fat milk
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme or basil (1 teaspoon dried)
Salt and ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Layer potatoes in crust, sprinkling with cheese between layers. In a bowl, mix egg, milk, thyme, salt and pepper. Pour egg mixture over the potatoes and cheese and bake 45-60 minutes or until potatoes are tender and golden brown. Yield: 4-6 servings.

SUNDAY CABBAGE
Recipe from ***Savannah Style***, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.
1 small to medium head of cabbage
2 eggs, hard-cooked
2 cups milk
2 tablespoons flour
1/2 cup margarine
4 ounces Cheddar cheese
Worcestershire sauce, to taste

Seasoned salt, to taste
Salt and pepper, to taste
Pour milk in small saucepan; bring to a boil. Make flour paste by adding a little milk to the flour. Add boiling milk until it becomes a thick white sauce. Add 1/4 cup margarine, seasoned salt, pepper and cheese. Cut cabbage in wedges and boil until tender, five to seven minutes. Drain cabbage, salt it and toss with remaining 1/4 cup margarine. Place half of the cabbage in a 1-quart dish, dice eggs over top and cover with half of the cheese sauce. Top with buttered bread crumbs; repeat second layer in same order. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes or until bubbly.

SPINACH SALAD
Recipe from *Savannah Style*, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.
1 pound fresh spinach, washed and drained
2 apples, peeled and diced
8 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
1/2 cup almonds, slivered and sautéed in bacon grease
2 green onions, sliced
Dressing:
1 cup oil
3 tablespoons sugar
2-2/3 teaspoons dry mustard
5 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon cider vinegar

Blend dressing thoroughly and toss lightly over salad.

SOUTHERN LIVING'S HUMMUS
Recipe from *SOUTHERN LIVING'S 1996 ANNUAL RECIPES*
1 (15-oz) can chick-peas, drained
1/4 cup tahini
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 clove garlic
1/3 cup lemon juice
1-1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
2 tablespoons chopped onion
1 tablespoon reduced-sodium soy sauce

Position knife blade in food processor; add all ingredients, and process until smooth. Yield: 2 cups.

FEBRUARY 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 Dwellley 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 Wekiva River. Address: 1800 Weki-

wa 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.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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: latrondra@cfchristian-chamber.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the **third Saturday each month**. Next one is Feb. 15, 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, FEBRUARY 23

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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.

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, FEBRUARY 25

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets **Tuesdays at 5:30 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.

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, FEBRUARY 26

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@vfw-post10147.com for information. The VFW Auxiliary has been formed and is active as well. Don't forget to visit its excellent Military Museum.

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

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

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

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

TOPS CHAPTER #646. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), TOPS, a non-profit organization, will help you reach a weight goal with support from friendly, caring members, education, and rewards. Each Thursday weigh-in begins at 9:00 a.m.

– meeting ends at 10:15 a.m.. Come to its NEW location 220 W. Horatio Avenue, 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, FEBRUARY 27

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

Rotary Club of Apopka is working on their 24th annual fair at Kit Land Nelson Park, February 27-March 2

Saturday Sounds, Saturday, April 27, 2024. HAPCO Apopka International Jazz Day with LeNard Rutledge & Friends at Sounds Concert Series. So far, nothing is scheduled for March.

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 short-

ened link: <https://bit.ly/2ABrmsb>, and are normally held the first Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. Subject to change with notice. For info., call City Clerk 407-703-1704. Agenda and minutes of meeting can be found online. Once posted, check for any revisions by Tuesday at 5 p.m. before the meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, 122 E 5th Street, Hours open: Wednesdays to Friday, from noon-5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.... Admission is free. Contains displays and information about Apop-

ka's history, and has history books for sale. Monthly meetings of Apopka Historical Society are normally held on a Sunday afternoon. For more information, go to www.theapokmuseum.com. THE APOPKA ELKS LODGE 2422 meets first and third Tuesdays of month, 201 W. Orange. For more information, call 407-886-1600 or email apopkaelks@aol.com Bar Bingo every Monday night at 7 p.m. promptly.

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

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

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

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

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

(OCLS) Orange County Public Library North Orange Branch Address: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. www.ocls.info.

*Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, 2755 Border Ln., Suite #102-7, Apopka. 32703. 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@theapokchief.com
....

PROJECTS
Continued from page 1A

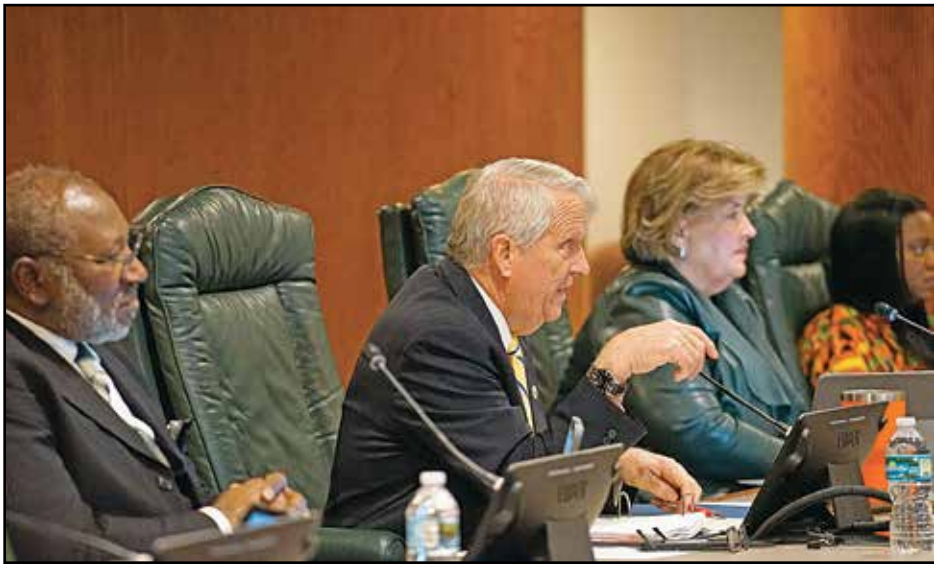
The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) District has two projects under construction and are expected to be completed soon. Although construction of the \$500,000 Apopka Action Sports Park next to the Fran Carlton Center was to wrap up mid-March, the skate park and pump track's construction will finish this week, Williams said.

The city will close out with the project's construction company and then send out invites for the grand opening.

Meanwhile, the \$1.16 million, 1.1-mile phase 1 of the Downtown Apopka Trail will end this April. The segment built in this phase will be an asphalt trail connecting to Alonzo Williams Park.

Over at the Northwest Recreation Complex, the \$1.1 million inclusive playground is on schedule to be completed this April. The playground will comprise 13,320 sq. ft. and include Go-Rounds, Zip-Krooz, two play structures, and inclusive access points.

The end of 2025 may also



Mayor Bryan Nelson speaks at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19

see completion of several new athletic fields at the Northwest Recreation Complex. Six soccer/multipurpose fields, totaling approximately 980,000 sq. ft. with a budget of \$1.5 million, may wrap this autumn and spring 2026. As well, 10 pickleball courts and 10 tennis courts, budgeted at \$2.15 million, would come to fruition by this year's end.

The city is replacing the gazebo at Kit Land Nelson

Park, hoping to finish this project by the end of this summer. Designed to resemble an amphitheater like the one at the Northwest Recreation Complex, the \$250,000 gazebo replacement will be 40 feet by 18 feet and include a raised platform stage.

City cemetery projects include a maintenance storage building, columbarium upgrades, and cemetery entrance gates.



Radley Williams speaks to the City Council.

TDT Grant for Northwest Recreation Complex

Using the TDT Grant award that the city received at the end of 2024, the money will get poured into two project areas of the Northwest Recreation Complex. The total project's grant scope is for \$13.1 million and will focus on adding new softball fields and upgrading the amphitheater area.

Project area one, spanning approximately 632,000 sq. ft. and budgeted at \$8.3 million, will in-

clude a softball field quad, restrooms, concessions, a maintenance building, ADA and grass parking, and walkways, dugouts, and bleachers for the softball fields.

Project area two is budgeted at \$4.8 million and will focus on approximately 460,000 sq. ft. at the amphitheater. This project will include adding a new ticket booth, a restroom complex, a new concession, an upper walkway with vendor and food truck

areas at the top of the hill, and more ADA parking and ADA seating.

The city already received and reviewed the TDT Grant funding agreement from Orange County. City staff hopes to present this agreement to the City Council for approval at the next meeting and then send the document back county for final approval. From there, the city will proceed with the two Northwest Recreation Complex projects.

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Loss.com Certified Provider means Dr. Davis and her team offer a level of care that is hard to find elsewhere.

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Hearing loss affects brain health, confidence, safety, and relationships. Research has linked untreated



Whether your hearing difficulties are a new development or lifelong issues, the experts at Central Florida Audiology can help. Please call 407-358-7045 to schedule a free hearing consultation or visit www.centralfloridaaudiology.com. Pictured above is Amy Davis, founder of Central Florida Audiology.

