

Car show

Beautiful day for a car show and fair in the park. See page 6B.



Sports

APK Baseball defeats Dr. Phillips 6-5 in overtime. See page 1B.



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Friday, March 15, 2024 / 50 cents



Children enjoy a ride at the Apopka Fair, held March 7 through March 10 at Kit Land Nelson Park.

23rd Apopka Fair has advantage of good weather for its 96 hours

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief

The tradition of capturing Apopka’s cultural essence via the Apopka Fair and for a special 96 hours began Thursday, March 7.

Held at Kit Land Nelson

son Park every year, the fair is organized by the Rotary Club of Apopka and with the city of Apopka’s support.

“First and foremost, logistical aspects of a fair were met during the weekend,” Past President of Apopka Rotary Chris De-

Clue said. “No changes to the original overall plan were needed though. Temperatures were not as high as in previous years, but the sun was out and clear skies for the majority of the weekend. Weather was

See FAIR Page 5A

Street sign dedicated to fallen firefighter Austin Duran

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The city’s first responders and Austin Duran’s family gathered along with community members to dedicate a street sign to the fallen city firefighter/emergency medical technician on the morning of Saturday, March 9, at the northeast corner of South Park Avenue and Fifth Street.

The Saturday street dedication was the first addition to the Service Heroes Street Dedication Program since it launched in October 2022, when, at that time, Apopka streets were



Michael Duran mounts the newly unveiled street sign dedicated to his son Austin Duran, a firefighter and EMT for Apopka Fire Station No. 1.

See SIGN Page 8A

City Council Seats 3 and 4 candidates’ campaign contributions

The following list is of contributions received by the candidates for the Apopka municipal election that will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

This list covers contributions made during February 17-March 1.

Two of the five seats on the City Council will be on the ballot.

All of the contributors are from Apopka unless otherwise noted.

SEAT 3

Nadia Latoya Anderson

Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan

Hezekiah Bradford-\$200.-C

Bayyinah Jackson-\$500.-C

Richard King-\$100.-C

Roderick Love-\$200.-C

Scott Patrunick-\$1,000.-C

Derek Jones Nelson-\$100.-C

Ronnie McCarrell-\$100.-C

Howard Gumbs Jr.-\$100.-C

See RACE Page 12A



The street sign dedicated to fallen firefighter Austin Duran is at the northeast corner of South Park Avenue and Fifth Street, close to Fire Station No. 1.

Historic trail opens, ties into a lost town and Kelly Park

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The Historic Ethel Trail was officially launched with a ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 9, coinciding with the East Lake Historical Society’s 10th annual Heritage Festival that was held at Rock Springs Run State Reserve in Sorrento.

The trail’s ribbon cutting ceremony was followed by guided walks along the 1.5-mile wheelchair accessible loop and tram rides for the mobility impaired.

The Historic Ethel Trail winds through the heart of what was once a sprawling post-Civil War township at Rock Springs



Community and Wekiva Wilderness Trust leaders cut the ribbon to Historic Ethel Trail, a 1.5-mile loop that winds through the heart of what was once Ethel, a sprawling post-Civil War township at Rock Springs Run Reserve.

Run State Reserve with a station, store, post office, cemetery and one-room school. Twelve interpretive panels along the trail’s way describe the history of Ethel and what life was like back then.

“So not only are we having the 10th Annual Heritage Festival here, courtesy of the East Lake Historical Society, but it’s also the official opening of the Ethel Trail,” said Don Philpott, President of the Wekiva Wilderness Trust, the volunteer nonprofit group that supports the work of the three parks that make up the Wekiva River Basin State Parks: Wekiwa Springs State Park, Lower Wekiwa River Preserve State Park, and Rock Springs Run State Preserve. “Sure, many people know about the story of Ethel. It was a township that thrived here 150 years ago and then vanished,

See TRAIL Page 6A

Commissioner Becker, gas district honored at dinner

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

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

As an annual fundraising event for the Boy Scouts of America, the Golden Eagle Dinner serves as a platform for recognizing community leaders and their achievements. All proceeds from the event go toward the Boy Scouts of America. Becker, who attained

the rank of Eagle Scout in 1996, attested to the importance of youth-focused organizations for a well-rounded youth population in Apopka. Eagle Scout is the Boy Scouts’ highest rank and is a lifetime merit.

“Within our city, and you can attest to it, there are a variety of these youth-focused organizations, but few have been around as long or have stood the test of time like the Boy Scouts of America,” he said. “There are likely millions of anecdotes from Scouts just like me, that are now adults about how scouting has positively impacted



Photo courtesy of Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America

Commissioner/Vice Mayor Kyle Becker (l) and Samuel Davis Jr. (r), retiring CEO/general manager of Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, pose with Pam Jones (c), representative for Congressman Daniel Webster, at the Golden Eagle Dinner organized by the Central Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

See SCOUTS Page 11A

This week Section A Opinion..... 2A Worship 9A Dining & Ent..... 10A Kapers11A Bus. Review 12A Section B Sports 1B Legal ads8-10B Classified..... 10-12B Service Dir..... 12B Find Public Notices Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices OR FloridaPublicNotices.com



Apopka Event of the Week

VFW's fundraising breakfast will be held Saturday, March 16, from 8-10 a.m. at a cost of \$7 for a meal consisting of scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, coffee and water. Plan ahead to shop at the VFW Auxiliary community yard sale to be held on Sat., April 20, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., and from noon to 3 p.m. on Sun., April 21, at the VFW/Community Center, 519 S. Central Avenue.

Quotable

In short, the Bayh-Dole Act does not give the government the legal authority to do what the Biden administration has stated it intends to do.

Guest columnists on why the Bayh-Dole Act should not be changed

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

Little-known law is in danger of being changed by ‘march-in rights’

By Paul Michel and Kathleen O’Malley

The Biden administration may soon gut the Bayh-Dole Act, one of our nation’s most important and impactful laws that also supports nearly \$2 trillion in economic activity.

In 1980, Congress passed the bipartisan act to help ensure that scientific breakthroughs at taxpayer-funded labs — especially at university labs that receive federal grants — would be turned into new, real-world products available to consumers.

Before this passage, universities and other nonprofits that patented discoveries stemming from federally funded research had to turn the patent rights over to the government. And because the government rarely agreed to grant exclusive licenses to those patents, private-sector companies rarely licensed the research and developed it into tangible products. So, it went unused.

The Bayh-Dole Act changed all that by giving universities and nonprofits the ability to retain the patent rights on their researchers’ discoveries, and then grant exclusive licenses to private companies in exchange for royalties. Private — secure in the knowledge that they would hold the only ones holding the licenses — firms began working to commercialize university research.

