

Send-off

Community supports
Miss Apopka
See page 12A.



Sports

A look at the 2024-25
Wekiva High School
basketball team
See page 1B.



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Volume 102 Number 25

Friday, June 21, 2024 / 50 cents

City Council lets vote die on rescinding censure on mayor

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

On Wednesday, June 19, the City Council voted 3-2 to reimburse Mayor Bryan Nelson’s attorney fees amounting to \$1527.50 related to an ethics complaint filed against him, but allowed the vote to die on the floor on rescinding the censure put on Nelson last year.

Commissioners Nick Nesta and Diane Velazquez voted no on the first action.

Commissioner Nadia Anderson motioned to table the vote on rescinding the censure to the July 3 City Council meeting so she could have more time to research the censure. However, because the motion did not get a second, the motion died on the floor.

The Commission on Ethics met on June 7, when they “found no probable cause” and dismissed the complaint filed against Nelson by Kelley Butcher.

“In a complaint filed against Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson, the Commission found no probable cause to believe Mr. Nelson violated the constitutional amendment prohibiting abuse of office for a disproportionate benefit and misused his position regarding the termination of the City Attorney. In addition, an allegation that he used City resources to hold meetings for a non-profit foundation was dismissed with a finding of no probable cause,” the June 12 press release from the Commission of Ethics states.

The Commission on Ethics sent a let-

ter dated October 26, 2023, to Nelson that a complaint had been filed against him by Kelley Butcher. The letter explained that the agency would review the complaint to determine whether the allegations were legally sufficient and whether any possible violations of law had been sufficiently alleged.

Butcher’s complaint detailed the handling of city attorney Michael Rodriguez’s employment status and the city’s use of resources for the Next Step Foundation, a nonprofit that is exploring options for establishing a community resource center to help the homeless. The complaint also included a reference to Mayor Nelson’s censure that the City Council approved 3-1 in 2023 concerning Rodriguez’s employment status.

Attorney Mark Herron from the Tallahassee law firm Messer Caparello represented Mayor Nelson during the proceedings.

Because the complaint filed against Nelson was dismissed, Nelson was requesting that the city reimburses his legal fees amounting to \$1527.50.

Two residents who spoke on this matter at the meeting said that the Ethics Committee’s “no probable cause” finding did not mean that Nelson isn’t guilty.

“The complaint, it didn’t exonerate him. That means he lied still. They just didn’t have enough to say guilty or not guilty,” said resident Leroy Bell.

See CENSURE Page 6A

Miss Apopka is wished well



The Miss Apopka Scholarship Competition Committee and the community wished Miss Apopka Reilly Cardella (pictured) the best of luck as she competes in the upcoming Miss Florida competition. The celebration took place on Tuesday, June 18, at the Apopka Museum. See more photos on page 12A.

Photos courtesy of Miss Apopka Organization/Facebook



Loaves & Fishes celebrates 40 years of service to area



Photo courtesy of AdventHealth/Facebook

Over the last 40 years, Loaves and Fishes of Apopka has provided much-needed support to the west Orange County community and beyond. AdventHealth has been a longstanding partner of the organization and the hospital is blessed to partner with local organizations who are making a remarkable impact in the community.

By Jose Luis Dieppa
AdventHealth

Over the last 40 years, Loaves and Fishes in Apopka has provided much-needed support to the west Orange County community and beyond.

Apopka food pantry celebrates 40 years of service.

“This is an amazing organization, started back in 1984 out of a little room here in Apopka, just giving a bag of rice, and we have grown into this. We are celebrating our 40th year,” said Lory Reeves, director at Loaves and Fishes. “What we do is, we give a supplemental bag of food along with another bag full of produce, protein, breads and sweets to low-income families.”

Many factors may contribute to the need for assistance, such as disability, loss of job, being a single parent, or being a retiree on a fixed income. Every week,

Loaves and Fishes provides supplemental food to over 300 low-income families and individuals.

“We’re so blessed to serve our clients in this community. We serve a nine-zip code area, which is in and around the Apopka area, Altamonte Springs and Longwood,” Reeves said.

In order to feed these families, Loaves and Fishes relies solely on donations and does not receive any assistance from the government. These families, especially elderly people on fixed incomes, rely heavily on the non-profit organization for support.

AdventHealth has been a longstanding partner of the community organizations.

Earlier this year, the health care organization donated \$25,000 to the food pantry, one of the highest single monetary donations made to the group.

“AdventHealth’s mission of extend-

See PANTRY Page 3A

OCLS packs July with summer fun

This July, Orange County Library System (OCLS) continues to bring summer entertainment, education, and adventure for kids and adults to 15 library locations and pop-up events throughout the county – all for free.

There are still hundreds of exciting opportunities to experience this year’s summer programming theme “Adventure Begins at Your Library.” Visit your library to see Professional Snake Handler Chief Rowley and his variety of rescued reptile friends in Snake Educa-

tion with a Twist. Use science to rescue the Prince and Princess with Mad Science Dragon Adventures. Complete your reading challenge and celebrate with live performances during End of Summer Celebrations at every library location.

On July 7, the Melrose Center hosts the second annual Melrose Pop Festival, featuring performances by Terri Binion, Mugs and Pockets, The Tremolords,

See OCLS Page 5A

Duran family, foundation to hold vigil for fallen firefighter

In remembrance of the two-year anniversary of the day that Apopka firefighter Austin Duran was injured, the Duran family and The 2650 Foundation is inviting the community to join in the third annual community vigil.

The community vigil in Duran’s memory will take place on Sunday, June 30, 10-11 a.m. at Apopka Fire Station No. 1, 176 East Fifth St., Apopka.

This year’s vigil will be at the memorial site

that was built by the hands of his brother and sister firefighters, family, loved ones, and many citizens who were touched by his story and life.

Everyone will meet at 10 a.m. for a moment to reflect on Austin Duran’s legacy and the impact his life continues to have thanks to his family and friends.

Following this year’s vigil, as was done since the beginning, all will gather at Three Odd Guys Brewing, 48 E. Fifth St.,



Duran

Apopka, for fellowship, food, and brews.

This week Section A

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Service Dir..... 12B

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



Apopka Event of the Week

On Wednesday, June 26, 2-3 p.m., at the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., in the computer lab, there will be Algodoo Sandbox for ages 7-9. Have fun with physics! Simulate physics in the real world with Algodoo. Experiment with objects and see how they react to the forces of gravity and friction.

Quotable

We had sessions on topics like recent changes in education law, child exploitation, school safety and charter school oversight.

Melissa Byrd on Florida School Board Association conference

Opinion

The Apopka Chief
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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John Ricketson
Consultant Emeritus
John Peery
Mar. 28 1956 - Oct. 12, 2023

Reporters
Teresa Sargeant
Marshall Tempest
Neal Fisher

Marketing Director
Jackie Trefcer
General Mgr Emeritus
Neoma Knox
Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Gov. DeSantis appoints four to Valencia's District Board of Trustees

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.

Today (June 19), Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of Blair Bradley, Shawn Hindle, and Belinda Kirkegard and the reappointment of John Davis to the Valencia College District Board of Trustees.

Blair Bradley: Bradley is a former Analyst for North American Reserve Corporation. Active in her community, she serves as a STEM tutor and volunteer for the local Parent Teacher Association and an alumni interviewer for the Rice Alumni Volunteer Association. Bradley earned her bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering and managerial studies from Rice University.

