

Historic

The historic pump house is an attraction at Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. See page 6A.



Sports

Mustangs win big in Kickoff Classic against Olympia. See page 1B.



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Volume 102 Number 34

Friday, August 23, 2024 / 50 cents

Mayor’s handling of public comment is protested

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Protestors gathered near Apopka City Hall as part of public backlash to the livestream cutoff for public comment held at the end of the August 7 City Council meeting.

The protest took place on Wednesday, August 21, on the corner of East Fifth Street and South Park Avenue, across from the parking lot from Apopka City Hall.

“Myself and a handful of people been having a discussion about this for the last couple of weeks, and decided yesterday to throw it together,” said Megan Garcia, city resident and one of the protest’s organizers. “I know it’s kind of last

minute, but like most people, we all have jobs. Some things might come together in a small way, but eventually they will grow if things continue to become an issue. So, I’m just happy to be able to support my community and encourage my community to come out and get involved.”

The Wednesday, August 7, City Council YouTube livestream ended without showing public comment, after city officials had discussion about whether public comment should take place at the beginning of the meeting.

However, According to the August 7 agenda, public comment was scheduled after the mayor’s report.

See PROTEST Page 5A



Protestors gather on the corner of South Park Avenue and East Fifth Street on Wednesday, August 21, before the City Council meeting. Residents criticized how public comment was moved from the beginning of the City Council meeting to the end of it starting on August 7 as well as how Mayor Bryan Nelson cut the livestream feed of public comment, although the meeting continued.

Primary election was August 20



The August 20 primary election was held in 259 precincts across Orange County, including the one at the Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwellie Parkway in Apopka (pictured). There were 811,612 registered voters, 137,918 ballots cast, and a 16.99 percent voter turnout, according to the Orange County Supervisor of Elections. Visit ocfelections.com to view all primary election results.

Council approves downtown trail contract

Under consent items on the agenda, the City Council voted to approve four items at the Wednesday, August 21, meeting, including the following:

Financial assistance agreement

The chief of police is to sign the financial assistance

agreement between the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Apopka Police Department, enabling the city of Apopka to receive reimbursement for overtime incurred by the task force member assigned to the Electronic Surveillance Support Team and Cyber

High-Tech Task Force.

Upon signing the attached agreement, FDLE will provide agencies that have task force members assigned to the team with reimbursement of overtime expenses, up to \$12,500 during the 2024-2025 state fiscal year. This reimbursement is contingent on the

availability of funds.

Contract for downtown trail

A contract for ITB 2024-A-79: The construction of Downtown Apopka Trail, Phase I was awarded to Icon Construction Enter-

See CITY Page 3A

Police to conduct HVE details on U.S. 441, S.R. 436

In an effort to protect the safety of these most vulnerable road users, the Apopka Police Department is conducting High Visibility Enforcement Details (HVE) from Tuesday, August 20, until the middle of May 2025 along U.S. 441 and East S.R. 436 (Semoan Boulevard) in Apopka. This area is over-represented in traffic crashes resulting in serious and fatal injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists.

HVE details are funded through a contract with the University of North Florida in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation’s focused initiative to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.

The goal of this enforcement effort is to increase awareness of and compliance with traffic laws that protect the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Enforcement efforts will focus primarily on ed-

ucation to drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. However, violations may result in warnings or citations depending on the circumstances.

According to the APD, Orange County ranks in the top 25 counties in the state for traffic crashes resulting in serious and fatal injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Safety tips to remember

Drivers should obey speed limits, never drive impaired, and always watch for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Bicyclists should obey traffic laws, ride in the direction of traffic, and use lights when riding at night.

Pedestrians should cross in crosswalks or at intersections, obey pedestrian signals, make sure they’re visible to drivers when walking at night, and use sidewalks when they are available.

County expands broadband in South Apopka



Pictured (l to r) are Orange County District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore, Orange County District 4 Maribel Gomez Cordero, Orange County District 4 Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings, and Marva Johnson, group vice president, State Government Affairs for Charter Communications.

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Broadband internet access is now available to residents in the Bithlo/Christmas area and in South Apopka, Orange County officials announced on Friday, August 9, at the Orange County Administration Building in Orlando.

Through a partnership with Charter Communications, some 1,132 addresses in east Orange County and an additional 209 residential properties in the northwest part of Orange County will now have access to high-speed internet.

“Providing internet

services to rural areas has been a challenge all over the United States, and we certainly have not been without challenges here. That’s why we’re excited about the fiber infrastructure expansion,” Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings said.

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Orange County learned that many county residents didn’t have access to important online services, such as virtual learning for students and telemedicine.

In partnership with Charter Communications

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This week Section A Opinion..... 2A Public Notice..... 4,7A Bus. Review 6,8A Worship 9A Dining & Ent..... 10A Kapers11A Section B Sports 1B Public Notice..... 2B Legal ads.....7-9B Classified.....10-12B Service Dir..... 12B Find Public Notices Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices-OR FloridaPublicNotices.com

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Apopka Event of the Week

Saturday, August 24, from 8:00 a.m., the VFW Post 1014 at 510 S. Central Ave., will host its monthly fund raising breakfast consisting of scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, coffee and water, all for \$5.

Quotable

In the bill's summary, it states that preliminary data from November 2023 showed approximately \$277.1 million worth of holdings in 211 Chinese companies.

Editorial is about retirement funds invested in foreign countries

Opinion

The Apopka Chief A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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Mar. 5, 1940 - July 16, 2024

Consultant Emeritus

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Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Investments should not continue to be made in China

(The Center Square) □

The Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) Audit Committee met this week to discuss the Sunshine State's investment performance and some changes that will impact foreign investment from certain countries.

Chris Spencer, the SBA executive director, was tasked by Gov. Ron DeSantis to analyze the state budget upon his (Spencer) appointment. Spencer said during the committee meeting that they have seen a 9.3 percent increase year-over-year and credited the state's recruitment and retention efforts, as well as a major focus on Florida's IT overhauls.

During the 2024 legislative session, lawmakers passed House Bill 7071, which limits the investments the SBA can hold on behalf of the Florida Retirement System which invests in companies owned by the Chinese government.

The bill prohibits the SBA from investing further in these Chinese companies. Furthermore, the SBA must identify any current holdings and divest from these interests by Sept. 1, 2025.