The legislation has had a seismic impact on our nation’s economy. From 1996 to 2020, technology transfer enabled by the Bayh-Dole Act contributed roughly \$1.9 trillion to America’s economic output, supported an estimated 6.5 million jobs, and helped launch 17,000 startups.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration recently proposed changing how federal agencies interpret it.

Under the proposal, if officials deem the price of an already on-market product “unreasonable,” they can tear up any exclusive patent licensing agreements that were inked between federally funded labs and private companies. Officials could then relicense the patents to other firms, which could presumably create cheaper copycat products.

There is a big problem with this

proposal: It is completely at odds with the spirit and the letter of the statute, which explicitly identifies only four circumstances when federal agencies can “march in” and relicense a patent. But none of the march-in circumstances reference price.

The proposal also directly contradicts Congress’ intent. Senators. Birch Bayh (D-Indiana) and Bob Dole (R-Kansas) made that clear in 2002, when the theory that their law could be used as a back-door price control first circulated.

In short, the Bayh-Dole Act does not give the government the legal authority to do what the Biden administration has stated it intends to do.

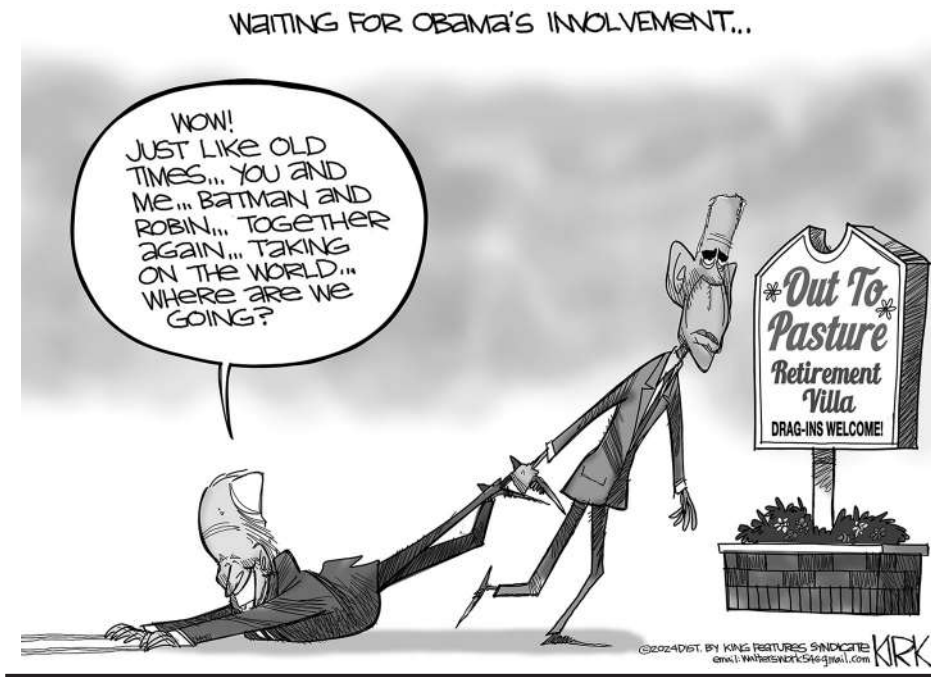
Over the past several decades, multiple administrations, both Republican and Democratic, have recognized this fact and rejected petitions to use the law to control prices. Government agencies have repeatedly concluded that they lack the power to relicense patents based solely on the price of an already developed product. “March-in rights” have never been exercised.

Rival nations would also benefit from this self-sabotage. China, which is increasingly subsidizing domestic innovation and has established its own model of the Bayh-Dole Act, stands to gain from the damage this proposal will wreak on our innovation economy.

For over 40 years, the Bayh-Dole Act has been the pilot light of American creativity.

If bureaucrats seize the power to rip up patent licensing agreements, it will result in fewer life-changing inventions and a less dynamic economy for us all.

Paul Michel served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 1988 to 2010. Kathleen O’Malley served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 2010 to 2022 and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio from 1994 to 2010. Both are board members of the Council for Innovation Promotion. This piece originally ran in the Detroit News.



Best use of public funds is for trees

My third and final in the series on the “Walkable City, 101 Steps to Making Better Places”, will focus on trees. Author Jeff Speck in his chapter on making sure sidewalks are walkable says to put trees almost everywhere. He claims there is not a better use of public funds. And yet, the funding I have in the county available to me for trees is to provide tiny trees given away by the extension service.

Speck wants us to communicate the value of street trees to improve walkability and urban vitality. He claims street trees protect sidewalks. A tight

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

row of trees can almost feel like a wall between the sidewalk and the street. After we planted eight trees along Magnolia Homes Road the number of pedestrians increased dramatically. Now, The People of Lockhart group is working to improve Rose Avenue. The speeding and danger

while walking on Rose Avenue is off the charts. Yet, we do not have enough right-of-way to plant trees. So, the question remains, how will we safely increase walkability on Rose Avenue? I do not know yet, but that is why I ask questions, and read all these various books.

Speck claims tree lined streets aid in reducing crashes. A study on Colonial Drive in Orlando found that the segment with no trees experienced 45 percent more serious injury and fatal crashes. Street trees nicely shape

See MOORE Page 4A

2 District 7 media specialists honored

At this week’s school board meeting, I was given the opportunity to highlight two employees from District 7 that have stood out over the past few months. I chose to highlight two of our media specialists.

If you don’t know, our media specialists have been working extra hard this past year after the implementation of a new state law that requires that all classroom libraries be cataloged and reviewed by a certified media specialist. What this meant is that every book in every classroom in a school had to be inputted and approved.

This task is taking hours upon hours of our media specialists’ time beyond the normal duties they fulfill each day. One of the

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

biggest parts of our media specialists’ jobs is to inspire children to read. If you step foot in any of our media centers at our local schools, you will see that they are doing just that.

In October, I helped launch the Read Around the City competition in all of the District 7 schools, and it went better than we could have imagined. All the schools participated and we surpassed our goal of

one million minutes read and reached two million minutes read in just four months!

That success is in part due to the hard work of our media specialists, and I was honored to highlight two of them Tuesday night.

First was Marley McElroy from Apopka Elementary School. McElroy has worked for OCPS for ten years and has been instrumental in promoting literacy at her school. She makes the media center an inviting space and promotes a reading culture with themed dress-up days and interactive activities.