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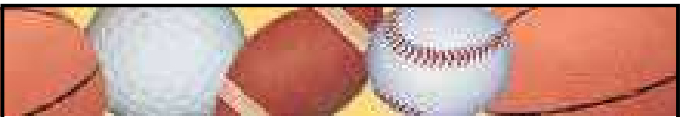
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See the story and picture at the top of the page about Apopka High School's boys basketball team's win over Winter Park in FHSAA Class 7A Boys Basketball State Tournament.



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Apopka boys basketball reaches 7A region 1 finals

Blue Darters pull away late in defensive struggle

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

It was on to the regional finals after the Apopka Blue Darter basketball team defeated the Winter Park Wildcats 50-39 in the FHSAA 7A Boys Basketball State Tournament Regional Semifinals on Monday, Feb. 17. The Blue Darters will now host the regional final at home against Seminole High School at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20.

“I’m just so incredibly proud of these kids. Our staff and players really put in a great effort tonight against a very strong basketball team,” said Scott Williams, head coach of the boys basketball team, after the win. Williams mentioned that the team and his staff were well-prepared and executed

their game plan at a high level. Williams said he felt somewhat speechless when struggling to find the right words, as he was still overwhelmed by not only beating Winter Park and advancing to the regional final of the state tournament but also learning as he exited the locker room that Seminole had defeated Creek-side in the other side of our region’s bracket—meaning Apopka would now be hosting the FHSAA 7A Region 1 Finals.

The final score of 50-39 did not reflect how close the two teams played for most of the game. The teams combined to score only 33 in the first half, with the Blue Darters leading 19-14 at halftime. Apopka’s brand of pressure and physicality, matched against Winter Park’s 1-3-1 zone, which is designed to create turnovers, was a true spectacle at the state tournament level.

The first quarter was ex-



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Jermichael Johnson of Apopka slices through the middle of the lane past three Winter Park defenders before finishing at the rim on Monday, Feb. 17.

actly what Apopka and coach Williams expected: a battle. Williams told me after the win, “I thought it was going to be first to 40 (points) wins. It’s

just the way they play.” Winter Park’s defense was on it from the tipoff and kind of took Apopka by surprise in the first possessions, but once the Blue

Darters got settled, they were right back to work.

Apopka’s Jahi Bowden led that charge, who has been a huge player for the Blue

Darters all year and is a menace to guards and forwards alike on both sides of the court. Bowden led the offense as a primary ball handler on many possessions, trying to prod and manipulate the Wildcats’ zone defense, getting himself nice spots to grab points from mid-range. But he also terrorized the ball handlers and forwards on the defensive end, often guarding out of his position, as Williams told me, and this game was no exception.

“Early on, he (Bowden) was huge because we had a hard time cracking the nut and getting started. He is capable of these kinds of performances. As I mentioned, he was instrumental; if he hadn’t played well early, we might’ve been in a little bit of trouble. He’s a remarkable young man, and he played exceptionally well tonight,” Williams said after the game.

See **DARTERS** Page 2B

Dern brothers tout new skate park

Apopka native say park will expand participation

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

The new Apopka Action Sports Park is under construction, and much of the ground-work and foundation have been completed in the last four weeks. The city of Apopka has a rich history and culture revolving around the skateboarding and BMX scene, and the new park will further nurture that passion in our area.

A significant part of that history includes the Dern brothers, who have been instrumental in this project for years. They returned to their hometown this week to ride its newest and only skate park. Destin, Dalton, and Kanaan Dern are skateboarders from Apopka who have transformed their passion for skateboarding into careers, making their YouTube channel, DernBrothers, a household name. As of this week, they boast some 183,000 subscribers and 79 million views.

Former professional skateboarder and legend Bam Margera joined the Dern brothers



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Dalton Dern gains speed coming down the transition at the front of the park before attempting a trick on the vert wall.

on their trip to Apopka to try out the new park. According to Julie Dern, the mother of the three brothers, Margera is like family to them. The Dern brothers skate, make videos with, and travel with Margera nearly every day.

Kanaan was a senior at Apopka High School when he served as president of the Skateboard Club. Together

with club members, his brothers, skateboarders from the Apopka community, and residents who supported the idea, he petitioned for a local skate park over 12 years ago, gathering scores of signatures.

“Our main focus was to push to get a skateboard park in Apopka,” Kanaan Dern said. “We went to so many city meetings pushing for it, I in-

terviewed Mayor John Land about it at the time.”

Kanaan told me that Mayor Land mentioned to him at the time that building a skate park, or anything significant, in a community like Apopka takes time. Land also informed Kanaan that it might be completed in 12 or 13 years if they

See **SKATE PARK** Page 3B

Apopka baseball goes 1-2 in season's opening week

Wyatt Jagers slams walk-off homer in win over Lyman High

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

The Apopka Blue Darter baseball team is 1-2 on the season after losing their season opener to Lake Brantley 2-0, beating Lyman High School 4-3, and then losing to Lake Howell 5-1 in the first three games of the 2025 season.

Apopka vs. Lyman (4-3) Win

Apopka’s one win so far this season was against the Lyman High School Greyhounds on Thursday, Feb. 13. The Blue Darters still had to earn that win as the game went into extra innings before Apopka beat the Greyhounds 4-3 in the eighth inning.

Apopka and Lyman both were able to score a run in the first inning, but the game was quiet after that for the next three innings. In the bottom of the fourth inning, Apopka tallied another run to up the score to 2-1. But Lyman wasn’t going down without

a fight and immediately answered the Blue Darters with two runs in the top of the fifth.

Apopka tied the game back up at 3-3 in the bottom of the sixth. The seventh inning was quiet, with no scores from either team, forcing the game into extra innings. In the top of the eighth inning, Lyman could not collect any runs, leaving it up to Apopka to secure the win in the bottom of the eighth.

The Blue Darters then walked it off with a game-winning home run by Wyatt Jagers to claim their first win of the season.

“The at-bat that Wyatt Jagers had in the bottom of the eighth was big,” Blue Darters head coach Bobby Brewer said. “It just showed that these guys won’t quit.”

As a team in the win, the Blue Darters had a 0.125 batting average, four runs, three hits, three RBIs, and one home run.

Jagers accounted for three of Apopka’s four runs, contributing two runs and one RBI. Timothy Hamrick and Jonathan Edge each recorded an RBI, while Nico Posluszny and Chance Saunders each collected a run.

See **BASEBALL** Page 4B



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Apopka’s Wyatt Jagers pictured above made a huge at bat in the eighth in inning of the Blue Darters win over Lyman where he hit a walk off homer to win the game.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Wekiva’s Makayla Bell looks to finish at the rim through contact in the Mustangs win over Evans on Tuesday, Feb. 4 in the 6A District 5 Tournament

Short-handed Wekiva girls basketball denied return trip to Final Four

Team had one of state's most difficult schedules

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

The Wekiva Mustangs girls basketball team’s season came to an end at the start of February when they fell to the East River Falcons 47-43

in the second round of the 6A District 5 championship tournament. The dreams of returning to the Final Four for the Mustangs will have to wait another year after a season full of ups and downs.

The girls put up a good fight in the loss, but Wekiva was at a disadvantage before they even showed up to the game.

See **MUSTANGS** Page 9B

Lakeland angler wins four-day event



FISHIN

Jim Keck
CORRESPONDENT

Hello Folks,
Last week we had a week of warm weather, along with a full moon, and that got the bass to bitin’.
As I mentioned last week, MFL Pro Tour held a four-day event on the Harris Chain. There were 66 anglers that started the event and on Sunday, the final 10 anglers fished for \$150,000. Congrats to

Bobby Lane of Lakeland, who won the tournament with 18 scoreable bass that weighed 56 pounds and 5 ounces.
All 10 anglers started the day with a clean slate. It was a race between Mark Davis and Bobby Lane in the last period on Championship Sunday. Bobby passed Mark in period 3 and never looked back.
Folks, I reported last week about the fish kill in Lake Apopka, and all the dock talk at the start of the tournament kept a lot of anglers from goin’ to Lake Apopka. Bobby won the tournament in Lake Apopka. It’s hard to believe that Lake Apopka showed out

durin’ this tournament, but it really did durin’ those four tournament days.
Bobby was flippin’ a Berkley bait called “The General.” The Berkley PowerBait Maxscent black and blue, “The General” bait, was Bobby’s go-to bait. Bobby says that he caught all his bass around the reeds in Lake Apopka. You had to present your bait to the reeds and fish really slow to get the fish to bite.
Mark Davis was casting a Black and Blue Senko to the reeds, and just lettin’ it lay there until the bass picked it up. The wind presented trouble to all the anglers who fished Lake Apopka on Sunday. Bobby said he

had to get his boat in position with his power poles and let the wind blow the front of the boat around to make his presentation. He was flippin’ to the reeds where the bass were spawning.
If you have fished in Florida any length of time, you know that bass don’t like to reeds to be swayin’ back-and-forth, because, usually, they just won’t bite in those type of conditions. The wind on Sunday was blowin’ a steady 20 to 25 miles per hour, and wind gusts up to 30 miles per hour.
Jacob Wheeler won the first two days of qualifying. Over the course of two days, Jacob caught 32 bass that weighed 101 pounds and

9 ounces. Guess where he fished. Lake Apopka!! Six of the 10 anglers that fished Championship Sunday fished in Lake Apopka.
I guess what I’m trying to say is I might have jumped the gun a little last week. I reported that it might take 10 to 15 years for Lake Apopka to recover from the fish kill, but with the results of this tournament and the number of bass that were caught over four days, maybe it won’t take that long for the lake to recover. Let’s hope so.
The specks were bitin’ last week as well. Kyle at Bitter’s Bait & Tackle reports that folks are still catchin’ specks in Lake Monroe and Lake Je-

sup. I also received some good reports that the specks are bitin’ real good in the Kissimmee Chain, and the Harris Chain as well. Most of the specks are bein’ caught on minners.
Also, I just got a report from the FWC about the fish kill in Lake Apopka. They said there was no evidence for the fish kill due to Algae Bloom or dissolved low oxygen levels in the water. The testing is still ongoing.
Well, that’s it for this week. I hope you get a chance to do some fishin’ this week, and be safe on the water.
Tip of the week: Bass and specks are bitin’.
Save a few and good luck!

