

## Fire and BBQ

The Apopka Fire and Police departments had a friendly BBQ competition at Sonny's. See page 9A.



## Sports

History of success for AHS girls wrestling, on a roll this season. See page 1B.



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# The Apopka Chief

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Volume 102 Number 4

Friday, January 26, 2024 / 50 cents

## Ground breaks on 215-acre development at S.R. 429 Beltway

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The groundbreaking of the 215-acre mixed use development in the northwestern corner of Orange County will boost economic development, relieve the regional affordable housing crisis, and bring more vibrancy to the Orlando area, according to several speakers at the event.

The groundbreaking ceremony for Wyld Oaks took place on Friday, January 19, off the newly completed 429 Beltway and West Kelly Park Road Interchange in Apopka.

Wyld Oaks will contain up to 200,000 square feet of retail and outparcels, two hotels, 3,000 to 4,000 multifamily and condominium residences, expansive

outdoor entertainment venue, up to 200,000 square feet of office space, a 10-acre park and preserve called Yonder, and a section named Wyld Green that will include a multi-use trail network. The first 325 residences have been designed and will break ground this year.

Speakers at the groundbreaking were Joseph Beninati, Wyld Oaks founder; Jerry Demings, Orange County mayor; Bryan Nelson, Apopka mayor; Michelle Maikisch, executive director of Central Florida Expressway Authority; Laureen Martinez, vice-president, Orlando Economic Partnership; and Cate Manley, president and CEO of Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce.

"It is so wonderful to be in a collaboration of this size and



Joseph Beninati, Wyld Oaks founder, gives event attendees an overview of the 215-acre development's master plan that will include up to 200,000 square feet of retail and outparcels, two hotels, 3,000 to 4,000 multifamily and condominium residences, expansive outdoor entertainment venue, up to 200,000 square feet of office space, a 10-acre park and preserve, and a multi-use trail network.

of this magnitude in something that is going to be a connection for those who are coming out to enjoy our Northwest Rec Center, our amphitheater that is bus-

ting and booked almost every single weekend," said Cate Manley, president/CEO of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce. "Now we'll have hotels and locations where people can live, work and play. And that is what we are all about.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, attendees got the chance to preview the Wyld Oaks master plan. This year's demand for Wyld Oaks retail is estimated to be nearly \$1.1 billion, while supply is only \$700 million, leaving a gap of about \$400 million, according to a Wyld Oaks press release.

As of 2023, approximately 12,900 current and future households are growing in the Apopka area surrounding Wyld Oaks.

While discussing the Wyld Oaks master plan, Beninati illus-

trated the grand scope of Wyld Oaks compared to other local communities: New Broad Street/Baldwin Park, Celebration, and downtown Winter Park. Each of these communities fit only inside Wyld Oak's town center and doesn't include Wyld Oaks' future sections such as its industrial park, homes on the groundbreaking site, or the homes and commercial properties on Kelly Park Road.

"I actually spent a bunch of time with our planners and architects trying to put in context the overall site plan, which here approximates over 300 acres because this portion (of the master plan) will be Cadence, a 1.5-million square foot industrial development and (Cadence Partners

See WYLD Page 8A

## City charter is one topic at council race debate

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

Nearly 100 people listened to the four candidates running for two City Council seats discuss

a wide scope of community topics including the city charter, duties as a commissioner, and decorum on social media

See DEBATE Page 6A

## Change made to Alonzo Williams Jr. service

There has been a change regarding the memorial service for the late former Apopka City Commissioner Alonzo Williams Jr., who died on January 9 at age 85 in Albany, Ga.

The change is that instead of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church as

previously planned, the service will take place at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Ave., on Saturday, January 27, at 10:30 a.m. The repass will immediately follow, also at the VFW Building.

## Live oak is planted



Apopka Foliage Garden Club members, the Apopka Department of Parks and Recreation, Mayor Bryan Nelson and city officials commemorate the planting of a live oak — a tree native to Florida — on Friday, January 19, at Alonzo Williams Park/Billie Dean Community Center on M A Board Street. The tree has been chosen from Countyline Ornamental & Trees, Inc., in Winter Garden.

## Deaths of beloved community leaders mark Fall 2023

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

*Note: This is the final of a four-part series reviewing the news in Apopka in 2023 as written in the pages of The Apopka Chief. This week covers October, November, and December.*

### October

After further investigation, Apopka police have arrested and charged an 11-year-old juvenile with attempted second-degree murder in the Monday, October 2, shooting at the Northwest Recreation Complex, which resulted in the injury of two 13-year-old youths. ... The com-

munity mourns the loss of Rev. Dr. Herman Lee Dericho, who died on Monday, October 2, at 88 years of age. Dericho was pastor for 60 years at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Apopka. ... Earlier this week, the Justice Department announced that it has awarded more than \$4.4 billion to support state, local, and Tribal public safety, and community justice activities. ... About 25 people gathered outside Apopka City Hall in an illumination of the building to commemorate September as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month. ... Associate Pastor Justin Morgan of Word of Life Church



John Peery

in Apopka and members of their prayer team connected with students of Apopka Memorial Middle School at the school flag pole on Wednesday, September 27. The purpose of the "See You at the Pole" event was to gather students, teachers, and administrators to pray over their school.

Long-time editor of *The Apopka Chief*, John R. Peery, died in his sleep Thursday, October 12. Peery grew up in Apopka, and later rose to editor of *The Apopka Chief*, having capped off his 40-year career at *The Chief* two years ago. He was 67. ... On Wednesday, October 11, AdventHealth Apopka has announced a \$26.3-million expansion at the hospital to better serve the growing population in Orange County. ... The Apopka City council voted 4-1 in favor of improving Mayflower Avenue to city standards so retailer Floor & Decor could build a store on the southwest corner of

Lake View Drive and U.S. 441. ... Marcus Williams, 38, has been booked into the Orange County Jail according to the Apopka Police Department. He has been charged with several counts for stealing a vehicle and getting into a vehicular accident that killed a seven-year old child on Thursday, October 5. ... The third annual Unleashed Conference will span three days this weekend to include discussions surrounding current culture and current events, worship and digging deeper into one's encounter with God.

The City Council ap-

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[FloridaPublicNotices.com](http://FloridaPublicNotices.com)



Apopka Event of the Week

Saturday Sounds concert, Saturday, February 3, at amphitheater, 3710 Jason Dweley Parkway, will feature The Porchdogs performing accordion-driven Louisiana Cajun and Zydeco as well as New Orleans R&B classics. Time is 5-7 p.m. This is a free family friendly concert.

Quotable

\*Deadline to register to vote: Monday, Feb. 19 (even though Monday, Feb. 19 is a federal holiday, President's Day)

Dates are given to assist voters to cast their ballot by March 19

Opinion

The Apopka Chief  
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

**Publisher** John Ricketson  
**Consultant Emeritus** John Peery  
**Marketing Director** Jackie Trefcer  
**Reporters** Teresa Sargeant  
Marshall Tempest, Neal Fisher  
**General Mgr Emeritus** Neoma Knox  
Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Dates are given for voters to abide by before the elections on Mar. 19

In addition to the city of Apopka's election date of March 19 for the races of Seats 3 and 4 of the City Commission, Florida's 2024 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) election is also set for March 19.

There will only be a PPP for the Republican party this year, inasmuch as the Florida Democratic Party already chose President Joe Biden toward the end of 2023 for this November's ballot. Only registered party members can vote in their PPP election.

Following backlash from party members, Florida Democrats said in a statement, "The process to be on the Florida Democratic primary ballot was made publicly available and clearly states that the deadline to submit nominations for the ballot must be submitted to the Secretary of State by November 30, 2023. This is the standard process."

Michael Steinberg, a former chairman of the Hillsborough County Democratic Party, filed a lawsuit Dec. 5, citing the Florida election law that allows a party to dictate which names appear on its presidential primary ballot. He also said his constitutional rights as a voter were violated by the decision to exclude Minnesota Congressman Dean Phillips from the ballot. U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor denied Steinberg's request for an emergency court order on Jan. 12, ruling that Steinberg's case does not show a "substantial likelihood of success" based on its merits.

