

See the story and pictures at the top of the page about the Apopka Blue Darters loss to the Edgewater Eagles in their first away game of the season. Apopka fell 35-0 to a 2-2 Edgewater leaving the Blue Darters at 3-2 this season.

Section B

INDEX:
2B-Sudoku, Crossword,
5B-Puzzle, 6B-Wheels



Your Local Sports News On The Go

Get Your E-edition today! Call or Subscribe Online!
407-886-2777 www.TheApopkaChief.com

The Apopka Chief

Your Trusted Local News Source

First away game of the season is tough for Apopka



**TEMPEST'S
TIMEOUT**
Marshall Tempest

By Marshall Tempest
Apopka Chief Staff

Protection, protection, protection. That was the key in Apopka's game against Edgewater High School last Friday, September 20 – a key the Blue Darters just couldn't get right. Apopka's quarterback Tyson Davison was running for his life all night with barely any time at all to read the defense in the pocket.

The Blue Darters fell to the Edgewater Eagles football team 35-0 in a heart-breaking contest last week. Now sitting at 3-2 on the season, the Blue Darters are officially halfway through. If the Blue Darters hope to make a playoff run, then they will have to do much better in this second half of their season – starting against a very strong West Orange team tonight,

Friday, September 27. I hate to say it, but there is just not much to talk about with this game. For the first half, it seemed like Apopka was playing a different game from Edgewater. While there was the occasional shining moment with a good catch here or a good run there on offense or a tackle for loss on defense, overall Apopka was just getting beat at every phase of the game.

A huge problem for the Apopka defense early last Friday was the mobility of Edgewater's quarterback, Carter Emanuel. Through the option or just finding his way out of bad situations scrambling out of the pocket, he was running away from Apopka defenders all night long and found himself in the endzone three times on his feet. Emanuel had 74 rushing yards on just 11 carries with his longest rush being for 14 yards.

But Emanuel wasn't just great on the ground but through the air. He had 195 yards, one touchdown, one interception, and went 13-for-16 for an 81.2 completion percentage. Emanuel knew how to run the offense and did great picking apart the Apopka defense in the first half to build a



On Friday, September 20, two Edgewater Eagles rushers break through the Blue Darter offensive line and take down Apopka's quarterback Tyson Davison for a sack.



On the left, Apopka's Tyson Davison is sacked during the Blue Darters 35-0 loss to the Edgewater Eagles on Friday, September 20. On the right, Davison gets rid of the ball moments before two Eagles' rushers can get to him.

See **EAGLES** Page 2B

Mustangs fall to Georgia power house Lee County

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief Staff

For about 20 minutes, the Wekiva Mustangs kept the score against the Lee County Trojans competitive. The end result was that Lee County had too many weapons for Wekiva to contend with, ending with a loss by the score of 62-17.

A blitzkrieg of three consecutive touchdowns by Lee County during the last 9:15 of the second quarter turned competitiveness into decisive victory for Lee County.

Touchdowns scored during the last 9:15 of the second quarter were by means of a three-yard pass completion, a 17-yard rush as well as 54-yard catch and run.

The last touchdown was particularly lethal due to the explosiveness, and the score ballooned to 47-17 on the last play from scrimmage.

In the meantime, the Mustangs gained only one first down over the course of four possessions.

A safety, 35-yard rush and 24-yard completion urred the final margin of

the score to 45 points.

Quarterback Wesley Bryan continued to set the tone and direct an exhaustive offense as 568 total yards were gained.

However, the lead was never challenged by Wekiva either. The first two Trojan possessions ended with touchdowns. Touchdowns were scored by Bryan on a 12-yard rush and a 43-yard pass to Jaden Upshaw, respectively. Seventy yards and 10 plays were needed to find the end zone the first time as Lee County also took control of field position. Taking control of field

position while the first possession ended in a touchdown also facilitated the Trojans playing from ahead and at the beginning.

Wekiva ran six plays and had possession twice before gaining a first down.

Then a 91-yard Jackson Keillor to George Phillips pass completion on third and long ignited the competitiveness.

Keillor found Jabari Smith at the Trojans' 40-yard line and right hashmark on the next possession. The pass was caught 20 yards beyond the line of scrimmage and in stride

by Smith. After catching the ball and with nobody in front, Smith ran untouched into the end zone.

Nathan Fritchley's 35 yard field goal with 9:20 before halftime cut the Lee County lead to 26-17.

The two touchdowns and possession ending with the field goal accounted for 191 yards of the 221 total yards gained or 86 percent of the Mustangs' entire amount.

Facing third down only five times was also significant. Even more significant though, Lee County converted all five of the third

downs. What few opportunities the Mustangs had to stop and force the Trojans' offense off the field were not converted. Wekiva's record fell to 2-3.

Losses have been by an average of 33 points. Midway through the second quarter of each loss though, the Mustangs were trailing by no more than 10 points. Nor was a first down gained during the first two possessions of four contests.



On Thursday, September 19, Apopka Blue Darter legend Brandon Meriweather sits with Roger Williams during his show Talkin' Old School with Roger Franklin Williams.

Meriweather featured at the Froggers spirit night

The Talkin' Old School with Roger Franklin Williams radio program featured former Apopka High great and NFL star Brandon Meriweather at Frogger's Grill & Bar Apopka on Thursday evening, September 19.

