

Donation

AdventHealth Apopka donates to Loaves & Fishes. See page 3A.



Sports

Piedmont Lakes girls basketball are District Champions. See page 1B.



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Volume 102 Number 12

Friday, March 22, 2024 / 50 cents

City Council greenlights 30-year ground lease for future birding park

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council authorized 5-0 a ground lease with the Orange Audubon Society to convert a Lake Apopka North Shore property into an approximately 70-acre nature-based education facility called the Apopka Birding Park.

At the Wednesday, March 20, meeting at City Hall, the Apopka City Council discussed the ground lease, which proposes that the Orange Audubon Society, as the tenant, pay the city of Apopka a \$1 yearly lease for the former Hickerson Property at 2923 Lust Road. The lease's term is 30 years with the option for unlimited five-year renewals beyond the initial term.

According to a statement after the meeting, "work will begin immediately to convert the former nursery" into the Apopka Birding Park.

"We have been looking since 2001 for a property in West Orange County that we could restore and preserve," Green said in the statement. "This particular site is rich with Florida native birds and migratory birds in spring and summer, and our volunteers plan to make it even more inviting for the many nature lovers that visit the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive every weekend. The City of Apopka has offered us an attractive long-term lease in exchange."

Since the execution of the July 27, 2022, memorandum of understanding, between the city and the Orange Audubon Society, both parties

have collaborated to develop a long-term ground lease for the former Hickerson Property.

Per the ground lease, the Orange Audubon Society will do the following: renovate the existing building called a "truck shop" into a nature-based educational center, conduct native plant installation/maintenance, pay all utilities, and provide education-based programming at Camp Wewa, according to Radley Williams, city parks and recreation director.

The city will install water and septic connections, upgrade perimeter fencing and gates to provide increased property security, and reconnect electricity to the property, Williams said.

See CITY Page 12A



Anderson ... elected to Seat 3



Nesta ... re-elected to Seat 4

Anderson wins first term, Nesta is re-elected

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

In the Tuesday, March 19, city election, Nadia Anderson won Apopka City Council Seat 3 race, while incumbent Nick Nesta won re-election of Seat 4.

Collecting 2,500 votes (55.02 percent), Anderson defeated opponent Darryl Richardson, who gathered 2,044 votes (44.98 percent). Anderson will succeed Kyle Becker, who opted not to run for re-election.

Nesta, who campaigned for his second term on the Council, got 2,758 votes (61.03 per-

cent), easily dominating the race for Seat 4. Challenger Eric Mock got 1,761 votes (38.97 percent).

All votes include Election Day, early votes and vote by mail.

Election results are from the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office and are unofficial.

The Oath of Office ceremony will take place on Tuesday, April 30, at noon in the council chamber of Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka.

Election results are from the Orange County Supervisor of Elections

See ELECTION Page 10A

Tickets on sale for May 2 Prayer Breakfast

In partnership with Mayor Bryan Nelson, the Apopka Christian Ministerial Alliance (ACMA) is once again bringing the Apopka Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to the community.

The event will take place on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2, 6:30-8:30 a.m., at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka.

The event plans to include an open breakfast

buffet from 6:30 to 7 a.m., immediately followed by a formal program involving prayers led by various community leaders, musical performances, and an inspirational message.

This year's keynote speaker is Timothy Barton, president of WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization that presents America's forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on our religious, moral, and constitutional heritage.

Table reservations and

single ticket purchases can be made on the ACMA website at acmaonline.org now while tables and seats are still available. Single tickets are \$35 each. Tables can be reserved at differing sponsorship levels, each with various benefits: \$400 for Bronze, \$700 for Silver, and \$1,200 for Gold (note: Gold Sponsorships include two tables).

The Apopka Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is an an-

See BREAKFAST Page 5A



Timothy Barton ... guest speaker

Columbariums added to city cemetery



The city of Apopka and Quality Vaults and Monuments, based in Ocoee, installed two columbariums at the Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery on Monday, March 11, as part of the city's cemetery expansion.

The city of Apopka and Quality Vaults and Monuments, based in Ocoee, installed two columbariums at the Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery on Monday, March 11, as part of the city's cemetery expansion. The columbariums were set up next to the gazebo near the Veteran's Memorial Monument parking spots.

Pavers and decoration will be set up on the columbariums in the future.

Each columbarium is

See CEMETERY Page 5A

Ministerial alliance invites public to Good Friday service

The Apopka Christian Ministerial Alliance (ACMA) is honored to host an Apopka Community Good Friday Service open to the public at Apopka Calvary Church (750 Roger Williams Road, Apopka) on Friday, March 29, noon-12:45 p.m.

The event will have worship, prayers led by various Apopka area pastors, and an inspirational message as members of the community gather to reflect on Christ's sacrifice for mankind on the cross.

There is no admission fee and Christians across denominations as well as those seeking Christ are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit acmaonline.org or call the ACMA administrator Pastor Joe Bankson at 407-462-7742.

Police seek vehicle of interest linked to shooting

Apopka police are searching for information or anyone associated with a vehicle connected to the March 9 shooting that happened in the Myrtle Street/Lake Avenue area of Apopka, which injured a 33-year-old man.

The vehicle of interest shown in the photograph released by police is red, and appears to be a four-door sedan.

In late morning on March 9, police responded to a shooting in the Myrtle Street/Lake Avenue area. When patrol officers arrived, they discovered the man inside a vehicle with



Apopka police are searching for information or anyone associated with this vehicle connected to the March 9 shooting that happened in the Myrtle Street/Lake Avenue area of Apopka, which injured a 33-year-old man.

gunshot wounds. He was transported to a local hospital and was said to be in

stable condition, an Apopka police press release said. Members of the Crime

Scene Unit and investigators are examining the scene to gather information

about the incident. Preliminary findings in the case investigation suggest that this is an isolated incident, and there is no ongoing threat to the community, according to the press release.

The investigation remains ongoing, and updates will be provided as new information emerges.

