

Retiring

Internal medicine physician
Dr. Dean Behner retires after
35 years of practice.
See page 3A.



Sports

Apopka topples Ocoee for
second year in season opener
See page 1B.



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Wolf Lake ES opens village for students' interactive play

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Wolf Lake Elementary School unveiled an educational amenity that makes the school unique in Orange County Public Schools: a walk-through village complete with buildings such as police and fire departments, a city hall, and even Publix and McDonald's.

The grand opening of the Wolf Lake Elementary School Village took place at the school's Friday, August 23, house pep rally. Although the ribbon cutting marked the village's official opening, students have

begun playing in the village since OCPs's first day of school, which was August 12.

Among the noted community leaders who attended the pep rally and ribbon cutting were Apopka Mayor Bryan Nelson and Orange County School Board District 7 Member Melissa Byrd.

The village is set apart from other youth educational experiences because the village encourages real-world interaction in a city, such as day-by-day activities in some of the community's most familiar places.

"It makes it unique be-

cause these are the places that our students frequent," said Tamara Barton-Buggs, Wolf Lake Elementary School principal. "This is the place that students get to see it on an everyday basis. It teaches not even just the different careers, but the respect of the people who make our community such a great place to live. So all these Partners in Ed (Education) now, they have it here. They get to see it. They get to respect the careers, learn what is entailed in making these entities successful. And just

See VILLAGE Page 12A



Wolf Lake Elementary School had ribbon cutting, Friday, August 23, for this interactive play village complete with buildings such as police, fire department, city hall, and even Publix and McDonald's.

Public comment will remain at end of city council meetings, mayor says

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

Following the last two City Council meetings in which their YouTube livestreams were cut at the start of public comment scheduled at the meeting's end, Mayor Bryan Nelson said that section will stay scheduled where it is.

"We've already voted once on it and it was three to two to leave it where it is. So, we're done," Nelson said in an interview with *The Apopka Chief*.

Nelson defended putting public comment at the end of the meeting for city staff's convenience.

"We've got staff that have families and if it's just public comment, you know, for them to have to wait till the end of the meeting for their items, it just makes a lot more sense to put public comment at the end so that our employees can go home to their families," Nelson said.

Public comment has been allowed to continue despite the livestream cutoff. Nelson pointed out that the city began livestreaming its City Council meetings during the 2020 Covid pandemic because people could not attend in person.

"So, people that wanted to keep safe and stay at home were able to see, or hear the, audio/video. And so

that made sense at the time ... Audio is always available. Really, the public record is in our minutes. The minutes will always be reflective of everything that goes on at the council meeting."

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

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Apopka man has been arrested for solicitation of minors

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) arrested Isai Arias, 23, of Apopka, on two felony charges of solicitation of a minor and transmission of harmful material.

Arias was using social media messaging apps to solicit sexually explicit content from minors by asking young teenagers to send pictures or videos that were sexual in nature. He also lied about his age telling minors that he was also a teenager. In addition, agents say he sent lewd photos of himself to the children.



Arias

"This man pretended to be a teenager online to solicit minors into sending explicit images and

See FDLE Page 6A

CRA Board passes \$4.5 million budget

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

On Wednesday, August 21, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board voted unanimously on two resolutions regarding the approval of the CRA's fiscal year 2025 budget of about \$4.5 million.

Resolution No. 2024-02 is for rolling over the remaining money in the CRA Trust Fund balance from FY 2024 into FY 2025 for CRA projects that will be completed within three years from the date of appropriation. This resolution is required in accordance with Florida Statute 163.387.

Resolution 2024-03 is for the approval of the CRA budget for FY2025 totaling \$4,471,029. The estimated revenues include the funding from reserves of \$3,021,828; interest of

\$272,900; and ad valorem taxes of \$1,176,301.

The largest of the nearly \$4.5 million FY 2025 budget is put toward the Downtown Apopka Trail for \$3,133,059.

As was covered at the July 26 CRA Board workshop, some of the projects covered include \$65,000 for wayfinding signage, which will go up in the Community Redevelopment Area on U.S. Highway 441, according to city planner Bobby Howell; \$20,000 for historical recognition programs; and \$125,000 for the Community Redevelopment Area's community-oriented policing program.

Other budgeted items in the FY 2025 budget are \$5,500 for the state-required annual audit of the CRA; \$850 for the Florida Redevelopment Association annual conference that

includes three hotel nights and food; \$25,000 for downtown furniture including benches, trash cans, and bike racks; \$995 for the Florida Redevelopment Association annual membership; and the CRA's six assistance programs totaling \$480,000.

The CRA Redevelopment Trust Fund, established by Ordinance No. 783 on June 16, 1993, uses Tax Increment Funding from Orange County and the city of Apopka. All projects and programs are in accordance with Florida Statutes and the CRA Redevelopment Plan 2017~Update.

The CRA Redevelopment Plan 2017~Update provides the programs and projects that were approved by the CRA Board. Projects and programs continue to further the eco-

See CRA Page 6A

Two schools are recognized as Apple Distinguished Schools

Zellwood Elementary and Kelly Park schools are recognized as Apple Distinguished Schools for the three-year program term of 2024~2027, Orange County Public Schools announced on Wednesday, August 28.

Schools apply and are selected for this distinction based on their commitment to continuous innovation in education and using Apple products to inspire, imagine and impact teaching and learning.

"OCPS prides itself in being a leader in technology and innovation. By providing schools with the updated tech-

See APPLE Page 10A

Three officers are sworn in



Three police officers -- Juan Sanchez, James Maltby and Jordan Lara -- were sworn in on Tuesday, August 27, at Apopka City Hall by Apopka Police Chief Michael McKinley.

Wyld Oaks puts two dog park concepts up for public vote

Wyld Oaks debuted two designs for its BARK dog park at ICSC@Florida and kicked off public voting on Sunday, August 25, to help determine which design will become America's Top Dog Park. The public is encouraged to view the designs and cast their votes through September 30 at barkwyldoaks.com.

Wyld Oaks, a fully entitled and shovel-ready, 215-acre mixed-use development in Apopka that broke ground last Janu-

ary and is ahead of schedule and under budget on infrastructure work as it prepares to welcome the start of its first residential development, Madison at Wyld Oaks, later this year.

While site work has zoomed ahead, the development vision has also been advancing, resulting in a new master plan released in conjunction with ICSC@Florida that was held at the Orange County

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



Apopka Event of the Week

The North Orange Branch Library, 1211 N Semoran Blvd., Apopka will not be reopening during September, hopefully it will reopen during October.