DARTERS

Continued from page 1B

At the end of the first quarter, the Blue Darters led 11-9. In the second quarter, not much changed, as both teams became increasingly physical with their pressure and defense as the game progressed. Apopka came out on top, allowing the Wildcats to score just five points in eight minutes, leading to a 19-14 advantage at half-time.
Williams said this about his defensive game plan after the win. “We tried to do some things just to be a little disruptive; I thought it worked, especially in the first half. In the second half, they kind of came up with a better plan for it, and we had to be more careful. But because we never really let them settle in in the offensive end, we didn’t really have to try to speed them up or be ultra-aggressive, and that makes all the difference in the world.”
Williams mentioned that Winter Park makes you play the game at a much slower pace and that he and the team anticipated this challenge. He compared it to their season opener against Winter Park, where the Blue Darters lost 57-42 in November 2024. He noted that on the night of the win, the boys were emotionally ready for a more patient game than they are accustomed to.

The Blue Darters emerged from the locker room fired up, going on an 11-6 run to start the second half and leading 30-20 with 3:40 left in the third quarter. Although they initially dominated the momentum, Apopka cooled off against the now-desperate Wildcats defense, which began to smother Apopka’s ball handlers at the end of the third quarter as the grim reality of losing drew closer.
Apopka closed out the third quarter up 32-22. But in the fourth quarter, the Wildcats turned it up to 11, forcing many more turnovers than the Blue Darters wanted as they slowly chipped away at the Apopka lead. Apopka’s offensive mistakes had been few and far between in the first three quarters, but with Winter Park now minutes away from going home



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Head coach of the Apopka boys basketball team, Scott Williams, talks with the team during a timeout in the second quarter of their game against Winter Park in the regional semifinal of the FHSAA state tournament.

with a loss, they were going all out.
The Blue Darters held the lead 37-30 with 4:42 left in the game. They faced the Wildcats, who were beginning to build momentum like a snowball. But Bowden saved the day in the fourth quarter, as he had been doing all night: forcing turnovers, owning the glass, and finding open shots for himself and his teammates.
Winter Park didn’t quit until the final possession and made several significant shots to narrow Apopka’s lead, but they ultimately fell short. After a handful of trips to the foul line in the final minutes, as both teams went into bonus, Apopka secured the win 50-39.

Williams talked to me briefly about Apopka’s approach in the second half. “We had played an outstanding first half but we were going to have to be really good on the defensive end of the floor and continue to work together and get each other looks offensively in the second half. And we did. We came right out in the third quarter and were really sharp offensively.”
Williams said that many people have said the team just shot the ball well during this and previous wins. Still, he maintained that the Blue Darters have progressively created better shots for themselves all



Photo by Marshall Tempest

the Blue Darters’ Jahi Bowden finds a gap in the Winter Park 1-3-1 zone for a quick shot from mid range.

season. He said a part of the reason the team is shooting better is that they can make better looks for themselves and their teammates.
“I thought we got some really good looks, and our guys confidently shot the ball. And, once again, does it help being at home? Sure! We earned the right to do it! Just like on Thursday (February 20), we’ve earned the right to be at home. And if that helps us make a few

more shots, then we’ll take it.
Apopka is now just one win away from reaching the Final Four of the 2025 FHSAA 7A Boys Basketball State Tournament, where, if they win, they will join the regional champions from the other three regions in Florida in Lakeland for the final two rounds of the state tournament.
Williams left me with the team’s mentality going into the final stretch of the state tourna-



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Apopka’s Jahi Bowden (2) looks over his shoulder to see movement behind him while a Wildcat player directs the Winter Park offense.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Apopka’s Jermichael Johnson gets tall and uses his wingspan to guard a Winter Park player attacking the rim.

ment before going off to work on a game plan for Seminole right after the win over Winter Park.
“We talked about this journey having five steps. I told the boys, ‘When we hit the end of the regular season, we have five steps to get to the Final Four.’ So we have one more step on Thursday (February 20), and if we make that step, we will be in the Final Four. And then we have two weeks to prepare for whatever lies ahead. It would be a wonderful blessing to try and figure out what you do with your team for two weeks to prepare for the Final Four because that’s a unique thing based on the scheduling this year.”

Editor’s note: The Blue Darters’ Thursday, Feb. 20, playoff game tipped off after the Chief’s print deadline, but you can find full coverage online at www.TheApopkaChief.com.

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SKATEPARK

Continued from page 1B

started right then.

“It looks like Mayor Land was right, as here we are 12 years later, right after I gave up believing it would ever happen,” Kanaan said with a laugh.

While Kanaan may not have been directly involved in the groundbreaking or planning of this specific park, he initially proposed the idea of a skate park in Apopka many years ago. Now that it’s finally here, Kanaan and his brothers are eager to participate. They said they would love to return if the city holds a grand opening and turns it into a major event.

When I spoke to each brother individually, they all agreed that this is one of the best things that has happened to this community in a long time. They are just happy that the next generation of kids from Apopka now has access to something they only dreamed of having when they were young.

The brothers believe this could ignite the skating and BMX community in Apopka overnight and encourage kids who would have never thought about skateboarding or BMX to jump right in due to its accessibility.

“I mean, it’s unreal,” Dalton Dern said. “Being an adult now and looking at it, I think about my entire childhood when I dreamed about something like this for so long. I’m so stoked that the kids growing up in Apopka are able to have this safe place to go and learn while also building and creating connections.”

Dustin Dern agreed.

“This has been a long time coming, and we’ve waited over 20 years for this,” he said. “When we were growing up, we had to beg our parents to drive us at least half an hour to reach the nearest skate park. And they did it all the time. For the kids in Apopka to have this so close now is amazing. If we had had this sooner, we would have been here every day.”

The Dern Brothers were fortunate to have parents who could not only support their passion for skateboarding financially but also dedicate hours out of their day four or five times a week to bring their three sons to the closest skate park. Not everyone has that opportunity, which is what makes



Photo by Marshall Tempest

The Dern Brothers sit on a ledge in the Apopka Action Sports Park with their mother, Julia (wearing a red shirt), Bam Margera, and the construction crew from The American Ramp Company, who put together the park.

this park so important: It will be accessible to everyone and is conveniently located in the center of the city at the Fran Carlton Center on 11 N. Forest Ave.

Kanaan emphasized the importance of having a local park that is accessible for young children, allowing them to grow and develop with nothing more than a board and some safety gear. He mentioned that in a few years, we will begin to see more professional skateboarders and BMX riders emerge from Apopka.

The brothers are quick to point out the features of the park and how here is plenty of room for expansion if the park receives as much use as they anticipate. The only thing it needs, the Dern brothers unanimously agreed, is lighting for nighttime riding.

The American Ramp Company constructed the park and pump track.

“The American Ramp Company has vast experience working for over 20 years developing skate and bike park facilities across the country and in 44 countries across the world,” a city of Apopka press release said.

The city did not respond to a request for comment, but at the City Council meeting



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Kanaan Dern uses his arms to balance himself while balancing his board on the rail while grinding down it.

on Wednesday, Feb. 19, Radley Williams, director of Apopka’s Parks and Recreation Department, said the park should be completed this week and open to the public by the end of March.

The construction crew at the park includes skateboarders who work for American Ramp Company, which was able to transform a plot of land outside the Fran Carlton Center into a fully functional park in just four weeks.

“Dude, they did an awesome job incorporating a bit of

everything into the park,” Dalton Dern said. “You’ve got the pump track, which is perfect if you’re not really a tricks-and-ramps type and just want to ride. It’s great for bikes, skateboards, scooters, and rollerblades. If it has wheels, bring it on over, you know? As long as it’s reasonable, of course. And then there’s this beautiful street course. They did a fantastic job with the design, including everything that young skaters need these days to be prepared to advance in skateboarding.”

The course features

quarter pipes of various sizes, transitions, and grinding rails and ledges, which Dalton believes are perfect for a street skating park. Due to his background in vert skating, his favorite part of the park so far is the vert wall.

