

The Apopka Chief

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OCPS leaders discuss district's progress in State of Schools

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Orange County School Board Chair Teresa Jacobs and Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) Superintendent Dr. Maria Vazquez discussed the district's progress of ongoing programs as well as strategy, goals, budget, continuation of the half-cent sales tax and new initiatives while touching on the district's performance and impact on Orange County.

Even though Vazquez has been OCPS superintendent for two full school years now, this was the first time both women shared the delivery of the 2024 State of the Schools address, which took place on Monday, June 3, at Edgewater High School in Orlando.

Vazquez succeeded Dr. Barbara Jenkins, who

retired after 10 years as superintendent.

Jacobs said she first met Vazquez over 25 years ago, when Vazquez was the assistant principal of an elementary school Jacobs' children was attending.

"I was an engaged and, I guess you could say 'a vocal parent,'" Jacobs said to Vazquez during the address. "But I quickly gained appreciation for your transparency and openness, and your ability to build relationships through trust and communication."

"When I was elected as school board chair in 2018, I was excited to work with you," Jacobs said. "For over 30 years now, you've been a gift to this district. Your energy, ideas and leadership are inspiring to all of us. Getting to work side-by-side with you, our first Latina Superintendent, been such an honor and a



For the first time, Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Maria Vazquez (l) and Orange County School Board Chair Teresa Jacobs (r) share delivery of the 2024 State of the Schools address on Monday, June 3 at Edgewater High School in Orlando.

joy."

"I hope that you walk away this morning with a better idea about what's happening in our schools each and every day and the challenges and

opportunities facing our district," Vazquez said. "I am so proud of the work of our amazing employees, and the support we receive from you to help us achieve our vision to ensure every

student has a promising and successful future.

"The only chance we have to change things is for the general public to be as informed as you are and alarmed as we are,"

Vazquez continued. "An increase in support and funding of public education will only come if the whole community is engaged."

See OCPS Page 9A



Photos courtesy of Orange County Public Schools/Facebook

Wekiva HS Class of 2024 graduates



Wekiva High School graduated its Class of 2024 (pictured) on Thursday, May 30, at the University of Central Florida. More graduation photos from the area schools can be found on pages 7A, 12A, and Section C.

Wyld Oaks seeks dog lovers' help to design dog park

As the dog days of summer are beginning to heat up, plans for a dog park to rival all dog parks are beginning to take shape in Apopka.

On Tuesday, June 4, Wyld Oaks unleashed a public crowdsourcing initiative for dog lovers nationwide to help design "America's top dog park." This stage of the dog park design crowdsourcing ini-

tiative will run through July 22.

The future "bark park" will be a place for neighbors to enjoy quality time with their four-legged best friend while making new friends among the century-old oak trees at Yonder, a nature preserve being planned inside Wyld Oaks' 215 mixed-use acres

See DOGS Page 5A

City Council unanimously approves several developments

Under business items of the Wednesday, June 5, meeting agenda, the City Council voted unanimously, 5-0 on the following items: Kelly Park multi-family phase 3 plat, the Marshall Lake Business Center major development plan, and the major development plan for the Plymouth Sorrento Apartments.

Kelly Park multi-family phase 3 plat

The Kelly Park multi-

family phase 3 plat is approximately 150-acre tract located on the northwest corner of Waypointe Boulevard and Kelly Park Road. This plat would combine parcels and create three lots, roads and other infrastructure required for the construction of a multi-family development.

This plat also serves to establish portions of Airy Spring Street, Fresh Flower Street, and Rainy Woods Street rights-of-ways to

support the expansion of and connectivity within the Crossroads at Kelly Park development.

The plat is consistent with the major development plan for the Crossroads at Kelly Park phase 3 multi-family tract MF-P2-1. The City Council approved that major development plan on May 3, 2023.

The plat is also consistent with the construction site plan that the Development Review Committee

approved on June 15, 2023.

Marshall Lake Business Center

A major development plan was submitted for consideration for the Marshall Lake Business Center, consisting of six buildings totaling 43,900 square feet in area that are comprised of office/warehouse and self-storage uses. Located at 780 Marshall Lake Road, the 6.43-acre property has an Industrial future

land use designation and a zoning designation of I-L (Light Industrial).

Plymouth Sorrento Apartments

The major development plan for the Plymouth Sorrento Apartments proposes to construct 242 multifamily units with a density of 18.55 dwelling units per acre. This proposed multifamily development serves as a transition from the commercially intensive

uses along U.S. 441 and adjacent to S.R. 429 to the existing single-family uses east of Plymouth Sorrento Road, according to city documents.

The Plymouth Sorrento Apartments planned development is a consolidation of two parcels, totaling approximately 13.04 acres, located west of Plymouth Sorrento Road, north of U.S. 441 and east of S.R.

See CITY Page 8A

Bracy challenges Thompson on district residency



Former Senator Randolph Bracy III (l) holds a Wednesday, June 5, press conference in Orlando to announce he intends to file a lawsuit against State Senator Geraldine F. Thompson (r), alleging that she doesn't live in Senate District 15, which she represents.

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Former Senator Randolph Bracy III intends to file a lawsuit against Senator Geraldine F. Thompson, challenging her legal residency and therefore her qualification to run in the upcoming State Senate District 15 primary and general elections.

Bracy called for a news conference at the Orange County Administration Building in Orlando on Wednesday, June 5. Thompson was there to give comments. This year, Bracy and Thompson are running for State Senate District 15, which encom-

passes northwest Orange County including Apopka.

According to the draft copy of the lawsuit provided by Bracy, he is suing Thompson "for declaratory judgement, seeking relief in various forms, most notably injunction relief regarding Thompson's illegal qualification as a candidate for The State of Florida Senate District 15 in the upcoming Primary Election on August 20, 2024, and the General Election held on November 5, 2024."

The lawsuit draft states that Thompson purchased her Windermere home in October 1988, and the house has had an approved homestead exemption for

many years with the Orange County Property Appraiser.

Bracy denied filing the lawsuit for any personal reason, but rather because it's about the truth. He alleges that Thompson owns one home that isn't in the district and she doesn't lease any property. Bracy said he owns numerous homes, but his homestead residence is in the district where he lives.

"Our leaders should lead with the truth, guiding this community to become their best selves so that they and we together can overcome obstacles and reach

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



Apopka Event of the Week

At the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd, Cuentame un Cuento: Jungle Trek - Summer at Your Library, is Monday, June 10 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Trek through the jungle in this interactive bilingual storytime featuring books and songs in English and Spanish that are suitable for speakers of either language. Recommended for ages 3-5.

Quotable

“As Floridians and their families go outdoors to enjoy all that the Sunshine State has to offer, we want to make sure they do it in a way that is safe and enjoyable.”

Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez on necessity of water safety reminders

Opinion

The Apopka Chief
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher
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Neoma Knox
Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Water safety reminders are necessary at this time of year

ORMOND BEACH, Fla.—

Today, Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Shevaun Harris, State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo, and Agency for Persons with Disabilities Director Taylor Hatch highlighted resources, education, and tips for water safety and drowning prevention.

“Governor Ron DeSantis and I know that Florida is the best place to be year-round, but especially in the summer,” said Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez. “As Floridians and their families go outdoors to enjoy all that the Sunshine State has to offer, we want to make sure they do it in a way that is safe and enjoyable. As a result, it’s important that we bring awareness to water safety and share things that families can do to prevent drowning and water-related injuries.”

“The Department of Children and Families is committed to ensuring the well-being of all children and families and as we kick off a fun summer season, it is vital that children, parents, and caregivers exercise safe swimming practices,” said DCF Secretary Shevaun Harris. “Sadly, we continue to see an increase in the number of preventable drownings across our state, and this summer and all year long, DCF is encouraging all Floridians to ensure that water safety measures are in place near any bodies of water.”