Anyone who has information about the vehicle of interest is asked to contact the Apopka Police Department at APDCID@Apopka.net or to remain anonymous, information can be provided through CrimeLine at 800-423-TIPS or by visiting crimeline.org.

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Apopka Event of the Week

The Apopka Christian Ministerial Alliance (ACMA) is hosting an Apopka Community Good Friday Service open to the public at Apopka Calvary Church, 750 Roger Williams Road, Apopka, on Friday, March 29, from noon-12:45 p.m. For more information, visit acmaonline.org or call ACMA administrator Pastor Joe Bankson at 407-462-7742.

Quotable

The seminar will equip participants with the highest level of customized training, problem-solving techniques and animal care practices necessary to protect and serve on their community's front line.

President and founder of K9s United on training offered for K9s and handlers

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

K9s United provides crucial training for Central Florida law enforcement

Jacksonville, Fla. (March 20, 2024) –

K9s United, a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting and advocating for law enforcement canines, is providing a free four-day training seminar, March 25 – 28, for Central Florida's local and regional K9 officers and their partners. The seminar will equip participants with the highest level of customized training, problem-solving techniques and animal care practices necessary to protect and serve on their community's front line. More than 70 K9 teams will travel from Eustis, Fort Myers, Gainesville, Kissimmee, Lakeland, Leesburg, Oakland, Ocala, Ocoee, Orlando, Sanford, St. Augustine, Palm Beach Gardens, Port Orange, Tavares, Vero Beach, Winter Garden, Winter Park and Kingsland, Georgia to take part in the crucial training held at the Valencia College's School of Public Safety, located at 8600 Valencia College Lane in Orlando.

"Dedicated K9s consistently go the extra mile, while courageously safeguarding their handlers, fellow officers and neighbors," said Debbie Johnson, president and founder of K9s United. "Our expert trainers provide real-world scenarios to equip attendees with the skills they need to face field emergencies. By bringing this training to Central Florida, we can support local and regional K9 teams who work tirelessly to ensure our safety, while increasing their odds of returning home after their perilous calls."

The first day of the seminar will educate K9 officers on canine physiology and anatomy, preventive first aid topics, such as heat stroke and bloat, along with point of injury medical care.

The training will also feature a 70-pound canine manikin that barks, bleeds and breathes like a real injured working dog for attendees to practice administering first-aid. All attending handlers will receive a complimentary wearable first aid kit with donated medical supplies provided by K9s United and Dustoff K9. The remaining

three days of the seminar will integrate the learnings from the first day into the additional real-world drills that include human detection – such as tracking, area and building searches – along with criminal apprehension techniques and scenario-based training.

K9 units are one of the most expensive law enforcement departments in an agency, and unfortunately, many do not have adequate funding to provide the necessary resources they require, including advanced training and equipment. K9s United helps fill that void and aids law enforcement agencies to ensure all K9 units have the essential training and equipment K9 officers and their four-pawed partners need.

Furthermore, K9s United is a proactive advocate for the welfare of working police dogs, demonstrating its commitment through tangible legislative achievements. Notably, the organization was instrumental in passing two pivotal Florida Senate Bills into state law. Senate Bill 96 enhances the penalty for individuals who inflict harm upon K9s and mounted units.

Meanwhile, Senate Bill 388 facilitates prompt and effective emergency response for injured working K9s, authorizing their swift transportation, including by helicopter and ambulance, to veterinary treatment centers. K9s United is also working to pass these laws federally to help police dogs nationwide.

K9s United is a volunteer-based organization that relies on donations to support and advocate for hardworking police dogs. To support K9s United's mission, Florida drivers, dog lovers and law enforcement supporters are encouraged to pre-order the nonprofit's specialty license plate before the Oct. 15 deadline to provide these heroic dogs with the vital equipment and training they need most. To participate, Florida drivers do not need to be up for renewal. K9s United must secure 3,000 pre-orders before the

See K9 Page 4A



Remove yard waste; spring is sprung

I hope you all are enjoying the beautiful weather this spring season has brought us. It's during this time of year that I like to spruce up my yard. With the spring season in full swing, Orange County Government has a comprehensive yard waste collection program to ensure the cleanliness and aesthetic appeal of its neighborhoods. Under this program, residents can conveniently dispose of yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, and tree trimmings.

Collection schedules vary by neighborhood with detailed information avail-

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

able on the county's official website, that is www.ocfl.net, and through local announcements. Yard waste includes vegetative landscaping material as well as grass, tree, and shrub trimmings, and should not be placed in the garbage or recycling cart. Yard waste should be placed at the curb

no earlier than 6 p.m. the night before and no later than 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day.

Some useful information to keep in mind: Limit yard waste to three cubic yards per household per week and use your own garbage cans or plastic bags for collection. Cans and bags must be 50 gallons or less and weigh less than 60 pounds each when full.

In addition to yard waste, Orange County emphasizes the importance of proper trash disposal to maintain a clean

See MOORE Page 4A

Spring testing will be in full bloom

I hope everyone had a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating spring break. As we return for the final quarter of the school year, I want to take some time to encourage everyone to brace themselves for a busy time of year.

As soon as we return next week, assessment and testing season starts. I've shared many times that it frustrates me that we have a time of year with so much testing that it has its own season designation, but that is the time we are in. So, it's time to prepare and be informed.

For example, at my daughter's high school, the testing starts on March 26 with the SAT taken at school and doesn't end until May 24 with AICE ex-

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

ams. There are 14 different test dates in that time. Every student doesn't take every exam, but it still is a lot and it is disruptive to the school environment with modified schedules.

All this testing requires schools to adjust schedules and move/reassign staff to proctor exams. It's a monumental task each year, so remember to support your school staff during this time also.

High schools have more tests than lower grades, but there are still many tests in those grades, as well. Those tests are the state-required testing and common final exams used for accountability measurements. The testing period is about six weeks long.

My point is: This time of the year requires that families really stay in tune with your child's school. Listen to those phone calls that come in, and read all the emails sent because really important information is being shared about these tests.

