





Wekiva's Tierra Coleman takes a shot with an incoming defender. See page 6B.





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Orange

County

## Behavioral hospital breaks ground on Orange Blossom Trail

City officials and hospital representatives had a groundbreaking for Acadia Orlando Health at 1452 S. Orange Blossom Trail., Apopka, on Thursday, February 15. Representatives for the hospital estimated that the facility may bring the city an estimated \$21 million annual economic impact and about 220 full-time jobs. Acadia Orlando Health will be a 144bed, two-story, 100,000 square-foot facility on about 10.3 acres of property, and will be an inpatient facility. Hospital representatives said that the hospital would open in 2025. The hospital is a partnership between Orlando Health and Acadia Healthcare, which currently manages behavioral health services at Orlando Health South Seminole Hospital.



# **Actor's foundation serves** lunch to city's fire, police

**By Teresa Sargeant** Apopka Chief Staff

Bringing enough food to feed about 200 people on Thursday, January 25, the Gary Sinise Foundation served lunch to Apopka first responders at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building.

"The men and women of the Apopka Police Department want to thank the Gary Sinise Foundacheon was a great opportunity for all the first responders to relax and feel appreciated. We appreciate the

to put this event on and recognize all of Apopka's first responders," said Police

Chief Michael McKinley in an emailed statement. "The Apopka Fire Department deeply values the Gary Sinise Foundation's

invitation to attend the Honorary Serving Heroes lunch last Thursday. This event was not only a testament to the Foundation's unwavering commitment to supporting our first re-

tion for the recognition and sponders, but a memora- is very simple that while support they showed us on ble experience for all who we can never do enough January 25, 2024. The lun- attended," said Jerry May- to show our gratitude, we nard, spokesman for the can always do a little bit Apopka Fire Department, in an email. Founded in 2011 by foundation taking the time actor Gary Sinise, the Gary

Sinise Foundation's mission is to serve the nation by honoring its defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need. The served lunch was done through the foundation's Serving Heroes initiative, which shows gratitude to veterans and first responders with meals across the nation and at military outposts in Germany and Korea.

"Gary Sinise's motto more," said Larry Kayne, the Gary Sinise Founda-

# **City reviews suggested edits** to form-based code as it affects Wyld Oaks development

#### By Teresa Sargeant Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka Planning Commission and the Apopka City Council conducted a joint workshop to discuss suggested edits for the Kelly Park Interchange formbased code as it affects the 215-acre mixed use development Wyld Oaks, which is located at the 429 Beltway and West Kelly Park Road Interchange in Apop-

ka.

of Wyld Oaks has wanted to review suggested edits for the form-based code

they gave to the city. "There are so many challenges in front of us in order for us to be able to attract a great collection of tenants and co-creators and developers to invest their money in what is a really difficult market right now, particularly for developers to borrow money," Joseph Beninati, Wyld Oaks founder, told the Council and the Planning Commis- the surrounding areas; and sion. "So, we didn't know protects water and wildlife any other way to get the resources. discussion started than to bring a whole team of experts together and try and mark up what we think are

According to the formbased code, "In 2009, the City of Apopka prepared the Wekiva Parkway Interchange Plan as required by the Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act. The Interchange Vision Plan was developed with a goal to accommodate new development that: supports regional markets that depend on the Wekiva Parkway's function to move people and goods; is designed to complement

suggestions."

See LUNCH Page 3A

The workshop took place on Tuesday, February 12, in the council chamber of Apopka City Hall. No action was taken at the workshop.

The development team

The regulations contained in this document

See CODE Page 6A

# Firefighter's family to raise money for Lung Association

This Saturday, February 17, Austin Duran's family, friends and fellow firefighters will climb 25 stories of City National Bank Tower as a tribute to his legacy. They will be participating in the American Lung Association's Fight For Air Climb Orlando, which raises critical funds for local programming, research and advocacy initiatives.

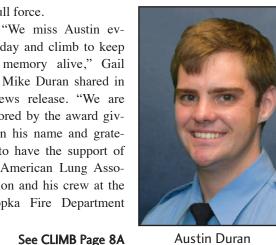
Austin Duran joined duty.

the Apopka Fire Department in July 2020, after serving as a fire explorer in high school. Two years later, at the age of 25, Duran was critically injured in a workplace incident. While recovering in the ICU, he developed pneumonia and passed. This tragedy highlights the dangers firefighters and emergency responders face in the line of

Only a few months before his untimely death, Austin had participated in the Orlando Climb at Exploria Stadium. He raced up more than 1,000 stairs while wearing full gear in an astonishing 13:02 minutes. He was committed to raising awareness for lung health, as firefighters and first responders are at a higher risk of developing Department team came out

lung disease due to the na- in full force. ture of their work.

ery day and climb to keep At the 2023 Orlando Climb, Austin's parents, his memory alive," Gail Gail and Mike Duran, raland Mike Duran shared in lied their network to supa news release. "We are honored by the award givport the Lung Association to honor their son's life. en in his name and grate-Mike and Gail climbed ful to have the support of surrounded by friends and the American Lung Assofamily, and Mike even ciation and his crew at the climbed in Austin's fire Apopka Fire Department jacket. The Apopka Fire



See CLIMB Page 8A



In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Apopka Progressive Senior Citizens Club held its Valentine's Day party on Tuesday, February 13, at the John H. Bridges Community Center, 445 W. 13th St., Apopka. The club, which boasts over 150 members from all over Central Florida, meets every Tuesday at the Bridges Center for activities such as Bible study, exercise, fellowship and recreation, community service and group travel.

#### City will host Black History Month event

The city will host its Celebrating Legends of Apopka Black History Month event on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 from 6 -8 p.m. at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka.

This event will include a special proclamation by Mayor Bryan Nelson, in honor of the 2024 Legends and their families, special music by Mark Wright and the Wekiva High School Chorus, and a reception for all attendees.

This week	
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## The Apopka Chief

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#### Apopka Event of the Week

English for Social Interactions is at the North Orange Branch Library 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., on Tues., Feb. 20, from 2-2:45 p.m., in the Meeting Room. Come to learn different English idioms and phrases that are used to communicate on a daily basis. You will learn the different meanings that idioms and phrases can have and how tone and context impact meaning

# Opinion

#### Quotable

National FFA Week is more than a historical nod: it's a forward-looking celebration of the youth who will shape the future of farming.

Guest columnist on the importance of our Future Farmers

#### The Apopka Chief A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher John Ricketson **Consultant Emeritus Marketing Director** John Peery Jackie Trefcer

Reporters Teresa Sargeant Marshall Tempest, Neal Fisher **General Mgr Emeritus** Neoma Knox Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021



## FFA Week: Apopka's future farmers shine in community engagement

Story by Marc Shollenberger FFA Alumni member

In the heart of Apopka, a tradition deeply embedded in the community's agricultural heritage is set to bloom with vibrant activities and educational outreach as National FFA Week approaches.

This annual festivity, dedicated to the National FFA Organization (formerly Future Farmers of America), underscores the pivotal role of agricultural education and the development of future leaders in the agriculture sector.

Timed around George Washington's birthday to honor his contributions as a farmer and agriculturist, National FFA Week is more than a historical nod; it's a forward-looking celebration of the youth who will shape the future of farming.

This year, Apopka takes pride in recognizing National FFA Week with a special proclamation at the City Hall meeting on February 21, emphasizing the city's commitment to agricultural education and the FFA's mission. The proclamation is a testament to the importance of agriculture in Apopka and the vital role that FFA members play in promoting agricultural awareness and education throughout the community. Local schools, the nurseries of future agricultural leaders, have embraced National FFA Week with a series of engaging activities aimed at fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of agriculture among students of all ages. Apopka High School is setting the stage with a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, acknowledging the educators who inspire and guide students in their agricultural education journey. Additionally, the school is reaching out to its youngest learners with a Plant Demonstration and Workshop for Pre-K students, planting seeds of agricultural curiosity in budding minds. Apopka Middle School is also hosting a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, alongside an initiative that bridges generations: Reading

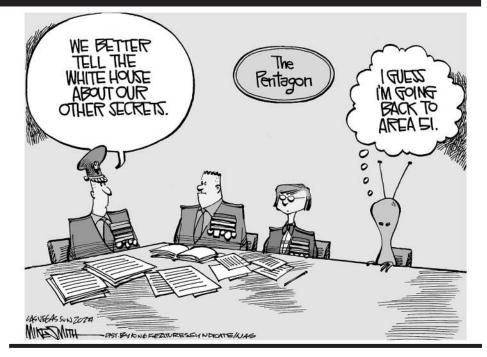
to elementary school children. This activity not only promotes literacy but also introduces young students to the world of agriculture through storytelling.

