

Lifestyle

An Apopka book author has a novel published with an unusual twist. See page 1B.



God Bless America

Sports

Apopka High School wrestler Kendrick Koller did well at the state meet. See page 1C.



The Apopka Chief

Your trusted local news source

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Volume 96 Number 10

Friday, March 9, 2018 / 50 cents

Election Day nears for 10 Apopka candidates

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

Election Day for city of Apopka residents is almost here.

On the ballot are the race for mayor as well as two city commissioner races.

Mayor Joe Kilsheimer, who is finishing up his first four-year term as the city's CEO, faces a

challenge from Bryan Nelson, current Orange County commissioner from District 2, which is the Apopka and Northwest Orange County area. The mayor's salary is \$150,000.

Running for Seat 1 on the City Council are: Suzanne Kidd, Gene Knight, Theresa Mott, and Alexander Smith. All four will be looking to replace longtime City

Commissioner Billie Dean, who is not running for re-election.

Seat 2 Commissioner Diane Velazquez has three opponents, Leroy Bell, Alicia Koutsoulieris, and Alice Nolan.

The salary for city commissioners is \$13,500.

For Apopka voters who haven't cast their ballot by mail or through early voting, their

chance to have their voice heard will be Tuesday, March 13.

The two polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

For the first time in city history, there will be two voting sites. Those who live in Precinct 9204 will vote at the Northwest Recreation Complex administrative office at 3710 Jason Dwell-

ey Parkway. The office is next to the tennis courts at the large complex.

The other voting site for Precinct 9104 will be the traditional site at the Apopka Community Center/VFW at 519 S. Central Avenue.

The final day to request

See ELECTION Page 3A

City candidates give their opinions on many issues

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

City Council candidates – four for Seat 1 and four for Seat 2 – shared their thoughts and ideas on a plethora of topics, including red-light cameras and whether Apopka should proclaim sanctuary city status, at a two-hour townhall forum on Tuesday, March 6, at Journey Christian Church in Apopka.

The first panel featured all four candidates running for Seat 2 – incumbent Diane Velazquez, and challengers Alice Nolan, Leroy Bell, and Alicia Koutsoulieris.

The Seat 1 forum featured candidates Suzanne

Kidd, Alexander Smith, Gene Knight, and Theresa Mott. Incumbent Billie Dean is stepping down from office after being in office for nearly 25-years.

WBZW 1520AM organized the forum and broadcast it live. Radio personality Christopher Hart moderated.

Every candidate was given a 90-second response time per question, and a 30-second response time if a candidate's name is mentioned during another candidate's response.

In addition to seats 1 and 2 being up for grabs, incumbent Apopka Mayor Joe Kilsheimer and challenger Orange County Commissioner Bryan Nel-



Moderator Christopher Hart (l) speaks as the candidates for Seat 2 listen. Candidates shown are, (l-r), incumbent Diane Velazquez, Alice Nolan, Leroy Bell, and Alicia Koutsoulieris.

son are vying for the mayor's office.

The city election is Tuesday, March 13.

Seat 2 Red-light cameras

All but Velazquez believe there should at least be change in the red-light camera program, which generates nearly \$1 million per year in revenue for the city.

In June 2017, the Apopka City Council voted 3-2 to renew a five-year agreement with American Traffic Solutions, the company that provides the service. Velazquez was one of

the "yes" votes after listening to residents' comments and hearing data from the Apopka Police Department.

See FORUM Page 12A

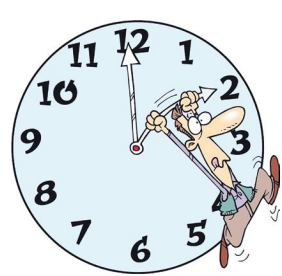
Time change ahead this weekend

Daylight saving time begins this weekend on Sunday, March 11, at 2 a.m.

At that time, clocks will move ahead one hour as we'll lose an hour of sleep that night. Most people, of course, will move their clocks ahead an hour prior to going to bed on Saturday night.

Those who forget to move their clocks ahead will be an hour behind whether they're headed to church or the golf course or a brunch date with a friend.