Drowning can be prevented. The State of Florida collaborates with numerous state and local partners to provide education, tips, and resources on water safety and drowning prevention.

Here are some important steps you can take to ensure safety around the water: Always supervise children in and around water; Consider participating in

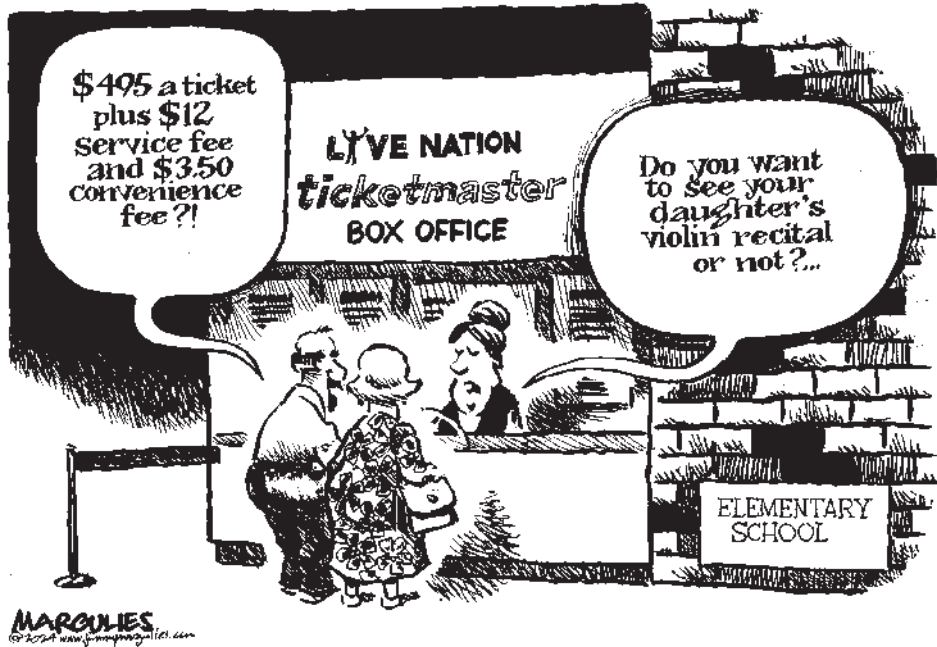
swim lessons; Learn CPR and first aid; Ensure that pool barriers and gates meet state law requirements; Follow life jacket laws and make sure life jackets are properly fitted; Check local conditions, such as weather, rip tides, and marine life before heading out to the water.

“Drowning can be silent and happen in the amount of time it takes to check a text on your phone,” said State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo. “By designating a Water Watcher and using barriers such as a fence, you can protect your children while safely enjoying activities at the pool and beach this summer.”

“Florida’s natural climate creates many enjoyable recreational opportunities centered around water, and that is why today’s event is critical to amplifying the message of water safety for all Floridians,” said Agency for Persons with Disabilities Director Taylor Hatch. “Some individuals with disabilities, such as those with autism spectrum disorder, are attracted to water’s sensory impact. Therefore, it’s critical to share proven steps that we can all take to promote water safety, minimize risk, and encourage enjoyable experiences.”

In 2024, 46 children have tragically drowned in Florida. The majority of these incidents occurred in swimming pools, with 76.3% happening during non-swim times when a child is not expected to be in or near water. Let’s work together to raise awareness about water safety and prevent such heartbreaking accidents.

For more information on water safety tips, please visit <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-and-family-well-being/summer-safety-tips/water-safety/water-safety-kids>.



Maintenance is most important

I experienced some extraordinary moments at the clean-up this past weekend with The People of Southern Apopka along Sheeler Avenue near US 441. I want to share my experience and a few tips with you.

First, even after driving by dozens of times, we noticed the landscapers at the Race Trac were not taking care of their landscape beds or mowing rights-of-way. We were horrified by dead plants, overgrown trees hitting cars, weeds in beds, and an unmaintained pond. The company’s landscaper appeared, and we questioned them about the poor job they were doing. Come to find out, the company told the landscaper

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

to mow every other week and only mow grass. They weren’t being paid to maintain what was once lovely landscaping. If you can help me complain to corporate Race Trac that our community deserves better, I would appreciate it.

Secondly, we went across the street to trim trees. Once we began, we exposed three homeless camps. Good grief. When

you don’t trim up your large trees, when weeds get over 18 inches, and hedges over three feet – this is what you get. We must be our brothers’ keepers. Let’s be considerate of what our lack of maintenance does to our neighbors. A nice elderly man for whom I’m concerned lives next door to these camps. We are contacting the owner to post No Trespassing signs and the Orange County Sheriff’s Office to remove any more squatters. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention that we must continue to work on building a homeless shelter so there are better options for the unsheltered.

See MOORE Page 4A

First Lady presents Hope Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—

Today, First Lady Casey DeSantis hosted a meeting with over 100 sheriffs, police chiefs, and other law enforcement officials from across the state to highlight new resources for officers to utilize to direct individuals to Hope Florida. This summer, law enforcement agencies, departments, and offices will also receive personnel training on connecting those in need with a Hope Florida Navigator through the Hope Line.

“Florida law enforcement work tirelessly to protect Floridians,” said First Lady Casey DeSantis. “Today, we are equipping them

with resources to do even more good by referring those in need to Hope Florida.”

“A common denominator among many who answered the call to become a law enforcement officer is a strong desire to help people,” said Executive Director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Dave Kerner. “We at the Florida Highway Patrol are honored to work directly with First Lady Casey DeSantis, through Hope Florida, to amplify our community and faith institutions and uplift those in need. Through the distribution of the Hope Florida resource

cards, law enforcement officers across the state will have the ability to bridge this gap by connecting those in need of hope to resources through the help of Hope Navigators.”

Hope Florida utilizes Hope Navigators to guide Floridians on an individualized path to prosperity and economic independence by focusing on community collaboration between the private sector, faith-based communities, nonprofits, and government entities. This first-of-its-kind program brings together different parts of the community to maximize support and

See HOPE Page 4A

This Week In God’s Word

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
— 1 John 4:18

Mema Says

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking about yourself less.

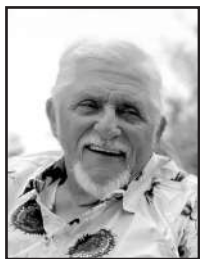
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The three branches of the United States government are explained

“We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.”

If Donald Trump would have said that he would have been charged with another phony “insurrection charge.” That quote was from Abraham Lincoln and although it pertained to that era, I believe it was prophetic, and applies to this administration more than any other time since



Ike Hayden

then.

There are three branches to our governmental leadership. They are Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. The Executive branch is headed by the President of the United

States of America, the Legislative branch is made up of Congress, which is separated into the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States of America (we choose through Democratic voting, the members of these chambers).

Finally, the Judicial branch is the Supreme Court of the United States of America made up of nine Justices chosen by our President and confirmed into office by our Legislative branch. Although sep-

arate entities, they are all considered equal and were so set as part of the checks and balances provided by our Constitution.

What happens when one of the branches decides to ignore, or completely disregard the others and act on its own for the benefit of their ideology, putting politics above the people of the United States of America?

We are seeing that now with the forgiveness of student debt against the rule of the Supreme Court which found it unconstitutional.

For the last three and a half years, our border has been wide open for any, and all illegal immigration without vetting of any kind. Over one hundred and sixty nations have been a part of sending these illegals over, without any regard for the laws on the books by this administration.