As part of the Read Around the City challenge, students at Apopka Ele-

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God’s Word

“Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.”
Ezekiel 18:30b

Mema Says

Jealousy comes from counting the blessings of others instead of your own.

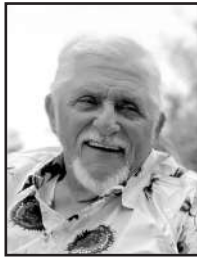
The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 23, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 N. Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County, Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, PO Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.



Teaching always began at an early age about the dangers of handling guns

“There is no such thing as an empty gun!” My dad drummed that into my head every time we would set out to go hunting, clean our weapons, or do anything that included handling our guns, bows, or any of our weapons. That meant never allowing a gun to be pointed at anything or anyone unless you meant to kill them. Another rule was that you had to eat anything you killed, unless it was a critter that meant to harm or eat you!

Most every meal that



Ike Hayden

we sat down to included meat of some kind and about 60 percent of the meat we ate was wild game we had hunted. We butchered a steer every year and two hogs for our use, and

that domestic fare was used to supplement our diets.

I grew up using firearms as a way of life. I received my first rifle when I was eight years old and my hands-on training began before I was allowed to carry a rifle. Dad and my uncle would take me hunting when I turned six-years-old: Not to carry a gun, but to jump up and down on brush piles to run rabbits out, and to scare them out of the corn shucks that were laying on the ground from being beaten down by

the corn binders.

While chasing rabbits out of their hiding places, I was learning about gun safety. When crossing a fence or small creek, one hunter would hold the guns and then hand them to the one who had crossed.

Never fire at a target until you are certain what it is and there is no one behind the target. When walking, always make sure your weapon is pointed toward the ground or up away from anyone walking with you. These lessons were taught

and retaught every time we went hunting, and I was not even aware I was in school.

The main lesson I learned was that a gun is never a plaything. I knew when I shot a deer or any animal, that animal was dead, and it was not coming back. Unlike some of the X-Box, Play-stations, and other game boxes that our children use for “gaming,” a real-life shooting is forever, and never reversible. Oh, we used to play cops and robbers, cow-boys and Indians, and oth-

er games such as those, but we always knew the difference between make-believe and reality.

Some of the games our children are involved with now are so graphic it bypasses the imagination and the visuals cause them to react without thought. The players are conditioned to act in a defensive manner immediately, not even thinking about consequences. In the games on video, guns have become common

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Sertoma Club asks for nominations

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

As of Wednesday, March 13, the Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka received about five nominees for its annual Service to Mankind Award, which recognizes an individual for civic efforts reflecting the club's motto of Service to Mankind.

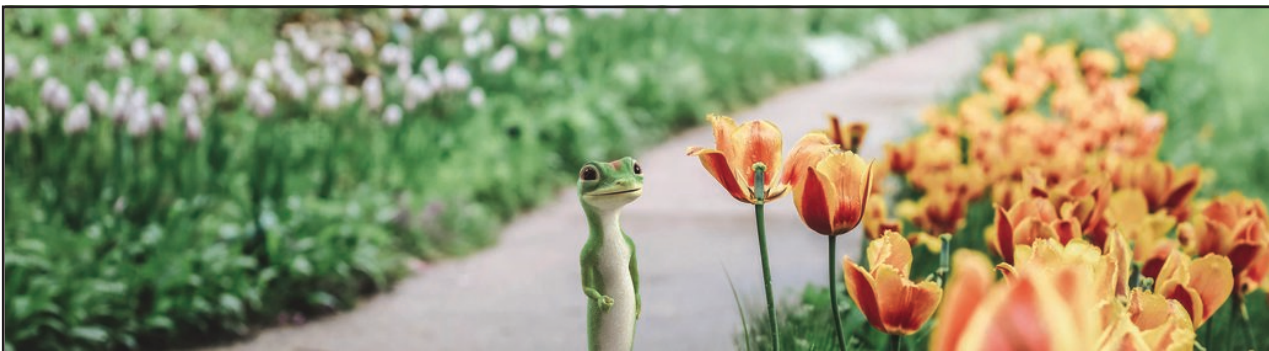
All nominee entries must be received by Friday, March 22. Every year, the club usually gets 10 to 12 nominees, according to Lorena Potter, Foliage Sertoma Club president. As well, the club still has another week to receive nominations, she said.

The club invites and encourages all local civic groups, organizations, churches and individuals to submit nominations.

For over 100 years, the Sertoma Club, nationally, has honored individuals who contribute outstanding, selfless Service to Mankind. The Foliage Sertoma Club is continuing this tradition by searching for citizens who contribute outstanding service to the Apopka area.

The ideal winner is someone "doing something unique or the impact it has on the community and amount of people it affects, sometimes if it's something they've done for years; what we're looking for is the unsung hero that isn't doing it for recognition but just that it's the right thing to do, and we're honoring it," Potter said.

All nominees will be announced in *The Apopka Chief* newspaper on Friday, April 5. All entrants will also receive a certificate acknowledging their ser-



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ARTHUR THE KING (PG-13) 1:40; 4:40; 7:30; 10:20
CABRINI (PG-13) 12:30; 3:50*; 4:10**; 6:40; 10:00
IMAGINARY (PG-13) 1:30*; 1:50** 4:20; 7:40; 10:10
KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) 12:10; 1:10; 2:30; 3:40; 4:50; 6:10; 7:10; 8:30; 9:50
DUNE: PART TWO (PG-13) 12:00; 1:00; 3:30; 4:30; 7:00; 8:00; 9:30
BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (PG-13) 12:50*; 1:30**; 4:00; 7:20; 10:30
KID: THE LEGO MOVIE 10TH ANNIVERSARY(PG) 11:30A**
KID: SHREK(PG) 11:20A**
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Thank you!

Work of commissioner is lauded

Dear Editor:

I say, “Hat’s off” to Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore, District 2.

I read her column in *The Apopka Chief*. I glossed over it at first... “just another politician!” But then, over time, a few things caught my eye, and I have actually become an admirer (although I have never met her).

She really is a hard

worker. She does a lot of research (on her own time, I imagine) looking for ideas to improve the community in ways that don’t cost a lot of money. Encouraging and organizing parties to pick up garbage, which she apparently does herself and even when she is out and about. And reading and learning about how the planting of trees along the rights-of-way not only makes it safer for the resi-

dents and bicyclists as they traverse the sidewalk along the streets and roads, but actually lowers the temperature in the area. (And did I forget to mention the beauty that trees bring to their surroundings?)

Anyway, I appreciate the care and work this lady brings to us by being our commissioner.

