

The Apopka Chief

Your trusted local news source

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Temporary Station 6 will move to new Harmon Rd. site

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Due to AdventHealth Apopka's expansion that includes adding more parking spaces on their campus, the neighboring temporary Fire Station 6 is moving to its new location on Harmon Road.

In a Friday, March 15, email, Apopka Fire Chief Sean Wylam explained to the entire fire department about how AdventHealth Apopka's expansion project would impact temporary Fire Station 6 site.

The Fire Department had regular meetings with AdventHealth and researched alternative locations, prioritizing optimal response times, accessibility to service areas and the best living arrangements for on-duty firefighters, according to Wylam's email.

"After much research, the fire department decided to relocate the temporary station to the Harmon on the Lake apartment complex, located along Harmon Road in Apopka, until the completion of permanent Fire Sta-

tion 6.

"This complex emerged as the most suitable option," the email says. "Its location ensures minimal disruption to response times, allowing us to continue delivering prompt and effective emergency services to the community. Additionally, the amenities and facilities offered by the complex meet the needs of our personnel, ensuring their comfort and well-being during their stay. We also own the property just to the east, 2139 Harmon Road which is where we will stage Quint 6 for response."

"The fire department has been working with AdventHealth, city public services, city facilities, Duke Energy, Harmon on the Lake, and a contractor to facilitate temporary Fire Station 6's move."

A spokesman for AdventHealth Central Florida Division, Jose Luis Dieppa, confirmed to *The Apopka Chief* that the hospital has been in communication with the fire department about the hospital's expansion and its effect on temporary Fire Station 6. The hospital did inform the

fire department that Fire Station 6 must move by May 1 to a new location, Dieppa said.

The trailer Fire Station 6 is currently using will be taken back by the company that owns it, according to Mayor Bryan Nelson.

This past January, the city and its partners broke ground on the permanent Fire Station 6, an 8,065 square-foot building that will get built on the northeast corner of Harmon Road and Ocoee Apopka Road.

Permanent Fire Station 6 will go up within the vicinity of AdventHealth Apopka at the S.R. 414/S.R. 429 interchange.

"We have been told that the construction will begin any day. All the permit work is complete and the contract has been reviewed by legal and executed by Miller Construction. We are expecting the Station to be fully completed by early 2025," Wylam said in a separate email to *The Apopka Chief*.

Since opening in December 2017, temporary Fire Station 6 has served the city's southwest-



The arrow points to the the location identified as 2139 Harmon Road, where Fire Station 6 will stage its fire engine Quint 6. The site is next to the Harmon on the Lake apartment complex, where the temporary Fire Station 6 will relocate.

See FIRE Page 10A



Rock Springs Road/Welch Road intersection in Apopka.

City's growth adds to updates needed for its comprehensive transportation plans

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The city of Apopka continues to update its comprehensive plan's transportation element, which con-

tains policies for creating and maintaining the community's multi-modal transportation network, so the Planning Commission and City Council would eventually approve it.

Engineer Mike Woodward and

planning analyst Evan Magley, both from the Orlando engineering consulting firm Kimley-Horn, presented the revised transportation element at

Natural gas district launching energy choice initiative

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The Lake Apopka Natural Gas District (LANGD) will present to its three parent cities an ordinance introducing an energy choice initiative that would give homeowners the freedom to select which energy source is best for their budget and lifestyle.

Brent Haywood, LANGD CEO/general manager, presented the background of the district's energy choice initiative at the Board of Directors' Monday, March 25 meeting.

He and LANGD attorney Carole Barise crafted the ordinances, which will be submitted to the board for approval at the April 22 meeting. Those ordinances will then go to the city councils of Apopka, Win-

ter Garden and Clermont, LANGD's member municipalities.

The district's energy choice initiative is about giving consumers the right to determine the best energy needs for their budget and lifestyle. Haywood explained to the board that LANGD is seeking to guarantee an energy future that includes a mix of energy that best serves its communities including natural gas, renewable natural gas and hydrogen gas.

"A lot of the federal initiatives that are out there don't take into account what it costs a normal person to live. It doesn't take into account what low-income families need to be able to live and survive," Haywood said.

The electrification

See ENERGY Page 5A

Second phase of affordable housing breaks ground

On Thursday, March 21, Homes in Partnership, Inc. broke ground on the development of 29 single-family homes to be priced in the mid-\$200,000s in the second phase of its affordable Holly Creek community in Zellwood.

For very-low and low-income individuals and families, monthly mortgage payments for the homes in Holly Creek IIB will be \$1,200 or less including taxes and insurance. The 1,281 to 1,533 square foot homes are 100 percent financed with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loans, one of Homes in Partnership's primary

partnerships in delivering self-help housing.

Orange County has committed infrastructure funding for Holly Creek IIB through its Housing and Community Development Division. Homes will be constructed in 2024-25 for occupancy beginning in 2025.

Since 2020, Homes in Partnership has built and provided homes to 157 individuals and families in Lake, Marion, Orange and Sumter counties with an additional 65 planned for 2024-25.

Homes in Partnership works with potential home-

See HOMES Page 7A



Pictured with Boria (l) is Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson on the walk with him.

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Apopka Event of the Week

Basic English 1 is at the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., on Friday, April 5, and meets from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. p.m., in the Meeting Room. This class is designed for students with a beginner level knowledge of English. Practice basic vocabulary and grammar. This class focuses on a new topic each time where we will discuss vocabulary and basic grammar.

Quotable

Jesus rose from the dead. That is what allows us to have a relationship with the God who made us and enables us to spend eternity with him.

The Apopka Chief on the reason we celebrate Easter, this year, on March 31, 2024

Opinion

The Apopka Chief
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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Consultant Emeritus John Peery
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Marshall Tempest, Neal Fisher
General Mgr Emeritus Neoma Knox
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Our position

Spending eternity with our Heavenly Father is the reason

Editor's Note: This message was written by John Peery, who is now in Heaven with his Lord. Remembering how he felt about the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and the love he had for his family and community, we are sharing this message once again with our readers.

The world around us has changed quite a bit this past year, but the reason we celebrate Easter has not, and most of us will celebrate with joy in our hearts.

For some of us, it's little more than about baskets, finding eggs, and having a nice meal. Others find peace in the knowledge that Easter is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and what it means for our place in heaven for eternity.

But, do not forget that the reason Jesus came to earth was for us to have a way to pay for our sins. The holy God who created heaven and earth, and all of us who have ever lived, cannot accept us in our sinful state.

He requires a sacrifice as payment for those sins that each and every one of us has committed.

Because there is no way for us to pay for those sins without spending eternity alienated from God, he sent Jesus, his perfect son, down to earth to tmake payment for our sins.

Easter is such a glorious day and we should always rejoice in that day because of what happened on that day more than 2,000 years ago. Jesus rose from the dead. That is what allows us to have a relationship with the God who made us and enables us to spend eternity with our heavenly Father.