Our President has stated repeatedly that he needed Congress to give him the power to be able to do anything, and yet when Congress would not pass his legislation because of

its failure to protect Americans, he suddenly (because of the upcoming elections) found it in his power to act on our border crisis.

Constitution is being perverted by men and women who have been quietly manipulating our destiny to a form of Socialism which will invariably morph to Communism. The globalists (all billionaires who thrive under any form of government) have, over the years, silently placed

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Bracy: Filing may come after qualifying for the election

Continued from page 1A

our true potential,” Bracy said. “But leaders can’t lead in that way if they’re in denial themselves. We’ve got to lead in a new way. Our prosperity, our happiness, our very lives depend on it.”

Bracy was the Florida House District 45 representative from 2012 to 2016. He was State Senator for District 11 from 2016 to 2022. Thompson succeeds Bracy in this office and is the incumbent.

Thompson previously represented Florida House District 44 from 2018 to 2022, the State Senate from 2012 to 2016,

and three terms in the Florida House from 2006 to 2012.

Thompson admitted she and her husband have owned their Windermere home since 1988. Although her home’s information including the address is public record, she asked the media not to publish the address to protect her family because her husband is a judge.

Thompson alleged that Bracy filed the lawsuit out of personal retaliation: “The reason that we’re here, as far as I can determine, is that the former senator unsuccessfully pursued a romantic relationship with a member of my family, and he now wants

to put my family in danger, in jeopardy.”

Thompson has lived in the district longer than Bracy has been alive; the area underwent some redistricting over the years. Although she occasionally entertains at her Windermere home, most of the time she now lives in Ocoee with her daughter and two-year-old twin granddaughters to help take care of the girls.

Bracy attended the Thompsons’ recommitment ceremony that his father, Rev. Randolph Bracy Jr., presided over. Bracy Jr. also presided over Thompson’s twin grandchildren’s dedication ceremony, Thompson pointed out.

“He (Bracy III) is someone that I’ve known, someone that I’ve cared about all of his life, and it pains me that he has veered into a direction that is troubling and very upsetting,” Thompson said.

As to whether the lawsuit Bracy intends to file is personal, he called that “ridiculous” and that he’s “happily married to my wife.”

Bracy will consider when to file the lawsuit after qualifying for the election, he said. He also mentioned it’s possible for him and Thompson to talk and reach a resolution without filing a lawsuit.

OCPS serves meals at no charge to children

No need to sign up. No forms. Just meals at no charge all summer long.

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is offering meals at no charge to every student and all children 18 years and younger, thanks to the Summer BreakSpot program. Starting Monday, June 3, and continuing throughout the summer, OCPS will provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks at 230 locations across the county. The program ensures all children can eat healthy food during the summer when they cannot eat at school.

Every meal served will consist of fresh fruits and vegetables, a main dish and milk. These meals can be found at schools hosting summer programs, summer camps, and various churches.

In addition, six libraries – Chickasaw, Fairview Shores, Hiawassee, North Orange, South Creek, and South Trail – will offer meals at no charge.

Schools will not serve meals for the summer feeding program from July 1 to July 5, as well as on Fridays.



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Junior Rangers can receive a Florida 529 Savings Plan scholarship

Florida State Parks and the Florida Prepaid College Program are partnering to encourage families to get outside and explore Florida's award-winning state parks through the Junior Ranger Program as well as prepare for their little ranger's future with a risk-free college savings plan.

This year, ten Florida children will receive a \$1,000 Florida 529 Savings Plan scholarship, plus a Florida State Parks Junior Ranger gift pack and inflatable paddle board. Click here to enter the sweepstakes by June 23, 2024.

How to participate in the Junior Ranger Program

Visit any participating Florida State Park and ask for a Junior Ranger Kit.

If you are not at the park, you can be a Virtual Junior Ranger from anywhere.

This promotion is open to legal residents of the state of Florida over the age of 18 with children or grandchildren up to eighth grade who have fully and satisfactorily completed the scholarship entry requirements and are otherwise eligible to participate at time of entry. View full promotion rules.

In-Person Junior Ranger Program

The Florida State Parks Junior Ranger Program provides the opportunity for

young people to learn, serve and share Florida's natural and cultural resources. You can either participate in a scheduled park program or do it self-guided in the park.

Even if you're not at the park, you can do the Virtual Junior Ranger from anywhere.

Junior Ranger materials are also available en Espanol.

What's Involved

1. Visit any participating Florida State Park and ask for a Junior Ranger Kit.

2. Take the Junior Ranger Pledge and receive your member ID card and Official Junior Ranger Badge.

3. Complete the six

CORE Activities from the kit.

4. Turn in the six CORE Activities to park staff to receive your Official Junior Ranger Patch!

5. Complete more activities to earn stamps in your PASSPORT!

6. Turn in your completed PASSPORT to receive your Official Junior Ranger Pin!

7. Remember, being a Junior Ranger means more fun with family and friends.

Where to find the Junior Ranger Program

You can find participating Florida State Parks throughout the state.

Learn the Pledge

"As a Junior Ranger, I promise to protect the plants, animals, water, geological features, culture and history of Florida State Parks.

"I promise to continue to learn about parks and share what I have learned with others as I explore ... the Real Florida."

Membership ID Card

Junior Rangers can get their membership cards punched for one free entry into any Florida State Park. The entry is good for one vehicle with up to eight passengers except at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, where the pass is good for two people.

Does not include Skyway Fishing Pier State Park, camping or other fees.

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 ½ 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 a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3034 and 3035 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 19, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing 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

June 7, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

176711

Hope: Individuals can get help

Continued from page 2A

uncover new opportunities for those going through difficult times. Hope Navigators help individuals identify their needs, develop long-term goals, map out a path forward, and work to ensure all sectors of the community have a 'seat at the table' to be part of a lasting solution.

Since Hope Florida's launch, nearly 30,000 Floridians have reduced or are no longer reliant on government assistance,

which is estimated to save the State of Florida nearly \$800 million over 10 years. Hope Florida serves families, foster youth, veterans, individuals with unique abilities, vulnerable women, those facing crisis, and other Floridians in need.

"Law enforcement officers encounter individuals and families in some of their most challenging moments," said Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris. "Under the leadership of First Lady Casey De-

Santis, we are thrilled to be able to provide officers with additional resources that they can use to help connect individuals to the Hope Florida program. Our Hope Navigators stand ready to assist and provide support as individuals and families work to overcome barriers to success."

Floridians who need support can connect with Hope Florida by visiting www.HopeFlorida.com or calling the Hope Line (850-300-HOPE).

Moore: Protect your investment

Continued from page 2A

I must share the long list of accomplishments done with my partners - the Orange County Public Works Department, Apopka Professional Firefighters, and The People of Southern Apopka Community Association along Sheeler Avenue and Road.

Recent Sheeler Avenue Accomplishments: 3 branding banners erected; sidewalks repaired; trash picked up; sidewalk gap completed in the county section; trees trimmed up in the right-of-way; hedges trimmed down in the right-of-way; three homeless camps moved; complaints sent to RaceTrac corporate for poor maintenance of their property; requested improved intersection at Apopka Blvd./Sheeler; requested state and county improve the intersection at US 441 (\$500,000 price tag).

As I wrote to home-owners, the next step to take if we want to be successful, requires their participation. I follow law enforcement guidelines known as CPTED. They are best practices to keep people safe in their homes.

Number one is picking up trash. Criminals are attracted to areas where it looks

like people don't care or are unengaged.

Second is trimming large tree limbs up and hedges down.