According to the Division of Elections, the following dates are those to be aware of as the PPP approaches:

\*Deadline to send vote-by-mail ballots to Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act voters: Saturday, Feb. 3

\*Deadline to send vote-by-mail ballots to domestic voters: Thursday, Feb. 8 through Thursday, Feb. 15

\*Deadline to register to vote: Monday, Feb. 19 (even though Monday, Feb. 19 is a federal holiday, President's Day)

\*Early voting period (mandatory period): Saturday, March 9 through Saturday, March 16

\*Deadline to request that a ballot be mailed: Thursday, March 7

As for who is on the ballot, Ballotpedia says these candidates are seeking the Republican nomination: Former President Donald Trump; Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (who has since withdrawn from the race and is now supporting Trump); Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, and Texas businessman and pastor Ryan Binkley.

Florida's PPP is a closed-primary election. You must be a registered voter in the party for which the PPP is being held, which in this case is Republican.

However, local nonpartisan elections might be held at the same time as the PPP Election, as is the case with Apopka's race for Seats 3 and 4 of the city commission. In those elections, all eligible voters can vote for those local races. And, it is a cost savings.

For those who want to register to vote in Florida, you must:

- \*Be a Citizen of the United States (a lawful permanent resident, commonly referred to as a "green card holder," does not have the right to register or vote in Florida);
- \*Be a Florida resident;
- \*Be at least 18 years old (you may pre-register to vote if you are 16 years old);
- \*Not have been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state without having the right to vote restored;
- \*Not have been convicted of a felony without your voting rights having been restored.

Florida election officials say you can apply to register to vote in any of the following ways:

\*Online at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov

\*Apply through any of these agencies while accessing their services: Florida driver's license offices. You also have the option to sub-

See VOTE Page 4A



Projects utilize existing revenues

In June of 2023, the Board of County Commissioners was presented with an Accelerated Transportation Safety Program to address transportation projects utilizing existing revenue sources. At the conclusion, the board voted to proceed with the financial elements of \$100 million for the items in the proposal. The public works department has commenced on this initiative.

With my participation, projects were identified in each commission district to satisfy unique district needs. Purchase orders totaling over \$700,000 for new sidewalks were en-

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

cumbered. The department hired a project manager to leverage internal resources and implement more shovel ready short-term projects. They also developed an overall strategy for planning, design, construction, and maintenance of critical safety components for all identified corridors and in-

tersection projects.

A funding agreement for shelters and route enhancements was also crafted by LYNX. They anticipate bringing the agreement to the board in January and to the Orange County BCC in February. I'm hopeful District 2 will receive more bus shelters and additional routes reducing wait times for our transportation-challenged residents.

The following roadways were identified for street lighting. I must first mention that our district has the most county funding

See MOORE Page 4A

Ribbon cutting unveils culinary success

We have some exciting pathways and opportunities now in our public schools, and one of those was highlighted last week at Wekiva High School.

The Magnet Academy of Culinary Arts held an official ribbon cutting for the new Mustang Pizzeria, the new Mustang Creamery, and the unveiling of the new Mustang Events Catering Trailer.

The event was an exciting night bringing together industry professionals, including chefs from numerous hotels and restaurants like Disney and the Ritz Carlton, elected leaders, and OCPS executives to celebrate all that this magnet program has accomplished in such a short time.

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

In 2018, when I began on the school board, the culinary program at Wekiva High School was in one classroom and a one-course offering. But the teacher had a vision. A big vision. He wanted this one class to grow into a full magnet program offering numerous classes, competing statewide and nationwide, and he wanted it to become one of the best programs in the country.

At least that is what Chef Chris Bates told me the day he met me outside the Apopka Community Center where I was campaigning in 2018. His background in the restaurant industry inspired him to want to create a place where students could develop skills and a passion for the industry that would make them extremely marketable when they crossed the stage at graduation.

Well, as soon as I was elected I made it one of my first missions to help him and Wekiva High School navigate the magnet process and grow this program.

And grow it has. In the short few years

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

"When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place." Psalm 118:5

Mema Says

The worst lies are the ones you tell yourself.

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Election process must result in regaining America's strengths

Have you noticed, the most prominent thing about being a politician is not your integrity, your honor, your foundation of trust, your love of country, and its people, but rather it is on your ability to raise cash flow and how much money you have generated for your campaign and your party. Even after gaining the position they were vying for, they still have their email "hand" out seeking more funds. No one wants it stopped because it brings in millions of dollars for



Ike Hayden

those in advertising and broadcasting.

Our election process is so far removed from what our founding fathers had in mind, they would not even recognize it for

what it is supposed to be. We have gone from being a republican form of government guided by a Constitution to a regime of revolving elites. We have less freedom with each passing year.

Like a signpost to the coming reign of terror, the cancel culture is everywhere. We have traded the American Revolution for the Cultural Revolution, and it is not becoming to us. The rest of the world stands in awe at the changes they see in our downfall!

The elites of our nation that have been instrumental in bringing our nation to its present state are not affected by the everyday problems we face. The cost of daily living does not bother them. In fact, they relish the fact of their freedom to carry on while the middle class (the true bastions of our commerce) struggle to make ends meet and to keep their heads above water.

We stand at the crossroads of choosing an upward climb to greatness

again or to simply surrender to mediocracy and become slaves to those who will rule over us and damn the Constitution. Those elites who have impacted our demise are looking for a one-world government where their money and position will benefit only them and pave the way for a new United States that will be modeled after Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto.

We are now in the age of Capitalism, and according to Marx, our next step

will be Socialism. The ruling elites will own it all, and we will be given a pittance to be able to live and serve the government. There will be no middle class, no owning your own business. Our nation will consist of those who have and those who have not.

What we will have is cradle-to-grave encapsulation. Our lives would be without concern for anything because Socialism will supply our every need,

See HAYDEN Page 4A

# BUSINESS PROFILE

## Your Guide to Local Business

### Thank You to the Communities of Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, from CEO/GM Samuel Davis, Jr.

When my tenure as Lake Apopka Natural Gas District's (LANGD) General Manager and CEO began in 2008 – with a customer base of a little more than 14,000 homes and businesses – I could never have imagined the resounding positive growth and impact this great company would have on me, my family, and most importantly, our valued natural gas customers. Now, as I approach retirement this March, I want to celebrate with the community all that we've accomplished and achieved over these past 16 years.

In 1957, forward-looking officials from Apopka, Clermont, and Winter Garden recognized the need for a local, reliable, and cost-effective energy source: natural gas. For more than 60 years since LANGD was founded, we have made it our mission to go above and beyond to provide our customers with the unmatched benefits of natural gas and the exceptional service to go with it.

Now serving over 28,500 customers, LANGD continues to grow its residential and commercial customer base, earning important industry distinctions and receiving nationwide recognition for our ser-



For information on natural gas service for your home, business, or vehicle, please contact the District Marketing Team at (407) 656-2734 x 307. Pictured above are the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District employees.

vice and dedication to customers in our member cities. We achieved a great deal to be proud of over the last decade and a half, and I'm happy to say that the best is yet to come.

From continuing to see the impacts of our first-ever customer assistance fund, LANGD Helping Hand, in partnership with Heart of Florida United Way, to securing recognition as our team earned national accolades and awards for their outstanding service, to being active partners throughout our local community along the way, I couldn't be prouder of our District employees and trusted board of directors who have dedicated their time and talent to ensure we are consistently meeting the

highest standard of excellence. To our faithful residential and commercial customers – thank you for trusting us for so many years.

As I pass the torch to the capable hands of our incoming CEO/GM, Brent Haywood, I am excited about the future that awaits the District. Brent's wealth of experience and commitment to excellence align seamlessly with the values that have defined our company for over six decades. Together with our dedicated staff, board leaders, and the vibrant communities we serve, I am confident that LANGD's legacy of reliability, innovation, and community engagement will continue to flourish.

Preparing for my final months as leader

of this great company, I am comforted by the outlook for our future. I am happy to know that the District will continue our mission of providing safe, reliable, and resilient natural gas to our loyal customers for decades to come.

Thank you to my Lake Apopka Natural Gas District family and the fantastic customers we have been privileged to serve daily. Together, we can look forward to an even brighter future.

Sincerely,

*Samuel Davis Jr.*

If you're considering joining the LANGD family, please connect with our marketing team at (407) 656-2734 ext. 307 or marketing@langd.org to learn more.

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The Apopka Chief, The Planter & AOS (Apopka Office Supply) would like to thank the generous Apopka area for continuing to donate the gift of sight or hearing for so MANY.

# Vote: Remember dates of election

Continued from page 2A

mit voter registration information online when you renew your driver's license online through the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' online renewal system. For more information, visit GoRenew.com; Tax collector's office that issues driver licenses or Florida identification cards; Voter registration agency. For more information about who these agencies are, visit the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) webpage.