Shawn Hindle: Hindle is the President of Hanson, Walter & Associates, Inc. Active in his community, he currently serves on the Osceola County Planning Commission and the Career-Source Central Florida Board of Directors. Hindle earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from North Carolina State University.

Belinda Kirkegard: Kirkegard is the President of the National Entrepre-

neur Center. Previously, she was appointed to the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority and the Central Florida Corridor Task Force. She was listed as one of the 2023 "50 Most Powerful Ones to Watch" by Orlando Magazine and received the 2021 "People to Know Award" from Florida Trend. Kirkegard earned her bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from the University of Central Florida and her master's degree in public administration from Troy University.

John Davis: Davis is the Secretary of the Florida Lottery. Previously, he served as the Vice President of the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce, the President of the African American Chamber of Commerce, and the External Affairs Director for the Florida Department of Children and Families. He is currently appointed to the Florida Commission on Community Service. Davis earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Florida State University.

These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

Mayor Nelson explains request to remove my censorship vote

I have asked Cliff Shepard our attorney to add the censorship revocation item to the agenda on June 19th, 2024. I am asking for my censorship vote from August 2nd, 2023 to be removed from the records. The basis of the censorship vote was over the departure of our former City Attorney Michael Rodriguez.

I am bringing this item up because on October 13th the Florida Commission on Ethics received complaint 23-253 and began an investigation on me including the same issue the censorship was based on. The Ethics Commission investigated all allegations in the complaint and on June 7th they adopted the recommendation of "no probable cause to believe Mr. Nelson violated the constitutional amendment prohibiting abuse of office for a disproportioned benefit and misused his position regarding the termination of the City Attorney" and they have dismissed the complaint filed against me. Now I would like to share with everyone the role and composition of the Florida Commission on Ethics.

"The Commission is a nine-member Commission with a staff of approximately twenty-five employees located in Tallahassee, that serves as the guardian of the standard of conduct for officers and employees of Florida and its political subdivisions and

functions as an independent commission responsible for investigating and issuing public reports on complaints of breach of the public trust by public officers and employees." Five members are appointed by the Governor, with no more than three from the same political party with one of the five members a former City or County official. Two are appointed by the Speaker of the House and two by the Senate President and must be equally split by party affiliation. This is important because the Commission on Ethics looks at the facts and makes objective decisions not ones based on politics. During the investigation, the Commission on Ethics sent one of their investigators down from Tallahassee to interview myself as well as former City Attorney Michael Rodriguez, our HR Director, our City Clerk, a local pastor and others before the Commission came to their final determination of No Probable Cause for the charges.

The censorship vote against me was brought forward because I did not fire City Attorney Michael Rodriguez after the Council's vote to fire him. The City Charter does not give the City Council the authority to fire the City Attorney nor any other City employee - this role is relegated to

See NELSON Page 4A



Work is on reducing fatality number

Traffic fatality and serious injury statistics in Central Florida are sobering. Last year more than 730 fatalities occurred. Broken down, this means that daily two people die and nine people are seriously injured. Fatality victims dying on our roadways are wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. We must all agree that this is unacceptable.

Crash data also tells us that the order of greatest causes are the following: lane departures, intersections, pedestrians and bicyclists, impaired driving, aging drivers, motorcyclists, distracted driving, speeding or aggressive driving, teen drivers, work zones, drowsy driving, and railroad crossings. The age

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

groups with the most serious injuries or fatalities are 25-34 and over 65.

To get to zero, it is going to take all of us working together in Central Florida. Improving safety on all streets (state and local) will be necessary to meet the goals. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDOT) collaboratively with help from local agencies and under the leadership of Loreen Bob from the FDOT created an Action Plan to get us to the

goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries.

The Central Florida Safety Strategic Plan provides a bold framework on how we can work collaboratively across the district to address our safety challenges on both state and local roads. While progress is being made, there is much work to be done to improve safety in every community. Here are the action steps:

1. Coordinate with school systems to more fully understand early-education safety and high-school driver education training opportunities.
2. Implement annual behavior and outreach campaigns to partner agencies to improve safety.
3. Conduct a review of existing driver's education

See MOORE Page 4A

Next legislative session discussed

Summer has officially begun and there has still been a lot of activity happening.

As soon as graduations were over, six ceremonies and over 3,000 handshakes, I headed to Tampa for the annual Florida School Boards Association summer conference. I sit on the Board of Directors for the Association and this conference is always a great time to connect with school board members from around the state and discuss new laws and issues facing our public schools.

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

This year, we heard many ideas on staff recruitment and retention which continues to plague districts across the state and nation. We had sessions on topics like recent changes

in education law, child exploitation, school safety and charter school oversight.

One of the best sessions was when we heard legislators discuss what the plans are for the next legislative session and what they hope to accomplish. The big push looks as though it will be the continuation of the deregulation process that started this year as well as increasing salary funding.

I walked away from

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God's Word

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Matthew 5:6

Mema Says

Worry is believing God won't get it right.

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 23, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 N. 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, PO Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.



Immigrants came to the United States to become naturalized citizens

My grandmother was Belgian (Van Huffel), and she used to tell my sister and me about how some of her relatives reacted when they finally reached Ellis Island and boarded trains to go west after going through the process of Naturalization of which one of the elements was to quote the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America, in English.

Grandma said they could hardly speak English and when they spoke to the Conductor they would ask,



Ike Hayden

"When we see Buffaloes?" After the conductor understood what they were asking, he would correct their enunciation of the name "Buffaloes." Most of them apologized for not saying it right and would mouth it

over and over until it was right.

Their goal was to become Americans through Naturalization and to learn English so they would sound like Americans. They brought talent, money, and a willingness to make the United States of America grow and prosper, but the one task they set for themselves as most important, was learning English. They still kept their native tongue alive, as many times they used it in their homes, but it was important for

them to be able to communicate in the national language of English.

They did not expect "Uncle Sam" to change signs, street names, newspapers, into the language of Belgium or any other foreign language. In fact, they would have been discouraged because they were Americans and wanted to be treated that way. Their supreme goal was to assimilate into the populace as Americans!

That was the great immigration rush between

1892-1924, and twelve million immigrants were processed through Ellis Island. All of them were dedicated to making a better life for their families and themselves, and adding their talents, skills, trades, and labor to the betterment of America. So, sitting in my living room watching TV, I hear foreign language that I don't understand. Thinking perhaps my TV has just blown a tube (OK, I know they don't use tubes any more) I watched with more attention. It was an ad be-

ing presented in Spanish! I am an American, watching an American movie in the United States of America, where the Constitution says our national language is English, and to my surprise, the ad I'm seeing is in Spanish.

What is wrong with this picture? The people that immigrate here are supposed to assimilate into our national culture, not change it. Slowly, but surely, we are losing our nation-

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Pantry: Hospital is one of its partners

Continued from page 1A

ing the healing ministry of Christ and the promise to feel whole isn't just about what happens within the walls of our own facilities, it's about supporting our community as a whole,"

said Parker Pridgen, CEO of AdventHealth Apopka. "Partnering with strong not-for-profit organizations like Loaves and Fishes is a great way for us to empower and channel resources to folks that do work that aligns with our mission."

Reeves says people love to donate food during the holidays, but during summertime their food pantry gets depleted because donation falls to an all-time low.

