Artwork

Justina Trang wins best of show in Student Artwork
See page 16A.

God Bless America

Sports

Alyssa Novoa's journey to a full ride scholarship to Valdosta State
See page 1B.

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Volume 102 Number 18

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Friday, May 3, 2024 / 50 cents

City Council tables vote to hire city administrator

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council voted on Wednesday, May 1, to table the appointment of a candidate as the new city administrator to the next meeting on May 15 so one of the city commissioners could interview the candidate.

Joseph Patton, city human resources director, introduced Jacob J. Smith for consideration as the next city administrator. If appointed, Smith will succeed Edward Bass, who died in 2023.

If appointed city administrator, Jacob Smith's tentative yearly salary is $170,000. However, the City Council couldn't review the contract until after city staff finishes working on its details and a city attorney reviews the document.

Smith's employment contract is modeled after that of Bass, but with the stipulation that the City Council is allowed input into the annual evaluation of Smith's job performance.

Commissioner Nick Nesta requested that Smith's appointment be tabled until May 15 until he could meet with the candidate. Nesta said he attended the meeting this week with Jacob Smith, but the latter had a time conflict. The commissioner said the city's process in finding a new administrator was rushed.

"This is obviously very rushed and I think we know that upfront," Nesta said. "I came into my meeting and unfortunately you (Smith) weren't there. I know there were travel issues, but again, anything that's rushed, I always tend to take a step back and say why are we rushing this? With less than 48 hours on the (City Council) agenda just leads me to question things, not you by any means, but just the process in general."

Commissioners Nadia L. Anderson, Diane Velazquez, and Alexander H. Smith said they all met Jacob Smith this week. All

See CITY Page 3A

Nadia L. Anderson (top photo) and Nick Nesta (bottom photo) take their oath of office as commissioners for City Council Seat 3 and 4, respectively, in the Tuesday, April 29, ceremony at Apopka City Hall.

Festival's opening ceremony

The 62nd Apopka Art and Foliage Festival showcased the work of juried artisans and crafters, and top foliage growers. The event was held at Kit Land Nelson Park on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28. The festival began with an opening ceremony at the park gazebo on April 27 that included a performance of the National Anthem by Charlee Hagen. See more photos on page 16A.

Anderson, Nesta take oath as city commissioners

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Newly elected Nadia L. Anderson and re-elected incumbent Nick Nesta were sworn in as city commissioners in the Tuesday, April 30, Oath of Office Ceremony in the Apopka City Hall council chambers.

Anderson was sworn into City Council Seat 3 for her first term. Nesta was sworn into his second term for Seat 4.

Anderson succeeds Commissioner Kyle Becker, who last year announced he wouldn't run for re-election. In early April announced his stepping down from Seat 3 because his house sold and will move out of Apopka.

As the most senior commissioner, City Commissioner Diane Velazquez addressed the attendees as vice mayor. She congratulated Anderson and Nesta, and shared some words of wisdom regarding public service.

"Our city is growing exponentially and the citizens rely on us to keep them informed, to be good stewards of the tax revenue funds, to be transparent, to work diligently on their behalf," Velazquez said. "It is important to be accessible to our citizens, to be respectful. A public servant's job is not a 9-to-5 employment. It is one where we go out into the communities and get to know and connect with them, and to promote our city by building on its rich history. Every family and person choosing

See OATH Page 8A

County talks land development code update with residents

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The Orange County District 2 town hall meeting for Orange Code took place on Monday, April 29, at Zellwood Elementary School in Zellwood, one of several recent town halls around the county to keep the public engaged in the county's revision of its land development code.

Orange Code is a form-based land regulation that will use transect zones, which regulate a development's physical form with special focus on how the development complements the surrounding buildings, streetscape, and community.

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.

According to information from Orange County government, Orange Code "represents a radically simplified and sustainable way to govern how land is developed. It ensures sustainable land development that preserves the character of existing communities, celebrates Orange County's diversity and creates vibrant places to live, work and relax."

"This is very important because it affects every community within the county, and it is very important because it helps us better understand what is important, what you believe makes Orange County, for you, the place where you have decided to make it not only your home, but home for family members or your friends and neighbors," Alberto Vargas, Orange County planning manager, told the meeting attendees on April 29. "How do we continue to

See CODE Page 5A

Manor continues operations despite being on market

Even though the Hilton Garden Inn and the Highland Manor (pictured) possibly awaits new ownership, clientele are reassured by Steve Gunter, whose company Events by Dubsdread runs the Manor, that the popular event venue will continue its operations, as there is a lease contract that will convey with the property. In November, both properties owned by Taurus Apopka City Center, LLC, were announced as being for sale.

From Apopka Chief Staff Reports

As the Hilton Garden Inn and the Highland Manor await new owners, Steve Gunter, whose company Events by Dubsdread runs the Manor, is reassuring clients that the popular event venue will continue its operations uninterrupted.

In November, it was announced that both properties, currently owned by Taurus Apopka City Center, LLC, were for sale, stirring concerns among clients about the future of their bookings at the Highland Manor.

Emphasizing that his business isn't going anywhere, Gunter addressed concerns and confirmed the stability of the business's operations.

"We have a lease contract that will convey with the property and will be hosting events here for years to come," Gunter said.

The reassurance from Gunter comes at a crucial time when potential clients are making decisions for their future events. The existing lease arrangement ensures that Dubsdread will maintain control of the venue, providing a sense of security to their clientele.

As the sale process for

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This week

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

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Opinion

Apopka Event of the Week

North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd, on Thursday, May 9, from 11 a.m.-12 noon in the meeting room: Little Chef: Fruit Crepes. Put your chef's hat on and join in as crepes are made filled with fruit! Use cool whip, strawberries, blueberries and bananas to make a spring treat! Recommended for ages 3-5. Food will be served at this event; Please see staff about specific needs concerning food allergies.

Quotable

"Our administration will continue to focus on investing in our local farmers and ranchers, and we will save our beef."

Article on the signing of legislation by Gov. DeSantis to protect meat industry

The Apopka Chief
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher John Ricketson
Consultant Emeritus John Peery
Marketing Director Jackie Trefcer
Reporters Teresa Sargeant, Marshall Tempest, Neal Fisher
General Mgr Emeritus Neoma Knox
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Our position

Governor DeSantis signs legislation to keep lab-grown meat out of Florida

Hardee County, Fla.— (May 1), Governor Ron DeSantis signed SB 1084 to prohibit the sale of lab-grown meat in the state of Florida. Florida is taking action to stop the World Economic Forum's goal of forcing the world to eat lab-grown meat and insects, "an overlooked source of protein." While the World Economic Forum is telling the world to forgo meat consumption, Florida is increasing meat production, and encouraging residents to continue to consume and enjoy 100 percent real Florida beef.

"Today, Florida is fighting back against the global elite's plan to force the world to eat meat grown in a petri dish or bugs to achieve their authoritarian goals," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Our administration will continue to focus on investing in our local farmers and ranchers, and we will save our beef."

"Florida is taking a tremendous step in the right direction by signing first-in-the-nation legislation banning lab-grown meat. We must protect our incredible farmers and the integrity of American agriculture. Lab-grown meat is a disgraceful attempt to undermine our proud traditions and prosperity, and is in direct opposition to authentic agriculture," said Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson. "I applaud Governor DeSantis, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, House Speaker Paul Renner, Senator Jay Collins, and Representative Danny Alvarez for standing up for Florida's farmers and consumers. Together, we will keep Florida's agricultural industry strong and thriving."

In opposition to the World Economic Forum and others, Florida has taken action to support the state's agriculture and meat industry by:

*Modernizing Florida's Right to Farm Act to protect reasonable agricultural activities from frivolous lawsuits.

*Signing legislation to ensure that agri-tourism operators qualify for protection against property tax assessments when operating on agricultural lands.

*Simplifying the steps for Florida Farmers to receive sales tax exemptions for agricultural materials.

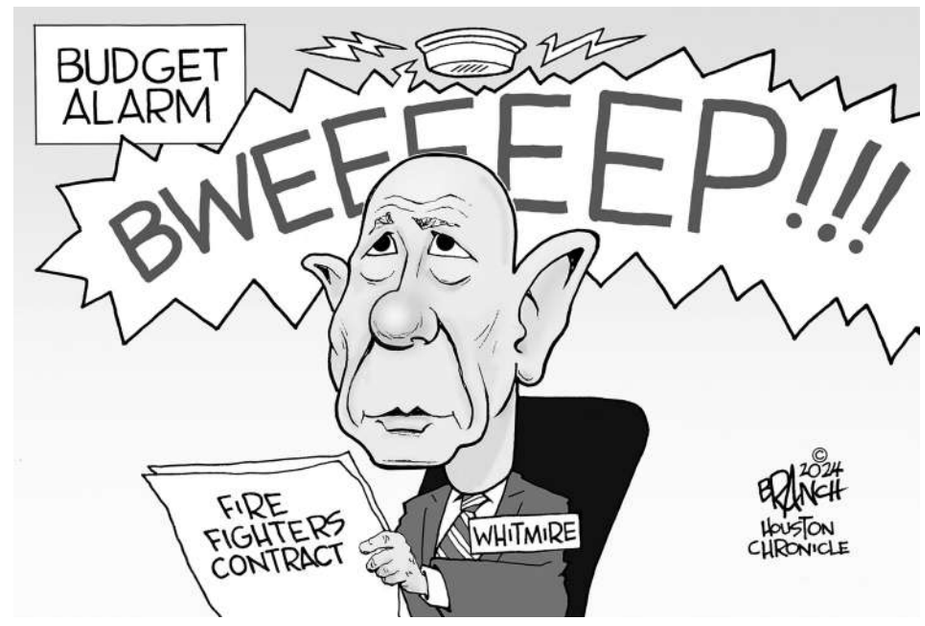
*Reestablishing funding for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program in 2022 at $300 million.