\* By mail or in person.

If you need to update your information on your registration before any of the upcoming elections, head to Register to Vote Florida.gov or reach out to your county Supervisor of Elections. In Orange County, the deadline to register for the March 19 elections is Tuesday February 20, which is 29 days before the local and PPP elections. Re-

member that Monday, February 19 is a national holiday and the OC-SOE office is closed.

Florida's statewide primary is on Tuesday, Aug. 20, for the purpose of nominating party nominees to be voted for in the general election to fill a national, state, county, or district office.

A primary election is held 11 weeks before the general election.

The General Election is on Tuesday, Nov. 5. This election is open to all voters regardless of party affiliation.

Again, the dates to be aware of before the national general election on Tuesday, November 5, are: Tuesday, March 19 for the City of Apopka city commission seats 3 and 4, and the Republican PPP election, the statewide primary on Tuesday, August 20, and then the general election nation-wide on Tuesday, November 5.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **SARAH MAIER, Dewberry Engineers** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW THE USE OF AN OUTDOOR STORAGE AS THE PRIMARY USE IN THE REGIONAL COMMERCIAL (C-R) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located at 2301 Coral Hills Road:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 22-21-28-0000-00-068  
Contains: 6.33 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the Special Exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024, beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703; Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

January 26, 2024  
Publish: The Apopka Chief

Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

175674

# Moore: Safety on roadways noted

Continued from page 2A

committed to remedying dark roadways in the county. The projected amount to be spent in District 2 to increase arterial street lighting is \$4,514,200. While I'm excited, and I'm also a bit wary of the promised progress due to past delays and hold-ups I have experienced with Duke Energy.

Keep your fingers crossed these will all be

completed over the next five years.

In priority order, street lighting projects include: AD Mims Rd, E Votaw Rd, E Welch Rd, N Park Ave, Sheeler Ave, Wurst Rd, McCormick Rd, Old Hwy 441, Ponkan Rd, Sadler Rd, W Highland Ave, Ocoee Apopka Rd, Old Dixie Hy, Round Lake Rd, W Highland Ave, Binion Rd, Hempel Ave, Jones Ave, N Rock Springs Rd, Plymouth Sor-

rento Rd, Lake Breeze Dr, Lake View Dr, Old Dixie Hy, Ondich Rd, Pembroke Dr, Shader Rd, W Keene Rd, W Orange Ave, and Warrior Rd.

As always, I'm committed to bringing transportation safety improvements to District 2. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office at 407.836.5850 or email to District2@ocfl.net.

# Byrd: Awards have been earned

Continued from page 2A

the program has been a magnet they have won numerous regional, state and national awards. They have grown to nearly 400 students and multiple classrooms, including a fully stocked bakery, industrial teaching kitchen, and cafe.

They also cater multiple private events each year.

Over the last few years, they have celebrated many firsts, including:

\*First culinary arts magnet in OCPS and largest in Central Florida with over 375 students

\*The only Florida culinary school to win a Top 10 spot at the NASA HUNCH Culinary Challenge, not once, but TWICE; they won two back-to-back second-place national trophies each time!

\*First Central Florida school to win first place in the state and earn the right

to represent OCPS at the National ProStart Invitational in Washington, D.C.

\*First Central Florida School to have an instructor honored with Florida Teacher of Excellence by the Florida Restaurant Association.

\*ONLY Florida school to have an instructor honored with the National James Maynard Award for Excellence in Innovation by the National Restaurant Association

\*First culinary school in the country to study, market/brand, and mass-produce coffee and chocolate; one of very few to make their own branded hot sauce – one so good a grocery store chain is in talks with Chef Bates to put it on their shelves.

And now, through a partnership with the Florida Dairy Council and Duke Energy, they have started the Mustang Creamery where they are developing

delicious ice creams and cheeses. They are also beginning a pizzeria with the help of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, and Domino's Pizza.

Students in this program earn certifications that they can use in a kitchen right away or can build upon in other culinary programs after graduation. They earn numerous scholarships in competitions, as well.

Besides cooking skills, they learn management skills, inventory and sales, budgeting, service skills, and more.

The possibilities are endless as we keep setting our sites higher for this tremendous program. If your child might be interested in the culinary program, contact the school for a tour; and remember that magnet applications are due by February 15 for next year. Go to ocps.net for more information.

# Hayden: Vote to return our strengths

Continued from page 2A

according to their observations (not ours). The next step is a classless society where everyone is equal and will put into the warehouse what they can provide and only take out what their immediate needs are.

People being people with their own ideas of what is needed is the very reason Communism will not work. A lot of people talk about a classless society, but they cannot show you one. I agree there are a multitude of people who would be satisfied with being bound up in a society where they would be taken care of, but they would have their needs met according to how well they benefit the warehouse and what they could offer for use of others.

Karl Marx stated, "Nothing can have value without being an object of

utility." Meaning, if you do not produce, you are of no value, and therefore unnecessary.

Observe where we are today. The elites are buying their desires to be met by those who benefit from their donations to their electoral campaigns. Quid Pro Quo is not supposed to be utilized in our governmental decisions, but unfortunately where temptations arise, resolutions will fall. In the end, they who give the most, reap the most.

I am satisfied that most Americans are not willing to give up any more rights, and, even though the money collected seems to be the deciding factor, "We the People" have not spoken yet in our obligation to vote. I am trusting that those who have seen our rights trampled underfoot and our Constitution ignored will speak out with

their vote.

Let us go back to being a smaller government that recognizes the people of the United States of America as its employers and not subjects. We need to hold those accountable who would consider their role as one that lords it over we their servants and sovereign overseers of our rights and privileges as Americans.

Remember the steps Karl Marx attributed to society. They are Slavery, Feudalism, Mercantilism, Capitalism, Socialism, and Communism.

Open your eyes. We are free people! We can return our nation to Americanism!

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

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

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Parks and Rec. Dept. 407-703-1741  
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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](http://www.apopka.net)

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County Commission 407-836-7350  
County Attorney 407-836-7320  
Clerk of the Court 407-836-2065  
Elections Supervisor 407-836-2070  
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Sheriff Administrative 407-254-7000  
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Utilities 407-836-5515  
All other departments 407-836-3111  
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### Other Area Numbers of Note

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

# 2023: More budget talks, police deliver baby

Continued from page 1A

proved 5-0 the fiscal year 2023-2024 roadway resurfacing program costing about \$2.1 million and amend the FY2023-24 budget amount to reflect \$104,520.86 for an additional cost coverage. ... Rabbi Elie Weisz flew from Jerusalem into Apopka to speak on Thursday, October 12, at City of Destiny Church in Apopka, where the three-day Paula White Ministries Unleashed Conference took place. ... John Peery, the late *Apopka Chief* editor, was honored at the homecoming game between the Apopka Blue Darters and the Lake Brantley Patriots on Friday, October 13, at Apopka High School's Roger Williams Field. ... The Apopka Community Development Department is updating the city's whole comprehensive plan including the transportation element, which gives a forecast of the city's traffic spanning from the years 2027 to 2050. ... During Friday night's homecoming game Makaylah Thompson and Jayden Sotolongo were announced as Apopka High School's Homecoming queen and king, respective-

ly. The homecoming game was held on October 13.

In three separate votes on Wednesday, October 18, the Apopka City Council voted 5-0 to have city staff publish notices about the disposal, or sale, of multiple properties in downtown Apopka's CRA District. ... The city of Apopka is hosting its free second annual Lake Apopka EcoBike Ride in celebration of Mobility Week, which is a cooperative effort by the Florida Department of Transportation and its partner agencies to promote awareness of safe, multimodal transportation choices. ... Forty students participated in the Apopka Fire Department's second annual Austin Duran Truck Camp on Wednesday, October 18, at the Gilliam Training Center in Apopka. ... Loaves and Fishes is again gearing up for the upcoming holidays and is seeking food donations to help the community for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## November

The Apopka City Council unanimously greenlighted phase 1 of the four-phase Piedmont Lakes subdivision action plan

comprised of the removal of dead trees and repairing broken sidewalks, curbs, and aprons, which would cost \$106,543.90 plus a 20 percent contingency, bringing the total to \$127,852.68. ... On Monday, October 30, Officer Adsudalah Brooks and Recruit Officer Laura Crespo responded to a 911 call in reference to a woman in labor inside her Apopka home and ended up helping her deliver her child. ... Daylight saving time will end on Sunday, November 5, at 2 a.m. local time, when daylight saving time (sometimes erroneously called daylight savings time) ends for the year. Next year, the clocks will skip ahead again on Sunday, March 10, 2024. ... Kit Land Nelson Park in Apopka was filled with scary fun on the morning of Satur-

day, October 28, as the annual Halloween in the Park packed costume wearers and trick-or-treaters to the area. ... Real estate stakeholders and professionals learned more at an event about how they could better leverage the single-family rental and build-to-rent sectors to better accommodate the Apopka area's growing population.