The event was one of a series of Spirit Night events at Frogger's. Spirit Nights are community events hosted by Frogger's where Frogger's donates 20 percent of the proceeds to community organiza-

tions in the Apopka community; the Apopka High School Alumni Association was the beneficiary of this event, the donation being for the purpose of providing free passes for AHS students to AHS athletic events.

Brandon Meriweather is one of Apopka Football's all-time greatest football players; he was a 3-year starter from 1999 to 2001 and was a key leader on the 2001 State Champions. He was a first team All-Amer-

ican for the Miami Hurricanes and was the Number 1 draft choice of the New England Patriots, coached by Bill Belichick in 2007. In addition to discussion of Brandon Meriweather's career, the program also celebrated the 2001 State Champions and was attended by a large number of Apopka Football fans and supporters, members of the 2001 team and Blue Darter Greats from the past.

APK travels to face the Warriors

By Marshall Tempest
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka Blue Darters face off against the West Orange Warriors tonight Friday, September 27 at West Orange High School. The Warriors are undefeated so far this season and are ranked 68th in Florida, 9th in Division 7A, and 15th in Orlando. But, they have yet to face

someone in their district such as Apopka, Ocoee, or West Port.

When looking at Apopka and West Orange side by side, statistically Apopka is right there with West Orange defensively and has given up the least amount of points in our district. Apopka has allowed opponents to score 41 points this season and West Orange has allowed

59. But Apopka has one more game under their belt than West Orange, so our defense is better on paper.

Offensively, West Orange blows Apopka out of the water. The Warriors have scored 116 points in four games while Apopka has scored 68 points in five games. The Warriors have a balanced offense where

See **WARRIORS** Page 2B

Mustangs take on the Lions

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief Staff

The Wekiva Mustangs' schedule winds back through the list of familiar opponents this week in the form of the Oviedo Lions. Scheduled to kickoff at 7 p.m. tonight, Friday, September 27, the contest is however the first during the regular season. Seven preseason contests have been held between the two teams.

The contest is also the

opener of the District 6A-4 schedule along with the Lake Howell Silver Hawks taking on the Evans Trojans.

"Mistakes and errors often determine outcomes of contests," Mustangs assistant coach Lamarcus Jackson said. "Coaches talk about limiting mistakes and errors for a reason; outcomes of contests being determined by mistakes and errors hasn't changed since the first kickoff. When Oviedo is the opponent

though, the need to limit mistakes and errors dramatically increases."

Over the last two seasons and under Greg Odierno, the Lions have compiled an 18-5 record and earned two berths into the FHSAA playoffs. A 3-1 start to the season certainly positions Oviedo to contend for another playoff berth.

The one team among the top tier of competition

See **LIONS** Page 3B

Police Beat

If a law enforcement agency charges you with a crime and this paper reports that information, please notify us within 90 days if the charge is dropped, or if you are found not guilty by the court. After verifying the information, we will be happy to publish it. Please send notification to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, 32704-0880.

In the period from September 15-21, the Apopka Police Department received 1,637 calls for service, responded to 29 crashes, issued 35 citations, and made 21 arrests. Juveniles were charged with intimidation-written/electronic threat of mass shooting/terrorism act; disturbing peace-interfere with school administration functions.

The following adults were arrested and charged: Dana Dwayne Brown, 28, general delivery, Orlando, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (cocaine); obstructing justice-tamper with evidence in criminal proceeding; resist officer-

obstruction without violence.

Kurt Chandler Ducharme, 59, 533 Hawkins Cir., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-alcohol or drug 3rd violation/conviction outside 10 years; crimes against person-corrupt by threat public servant or family.

Joseph Fetchick, 42, 100 Via Rosa Ct., Debary, resist officer-obstruction without violence.

Jeffery Lamont Gunn, 59, 2013 Nobscot Pl., Apopka, trespassing-occupied structure or conveyance.

Jose Hernandez, 22, 801 E. 9th St., Apopka, burglary of occupied structure unarmed; resist officer-obstruction without violence; damage property-criminal mischief over \$200 under \$1,000; indecent exposure of sexual organs 1st offense.

Austin James Lee, 23, confidential, Apopka, aggravated battery on pregnant victim; damage property-criminal mischief \$200 and under; robbery by sudden snatching without firearm or weapon.

Larshavia Jaquay

Lockhart, 34, 2501 Jammes Rd. Apt 39, Jacksonville, out-of-county warrant.

Freddrick Leon Marshall, 61, confidential, Winter Springs, stalking-follow/harass/cyberstalk another; burglary-unoccupied conveyance unarmed.

Donnell Varuael McClain, 44, general delivery, Apopka, disturbing peace-breach of the peace. Alisa Michelle McClellan, 36, 972 Brentwood Dr., Apopka, trespassing -structure or conveyance.

Tenina Lishay McCoy, 35, general delivery, Mount Dora, obstructing justice-tamper with evidence in criminal proceeding; health-safety nuisance injurious to health; drug equipment-possession and/or use.

Emilio Mendez, 25, 34 E. 2nd St., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle; moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license 2nd conviction.

Gerson Jose Padilla-Gutierrez, 31, 728 S. Park Ave., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (fentanyl).