The change in the clocks also means that it will be darker when the



alarm clock goes off in the morning, but the sun will set an hour later, at least according to the clock. For instance, sunrise on Sunday, March 11, will be at 7:39 a.m. while sunset will take place at 7:31 p.m.

We'll get the hour of sleep back in early November when daylight saving time ends unless the Florida Legislature's action to make it permanent are signed by Gov. Scott and then enacted by Congress.

City settles whistleblower lawsuit

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

The city of Apopka has settled a federal whistleblower lawsuit brought by a former manager of the city's wastewater treatment plant.

Glen Brooks received a \$40,000 payment from the city's insurance carrier in exchange for Brooks dropping the federal lawsuit he brought against the city in March 2017. Brooks suit accused the city of firing him in September 2016 after he had reported to his superiors what Brooks considered violations of the city's wastewater permit issued by the state.

Brooks worked for the city for 14 years, starting in June 2002. He worked there until he was fired on September 26, 2016.

In his suit, Brooks said that he filed a whistleblower report with the city, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida

Department of Law Enforcement "after repeatedly warning his supervisors of illegal contamination and permit violations in the Defendant's waste water treatment plant that posed physical and psychological damage to the employees working there and posed a threat to the health and safety of the public." Brooks' suit went on to say that he received no support from the city in an effort to correct the issues.

His lawsuit also accuses the city of firing him "in retaliation for Plaintiff exercising his First Amendment right and Florida Statutory right to report the violations of law and conditions that posed a serious danger and threat to the public's health and welfare and the employees working within the City of Apopka's water treatment facility."

Brooks, who is now working for Seminole County government as a wastewater manager, said he settled the lawsuit with Apopka to get past the suit. "I wanted to put it behind me

and move on was the main reason, and to clear my name," Brooks said this week.

City of Apopka spokesman Robert Sargent said via email, "After the plaintiff and his representatives were deposed, settlement was made between the City's insurance carrier and the plaintiff. The City admitted no wrongdoing as part of the settlement, and the City maintains that no wrongdoing was committed by anyone employed by the City."

The three-page settlement agreement was signed on February 28 by both parties.

In part, the agreement states, "Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as an admission of wrongdoing by any party. All Parties expressly deny any such wrongdoing."

As part of the agreement, Brooks cannot seek employment with the city of Apopka again unless requested to by the city.

Apopka Fair runs through Sunday, March 11

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief Staff

For the past 17 years, when spring comes, the feeling of it's that time of the year pervades the Apopka area as the Apopka Fair draws near. Organizers completed the final touches of a year of planning this week. And the Apopka Fair is front and center as a noteworthy event for the 17th time this weekend.

Located on Park Avenue between First and Oak streets, Kit Land Nelson Park is hosting the fair now through this Sunday, March 12.

The fair is organized by the city of Apopka and the Rotary Club of Apopka.

"The progress of executing the plan has advanced

steadily over the past few weeks," Chris DeClue, assistant chair of the fair, said earlier this week. "Organizing the fair has continued on time and moved forward. Right now and this week is about executing the finishing touches, putting up the tents and park set-up for example. The newer additions and changes have been executed as far as the rides and other entities being set up in a new location and promoting newer additions, such as the family value pack.

"The flyers are now available (at all local public schools and various businesses).

No new news is good

See FAIR Page 8A



The Apopka Fair offers rides for youngsters of all ages. The fair will take place through Sunday, March 11, at Kit Land Nelson Park in Apopka.

This week

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8 08805 93104 4

Apopka Event of the Week

The Antique, Classic and Special Interest Car Show will be featured at the Apopka Fair on Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Kit Land Nelson Park. More than 100 cars are expected as entries that will come from both near and afar.

Quotable

Whether it's been on social media or otherwise, people throughout this community have taken sides and, no doubt, bonds formed through the years have been broken, all because of an election.

The Apopka Chief on election interest

Opinion

The Apopka Chief

A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

Publisher John Ricketson	Reporters Richard Corbeil Teresa Sargeant Neal Fisher	Marketing Director Jackie Trefcer
General Manager Neoma Knox	Photographer Tammy Keaton	Advertising Anita Walker Dyer Wendy Richardson
Editor John Peery		

Our position

Apopka needs your interest and vote during this election

The time is upon us as Election Day for the Apopka municipal elections is Tuesday, March 13.