The Apopka City Council adopted, 5-0, a resolution extending the Community Redevelopment Agency and its redevelopment plan another 10 years – until January 1, 2034 – so the city will have more time to improve the downtown area and rid it of blight. ... Schick Roofing announced on Tuesday, November 7, that it's donating a new house roof to Orange County Sheriff's Of-

fice deputy Mary Norwood. ... Pat Williams, cofounder of the NBA's Orlando Magic, is the keynote speaker at the fifth annual John Land Apopka Community Trust Gala. ... Around 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, Orange County Fire Rescue firefighters responded to a house fire on the 1400 block of S. Central Avenue in Apopka. Three adults evacuated and one person was evaluated for smoke inhalation. ... The Veterans Memorial Museum displays uniforms, military history books, and artifacts in honor of the men and women who served in the military. Located in the Apopka Community Center/VFW Post 10147 Building at 519 S. Central Ave.,

See 2023 Page 13A

**Fri. January 26, 2024 thru Sun. January 28, 2024**

**GODZILLA MINUS ONE MINUS COLOR** (PG-13) 12:40; 3:50; 7:00; 10:10  
**I.S.S. (R)** 10:40  
**MEAN GIRLS** (PG-13) 12:50; 3:40; 6:50; 9:40  
**THE BEEKEEPER** (R) 1:30; 4:00; 7:30; 10:20  
**AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM** (PG-13) 1:20; 4:30; 7:40; 10:00  
**MIGRATION** (PG) 1:00; 4:20; 6:40  
**WONKA** (PG) 1:40; 4:40; 7:20; 10:30  
**POOR THINGS** (R) 12:30; 4:10; 6:30; 9:50  
**THE HOLDOVERS (REISSUE)** (R) 1:10+; 3:10+; 7:10+; 9:30+  
**OPPENHEIMER (REISSUE)** (R) 12:20+; 3:10+; 6:20+; 9:00+  
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# Debate: Each form of government has pros, cons, candidates say

Continued from page 1A

and at council meetings at the 2024 Debate for City Council Seat 3 and Seat 4. Organized by the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, the Commissioners Debate took place on January 16 at the Apopka Community

Center/VFW Building. Campaigning for City Council Seat 3 are Darryl Richardson and Nadia Anderson. Commissioner Kyle Becker, who currently occupies Seat 3, announced late last year that he won't run for re-election. Running for City Council Seat 4 are

incumbent Nick Nesta, who is seeking his second term, and challenger Eric Mock. Community members submitted the questions, which moderator Kasey Hudson read for each candidate to answer. The City Council election for Seat 3 and

Seat 4 is Tuesday, March 19. The last day to request a vote by mail ballot is the March 19<sup>th</sup>. Presidential preference primary and municipal elections is March 7. Early voting starts March 4 and ends March 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Reviewing the city charter

Each candidate responded to the question asking to explain the commissioner's role in a strong mayor form of government and how role would change in a city manager-council form of government. The other parts of the question were if the individual was in

favor of either form of city government explain why, and if they could expand their thoughts on the single-member district. According to Merriam-Webster, a single-member district is "an electoral district or constituency

See DEBATE Page 11A



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- Circle K, Keene Rd / Clarcona
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- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)
- CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av & Hwy 441
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- Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #6157, S. Park Avenue
- Circle K (Shell) #2334, Rock Springs Rd & Kelly Park Rd
- Circle K #1288, Welch Rd & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
- Compare Fresh Market, 436 behind Aaron's
- Crosby's Motor Inn,

- Hwy 441 & Errol Parkway (Errol Estate)
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- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)
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- Sam's Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.
- Trader Mae's, Rock Springs Rd
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs

- & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
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6/23



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# Golden Chief

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ON THE GO

## Last week of January was full of historical moments such as deserter execution

### January 25

**1533** - King Henry VIII married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, in defiance of Pope Clement who had refused to annul his first marriage. The King later broke all ties with Rome and became Supreme Head of the Church of England.

**1579** - Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Gelderland, Friesland, Groningen and Overijssel formed the (Protestant) Dutch Republic with the signing of the Union of Utrecht to defend their rights against Catholic Spain.

**1947** - Gangster Al Capone, who once controlled organized crime in Chicago, died in Miami at age 48 from syphilis.

**1959** - An American Airlines Boeing 707 made the first scheduled transcontinental U.S. flight, traveling from California to New York.

**1961** - President John F. Kennedy conducted the first live televised presidential news conference, five days after taking office.

**1971** - In Uganda, a military coup led by Idi Amin deposed President Milton Obote. Amin then ruled as president-dictator until 1979 when he was ousted by Tanzanian soldiers and Ugandan nationalists. During his reign, Amin expelled all Asians from Uganda, and ordered the execution of more than 300,000 tribal Ugandans.

Birthdays - Scientist Robert Boyle (1627-1691) was born in Lismore, Ireland. He formulated Boyle's Law concerning the volume and pressure of gases.

### January 26

**1788** - The British established a settlement at Sydney Harbor in Australia as 11 ships with 778 convicts arrived, setting up a penal colony to relieve overcrowded prisons in England.

**1943** - Nazis began using Hitler Youths to operate anti-aircraft batteries in Germany following heavy Allied bombing of Berlin and other cities.

**1994** - Romania became the first former Cold War foe to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**1998** - President Bill Clinton made an emphatic denial of charges that he had a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky and had advised her to lie about it. "...I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky..."

Birthdays - Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) was born on a military base in Little Rock, Arkansas. He commanded Allied forces during World War II in the Pacific. In 1942, he uttered one of the most famous phrases of the war, "I shall return," when

forced to leave the Philippines due to the unchecked Japanese advance. In 1950, after war broke out in Korea, he became commander of the United Nations forces. However, disagreements with President Harry Truman over war policy resulted in his dismissal by Truman in April 1951. MacArthur then appeared before Congress and announced his retirement, declaring, "Old soldiers never die - they just fade away."

### January 27

**1943** - The U.S. 8th Air Force conducted the first all-American bombing raid on Germany as 55 bombers targeted Wilhelmshaven, losing three planes while claiming to have shot down 22 German fighters. The success of this first mission encouraged U.S. military planners to begin regular daylight bombing raids, which eventually resulted in high casualty rates for the American crewmen involved.

**1944** - Russian Army General Govorov announced the lifting of the Nazi blockade of Leningrad. During the 900-day siege, an estimated one million Russian civilians inside the city died of disease, starvation and relentless German shelling.

**1945** - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp near Krakow in Poland, where the Nazis had systematically murdered an estimated 2,000,000 persons, including 1,500,000 Jews.

**1967** - Three American astronauts were killed as a fire erupted inside Apollo 1 during a launch simulation test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

**1973** - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris. The U.S. agreed to remove all remaining troops within 60 days thus ending the longest war in American history. Over 58,000 Americans had been killed, 300,000 wounded and 2,500 declared missing. A total of 566 prisoners-of-war had been held by the North Vietnamese during the war, with 55 reported deaths.

Birthdays - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was born in Salzburg, Austria. From the age of five, through his untimely death at age 35, this musical genius created over 600 compositions including 16 operas, 41 symphonies, 27 piano and five violin concerti, 25 string quartets, 19 masses, and many other works.

Birthdays - British novelist Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) was born in Daresbury, Cheshire, England (as Charles Lutwidge Dodgson). Best known for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. He also lectured in mathematics

and was a pioneering photographer.

- Labor leader Samuel Gompers (1850-1924) was born in London. He emigrated to America at age 13, worked in a cigar factory, eventually becoming head of the Cigar Workers' Union. He later brought together several national unions under the name American Federation of Labor and became its first president.

- German Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941) was born. He was a grandson of England's Queen Victoria and ruled Germany from 1888 through World War I. Although he had military training, he left conduct of the war mainly in the hands of Generals Paul von Hindenburg and Erich von Ludendorff. In 1918, amid the defeat of Germany, he abdicated and fled to the Netherlands where he lived in seclusion until his death. He was given a military funeral by Hitler.