In the bill's summary, it states that preliminary data from November 2023 showed approximately \$277.1 million worth of holdings in 211 Chinese companies.

Spencer's two main focuses in his analysis were overseeing the implementation of the bill and updating the state board on its current status. He found that the number of Chinese companies was much higher than initially thought.

"We fully implemented that

when the governor signed this bill into law in June, we identified initially 547 publicly traded entities in China that would fall under that criteria and we've initiated contact now with our fund managers to implement divestment from that," Spencer said at the audit meeting on Monday.

Florida lawmakers previously enacted HB5C in 2023, which expands the criteria for prohibited investments and "scrutinized companies" related to Iran. This includes companies with assets linked to Iran and involved in the financial, manufacturing, petrochemical, energy, mining and shipbuilding sectors.

Spencer said that, as of June 2023, 13 companies had been added to a continued examination list related to the enactment of the legislation.

"The corporate governance team is going to continue to monitor those companies over the remainder of this year to determine what further action will be required as it relates to those companies," Spencer said.

The Actuarial Assumptions Conference will be held in October. The SBA will make recommendations to the conference, which will include keeping the current assumed rate-of-return unchanged and increasing contributions to the Defined Benefit Plan*.

**A defined-benefit plan is an employer-sponsored retirement plan where benefits are calculated on factors such as salary history and duration of employment.*



Creative economy is now on the rise

I'm not sure you are aware that in my spare time I am a vociferous reader. I heard that author Richard Florida was the keynote speaker this week at the Florida League of Cities. While I was jealous of not getting to hear his presentation, I did the next best thing – I purchased his book, "The Great Reset". Mr. Florida takes you through what he calls, "resets". He chronicles the impact of the 1870s economic downturns as a catalyst for the advent of train travel, industrialization, and the growth of urban cities. He also writes a chapter on the impact of the Great Depression, lower cost of automobiles, and growth of suburban sprawl.

This book, "The Great

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

Reset", is more about the economic changes from 2008 to 2010 and the rise of the creative economy. I would guess most of you have not considered how the world is changing from the Great Recession and large housing bust around 2010.

It is clear that in District 2 we haven't put enough thought and reflection into any of this. Shame on us. It is surely time if

we want to leave Northwest Orange County a better place. Lockhart has a great industrial heritage but never adequately developed its downtown core. I believe that is because Lockhart never incorporated. If the transportation tax had passed and a train station put at Mott and Edgewater drives, the downtown would have taken off sooner.

The good news is it isn't too late. On Tuesday, September 3rd, the People of Lockhart and I are installing our first "downtown" history marker. The Main Street Programs have derived four points to revitalize downtowns, and history is one of the main fea-

See MOORE Page 4A

Bus drivers are very much needed

We are off to a good start to the new school year, but there is one area that continues to be a struggle.

The shortage of bus drivers.

Our bus driver shortage continues to be an area of concern and stress for our families. The district is starting the year about 100 drivers short again.

I want to assure you all that the district continues to fight this problem in every way we can, and I do have some good news to share. But I also want to be honest; there is just no easy fix.

We are not unlike districts across the nation who

Orange County School
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

are all facing the difficult challenge of finding people interested in driving school buses. We also saw a rise in drivers retiring during the pandemic and have continued to struggle filling those losses.

Besides competing with companies like Ama-

zon which can offer considerably more money than school districts, in Central Florida we also compete with the theme parks for drivers.

Our funding is controlled by the state and is very limited. In fact, our annual transportation costs exceed what the state gives us for transportation by 55 percent. Despite this, the district has worked hard to find ways to attract drivers like providing a \$2,000 sign-on bonus, paying for the required CDL license training, additional poten-

See BYRD Page 4A

Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

Send, bring or email your signed letters of approximately 250 words to the Editor,

The Apopka Chief

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Email: news@theapokachief.com

Submit your letter online at theapokachief.com

This Week In God's Word

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
Romans 5:10

Mema Says

There's more evidence of God in our success, than in our poverty.

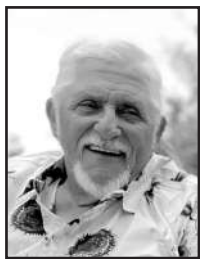
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As long as the pilot knows how to fly the plane, his race does not matter

"Our programs in the United States were the outgrowth of our programs in the rest of the world: social justice, vulnerable populations, civil rights, and the criminal justice system." This is a quote from George Soros, and it describes exactly what this administration has for its goals.

If you just read it without knowledge of the nuances intertwined with the language, it might sound decent. When you put the



Ike Hayden

meaning to each of the programs of how it works, you start to understand how radical and extreme these programs are. George Soros is the founder and the financial foundation for the

Open Society Foundation. Its initial objectives include challenging a racially discriminatory justice system and the associated mass incarceration of Black Americans. Supporting reproductive rights and advocating for humane and just immigration policies.

Every one of these goals began with the idea that the United States of America is racially biased when it comes to our justice system. According to the Open Society Founda-

tion, the blacks that are in jail aren't there for crimes committed, they are locked up because they are black. They are also upset with the USA not supporting "reproductive rights" (May I ask, what do they reproduce?) They are promoting abortion, the taking of life, not reproducing it.

This administration, and the next (if Kamala wins) will be lockstep with everything George Soros and his Open Society Foundation stand for. They have

titled it "DEI", diversity, equity, and inclusion. Doing away with meritocracy (giving a job to a man because of his ability, and education, not because of his race and the diverse populace it would create) would be utter nonsense.

I do not care what the race of the pilot in the cockpit, is as long as he has the skills and the abilities to fly the plane! I definitely do not want a heart doctor (Cardiologist) doing open heart surgery who re-

ceived his diploma because they needed diversity in the graduating class, and not meritocracy.

This business (money business) about everyone having the same ending, whether they deserve it or not, is ridiculous. That is what "Equity" is all about.

In sports it is called "a trophy for everyone, win or lose." How are the kids going to learn anything about "practice makes perfect,"

See HAYDEN Page 4A

State law not followed on reception of taxpayer funds

By Andrew Powell
The Center Square

Florida Auditor General Sherrill Norman has uncovered instances where some nonstate entities receiving taxpayer funds did not comply with state law when it came to their financial records.