Third, law enforcement recommends adding lighting to your home and property. Small solar lighting is relatively inexpensive and readily available.

I will reprint this list of ideas which works in any community. I joke that too many folks hide behind weeds. There is some truth to this, however. Using a weed whacker to keep grasses down under 12 inches throughout the entire property, including the fence line, is vital.

Following is my list of recommendations, one more time.

Things to do to avoid crime and homeless activity: Lower all hedges to under 3 feet; hire a tree company to raise large tree canopies over 10 ft; reduce the amount of tall weeds on the property; trim vegetation over fence lines so the fence can clearly be seen; use a weed killer to keep grasses down on fence lines; place "No trespassing signs on the property".

I hope you implement these recommendations and join me in making all of District 2 safe and prosperous.

Hayden: We must protect the U.S.

Continued from page 2A

people, who feed at their trough, in strategic positions throughout our government to provide support for the devious changes that we see happening right now.

Donald Trump was a "monkey wrench" that was not supposed to have happened. As a businessman, and not a politician, he immediately saw a problem in the workings of the bureaucracy. Even in his cabinet there were people situated in strategic positions to keep the "Deep State" from coming into the light of the American scrutiny.

As President Trump delved deeper and deeper into the quagmire of lies, deceit, and un-American behavior, the more of a threat he became to those who want to produce a ruling class (globalists) and the everyday American would soon become the ruled class.

The eyes of Americans are now being opened and we are beginning to see how deep corruption has crept into our Constitutional Republic. Our Founding Fathers would not even recognize our government

as it is being administered today. I am sure they would promote the utmost resistance to our government without delay.

James Madison (one of the writers of our Constitution) stated, "I believe there are more instances of the abridgements of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." I fear for my great nation. Not since the Civil War have we ever been more divided.'

Our Declaration of Independence declared we would be free from any one ruler, that we have the freedom of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness given to us as inalienable rights by our Creator.

Yet we see those who would pervert those rights and who are using the word "Democracy" to do it.

Remember, only in a Constitutional Republic is Democracy a healthy, viable tool. We Americans (you and I) owe it to our children, and their children to keep the banner of freedom lifted high. We have a sacred duty to overthrow those who would pervert our Constitution. Are you registered to vote?

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall407-703-1700
Mayor's Office407-703-1701
City Administrator407-703-1649
City Clerk407-703-1704
Community Devel.407-703-1712
Code Enforcement407-703-1738
Finance Dept.407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.).....407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-703-1741
Police Chief407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.).....407-703-1771
Job Line407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.....407-703-1731
Street Maintenance407-703-1731
Utility Billing407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency..... 911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. **www.apopka.net**

Orange County Telephone Numbers

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Auto/Boat Tags.....850-617-2000
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County Mayor407-836-7370
County Commission.....407-836-7350
County Attorney407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor.....407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue407-836-3111
Solid Waste407-836-6601
Garbage Collection.....407-703-1731
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Parks and Rec. Dept.407-836-6200
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Sheriff Administrative407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....407-836-4357
Utilities407-836-5515
All other departments407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency..... 911
www.orangecountyfl.net

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators
Rick Scott (Rep.) 202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....407-254-2573
U.S. Representative
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11)..... 352-241-9220
State Representatives
Doug Bankson407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....unknown
State Senators
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11) 407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner
Christine Moore407-836-7350
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 Chief407-886-2777
Museum of the Apokkans.....407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....407-886-1441

Dogs: Two park concepts will be shared for public vote

Continued from page 1A

that will include two hotels, a wellness and healthcare village, apartment, condominium and single-family residences, curated retail, class A offices, a wide variety of restaurants, well-lit and secure walking trails, and a boutique music and comedy venue.

Wyld Oaks will be built off the newly completed 429 Beltway and West Kelly Park Road Interchange in Apopka. The first 325 residences have been designed and will break ground this year.

"Orlando is the nation's theme park epicenter. Let's expand its experiences to include an incredible year-round destination for dogs and their best friends too," said Joe Beninati, the visionary founder of Wyld Oaks. "We're asking America to help us dream big to co-create the design and experience of America's top dog park."

We want the experts—dog owners and lovers—to help guide the creation of this special place for generations to enjoy."

Initially, Wyld Oaks will privately fund the design to develop the dog park. As the project officially undergoes construction, naming rights opportunities will be available for local and national brands that want to be a part of bringing America's top dog park to life, amplifying the park's potential experiences by bolstering its funding.

During phase 1 of the crowdsourcing initiative, Wyld Oaks will fetch the best ideas from across America and then use those to develop two bark park design concepts. These two concepts will be shared in late August for the public to cast their vote on the preferred design.

Visit shorturl.at/kkIqAto to share your ideas in a quick survey.

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Fri., June 7, 2024 thru
Sun., June 9, 2024

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THE WATCHERS (PG-13)
11:10A; 1:20; 4:10; 7:10; 9:50
IF (PG) 11:20A; 2:00; 4:40; 7:30; 10:30

BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE
(R) 11:30A; 12:30; 1:30; 2:40; 3:50; 4:50; 6:00; 7:00; 8:00; 9:10; 10:10

FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (R) 11:50A; 3:20; 6:40; 10:00

KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13) 12:20; 4:00; 7:20; 10:20

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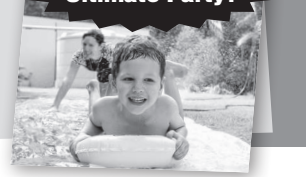
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Garden Club installs officers



The Foliage Garden Club of Apopka installs 2024-2025 Board at Vincent's Italian Restaurant on May 2, 2024. President Roberta Dougherty, First Vice President Pamela Smith-Groseclose, Second Vice President Charlotte White, Recording Secretary Ann Mixson, Treasurer Kathy Gill, and Corresponding Secretary Christy Faircloth. The FGCA strives to promote conservation and beautification of Apopka; observe Arbor Day (Live Oak planted at the Alonzo Williams Park); Scholarships to SEEK (Save the Earth's Environment through Knowledge) Conference, and Wekiva Youth Camp.

Photo courtesy of Foliage Garden Club of Apopka

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 **Albert Iglesias** has made application relating to the following described property.

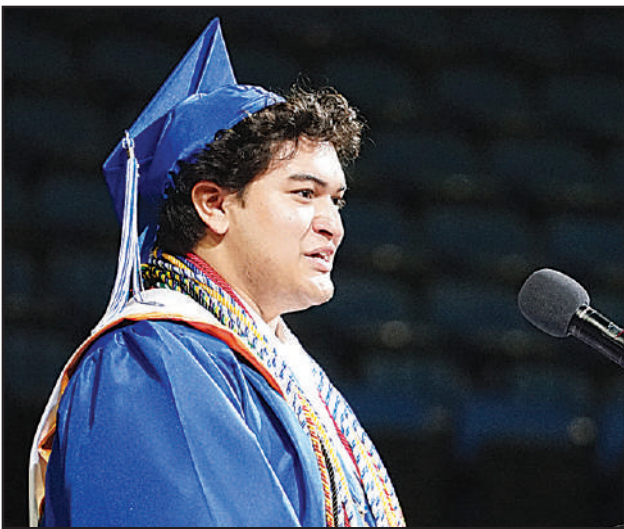
ORDINANCE NO. 3058

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 RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM TO INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE; COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3059

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY R-2 (RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO I-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SFL PARTNERS LLC AND JFJ REAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; LOCATED NORTH OF FOURTH STREET, EAST OF BRADSHAW ROAD AND WEST OF HAWTHORNE AVENUE; COMPRISING 1.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Students are registered at their school with the completed registration packet and required documents. Students in Orange County are zoned to attend a school based on their home address. Click the *Find My School* tool to locate your zoned school.