### January 28

**1547** - King Henry VIII of England died and was succeeded by his son, Edward VI. Henry had ruled since 1509 and had broken all ties with the Roman Catholic Church over the issue of divorce. He married a total of six times. Edward VI was the son of his third wife, Jane Seymour. Edward became king at age 10, but died of tuberculosis at age 16. He was followed by his half-sister, Mary.

**1871** - The Franco-Prussian War ended as Paris surrendered to the Germans after a four month siege. Peace terms imposed on the French included yielding the greater part of Alsace and Lorraine to the Germans and a \$1 billion fine. German troops also outraged the French by marching triumphantly through the streets of Paris causing enmity between the two nations which lasted for decades.

**1915** - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

**1935** - Iceland became the first country to legalize abortion.

**1963** - African American student Harvey Gantt entered Clemson College in South Carolina, the last state to hold out against integration.

**1986** - The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons, including Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.

Birthdays - Explorer Henry Stanley (1841-1904) was born in Wales. As a newspaper correspondent for the New York Herald, he was given the challenging assignment of finding missionary-

explorer David Livingstone in Africa. Upon locating Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika in 1871 after an exhausting search, Stanley simply asked, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

### January 29

**1891** - Hawaii proclaimed Liliuokalani as its queen. Renowned for her song Aloha Oe, she had a reign of only four years until she was forced to abdicate in 1895 under pressure from powerful businessmen.

**1916** - During World War I, the first aerial bombings of Paris by German zeppelins took place.

**1919** - The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition Amendment) was ratified. For nearly 14 years, until December 5, 1933, the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages were illegal in the United States. The Amendment had the unexpected result of causing enormous growth of organized crime which provided bootleg liquor to thirsty Americans.

Birthdays - Common Sense author Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was born in Thetford, England. His pamphlet, published in 1776, provided inspiration to undecided Americans that a new nation, independent from Britain, might eventually become "...an asylum for mankind!" He served in the Continental Army and observed the hardships of American troops fighting the world's most powerful army. He then published The Crisis series pamphlets which began by stating, "These are the times that try men's souls." He refused to accept the profits from his writings and wound up destitute after the Revolution.

- William Mc Kinley (1843-1901) the 25th U.S. President was born in Niles, Ohio. He was elected in 1896 and re-elected in 1900. Early in his second term, on September 6, 1901, he was shot and mortally wounded by an anarchist at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, and died eight days later.

- Russian playwright Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) was born in Taganrog, Russia. His works included Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters and The Cherry Orchard.

### January 30

**1649** - King Charles I of England was beheaded for treason by order of Parliament under the direction of Oliver Cromwell, leader of the Puritan Revolution.

**1835** - President Andrew Jackson survived the first assassination attempt on a U.S. President. While leaving the House of Representatives Chamber, an insane would-be assassin fired two pistol

shots at him, however both pistols misfired and the president was unharmed.

**1933** - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg. Hitler went on to become the sole leader of Nazi Germany. He then waged a war of expansion in Europe, precipitating the deaths of an estimated 50 million persons through military conflict and through the Holocaust in which the Nazis attempted to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe.

**1948** - Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in New Delhi, India, by a religious fanatic. Gandhi had ended British rule in India through nonviolent resistance. "Non-violence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our very being," he had stated in 1926.

**1968** - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam as North Vietnamese troops attacked 36 provincial capitals and 5 major cities in South Vietnam, including an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and the presidential palace. Although U.S. forces eventually fended off the massive surprise attack and achieved a military victory, Tet became a propaganda victory for the Vietnamese due in part to graphic news reports on television which helped turn U.S. public opinion against continuation of the war.

**1972** - In Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 13 Roman Catholics were killed by British troops during a banned civil rights march. The event became known as Bloody Sunday.

January 30, 1973 - During the Watergate scandal, Gordon Liddy and James McCord were convicted of burglary, wire-tapping and attempted bugging of the

Democratic headquarters inside the Watergate building in Washington, D.C.

January 30, 1992 - Argentina allowed access to numerous files of Nazis who had fled to South America from Germany after World War II, thus aiding the hunt for Nazi war criminals.

Birthdays - Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) the 32nd U.S. President was born in Hyde Park, New York. Despite crippling polio, he led America out of the Great Depression and through World War II and is widely considered to be one of America's three greatest presidents (along with Washington and Lincoln). "When peace has been broken anywhere, the peace of all countries is in danger," he stated in 1939.

### January 31

**1943** - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II. During the Battle of Stalingrad, 160,000 Germans were killed and 90,000 taken prisoner, including the commander, Friedrich von Paulus, the first German field marshal ever to surrender. The captured Germans were forced to march to Siberia, with few ever returning to Germany.

**1945** - Eddie Slovik, a 24-year-old U.S. Army private, was executed by a firing squad after being sentenced to death for desertion, the first such occurrence in the U.S. Army since the Civil War.

Birthdays - Jackie Robinson (1919-1972) was born in Cairo, Georgia. He was the first African American to play professional baseball. He played for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947 to 1956, was chosen as the National League's most valuable player in 1949 and elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962

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The second annual Apopka Police versus Apopka Fire BBQ Competition took place on Saturday, January 13, at Apopka's Sonny's BBQ on Semoran Boulevard. The Apopka Fire Department took first place as the overall winner, but the Apopka Police Department won the creativity award for how much fun they had with their turn-ins. The winning team was awarded \$1,000 for their department or charity of choice, as well as a trophy and certificate. The runner-up received \$500 and a certificate.

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## SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE  
FOUND ON PAGE 12B

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

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

**The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 12B**

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## Getting out of God's Way

The late writer Flannery O'Connor kept a devotional journal when she was in her twenties and a student at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. It has recently been published under the title A Prayer Journal. O'Connor was a fervent Catholic and her journal is filled with interesting reflections on spirituality, as well as writing, which she saw as a way to express her spirituality and hopefully lead others to God. She laments early on that "I do not know you God, because I am in the way. Please help me to push myself aside."

Throughout the journal, we witness an

earnest young woman struggling heroically to be more pious, and striving to get out of God's way, i.e., how to get rid of the ego and let God fill up the space. Her simultaneous struggle to destroy the ego while seeking literary fame is sometimes the focus of her reflections, as when she says "Don't let me ever think, dear God, that I was anything but the instrument for Your story, just like the typewriter was mine." God desires to work through all of us, through our words and our deeds, if we can only get our egos out of His way.

- Christopher Simon

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## Book tells us to entertain strangers

1. Is the book of Habakkuk (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Joseph was buried in a plot of ground at Shechem costing how many pieces of silver? 1, 7, 30, 100
3. Which metal, used to sharpen other metals, does Proverbs 27 compare to friends? Gold, Silver, Iron, Tin
4. What is the middle chapter of the New Testament?



13. Galatians 2, Ephesians 5, Titus 1

5. The book of Hebrews tells us to entertain strangers as they may be ...? Demons, Angels, Prophets, Reincarnations

6. From Ruth 1, who was Naomi's husband? Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion, Malachi

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 100, 3) Iron, 4) Romans 13, 5) Angels, 6) Elimelech

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Matthew 5:16

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## Getting out of God's Way

(See message above.)

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10



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When Katharine Lune and her husband Rob bought their land in Archer and ended up naming it *Heirloom Country Farms*, they wanted to do something to help pay for the property but that would also contribute to their community. Farming seemed right even though she had no prior experience. "I figured it out as I went along," she says. She runs the day-to-day operations while her husband is a web developer. Among the four-footed and web-footed residents of the farm are Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs, an endangered heirloom breed noted for a higher fat-to-meat ratio rather than conventionally raised pork. Many consider the meat to be more flavorful because of the marbling.

We have Oyster Stew from Emily Meggett's *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking*, that will serve 10 to 12 people. You can use frozen oysters if you don't have access to fresh.

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

Mrs. Marilyn Guest contributed this recipe for Lemon Meringue Pie to a favorite source of ours, *Plains Pot-Pourri*, that was published in 1977 by the Plains Jr. Woman's Club of Plains, Georgia.