I always advocate for parents to encourage their children to do their best, but at the same time, to

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold. Exodus 20:23

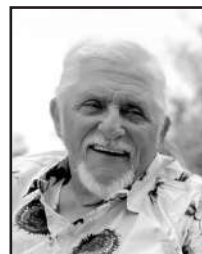
Mema Says

Negative people have a problem for every solution.

American people have the power and common unity to work together

I am happy to be in my eighties. It is so strange to see some of my classmates from the graduating class of '59 and how they have aged! When did they get so old? Then...I look in the mirror and I wonder how my dad got in there.

I am glad I was raised in the era in which I was raised. Even though we were born during WWII, we still remember some of the rationing, the saving of tin foil, and the changes we had to undergo for the war effort. But more than any-



Ike Hayden

thing else, we remember the patriotism we felt, and celebrated at every parade when "Old Glory" was unfurled and exposed to the love and admiration of the crowd who proudly stood

and covered their heart with their hand or hat.

We had no air conditioning, no TV, no electricity, no inside toilets, no next-door Wal-Mart, or other shopping centers. We did have Sears and Roebuck catalogues to order from for delivery, and other uses that had more to do with the two-holer in the backyard. (You older folks can explain that to the young 'uns.)

After my folks quit trying to make a living on hard scrabble farm land,

they moved closer to town, and both went to work: dad at South Bend Lathe Works, and mom at Ball Band Rubber. Our lives were still a lot less strenuous than today. We celebrated family back then. Every chance we had, we gathered ourselves together just to enjoy each other, see all the new babies, laugh at our mistakes, and remember those who had departed this mortal realm.

We sang a lot and laughed at some of the attempts to sing, but we had

a pure joy that is missing in so much of our society today. We had men and women who held city, county, and state offices and they were held in high esteem because they gave up a lot of private life to serve their communities with empathy, dedication, and honor. They believed they were there to serve, and not to be served. I wonder where that sense of duty went.

I surrendered to the call for help from Orange County Election Board and have been a Poll Dep-

uty now for the past three years. Every time I raise my hand to be sworn in, I feel a sense of pride, and it enforces my belief that somehow things are going to work out for the best.

I still believe in the American people. They are the ones who have the power, and the common unity to work together for an America that stands out among all the other nations.

The Board of Elections is always looking for Poll

See HAYDEN Page 4A

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AdventHealth gives to Loaves & Fishes



AdventHealth Apopka executives presented Loaves & Fishes with a \$25,000 donation. From AdventHealth Apopka are Parker Pridgen, CEO (r) and Dannie Holler-Hubp, senior manager community engagement (second from r) with Loaves & Fishes staff and volunteers. AdventHealth Apopka has been a longtime supporter of the Christian ministry that helps approximately 300 qualified families/individuals each week, which amounts to over 24,600 items distributed each month.

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HB 1365 ensures homeless issues Byrd: Parents need to offer support

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.— (March 20, 2024)

Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 1365 to keep Florida's streets safe. This legislation requires counties to ensure that homeless individuals receive the mental health and drug addiction services they need while residing in a designated location off our public streets, prioritizing public safety.

"Florida will not allow homeless encampments to intrude on its citizens or undermine their quality of life like we see in states like New York and California," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "The legislation I signed today upholds our commitment to law and order while also ensuring homeless individuals have the resources they need to get back on their feet."

"With a challenge as complex as chronic homelessness, it is all too easy to fall into the trap of comfortable inaction," said Representative Sam Garrison. "In Florida, we will learn from the mistakes of cities like San Francisco, Den-

ver, Los Angeles, and more which are paying the price for their unwillingness to act. This bill will not eliminate homelessness. But it is a start. And it states clearly that in Florida, our public spaces are worth fighting for. The status quo is not an option. In Florida we choose to act. It is simply the right thing to do."

"Floridians have been working endlessly to address many of the issues associated with homelessness," said Senator Jonathan Martin. "Many groups from government agencies to non-profits have seen their employees and valuable resources spread thin while helping our homeless neighbors. This bill allows us to take a major step forward by providing a framework for these groups to more efficiently, safely, meaningfully, and effectively serve our neighbors. Further, it returns our parks, sidewalks, and public spaces to their intended uses for all to enjoy."

Under HB 1365: Homeless individuals are prohibited from camping on city streets, sidewalks,

and parks—and instead placed in temporary shelters monitored by law enforcement agencies.

*The state of Florida has the enforcement tools needed to ensure local governments comply.

*Homeless shelters will require occupants to not use drugs.

*These shelters will also include substance abuse and mental health treatments.

HB 1365 also provides alternatives for when homeless shelters have reached max capacity.

It directs the Department of Children and Families to authorize temporary campsites that do the following:

*Maintain sanitation, including access to clean and operable restrooms and running water.

*Provide access to substance abuse and mental health treatment resources through coordination with the regional managing entity.

*Prohibit illegal substance use and alcohol use on the property and enforce this prohibition.

Continued from page 2A

limit the parental pressure. There is a lot of pressure already with these tests, and a lot of importance is placed on them at school. It's best just to be sure kids are getting enough sleep and eating a good breakfast before the test.

This next quarter will also be a time of celebrations. Our seniors are fin-

ishing up the end of a long journey, and graduations will be here before we know it. Remember: Apopka High graduation will be on Tuesday, May 28, at 2 p.m. at the Kia Center in Downtown Orlando, and Wekiva will be on Thursday, May 30, at 2 p.m. at the Addition Financial Arena at UCF.

Speaking of celebrating, I'd like to congratulate

our own Piedmont Lakes girls basketball team for winning the district championship earlier this month! They are now the 2024 UNDEFEATED OCPS District Champions! What a great season this team had and I'd like to personally thank Coach Bernadine West for her dedication to these young girls.

We are so proud of you all!

Hayden: You, too, can be involved

Continued from page 2A

workers to fill slots at our polling places. No experience is necessary, and they will train you for what you choose. Being a Poll Deputy is the only position that requires a background check.

