

Luncheon

A luncheon that the Wekiwa Swimmers hosted for park rangers and volunteers included speeches, interesting desserts. See page 3A.



Sports

AHS Baseball battles in seventh but falls to Winter Park
See page 1B.



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Miller's Ale House construction

Construction of Miller's Ale House is progressing on the corner of South McGee Avenue and U.S. Highway 441/Main Street, as seen in this Wednesday, April 17 photo. The restaurant will be 7,202 square feet and have a large outdoor dining area. The sports and entertainment casual dining restaurant, which had its groundbreaking last January, will anchor the Apopka City Center along with Winn-Dixie. Located at the U.S. Highway 441/S.R. 436 interchange, the Apopka City Center is a 35-acre mixed-use development that now consists of the Highland Manor as an event and wedding venue, the 118-room Hilton Garden Inn, and boutique photography studio Rinat Halon Photography.

Apopka City Council approves agreement with VFW Post 10147

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

On Wednesday, April 17, the Apopka City Council voted unanimously to authorize the renewal of a recreation facility use agreement with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10147, over the use of the Apopka Community Center.

The City Council originally had the agreement on its Wednesday, April 3, agenda, but voted that day to table the agenda item to April 17.

The new agreement will begin on August 1, 2024, and continue until December 31, 2030, unless terminated pursuant to the terms of this agreement. At the city's discretion, there is the option to extended for two additional five-year terms with a maximum term expiring on December 31, 2040.

Radley Williams, city parks and recreation director, said after the April 3 meeting, he met with the VFW Commander Dwight "Andy" Anderson and the post's leadership staff to discuss items that were brought up at that council meeting.

See CITY Page 6A

Police search for missing woman, last seen in Marianna

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Apopka police are searching for a missing and endangered woman who hasn't returned home since she left it early this week.

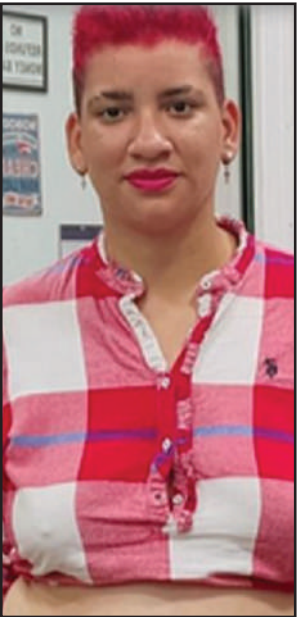
On Monday, April 15, at approximately 9 a.m., Hilary Patricia Ramos Acosta departed her residence on E. Lisa Lane in Apopka. Acosta made comments to her family about wanting to go to an unknown refugee shelter in Orlando. She does not have a phone in her possession, police say.

Acosta is a 26-year-old Hispanic female who is 5-ft, 7-in. tall, weighs 200 pounds, and has brown



Acosta eyes and dyed red hair. She has a tattoo of a butterfly on the inside of her forearm. Police gave an update on Wednesday, April 17, on Acosta, saying that she was

See ACOSTA Page 12A



This is the latest photo of Acosta, last taken Monday, April 15, the day she went missing.

Photo courtesy of Apopka Police Department/Facebook

Thursday, April 11 was week number seven of the 2024 Apopka Citizens Police Academy. The students learned about the Apopka Police K9 Unit.

Apopka Citizens Police Academy continues

Thursday, April 11, ended week number seven of the 2024 Apopka Citizens Police Academy. The students learned about the Apopka Police K9 Unit.

Officers Heath Wood and Marcus Gilzen educated the group about training and requirements to be selected for this specialized unit. Case law, as well as policy and procedures were a big topic for discussion.

The students ended

See POLICE Page 5A

Planning Commission approves special exception

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

At its April 9 meeting, the Apopka Planning Commission recommended approval of the following: a special exception for a Hogshead Road property intended to be used as temporary outdoor storage, and recommended approval for plats at Crossroads at Kelly Park, and at the Mid-Florida South Logistics industrial park.

Transportation element update

During the brief meeting, which lasted less than 30 minutes, a review of Ordinance No. 3029 for the transportation element update of the city comprehensive plan was pulled from the agenda because the city will conduct workshops on the document before it goes back to the Planning Commission, Jim Hitt, Apopka community development director, explained.

The transportation element contains policies for creating and maintaining the community's multi-modal transportation network. It will then be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

The last time the city of Apopka updated its transportation element was 2009. Orlando engineering firm Kimley-Horn is updating the transportation element as far ahead as to the year 2050.

If the Planning Commission recommends approval of the transportation element, it will go to City Council for its approval, then to the state Department of Commerce, formerly the state de-

See PLANNING Page 10A

Popular Crazy Hats return to 62nd annual festival

After a hiatus of a couple years, the Crazy Hats are back at the 62nd annual Apopka Art and Foliage Festival.

The hats have been a big attraction at past festivals. Some people buy them to wear for Mother's Day, Kentucky Derby Day, and some people have collected them and hung them in their homes.

For months, the members of the Apopka Woman's Club collected newspapers, ribbons, flowers, and bows to make these popular hats. The newspapers are molded by wrapping newspaper around a bowl, then they cut, roll and staple the brims. They are then ready to decorate.

The women have fun decorating the hats with ribbons, flowers and bows. It takes 30 to 45 minutes to make and decorate each hat.

The Crazy Hats are available for only \$3 each at the Crazy Hat tent. All money from the sale of the hats goes directly back to the community in the form of scholarships and donations to local non-profits and organizations.

The 62nd Apopka Art

See HATS Page 5A



After a hiatus of a couple years, the Crazy Hats (pictured) are back at the 62nd annual Apopka Art and Foliage Festival, slated for April 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Kit Land Nelson Park.

This week

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Find Public Notices Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices OR FloridaPublicNotices.com

Apopka Event of the Week

VFW's fundraising breakfast will be held at 519 S Central Ave., Sat., January 20, from 8-10 a.m. at a cost of \$7 for a meal consisting of scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, coffee and water. All for \$7. The VFW Auxiliary is also holding its yard sale on Sat., April 20, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., and on Sunday, April 21, from noon-3 p.m.

Quotable

The question of what kind of treatments to pursue should depend on the science, not artificial incentive payment structures that favor one over the other.

IRA's cap on out-of-pocket medical expense is problematic

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Our position

The bipartisan EPIC Act will fix the IRA's "pill penalty." (Pills or IV lines?)

By Michael Ward

Vice president of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the Alliance for Aging Research, a nonprofit.

President Biden's signature legislative accomplishment, the Inflation Reduction Act, (IRA) included a number of provisions good for the health and well-being of America's seniors, starting with the new \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs under Medicare. But as with any legislation of this scope and magnitude, policy errors that created unanticipated consequences snuck in.

A notable misstep was the IRA's unequal treatment of small-molecule drugs and large-molecule biologics.

Most known medicines today are small-molecule drugs, which come in the form of pills, capsules, or tablets that your local pharmacy usually fills for pick-up or delivery. Large-molecule biologic medications are usually infused through an IV line that is put into a vein, or as a shot or injection.

In most cases, if you have the choice of taking an equally effective small-molecule treatment or a biologic, you'd choose the small molecule. The convenience for most older adults, especially individuals that have limited mobility, is clear.