Leon Codare Patterson, 38, 1617 Capesterre Dr., Orlando, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-in-

fluence of alcohol or drugs.

Luis Angel Perez Rodriguez, 46, 832 Trailview Dr., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, DUI-influence of alcohol or drugs.

Shaquille O'Neil Peterson, 31, confidential, Apopka, other agency warrant.

Lexia Angulic Sanchez, 25, 5318 Regal Oak Cir., Orlando, moving traffic violation-driving while license suspended revocation equivalent status.

Sean Sotolongo, 34, 375 W. Welch Rd., Apopka, drugs-possession of controlled substance without prescription (fentanyl); drug equipment-possession and/or use; out-of-county warrant.

Dante Rashard Wells, 36, 2562 Breezy Meadow Rd., Apopka, DUI-unlawful blood alcohol 0.15 or higher or with person under 18 in vehicle.

Tuesday Lynn West, 45, 803 E. Magnolia St., Apopka, trespassing-failure to leave property on order of owner.

Damien James Wright, 50, 2144 W. Oak Ridge Rd. Apt F, Orlando, out-of-county warrant.

St. Johns flows north

Florida's longest river is a liquid chameleon. During its slow 310-mile northerly journey, the St. Johns River morphs from a marsh in Indian River County into a broad waterway with expansive views as it flows to northeast Florida and into the Atlantic Ocean.

The sawgrass marsh areas of the river's headwaters are teeming with alligators, wading birds and waterfowl. In Brevard County, the marsh becomes a navigable river, gently twisting as it crawls north. Then the river reveals a tapestry of lakes, bottle-clear spring runs and darkwater tributaries. As the river leaves Putnam County for Clay and St. Johns counties, it widens considerably, in some locations exceeding two miles across. After passing Mayport in Duval County, the longest river contained in the state of Florida ends its journey where it mixes with the Atlantic Ocean.

The St. Johns River is an ancient intracoastal lagoon system, which gets its tea color from tannins, a natural color caused by decaying plant material. As sea levels dropped, barrier islands became an obstacle that prevented water from flowing east to the ocean. The water collected in the flat valley and slowly meandered northward, forming the St. Johns River.

The St. Johns — one of the few rivers in the United States that flows north — is one of the laziest rivers in the world. From its source in the marshes south of Melbourne to its mouth in Mayport, the river drops a total of less than 30 feet — or about one inch per mile. The incoming tide from the Atlantic Ocean causes the river to reverse its flow twice a day and in periods of low water, tides may cause a reverse flow

See RIVER Page 6B

Eagles: Problems with the O-line



Apopka's Kingston Shaw (15) chases an Edgewater running back after getting through the offensive line on Friday, September 20.

Continued from page 1B

lead.

In Apopka's loss to Edgewater, we saw the same problems Apopka has had all season: an inability to block up front and a lack of discipline on defense. The run game and the passing game were of no use for most of the game for the Blue Darters only finding themselves in Edgewater's red zone one time in the first half.

While the Apopka defense showed their strength and talent during points in the game, especially in the second half, Edgewater was able to put up 28 points in the first half.

Apopka's offense was stalled all night though as you could tell from the score. I don't want to put it all on the offensive line — but honestly, except for a couple of mistakes here and there Apopka's offense couldn't move because they couldn't block.

What I did get to see because of this was Davison taking charge and holding his teammates accountable. On the sideline after three quarters of three and outs and running for his life just to grab a yard, Davison was visibly, and for good reason, upset. He got angry and he asked his teammates why they were giving up, and why they were letting him pick up their slack.

It was good to see Davison get emotional and finally jump into that leadership role. Now of course being a leader isn't about yelling at your teammates when they make a mistake, but holding your teammates accountable and not letting them get away with not giving 100 percent every play is. Hopefully, Davison's words and emotions stuck with his offensive line and they'll be ready to give him everything they've got tonight.

The Eagles had a to-

tal of 350 yards compared to Apopka's 168. Apopka found themselves in the Edgewater red zone twice and within the 40-yard line four times, but each time they were unable unable to come away with any points.

It's the same story as it has been all year for the Apopka offense. The Blue Darters need to be able to score and secure points when they make it inside their opponent's 40-yard line. And this isn't news. Apopka's head coach Heff Rolson told me this weeks ago, but we are still having problems with the fundamentals on offense such as blocking, and without it, Apopka will continue to struggle whether it's through the ground attack or the air.

Edgewater knew they needed a win being 2-2 coming into the game and came out on the field to

See EAGLES Page 3B

Warriors: West Orange offense is as balanced as it could be.

Continued from page 1B

they can bounce from the run to the pass and see what works better against their opponent.

For example, in their first game of the season against Wekiva, the Warriors had 282 rushing yards and 125 passing yards. The Mustangs have not been great at stopping the run this season so West Orange stuck with what worked. But in their game against Boone, they had 248 passing yards and just 100 rushing yards.

West Orange averages 180 passing yards a game and 160.25 rushing yards a game compared to Apopka

who averages 35.3 passing yards a game and 205.2 rushing yards a game. Apopka's 205.2 rushing yards a game though is a great example of how stats can deceive. Apopka got 426 of their 900 rushing yards against one opponent. West Port. West Port is ranked 360th in the state and are not the same caliber program as Apopka or its well known opponents. So, the average isn't a great tell of Apopka's performance with such a huge outlier in the data.