Do you remember the WWII poster with the picture of Uncle Sam pointing his finger and the statement "Uncle Sam wants YOU!"? Here it is again, "Orange County wants YOU!" I have met so many people while standing duty at the polling place, that brag about being an American, and their opportunity to vote.

Now you see why my expectations are that the United States will come out of the doldrums with her head

held high and a chokehold on the ism's that are so prevalent today.

I am asking for you to take a part as a staunch, public servant serving in the electoral processes as a believer in our beloved Constitutional Republic, the United States of America. You will be amazed at the exuberance and excitement of those that come to the polling place to vote. You will feel the unity with those patriots of all different races who choose to do all they can to make sure their voices are heard in Washington, DC.

Are you ready to serve? Call the Election Office at 407-836-2070. Training for all positions is available and free.

The reimbursement for your time is not bad, either!

Moore: Dispose of waste properly

Continued from page 2A

and healthy environment. Residents are urged to adhere to specific guidelines when disposing of household trash. Securely bagging garbage and placing it in designated bins or containers is essential to prevent littering and minimize the risk of attracting pests. Moreover, residents should be mindful of collection days to ensure timely pickup. I believe that these guidelines contribute to the overall cleanliness and sanitation of Orange County communities.

Did you know that recycling is required by Orange County Code? To reduce the amount of garbage in the recycling stream, the Orange County Utilities Solid Waste Division encourages residents to "Think 5" by focusing

on the top five recyclable items—plastic, metal, and glass containers, as well as cardboard and paper.

For the safe disposal of hazardous materials, Orange County offers designated facilities where residents can responsibly dispose of items such as paint, pesticides, batteries, and electronics.

Improper disposal of hazardous waste poses significant risks to public health and the environment, making it essential for residents to utilize these specialized facilities. By taking proactive measures to dispose of hazardous materials responsibly, you can contribute to the protection of our community and the preservation of natural resources for future generations. For more information regarding Hazardous Waste disposal, and

the list of Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Locations, please call (407) 836-6601, or visit the Solid Waste Webpage at <https://www.orangecountyfl.net/WaterGarbageRecycling/GreenClean.aspx>.

Orange County's comprehensive waste management initiatives underscore its commitment to promoting cleanliness, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Through effective yard waste collection, trash disposal, recycling programs, and hazardous waste disposal facilities, residents can actively participate in maintaining a clean and healthy environment for all. By following established guidelines and utilizing available resources, together we can demonstrate dedication to creating a more sustainable future for generations to come.

K9: Support is encouraged, needed

Continued from page 2A

deadline to initiate production. Interested drivers are invited to honor and support these four-legged heroes by securing their plates today.

About K9s United

K9s United is a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to supporting law

enforcement officers and their K9 partners who protect and serve our communities by giving them the best equipment and training during their service, and memorializing those who give the ultimate sacrifice.

For more information, or to donate, visit www.k9sunited.org.

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ALL ABOUT APOPKA

<p style="text-align: center;">The Apopka Chief Established 1923 (USPS 545-440)</p> <p>The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">City of Apopka Telephone Numbers</p> <p>City Hall 407-703-1700 Mayor's Office 407-703-1701 City Administrator 407-703-1649 City Clerk 407-703-1704 Community Devel. 407-703-1712 Code Enforcement 407-703-1738 Finance Dept. 407-703-1725 Fire (non-emerg.) 407-703-1756 Parks and Rec. Dept. 407-703-1741 Police Chief 407-703-1769 Police (non-emerg.) 407-703-1771 Job Line 407-703-1743 Solid Waste Collect. 407-703-1731 Street Maintenance 407-703-1731 Utility Billing 407-703-1727 Medical, fire emergency 911</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orange County Telephone Numbers</p> <p>Animal Services 407-836-3111 Auto/Boat Tags 850-617-2000 Building Dept. 407-836-8550 County Mayor 407-836-7370 County Commission 407-836-7350 County Attorney 407-836-7320 Clerk of the Court 407-836-2065 Elections Supervisor 407-836-2070 Fire/Rescue 407-836-3111 Solid Waste 407-836-6601 Garbage Collection 407-703-1731 Health Dept. 407-836-2600 Hunting/Fishing Lic 888-347-4356 Parks and Rec. Dept. 407-836-6200 Property Appraiser 407-836-5044 Sheriff Administrative 407-254-7000 Non-Emerg. Complaint 407-836-4357 Utilities 407-836-5515 All other departments 407-836-3111 Medical, fire emergency 911</p> <p>www.orangecountyfl.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Other Area Numbers of Note</p> <p>U.S. Senators Rick Scott (Rep.) 202-224-5274 Marco Rubio (Rep.) 407-254-2573</p> <p>U.S. Representative Daniel Webster (Dist. 11) 352-241-9220</p> <p>State Representatives Doug Bankson 407-476-6787 Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45) unknown</p> <p>State Senators Geraldine Thompson (Dist. 11) 407-297-2045</p> <p>Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore 407-836-7350</p> <p>Orange County Public Schools Pupil assignment 407-317-3233 Bus routes 407-317-3800 Superintendent 407-317-3200 School Board 407-317-3200</p> <p>Miscellaneous The Apopka Chief 407-886-2777 Museum of the Apopkans 407-703-1707 Chamber of Commerce 407-886-1441</p>
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FOLA 40 bike ride tours around Lake Apopka on March 24

The seventh annual FOLA 40 bike ride will take place on Sunday, March 24, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Lake Apopka. Participants can choose from 8, 16, 32, or 40-mile rides.

The 40-mile ride will begin in downtown historic Winter Garden at the city pavilion, 104 S. Lakeview Ave., Winter Garden. This includes six miles of road riding as well as 17.5 miles of non-paved, gravel trails.

All other distances will start at Magnolia Park, 2929 S. Binion Road, Apopka, and are on non-paved, gravel trails.