*Protecting through that program over 36,000 acres of farmland.

*Investing more than $2.8 billion into Florida's agricultural industry in The Framework for Freedom Budget.

Additionally, to promote the growth of one of Florida's leading counties for agriculture, Governor DeSantis awarded $6 million to Hardee County through the Job Growth Grant Fund. This award will help develop an industrial site in Hardee County and construct a 40,000 square foot warehouse to incentivize new companies moving to the area. This warehouse will also provide additional space for current businesses located at the site. The investment is estimated to bring nearly 200 jobs and help attract additional high-demand, high wage jobs to Hardee County.

Since 2019, Florida has invested more than $195 million through the Job Growth Grant Fund to strengthen infrastructure and workforce training programs that create opportunities for Floridians.



FFA highlighted agricultural students

Orange County School Board, District 7

Melissa Byrd

Last week, I attended the end-of-the-year FFA (Future Farmers of America) banquets at both Apopka and Wekiva high schools. They were great events that highlighted the hard work that these agriculture students put into this organization.

Orange County Public Schools is a proud supporter of agriculture programs in our schools. All of our high schools have FFA chapters and this year 11 middle schools also have chapters. Next year we will have 23 high school chapters and possibly 18 middle school chapters. There are a combined 53 FFA Advisors in both middle school and high school levels.

In case you are wondering why we promote agriculture programs so strongly in our schools, it's important to understand the role agriculture plays in our region. In Orange County alone, in 2022 there were over 600 farms with a market value of over 364 million dollars of products sold.

Agriculture is a vital industry in our area as well as an industry, much like the construction trades, that is seeing a decline in a skilled workforce with the retirement of the current workforce. OCPS forged a strong bond with the Orange County Farm Bureau years ago to ensure that we are exposing our students to this vital industry to ensure that our agriculture industry continues to flourish and produce the food and products that are so important to all of our lives and our economy.

Recently, our FFA chapters have earned six State FFA Career Development Event Championships and 19 second through fifth place state honors. We have five FFA members who have been selected as state FFA proficiency award finalists, 18 members who will receive the state FFA degree, which is the highest membership degree in the state FFA association.

Our own Apopka area schools have also had a

See BYRD Page 6A

Zellwood residents met for Town Hall

County Commissioner District 2

Christine Moore

Future development and growth in Orange County is inevitable as growth prognosticators say the Orlando Metro Area will add 700,000 residents, exceeding two million in population by 2050. Thus, Vision 2050 is under development by Orange County's Planning Department to sensibly and sustainably guide growth. This past Monday night at Zellwood Elementary School, about 75 people gathered for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss how the county's code will change in an effort to work with Vision 2050.

It was a great meeting where attendees learned about "place types." If they took one clear item away from the meeting, it's that the goal of the Planning Department is to use three major "place types" in guiding growth.

Centers, neighborhoods, and corridors define the major "place types."

Let me explain. Centers are denser activity areas, ideally located close to major transportation corridors or transit routes like bus stops. A center is defined by a mix of job-creating activities and residential development.

Neighborhoods are predominantly residential places, but that should also include other uses like schools, civic events, open space, local shops and restaurants.

Finally, corridors are the connecting links be-

See MOORE Page 6A

This Week In *God's* Word

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
— 3 John 1:4

Mema Says

Your greatness is not what you have, but what you give.

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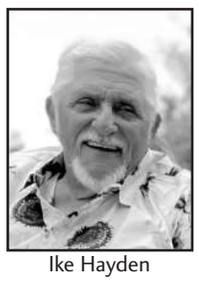
Government is not responsible for creating individual happiness


Ike Hayden

AMERICA, WAKE UP! Have we digressed so far that we cannot tell freedom from bondage?

When you look in the mirror after waking up from your nightly slumber, what do you see? Do you see someone who has sold their liberty for the gifts that have been offered to keep you in bondage?

Alexis de Tocqueville, a 19th century political philosopher, speaking about what people call "rights" stated, "It's not an endlessly expanding list of rights — the 'right' to education, the 'right' to healthcare, the 'right' to food and housing. That's not freedom, that's dependency. Those aren't rights, those are the rations of slavery — hay and a barn for human cattle."

Can't you see it in our culture today? The rights promised by our constitution called "inalienable" by the founders are *life*, *liberty*, and *the pursuit of happiness*. The first two are necessary for the last to be secured.

Happiness is to be secured by pursuit, not given by the government using taxpayer money. It is remarkable that anyone should think they are more worthy or more adept at using my money for happiness than I am.

I believe Edward R. Murrow's hit the nail on the head when he made this observation: "A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves." We certainly have become "sheeple" and we're following those who are wearing the big bell of diversity and detraction.

It has been said, "The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money."

Well, here we are. This administration has reached the discovery and have now implemented it. We are to be the governing body, not the governed, but I fear we have become too mesmerized by the opiates promised by the government to react in a sensible manner.

No longer do we seek happiness, rather we seek someone to make us happy. We forget the people in our past that made America what it is. Speaking of those who lived, loved, married, had children, and survived by small heroic acts of selflessness. In her book "Middlemarch," George Eliot wrote: "The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts are of those who live faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."

See HAYDEN Page 6A

City: Camp Wewa gets necessary update

Continued from page 1A

three commissioners said they were impressed with his background and integrity.

Growing up outside Seattle, Wash., and currently living in Farmington, Utah, Smith has over 18 years of experience in public administration. He holds a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., and a bachelor of arts from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Smith was employed in various managerial and finance positions with the cities of Saratoga Springs and Centerville City, and the state of Utah. His most recent employment was city manager of Fruit Heights City, Utah, from April 2023 to November 2023.

"That's why I'm here: I serve," Smith said at the May 1 Council meeting. "That was one of the things when I came in here that I wanted to make sure was heard. If I like the people here, that's the first thing. And two, if I can be honest and ethical, and I've done that. I have actually been very impressed. You are a people of great faith that I have noticed, and I have felt it. Everybody has been very warm, kind, down-to-earth and straightforward. That's how I am, too."

Mayor Bryan Nelson said he takes full blame for Jacob Smith's inability to meet with all of the city commissioners, since the mayor was the one who booked Smith's flight. Nelson also said he wanted to first get a confirmation from someone other than Smith that Smith left a job for what he perceived was ethics issues.

"I will take complete credit, but you know, I want you guys to feel comfortable that he's the right guy," Nelson said.

The city of Apopka initially posted the job listing on its own website, then expanded the search to several job sites for a qualified individual but ended up with negative results, Patton said. The city went out to bid for a job recruiter who had the resources to go nationwide. The hired recruiter vetted 69 applicants and interviewed nine out of the 69. Out of the nine, the recruiter referred four applicants to the city of Apopka.

City staff formed an interview committee, which sent a recommendation to the mayor, who then interviewed all the candidates.

Camp Wewa

By City Council vote 5-0, Cathcart Construction Company was awarded a contract for the Camp Wewa wastewater service extension in the amount of $1,495,375 plus a 10 percent contingency of $149,537.50, for a total of $1,644,912.50.

The Camp Wewa wastewater service extension project consists of the construction of about 2,190 LF of gravity sewer and sanitary laterals to buildings within the Camp Wewa site. The gravity sewer system will connect to the existing 8-inch sanitary sewer along South Binion Road. The existing lift station near Mud Lake will be retrofitted for the collection and

See CITY Page 7A

Enroll in Head Start now

John Bridges Head Start comprehensive early childhood development program is now open for enrollment for the school year 2024-2025. This is a no-cost federally funded program for children three to five years old.

To enroll a child, first call to make an appointment with FSW-Social workers: Ms. Delrose Forbes at 407-254-9422 or Ms. Keisha Carrion at 407-254-9423. John Bridges Head Start Center is located at 445 W. 13th St., Apopka.

When arriving for your appointment, please have your child's original birth certificate or passport, parent or guardian photo identification, proof of residency (examples: light bill, water bill or gas bill) and proof of income for the past 12 months (examples: tax return 2023, last check stub for the month before the appointment, additional income such as SSI, child support, TANF, SNAP, Social Security benefits, and financial aid/fnancial assisance), current immunization record (form 680), current physical examination records (form 3040) and child's current medical/health insurance card.