The following items are required to register a child to attend Orange County Public Schools:

Verification of legal name: Official Birth Certificate: A duly attested transcript of the child's birth record filed according to law with a public officer charged with the duty of recording births. OR, a Passport or certificate of arrival in the U.S. showing the name of the child.

NOTE: Under no circumstances shall staff request a passport, visa, or any other documentation to verify the immigration status of any student.

Verification of Age: Birth Certificate or Passport: To enter kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1. To enter first grade, a child must be 6 years old on or before September 1, and have completed kindergarten. *Other forms of age verification are permissible under Section 1003.21, Florida Statutes

Verification of Immunizations* and physical exam: Proof of physical examination by a U.S. doctor within a year of enrollment (first day of entry at school) If you do not have a doctor you may find assistance on our Resource list of Medical Providers page. Proof of immunizations on a Form 680, which can be obtained from your doctor's office or at: Orange County Health Department, 832 W. Central Blvd. Orlando, FL 32801

Verification of Academic History: Transcript, withdrawal form or last report card.

Verification of Special Education Information, if applicable: Current IEP or 504 plan/

Verification of your residence: Enrollment takes place at the school with the school registrar. As proof of residence you will need to provide the following at a minimum:

Home ownership: Provide the current Homestead Exemption Card, current property tax statement, closing contract, or warranty deed along with current utility bill, ID with current address, and current mail as your proof of residence at the school.

Renting/leasing: Provide the cur-

rent signed lease, ID with current address, current utility bill, rent payments, current mail, and renters insurance as your proof of residence at the school. Living with someone who owns or rents the home: You will need to obtain a Verification of Residence* from the Office of Student Enrollment to provide to the school. *

If you don't have a lease or own your own home (share housing with someone else) you must obtain a Verification of Residence from Student Enrollment as your proof of residence by providing a minimum of the following documents: Parent or Guardian's Florida driver's license or state ID showing the current correct address. Another three (3) items in the Parent or Guardian's name showing the current address, such as: auto registration, current mail, bank statement, insurance, phone bill, or current pay stub. Homeowner or Lessee's driver's license or state ID; Homeowner or Lessee's homestead exemption card, property tax information, or signed lease agreement.

Verification of guardianship: Birth certificate. If applicable, you must provide one of the following: Court Custody Documentation (this includes divorce decrees); OCPS Educational Guardianship. This documentation is provided by the Office of Student Enrollment when the parent/guardian lives outside of Orange County or adjacent counties of Brevard, Osceola, Polk, Lake, Seminole, and Volusia).

Completed registration packet: Once you have gathered ALL of the documents above: Download and complete the registration packet; Contact the school to determine how to proceed with your completed registration packet and all required documentation.
<https://www.ocps.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=54703&pageId=1449302>

Registering for Kindergarten in OCPS is as easy as 1, 2, 3...

Step 1: Find Your School: Students in Orange County are zoned to attend a school based on their home address. Click [HERE](#) to use the Find My School tool to locate your zoned school.

Step 2: Review Registration Requirements

Step 3: Download and complete a registration packet, Please contact the school for site-specific direction on returning the packet. Go to OCPS.net

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OCPS: Voters are asked to support sales tax

Continued from page 1A

As the eighth-largest school district in the nation and fourth largest in the state of Florida, OCPS serves students from 199 countries who speak 174 different languages and dialects.

Accomplishments

Last December, the Florida Department of Education released the 2022-23 school grades. Vazquez pointed out that the number of “A” rated traditional schools continues to rise, with 77 earning that distinction in 2022-23 compared to 60 the previous year; 99.5 percent of OCPS traditional schools earned an “A,” “B” or “C” grade this year.

In 2000, the OCPS graduation rate was less than 50 percent, compared to 2022-23 school year when the OCPS graduation rate among the district’s traditional high schools was 95.5 percent. Including charters and alternative schools, the graduation rate was 89.1 percent, also exceeding the state average, Jacobs said.

This year OCPS had 122 Super Scholars, graduating seniors who were accepted into the nation’s top colleges and universities as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* or received appointments to military-service academies.

OCPS also had 54 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Scholars, students who are completing the Orange Technical College Dual Enrollment Program, earned credit in five or more advanced courses and earned a weighted GPA

of 4.0 or higher.

Districtwide, 164 graduating seniors earned an OCPS diploma along with an associate’s degree from Valencia College.

For the eighth consecutive year, OCPS was recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the United States. Awarded by The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, this designation acknowledges the district’s devotion to and support for music education.

Half-cent sales tax referendum

Vazquez and Jacobs is asking residents to support renewing the half-cent sales tax for another 10 years, a referendum that, if voter approved this November will go toward school construction and renovation. Without this sales tax’s continuation, OCPS will be \$4 billion short in meeting the district’s needs, Jacobs said.

Voters previously approved the half-cent sales tax in 2002 and 2014.

The capacity of OCPS permanent facilities was so far behind district growth that over 3,000 portable classrooms were in use across the district, according to Jacobs. Since 2002, the sales tax has helped fund the renovation or replacement of 136 schools, reducing portables by 75 percent.

Many mechanical systems in OCPS schools have a life cycle of about 20 years, which means things like the roof and air conditioning in many schools will need to be replaced or upgraded less than 10

years from now, Vazquez explained. Since 2014, the half-cent sales tax has fully funded renovations and new construction. Districts no longer receive money from the state for capital renewal needs or new construction.

For example, the new schools built at the beginning of the sales tax are now due for new roofs. In fact, 75 OCPS schools will be at least 25 years old by 2035. Capital needs for the next 10 years are estimated at \$8.9 billion dollars including additional new schools that must be constructed to accommodate the accelerating growth in areas like Lake Nona, Horizon West and Apopka, according to Vazquez.

While voters will get to decide if the tax is renewed, it’s tourists and non-residents who pay over 50 percent of the sales tax revenue, according to Jacobs.

Challenges

As OCPS had its achievements so it faced challenges too, such as addressing educator and bus driver shortage and the sunsetting of a federal fund for the district.

The district has been pouring its effort into recruiting new teachers using methods such as a paraprofessional-to-teacher pipeline, future apprenticeship programs and alternative certification options.

OCPS also supports state efforts to expand teacher preparation options, including a new bachelor’s degree program in elementary education that will be coming to Valencia College.

“In order to retain and recruit teachers, OCPS has been committed to using every available dollar to raise salaries. This year we were proud to provide a historic average 9 percent raise to teachers, principals and staff members,” Jacobs said.

Regarding the shortage of bus drivers – which is nationwide – Orange County was about 100 drivers short. That meant some drivers were making two trips to schools, and students experienced inconsistent or delayed routes, according to Vazquez.

OCPS has been working on solutions to overcome this challenge such as bonuses for safe driving and attendance, but this was met with some competition because there are many Central Florida employment options in for-profit tourism and delivery sectors.

Come this September, the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) will sunset, leaving the district with a \$27-million budget gap, according to Jacobs.

The ESSER has helped school districts during and following the pandemic by supporting the staffing of the district’s many positions including Exceptional Student Education services, student services and mental health, nurses, and additional interventionists or classroom supports.

The ESSER also allowed OCPS to implement technology and programs that have helped students recover from learning losses in core subjects.