Biologics have an important role in effectively treating many diseases, and there's no question that both small molecules and biologics have a vital role to play in the future of medicine. The question of what kind of treatments to pursue should depend on the science, not artificial incentive payment structures that favor one over the other.

A key element of the IRA is its authorization of federal officials to negotiate with drug makers for lower prices, thus reducing costs for the Medicare program.

On average, it takes more than

\$2 billion in investment per FDA approval of a new drug, once you factor in that over 90 percent of candidates entering clinical trials ultimately fail. Successful new drugs have to realize a return on investment in the period before generic competitors enter the market and competition brings prices down -- or, now, before Medicare demands a significantly lower price. So lawmakers gave newly approved medications an exemption period before price negotiations kick in.

So far, so good. But the problem is that under the IRA, biologics receive a 13-year exemption period, whereas small-molecule drugs get only nine years. The impact of this difference is critical. In its first 13 years after approval, about half of total sales from a new drug accrue in years 10-13.

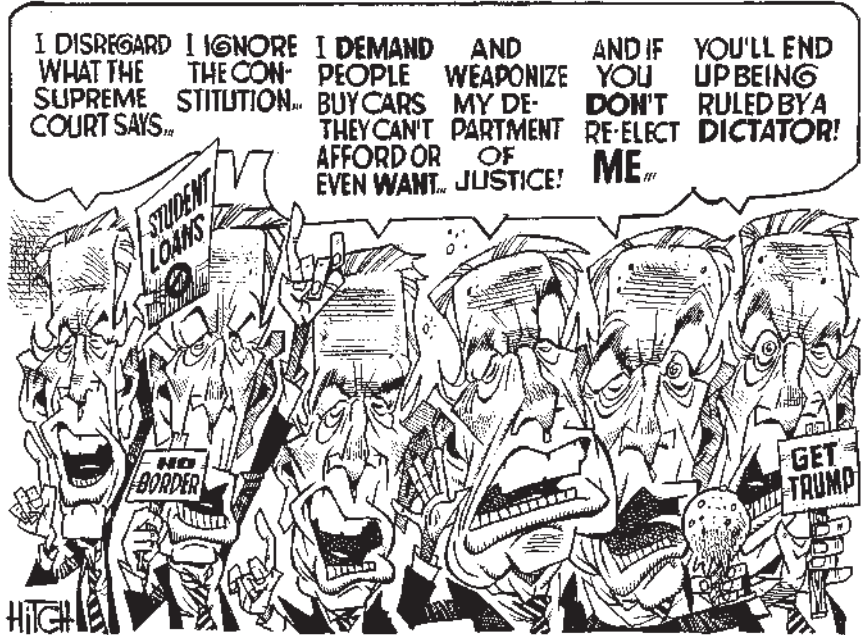
By allowing one set of treatments a longer exemption period than the other, Congress has effectively steered the future of pharmaceutical development toward biologics.

Already, investment is shifting toward biologics and away from small molecules, leaving potential avenues of treatment unfunded.

Thankfully, Representatives Greg Murphy (R-NC), Don Davis (D-NC), and Brett Guthrie (R-KY) have introduced the Ensuring Pathways to Innovative Cures (EPIC) Act to address this problem.

Their legislation would provide a straightforward amendment to allow small-molecule treatments the same 13-year exemption period as biologics, a needed fix to level the playing field while maintaining the IRA's goal of ensuring adequate incentives for new drug development.

With the passage of the EPIC Act, a structural disincentive to pursue small molecule treatments would be addressed and the Inflation Reduction Act would be fixed to support, rather than distort, scientific innovation. That would be great news for older adults.



April 29 meeting is on code changes

On Mon., Apr. 29, 2024 at 6 p.m. I am co-hosting a Town Hall Meeting on changes to the Orange County Code. It's at Zellwood Elementary School, 3551 Washington St., Zellwood, FL 32798. I'm asking District 2 residents to attend to voice opinions on Vision 2050 which will be put in place through the adoption of a new Orange County Land Development Code.

The county is approaching changes to code through what are known as placemaking standards and context-based regulations. This type of code relies on development that is

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

desired, rather than what communities seek to avoid. So, what do you want your part of District 2 to look like as we move forward? This is why your input is needed at this meeting.

It's no secret that Orange County is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. By 2050,

our population could exceed two million residents. That's an increase of nearly 700,000 residents. To manage this growth, we all need to rethink how we envision our communities while preserving our priceless cultural, historic, and beautiful natural resources.

Managing growth is required by Florida State Law which says local jurisdictions must create comprehensive plans. Since 1972, this legal framework has defined growth management and shaped development patterns throughout the state. The new Vision

See MOORE Page 4A

Multi-school event was fun, exciting

Last weekend we held the first Community Celebration at Wekiva High School and it was one of those events that when it was done, we said, "Wow, we need to do this again!"

The Community Celebration was a collaboration between Piedmont Lakes Middle School, Lakeville Elementary and Wekiva High School and it was held at the high school on Saturday.

The idea behind the event was to showcase our schools and show families and the community all the great things our schools are doing. It was also meant to bring all the different school communities together for a fun time of fellowship. When the idea was mentioned to me, I loved it

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

and was so happy to be able to sponsor the event and help get others involved.

The idea grew and what came to fruition on that beautiful, sunny day was a wonderful event where our community shined.

The event was held both inside the gym and outside. Inside the gym, choir and drama groups from Piedmont Middle, Lakeville and Lovell Ele-

mentaries performed for a packed house. Besides performances, tables were set up around the gym where each school shared information about their club or activities and community partners shared information as well.

Some of the table guests were Marine recruiters, who had a pull-up bar for kids to try that the kids loved, AdventHealth, New Journey Youth Center, OCPS student services, Orange Technical College and many more.

Students and parents really enjoyed walking around talking to schools as well as vendors and I saw many students who found things they were interest-

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
— Psalm 31:3

Mema Says

Prayer should be the key in the morning and the lock at night.

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School taught the 'three Rs', but home life taught me how to behave

When I first entered the educational system at five years old, I started in kindergarten and at that time, kindergarten was a time to learn how to communicate and work with others to carry out tasks that were set before us. We had a little area where we played "house" and I remember the little girls had a kitchen where they learned to keep house and cook and all the chores that pertained to being a homemaker (that was an honorable title back then). The boys were encouraged to go to work. We had



Ike Hayden

toolboxes and tools of various kinds to choose from to pretend the work we chose. I remember that with joy and great fondness. I had a special love for all the kids that shared the class and for the

teacher, Miss Bickel. She was beautiful and she broke my heart when she told me she could not wait for me to grow up and marry her. That was the way my educational journey started. But, it got better!

As we progressed through the different grades our teachers focused on the "Three R's," readin', ritin', and 'rithmetic. Our teachers always had time to talk to us, and we felt they were like family. We had no governmental aid for school purchases so, once a year we

went around the neighborhood, with our wagons, and picked up newspapers that the surrounding neighbors saved for our annual paper drive. We also had ice cream socials throughout the year where mothers would bake cakes, donuts, pies, and other goodies to sell at the social as well as prizes for the cake walk, and other games set up for the families to take part in.

As a member of the first grade, my goal was to be old enough, and big enough to be a part of those that went

through the neighborhood as a pickup with my wagon. As time progressed and my grade level was elevated, we got more involved with our community and their teaching through example.