Wolf Lake Middle School is taking a creative approach with Teacher Appreciation Flower Baskets, using the beauty of agriculture to express gratitude to their teachers. Like Apopka Middle School, Wolf Lake Middle is engaging in reading sessions with elementary school children, further strengthening community ties and fostering an early appreciation for agriculture.

Wekiva High School's FFA chapter is bringing its unique

spirit to National FFA Week with a variety of initiatives. Teachers will be honored with a range of appreciation plants, symbolizing the growth and nurturing environment they provide for their students. The school is also introducing FFA special theme days, each with a creative twist to engage and celebrate the spirit of FFA:

\*Sunday kicks off with "Your Favorite FFA Memory," encouraging members to reflect on meaningful experiences.]



## Magnolia Park's magnificence shared

**County Commissioner** 

District 2

**Christine Moore** 

ties, including swimming,

snorkeling, and paddling.

If you have not had the op-

portunity to already do so,

I implore anyone who re-

sides in my district to visit

one of the beautiful Springs

If you are a nature lov-

and enjoy the tranquility

er, Magnolia Park will be

that they bring.

ture

With winter coming to a close and spring on the horizon, I have been looking forward to enjoying the wonderful spring weather in an Orange County park. Our district is home to some of the most beautiful parks in Central Florida, and it makes me proud to know that I represent some of the most unique natural resources in the state. With Wekiwa Springs being located only 25 minutes

from downtown Orlando, it makes it a popular destination for those seeking a refreshing escape from the

The park offers a variety of recreational activi-

# Time to plan for local bid practices

Dear Editor,

The City of Apopka must support ALL local businesses by adopting an inclusive bid, procurement, and purchasing policy. It is time for the City of Apopka to operationalize and memorialize equity. The De-

The Apopka Voice and some city council members have boasted partial and misinformation about their plans for Apopka investment funds over the past few weeks. Only pausing after Morgan Stanley statnering banks.

1. Keeping Investment funds in local community banks eliminates the risk of loss of principal due to losses in the financial market, such as an investment having a decline in value.

2. There is no penalty

if you need to remove funds

of pristine beauty. In 2022, Magnolia Park welcomed visitors to their new Eco-Education Center. This state-of-the-art Eco-Education Center is comprised of a park office, reception area, and an interactive display room that includes audio-visual learning centers and eco-related displays. The Eco-Education Center grounds also have playground with state-of-

the place for you to visit

this spring. Located just a

short drive from Apopka,

See MOORE Page 4A

Magnolia Park is 56 acres new eco-friendly pollinator gardens, and a new secured

\*Monday's "Flag Day" celebrates patriotism and the importance of agriculture in national heritage.

\*Tuesday is "FFA Drip Day," showcasing FFA pride through apparel.

\*Wednesday invites students to "Dress like your advisor," fostering a fun, mentor-appreciative atmosphere.

\*Thursday's "Crocs Vs. Hey Dudes" day sparks friendly rivalry and showcases personal style.

\*Friday encourages the "Best Southern Outfit," celebrating regional agricultural roots.

\*Saturday concludes the week with "SAE Saturday," focusing on Supervised Agricultural Experiences and hands-on learning.

Piedmont Lakes Middle School & Wekiva High School are collaborating to host the annual "Piedmont

See Agriculture Page 4A

cember 6, 2023, investment policy approved by commissioners for City of Apopka investment funds to be transferred to Morgan Stanley highlights the need to protect local Apopka businesses now!

The Apopka business community deserves an inclusive bid, procurement and purchasing policy to protect opportunities for all local businesses in Apopka, now and tomorrow, regardless of by whom or how the city is managed in the fu-

ed multiple times during the February 7 council meeting (1 hour 53 minutes) in that Apopka local banks are giving a great rate, and that growth will dip and have slower returns with Morgan Stanley.

No mention of the \$45,000 annual fee the city commission accepted in a 3-2 vote, Dec. 6, 2023, despite the pleas from the local bank partners and chamber, requesting to pause the decision until commission could speak with the partearly from a local bank if an investment isn't doing well. There is no risk of loss of principal with the community banks if the bank were to fail. Florida statute requires that municipal deposits be collateralized with liquid securities to further protect the people's money. Florida has a Qualified Public Depository (QPD) rating system. Morgan Stanley does not. Creating a

#### See LETTER Page 4A

#### This Week In God's Word "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday

and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

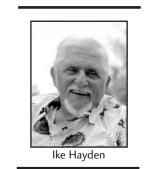
Mema Says Don't base my story on the chapter you walked into.

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# Past atrocities for handicapped people lay groundwork for reparation

I want reparations! Take a look at past atrocities that handicapped people have had to endure at the hands of everyone.

In the past, people with disabilities had to grovel at the feet of the ablebodied for assistance with doors, steps, food preparation, feeding, getting in and out of bed. The handicapped have been treated with disdain and even hatred in some cases. The handicapped have been institutionalized, used as guinea pigs for experimen-



tal drugs, and innumerable questionable surgeries that may or may not have good outcomes. Often treated as outsiders, many times they would be excluded from public places and celebrations by barriers such as steps or rough ground where wheelchairs could not traverse without having to ask someone for help.

It is getting better. Or is it? Today, people with disabilities are still stigmatized in the cost of items needed just to keep their lives somewhat self-sufficient. Those of you who have had disabled friends, or loved ones that have handicaps, know what costs are involved with daily living, traveling, or attending special occasions.

For instance, you can purchase an ATV (all-terrain vehicle) that will travel over any terrain and take you anywhere you want to go with all the amenities of radio, Bluetooth capabilities, and other bells and whistles for less than seven thousand dollars. Try to buy a new motorized wheelchair that only goes up to eye level, lays back to stave off bed sores, elevates legs for comfort and to keep legs from swelling, and speeds along at 6-8 mph. The same wheelchair

is best used only on level, hard-packed, surfaces to keep from getting stuck somewhere you may not be able to get out of without assistance. The cost of the new chair, usually between \$15,000 to \$23,000, has none of the intricacies of the ATV with all the goodies

How about two pieces of aluminum that are fastened to a shoe to act as a leg brace. Mine had a shoe to keep my toes up and the other shoe had a oneinch sole so as I walked

with forearm crutches I could swing the foot with the brace through and step forward. I could have purchased the shoes for about \$150 with the elevated sole, and the leg brace I could have made for \$75 including the top strap that attached it to my upper calf. The cost the shop charged for the prosthetic -\$1,500

I had a contraption that fit my right arm that allowed me to hold a pencil,

# Lunch: Mission BBQ Oviedo, VFW Post 10147 and a local vets advocate helped

#### Continued from page 1A

tion Florida Chapter president. "So what the Serving Heroes program is, which I did today, was for the Apopka firefighters and the police department, to show our gratitude for the 365/24 hours a day that they're working. It's just a small token to show them that they are appreciated for everything they do."

Last Thursday was the first time the Gary Sinise Foundation came to Apopka. Any remaining food from the lunch would get donated, Kayne said.

Collaborating with the Apopka Fire Department, Apopka Police Department and the Gary Sinise Foundation on last weeks' Serving Heroes program were Mission BBQ Oviedo, veterans advocate Mary

sia, and the Apopka Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10147.

Kayne had reached out to Maynard and spokesman Jason Wiggins of the Apopka Police Department about setting up the Serving Heroes lunch.

The Florida Chapter tries to do two Serving Heroes events a month in various areas across Central Florida, Kayne said.

For every dollar that comes into the Gary Sinise Foundation, 84 cents goes back to the foundation's causes.