While there will very possibly, if not very likely, be a runoff in one or both of the races for city commissioner, the volatile mayoral race will be over Tuesday evening as there are just the two candidates – Mayor Joe Kilsheimer and challenger Bryan Nelson.

Fortunately, the candidates and supporters in the two races for city commissioner have run more positive campaigns, citing positives about their own candidate than worrying about tearing down the opposition.

Whether it's been on social media or otherwise, people throughout this community have taken sides and, no doubt, bonds formed

through the years have been broken, all because of an election.

That's a very sad thing, but sometimes our thoughts, when made public, cost us dearly.

While all of that is true, that doesn't mean we don't think the election is important. It is, in fact, very important and the outcome will determine the course of our city's future.

A few weeks ago, we endorsed Bryan Nelson for mayor, Alexander Smith for Seat 1, and Alice Nolan for Seat 2. We stand firmly by those endorsements.

However, we also believe that the people of Apopka will continue to care about their community and their neighbors no matter the

See INTEREST Page 9A

One-sided critique is never 'fairness'

A couple of mailers from a group located outside of Apopka have tried to influence our city's election and the information contained in the mailers is shady at best.

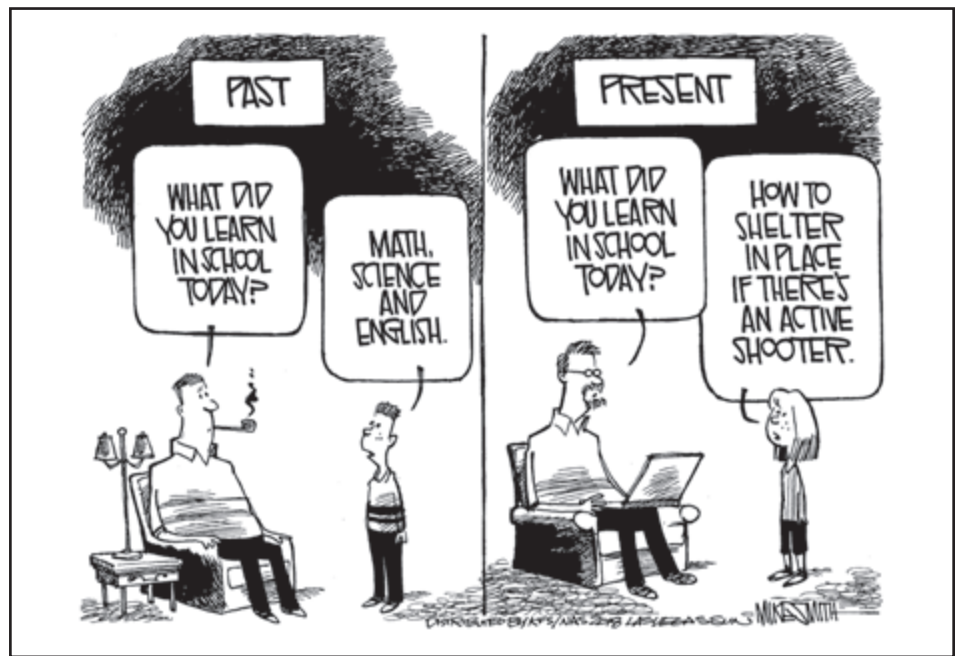
The information is from an Orlando-based political action committee named the Central Florida Fairness Fund. We do find that name rather ironic when its efforts have been anything but fair toward mayoral candidate Bryan Nelson.

In the first mailer a couple of weeks ago, the mailer decried Nelson's relationship with the late John H. Land, who served as Apopka's mayor for 61 years. In a blatant falsehood, the mailer said that Nelson is related to Land. The mailer states, "He even referred to Mayor Land as 'Uncle John.' Well, if the folks who put this mailer together had bothered to check

those pesky facts, they would have known that Bryan Nelson and John Land, while close friends, are not related by blood or marriage. Calling an older man you respect "Uncle" is not uncommon in small communities. We're betting that Nelson would be proud to have been related to Land, but that is not the case.