My education was not just going to school, it was a daily life filled with people willing to show me things that pertained to understanding the world around me. We were not wealthy, but we did not know it. We were taught to be happy and at peace with what we had and who we were. My folks instruct-

ed my sister and me in social graces and what was expected of us in using them. Our folks taught us to be aware of our neighbors' needs and to help when we saw an opportunity to help them. You see, the school taught me how to read, write, and do mathematics, but I learned how to behave, how to be kind to others, how to overcome strife, and how to love the United States of America and what she stood for through my home life and by

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Group gives luncheon for Wekiwa park rangers, volunteers

The Wekiwa Swimmers gave a luncheon on Thursday, April 11, for park rangers, officials and volunteers at Wekiwa Springs State Park to show appreciation for the hard work that the rangers put in daily.

Nearly 40 people attended the luncheon.

The Wekiwa Swimmers is a group of regular swimmers at the springs that undertakes daily tasks such as removing detritus in the water and graffiti, and used diapers on the bulkhead.

Debbie Salomon organized the luncheon that included fried chicken, subs, pinwheels, salads of various kinds, and desserts. Among the desserts was a dozen cupcakes that David and Jacque Stalzz brought, which were arranged and covered with green icing to resemble a familiar sight in the park: an alligator.

In the speeches that fol-



The Wekiwa Swimmers gave a luncheon on Thursday, April 11, for park rangers, officials and volunteers at Wekiwa Springs State Park to show appreciation for the hard work that the rangers put in daily.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Russell Bryant

Among the desserts at the luncheon was a dozen cupcakes arranged and covered with green icing to resemble a familiar sight in Wekiwa Springs State Park: an alligator.

lowed, rangers and officers expressed their appreciation.

The most amusing speech was from former ranger Darwin Allen, who described an instance some decades ago in which he kicked out of the park a group of badly dressed English men who were illegally parked in a remote

area and drinking beer.

He later learned that those men were The Rolling Stones.

If the Stones visit the park again on the upcoming tour, Allen had promised not to throw them out again.

Attendees saw Tammy Preble's photographs of the mist rising from the spring

she had taken during her early mornings.

Wekiva Wilderness Trust President Don Philpott gave an update about his research on the lost local town of Ethel and gave out copies of "The Amazing Story of the Lost Town of Ethel," which he co-wrote with Shirley Meade.



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- Plant Doctors • Kids Zone
- Conservation Exhibits
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- Local School Art Displays
- Beer and Wine Garden



Kit Land Nelson Park,
35 S. Park Ave. Apopka, FL 32703
ApopkaArtandFoliageFestival.org

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Hayden: Civics teaches our history

Continued from page 2A

those we called neighbors.

We do not need schools to indoctrinate our children with the forerunner of communism, which is socialism. There is not one nation in the world that has ever benefited through socialism, NOT ONE!

Our education system is failing our children because of the government’s involvement. The only class that we desperately need (outside of the reading, writing, and arithmetic) is civics, taught by teachers that understand that we are a Democratic Republic, governed by a Constitution that puts the power of the government into the hands of the people through delegates that have been chosen by the people.

Our government today is completely out of control. There is only a handful of representatives that are looking to their employers (you and me) for directions on how we want the job that we hired them for, to be done.

Anytime a government can charge you and harass you for what they think you are thinking, it is time to rearrange that government by spending time at the voter’s box!

Our children are being taught and encouraged to do self-evaluation about whether they are really the correct gender and if they want to change. Why, according to these bubbleheads, men can get pregnant and have babies. On the other hand, the ones who have been created to give birth are marching in the streets for the “right” to kill the babies in the womb, and have it paid for by taxpayers, of which, 75 percent are against abortion upon demand.

Common sense is completely gone, replaced by idiotic ideas that are more fanatical than any fairy tale ever read. At least the fairy tales of yesteryear taught basic lessons that would give us a greater advantage in obtaining a peace-filled life by being good people.

When you go to the ballot box remember this: A government that is big enough to give you everything you want, is also big enough to take away everything you have.

It is time to go back to kindergarten and start all over!

Let us get the basics taught again, and let us start with the ones who work for “We the People!”

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **JIM HALL** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of properties located at west of Marden Road and north of W. Keene Road. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3049
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY THE JAMES H. PAGE LIFE ESTATE AND THE ANNETTE H. PAGE TRUST; LOCATED NORTH OF W. KEENE ROAD, AND WEST AND EAST OF MARDEN ROAD, COMPRISING 32.0 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 20-21-28-0000-00-016, 20-21-28-0000-00-004, 20-21-28-0000-00-032, 20-21-28-0000-00-032, 20-21-28-0000-00-029, 20-21-28-0000-00-033, 20-21-28-0000-00-014, 20-21-28-0000-00-012, 20-21-28-0000-00-018
Contains: 32.0 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3049 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M. and Wednesday, May 15, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

April 19, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

176274

Heat protections for outdoor workers could have prevented worker’s death

Dear Editor:

Our Florida state lawmakers recently assured us that Florida employers provide safe workplaces for their outdoor laborers. How, then, do they explain the untimely death of a 26-year-old man from Mexico working on a sugar cane plantation in South Florida in September 2023?

A press release issued by OSHA on April 15th states that the young worker “suffered fatal heat-related injuries while working in an open field as the heat index reached 97 degrees.” The OSHA notice goes on to say that the employer “could have prevented his death by implementing safety rules to protect workers from heat-related hazards. These include using an effective plan to help workers acclimate to the weather conditions.”

Yet, just last week Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law HB 433, or the heat and wage pre-emption bill, that denies local governments in Florida the right to enact heat stress and heat exposure safety measures, including possible life-saving training, for outdoor workers in their communities.

At the behest of large agribusiness and construc-

tion industry associations, Florida lawmakers chose to vote in favor of a bill to prohibit heat protections for workers rather than for a bill to protect those outdoor workers through basic safety measures, such as water, shade, breaks and training. These are exactly the points that over 90 organizations told DeSantis in two separate letters they sent to the Governor, encouraging him to veto the anti-worker bill HB 433. In spite of this overwhelming support by many labor, faith and environmental organizations in the state, the Governor put his signature on the bill for it to become law.

A man is dead. All he wanted was to do honest work to make a living. Instead, he lost his life. And a family has lost a son. This did not have to happen. There are proven precautions that can protect workers from the increasingly high temperatures and Florida’s high humidity.

The argument of the business lobby against heat stress protections is that businesses are already taking care of their workers. This tragic death proves otherwise. Without basic safety protections, outdoor workers are not safe from extreme heat. In the

case of the young man who died tossing sugar cane for planting in the ground, the OSHA press release states, “The field in which he worked is about an hour west of West Palm Beach, 20 minutes from the closest road and 22 miles from the hospital to which he was transported and where he later died, stricken by heat-stroke.”

This should not have happened. It must never happen again! Those who do the work we all benefit from must not put their lives at risk to make a day’s pay!

Enough! Basta ya!

Jeannie Economos
Coordinator, Pesticide
Safety and Environmental
Health Program
The Farmworker
Association of Florida

The Farmworker Association of Florida is conducting heat stress protection trainings for farmworkers across the state with a goal of training a minimum of 850 farmworkers this year on how to protect themselves from heat exposure, recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat exposure, heat stress, and/or heat stroke, and what to do in case of an emergency.

Moore: Attend meeting in Zellwood

Continued from page 2A

2050 will substantially restructure our current comprehensive plan, putting an emphasis on resiliency, placemaking, affordability, context-driven planning, and performance-based development.