Quotable

There are already plenty of places to play golf and pickleball, but there are fewer and fewer places to enjoy Florida in its true, undeveloped state.
Editorial is about negative reaction to proposed changes inside state parks

Opinion

The Apopka Chief
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher Emeritus
John Ricketson
Mar. 5, 1940 - July 16, 2024

Publisher
T. Jerrod Ricketson

Marketing Director
Jackie Trefcer

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

Reporters
Teresa Sargeant
Marshall Tempest
Neal Fisher

General Mgr Emeritus
Neoma Knox
Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Adaptation of initial program created unwelcome backlash

The Great Outdoors Initiative started as an executive order, signed in October 2023 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. It contained no mention of development inside Florida's state parks. The order aimed to "encourage all Florida residents to participate in outdoor recreation," and included three directives: 1) The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) was instructed to temporarily offer annual state park passes for half price; 2) The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was given the ability to temporarily offer some sportsman licenses for half price, and 3) Those temporary discounts were to be offered between Oct. 14, 2023 and Jan. 13, 2024.

On August 19, FDEP announced the launch of its 2024-25 Great Outdoors Initiative which will expand public access, increase outdoor activities and provide new lodging options across Florida's state parks reinforcing the state's dedication to conservation, the outdoor recreation economy and a high quality of life for Floridians. The initiative, initially signed in 2023, did not include these details until last week. The initiative calls for building pickleball courts, disc golf courses, a traditional golf course and expanded camping cabins. It also includes a 350-room lodge at Anastasia State Park in St. Augustine.

This week, there were protests all across the state after the park's development plan was quietly an-

nounced.

The backlash comes with many residents echoing the same opinions. There are already plenty of places to play golf and pickleball, but there are fewer and fewer places to enjoy Florida in its true, undeveloped state.

There is also opposition to displacing the various wildlife that are already being pushed out of their natural habitats. It's common for residents living near the Wekiva Springs State Park or Rock Springs Run to have deer and bear in their back yard as development encroaches on nature.

In 2023, Florida grew by 365,000+ residents. There is already so much necessary growth. Adding frivolous development within the state parks will destroy what remaining natural beauty we have to offer. There are so few places to go and just enjoy the quietness of nature.

Let's say no to developing our state parks. Once these developers get a taste of the "available" Florida land, it won't be too long before they show up asking if anyone minds developing a small part of north Lake Apopka or Wekiva Springs State Park or Rock Springs Run.

If you want to send your comments to state officials in support of or opposition to the Great Outdoor Initiative, contact the Florida Wildlife Federation through this link: <https://floridawildlifefederation.org/action-state-parks-threat/>



'The Great Reset' speaks about growth

Richard Florida in his book, "The Great Reset" posits that while many mourn economic downturns, such as the Great Depression and the Great Recession, crises present the opportunity to remake an entire economy and community. He believes that during "resets," patterns or principles can be seen which spur new eras of growth and prosperity while also creating a better quality of life for all. Therefore, we also can learn from these downturns and other cities' responses to improve our own cities in Orange County.

County Commissioner
District 2



Christine Moore

Florida mentions another author, Jane Jacobs, as the first to identify cities' diverse economic and social structures as the true engines of growth. He claims the southern part of the country has depended too much upon construction as the sole industry. What happens when people

stop moving to Florida?

And I know most of you want them to stop moving to Florida. Yet, what industries or lines of employment will support the already large population?

Florida mentions our tourism and convention business as our main economic drivers. Please don't share this tidbit with a certain columnist at the Sentinel. He is always denigrating our convention center. Nevertheless, he is right in one part; we need more diversity of employment. In

See MOORE Page 4A

17 states sue to stop new program

By T.A. DeFeo
The Center Square
Contributor

Attorneys general from 17 states are suing to stop the federal government from implementing a program they say gives migrant agricultural workers rights that American citizens working farm jobs do not have.

The coalition of states, led by South Carolina, contends that the U.S. Department of Labor's "Improving Protections for Workers in Temporary Agricultural Employment in the United States" rule effectively grants collective bargaining rights to agricultural migrant workers in the country under the H-2A visa program.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia's Brunswick Divi-

sion granted a motion for a preliminary injunction, stopping the rule from taking effect while the lawsuit is pending. The injunction is limited to the case's plaintiffs.

"Neither a nationwide injunction nor a nationwide stay is appropriate in this case," U.S. District Court Judge Lisa Godbey Wood wrote in the order. "Plaintiffs argue that universal relief is needed because this case implicates federal immigration laws, nationwide relief would protect similarly situated nonparties, and it would be more practical than party-specific preliminary relief. ...These arguments are unavailing."

Miles Berry Farm, the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and the states of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, In-

diana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia joined South Carolina in the lawsuit.

The action names the labor department, Assistant Secretary for the department's Employment and Training Administration Josue Rodriguez and its Wage and Hour Division Administrator Jessica Looman.

"Here we go again," South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson said in an announcement. "The Biden administration is almost constantly trying to enact rules and regulations that it does not have the authority to do, but we'll keep fighting this unconstitutional overreach every time it happens."

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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For info: 407-886-2777 Fax: 407-889-4121
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Submit your letter online at theapokkachief.com

This Week In God's Word

Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor. — Proverbs 12:24

Mema Says

Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest....Jesus

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.



An educated vote is what will be needed in the coming election

Have you ever made up a wish list?

When I was young (many moons ago), my mom and dad would ask my sister and me to make up a wish list for them. Of course, my wish list included things like real cars, motorcycles, real chaps, and a set of six shooters. Mom and Dad would then go down the list and pick out the one or two gifts they knew I would enjoy.

We have heard so much about "Trump's" Project 2025 and how radi-



Ike Hayden

cal it is. I want to explain the facts behind it.

First, it is a Conservative Wish List that has been written up by the Heritage Foundation, (conservative think tank) and it contains goals that will never be im-

plemented because they are so radical they would not be able to pass the Legislature. Even conservatives today find those goals impossible.

Secondly, there are 700 policy proposals, and the Democrats are correct when they say Donald Trump has 270 of these in his platform or introduced them in his last term as President.

As I have stated, these are from a conservative think tank and those policies that President Trump

introduced were welcomed as common-sensical approaches by Democrats and Republicans for different situations.

I wish (there I go again!) those that are railing on President Trump's usage of those few policies, out of the 700, would be asked what those policies were. If they would answer truthfully, you would find those policies helped build the super economy we enjoyed during President Trump's four years as Commander-in-Chief of

our nation.

As a conservative think tank, don't you think the Heritage Foundation would have included all those policies also? Neither Kamala Harris, nor her running mate Tim Walz, have records they can run on, so they present innuendo about President Trump's relationship with the 2025 Project.

It is like throwing mud and hoping it sticks. I find when you do that, you not only get your hands dirty, but you lose a lot of

ground. My desire is to have the politicians reveal their policies for our economic growth, national security, foreign interaction, and border control.

Let "We the People" choose the best team by comparing the different policies they present. That is where each nominee's history comes into play. It is our place to spend time searching the past for each nominee's performance and how it affected the

See HAYDEN Page 4A

Doctor of internal medicine retires after 35 years of practice

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

After graduating in 1986 from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, Calif. – which included three years of internal medicine – Dr. Dean Behner moved to Apopka to practice internal medicine.

Originally from Indiana, Behner realized he preferred to live in warm climate while attending medical school in Southern California. However, because the state was “too crowded” for him, he opted to move to Texas or Florida after graduation. He chose Florida because his parents were living in Altamonte Springs at that time. They moved from Indiana to Altamonte Springs while Behner was in medical school.