A hybrid, mountain or cyclocross-style bike is strongly recommended for all distances.

All ride distances start at 8:30 a.m. Rest stops are located approximately every eight miles.

Proceeds benefit Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA), a 501(c)3 dedicated to continuing the restoration of Lake Apopka, Flori-

da's fourth largest lake. For more information and to register for the FOLA 40, visit www.bikereg.com/63748

REGAL

Fri., March 22, 2024 thru Sun., March 24, 2024

GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG-13) 11:50A; 12:50; 3:00; 4:00; 6:00; 7:00; 9:00; 10:00
KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) 12:00; 1:00; 2:20; 3:30; 4:40; 7:10; 9:30
DUNE: PART TWO (PG-13) 12:10; 3:50; 6:10; 7:30; 9:40
ARTHUR THE KING (PG-13) 1:10; 4:10; 6:50; 9:50
BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (PG-13) 1:20*; 4:20; 7:20; 10:10
IMAGINARY (PG-13) 1:30*; 2:00*; 4:30; 7:40; 10:20
KID: HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCER'S STONE (PG) 11:30A**
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Cemetery: Over \$600K was approved for improvements

Continued from page 1A

8,000 pounds and each can hold up to 84 urns, according to Donnie Rowland, city parks superintendent. Two other slabs were laid down at the same location for future columbariums.

In August 2022, the

Apopka City Council voted to allocate and reallocate a sum of \$618,346.47 in coronavirus relief funds for the city cemetery's recommended improvements, including a new columbarium, new roads, milling and resurfacing, a parking lot repaving, and fencing.

Breakfast: Event aims to unite on faith, prayer

Continued from page 1A

and prayer.

nual gathering of municipal, county, and state leaders as well as businesses, churches, non-profits, and individuals of the Apopka area community to unite on the common values of faith

For more information about the event itself, table registrations, and/or single ticket sales, visit acmaonline.org or call the ACMA administrator Pastor Joe Bankson at 407-462-7742.

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A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM ARGOS FAMILY DINER

We'll be closing our doors on Sunday, April 14th.

Valued Friends, Employees, and Family of Countless Patrons of Argos Family Diner

It's with humble gratitude and a heavy heart that we are announcing the closing of Argos Family Diner. This has been a difficult and emotional decision, and sad to have to say goodbye after 20 great years. As much as we've loved serving you and seeing you walk through our doors over the years, this has been the most grueling decision that's now out of our control.

We've seen countless families with newborn babies come in and we've had the pleasure watching them grown into young adults. We give immeasurable

thanks to everyone who has dined with us, whether you've been dining with us for years or just found us.

A special thank you to our amazing team of staff through the years, and all the local support from the schools around the area, Lake Brantley High School, Bear Lake Elementary, and Teague Middle School.

We're truly humbled and honored to have served you and encourage you to visit our other location.

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The Meaning of Easter

& EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Luke Chapter 22 N.I.V.
Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

NOW THE Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

The Last Supper

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."

They left and found things just as Jesus had

told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one

who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they answered.

He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment."

The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That is enough," he replied.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He

withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Jesus Arrested

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour when darkness reigns."

Peter Disowns Jesus

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter fol-

lowed at a distance. But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The Guards Mock Jesus

The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" And they said many other insulting things to him.

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

Luke Chapter 23

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

But they insisted. "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends before this they had been en-

Continued on Page 7A

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Sunrise Service - 7:30 a.m.
Family Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

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Happy Easter

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen
- Galatians 1:3-5

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The Meaning of Easter

& EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Continued from Page 6A

emies.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

The Crucifixion

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'"

Then "they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'" For if men do these things when the tree

is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals; one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Jesus' Death

It is now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed

him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Jesus' Burial

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Luke Chapter 24

The Resurrection

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Pe-

ter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the woman had said, but him they did not see."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as

he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said

this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 'You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'"

The Ascension

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Luke 22, 23 and 24
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Version

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Audit finds state military affairs dept. had cybersecurity, IT issues

By Andrew Powell
The Center Square

An audit of the Florida Department of Military Affairs has uncovered several instances where proper cybersecurity protocols were not followed.

According to the report issued by the Florida Auditor General, state law requires that each state agency head designate an information security manager to administer the agency's cybersecurity program.

These security man-

ers must report directly to the agency head to ensure appropriate separation of beauties between information technology operations and the assessment and oversight of cybersecurity program controls.

It was previously found in an earlier audit, that the Department of Military Affairs did not designate a security manager to the Department of Management Services. Furthermore, the department's security manager failed "to report directly to the Adjutant General for informa-

tion security duty purposes."

It was found that the department had designated the Chief Information Officer, who was responsible for the department's daily IT operations, as the security manager. Because of this role, auditors found that it was not an appropriate separation of duties between operations and oversight of cybersecurity program controls.

According to the report, in response to the auditor general's inquiry of this matter, department

management indicated that they believed that the Chief Information Officer serving as the security manager, was appropriate.

State law further requires that the department maintain public records, which specifies that electronic communications, including text messages, are retained for a period of at least three fiscal years or until they become obsolete.

The audit found that the department had not established procedures for archiving text messages sent or received by department-

owned mobile devices as of March 2023, after a previous audit had uncovered similar findings.

Additionally, issues around the department's public deposits raised concerns when the department could not produce seven of the 67 Public Deposit Identification and Acknowledgement forms requested for audit.

Of the 60 forms submitted for audit, four included account numbers that did not match department records; 15 were signed by a qualified pub-

lic depository — a state law requirement — after the audit request, while 16 were not signed by the department.