Destin Dern mentioned that his favorite aspect of the new park is that it isn’t just like every other skate park. He noted that it’s unique in the obstacles, various gaps, and transitions it provides, creating a ride that feels distinctive and fresh.

“There is something for

everyone here,” Destin said. “If you like the transition, there are unique transitions. If you like the street obstacles, there is something unique there, too. It’s not just like a copy and paste of some other park.”

Kanaan Dern told me that he loves the park’s flow. As a rail skater, he loves the curve rail installed because it’s rare to see in a park.

“They got one, two, three, four, five different rails you can skate here,” he said. “To have that many rails in my hometown is amazing.”



Photo by Marshall Tempest

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Kanaan Dern checked the rails at the new Apopka skate park for excess wax before hitting them at full speed.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

Dalton Dern tries to stay balanced while doing a 50-50 grind on Wednesday, Feb. 19.



Photo by Marshall Tempest

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Kanaan Dern picked up speed on the pump track, which can be used with skateboards, bicycles, scooters, and even rollerblades.

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Apopka boys lacrosse falls in season opener

By Marshall Tempest
Reporter

Last week the Apopka boys lacrosse team started their 2025 spring season on the road against Windermere High School. The Blue Darters fell 17-2 in their season opener against one of the best teams in the state.

Apopka boys lacrosse vs. Windermere

Last year, the Blue Darters finished their season 2-15 and ranked 195th in the state. Windermere finished their season 11-7 and ranked 79th in the state. The two programs have a slight gap, but Apopka never shies away from elite opponents.

Apopka's two goals came from Matthew Touchet and Colt Hoyt. Hoyt also collected one groundball and nine faceoff wins. The Blue Darters' goalies Brennan Harvey, Parker Aho, and Nya Makonnen allowed 17 goals between the three of them but also combined for 12 saves, with Makonnen accounting for 10 of them.

After their game against Windermere on Tuesday, Feb. 11, the boys hosted the Lake Minneola Hawks on Thursday, Feb. 13. Last year, the Hawks, like Windermere, finished as one of the best teams in the state. The Hawks finished the 2024 season with an 11-5 record and were ranked 73rd in the state. Lake Minneola also beat Windermere last year in the second round of the Class 2A District 5 Championship 11-3.

Apopka boys lacrosse vs. Lake Minneola

The first two games of the 2025 Apopka boys lacrosse campaign were against



Apopka's Brennan Walsh puts everything he has into a shot during the Blue Darters' 17-3 loss to Lake Minneola.

top-100 schools, as the team tried to lay the foundation of its game before the season's gauntlet.

The game against Lake Minneola ended up much like the loss to Windermere. Apopka fell 17-3, scoring one more goal than in the loss to Windermere. Cooper Johnson and Brennan Walsh scored three goals for Apopka. Johnson scored two goals, and Walsh scored one but also collected two ground balls.

Jayden Burton and Hayden Pugh, the Blue Darters' faceoff specialists, had a great game at the midfield line. Burton and Pugh had 12 faceoff wins, with Burton collecting 11 of those wins. Apopka goalies Brennan Harvey, Stockton Hurlburt, Parker Aho, and Nya Makonnen collectively made 10 saves on 25 shots on goal. Makonnen led his fellow goalies in saves with five, Hurlburt had three saves, and Aho had two.

What's next?

This week, the boys have two games, the first being on



Tuesday, Feb. 18, against the South Lake Eagles at home, which is slated for a 6 p.m. start. The Eagles were 0-1 coming into the game after falling in their first game of the season 9-1 to St. Cloud. This is also the first year South Lake has had a lacrosse team since the 2013 season.

The boys' second game is on Thursday, Feb. 20, against Ocoee High School for Apopka's third district matchup of the season. The game is set to start at 7:30 p.m. at Ocoee. The Ocoee

Knights are coming into the game with a 0-1 record after falling 19-3 to East River in their season opener. The Knights do have a game on Tuesday against Tohopekaliga before their matchup with Apopka on Thursday.

The Blue Darters have an opportunity to quickly improve in week two of the season and get back to .500. If Apopka can beat South Lake and then Ocoee, a district matchup, it would be huge for rankings and momentum going forward into the season.

BASEBALL

Continued from page 1B

Apopka also managed to steal five bases, with Bryce Doss, Ty Livingston, and Aiden Rieli each accounting for one a piece and Saunders accounting for two.

In the win, Maddox Stinson and Tyler Spaid were on the mound for Apopka. Stinson recorded the victory with a 0 ERA, 0 OBA, 0 OBP, and notched one strikeout in 32 pitches after facing nine batters. Spaid had an ERA of 1.40, an OBA of .273, an OBP of .333, surrendered six hits, three runs (one earned), and achieved four strikeouts after 88 pitches and facing 22 batters.

"I was proud of our guys for hanging in there the way they did," Brewer said. "We hit a lot of balls hard – but just right at them. But we just continued to battle. Spaid pitched the first five innings and gave us a chance. Stinson did a good job throwing in the final three innings.

Apopka vs. Lake Howell (5-1) Loss

After their win over Lyman, Apopka played Lake Howell the next day. Apopka collected just one hit and one run in this loss compared to Lake Howell, which had seven hits and five runs.

The Blue Darters once again struggled at the plate, posting a team batting average of .042 and an OBP of .172. In contrast, the Lake Howell Silverhawks achieved a team batting average of .296 and an OBP of .286.

The game was quiet for the first two innings until an explosive third. At the top of the third inning, Lake Howell scored two runs to take the lead. Apopka responded at the bottom of the third with one run, but they could not match the Silverhawks' two runs. After that, it was silent for Apopka for the remainder

of the game while Lake Howell crossed home plate every other inning. The Silverhawks added one run in the fourth inning and two more in the sixth to secure a 5-1 victory.

The one run for Apopka belonged to Andy Diaz, who also had the Blue Darters' only hit. Diaz was sent in by Rieli, who collected the team's only RBI on a sacrifice fly. Apopka left seven players on base in the game and reached the bases four times on errors from Lyman's fielders.

Hamrick and Logan Page took the mound for Apopka during the loss, with Hamrick pitching five and one-third innings and Page finishing the remaining two-thirds. Hamrick suffered a loss, posting an ERA of 5.25, an OBA of .269, and an OBP of .269. He allowed seven hits and five runs (four earned) while recording six strikeouts on 81 pitches.

Page needed only two pitches to record two outs and close out the sixth.

Looking ahead

This week, Apopka was supposed to face Jones on Tuesday, Feb. 18. However, due to a scheduling mix-up regarding the venue, no officials showed up, and the game never happened. After press time, Apopka had three more games scheduled this week: the first on Wednesday, Feb. 19, against East River, the second on Thursday, Feb. 20, against Freedom High School, and the third on Friday, Feb. 21, at Ocoee, set to start at 7 p.m.

Next week, the boys have three more games. The first is at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at Olympia. The second is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at West Orange. The third is at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, at Cypress Creek.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

PUZZLE CAN BE
FOUND ON PAGE A8



Apopka baseball's Tyler Spaid fouls off a pitch on Monday, Feb. 10.

Photo by Marshall Tempest

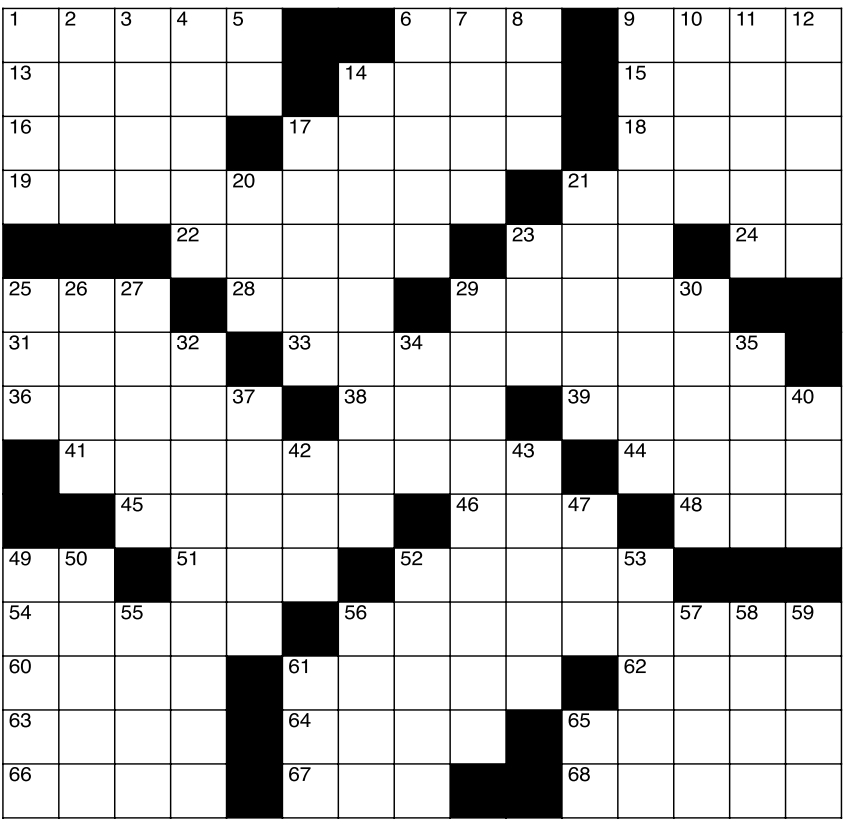
CLUES ACROSS

- Thou __ do it
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Brainstem part
- Town in New York state
- Little (Spanish)
- Continent
- Retch
- Short-billed rails
- Small period of time (abbr.)
- Confused
- A team needs one
- Woman in ancient times
- Republican Party
- Spanish be
- "The Godfather" character Johnny
- Not around
- City in Zambia
- A type of beginning
- Numb
- Gurus