I think it's easy to see Apopka's biggest obstacle in this matchup will be putting up points. Because we know that we'll struggle

on offense it will be more important for the defense to get ahead early on West Orange and not give them any time to find rhythm or momentum in their offense through the air or on the ground.

West Orange has won their last four games as I said before, but two of them were pretty close games. Their 24-21 win over Titusville and 24-17 win over Boone show weakness in West Orange's game where Apopka could take advantage. The rushing game seems to be the weaker link in West Orange's defense with them allowing 604 rushing yards in four games or an average of 151 rushing yards a game.

The Warriors' pass defense has held up well so far this season except against Wekiva who was able to put up 178 of the 395 passing yards that West Orange has allowed this season. Without that game, the Warriors have given up just 217 passing yards in three games for an average of 72.33 passing yards a game. Now Apopka won't be looking to throw the ball much, but they often find themselves in situations that only a pass play can get them out of on third and long. So, it will be interesting to see how much the Blue Darters run their offense through the air against the Warriors.

See WARRIORS Page 3B

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

SUDOKU ANSWERS: PAGE 4C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Breezed through

5. Supervises interstate commerce

8. Unruly group

11. Backs away from

13. Expression of understanding

14. Have concern for

15. Monetary units

16. Congressman (abbr.)

17. Iranian city

18. Eating houses

20. 2,000 lbs.

21. Grandmother

22. They include North, South and Central

25. In an early way

30. Foes

31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine

32. One who unloads cages

33. Another term for sesame

38. Formally forbid

41. Make clear

43. Inaccessible

45. Get through

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Decimeter

50. Type of sword

55. Actor Idris

56. Affirmative (slang)

57. Afflicted

59. One point north of northeast

60. Born of

61. Arabic name

62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: __ pai dong

63. Termination point

64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. Sign language

2. In style

3. Helsinki neighborhood

4. Unable to hear

5. More rapid

6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth

7. In a cagey way

8. Kate and Rooney are two

9. Algerian port

10. Community in Ladakh

12. Midway between south and southeast

14. Town in Galilee

19. Satisfy

23. Italian impressionist painter

24. Brass instrument

25. Chest muscle (slang)

26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm

27. Records electric currents generated by the brain

28. Woman (French)

29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers

34. Baseball stat

35. Pointed end of a pen

36. Popular sports league

37. Body part

39. Unlikely to provoke dissent

40. Yellowish cotton cloth

41. Domesticated house pet

42. Untruths

44. Set out to attract

45. Spiritual leader

46. Abba __, Israeli politician

47. Repair

48. Genus of flowering plants

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. River in central Europe

54. Harness

58. Father

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		
11				12		13			14				
15						16			17				
	18				19	20			21				
					22	23			24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30						31							
32									33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42			
								43		44			
47	48				49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57				58
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

Solutions can be found on page 4C of this newspaper.

Lions: ‘Disciplined teams play smart and intelligent football...’

Continued from page 1B

on the schedule through the first four contests is the Bishop Moore Hornets. The Lions belonging on the same field as the top-tier teams was demonstrated and decided in the closing minute with an outcome of 45-40. However, final score was still in favor of Bishop Moore, and Oviedo has yet to prove capable of defeating a team with a winning record, let alone among the top-tier.

On the other hand, the Lions have convincingly taken care of lesser teams, or have taken care of the business presented at the time. Combined record of the Sickles Gryphons, Lake Brantley Patriots, and Lyman Greyhounds this season is a below average 4-10. Combined score of the three Oviedo victories is 162-14.

“Well-coached teams are disciplined,” Jackson said. “Disciplined teams play smart and intelligent football. Smart and intelligent football starts and ends with committing few mistakes. How the Lions

play football falls under all steps of the progression.

Oviedo is gaining an average of 397 total yards per contest while giving up under 200 in three of the four. Even during the loss, the Lions outgained the Hornets in total yards.

“Not only is a team reducing the amount of opportunities to create a play or stretch with big impact from itself when committing mistakes,” Jackson said. “The opponent is being given one more opportunity, as well. Oviedo simply does not provide opponents with those opportunities to create plays or stretches of big impact. Limiting mistakes is even more of a necessity against the Lions in order to win because the quantity committed is so much and significantly lower than the average on both sides.”

Perhaps the most direct reason Oviedo has won by an average of 49.3 points is the cause and effect each units’ play has had on the other two. Offense has started about half of the possessions no worse than midfield. About

90 percent of those possessions followed the defense holding the opponent to a three and out. The same is true of the offense moving the ball into the opponent’s territory.

However, “impact of special team’s play on the two other units’ ability to produce positive results has been even more intense and stronger,” Jackson said. “A positive play from the special team is always a wild card factor, the something unexpected. Special teams are contributing several during each victory though.”

The Lions blocked two punt attempts against the Greyhounds most recently, which were then returned for touchdowns.

The 3-4 defense is relied on by Oviedo. Three linebackers are stacked behind the defensive linemen and overhanging defenders on either side of the box, also known as the 30 front. (Stack means the players line up in a single line.)

Secondary lines up in coverage one (one safety) and three. Who and the area covered varies depending

on the general or down and distance situation.