With your help, the county will craft a plan that protects our environmentally sensitive lands and the rural lifestyle that is cherished by so many of our residents, while preserving

and enhancing the character of our established residential neighborhoods.

By directing growth to previously urbanized areas that are located near existing or planned transit corridors, Vision 2050 seeks to promote new urban development through infill and redevelopment, with a greater mix of uses and enhanced walkability.

Before you attend the meeting on Monday, April 29, in Zellwood, I encourage you to visit the coun-

ty website at www.ocfl.net In the Search Box, type in Orange County Code. You will at least be able to familiarize yourself with place types and placemaking standards and be able to ask questions, but, don’t worry if you can’t visit the website prior to the meeting, just show up.

We will have several stations where you will be able to see example plans and get questions answered.

See you there!

Byrd: Community event was fun

Continued from page 2A

ed in.

The tables also had games and prizes or other items to give away which made it even more fun. Chick-fil-A gave away gift cards and one of our local churches gave away gas cards!

Outside, the fun continued with our own Apopka Fire Department showing one of their big, beautiful engines to families and a DJ playing fun music. There were several games on the courts for kids to play, face painting, a bounce house and lots of food!

Commissioner Nick Nesta (who is a proud Piedmont Lakes alumni) donated hot dogs for the event which the families enjoyed and there were a few other food trucks there as well. The kids enjoyed snow cones, popcorn and sweet treats also.

One of the most enjoyable features of the event was the petting zoo, provided by the Wekiva High School and Piedmont Lakes Middle School FFA clubs. They had goats, rabbits, chickens and ducks out for the kids to pet and learn more about. But the best part was, the groups were able to recruit future

members who were very interested in learning how they could work with the animals at school.

Re-Imagine Communities was also there giving away books, bookbags, games and prizes to the kids.

The Apopka Police Department had their Community Policing group there to answer questions, and the Orlando Health Teen Express bus was there providing services and information as well.

It truly was a community event full of fun and I can’t wait to do it again next year!

Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

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

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(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

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
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

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
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11).....	352-241-9220
State Representatives	
Doug 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

Hats: Yearly festival takes place on the last weekend of April

Continued from page 1A

and Foliage Festival showcases the work of juried artisans and crafters, and top foliage growers. The event will be held at Kit Land Nelson Park, 35 S. Park Ave., Apopka, on April 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and

Sunday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Aside from juried artisans and crafter and foliage growers, there will be music, food, a wine and beer garden, and a kid zone presented by Home Depot. One hundred percent of the

proceeds from the festival are given back to the community through donations and scholarships.

The GFWC Apopka Woman's Club and the city of Apopka are organizing the festival.

Police: This week covers DUI and drug recognition expert

Continued from page 1A

ed the evening by observing the K9's Roki and Ted with some obedience and bite work, as well as the K9 decoy hide boxes. The students also got to meet the department's newest mem-

ber of the K9 Unit, Artemis, who is a single purpose dog and will be used for drug detection at strategic locations throughout the Central Florida area. Artemis is a German Shorthair Pointer and will be paired up with one of APD's DEA Task

Force Agents.

This week is DUI (Driving Under the Influence) and DRE (Drug Recognition Expert), scheduled to be taught by Officer Robert Campbell.

Cookies and Milk with Cop

The Apopka Police Department will host Cookies and Milk with a Cop on Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to noon at the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka.

The event will include

storytime, arts and crafts, and cookies and milk provided by LCL Food Services (McDonald's).

Cookies and Milk with a Cop is held on the third Saturday of the month. Schedule is subject to change.



Fri., April 19, 2024 thru Sun., April 21, 2024

THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE (NR) 1:00; 4:00; 7:00
GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (PG-13) 1:10; 4:40; 7:30
ABIGAIL (R) 1:20; 4:20; 7:20
CIVIL WAR (R) 1:30; 4:10; 6:50
SPY X FAMILY CODE: WHITE (DUB) (PG-13) 1:40
SPY X FAMILY CODE: WHITE (SUB) (PG-13) 4:30; 7:10
GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG-13) 1:50; 4:50; 7:40
MONKEY MAN (R) 2:00; 5:00; 7:50
DUNE: PART TWO (PG-13) 2:10; 2:40**; 6:40
KID: MADAGASCAR (PG) 12:30**

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City: Velazquez becomes vice mayor after Becker's resignation

Continued from page 1A

meeting.

As a result of the discussion between the VFW and Williams, an additional 24 dates were added to the proposed agreement for the bingo/bunco fundraiser events. The proposed agreement was also updated to \$20 per hour per rental for use of the VFW banquet tables and chairs, and \$20 per hour, per use

of the VFW kitchen equipment. Terms were added to have the VFW give the city a copy of the VFW's IRS Form 990 every year.

“The VFW was agreeable to all the adjustments and Commander Anderson signed the agreement this morning,” Williams said at the April 17 meeting.

Commissioner Nick Nesta questioned why the city required the VFW to submit a Form 990 annu-

ally, when other organizations aren't required to do the same. After Williams said that the form is an accessible public document, Nesta asked that the requirement shouldn't be part of the agreement.

"So, I would move to approve this, but taking out that they have any type of financial reporting requirement within this agreement," Nesta said.

As part of the new

agreement, the city would provide all facility operations including staffing the building for customer service functions and rentals, and on site during the events. The city would continue facility maintenance, upkeep and utilities.

As Williams explained at the April 3 City Council meeting, the city wants to improve the Apopka Community Center's facility operations and provide man-

agement oversight of the building, relieve the burden of day-to-day rental to rental operations from the VFW while still providing the VFW the use at the facility for their VFW business fundraisers events, and increase usage of the underperforming facility.

In calendar year 2022, the facility generated a total revenue of \$35,744.50. In 2023, that number increased to around \$57,000.

Under the current agreement, the revenue splits between the city and the VFW, with the city getting 60 percent and the VFW getting 40 percent.

The city's annual utility operating expense for the Apopka Community Center was around \$55,000, not including current staff time, according to Williams.

Since the Apopka

See CITY Page 7A

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City: Easement agreement approved

Continued from page 6A

Community Center opened in 2005, the city of Apopka has held a long-standing relationship with the VFW for the use and operation of the facility, with the VFW using the building as the home of Post 10147. In return, the VFW has provided management and operational services for all private rentals at the facility. In 2015, the management agreement was created between the VFW and the city, and the agreement was updated in 2020.

Easement agreement with Duke Energy

The Apopka City Council voted to approve an easement agreement with Duke Energy Florida so as to install temporary power service at a city property located on Harmon Road to provide electricity to the parking location for the Fire Station 6 fire engine while the permanent Fire Station 6 is being built. The fire truck must be plugged in while parked awaiting a call for service. The easement agreement has been reviewed by the city attorney

and is consistent with similar agreements.

Velazquez is appointed vice mayor

During her council report, Commissioner Diane Velazquez expressed her thoughts about being appointed the new vice mayor following Kyle Becker, who resigned as Seat 3 commissioner and vice mayor because the sale of his Apopka home meant he no longer was a resident of Apopka.

Becker submitted his letter of resignation dated Friday, April 5, to Apopka City Clerk Susan Bone. In the letter, he congratulated Velazquez as the new vice mayor, since after his resignation, she is currently the most senior commissioner.

Becker was not present at what would be his last City Council meeting on April 17.