Comprehensive services of the Head Start program include: nationally recognized curriculum, parent's involvement, speech and hearing screenings, individualized teaching, disability services, social services, as well as meals and snacks.

REGAL

Fri., May 3, 2024 thru Sun., May 5, 2024

TAROT (PG-13) 11:00A; 1:40; 4:30; 7:10; 10:00
STAR WARS:EP 1- THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG) 11:10A; 12:10; 3:20; 6:40; 9:50
THE FALL GUY (PG-13) 11:20A; 12:20; 2:40; 3:40; 6:00; 7:00; 9:20; 10:20
UNSUNG HERO (PG) 11:30A; 2:00; 4:40; 6:50; 10:30
GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (PG-13) 11:40A*; 2:10; 4:50; 7:30; 10:10
CHALLENGERS (R) 12:00; 3:30; 7:20; 9:40
ABIGAL (R) 2:20; 5:00; 7:40; 10:40
KID: HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG) 10:00A**

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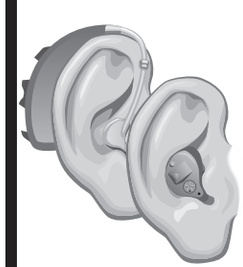

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide to Local Businesses

Essential Eye Care & Optical

As we begin to see more patients, we are implementing extra precautionary measures within our practice to keep everyone as healthy and safe as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at (407) 893-2733 via call or text.

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(407) 893-2SEE (2733) • Dr. David Dada, Optometrist
Book online: www.essentialeyecareoptical.com

Essential Eyecare and Optical's new location is scheduled to open in June

The momentum continues to build at **Essential Eyecare & Optical** to make quality eye care more accessible than ever before.

" With the construction of our new building almost complete, we're poised to move forward with our top-notch eyecare services to the local community and the surrounding area. This decision was made with our patients at the forefront, aiming to better cater to their needs," stated owner and operator Dr. David Dada, OD/BS, owner of **Essential Eye Care & Optical.**

And now, that summer approaches, it will bring fun outdoors activities like lounging on the beach or by the pool, taking summer vacations, and a host of outdoor sports. But as temperatures heat up, it is crucial to protect ourselves from more than just sunburns. As you prepare yourself and your family to enjoy the outdoors this summer, don't forget a plan for keeping the eyes protected, as well. Most people don't realize the sun's UV rays are as damaging to their eyes as they are to their skin. If you take a few simple steps to protect your eyes, you can still have fun in the sun. Make wise and informed decisions about polarized sunglasses, goggles, hats and other protective gear, stated Dr. Dada.

Essential Eyecare & Optical specializes in understanding how the human eye really works, as well as diseases and conditions that can affect your vision, many of which do not have obvious symptoms. They recognize how age and risk factors affect vision over time for both the young and old. They take the time to explain the results of your eye exam, describe your options, and listen to your eye care needs.

Essential Eyecare & Optical offers a full range of eye health service to clients of all ages, from children to older adults: providing routine eye exams and vision tests, eye disease diagnosis and management, immediate attention for eye emergencies, and complete eye health management. And they offer corrective laser eye surgery co-management, as well.

"Eyes are important indicators of overall health for everyone. Comprehensive eye care goes beyond a prescription for glasses or contact lenses. At **Essential Eyecare & Optical**, we take the time to get to know you, your eye care history, and your vision needs. We provide the expert care, advice, options, and the follow-up you need, whether you are a new patient or an existing one," stated Dr. Dada.

If your child struggled this year in school, it might be time to schedule an eye exam. Vision problems usually start gradually, and when left undetected, it can impact your child's performance both in and out of the classroom. Vison problems in children can interfere with reading skills, attention span, social interaction, and can also affect their confidence with their peers. Common signs that indicate a child might be having difficulty with their vision or eye health are tearing, squinting, light sensitivity, and frequent headaches.

An Apopka native, Dr. David Dada attended high school at Forest Lake Academy. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Gainesville's University of Florida, and a Bachelor's of Vision Science and Doctor of Optometry at NOVA Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

Dr. Dada's comprehensive professional training has taken him to various state-of-the-art clinics, such as the VA Clinic, specialty OMD clinics, and various OD-OMD practices. These experiences have shaped him into an exceptionally skilled optometrist. His passion for outreach has led him to participate in different mission trips, including the National Optometric Student Associate and One Sight.

Essential Eyecare & Optical accepts most insurance plans. If **Essential Eyecare & Optical** is not on your provider list, give them a call and they will try to match your plan's discounts.

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Code: Planning for future requires code updates

Continued from page 1A

protect that? The character of that particular community in perpetuity as we continue to grow in the county – for the next three decades, actually."

Vargas explained that the county population continues to grow. Currently at just over 1.4 million people, Orange County will continue to grow at a rate of about 1.5 percent every year for next 26 years until the county's planning horizon of 2050. By then, an additional 500,000 would have been added to the county, bringing the population to over 2 million.

"That is something that we cannot change. That's something we need to be ready and plan for accordingly," Vargas said.

Orange County's land development code was first written in 1957. Every city and county has a land development code that describes where and how new buildings and communities may be built.

"While there have been many updates since Orange County's Land Development Code was written in 1957, now is the time to look at the big picture," according to information from Orange County.

Orange Code "will foster a built environment that is sustainable, both environmentally and economically, streamline the application and project review processes, protect and enhance the character, form, and scale of Orange County's diverse communities, and meet the needs of Orange County's citizens and businesses, both current and future," states the Orange Code website.

"This Orange Code/Vision 2050 is really an important time for the county, so I'm so glad you're here. The planning department has worked very hard. I know that they have quite a few staff members here, and this is our guide for 30 years, basically, right? It really provides the foundation for any or all growth that could come this way," Orange County District 2 Commissioner 2 Christine Moore said, addressing the audience at the April 29 town hall meeting. As commissioner, Moore represents Apopka, Ocoee, Lockhart, Tangerine, Zellwood, Eatonville and portions of Pine Hills, College Park, and Orlando.

Visit ocfl.net/orangecode for more information.

Transect-based planning

Transect zones are primarily classified by the physical intensity of the built form, the relationship between nature and the built environment, and the complexity of uses within the zone. They are characterized by and define building form, land use intensity, and permissible activities on a site.

To arrange the analysis and coding of traditional patterns, a prototypical rural-to-urban transect has been divided into six transect zones, or T-zones, for application on zoning maps. These six habitats vary by the level and intensity of their physical and social character, providing immersive context within each Z-zone.

The Orange Code Transects have been calibrated to reflect local character and form. It contains all six T-zones, each representing a spectrum from the minimally developed to the highly developed, according to information from Orange County.

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Thank you to all who attended.
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Byrd: Local state champion is met

Continued from page 2A

phenomenal year!

Wekiva High School FFA has a state finalist in Agricultural Mechanics and Fabrication Proficiency Award and they also have the state champion in the Safe Tractor Operations and Maintenance Career Development Event.

I met our state champion recently and he is thrilled to continue his path working with farm machinery after graduation. He was very enthusiastic about the high-demand career waiting for him that he will have with no college debt to pay off, a career he may not have found, had it not been for FFA.

Apopka High School FFA has a state finalist in the Landscape Management Proficiency award as well as the state champions in the Ornamental Horticulture Demonstration-Landscape Division.

They also have the third place team in the State Floriculture Career Development Event.

Yes, it is fun watching the passion these kids have for their area of expertise. At a recent visit to the Central Florida Fair, I was able to spend some time with students who were showing their hens, rabbits and ducks. The amount of time, attention, research and energy that goes into caring for these animals is impressive, and students in the middle schools that I spoke to could not have been more excited to put in the time.

It's a beautiful thing to see students passionate about anything, and when they see a light go on in their future pathway, it's even better. Every child who participates in FFA doesn't follow a career path in agriculture, but they certainly gain valuable leadership skills and a work ethic that will serve them well no matter what future they choose.

Congratulations to all our FFA chapters in OCPS on a very successful year!

Police make first arrests in Florida of pro-Palestinian protesters at two university campuses

By Vivienne Serret
Fresh Take Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. –

Police supported by state troopers arrested nine pro-Palestinian protesters late Monday, May 29, who had occupied a plaza on the University of Florida for days. They were among the first college arrests in Florida.

Campus police Sgt. Courtney Marie Burgoyne said officers arrested nine protesters, who were led away in handcuffs. It followed the arrest of three other protesters at the University of South Florida in Tampa, hours earlier.

The administration at Florida's flagship public university said in a statement the protesters had violated new rules announced last week that included "no disruptions" and a ban on camping, sleeping, bullhorns and tents – but it didn't immediately say exactly what the protesters were accused of doing wrong. A spokesman, Steve Orlando, declined Monday night to answer questions about the arrests.