Offense is executed in an even more basic nature out of the spread with four receivers. Rush to pass ratio is exactly two to one. One hundred and six rushing plays gaining an average of 8.1 yards have been called. Brock Joyce and Chance Nixon are known for running into the hole at the line of scrimmage with intensity and veracity, combining to gain 648 yards on 71 carries or an average of 9.1.

Damage to the opponents’ cause has been equally methodical and systematic when going to the pass. Quarterback Jerome Curry enters the contest with a 129.8 quarterback rating, completing only 21 of 37 attempts for a percentage of 57, but 524 yards gained. Doing more with less is the calling card of the passing game as Curry’s average per completion is also 25 yards.

Receiving is by committee though. At 9, Jordan Donahoo leads the team in receptions, 267 yards gained and 66.8 per con-

test. Six different receivers have caught at least three pass attempts. At least 150 yards have been gained through the air by four different receivers, too.

The play of the Mustangs has reflected the 2-3 record. Both of Wekiva’s victories have been over opponents they were heavily favored against and with one combined. Losses have been to teams in the top-tier and a heavy underdog against. Combined score of the three losses is 136-37.

The Mustangs have also developed a harder to overcome pattern of up and down. A weak start, followed by a surge or stretch in which multiple explosive plays cuts the lead to no more than 10 points, then giving up at least three consecutive scores as the half comes to a close. Included in the pattern during the losses is giving up a touchdown as the last minute of the first half ticks off.

During the last seven quarters of the two victories, Wekiva gained 729 total yards. The number includes a non-stop clock and only four plays run dur-

ing the last two quarters though. Total yards were in favor of the Mustangs by a margin of 355-135 during and including the last play of the second victory. Wekiva’s margin of total yards gained not including the last play was 277 yards.

“There have been flashes of positive play, the kind which wins contests,” head coach Doug Gabriel said at the time. “Mistakes committed are still a lot more than we should be making,” “Shooting ourselves in the foot is still too common. We continue to be our worst enemy.”

Then against state championship contender, top-tier Georgia Lee County Trojans, deficit in total yards was 568-221.

“All three units, phases, of the game need to be well-played to win against the Lions,” Jackson said. “Again, playing well isn’t possible when committing a lot of mistakes and errors. Against Oviedo though, mistake-free play is the only way to win.”

Eagles: Latter half of the season could spell trouble for Blue Darters



The Apopka defense makes a great tackle on an Edgewater running back for a major loss of yards on Friday, September 20.

Continued from page 2B

play a brand of football Apopka just hasn’t come up against yet this season. Apopka’s schedule so far this season could be summed up as a grace period. Other than Edgewa-

ter and Dr. Phillips, who are both top 50 teams in the state right now, Apopka’s opponents so far this season have been on the less challenging side. But from now on, including tonight, the Blue Darters have matchups only with

the best in the state.

Unfortunately, due to time constraint with the press due to Hurricane Helene, coach Rolson was unable to comment on the game.

Tonight, we face West Orange, and the Warriors



The Apopka offense watches film on the sideline after a three and out during their 35-0 loss to the Edgewater Eagles.

are currently 4-0 and are ranked 68th in the state ninth in Division 7A, and 15th in Orlando. After a bye week, Apopka faces Cocoa who is currently 3-2 and is ranked 9th in the state and 27th in the nation. After Cocoa, Apopka

faces Osceola who is currently 3-2 and is ranked 58th in the state, 11th in Division 6A, and 13th in Orlando. Then Apopka faces Madison County who is 4-1 currently and is ranked 64th in the state, second in Florida’s rural Division,

and eighth in Tallahassee. Finally, Apopka will face off against Wekiva in the Mayor’s Cup to close out the regular season. The Mustangs are currently 2-3 and are ranked 170th in the state, 31st in Division 6A, and 36th in Orlando.

Warriors: A win over West Orange could have huge implications



The Apopka defensive line breaks through the Eagle’s front and tackle an Eagles’ running back.

Continued from page 2B

Last week during Apopka’s tough loss to the Edgewater Eagles, I got to see which players really want to be great. After two quarters of getting beat up, some of the guys were over it and showing signs of giving up. But leaders on the team such as quarterback Tyson Davison and defensive end Elijah Henry were keeping their teammates accountable and

urging them to keep their heads up and to never give in. That’s what’s important in these games because if no one gives up there is always hope to turn it around. We have all seen Apopka make fourth-quarter comebacks or dig themselves out of impossible situations before, so it’s all about confidence and believing it’s possible.

West Orange is set for a great playoff run and sits really good at 4-0 right

now. A win for Apopka over West Orange would not only be a great win for district standings but for a playoff run for Apopka. As I have said multiple times so far this season we are coming up on the half of the season where Apopka’s schedule gets really tough and there is not a lot of breathing room. We need wins now. We needed the two wins we don’t have right now that we gave away to Dr. Phillips



Apopka’s Jockee Sanders (20) takes off with the ball after the Edgewater defense makes the wrong read and tackles quarterback Tyson Davison.

and Edgewater. Luckily for Apopka, both of those wins don’t look bad considering the opponent. Edgewater is a top-tier program that has been making runs at the playoff for the last decade or so, and undefeated Dr. Phillips has performed so well this season that they are ranked 28th in the state and 78th in the nation.