The auditor general recommended that the department implement better control policies and procedures, including on purchasing cards, which had some not turned in once employment had ceased. It was further recommended that department management enhance policies and procedures to remove, sanitize or destroy hard drives prior to disposal.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide to Local Business

Graceworx Community Church

SATURDAY SERVICES

Bible Study 10:00 AM
Worship 11:30 AM
Livestream:
tinyurl.com/4ak7933j

9913 Bear Lake Rd., Apopka, FL
graceworxcc@gmail.com
321-228-4599

Graceworx Community Church to Host Mini Concert as Part of Its Easter Celebration

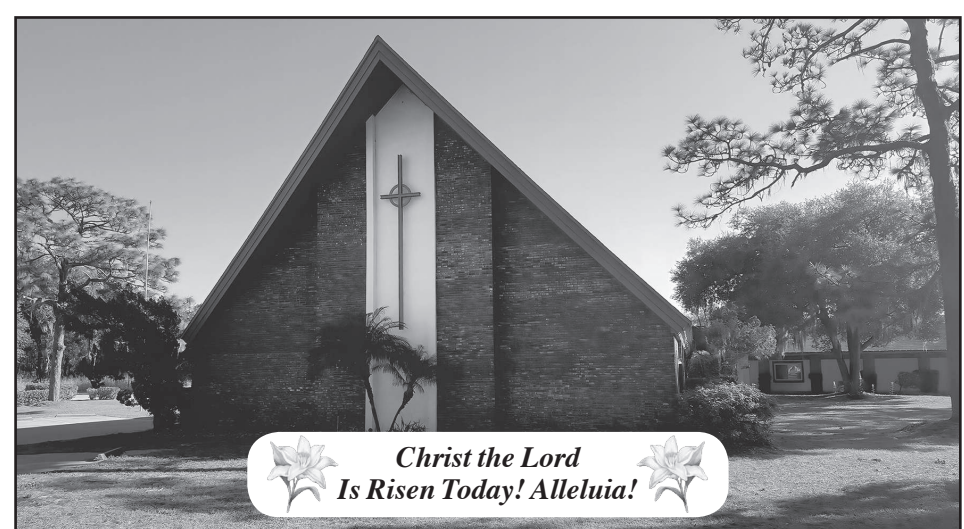
The public is invited to come hear world-renowned, locally based, singer and recording artist Charles Haugabrooks present a 30-minute Easter-themed mini concert as part of the worship service at **Graceworx Community Church** on Saturday, March 30, at 11:30 AM.

Graceworx will be joining Christians around the world as, throughout Holy Week, congregations celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

While not all Christians celebrate Easter at exactly the same time, or in exactly the same way, this spiritual festival is a high point—if not the *highest* point—in the liturgical calendars of nearly all segments of Christianity.

Spiritual leaders at times lament that many Christians turn up at church for Christmas and Easter Only. Thus some have light-heartedly dubbed these twice-yearly attenders as "CEOs."

Almost all congregational leaders encourage everyone in their flock to come together for worship more than just two times a year. But if—for whatever reason—those are the only two times when many are willing or able to involve themselves in corporate worship, what *better* times could they possibly choose?



Graceworx is a non-denominational congregation that conducts its worship services each Saturday morning at 11:30 AM at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 9913 Bear Lake Road, Apopka, FL 32703. An Adult Bible Study meets in the church's boardroom at 10:00 AM. For more information about Graceworx, phone 321-228-4599 or email graceworxcc@gmail.com.

Christmas provides the "opening page" of the story of God becoming human and living among us so we can know what God is truly like, and so we can experience the reconciliation God wants with each of us.

Easter is the "concluding page" of that story. It's the celebration of victory—of darkness turned to light, of despair turned to hope, of death giving way to life once again, of the gates of heaven being thrown open to those who have felt trapped and alienated.

Graceworx Community Church encourages all Christians to take full advantage of the many worship opportunities, the music, the prayers, the scripture readings, and the dramatic portrayals that

characterize the celebrations leading up to and including Easter.

For those who don't have any religious affiliation, Easter provides a great opportunity to learn more about what your Christian neighbors believe and to catch a glimpse of Christians involved in some of their most moving spiritual celebrations. Be assured, you will be welcome at whatever church you might choose to visit.

If you would like to visit a congregation, but don't have one in mind, **Graceworx** extends a special invitation for you to join us on Saturday morning, March 30. **Graceworx** meets in the sanctuary of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 9913 Bear Lake Road, Apopka, FL 32714, every Satur-

day morning for an hour-long service beginning at 11:30 AM.

Our service on Saturday, March 30, will feature a brief Easter sermon by Pastor Jim Coffin, the reading of scriptures about the story of Christ's death, burial and resurrection; congregational singing of a couple of Christianity's most cherished resurrection hymns; and a mini Easter-themed concert by much-loved vocalist Charles Haugabrooks.

Haugabrooks has performed throughout the United States and Canada, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Indonesia, and East, West, and South Africa.

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- Citgo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd
- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)
- CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av & Hwy 441
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- Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
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- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
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- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
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- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
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- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
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- Trader Mae's, Rock Springs Rd
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
- Walgreens, corner of Park Ave and Hwy 441
- Walgreens, N. Park Ave/Welch Rd.
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- Wawa Store, 441 & Piedmont Wekiva across from Walmart
- Wekiva High School, Hiwassee Rd.
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Obituaries

TROY "DOUG" BRONSON, 67, left us too soon on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. A resident of Haines City, he was born in Orlando in 1956 to parents Troy "Stuart" Bronson and Ina "Ruth" Murphy Bronson. Survivors: wife, Kathrine Bronson; father, Troy "Stuart" Bronson; sister, Margaret Marie (David) Coressel; sister-in-law, Patricia Bronson; children, Margaret Michelle Bronson (John) Sewell, Kara Lynn (Jeffrey) Hurst, Brittany Declue Bronson; Stepchildren: Josh Randel Fillyawl, step daughter-in-law, Stacey Fillyawl, Tommy (Judy) Addison, David (Beth) Addison, 14 grandchildren, and lifelong friend Kevin Cutts. He had a larger-than-life personality and influenced many lives.

JONATHAN PAUL CONCANNON, 25, of Apopka, passed away on March 18, 2024. Mr. Concannon was born on November 4, 1998 in Ocoee. He is survived by his mother Dawn Concannon and his father Dean Concannon; grandma Malinda; siblings Deanna, Cody, Drew and Marissa; as well as a village of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed by his many loved ones and friends.