For fiscal years ending October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the financial reporting packages of out-of-state nonprofits, for-profit organizations, and other entities were analyzed. Of the 236 reporting packages analyzed, it was found some were submitted past the deadline, some included miscalculations of finances, and others did not include other required doc-

uments per state law. State law requires any nonstate entity that expends more than \$750,000 in state financial assistance, to have an audit conducted according to the Florida Single Audit Act.

Of the 236 financial reporting packages, 21 of those did not submit their audits before the required deadline – with eight filing their audits up to 226 days after nine months had elapsed since the entity’s fiscal year end, or an average of 64 days. Another 14 entities filed up to 135 days after their respective audits had been delivered.

Norman and her staff further found that some entities did not fully complete their audit documents. Us-

ing a sample size of 60 financial reporting packages as of June 30, auditors for 14 of the applicable reporting packages did not include a management letter, nor indicate one was required.

Furthermore, nine auditors did not include the thresholds for distinguishing state projects on the schedule of findings and questioned costs, nor did they calculate thresholds in accordance with Florida Department of Financial Services rules.

The report noted the threshold calculations play an important role in determining major state projects as part of its risk-assessment process – miscalculations could lead to

overlooking high-risk state projects, and reduce the audit’s effectiveness and accountability over those projects.

A summary schedule of prior audit findings was not included by five auditors, a requirement according to rules of Norman’s office. Summary schedules provide information about the current status of any previous audit findings related to state financial assistance.

It was further found that four of the audits were performed by audit firms that did not hold an active or temporary license issued by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation – a state law requirement which could

lead to disciplinary action for the firms.

Norman recommended

entities verify auditors hold valid licenses to practice accountancy in Florida.

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Physician

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Physician

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City: Contractor was one of nine that bid

Continued from page 1A

prise LLC doing business as (d.b.a.) Asphalt Icons.

The city finance department received electronic bids on August 9. There were 1,845 notified users, 979 project views, and

46 vendors following this project.

Icon Construction Enterprise was one of nine contractors that submitted bid pricing.

This construction project consists of a 10-foot wide trail that runs on Mi-

chael Gladden from Park Ave to Hawthorne Ave., north to West Fifth Street, east to Marvin C. Zanders Ave., and also runs along South Central Avenue, between East Michael Gladden Boulevard and East Station Street. The project

will be a walkable friendly trail that ensures connection and the safety of residents within the city’s Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). Phase II of this project will be bid separately.



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Don't trash; recycle campaign signs

With the primary election now over, Orange County encourages residents to recycle campaign signs instead of throwing them in the trash.

In partnership with the City of Winter Park, the City of Orlando and the League of Women Voters, Orange County will collect campaign signs so they can be used as a cleaner energy source.

"The intent is to not send these single use signs off to the landfill," said Aimee Krivan, Pollution Prevention Program Coordinator with the County's Environmental Protection Division. "We have found a way

for these signs to have a second life."

The signs are sent to NuCycle where they are converted into Enviro-Fuel-cubes used by the cement and electrical power industries to replace coal. In 2022, the program's first year, it diverted 11,140 pounds in campaign signs from the landfill.

Wood and metal frames must be removed from signs before donating. Donations can be made from August 21 through September 1 at the following locations: Broadway United Methodist Church, 406 E. Amelia St., Orlando, FL 32803 First

Unitarian Church, 1901 E. Robinson St., Orlando, FL 32803 Solid Waste Management, 1028 Woods Avenue, Orlando, FL 32805 Porter Transfer Station, 1326 Good Homes Rd., Orlando, FL 32818 Cady Way Pool, 2529 Cady Way, Winter Park, FL 32792 Mead Botanical Garden, 1310 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789 Winter Park Fire Department - Station 64, 1439 Howell Branch Rd, Winter Park, FL 32789.

For more information about Orange County Government's sustainability and resilience efforts, visit ocfl.net/sustainability.

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 **Jose Chaves** has made application relating to the following described property.

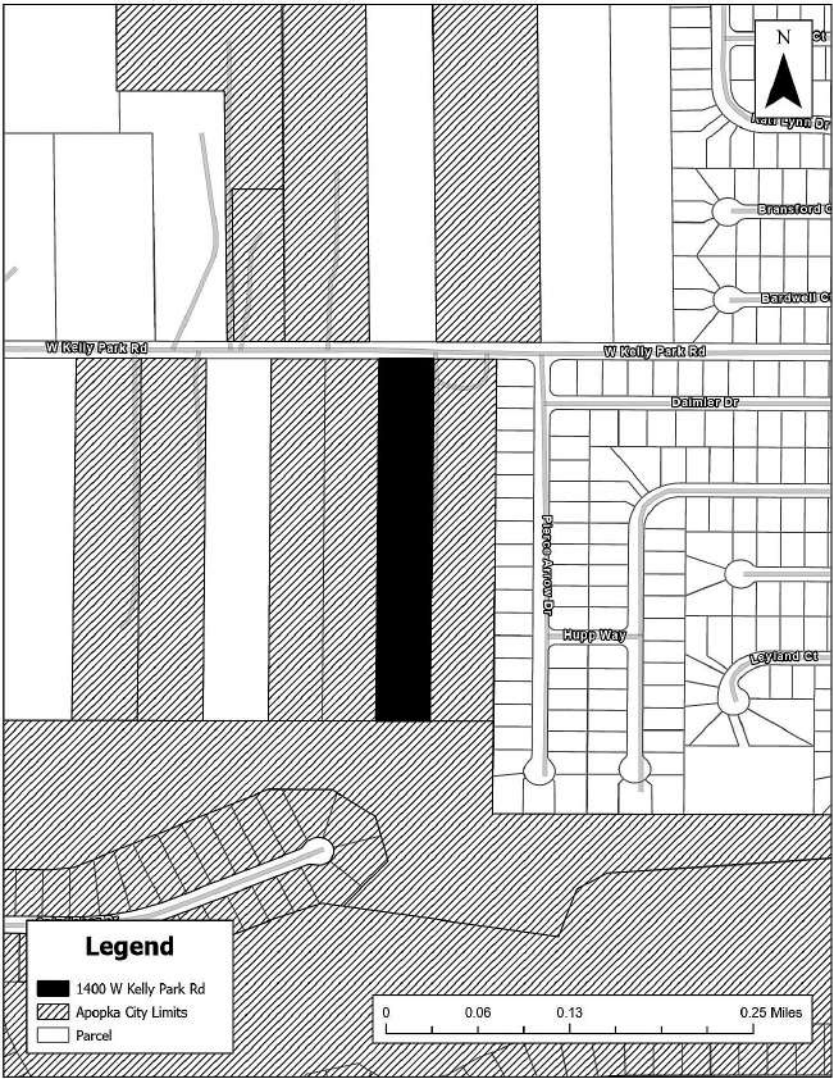
ORDINANCE NO. 3052

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM "COUNTY" RURAL TO RVLS (RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 1400 W KELLY PARK ROAD; OWNED BY MICHAEL GENTLES COMPRISING 5.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and