March 13, 2024
Nancy Thomas
Apopka

Byrd: Reading space was made fun

Continued from page 2A

mentary read books daily for 15 minutes school-wide from September to January. Thanks to McElroy, Apopka Elementary staff and students read books for more than 220,000 minutes during the challenge making them the top-performing elementary school in District 7.

The second media specialist I highlighted was Sheila Jackson from Wolf Lake Middle School who began her journey with OCPS nearly 30 years ago.

Jackson enjoys connecting with students and improving their reading

mindset. If you ever have the chance to stop into the media center at WLM, do it because it is truly phenomenal. Jackson transforms her media center into a fun space that students love to visit.

During a designated time to read school-wide, Jackson provides books to all kids and even shows them how to access e-books through the school website. She even can be seen giving sweet treats to staff and students when they are caught reading!

Jackson knows how to motivate middle school kids through incentives like treating kids to ice

cream for logging minutes of reading. Her incentives, motivation and hard work paid off as Wolf Lake Middle School’s staff and students logged nearly 350,000 minutes in just four months making them the top school overall in District 7.

I’m so appreciative of all our hard-working school employees who go to work every day and inspire our kids to grow, learn and do great things. I’m especially proud that I got to brag a little this week on McElroy and Jackson!

Thank you both for all you do for our students every day!

Moore: Trees can reduce temperatures

Continued from page 2A

spaces. Remember, people are drawn to places with firm edges. Street trees play a vital role in providing good spatial definition to public spaces. We are getting ready to plant trees along Welch Road abutting Sweetwater West. Their HOA board has been extremely supportive during the septic-to-sewer conversion as well as supporting The People of Wekiwa Springs (POWS) and walkability improvements. The HOA of the Lake Bosse subdivision along Magnolia Homes Road has made all the difference in supporting new trees and tree maintenance. None of these projects are successful without resident support.

In addition to street trees absorbing UV and pollution, they absorb a tremendous amount of car-

bon dioxide. Street trees absorb 10 times more carbon than trees located further from the road. They are also beneficial to reducing urban heat islands. Heat waves are responsible for claiming lives in major urban centers. Trees have been shown to create local temperature reductions as great as 15 degrees Fahrenheit. The federal government claims a single mature tree has the same cooling impact as 10 room size air conditioners operating all day long.

Street trees improve property values. A student from the Wharton School of Business found trees increase home prices by nine percent. Increased values also increase local property taxes available for improvements. The City of Portland (Oregon) says tree investments pay off at a ratio of 12 to 1.

Street trees improve public health. Multiple studies demonstrate regular exposure to trees prolongs life, aids mental health, reduces asthma, obesity, and heart disease. I may have to see about adding some funding in next year’s budget for street trees. I’m convinced.

I enjoy riding bikes with my granddaughters down Wekiwa Springs Road. POWS recently did a fabulous job trimming up poorly maintained trees in front of Clay Springs Elementary School. I am always open to ideas of how to make our areas safer, healthier, and more prosperous. I hope you will join me or one of the community organizations with a creative project, tree trimming, tree planting, or community gathering in 2024. Together, we can make our communities even better.

Hayden: There are no empty guns

Continued from page 2A

place as a means of achieving a reward or prominence in the hierarchy of gamers. Our kids are learning that to be a “big shot” you need to know what weapons are the deadliest, and how to use them in situations we used to settle with wrestling matches, foot races, or other forms of physical strength domination.

Even as 17-year-olds, we never considered carrying a weapon for any reason other than for hunting. As kids growing up at the end of WWII and afterwards, we considered it cowardly to carry a weapon anywhere except on a battlefield.

Today’s world is filled with gang bangers that not only carry guns but seem to have no hesitancy to use them. How they get those guns should be a focus of law enforcement, and then

they should follow the leads like they do for drugs and dealers. Maybe they do, but we never see or hear of that kind of focus on guns like we do for drugs.

I was in class at a college over near Titusville and one of my schoolmates came in and told me my truck bed was open and tools were scattered all over. After excusing myself, I ran outside to find someone had used my tools to break into my truck and had stolen my Mini 14 rifle, my double barrel shotgun, my .38 service revolver, and my CB radio. The police came out, investigated, and eventually found the thief. I asked for my weapons to be returned, but they said they needed them for evidence, and they would notify me after the trial.

I waited two months and then went over to Titusville to retrieve my weapons. When I questioned the

PD, they said they would call me when everything was cleared up. When I left the courthouse, I found that someone had stolen my spare tire from under the back deck of the truck. I never received a call from Titusville, and I never went back. I could not afford it. I did call after about six months passed and was told the weapons were probably destroyed by being melted down. Maybe so, but those weapons were worth a lot of money, and I cannot stop thinking about where they might have ended up.

We need to start teaching our children gun safety, and respect for weapons that can kill or maim our loved ones and others.

We need to teach them the sanctity of life, and the consequences of taking a life.

We need to teach them that there is no such thing as an empty gun!

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The Apopka Chief

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

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



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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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Auto/Boat Tags850-617-2000
Building Dept.407-836-8550
County Mayor407-836-7370
County Commission407-836-7350
County Attorney407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue407-836-3111
Solid Waste407-836-6601
Garbage Collection407-703-1731
Health Dept.407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-836-6200
Property Appraiser 407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative 407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint 407-836-4357
Utilities 407-836-5515
All other departments 407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency 911
www.orangecountyfl.net

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Marco Rubio (Rep.)407-254-2573
U.S. Representative
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Fair: Attendees enjoyed the wide range of choices

Continued from page 1A

of the kind attendees could enjoy what a fair offers.

"Enjoyment and fun are a measurement for success in general. Anticipation was seen on most attendees' faces in the forms of smiles. The weekend was enjoyable. Fun was had all around and on several levels. Most importantly, the end result was steady attendance. A successful fair in the end."

Continuing to move further from the watershed mark of a third decade was the other major theme woven throughout the 96 hours.

"Events held with the intention of reflecting an area for a substantial amount of time are exciting and a blessing to the particular area," DeClue said. "Over the last 23 years the Apopka Fair is a source of pride for the Rotary Club. The bigger pride is for bettering the community through the fair though. The fair for 23 years is not only good for the Rotary Club, but even more so for the city of Apopka and residents.

"Twenty three years have now gone by quickly though. We couldn't deliver a fair once without involvement from other entities, let alone 23. Thanks to all entities who have supported and gotten involved with the fair."

Proceeds from the fair are donated to local charities, service organizations, schools and other community institutions.

"Money raised from the Apopka Fair is put back into the community and city through various entities," DeClue said. "Re-investing funds raised into

the community is the purpose of the fair and was achieved again."