However, we should always remember that, unless Jesus dies, Easter doesn't happen and Jesus isn't resurrected from the dead.

It took the giving of his own life on that cruel cross to pay for our sins.

Fortunately for us, his being raised from the dead allows us to be seen by God as sinless when we believe in Jesus and ask for-

givenness for our sins by repenting of those sins.

Jesus was beaten and flogged before being crucified and he was mocked while hanging on the cross.

It was a horrific experience, but he suffered because he loves us.

Giving us this gift of eternal life through his suffering and his resurrection is amazing and there is nothing better than to read the description of Jesus' resurrection from the Book of Matthew, Chapter 28, Verses 1-8. This is from the New International Version of the Bible:

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

"There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you.'

"So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples."

As you are enjoying time with family or even snacking on a chocolate bunny, never forget that the resurrection of Jesus, the ultimate event in history, would not have been possible without the death of Jesus for the payment of our sins.

May the Lord bless you and your family.



Effective leaders have effective teams

Too many ordinary citizens in District 2 do not feel empowered. We must restructure smaller interdependent teams based on neighborhoods and local areas so all feel welcome. In essence, we must become an effective team led by many leaders. We achieve success by working harmoniously and with shared purpose. Complaining, fussing, and ridiculing on social media has little lasting benefit. Joining a team of empowered citizen leaders makes an enormous contribution in a small town.

I'm currently enrolled in an online major university course on effective organizing. Last Friday, I was personally coached by two

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

teaching assistants, one from Scotland and the other from Jordan. I had some true "aha" moments. What a privilege to receive this superb training. I would like to share some of this training with my constituents. Why? Because I believe we can be so much more if we are training, coaching, and working

toward a common goal.

First, I'm learning that to be successful we must have shared purpose. While this statement has not been thoroughly vetted or word-smithed, I promulgate our shared purpose as the desire to live in a safe, clean, collaborative, trusting, inclusive, and prosperous community. I hope you agree with this purpose, too. It is fine to believe in other points, like protecting our natural environment, building up our downtowns, and lessening suburban sprawl, because I believe in these things, too. But, the other values will bring the change

See MOORE Page 4A

Digital testing is shorter and sensible

This week some of our high school students took the SAT at their high school. This year, the test looks much different than the test that all of us have come to know.

The test that students took this week is now given digitally instead of the old paper and pencil test. No more bubbling in answers and no more paper books with the same format for everyone. This new digital SAT is now shorter and has an embedded graphing calculator that students can use throughout the math section.

But the most important change is that this new test is adaptive. This means that how students do on a set of test questions affects the difficulty of a subsequent set of test questions.

I've heard many stu-

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

dents say this version is harder than previous versions, but the truth is, if it seems harder then that means the student is doing well. There is no need to waste time on easy questions. It can move along to harder ones that are accurately measuring the level the student is on faster.

Because the test is adaptive and cuts out unnecessary questions, the test is now shorter. Instead of a

three-hour test, the new digital SAT is a two-hour test. That is a big relief to students who struggle with sustained focus for long periods of time. It still measures on a 1600-point scale and tests in the three areas of reading, writing, and math.

The shorter test is also helpful for schools giving the test and test proctors because it requires less time to be blocked off if the test is being given during the school day, and proctors no longer have to pack, organize, and ship testing materials. Also, the digital test is formatted so that if there is a power or wifi outage, the progress on the test is not lost.

In Orange County, all our students are given laptops so there is no issue with

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.
Psalm 119:2

Mema Says

What I love most about home is who I share it with.

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Children are not being taught not to care about history of our country

"Ignorance can be fixed with education, but stupid is forever." This admonition sums up the way our nation is being led, and the surprising thing are the people who are applauding the leaders who are involved! It is time we realized there are some folks who have no idea where their safety lies, and those who have opened eyes are stupefied into immobility.

I cannot comprehend the nonsensical approach this administration has lured us into, and they did it with our permission! We listened



Ike Hayden

to their arguments against prayer and Bible usage for our children, and we said "OK, take them away from school activities." "Making a child pledge to a flag, and our nation was against their

right to choose," they said. So, we took that away from morning school routines.

Our schools are pumping out uneducated, under achievers that cannot even tell you who the first President of the United States was. I do not think it was taken away from the teacher's syllabus. Our children are being taught not to care about history at all because it is trivial to the Marxist teaching. If you can downplay the history of a nation, you can rewrite it to match your agenda, and the student's become subjects to

the ruling class, without firing a shot.

Karl Marx taught equity for unity. As an example, he taught the employer and the employee ought to merge to become a classless society where everyone was equal, but he could never show you one. In the book, 1984, George Orwell warned of things to come. He saw the future as having people deprived of books, educational choices (schools), privacy, freedom of speech, and the liberty of individuality. He thought that depriving people of those luxuries would

lead to the downfall of the United States.

In another writing, a man by the name of Aldous Huxley authored the book, 'A Brave New World,' and in it, he described a future where there would be no limits to what books could be read, nor to whom they were available. No barriers to pharmaceuticals for pleasure use. In Brave New World, people are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, Orwell feared that what we hate will ruin us. Huxley feared that what we love would ruin us. Both

were right to one degree or another.

We have seen variables in this administration that has the destruction of our Democratic constitutional republic as their goal. The President of this great nation is full of lies, greed, and corruption that has not been matched in our nation before. If you search history for some examples of men who loved the United States of America, her Constitution, and filled the office of President with deep respect, and

See HAYDEN Page 4A

City: Staff previously discussed update at fall 2023 meeting

Continued from page 1A

the Apopka Planning Commission's March 12 meeting at City Hall.

The last time the city of Apopka updated its transportation element was 2009, according to Woodward. In collecting data to revise the transportation element, Kimley-Horn is looking to update the transportation element as far ahead as to the year 2050.

"Per statute, the horizon is 10 years. The previous one (transportation element) looks out to year 2030, so we've got to go beyond that. Also, since 2009, you've had a little bit of growth. You've seen some changes in your city, and so let's, let's adjust for those and make sure that we're prepared for what's here now and also looking towards the future," Woodward said.

If the Planning Commission recommends approval of the transportation element, it will go to City Council for its approval.

al, then to the state Department of Commerce, formerly the state department of Economic Opportunity. After that, the Department of Commerce has 30 days to review the transportation element and get it transmitted back to the City Council.

The speed of the review process will depend on what the comments may be on the transportation element and how the comments will be addressed.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for April 9, and transmittal hearing at City Council is tentatively scheduled for April 17.

Pamela Richmond, city transportation coordinator, discussed only the transportation element to the Apopka Planning Commission in October 2023. Back then, she clarified that the city has been modifying the entire comprehensive plan because it was

last done in the 1990s, but just wanted to focus on the transportation element at the meeting because it received a different funding source from other parts of the comprehensive plan.