ORDINANCE NO. 3053

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITION) TO RSF-1A (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY ESTATE), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 1400 W KELLY PARK ROAD; OWNED BY MICHAEL GENTLES COMPRISING 5.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 17-20-28-0000-00-008
Contains: 5.06 +/- Acres

Notice is given that a public hearing for **Ordinance Number 3052 and 3053** 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, September 4, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

August 23, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177278

Moore: Suburban sprawl is real

Continued from page 2A

tures. We are doing what we can in Lockhart and waiting for Vision 2050 to pass and funding to come to improve Edgewater Drive.

The Pine Hills section of District 2 was developed during the suburban sprawl and automobile era. A vibrant, dense downtown does not exist. Most of the workers must travel too far to job markets. Richard Florida talks about the younger generation wanting to ditch the cars and big houses and reside in more creative communities. On a positive note, the Lynx Superstop is being rebuilt, the Pine Hills Trail expanded, downtown design features added, and my People of Clarcona-Ocoee group is painting a mural with artist

Delia Miller this Saturday at the Rebel Gas Station at the corner of Pine Hills and Clarcona-Ocoee roads. We are working towards a better Pine Hills.

As for Apopka, I hear many residents angry with the suburban sprawl and lack of infrastructure. It is unfortunate that big box stores, large scale farming in Central and South America, and the buy-out of Lake Apopka farms drastically changed the farming economics. Yet, Florida says this is the opportunity for a great reset. Apopka can become much more than a bedroom community for Orlando. Richard Florida has many ideas and methodologies to make this possible. I hope you read one of his books.

We are all part of a large mega-economy of

Central Florida. The possibilities for success economically and preserving our environmental treasures are endless. We can offer a much better way of life while contributing meaningfully to the productivity and prosperity of the economy. Florida mentions the reset from 2010 as our opportunity for higher education "sparking" the creation of the modern research-intensive university. Ah, we could benefit from thinking this through.

Yet too many times we sit back and let all the innovation locate in East Orange County, or the new chip industry and unmanned vehicles locate in Osceola County. We must do more than simply fill up large warehouses along Lake Apopka. We must innovate.

Byrd: More benefits are now offered

Continued from page 2A

tial incentives of \$10,800 and most recently, we worked with their union to secure an additional \$8,000 annual bonus paid quarterly for the next two years.

It's this last new \$16,000/two-year bonus that seems to be making an impact.

The district holds job fairs just about every two weeks but even with all of this, the applicants just haven't shown up. In the past, we were lucky to have five or six applicants attend the fairs.

Yet, this past Monday, at the district's most recent transportation fair, 140 applicants showed up after all the news coverage the previous week about the shortage and the new bonus system.

I remain hopeful that all these strategies will make a difference but it is going to take time and we will have to keep being creative to make up for the lack of funding we have available, which is always the bottom line concern. I tell you all of this because I ask for grace and creativity. Grace with the delays as many of our drivers have to do double pickups to each school because of the shortage. This causes considerable delays and extra early pickups.

Creativity in helping us where you can will be appreciated. If you can drive your child to school, please do. This allows the valuable seats to be used for children who have no other way to get to school. Work with neighbors and friends to create carpools

or create group walking or biking clubs. Work with your school's PTA to help organize neighborhood carpools.

I know this is incredibly frustrating and burdensome on families, students and staff. It's frustrating for me as well because I want nothing more than to ensure kids can get to school quickly and on time without issue so they can learn and be successful.

I will continue to work with district staff to look for solutions and I will also continue to reach out to our state legislators advocating for proper funding so we can compete for drivers. I encourage you to do the same.

Most of all, get the word out that we are hiring and encourage people you know to join our team.

Hayden: Groundwork has been laid

Continued from page 2A

or competition increases your desire to excel. Our education system has its sight: set on *dumbing down America*. If you don't believe that, ask your daughter, or son anything you remember from your 6th or 7th grade classes pertaining to history, American or World.

When my mom took me into town to shop for the month, we used to go to A&P, and after checking out three or four baskets full, she would tear off the bottom of the receipt (the total cost), hand it to me and ask me to total it, in my head.

I thought that was cruel and unusual punishment, but Mom would laugh and make a game out of it, and before long I became proficient in using my head as something more than a hat rack. To my shame, I do not incorporate those kinds

of learning exercises into teaching my kids. When we depend on our education system and do not take part, we throw our children to the wolves of the world. They are more than willing to teach *their way* of dealing with the world's ills, and it is absolutely demented.

The groundwork for our children to be radicalized has been laid. Our colleges are full of Socialists, Communists, and Globalists that have been taught by those same people that were students in the 70s and 80s.

Do you remember? It was a time of "me-ism's." Everything had to do with "me first." We started using words like self-awareness, self-esteem, self-assertion, self-denial, self-love, and self-care, and no one could tell them that it was a lonely, lonely world when you are the only one there. Those same people

are teaching in our colleges now.

The school attitude of most students now is, let me get by, by the skin of my teeth, and I will be *free!* When the goal is getting through, rather than getting educated to better the world, we are in trouble.

Those out to destroy America and our sovereignty are not sitting around talking, they are actively taking part in everything as planned by George Soros, the Open Society Foundation, the Globalists, and this administration.

What is amazing to me is, we have men and women willing to cross the ocean to fight and die for the freedoms we hold dear, and then there are those who will not cross the street to vote.