As well, Florida Hospital – now known as AdventHealth – acquired the practice located at Apopka Medical Center on 125 S. Park Ave. and recruited Behner for employment.

“Apopka has always had everything I was looking for. It met every need. I grew up in rural settings,



Dr. Dean Behner

always lived in rural settings,” Behner said. “I like being near a large city, which Orlando meets the bill for that, but I preferred to live out somewhere. When I came here 35 years ago, there was no other internal medicine physician in town. There were family practice doctors, but no internal medicine.”

For 35 years, Behner practiced internal medicine in Apopka Medical Center, a facility at 125 S. Park Ave., that was built in 1953 and predated Florida Hospital. Now he’s retiring, effective August 31 – or, as he prefers to describe it, “currently unemployed.”

“My employment officially runs through the end of August. I’m here ev-

ery day. I still work on the computer, prescriptions and requests and so forth online. So, I haven’t totally stepped out yet. Maybe it’ll be different now that I’m older that I can sit still. But I’m not one to do nothing basically.”

Internal medicine, as opposed to family practice, deals only with adults.

“We really enjoy the very ill patient. I mean, we don’t like them being ill,

but in those days in particular, we were the physicians who ran the medical intensive care units,” Behner said. “At that time, even in Los Angeles, there was no intensive care trained physician that was just starting. So, we became very accustomed and we’re quite fond in internal medicine of taking care of the sickest of the sick patients. Family practice typically do not want to do that at all. But again,

they deal with children, which we don’t. So, we’re a little different in that respect, even though there is some overlap with the family practice.”

Decades as a doctor of internal medicine brought memories to Behner. He recalled Dr. Joseph Akerman, the community physician who was at the Apopka Medical Center for 35 years prior to Behner.

For most of those 35

years, Akerman’s partner was general surgeon and primary care physician Dr. Walter Heidrich. Heidrich retired a year or so before Behner was recruited, so they never met. However, Akerman stayed on for the first six months of Behner’s employment before retiring. Akerman died in 2008 at age 87. Akerman’s wife, Orfa Palko Akerman, was a

See BEHNER Page 5A

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WITH SPECIAL GUEST
ALANA SPRINGSTEEN

Moore: People leave boring areas Public comments need to be heard

Continued from page 2A

Apopka, we needed to consider 30 years ago how the city would remake itself after the farms closed.

The Board of County Commissioners has taken a large role in promoting the simulation industry and tech hub around the University of Central Florida. Osceola County is promoting the semiconductor chip and automation industries. Orlando was named the best city for sports entertainment in the U.S. These are positive examples of developing new industries in our region. I can tell you many of the businesses in Lockhart are thriving due to the construction of Universal's new theme park, Epic Universe. Yet, in District 2, we still need to diversify our economy from construction.

Richard Florida gives many great examples. If we follow these examples, the principles will bring new opportunity and excitement to our communities, he posits. Innovation is what keeps cities vital and relevant.

Author Jacobs states, "When a place gets boring, even the rich people leave." Without openness as well, a city will lack the ability to attract diverse talent. New talent and ideas are needed to replenish energy and capacity. Our city must have the ability to attract and retain top talent.

Mr. Florida uses Charlotte, North Carolina, to describe its resurgence and success. Here it is - the secret sauce, "The city has built up its downtown, incubated cultural activities, and improved its over-

all talent base of educated professionals." In other words, he says, "Put people first." If we don't, the talent will move from a community that is in decline to one that offers better opportunity.

I have heard these cries on social media repeatedly, yet, cries and frustration do not solve problems. They are the floor to start innovating. A single political leader will never solve systemic societal problems. My next column will share more of Richard Florida's solutions from regions successfully adapting to changing conditions.

I hope you get interested in reading a few of his books. His books have stimulated my thinking and problem-solving skills. I sure could use more help.

Editor:

Citizens have the right to speak unfettered by council members during any comment period at meetings, 1st on the whim of the mayor of Apopka.

I sent the mayor a letter entitled "Destruction of the Citizens 1st Amendment Rights and the Public Comments" on August 9 regarding the August 7 attack on their rights.

"In *Lozman v City of Riviera Beach, Florida*, 2018, the US Supreme Court indicated that the council could not stop a citizen from speaking during Public Comment even if it was about another topic. Public Comment time is

free and open.

It is free speech, and the convener cannot control the mouth of the public person (no matter how much s/he wants). Even if the State has a meeting conduct guideline or community development conventions give PR suggestions, the US Supreme Court has ruled such in that recent Florida case.

We have the right to speak on issues coming before the Council and you need to hear what we have to say, if we can make it there. I sure wish I could be there more often. By coming before, I mean in that meeting. You need to know BEFORE you vote

you need time to digest what the citizens feel, not AFTER. And, yes, comments written and sent in should be able to be read into the record from CITIZENS when they have disabilities. Accommodations should be made. This was expressed strongly during COVID-19 isolation when electronics were introduced more widely.

Regularly, public comment has been missed on issues prior to votes.

How does this allow you to represent us, your employer? It doesn't."

<https://bit.ly/Lozman-VRivieraBch>

Dr. Phyllis Olmsted
Apopka

Hayden: Your vote is essential

Continued from page 2A

United States of America, and its people.

I am not talking about listening to the rhetoric put out by the politicians or their campaign, but about searching for their track record from the past. Be careful, because the media is fraught with half-truths and falsehoods to keep you confused and discouraged.

That is why we ought to feel free to talk with someone else about our findings, and our reason for voting for one candidate or the other. In times gone

by, we used to sit around tables, with coffee, tea, or other beverages, and debate different views. Finally, we would separate to mull over what was discussed, and many times, outlooks had been changed.

We seem not to be able to discuss things, but to take what someone says on TV or in an advertisement as the truth without any further vetting.

Our nation's future is in jeopardy, and it is imperative that we take the time to ask questions, expect answers, and then act on what our common sense and our

investigation tells us. After we have settled our minds on what our choices should be, then we should go out and vote.

In our state's primary, just held on August 20, we had a voter turnout of 16.99 percent. What a shame.

If you complain about how the government is failing your expectations and you choose me as your sounding board, the first question I will ask is, "Did you vote?" If you answer "no," then I will tell you it is none of your business how the government is doing.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SPECIAL EXCEPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Tara Tedrow** has made an application, in accordance with Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 4.2.2.C to the City of Apopka Planning Commission for a **SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW THE USE OF AN OUTDOOR STORAGE AS A PRINCIPAL USE IN THE I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) ZONING DISTRICT.**

This application relates to the following described property located at 100 Hermit Smith Road:



Parcel Identification Number(s): 01-21-27-0000-00-080
Contains: 4.15 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the Special Exception request at its scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall on **Tuesday, September 10, 2024, beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. 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, Florida 32703; Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

August 30, 2024

Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177323

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.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.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

Behner: He recalls late doctor’s hands-on healthcare practice

Continued from page 3A

registered nurse. She died this past April at age 94.