- Small, gray-headed crow
- Vehicle type
- Disorders
- One point east of southeast
- Indian soldier
- Tree type
- Midway between south and southeast
- It cools your home
- Corn comes on it
- Ship's deck
- A way to bake
- Improvised
- Butterfly genus
- Baseball fields have them
- Designated space
- Discharge
- Two of something
- Once more
- Part of your face
- Tax collector
- Cassia tree

CLUES DOWN

- One-time Aaron Rodgers target
- Wings
- Overly studious person
- They protect your valuables
- The Volunteer State
- Non-hydraulic cement
- Horse mackerel
- Jackson and Diddle are two
- Splendid displays
- Mountain in NE Greece
- A daughter or your brother or sister
- German surname
- Having more than one husband at a time
- Romanian city
- Energy
- Makes less hot
- Gas diffusion electrode
- Former CIA
- Set an example for others
- Support of a particular person
- One from the Big Apple
- Mountain range
- Violate the sanctity of something
- Supervises flying
- Talks
- Persian male given name
- Born of
- Forcibly take one's possessions
- Discounts
- Knockouts
- Posh Colorado destination
- Form of therapy
- British rock band
- Type of virus (abbr.)
- The U. of Miami mascot is one
- Volcanic crater
- Middle Eastern nation
- Sinn __, Irish organization
- Ethiopian lake
- Bits per inch (abbr.)
- Equally



Solutions can be found on page A8 of this newspaper.

We're going to visit our library to...

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com

Annimills LLC © 2025 V7

...look for African-American folktales.

Kids: color stuff in!

African-American Life in Books

The writers in this puzzle add much to the world of spoken and written words. Some of their books tell stories of African-American families or community life. Other books are packed with folklore, history or facts about Africa. **Read the clues to fill in the puzzles with the writers' last names:**

1. Brenda _____ gives us **African American Women Writers**.

2. Walter Dean _____ uses energetic poetry and artwork in **Jazz**.

3. In Rita _____ - _____'s **One Crazy Summer**, three black sisters from Brooklyn spend time with their mother in California. Life is very different!

4. Virginia _____ weaves ghosts, secret passageways and a cave into her book **The House of Dies Drear** (made into a TV movie).

5. Mildred _____ wrote **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, about a family surviving the Great Depression in the South.

6. In **Some of the Days of Everett Anderson**, Lucille _____ uses small poems to describe the daily experiences of a young boy.

7. **Ellington Was Not a Street** is the story of Ntozake _____'s neighborhood in a time of racial hatred.

8. Sharon G. _____ tells us of acceptance in **The Skin I'm In**.

9. Mary _____' **Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan**; 30,000 orphaned boys who walked across Africa to escape war.

10. Robert D. _____'s book, **The Hired Hand: An African-American Folktale**, is a tale of tragedy and greed.

11. Laurie Halse _____ tells the story of a slave girl in **Chains**.

12. Christopher Paul _____, Chicago who struggles to adapt to a new life.

13. Julius _____ collected memories of slaves and ex-slaves. **To Be a Slave** shares their experiences coming to America (1800s).

14. In **Keeping the Night Watch**, Hope Anita _____ tells how a young teen and his family struggle with their past.

15. Kadir _____'s book about acceptance is **We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball**.

Do you know interesting stories about your family? Get some paper and write them down. Draw some illustrations. Put it all into a notebook to start your own book.

Who Makes the Pictures?

Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

1. Floyd Donald _____ II worked in advertising. He illustrated the book called **Grandpa's Face**.

2. Donald _____ shows busy roads, lots of signs and, of course, trucks in the book **Truck**.

3. The artwork of Tom _____ has been added to poetry in a book called **Soul Looks Back in Wonder**.

4. The work of Charles _____ has been seen in magazines. His pictures can be found in **Philip Hall Likes me. I Reckon Maybe**.

5. John _____ has wonderful black-and-white illustrations in **The Story of Jumping Mouse** (A Native American Legend).

6. Jerry _____ has worked on record album covers and on postage stamps. His work is in **Happy Birthday Martin Luther King**.

I'm a jumping mouse. Maybe I'll **jump** over to the library to borrow that book about the mouse.

The Adventures of

Follow the numbers to connect the dots.

While you are visiting the library check out the African-American folktale section for great stories!

Joyce Cooper is a librarian who has traveled and collected folktales. She has written the stories down. Her book about a clever arachnid is called...

Books and Their Authors!

Study the picture clues to fill in the names of the 4 books. Next, match each book to its author.

1. The Day

n S w _____

y o _____

by _____

2. One Crazy

m S r _____

e m u _____

by _____

3. S + - FL = _____

by _____

4. The Could Fly: American Black Folktales

P e l _____

o e p _____

by _____

A. Virginia Hamilton

B. Rita Williams-Garcia

C. William H. Armstrong

D. Ezra Jack Keats

(hint: author has a middle initial of "H.")

(hint: author initials are "V.H.")

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2025-CP-293
IN RE: ESTATE OF EILEEN M. BARRETT Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Eileen M. Barrett, deceased, whose date of death was August 11, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE ON THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is February 14, 2025

Personal Representative:
Martin J. Healy

111 West Washington St., Suite 1425 Chicago, Illinois 60602

Attorney for Personal Representative: Linda Drew Kingston Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 135836
9090 Laurel Ridge Dr. Mt. Dora, FL 32757 Telephone: (352) 901-5603 E-Mail:

linda@lindakingtonlaw.com
Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177933

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Personal property of the following tenants will be sold for cash to satisfy rental liens in accordance with Florida Statutes, Self Storage Facility Act, Sections 83.806 and 83.807.

Contents may include kitchen, household items, bedding, toys, games, boxes, barrels, packed cartons, furniture, trucks, cars, etc. There is no title for vehicles sold at lien sale. Vehicles sold "as is" and for parts only. Owners reserve the right to bid on units. Lien Sale to be held online ending TUESDAY March 04, 2025 at times indicated below. Viewing and bidding will only be available online at www.storage-treasures.com beginning 5 days prior to the scheduled sale date and time!

Also visit www.personalministorage.com/orlando-fl-storageunits/ For more info.

Personal Mini Storage Apopka 1365 E Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703-at 10:30 am:

UNITS: #546-Rebeka Pomeroy; #621-Vanessa Perez; #1208Carlos Cervantes%;B #1302-Diana Marin; #1358-Esteban Rico; #1370-Ruby Francois; #1377-Jimmy Gonzalez Lopez; #1379-Ruby Francois; #1525-Jill Duncan

Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177934

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

CASE NO.:

2024-CP002276-0

IN RE: ESTATE OF BOBBY BECKMAN JOSEPH REYNOLDS, JR. Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of Bobby Beckman Joseph Reynolds, Jr., deceased, whose date of death was April 17, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate on whom a copy of this Notice is required to be served must file their claims with the Court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's Estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. to discover whether any property held at the time of Decedent's death by Decedent or Decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in Fla. Stat. §732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under Fla. Stat. §732.2211.

WILLIAM D. REYNOLDS
Personal Representative

OF
NOT
MARY BETH KELLY, ESQUIRE

ALL CLAIMS FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTE SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this Notice is: February 14, 2025.

The Personal Representative or Curator has no duty Florida Bar No.: 84487 The Law Office of Mary Beth Kelly 1515 International Parkway, Suite 1013

Lake Mary, FL 32746 (407) 536-5358 (800) 839-1513 facsimile P: mb@trustmbkelly.com S: tsizemore@trustmbkelly.com S: rpackard@trustmbkelly.com Attorney for Personal Representative

Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177938

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2024-CA000015-0 DIV NO.: 48

MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN M. GARBY, et al., Defendants.

TO:

NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT IV

PIETER VAN DE VYVER ROZENHOED 69 9921 VINDERHOUE BELGIUM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on January 21, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2024-CA-000015-0, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT IV

16 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: N20522 & N20523

& N20524 & N23121 & N23122 & N23123 & N23124 & N23125 &

N44010 & N44011 & N44012 & N44013 & N44014 & N44015

& N44016 & N44017) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 4000 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of November 1, 2016 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. on March 26, 2025, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on February 6, 2025.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M. FITZGERALD FLORIDA BAR NO 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida 32801; Telephone (407) 8362303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

OUR FILE #126435.7250
Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177939

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2023-CA015669-0 DIV NO.: 35

MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.

