

Signs

See the dedication sign for Capt. Jonathan Clay Stewart. See page 6A.



Sports

Wekiva bounces back after a win over Horizon See page 1B.



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Volume 102 Number 37

Friday, September 13, 2024 / 50 cents

Community honors 9/11 victims in memorial service



The community honored and remembered the victims who died in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The city held its 9/11 memorial service on Wednesday, September 11, outside Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main St., Apopka. According to Britannica, the official death toll, after numerous revisions and not including the 19 terrorists, was set at 2,977 people. At the World Trade Center in New York City, 2,753 people died, of whom 343 were firefighters. The death toll at the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., was 184, and 40 individuals died outside Shanksville, Penn. In the left photo are (l to r) Joe Bankson, pastor; Michael McKinley, Apopka police chief; Wil Sanchez, interim Apopka fire chief; and Bryan Nelson, mayor. On the right picture, flag was lowered to half-staff.

Street signs will be dedicated to two war heroes

On Saturday, September 19, at 9:30 a.m., South McGee Street at Main Street in Apopka will be dedicated to former Orange County Sheriff, Capt. Jonathan Clay Stewart, southside, and his brother Pvt. Philemon Bryan Stewart, northside, both of whom died in service to their country.

Sheriff Stewart was a

U.S. postmaster in Marion County prior to moving to Orange County. From 1855 to 1861, J.C. was the Orange County sheriff, tax assessor, and tax collector.

Additionally, J.C. was the 1860 US Census Taker. This was important because the county was huge back then. They moved west prior to the Civil War, setting up a homestead in Sec-

tor 10 along southeast Lake McCoy.

The outdoor event will be at the corner of South McGee Avenue and East Main Street at 488 E. Main St. J.C.'s sign is located outside the northeast corner of the Apopka Burger King lot. His brother's signpost is located on the diagonal corner of McGee Avenue and Main Street in

the northeast corner of the intersection.

The ceremony will include the solemn roll call of servicemen used at Apopka Memorial Day ceremonies. When a serviceperson fails to answer roll call, a bell peals.

"Apopka has always embraced current and former military. We greatly appreciate the street

dedications being placed throughout the city to recognize Apopka's fallen servicemen," Col-R. Loretta Forlaw, PhD, RN, Vietnam war veteran nurse, was quoted as saying in the press release.

To honor their predecessors, Sheriff-Retired Mayor Jerry Demings and

See SIGNS Page 6A



Capt. Jonathan Clay Stewart

Miller's Ale House opens



Miller's Ale House at the Apopka City Center had its grand opening on Monday, September 9, at 505 E. Main St., Apopka. The grand opening included the restaurant donating \$1,000 to OCPS Foundation. Pictured (l to r) are Kathleen Wright, administrator for Partners in Education for OCPS Foundation; Pam Carson, assistant director for the OCPS Foundation; Alexander H. Smith, city commissioner; Diane Velazquez, city commissioner; Brent Germain, Miller's Apopka general manager; Bryan Nelson, mayor; and Nick Nesta, city commissioner.

Localized flooding causes road closure of Drive



Photos courtesy of St. Johns River Water Management District

Pictured left: Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. Pictured right: Localized flooding on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive has caused minor road damage. As a result, the drive was temporarily closed starting Friday, September 6.

The St. Johns River Water Management District announced the temporary closure of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive beginning Friday, September 6 until Sunday, September 8 due to localized flooding. The closure is a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of visitors.

The 11-mile one-way drive, nestled in the eastern part of the District's Lake Apopka North Shore property, provides a scenic route from Lust Road to Jones Avenue in Orange County. The drive typically takes 1-3 hours, allowing visitors to explore the natural beauty of the surroundings

at their own pace.

According to a press release, the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive is scheduled to reopen on Friday, September 13, resuming its regular operating hours from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays.

The Apopka Chief called the District on Thursday, September 12, to verify whether the drive would open on Friday, September 13. The District has not returned the call as of press time.

To stay informed about the status of District properties, visit SJRWMD.com/lands.