Those interested in learning more about the or-

ganization or making a donation, can visit the Loaves and Fishes website at loavesandfishesapopka.com.

"AdventHealth has been a huge supporter of our organization," Reeves added.

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Lake Apopka Natural Gas District Fueling Progress: The Rich History of Natural Gas

For thousands of years, the power of natural gas has captured the imagination of civilizations around the world. From the ancient Greeks who built large temples around natural gas deposits as far back as 1,000 B.C., to pre-imperial China, where citizens would construct crude bamboo pipelines to transport the early power source for heating homes and boiling water. Today, as **Lake Apopka Natural Gas District** celebrates 65 years of service to our community, we're proud to reflect on the enduring legacy of natural gas and the impact it has had – and still has – on our society.

Despite its early uses, it wasn't until the eighteenth century that humans began to utilize natural gas for commercial purposes. In 1785, Britain became the first country to truly harness the power of natural gas when it was used to fuel lighthouses and street-lights.

In 1821, another breakthrough occurred in Fredonia, New York, when William Hart (later the founder of the first natural gas company in the United States) dug the very first well with the express purpose of capturing natural gas, successfully lighting his home, and marking the dawn of natural gas as a commercial fuel source

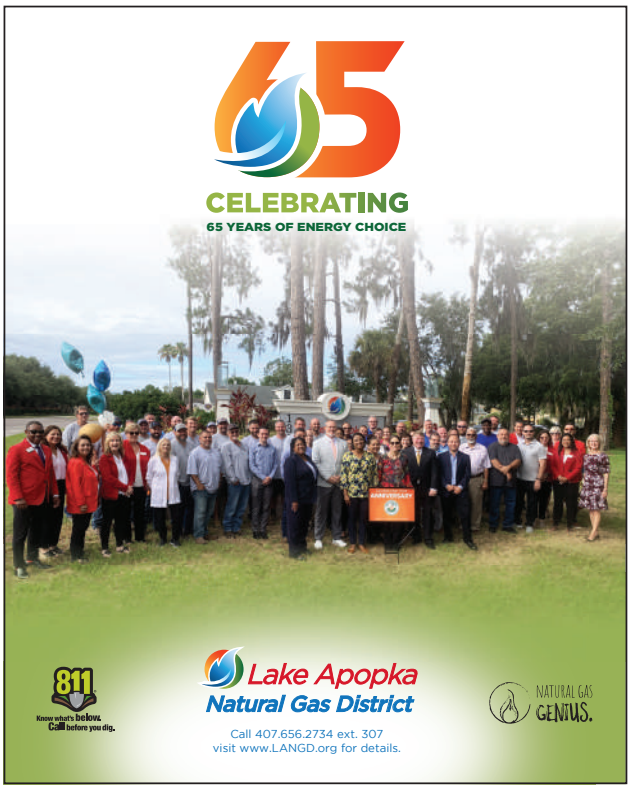
in the United States. By the early 1900s, natural gas had become a popular choice for heating homes, cooking meals, and even generating electricity for businesses and communities.

In 1957, visionary leaders from Apopka, Clermont, and Winter Garden realized the power natural gas could bring to their own community and united to create **Lake Apopka Natural Gas District**. By the end of August 1965, the District had connected its service to approximately 2,200 customers. Today, we're proud to serve over 29,000 customers with nearly 1,000 square miles of distribution pipelines!

In 2024, natural gas plays a crucial role as part of the global energy mix, offering a cleaner and more responsible alternative to traditional options such as coal and oil.

Today, natural gas fuels modern kitchens with affordable precision. A simple flick of the switch delivers instant, controllable heat for perfectly cooked meals.

Compared to other energy sources, natural gas also offers significant cost savings – about \$1,068 per year compared to the average all-electric home (American Gas Association) – leaving more room in the budget for experimenting with new



65
CELEBRATING
65 YEARS OF ENERGY CHOICE

811
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Lake Apopka Natural Gas District
Call 407-656-2734 ext. 307
visit www.LANGD.org for details.

NATURAL GAS GENIUS.

For more information on natural gas service for your home, business or vehicle, contact the District's marketing team at (407) 656-2734 x307, marketing@langd.org or visit www.langd.org. Pictured above are LANGD employees celebrating the company's 65th anniversary.

recipes or enjoying summer cookouts with natural gas grills.

Natural gas has fueled innovation and progress for centuries, playing a vital role in powering our communities and shaping our modern way of life. Abundance, affordability, and a lower environmental impact have solidified the role of natural gas on the path toward a more sustainable future. We at **Lake Apopka Natural Gas District** are proud to have grown with this valuable resource, and we look

forward to continuing to deliver it to our valued community for generations to come. To learn more about our history, visit www.LANGD.org/Home/History.

Want to be a part of the rich history of natural gas and begin enjoying all the benefits that it has to offer? Get connected with the District's marketing team at (407) 656-2734 x307, marketing@langd.org or visit www.langd.org. Stay in touch with the LANGD team on our Facebook and LinkedIn.

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JULY 20



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Nelson: Council asked to rescind

Continued from page 2A

the Mayor under our Strong Mayor form of government. This portion of the Charter was reviewed by Michael Rodriguez, our current City Attorney Cliff Shepard and two other third party attorneys and all agreed that the Apopka City Council did not have the authority to fire Michael Rodriguez but the charter does require that the City Council “must” approve new directors such as the recently hired City Administrator Jacob Smith and Michelle Boylan our new Economic Development Director. Both were approved unanimously as was Michael Rodriguez several years ago.

The Censorship vote was brought forward by a former City Commissioner for political reasons and had nothing to do

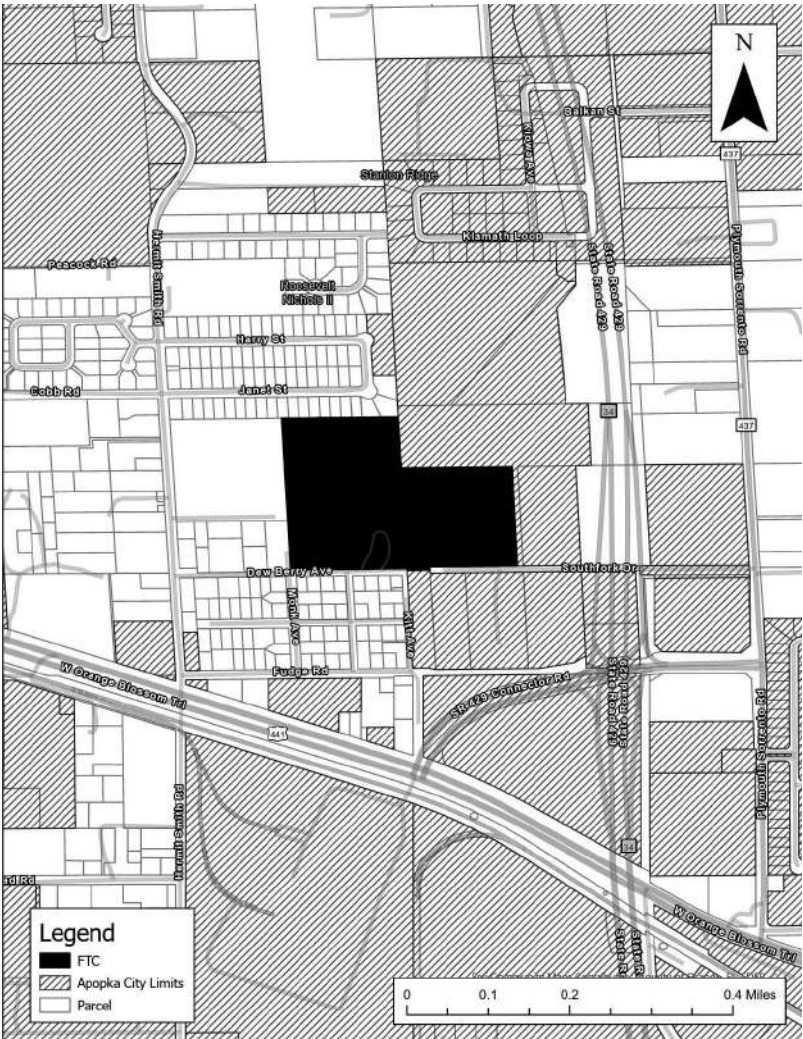
with public policy. Prior to the Censorship vote, the prior City Commissioner asked a city employee to meet him at a restaurant near his place of business. During the meeting, the City Employee was told that if I would not run for another term as Mayor, the Commissioner would drop the censorship vote. The City Employee has agreed to swear under oath and/or take a lie detector test to prove that this meeting actually happened. I waited until the formal Florida Commission on Ethics ruling of no probable cause of an ethics violation before releasing the “basis” for the censorship vote last year was based on politics and not policy. For these reasons I have asked the Apopka City Council to rescind the Censorship vote dated August 2nd, 2023.