A city's comprehensive plan lays out a vision for the community's future as well as steps that are necessary to achieve that vision.

She said she wanted to use the October 10, 2023 Planning Commission

meeting as a kickoff for public involvement in the transportation element that may include in-person opportunities and a survey.

At that meeting, Richmond gave a timeline for the updated transportation element. She expected the ordinance on the updated

transportation element to be presented to the Planning Commission to recommend approval, and on November 15, 2023, the City Council would approve the ordinance so it would get transmitted to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for review.

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3D SHOWINGS

GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (PG-13) 12:40

GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (PG-13) 11:40A; 1:40; 2:50; 3:50; 4:50; 6:00; 7:00; 7:50; 9:10; 10:10; 10:40

KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) 11:50A; 2:10; 4:30; 6:50; 9:50

DUNE: PART TWO (PG-13) 12:20; 3:20; 6:40; 7:30*; 9:20****

GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG-13) 12:30; 4:00; 7:10; 10:00

BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (PG-13) 12:50; 2:20*; 4:10; 4:20*; 7:20; 10:20

IMAGINARY (PG-13) 12:50*; 1:00; 4:40; 5:00*; 7:40; 10:30**

KID: HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCER'S STONE (PG) 11:20A**

KID: HOP (PG) 11:10A**

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FINDING WHERE GOD IS SEEN AND FELT

What's church got to do with it?

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April 7 @ 2:30pm ET Sunday

LOCATION

Hilton Garden Inn Apopka City Center
580 E. Main Street
Apopka FL

See website for remote access information

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Why does Easter date change?

Easter’s exact date varies so much because it actually depends on the moon. The holiday is set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the first full moon after the vernal equinox. It can be as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. It comes early this year, falling on the last Sunday of the month, March 31. This is 10 days earlier than last year’s April 9 date. Next year, Easter is back to the month of April, falling much later than the past two years on April 20, 2025.

Because Ash Wednesday kicks off the Lenten season, its date is always exactly 46 days before Easter (40 days of Lent, plus six, as each Sunday is skipped) and thus is affected directly by what date Easter falls on that year. This year, Ash Wednesday fell on Wednesday, February 14 (Valentine’s Day!).

Easter 2024

Which brings us to our central question: Why is Easter on a different date each year? And why is it on March 31, 2024, this year, which is earlier than last year and the year before? The holiday, which celebrates Christ’s resurrection from the grave following his crucifixion, can occur any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. (That’s a pretty wide range!)

Easter’s exact date varies so much because it actually depends on the moon. The holiday is set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Though the equinox’s exact date can vary each year according to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, the church always recognizes the vernal equinox as March 21. So why does Easter come after the Paschal Full Moon? Early Christians wanted Easter to coincide with

Passover, because Christ’s death and resurrection happened after the Jewish holiday, writes Christian minister Mary Fairchild on LearnReligions.com.

Because the Jewish calendar is tied to solar and lunar cycles, the dates of Passover and Easter fluctuate each year. The date of Easter is determined by the first full moon of spring, as is Passover. Infrequently, the full moon occurs on a Friday or Saturday, so Passover is observed after Easter.

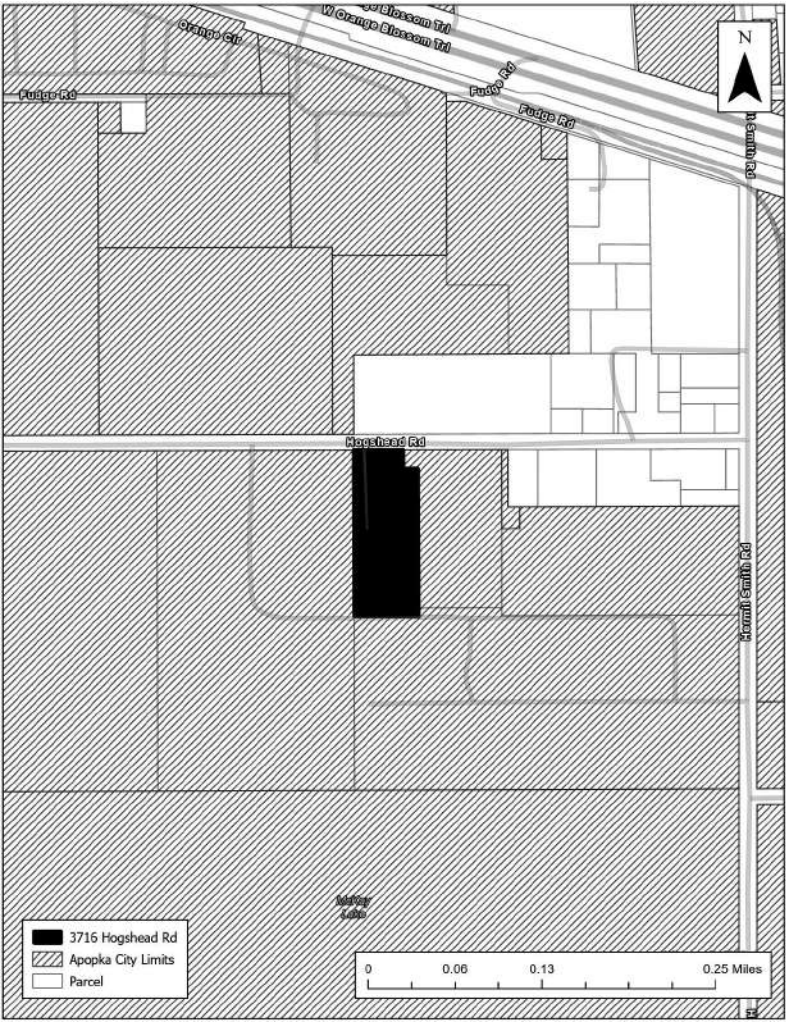
When Jesus observed the Last Supper with his disciples, it was a Passover seder. Jesus used elements of the seder — the unleavened bread (matzah) and wine — to commemorate his impending death (the bread represents his body, the wine his blood). That is why Christians take Communion today.

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/a46407/why-does-easter-change-dates/>

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Tara Tedrow c/o Lowndes** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW THE USE OF AN OUTDOOR STORAGE AS AN ACCESSORY USE IN THE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (I-L) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located at 3716 Hogshead Road:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 01-21-27-0000-00-044
Contains: 2.99 +/- acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the Special Exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on Tuesday, **April 9, 2024, beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

March 29, 2024

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Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

176090

Moore: Working together is a must

Continued from page 2A

we all deserve and need to see.