"I do not have to tell you anything," an unidentified campus police officer told a protester at the scene. About 30 protesters remained after the arrests. Some shouted "shame" and "who do you protect?" at officers and troopers.

It wasn't immediately clear whether anyone who was arrested was a student or otherwise affiliated with the university.

Under the university's new rules, students who violate them will be suspended, and employees or professors would be fired.

In a statement emailed to reporters 16 minutes after the arrests, Orlando said police gave the protesters "multiple warnings and multiple opportunities to comply" before they were arrested.

"This is not complicated: The University of Florida is not a daycare, and we do not treat protesters like children – they knew the rules, they broke the rules, and they'll face the consequences," Orlando said in the statement. "For many days, we have patiently told protesters – many of whom are outside agitators – that they were able to exercise their right to free speech and free assembly."

The arrests occurred about 7:40 p.m. Monday on the school's Plaza of the Americas, the centrally located square in the heart of campus. Law enforcement officers – including about 15 campus and municipal police officers and about six Florida Highway Patrol troopers – marched toward the plaza and protesters with batons in hand.

Police appeared to shut off power in the area during the arrests then restored it immediately afterward.

Last week was the last day of regularly scheduled classes for the semester. Some students were finishing final exams this week.

Sunday night, as police explained the university's new rules to protesters, some of them criticized officers and compared them to members of the white supremacist group, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Israeli Defense Force: "IDF, KKK, UFPD, you're all the same," protesters chanted as someone beat on a drum.

___

This story was produced by Fresh Take Florida, a news service of the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. The reporter can be reached at vivienneserret@ufl.edu.

CITY OF APOPKA
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Investments Alliance, LLC** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3054

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM "COUNTY" RURAL 1/2 TO "CITY" RURAL SETTLEMENT FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2518 HAAS ROAD, OWNED BY INVESTMENTS ALLIANCE, LLC., COMPRISING 4.17 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and

ORDINANCE NO. 3055

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL) TO PD (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2518 HAAS ROAD; OWNED BY INVESTMENTS ALLIANCE, LLC., COMPRISING 4.17 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Parcel Identification Number(s): 07-20-28-0000-00-025
Contains: 4.17 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3054 and 3055 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications 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.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

May 3, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief **176406**

Moore: Designated areas are named

Continued from page 2A

tween neighborhoods, centers, and other special areas. Corridors are essentially streets, roads, or transit lines like SunRail tracks, but, a corridor also extends into the surrounding development.

Unincorporated areas that have already been developed in the past may receive a designation as a center, neighborhood, or corridor during this process. The great majority of the county's suburban neighborhoods will also be typed or mapped, with the primary goal being to maintain or reinforce their existing residential character. Environmental lands, undeveloped areas, and rural properties do not receive a place type designation unless they become part of a specific land development application or small-area planning project.

The Board of County Commissioners will vote on whether to adopt Vision 2050 in September 2024.

Now is the time for you to share what you want to see occur where you live. Go to the interactive map on the county's website at: https://bit.ly/v2050web. On the website, you can comment on any location in Orange County.

Finally, we need to hear from as many residents as possible about planning in District 2. If you want to speak with the Planning Department directly, call 407.836.5600 or email: Vision2050@ocfl.net.

Hayden: Encourage one another

Continued from page 2A

All part of the making of the land we call America, and its history. We think of the grander, more extraordinary happenings when we talk of history, but without those who were a part of daily life in general, there would be no history. History is propagated by ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

We need to become that people again. We need to encourage one another to *stand and be counted*.

In society today, we have an administration that states we can think what we want to, but you will be ignored, and you will be mocked to the point people will think you are losing it. The master no longer says, "Think as I think or die." Now we are told we can go our own way, but you will be ostracized from humanity.

You will be shunned, and people will point at you, call you a detractor, devisor, racist, and you will be treated as a stranger. Even those that you call friends will turn away in fear of joining you in your "non-person" status.

Oh, they tell you they will not take your life, but the life of subordination they offer is worse than death.

Patrick Henry said it best: "Give me liberty or give me death!" The only thing democracy and socialism have in common is the word "equality." The difference is democracy seeks equality in justice and liberty while socialism seeks equality in bondage and slavery.

You can follow the "Judas goat" up the ramp to slaughter as the sheep do, to their own butchering, or you can make the decision to bring back our Democratic Republic by being secure in your belief in America and getting up and getting busy.

We do not need the government telling us what they can give us for our happiness.

We need to pursue our own happiness by getting down to the "nitty-gritty," by going to work, and as Roger Miller once said, "Knuckle down, buckle down, do it, do it, do it!"

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.

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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

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
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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

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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

City: Council approves projects to purchase land, approve use of joint facilities

Continued from page 3A

transmission of wastewater from Camp Wewa to the city's wastewater system. Lift station improvements include installation of new pumps and electrical components.

The other two companies who submitted bids were Sanpik, Inc. with $1,587,755; and Prime Construction Group, Inc. with $1,650,000.

Tetra Tech is the professional engineering consultant under contract for the design and assistance with this project.

The project timeline is 180 days from the notice to proceed date. Providence Construction & Development Company submitted $1,015,849.28, the lowest bid of the four companies that responded, according to city documents.

The submittal for Cathcart Construction Company has been reviewed to include their bid, history, and references, according to city documents.

Boy Scout Road/S.R. 429 access ramp project

The City Council approved 5-0 a vacant land contract for $725,000 for the acquisition of 2.79 acres for the realignment of Boy Scout Road and the S.R. 429 access ramp project.

An additional access ramp has been planned and designed for S.R. 429 by the Central Florida Expressway (CFX) at the intersection of S.R. 429, South Binion Road and Boy Scout Road. The property is located on the west side of The Ridge major development and south of Boy Scout Road.

In order to complete this project, the city of Apopka is acquiring a 2.79-acre area at the southeast corner to realign Boy Scout Road. Boy Scout Road will be provided with a cul-de-sac to the north of the project to provide access to those property owners. The city of Apopka will own the new section of road and will also include a round-about for the intersection that will also improve traffic circulation, similar to the S.R. 451 ramp at Marden Road. The Ramps to S.R. 429 will be a northbound on ramp, and a southbound off ramp.

Access and utility easements will be provided to the two parcels to the south that are part of The Ridge development.

The appraisal came in at $711,000, according to an appraisal report by The Barfield Group. Additional funding of $14,000 will also be required to cover costs such as title insurance, recording, courier, document stamps and warranty deed, according to information in the May 1 City Council agenda packet.

Transportation impact fees may be used for the new roadway acquisition because the realignment of Boy Scout Road, roundabout and Central Florida Expressway S.R. 429 ramp project will increase capacity for the roadway system.

City/school board joint use agreement

The City Council voted 5-0 to authorize a new joint use agreement between the city and the Orange County School Board, which sets up a fair process for the city and the school board to be allowed to use the other party's facilities for recreation programs or school athletic programs.

The term of the agreement is set for an initial five-year period, with an automatic renewal for three additional five-year terms unless either party provides written notice of their intent to terminate the agreement, according to information in the May 1 City Council agenda packet.

As part of this agreement, the city and the Orange County School Board have committed to ensure that no fees will be charged to either party for recreational facilities use at the following school and city locations as laid out in the agreement: Apopka High School, Apopka Memorial Middle School, Kelly Park School, Wekiva High School, Wolf Lake Elementary School, Wolf Lake Middle School, Apopka Amphitheater, Apopka Athletic Complex, Camp Wewa, and Northwest Recreation Facility.

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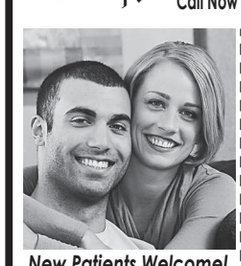
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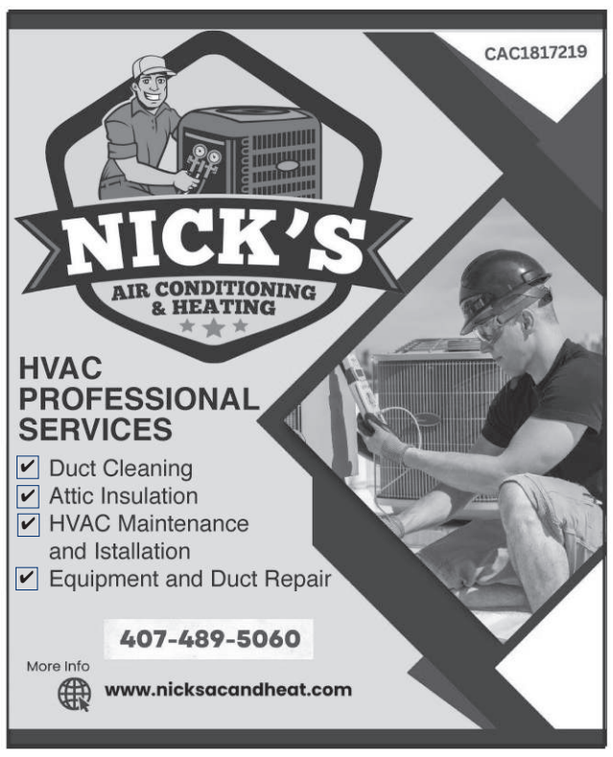

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Oath: Turnout was 13 percent

Continued from page 1A

Apopka as their home deserves to be embraced and celebrated."