KAVANAGH, MARILYN A. ANDERSON, 85, of Apopka, formerly of Lake Ronkonkoma, NY, died Friday, March 15, 2024. She was born in Pleasant Valley, NY, on July 22, 1938. She is predeceased by spouse Richard J. Kavanagh. Survived by: brother, Richard; sister, Darline; children, David, Kenny, Deb, and her other daughter, Holly; 7 grandchildren; 3 grandchildren; dear friend, Debbie; and dog Benny. She was a wonderful friend to many and a beloved grandmother to many more.

Let people believe what they want to believe

I recently saw a social media post which cautioned against trying to convince others of the errors in their thinking. It said to let people believe what they want to believe, even when we know it's untrue.

The world is full of people spouting all manner of lies, and plenty of people are ready to believe them.

There is a story from the Quran (Surah 80) which relates that the prophet Muhammad was rebuked for disregarding a poor old blind man who was seeking his advice because he (Muhammad) was focused on persuading the leaders of a group of idolaters, who were indifferent to his message.

Muhammad took the rebuke to heart and the blind man (Ibn Umm

Maktum) became one of his trusted followers.

There are two lessons here. First, people believe what they want to believe, and sometimes it's because our emotions guide our thinking more than our intellects do. If someone is set on believing x because x makes them feel superior, or justifies their anger or indignation, it's futile trying to convince them.

Secondly, as a matter of tending to our flocks, that is, to those entrusted to our care, we shouldn't neglect those who genuinely want our counsel and advice.

Sometimes it's best to let the one wayward sheep go its own way and focus on keeping the 99 safe and sound.

- Christopher Simon

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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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Proverbs 14:26


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

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Let people believe what they want to believe

(See message above.)

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve."
1 Peter 5:2 NIV



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

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Election: Oath of Office is April 30 at noon at City Hall

Continued from page 1A

Office and are unofficial. The Oath of Office Ceremony for the commissioners-elect will take place on Tuesday, April 30, at noon in the council chambers of Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka.

What the candidates say
Nadia Anderson, emailed statement

"I am immensely grateful and humbled by the trust and support the Apopka community has placed in me with their vote," Anderson said in a statement. "This victo-

ry belongs to all who gave of their time and resources who simply desire positive change. My pledge is to wake up every day with the sole goal of making Apopka an even better place to live, work and raise a family. My heartfelt thanks go out to the entire community for their support, and I am profoundly aware that this achievement would have been impossible without the guidance and grace of God."

Nick Nesta, Facebook campaign page post

"We did it! Thank you to the citizens of Apopka

who have continued to support our efforts through the voting process. Thank you to the donors, endorsers, and volunteers for making this campaign season another huge success. As always, my biggest gratitude goes to my wife, Lauren Nesta, for her unwavering support and encouragement, all while holding down our fort and making a beautiful life for our little girls. I am so excited to continue to do the necessary work for this great city. I believe my responsibility is to represent the wants and needs of Apopka's citizens - to be their

voice, to ask the tough questions, and to find solutions. My track record in Seat 4 has embodied these efforts and I pledge to continue to do so in this next term. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Apopka! I can't wait to see what we can accomplish next!"

Darryl Richardson, emailed statement

"Today the city of Apopka should be satisfied with their choices for representation for the commissioner seats. The city has elected who they feel is best suited for those seats. As a country, we should ac-

cept the results of a properly run election and move on. Emotional ties to elections should never be the reason there is such a divide. We can hope that the elected officials represent the city and not some self-serving needs that benefits them outside of being a resident as well. Elected officials need to remember "Who" elected them, and "Why" they were elected. Too many elected officials seem to forget this as their tenure moves forward. I did contact Nadia and congratulate her, I also went to her election party and personally congratulated all involved in her campaign. Let's move forward, the City of Apopka needs to remember the past, but always be looking to the future. As for my political ambitions, that ended on election day. I put forth a message of unity, teamwork, and moving the needle forward, the city voted for a different message. I wish the best for the city, I

am not too hard to find, as everyone knows by now. Good Luck Apopka!"

Eric Mock, emailed statement

"I extend my warmest congratulations to Councilman Nesta on his victory in Seat 4. I look forward to working together in our respective roles.

"I express my gratitude to each and every supporter who voted, donated, and volunteered for my campaign. Despite the outcome not being what we had hoped for, I am confident that we gave it our best shot and I am proud of how we ran our campaign.

"Today marks a new beginning. There is still much work to be done. I will be removing campaign signs and invite those with yard signs to return them to Haubner Realty offices for proper recycling.

"Let's move forward together and create the Apopka we all want."



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VFW Auxiliary Yard Sale is set for April 21 and 22

The Apopka Auxiliary supports Apopka VFW Post 10147 as well as veterans by using the proceeds from the annual yard sale, and also poppies that are distributed and sold throughout the city on three different occasions at locations to include Winn Dixie, Publix and even Sprouts.

The yard sale is set for Sat., April 21 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sun., April 22, from noon-3 p.m., at 519 S. Central Ave. Items are sold at 50 percent discount on Sunday.

In addition to support given to VFW Post 10147 and veterans, other projects contributed to include VFW National Family Home, Paws for Patriots (from Lakeland), a special project supporting the much-needed medicines to treat veteran PTSD, and a new project that has medical professionals having great results treating veterans with an injection that reduces their suicide rate.

There are multiple educational and youth programs that include scholarships such as a Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and art contests for students for which the winners receive a certificate and cash prize.

Donations are welcome. For additional information, contact Alice Boria, Auxiliary President, 407-951-9048.



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BUSINESS PROFILE

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At Katrina M. Schroeder, DMD's office, your smile is their top priority

Dr. Katrina Schroeder wants to ensure that every patient has a positive experience during every visit. Their office is bright, clean, and relaxing. There is no need for stress because their staff will take the utmost care with you and your family.