**ITALIAN BRACIOLE**  
Recipe from Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.,  
*Paths of Sunshine*  
**6 cubed beef steaks**  
**1/2 cup chopped onion**  
**1/4 cup chili sauce**



**1/2 cup beef broth**  
**1 (4-ounce) can sliced mushrooms**  
**2 tablespoons chopped bell pepper**  
**2 tablespoons sliced pimiento-olives**  
**1 teaspoon sugar**  
**1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce**  
**1/4 teaspoon oregano**  
**1/8 teaspoon garlic powder**  
**1/8 teaspoon pepper**  
**Hot cooked spaghetti**  
**1/2 cup cold water**  
**3 tablespoons flour**

Season cubed steaks. Spread onion on steaks and roll. Secure with toothpicks. Place seams down in 10 x 6 x 2 baking dish. Combine chili sauce, broth, mushrooms, pepper, olives, sugar, Worcestershire sauce, oregano, garlic and pepper. Pour over beef rolls. Bake at 350 degrees about 1-1/4 hours. Arrange meat rolls atop spaghetti on serving platter. Keep warm. Pour pan juices in measuring cup, skim off fat. Add enough water to make 1-1/2 cups liquid. Blend flour with cold water. Add to meat juices and cook to desired consistency. Spoon sauce over meat and pasta. Serves 6.

**HEIRLOOM COUNTRY FARMS, ARCHER**  
**PORK AND VEGETABLE STEW**  
Recipe from *Field to Feast*  
**1 (2 to 2-1/2 pound) bone-in pork shoulder or pork sirloin roast**  
**3/4 teaspoon coarse salt**  
**1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper**  
**4 tablespoons olive oil, divided**  
**5 to 6 small potatoes**  
**3 carrots, cleaned and chopped into 2-inch pieces**  
**3 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed**  
**2 stalks celery, leaves reserved, bottoms cut into 2-inch pieces**  
**1 medium onion, cut into half-moon slices**  
**1/3 cup all-purpose flour, seasoned lightly with salt and pepper**  
**2 cups water, divided**  
**3 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves removed and crushed lightly**

**1 to 2 large tomatoes, roughly chopped or 14-ounce can diced tomatoes**  
**1 to 2 bay leaves**  
**1 loaf crusty French bread, for serving**  
1) Trim roast well to remove excess fat. Season pork generously with salt and pepper; set aside. 2) Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large, heavy skillet over medium heat. Add potatoes, carrots, garlic, celery and celery leaves, and onion. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring, until vegetables are softened and golden brown. Transfer mixture to a slow cooker. 3) Heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork roast and sear each side until browned, about 12 minutes total. Remove roast from pan and coat in seasoned flour. Place roast over vegetables in the slow cooker. 4) Add 1/2 cup water to the skillet, place over medium-high heat, and deglaze pan, scraping any brown bits from the bottom. Pour into slow cooker. 5) Add thyme, tomatoes, bay leaves, and remaining 1-1/2 cups water to slow cooker. Cover with lid, cook on low 6 to 8 hours. 6) Before serving, discard bay leaves. Remove pork roast and pull meat into large pieces. Discard bone. Serve with vegetables, broth, and crusty French bread.

**EMILY MEGGETT'S OYSTER STEW**  
Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett  
**1/4 cup unsalted butter plus set aside 2 tablespoons unsalted butter**  
**1-1/2 cups diced celery**  
**1/2 onion, diced**  
**3 cups whole or 2-percent milk**  
**1 cup half-and-half**  
**Seasoning salt, to taste**  
**1 quart shucked oysters**  
**Worcestershire sauce to taste**  
**Oyster crackers or saltines, for serving**  
1) In a large skillet, melt the 1/4 cup butter over medium heat. Add the celery and onion and sauté until tender. 2) Pour the sautéed vegetables into the top of a double boiler. Add the milk and half-and-half,

and bring water in the bottom of the double boiler to a boil. 3) Add seasoning salt to taste. Cook for 3 minutes. 4) Drain the oysters and place in a saucepan with the remaining 2 tablespoons butter. Cook the oysters over medium heat until curled. 5) Transfer the oysters to the top of the double boiler with the milk mixture. Gently stir together. Serve with Worcestershire sauce and crackers.

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

**MRS. MARILYN GUEST'S LEMON MERINGUE PIE**  
Recipe from *Plains Pot-Pourri* Plains, Georgia  
**1 cup condensed milk**  
**4 eggs, separated**  
**1/2 cup lemon juice**  
**6 tablespoons sugar**  
**1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar**  
**Vanilla wafers**  
Mix together condensed milk, four egg yolks and lemon juice. Beat one egg white until stiff. Fold the egg white into the condensed milk mixture. Pour mixture into a 9-inch pie pan that has been lined with vanilla wafers. Make meringue by beating remaining egg whites until stiff, gradually adding combined sugar and cream of tartar. Bake at 350 degrees until brown.

## Debate: Voters are encouraged to learn more about charter review

Continued from page 6A

having a single representative in a legislative body rather than two or more."

The City Council had a January 10 workshop to review the city charter. Prior to that, the last charter review happened in 2014. At recent city council meetings and the workshop, much debate had transpired about the feasibility of amending the charter from strong mayor form to council-city manager form.

According to Nesta, the commissioners' role in the city charter isn't defined in any capacity, but rather that the commissioners act as the board of directors and the mayor is the CEO, involved with the city's daily operations that includes hiring and firing

employees.

In a council-manager form, the commissioners have somewhat more power to express residents' concerns and thoughts to the city manager. The council would also have the power to hire and fire the manager.

"I don't have a preference. I listen to the residents. The residents have told me that they want a manager form government, and I'm fine with that," Nesta said.

As for single-member districts, Nesta believed that need would arise down the road.

"In reference to single member districts, I think that is on the horizon. I don't think we're there yet with the KPI, the Kelly Park Interchange not

being built out at all yet," Nesta said. "Our districts would be so skewed and improper. Currently, I think in five to seven, maybe 10 years, we're ready for single member districts."

Anderson said the strong mayor and council-manager forms both have advantages and disadvantages.

She praised Mayor Bryan Nelson in his role and noted he has been building relationships on the state level and securing funds for Apopka.

"The strong mayor role is only good as the mayor that's currently in the seat, and that's the challenge with that current position," Anderson said. "So as of now, we have a great mayor. He's doing great things in that seat. However,

if we get someone else in that seat and they're not as strong and they're able to advocate for certain funds or they don't have good business management, then that could be a disaster."

Anderson didn't explain the advantage of manager form, but said a challenge of this form is the manager isn't really held accountable to anyone but the city council and the mayor.

Anderson said she hasn't decided yet which government form she would support, and she is researching the topic before figuring out where she stands on it.

As for single member districts, "I think equal representation across the district is extremely important," she said.

Mock encouraged attendees to visit the city's website Apopka.gov for upcoming charter review meetings.

"As everyone says, there are pros and cons back and forth, but the bottom line right now as I look at it, I'm a little more in favor of being the one who elects the person to the position than allocating that responsibility to somebody else."

Mock favors the city having single-member districts: "Several years ago, we had a disproportionate (number) of commissioners on the City Council that were from one neighborhood. Three of the four were from one neighborhood. If you had districts, that would not be the case."

Richardson encour-

aged debate attendees to pick up a report from his campaign table in the VFW Building. The sheet explains the different forms of government: strong mayor, weak mayor and city manager.

In the weak mayor form, the mayor's executive powers are limited and may act more as a ceremonial figurehead or presiding officer at meetings.

"I would encourage everybody before you actually take this vote and vote on it, which it should come to the people because this decision's a lot bigger than people sitting on the city commission, right, on the dais, right? We need you guys to fully educate yourself and understand."

We are helpers in the kitchen.  
Read the clues to find out how we help. Then, fill in the puzzle!

1. small rag used for washing plates, pots, and pans

2. books filled with recipes

3. rough, sponge-like tool for removing food from pots and pans

4. sets of instructions for making or preparing something

5. special piece of clothing that covers the front to keep clothes clean

6. cups with markings on the side

7. thick cloths that protect hands and table from hot pots and pans

8. larger cloths for drying off your washed plates, pots, and pans

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## Dream Lake students, teachers are working hard to be successful



### Kindergarten

Dr. Hogan's classroom started the year below grade level but now all her scholars are on grade level in reading and math. That is something to be celebrated. In reading, kinder-

garten is learning to blend sounds and recognize sight words. They have been reading about holidays around the world. In math, they are learning to add and subtract. Dr. Hogan is teaching her students how to write proper sentences. In science, they are learning how to sort. Here are the strategies that Dr. Hogan's students use: repetition and visualization. If a student is not understanding a lesson, Dr. Hogan will pull them in small groups. The advice that Dr. Hogan wants to give to parents is to check on your child daily and see the messages from

the Class Dojo. This is the best way for students to overcome challenges.