In the most recent mailer, this so-called Fairness Fund group stated that Nelson voted for red-light cameras across Florida and now has switched his opinion to be against the cameras. Another pesky fact that this group has ignored is that, as a state representative, Nelson voted to allow cities and counties to utilize red-light cameras if they so desired. In other words, Nelson voted to allow for home

See ONE-SIDED Page 9A



Are campaign words truthful or are they meant to deceive?

By Doug Bankson
Special to the Chief

Elections

In the tumultuous political climate of an election we can sometimes see the worst side of ourselves. Ad campaigns are hatched from the minds of those seeking a win, sometimes justifying the means by believing their end is noble. It is difficult for a public audience to sift through the accusations and images painted to sway minds, and we must choose to be discerning and dig beyond the rhetoric and at times misdirection that vies for our votes.

For some the mind is made up and they don't want to be bothered by the facts. For some a Pollyanna image distorts their logic, and pretty pictures cloud better judgment.

Again for some the gloom and despair of negative information steals from them the hope that things can be better and they retreat into apathy and disappointment. But there are those who seek to press past the fluff and stuff, to dig for the truth and guide their path accordingly.

As an elected official I have sought to stay neutral so as not to use my influence in a manner that intrudes into the sacred right of the people to have their voice be heard. I have at times bitten my tongue rather than speak out. I do however have an obligation to answer as factually as I can when questioned. You see I am also a citizen just like you, and must separate fact from fiction and opinion from reality. I was placed in office to make decisions

based upon facts and not agendas.

It is not a secret that my concerns for the general fund reserves (from 31.7 percent in 2013 down to 19.7 percent in 2017, and 18 percent during September's 2017-2018 unaudited budget) have at times been a source of contention, but I see what I see and will not be moved away from my responsibilities. I will gladly be proven wrong if that is the case, but not by opinion or political pressure.

In defense of the candidates, this number can be illusive because it changes. Some have referred to previous budgets and some to the last audit, while others have used more current numbers. However, we elected officials must resist

See BANKSON Page 4A

School board against arming staff

The Florida Legislature, in a bi-partisan way, is addressing school safety. I'm grateful. While some Democrats voted no because they wanted to go further in completely banning the semi-automatic rifles and some Republicans from the Panhandle didn't want to address guns whatsoever, a bill has passed both houses of the Legislature. The cooperating middle of the legislative body came together. This is so encouraging to me.

While I'm not in favor of arming school staff, nevertheless, the legislation allows school districts

Orange County Public Schools



Christine Moore

to make this decision. The Orange County School Board did so at the last meeting. It was unanimous against arming staff. What I have learned is when an active shooter is on a campus and law enforcement arrives for an active shooter emergency, the deputies wouldn't know the difference between the teacher

and the shooter. Thus, any staff, who for the mere \$500 extra stipend offered annually, would have his/her life in danger. School resource officers on campus and dozens of other safety ideas are much preferred.

I'm now going to excerpt some gun statistics and design standards from one of the district's premier architects, Sean Tracy of BRPH. He recently sent me an article he wrote on this subject.

In the first six weeks of 2018, there were eight school-related incidents

See MOORE Page 11A

This Week In God's Word

"Blow ye the trumpets in Zion, and sound the alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand." Joel 2:1.

MemaSays

We labor in the birth of God's purpose in our trials.

This month's Levitt Letter hits a triple and grand slam

MARCH 9 – If there is anything of solid medical interest to people of senior aging (I'll be 84 in March), it's the subject of an article in this month's *Levitt Letter*, which I'm sure will be of interest to anyone over 50.

Written by Shoshanna Solomon, TimesOfIsrael.com, it's headlined "Eyes Divulge Early Signs of Alzheimer's."

"Besides being windows to the soul, say researchers in Israel, the eyes could be a window to the brain. Israel Eye expert

Corbeil's Corner



Richard Corbeil

Dr. Yigal Rotenstreich, a retinal researcher, says his team at Ramat Gan's Sheba Medical Center are using advanced imaging techniques and a new medical device to track changes in pupil size, that they hope could lead to early detection of Alzheimer's

disease.