The perfect moment in time was exuded once again. Then culminated during Saturday night in the spirit of the attendees looking forward to it as the night to put aside a long week.

As operating hours extended past sunset, the lights of approximately 30 rides as well as games on the midway illustrated the rich display of warmth Apopka as a city possesses. A half dozen of the rides were making their Apopka Fair debut. Spurred on by the workers' callings, many of the attendees also subsequently tested their physical skills in an attempt to win prizes. The myriad contests provoked the cheers of a community rejoicing in the glow created as a place to raise families.

A variety of people performing different functions worked together to display the combination of an ever-growing, evolving, diversified population. Apopka-specific values rooted in the family were on display and the reason for the high praise from its attendees.

Paradise Amusement provided and operated the midway.

"The number of rides/games Paradise Amusement kept in concert with what has been a standard," DeClue said. "Once again there was a wide range of choices and diversity to enjoy."

Another staple of the fair, and because it is held every year, the car show took center stage on Saturday morning. A total of over 104 cars put their best wheels forward.

Rotarian Donnie Williams presided over the

awards presentation.

Top Ten People's Choice Awards were presented (in no particular order) to Pete Kashmin-1948 Chevrolet Fleetmaster, Scott Garrett-1962 Chevrolet Chevy II, Mark Meck-1968 Chevrolet Camaro, Jeff Quicksell-1924 Star Touring, Jim Johnson-1965 Pontiac GTO, David Heiman-1967 Chevy Camaro, Eric Jones-1972 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, Joseph Fannin-1929 Ford 4-Door Sedan, Robert Modesitt-1964

Ford Thunderbird and Dennis Brubach-1969 Dodge Charger.

AD Trip's 1958 Dodge Custom Royal Lancer won the President's Choice Award.

Qualifications of the Rotarian Lowell Swanberg Award are demonstrating loyalty as well as supporting the Apopka Fair Classic Car Show while personifying the Rotary 4-Way Test, involving things thought, said and done by Rotarians.

The 2024 and 10th Ro-

tarian Lowell Award was presented to James Pfeiffer for consistent participation in the Apopka Fair Car Show.

Returning once again, Butch Johnson of WJBJ Cruisin' with the Classics handled the Master of Ceremony/Deejay duties again this year.

The Beer and Wine Garden continued to be a highly anticipated and featured event after six years. A selection of beers and wine was offered along

with musician Casey Brents' performance on Saturday night.

"Assisting local charities and showcasing the beautiful city of Apopka is very important to the Rotary Club," DeClue said.

One example of assisting multiple organizations is parking lot attendants receive a portion of the fees.

"The effort of those groups who volunteer with the parking area and oth-

See FAIR Page 11A

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In cooperation with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed *Replace 13.13 miles of vintage steel and plastic polyethylene pipelines in Orange County, Florida*. PHMSA has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project, which completes the National Environmental Policy Act process. The FONSI is available to review on the web at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/about-phmsa/working-phmsa/grants/pipeline/tier-2-site-specific-environmental-documents>. For more information about this project, contact the *Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, 1320 Winter Garden Vine-land Road, Winter Garden, FL 34787, custsvc@langd.org*.

Trail: Ethel was forgotten until man discovered headstones

Continued from page 1A

but slowly we're bringing it back to life and hopefully those who want to come on the Ethel Trail walk, as soon as we cut the ribbon, there will be a walk and there'll be a tram ride."

Ethel was lost in history until 2008, when Tony Moore, a retired land surveyor and Wekiva Wilderness Trust volunteer, accidentally discovered two headstones in a remote pasture bearing his last name. Moore's discovery led to a

decade-long research project that has unearthed information about Ethel, a town that thrived between 1870 and 1920, and the 3,000-acre pre-Civil War Delk Plantation, the largest in Central Florida, around what is now Kelly Park.

"The trail is a testament of a rich history (that) winds through the remnants of a post-Civil War township that once thrived in this very spot right down the road," Kirby Smith, chairman of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, told ceremony attendees. "As we celebrate the day, let's reflect on the stories etched in the stones of the cemetery. The lessons and laughter that must have filled the one room school, the vibrant life that once put pulse through Main Street. "If you know me, you know that history is something I'm extremely passionate about, about its teachings and about protecting it. We have got to pro-



This is a stop along the 1.5-mile Historic Ethel Trail, which consists of a placard that gives a historical background of the town of Ethel.

tect our history. Whatever it is, I am confident this trail will inspire the curiosity about our local history, narrating the tales of our predecessors and the struggles that they have to overcome to build this community. I hope the trail fosters a deep appreciation for the roots that anchor us to this remarkable place, a Lake County place, especially for our younger generation who can take this appreciation with them as they grow, understand, and learn."

According to a news release, there are plans to reconstruct two homestead cabins based on a photograph of a one-room cabin

built at Ethel in 1888. One will be a small museum and the other will be furnished sparsely, as it would have been around that time.

Guided tours will be conducted twice a month, but visitors can do the walk themselves with a self-guided brochure available at the trailhead. School groups are also being encouraged to visit to learn more about their local history.

Philpott and Shirley Meade, a founding member of the East Lake Historical Society, co-wrote the book "The Amazing Story of the Lost Town of Ethel." A free e-book is available to download from the Wekiva

Wilderness Trust website at wwt-cso.com.

"Folks know the springs, the rivers, the forest that we have, but we also have the most incredible cultural and historic resources in state parks that the state has," Brian Fugate, assistant director of Florida State Parks, told the audience at the ribbon cutting ceremony. "We tell those stories, we bring forth (stories) that allow folks to come in, see and feel the history that's vibrant in Florida. We are very proud today to open up our newest cultural resource that's open to the public on this Historic Ethel Trail."

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Matthew 25:35*

Sign: Foundation launched in Duran's legacy grateful for honor

Continued from page 1A

devoted to 32 military personnel and one city police officer who died for the nation or in the line of duty.

The program honors the military personnel who have died from 1862 during the Civil War through 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Apopka Police Officer Denson Lee Hudson died in the line of duty in 1941.

Duran's parents, Michael and Gail Duran, and his sister Sierra Duran, were present at the street sign dedication. Michael Duran installed the sign on top of the street sign.

"We have 33 other signs around town honoring people who have served from Apopka, who work lived or played here, went to school here and unfortunately they died in service and we are honoring their lives," community advocate Dr. Phyllis Olmstead said at the dedication. "Austin Duran was the most recent, and this is going to be here hopefully forever. This one was paid for, and is the only one paid for by the city. And we're going to maintain it forever. Every time you drive by here, you're going to see this when you stop at this light or drive by and keep Austin and his family in your prayers

and in your memory and in your thoughts."