*By G. Mian and B. Wade*

### First grade

Mrs King's class is successful because her scholars are learning rules and procedures. In reading, they are learning about story elements and in math, they are learning how to interpret data. First graders are learning about narrative writing. If the kids don't understand what is being taught, Mrs King will review the answer with them using number lines. The

type of book they're reading is called belts book. Students are using counter blocks in math and the challenge for Mrs. King is to keep positive energy flowing. Her advice to parents is to encourage your kids to be respectful. She gave a shout out to me because I did an amazing job in my interview.

*By C. Ratcliffe and A. Hansen*

### Second grade

Mrs. Mendez is in her first year of being a departmentalized teacher. Her scholars are learning about math and science. In math,

her kids are learning how to count and add coins and dollar bills. In science, they are learning different types of energy. When a student does not understand a lesson Mrs. Mendez pulls them to the back table and shows them how to solve different problems. Some of Mrs. Mendez's strategies are learning open number lines and models of manipulatives. Her students are doing some hands-on activities. She had a lot of challenges like getting to know 40 kids and teaching them individually between them. She would suggest that parents make sure their child

does their home studies daily. Mrs. Mendez would like to thank Mrs. Atkins for being the best assistant teacher and Mrs. Briggie for being her bestie teacher!

*By J. Oceant and E. Laboy*

### Upcoming events

- 1/23-Literacy Night 5:00-6:30
- 1/23-1/26-Access testing
- 1/30-Class photos
- 1/31-Scholar luncheon
- 2/2-School Crossing Guard Day
- 2/12-Valentines week
- 2/16-5th Grade Field Trip
- 2/17-School Spirit Run



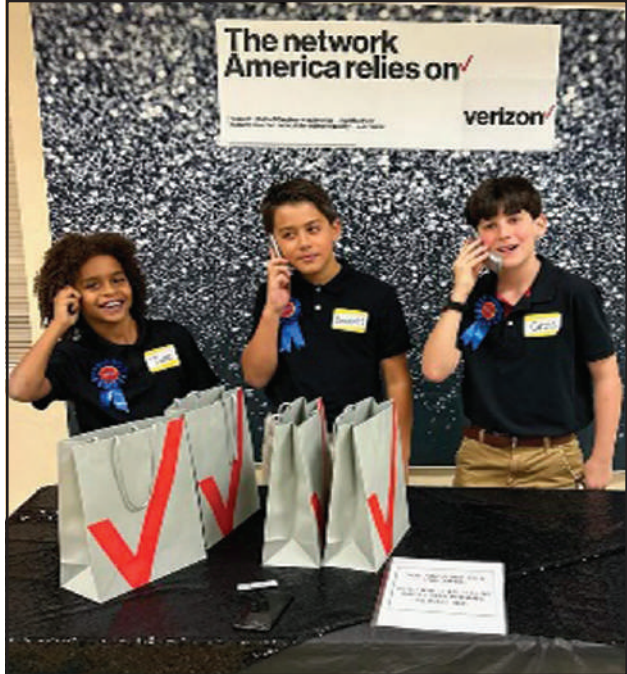
## Quick thinking, personality, firm handshakes will take us places!

The Amazing Shake competition was created by Mr. Ron Clark, one of the cofounders of the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. The competition is designed to test a student's ability to make a strong, positive first impression and to see how well they think on their feet when put through challenging situations. Dr. Martin took ten teachers to a Professional Development at the Ron Clark Academy. Upon returning, Mrs. Clowers was inspired to start an Amazing Shake Club at Dream Lake Elementary. The DLE Amazing Shake Club began in the 2018-2019 school year. That year we had 4 young ladies compete in the National Amazing Shake Competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

To try out for the Top 10, scholars attend practices every Wednesday after school to learn the basics of the Amazing Shake. During our after school practices, scholars learn how to give a proper handshake, introduce themselves, and how to carry out a conversation with someone they just met. Students also practice various improvising techniques, memorize a monologue, learn current events and come up with their own Shark Tank Idea. We have 4 coaches for the club and we all share the responsibilities of teaching and preparing our scholars for competition. The coaches are Mrs. Clowers, Mrs. Dorlus, Mr. McDuffie and Mrs. Zulich. In order to prepare for the Global Amaz-

ing Shake, we will continue practicing after school. We are working on having several guest speakers to come as well to work with our students. Scholars will also begin fundraising for our trip. Our Top 10 finalists are Ava West, Bennett Farran, Brayleigh Wade, Christopher Caperton, Edileen Rodriguez-Laboy, Jaxon Pugsley, Jonathan Leighvard, Kyleigh Malkin, Toni-Christina Moore-Freeman, and Tyson Williams. Let's help these students go to the Atlanta competition! The community can help support our scholars by considering making a donation to the fund. Just scan the QR code.

*By Mrs. Clowers and D. Limage*



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## Chief Junior news

on page

# 14A

# 2023: City Center hotel listed for sale, manor is part of deal

Continued from page 5A

Apopka, the museum is open by appointment only and Wednesday and Saturday, 8-11 a.m.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10147 organized its Veterans Day ceremony featuring a keynote address by Retired Lt. Commander Joshua A. Andrews on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, at Kit Land Nelson Park in downtown Apopka. ... Local barbecue restaurant Sonny's BBQ recognized the two police officers who helped deliver a baby last month after receiving a 911 call. ... The Apopka City Council learned about a new program that would help revitalize the downtown area, promote the area, bring economic vitality, and enhance residents' quality of life. The cost to launch is estimated to be \$205,000. ... The Miss Apopka Scholarship Competition welcomes Miss Florida 2023 Juliette Valle to the community as she hosts the Miss Apopka Scholarship Competition on Saturday, December 2, at Apopka High School.

Taurus Investment Holdings has listed Hilton Garden Inn at the Apopka City Center for sale and added Highland Manor as part of a packaged deal at an undisclosed price. ...

The Rotary Club of Apopka and Renewal Church of Apopka donated 40 food bags and turkeys to Zellwood Elementary School on the morning of Thursday, November 15. ... Seven qualities exemplify an exceptional leader, all which were eminent in Mayor John Land, said Pat Williams, co-founder of the NBA's Orlando Magic at the fifth annual John Land Apopka Community Trust Legacy Gala. ... The Miss Apopka Organization welcomes seven delegates from around the greater Central Florida area to the competition, which will take place at the Apopka High School Auditorium, 555 W. Martin St., Apopka, on Saturday, December 2. ... Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson delivers the 2023 State of the City address on Friday, November 17, at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building on South Central Avenue in Apopka.

### December

The city of Apopka and the developer of the Apopka City Center Winn-Dixie are working out a plan so the city could extend the supermarket's temporary certificate of occupancy until February 1, 2024. ... The grand marshal for the 47th annual Apopka Christmas Parade will be Roger

Franklin Williams, local on-air radio personality and son of Apopka High School principal and educator Roger A. Williams, who served as Apopka Christmas Parade grand marshal in 2003. ... The Apopka City Council voted 5-0 to authorize the mayor to sign a professional services agreement with a Maitland mentorship program for male youth. ... A 76-year-old female pedestrian was killed after being struck by a car that an Apopka family was driving in Forest City, according to Florida Highway Patrol. ... A record-breaking number of over 300 registrants from 18 states and one Canadian province are visiting Lake Apopka North Shore during the eighth annual North Shore Birding Festival.

The Apopka City Council adopted, 5-0, a resolution extending the Community Redevelopment Agency and its redevelopment plan an additional three years until January 1, 2027, with the option for another seven-year extension. ... The Apopka Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on Friday, December 1, at Kit Land Nelson Park. The event included holiday music, photos with Santa, kids activities and meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus. ... Reilly Cardella took home the crown as Miss Apopka 2024 among the six young

women who competed for the title on Saturday, December 2, in the Apopka High School auditorium. ... The Apopka Police Department supported local families in need during the holidays with the department's annual Shop With a Cop. It is running for 10 days — December 4-8 and December 11-15 — at the Apopka Super Walmart on South Orange Blossom Trail.

Orange County Public Schools will launch a pilot program this month in seven randomly selected schools to test the use of a walk-through weapons detection system during arrival. The pilot program begins this month with full implementation at Wekiva High School beginning Monday, December 18, according to an OCPS news release. ... Between 2,000 and 3,000 people participated in the 47th annual Apopka Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 9, traversing approximately one mile on Park Avenue. ... On Monday, December 11, the Florida Department of Education announced the release of the 2022-2023 school and district grades, with Orange County Public Schools earning a "B" grade on the new district grading scale. ... The mother of the youth involved in a Pop Warner football practice shooting was arrested

Thursday, December 7, on a charge of culpable negligence. ... The Christmas concert "Hope Was Born" with Jonathan Cain, Hall of Fame songwriter and keyboardist from the rock band Journey, will premiere on Sunday, December 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at Story-Life Church, 505 E. McCormick Road, Apopka.