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

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags	850-617-2000
Building Dept.	407-836-8550
County Mayor	407-836-7370
County Commission	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

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

Protest: Livestream cut off again Aug. 21

Continued from page 1A

Before that, public comment usually took place after presentations, more toward the beginning of the meeting.

After discussion in the August 7 meeting, the City Council voted to move public comment back to immediately after the presentations. The motion was rejected 3-2, thus keeping public comment at the end of the meeting.

Since that meeting, residents raised concerns over public comment being moved to the end of City Council meeting. Because public comment was moved to the end, city staff was gone by the time public comment happened. Therefore, no one was available to answer residents' questions. Adding to that was the livestream cutoff, which barred many people watching the livestream from being able to hear what may be important, according to Garcia.

Garcia explained that as usual, she played the City Council live feed on her device while sitting in the Council Chambers where the meetings are held. A text message informed her

that the livestream had ended. Garcia noticed that was the case when she looked at her own device. In an unconventional move, she spoke directly to Commissioner Nick Nesta without being called on, informing that the live feed was cut off. Nesta immediately stopped the meeting and acknowledged what happened from the dais.

"When questioned, (city IT director) Rob Hippler said that he was working at the direction of the administration, meaning Bryan (Nelson) had asked him to do that, which is really disappointing, but it happened," Garcia said. "So, at that point, Nick Nesta picked up his phone and started live streaming from his Facebook page. As of right now, that's the only way that we can guarantee that public comment will be public for people to watch. He'll be doing that again tonight."

"It seems like every time we think our administration has done something completely shocking, he (Nelson) does something else that's even more shocking," Garcia added.

Public comment remained scheduled for the

end of the August 21 meeting. The livestream was cut off that night as well, yet public comment resumed. Nesta livestreamed this on his Facebook page.

"With the agendas looking like it does, public comment will still be at the end," Garcia said. "If it's going to be live streamed

or not, Mayor Nelson has not acknowledged that in the last two weeks at all, so, we don't know. Just in case it's not, Nick Nesta is going to be live streaming it from now on until he ensures that that's not something that we're going to have to deal with."

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Pump house at Lake Apopka



Photo courtesy of St. Johns River Water Management District.

The historic pump house is an attraction at Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, a one-way, 11-mile drive that meanders through the eastern portion of the District's Lake Apopka North Shore property.

BUSINESS PROFILE

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Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church

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407-886-7864 • www.wsbcapopka.org

Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church encourages that no matter where you are in life, allow yourself to find hope

For just a moment, forget everything you've ever thought of when it comes to church. Instead, picture a community of people who are striving together to discover God's purpose and plan for their lives. Imagine a home for all who are looking for hope. This is **Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church** in Apopka.

Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church is a gospel-centered church that was established over 50 years ago. They're dedicated to helping those in their community. They're committed to connecting people to Jesus and to one another.

Pastor, Mike Davis, has been the pastor of **Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church** for over 18 years. He's dedicated to the church, his ministry, and his weekly messages are always firmly rooted in scripture. He has a passion for making the complex simple, as he speaks truth to people in ways they can understand and apply to their everyday lives.

The weekly messages at **Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church** will help you grow in your spiritual walk. Because the Christian life is one of constant growth and development, they're focused on providing biblical principles that can be applied to everyday life.



Visit **Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church**. They're conveniently located at 584 N. Wekiwa Springs Road, Apopka, Florida.

They dedicate time to each other, get to know each other as friends and individuals, and spend time interacting as a church family. Their teachers and deacons are committed to help the hurting and to help those who want to grow spiritually through God's word.

Randy Cobb is the Minister of Music at **Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church**. He coordinates the musical and creative aspects of worship services and loves old time gospel music, which shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through song and encourages believers in their Christian walk. Randy works with the lead pastor in creating and coordinating special services and productions. He believes

in involving as many people as possible in the ministry of music. He leads and conducts the choir and regularly books gospel concerts.

Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church also offers an opportunity for children to worship. Their desire is to be a support to parents by offering a dynamic ministry to children. Their aim is to help children learn about God, develop a relationship with Him and learn to walk in His ways. **The Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church** Pioneers Club is available for grades 1-5 on Sunday morning during Sunday school hours 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

One of **Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church's** favorite ministry programs is "The

Good News Club." Several of their members meet with approximately 40 elementary students. They teach them Bible verses, songs, and play games. The students are having a great time while learning about Jesus Christ.

No matter what stage, age, or season you find yourself in, this church is here for you! They invite you to come just as you are and to be a part of this community of people who are moving together to discover God's purpose and plan for their lives. They're conveniently located at 584 N. Wekiwa Springs Road in Apopka, Florida. For more information, call 407-886-7864 or visit them at www.wsbcapopka.org.

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County: Expansion cost \$5 million, comes from federal funds

Continued from page 1A

Spectrum, Orange County installed underground fiber optic cables, giving residents access to high speed internet.

Demings also announced that through a partnership with the Aeras Foundation, wifi enabled digital devices are available to be loaned to qualified residents. Aeras works with community organizations and has already distributed more than 700 devices to residents.

“Overall, Orange County is addressing needs related to access and affordability. We are working to ensure that no one is left behind. We want to achieve digital equity so that all residents in Orange County can be fully connected,” Demings said.

These projects reflect a cost of over \$5 million. The money is coming from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which designated more than \$25 billion to be invested in affordable high-speed internet and connectivity across the United States.

Among the people Demings recognized for their efforts in seeing the broadband project come to fruition were Simone Bath, Orange County chief innovation and emerging technology officer; and Emily Bonilla, Orange County District 5 commissioner who represents areas including Bithlo/Christmas.

Bonilla explained the firsthand inconvenience of lacking broadband access to her home, so much so that she ensured the county would overcome this problem once she was first elected county commissioner in 2016.

“I am so happy to say that I now have a thousand megabytes per second in my internet,” Bonilla said. “It is just the best. I am now in the future. We finally caught up to technology and it’s just been great. You don’t hear anymore anyone yelling ‘Who’s using the internet?’”

South Apopka is not really rural like District 5, but it’s an underserved area, said District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore, who represents South Apopka. She pointed out that South Apopka first got paved roads when Linda Chapin was Orange County chair.