Austin Duran, 25, was critically injured at Fire Station No. 1 on June 30, 2022, while trying to move a sand trailer. He died on July 15, 2022 from injuries he sustained that day.

Duran began serving as a fire explorer in high school and joined the fire department in April 2020. In March 2023, he was named the 2022 Firefighter of the Year for the city of Apopka and has been honored on firefighter and EMT memorials around the nation.

The community was welcomed to go to the Apopka Com-

munity Center/VFW Building after the dedication for coffee and donuts and to tour the VFW Post 10147 Military Museum.

In a statement that the 2560 Foundation posted on its Facebook page, the nonprofit expressed gratitude for the street sign dedication. Michael Duran is the founder/CEO of the 2560 Foundation, which honors his son's legacy by providing and promoting training, education and mentorship opportunities for first responders.

"The 2560 Foundation team would like to send our heartfelt thank you to everyone that came out yesterday, to the street sign

dedication in honor of Apopka fallen firefighter, Austin Duran," the statement reads. "A special thank you to Dr O for her dedication and support to put all of this together. Thank you to the Apopka police Chief, commissioners Nick, Kyle and Diane and running for seat 3, commissioner Daryl Richardson and all of the Apopka firefighters and Chiefs that attended.

"The 2650 Foundation aims to prevent these type of ceremonies that will have our first responders the ability to go home to their families at the end of their shift. We are honored and humbled by the support of so many."

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Obituaries

LAURA LEE CRUICKSHANK SKIDMORE COVENEY, 67, was born on March 24, 1956 in Detroit, Michigan. She passed away on February 21, 2024 in Apopka. Laura is survived by: her husband, Paul Coveney; brother, Scott (Kim) Cruickshank; sister, Kim Lynch (Roger); 2 nieces; 3 nephews; 1 great nephew; and doggie Roxy. She is preceded in death by her parents and sister Diane. She is dearly loved and will be missed by her family and many friends.

See Obituary on page 11A

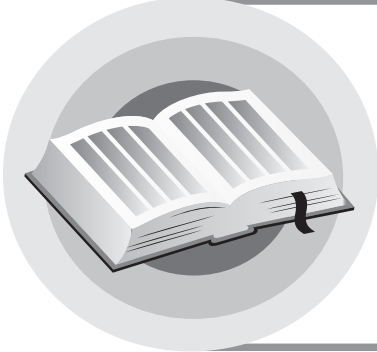




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Of course not all errors are the same. A slip of the tongue rarely causes much harm, whereas slipping on icy pavement or having your car slide off the road threatens more serious harm.

When it comes to moral errors, or sins, as it were, there is a similar

gradation of harm. Cheating at solitaire may cause you to question your own integrity in minor matters whereas cheating on your beloved may cause everyone to question your integrity.

But even in moral matters we should realize that we all make mistakes and should have the same attitude towards these types of mistakes as we do towards mistakes at work or in school. We should be open and honest about them and try to learn from them.

Ask yourselves why you are drawn towards certain sins, and how you can best avoid them in the future. Finally, ask forgiveness of those you may have wronged, and especially ask forgiveness of God.

– Christopher Simon

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

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

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

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

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Errors Are Inevitable

(See message above.)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
1 John 1:9 NIV



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Club: Nominees sought for Service to Mankind Award

Continued from page 3A

From all eligible entries. The nominees will be honored and the winner will be announced at an awards dinner on Wednesday, April 10.

This is the Foliage Sertoma Club's fourth year doing the Service to Mankind Award in this manner. The three previous winners were Linda Laurendeau (2021) for her work in marking veterans' graves in the Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery, Deborah Green (2022) for her help in getting the Apopka wild-life trail going, and Dianne Haubner (2023) for implementing the Jingle Mingle event to benefit the Epilepsy Association.

Past nominees can be submitted for recognition again, but previous winners cannot. Sertoma members are not eligible.


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.

To obtain a nomination form, please email info@foliagesertoma.org. For more information, contact Lorena Potter forevbzy60@gmail.com or Bev Winesburgh at bwine@earthlink.net.

Now Accepting Nominations

Foliage Sertoma

SEARCH FOR A SERVICE TO MANKIND HONOREE



For over 100 years, Sertoma Club, nationally, has honored individuals who contribute outstanding, selfless SERVICE TO MANKIND.

Foliage Sertoma Club is keeping this tradition by continuing search for citizens contributing outstanding service to our area.

It's time we publicly recognize the selfless volunteers who donate so much time, talent and treasure to our Apopka Area every year.

Join us by submitting nominations of individuals you know are deserving of this award by **MARCH 22nd** and attending the dinner celebration with all the honorees and the Mayor at the Fran Carlton Center, 6-8pm on April 10th.

WHO CAN NOMINATE: Nominations can be submitted by Civic Groups, Churches, Youth Organizations, Schools, Non-profits. However, you do not have to be a member of an organization to nominate someone for the award or to be nominated for the award.

NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: FoliageSertoma.org and at The Apopka Chief and The Planter Newspaper office

For more information or to have forms emailed, contact
Bev Winesburgh at bwine@earthlink.net or 407-257-1396.

Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka
PO Box 718, Apopka, FL 32704
FoliageSertoma.org
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

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Fair: Organizers now preparing for this year’s Fall Festival

Continued from page 5A

er responsibilities did a great job and deserve a special thank you,” DeClue said.

New Journey Youth Center, Apopka High School Baseball, Wekiva High School ROTC, Apopka High School Wrestling, Seminole County Sheriff Office Explorers, Apopka High School

ROTC, Evans High School Basketball, United Methodist Men’s group, worked the parking lots.

“The City of Apopka does a wonderful job of keeping the facilities in the kind of condition suitable and in order for putting on the fair,” DeClue said. “Trash pickup and cleanliness of the facility in general isn’t given much thought but has tremendous sig-

nificance.

People want to avoid dealing with an unkempt facility even more than riding the most attractive rides or participating in the most attractive activities. That support received from the city is always appreciated. Area schools’ distribution of the flyers to the students is equally appreciated.

“However, thanks to all the

people, families and sponsors who came out. Attendees are at the very least equally appreciated. There is no reason for the fair in the first place without the attendees.”

The Apopka Chief and *The Planter* newspapers, Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, Waste Management, Primerica, DB DeClue Brothers Insurance Solu-

tions, Williams Construction and Management, First Methodist Church of Apopka, Stephanie’s Pub and Irish Eatery, First Card Merchant Services, Belben Realty Group provide sponsorships.