After debating what the next step would be in moving the annexation of South Apopka forward, the Council decided to come up with questions to put on a survey and submit to residents to get their opinion on annexing South Apopka. ... Defying the inclement weather, the community held its Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 16, at the Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery. There, community members laid wreaths on veterans' graves. ... Lake Apopka Natural Gas District has appointed Brent Haywood, as the company's next chief executive officer and general manager, effective January 8, 2024. ... Local businesses, entrepreneurs, and community leaders were honored for their community service, contributions to the community, and accomplishments at the 2023 annual Apopka Chamber Business Awards. ... The seniors of the Apopka High

School's Student Government Association visited Phillis Wheatley Elementary on Tuesday, December 19, to deliver presents to all the pre-K and kindergarten students as part of Dewey and Daisy's Holiday Wish.

Southeastern Grocers Inc., parent company and home of Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, together with the SEG Gives Foundation, has donated more than \$3,727,000 back into the community to support neighbors in need in 2023. ... Trees and the grounds of Kit Land Nelson Park, located in downtown Apopka, have been aglow with holiday lights the entire month. The city had its tree lighting ceremony at the park on December 1. ... The Apopka Police Department added two new officers to its police force on Monday, December 18. The officers took an oath to serve and protect when they were sworn-in at Apopka City Hall by Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley. ... City Hall released its schedule of upcoming meetings in January 2024. All will take place at Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. Meetings are live streamed on the city's YouTube channel.

## CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHANGE OF ZONING

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

### ORDINANCE NO. 3044

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO C-C (COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 734 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL; OWNED BY SERVANTS OF GOD MINISTRIES INC COMPRISING 0.65 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 14-21-28-0000-00-005  
Contains: 0.65 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3044 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

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

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

January 26, 2024

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# WLE’s response to Dr. King’s speech and WHS’s culinary school are impressive

Continued from page 12A



### Kindergarten

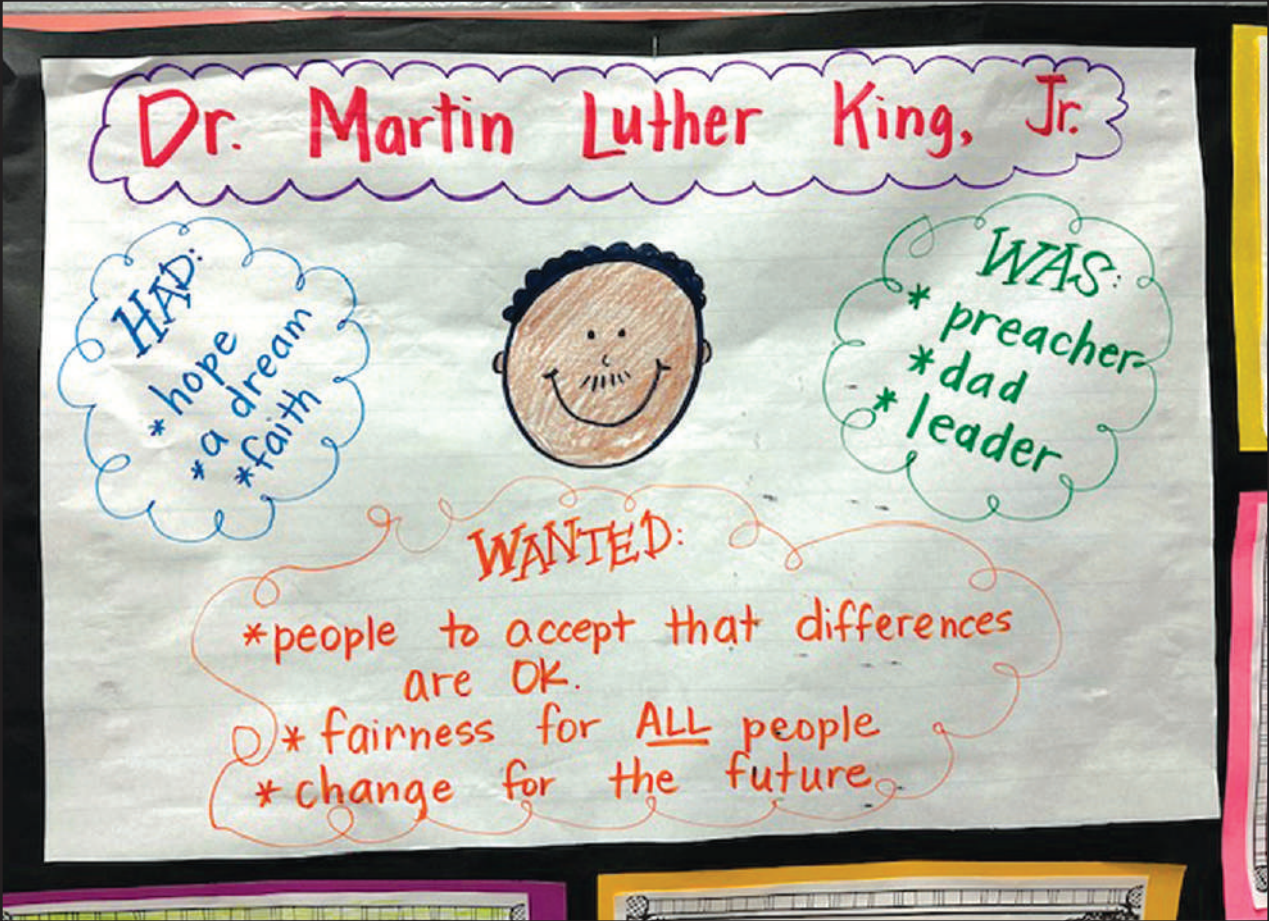
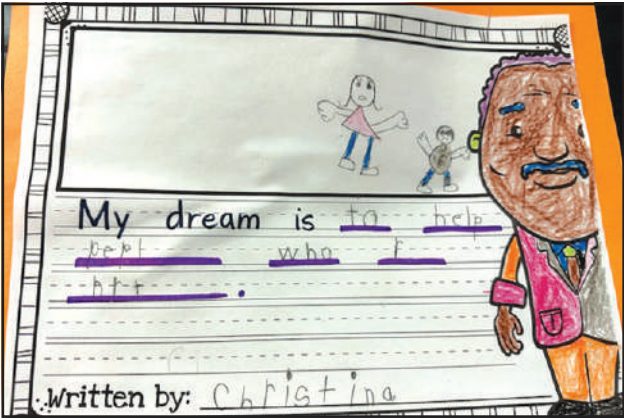
Happy New Year from the Kinder Pups! We missed our teachers and friends while on Winter break but we

came back like a firecracker to learn more! Our kiddos have been learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and how his “I Have a Dream” speech inspired us to be kind. Our littles have been learning how to write using their phonics skills to begin forming sentences!!! Yes, sentences in kindergarten! Our students are also learning to add and subtract using lots of cool strategies! We are also working on our comprehension skills and how a story has characters, settings, problems and solutions! We love reading! Coming up soon is our Hospital Room Transformation, just in time

for Valentine’s Day! Our littles will be learning through play as they become heart doctors! There is lots of fun going on here and it’s great to be five!

### 3rd Grade

Third grade had a wonderful break, and we have jumped right back into working hard! We continue to study comprehension strategies for reading fiction and non-fiction texts. In math, we are solving word problems; some with multiple steps using all four operations. We are looking forward to our grade-level field trip to Wonderworks in March.



Wekiva High School’s nationally recognized culinary program hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening event on Friday, January 19, at the school.

The main ceremony celebrated the new Mustang Pizzeria, Mustang

Creamery, and unveiling of the Mustang Events Catering Trailer.

Guests enjoyed live music and light appetizers while networking with industry professionals, elected leaders and district executives, according to an Orange County Public School press release promoting the event.

After the presentation, guests toured the culinary classrooms to observe the students in action. In the café, students roasted coffee;

in the bakery, they made ice cream; and in the main kitchen they cooked for the event.

From the orchestra and jazz band to student servers and chefs-in-training, this event presented a variety of visuals.

Partnerships with the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, Snowball Pizza, Duke Energy and the Florida Dairy Council provided the financial support necessary for the materials.