This week Section A Opinion..... 2A Public Notice..... 4A Dining & Ent..... 6A Worship ..... 9A Section B Sports ..... 1B Kapers ..... 5B Bus. Review ..... 6B Legal ads ..... 7-8B Classified..... 8-10B Service Dir..... 10B Find Public Notices Online at: TheApopkaChief.com/public-notices OR FloridaPublicNotices.com





Apopka Event of the Week

FW Post 1014, 51 S. Central Ave., third Saturday of the month breakfast, Sat., September 21, 8 a.m., all for \$5: scrambled eggs, sausage links, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, coffee and water.

Quotable

Baker said they recognized a big surge of available non-recurring dollars, so they paced the expenditures to match that pattern but added that some states have not done that.

Coordinator at the Office of Economic & Demographic Research presents long-range outlook

Opinion

The Apopka Chief  
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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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

Florida officials predict stable economic growth for the next year

By Andrew Powell

The Center Square Contributor

The Joint Legislative Budget Commission met September 6 to discuss the state’s financial outlook and state officials predict stable growth for the Sunshine State.

Amy Baker, the coordinator at the Office of Economic & Demographic Research, presented the state’s long-range financial outlook and said the work to prepare it begins early in the summer.

“This year’s plan is gonna be addressing fiscal years 2025-26, 26-27 and 27-28. Mostly it’s driven by two types of drivers, one is the revenue drivers,” Baker said. “The big force in those, particularly this year, is what our assumptions are for the national and Florida economic outlooks and what we’re doing with population growth.”

Baker said Florida’s gross domestic product continues to grow despite a large part of the U.S. showing negative growth. While a slight slowdown is expected over the next year or so, growth will remain stable. For personal income, Florida ranks 10th in the nation, according to Baker.

“The other set is budget drivers, those budget drivers are the results coming out of estimating conferences, they’re also based on legislative actions and we

also provide information through three-year averages,” Baker said.

Baker said they recognized a big surge of available non-recurring dollars, so they paced the expenditures to match that pattern but added that some states have not done that.

State Sen. Doug Broxson, R-Pensacola, commended the work done on the budget and added that it shows Florida’s unique position.

“When we started in December of 2019, the world really had no idea where we’d be fiscally, we were blessed in Florida to have very close to a balanced budget which was not true in many other states,” Broxson said. “Then we saw the federal influx in response to the pandemic and our members, to their credit, made a joint decision that we were gonna take those dollars and spend on non-recurring projects, such as infrastructure.”

Broxson added these funds were spent on roads and bridges, facilities, coastal resilience projects and reduction of state debt. Now those extra funds have stopped, Broxson warned against spending when it is not needed.

“I would hope that we continue to be the state that stays within our budget and does not put additional pressure on our already over-pressured taxpayers,” Broxson said.



OCPS are as safe as they can be

Once again last week, we had to share our nation’s grief over another school shooting, this time in Georgia.

These occurrences happen way too often and have happened several times during my tenure as a school board member. Every time, I am reminded not only of how quickly life can change but what a tremendous responsibility it is to keep our students safe each day in our schools.

It is important for me to share everything that I can with my community about what our school district is doing to make our schools as safe as possible for our children.

As a school board member, it’s pretty natural to be overwhelmed thinking of the situation at the school in Georgia and the

Orange County School Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

responsibility we have to keep our kids safe, but as a mother, I struggle with the worry as other parents do. My daughter leaves each morning for school and I have to wonder if every precaution is being taken to keep her safe just like other parents do.

I’m lucky I guess because I can get the reassurance I need to feel better through numerous closed sessions where all of our comprehensive, multi-layered safety measures are described in great detail, some of which are not allowed to be shared with the public for an added layer of protection per Florida law.

As much as I can share, I want to let you know that OCPS is committed, and has been for a long time, to keeping our children safe at school.

As I have shared before, after Sandy Hook, the board at the time decided to hire Safe Havens International to come to our district and look at our campuses, and report on safety improvements that needed to be made.

That report turned up many items that were recommended and OCPS set up a plan to get it all done,

See BYRD Page 4A

Apopka approved for tourism \$\$

This year the Orange County Board of County Commissioners was challenged to determine how to spend additional revenues from the tourism tax. While it is vital that the tourism economy is strong, it was challenging to determine an equitable way spend new dollars. Plus, the Florida Legislature governs how Tourism Development Tax (TDT) dollars can be allocated. The tourism industries, our main industry in the region, advocate for sufficient multi-national advertising and convention space. Non-profit organizations, request more funding for the needy. And the county commissioners wanted more funding for transportation safety.