The retina, with direct access to the brain, is easily accessible for noninvasive imaging and could potentially enable early detection of the disease, even before clinical symptoms become apparent, the researchers believe. Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes memory, thought, and behavior problems. Symptoms usually develop slowly over a number of years.

The Sheba team includes Prof. Michal Been and Dr. Ramn Ravona-

Springer from the Joseph Sagol Neuroscience Center. They use advanced noninvasive imaging techniques to determine the relationship between abnormalities in the retina, such as the volume and the size of its blood vessels and traces of beta-amyloid deposits, and changes in cognitive function and brain structure that are common to people known to be at risk for Alzheimer's. Beta-amyloid plaques are commonly found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients.

"We have developed a multi-local device that measures the amount of pupil constriction when it is exposed to red or blue light. This allows us to test the adequate or inadequate functionality of the visual pathways in different locations of the retina," Rotenstreich said.

"Potential treatments for Alzheimer's have consistently failed in clinical trials because parts of the brain were already overwhelmed by pathology. The new set of tests we have developed are nonin-

vasive, reliable, objective, and can be done repeatedly with a high reliability. If we are able to use these tests to find Alzheimer's early on, then, we will be able to use treatments earlier, hopefully with better efficacy," Rotenstreich said.

This next piece is one we all can benefit and be blessed from. Found on the Internet, *Levitt* headed it "The Last Fare" and sub-head "Great moments can catch us unaware."

"I arrived at the ad-

See CORBEIL Page 5A

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Election: Nearly 2,000 have already cast their ballots

Continued from page 1A

vote-by-mail ballots was Wednesday, March 7.

In addition, early voting for the city election will end today, Friday, March 9, at 5 p.m. at the office of Bill Cowles, Orange County supervisor of elections, at 119 W. Kaley St., Orlando.

As of the morning of Thursday, March 8, Cowles' office had received 1,947 mail ballots with 942 being from Republicans, while 692 were from Democrats, and 313 were from others. The city of Apopka election is non-partisan.

As of midday on Thursday, March 8, 45 people had taken part in early voting with 22 Democrats, 20 Republicans, and 3 with no party affiliation.

There are 31,202 registered voters in Apopka and more than 12,400 of them will vote in the new precinct.

The new voting site, Precinct 9204, is at the Northwest Recreation Complex administrative office at 3710 Jason Dwellley Parkway. The office is next to the tennis courts at the large complex.

The other voting site for Precinct 9104 is at the Apopka Community Center/VFW at 519 S. Central Avenue.

The City Council approved the use of two pre-

incts at a meeting last October and in December gave the OK for the map that will delineate where each voter must cast his or her ballot.

The map divides the city into basic north and south precincts with all of the new precinct - No. 9204 - north of U.S. Highway 441 and most of traditional precinct No. 9104 south of U.S. 441, although parts of downtown Apopka and all of Errol Estate are in the traditional precinct, as well.

Thanks to a new state law, voter registration and

other changes to current registrations can now be done online at registertovote.florida.gov for those who have either a Florida driver's license or a state-issued identification card, Cowles said.