Apopka has a chance to win this game but to do that they will need to come out with a game-

plan, the confidence they had against West Port, and an all-or-nothing mentality because that’s where they lie. Right now, if Apopka loses this game and then loses another before the end of the season, I can’t see them making it to the playoffs. Last year Apopka squeezed into a playoff spot after finishing the season 7-3 with losses to Seminole, Edgewater, and Lake Mary. I believe this year it may be a bit harder

to make it into the playoffs with a 7-3 record, even harder with more losses.

The Blue Darters can win this game and they can turn this season around, but they have to make that decision before they get on the field. This needs to be a forgone conclusion. Apopka needs to win if they want to keep playing after ten games.

Need to send or receive a FAX?

Use our fax:
407-889-4121*
**There is a small fee for this service.*

Apopka Office Supply
400 N. Park Ave., Apopka, FL 32712

AOS

407-889-4455

Apopka football struggles against Edgewater Eagles



Apopka's Devin Simmons pushes through multiple defenders before being tackled on Friday, September 20.



Apopka's Jockee Sanders finds a gap in the front and speeds through the middle of the box during Apopka's game against the Edgewater Eagles.



Head coach of the Apopka Blue Darters Jeff Rolson talks with his defense about adjustments during a timeout.



Apopka's Elijah Henry attempts to knock down a pass from Edgewater's quarterback.



On Friday, September 20, The Apopka Blue Darters prepare for kickoff before the start of their game against the Edgewater Eagles.



Two Apopka defenders push an Edgewater Eagle out of bounds to end his run.



Apopka's quarterback Tyson Davison makes a pass with an incoming rusher right behind him.



On Friday, September 20, Apopka's punter Michael Wells begins to make contact.



The Apopka defense tries to stop an Edgewater run before it can cross the line of scrimmage..



The Apopka defense make a tackle on an Edgewater ball carrier stopping him from making it further into Apopka's side of the field.



Tyson Davison lets go of a pass during Apopka's game against loss to the Eagles on Friday, September 20.

Staff
photos
Marshall
Tempest

Fall, Foliage and Fun!

How do you like **our** hot air balloon?

Hey, you can't expect me - errr Peak - to **climb** every mountain peak!

I love the fall! The cool, crisp air feels so wonderful as I view the plush, colorful fall foliage carpeting the hills and valleys. What is your favorite way to see the fall foliage?

That pile of leaves will break my fall.

Don't even **think** it!

Shopping at the Farmers Market

1. _____
u i p m k s n p

2. _____
s p a l p e

How can people view the colorful fall foliage? **Fill in this puzzle to find out!**

- travel on _____
- ride a trail on _____
- some parks let you climb to the top of a fire _____
- hike to the peak of a _____
- have fun at a fall foliage _____
- camp in the _____
- look down from the clouds in this _____
- fly in the basket of a hot air _____
- pedal on a _____
- travel by _____ on the river
- roll down the tracks on a _____
- ride in a _____ to see and cross old, covered bridges

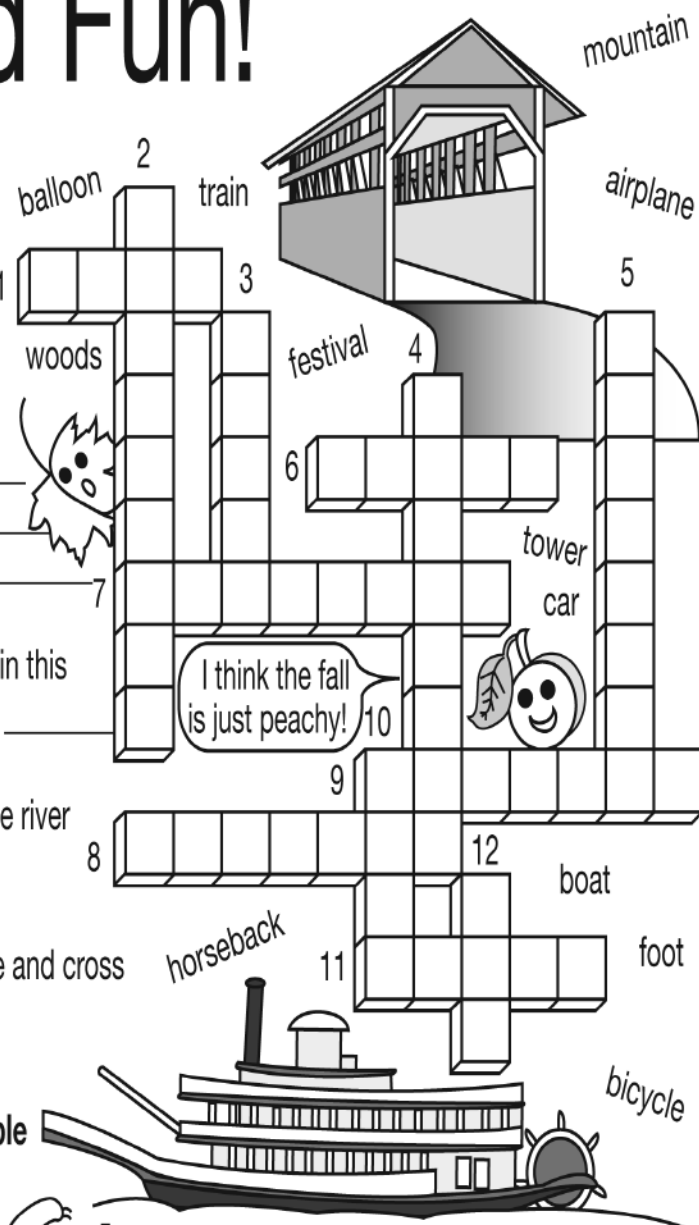
What might you find this fall at the Farmers' Market? **Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks:**

3. _____
h s q a u s

4. _____
l e l j y

5. _____
g s e g

6. _____
n h o y



I think the fall is just peachy!