“He (Becker)’s been a big asset here and we all learned something from him,” Velazquez said during her council report. “He will be missed, but we all wish him and his family well. I’m sorry that he didn’t come to the last

meeting, but you know, it was his choice. He did the right thing. He closed on his home and he was no longer a resident of our city. So, congratulations to Kyle Becker. We wish him the best in his new endeavors.”

Velazquez thanked the residents for their text messages and phone calls congratulating her as vice mayor, including Mayor Bryan Nelson since he was the second individual to text

her.

“It’s an honor and a privilege and I really, truly appreciate the support and the friendships that I have earned in the many years that I have been here representing our city,” Velazquez said. “The only thing I just tell people, Kyle set the bar high. I’m not as Becker was, but I will do my best to continue to represent

See CITY Page 10A



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Town hall meetings set up for land development updates

In preparation for updating land development regulations, Orange County will host multiple town hall meetings to share information and answer questions about Orange Code.

The new Orange Code will go before the Orange County Board of County Commissioners in the fall for adoption. It will be used to implement Vision 2050, which serves as a guide for the county's growth over the next 25 years.

The public is invited to attend any of the following meetings:

p.m. Goldenrod Recreation Center 4863 N. Goldenrod Road, Winter Park	Monday, April 29: 6-7:30 p.m. Zellwood Elementary School 3551 Washington Street, Zellwood	Thursday, May 2 6-7:30 p.m. Lake Nona High School 12500 Narcoossee Road, Orlando
Wednesday, April 17: 6-7:30 p.m. The Grove House at Cypress Grove Park 290 Holden Ave., Orlando	Tuesday, April 30 6-7:30 p.m. Windermere High School 5523 Winter Garden	For more information, visit ocfl.net/orangecode for more information.
Wednesday, April 24: 6-7:30 p.m. Orange County Multicul-		

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Hunt Club Medical Care is open seven days a week and offer urgent care and same-day appointments. Pictured above are, (l-r), Whitney Dailey PA-C, Elisabeth Duer PA-C, Michael Gordon MD, Pinida Toochinda MD, Kristen Consiglio PA-C, and Roshani Levister PA-C.

Often voted #1 Best in Apopka, their goal is to deliver the highest quality primary care and urgent care to their community. They strive to be distinctive. It's the combination of their passion for their patients and a depth of knowledge of the human body that often sets them apart.

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The **Hunt Club Medical Care** facility is privately owned and operated by Dr. Michael Gordon. The goal of this medical facility is to provide comprehensive care to their patients. On staff are Michael Gordon M.D., Pinida Toochinda M.D., Kristen Consiglio PA-C, Whitney Dailey PA-C, Elisabeth Duer PA-C, and Roshani Levister PA-C.

The staff at **Hunt Club Medical Care** assures that every patient has access to the highest quality care, and they genuinely care for the comfort and well being of their patients by treating them with courtesy, dignity, and respect. They're comprehensive in the response to the needs of their patients and consider themselves to be partners with their patients in their health care.

Hunt Club Medical Care is a family practice medical office and urgent care facility. Staff consists of long-term employees who are highly skilled at providing patients with personalized, concerned care.

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Obituaries

ERIKA MONIKA MEDLOCK, 80, of Apopka, passed away on April 4, 2024. Mrs. Medlock was born on September 17, 1943, in Nuremberg, Germany. She is survived by her daughter, Monika (Justin) Stewart, and granddaughter, Rachel Ball.

...

STEVEN EVIAS COLEMAN, 27, of Apopka, passed away April 8, 2024. Born on April 24, 1996 in Newark, Delaware. Survived by mother, Yvette Coleman; father, Steven Coleman; siblings, ElyJah, Elysha, and Sarai.

...

ASHLEY KELLEYNE MORRIS, 73, of Apopka, passed away on March 30, 2024. Ms. Morris was born on May 21, 1950 in Wichita Falls, Texas. She is survived by her sons, JB Revier III and Kevin Scott Revier; siblings, Mary L. (Jim) Weidler, Sarah Duncan Loucks, and Kennon (Cheryl) Duncan; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

...



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STEVEN EVIAS COLEMAN

Steven Evias Coleman, 27, of Apopka, passed away April 8, 2024. Born on April 24, 1996 in Newark, Delaware to Steven & Yvette Coleman. He has two brothers; ElyJah and Elysha Coleman and a Sister: Sarai Coleman. Steven loved the Philadelphia Eagles, Sixers, WWE, Anything DragonBall or Anime related. He graduated from Apopka High School in 2014 and lettered for freshman football at Christina High School, Newark Delaware. Steven was employed at City Furniture in Ocoee, and had a YouTube page talking about what else but the Eagles, Sports and anything else. He enjoyed hanging out with his friends Matt, Noah, Zach, Ashton & Jeremy playing uno and doing their youtube show as well as feeding and ministering to the homeless with his father in Apopka and

Orlando. Steven was a member of FaithWorks Church where his father was pastor. Steven was his right hand and go to for anything that needed to be done. Everyone spoke of Steven's Kindness and his smile. From his first job in the bakery department at Winn Dixie to being a bagger at Publix. Survived by Mother, Father two brothers and one sister all of Apopka, FL. A memorial service will be held on April 20th at 4pm Loomis Funeral Home.



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The German philosopher Kant mentioned two of these foundations when he said “Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the more often and steadily we reflect upon them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.”

Who can contemplate the vastness of our universe and not be spiritually awe-struck?

Kant believed that the moral law within us (our conscience) was another

proof of divine providence, echoing the wisdom of Ecclesiastes: “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV)

The Buddha advised his followers to reflect deeply in their own hearts and minds and to only accept what made patent sense to them. The Koran advises “Let there be no compulsion in religion, for the truth stands out clearly from falsehood.” (Surah 2:256)

Finally, when we consider the historical context of religion, we realize that Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, and all the prophets were actual historical figures with actual followers and this gives our faith a historical foundation.

– Christopher Simon

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

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Matthew 5:16

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Planning: Public may view transportation element draft online

Continued from page 1A

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

The public may view the transportation element draft and leave comments by going to <https://shorturl.at/gpEU8>

3716 Hogshead Road

A special exception was given recommended approval for an estimated three-acre property at 3716

Hogshead Road, which the applicant intends to use as outdoor storage for temporary use for trucks, equipment, trailers, containers, and materials during construction of a 30,080 square-foot warehouse at 3716 Hogshead Road.

The special exception is good for two years maximum, according to Hiitt.

The outdoor storage will include a temporary office trailer of at least 500 square feet, a 20,000-gallon water tank for the trailer for fire protection, and an ADA-compliant concrete parking spot. The area for

outdoor storage is already paved and has the storm drainage system and the retention pond installed.

The Apopka Development Review Committee approved the construction site plan for the warehouse on May 10, 2023.

The intention is to utilize the property in the interim condition until the utilities are complete and the building of the 30,080 square-foot warehouse begins construction.

Crossroads at Kelly Park

The applicant has submitted the Crossroads at

Kelly Park, Phases 1-2, 1-3 and 2 – Plat to create stormwater tracts, roads and other infrastructure to support the previously approved projected expansion of the Crossroads at Kelly Park development. The plat is for approximately 150 acres located at 4510 Ondich Road.

The future land use is mixed use. The zoning is Kelly Park Interchange – Mixed-Use.

The access to the development is on Kelly Park Road via Waypointe Boulevard.