County Commissioner District 2



Christine Moore

Well, at the end of eight months of wrangling, the priority the board agreed upon was to spend

more for arts projects in outlying cities. Thus, the board added significant funding for TDT/ARC grants. I immediately got on the phone and called the mayors of Apopka and Ocoee and asked them to apply. I was already collaborating with Eatonville on a history museum.

In the beginning, three District 2 applications were submitted, one from the Orange Audubon for a birding “museum,” one for Eatonville’s History Museum, and one from the City of

See Moore Page 4A

Everybody has an opinion.  
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Send a letter to the Editor online  
www.theapopkachief.com

This Week In God’s Word

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.  
Luke 11:9

ema Says

Don’t dismiss a compliment by pointing out your flaws.

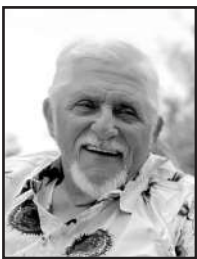
The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 23, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 N. Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription 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.



There are those people who want to be part of the underdog scene

“Am I a Racist?” Anyone who asks that question, either of themselves, or someone else, is either an idiot or a part of the woke mob causing disruption, and division amongst the American people.

An advertisement for a movie named, “Am I a Racist?” has been touted as a comedy, but there is nothing comedic about using people who actually hate the United States of America, and as one of the show’s participants stated, “the United States is not worth



Ike Hayden

saving.”

I really enjoy the ridicule aimed at the DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) movement because it deserves it. I have only seen the trailer, and it may be hilarious, but there are those

amongst us that would go to any extreme to be a part of the “Underdog Society,” as a means to bare their hearts, and emotions to a nation they despise. The more they are led around by their feelings, the more ignorance they show, and in their minds, they become victims of society. They are the, “it’s not my fault, everyone else is to blame,” “I know I finished last, but it’s not fair, I should get a trophy too,” and “everyone is welcome, and you have freedom to say and do

whatever you want, for the “cause” (tearing the U.S.A. apart).

Even in some of our largest cities, the perpetrator of the crime is treated as a victim, with respect, and dignity, while the one victimized is treated with disrespect, and severe scrutiny, and as the one to blame for the atrocity.

Look at the Minnesota riots. Our Vice President, Kamala Harris declared it a “peaceful” protest even though the 3rd Police Precinct was burned

to the ground, \$500 million in damages caused to businesses, 604 arrests (which Kamala Harris and others posted bail for) and most of the charges were dropped or reduced to a slap on the wrist.

For what? In protest of George Floyd’s death? George Floyd was a dope-dealing, home-invading, would-be murderer, and thief who was made a martyr, and an icon of innocence when, in reality, he was the very epitome of a common criminal. His

death, although tragic, was not for saintly causes, but was treated as such.

The BLM (Black Lives Matter), and the DEI movement would have you believe that there is nothing worse than white-on-black crime, exclusion, and racism. But there is. It is black-on-black crime (Chicago’s black-on-black murders), exclusion because of their lack of relationships with other races, and racism because of their lan-

See HAYDEN Page 4A



# City reviews proposed revised comprehensive plan

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council and the Apopka Planning Commission hosted a joint workshop session to review the proposed re-write of the city comprehensive plan, the main policy document providing the policy foundation for local planning and land use decision.

The joint workshop session took place on Tuesday, September 10, at Apopka City Hall. Since this was a workshop, no action was taken.

City planner Bobby Howell and Michelle Morrison, planner for the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) presented the rewritten comprehensive plan.

"It's been a project that's been well in the making for some time now, but we've got it to a point where we're pretty much ready to move forward on it and solicit input," Howell said. "That's the perfect

idea for this workshop, to gather input between the planning commission and then the City Council."

In 2021, the city hired ECFRPC to conduct the re-write of the city's comprehensive plan except for the Transportation Element, which the City Council adopted on August 7, 2024.

As one of 10 regional planning councils throughout the state, the ECFRPC is made up of eight counties and 78 local governments in the East Central Florida region.

The ECFRPC's mission, according to the council's website, is "to serve its citizens and member governments by identifying and addressing regional issues through communication and collaboration to develop strategies that create a healthy, sustainable, thriving, and resilient region for future generations."