Mayor Bryan Nelson

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT

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 **Floridian Apopka Phase 1 Owner, LLC** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3061
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 HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF SOUTHFORK DRIVE AND NORTH OF DEW BERRY AVENUE, OWNED BY FLORIDIAN APOPKA PHASE 1 OWNER LLC, COMPRISING 24.33 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 27-20-36-0000-00-068, 27-20-36-0000-00-074, 27-20-36-0000-00-048, 27-20-36-0000-00-085, 28-21-06-7172-60-040, 28-21-06-7172-16-042, 27-20-36-0000-00-066, 27-20-36-0000-00-083, 27-20-36-0000-00-047, 28-21-06-7172-16-040, 28-21-06-7172-21-60-030
Contains: 24.33 +/- Acres

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3061 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, July 17, 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 Application 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.

June 21, 2024

Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

Publish: The Apopka Chief

176785

Explanation is given on reason Juneteenth is national holiday

Editor:

I am writing to you today to highlight the profound importance of June 19th, a date of monumental significance in American history, now recognized nationwide as the National Juneteenth Holiday.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Emancipa-

tion Day, commemorates the momentous occasion on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of slavery in the United States. This was a pivotal moment, as it marked the liberation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans in the Confed-

eracy, over two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had formally set them free.

The celebration of Juneteenth stands as a testament to the enduring strength, resilience, and spirit of African Americans

See JUNETEENTH Page 8A

Byrd: I'll be serving 4 more years

Continued from page 2A

that session feeling very hopeful that legislators on both sides of the aisle want what is best for our public schools. I was pleased to hear that none of them are happy with Florida's recent move to 50th in the nation for teacher pay in the k12 school system.

The legislators that were present seemed motivated to work to change that and we expressed how difficult it is to find people to come to work in our districts when we can't offer them a competitive salary or even a salary that allows them to live comfortably without relying on second jobs.

Overall, it was a positive conference that always leaves me feeling proud to be among others that are

working to advocate for a public school system where all children are provided a quality education.

After arriving home, I was able to slip away for a few days with my daughters for some much-needed quality time together.

But the rest didn't last because it was soon time to come home and finish work on my campaign for my next term on the school board. The second week in June is qualifying week where candidates have to submit the required paperwork and fees to the Supervisor of Elections to qualify to be on the ballot in August.

I got my documents and fees paid and I'm very proud to say that at the end of the qualifying period, there were no other candidates that had filed to run

against me.

Therefore, I became reelected to the school board seat that I have served in for the past six years, to serve another four-year term.

I am thrilled beyond belief to be blessed to continue to serve our community, our schools and our children. It has been an honor to serve and I truly feel that my lifelong passion for education has led me to exactly where I am supposed to be as a school board member.

There have been many accomplishments over the past six years but there is still so much to do.

Next week I would like to share more on this, but until then, thank you for allowing me to be your school board member again!

Moore: Action steps updated annually

Continued from page 2A

and re-education requirements for Florida to explore opportunities for future enhancements.

4. Consider the use of technology-cameras for speed enforcement along high-crash corridors.

5. Create and utilize a Target Zero checklist to be considered on all relevant roadway projects to assist with proper project scoping.

6. Incorporate Complete Street/Safety "walk and talk" training during new employee orientations and provide similar training for existing employees on a semi-annual basis.

7. Collaborate with law enforcement through Community Traffic Safety Teams

to review emerging tools and street designs to develop key guidance materials for traffic enforcement at locations with these new designs.

8. Coordinate with local law enforcement and safety professionals to identify the top three transportation safety issues to inform, educate, and enforce traffic safety along key corridors.

9. Create a safety-related webpage on FDOT's District 5 website that includes resource materials, key data, upcoming events, and a quarterly Safety Central Newsletter.

The Central Florida Safety Strategic Plan envisions a five-year program where the action steps are updated annually to adjust to issues and create collaborative safety solutions with our partners.

Hayden: We must not be divided

Continued from page 2A

al identity, and we cannot blame this administration for it all. The guilt belongs to all of us who pander to these different cultures because of our greed and desire for the almighty dollar. We kick aside our national identity and show that we have no qualms about capitulating to another culture and language just to make a buck, and you show them that we have turned into a wide-open society, with no morals, no standards, and no dedication for anything but greed.

I have nothing but respect for any of the true legal immigrants. I live among different cultures in my neighborhood, and we are true neighbors. We

take care of and watch out for one another. I celebrate their different holidays, sometimes joining in their festivities, and we enjoy those times that bring us closer together, but they are doing their best to learn English to help themselves assimilate into our national identity.

Too many people are making their way into our society for ulterior motives, and we Americans need to weed them out. They are not here for *our* great nation; they are not here to embellish *our* way of life. They have come to our shores as an invading army hell-bent on making America a tyrant-led, Communist enclave. They have already begun dividing our people by using cultural differ-

ences.

Do you honestly think that Antifa, BLM, or the anti-Semitism group are trying to build a better America?

What do they all have in common? They hate America and the American way of life. Whatever drives them is not love. We, The People, had better wake up and take action, or one day we will wake up under the cloak of slavery and by then, the American nationality will be replaced with the chains of Communism.

Let us get back to the place where our immigrants want to see the "Buffaloes" again and desire to belong to a nation whose motto is "E Pluribus Unum," out of many ONE.

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
(USPS 545-440)

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

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

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

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

Orange County Telephone Numbers

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Auto/Boat Tags.....	850-617-2000
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County Mayor	407-836-7370
County Commission.....	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court.....	407-836-2065
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Hunting/Fishing Lic	888-347-4356
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Property Appraiser	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint.....	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency.....	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.).....	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11).....	352-241-9220
State Representatives	
Doug Bankson	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....	unknown
State Senators	
Geraldine Thompson (Dist.11)	407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner	
Christine Moore	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment.....	407-317-3233
Bus routes.....	407-317-3800
Superintendent.....	407-317-3200
School Board.....	407-317-3200
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans.....	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce.....	407-886-1441

Goodwin lands on dean's list

Christopher Goodwin of Apopka earned a spot on the spring 2024 dean's list at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga.