“I know I’ve seen several thousand unique patients,” Behner said. “Dr. Akerman told me that he actually delivered 3,000 babies in Apopka. That seems incredible. He was a general practitioner, but in those days, the GPs (general practitioners) delivered the babies.”

Behner recalled how Akerman was hands-on in administering healthcare to his patients, from transporting patients from local vehi-

cular accident scenes to the Apopka Medical Center to providing them overnight stay at the facility.

“He would get calls from the police from minor auto accidents in nearby Apopka in those days,” Behner said. “They did not have a paramedic system, so he had a station wagon. He would go out, meet the police on the street, pick up the patient, bring them here, run them back to the shower back there, wash them off, and stitch them up. If they were critically ill, of course, they went downtown to Orlando. But there

was many a patient that could be treated here somewhat similar as an emergency room would’ve done for the patient. In some cases, his nurse would even stay here overnight with the patient. They would board them in a room in the back, and she would simply stay here and let them go the next day rather than send them all the way to a hospital for an overnight stay.”

Behner lives in Apopka with his wife. Their only child, a daughter, has moved out of the United States.

Pursuing his several

interests, Behner intends to continue various at-home projects and contribute his time and skillset to Shepherd’s Hope by providing free healthcare for the uninsured. His parents have passed away.

“I don’t have any immediate family in Apopka anymore, but I have no desire to move away. I love my house in a rural setting. It was wonderful property to pick up that was irreplaceable really.”

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DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (R) 12:30; 4:00; 7:10; 10:10
ALIEN: ROMULUS (R) 12:50; 4:10; 7:20; 10:20
DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG) 1:00; 3:50
BLINK TWICE (R) 1:20; 4:40; 7:30; 10:30
INSIDE OUT 2 (PG) 1:30; 4:20
AFRAID (PG-13) 1:50; 4:30; 7:00; 9:30
TWISTERS (PG-13) 6:40; 9:40
THE CROW (R) 7:40; 10:40

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County gives Northwest Recreation project application top score for funding

The city of Apopka’s application to secure Orange County Tourism Development Tax (TDT) funding received the top score out of all applications by the TDT Application Review Committee at their tentative scoring meeting held on Friday, August 16, at the Orange County Commission Chambers.

The city of Apopka’s application titled, “Northwest Rec: 2025 and Beyond” outlined a \$13.1-million proposal to expand the Northwest Recreation Complex by bringing four new softball fields with associated amenities and expanded amenity upgrades to the Apopka Amphitheater.

Apopka Parks and Recreation Department prepared the application, and department director Radley Wil-

liams presented the application to the TDT. The application highlighted the existing and future impacts the Northwest Recreation Complex has on Orange County tourism and local economy. In 2023, the complex hosted over 58,000 visitors across 58 sports tournaments and over 31,000 visitors across 15 concerts.

The TDT Application Review Committee will hold its final scoring meeting on Friday, September 13, 2024 at 9 a.m. in the Orange County Commission Chambers. At this meeting, the committee’s final recommendation will be drafted and approved for submission to the Tourist Development Council and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners.

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners is set to decide on the final awarding of the TDT funding at a meeting in early October.

The Orange County Tourism Development Tax Application Review Committee reviews grant applications and makes recommendations to the Tourist Development Council, with the final decision being made by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. The capital project request should be for a dollar amount in excess of \$2 million and up to and including \$15 million toward a project for the acquisition, construction, expansion, enlargement, renovation, and equipping of eligible facilities.

Public: Meeting schedule was changed beginning August 7

Continued from page 1A

“The eight people that showed up? I mean, it was only eight people, so it didn’t seem like there was a lot of support for that,” Nelson said.

Public comment was scheduled after the mayor’s report on both the August 7 and August 21 agendas.

Prior to August 7, public comment usually took place after presentations, more toward the beginning of the meeting.

After discussion at 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.

Commissioner Nick Nesta livestreamed the August 7 and 21 public comment on his Facebook page.

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The Apopka Chief

FDLE: Meeting schedule was changed begin

Continued from page 1A

sent lewd pictures of himself to children. This is why it is so important for parents to talk to their kids about safe online practices and the threat of digital predators,” said Attorney General Ashley Moody.

“FDLE is committed to finding and arresting these dangerous predators who seek out innocent children

online. These predators pretend to be someone they are not in the hopes of engaging with minors online through social media messaging apps,” said FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass.

The OROC Cybercrimes Task Force is investigating this case and further charges are pending.

FDLE executed an arrest warrant for Isai Arias on August 15 and subsequently arrested him. He was trans-

ported to the Orange County Jail later that day. Arias is being held without bond pending first appearance.

This case is being prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office of Statewide Prosecution.

Visit the FDLE website to review tips for keeping children safe online at www.secureflorida.org/SF/Family-Safety/BPParents.

CRA: Council awarded downtown trail contract

Continued from page 1A

conomic and redevelopment goals of the CRA.

Located downtown, the Apopka Community Redevelopment Area is com-

prised of 633 acres that has a mix of residences, businesses, and historic properties. The area is bound on the south by 10th and 11th Streets, Hawthorne Avenue to the west, Oak Street to the north, and sections of multiple streets to the east including but not limited to Highland Avenue, Monroe Avenue and Alabama Avenue.

The local government created the Apopka CRA Board to direct the agency. This board is composed of

Apopka City Council members, an Orange County Board of County Commissioners representative, and other individuals appointed by the local government.

Contract for downtown trail

At the August 21 City Council meeting, the City Council unanimously approved awarding a contract for the Downtown Apopka Trail, Phase I construction to Icon Construction Enterprise LLC doing business



as Asphalt Icons.

The contract was in the amount of \$1,051,330.89 including a 10 percent contingency of \$105,133.09, for a total of \$1,156,463.98. Phase II of this project will be bid separately.

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

The project will be a walkable friendly trail that ensures connection and the safety of residents within the city’s CRA District.

Congratulations, Elder Elcee and Mother Josephine Pollock



Praise Him by Ladina (sister)
*To God be the glory
for his love so dear
Years of love, work, and grace
never could have made it without his
presence so near.
Come unto me, all ye that labor
and I will give you rest.
For 74 years you have given your best.*

Elcee Pollock was born November 9, 1928, in Bascom, Florida, and Josephine Couch was born March 20, 1932, in Sanford, Alabama. They celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary on August 13, the same date they were married in 1950 in New Jersey.

Both are now retired. Elcee was a contractor in the Citrus industry and Josephine was a homemaker. Together they raised their two children, plus they raised one nephew, five grandchildren, and four great grands.

We love you both and thank God for the blessing of our family for such a match made in Heaven.

Your loving family

**CITY OF APOPKA
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
AMENDMENT TO APOPKA LAND
DEVELOPMENT CODE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Land Development Code of the City of Apopka, Florida in accordance with Florida Statutes 166.0413(3)(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B), to revise sections of said Land Development Code as specified within the Ordinance title and within Ordinance Number 3075.