The state requirement for local governments to have their own comprehensive plan stemmed from

managing growth and the need to accomplish this. In the 1960s, the state population was about five million. As of 2023, the state population is over 22.6 million. The east Central Florida region has four of the fastest growing counties in the state, according to Morri-

See PLAN Page 8A

# Speakers to discuss human trafficking at club luncheon

The Northwest Orange Republican Women Federated will present guest speakers Nancy Perez and Isabelle Smith for Lifeboat Project Making Waves Battling Human Trafficking, on Thursday, September 19, at The Hilton Garden Inn-Apopka City Center in

Apopka. Lunch Meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Hilton Garden Inn-Apopka City Center, 580 E. Main St., Apopka. Attendees are asked to arrive by 11:15 a.m. to register. The meeting/lunch cost is \$30 whether attendee eats or

not. Cost is \$35 at the door. There is limited seating, so reservations must be made.

For more information and reservations, contact Marty Harrison at 407-886-1922 and 407-493-0471 or martyaoii@aol.com. Reservations can be made online at NORWF.org.

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Byrd: OCPS’ safety measures considered the most impressive efforts made

Continued from page 2A

and they did. This included things like establishing a district police force, a manned electronic security unit, perimeter fencing, single points of entries, Sally Port concept at all front of-

fices, card readers at doors, enhanced school design guidelines, etc.

Again, many more safety measures are kept confidential for an added layer of protection as required by law.

All of our current pro-

totypes for schools now include all these safety features.

After all the improvements were made, in 2018 OCPS reengaged Safe Havens to come back and reassess the schools and make sure we had done ev-

everything we needed to.

At that point, they reported, “In our opinion, OCPS has aggressively, proactively, and professionally confronted the topic of school safety in a manner that stands out to our analyst as among the most impressive efforts of this type we have seen during our assessment projects for more than 6,750 K-12 schools.”

Some of the improvements that were made were put into statute with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act of 2018, but OCPS was ahead of everyone else in the state at this point.

We also perform random weapons screenings with hand-held wands and walk-through detection systems, have installed video surveillance systems in all schools, use the Safer

Watch system that allows all employees to initiate a “lockdown” and installed shatter-resistant film on windows.

While hardening our school buildings is important, addressing issues with students is also vital so we can help our students before they become so distraught that they think about hurting themselves or others.

OCPS employs a robust and extensive threat assessment program where issues with students are addressed by a team at the school level as well as at the district, with the purpose being to assess the threat level and put interventions in place to help the child.

Most importantly, they also track these students and the interventions in

place no matter where they go within the district.

OCPS has invested heavily in mental health services over the last several years. We now have social workers at all of our high schools as well as increased licensed mental health counselors employed by the district.

We also have strong partnerships with outside organizations to help our kids. Extensive resources are available and training for our staff to address the mental health wellness of our students.

I understand that the events of last week have shaken everyone up from staff to parents.

Please know that the safety and security of our schools are always top of mind for the board and district leadership.

Moore: NW Rec. expansion approved

Continued from page 2A

Apopka for the amphitheater expansion and baseball fields. At first, I recommended that Apopka only apply for an amphitheater expansion. I wanted to be sure all District 2 applicants received something. As fate would have it, Eatonville lost the competition for a museum to St. Augustine, and Orange Audubon made a disqualifying statement in their application. Apopka was in the clear to receive the entire amount requested for the amphitheater and new fields.

As you may have read from a city news release, Apopka received the highest score on their application for the amphitheater and sports fields expansion. The final decision will be up to the Board of County Commissioners. The board will consider how well applications meet grant criteria including: Tourist Attraction, Advertising

Reach, Tourism Industry Collaboration, Quality, Longevity, Maintenance, Care & Stewardship, Design & Planning, Operational Readiness, and Financial Readiness and Economic Benefit for Jobs & Wages, Attracting Employers, and Tax Revenues.

The funding matrix describes a perfect score for tourist attraction as the hosting of exceptional traveling visitor counts, multi-hotel guaranteed room blocks, and lengthy stays. Generating extended periods of international coverage with high positive impact is the top desire for increasing advertising reach. Long term facilities must avoid “obsolescence and plans for care & maintenance.” For planning, the matrix discusses how a project may be shovel ready. As for operational readiness, a top score needs to demonstrate a strong and experienced leadership and have guarantees of project implementation. Financial

readiness means a strong financial plan and budget. And finally, the host must drive sales tax growth.