"We operate very minimally. We are not a fat organization," Kayne said. "I don't know what other word to use. It's all about giving. It's not about us, it's about the people out here." According to Wiggins,

there is an intention to repeat the lunch in the future, foundation will recognize for its work and also menother municipalities over the next few years and then circle back around to Apopka.

A collaboration between Apopka police and the Gary Sinise Foundation on other programs or events will depend on availability," Wiggins said.

"We would like to, but we know they are highly sought after, so it will depend on availability. APD has many events throughout the year and if the Gary Sinise Foundation partnered with us, these event(s) would have an even bigger and better impact for the citizens of Apopka," Wiggins said in an email.

Maynard said didn't have specific details about future Serving Heroes lunch events for Apopka first responders, but praised

but to his knowledge, the the Gary Sinise Foundation tioned that the AFD would love to consider collaborating with the foundation in future programs and events. "Collaboration

tween the Apopka Fire Department and the Gary Sinise Foundation on other programs or events is something we would love to consider and be a part of. Partnerships like these foster a sense of appreciation and camaraderie, boosting mo-

rale by recognizing and honoring the dedication to public service that our First Responders have," May-



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Neil

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Andrea Barbra VEGAS' TOP IMPERSONATORS THE EDWARDS TWINS

III

### IURSDAY FEB SHOWTIME - 7:00PM TICKETS START AT \$45

Mt. Dora Community Bldg

520 N Baker Street, Mt Dora FL FOR TICKETS (352) 383-2165 FOR INFO: (844) 214-7469 Or: MountDoraLive.com



Bette

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# Veterans History Project to launch Agriculture: Community unites a new Webinar Series for 2024

Columbia Falls, Maine, and

Washington, D.C. February 13, 2024

Wreaths Across America (WAA), in collaboration with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP), proudly announces the launch of a new, free webinar series for educators.

These four-part quarterly webinars aim to equip educators and youth of all ages with the vast resources available from the Library of Congress and will focus on how teachers and students can participate in collecting, preserving, and sharing veterans' stories critical to our nation's history and the teaching of the next generation about the value of freedom.

The series will kick off on Tuesday, March 19, at 4 p.m. ET /1 p.m. PT and be co-hosted by Cindy Tatum, Wreaths Across America Curriculum Developer and Gold Star Mother, and Andrew Huber, Senior Liaison, Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Later dates for the remaining webinars in the series include May 14, August, and October to be announced. Registration is now open for the first event.

"One of the goals of this webinar series is to provide valuable resources to educators as well as students, who we know will benefit from developing listening and interviewing skills, developing a more impactful understanding of history from sharing personal stories and learning more about multi-media practices," said Cindy Tatum, Curriculum Developer for Wreaths Across America. "To have this opportunity to collaborate with the Veterans History Project

through the Library of Congress is an expansion of our TEACH program we hoped for as we aim to empower educators to inspire the next generation."

Educators' takeaways from webinar participation include developing a more thorough understanding of the use of the Library of Congress as an educational resource; providing a project for experiential learning for students in developing interviewing techniques and listening skills; increasing awareness of the WAA K-12 curriculum and wreath-laying projects that develop community development and leadership opportunities for students.

"This webinar series is designed to give educators and classrooms all the tools they need to start using the Veterans History Project website for primary source research and create their own primary source materials for inclusion in the Project," said Andrew Huber, Senior Liaison, Library of Congress Veterans History Project. "Participants will learn about VHPs standards and requirements as well as basic oral history techniques so they can join the dozens of schools nationwide documenting and preserving the history of our nation's veterans. Hearing and collecting these incred-

ible firsthand accounts of U.S. veterans is an unforgettable experience for any student interested in American history."

Educators and homeschoolers are encouraged to explore the TEACH program curriculum and stay informed about new lesson plans on WAA's website at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/teach.

The program offers a comprehensive curriculum tailored for kindergarten

through high school, engaging students with stories of courage and character while emphasizing character development and service projects.

For more information regarding the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, please visit https:// www.loc.gov/programs/ veterans-history-project/ about-this-program/

#### **About Wreaths Across** America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, which was begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's yearlong mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington and thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. To learn how you can join the mission, please visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. About the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States — and extensive materials from around the world — both on-site and online.

It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services, and other programs and plan a visit at loc.gov; access the official U.S. federal legislative information site at congress.gov; and register creative works of authorship at copyright. gov.

#### Continued from page 2A

Palooza," an event designed to showcase the Agriculture program to future students from Piedmont Lakes Middle School. This partnership highlights the continuum of agricultural education within the community, inspiring younger students with opportunities that await in high school.

These activities, rich in community spirit and educational value, exemplify the essence of National FFA Week. They not only highlight the importance of agricultural education in shaping future leaders, but also demonstrate the community's role in nurturing this growth. Through workshops, appreciation events, literacy initiatives,

and thematic celebrations, Apopka's schools are laying the groundwork for a future where agriculture continues to be a cornerstone of the community's identity.

As Apopka prepares to celebrate National FFA Week, the community stands united in its support for the FFA's mission. The special proclamation by the city, along with the schools' initiatives, serves as a beacon of commitment to agricultural education and the development of the next generation of leaders in agriculture.

National FFA Week is a time of celebration, education, and appreciation, and Apopka is proud to be at the forefront of this important observance.

mshollenberger9@gmail.com

# Letter: Inclusive bid process needed

#### Continued from page 2A

plan to diversify investment funds to grow the funds makes sense.

3. Adopt a new policy that helps local businesses, and does not decrease local investment funds. Keeping the old bid opportunity policies of only 3 percent for local preference while continuing to have NO small/minority bid opportunity policies in place prevents the city from keeping pricing competitive and from supporting local businesses. Local, competitive, and qualified businesses should come first and have bid opportunity preference over out-of-state bidders.

The National League of Cities newsletter that came out February 10, 2024, shared case studies of community and city leaders across the nation highlighting equity in their practices when working with, and selecting investment banks, asset managers, and deposit institutions, placing emphasis on these to ensure that the banking teams they work with reflect the residents they serve. "How City Leaders Are Using Public Finance for Racial Equity", S. Pedrosa (1/26/2024). This initiative began in 2020, NLC, February 10, 2024.

Apopka City government needs to adopt an Inclusive Procurement and Purchasing Policy, and operationalize equity for local, small, minority, veteran, women, and disabled-owned businesses.

An equity informed procurement and

purchasing policy is an entry point for city leaders to broaden and memorialize equity practices, while quickly making strides and positive local economic impact through municipal infrastructure projects, and supportive service needs throughout all city departments and projects. On January 12. 2023, private developers building in Apopka pledged to give "Apopkans' building Apopka" a chance, and met multiple times throughout 2023.

The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce supports Apopka operationalizing equity and local inclusive economic development policies for all Apopka businesses. Ask the city to increase local bid opportunity preference from 3 percent to 10 percent and adopt an inclusive procurement and purchasing bid opportunity preference policy. Support the local business community. Join the Chamber for our next Business Expo and Construction/Trades Social, April 18, 4-8 pm. Register on apopkachamber.org

Educate yourself on where local candidates stand on supporting, hiring, and investing locally. Vote March 19. Seat 3.

Candidate, Nadia Anderdon Incumbent, Nick Nesta

Seat 4 Candidate, Darryl Richardson Candidate, Eric Mock

> Cate Manley, President & CEO, Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce

## Hayden: Handicap needs are pricey!

When I returned home to Apopka, I immediately became aware I was in a different atmosphere. Being handicapped is not a cake walk. It is a struggle day-to-day. Being discriminated against because of ignorance is bearable, but being segregated because of disabilities fosters an anger that, if left unchecked, can turn into bitterness and

Moore: Magnolia Park gives choices

#### Continued from page 2A

a spoon, or other objects that would fit in the palm of my hand. I could pick up things with it and although it was handy, the cost for the parts to build that boondoggle (my estimate) was around one hundred dollars. The cost of the assembled prosthesis was eight hundred dollars.