Dean's list honors are reserved for the highest achieving students at VSU. Goodwin is one of more than 1,600 distinguished and accomplished students recognized for exemplifying excellence in the attainment

of their educational goals.

To qualify for dean's list at VSU, students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional grade point average of 3.00 or higher. Developmental studies, transient and graduate students are not eligible for dean's list status.

OCLS: Summer BreakSpots offer youth meals free of charge

Continued from page 1A

Universal Funk Orchestra and Amy Robbins in a Sidecar. Created as an homage to the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival, the Melrose Pop Festival brings together some of the local music community's most beloved acts. Be sure to catch *Melrose Pop Festival – A Concert Film* debuting on YouTube June 21 for a front-row seat to the 2023 festival performances. For more information, visit ocls.info/melrosepopfestival.

Beginning July 15,

kids who log at least 300 minutes of reading may visit their local branch for a free prize bag, while supplies last. Kids who log 600 minutes are eligible for a grand prize drawing at the End of Summer Celebrations in July. For complete information, visit ocls.info/summer.

In addition to events and programming, six OCLS locations are hosting Summer BreakSpot, the OCPS Mobile Lunch Vehicles, as part of the USDA Summer Food Service Program. Lunches are provided

free of charge to children and young adults 18 and under. Meals must be consumed on the premises. Lunch is served Monday – Friday at Chickasaw, Fairview Shores, Hiawassee, South Creek, North Orange and South Trail branches. For more information and lunch times, visit ocls.info/summer-lunch-ocps-mobile-lunch.

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INSIDE OUT 2 (PG) 11:00A;
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5:00; 6:00; 7:00; 7:30; 9:40

THE GARFIELD MOVIE (PG)
11:10A; 3:40; 10:10

BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE (R)
11:20A; 1:30; 4:30; 7:20; 10:00;
10:30

THE EXORCIST (R) 11:30A;
2:10; 4:40; 7:10; 9:50
IF (PG) 12:10; 6:40

KINGDOM OF THE PLANET
OF THE APES (PG-13) 12:20;
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THE WATCHERS (PG-13) 2:00;
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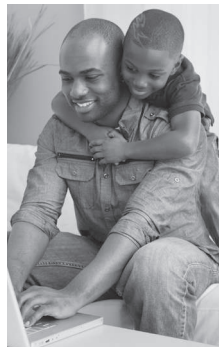
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- Ace Meat & Grocery, 439 S. Central Ave. & 5th St.
- Apopka Chief rack, 400 N. Park Ave.
- Apopka High School
- Apopka Quick Mart (BP), Hwy 436 & Lake Cortez Dr.
- Apopka Vape, N. Park Ave. (across from the old Fla. Hosp. location)
- CenturyLink headquarters, SR 436
- Chevron Diamond Gas – Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rds
- Chevron Market, Hwy 441 & Roger Williams Rd.
- Chuck's Wagon, Main St., (Hwy 441)
- Circle K & BP, Hwy 441 S. of Walmart
- Circle K, Keene Rd / Clarcona

- Citgo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd (Plymouth)
- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail boxes)
- CVS #3748 - corner of Park Av & Hwy 441
- Discount Beverage & Smoke (Across from Checkers, Highway 441)
- Circle K (Shell) #2404, Sheeler Rd at corner of Apopka Blvd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #6157, S. Park Avenue
- Circle K (Shell) #2334, Rock Springs Rd & Kelly Park Rd
- Circle K #1288, Welch Rd & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Circle K (Marathon) #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
- Compare Fresh Market, 436 behind Aaron's
- Crosby's Motor Inn, Hwy 441 & Errol Parkway (Errol Estate)
- Lula Mae's Eatery, Central Ave S.

- Marathon, Main St. (midland downtown)
- McDonald's, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Mobil, (Citgo) Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)
- Orange County Service Center, N. Park Ave.
- Perkins Restaurant Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)
- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)
- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
- Sam's Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
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176784

Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) reduces benefit

Dear Rusty:

I don't understand exactly how the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) works for my situation. I turned 62 in 2017 and am currently still working in a "non-covered" job, not paying into Social Security, but from which I will get a government pension when I retire. I began collecting Social Security at my full retirement age in 2021 and am now collecting \$1507 per month thanks to the cost of living adjustments since I started. Will my Social Security benefit be reduced by \$587 if I retire this year? Signed: Confused by WEP

Dear Confused: You're certainly not alone to be confused by WEP, and your situation is somewhat special because you started your SS benefits before taking your "non-covered" government pension. And, unfortunately, most tools and charts which suggest how much WEP will reduce your Social Security benefit don't accommodate that nuance very well.

In your case, when you claimed Social Security at your full retirement age (FRA), you were awarded the full benefit you were entitled to, unreduced by WEP

because you were not yet collecting your non-covered government pension. You were able to collect your full SS amount and receive each year's full cost of living adjustments (COLA) to those higher amounts. What actually happens is that each person's Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) is first determined at age 62, and Social Security applies an annually awarded COLA to their PIA (primary insurance amount), even if they're not yet receiving benefits. You received your full PIA, including COLA, because you claimed at your full retirement age. But when you start collecting your pension from your non-covered government job, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) will kick in and reduce your Social Security benefit.

The amount of WEP reduction depends on how many years you had contributed to Social Security from "substantial" earnings but, with 20 or fewer years, the maximum WEP reduction is determined by the year you turn 62 and doesn't change. Since you turned 62 in 2017, your maximum WEP reduction, according to Social Security's process, is \$442.50 – lower than the

\$587 you suspect.

Nevertheless, due to the way Social Security calculates the WEP reduction, the reduction from your current amount will seem larger than the WEP maximum. And that's because of the way Social Security applies the WEP reduction to your benefit. They start by first removing all cost-of-living increases since you were 62 from your primary insurance amount (PIA). They will then take your PIA (sans COLA) and subtract

\$442.50 (if you have more than 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings they will subtract less), and then they will reapply all the cost-of-living increases since you were 62 to your WEP-reduced PIA.

What just happened, in effect, is that your previous (pre-WEP) COLA increases were removed from your PIA, and those same COLA percentages were reapplied to your smaller WEP-reduced PIA, to arrive at your new monthly benefit amount under the Windfall Elimination Provision. And that new amount will be lower than your previous SS benefit amount by more than the published maximum WEP reduction for the year you turned 62.

A word of caution: Timely notification to Social Security of your non-covered pension is very important. As soon as you receive your non-covered pension award letter, deliver it to your local Social Security office and request a WEP recalculation of your SS retirement benefit. The WEP recalculation will likely take months to process, during which time you will continue to receive your higher non-WEP SS benefit. That means you will be overpaid for the period between when your non-covered pension started and the month your new WEP SS payment began, and that overpayment must be refunded to Social Security.