“We have a lot of new housing coming along and it’s hard to imagine that I had pockets of my district that didn’t have wifi, but think for a moment – you heard a little bit from Commissioner Bonilla – but think about students who had to head up to an area, the coffee shop at McDonald’s, just hunting for wifi. Yet those are the same fam-

ilies that are transportation challenged. They certainly were at a deficit compared to any other,” Moore said.

The broadband project was actually completed ahead of deadline. The state government affairs for Charter Communications took the challenge to get

the project done by March 2025, said Marva Johnson, group vice president, State Government Affairs for Charter Communications.

“This county understood how important making sure that every citizen had access to the same essential services would be.

You made the commitment to make that investment and partner with the public private sector partner to deliver it. So we’re very honored to be your partner in that effort and we’re very excited about this important step in closing a digital divide,” Johnson said.

Residents affected by the completion of this project are directed to visit spectrum.com or call (855) 860-9068 to become a new customer or upgrade their service. In addition to being newly connected, residents may qualify for special pricing.

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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 **Thomas Skelton** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3064
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE FROM RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM AND COMMERCIAL TO INSTITUTIONAL/PUBLIC USE, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED 996 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL AND 1000 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL; OWNED BY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF APOPKA, INC COMPRISING 6.99 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

and

ORDINANCE NO. 3065
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM RSF-1B (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY-LARGE LOT) AND C-C (COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL) TO O (OFFICE), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED 996 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL AND 1000 S ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL; OWNED BY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF APOPKA, INC COMPRISING 6.99 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Parcel Identification Number(s): 14-21-28-0000-00-044, 14-21-28-0000-00-054, 14-21-28-0000-00-116
Contains: 6.99 +/- Acres

Notice is given that a public hearing for **Ordinance Number 3064 and 3065** 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, September 4, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M.**

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

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

August 23, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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Obituaries

FRANK THOMAS (TOM) USTLER, 93, passed away on August 8. Tom is survived by: wife, Cairn Riffe Ustler; son, Craig Ustler (Charlotte); daughter, Amy Simpson Condon (Chris); two granddaughters; and former wife, Kathryn Chicone Ustler.

...



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The Many Faces of Prayer

“A single grateful thought toward heaven is the most perfect prayer.”
–Gotthold Lessing

Not just a grateful thought, but even just the feeling or sense of gratitude can act as a prayer, putting us in a better frame of mind and body. “Thank you God for this day” has always been the best way to start and end every day.

And there are a thousand ways to thank God, including spreading his bounty to others. But sometimes we need God’s help and then our prayers become petitions, which can be as simple as “God help me” or as long and complicated as Job’s complaints.

There is no single perfect prayer, and every

circumstance and every individual calls for its own prayer. Some like to kneel and say the prayers they learned as children while others may prefer to pray while seated, or in the comfort of their bed, while others may enjoy praying while running or riding a bike.

Just as we all have our own styles of communication with our friends and families, we all have our own styles of communication with God. And sometimes our prayers can be without words, groans or sighs which we send to God.

In whatever way you choose to pray, know that God is listening and that you are never alone.

– 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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In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Proverbs 14:26



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“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

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Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

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

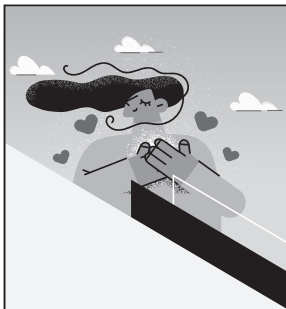
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The Many Faces of Prayer

(See message above.)

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

Romans 8:26 NIV



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Matthew 5:16

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County program launched to encourage new home construction

As part of its ongoing effort to address housing affordability through the Housing for All initiative, Orange County has launched “Ready Set Orange,” a new program designed to encourage the construction of starter-homes or small single-family homes and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU).

“The intent of this program is to provide greater attainable housing opportunities for residents by eliminating barriers in the process,” said Olan Hill, assistant manager of the county’s Planning Division. “Our current residential market is heavy on the single-family detached, and heavy on multi-

family attached, with very little supply of everything in between.”

“Ready Set Orange” customers can choose from eight pre-designed floorplan models and receive step-by-step instructions on how to apply for the program and how to obtain final construction permits. They may be able to cut costs and time associated with the permitting process.

An ADU is a smaller, independent residential dwelling unit located on the same lot as a stand-alone, detached single-family home. Orange County has allowed ADUs on residentially zoned properties since 2019. ADUs provide living space for fami-

ly members of homeowners or can be rented out by tenants for a period of more than 180 days.

Four of the “Ready Set Orange” floorplans available are for ADUs, ranging in size from 531 square feet to 708 square feet. The other four floorplans are for single-family homes, ranging in size from 1,150 square feet to 1,483 square feet.

For more information about “Ready Set Orange” visit Ready Set Orange at ocfl.net.

More information about the Housing for All Initiative can be found on the Housing For All webpage at orangecountyfl.net.

City to honor those who perished on 9/11

The Apopka Fire Department and Apopka Police Department invite the community to attend this year’s 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, where the city will honor and remember those who perished in the terrorist attacks on September

11, 2001.

On Wednesday, September 11, the service will start at 8:30 a.m. on the front steps of Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. The flag will be lowered to half-staff.

National Night Out is Tuesday, October 1

The Orange County Sheriff’s Office and fire departments will be at National Night Out, which will take place on Tuesday, October 1, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the recreation hall of Clarcona Resort, 3000 Clarcona Road, Apopka.

There will be free food

games for all (some competitive), holiday crafts, a bounce house and free raffle drawings with prizes to win.

Attendees can also paint a rock for their yard or help grow the CRCA rock snake in front of the office.

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Group explores film incentives in county

Orange County’s Film Incentive Workgroup held its first meeting on Tuesday, August 20, at 9 a.m. at the Orange County Administration Center in downtown Orlando.

Established by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), the workgroup is tasked with exploring the creation of a film incentive program.

Meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the BCC Chambers at the Orange County Administration Center in downtown Orlando. Dates include:

*Wednesday, September 11

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024

*Wednesday, October 9, 2024

*Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Meetings will be recorded for later viewing and will include public comment. The workgroup is expected to conclude and present its findings at the BCC meeting on October 29.

For more information about, visit ocfl.net/filmincentive.