Do not even think about getting a vehicle that is set up to drive with special equipment and accessories to assist you into the interior. A new van with hand controls, in-floor or fold-out ramp, and a transfer seat will roll your britches' legs up to the tune of \$80,000 - \$125,000 according to what amenities you choose. The same vans without handicap accessories would run \$30,000 -\$50,000. If you have doubts

about what I am saying, visit a store that deals only with handicap accessories, but be prepared to be amazed at the items and their prices.

> I was an Ironworker who never needed much help. I could physically handle most things alone, but after an accident that shattered my spine at the neck level, I became as helpless as a baby. I spent three months in the hospital and the rehab center where they tried to teach me how to sit up, use a cuff to hold my spoon or fork and feed myself. More than anything else, they tried to teach me how to cope with my inabilities. While in the rehab hospital in Denver, Colorado, I felt almost normal because everyone I was with had a handicap of some kind, and we enjoyed each other without prejudice.

The feeling of being different is overwhelming and makes you uncomfortable in numerous situations.

self-isolation.

I have thought it over and I have decided that if people who were never slaves can demand reparations from folks who never owned slaves, then I should be able to demand reparations from people who were never disabled.

Whaddya think?

#### Continued from page 2A

the-art age-appropriate play equipment, fall protec-Apopka loop trail. that is tion, shade coverage for the playground, and benches to trip. makes this entire part optimize the experience. of the lake welcoming to I worked closely with all.

Parks and Recreation in designing this inclusive playovernight at Magnolia ground which children liv-Park. Tents and RVs are ing with disabilities can acceptable. All campsites enjoy. For boaters, fishhave fire rings, grills, picing enthusiasts, and those nic tables, lantern hangers, just wanting to enjoy the water, and electricity. Pets views of the lake, there is are allowed if properly rega new boardwalk, fishing istered. pier, and floating docks for This year, the United Nations Environmental

use by all on Lake Apopka. There are new paved walkways, benches for seating, and handicap access to a

map as destinations that are newly renovated pavilion for picnicking and planned worthy of visiting to see effunctions. The nearby Lake fective restoration efforts in person. The UNEP high-14.6-mile/29.2-mile round lights ecological restoration efforts throughout North America, and in February 2023, the UNEP honored You can also camp Lake Apopka when Magnolia Park received recognition as one of the United

> trip destinations. For more information about Magnolia Park, or one of the many beautiful parks we have in the county, visit the Orange County Parks and Recreation website at orangecountyfl.net and click on Parks & Rec, or call 407-836-6280.

Nations' restoration road

#### Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

Program included Magno-

lia Park as one of their des-

ignated sites on their global

Send a letter to the Editor online www.theapopkachief.com

# The Apopka Chief

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The Apopla Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988,

the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address,, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters

#### www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com





#### **City of Apopka**

**Telephone Numbers** 

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

City Hall407-703-1700 Mayor's Office407-703-1701 City Administrator407-703-1649 City Clerk407-703-1704 Community Devel.407-703-1712 Code Enforcement407-703-1738 Finance Dept.407-703-1725 Fire (non-emerg.)407-703-1756 Parks and Rec. Dept.407-703-1741 Police Chief407-703-1769 Police (non-emerg.)407-703-1771 Job Line407-703-1743 Solid Waste Collect.407-703-1731 Street Maintenance407-703-1731 Utility Billing407-703-1727 Medical, fire emergency911 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

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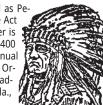
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#### **Other Area** Numbers of Note

#### **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 Bankson407-476-6787 Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45) unknown **State Senators** Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) 407-297-2045 **Orange County Commissioner** Christine Moore407-836-7350 **Orange County Public Schools** Pupil assignment407-317-3233 Bus routes407-317-3800

Superintendent407-317-3200 School Board407-317-3200 Miscellaneous

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# GOP woman's club offering \$2,000 memorial scholarship

The Northwest Orange Republican helping with a campaign. Women Federated (NORWF) is offering the Alice Beth Miner Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

This scholarship is in honor of Alice Beth Miner, a resident of Apopka who was well known for her community involvement and outstanding dedication. This is not a need-based scholarship.

The scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior, full-time undergraduate or graduate college student, and applicants already accepted into or attending an accredited college. Applicants must be registered, or pre-registered Republicans living in Orange County and have demonstrated leadership on campus, place of worship or in the community. Applicants must have participated in the campaign process, either as a candidate (in an organization at school or in the community) or by

The application is online at norwf.org. For more information, email or call Marty Harrison, scholarship committee chair, at 407-493-0471 or email at martyaoii@aol.com. Deadline for accepting applications will be no later than Friday, March 24, with the award presented at the NORWF April general membership meet-

Send completed applications to either NORWF, c/o Marty Harrison, Scholarship Chair, P. O. Box 56, Apopka, 32704-0056 or to Marty Harrison, Scholarship Chair, 1231 Lake Piedmont Circle, Apopka. 32712.

The Northwest Orange Republican Women Federated, a grassroots organization, is dedicated to promoting political, cultural and civic goals in a conservative tradition of individual rights and freedoms.

#### **PHMSA Environmental Review** Notice of Availability

In cooperation with the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, Orange County, Florida, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), has prepared a Tier 2 Environmental Assessment (EA), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, for the proposed replacement of approximately 13.13 miles of vintage steel and vintage plastic polyethylene (PE) pipe in multiple areas of the system with modern polyethylene pipe. PHMSA published a Tier 1 Nationwide EA for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program (NGDISM) on November 9, 2022. The stated purpose of NGDISM is for municipality or community owned utilities to repair, rehabilitate, or replace its natural gas distribution pipeline system or portions thereof or to acquire equipment to (1) reduce incidents and fatalities and (2) avoid economic losses by providing grant opportunities to municipality or community owned utilities. The Tier 1 EA is available at https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/ files/2023-07/Tier-1-PHMSA-2022-0123-0001.pdf. The Tier 2 EA is available for review and comment on the web at https:// www.phmsa.dot.gov/about-phmsa/working-phmsa/grants/pipeline/tier-2-site-specific-environmental-documents and a copy is available at Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, 1320 Winter Garden Vineland Road, Winter Garden, FL 3478. Please submit all comments to: PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@ dot.gov and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-20 in your response. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, PHMSA has issued a No Historic Properties Affected finding which is available for review in the Tier 2 EA. Comments on the Tier 2 EA are due by March 11, 2024.

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# **Code:** 'People okay with more homes as long as they get amenities,' mayor says

#### Continued from page 1A

have been incorporated into the City's Land Development Code by reference to implement the Wekiva Parkway Interchange Plan."

The groundbreaking ceremony for Wyld Oaks was held on January 19. The development will feature several amenities including 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.

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. City Commissioner

Kyle Becker asked that the Wyld Oaks team better prioritize what it would like to see in the form-based code. In reviewing the development team's suggested edits for the form-based code, Becker noticed that many edits were related to density of residential units.

Regarding how the Wyld Oaks team's interaction has been with city staff, Becker said that, "It was pretty daunting when we get a 100 some-odd page document and there's a lot of red lines," Becker said. "So, for me, I'm trying to prioritize what's most important versus stuff that's

down the line that may be administrative in nature or at the bottom where we're

squabbling over maybe the definition of something when there's no clearly defined definition anyway."

During public comment, resident Rogers Beckett thanked the Planning Commission and the City Council for "embarking on this amazing project."

"If these pictures that we saw here can come to Apopka, I think it'd be fabulous, because right now we have to go to these destinations that you guys referenced," Beckett said. "So, if this can be the beacon to where people start to travel our direction, I think it makes it best for everyone. I know it's been a big thing about Fifth Street, but I think this will blow the doors off of that and just kind of open our area up to something that we've all thought would happen."

Mayor Bryan Nelson
said that, to him, the city
commissioners and planning Commission members
want to see Wyld Oaks be a
success because of the potential it could bring to the
Apopka area.

"I think from the public perspective, we'd all also agree that people are okay with higher densities as long as they get the amenities that they want. So, I think there's that, and then obviously infrastructure has been mentioned by quite a few people," Nelson said.

"Then, second, is people are okay with more homes, as long as they get amenities that come with that. I think if we get real heavy residential and very few restaurants and shopping, then people will be less apt to support the project."