With the 2024 Apopka Fair now in the books, organizers’ attention turns to the Fall Festival, tentatively scheduled for mid-November.

Scouts: Becker credits Boy Scouts for shaping him as a person

Continued from page 1A

their lives.”

Becker discussed a Baylor University study “Merit Beyond the Badges: Eagle Scouts in Later Life,” which analyzes if participating in scouting and ultimately becoming an Eagle Scout lends to pro-social behavior and positive youth development that carries over into young adulthood and beyond.

According to the study’s summary which he quoted, “when compared to Scouts and non-Scouts,

Eagle Scouts exhibit significantly higher levels of health and recreation, connection, service and leadership, environmental stewardship, goal orientation, planning and preparedness, and character.”

Becker discussed his experience growing up participating in various activities including the Boy Scouts. He attained the Eagle Scout rank in 1996.

“This organization laid a strong foundation for me to achieve the successes I’ve made professionally, politically, and most im-

portantly, as a family man and a citizen of the community,” Becker said. “On my resume, my Eagle Scout rank is the first listed under honors and accomplishments, and it was printed with pride on my palm card when I campaigned for office. Not that it ensures any outcomes, because it doesn’t, but more it gives indication about the person I campaign on, one with sound character and firm commitment.”

Becker was first elected to Apopka City Council in 2016 and has served

for eight years. Becker has been vice mayor since 2022.

“Since then (2016), the City of Apopka has seen and is still seeing tremendous growth. Kyle takes great pride in his prudent and principled decision making on behalf of Apopka residents,” a press release about the Golden Eagle Dinner says.

In addition to his City Council duties, Becker is the board chair of Quest, Inc., a regional nonprofit that serves individuals with developmental disabilities;

was vice president of the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District Board of Directors, having served from 2018 to 2022; and now chairs the First Methodist Church of Apopka’s Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Lake Apopka Natural Gas District

See SCOUTS Page 12A

Rep. David Smith to speak at NORWF on March 21

The Northwest Orange Republican Women Federated will present guest speaker, Florida State Representative David Smith on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at The Hilton Garden Inn Apopka City Center, 580 E. Main Street, Apopka, FL 32703.

Representative David Smith graduated from Texas A&M University in 1982 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine

Corps through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program. His military career as a UH-1N helicopter pilot is highlighted by over 4,500 accident-free flight hours and six overseas deployments, including a combat tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After 30 years of service, David retired from the Marine Corps at the rank of Colonel. and has been serving Seminole County in the Florida House of Representatives since

2018, with subsequent re-elections in 2020 and 2022. He has worked in the private sector of Central Florida’s Simulation & Training industry for the last seven years and currently owns a business consulting company.


Representative Smith remains actively engaged in his community through local non-profits, veterans’ groups, and as a Paul Harris Fellow with the Rotary Club of Winter Springs.

Representative Smith

is a life-long Republican.

Lunch meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please arrive by 11:15 a.m to register. Cost of Buffet Lunch is \$25 with reservation and \$30, at the door, without a reservation. There is limited seating, so make your reservation now.

For more information and reservations, contact Marty Harrison at 407-493-0471 or martyaoii@aol.com. Reservations can be made on-line at www.norwf.org



Laura Lee Cruickshank Skidmore Coveney

Laura Lee Cruickshank Skidmore Coveney was born on March 24, 1956 in Detroit Michigan, passed away after a valiant fight with cancer on February 21, 2024 in Apopka Florida.

Laura is survived by her husband Paul Coveney, her brother Scott (Kim) Cruickshank, her sister Kim Lynch (Roger), 2 nieces, 3 nephews, her great nephew and her much loved doggie Roxy. She is preceded in death by her parents and sister Diane. Laura had a zest for life. She loved sunshine and the beach with blue skies and sunny days. When not at the beach she enjoyed her porch and pool. She looked forward to fall and Halloween decorating along with NAS-

CAR racing and watching FSU football. Christmas time meant decorating with Santa. She enjoyed entertaining and being with her friends who were like family to her. Laura loved boxer dogs. Roxy was her 4th and brought her much joy. She shared her Boxer passion with others and participated in many online Boxer groups. She is dearly loved and will be missed by her family and many friends. A celebration of her life will be on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the VFW, 4444 Edgewater Drive, Orlando, FL 32804 from 1 to 5. Laura loved the color blue, if you would like, wear blue in her honor. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations to be made to the American Cancer Society in her memory.

Read the recipe for Dirt Cake, see what ‘pan’ you use to create it

Janet Ustler contributed her recipe for Cavatini to *Treasures and Pleasures* cookbook. We have it for you, and it looks wonderful. It will work for a one-dish meal with maybe a salad on the side.

From *Stew-Pot Favorites of Zellwood*, we have a pork chops recipe from Sue Parkhurst. It is cooked on your stovetop. You can have a complete meal with some broccoli or nice salad on the side.

From a Summerville, SC, reader, we have Isabel Beach’s Salmon Patties. It is very simple and very good. You can add a pot of grits and a vegetable and enjoy a wonderfully simple and delicious meal.

From Caroline Greene in *Feeding the Flock*, we have Carrot Souffle. We appreciate all our friends who contribute their favorite recipes and agree to share them with the community.

Betty Land’s Creamy Onion-Potato Soup will make your day! This is another *Treasures and Pleasures* recipe. This cookbook happens to be my personal favorite.

Oh, this sounds yummy. Dirt Cake! Your kids will go wild for this dessert simply based on its name. Bev Bray contributed the recipe to *Treasures and Pleasures* cookbook. It says to prepare in a clean clay flower pot. (I just might be tempted to use a glass or porcelain bowl instead!) It isn’t baked. Bev doesn’t say, but I would place this concoction in the refrigerator for a few hours prior to serving. I looked up other dirt cake recipes online and they say to cover the cake tightly with storage wrap and store in the refrigerator for up to four days. They don’t recommend freezing it as the cream cheese layer may separate as it thaws.

JANET USTLER’S CAVATINI

Recipe from 1990 Presbyterian Women First Presbyterian Church of Apopka, *Treasures and Pleasures* cookbook



- 1-1/2 pounds hamburger or ground chuck
- 2 medium onions, to taste
- 1 bell pepper, to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Garlic powder to taste
- 1 (3.5-ounce) jar sliced mushrooms, drained
- 3-1/2 ounces pepperoni (heated)
- 1 cup twisted macaroni
- 1 cup seashell macaroni
- 1 cup rigatoni noodles
- 2 cups Mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup Cheddar cheese
- 1 or 2 (14-ounce) jars pizza quick sauce

Brown meat, onion, peppers; season to taste with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Add mushrooms; then add pepperoni (heat). Cook macaroni and noodles according to package directions. Layer noodles; add small amount of pizza sauce over noodles. Cover with grated cheese and meat. Alternate until everything is gone. Bake at 350 degrees to melt cheese.