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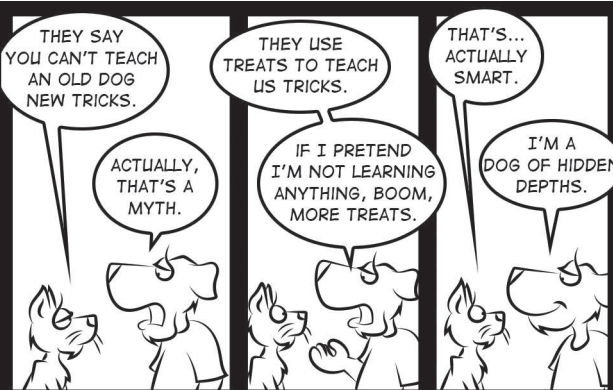
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The Miracle of Existance

I have addressed the miracle of existence in my writings many times over the years, and not because I lack new topics worth addressing, but because at various times in my life it strikes me as extremely important—perhaps the most important or basic issue of our very being—but also because at different times in my life

I see the issue differently. The miracle of existence can be thought of both generally, and specifically (or individually). That is, in general, why does the world exist, and exist in the form in which it does?

As the philosopher Leibniz asked, “Why is there something rather than nothing?” This is perhaps the most fundamental metaphysical question.

But we can also wonder about our own existence. That is, why do I exist, and why in exactly the way I now exist? And will

I continue to exist after my death?

We must confess that we really don't know the answer to any of these questions. We can be certain that we do indeed exist, but we really don't know why, at least on a metaphysical level, and we certainly don't know what our existence will be like after death, or even if we will continue to exist.

For those of us with faith, we believe that there is a divine reason for our being here, even if that reason is only obscurely seen by us, and we believe and hope that our souls will continue after our death.

But in the meantime, we can only be amazed and awe-struck by the mere fact that we are here, in the midst of this incredible world. Give thanks that you are here and that you are experiencing this grand miracle that we call life.

– Christopher Simon

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Prophet is saved by a talking donkey

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

2. From John 20, by what other name was the apostle Thomas known? Caleb, Naaman, Omri, Didymus

3. Which book begins, “And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness”? Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Joel

4. What did Jesus and Peter pay for with a coin



found in a fish's mouth? Tax, Bread, Lodging, Sandals

5. From Proverbs 11, what word did Solomon use to describe soul winners? Warm, Wise, Wealthy,

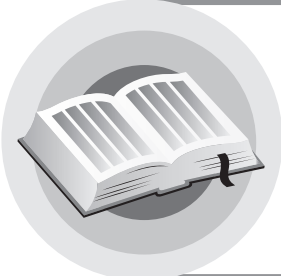
Wonderful

6. What prophet was saved from death by a talking donkey? Balaam, Ezekiel, Joel, Samuel

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Didymus, 3) Numbers, 4) Tax, 5) Wise, 6) Balaam

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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before others, that
they may see your
good deeds and
glorify your Father
in heaven.**

Matthew 5:16

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Baked Spaghetti takes time to prepare, but its taste is worth it

We have a “Family Favorite” from 2009 edition of Southern Living’s All-Time Favorites. It is called Cornflake-Coated Pork Chops.



Evalene Whiddon shares her Baked Spaghetti in New Vision’s *Feeding the Flock*. It calls for a pound of ground beef, canned vegetables and soup, cheddar and parmesan cheese, fresh onion and peppers, and spaghetti.

And for all you okra lovers, Okra Creole is from *Southern Living All-Time Favorites*. Fry up some bacon, drain it, crumble it all up and set it aside. You use frozen okra for this recipe and combine canned diced tomatoes, corn, onions, and seasonings and cook it in the bacon drippings and a little water for 15 minutes or so. Serve this lovely stuff over rice and top it with crumbled bacon.

We have a recipe from reader Sally Benton for Pimento Cheese Spread. She said, “We are absolutely hooked on it over here in the Melbourne area.” Well, that’s a good enough recommendation for me to try it!

Mrs. Meggett says, “I learned how to make this pineapple dish at the Dodge House. But I made it my own by creating my own brown sugar crust, the real star of this dessert. Pineapple upside-down cakes can be found throughout the American South, but my cake is one of the lightest and perfectly sweet versions in South Carolina. If time is short, you can use a yellow cake mix instead of the cake batter.”

We have Mrs. Meggett’s, Whipped Cream instructions here, for you if you’d like to use it when serving. It is a wonderful all-around complement to many of your desserts.

CORNFLAKE-COATED PORK CHOPS

Recipe from
Southern Living All-Time Favorites
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
2 tablespoons milk
5 cups cornflake cereal, crushed (about 2 cups crushed)
6 boneless pork chops (about 3/4-inch thick)
2 teaspoons lemon pepper

1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 large lemon, halved
Garnish: halved lemon slices

Stir together eggs and milk in a shallow dish. Place cornflake crumbs in a shallow dish. Sprinkle pork evenly with lemon pepper, salt, and garlic powder. Dip pork chops in egg mixture, and dredge in cornflake crumbs. Place chops on a lightly greased rack on a baking sheet.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until done. Squeeze lemon juice evenly over chops, and garnish, if desired. Makes 6 servings.

EVALENE WHIDDON’S BAKED SPAGHETTI

Recipe from
New Vision Community Church’s,
Feeding the Flock cookbook
1 cup green peppers, chopped
1 cup onion, chopped
1 tablespoon margarine
1 28-ounce can chopped tomatoes with liquid
1 4-ounce can mushrooms, stems and pieces cut up and drained
1 2-1/4 ounce can ripe olives, drained and sliced
2 taspoons dried oregano
1 pound ground beef, browned and drained
12 ounces spaghetti, cooked and drained
2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
1 10-3/4 ounce can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup parmesan cheese

In large skillet, sauté onion and pepper in margarine until tender. Add tomatoes, mushrooms, olives and oregano. Add ground beef; simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Place half of spaghetti in a greased large (9 x 13 x 2-inch) baking pan; top with half the vegetable mixture. Sprinkle with 1 cup cheddar cheese. Repeat layers. Mix soup and water until smooth; pour over casserole. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

OKRA CREOLE

Recipe from *Southern Living All-Time Favorites*
3 bacon slices
1 (16-ounce) package frozen sliced okra

1 (14-1/2 ounce) can diced tomatoes
1 cup frozen onion seasoning blend
1 cup frozen corn kernels
1/2 cup water
1 teaspoon Creole seasoning
1/4 teaspoon pepper
Hot cooked rice (optional)

Cook bacon in a Dutch oven until crisp; remove bacon, and drain on paper towels, reserving drippings. Crumble bacon, and set aside.

Cook okra and next 6 ingredients in hot drippings in Dutch oven over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Top with crumbled bacon. Serve over rice, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

SALLY BENTON’S PIMENTO CHEESE SPREAD

Recipe from Reader of *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter* newspapers
16-ounce block sharp cheddar cheese, grated
2 4-ounce jars diced pimentos, drained
1/2 cup mayonnaise
3 ounces cream cheese
1) Drain juice from both jars of diced pimentos into a measuring cup. It will measure one half-cup. To simplify measuring the mayonnaise, add it to the measuring cup until it fills up to one full cup. 2) Pour mixture into a larger bowl. 3) Add three ounces room-temperature cream cheese to the mixture. Whip it up with a stick blender or hand mixer. 4) Add one jar of the drained pimentos and whip it in. 5) Gently fold in the grated block of cheese along with the other jar of diced pimentos.

It is a pretty wet mixture at first, but if you put the bowl in the refrigerator, the cheese will soak up the liquid after a few hours. It becomes a nicely spreadable concoction.