ORDINANCE NO. 3075
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF APOPKA BY AMENDING PART III – LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; ARTICLE 4 – USE REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.2 PRINCIPAL USES, TABLE 4.2.2.C. PRINCIPAL USE TABLE TO PERMIT RECREATION FACILITY, OUTDOOR AS A PERMITTED USE IN THE C-COR (CORRIDOR COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) AND MU-D (MIXED-USE DOWNTOWN) ZONING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, **Florida on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.,** or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3075 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, October 2, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M. AND Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Text Amendment 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 30, 2024
Publish: The Apopka Chief



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Apopka High School Class of 1984 donates to SGA

In a heartwarming gesture of community support, the Apopka High School Class of 1984 came together to make a significant donation to the Apopka High School Student Government Association (SGA), according to an August 8 news release. The donation, which included a wide array of personal hygiene items, was aimed at helping students who are homeless or less fortunate.

The Class of 1984's donation included essential perishable items such as soap

bars, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, razors, shaving cream, sanitary products, and face wipes. These items will be distributed by the SGA to students in need, ensuring they have access to basic necessities that many of us take for granted.

The initiative was further bolstered by contributions from several local organizations. The Temple of Faith Church, Sam's Club, Three Odd Guys Brewing Company,

The Smoke Exchange, and Mullinax Ford all joined in, providing additional donations to support the cause. Their generosity underscores the strength of the Apopka community and its commitment to supporting the well-being of all students.

"We wanted to give back to the school that gave us so much. Knowing that some of our students are facing difficult times, we felt it was our responsibility to help in any way we could. It's about making sure every student has the dignity and support

they deserve," said a representative from the Class of 1984.

The Apopka High School SGA expressed deep gratitude for the donations, highlighting the positive impact they will have on the student body.

"These contributions will go a long way in helping our fellow students who are going through tough times," said an SGA spokesperson. "It's inspiring to see alumni and the community come together to make a difference."

CHC appoints new member to board of directors

Community Health Centers, Inc. (CHC) announces the appointment of Dr. Kathy Rovito to its Board of Directors.

Dr. Rovito currently serves as the Faculty Director of the Community Health Program in the Department of Health Professions at Rollins College. She has a rich history of dedication to underserved populations. Her academic credentials include a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Central Florida, a Master's in Public Health from Boston University, and a Doctorate in Public Health from Loma Linda University.

Dr. Rovito's professional journey encompasses extensive work in public health education and research. She has facilitated

bilingual health education workshops for youth refugees and underserved communities in Central America, led initiatives addressing food insecurity in South Boston, and used motivational interviewing to support at-risk youth in emergency settings. Her leadership extends to The Male Wellness Collective, where she focuses on enhancing the health and well-being of men and boys through evidence-informed outreach and research.

In addition to her academic and professional achievements, Dr. Rovito actively contributes to various community initiatives, including the Resilience Network through the Peace and Justice Institute and the Florida Healthy Youth Alliance. She also supports

the philanthropic efforts of 100 Women Strong, a circle dedicated to addressing challenges affecting women and children in Central Florida.

Expressing her enthusiasm about joining the CHC Board, Dr. Rovito stated, "I am an advocate for community and public health, especially for underserved populations. I look forward to contributing to CHC's mission and working alongside dedicated professionals to enhance the well-being of our Central Florida community."

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Rovito join our Board of Directors," said Dr. Debra Andree, president and Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Centers, Inc. "Her extensive experience in

health education, research, and community engagement, combined with her passion for our mission, will greatly benefit our organization and the communities we serve."

The CHC Board of Directors plays a crucial role in guiding the organization's strategic planning, financial oversight, legal compliance, and policy development. With more than 50 percent of its members being patients of CHC, the board is dedicated to ensuring the delivery of quality and compassionate healthcare services.

Established in 1972, Community Health Centers, Inc., operates 16 medical and dental centers across Central Florida. CHC accepts Medicaid, Medicare, and most private

insurance plans, and offers a Sliding Discount Program for those meeting income guidelines.

For more information

about Community Health Centers, Inc., and its services, visit chcfl.org or call 407-905-8827.

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The Ninth Circuit Court's Self Help Center provides low-cost legal assistance in family law, small claims and residential eviction cases.

Named in honor of the late Orange County Clerk of Courts Lydia Gardner, the Self Help Center was created to provide customers with limited legal guidance and low-cost attorney consultations.

The Center is the first of its kind in the Orange County Community to help citizens who either don't have a lawyer or cannot afford one. The services provided are not based on income.

The Self Help Center will assist only with the following case types: * **Family Law** (excluding restraining orders); Child Custody/Child Support; Divorce; Paternity * **Small Claims** * **Residential Evictions** * **Location** of the Orange County Courthouse is 425 North Orange Ave., Suite 340 (3rd floor), Orlando, FL 32801

* **Hours of Operation:** Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Services include: Form completion assistance, and Notary and copy services

* **Virtual Attorney Consultations**

Attorney consultations are available and may be scheduled in 15-minute sessions, for up to 1 hour per day, per person. The cost for an attorney consultation is \$1 per minute.

The Self Help Center is a collaborative partnership between the Orange County Bar Association and the Clerk's Office. All attorneys are referred by the Orange County Bar Association. Note, the attorneys that provide legal assistance at the Self Help Center cannot represent you in court.

Attorney consultation fees must be paid at the time the appointment is scheduled. Refunds will not be issued for cancelled or missed appointments – no exceptions. Once set, appointment times may not be changed. Attorney consultation appointments cannot be made nor conducted by telephone.

* **Contact Information:** 425 North Orange Ave., Suite 340 (3rd floor), Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 836-6300, Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Yandell: Changes that are made will affect others around you

Continued from page 4A

to think their testimony and witness to a (spiritually) lost world is inconsequential; they should think again. Paul's missionary journeys through the known world exhibited supernatural events seldom seen. The Macedonian Call (Acts 16: 9-10), is such a case.

The case of the poisonous viper striking Paul (Acts 28: 1-6) and no harm coming to him was another miraculous event. This may not have initiated a change in Paul but having witnessed the incident changed the lives of others.

Paul's meeting Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth (Acts 18: 2-3) can only be described as a divine appointment. He changed the direction of their lives and they changed him. When we change our direction, we must become analyti-

cal of the situation and careful in making decisions concerning them.

Aquila and Priscilla were tent makers as was Paul. This reference opened a very special relationship and opportunities to share the Gospel of our Jesus. Do we ever discuss our faith with our co-workers, like-minded individuals or other acquaintances?

The turning point opportunities in our lives are varied and many. We must be ever vigilant and analytical of situations and make a decision based on scriptural teachings. No one said these decisions would be easy but they come more often than we would sometimes prefer.

A very depressing account of a person that made a wrong decision and took the wrong direction was King Agrippa. Acts 26: 28 "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, you almost persuaded me to be a Christian." "Almost" in this

verse may be among the most heart rending words in the Bible and shows us how quickly a wrong turn can be made.