Second, we must thoroughly develop ground rules or norms. We are currently holding quarterly training meetings, monthly informational meetings, regular clean-ups, and bi-annual events such as Easter Egg Hunts, Fall Festivals, etc. I also am more thoroughly developing a Corridor Chief Program. My aide and I will be restructuring this program for our April Quarterly Meeting. I believe if one person takes responsibility and “ownership” of a section of a roadway, reporting infrastructure problems to the municipality, picking-up trash, and organizing the neighborhoods in some kind of spirit activities, the entire community will greatly improve. Last weekend, Troy Johnson, from Southern Apopka’s group, attended the Wekiwa Egg Hunt, and the POWS (People of Wekiwa Springs) Team and I shared our supplies so he can host a quick event in Southern Apopka tomorrow (Saturday). We value collaboration. We know the value of bringing the community together and living in a clean, safe environment.

I currently have some fantastic Corridor Chiefs. Others may need more training (my fault). And I still desire to recruit more Corridor Chiefs. If you are interested, please call my office at 407.836.5919 and speak with Alex Quinones. The difference Pam Welker is making on Sheeler Road should inspire others. She does have a big need. We have not been able to get one of our communities to pressure wash their black wall and sidewalks.

If anyone can donate money or pressure wash for free, Pam would be ecstatic.

We are interdependent. In fact, the Clarcona-Ocoee Team led by Mateo Schulte and Sandy Miller cancelled their monthly clean-up just to assist the Wekiwa Springs Team led by Sue Henesy. I’m hearing now that the Wekiwa Springs Team might cancel their clean-up to help the Southern Apopka Team on a bonus clean-up on E. 10th Street tomorrow morning.

You are always welcome to join us. Bring a rake, or weed whacker, and some gloves! We will be mowing, edging, trimming trees, raking up an inordinate number of leaves. This beautiful section of downtown Apopka has a terrific tree cano-

py. Our goal is to transform E. 10th Street from Sheeler Road to Apopka Blvd. I will be working on Clarcona Road on June 6th in collaboration with Pastor Sabrina Jones and Jarette Schofield. And I bet some of my other leaders will be there to lend a hand. We care about every area of District 2, even if we cannot get to every section, all at the same time.

In November, all the teams compete for Corridor of the Year and now Artistic Corridor of the Year. It is truly a friendly competition because we appreciate and respect one other. Winning is just a bonus.

All I really do is create opportunities for people to accept greater responsibility for their neighborhood, corridor, and community. It is enjoyable, uplifting, and energizing work. I am in the business of empowering ordinary citizens through quantifiable goals, and regular activities.

If you would like to speak with me further, I will set aside time to meet you at my favorite haunt on a Saturday afternoon, Canon Coffee. Call me at 407.836.5850 to schedule a time.

I believe you will be an awesome leader and part of a great team of leaders.

Hayden: Common sense is needed

Continued from page 2A

faithfulness. Men such as Harry Truman who, when offered a corporate position at a large salary, declined stating, “You do not want me. You want the office of President, and that does not belong to me. It belongs to the American people, and it is not for sale.” Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, “My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there is hardly any difference!”

What has happened to our national leaders? When a leader of men stands and states the very things that many of “We the People” would like to say, and talks about loving our neighbors, giving a hand up instead of a handout to those who need a push start, and being proud of being a part of the greatest nation GOD ever placed on this orb we call Earth, the United States of America, he is berated by other politicians, skewered by lies, in-

nuendos that are perpetrated and spread by most of the newspapers and news broadcasters.

Suddenly, the BLM, Antifa, and all the other haters of the United States are deeply interested in history. Not the history of our great nation, or its heroes they have degraded by statue demolition, but the history of one man whom they fear, knowing that if he gets back into the office of President, things will change.

We need to support men that tell it like it is. We ban the Bible from our classrooms and then invite drag queens to read stories of Lil’ Johnny who wants to become Lil’ Joanie, and then we teach sexual aberrations instead of the three “R’s.” Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. I had a clock with the square root sign at every major time marking. I asked a sixteen-year-old what was at the top of the clock with the square root of 144. Her answer, “That’s the sign for the power of.” We’re raising children that believe when they graduate from high

school they ought to be driving a new car, have a penthouse apartment, the newest cell phone, and all the things some of their moms and dads had to work two jobs, scrape by just to buy them fashionable clothing (with holes in the knees, and everywhere), so they could compete with “everybody else.”

If I were sent home with a note from the teacher, my folks did not run to the school to file a complaint that I was being picked on. My dad had a sure cure for the problem that had nothing to do with the teacher. It was called a razor strop, and it never failed to leave an impression. I am not talking about politics. I am talking common sense. Robert Kennedy is a Democrat that has common sense, and a deep love for our nation. Donald Trump is talking common sense and loves this great nation. They have a deep respect for each other and that is the way it should be. Let us shed our ignorance and get educated.

Stupid is forever! And we are not stupid!

Byrd: Some tests are now optional

Continued from page 2A

students not having a device to take the test. In other areas where that may not be the case,

College Board, the company that distributes the test, provides devices to students to take the test.

The major advantage of a digital test is that students no longer have to wait weeks to get results. Now students get results in a matter of days.

These days, post-Covid, many universities are test op-

tional, meaning they no longer require SAT scores for admission.

During the pandemic, there were many barriers to students being able to take the SAT so colleges moved away from the requirement.

This is a welcome change for many concerned about testing inequities for students who don’t have access to expensive test prep courses or private tutors.

But these results are still very important as they are used for qualifying here in Florida for the Bright Fu-

tures scholarship. This state scholarship is given to students who achieve a certain grade point average, SAT or ACT score and complete a certain number of volunteer or work hours. The award pays for either 75% or 100% of state college/university credit hour tuition.

It’s a great deal for our Florida students and a way for all students to have access to higher education.

For more information on the new SAT format, visit collegeboard.org.

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

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(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

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

Orange County Telephone Numbers

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County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser.....	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

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

Energy: State passed law forbidding local ban of fuel sources

Continued from page 1A

movement proposes the move to an all-electric, single-source model that eliminates the use of natural gas and natural gas products. A single-source energy model would eliminate competition, thus allowing electric companies to monopolize the energy landscape and deprive consumers' right to choose the energy source that best fit their needs and budget, according to Haywood.

Electrification lives on the misconception that electricity is equivalent to natural gas in affordability, dependability and cleanliness.

In June 2021, Florida House Bill 919 that Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law, became effective July 2021. It prevents local governments from banning fuel sources and protects the rights of those who currently have the choice to use natural gas. However, that didn't stop developers – mostly outside the area –

from taking it upon themselves to deny homeowners energy choice, Haywood said.

"They're not your neighbor living beside you. It's not the old days of development. It's companies out of Texas, companies out of Atlanta, companies out of Canada that are doing these developments. And they're looking for the shortsighted gain on their end, which is, that's capitalism. That's the business. But our job is to make sure that we best serve the communities with all that we have available. So, the families of these communities don't end up not having the right to choose," Haywood said.

According to the American Public Gas Association, families are losing more than \$1,000 per year in energy cost without a choice.

Families in LANGD's parent cities are losing more than \$35.9 million per

See ENERGY Page 6A

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Energy: Initiative has been a board topic for years, member says

Continued from page 5A

year as a result of natural gas not being used or is not a choice. This number was based on the data collected from the 2020 Census data combined with LANGD’s service territory data.