VS.

Plaintiff,
JEFFREY M. CHARLES, et al.,

TO:

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT IX

BERNARD ASTOR STROOM 8635 WEST SAHARA AVENUE # 210 LAS VEGAS, NV 89117 WENDY JEANNE STROOM 8635 WEST SAHARA AVENUE # 210 LAS VEGAS, NV 89117

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on January 27, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2023-CA-015669-0, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT IX

4 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: 002541 & 002544 & 002546 & 002550) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1000 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records

Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of January 1, 2011 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 am, on the 3rd day of March, 2025,

online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on February 6, 2025.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.

/s/Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

OUR FILE #126435.5430
Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177943

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2023-CA015669-0 DIV NO.: 35

MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.

VS.

Plaintiff,
JEFFREY M. CHARLES, et al.,

TO:

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT X

BENITO ARGUELLO 3005 HARRISON ST SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110 ARACELY GUARDADO 3005 HARRISON STREET #1 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on January 27, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2023-CA-015669-0, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT X

6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: 787407 & 787408 & 787409 & 787410 & 787411 & 787412) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of September 1, 2013 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 am, on the 3rd day of March, 2025, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on February 6, 2025.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County,

/s/Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

OUR FILE #126435.5447
Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177944

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2023-CA015669-0 DIV NO.: 35

MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.

VS.

Plaintiff,
JEFFREY M. CHARLES, et al.,

TO:

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT XI

PAULO ALFONSO HIGUERAS SUAREZ URB. LA ENCANTADA DE VILLA, AL SAN JUAN DE BUENA VISTA MZ. D, L. 13 CHORRILLOS, OF L9

PERU MARIA DEL PILAR ARCE PUENTE URB LA ENCANTADA DE VILLA ALAMEDA

SAN JUAN DE BUENA VISTA MZ DL 13 CHORRILLOS, OF L-9 PERU

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on January 27, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2023-CA-015669-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT XI

14 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: B64807 & B64808 & B64809 & B64810 & B64811 & B64812 & B64813 & B64814 & B64815 & B64816 & B64817 & B64818 & B64819 & B64820) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 3500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of January 1, 2015 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 am, on

the 3rd day of March, 2025, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on February 6, 2025.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County,

Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

OUR FILE #126435.5462
Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177945

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY,

FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2023-CA015669-0 DIV NO.: 35

MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.

vs.

Plaintiff,
JEFFREY M. CHARLES, et al.,

TO:

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT XII

XIMENA PATINO CALLE 8 OESTE # 24C-75 APTO. 3

VALLE DEL CAUCA, OF 00000

COLOMBIA ANDRES OLANO

CALLE 8 OESTE # 24C-75 APTO. 3

VALLE DEL CAUCA, OF 00000

COLOMBIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on January 27, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2023-CA-015669-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT XII

6 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: E15450 & E15451 & E15452 & E15501 & E15502 & E15503) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 1500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of January 1, 2015 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00 am, on

the 3rd day of March, 2025, online at www.myorangeclerk.realforeclose.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on February 6, 2025.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

OUR FILE #126435.5479 MORI #ORANGE

Publish: The Apopka Chief February 14 and 21, 2025 177946

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2023-CA015669-0 DIV NO.: 35
MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC.

vs.
Plaintiff,
JEFFREY M. CHARLES, et al.,

TO:
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT XIII

JOSE IGNACIO LOZANO USCANGA

DIEGO FERNANDEZ DE CORDOVA #125 COL LOMAS DE CHAPULTEPEC MEXICO, DF 11000 MEXICO

ELISA AGUILAR SOLORZANO

DIEGO FERNANDEZ DE CORDOVA #125 COL LOMAS DE CHAPULTEPEC MEXICO, DF 11000 MEXICO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on January 27, 2025 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2023-CA-015669-O, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT XIII
54 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes:

E29731 & E29732 & E29733 & E29734 & E29735 & E29736 & E29737 & E29738 & E29739 & E29740 & E29741 & E29742 & E29743 & E29744 & E297345 & E29746 & E29747 & E29748 & E29749 & E29750 & E29751 & E29752 & E29801 & E29802 & E29803 & E29804 & E29805 & E29806 & E29807 & E29808 & E29809 & E29810 & E29811 & E29812 & E29813 & E29814 & E29815 & E29816 & E29817 & E29818 & E29819 & E29820 & E29821 & E29822 & E29823 & E29824 & E29825 & E29826 & E29827 & E29828 & E29829 & E29830 & E29831 & E29832) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes by 13,500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of December 1, 2014 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at hour of 11:00am, on the 3rd day of March, 2025, online at www.myorangeclerk.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on February 6, 2025.

DATED this 6th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQ. FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

OUR FILE #126435.5488
Publish: The Apopka Chief
February 14 and 21, 2025
177947

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2025CA-000570 DIVISION 37

IN RE: FORFEITURE OF 2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE VIN#5NMSG13D88H144884

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

To Ricar A. Gonzalez-Labrada, and all persons who claim an interest in a 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe VIN #5NMSG13D88H144884 seized on or about 12/10/2024 at or about S. Kirkman Rd. & Valencia College Dr., Orlando, FL, Orlando, Orange Co., FL. Said property is in the custody of the City of Orlando Police Dept. Any owner, entity, bonafide lienholder, or

person in possession of the property when seized has the right to request an adversarial preliminary hearing for a probable cause determination from the circuit court within 15 days after initial receipt of notice by sending a written request to undersigned counsel by certified mail, return receipt requested. A petition for forfeiture has been or will be filed in the above-styled court.

/s/ Shannon Hesse Shannon Gridley Hesse

Police Legal Advisor Orlando Police Department

1250 W. South Street Orlando, Florida 32805

(407) 246-2464 Fla. Bar No. 528633 Shannon.hesse@orlando.gov

Publish: The Apopka Chief
February 14 and 21, 2025

177948

NOTICE OF ACTION

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2024-CC023289-0

ARBOR RIDGE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF APOPKA, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation, Plaintiff,

VS.

KAREN SMITH, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: Karen Smith
All UNKNOWN PARTIES claiming by and through, under, and against the herein named Defendant, Karen Smith, who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties claiming an interest as Spouses, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or other Claimant, if any; and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you to Foreclose a Claim of Lien for unpaid Assessments owed to the Plaintiff on the following real property, lying and being situated in County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

Lot 191 of ARBOR RIDGE PHASE 4, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 72, Page(s) 31-36, of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida.

This property is located at the street address of:

2008 Wavy Leaf Court, Apopka, FL 32712

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon Garfinkel Law, Attorneys' for Plaintiff, whose address is: 300 North Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751, within 30 days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the Clerk of the Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Witness my hand and Seal of said Court this 12 day of February, 2025.

Tiffany Moore Russell

Clerk of Court

BY: /s/ Naline Bahadur As Deputy Clerk Circuit Court Seal

Civil Division 425 N Orange Ave Room 350 Orlando, Florida 32801

A copy of this Notice of Action, Civil Cover Sheet, Lis Pendens and Complaint were sent to the Defendant at the property street address described above.

GARFINKEL LAW

300 N. Maitland Avenue Maitland, Florida 32751 Tel: (407) 539-3900 Fax: (407) 386-8486

Karen M. Marcell, Esq. Florida Bar No.: 51640 Primary email address: karen@garfinkel.law Secondary email address: lauren@garfinkel.law

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Orange County, ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, (407) 836-2303, Fax (407) 836-2204; at least 7 days before your court appearance, or immediately upon receiving notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days of your receipt of this notice. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

This law firm is a "debt collector" under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. We are attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. 20002-069

Publish: The Apopka Chief
February 14 and 21, 2025
177950

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.:

2024-CC023289-0

ARBOR RIDGE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF APOPKA, INC., a Florida not-for-profit corporation, Plaintiff,

VS.

KAREN SMITH, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: Unknown Spouse of Karen Smith

All UNKNOWN PARTIES claiming by and through, under, and against the herein named Defendant, Karen Smith, who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties claiming an interest as Spouses, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or other Claimant, if any; and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described herein.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you to Foreclose a Claim of Lien for unpaid Assessments owed to the Plaintiff on the following real property, lying and being situated in County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

Lot 191 of ARBOR RIDGE PHASE 4, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 72, Page(s) 31-36, of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida.

This property is located at the street address of:

2008 Wavy Leaf Court, Apopka, FL 32712

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon Garfinkel Law, Attorneys' for Plaintiff, whose address is: 300 North Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751, within 30 days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the Clerk of the Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Witness my hand and Seal of said Court this 12 day of February, 2025.

Tiffany Moore Russell

Clerk of Court

BY: /s/ Naline Bahadur Deputy Clerk Circuit Court Seal

Civil Division 425 N Orange Ave Room 350 Orlando, FL 32801

A copy of this Notice of Action, Civil Cover Sheet, Lis Pendens and Complaint were sent to the Defendant at the property street address described above.