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GAME NIGHT (2018) (R) 1:15; 4:15; 7:30; 10:15
BLACK PANTHER (PG-13) 12:30; 3:45; 6:15; 7:15; 9:45
PETER RABBIT (PG) 12:45; 3:30; 7:00; 10:00
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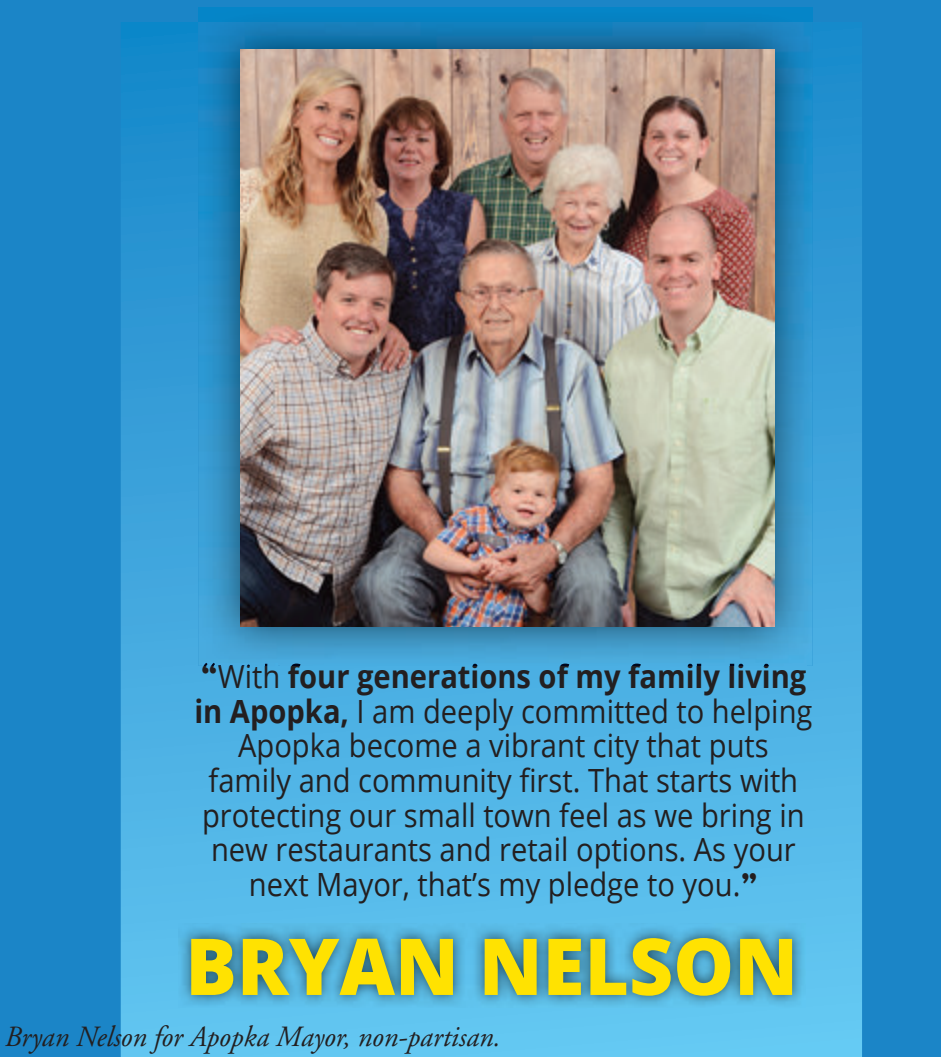


YOUR PRIORITIES ARE BRYAN NELSON'S PRIORITIES.

“As your Mayor, I'll continue working to make Apopka a place we are proud to call home. - Bryan Nelson”

Vote Bryan Nelson for Mayor on March 13.

- ✓ Revitalize our community by attracting more dining, retail and entertainment options.
- ✓ Make sure new development is balanced, smart and puts citizens first.
- ✓ Protect our small-town-feel.
- ✓ Get rid of red light cameras.
- ✓ Maintain the best police and fire departments for safe neighborhoods and streets.
- ✓ Re-establish responsible, fiscally conservative budgeting. It's time to stop borrowing from reserves to balance the budget.
- ✓ Cut the wasteful and irresponsible overspending on lawyers, lobbyists and "pet projects" due to mismanagement.
- ✓ Attract local, higher paying jobs through collaborative efforts between the Chamber of Commerce and UCF economic Incubator programs.
- ✓ Partner with youth sports leagues, such as Little League, Pop Warner, soccer, lacrosse to better serve our families and young people.



“With four generations of my family living in Apopka, I am deeply committed to helping Apopka become a vibrant city that puts family and community first. That starts with protecting our small town feel as we bring in new restaurants and retail options. As your next Mayor, that's my pledge to you.”

BRYAN NELSON

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Bryan Nelson for Apopka Mayor, non-partisan.

Bankson: Budget terminology requires study to understand opinions

Continued from page 2A

the temptation to “massage” the numbers in our favor. People need and want the truth; good, bad, or ugly.