In writing this, my hope is, if the reader has made the right decision in his/her relationship with God; please consider those in your shadow. Help them to be guided toward a life of fulfillment in a belief that eternal salvation is attained by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) in Christ Jesus crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (1 John 1: 9) and resurrected (Matthew 28: 6).

Lao Tzu, a Chinese philosopher said "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading."

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary.
His email: vmy2121@outlook.com

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Your Guide to Local Businesses

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Graceworx Community Church invites Public to Reflect on what Labor Day is all about

One-hundred-and-thirty years ago (1894), U.S. President Grover Cleveland signed the law that made Labor Day a federal holiday.

Because of that law, millions of Americans will wave good-bye to their normal work-day routine this September 2. However, it's questionable just how many will actually spend even a few minutes of Labor Day in gratitude that, fortunately, working conditions aren't what they used to be a century or more ago.

So maybe it would be good to do a little reflecting *before* we become caught up in whatever activity we choose for our day off from work and school.

Work is as old as humanity itself, according to the biblical book of Genesis. Adam and Eve had no sooner been created than God put them into a breath-takingly beautiful garden. And no sooner had they ceased their oohing and aahing (a little imagination here!) than their Creator said, "Oh, I should mention: The only way this garden is going to stay so beautiful is if you take care of it. In other words, you're going to have to work."

Work, despite the sweat — whether literally or figuratively — has always been honorable, right from the day Adam and Eve began to tend the garden.

However, an own-



Graceworx Community Church conducts an hour-long worship service at 11:30 AM each Saturday morning in the sanctuary of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 9913 Bear Lake Road, Apopka, FL 32703. The public is invited. For more information, phone 321-228-4599; email graceworxcc@gmail.com.

er/manager/employee class arose early in Earth's history, a class whose wealth and power meant they didn't have to do the heavy lifting and sweating themselves — because they could pay others to do it for them.

These two groupings eventually came to be called Capital and Labor. And we have plenty of examples—both ancient and modern—that Capital can become ruthless in what it demands of Labor. And Labor has discovered that through collective bargaining it can wield considerable influence. It's a symbiotic—but at times fraught—relationship.

In the Torah, Moses included what we might call fair-labor practices. His rules are predicated on a fair day's output from the worker. They also include fair treatment and fair remuneration from the employ-

er. Note just one example of Moses' concerns for workers in that era: Since many lived hand-to-mouth, Moses required employers to pay workers on the day they'd worked, not days or weeks later.

In the New Testament book of James, some employers who were wantonly taking advantage of their employees received an unmitigated tongue lashing: "Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on Earth in luxury and self-indulgence..." Strident language indeed.

As we celebrate Labor Day on September 2, **Graceworx Community Church** invites everyone in Central Florida

to pause and reflect on what we should be celebrating and what challenges may not yet have been adequately addressed and effectively implemented.

As an *employee*, do I demonstrate the honesty, integrity, diligence and commitment that an employer has the right to expect?

As an *employer*, do I treat employees as I would want to be treated if our roles were reversed?

Such spiritual questions are worth pondering—because they're really just applications of the Golden Rule in a specific context.

Wishing all Central Floridians a refreshing, rejuvenating and reflective Labor Day celebration!

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Obituaries

JOHN THOMAS (JACK) LORETAN, 92, passed away on Tuesday, August 20, 2024. He was born on May 31, 1932 to John and Elsie Loretan. He is predeceased by: wife, Eleanor Mary Loretan; son, John Ronald. Survived by: children, Christine Joan (Leentjes), Suzanne Marie, Mark Michael; sister, Dorothy Gulbransen; four grandchildren; one great grandchild.

See Obituary on page 10A



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God Loves an Underdog

The Bible is full of unlikely heroes. Moses is chosen by God to be his spokesman, but stutters and stammers.

David, the puniest of the family's many children, is chosen to go out and fight the mammoth Goliath with nothing but a sling and a bag of stones.

Jesus is perhaps the paradigmatic underdog, born in humble circumstances, the son of a carpenter who becomes the Savior of the world.

Other religions tell similar stories. In the Quran, Mohammad is said to have been an illiterate orphan, and yet the Quran is said to be a masterpiece of Arabic literature and Moham-

mad is believed to be the Prophet par excellence.

The situation is a bit different in Buddhism, where the Buddha was originally born into a royal family but renounced the wealth and power of his family position, becoming a poor mendicant beggar before going on to found one of the world's great religions.

Perhaps it is the case that only from the humblest soil can spring the most sublime religious truths. The lotus flower grows in stagnant waters. God has chosen the weak and powerless to bring his message to the world.

—Christopher Simon

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

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Apple: Principals share what recognition means to their schools

Continued from page 1A

nology our students need to compete in the global economy, we are developing students' critical thinking, collaboration and creativity," Superintendent Maria Vazquez said. "We are pleased to be recognized as members of this commu-

nity of educators that connects students to the world and increases their personal growth."

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"At Kelly Park School, we focused on fostering confidence, engagement, innovation, responsibility, and reflection as part of our daily practice," said Kelly Park Principal Helena Gurgone in a statement. "Technology allows our students to practice real-life skills such as communication, organization, analyzing real data, and goal setting. It allows students and teachers to engage with content in imaginative ways. Student engagement is at the

forefront of instructional planning as teachers are inspired to disrupt the status quo and break through barriers. The use of technology and innovative learning experiences encourages students to go beyond passive-consumption of content to being active participants in the learning process."

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Elementary School Principal Jennifer Lawrence in a statement. "In our earliest grades, the students use iPads to practice early literacy skills that are critical to lifelong learning. Additionally, we use the technology to provide cross-curricular connections to our schoolwide environmental initiatives such as recycling and hydroponics. We are thrilled with the many ways this honor will develop academic and technology skills."

Park: Two designs are up for vote

Continued from page 1A

Convention Center in Orlando from Sunday through

Tuesday, August 25-27.

The ultimate dog park design for BARK will be revealed later this year and

will continue to take shape as part of the broader Wyld Oaks development design activities.

This summer, Wyld Oaks asked the nation to share ideas for what would make its future dog park one of the best in the nation.

After synthesizing all submissions, two distinct dog park designs have been created by LRK, a design firm based in Orlando that is renowned for its expertise in landmark mixed-use projects across the country.

The designs include features inspired by pet parents and dog enthusiasts, such as a Pupstagram Plaza, Canine Promenade, splash pad, bath stations, an agility field, an off-leash field, and a food court with shaded seating areas for pets and their people, to name just a few.