“Also, there’ll be an impact as far as franchise fees and money that goes back into the communities. So our push in getting this (ordinance) adopted in each one of our parents cities is a push to try to curb this loss. With every new develop-

ment that goes into electrification, that keeps growing more and more and more every day. That’s a loss to people’s wellbeing and loss to the income of the community. How do we bring into energy choice? Energy choice developments are

key,” Haywood said.

LANGD’s energy choice initiative is not a new subject. Fred Crabtree, board vice president and Winter Garden representative, mentioned how the subject had been broached at board meetings multiple

times over the years.

“The feedback from the cities in the past was that they were reluctant to do this because it would deter developers and builders from building inside city limits so they would go outside city limits,” Crab-

tree said in a phone interview, adding that he wasn’t sure if that was the case anymore.

Crabtree clarified that the issue he raised at the board meeting “was not a big deal; it was just a point of interest.”

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using a domestic fuel source.

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- Apopka Quick Mart (BP), Hwy 436 & Lake Cortez Dr.
- Argos Family Diner, 3346 E. Semoran Blvd.
- Beekays, N. Park Ave. (across from the old Fla. Hosp. location)
- CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436
- Chevron Diamond Gas – Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rds
- Chevron Market, Hwy 441 & Roger Williams Rd.
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- Circle K, Keene Rd / Clarcona
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- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)
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- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
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while serving in the U.S.
Army 101st Airborne Di-
vision. They have three
adults sons, Joey, Jerry,
and Jamey.



Homes: Residents must meet standards to own a house

Continued from page 1A

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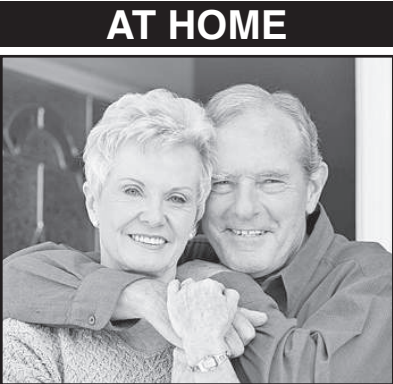
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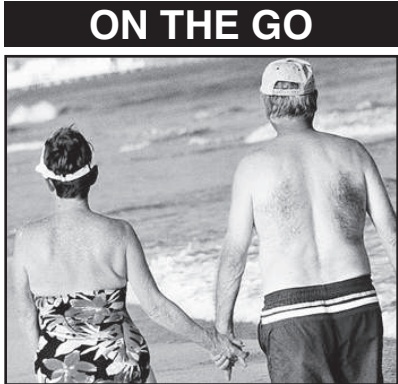


AT HOME

The Apopka Chief

March 29, 2024, Page 8A

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ON THE GO

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Think about it. The first four-time winner of the Gold Medal honoring the nation's best state park system, the Florida Park Service is one of the largest in the country with 175 state parks, trails and historic sites spanning nearly 800,000 acres and 100 miles of sandy white beach. The website, *FloridaStateParks.org/plan-your-visit*, gives answer to various questions. This time of the year may be a ood time to consider visiting one of the 175 state parks. The following information gives answers to question you may have.

ACTIVITY QUESTIONS

1. Can I arrange to have my wedding, business meeting or family reunion at a state park in Florida?

Special events are permitted at Florida State Parks. *Please reach out to the specific park for details.

1.2. Can I reserve a picnic shelter?

In general, parks offer picnic shelters on a first-come, first-served basis. However, some picnic shelters may be reserved.

*Check the park's webpage for specific information.

1.3. Can I fish at state parks? Do I need a fishing license?

Fishing locations are abundant in Florida's state parks. Check the individual park's webpage for specific information.

*Visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website to determine if you need a fishing license.

1.4. Where can I swim with the manatees?

Resource protection is foremost at all state parks, and swimming with manatees is not allowed.

However, the endangered Florida manatee can be seen every day at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. Visitors can go below the water's surface to view these gentle giants from the underwater observatory in Homosassa's main spring.

1.5. Can I fly a drone in a Florida State Park?

Launching and/or landing a drone is prohibited within Florida State Parks except in very rare circumstances. The portion of the Florida Administrative Code that governs the operation of Florida State Parks (Chapter 62D-2.014, F.A.C.) states:

*(15) Aircraft. No person operating or responsible for any aircraft, glider, balloon, parachute or other aerial apparatus shall cause any such apparatus to take off from or land in any park except in an emergency when human life is endangered or where a designated

landing facility may exist on park property.

The Florida Park Service includes drones in the category of "other aerial apparatus." Currently, we do not have guest-accessible landing facilities in any Florida state park.

The primary reason for our very limited occasions of drone use (i.e., mainly as a tool for rescue or reviewing areas impacted by natural disaster) is because our mission as part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requires us to take into consideration the preservation of natural resources.

It has been observed that nesting birds view drones as potential predators and are likely to abandon nests or avoid otherwise ideal habitat areas if drones have been regularly spotted in those locations. We do not want this to occur within our park conservation areas, which are intended to be sanctuaries for our native wildlife.

1.6. Where can I do metal detecting within Florida's state parks?

Our statewide park rules, based on regulations set out by the Florida Administrative Code, state that metal detecting is prohibited on all state park lands, except for coastal parks. In these parks, metal detecting may occur within certain beach areas located between the toe of the dune and the high-water line, as designated by the park manager. Metal detecting in submerged locations is not permitted.

Objects with historic association (anything over 50 years old) are not permitted to be kept by park visitors, even if the objects are found in the areas approved for metal detecting. These objects are archaeological artifacts, and title to such is vested in the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

If you plan to visit a state park with a beach, we recommend calling ahead to the park to inquire if there is any section of the beach where you can do metal detecting and if there are any restrictions you should be aware of (i.e., can you dig down to retrieve any objects you find, etc.). View our list of all state parks with beaches. Be aware that a limited number of these parks are inland, and their "beach" is on a lake, river, spring, etc. Because these are not coastal parks, metal detecting is not allowed at these locations.

1.7. If I have lost a personal item in a state park, can I use a metal detector to help me find it?

Metal detectors may be used to recover personal items that are specifically identified by their owner as being lost in a specific area of a park. The owner of lost property or their representative should contact the park manager who will ar-

range a time for the search to be conducted in the presence of a park staff member. During these searches, only the item sought may be kept by the owner or their representative.

1.8. Are Florida State Park visitors permitted to forage, collect or take any items found within the park?

Per Chapter 62.D, F.A.C., no person shall destroy, injure, deface, mar, move, dig, harmfully disturb or remove from any park area, or the waters thereof, any buildings, structures, facilities, historic ruins, equipment, park property, soil, sand, gravel, rocks, stones, minerals, marine plants or animals, artifacts or other materials. No person shall cut, carve, injure, mutilate, move, displace or break off any water bottom formation or growth. Nor shall any person possess, break off or in any way damage any stalactites, stalagmites or other cave formations.