The Tuesday, March 19, city election, saw a 13 percent voter turnout. Collecting 2,502 votes (55.03 percent), Anderson defeated opponent Darryl Richardson, who gathered 2,045 votes (44.97 percent).

Nesta got 2,758 votes (60.99 percent), easily dominating the race for Seat 4. Challenger Eric Mock got 1,764 votes (39.01 percent).

Election results are from the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office and are official. All votes include Election Day, early votes and vote by mail.

Manor: Commitment is top priority

Continued from page 1A

the properties continues, Gunter is focused on maintaining Dubsdread's high service standards.

"Our commitment to our clients and their events remains our top priority," he added.

Events by Dubsdread, a trusted name in event management and catering services in the Orlando area since 2001, has been a part of the Highland Manor's journey since 2011. With its elegance and historical significance, the Victorian mansion is a cherished venue for weddings, corporate events and social gatherings.

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Central Florida Audiology - Hearing Loss Is Not Just an Ear Problem

Hearing loss can be challenging enough with its profound effect on communication and quality of life, but did you know it can accompany other chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and dementia? Such comorbidities, or coexisting diseases, make regular hearing checkups even more important to catch potential problems early and address them for overall wellness.

Cognitive Decline

Research has long pointed to links between hearing loss and decreased brain functioning over time. Some of the statistics may surprise you:

• On average, seniors with hearing loss experience significantly reduced cognitive function 3.2 years before their normal-hearing counterparts.

• Hearing-impaired seniors experience thinking and memory problems 30 to 40 percent faster than their normal-hearing counterparts.

• Those with hearing loss are two, three, or nearly five times as likely to develop dementia, depending on the severity of their hearing impairment.

The causal relationship between hearing loss and cognitive decline isn't completely clear, but some research suggests that addressing hearing loss could cut dementia cases by a third. Additionally, struggling to hear conversations in crowded places, asking friends and family to repeat themselves, and feeling exhausted by the effort to understand what others are saying can inspire a voluntary withdrawal from socializing, which can lead to isolation and depression.

Dual Sensory Impairment

It's probably easy to see that the eyes and ears work together as a team. Both help you perceive the world around you, with hearing even enhancing the sense of sight. They both also help you — in conjunction with your joints, muscles, and brain — stay balanced and steady on your feet. Some researchers have discovered links between vision and hearing impairment. One study found that even after accounting for age, the two conditions (which are together known as "dual sensory impairment" or DSI) are somehow associated and significantly affect both physical and mental function.

*Have you been impacted by hearing loss? Whether your hearing difficulties are a new development or a lifelong issue, the experts at **Central Florida Audiology** can help. Please call (407) 358-7045 to schedule a free hearing consultation or visit www.centralfloridaaudiology.com Pictured above is Amy Davis, founder of **Central Florida Audiology**.*

Cardiovascular Disease

Like hearing loss, which affects an estimated 466 million people according to the World Health Organization (WHO), cardiovascular disease is a global public health challenge.

Exactly how heart disease and hearing loss are connected isn't yet conclusive in all cases, but researchers have found that:

• Hearing loss is more prevalent among those who have a history of circulatory disorders, such as cardiovascular disease, than among those who don't.

• Cardiovascular disease can cause decreased hearing sensitivity by restricting blood flow to the structures of the inner ear.

• People with heart disease are 54 percent more likely to experience a hearing loss, according to one study — even more so if they've suffered a heart attack.

Balance and Falls

Many people don't realize that hearing and balance are linked, but in fact, research has shown that falls are much more common among those with hearing loss. If that doesn't sound particularly serious, keep in mind that falls are leading cause of injury-related death for seniors over the age of 65, and the second leading cause of unintentional deaths among all age groups worldwide.

Balance and equilibrium are controlled by the body's vestibular system, involving parts of the brain, eyes, inner ear, and sensory systems, including skin, joints, and muscles. Keeping your hearing in the best shape possible can help reduce the risk of balance issues.

Diabetes

Hearing loss is twice as common among people living with diabetes. Much like presbycusis, or age-related hearing loss, diabetes-connected hearing issues commonly take a toll on higher-frequency hearing, which impairs the ability to understand speech in noisy settings. Diabetes-associated hearing loss could affect one or both ears, may occur suddenly or gradually, and could appear with or without balance problems.

Advertisement

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive set

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) will conduct its annual national food drive on Saturday, May 11. NALC's food drive, which was first held in 1983, helps feed millions of Americans.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, the country's largest one-day food drive, provides residents with an easy way to donate food to those in need.

Customers simply leave their donation of non-perishable food items next to their mailbox before the delivery of the mail on Saturday, May 11 (boxed and canned goods only, no glass). Letter carriers will collect the food donations that day as they deliver mail along their postal routes.

Food collected in Apopka will be donated to Loaves and Fishes to help local families.

Celebrate Emancipation Day on May 18

Emancipation Day 2024 will be on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Alonzo Williams Park, 515 S. Hawthorne Ave., Apopka.

This event will feature music, history talk, entertainment, kid activities, food trucks and vendors, and more.

Vendors interested in participating in the event should to go https://shorturl.at/bvOS2 and fill out the form.

According to the Florida Department of State website, "Emancipation was proclaimed in Tallahassee on May 20, 1865, 11 days after the end of the Civil War, and two years after the Proclamation first issued by President Abraham Lincoln freed those enslaved in Southern states."

Law enforcement working to save lives

Recognizing that less than 50 percent of Central Florida drivers are yielding to pedestrians near parks and trails, the Best Foot Forward for Pedestrian Safety program will be kicking off its quarterly pedestrian safety enforcement, dubbed Operation Best Foot Forward, to bring awareness and education to drivers to keep pedestrians safe near parks and trail crossings in Central Florida.

Law enforcement agencies are conducting a two-week high-visibility crosswalk enforcement from Tuesday, April 30 to Friday, May 10 across six Central Florida counties – Osceola, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Brevard and Marion – as part of Florida Department of Transportation's Target Zero initiative to reduce traffic-related serious injuries and deaths to zero.

The Apopka Police Department will conduct its high-visibility crosswalk enforcement on Wednesday, May 8, 7:30-9 a.m. at the Jason Dwelley Parkway and Brush Drive crosswalk.

During Operation Best Foot Forward, plainclothes officers and deputies will cross streets at marked crosswalks, giving drivers enough time to slow down and stop safely. Drivers who do not stop as Florida law requires will be pulled over and face a minimum $164 citation and three points on their driver's license. Most crosswalks chosen for enforcement are near parks and trail crossings.

According to data collected by the Best Foot Forward for Pedestrian Safety program this year, only 49 percent of drivers yield to pedestrians within a half-mile of parks and only 46 percent of drivers yield to pedestrians at trail crossings.

In a recent study by Injury Prevention, the risk of child pedestrian fatalities is more than twice as high near parks compared to schools. This may be related to the built-in environment within school zones that slows down drivers during times when children are most likely to be walking. This quarter's operation aims to instill that same sense of cautiousness around parks and trail crossings, especially as the school year comes to an end and more children will likely spend time outdoors at parks and trails.

Operation Best Foot Forward is part of the Best Foot Forward coalition's larger effort to improve road safety. Studies show that driver behavior changes when you combine these enforcement strategies, education, and engineering over a sustained period.

Visit iyield4peds.org/operationbff for a complete schedule of the intersection locations including time and day as well as an interactive map.

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Saul takes many men to search for David

BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Simon (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. How many chosen men of Israel did Saul take with him to the wilderness of Ziph to search for David? 12, 100, 200, 3000

3. From 1 Samuel 3, whose voice did Samuel think it was when he first heard God calling him? Jonathan, Saul, Ahiah, Eli

4. The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any ...? Tongue, Knife, Two-edged sword, Wit

5. In Genesis 26, where did Isaac stay when there was a famine in the land? Gerar, Endor, Sychar, Lydda

6. What insect was a plague on the Egyptians? Wasp, Locust, Flea, Cockroach

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 3000, 3) Eli, 4) Two-edged sword, 5) Gerar, 6) Locust

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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Repel Evil With Good

It is human nature to strike back when we are struck, and to insult someone who is insulting us.

Nothing is more natural, or at least more common, than the urge to hit back. We may even feel a moral duty to defend ourselves, and 90 percent of the time, that is what we do.

But the better path, albeit very rare, is to repel evil with good. To hit back is human, to forgive and to pray for those who persecute us is divine.