The public hearing

schedule for City Council will be Wednesday, May 1, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Mid-Florida South Logistics – Plat

The applicant has submitted the Mid-Florida South Logistics – Plat for consideration of five parcels to develop an industrial center for warehouse, distribution and other light industrial uses and creation of the conservation area on the southern portion of the boundaries. The plat is for approximately 71 acres located southwest corner of Peterson Road and S.R.

429.

The plat is consistent with the major development plan that was approved by the Apopka City Council on May 17, 2023, and the construction site plan that approved by the Development Review Committee on October 6, 2023.

The access to the development is Shelby Industrial Drive.

The public hearing schedule for City Council will be Wednesday, May 1, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

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City: Anderson is commissioner-elect for Seat 3

Continued from page 7A

you, to continue to be connected to our city as I do.”

She also thanked her husband Ed Velazquez – who was not at the meeting but was probably watching the livestream, she said – for being her biggest support: “I could not do

the job that I do and give up as much time as I do away from my home and from my family so that I can continue to serve you.”

Last year, Becker announced his decision to not run for re-election on the City Council.

Nadia Anderson is the commissioner-elect for Seat 3, having won

her first four-year term against rival Darryl Richardson in the March 19 City Council election. She and Nick Nesta, the Seat 4 incumbent who won his second term against challenge Eric Mock, will take their oath of office on Tuesday, April 30, at noon in the council chambers of Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE
FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

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			S	A	M	A	R	A			B	A	H	
I	S	O	L	A	T	O	R				H	A	L	O
S	T	R	I	D	E	N	T			A	A	H	E	D
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R	A	M							M	O	T	S		
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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

Sunshine Pie in the Sunshine State sounds like delicious advertising

Celebrated in the 2012 book, *Field to Feast*, award-winning chef Hari Pulapaka, founder along with his wife, Jennifer, of the Cress Restaurant in Deland, grew up in Mumbai, India, and he is a leader in the sustainable-foods movement in Volusia County. He has formal training at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando. Among his numerous accolades, he has been nominated for the James Beard Award. A busy individual, who has passed the torch in ownership of the Cress Restaurant, he is an author and associate professor of mathematics at Stetson University. We have one of his recipes for a sensational dish.

Mrs. Morris' Crockpot Roast With Noodles from *Plains PotPourri* takes six hours in the slow cooker and is terrific for the busy person who wants to have a lovely meal at the end of the day. You only need to add the noodles at the end of cooking, and that might take 15 minutes.

We found a Spinach Souffle recipe in our treasured copy of *"What's Cookin' in Apopka?"* that was published by The Apopka Woman's Club... we aren't sure just when, but it was way back yonder! It has some wonderful recipes that were contributed by the fine ladies of the club, many of whom are no longer with us, but fondly remembered.

Cauliflower Milanese, found in *Savannah Style*, calls for two heads of cauliflower, seasonings, butter and Parmesan cheese. The cauliflower is broken up and cooked before being put into a hot oven for 10 to 15 minutes to brown.

Sunshine Pie comes from *Stew-Pot Favorites of Zellwood*. Claire Ellington has gifted us with this lovely treasure.

**CHEF HARI PULAPAKA'S
GRILLED WAHOO
AND SHRIMP WITH CREOLE
VEGETABLES AND
SHITAKE-THYME GRITS**
Recipe from *Field to Feast*
**GRILLED WAHOO AND SHRIMP:
4 (6-oz) wahoo filets
12 large wild-caught American
shrimp, peeled and deveined
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon low-sodium Creole
spice blend, or to taste**



**1 tablespoon minced garlic
Coarse salt and freshly ground
black pepper to taste
CREOLE VEGETABLES:
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 cup diced Spanish onion
1 cup diced celery
1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
1/2 cup diced green bell pepper
Coarse salt, to taste
Freshly ground black pepper, to
taste
1 cup diced andouille or Cajun
sausage
1 dry or 3 fresh bay leaves
1 cup fresh corn kernels
1 cup fresh lima beans
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
1 tablespoon minced fresh
rosemary
1 tablespoon minced garlic
2 cups diced ripe tomatoes
2 cups low-sodium vegetable or
chicken stock
1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
SHITAKE-THYME GRITS:
4 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 medium Spanish onion, finely
diced
1 dry or 3 fresh bay leaves
1/2 cup thinly sliced shitake mushrooms
1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
Coarse salt and freshly ground
black pepper, to taste
1/2 cup heavy cream, or more as
needed
1-1/2 cups water, or more as
needed
1/2 cup yellow corn grits
Sweet potato chips, for garnish
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish**
Marinate the Fish and Shrimp:

Place wahoo and shrimp in a shallow bowl. Drizzle with oil, rubbing to coat. Sprinkle with Creole spice blend and garlic, rubbing to coat. Refrigerate, covered, for 1 hour.

Make the Vegetables:

1) Heat the oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add onion, celery and red and green peppers and cook 5 minutes or until onion and celery are translucent. Season lightly with salt and pepper. 2) Add sausage and sauté 2 to 3 minutes. Add bay leaves, corn, and lima beans and cook 1 minute. Stir in thyme, rosemary, and garlic and cook 30 seconds. Add tomatoes and let mixture simmer for about 2 minutes. Add stock and season with additional salt and pepper to taste. 3) Simmer, stirring periodically, about 30 minutes. Add heavy cream and fresh parsley just before serving.

Prepare the Grits:

1) Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onions, bay leaves, mushrooms, and thyme and cook until onions turn golden brown. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Add cream and water. 2) When water and cream come to a simmer, slowly whisk in grits. Stir for 1 to 2 minutes, or until mixture is smooth. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cook grits, stirring occasionally, 30 to 40 minutes, or until thick and creamy.

Grill the Wahoo and Shrimp and assemble the dish:

1) Season wahoo and shrimp with salt and pepper. Grill shrimp 2 to 3 minutes, turning once. Grill wahoo, turning once, about 5 to 6 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fillet. 2) For each serving, spoon about 1/2 cup cooked grits in a bowl. Top with grilled wahoo and shrimp. Ladle Creole vegetables evenly among servings. Garnish plates with sweet potato chips and parsley.

**MRS. KAYE MORRIS'
CROCK POT ROAST 'N NOODLES**
Recipe from *PLAINS POT POURRI*,
Food Favorites of Plains, GA

**2- to 3-pound beef roast
1 can Golden Cream of Mushroom
Soup**

**1 soup can of water
4 ounces uncooked noodles
Salt and pepper to taste**

Put seasoned roast, after being browned on each side in a frying pan, into the crock pot. Pour soup over the roast and add the water. Cover and cook on high until it comes to a good simmer. Turn to low and cook for 4 to 6 hours. About 15 minutes before serving, add noodles to BOTTOM of crock pot and cook on high.

**MRS. L. B. JOHNSON'S
SPINACH SOUFFLE
WHAT'S COOKIN'? IN
APOPKA, FLORIDA
THE APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB**

**Butter for sauté plus
2 tablespoons for sauce
2 tablespoons flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
3 eggs, separated
1 cup rich milk or light cream
1 cup chopped cooked spinach
1/2 cup thick white sauce
1/4 cup chopped onions
1/2 cup grated cheese**

Sauté onions in small amount of butter. Make sauce of 2 tablespoons of

butter, 2 tablespoons flour; 1 cup of milk – rich milk or light cream, 1/2 teaspoon of salt, and 1/8 teaspoon pepper. Beat yolks until thick and lemon colored. Stir into white sauce and add spinach and cheese. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites and turn into greased casserole. Set in pan of hot water and bake in moderate oven 350 degrees about 50 minutes. Serve at once.