GARFINKEL LAW

300 N. Maitland Avenue Maitland, Florida 32751 Tel: (407) 539-3900 Fax: (407) 386-8486

Karen M. Marcell, Esq. Florida Bar No.: 51640 Primary email address: karen@garfinkel.law Secondary email address: lauren@garfinkel.law

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Orange County, ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, (407) 836-2303, Fax (407) 836-2204; at least 7 days before your court appearance, or immediately upon receiving notification if the time before

the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days of your receipt of this notice. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

This law firm is a "debt collector" under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. We are attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. 20002-069

Publish: The Apopka Chief
February 14 and 21, 2025
177951

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM

File No. 2024-CP-2561 FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR

IN RE: ESTATE OF BRAYAN QUINTERO DIAZ,

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of BRAYAN QUINTERO DIAZ, deceased, whose date of death was March 17, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 North Orange Avenue, Room 335, Orlando, Florida 32801. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION

MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform ida Uniform

Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by the surviving spouse or a beneficiary as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

The date of first publication of this notice: February 14, 2025

Personal Representative: DAVID W. VELIZ, ESQUIRE 630 North Wymore Road Suite 330

Maitland, Florida 32751

Attorney for Personal Representative

DANIELLE WHITE, ESQUIRE Florida Bar No.: 1035906 630 North Wymore Road, Suite 330

Maitland, Florida 32751 Telephone: (407) 849-7072 Fax: (407) 849-7075 E-Mail: velizkatz@

velizkatzlaw.com Secondary: jearle@velizkatzlaw.com

Publish: The Apopka Chief
February 14 and 21, 2025
177952

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2023-CA012012-0

DIV NO.: 48

MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC. Plaintiff,

VS.

FREDDY GUARIN, et al., Defendants.

TO:

NOTICE OF SALE AS TO COUNT VII

FABIAN MARCEL BONNET

PENALOZA

CALLE 72 BIS #6-20 BOGOTA, OF 99999

COLOMBIA

CAROLINA ANGELICA SUAREZ BIERMANN CALLE 72 BIS #6-20 BOGOTA, OF

99999 COLOMBIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on October 24, 2024 in the cause pending in the Circuit Court, in and for Orange County, Florida, Civil Case No. 2023-CA-012012-0, the Office of Tiffany Moore Russell, Orange County Clerk of Court will sell the property situated in said County described as:

COUNT VII

Unit Week 19 in Unit 6543, Unit Week 02 in Unit 7134, in CYPRESS HARBOUR CONDOMINIUM, according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof, as recorded in Official Records Book 4263 at Page 0404 in the Public Records of Orange County, Florida, and any amendments thereof.

at Public sale to the highest and best bidder for cash starting at the hour of 11:00 am, on the 18th day of March, 2025, online at www.myorangeclerk.com. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Submitted for publication to The Apopka Chief on February 11, 2025.

DATED this 11th day of February, 2025.

/s/Edward M. Fitzgerald EDWARD M.

FITZGERALD, ESQ

FLORIDA BAR NO. 0010391

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County, Courthouse, at 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite #510, Orlando, Florida (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

OUR FILE #110512.0533

Publish: The Apopka Chief
February 14 and 21, 2025

177959

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY ANN FISHER PRICE a/k/a MARY ANN F. PRICE Deceased.

PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2025-CP-000266-O Division Probate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Mary Ann Fisher Price a/k/a Mary Ann F. Price, deceased, whose date of death was October 25, 2024, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 335, Orlando, Florida 32801. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR

MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is February 21, 2025

Personal Representative:

Bonnie Perry

6063 Hardrock Circle

Orlando, Florida 32819

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Jennifer Beaman Clark

Beaman & Clark Law Firm, P.A.

501 S. New York Avenue, Suite 220

Winter Park, Florida 32789

Telephone: (407) 628-4200

E-mail: jclark@beaman-clarklaw.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

BARTLETT TOWING, INC gives notice that on 03/17/2025 at 08:30 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 2252 APOPKA BLVD, STE B, APOPKA, FL 32703 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

2014 Jeep:

1C4NJPBA4ED848481

2008 Chevy:

2G1WC583081322952

2009 Cadi:

1GYFK43579R186755

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

Pursuant to Florida Statute 713.585, Mid-Florida Lien And Title Service, LLC. will sell at public sale for cash the following described vehicle(s) located at lienor's place to satisfy a claim of lien. 2018 MERZ VIN: 55SWF4JB6JU259321. Lien Amt:\$13804.50.

Lienor/ABT PAINT & BODY, LLC. 1307 22ND ST ORLANDO, FL 347-832-8141.

2015 ACUR VIN: 5FRYD-3H24FB8010540.

Lien Amt:\$5179.60.

2015 CHEV VIN: 2GN-FLEEKXF6277996.

Lien Amt:\$5071.50.

2012 INFI VIN: JN1DV6AP-8CM811983.

Lien Amt:\$3428.88.

Lienor/ETHAN'S AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS LLC.

1325 W ANDERSON ST ORLANDO, FL 407-985-5003.

2007 PTRB VIN: 1XPHD-B9X47N652666.

Lien Amt:\$5179.60.

2016 MACK VIN: 1M1AW21Y7GM052165.

Lien Amt:\$7400.33.

**NOTICE UNDER
FICTITIOUS NAME
LAW PURSUANT TO
SECTION 865.09,
FLORIDA STATUTES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **ARIUM MARINERS VILLAGE** with a mailing address of 4928 E Michigan St, Orlando, Florida 4928 E Michigan St, Orlando, Florida 32812-5226 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida.

**OP VALENCIA
PLANTATION
APARTMENTS LP**

**NOTICE UNDER
FICTITIOUS NAME
LAW PURSUANT TO
SECTION 865.09
FLORIDA STATUTES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the Fictitious Name of **Mi Casa Deli**, with a mailing address of 2301 Maitland Center Parkway #124, Maitland, Florida 32751 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida.

Sandra Rodriguez

**NOTICE UNDER
FICTITIOUS NAME LAW
PURSUANT TO SECTION
865.09, FLORIDA**

STATUTES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **DFL NATIONWIDE TRUCKING**, with a mailing address of 2750 Taylor Ave. Suite A-50 DOSO SUITES, Orlando, Florida 32806 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida.

**MULTISERVICIOS
DEFL LLC**

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE NINTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO.:
2024-CA-000766-0
DIV NO.: 33
MARRIOTT OWNER-
SHIP RESORTS, INC.**

**Plaintiff,
vs.
ROLAND H. MOORE,
et. al.,
Defendants.**

**NOTICE OF ACTION
BY PUBLICATION AS TO
COUNT III**

TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT WHOSE RESIDENCE IS UNKNOWN:
**TO: MARK H. SWISHER, DECEASED
16125 29TH PLACE NE
SNOHOMISH, WA
98290**

The above named Defendant is believed to be dead and, if dead, the unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, or other claimants, by, through under or against said Defendant and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described below.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of the institution of the above-styled foreclosure proceedings by the Plaintiff, MARRIOTT OWNERSHIP RESORTS, INC., upon the filing of a complaint to foreclose for other relief relative to the following described property:

COUNT III

10 Interests (numbered for administrative purposes: E71643 & E71644 & E71645 & E71646 & E71647 & E71648 & E71649 & E71650 & E71651 & E71652) in the MVC Trust ("Trust") evidenced for administrative, assessment and ownership purposes

es by 2500 Points (250 Points for each Interest), which Trust was created pursuant to and further described in that certain MVC Trust Agreement dated March 11, 2010, executed by and among First American Trust, FSB, a federal savings bank, solely as trustee of Land Trust No. 1082-0300-00, (a.k.a MVC Trust), Marriott Ownership Resorts, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and MVC Trust Owners Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not-for-profit, as such agreement may be amended and supplemented from time to time ("Trust Agreement"), a memorandum of which is recorded in Official Records Book 10015, page 4176, Public Records of Orange County, Florida ("Trust Memorandum"). The Interests shall have a Use Year Commencement Date of January 1, 2015 (subject to Section 3.5 of the Trust Agreement).

AND you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any to the complaint, upon EDWARD M. FITZGERALD, ESQUIRE, Holland & Knight LLP, 200 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 2600, Orlando, Florida 32801, attorneys for the Plaintiff, on or before thirty (30) days from the first day of publication herein and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

DATED on this 28 day of MAY, 2024.
Tiffany Moore Russell
Clerk of the Court
BY: /S/Rosa Aviles
As Deputy Clerk
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
Civil Division
425 N. Orange Avenue
Room 350
Orlando, Florida 32801
EDWARD M. FITZGERALD
HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP
200 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 2600
Orlando, Florida 32801
Ph. (407) 244-5198
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

THIS DOCUMENT IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
HK#126435.8441
100216156 DD
REQUESTS DISABILITIES FOR ACCOMMODATIONS BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, Florida, (407) 836-2303, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

**NOTICE OF SALE
OF VESSEL**

Pursuant to FL. Stat. 328.17(7) the following described vessel(s) will be sold in a public sale:
2023 YDV HIN#: YD-V47490L223.

Lienor/ WEST ORLANDO POWERSPORTS
16333 W COLONIAL DR
OAKLAND, FL 407-877-6051. Sale Date: March 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Lienors place.