John Thomas (Jack) Loretan

John Thomas (Jack) Loretan, born May 31, 1932 to John and Elsie Loretan, passed on to a heavenly golf course on Tuesday evening, August 20, 2024. Jack was married for 68 years to Eleanor Mary Loretan, who predeceased him. For Eleanor, the love of his life, he spent a summer laboring on a road crew in order to buy her engagement ring. Father to four children - Christine Joan (Leentjes), Suzanne Marie, Mark Michael and John Ronald (who predeceased him), he is also survived by his sister, Dorothy Gulbransen, four grandchildren - Michelle and Jonathan Loretan, Eli and Aaron Leentjes, and one great grandchild - Addison Loretan. Jack was raised in Queens, New York and Northport, on Long Island. His high school years were spent at St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, NY (near Buffalo), where he excelled academically and on the basketball court. His undergraduate degree was from St. John's University in Queens, where he counted Mario Cuomo amongst his friends. After he began his professional career, he earned an MBA at night from City College. Jack was a proud

1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps early in his adult life, at Quantico, VA, Tyndall AFB, FL and Cherry Point, NC. That pride continued his entire life, with the Marine flag displayed prominently at their Apopka, Florida home.

His long career with Traveler's Insurance Company spanned four decades in the Personnel and Administration Department at several office locations in the New York City Metropolitan area, Washington, D.C., Springfield, Massachusetts, Detroit and Southfield, Michigan. His later working years were with The Copeland Company in Morris Plains, New Jersey. While known as a firm father at home, his son, who once worked in the same building as Jack, was astonished to hear him referred to by colleagues as "Smilin' Jack". His daughter once encountered someone in a social setting who recognized the last name and volunteered "Your Dad's a riot!"

A long and golf-filled retirement was spent at Errol Estate in Apopka, Florida, with a wondrous view of sunsets, overlooking the course and lake. He and Eleanor spent many an evening socializing at



the Clubhouse with their huge circle of friends, impressing all with their singing and dancing, and where all the servers knew his standing order for his namesake - Jack Daniels. St. Patrick's Catholic Church in nearby Mt. Dora was another beacon of their life.

While Jack's first professional baseball experience was watching the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field, he was a life-long superfan of the Yankees, grateful to them for never abandoning New York City. Jack engaged in some new skills during his retirement - calligraphy, an attempt to learn Spanish and an endless battle with birdfeeder-raiding squirrels.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to Loaves and Fishes (<https://loavesandfishesapopka.com/financial-giving/>)

A Memorial Mass will be held at 9 AM on Monday, Sept 30, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 6803 Old Hwy 441, Mount Dora, Florida, 32757.



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SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 4B

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- 4 Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
- 4 Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)

8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.) A \$22 value!

76946MHG separately \$279.99 **\$129.99**

SPECIAL PACKAGE PRICE

Go to OmahaSteaks.com/OneBite2924
Or call 1.877.694.0131 Ask for Offer 76946MHG

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 76946. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last, items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use/SQL Expires 09/30/24.   Omaha Steaks, LLC

Puzzle Solution

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

The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 4B

The coconut cake recipe indicates that it should be refrigerated

We found a recipe for Pork Burgers on The Pioneer Woman.com website. See what you think.

Bacon and onion are included in each patty. I love bacon and cook it often in my counter-top oven, and I know how much grease it produces. The one change I will make on making these burgers: I plan to precook and drain the bacon before I chop it up and mix it into the burger mixture. If I ruin the burgers, it's on me!

Ree Drummond also shares her recipe for Corn Salad, a fresh and flavorful summer side! She says, "Round out any Mexican-inspired spread or summer cookout with this spicy fresh corn salad. The tangy sour cream and mayo combo balances the smoky chipotle, the creamy avocado mellow out the heat of the jalapeno, and the sweet corn matches the salty queso fresco cheese. It's the kind of side you'll want to serve with – and put on – everything. Serve it with homemade tortilla chips. Spoon over tacos, or serve it alongside a juicy, grilled steak." She adds that this salad is best made on the day it's served so the avocado stays bright green and the tomatoes don't become watery. The chipotle-lime dressing can be made and chilled a day or two ahead.

Dakin Dairy Farms has been milking cows in Myakka City, southeast of Bradenton, since 1973. All three of their farms grow high-protein grasses for their cows, essential to their milk's sweet, creamy flavor. They share their recipe for Baked Penne with four cheeses in the book titled Field to Feast.

At a family gathering, (it might have been Labor Day), my niece brought a cake that was absolutely delicious. Everyone there thought it was outstanding. It is quite simple in that it uses a packaged white cake mix. I asked her for the recipe. She says she saw it originally on FaceBook.

Reader and friend Joyce Lampp's Sour Cream Pound Cake is terrific! It is a great favorite whenever she brings one in to our office.

PORK BURGERS

Recipe from *ThePioneerWoman.com*
1/2 cup grated onion
(about 1 small onion grated on the large holes of a box grater)
1/4 cup plain breadcrumbs



2 tablespoons milk
1 tablespoon Worcester sauce
1 tablespoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 teaspoon ground sage
1-1/2 pound ground pork
8 slices bacon, finely chopped (about 6 ounces)
1 tablespoon vegetable oil, for the grill grates or pan
6 slices provolone or your favorite cheese (about 4 ounces, optional)
6 burger buns, split and toasted
Romaine lettuce leaves, sliced
tomato, sliced red onion, dill pickles, ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise, for topping

1) In a large bowl, combine the onion, bread crumbs, milk, Worcester-shire sauce, salt, pepper, and sage. Let sit until the liquid is fully absorbed, about 5 minutes. Gently mix the pork and bacon into the breadcrumb mixture. 2) Divide the mixture into 6 balls (about 6 ounces each), being careful not to overwork the meat. Press into 1-inch thick patties (about 4-1/2 inch rounds). 3) Preheat the grill to medium-high heat, 400 to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. 4) Oil the grill grates with the vegetable oil. Grill the patties over direct heat, covered, until the internal temperature reads 165 degrees Fahrenheit, 5 to 6 minutes per side. If you like cheese on your burgers, add it during the last minute of cooking, then cover to melt. 5) Alternatively, cook on the stovetop; heat the vegetable oil in a large cast-iron skillet or grill pan over medium-high heat. Working in batches as necessary, cook the patties until the bottoms are golden and crusty, 5 to 6 minutes. Flip, and cook until the internal temperature of the patties reads 165 degrees Fahrenheit, about 3 minutes more. If you like cheese on your burgers, add it during the last minute of cooking, then cover to melt. 6) Serve the burgers on the toasted buns with desired toppings.

CORN SALAD

Recipe from *ThePioneerWoman.com*
Ingredients for the Chipotle-Lime Dressing:
1/4 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
2 tablespoons lime juice
2 teaspoons hot sauce
3/4 teaspoons kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon chipotle chili powder, plus more for garnish
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Ingredients for the Salad:
4 large ears yellow corn, shucked
2 plum tomatoes, chopped

1 avocado, peeled and chopped
1 cup chopped red onion
1 jalapeno, stemmed and chopped
1/2 cup chopped cilantro, plus more for garnish
1/2 cup crumbled queso fresco, plus more for garnish
Lime wedges, for serving
Directions:

1) For the chipotle-lime dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together the sour cream, mayonnaise, lime juice, hot sauce, kosher salt, chipotle chili powder, cumin, black pepper, and 1 tablespoon of water. Set aside. 2) For the salad: Meanwhile, bring a large pot of water to boil over high heat and season generously with salt. Add the ears of corn and boil for 3 minutes. Remove the corn from the pot and let it cool to room temperature. Slice the kernels off the cob. (You should have about 4 cups of corn.) 3) In a large bowl, gently toss together the corn, tomatoes, avocado, red onion, jalapeno, chopped cilantro, and queso fresco. Drizzle with the dressing and toss gently to coat. Sprinkle with more cilantro, queso fresco, and chipotle chile powder. Serve with lime wedges. Tip: Substitute 4 cups of drained, canned corn for this recipe in place of the fresh corn on the cob.