CAULIFLOWER MILANESE
Recipe from *Savannah Style*, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.

**2 heads cauliflower
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon sugar
Boiling water
4 tablespoons butter, melted
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
Ground white pepper**

Wash cauliflower and break into florets. Place in saucepan with salt and sugar, adding boiling water to a depth of 1/2-inch. Bring to a boiling point and cook uncovered for five minutes. Cover and cook 10 minutes until barely tender. Place drained florets in buttered shallow baking dish. Cover with melted butter and sprinkle with cheese and pepper. Bake in a preheated 450-degree Fahrenheit oven until slightly brown, about 10 to 15 minutes.

**GLADYS RICE'S
SUNSHINE PIE**
Recipe from *Stew-Pot Favorites of Zellwood*

**1 can (6 oz) frozen orange juice or
(fresh juice)
1 can (6 oz) water
1/3 cup pineapple juice
1/3 cup apricot juice
1 lb marshmallows
1-2/3 cup graham cracker crumbs
1/3 cup confectioners' sugar
1/3 cup butter, melted
1/3 cup flaked coconut
1/3 cup chopped walnuts
Whipped cream, if desired**

Combine orange juice, pineapple juice, and apricot nectar in a large pan and add marshmallows; heat gently until marshmallows are almost dissolved, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and stir until completely dissolved. Place pan in sink filled with ice water to chill quickly, cool to room temperature. Meanwhile, combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and butter; press into pan. Chill crust and add filling. Add walnuts and coconut after mixture has cooled. Refrigerate overnight if possible.

APRIL 2024 ★ ★ EVENTS ★ WEEKLY ★ UPCOMING ★ ONGOING ★ ★

**MAY 24, 2024 - :END OF 4th
MARKING PERIOD** Traffic patterns changed. Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those pedestrians... and ducks. DONT TEXT WHILE DRIVING - Please! YOU WILL PAY A FINE.

Children must be five years old on or before September 1 to start kindergarten. To enter first grade, a child must be six years old on or before September 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten (Florida Statute 1003.21). Immunizations must be current.

UNLESS CHANGED: School Start Times for Elementary School & K-8: 8 a.m., Middle School: 9:30 a.m., High school: 7:10 a.m.

City of Apopka's Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dewley Parkway, Apopka 32712, 407-703-1784. On any given weekend, you can see many, many families in attendance at the beautiful complex setting participating in various organized sport programs, Amenities at the complex include: Soccer Fields, Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, Multi-Purpose Fields, Sand Volleyball Courts, Outdoor Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, **Walking Trail**, Amphitheater, Playground, Concession Stands.

11-mile wildlife drive (complete with directional signs) (opened in 2015) on Lake Apopka shores, by entering from Lust Road off Binion Road, about a mile south of Camp Wewa in the Plymouth area, for one-way drive, 10 miles per hour, with possible wildlife spotting stops. DO NOT FEED THE GATORS - IT MAY CAUSE CLOSING OF THE TRAIL If you are stopping, drive will take more than 1 hour. Drive runs by canals used in duck-farming days. The one-way drive exits on Jones Road in Zellwood. You will see a fresh-water marsh system and wildlife dependent on that type of system. The drive is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and federal holidays and is controlled by the county. Open during daylight hours only (one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset). Official sunrise and sunset hours can be found online. The road is closed on other days due to ongoing restoration work. The trail is 11 miles long.

WEKIWA SPRINGS STATE PARK is a 7,000-acre Florida State Park in Apopka, Florida. It is located 20 minutes north of Orlando, off Interstate 4 at exit 94, near Altamonte Springs and Longwood. The park also contains the head water of the Wekiwa River. Address: 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka 32712, open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call 407-884-4311
FRAN CARLTON CENTER OPEN,

for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center.
CALL 407-703-1642
FOR INFORMATION .

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, FRIDAYS at 9:00 a.m. at 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center.. Call 407-703-1642 for information.

CENTRAL FL CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 1806 S Bay St., Eustis, has Fellowship Friday meetings. For complete details of all chamber events, visit cfchristianchamber.com/events-chamber. Contact: latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the the third Saturday of the month on APRIL 20, from 8-10 a.m. at 519 S. Central Avenue. Cost is only \$7.
1st day of VFW Auxiliary Yard Sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E. FIFTH STREET, APOPKA. Managed by Apopka Historical Society. Call 407-703-1624 for info.

AVIAN RECONDITIONING CENTER, for birds of prey, 323 Lester Rd., Apopka, hours: 9:30-1:30 p.m.. The center is open on Saturdays to the public, weather permitting. Call 407-461-1056 for information.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
2ND day of VFW Post 10147 Auxiliary Yard Sale noon - 3 p.m. 519 S Central Ave.
DISCOUNT PRICING MONDAY, APRIL 22

FITNESS CLASS, MONDAYS 9-10 a.m. 11 N. Forest Ave at Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

CRAFTS & CHATTER: 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave.Masks required. Temperature taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 601 S. Highland Avenue. If you have a problem with food – overeating, anorexia, bulimia – there is a solution for you. For more information, visit OA.org or call Carrie 781-867-1071.

TOASTMASTERS: Forest Lake Church by Zoom. Time: 7 p.m., Open to everyone interested. For information, call 407-761-2943. Club Number: 4899556, District 84, Area

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TUESDAY, APRIL 23

THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 11:30-noon, at Beef 'O' Brady's in The Back Room, 1410 Rock Springs Rd., Apopka. Interested community members are encouraged to attend and get acquainted. Meetings have resumed on first and third Tuesdays. Masks are encouraged.

SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave. at Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info

ART CLASS, 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave. Masks required. Temperature taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

The Altamonte Springs / Apopka VFW POST 10147. is NOW OPEN Wednesday and Saturday Mornings from (TIME CHANGE) 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. (other hours by appointment only). 3rd Saturday of the month is VFW's fundraising breakfast. Also, evenings of Tribute music are planned. Call 407-889-8266, or email info@vfwpost10147.com for information. The VFW Auxiliary has been formed and is active as well. Don't forget to visit its excellent Military Museum.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info..

SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 10-11 a.m., Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M.A. Board St., Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info

CITY OF APOPKA DRC (Development Review Committee) meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (or as long as necessary) at City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka. Check for the online version.

BRIDGE CLASS, 9:30-12 noon. Fran Carlton Center, 11 N Forest Ave.Masks required. Temperatures taken. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

TOPS CHAPTER #646. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), TOPS, a non-profit organization, will help you

reach a weight goal with support from friendly, caring members, education, and rewards. Each Thursday weigh-in begins at 9:00 a.m. – meeting ends at 10:15 a.m.. Come to its NEW location 220 W. Horatio Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751 to meet with others who have a like-minded goal to lose weight. No products, no specific diet to follow, no meds. Call 407-580-0897 for more information.

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 12 noon-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 122 E Fifth St. 407-703-1642 for info.

EARLY BIRD BINGO at Bahia Shrine Center, 3101 E. Semoran Blvd.. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the early bird game starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 407-660-8811.
TOASTMASTERS: still meeting every WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., by zoom. For more information, call 407-765-2629 or visit www.Apopkatoastmasters.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

SENIOR CHAIR EXERCISE, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info.