The City of Apopka beat out the 4R Foundation, Orlando Science Center, Rollins Museum of Art, Orlando Philharmonic Plaza Foundation, Orlando Family, Winter Garden Art Association, The Winter Park Playhouse, the Mennello Museum of American Art, and the Orlando Museum of Art in the preliminary round. This is a great accomplishment for the City of Apopka.

This victory is a good example of collaboration between Mayor Bryan Nelson, Parks Director Radley Williams, and me representing the county. All citizens and visitors will benefit from bigger and better acts at the amphitheater and attracting out-of-town sporting events.

Wish me luck advocating during the final round at the Board of County Commissioners.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LARGE-SCALE 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 **Appian Engineering, LLC c/o Luke Classon, P.E.** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3067

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY RURAL TO MIXED-USE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND EFFIE DRIVE; COMPRISING 54.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; OWNED BY PM S-1 REO, LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 3068

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL) DISTRICT TO KPI-MU (KELLY PARK INTERCHANGE - MIXED-USE) DISTRICT, FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND EFFIE DRIVE; COMPRISING 54.85 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; OWNED BY PM S-1 REO, LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Number(s): 11-20-27-0000-00-037, 11-20-27-0000-00-069, 12-20-27-0000-00-001, 12-20-27-0000-00-012, 12-20-27-0000-00-046, 12-20-27-0000-00-048  
Contains: 54.85 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, October 8, 2024 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3067 and 3068 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 16, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk’s Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

September 13, 2024

Publish: The Apopka Chief

177373

Hayden: Make our nation exceptional

Continued from page 2A

guage about other races without any concern for the division they cause.

I’m thankful that people are beginning to see the lies and deceitfulness behind the DEI movement. They use anything to divide us, to confuse our daily lives, and promote unrest. CRT is another scheme to promote division and distrust between races. In truth, the blacks that came over as slaves had as much to do with the making of America as anyone else, but they were not credited with their contribution as were the whites that

brought them.

Should we divide ourselves over wrongs that were done in the past? I think not

I think we need to learn from our past, both good and bad, and press on using the skills and artistry in each of us to make our nation the exceptional, one-of-a-kind, Constitutional Republic it was set out to be.

It makes no difference what color you are, your physical structure, hair style, or any other factor of life. You are an *American* and that alone should draw us together regardless of the rabble rousers’ efforts

to divide We the People

Are there faults in our government? You bet there are. Do you want to see those faults corrected? Are you prepared to do what you can to change those faults into stepping-stones for the future of our glorious nation? Here is how: study the platforms of the candidates running for local, state and national offices; then get off your duff and cast your ballot (VOTE).

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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.theapokchief.com, news@theapokchief.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. <b>www.apopka.net</b>	

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
<b>www.orangecountyfl.net</b>	

Other Area Numbers of Note

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



# Apopka ‘Proud Boy’ pleads guilty to charges stemming from Jan. 6

WASHINGTON – An Apopka man and member of the “Proud Boys” organization pleaded guilty today, Friday, September 6, 2021, to felony and misdemeanor charges stemming from his conduct during the January 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol.

His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the 2020 presidential election.

Nathaniel Tuck, 32, of Apopka pleaded guilty to a felony charge of obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder and a misdemeanor charge of entering and remaining in a restricted area. U.S. Dis-

trict Judge Timothy J. Kelly will sentence Tuck on January 8, 2025.


According to court documents, on January 6, 2021, Tuck, who, at the time of the events of January 6, was a member of the “Space Coast” chapter of the Proud Boys organization based in Central Florida, traveled from his home to Washington, D.C., accompanied by his father, Kevin Tuck, and other members of the Proud Boys organization including Arthur Jackman and Joe Biggs.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division’s Counterterrorism Section are

prosecuting this case. The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida provided assistance.