Nelson brought up Becker's point about Wyld Oaks prioritizing what it wants in a revised formbased code.

"To Commissioner Becker's point, let's kind of break it down in some different silos. I would like y'all to just get rid of a lot of these red lines, just... that's silly," Nelson said.

Nelson asked the Wyld Oaks team if there is a timeline to submit a formal application. Beninati said he and his team will get back to the city with an answer.

"It's a very, very important question, especially if we're going to use Commissioner Becker's framework," Beninati said. "So, I think we'll need to huddle internally and then come back, put a well-thought answer."



All public/legal notices printed in The Apopka Chief are also loaded to our website: theapopkachief.com as well as to the state-wide Florida Press Association's website: floridapublicnotices.com **Both Websites** have searchable capabilities. The Apopka Chief, 400 N. Park Ave., **Apopka FL 32712** legals@ theapopkachief.com 407-886-2777

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# Apopka High School celebrates Top 10



Apopka High School announced and celebrated its Top 10 graduating seniors for the Class of 2024 on Monday, February 12, at the school. The Top 10 academic students also included announcing the valedictorian and salutatorian. The following are the Top 10 graduating seniors by rank: (1) Thony Ramos (pictured right, with his mother), (2) Elijah Nuebel, (3) Emerson Sheyda, (4) Matthew Nguyen, (5) Samuel Nuebel, (6) Manuel John, (7) Ethan Korkes, (8) Jayson Monks, (9) Daniel McAleer, (10) Emelee Newball.



who is continuing her education.

High school seniors and adult



### Wacky Cornhole Toss will be held February 17

Wacky Cornhole Toss will be held February 17, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., by the People of Wekiwa Springs (POWS) at the corner of Votaw Park (corner lot on Votaw and Thompson roads). The event will bring laughter, friendly competition and community spirit to the neighborhood. Regardless of whether you are a seasoned cornhole player or new to the game, this event is the perfect opportunity to enjoy a few hours of the day outdoors with friends, family and neighbors in the Wekiwa Springs area. Register for the event at wekiwasprings,com/event/pows-cornhole-tourney-2024.



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# **Climb:** Austin's Army has raised over \$10K to support lung health initiatives

Continued from page 1A

continue his legacy."

This Saturday, Gail Duran, alongside friends, family and Apopka firefighters, will return to the Fight For Air Climb as "AFD Austin's Army" to continue Austin's legacy. Together with the support of the local community, AFD Austin's Army has

raised more than \$10,600 to support lung health initiatives. Currently, they are more than halfway to reaching their 2024 goal of \$3,000.

The Lung Association, in collaboration with the Duran family and Apopka Fire Rescue, will honor Austin's memory by presenting the "Fight For Air Climb Austin Duran

Award" to the firefighter who raises the most funds. The honorary award was created in 2023, and the Lung Association has committed to continuing the award each year to keep Austin's memory alive.

The American Lung Association has continued admiration for all of the local firefighters and emergency responders and is thankful for their continued support of the Fight For Air Climb.

Participants can form a new team, join an existing team or register as an individual climber. Registration for the Fight For Air Climb Orlando is \$35 and includes a \$100 fundraising minimum. For more information, and to register, visit climborlando.org.







# Park Avenue Animal Hospital offers helpful hints to protect pets from fleas and ticks

Since 2008, Park Avenue Animal Hospital has been providing a wide variety of services to keep your furry, four-legged friends in the best of health. With cutting-edge technology and the bedside manner of a small-town doctor, they're equipped to handle almost any ailment your pet may face.

weather is just around the corner, it's important to mention the importance of flea and tick prevention. Fleas and ticks don't just cause your pet discomfort through bites, they can also lead to serious diseases. The cost of prevention is always less than the cost of treatment, so make sure your pet is protected.

Flea and tick preventatives are simple, convenient, and effective at see a tick or flea unless



The arrival of warmer weather brings strolls in the park and other outdoor activities. It also marks the beginning of tick and flea season. Ready to care for your beloved pet are Dr. Rubinstein, Dr. Turgai, Dr. Nelson, and Dr. Hinton. Not pictured are Dr. Dworek and Dr. Patty.

pay close attention. If you spot a tick, remove it right away with a pair of fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull directly outward with steady force. Don't forget to disinfect the bite area thoroughly after tick removal.

Your pet may not show symptoms of being bitten by a tick or flea right away. In most cases, you will not actually

Now that warmer the down with your pet, dard veterinary educa- your pets is readily availtion and practice to further their knowledge of animal care to include reptiles, rabbits, ferrets, birds, guinea pigs, and more. Whether it's an annual checkup or a critical emergency, they are prepared to handle any situation.

Fully equipped with diagnostic and surgical tools to meet practically any situation, Park Avenue Animal Hospital can provide reasonably priced medical and sur- help them make the best killing parasites that are your pet has an allergic gical care without sac- decisions for their pets reaction to the bite(s). rificing quality, in a sethealth Only a blood test can ting designed to take the stress out of visiting your vet.

able!

Whether dog or cat, ferret or chinchilla, gecko or bearded dragon, parakeet, or macaw (even the occasional hawk or owl!), at **Park** Avenue Animal Hospital, the goal remains unchanged: to provide affordable healthcare for pets without sacrificing quality medical care, and to provide consistent, reliable information for pet owners a



attracted to your pet.

Tick and flea preventative should be administered year-round starting at 8 weeks of age. Although ticks and fleas tend to show up in the warmer months when more time is spent outdoors, larvae and adults can hide out in a multitude of places, such as other animals, bushes, and shrubbery, as well as in flooring, carpets, and sofas in your home.

Make "tick checks" part of your routine. When you setconfirm an illness was transmitted by a tick or flea.

While dogs and cats are the most popular choice for most pet owners, the doctors at **Park** Avenue Animal Hospital have a special place in their hearts for all animals, furry, feathery, or scaly.

With more than 60 years of combined quality veterinary experience, the doctors have gone well beyond stan-

Routine examinations, vaccines, dentistry, and nutritional and behavioral advice are just some of the services provided by the doctors and staff in a beautiful office that is as comfortable as your own home.

With Park Avenue Animal Hospital's convenient location at 847 N. Park Avenue (Rock Springs Road) in Apopka, affordable help for all

You'll find that the staff at Park Avenue Animal Hospital think of their clients and the people of Apopka as part of their family. They are proud of their community and strive to make sure that everyone feels welcome in their clinic.

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- 439 S. Central Ave. & 5th St.
- Apopka Chief rack,
- 400 N. Park Ave.
- Apopka High School
- Apopka Quick Mart (BP), Hwy 436 & Lake Cortez Dr.
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- CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436
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- Plymouth-Sorrento Rds • Chevron Market, Hwy 441 &
- Roger Williams Rd.
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- (Plymouth)
- 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
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3. In Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirreth up strifes,



but love covereth all ..."? Sins, Beings, Creation, En-

emies

4. Which Old Testament Love, Trust, Marriage,

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kuk, Song of Solomon 5. Where does one find

the phrase "God is love"? Genesis, Nehemiah, Hebrews, 1 John

6. From Hebrews 13:4, what is honorable in all?

Worship

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Truth, 3) Sins, 4) Song of Solomon, 5) 1 John (4:8, 16), 6) Marriage

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# Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

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tomorrow. The eternal things are invariably intangible things like faith, hope and love. These are things which we can give and receive, but which we cannot possess in the way that one might possess a house or a car. Take the long view and focus on the eternal rather than the ephemeral. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18 – Christopher Simon

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# VFW presents community service awards

Awards for outstanding community service were made to first-place candidates in firefighting, law enforcement, emergency management, and high school teaching.

On February 3 candidates gathered with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members and awardee supporters at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building in Apopka for a ceremony and luncheon.

VFW Auxiliary President Alice Boria presented the award to Christy Compton, Dream Lake Elementary School, for Teacher of the Year for VFW 10147.

Police Chief Mike McKinley presented as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the city of Apopka to Brian Kennedy, Jr.