The Koran puts it this way: "The good deed and the evil deed are not equal. Repel by that which is better; then behold, the one between whom and thee there is enmity shall be as if he were a loyal, protecting friend." (Surah 41:34)

The Bible says simply "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21 NIV) We do this by being patient and gentle with those who are being mean to us, by forgiving those who have hurt us, even if they did so intentionally, and in short by acting lovingly to all, and especially those who don't deserve it.

The world teaches us to hit back, and to hit back harder to teach them a lesson. God teaches us to be kind and loving to gain a friend and ally.

An eye for an eye is a system of justice that leaves the world blind. Turning the other cheek and praying for those who persecute you makes the other see the error of his ways and creates a more loving world.

–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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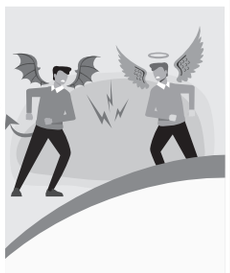
(See message above.)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:43–45 NIV



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To make a cherry torte, you bake the crust, crumble it, and add topping

Kitchen Kapers by Nancy

Ree Drummond of The Pioneer Woman. com has some wonderful recipes, including one called Sausage Breakfast Casserole. This one is an "easy make-ahead breakfast casserole."

We have a recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking, Recipes* from Emily Meggett for Okra Gumbo. You can use fresh or frozen okra. She cooks on a wood stove, but we'll forgive you if you don't. She puts a little sugar in the recipe and says it helps to cut the acid from the tomatoes. You can serve this gumbo alone or over a bed of white rice.

Here is a recipe for Country Fried Cabbage from *The Original Country Cookbook*. As it calls for bacon fat, you may choose to replace it with butter or vegetable fat. This cabbage recipe is from the little paperback cookbook that a friend gave me more than 40 years ago! It was published by Paragon Products, Inc., in Pompano Beach in 1976. The introduction says, regarding the recipes, "They come from a period in America when work was hard and appetites big. All have been tested and edited carefully for accuracy. These recipes call for basic natural ingredients and do not need today's artificial this and imitation that!"

For dessert, try Darlene Brammeier's Cherry Torte. It appears to be fairly straightforward; she won't make us do any backflips. Our thank you goes out to Northside Baptist Church for their cookbook where we found Darlene's recipe.

Also from Northside Baptist Church, we have Bonnie Milliken's Pizza Dough recipe. This is another basic instruction you can use to exercise your "exploratory" gene to have some fun in the kitchen, especially with the kids.

SAUSAGE BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

Recipe from ThePioneerWoman.com

Butter or nonstick spray
1 pound breakfast sausage, such as Jimmy Dean's
4 scallions, chopped, white and green parts divided
1 red bell pepper, chopped
10 eggs
1-1/4 cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
2 teaspoons hot sauce, optional
1-1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese, divided (8-ounce portions)
1 30-ounce package frozen shredded hash browns, thawed

1) Grease 9 x 13-inch (or other 3-quart) baking dish with butter or nonstick spray. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. 2) Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and break up into small pieces with a wooden spoon. Cook the meat until no pink pieces remain, about 6-8 minutes. Add the red bell pepper and white and light-green parts of the scallions, and cook 3 more minutes. Transfer to a plate to let cool slightly. 3) Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, heavy cream, mustard, hot sauce, salt, black pepper and about one-half of the remaining green parts of the scallions (save the rest to sprinkle on top of the casserole once baked.) Gently fold 1-1/2 cups of cheese, the hashbrowns, and the sausage mixture into the egg mixture. Transfer all to the baking dish and smooth into an even layer. 4) Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 50 minutes. Remove the foil, and top with the remaining 1/2-cup of cheese. Increase the oven temperature to 400 degrees and finish baking until the center of the casserole is set (not jiggly) and the top is slightly golden, 10-15 more minutes. Let rest 10 minutes, top with the remaining green parts of the scallions, then serve.

EMILY MEGGETT'S OKRA GUMBO

Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett

3/4 pound salt pork, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 onion, chopped
1 bell pepper, chopped
1 28-ounce can crushed or diced tomatoes
1 can tomato paste
3 pounds okra, cut into 1/2-inch pieces, or 2 pounds frozen cut okra
Crushed red pepper
Gold Medal seasoning salt
1 tablespoon sugar, plus more to taste
1 15-1/4 ounce can corn, drained, or kernels cut from 2 ears fresh corn
1-1/2 pounds small shrimp, peeled and deveined (optional but recommended)

1) In a large, heavy-bottomed pot, fry the salt pork over medium heat until crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. Add the onion and bell pepper and sauté together for 5 to 7 minutes, until translucent. 2) Add the tomatoes and tomato paste. Rinse out the tomato paste can and refill the can with water. Pour the water into the pot. Repeat this process two more times. Bring to a boil over high heat. 3) Turn down the heat to medium and cook for 25 to 30 minutes. If the mixture is too thick, add more water. Add the okra, crushed red pepper, seasoning salt to taste, and the sugar. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes. 4) Finally, add the corn and shrimp, stir, and cook the gumbo over low heat for about 10 more minutes. Serve with rice or eat plain.

COUNTRY FRIED CABBAGE

Recipe from Paragon Products, Inc., *The Original Country Cookbook*

1 small head green cabbage, shredded
3 tablespoons (or more) bacon fat
2 teaspoons red pepper flakes
Salt to taste

Wash cabbage and shred by cutting into quarters, then making thin slices across the cut sides of the cabbage. Discard the core and any tough ribs. Heat bacon fat in iron Dutch oven, put in the cabbage, and stir until it is all glistening. Lower the heat, add pepper flakes, and continue cooking and turning until it is barely tender.

DARLENE BRAMMEIER'S CHERRY TORTE

Recipe from *Northside Baptist Church cookbook*

Pastry:
1 cup flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup margarine
1/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Mix and press into 9 x 9-inch pan. Bake 15 minutes at 400 degrees. Crumble after cooling and press back into pan.

Filling:
1 8-ounce package cream cheese
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
8 ounces whipped topping
1 can cherry pie filling

Cream together cream cheese, powdered sugar and vanilla. Fold in the whipped topping. Spread over the crust. Top with can of cherries. Chill. Serve.

BONNIE MILLIKEN'S PIZZA DOUGH

Recipe from *Northside Baptist Church cookbook*

1 cup warm water
1 package yeast
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons oil
2 cups flour, and additional 1-1/2 cups flour, approximately

Sprinkle yeast into warm (not hot) water until dissolved. Add sugar, salt, and oil.

Add 2 cups flour, a little (1/2 cup) at a time. It will be a very stiff dough. Turn out onto floured flat surface and knead in the remaining 1-1/2 cups flour until dough is smooth and elastic.

Place dough in greased bowl. Brush or pat top with oil. Cover and let rise in warm place (85 degrees). In the rising process, keep in a place that is free from drafts until dough is double in bulk. It will take about 45 minutes (30 minutes or less if you use the Rapid Rise Yeast). Punch down the dough and divide in half. Knead slightly and press each ball of dough into pizza pan.

Top with 'whatever,' i.e.; 1 cup tomato or pizza sauce, 1/2 pound mozzarella cheese, cooked Italian sausage, cooked hamburger, slivers of onion, green pepper, olives, pepperoni, etc.

Bake at 400 degrees about 20 to 25 minutes in preheated oven.

Dough can be refrigerated or frozen before rising. Defrost or let dough come to room temperature before first step in rising. It can be refrigerated or frozen after adding the toppings or after slightly baking (10 to 15 minutes).

View Kitchen Kapers by Nancy online at www.theapopkachief.com/recipes

MAY 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. DON'T 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 Dwelley 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 muck-farming days. The one-way drive exits on Jones Road in Zellwood. You will see a freshwater 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 Wekiva 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, MAY 3

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, MAY 4

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the the third Saturday of the month on MAY 18, from 8-10 a.m. at 519 S. Central Avenue. Cost is only $7.

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, MAY 5

MONDAY, MAY 6

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 D42. Orators of Excellence

TUESDAY, MAY 7

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 communitiy 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, MAY 8

,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, MAY 9
MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 13.

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 Amphitheaer, 3710 Jason Dewlley Parkway, 5-7 p.m. Free. 2 during month of May.

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/2ABrmsb, 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: Wednesay 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.theapopkamuseum.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

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR INFORMATION

Events, fund raisers,
and non-profit organizations
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....

Eagle Scout Project is for Apopka Fire Station No. 2

In a Thursday, April 25, post on the Apopka Fire Department's (AFD) Facebook page, the AFD expressed gratitude to JP Hodgkins of Boy Scout Troop 10 for choosing Apopka Fire Station No. 2 for his Eagle Scout Project.

JP, a current Apopka Firefighter Explorer, aims to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a firefighter/paramedic after graduating high school.

For his Eagle Scout Project, JP planned and created an outdoor recreation area for Apopka firefighters to grill, eat, and unwind. To raise money for this project, JP organized a carwash with his Boy Scout Troop and received donations from generous local businesses.