This case was investigated by the FBI’s Tampa and Washington Field Offices. Assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police and Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 43 months since January 6, 2021, more than 1,488 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including nearly 550 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

**REGAL**

**Fri., Sept. 13, 2024 thru  
Sun., Sept. 15, 2024**

**BEETLEJUICE**  
**BEETLEJUICE** (PG-13)  
10:50A; 11:50A, 1:30;  
2:30; 4:20; 5:00; 7:00;  
7:40; 9:40; 10:30  
**SPEAK NO EVIL** (R)  
11:00A; 1:40; 4:30; 7:30;  
10:20  
**THE KILLER'S GAME** (R)  
11:10A; 1:50; 4:40; 7:20;  
10:00  
**REAGAN** (PG-13) 12:00;  
3:10; 6:20; 9:20  
**IT ENDS WITH US** (PG-  
13) 12:10; 3:30; 6:40; 9:30  
**DEADPOOL &  
WOLVERINE** (R) 12:20;  
3:50; 6:50; 9:50  
**ALIEN: ROMULUS** (R)  
12:30; 4:00; 7:10; 10:10

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# Signs: Descendants will be at the dedication ceremony

Continued from page 1A

Tax Assessor and Collector Scott Randolph will help with the dedication. Apopka Vice-Mayor Diane Velazquez will make welcoming statements for the city.

Descendants include second great-granddaughter Barbara Stewart Hooper, third great-grandson Jeffery Stewart Hooper, and second great-grandson Stewart Eugene Dunaway. Jeff Hooper spearheaded this memory of his grandfather and uncle

as they did not appear in the original research.

Dressing in red, white, and/or blue or official military attire is encouraged.

Mike Ortiz, supervisor of the city of Apopka Streets Division, facilitated the placement of the signs for both men.

Due to hurricane losses, five of the original signs are temporarily missing.

Those who wish to help with their replacement may call 954- 559-0192 to make sure their funds are earmarked for their use.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Phyllis M. Olmstead

Pictured is the dedication sign for Capt. Jonathan Clay Stewart at the corner of South McGee Avenue and 488 E.Main St., Apopka.

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## Recovery At The Hope, Oct. 5, 8:30-12 Noon

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, is presenting Recovery At The Hope (R.A.T.H.) Conference on Saturday, October 5, from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, at 927 South Central Avenue. There will be a free breakfast at this free event.

The community is invited (youth, teens and adults) to come to hear information and testimonies from special guests as to how to prevent, identify, deal with and resolve addictions. An addiction is not always centered on drugs and alcohol. It can be anything keeping

someone from developing a closer relationship with God.

If you are not able to attend, send someone that may need a listening ear or who may be experiencing anxiety, depression, domestic violence, child abuse, or bullying.

Hope is available. Call Rev. Alexander H. Smith, RATH Pastor at 407-721-4759 or Dr. Yvonne Holmes, Ph.D., RN, Mental Health and Christian Counseling, 407-579-1339 for more information and assistance.

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## SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 2B

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

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## Puzzle Solution

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

## The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 2B



# Orange County celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with events

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the 25th Anniversary of the Hispanic Heritage Network of Orange County (HHNOC), Orange County Government and the HHNOC are hosting a month-long celebration of cultural events to showcase and celebrate the Orange County Hispanic community with the theme “Pioneers of Change, Shaping the Future Together.”

The festivities are made possible by Duke Energy, presenting sponsor of the 2024 Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

“Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of the rich and diverse Hispanic culture,” said Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings who was quoted as saying in a news release. “I encourage everyone to attend some of the many events held throughout the month. These events offer an excellent chance to learn about Hispanic culture and celebrate the diversity in our community.”

The public celebration commenced on Tuesday, September 10, with a breakfast, sponsored by Corwin’s Catering, at the Orange County Administration Center.

During its regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners officially proclaimed September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

Additionally, the Hispanic Youth Leadership Awards recognized eight Hispanic youth who excel in academia, sports, and social advocacy.

### Art exhibits

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority is hosting a Hispanic Heritage Month Art Exhibit showcasing local Hispanic artists’ artwork from different countries.

The exhibit runs from September 7 through October 24 on Level 3 of the Main Terminal at the Orlando International Airport.

A second exhibit highlighting artwork and traditional dresses is taking place at the Orange County Administration Center from September 9 to October 24.

Both exhibitions are open to the public and free of charge.

### Month’s conclusion

Hispanic Heritage Month will conclude with a 25th anniversary celebration on October 9, at 6 p.m. at the Orange County Multicultural Center.