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Juneteenth: Became a federal holiday in 2021

Continued from page 4A

who fought tirelessly for their freedom and rights. It serves as a poignant reminder of our nation's complex history and the ongoing journey towards equality and justice for all. In 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday, underscoring its significance in the national consciousness. This recognition is not merely symbolic; it is a call to reflect on our shared history and to acknowledge

the sacrifices and contributions of African Americans throughout the centuries. As we honor this day, it is crucial to remember that Juneteenth is not just about celebrating the past but also about fostering a future where freedom and equality are truly realized. It is a day to educate ourselves and others, to engage in meaningful dialogue, and to recommit to the work that still lies ahead in the pursuit of social justice. I encourage all citizens

to participate in the various events and activities that commemorate Juneteenth. Whether through community gatherings, educational programs, or acts of service, let us come together to honor this day with the respect and recognition it deserves. As a Senator dedicated to advancing the cause of civil rights and equality, I am committed to ensuring that the legacy of Juneteenth continues to inspire and guide us. Let us use this day as an opportunity

to reflect on the progress we have made and to renew our commitment to building a more just and inclusive society. Thank you for joining me in celebrating this pivotal day in our nation's history. Together, we can honor the past while striving towards a brighter future for all.

Senator Geraldine F. Thompson
Florida Senate
District 15

BUSINESS PROFILE
Your Guide to Local Businesses

Schroeder Dental Group provides superior oral care with courteous and a professional attitude

Are you someone who shudders at the thought of visiting the dentist? If so, the **Schroeder Dental Group** makes it a priority to ensure every patient has a positive experience during every visit. Their office is bright, clean, and relaxing. There is no need for stress because their staff will take the utmost care with you and your entire family. They offer routine cleanings, fillings, bridges, crowns, dental bonding, dental implants, laser dentistry, oral surgery, orthodontics, reconstruction, veneers and more complex dental work, such as root canals.

When an emergency arises, **Schroeder Dental Group** is ready. No one plans on a dental emergency, because they happen very suddenly and unexpectedly. They tend to be either painful, embarrassing or both. At the **Schroeder Dental Group**, emergency patients are seen promptly so they don't have to suffer overnight or through a weekend. Time is of the essence in these urgent dental cases.

They're also helping "little" smiles in a big way. Children need not worry, because they do their very best to make every visit as quick and painless as possible. Prioritizing and creating a positive basis for their dental care involves educating, treating, preventing, maintaining a

balanced diet, and instilling effective brushing and flossing habits. They take time to educate your entire family on the techniques and practices of proper oral care.

Once you meet the staff at **Schroeder Dental Group**, you'll soon understand why they're preferred by their patients. They're committed to repairing and enhancing your smile by utilizing state-of-the-art techniques with long-lasting results. The staff's mission is to deliver the highest quality care, unprecedented comfort, and service to ensure that all patients are relaxed while they work on their great smile!

Schroeder Dental Group is Invisalign® certified. Invisalign® (braceless braces) is the latest offering for orthodontics. This is the ideal solution for patients who have their permanent teeth. The product is virtually invisible and removable for meals, brushing, and flossing. They also offer Zoom! Whitening.

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The Waterlase MD Laser can also be used



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

for soft tissue procedures, such as reshaping the gum tissue for a more aesthetic appearance and periodontal procedures. One benefit of utilizing the laser for soft tissue procedures is minimizing post-operative discomfort.

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Obituaries

JOAN K. ALSUP, 86, of Apopka, passed away on June 13, 2024. Joan was born in 1937 in Detroit, Michigan, to Charles and Ella Kitley. She was preceded in death by: husband, Bill R. Alsup; brother, James Kitley; stepdaughter, Suzette Alsup Weeks; stepson, Van Kevin Alsup; grandson, Joshua Weeks. Joan is survived by: son, Eric; daughter, Laura; stepson, Billy Robert; eight grandchildren; extended family and a multitude of lifelong friends.

...

MORRIS LEONARD (LEN) HARTLEY, SR., 82, went to be with his Lord and Savior on June 11, 2024. Born on August 20, 1941, in Springfield, Missouri to Joe Anderson and Mary Alice Hartley. Len is survived by: wife, Betty Jean Hartley; brother, Joe Hartley (Elaine); sister, Mary Carr Givens; children, Morris Hartley (Lisa), Cathy Bates (Todd), Beth Strozier (Greg), and David Hartley (Mandy; twelve grandchildren; four grandchildren-in-laws; one great-grandson.

...

MARY JOYCE CHANDLER BREJCHA, 79, was called to her heavenly home on Monday, June 10th, 2024. Born on September 24, 1944 to Noval and Myrice Chandler. Joyce is preceded in death by her parents Noval and Myrice Chandler; brother, Joel Chandler; grandparents, Charles and Ruby Culbreth, Joseph and Mammie Chandler. Joyce is survived by: husband, Lawrence Brejcha; children, Kellie Borne (Darin), Kimberly Bussell (Jody), Susan Flukinger (Mark), Lauren Brejcha Smith (fiance' Marty Pickett), Charles Brejcha; siblings, Billy Chandler, Donnie Chandler, Ricky Chandler, Martha Glass, Ann Hart, Vennesa Smith; four grandchildren; five great grandchildren.

...

See Obituaries on page 10A

Health screenings to be available free

Free health screenings and other health services will be available to all Apopka residents at Unity Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, June 23, 2024 from 11:30am - 1:30pm. The church is located at 465 Oakland Avenue in Apopka.



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A Prayer for Our Fathers

My father passed away earlier this year after a long and full life, devoted to God and his family and he will be missed greatly this year on his Birthday and on Father's Day, but also at every other holiday.

I console myself with the hope that they celebrate Father's Day in heaven and that he can once again celebrate it with his father, and indeed all the fathers who have died and gone to heaven.

I think what hurt the most about my father's passing was simply the realization that he wouldn't be there to talk to. In his last years of life, I really enjoyed visiting my parents and also calling them on the phone. Often we would just reminisce about old times or talk about what was going on in our lives.

When I mentioned to one of my brothers that it really hurt to not have him here to talk to, he said that

he talked to him every day since he passed. I had found myself saying things like "I miss you Dad" quite often since he died, but wasn't really having a conversation with him.

So I decided to try to have a more prolonged conversation with him, and while I wasn't audibly hearing his voice, what I think I hear now is my Dad's sage advice.

As my father aged his advice became wiser, and I treasure the memories of some of the things he was fond of saying, such as "Trust in the Lord" and "God has been so good to me." My hope and prayer for myself, and for all fathers, is that we can become wise teachers and sources of comfort and support for our families.

There is perhaps no greater calling for a man than to be a father.

— Christopher Simon

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

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

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Proverbs 14:26

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

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A Prayer for Our Fathers

(See message above.)

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Joan K. Alsup, age 86, of Apopka, Florida, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children on June 13, 2024. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 41 years, Bill R. Alsup, her brother James Kitley, stepdaughter Suzette Alsup Weeks, stepson Van Kevin Alsup, and grandson Joshua Weeks.

Joan was born in 1937 in Detroit, Michigan, to Charles and Ella Kitley. She attended Albion College and, true to her nature, forged enduring friendships. She later relocated with her family to Apopka in 1973. Together with her husband, she owned and operated Quality

Joan K. Alsup

Gardens Nursery, becoming a cherished part of the Apopka community.