This rule means that one cannot gather firewood/kindling materials; forage for edibles; or remove plant/animal items such as driftwood, leaves/pine needles, feathers/bones or other animal products within a state park.

Exceptions to this rule are made only for research/academic study purposes, in cases where a collection permit has been issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The other exception to the prohibition regarding collection and removal of items is if the items are empty seashells, sea glass or shark teeth found between the water line and toe of the sand dunes in coastal parks with beaches. Seashells with living creatures in them and live sand dollars should be left where they are and not removed.

1.9. Can I ride my electric-assist bicycle (otherwise known as an e-bike) on Florida state trails and trails within Florida's state parks?

Electric-assist bicycles/e-bikes are defined in Florida Statute as bicycles. They are therefore permitted for use on Florida state trails and on trails designated as multi-use or specifically intended for bicycles within Florida's state parks.

If a trail is designated for pedestrians or equestrians only, you may not ride a bicycle or e-bike on that trail. There may be posted speed limits on any given trail.

Bicycles and e-bikes may also be used on paved public access roads within Florida's state parks.

10. Where would I be permitted to ride my motorized/power-assist recreational scooter?

Motorized recreational scooters are not permitted for use on state trails. Within Florida State Parks, you may ride your e-scooter on paved public access roads but not on sidewalks, boardwalks or trails.

11. Are golf carts permitted for use in Florida

State Parks?

Golf carts and utility vehicles may be driven on public access roads within Florida State Parks that have a speed limit of less than 30 mph.

All golf cart/utility vehicle operators must:

*Have a valid driver's license and follow all rules of the road (all applicable state laws and local ordinances).

*Have a vehicle equipped with working brakes, dependable steering, safe tires, a rear-view mirror, and red reflective devices (tape) on the front and rear of the vehicle.

*Drive golf carts/utility vehicles only during daylight hours (between sunrise and sunset) unless the vehicle is also equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals and a windshield.

Golf carts/utility vehicles may not be driven on sidewalks, boardwalks, trails, off-road, or on service roads off-limits to park guests.

12. Can I use my ATV/side-by-side/four-wheeler/UTV on trails or off-road areas within Florida's state parks?

Florida's state parks do not offer any trails or off-road areas for use by ATVs and similarly purposed vehicles, although we do offer trails designed for hiking on foot, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Utility vehicles that meet standards also applicable for golf carts may be driven on public access roads within Florida State Parks that have a speed of less than 30 mph.

13. I use a power-driven mobility device (OPDMD) due to my mobility disability. Are there any restrictions on use of this within Florida State Parks?

Please see our Wheelchairs and Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD) policy for information on size, speed, weight and type restrictions for OPDMDs in Florida State Parks.

Please visit our Accessibility page to learn more about Florida State Parks' commitment to accessibility.

14. What is the policy regarding firearms in Florida State Parks and Trails?

Concealed or open carry of firearms in Florida State Parks is governed by Chapter 790, Florida Statutes.

Savannas Preserve State Park is the only park exception to the rules described above. Chapter 258.157, F.S., states that it is unlawful for any person, except a law enforcement or conservation officer, to have in his or her possession any firearm while within the Savannas Preserve State Park.

Rules about discharging or the use of weapons are specified in Chapter 62D-2.014(10), F.A.C., which states under the heading "Hunting and Firearms":

*Hunting, trapping or the pursuit of wildlife is prohibited on all state park property, except in Reserves, as authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

15. Is hunting allowed in Florida State Parks?

Florida's state parks are managed as natural systems. All plant and animal life is protected in state parks. Limited hunting with a special permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is allowed at Rock Springs Run State Reserve, Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve and the Marshall Swamp area of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

To fully enjoy the experience of visiting a wilderness area it is recommended that you contact the reserves in advance of your visit.

16. Are alcoholic beverages allowed in the parks?

The only locations within our parks where alcohol can be consumed by persons age 21 and older are:

*n specially designated areas such as:

*A reserved overnight accommodation such as a campsite, cabin, bungalow, yurt or lodge room.

*Reserved covered picnic pavilions, dining halls or recreation halls where the serving of alcohol has been noted in the rental contract (such as for weddings, receptions, reunions, etc.).

*In concessionaire-operated restaurants and lodges within Florida State Parks licensed to provide the sale of alcohol.

*During state park-sanctioned special events where entrance and participant age are carefully monitored.

Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in public locations within state parks, including beaches, tubing/paddling areas, or first-come first-served picnicking areas.

17. Are you allowed to smoke (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vapes) in state parks?

In all Florida's state parks, we uphold the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act, which specifies that you may not smoke inside enclosed structures (such as restrooms, cabins, welcome centers, etc.) or in the doorways immediately adjacent to these structures. Smoking is prohibited in certain designated outdoor areas that receive heavy public use within state parks, and prohibited smoking areas are delineated by signage.

In outdoor areas where smoking is not prohibited, visitors of legal age may smoke. We ask that cigarette butts and any other trash/waste material be completely extinguished and disposed of in proper trash containers.

18. Are guests permitted to scatter the cremation ashes of a friend/family member/pet within a Florida State Park or state trail?

Florida State Parks does not have a policy against the scattering of ashes, but it is restricted to locations where it will not impact the natural or cultural resources. We offer the following guidelines:

*There are no designated sites for the scattering of ashes, but the location you choose should be away from developed areas such as parking lots, trailheads, campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor centers, etc. Make sure you are at least 200 feet away from any water source (lake, spring, river, ocean, wetlands, etc.). Do not scatter ashes in areas where park visitors are restricted from going.

*Discretion should be exercised in spreading ashes; doing so is generally a very private moment, and care should be given not to disturb other park users. Mornings may be preferable times for your memorial, as afternoons may be more crowded and afford less privacy.

*Ashes should be scattered or spread about, not buried or placed in a pile.

*No markers, cairns, displays, signs or plaques may be placed over the ashes.

In certain state parks, such as Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, there may be no locations that are feasible for a scattering of ashes, based on the guidelines given above. Please contact park management to verify your intended scattering site prior to visiting the park to see if the location has any additional restrictions or exclusions.

19. Are there any Florida state parks or state trails that permit the installation of a memorial bench, plaque or similar marker?

Permanent recognition markers such as signs/plaques, benches, monuments, etc., are prohibited in Florida state parks and trails unless such a program has been approved through the park's unit management plan process. Alternative means of memorializing might include donating a needed item/piece of equipment, making a monetary donation to the state park or its citizen support organization (CSO), or participating in an organized tree-planting activity held by the park or a CSO. Additionally, the CSO that supports all Florida State Parks, the Florida State Parks Foundation, offers a "Plant A Pine" program.

20. I would like to hold a memorial service within a state park and release balloons/floating candles/candle-lit sky lanterns. Is that allowed?