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE NINTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN
AND FOR ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Case No.:
48-2022-DR-005694-O
Division: 38
BRANDON
JOSE CRESPO,
Petitioner,
and**

**FRANCIS PAOLA
MELENDEZ,
Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION
FOR SUPPLEMENTAL
PETITION TO MODIFY
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY,
VISITATION, OR
PARENTING PLAN/TIME-
SHARING SCHEDULE
AND OTHER RELIEF**

TO: Francis Paola Melendez
20035 Royal Tern Court
Leesburg, FL 32748

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Supplemental Petition To Modify Parental Responsibility, Visitation,

Or Parenting Plan/Time-Sharing Schedule And Other Relief has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Brandon Crespo, whose address is 3432 Tranquil Trial, Kissimmee, FL 34747, on or before 3/27/2025 and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 425 N Orange Ave, Orlando, FL 32801, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.**

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

Dated: FEBRUARY 5TH, 2025.

TIFFANY
MOORE RUSSELL
CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT COURT
/S/ ROBERT HINGSTON
By: /S/
ROBERT HINGSTON
{Deputy Clerk}
CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
425 North Orange Ave.
Suite 320
Orlando, Florida 32801

**IN THE COUNTY
COURT OF THE NINTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NO.:
2024-CC-020739-O
ARBORS AT MEADOW
WOODS HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC., a
Florida not-for-profit
corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
EDWARD LAMA, et al.,
Defendants.**

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: Abigail Checo, 1507 Astoria Arbor Lane, Orlando, FL 32824

Unknown Spouse of Abigail Checo, 1507 Astoria Arbor Lane, Orlando, FL 32824

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced against you to Foreclose a Claim of Lien for unpaid Assessments owed to the Plaintiff on the following real property, lying and being situated in Orange County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

Lot 27, Arbors at Meadow Woods, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 95, Page(s) 19 through 23, of Public Records of Orange County, Florida.

This property is located at the street address of: **1507 Astoria Arbor Lane, Orlando, FL 32824**

This action has been filed against you and you are required

to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon Shipwash Law Firm, P.A., Attorneys' for Plaintiff, whose address is: 225 S. Swoope Avenue, Suite 110, Maitland, FL 32751, on or before 30 days from the first date of publication or 30 days after the first publication of this notice, whichever comes first, and file the original with the Clerk of the Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Witness my hand and Seal of said Court this 17th day of February 2025.

Tiffany Moore Russell, Clerk of Courts

Civil Division
425 N Orange Ave
Room 350
Orlando, Florida 32801
BY: /s/ Lauren Scheidt
As Deputy Clerk
SHIPWASH LAW
FIRM, P.A.
225 S. Swoope Avenue, Suite 110
Maitland, FL 32751
Tel: (407) 274-9913
Fax: (407) 386-7074
Tennille Shipwash, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 617431
Primary email address: tshipwash@shipwashlegal.com
Secondary email address: tsantiago@shipwashlegal.com

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 510, Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 836-2303, Fax: (407) 836-2204, at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately if you receive less than a seven (7) day notice to appear. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service.

This law firm is a "debt collector" under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. We are attempting to collect a debt, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that **Northwest Orlando**

Storage at 5330 N Pine Hills Rd Orlando, Fl 32808 will sell the contents of the units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien (pursuant to Chapter 83 of the Florida Statutes). The sales will be held online at StorageTreasures.com on 03/17/2025 at approx. 9:00 am. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder; subject to add'l terms noted on the website. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. Unit # - Name - Description: **#1033** - Melissa Rodriguez -, **#1016-1017** - Antoinette Miller/Antoinette Cherise Miller -, **#E037** - Delaney Davis -, **#E008**-Mariceli Carrera -,**#D005** -Elilllume Guillaume-, **#C056** -Ascania Dumitru -, **#C036**-Frinsnel Mauvais-, **#B041**-Mitchell Hendricks-, **#Rv9**-Antoinette Miller/ Antoinette Cherise Miller-1996 Chev UT vin/hull #3GN-FK16R8XG171768...

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT IN AND FOR
THE NINTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA.
PROBATE DIVISION**

**FILE NUMBER:
2024-CP-000437
IN RE: ESTATE OF:
TIMOTHY CARL
HURST,**

Deceased.
**NOTICE OF ACTION
TO:
NELLIE KATE WAR-
DEN MILLER**
and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property de-

scribed herein and all parties claiming interests by, through, under, or against any of the above-named defendants.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the estate of **TIMOTHY CARL HURST** has been initiated in **ORANGE County, Florida**, file number 2024-CP-000437, in which you may have some interest as an heir of the estate.

This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon Plaintiff's Attorney, Burke L. Randa, P.A. At 100 East Pine Street, Suite 110, Orlando, Florida 32801 **on or before March 24th, 2025**, first publication of this notice being on February 21st, 2025, and to file the original with the Clerk of the Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter otherwise the court may grant the request of set forth in the petitions in this case without further notice to you.

WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 20th day of February, 2025.

TIFFANY
MOORE RUSSELL
As Clerk of the Court
By
A Deputy Clerk

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVISION PROBATE**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF
ELENA GALVAN
Deceased.
File No.
25CP-000122
Division Probate
NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: THE ESTATE OF**

CARLOS GALVAN, the unknown spouse, heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors of THE ESTATE OF CARLOS GALVAN, and all other parties claiming by, through, under, or against THE ESTATE OF CARLOS GALVAN, and all unknown natural persons if alive, and if dead or not known to be dead or alive, their several and respective unknown spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, and creditors, or other parties claiming interests by, through or under those unknown natural persons, and all claimants, persons or parties, natural or corporate, or whose exact legal status is unknown, claiming under any of the above names or described defendants or all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in and to the estate.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the administration for the Estate of ELENA GALVAN, deceased, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32801. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on: Savannah Young Cerullo, Esquire, the Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 245 South Central Avenue, Post Office Drawer 30, Bartow, Florida 33831.

The date of the first publication is February 21, 2025.

On or before the 24 day of March 2025, and to file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Petitioner's attorney, or immediately thereafter. Failure to serve and file written defenses as required may result in a judgment of order for the relief demanded, without further notice.

ALL OBJECTIONS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

DATED on this 14 day of February, 2025.

(COURT SEAL)
TIFFANY MOORE
RUSSELL AS CLERK OF COURT
BY:/s/Kevin Drumm
AS DEPUTY CLERK
/s/Savannah Young Cerullo
SAVANNAH
YOUNG CERULLO
Attorney for Petitioner
Florida Bar Number: 79107
Boswell & Dunlap, LLP
Post Office Drawer 30
Bartow, FL 33831
Telephone: (863) 533-7117
E-Mail: Savannah@bosdun.

com

**NOTICE UNDER
FICTITIOUS NAME
LAW PURSUANT TO
SECTION 865.09
FLORIDA STATUTES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **Rotary Club of Pet Rescues Charitable Foundation**, with a mailing address of 9300 Conroy Windermere Rd, #3102, Windermere, Florida 34786 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida.

Rotary Club of Bay Hill Charitable Foundation

**NOTICE UNDER
FICTITIOUS NAME
LAW PURSUANT TO
SECTION 865.09
FLORIDA STATUTES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **Rotary Club of Pet Rescues Orlando**, with a mailing address of 9300 Conroy Windermere Rd. #3102, Windermere, Florida 34786 and a principal office located in Orange County, intends to register the said name with the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, Tallahassee, Florida.

Rotary International

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF
File Number 2024-CP-003775-0**

**MARY MEGAN PONSKY
Deceased Division 02
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of MARY MEGAN PONSKY, deceased, File Number 2024-CP-003775-0, is pending in the Circuit Court for Orange County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 425 N. Orange Ave, Suite 335, Orlando, Florida 32801. The Estate is Testate and the date of the decedent's Last Will and Testament is June 27, 2019. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and all other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with the court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICES OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this notice is February 14, 2025.

Personal Representative: Barbara Joan Lubich, Petitioner, 390 Buckingham Drive, Aurora, OH 44202

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Samantha M. Agnini, Esq., Florida Bar Number 0099111, Attorney for Petitioner, 4440 PGA Blvd, Suite 600, Palm Beach Gardens, Fl 33410, Telephone Number: (561) 231-0106, E-mail: agnini-law@gmail.com

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NO LONGER WANT to keep your pet. Call 407-886-2777 to advertise it here.
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PET NEEDS NEW HOME. Call 407-886-2777 to let readers know.
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63. FARM SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.

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 C 0221- URF 63

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70. MERCHANDISE-MISC.

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 B 0207-0228 COL 70

70. MERCHANDISE

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81. AUTOS FOR SALE

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 JT 0221-0314 MUL 81

89. TRAILERS FOR SALE

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 O 0131-0221 OFC 89

112. HOME

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131. VACANT LAND

133. HOMES FOR SALE

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 E 0207-0228 LAP 133

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133. HOMES FOR SALE

135. MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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 C 0124-0228 HIC 140

140. HOMES / DUPLEXES FOR RENT

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