EMILY MEGGETT’S PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE

Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett
For the crust:
1 cup packed brown sugar
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted
1 20-ounce can pineapple slices
1/2 10-ounce jar maraschino cherries, drained
For the cake batter:

2 large eggs
3/4 cup (1-1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
2 cups granulated sugar
2-1/2 cups cake flour, preferably Swans Down
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk, whole or 2-percent
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1) Preheat the oven to 350 deg Fahrenheit. 2) Make the crust: In a medium mixing bowl, combine the brown sugar and butter. Using a spoon, press the mixture into the bottom of a 10-inch round cake pan, ensuring that the bottom is fully covered. 3) Open the pineapple can. Drain the pineapple juice from pineapples, saving the pineapple juice. Place the pineapple juices on the brown sugar mixture in an arrangement of your liking. Place a cherry in the center of each pineapple ring. 4) Make the cake batter: In a large mixing bowl, using an electric mixer, beat all the ingredients and 1/3-cup of the reserved pineapple juice together. Once combined, pour the mixture over the pineapple. 5) Bake the cake for 45 minutes, or until done – an inserted toothpick should be clean when removed. 6) Remove the cake from the oven and allow it to cool completely.

Once cooled, turn the cake upside down onto a cake plate. You will get to see your pineapple and cherries on the top. Slice and serve with whipped cream, if you’d like.

For serving:
See recipe for Sweetened Whipped Cream (below).

EMILY MEGGETT’S SWEETENED WHIPPED CREAM

Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett
1 pint whipping cream
2 tablespoons sugar

In a medium-sized mixing bowl, with an electric mixer on high speed, beat the cream until peaks begin to form. While mixing, add the sugar. Continue to mix until stiff peaks form, 3 to 4 minutes total. Add a spoonful of this topping to each piece of pie before serving.

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

JUNE 2024 ★ ★ EVENTS ★ WEEKLY ★ UPCOMING ★ ONGOING ★ ★

ACHOO! IS OUT 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 Dwellley 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 Wekiwa River. Address: 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka 32712, open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call 407-884-4311

FRAN CARLTON CENTER OPEN,

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

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, JUNE 8

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, JUNE 9

MONDAY, JUNE 10

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, JUNE 11

THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

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, JUNE 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

July 4th - Apopka Amphitheater, 3710 Jason Dwellley Parkway, featuring David J and Emily Henline, two emerging young talents of Nashville. This celebration is set for Thursday, July 4, from 6-9 p.m., with fireworks at 9 p.m.

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 9:45 a.m. at the Alonza William Park / Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M.A. Board St., Apopka. Contact: apopkafgca@gmail.com NO MEETINGS JUNE-AUGUST.

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 orangecmgv@ifas.ufl.edu. to be answered by Master Gardeners. A free plant clinic for commercial growers is open Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at the same location.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR INFORMATION

Events, fund raisers, and non-profit organizations Send info: fax 407-889-4121, or email ads@theapokkachief.com Subscribe to The Apopka Chief E-Edition or Home Delivery Call 407-886-2777 or Visit www.theapokkachief.com In County: \$30 with E-edition, or \$25 for just postal delivery. Out-of-County: \$35 with E-Edition or \$30 for postal delivery

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

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Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

We're planning lots of activities to...



www.readingclubfun.com

Newspaper Fun!


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...keep busy and have fun all summer!



Kids: color stuff in!







School's Out! Summer's In!

Summer is a fun and active time!

In the summertime we like to come out and visit at dusk, the cooler time of day.

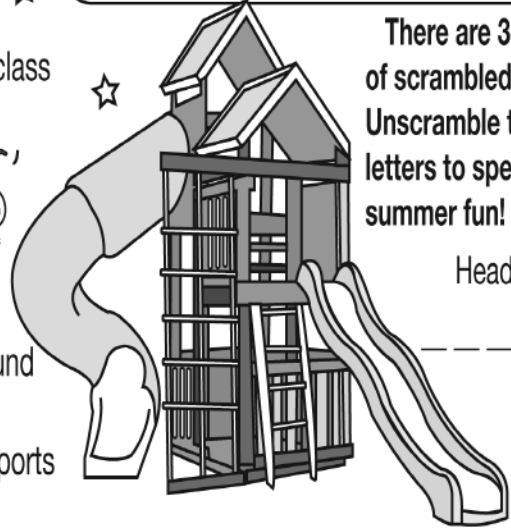


What am I called?



What are you planning to do during your summer vacation? Do you like to spend long, hot summer days reading and sipping lemonade under a tree by your house?


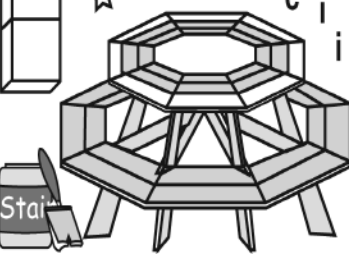
Or do you need **action** every minute? Most of us enjoy both active times and quiet times. There are many activities to choose from to fit all schedules and budgets. Whatever you do, wherever you go, have a fun and safe summer!

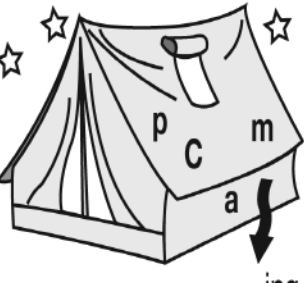


There are 3 areas of scrambled letters. Unscramble the letters to spell out summer fun!

Head to the _____ ground!

exercising
sightseeing
visiting
acting
sharpening
boating
camping
painting
following
swinging
Antsy? Check out your library.
One of my favorite projects was staining the _____ table.





Read the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle with fun summer activities:

1. _____ a shirt during an arts and crafts class

2. _____ in a role in a theater production

3. _____ in a national park

4. _____ and fishing on the river

5. _____ skills in summer school

6. _____ in a historic part of town

7. _____, climbing, sliding at the playground

8. _____ safety rules while biking



9. _____ muscles by dancing or playing sports

10. _____ relatives and friends

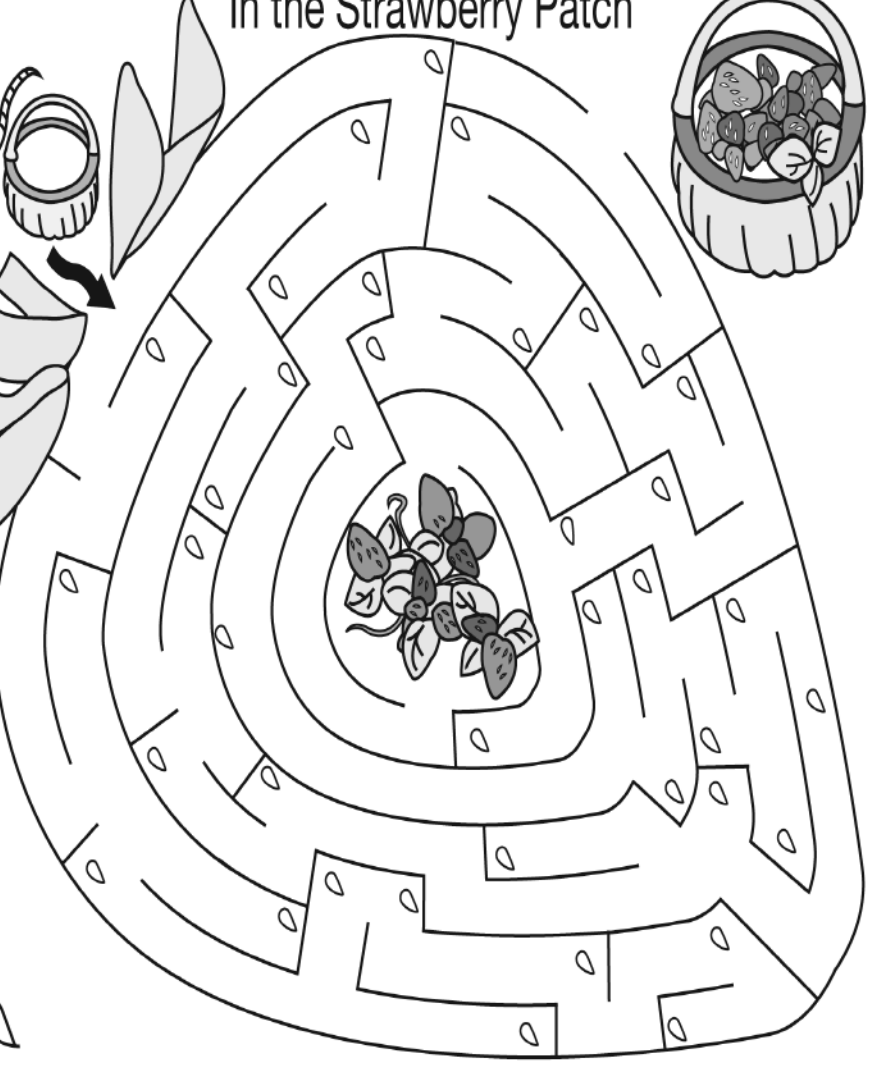
Summer is...