A woman of faith, Joan was an active member of First Methodist Church Apopka for 50 years, where she found spiritual fulfillment and lasting friendships. Her community involvement extended beyond church walls; she was a dedicated member of the Apopka Woman's Club, Northwest Orange Republican Women, the Miss Apopka Foliage Pageant Committee, DAR Orlando Chapter and The Foliage Garden Club of Apopka. Joan passionately engaged in local and state politics, tirelessly advocating for Republican candidates whom she believed would best serve her community.

Known for her warm smile and generous spirit, Joan never hesitated to welcome newcomers to Apopka, recalling the kindness shown to her when she first arrived. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion

and community service that will be cherished by all who knew her.

Joan is survived by her son Eric and daughter Laura of Apopka, stepson Billy Robert of Hot Springs, AR, grandchildren Aaron, Jonathan, Andrew, Stephen, Wendy, Jennifer, Alex, and Aubrey, extended family and a multitude of lifelong friends.

A visitation will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 10:00AM, followed by a service at 11:00AM at the First Methodist Church Apopka, officiated by Rev. John Fisher. Private interment will follow at Edgewood/Greenwood Cemetery for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to the First Methodist Church Apopka or the Apopka Woman's Club Scholarship Fund.

Arrangements are entrusted to Loomis Funeral Home. loomisfuneralhomes.com

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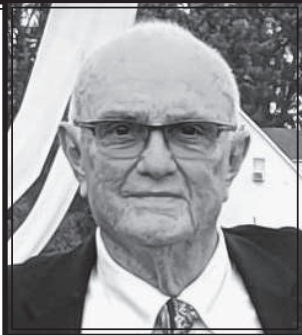
Morris Leonard (Len) Hartley, Sr.

Morris Leonard (Len) Hartley, Sr. went to be with his Lord and Savior on June 11, 2024, surrounded by family. Born on August 20, 1941, in Springfield, Missouri to Joe Anderson and Mary Alice Hartley, he spent his formative years in South Alabama and North Florida. In the early 60's Len moved to Orlando, Florida, where in 1964 he started a successful business (H&H Products) and in 1965 married Betty Jean (Williams) Hartley.

He was a loving husband to Betty, a devoted father to his four children, a beloved grandfather to twelve grandkids and a great grandfather to one great grandson. Len cared deeply about his friends, was passionate about his business, and impacted everyone

he encountered. His strong faith in Jesus Christ led him to share the gospel with many of those around him, including the nursing staff and doctors in the hospitals in his last days. He faced life with determination and a work ethic that was an example to all.

Len is survived by his wife, Betty Jean Hartley; his brother, Joe Hartley (Elaine); his sister Mary Carr Givens; his four children and their spouses; Morris Hartley (Lisa), Cathy Bates (Todd), Beth Strozier (Greg), and David Hartley (Mandy). Twelve grandchildren and four grandchildren-in-laws; Jimmy (Alexandria), Jonathan, Anna, and Ashley Hartley; Ansley, Seth (Jesse), and Caleb Bates; Mary Grace (Carter), Katie (Adam), and Sam Strozier;



Tate and Sadie Hartley and great-grandson Oliver Hartley.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 29th at First Baptist Church/Orlando, in the Henry Chapel, at 11:00 AM with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Man in the Mirror Ministries or Grace Medical Home.

Links are below.
<https://www.gracemedicalhome.org/donate>
<https://maninthemirror.org/give/>

Mary Joyce Chandler Brejcha

September 24, 1944 ••• June 10, 2024

On Monday, June 10th, Mary Joyce Chandler Brejcha loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend was called to her heavenly home at the age of 79. Surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

Joyce was third of eight children born on September 24, 1944 in Orlando, Florida to Noval and Myrice Chandler. She grew up in Plymouth, Florida and attended Plymouth Baptist Church with her siblings and other family. She met her husband, Lawrence Brejcha in Rosehill, Texas in 1985. They were united in marriage on December 24, 1985 in Apopka, Florida. Joyce and Lawrence resided in Waller Texas during their 39 years of marriage and farmed various crops during that time.

Joyce graduated from Apopka Memorial High School in 1963. Shortly after graduation, moved to Houston, Texas and worked for Oshman's Sporting Goods, The Western Company and other places during her working career. After retirement she enjoyed gardening, helping Lawrence around the farm and caring for her grandchildren. Her latest joy was the enlistment and graduation from boot camp of her granddaughter Sara in the United States Army. Joyce is survived by her husband,

Lawrence Brejcha, daughters, Kellie Borne (Darin) of Beaumont, Texas, Kimberly Bussell (Jody) of Louisiana, Susan Flukinger (Mark) of Waller, Texas, Lauren Brejcha Smith (fiance' Marty Pickett) of Waller, Texas, and son, Charles Brejcha of Waller, Texas.

Brothers, Billy Chandler of Eustis, Florida, Donnie Chandler of Sorrento, Florida, and Ricky Chandler of Apopka, Florida. Sisters, Martha Glass of Orlando, Ann Hart of Apopka, Florida, and Vennesa Smith of Buffalo, Texas.



Grandchildren, Kayla Moore of Beaumont Texas, Lyndi Dinger of Beaumont, Texas. Private Second Class Sara Chandler King stationed at Fort Cavazos, Texas, Kody Thomas King of Whitesburg, Kentucky And five great grandchildren Daisy, Silas, Colsen, Rayna and Kyson.

Joyce is preceded in death by her parents Noval and Myrice Chandler, brother, Joel Chandler, grandparents, Charles and Ruby Culbreth, Joseph and Mammie Chandler.

The Funeral service is scheduled for Friday, June 21st at 10:00 am at the Conquest Cemetery on Yothers Road, Zellwood Florida. Officiated by her brother-in-law, Ed Smith.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS
PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

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Puzzle Solution

D	B	M	S		E	N	E	M	A	S		
E	R	I	C		B	O	D	Y	G	U	A	R
P	U	S	H		A	T			L	E	V	E
I	N	H	U	M	A	N	I	T	I	E	S	
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					O	R	A	T	E	D		
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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B

Crustless spinach quiche can be frozen and reheated without thawing

Chicken, Italiano comes from *Paths of Sunshine* cookbook. The accompanying note instructs: "Prepare this recipe the day before serving to allow melding of flavors."



The book titled *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking, Recipes from the Matriarch of Edisto Island, (South Carolina)*, Emily Meggett's Fried Grits are terrific. You can have them for breakfast or for supper, as I had last night! They are really good.

How about a Crustless Spinach Quiche? It looks pretty good. You can freeze it and reheat it without thawing! We thank Mary Akerman Barnes for this recipe that we found in *Treasures and Pleasures* cookbook put out in 1990 by First Presbyterian Church of Apopka.

Neoma Knox's Broccoli and Cauliflower Salad is so tasty. Neoma was our General Manager for many years, but she has left this life behind. We loved her very much. She did leave us her spectacular broccoli and cauliflower salad along with many beautiful memories. We thank New Vision Community Church for sharing the recipe in their book titled, *"Feeding the Flock."*

Blackberry Cobbler from Orion Storm Rusch in *The Spice of Veith* is a great basic recipe that you could experiment with other fruits if you don't have blackberries. It looks pretty yummy!

Neat and Sweet Farms in Lakeland shares their Peach Ice Cream recipe with *Field to Feast*, and we take full advantage! We pass on this treat to you, our readers, in time for your INDEPENDENCE DAY celebration within the next couple of weeks.