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 4B

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

Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 4B

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A casserole of Creamed Green Beans takes 30 minutes to bake

Southern Living's All Time Favorites, 2009
Stir-Fry Pork and Cashews will be delicious served over steamy, hot rice. Chuckie's



Chuckwagon Stew from *A Taste of Heaven* by First Presbyterian Church, Punta Gorda, sounds interesting and flavorful. It sounds like Chuckie (from Punta Gorda) has a great time in the kitchen while he is cooking, and cooking should be an enjoyable adventure for us since we spend a lot of time doing it!

"R" months (September through April) are coming up week after next, and it will once again be safe to consume OYSTERS! In her book titled *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking*, Mrs. Emily Meggett says, "Frying Seafood can be a tricky thing. It's a fast process, but the key is to add just enough oil, and make sure the oil is hot enough for the oysters to actually fry instead of just soaking up the cooking oil. If you have a deep-fry thermometer, clip it to the side of the skillet and heat the oil over medium heat until the thermometer registers 350 degrees Fahrenheit. If you don't have a thermometer, just drop one oyster in on its side and cook: It should be golden brown on that side within one minute."

And to go along with her fried oysters, here are Miz Meggett's hushpuppies. She says, "Most people recognize hushpuppies as the can't-miss side for fried fish and other types of seafood. I'm one of those people. I enjoy eating hushpuppies with any fried seafood dish. These crisped balls of cornmeal are a lot like cornbread, but their perfectly soft interior and crispy exterior separates them from other cornmeal-based sides. Mine are similar to what you'd find in a southern restaurant." This recipe serves 6 to 8.

Creamed Green Beans from *Savannah Style* is very good and will work well for special occasions or simple suppers for your loved ones.

From New Vision's *Feeding the Flock*, we have cabbage slaw with crunchy Ramen noodles and browned sesame seeds and almonds, topped with a whip-up yourself dressing.

We can thank Pat Jania for this delicious slaw.

STIR-FRY PORK AND CASHEWS
SOUTHERN LIVING'S ALL TIME FAVORITES, 2009
1/2 pound boneless pork loin, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
3 tablespoons stir-fry sauce
1 tablespoon frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
1-1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/2 cup dry-roasted or unsalted cashews
Hot cooked rice

Garnish: green onions
1) Stir together first 4 ingredients.
2) Stir-fry pork mixture in hot oil in a large nonstick skillet 4 to 6 minutes; stir in cashews. Serve immediately with rice. Garnish, if desired. Makes two servings. Note: For four servings, use 1/3-cup stir-fry sauce, 1/4 cup vegetable oil, and double all other ingredients. Proceed as directed.

CHUCKIE'S CHUCKWAGON STEW
Recipe from
First Presbyterian Church,
Punta Gorda, Florida
A Taste of Heaven

2-1/2 pounds beef cubes (5 cups)
2 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon paprika
1 teaspoon chili powder
2 teaspoons salt
3 tablespoons lard (or any shortening)
2 onions, sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 (28 ounce) can tomatoes
3 tablespoons chili powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon dry crushed red pepper
2 cups potatoes, chopped
2 cups carrots, chopped

Coat beef in a mixture of flour, paprika, salt and 1 teaspoon chili powder. Mix well before coating meat. Brown in hot fat in a large Dutch-oven or roasting pan.

Add onions and garlic and cook until onions are soft.

Add tomatoes, chili powder, cinnamon, cloves and red pepper.

Cover and simmer for about two hours.

Add potatoes and carrots and cook until vegetables are done, about 45 minutes.

Feeds six cowboys or eight city slickers.

EMILY MEGGETT'S FRIED OYSTERS
Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett

2 large eggs, beaten
1 tablespoon grated onion
1/3 cup self-rising flour
1 pint shucked oysters
2 cups vegetable oil
1 lemon, quartered
Cocktail sauce for serving
1) In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs. Add the onion and flour, creating a batter. Set aside. 2) Drain the shucked oysters, and add them all at once to the batter. Mix the oysters and batter together, coating the oysters in the batter. 3) Pour the oil into a large cast-iron skillet. Heat the oil over high heat. There must be enough oil for the oysters to float, and the oil should be hot enough so the oysters don't sit and soak up all the oil. Once you have enough hot oil, reduce the heat to medium. 4) In batches, spoon the oysters into the hot oil and cook for about 1 minute on each side, until golden brown. Remove the fried oysters to a plate covered with a paper towel to drain. Serve the oysters with the lemon quarters and cocktail sauce.

EMILY MEGGETT'S HUSHPUPIES
Recipe from *Gullah Geechee Home Cooking* by Emily Meggett

1 large egg, beaten
2 tablespoons sugar
1 cup vegetable oil, plus 2 cups for frying
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups yellow cornmeal
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1-1/4 cups milk, whole or 2-percent
1 cup grated onion
1/2 cup chopped bell pepper
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1) In a large mixing bowl, use a spoon to beat together the egg, sugar, and 1 cup of the oil. 2) Add the flour, salt, cornmeal, and baking powder. Mix well. 3) Add the milk and mix. Add the onion, bell pepper, and cayenne pepper. Mix the ingredients together until well combined. 4) In a large skillet, heat 2 cups oil over high heat. Once the oil is shimmering, reduce the heat to medium. In batches, take heaping tablespoons of the cornmeal mixture and drop them in the oil. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes, until golden brown. You'll know they're done when the hushpup-

pies float. Drain the hushpuppies on a plate covered with a paper towel, and serve.

CREAMED GREEN BEANS
Recipe from
Savannah Style, a Cookbook by The Junior League of Savannah, Inc.
1/2 cup onion, finely sliced
1 tablespoon parsley, minced.
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon lemon peel, grated
1 cup sour cream
5 cups green beans, cooked and drained (should be French-sliced)
1/2 cup mushrooms, sautéed
1/2 cup sharp Cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 cup bread crumbs
2 tablespoons butter, melted

Cook onion and parsley in butter until tender, but not brown. Add flour, salt, pepper and lemon peel. Add sour cream and mix well. Stir in beans and mushrooms. Place in a 7 x 11-inch casserole. Top with grated cheese. Combine bread crumbs and melted butter and sprinkle on top of green beans. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes.