Florida State Parks are the site for many important family gatherings, and we are honored that you consider us as a desired venue. Unfortunately, since there is no way to guarantee where balloons and fire-incorporating lanterns (either floating on water or those launched into the air) may wind up, they risk becoming litter that wildlife may be caught in or attempt to ingest.

Lanterns also run the risk of becoming a flammable hazard that may ignite an uncontrolled fire. We request that you look into other options to commemorate your loved one.

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Obituaries

KEVIN JAMES PETTY, 44, long time resident of Apopka, passed away on March 19, 2024. Mr. Petty was born on December 28, 1979 in Orlando. Mr. Petty is survived by his loving wife, Lora "LuLu" Petty of Orlando; Mother, Susie Petty of Plymouth; children, Rylee Kay and Axton; brother, Saul Antunez of Apopka; one sister; as well as 2 grandchildren. He will be dearly missed by his many loved ones and friends.

...



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Marilyn Kavanagh

Kavanagh, Marilyn A. Anderson, 85, of Apopka, FL, formerly of Lake Ronkonkoma, NY, died Friday, March 15, 2024 surrounded by her children, David, Debbie and Ken, along with her grandson Tyler and dear friend of the family, Debbie Tengstedt.

She was the devoted and loving spouse to Richard J. Kavanagh who died in 2006. Marilyn, known as Grandma to many, was the loving mother of David, Kenny, Deb and her other daughter, Holly, as well as devoted family friend, Debbie and grandmother of Brian, Danny, Katie, Tyler, Alexis, Trevor, and Casey and three grandchildren, also survived by her brother, Richard and sister, Darline and her beloved dog



Benny. She was a wonderful friend to many and a beloved grandmother to many more.

She was born in Pleasant Valley, NY, July 22, 1938. She held many positions and lived by the motto- "if you want something done, do it yourself". She was a creative, crafty, caring woman with a wonderful sense of humor. She saw the goodness in everyone and helped so many believe in themselves. A Celebration of her Life will be held on April 21st details to follow. Many thanks to Advent Health Hospice- Red Team. Thank you Eva. In lieu of flowers, a memorial gift in her honor to Advent Health Hospice or your local SPCA.

Perdition Shall Befall the Pendant

In matters of faith and morals, we should not be overly zealous or pedantic. That is, there is no need to require strict adherence to every minute rule or regulation, nor is it necessary to make long and drawn-out prayers. Sometimes, the less said, the better. A short prayer of contrition or of thankfulness is more apt to fit the situation than a long prayer that leaves the listeners bored or fidgeting. It is said that Muhammad would often shorten his public prayers if he heard a child crying, knowing that the child's mother must be distressed by his crying. Jesus warned against the kind of "virtue signaling" demonstrated by long

prayers and public displays of charitable giving, saying "when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do," and "when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others." (Matthew 6:2, 5 NIV) Another way to think about this is in terms of taking a moral holiday. The philosopher William James coined the term "moral holiday" in opposition to the strenuous life, that is the life of the moral zealot who thinks every moral rule and regulation must be adhered to down to every minute point. – 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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In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.
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"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

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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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Perdition Shall Befall the Pendant

(See message above.)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30 NIV



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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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Fire: Permanent fire station construction will cost \$4.3 million

Continued from page 1A

ern region comprised of AdventHealth and the Northwest Distribution Center; the communities of Emerson Park, Breckenridge, Apopka Woods, Magnolia Park Estates and Marden Ridge Apart-

ments; and toll roads 429, 414 and 451.

The December 2017 opening of the temporary Fire Station 6 coincided with the opening of the then-new campus of the AdventHealth campus, which had relocated from its Park Avenue,

Apopka, facility.

On January 3, the Apopka City Council approved 5-0 to award Miller Construction Management a construction manager at risk contract for permanent Fire Station 6 with the guaranteed maximum price of \$3,677,800

and an added 10-percent contingency for a total of \$4,310,580.

The \$4.1-million Harmon Road extension opened in August 2023 to grant better access to AdventHealth Apopka from the east as well as to fire and ambulance vehicles.

The \$26.3 million expansion of AdventHealth Apopka will bring the campus' licensed bed count to 158 and result in the creation of over 20 high-paying jobs. AdventHealth is expected to finish the project by mid-May of this year.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka City Council will consider an update to the Comprehensive Plan.

ORDINANCE NO. 3029
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEROF; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 3029 will be held in the Apopka Council Chambers, 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida 32703 on the following date and time, or shortly thereafter, to consider said Amendment:

Planning Commission - Public Hearing:
Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

City Council - First Reading:
Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

The proposed update to the Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element may be inspected by the public at the Apopka City Hall, in the Community Development Department at 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Telephone number: 407-703-1712.

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

March 29, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

176103

DeSantis sign legislation to stop squatters takeovers of homes

By Andrew Powell
The Center Square

Governor Ron DeSantis signed legislation Wednesday, March 27, that he says will end the problem of squatters taking over homes in the Sunshine State.

DeSantis stated that squatters have taken over homes in states like New York and in some cases, have been murdering the homeowners when they attempt to evict them from their properties.

"Today, in the state of Florida, we say very simply, what passes muster in New York and California, is not passing muster here," DeSantis said. "You are not going to be able to commandeer somebody's private property and expect to get away with it."

DeSantis stated that the "squatters' scam" is going to be ended once and for

all. He added that House Bill 621 would allow homeowners to quickly and legally remove a squatter from their property and increase penalties for those squatting.

DeSantis added that because of outdated laws, squatters knew there was a long process involved in getting them removed from a property and noted that the legislation would make this process more efficient.

"What you can do now if you're the victim of squatting, you can simply fill out a form, give it to your local sheriff, and the sheriff is instructed to go and remove the people who are inhabiting your dwelling illegally," DeSantis said.

DeSantis noted that because of the new legislation and the swiftness in which law enforcement can act, people will be more reluctant to occupy a dwelling in

Florida illegally.

"You see these trends that happen in these other parts of the country, I think good leadership is looking and saying ok, we're not going to repeat what is going on in these failed jurisdictions," DeSantis said. "So the Legislature was up to the task, and then here today we're signing this into law, is going to show the state of Florida is up to the task."

DeSantis stated that he and the Legislature believe in the rule of law, and in private property rights and added that he thinks it's good that people can aspire to own their own homes, including those who own seasonal homes in Florida.

"The squatters' scam ends today with my signature on this piece of legislation and the state of Florida will be better for it," DeSantis said.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE
FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide to Local Businesses

Park Avenue Animal Hospital offers Springtime safety tips for your pets

Spring is upon us, which means it's time to review some important pet safety tips. From potential hazards in the garden to pesky pests and common springtime cleaning chemicals, **Park Avenue Animal Hospital** offers valuable safety tips for pets which will keep them safe both indoors and out.