Hosted by Orange County Government, the celebration will feature live music, dance performances, and traditional food from various Hispanic countries.

The Pioneer of Change Award will be presented to honor one Hispanic local leader who has shaped the future of our community through innovative actions.

Admission is free but pre-registration is required: [bit.ly/HHNOC\\_25thAnniversaryCelebration](https://bit.ly/HHNOC_25thAnniversaryCelebration).



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## Church to hold prayer week

Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church would like to invite the community to the church for prayer week Wednesday through Friday, September 25-27, 4-8p.m.

During prayer week, the church and community

will seek God’s blessing on their lives. Anyone who has a need may join the church for this special prayer time.

On Sunday, September 29, at 10 a.m., join Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church for some great music from the

group The Davis’s along with dinner on the ground.

For more information call 407-886-7864. Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church is located at 584 N. Wekiwa Springs Road, Apopka. Michael Davis is the pastor.

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**205** Dayspring Community Church,  
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**209** Word of Life Church,  
1853 Vick Rd.

**224** Clarcona Horsemans Park,  
3535 Damon Rd.

**225** John H Bridges Community Center,  
445 W. 13th St.

**226** Apopka Community Center,  
519 S Central Av.

**227** Trinity Baptist Church,  
1022 S Orange Blossom Trail

**228** Hope Baptist Church,  
129 S Wekiwa Springs Rd.

**229** Clay Springs Elementary School  
(555 N Wekiwa Springs Rd) (NEW)

**230** First Methodist Church of Apopka,  
201 S Park Av.

**231** First Methodist Church of Apopka,  
201 S Park Av.

**232** Grace Pointe Church,  
2051 W Lester Rd.

**233** Word of Life,  
1852 Vick Rd.

**234** Orange County Apopka Service Center,  
1111 Rock Springs Rd.

**235** Wekiwa Springs Baptist Church,  
584 N Wekiwa Springs Rd.

**236** Gospel Centered Church,  
4490 Rock Springs Rd.

**237** NW Recreation Complex,  
3710 Jason Dwellley Pkwy.

**238** NOCIA,  
4253 W Ponkan Rd.

**239** Zellwood United Methodist Church,  
5538 W Jones Av., Zellwood

**242** One Way Christian Church,  
2100 W. McCormick Rd. (NEW)

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Plan: Document will have public hearings

Continued from page 3A

son. “As Bobby said, we are required by (Florida Statutes) chapter 163.3177 to have a comprehensive plan. It is a blueprint for what a community aims to achieve in the future, but also respecting, what are the needs today? And we’re concerned with directing the future for not only just the land use, but how does that impact eco-

nomic development, transportation, and other equity decisions of health, social connections within the next 20 years. It’s usually a 20-year time period that we’re looking at that,” Morrison said. According to Morrison, the nine elements required for the comprehensive plan are future land use, capital improvements, infrastructure, conservation, housing, recreation and open space, transportation/mobility, inter-

governmental coordination, and property rights. The optional element is resilience and sustainability. After the Planning Commission and City Council have public hearings on the newly rewritten comprehensive plan and grant approval, the document will be transmitted to the state for review. Any concerns about the document will be brought back to the city. Subsequent city public hearings would then adopt the document.



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06/24



# Lame man ate at king’s table

1. Is the book of Judges (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
2. Which scripture contains, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death”? Ruth 4:10, Job 7:2, Psalm 23:4, Amos 1:1  
3. Though lame on both feet, what descendant of Saul continually ate at King David’s table? Mareshah, Methusael, Micah, Me- phibosheth  
4. Under what type of tree would the children of



Israel come to Deborah for judging? Palm, Sycamore, Fig, Cypress  
5. From Matthew 8, who was the first woman that Je- sus healed? Paul’s sister, Naomi, Peter’s mother-in- law, Deborah  
6. In 1 Samuel 4, which

priest had a son named Ich- abod? Agabus, Phinehas, Azariah, Malachi  
ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Psalm 23:4, 3) Me- phibosheth, 4) Palm, 5) Peter’s mother-in-law, 6) Phinehas  
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## You Are Your Own Worst Enemy