They service Apopka, FL, as well as the surrounding areas, and have a reputation for quality dental work. Dr. Schroeder is committed to repairing and enhancing your smile by utilizing state-of-the-art techniques with long lasting results. Her and her staff's mission is to ensure that all of their patients are comfortable while they work on their great smile!

Regular dental visits are for keeping your teeth and gums in good shape. Besides brushing and flossing, a biannual checkup might be the best thing you can do for your oral health. But, what you might not know is that there's a strong relationship between your oral health and your overall health.

Bacteria from untreated gum disease can actually spread infection to other parts of your body. Also, some non-dental conditions have symptoms that appear in the mouth. Dental examinations can reveal signs of vitamin deficiencies, osteoporosis, or more serious condi-

tions such as diabetes or oral cancer.

Dr. Katrina Schroeder's dental practice offers you a comprehensive approach to your entire dental care needs. Whether it's a routine check-up or an advanced procedure, her staff is trained in the newest dental techniques, and ensures your visit is a comfortable one.

Dr. Schroeder has experience in the most up-to-date dental technology and treatments and gladly accepts most insurance plans. Plus, she offers a payment plan that allows patients without dental insurance to afford the best possible dental care.

Once you meet Dr. Katrina Schroeder, you can see why she's so popular with her patients. Her remarkable proficiency is perfectly complemented by her warm personality. Dr. Schroeder is a graduate of the University of Florida, and is fully certified in such innovative new treatments as Invisalign® and cosmetic porcelain veneers.

Dr. Katrina Schroeder is Invisalign® certified. Invisalign® (braceless braces) is the latest offering for orthodontics. This is the ideal solution for patients who have their permanent teeth. The product is virtually invisible and removable for meals, brushing, and



Dr. Katrina Schroeder knows that prevention pays for itself, and even small steps can make visible changes to your smile and your well-being.

flossing. Dr. Schroeder also offers Zoom! Whitening.

Dr. Schroeder uses the Waterlase MD Laser for both hard and soft tissues, such as teeth and bone. The Waterlase MD Laser can be used to treat cavities, in many cases without the patient having to receive the shots to be numb. Most patients only feel the cool water spray of the laser.

The Waterlase MD Laser can also be used for soft tissue procedures, such as reshaping the gum tissue for a more aesthetic appearance and periodontal procedures. One benefit of utilizing the laser for soft tissue procedures is minimizing post-operative discomfort.

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a laser that can detect cavities at their very smallest size. By using this technology, Dr. Schroeder is able to target and treat all of your small problem areas before they turn into larger issues that require more complicated procedures.

Dr. Schroeder's office provides digital imaging with minimal radiation and immediate results. The digital images can be seen from every patient room and be immediately available to the patient.

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City: Station Street development agreement approved

Continued from page 1A

In a quitclaim deed in October 2018, the St. Johns River Water Management District transferred the former Hickerson Property to the city of Apopka.

At that time, a declaration of restrictive covenant was placed on the former Hickerson Property, stating that the land was being transferred to the city of Apopka for conversion into nature-based recreation and education facilities for public use.

In return, the city transferred an estimated five-acre property at 2501 S. Binion Road to the St. Johns District in May 2019, so the District could construct a new office building.

In November 2022, the city partnered with the Central Florida Expressway Authority and Blue Scope Properties to complete a property exchange agreement, which gave the city an additional 10-acre piece of wetland property next to 2923 Lust Road. That property would give additional natural buffer from any industrial development that Blue Scope Properties planned.

In June 2017, the City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with the Orange Audubon

Society to provide wildlife viewing and education opportunities, and land management assistance on the Lake Apopka North Shore.

In July 2022, the City Council approved a second memorandum of understanding, which laid out the plans to negotiate a long-term ground lease of the former Hickerson Property for the Orange Audubon Society to convert into the birding park.

The Orange Audubon Society is a 57-year-old chapter of the National Audubon Society and is the third largest in the Southeast. The Orange Audubon Society volunteer organization holds many field trips and field classes throughout the year, conducts outreach activities, and offers educational programming to K-12 schools and educators in our area.

Station Street Project

The Apopka City Council approved 5-0 the Station Street Project development agreement between the city of Apopka, the Apopka Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Standard Investments and Holdings, LLC, the developer of the Station Street Project.

In separate meetings on February 21, the Apopka

City Council and the CRA Board approved the multi-use development planned for Station Street in downtown Apopka and to proceed with its development agreement.

The city and the Apopka CRA envisioned a multi-use project including affordable housing, downtown public parking, an extension of the Downtown Apopka Trail, and construction of public event space.

The city and the developer anticipate approximately one acre of the site will be retained by the city for construction of public event space, which will be completed by Standard Investments and Holdings.

The Apopka Station Street Project proposal outlines the general design for a 60-unit, two-building apartment complex and associated parking and event space in downtown Apopka. The event space would remain wholly owned and operated by the city of Apopka and will include a pavilion and restroom facilities.

The Apopka Station Street Project proposal and use of the site is consistent with the comprehensive plan which shows the site as commercial. The land development code for zon-

ing is Mixed Use-Downtown (MU-D).

Both Land Use and Zoning permit multifamily developments and adhere to the Senate Bill 102, known as the Live Local Act, to allow for a maximum of 25 dwelling units per acre for the apartment site area, according to city documents.

Located downtown, the Apopka CRA is comprised of 644 acres that has a mix of residences, businesses and historic properties. The CRA is bound on the south by Tenth and 11th Streets, Hawthorne Avenue to the west, Oak Street to the north; and sections of multiple streets to the east including but not limited to Highland Avenue, Monroe Avenue and Alabama Avenue.

The Apopka Community Redevelopment Agency Board directs the agency. The board is comprised of the Apopka City Council, an Orange County Board of County Commissioners representative, and other individuals appointed by the local government.

In August 2023, the Apopka CRA Board approved its fiscal year 2024 budget worth \$4,1603,599.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS
PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

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Puzzle Solution

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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B