We really fall for autumn.

Ouch!

Go Team!

Yay! Football season is back.

Can you match the football terms to their meanings?

- tackle
- pass
- touchdown
- fumble
- huddle
- kickoff
- turf field
- football

- scoring play where a member of the offense brings the football into the end zone
- also known as a pigskin, this ball has a white leather lace grip
- when a player drops the football and any player on the field can pick it up
- man-made surfaces used instead of grass on football fields
- first play of every football game; one team launches the ball in the air at the other team
- players on the field meet to discuss how to handle the next play
- quarterback throws the football toward someone on his team
- player on defense knocks down the person holding the football to end a play

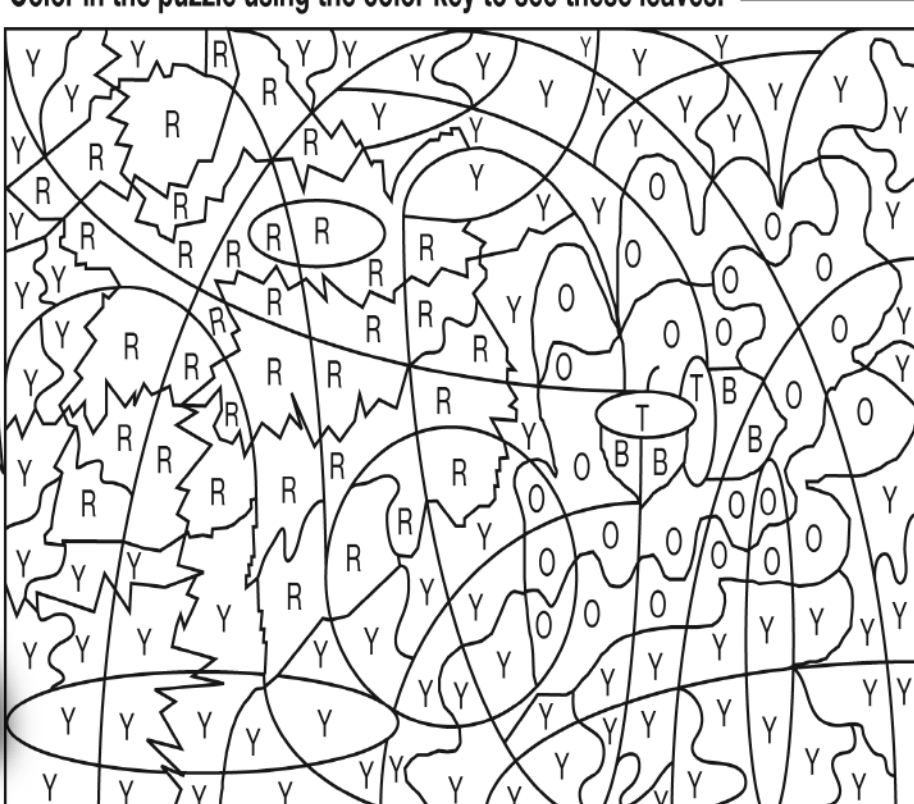
Falling into Autumn

1. Which tree gives us sap to make into sweet syrup and candies?

2. Which tree rains acorns?

Color in the puzzle using the color key to see these leaves:

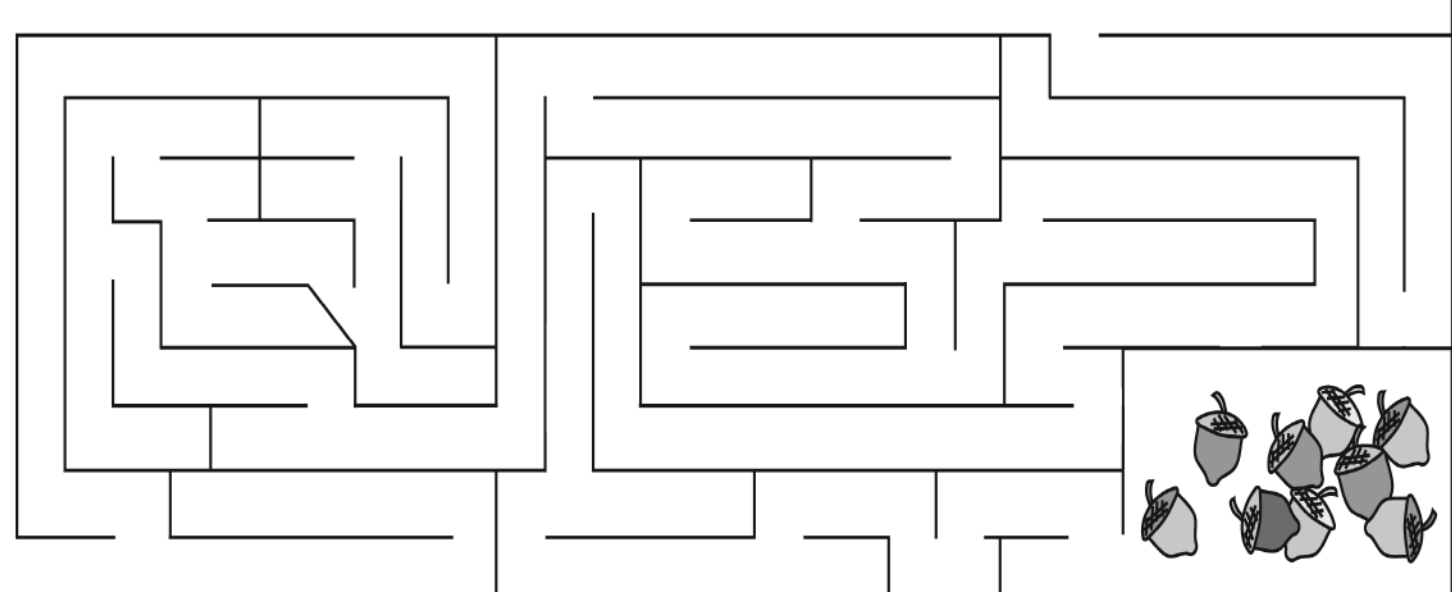
R = Red
Y = Yellow
B = Brown
T = Tan
O = Orange