SUE PARKHURST’S SUPREME PORK CHOPS WITH RICE

Recipe from *Stew-Pot Favorites of Zellwood*

- 4 pork chops, 1/2-inch thick
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper or paprika
- 1 tablespoon hot shortening
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup finely cut celery
- 1 envelope dried onion soup mix
- 4 ounce can mushroom stems and pieces
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk (small can)
- Serve with 3 cups cooked rice

1) Sprinkle 4 lean pork chops with 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper or paprika. Brown chops on both sides in 1 tablespoon hot shortening in a 10-inch skillet over medium heat. 2) Drain off drippings. Stir in 3/4 cup water, 1/2 cup finely cut celery, and 1 envelope dried onion mix. Cover and cook over low heat for 30 minutes, or until chops are tender. 3) Stir well, 4 ounce can mushrooms into 1/4 cup flour. 4) Take skillet off heat. Move chops to one side. Stir

the flour mixture, 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes, and 2/3 cup evaporated milk into liquid in skillet. 5) Stir over high heat until steaming, but DO NOT BOIL. Serve with 3 cups cooked rice. Serves 4.

ISABEL BEACH’S SALMON PATTIES

Recipe from Reader of *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter* Newspapers

- Olive oil for frying
- Small can salmon, undrained
- 2 slices white bread, crumbled
- 1/2 medium onion, minced
- 1/2 tablespoon flour
- 1 egg
- Salt and pepper (to taste, as needed)

Tear up bread into small pieces. Combine with other ingredients. Mix well, so as to crumble bread, plus keep the juice along with the salmon. Pour about 1/4-cup olive oil in frying pan. Form soft patties, three at a time, to fry slowly on medium heat, turning once carefully, making sure they don’t break apart. Then raise heat just a tiny bit more than medium. Serve hot.

CAROLINE GREENE’S CARROT SOUFFLE

Recipe from New Vision Community Church’s *Feeding the Flock*

- 1-3/4 lb peeled carrots, cut into medium size pieces
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 1-1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla
 - 2 tablespoons flour
 - 3 eggs, well beaten with electric mixer
 - 1 stick butter or margarine
 - 1 teaspoon confectioners’ sugar
- Boil carrots until tender; drain well and place in large bowl. While carrots are still warm, add sugar, baking powder, and vanilla. Beat with mixer until smooth. Add flour and mix well; add whipped eggs and beat well. Add margarine and beat well.

Pour mixture into 2-quart baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until top is light golden brown. Sprinkle lightly with powdered sugar.

BETTY LAND’S CREAMY ONION-POTATO SOUP

Recipe from 1990 Presbyterian Women First Presbyterian Church of Apopka, *Treasures and Pleasures* cookbook

- 2 medium sweet Spanish onions
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 large potatoes, pared and cut in quarter-inch slices
- 5 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 2 teaspoons dried dill

Peel and thinly slice onions to measure 3 to 4 cups. Melt butter in large pot over medium heat. Add onions and celery; sauté 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in potatoes, vegetable or chicken stock and dill. Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Remove half of soup mixture and puree in blender or food processor. Return puree to pot. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Reheat pureed mixture and serve. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

BEV BRAY’S DIRT CAKE

Recipe from 1990 Presbyterian Women First Presbyterian Church of Apopka, *Treasures and Pleasures* cookbook

- 1 (20-ounce) package cream-filled chocolate sandwich cookies
- 1 8-ounce) package cream cheese
- 2 (3 ounce) packages French vanilla instant pudding mix
- 3-1/2 cups milk
- 1 (12 ounce) carton non-dairy whipped topping

Blend cookies in blender until they look like potting soil. Set aside. In large bowl, beat cream cheese until light. Beat in dry pudding mix. Stir in milk and combine well. Fold in whipped topping. In clean 8 x 10-inch clay flower pot, alternate layers of crushed cookies and cream cheese mixture, ending with thick layer of crumbs. Decorate with silk flowers, if desired, and serve with a trowel for a spoon. Serves 8 to 10.

Scouts: Davis appreciates recognition given to gas district

Continued from page 11A

ognized the growth potential in West Orange and East Lake counties. They envisioned building a natural gas system for the comfort and convenience of the public and to add to the economic growth of the communities.

As 2024 is beginning, their customer base has expanded to over 28,000 customers. “The District has embraced many changes in order to rise to the challenges necessary to provide natural gas and enhance their services to a diverse group of customers, including residential,

commercial and interruptible, as well as transportation,” the dinner’s press release says. Samuel Davis Jr., the retiring CEO/general manager for Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, accepted the award on the District’s behalf. Brent Haywood, became the

company’s next chief executive officer and general manager, effective January 8. Davis will retire at the end of March so Haywood could have time to transition smoothly into the new role. “I really appreciate the recognition. I’m about to retire in the next two weeks, and I hope this

recognition, I hope that it continues,” Davis told the audience at the dinner. Pam Jones, a representative for Congressman Daniel Webster, presented letters to Becker and the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District congratulating them for the honors.

Race: Contributions listed to all four candidates

Continued from page 1A

Reported: \$10,520.

Nadia Anderson-\$2,000.-C
Tressa Paul-\$25.-C
Nadia Anderson-\$750.-I
**Report: cash total-\$4,325.
Report: In-Kind total-\$750.
Total of Contributions
Reported: \$15,275.**

Darryl P. Richardson
Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan
Darryl Richardson-\$4,000.-L
Jime Eversole, Mt. Dora-\$1,000.-I.
Larry Everly, Mt. Dora-\$200.-C
**Report: cash total: \$200.
Report-In-Kind total: \$1,000.
Report: Loan total: \$2000.
Total of Contributions**

SEAT 4
Eric Mock
Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan
Eric Mock-\$2,000.-C
**Report: cash total: \$2,000
Total of Contributions
Reported: \$13,115.41**

Nick Nesta
Note: C-cash, check, online; I-In-kind; L-loan
PSPrint, Des Plaines, IL, \$50.51-C
Jack Douglas-\$500.-C
Realtors Political Advocacy Committee, Orlando-\$1000.-C
**Report: cash total-\$1550.51.
Total of Contributions
Reported: \$9,789.40**



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