Fire Chief Sean Wyl-



Photo courtesy of VFW Post 10147

Police Chief Mike McKinley (r) presented to Brian Kennedy Jr. (I) as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the city of Apopka at the VFW awards ceremony on February 3 at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building.

Mike Duran, parents of their fallen firefighter Austin Duran, Firefighter, and to paramedic Ryan Hobam presented to Gail and bick, both as Apopka first-

place awardees. Student Essay Awardees Micah Cushman and Jling Chen, who respectively wrote Patriots' Pen

and Voice of Democracy essays, could not attend. Their plaques would be awarded at a later date at the VFW Building.

# Wekiva Paint Out to bring out artists, art

How can paint help the help protect the river for Wekiva River?

The Wekiva Paint Out will show those in Central Florida how from February 26 to March 2. The annual event brings world-class artists to Wekiva Island and Wekiwa Springs State Park for a week of work to capture the beautiful surroundings, all to benefit local organizations that

straight from the easel. future generations.

"Paint Out events are The event is in its 18th always fun, but this one is year. For the week, visispecial to Central Florida and our artists," said Mary tors can stop by the area to watch artists work en plein Weinaug, event organizair, from the boardwalk at er and executive director Wekiva Island to the trails of Keep Seminole Beautiful. "The Wekiva Rivat Wekiwa Springs and even on the river in canoes. er is so unique to us here, They can see completand the artists are inspired ed works in the gallery at by it as their muse. Seeing Wekiva Island or buy them it through their eyes really

shows why it's important to keep the river vibrant."

In addition to watching the work and touring the gallery, visitors can attend several special events throughout the week.

\*Live Auction: 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 28. Guests can bid, and maybe score a steal, in a fast-

See PAINT Page 12A





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

Name:		
Address:		
Phone:	Email:	

# Cook your bacon in the oven and fry your pies on top of the stove

recipe loved by everyone is Old Fashioned Mac 'n from Cheese Muellers. ľve used this very same recipe for years.



From Sally Benton who attended Apopka Memorial High School, graduated in 1968, married and moved to Melbourne (but she still reads The Apopka Chief!), we have Vegetable Medley. This is delicious as I can attest. Sally says she just throws stuff in the pot and is guessing at the amounts, so use your best judgment.

New Orleans Red Beans and Rice looks very tasty. This is Tammy Formby's recipe. She is in Marshall-Dekalb EC (electric company) Alabama Living Magazine.

We have a recipe from Southern Living All-time Favorites for cabbage, onions, and sweet peppers.

Roberta Kluhsmeier's Quiche Lorraine is here for you. It looks like the real thing! I just LOVE quiche, but I never fix it! I must remedy that situation!

Emily Meggett's instructions for oven bacon is so very simple and delicious. She wrote this recipe in her book, Gullah Geechee Home Cooking.

The first time I ever had fried pies was when I was a kid and enjoyed them at a church bazaar in South Carolina. They were so hot, but so good. We thank the Apopka Citizen Police Alumni Association for sharing their recipe for Fried Pies in Sharing Our Finest Cookbook.

#### **OLD FASHIONED MAC 'N CHEESE** FROM MUELLERS

8 ounces (1/2 pkg) Mueller's Elbows 1/4 cup margarine or butter

- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour 1/8 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup croutons

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook pasta for 3 minutes and drain well. In medium saucepan, melt butter. Blend in flour, mustard, salt, and pepper. Gradually add milk and cook until mixture is smooth and bubbly, stirring constantly. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture boils, stirring constantly. Turn heat to low, and simmer 1 minute, stirring constantly. Gradually mix in cheese and stir until cheese is melted. Add pasta; mix lightly. Pour into 2-quart casserole. Top with croutons. Bake uncovered 25 minutes or until temperature reaches 165-175 degrees.

#### SALLY THOMAS BENTON'S **VEGETABLE MEDLEY**

Recipe from Reader of The Apopka Chief and The Planter newspapers 2 or 3 each zucchinis and

- yellow squash
- 2 fresh vine-ripe tomatoes, diced... OR... 1 pint of grape tomatoes, whole...
- OR... a can of diced tomatoes
- 3 slivered garlic cloves Thinly sliced onion
- **Bell pepper**
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- 2 teaspoons basil
- 1 teaspoon tarragon
- 1/3 to 1/2 cup lemon juice 1/2 teaspoon sugar (optional) 1/2 teaspoon salt (to taste)
- Pam Spray (or other cooking spray)

Any other spices you prefer in addition to or as a replacement for the ones suggested here. For instance, some Mexican spices like cilantro, cumin, chili powder, etc., might be fantastic... OR... Italian spices... OR... Asian spices such as Oriental 5-spice, soy sauce. etc.

If you like, add whatever YOU enjoy: green beans, edamame, celery, baby raw spinach, mushrooms, and water chestnuts. Get wild with it!

Sliver the garlic, onion, and bell pepper. Spray them lightly with Pam Spray. Spray a frying pan lightly. Heat pan. Sauté. While they are sautéing, cut squash into small chunks. Squash will cook faster than more solid veggies, so if you're adding broccoli or raw cauliflower, thin-slice them as well and toss in at the end of sautéing.

Turn down heat. Add a tablespoon or two of water to deglaze the bottom of pan and to steam the veggies. Add the herbs and any spices you might want. Add a little salt and sugar to taste, if desired. Add lemon juice. Cover with lid. When the steaming veggies are to your desired tenderness, throw in tomatoes. They don't have to cook.

Preparation time is 30 to 45 minutes.

#### TAMMY FORMBY'S **NEW ORLEANS RED BEANS** AND RICE

MARSHALL-DEKALB EC Alabama Living Magazine 1 pound small red beans, rinsed and soaked at least four hours, or overnight

2 cups Kielbasa sausage,

cut into bite-sized pieces 1 cup cooked ham, cubed 1 large onion, chopped 1/2 cup celery, chopped 3 large garlic cloves, minced 4 cups water (or enough to cover bean mixture) 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme 1 large bay leaf 1 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon pepper 1 teaspoon hot sauce

3 cups cooked rice

Combine all ingredients except rice into slow cooker. Cook 6-8 hours on low, stirring once. Serve over rice. Cook's note: Remove some of the beans and juices just before serving, mash them, and pour back into the pot for a thicker mixture if desired.

#### **CABBAGE-ONION-SWEET PEPPER** MEDLEY

Recipe from SOUTHERN LIVING ALL-TIME FAVORITES

1/2 small sweet red pepper 1/2 small sweet vellow pepper 1/2 small sweet green pepper 2 slices bacon 1 onion, chopped 2 cups shredded cabbage

3 tablespoons white vinegar

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil 1 tablespoon water
- 1-1/2 teaspoons brown sugar 1-1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Cut peppers into 2-inch long thin strips; cut bacon into 1-inch pieces. Cook bacon in a large skillet until crisp. Add pepper strips, onion, and cabbage, tossing gently. Combine vinegar and remaining six ingredients in a jar; cover tightly, and shake vigorously. Add to vegetable mixture in skillet, stirring gently. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat, and simmer eight minutes or until cabbage is tender, stirring occasionally. Serve immediately. Makes 3 servings.

#### **ROBERTA KLUHSMEIER'S** QUICHE LORRAINE Recipe from POT-POURRI of Zell-

wood – RECIPES & REFLECTIONS 1983 The Zellwood Community Center,

Zellwood, Florida

1 9-inch pie shell, unbaked 1/2 pound sliced bacon 1-1/2 cups (6 ounces) grated

#### Swiss cheese 1 small onion, chopped fine 3 eggs

1 cup heavy cream

- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground pepper 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- Dash of cayenne pepper

Fry bacon until crisp. Drain and crumble into pie shell. Sprinkle cheese over bacon. Cook onion in bacon fat until golden. Drain. Place on top of cheese. Beat remaining ingredients together and pour into shell. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes or until firm.