DAKIN DAIRY FARMS BAKED PENNE WITH FOUR CHEESES

Recipe from *FIELD TO FEAST*
2/3 pound penne pasta
1 cup milk
3/4 cup heavy cream
2 teaspoons unsalted butter
2 teaspoons all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon coarse salt
Pinch grated nutmeg
1 cup freshly shredded Gruyere cheese
3/4 cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese
1/2 cup freshly grated pecorino Romano
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan, divided
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided
1/2 cup fresh breadcrumbs

1) Heat oven to 475 degrees Fahrenheit. Butter 9- x 13-inch baking pan; set aside. 2) In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta 8 minutes, or until just al dente. Drain and return to pot. 3) While pasta is cooking, slowly heat milk and cream in a medium saucepan to just below a simmer. Do NOT boil. 4) In another saucepan, melt butter over medium-low heat. Add flour and whisk over low heat for 2 minutes. Slowly whisk in hot milk mixture and

continue stirring until mixture thickens and comes to a simmer. Whisk in salt, nutmeg, Gruyere, Gorgonzola, pecorino Romano, 1/4 cup Parmesan, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. 5) Add cheese sauce to drained pasta, mixing thoroughly. Cover pot and let stand 3 minutes. Stir together pasta and cheese, then spread into prepared baking dish. 6) Combine into a mixture of: the remaining pepper, breadcrumbs, and remaining Parmesan; sprinkle mixture over top of pasta. Bake 7 to 10 minutes, or until golden and bubbly. Serve hot.

CRÈME OF COCONUT CAKE

Recipe from Margaret Biddle, Reader of The Apopka Chief Newspaper
1 (18.25 ounce) package white cake mix
1 (14 ounce) can cream of coconut
1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
1 (16 ounce) package frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 (8 ounce) package flaked coconut
1) Prepare and bake white cake mix according to package directions. Remove cake from oven. 2) While still hot, using a utility fork, poke holes all over the top of the cake. 3) Mix cream of coconut and sweetened condensed milk together. Pour over the top of the still hot cake. 4) Let cake cool completely, then frost with the whipped topping and top with the flaked coconut. Keep cake refrigerated.

JOYCE LAMPP'S SOUR CREAM POUND CAKE

Reader of The Apopka Chief Newspaper
1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine
3 cups sugar
6 eggs
1 8-ounce cup sour cream
3 cups plain flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla
1) Cream butter and sugar together. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating after each addition. 2) Sift flour, salt and soda together. Add 1 cup of the sifted flour mixture at a time to the creamed butter and sugar mixture, alternating with 1/3 of sour cream. Beat until well mixed. Then add vanilla, mixing in. 3) Spray tube pan with cooking spray. Cut and line the bottom of tube pan with waxed paper. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Cool on cooling rack before removing from pan.

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 Dwelliey 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 30

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 31

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, SEPTEMBER 1

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

CHECK TO SEE IF OPEN
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, SEPTEMBER 3

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, SEPTEMBER 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EARLY BIRD BINGO at Bahia Shrine Center, 3101 E. Semoran Blvd.. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the early bird game starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 407-660-8811.

TOASTMASTERS: still meeting every WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., by zoom. For more information, call 407-765-2629 or visit www. Apopkatostasters.com.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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/2ABrmsb, and are normally held the first Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. Subject to change with notice. For info., call City Clerk 407-703-1704. Agenda and minutes of meeting can be found online. Once posted, check for any revisions by Tuesday at 5 p.m. before the meeting

FOLIAGE GARDEN CLUB OF APOPKA, meets the first Thursday of each month, September through May, at 9:45 a.m. at the Alonza William Park / Billie Dean Community Center, 225 M.A. Board St., Apopka. Contact: apopkafgca@gmail.comNO 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 orangecomgv@ifas.ufl.edu. to be answered by Master Gardeners. A free plant clinic for commercial growers is open Tuesdays 1-4 p.m. at the same location.

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

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

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

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

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

to www.theapokkamuseum.com. THE APOPKA ELKS LODGE 2422 meets first and third Tuesdays of the 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@theapokkachief.com
Subscribe to The Apopka Chief E-Edition or Home Delivery
Call 407-886-2777 or
Visit www.theapokkachief.com
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....

Village: Red tape, pandemic were obstacles to building it

Continued from page 1A

learning to play well with one another and just respect one another and have fun. It also provides a true connection because it's their town. And now it's their playground."

No one expected the village to take five years to come to fruition, Barton-Buggs said. First conceived in 2019, the project had to face obstacles including red tape and the COVID pandemic.

Local community

members and companies made donations such as toys to the village. Wharton-Smith Inc. built the village. Wolf Lake Elementary School is still accepting donations, Barton-Buggs said. Barton-Buggs said she doesn't know if other schools and districts will look at the village and incorporate it as part of their curriculum.

"But I'm sure this is going to open up some eyes and open up some doors for other schools to see," she continued. "I'm willing and excited to be able to maybe work with other schools, but my teachers work with other schools and share with them how to get it started because it's nothing like making connections to their own community," she said.

The village will show children the different types of jobs and roles people play in the community, such as police and fire, at city



Wolf Lake Elementary School is still accepting donations such as toys for its village, which includes a veterinarian clinic and Publix (pictured).

hall, and McDonald's.

"It's going to be really interesting just to watch how this performs and see how the kids enjoy learning about what it takes to run a city and a school," Nelson said.

Byrd posted on her Facebook page about her

experience attending the village ribbon cutting: "Had a great time at the ribbon cutting this morning for the Wolf Lake Village at Wolf Lake Elementary. This project started with a vision five years ago, so it was very rewarding to see the finished product to-

day. This outdoor learning space will provide our youngest learners with a space to imagine and create for years to come as they explore a little Apopka. Thank you to all the community partners who helped make this a reality!"



KEEP THOSE WHEELS ROLLING...

GENERAL SERVICE: AUTO-BASICS The ABCs of basic car care include:

- A – Always follow a vehicle service schedule.
 - B – Be sure to have your car inspected when you suspect there is a problem.
 - C – Correct the problem to help avoid the inconvenience and potential safety hazards of breaking down away from home.
- By following these three basic car care tips, motorists can address minor issues before they become more complicated and more expensive repairs.

MAINTENANCE - YOUR PROTECTION

THINK ABOUT IT:

Routine maintenance will help motorists address minor issues before they become more complicated and more expensive repairs.



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Service Directory Pages

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www.TheApopkaChief.com