CHICKEN, ITALIANO
Recipe from
PATHS OF SUNSHINE COOKBOOK
8 chicken breasts, skinned, boned, split (16 pieces)
1/2 cup red table wine
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon garlic granules
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 cups seasoned stuffing mix,

divided
1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese, grated
1 (8 ounce) carton sour cream
1/2 cup slivered almonds, blanched
1/4 cup butter, melted
Place chicken in flat plastic container (with cover). Blend wine, lemon juice, garlic and pepper together. Pour over chicken breasts, cover and refrigerate for 2 to 3 hours, turning container over several times during this period to thoroughly marinate the pieces. Toss together 1-1/2 cups stuffing mix and cheese. Drain chicken breasts and pat dry with paper toweling. Coat chicken thoroughly with sour cream. Dredge the chicken pieces with the 1-1/2 cups cheese-stuffing mix. Place chicken pieces, closely together, in casserole dish. Cover and refrigerate. Before baking, sprinkle with reserved 1/2 cup stuffing mix, slivered almonds and melted butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour or until chicken is fork tender. Place chicken pieces on warm serving platter. Additional Parmesan cheese may be passed. Serves 6 generously.

EMILY MEGGETT'S FRIED GRITS
Gullah Geechee Home Cooking, Recipes from the Matriarch of Edisto Island
2 cups yellow or white grits
1 large egg, beaten
1/2 cup milk, whole or 2-percent
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1) Cook the grits according to package instructions. 2) Spray a 5 x 9-inch loaf pan with cooking spray. Pour the cooked grits into the pan. Refrigerate until cold. Grits can also be cooked in the morning and refrigerated, and will be ready to fry for supper. 3) Remove the grits from the pan and place on a cutting board. The grits should be a firm loaf. Cut the grits into slices a little thicker than a slice of bread. Set aside. 4) In a mixing bowl, beat the egg, then add the milk and stir together. One at a time, place the grits slices into the bowl and coat with the egg mixture. Be careful not to break the slices. 5) Sprinkle flour lightly on a piece of waxed paper. Place the slices on the floured paper. Then sprinkle the top of each slice with flour. 6) In a cast-iron skillet, melt the butter over medium-high heat, then

add the oil. The oil will prevent the butter from burning. 7) Place the sliced grits in the butter and oil and cook for about 2 minutes on each side, until golden brown. Cook over medium-high heat so the slices will not burn.

MARY AKERMAN BARNES' CRUSTLESS SPINACH QUICHE
Treasures and Pleasures, 1990
Presbyterian Women,
First Presbyterian Church, Apopka
10-ounce pkg frozen chopped spinach
1 pound shredded Cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup milk
1/4 cup melted butter
Cook spinach and drain well, squeezing out excess water. Combine with the cheese and onion. Set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine flour, salt and baking powder. Add eggs, milk, and butter. Mix well. Add spinach and cheese mixture. Pour into lightly greased 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Let cool slightly; then cut into 1-inch squares. Can be frozen and reheated (without thawing) at 300 degrees for 15 minutes. Yield: 12 squares.

NEOMA KNOX'S BROCCOLI AND CAULIFLOWER SALAD,
Recipe from New Vision Community Church's *Feeding the Flock*
1 bunch cauliflower
1 bunch broccoli
5 strips crisp bacon
1/2 cup medium size red onion
1/2 cup golden raisins
Dressing:
1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
Break and cut broccoli and cauliflower into bite-sized pieces. Broccoli stems may be used if peeled to soft center. (Hint: large pieces are easy to strip.) Break bacon into small pieces. Slice the onion into rings. Mix all the ingredients together.
Dressing: Combine mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar; pour over the sal-

ad and mix well. Refrigerate in air-tight container. Chill at least four hours; tip container to spread dressing evenly throughout.

ORION STORM RUSCH'S BLACKBERRY COBBLER
The Spice of Veith
4 cups fresh blackberries
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 large egg
1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
6 tablespoons butter, melted
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place blackberries in a lightly greased 8-inch square baking dish; sprinkle with lemon juice. Stir together egg, sugar and flour in a medium bowl until mixture resembles a coarse meal. Sprinkle over fruit. Drizzle butter over topping. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes or until lightly browned and bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes.

Serve with whipped cream, if desired. Garnish with a fresh mint sprig (optional). This can also bake for the same amount of time in 6 (8 ounce) ramekins on an aluminum foil lined baking sheet for individual servings. Serves 6.

NEAT AND SWEET FARMS, LAKELAND, PEACH ICE CREAM
Recipe from *Field to Feast*
2-1/2 pounds fresh peaches, peeled, pitted, and chopped
1 cup sugar
1 pint half-and-half
14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups whole milk, or as needed
Working in batches, puree peaches with sugar and half-and-half in a blender or food processor. Combine peach mixture, sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, and vanilla extract in a large bowl. Pour into a 1-gallon ice cream maker, then add enough whole milk to reach the fill line, about 2 cups. Freeze according to manufacturer's instructions. Transfer to a freezer-safe container and freeze until firm.

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

JUNE 2024 ★ ★ EVENTS ★ WEEKLY ★ UPCOMING ★ ONGOING ★ ★				
<p>ACHOOL IS OUT Traffic patterns changed. Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those pedestrians... and ducks. DONT TEXT WHILE DRIVING - Please! YOU WILL PAY A FINE.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>FRAN CARLTON CENTER OPEN,</p>	<p>for seniors - senior activities at Fran Carlton Center. CALL 407-703-1642 FOR INFORMATION .</p> <p>FRIDAY, JUNE 21</p> <p>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. .</p> <p>CENTRAL FL CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 1806 S Bay St., Eustis, has Fellowship Friday meetings. For complete details of all chamber events, visit cflchristianchamber.com/events-chamber. Contact: latrondra@cfchristianchamber.com</p> <p>SATURDAY, JUNE 22</p> <p>VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the the third Saturday of the month, from 8-10 a.m. at 519 S. Central Avenue. Cost is only \$7.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>SUNDAY, JUNE 23</p> <p>MONDAY, JUNE 24</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>TUESDAY, JUNE 25</p> <p>THE SERTOMA CLUB meets the</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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..</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Apokkatoastmasters.com.</p> <p>THURSDAY, JUNE 27</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ROTARY CLUB OF APOPKA - For information, call 407-415-6588. Call for updated information on meetings and location.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>APOPKA FOLIAGE TOASTMASTER'S CLUB, Monday, 7 p.m., on Zoom, Apopka. 407-765-2629.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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: apokkafgca@gmail.com. NO MEETINGS JUNE-AUGUST.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>(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</p> <p>*Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, 180 E. Main St., Apopka. For more info, call 407-886-1441</p> <p>COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR INFORMATION Events, fund raisers, and non-profit organizations</p> <p>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</p>

Community supports Miss Apopka

Top: At the Miss Florida Competition send off on June 18 at the Apopka Museum, Miss Apopka Reilly Cardella (r) poses with 2019 Miss Apopka Madison Zavitz (l) and Miss Apopka Organization Chair Rosali Morris (c). Bottom: Pictured (l to r) are Francina Boykin and Charlotte White, Apopka Historical Society board members; Miss Apopka Reilly Cardella; and Lorena Potter, Apopka Historical Society Board member.

Photos courtesy of Miss Apopka Organization/Facebook



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