Gathering Food!

Whirl the squirrel is supposed to be searching for acorns to gather and bring back to his nest for the winter. **Can you help Whirl find his way to the acorns?**

Whaaaaat?
It's just a little snack to keep up my energy!



Newspaper Fun! Created by Animills LLC © 2024

River: Is fed by three water sheds

Continued from page 2B

as far south as Lake Monroe — 161 miles upstream from the river’s mouth. High and sustained northeasterly winds can result in many days of reversed flow. For these reasons, it is difficult for the river current to naturally flush pollutants.

The St. Johns River is divided into three watersheds (also known as drainage basins). Because the river flows north, the upper basin is the area to the south that forms its marshy headwaters in Indian River and Brevard counties. The middle basin is the area in central Florida where the river widens, forming lakes Harney, Jesup, Monroe and George. The lower basin is the area in northeast Florida from Putnam County to the river’s mouth in Duval County, where the riv-

er empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Major tributaries, or smaller streams and rivers that flow into the St. Johns River, include the Wekiva River, the Econlockhatchee River and the Ocklawaha River.

Wildlife is abundant in and around the St. Johns River. For hundreds of years, the river has been home to many plant species and marine animals — manatees, largemouth bass and many other types of fish, crabs, shrimp and other shellfish, river otters, waterfowl, blue herons and bald eagles, and alligators and other reptiles.

The St. Johns River is rich in history and culture, holds environmental and aesthetic value, plays an important role in the economy and serves as a place to call home for people and wildlife alike.

Bird watching on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive can be fun



KEEP THOSE WHEELS ROLLING...

AUTO PROFESSIONALS
Your Ad “Auto” Be Here!
Call us today at 407-886-2777

GENERAL SERVICE: AUTO-BASICS

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

**MAINTENANCE –
YOUR PROTECTION!**

THINK ABOUT IT:
Routine maintenance helps motorists address minor issues before they become more complicated and expensive to repair.

**J & K Automotive**

FAIR • HONEST
DEPENDABLE
All Work Guaranteed
Serving Satisfied Customers Since 1987

CERTIFIED AIR CONDITIONING SPECIALISTS • COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT

Now Hiring Mechanic

Now Offering ANYWHERE CARE
National Limited Warranty
& 24-Hr. Roadside Assistance

- Wheel Balance & Alignments
- Tune Ups • Brakes
- Shocks
- Fuel Injection Service
- Oil Change
- C.V. Joints
- Tires

1012 E. Semoran Blvd. Apopka
Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30 • Closed Saturday
www.JandKautomotiveinc.com

407-880-3530

ASPER ASE CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN VISA MasterCard

St. Reg. #MV05682

Become a Fan on Facebook: J & K Automotive

**GLENN JOINER & SON, INC**

NATIONALLY KNOWN, FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1937

AUTO PARTS

Import • Domestic Tractor • Golf Cart
Marine • Heavy Truck • Light Truck
Lawn Mower • Industrial Supplies
Paint & Body Supplies
All Car Care Needs
New & Old

SPONSOR OF
CHASE ELLIOT
CAR #9



250 E. 3rd St., Suite B, Apopka
407-889-5222

13202 W. Colonial Dr., Winter Garden
404-656-4141

napaonline.com

"If you're on a mission to fix your transmission call..."

ATW

ALLTRANSMISSIONWORLD

Central Florida's Oldest & Largest Transmission & Total Car Care Company

- Transmission • Clutches
- CV Axles • Foreign & Domestic
- Check Engine & Dashboard Warning Lights

Se Habla Español

Chamber of Commerce ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB

1150 E Semoran Blvd. Ste. B Apopka, FL, 32703
407-880-9300
alltransmissionworld.com





D-I-WHY?

Take back your weekends. The businesses in our service directory are here to handle all of your home improvement needs.

**Check out the
Service Directory Pages**

The Apopka Chief & The Planter
www.TheApopkaChief.com