#### EMILY MEGGETT'S **OVEN BACON**

Recipe from Gullah Geechee Home Cooking by Emily Meggett

12 slices thick-cut bacon 1) Preheat your oven's broiler to 500 degrees Fahrenheit, or its high-

est setting. 2) Arrange the bacon in a single layer in a rimmed baking pan and place it on the highest rack in your oven. Broil until browned on one side, about 2 minutes. 3) Turn the bacon and brown the other side. Watch the bacon closely. It will cook quickly, about 5 minutes total. 4) Remove from the oven and place the bacon on a paper towel to absorb the excess grease.

#### FRIED PIES

(FROM OLD PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH COOKBOOK) Recipe from Apopka Citizen Police Alumni Association, Sharing Our Finest Cookbook 2 cups sifted flour

#### 1 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup shortening

1/3 cup cold water

#### Sweetened sieved fruit (dried apricots, peaches, prunes

or thick applesauce)

Sift the flour and salt together. Cut in shortening with pastry blender or two knives until pieces are size of small peas. Gradually sprinkle water over mixture, mixing lightly with a fork after each addition. Add only enough water to hold pastry together. Roll out dough on a floured surface about 1/8-inch thick. Cut out 4-inch rounds. Spoon 1 tablespoon sweetened fruit onto each round. Moisten edges with water. Fold into semi-circles.

Fry in deep fat, heated to 365 degrees. Fry about 3 minutes or until light golden brown; turn pies during frying. Remove from fat; drain on absorbent paper. Makes 1 dozen pies.

#### FEBRUARY 2024 WEEKLY UPCOMING ONGOING EVENTS $\star$ $\star$

SCHOOL STARTS UP: JANUARY 8, 2024 Traffic patterns changed. Stormy weather comes and goes Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those pedes

and ducks. DON'T TEX

trians

FRAN CARLTON CENTER OPEN, for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center CALL 407-703-1642 FOR INFORMATION

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20** 

THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 11:30-noon, at Beef 'O'

rewards. Each Thursday weigh-in bepublic and will also be broadcast gins at 9:00 a.m. - meeting ends at on this shortened link: https://bit. 10:15 a.m., Come to its NEW location lv/2ABrmsb, and are normally held 220 W. Horatio Avenue, Maitland, FL the first Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and 32751 to meet with others who have third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the City Brady's in The Back Room, 1410 a like-minded goal to lose weight. No Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E.

afternoon. For more information, go to www.theapopkamuseum.com.

> THE APOPKA ELKS LODGE 2422 meets first and third Tuesdavs of month 201 W Orange For more in-

Rock Springs Rd., Apopka. Interest- products, no specific diet to follow, no Main St., Apopka. Subject to change WHILE DRIVING - Please! YOU FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 formation, call 407-886-1600 or email WILL PAY A FINE. ed communitiv members are encourmeds. Call 407-580-0897 for more with notice. For info., call City Clerk apopkaelks@aol.com Bar Bingo ev-407-703-1704. Agenda and minutes ery Monday night at 7 p.m. promptly. ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, FRIDAYS aged to attend and get acquainted. information. of meeting can be found online. Once at 9:00 a.m. at 11 N. Forest Ave., at Children must be five years old on or Meetings have resumed on first and the Fran Carlton Center.. Call 407third Tuesdays. Masks are encour-MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open posted, check for any revisions by GFWC APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB, before September 1 to start kinder-703-1642 for information. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fri-Tuesday at 5 p.m. before the meeting meets at First United Methodist garten. To enter first grade, a child aged must be six years old on or before days, 12 noon-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 Church, 201 N. Park Avenue. Call September 1 and must have suc-CENTRAL FL CHRISTIAN CHAM-SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E Fifth St. 407-703-FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF AP-407-880-2111 for more information. BER OF COMMERCE, 1806 S Bay OPKA, meets the first Thursday of cessfully completed kindergarten a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave. at Fran Carl-1642 for info. CITY OF APOPKA PLANNING & (Florida Statute 1003.21). Immuniza-St., Eustis, has Fellowship Friday ton Center. Masks not required while each month, September through May, EARLY BIRD BINGO at Bahia Shrine meetings. For complete details of at 10 a.m. at the Billy Dean Commutions must be current. exercising, but are when socializing ZONING - usually the second Tuesall chamber events, visit cfchristianbefore and after class. Temperature Center, 3101 E. Semoran Blvd. nity Center at Alonzo Williams Park, day of the month. 5:30 p.m. City taken on entry. Pre-register. Call UNLESS CHANGED: School Start chamber.com/events-chamber.Con-225 M.A. Board St., Apopka. Contact: Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the early Times for Elementary School & K-8: tact: latrondra@cfchristianchamber. bird game starts at 6 p.m. For more 407-703-1642 for info apopkafgca@gmail.com Main St., Apopka, All meetings open 8 a.m., Middle School: 9:30 a.m., com information, call 407-660-8811. to the public. Subject to change with ART CLASS. 9:30-12 noon. Fran TOASTMASTERS: still meeting ev-FREE PLANT CLINIC in Apopka notice. For info., call David Moon, High school: 7:10 a.m. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. ery WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 is open on Tuesdays. Do you have 407-703-1739. NATIONAL FFA WEEK BEGINS City of Apopka's Northwest Recre-Masks required. Temperature taken. problems with your plants or lawn? p.m., by zoom. For more information, call 407-765-2629 or visit www.Apopation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwelley AND ENDS FEBRUARY 24 Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for Let a Master Gardener help. Orange BRIDGE GAMES AND CLASSES: Every Monday and Friday morning at County residents can bring their Parkway, Apopka 32712, 407-703 katoastmasters.com. VFW POST 10147 continues to have questions and samples to UF/IFAS 9:15 a.m., at the Lake County Dupli-1784. On any given weekend, you can see many, many families in atits fund raising breakfast on the the WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 Extension Master Gardener voluncate Bridge Club, 510 W. Key Ave., tendance at the beautiful complex third Saturday of the month on FEBteers at the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Re-Eustis. For more information, call setting participating in various orga-RUARY 17, from 8-10 a.m. at 19 S. The Altamonte Springs / Apopka SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 search Education Center (MREC), 352-315-9934 or visit lakeduplicate. nized sport programs, Amenities at Central Avenue. Cost is only \$7. VFW POST 10147. is NOW OPEN a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran 2725 Binion Road, Apopka, 32703; com. Wednesday and Saturday Mornings 9 a.m.-12 Tuesdays; 407-254-9200. the complex include: Soccer Fields, Carlton Center. Masks not required MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Satur-day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E. FIFTH COMPUTER CLASSES in both Eng-Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, from (TIME CHANGE) 8:00 to 10:00 while exercising, but are when so-Questions and photos to can be Multi-Purpose Fields, Sand Volleyball a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. (other cializing before and after class. Tememailed to orangecomgy@ifas.ufl. lish and Spanish: Available daily STREET, APOPKA. Managed by perature taken on entry. Pre-register. or weekly at OCLS North Orange Courts. Outdoor Basketball Courts. edu, to be answered by Master Garhours by appointment only). 3rd Sat-Tennis Courts, Walking Trail, Am-Apopka Historical Society. Call 407urday of the month is VFW's fund-Call 407-703-1642 for info. Branch.\* Classes are: Computer Badeners. A free plant clinic for comraising breakfast, Also, evenings mercial growers is open Tuesdays sics, Excel, Word Resume Writing, phitheater, Playground, Concession 703-1624 for info. ROTARY CLUB OF APOPKA - For Email for Seniors, ELLIS English Lab, of Tribute music are planned. Call 1-4 p.m. at the same location. Stands. AVIAN RECONDITIONING CEN-407-889-8266, or email info@vfwinformation, call 407-415-6588. Call Word, Online Job Searches, Power TER, for birds of prey, 323 Lester KIWANIS CLUB OF APOPKA IS now Point, Internet, Open Lab, How to 11-mile wildlife drive (complete with post10147.com for information. The for updated information on meetings meeting MONTHLY on the 3rd Tues-Rd., Apopka, hours: 9:30-1:30 p.m., directional signs) (opened in 2015) VFW Auxiliary has been formed and and location. use a mouse and keyboard, etc. Call on Lake Apopka shores, by enter-The center is open on Saturdays to is active as well. Don't forget to visit day at 8 a.m. at Seacoast Bank, 345 OCLS North Orange Branch\* for more the public, weather permitting. Call ing from Lust Road off Binion Road, its excellent Military Museum. MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open E Main Street, Apopka. Contact 407details. about a mile south of Camp Wewa 407-461-1056 for information from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, 464-4606 for information in the Plymouth area, for one-way ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays HABITAT VOLUNTEERS: Go to SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 drive, 10 miles per hour, with pos-11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlfrom 9 a.m.-noon. 120 E Fifth St. Call BROWN BAG LUNCH - Third Satwww.habitatseminoleapopka.org, 407-703-1624 for info. sible wildlife spotting stops. DO ton Center. Masks not required while urday of each month, Episcopal click on volunteers. There are a num-**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19** NOT FEED THE GATORS - IT MAY exercising, but are when socializing Church of the Holy Spirit at the corber of opportunities available at the ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., Restores. Call 407-696-5855 or 407-CAUSE CLOSING OF THE TRAIL ner of Highland and 6th St., Apopka, before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call FITNESS CLASS, MONDAYS 9-10 880-8881 to sign up for information. If you are stopping, drive will take 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlfrom 10 a.m.-12 p.m., offer to all who more than 1 hour. Drive runs by caa.m. 11 N. Forest Ave at Fran Carl-407-703-1642 for info.. ton Center. Masks not required while come a brown bag lunch. In addinals used in muck-farming days. The tion, men's socks, flip flops, stuffed ton Center. Masks not required while (OCLS) Orange County Public Liexercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature one-way drive exits on Jones Road in exercising, but are when socializing SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 10-11 animals, some clothing, children's brary North Orange Branch Address: Zellwood. You will see a freshwater before and after class. Temperature a.m., Billie Dean Community Center, taken on entry. Pre-register. Call books and pet food which is donated 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 407-703-1642 for info. marsh system and wildlife dependent taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 225 M.A. Board St., . Masks not reby My Pet World, Apopka, may be 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. 407-703-1642 for info. on that type of system. The drive is quired while exercising, but are when available. If interested in volunteerwww.ocls.info. To reserve a space, open on Fridays, Saturdays and socializing before and after class. **UPCOMING EVENTS**4 ing, call Debbie at 407-620-5081 for call 407-835-7323. The library is now Sundays and federal holidays and is CRAFTS & CHATTER: 9:30-12 Temperature taken on entry. Pre-City of Apopka election for Seats 3 open again Mon-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 information. controlled by the county. Open during noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forregister. Call 407-703-1642 for info and 4 of City Commission on Tues p.m.. and Sunday afternoons daylight hours only (one hour after est Ave.Masks required. Tempera day, March 19, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. APOPKA FOLIAGE TOASTMAS-CITY OF APOPKA DRC (Develop-\*Apopka Area Chamber of Com-merce, 180 E. Main St., Apopka. For sunrise and one hour before sunset). ture taken. Pre-register. Call 407-TER'S CLUB, Monday, 7 p.m., on Official sunrise and sunset hours can 703-1642 for info. ment Review Committee) meets ev-Saturday nights Saturday Sounds at Zoom, Apopka. 407-765-2629. more info, call 407-886-1441 be found online. ery Wednesday at 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (or Apopka Amphitheaer, 3710 Jason The road is closed on other days due OVEREATERS as long as necessary) at City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka. Check Dewlley Parkway, 5-7 p.m. Free. ANONYMOUS NWOC FFA Alumni - Monthly meetmeets Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Episcoings (usually the 4th Monday evening COMMUNITY EVENTS to ongoing restoration work. The trail pal Church of the Holy Spirit, 601 S. VFW Post 10147 has fund raising CALENDAR INFORMATION for the online version. in a month during the school year) are is 11 miles long. breakfast Saturday, February 17, Highland Avenue. If you have a prob-Events, fund raisers, open to anyone. (Looking for more in-2024 8-10 a.m., 519 S. Central Av-WEKIWA SPRINGS STATE PARK lem with food - overeating, anorexia, BRIDGE CLASS. 9:30-12 noon. Fran formation) and non-profit organizations enue. Cost is \$7. is a 7,000-acre Florida State Park in bulimia - there is a solution for you. Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Send info: fax 407-889-4121, or For more information, visit OA.org or email ads@theapopkachief.com Apopka, Florida. It is located 20 min-Masks required. Temperatures tak-MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, 122 E en. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 utes north of Orlando, off Interstate call Carrie 781-867-1071. ONGOING EVENTS 5th Street, Hours open: Wednesay to Subscribe to The Apopka Chief 4 at exit 94, near Altamonte Springs Florida Railroad Museum, 101 S. E-Edition or Home Delivery for info. Friday. from noon-5 p.m., and Saturand Longwood. The park also con-TOASTMASTERS: Forest Lake Boyd Street, Winter Garden, is open Call 407-886-2777 or days from 9 a.m.-1 p.m... Admission tains the head water of the Wekiva Church by Zoom. Time: 7 p.m., TOPS CHAPTER #646. (Take Off Tuesday-Saturday, 11-3 each week is free. Contains displays and infor-Visit www.theapopkachief.com River. Address: 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Open to everyone interested. For Pounds Sensibly), TOPS, a non-profexcluding holidays. For info, call 407mation about Apopka's history, and In County: \$30 with E-edition, or Apopka 32712, open from 9 a.m.-5 information, call 407-761-2943. Club it organization, will help you reach a 656-0559. . Must see. has history books for sale. Monthly \$25 for just postal delivery. Out-of-County: \$35 with E-Edition or Number: 4899556. District 84, Area p.m. For information, call 407-884weight goal with support from friendmeetings of Apopka Historical Socily, caring members, education, and CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS are 4311 D42. Orators of Excellence ety are normally held on a Sunday \$30 for postal delivery