- Spring blooms are pretty, but some plants and flowers are poisonous to pets. Lilies and daffodils are extremely toxic to cats. Just a tiny amount, a little nibble, or a lick, can be enough to cause irreversible kidney damage.

- Keep your furry friend off the grass and away from any treated areas for at least 24 hours or opt for pet-safe products.

- Keep pets away from seasonal decorations and treats. Poison control centers report a spike in calls about chocolate poisoning around Easter, and some animals like to chew on the grass in Easter baskets, which can become lodged in their gastrointestinal tract.

- As you do your spring cleaning, be mindful of the chemicals in the cleaners you use around the house. Many common household cleaning products can be toxic to pets, whether ingested or simply touched by paws. Products labeled "natural" doesn't mean



Park Avenue Animal Hospital is a full-service veterinary clinic providing a variety of services for dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles, and other exotic small animals. Ready to care for your beloved pet are Dr. Rubinstein, Dr. Turgai, Dr. Nelson, and Dr. Hinton. Not pictured is Dr. Patty.

your pets are free from harm. Make sure that you keep pets secure and away from all cleaning substances until they are dry and out of paws' reach.

- Warmer weather in spring often leads to an increase in the population of fleas, ticks, and other parasites. These parasites not only cause discomfort to pets but can also transmit potentially serious diseases.

- It's allergy season. Just like humans, your furry friends can be allergic to the plants and pollen that come around in springtime, if your pet seems to be sneezing or itching more than usual.

- Talk to the professionals at **Park Avenue Animal Hospital** about what options are best to treat your pet for fleas and ticks to keep them safe and receive the medications they may need to be more comfortable during allergy season.

While dogs and cats are by far the most popular choice for most pet owners, the doctors at **Park Avenue Animal Hospital** have a special

place in their hearts for all animals, furry, feathery, or scaly.

With more than 60 years of combined quality veterinary experience, the doctors at **Park Avenue Animal Hospital** have gone well beyond the standard veterinary education and practice to further their knowledge of animal care to include reptiles, rabbits, ferrets, birds, guinea pigs, and more. Whether it's an annual checkup or a critical emergency, they are prepared to handle any situation.

Fully equipped with diagnostic and surgical tools to meet practically any situation, **Park Avenue Animal Hospital** can provide reasonably priced medical and surgical care without sacrificing quality, in a setting designed to take the stress out of visiting your vet.

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

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

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

Park Avenue Animal Hospital is conveniently located at 847 N. Park Avenue (Rock Springs Road) in Apopka.

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Students prepare to do their best by reading, reading, and reading



From Principal Sarasty:

We are in full swing with prepping all students to perform at their best for our final state assessments in May. Students become better readers the more they read and are read to. No matter what grade level, this is a valuable use of time. Please encourage and read with your child every night. Below are the areas for each grade level with math. It takes us working together to give our students the best opportunity for success. Let's Lovell Up, Wildcats! Game On!

PTA will have a meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. 4:30 – 5:30 pm. They will be having their elections for next year's board at this meeting.

School News:

March 28th, Academic Night will be on Thursday.

April 1st, Lovell Up Monday Wear your favorite game shirt and jeans to show your support in being ALL IN this year.

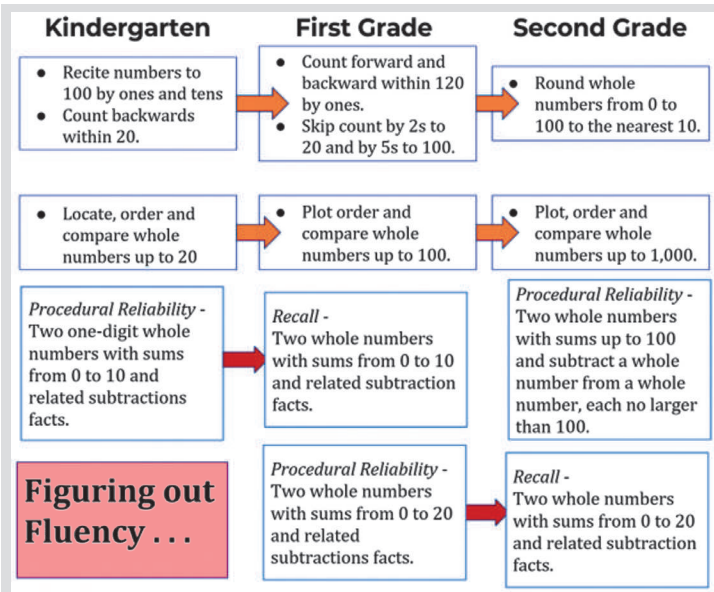
April 2nd – 4th & 5th Grade Writing State Assessment.

April 3rd, Paraprofessional Appreciation Day.

April 4th, School Librarian Appreciation Day.

April 8-12, National Assistant Principal Week.

April 22nd, Beautifula-



tion Day.

April 24th, Administrative Professional's Day.

House News:

Congratulations to our

February House winners... Meraki! Great Job!

Counselor's Corner:

Character Resiliency Trait for March is **Critical**

Math to Know

3rd, 5th

MULTIPLICATION!

- Know facts 1-12 QUICKLY
- Understand two and three digit multiplication

Division

- 3rd single digit
- Know what strategy works best for them

Thinking. Critical Thinking means gathering information to think through and determine the best choice.

We are running a small food drive for our Food

Pantry. Items needed are, pasta, oatmeal, rice, cereal, and macaroni and cheese. We would be appreciated any help you could give.

CommUNITY Celebration



The CommUNITY Celebration at Wekiva High School will take place on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This collaborative event is presented by Wekiva High, Piedmont Lakes Middle, and

Lakeville Elementary.

There will be a wide array of activities and attractions including complimentary food, interactive games, a petting zoo, face painting, bounce houses, and DJ mu-

sic. Attendees will get a chance to explore valuable school and community resources while indulging in culinary delights available for purchase from featured food trucks.

This event serves as a platform to foster community engagement and showcase the diverse offerings of the Apopka area.

Wekiva High School is located at 2501 Hiawasse Road, Apopka.

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CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE AMENDMENTS TO APOPKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Code of Ordinances and the Land Development Code of the City of Apopka, Florida in accordance with Florida Statutes 166.0413(3)(c) to revise sections as specified within the Ordinance Number 3050 title. The proposed amendments affect or may affect the use of property, the development of building and structures, and the development review process for land located within the jurisdiction of the City of Apopka, Florida.

ORDINANCE NO. 3050

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 6, "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES," OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; ADDING DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS FOR OBTAINING AN OPEN CONTAINER PERMIT; SETTING FORTH VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES; ESTABLISHING THE DOWNTOWN APOPKA ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT; AMENDING ARTICLE 4, "USE REGULATIONS," OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO CLARIFY ALCOHOL SALE RESTRICTIONS FOR MOBILE FOOD VENDORS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City of Apopka Downtown Entertainment District Map