ROTARY CLUB OF APOPKA - For information, call 407-415-6588. Call for updated information on meetings and location.

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, Open from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. 120 E Fifth St. Call 407-703-1624 for info.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 9-10 a.m., 11 N. Forest Ave., at the Fran Carlton Center. Masks not required while exercising, but are when socializing before and after class. Temperature taken on entry. Pre-register. Call 407-703-1642 for info

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday nights Saturday Sounds at Apopka Amphitheater, 3710 Jason Dewley Parkway, 5-7 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

Florida Railroad Museum, 101 S. Boyd Street, Winter Garden, is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11-3 each week excluding holidays. For info, call 407-656-0559. . Must see.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS are public and will also be broadcast on this shortened link: <https://bit.ly/2ABrmbd>, and are normally held the first Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the

City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. Subject to change with notice. For info., call City Clerk 407-703-1704. Agenda and minutes of meeting can be found online. Once posted, check for any revisions by Tuesday at 5 p.m. before the meeting

FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF APOPKA, meets the first Thursday of each month, September through May, at 10 a.m. at the Billy Dean Community Center at Alonzo Williams Park, 225 M.A. Board St., Apopka. Contact: apopkafgca@gmail.com

FREE PLANT CLINIC in Apopka is open on Tuesdays. Do you have problems with your plants or lawn? Let a Master Gardener help. Orange County residents can bring their questions and samples to UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardener volunteers at the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research Education Center (MREC), 2725 Binion Road, Apopka, 32703; 9 a.m.-12 Tuesdays; 407-254-9200. Questions and photos can be emailed to orangecomgv@ifas.ufl.edu. to be answered by Master Gardeners. A free plant clinic for commercial growers is open Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at the same location.

KIWANIS CLUB OF APOPKA IS now meeting MONTHLY on the 3rd Tuesday at 8 a.m. at Seacoast Bank, 345 E Main Street, Apopka. Contact 407-464-4606 for information

BROWN BAG LUNCH - Third Saturday of each month, Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit at the corner of Highland and 6th St., Apopka, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., offer to all who come a brown bag lunch. In addition, men's socks, flip flops, stuffed animals, some clothing, children's books and pet food which is donated by My Pet World, Apopka, may be available. If interested in volunteering, call Debbie at 407-620-5081 for information.

APOPKA FOLIAGE TOASTMASTER'S CLUB, Monday, 7 p.m., on Zoom, Apopka. 407-765-2629.

NWOC FFA Alumni – Monthly meetings (usually the 4th Monday evening in a month during the school year) are open to anyone. (Looking for more information)

MUSEUM OF APOPKANS, 122 E 5th Street, Hours open: Wednesday to Friday. from noon-5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.... Admission is free. Contains displays and information about Apopka's history, and has history books for sale. Monthly meetings of Apopka Historical Society are normally held on a Sunday afternoon. For more information, go to www.theapopka-museum.com.

THE APOPKA ELKS LODGE 2422 meets first and third Tuesdays of month, 201 W. Orange. For more information, call 407-886-1600 or email apopkaelks@aol.com Bar Bingo every Monday night at 7 p.m. promptly.

GFWC APOPKA WOMAN'S CLUB, meets at First United Methodist Church, 201 N. Park Avenue. Call 407-880-2111 for more information.

CITY OF APOPKA PLANNING & ZONING - usually the second Tuesday of the month. 5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. All meetings open to the public. Subject to change with notice. For info., call David Moon, 407-703-1739.

BRIDGE GAMES AND CLASSES: Every Monday and Friday morning at 9:15 a.m., at the Lake County Duplicate Bridge Club, 510 W. Key Ave., Eustis. For more information, call 352-315-9934 or visit lakeduplicate.com.

COMPUTER CLASSES in both English and Spanish: Available daily or weekly at OCLS North Orange Branch.* Classes are: Computer Basics, Excel, Word Resume Writing, Email for Seniors, ELLIS English Lab, Word, Online Job Searches, Power Point, Internet, Open Lab, How to use a mouse and keyboard, etc. Call OCLS North Orange Branch* for more details.

HABITAT VOLUNTEERS: Go to www.habitatseminoleapopka.org, click on volunteers. There are a number of opportunities available at the Restores. Call 407-696-5855 or 407-880-8881 to sign up for information.

(OCLS) Orange County Public Library North Orange Branch Address: 1211 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka 436 (Semoran) and Thompson Road. www.ocls.info. To reserve a space, call 407-835-7323. The library is now open again Mon-Sat. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons

*Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, 180 E. Main St., Apopka. For more info, call 407-886-1441

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Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 8-10 a.m. and from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thurs., April 18, or by appointment. Contact Alice on 407-951-9048 or email aliceboria@gmail.com.

Please: NO clothes, shoes, large appliances, large furniture or obsolete electronics.

The regular monthly breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m. with scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, all you-can-eat pancakes, coffee and OJ for only \$7.

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A.O.K. Tire Mart offers much more than their name would lead people to believe. Although focusing on the retail and commercial end of new and used tires, they're also experts in all types of auto and tire repairs, specializing in auto and diesel

engine repairs, mufflers, A/C repairs, transmission service, tune-ups, oil changes, brakes, shocks, and alignments.

Since 1988, A.O.K. Tire Mart has been a neighborhood, family-owned tire center serving the needs of customers in Apopka and Sanford. For years, they have been able to provide the benefits of an established national entity while maintaining the personal touch of a family-owned business. They understand that your vehicle is a major investment, and that is why they care for each customer's vehicle as if it were their own.

A.O.K. Tire Mart's highly skilled technicians offer valuable insight into the specific needs of a vehicle based on its make, model, and usage patterns. This knowledge allows car owners to make informed decisions about their vehicle's needs, which results in improved performance.

A.O.K. Tire Mart is a family-owned and operated business, with owner Don Williams personally overseeing

Acosta: She said she wants to go 'upstate'

Continued from page 1A

last spotted in Marianna, Fla. She is believed to be hitchhiking via semi-trucks. Police released an updated photo of Acosta, which was taken on April 15.

Police said Acosta is believed to be wearing the same clothes as shown in the photo. She may be using a different name and has mentioned wanting to go "upstate."

In prior cases, Acosta

has been located at Universal Studios City Walk in the food court/restaurant areas. She does not have a cell phone and her clothing description is unknown. Acosta is considered "Missing and Endangered" and requires care.

Anyone who has any information on the whereabouts of Acosta is asked to contact the Apopka Police Department at 407-703-1757.



A.O.K. Tire Mart has been the trusted name in regular maintenance, auto repair, and tire service. They are conveniently located in downtown Apopka at 200 W. Main Street or call 407-889-7074 for more information.

ing the company's daily operations. Using his 'hands on' approach, he ensures that each customer is handled with complete honesty and is given the best service at the most competitive prices available in the area.

Their knowledge of automotive care truly sets A.O.K. Tire Mart apart from other automotive repair businesses. A.O.K. Tire Mart works with commercial and/or fleet vehicles, and they provide free

safety inspections of your tires.

Remember, the next time you need your vehicle serviced in any way, stop in, and see for yourself why A.O.K. Tire Mart is leading the way in automotive service. They are open six days a week for your convenience. Their hours are Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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