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# Sertoma Club seeks nominees for award

The Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka is currently seeking nominations for its annual Apopka Proud Service to Mankind Award. The club invites and encourages all of the local civic groups, organizations, churches and individuals to submit nominations. All entries must be received by Friday, March 22.

Submit a completed nomination form with a \$20 entry fee to: Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka, P.O. Box 718 Apopka, 32704. Forms and fees can also be emailed to Bev Winesburgh at bwine@earthlink. net. One doesn't have to be a member of an organization to nominate or to be nominated.

All nominees will be announced in The Apopka *Chief* newspaper on Friday, April 5. All entrants will also receive a certificate acknowledging their service. One Service to Mankind winner will be chosen from all eligible entries. The nominees will be honored and the winner will be announced at an awards

dinner on Wednesday, April 10. The winner will also receive \$250 to donate to the cause of their choice.

Email info@foliagesertoma.org to obtain a nomination form. For more information, contact Lorena Potter forevrbzy60@ gmail.com or Bev Winesburgh at bwine@earthlink. net.



Continued from page 10A

paced, traditional art auction.

\*Evening Nocturne Painting and Pasta Bar: 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 1. Watch the artists paint around Wekiva Island at night and enjoy a special meal for \$14.95.

\*Quick Draw competition: Noon to 2 p.m. Sat-

Wekiva Wilderness Trust. can paint alongside the pros, and maybe take home

\*The All-Inclusive Gala: 6 to 10 p.m. Satur- Lobster, Certified Finanday, March 2. Celebrate the cial Group, Wells Fargo week of art with a special meal, drinks, live music and more. \$50/person and Gallery CERO, Seminole \$90/couple.

Proceeds from the event benefit Keep Sem-

Sponsors for the event a prize. Registration is \$30. are Nütrl, VJ Publications, Christner's Prime Steak &

Advisors, Without a Paddle Café, Wekiva Island, State Foundation and Flor-

ida Park Service. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses, and individuals can become patrons to receive

urday, March 2. Amateurs inole Beautiful and the art credits and tickets to private events.

> Wekiva Island has been hosting the Wekiva Paint Out since 2009. The event supports the Seminole County business' mission of art, education and sustainability.

> For more information about Wekiva Paint Out, visit wekivapaintout.com.

For more information about Wekiva Island, visit wekivaisland.com/.



#### SUDOKU ANSWERS **PUZZLE CAN BE** FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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