The Apopka Fire Department was more than thrilled to assist JP with this project. Multiple city of Apopka employees and fire department members including Engineer Antonio Batista, Lieutenant Cody Bennett, and Engineer Hector Cartagena helped with ordering and installing the pavers.

This project's success was made possible by the collaboration of local businesses and volunteers, including Roedell's Landscaping, Sunbelt Rentals, Manny Fernandez, Anthony Krause, Troop 10 volunteers, and JP's father and grandfather.

JP Hodgkins of Boy Scout Troop 10 chose Apopka Fire Station No. 2 for his Eagle scout Project. It is an outdoor recreation area for Apopka Firefighters to grill, eat, and unwind.

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

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Rotary Club donates to food pantry

President Jon DeClue of the Apopka Rotary Club donates a $500 check to Jennifer Korkes of Apopka High School for its Darter Pantry, which helps feed the community. The donation was done at the Thursday, April 18, Apopka Rotary Club meeting at First Methodist Church on South Park Avenue.

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Third Chicken Piccata with Capers & Pasta Broccoli
Roast Ham Dinner Mash & Broccoli
Banger's & Mash with Sautéed Onion Gravy & Onion Straws with Broccoli
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

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Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

AdventHealth Apopka opens its new patient floor

AdventHealth Apopka opened up its new patient floor with a Thursday, April 25, ribbon cutting to better serve the growing population in Orange County. The $26.3 million investment increases the hospital's licensed bed count to 158.

The new floor, located on the fifth floor of the hospital, will address the increasing demand for complex care within the community. The 30,230-square-foot expansion adds 38 inpatient beds, including cardiovascular progressive care beds and four dialysis bays.

"The expansion of our hospital will enable us to offer high-quality, whole-person care to more patients closer to home," said Parker Pridgen, CEO of AdventHealth Apopka. "As our West Orange communities continue to grow, we are committed to keeping pace by investing in capacity and specialty services."

Expanding service offerings and rapid population growth have contributed to the need for additional capacity at the campus. According to Truven Health Analytics, the population of Apopka will increase by 8.46 percent in the next five years, making the provision of additional high-quality acute care services critical.

"Providing care in a convenient location is a key part of our mission," said Dr. Omayra Mansfield, chief medical officer for AdventHealth Apopka. "We know that the presence and emotional support of loved ones during a hospital stay helps the healing process. Adding cardiovascular progressive care beds will augment our ability to provide advanced complex care close to home."

In addition to the new patient floor, the investment also includes a new surface parking lot with 800 new parking spaces for guests and team members.

As a result of the expansion, over 100 new high-paying jobs have been created.

"With our highly engaged workforce, this expansion will afford us the opportunity to further grow and elevate our team through newly developed education and training opportunities," said Melissa Leonard, chief nursing officer at AdventHealth Apopka. "It's a blessing to provide specialty nursing jobs to those who live and serve in this close-knit community."

The top photo shows the opening ribbon cutting and one of the 38 beds on new patient floor.

KEEP THOSE WHEELS ROLLING...

GENERAL SERVICE: AUTO-BASICS

Auto technicians say the key to keeping vehicles running well – today and down the road – is routine maintenance. Yet many drivers tend to stall when it comes to keeping up with some everyday auto-basics. A recent survey by the Car Care Council found 25% of cars had low or dirty engine oil, 13% had low or contaminated brake fluid, 18% had dirty air filters, 17% had inadequate cooling protection or low coolant levels, 16% needed new windshield wiper and 27% had low or contaminated washer fluid, 18% needed new belts. Overall, 89% of vehicles were in need of at least one service or repair.

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The Apopka Chief

Chief Junior

Students write about solar eclipse, Trike-A-Thon and preview night

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Apopka Events

Spring at Trinity Christian School in Apopka is an exciting time.

Just a few of the things are the Parent Preview Night, our celebration of the solar eclipse day, and even our instrumental band in their recent competition. You can find further information about the school at our website: www.tcs-apopka.org.

Prospective Parent Preview Night

(By: Mhina Jackson)

Parent Preview Night is an event for those who wish to learn more about Trinity Christian School and our unique ministry. It not only gives an introduction to the curriculum and provides important information, but those who attend are able to tour the facility.

Preview Nights are held the first Monday of the month from February through July. The next Parent Preview Night will be on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:30 pm – with the doors opening at 6:15 pm. For more information, please contact the Trinity Christian School office at (407) 886-0212.

Solar Eclipse Celebration

(By: Gabriel Lawson)

On Monday, April 8th, there was a solar eclipse. TCS had various ways for students to take advantage of this rare learning experience. Every class was given solar eclipse glasses and came outside to look at the solar eclipse at the end of school. Some classes such as the kindergartners came up with even a safer way to protect their faces from the sun.

Solar eclipses do not happen too often, especially in Central Florida. The next time we have a total eclipse will not be for 21 more years (in August 2045). As we learned, an eclipse is very dangerous for your eyes because when the moon passes over the sun, the sun's rays are focused into one singular point right before a total eclipse.

Instrumental Band Competition

(By: Naomie Keely)

During this year's highly anticipated competition at the Florida Bandmasters Association District 8 Concert Music Performance Assessment (MPA) which was held at Dr. Phillips High School, Trinity Christian School excelled by earning Superior (Straight A) ratings in every challenge they faced. The competition encompassed various tests including live performance and also the nerve-wracking task of sight reading and interpreting an unfamiliar piece of sheet music within a strict time limit. Despite the intense pressure, Trinity's musicians showcased not only their technical skills but also their ability to adapt and thrive in demanding circumstances.

By demonstrating their exceptional musicianship and unwavering dedication, Trinity left a lasting impression on the judges and audience alike. Their flawless execution, precise interpretations, and undeniable passion for music truly set them apart. It was a gratifying moment for Trinity as they basked in the glory of their well-deserved victories – proving once again that dedication, talent, and perseverance are the key ingredients to success in the intricate world of music competitions.

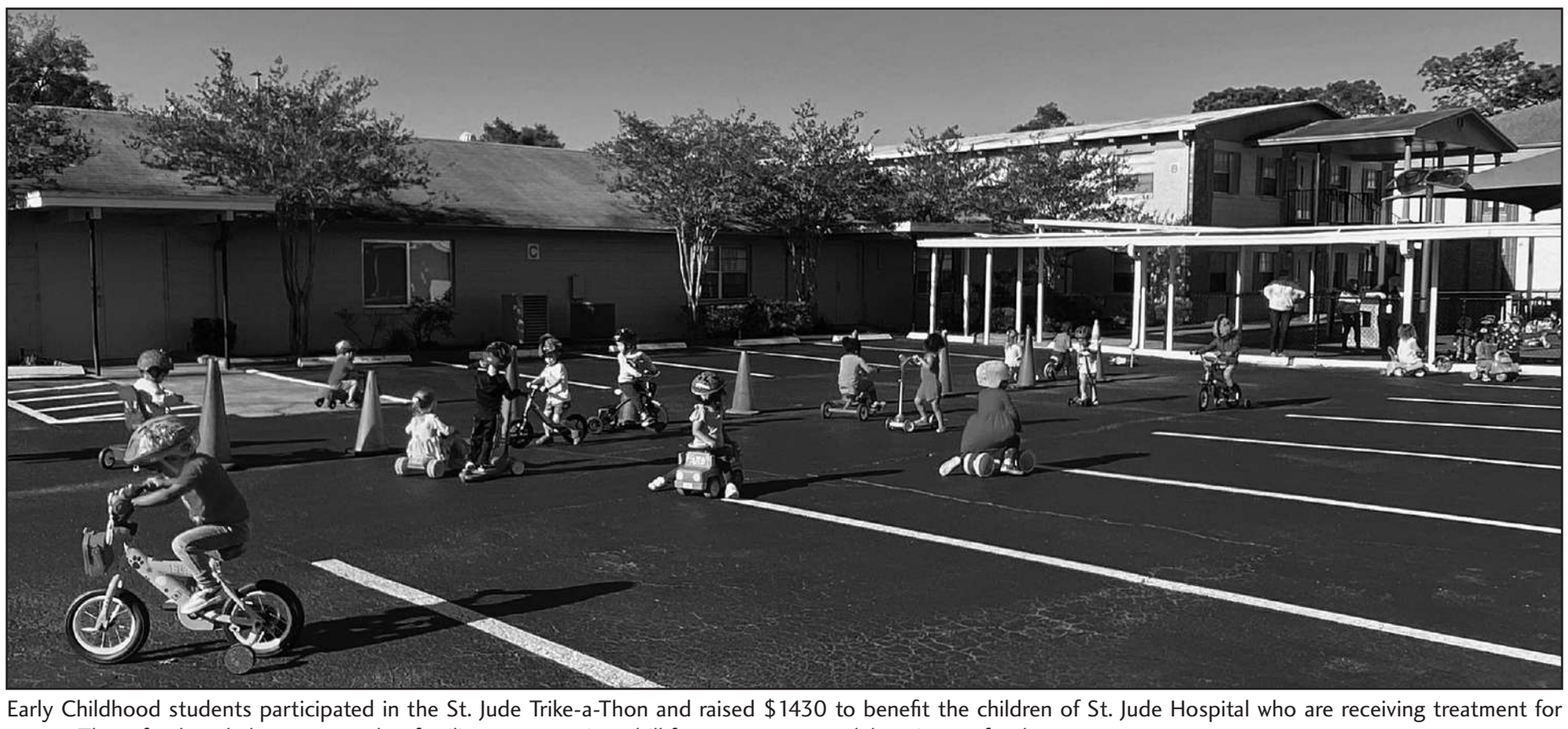
Upcoming Events

As we prepare for the end of the school year, there will be several special events taking place in May. The final band concert of the year will be Friday, May 3 at 8:30 a.m. in the Worship Center. PSG will have their next meeting on Monday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the middle school lunchroom. The 4th grade is working diligently on their musical which will be presented in the Worship Center on Friday, May 17 at 8:20 a.m. VPK graduation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. and awards programs for each class will be taking place on Wednesday, May 22 which is also the last day of school. Dismissal will be at 12:00.