Most of us are, at least sometimes, our own worst enemies. If we think about all the times that we’ve made bad decisions, or the many ways in which we have sabotaged our own plans, we are likely to agree.  
What do all these bad decisions and instances of self-sabotage have in com- mon? Clearly one thing they all have in common is that we are at the center of the decision—after all, we made the bad decision—and likewise we said or did something to sabotage ourselves.  
Rather than chalk this all up to some uncon- scious self-hatred, perhaps the real problem is simply that we are often too fo- cused on ourselves. We

can try too hard to make a good decision or advance our own self-interest and, in the process, forget about the others in our lives.  
Being selfish is one way we self-sabotage, be- cause we are social ani- mals, and being selfish is a sure way to alienate oth- ers. There are a variety of other ways in which we can self-sabotage. Some- times it is done with a bad attitude, which colors everything negatively, and can spill over into other areas of our lives.  
Ask God for guid- ance in making decisions and in carrying out plans. Prayerfully consider your options and God will guide you.  
– Christopher Simon



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Matthew 5:16

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# Eco-Bike Tour will highlight Lake Apopka for Mobility Week

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

In celebration of Mobility Week 2024 next month, the city will host a free Lake Apopka Eco-Bike Ride, which will be in its third year.

The event will take place on Saturday, November 2, 7:30- 9 a.m. at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive and Loop Trail, located at 2850 Lust Road, Apopka.

About eight miles round-trip, the ride will begin at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive entrance.

Parking will be available at the Hickerson Property on the right of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive entrance. Ride participants will have the opportunity to experience a family-friendly, beautiful trail ride, and more.

Since its founding three years ago, participation in the Eco-Bike Tour has been “really great,” according to Stephen Cribb, city special projects specialist.

“The participation has been really, really great,” Cribb said. “I believe last year, we had about 30; we

had about 60 registered there were 30 that came out and were actually able to participate. So that was really good. That was about on par with what it was the previous year.”

Eco-Bike Ride participants will bask in the beauty of Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive while traveling the route.

“Obviously you’ve got the Wildlife Drive, which you can ride your bike and also you can ride from Magnolia Park, but this is a kind of a short little trip,” Mayor Bryan Nelson said. “You get some time right

on Lake Apopka on the lake front. Then there’s some areas back in the North Shore where you can kind of see what it’s like. So, you can see some wading birds as well as migratory birds in that North shore area. So, it’s a nice little trip, not real hard. Anybody can do it with, very minimal effort. The only thing we ask, be sure to bring bug spray because the bugs in the morning are, the mosquitoes are tough.

The event will also attract a large group of bicyclists in the area.

“There were a couple

of different bicycle groups that came out and were really excited about it, and even mentioned wanting to do it more than once a year if possible because it was a really good time for them to get their bike clubs together and come out and be able to do something as a group,” Cribb said.

Bicycles will not be available at the event. Riders are responsible for providing their own bicycles.

Online registration is now available for the Eco-Bike Ride. For more information and to register, visit [Apopka.gov/1005/Lake-](http://Apopka.gov/1005/Lake-Eco-Bike-Ride)

Apopka-Eco-Bike-Ride. Mobility Week in Florida will be from October 25 through November 2. Now in its ninth year, Mobility Week is a cooperative effort by the Florida Department of Transportation and its partner agencies to promote awareness of safe, multimodal transportation choices. During Mobility Week, counties, cities, and transportation agencies host events and offer special promotions to encourage Floridians to try new transportation options.

# Catastrophic loss from roof damage at United Against poverty to get fundraising help

Goodwill Industries of Central Florida is launching a special “round up”

initiative to help United Against Poverty Orlando (UP) meet its fundrais-

ing goal of \$150,000 to repair storm damage at its crisis center, according to a Friday, September 6, press release.

In June, UP suffered a catastrophic loss when part of its roof collapsed, forcing the nonprofit to shut

down some vital services. The organization began fundraising to help cover the costs, and now Goodwill is inviting shoppers in Orange County to help UP by rounding up their purchases to the nearest dollar from now until Septem-

ber 29.

Goodwill Industries of Central Florida will match the funds up to \$5,000.

For 65 years, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida has provided vocational and job placement services to tens of thousands of peo-

ple living in Central Florida.


For more information about Goodwill and to find the nearest Orange County store, visit [GoodwillCFL.org](http://GoodwillCFL.org). The Apopka Goodwill is located at 1312 E. Semoran Boulevard, Apopka.

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