Can you match up all these fun (and some not-so-fun) summer happenings?


1. chirping	A. juice bars
2. dripping	B. heat
3. sizzling	C. crickets
4. bare	D. days
5. longer	E. feet
1. cracks in the	A. strawberries
2. picking	B. earth
3. corn in the	C. clothes
4. lighter	D. fireflies
5. glowing	E. field
1. squirting	A. hats
2. biting	B. small cuts
3. bandage on	C. mosquitoes
4. wearing	D. sunscreen
5. rubbing skin with	E. hoses
1. sticky, steamy	A. thunder
2. booming	B. campouts
3. overnight	C. watermelon
4. juicy	D. picnics
5. coolers for	E. weather




Can you help Arid get to the strawberry patch, fill her basket, and find her way back out?



Can you find and circle at least 20 words on this page that begin with the letter 's'?



In the Strawberry Patch



It's a **sizzling** afternoon.

You rummage around in the freezer, looking for something really cold.

Ahhh...the perfect treat!

You run outside and sink down onto the picnic table bench and unwrap your snack.

As you begin to drool, your phone – that you left on the kitchen table – rings.

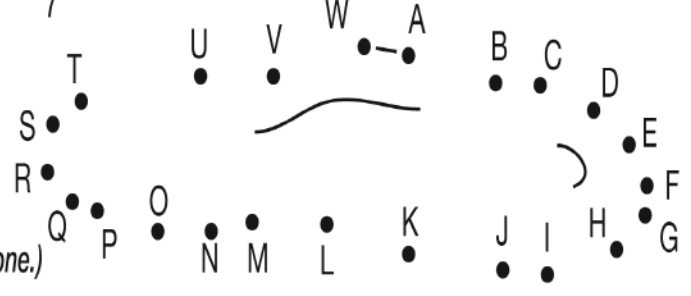
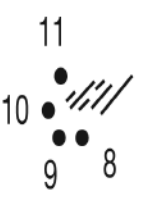
You lay down your treat, jump up and rush back inside to grab it.

When you come back you find...

(Hint: Do the numbered dot-to-dot puzzle first. Next, complete the alphabet one.)

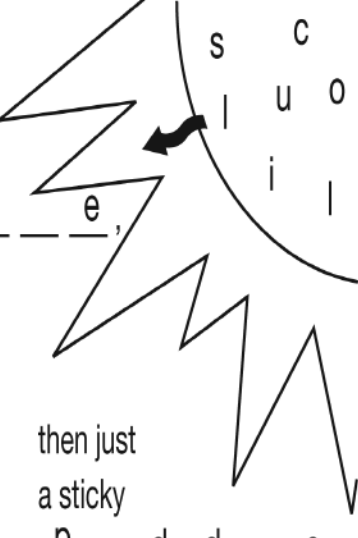
Summer "Soup" Mystery!

What happened? Did it disappear or is it still there somewhere?



At first you had a _____

then just a sticky _____



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Vision Car Wash has grand opening



Vision Car Wash held its grand opening on Friday, May 31, which included a tour of the facility. The car wash is located at 355 W. Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka. Quraan Williams is the general manager.



KEEP THOSE WHEELS ROLLING...

All Transmission World is a Total Car Care Shop serving trucks, cars, and company fleets

The school year has come to an end. For many people, this means summer vacations, trips to the mountains, camping excursions or simple weekend adventures. Whatever your style, chances are you'll be hitting the road, but are you confident that your car is in good enough shape to get you there safely and efficiently?

The professionals at **All Transmission World** know that keeping an eye on everyday wear and tear can stop small problems from becoming expensive headaches when you're traveling either by yourself or with your family.

Now is the time to schedule a pre-trip inspection performed by certified technicians at **All Transmission World**. It involves inspections of the following systems: cooling, braking, emissions, steering, suspension, fuel, and electrical. Their technicians will also evaluate engine performance, tires, air pressure, filters, AC, gauges, wipers, horns, lights, and mirrors.

Located in Apopka, **All Transmission World** has been proudly serving the Greater Orlando area (Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Lake counties) since 1982.

Their goal from the start has always been to provide outstanding customer service

To keep you safe on the road, it's important to take your car to an auto repair shop that is widely known for their superior service and expertise. Visit **All Transmission World**, conveniently located at 1150 E. Semoran Boulevard in Apopka. Call them today at 407-880-9300.

while delivering a quality product at an affordable price, supported by an iron-clad warranty.

They are first and foremost the local transmission specialists. With over 300 parts, hydraulic systems, electrical systems, and computer-controlled operations, today's drive trains are notably sophisticated. The technicians and rebuilders at **All Transmission World** spend many hours at home and on the job staying up to date with the latest products and changes to transmissions coming from the automotive industry.

Some of the most frequently asked transmission questions are listed below along with **All Transmission World's** responses:

• "What should my transmission fluid look like?" – When checking the fluid level, take a few seconds to observe its color and consistency. Healthy fluid is clear and has a pink or red-

dish tint. If the transmission fluid appears dark brown or exudes a burnt odor, the transmission is slipping.

• "What should I do if I have a transmission leak?" – Fluid leaks are signs of trouble. Check the underside of the transmission casing for wetness and the ground directly below the transmission. Catch the leak early and the only expense you may have is a front or rear seal. Leave the leak unattended and extended damage to the transmission can result and lead to a much higher repair bill.

• "How do I know if my transmission is slipping?" – Slipping is the most common driving symptom of transmission trouble. When the transmission slips, the gear changes become drawn out and a slight hesitation is felt as the shifts occur. A vehicle owner should NOT delay in having the problem checked. This condition usually signals

an internal failure in the transmission.

Over the years, customers who have enjoyed their quality service and products have clamored for **All Transmission World** to offer many other automotive repairs, from oil changes to brakes to complete engine rebuilds. They slowly introduced these new services store by store to ensure that their techs had the proper training and that they could deliver the same high quality that their loyal customers have come to expect.

Today, **All Transmission World** is proud to say that they have accomplished that goal, and they are now providing complete automotive repairs.

Be sure to visit their website. It provides a lot of information about transmissions, as well as other automotive information. Give it a look at AllTransmissionWorld.com.

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B – Be sure to have your car inspected when you suspect there is a problem.

C – Correct the problem to help avoid the inconvenience and potential safety hazards of breaking down away from home.

By following these three basic car care tips, motorists can address minor issues before they become more complicated and more expensive repairs.

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