THANK YOU! The Trinity High School Journalism Team would like to express our sincere appreciation for taking the time to read more about our school and for your ongoing support!

Kindergarten students using their eclipse viewers.

The middle school band at Trinity recently competed in the Florida Bandmasters Association District 8 Music Performance Assessment earning superior ratings.



Early Childhood students participated in the St. Jude Trike-a-Thon and raised $1430 to benefit the children of St. Jude Hospital who are receiving treatment for cancer. These funds to help to ensure that families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food.

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See more Chief Junior news on page 15A

Students are encouraged to finish up strong to prepare for next year

From Principal Sarasty:

We are locked in and going strong! This is our last month to put in the hard work to perform at our best on our end of the year assessments. Our teachers have gone above and beyond to ensure EVERY child has the tools and strategies they need to be successful. Our students continue to work hard and persevere with grit and the right mindset. Our Wildcats are a tough bunch that can and will bring their best through and through. Let's finish strong! Lovell Up Wildcats! Game On!

House News:

Congratulations to the House of Majime for winning the most House Points this month! Ubuntu and Majime tied in the March Madness House Challenge Games during lunch but Majime had enough total points to become House Winners for the Month of March.

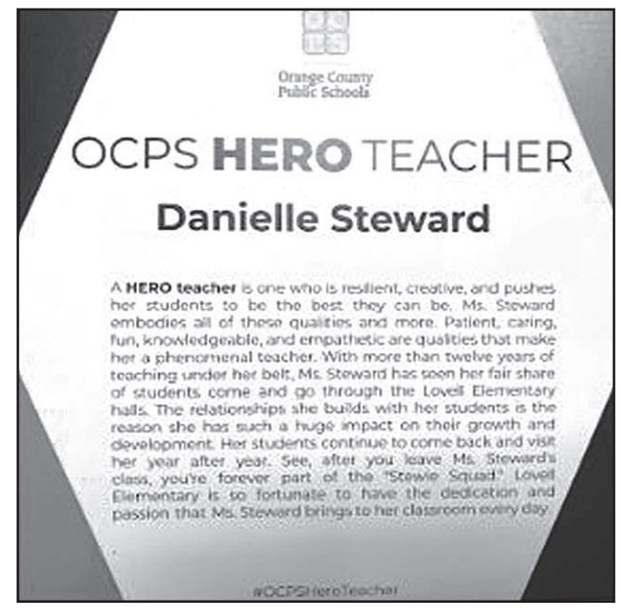
Teacher Appreciation Week will be celebrated from May 6 – May 10. If you would like to donate any items towards this event, it would be appreciated. Please reach out to Mrs. Davis at EXT/ 3602292 or via email Laquesha.Davis@ocps.net.

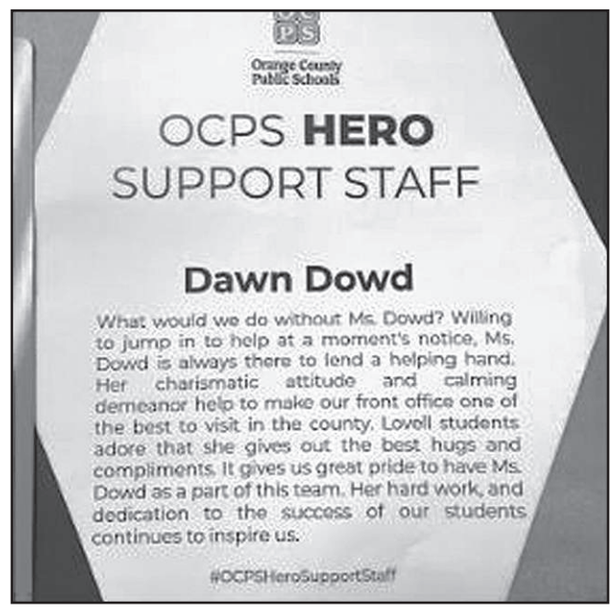
This year's testing theme is Lovell Up for the Super Bowl, All in to Win! We will be having a Pep-Rally and a parade to motivate the students before testing.

May 1st is School Principal's Day. May 3rd is School Lunch Hero Day. May 8th is School Nurse Day.

Thank you **ALL** for the many things you do to take care of our children and staff!

Please keep up to date on Talking Points and Teacher messages for the many activities coming up in May.





Lovell Elementary's OCPS HERO's: Danielle Steward – OCPS HERO Teacher and Dawn Dowd – OCPS HERO Support Staff.

Tell them you saw it in The Apopka Chief

Third grade

Mrs. Steele's kids are learning about plants and their structure. In math, Mrs. Steele's kids are learning about geo shapes and area models. Mrs. Steele thinks the best reward this year is watching how her students have matured and reached their goals. Third graders are excited about their SeaWorld field trip.

— J. Occenat and D. Limage

Fourth grade

In Mrs. Sims class, in reading they are learning poetry, rhyme, figurative language, and stanzas. The book that they are reading are all about nature. Even though Mrs. Sims isn't a math or science teacher she uses science like the water cycle in small group. In writing they just took the BEST writing test and they just started learning how to write in cursive. The most rewarding part of this year for Mrs. Sims is seeing her non-English students participate in small group and class discussion. Exciting things are coming to Mrs. Sims class and they are doing an escape room and a goodbye party for Mrs. Sims intern Mrs. Enamorado. The fourth grade has an upcoming field trip to Saint Augustine.

— B.Wade

Fifth grade

In Mrs. West's math class, her scholars are learning about classifying shapes, in science they are learning about food chains and interdependence. The most rewarding part of the year for her was that she could see all the growth her students were making. She is working on preparing for fast now that spring is approaching. They just returned from a Busch Gardens field trip.

—A. Hansen

Upcoming events

April 22-26 – Teacher Appreciation Week

April 24 – Administrative Professional Day

April 27 – Parent Academy

May 1 – Long Wednesday

May 1 – School Principal Day

May 3 – Lunch Hero Appreciation

May 6 – Nurse Appreciation

May 7 – Fifth Grade Science PMA

May 8 – Long Wednesday

May 8 – Fast ELA Test Third-Fifth, Fast K-2 Math

May 9 – Fast Math Test Third through Fifth

May 13 – Fifth CFE Dance and P.E.

May 13 – NEHS Meeting

May 14 – Fifth CFE Music and Drama

May 15 – Fifth CFE Art and Health

May 17 – National Speech Language Pathologist Day

May 24 – Last Day of School

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CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE REPEAL AND REPLACEMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TRANSMITTAL HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statues Section 163.3184 and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B) that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Comprehensive Plan by repealing and replacing the Transportation Element.

ORDINANCE NO. 3029

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; REPEALING AND REPLACING THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed amendment at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Further notice is given that a public hearing for the transmittal of the proposed amendment to the Florida Department of Commerce will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Transportation Element 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.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

May 3, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief **176403**

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62nd annual Apopka Art and Foliage Festival had great weather

The 62nd Apopka Art and Foliage Festival showcased the work of juried artisans, crafters, and top foliage growers. The event was held at Kit Land Nelson Park on Saturday, April 27, and Sunday, April 28. Aside from the art and the foliage there was 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 popular Crazy Hats returned this year after years of hiatus. 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.

Craft vendors, such as sports team-inspired lawn decoration and woven baskets, were available for sale at the 62nd Apopka Art and Foliage Festival.

A section of the festival featured art by students from several schools in the Apopka area. Best of Show (below) winner was Justina Trang of AHS, and (left) a second place ribbon went to Madison Perez of Forest Lake Academy

Joann Castilllo, Foliage and Art Festival chairman presents a plaque to Shawne Baker and twin sister Dawne Baker-Levenskie for club service during the ribbon cutting.

Miss Apopka Reilly Cardella and Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson were among the special guests at the April 27 opening ceremony.

Photos by Apopka Chief staff and Apopka Woman's Club