PAT JANIA'S CABBAGE CRUNCH SLAW
Recipe from New Vision Community Church's *Feeding the Flock*

Slaw:
4 tablespoons sesame seeds
1 cup slivered almonds
1 head cabbage, grated
4 green onions, sliced
2 packages chicken Ramen noodles, dry, without seasoning packets

In pan without oil, brown sesame seeds and almonds. Be careful not to burn. Toss salad ingredients together, add browned sesame seeds and almonds.

Dressing:
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
4 tablespoons sugar
6 tablespoons vinegar
1 cup oil
1 package chicken flavor Ramen noodles seasoning mix
Mix dressing ingredients together and pour over salad. Toss well. Serve.

AUGUST 2024



EVENTS



WEEKLY



UPCOMING



ONGOING



SCHOOL BEGAN AUGUST 12 – Traffic patterns will change. Stormy weather comes and goes! Be careful with your umbrellas. And always watch out for those school children ... 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: 8:45 a.m., Middle School: 9:30 a.m., High school: 7:20 a.m.

City of Apopka's Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dwellie Parkway, Apopka 32712, 407-703-1784. On any given weekend, you can see many, many families in attendance at the beautiful complex setting participating in various organized sport programs,

Amenities at the complex include: Soccer Fields, Softball Fields, Baseball Fields, Multi-Purpose Fields, Sand Volleyball Courts, Outdoor Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, **Walking Trail**, Amphitheater, Playground, Concession Stands.

11-mile wildlife drive (complete with directional signs) (opened in 2015) on Lake Apopka shores, by entering from Lust Road off Binion Road, about a mile south of Camp Wewa in the Plymouth area, for one-way drive, 10 miles per hour, with possible wildlife spotting stops. **DO NOT FEED THE GATORS - IT MAY CAUSE CLOSING OF THE TRAIL** If you are stopping, drive will take more than 1 hour. Drive runs by canals used in duck-farming days. The one-way drive exits on Jones Road in Zellwood. You will see a 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, AUGUST 23

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, AUGUST 24

VFW POST 10147 continues to have its fund raising breakfast on the **fourth Saturday of AUGUST (AUG. 24)** (because of early primary voting that ended on august 20.) 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, AUGUST 25 MONDAY, AUGUST 26

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, AUGUST 27

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, AUGUST 28

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. – meet

ing 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.Apopkatostmasters.com.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

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

Deadline is September 6 for applications to be received from students who are interested in becoming a member on the Apopka Youth Council. Visit apopka.gov Apopka Youth Council

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/2ABrmbs>, 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: apopkatgca@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 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.

TEMPORARILY CANCELLED: 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.**BUILDING CLOSED.**

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. **This branch library has been temporarily closed (beginning July 2024) due to inclement weather damage.**

*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 Info: fax 407-889-4121, or email ads@theapopkachief.com Subscribe to The Apopka Chief E-Edition or Home Delivery Call 407-886-2777 or Visit www.theapopkachief.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

FOG is the number one cause of sewer blockages

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are a part of our day-to-day lives. They are found in your foods, your cooking methods, your cleaners, your skin care products, and chemicals for your cars and yards.

FOG may look like an innocent liquid as it flows easily down your drains, but when it cools, it becomes a monstrous mass that can block pipes, clog pumps, as well as coating and damaging collection equipment. When pipes become blocked and sewer equipment fails, sewage takes the path of least resistance, backing up into homes and businesses, or streaming out of manholes in the streets.

FOG is the number one cause of sewer blockages both in your home and in the publicly owned treatment works (POTW). The city wants you to join it as a Grease Gladiator to fight this beast. You can help prevent costly damage to your home, the sewer system, and the environment.

As FOG solidifies in the pipes of your home or business, or in the city's collection system, it restricts the flow of the wastewater and damages equipment and pipes. But

the wastewater has to go somewhere, so it takes the path of least resistance and heads back into your home or comes pouring out into the streets. Raw sewage backing up into your home or business is expensive to fix, not to mention unpleasant to clean up.

A backup in the collection lines means raw sewage in yards, parking lots, and storm water drains. These overflows can cause potential contact with disease causing organisms. Sewer overflows are harmful to human and animal health, as well as having the potential to cause irreparable damage to your environment. A FOG ridden collection system costs public services more to maintain and repair which could result in higher sewer bills for customers.

If you experience sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) or come across one, please contact Public Services Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 407-703-1731 or for after-hours emergencies, please call 407-703-1757.

For more information, go to <https://www.apopka.gov/713/Residential-Grease-Management>

Sawyer Brown, John Anderson to play Apopka Proud concert

Country artists Sawyer Brown and John Anderson are returning to the Apopka Amphitheater for the highly anticipated 2024 Apopka Proud concert.

The Apopka Proud concert will be on Saturday, October 5, from 5:30-10 p.m., for a rare opportunity to see these country stars perform their greatest hits on their hometown stage. These Apopka natives will be joined by opening act Dallas Tyler, another local and aspiring country artist.

The high-energy country supergroup Sawyer Brown Band, founded in Apopka, Florida. Known for their blue-collar, grassroots songs reflecting on life, the band fea-

tures Apopka natives Mark Miller (lead vocals) and Greg Hubbard (keys/piano), along with Joe Smyth (drums/percussion) and Shayne Hill (lead guitar).

Joining Sawyer Brown is country music great and Apopka native John Anderson, a recent inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Anderson will return to the Apopka Amphitheater with an acoustic set and his newest album "Years."

Apopka Proud tickets are available on Eventbrite at shorturl.at/Ex4Ci with various purchasing options, including general admission lawn seats (\$25), covered amphitheater seating (\$50), and reserved tables (\$600). When purchas-

ing tickets on Eventbrite, official merchandise and a limited number of preferred parking passes will be available as add-ons (additional fees apply). Free general parking will also be available within the Northwest Recreation Complex, where the Apopka Amphitheater is located.

For general admission lawn seating, one chair will be permitted into the event per ticket. However, tents, umbrellas, tables, outside food, and beverages are prohibited inside the event. Various food and beverage options will be available for purchase inside the venue. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. for a 5:30 p.m. show time.



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GENERAL SERVICE: AUTO-BASICS

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

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Check out the Service Directory Pages

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www.TheApopkaChief.com