Corrections

A serious misdirection of thought that I’ve been asked by many constituents to clarify is the difference between total reserves and usable reserves. Our total reserves are across several enterprise funds, but the bulk of these are restricted and CAN’T be touched for general operational needs in our city. (They can be borrowed against, but this is not sound fiscal practice.) These funds are specific in nature and are separated and unavailable for other uses.

Our general funds are for operational purposes and have their own reserves set aside for the fluctuations in daily bill paying and budgeting. Good practice as set forth by the GFOA (Govern-

ment Finance Officers Association) *BEGINS* with a baseline of two months reserves or 16.7 percent of the balance for all cities, and then each one is to *ADD TO* this amount based on other regional contingencies such as natural disasters and economic issues unique to your area. *It was never the intent to say that two months is all you need*, but rather that because cities and regions across a large state differ, everyone should start with the basic two months and then each add according to their unique situation.

After speaking with a professor of graduate economics at the Advanced Institute for Elected Municipal Officials conference I attended last year, he confirmed this to me. The practice of other successful cities in Central Florida that are comparable to Apopka is a policy of 25-30 percent as a reserve for general funds.

This reserve amount

differs from personal finances. Personal reserves should be three to six months of expenses (just ask Dave Ramsey) due to the possibility of job loss or change and thus a need for greater reserves in such circumstances. A city differs in that it can’t be “fired”, therefore experts have set the amount to the aforementioned two months *PLUS* contingencies. It is still possible, however, for cities to default (like Detroit which posted the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history) proving the need for adequate reserves and proper planning to deal with the ebb and flow of the overall economy.

Am I concerned with certain trends? Yes. Am I optimistic about the future? Absolutely! Having worked with budgets for over 30 years I know that with a sound policy and better planning we will be able to craft a healthy trajectory forward and take

advantage of the positive economic climate and growth cycle that we are in.

So an election is upon us and this Tuesday together we will choose who will lead us forward. I pledge to both respect and work together with the people’s choice whoever I am to sit by, without compromising what I believe is best for the city. It is my hope that we will continue to be the wonderful city I know and love, and become a united Apopka as we look into the sunrise of our future.

Reflections

I want to close with a tribute to my dear friend John Land, who gave us such an amazing foundation to build upon. I had the privilege of being at his bedside when he passed, and the family and I sang a hymn as he used to love to do while he made his step into Heaven.

I originally wrote this back in 2014 to honor him for his years of service to this community, and wanted to share this again to remind us of his legacy:

Faith

Like Gibraltar it stands. A thousand storms and ten thousand sunsets may pass, and yet it is there, as faithful as the next sunrise. Faith in God is society’s foundation, as sure as Plymouth Rock where our fathers first stood and prayed, giving thanks to the God who brought them to this new land.

Land

Like faith, that word brings an image of stability and strength, of lasting value and something tangible and worth fighting for. In a world of risky investments, it is always a sure thing. It is also a name that graced our city for nearly a century, and led us for over sixty years.

John Land


There’s a reason that all who knew him, friend and foe alike, had a respect for him. One could easily point to his quick wit and humor, political savvy, amazing encyclopedic knowledge, or disarming smile. But the real reason was his faith. It was the strength that undergirded

him and the compass by which he navigated. It was this philosophy that built a great and prosperous city, and procured the blessings of God.

It was not an “in your face” kind of faith, yet it was there in every thought and deed, unassuming, unashamed. John Land believed in God, and in his Lord Jesus Christ. You may not have seen him “Tebow-ing,” (although he did love his Gators), but you would have seen him faithfully at his church, civic organization, or a community fundraiser for someone in need. Why? Because he lived what he believed. That is the truest expression of faith.

That’s why we love you, Mayor John H. Land. Like a rock, your faith was an example we can build upon. Thank you for an enduring legacy, a firm foundation, and a life well lived. May you rest in peace and enjoy your rewards, my friend.

Doug Bankson is an Apopka city commissioner and a local pastor.



Why Are We Allowing SPECIAL INTEREST Groups To Influence This Election?

Campaign Contributions to Central Florida Fairness Fund, a PAC Supporting Joe Kilsheimer

- ➊ **James H. Pugh, Winter Park - \$15,000**
Largest Apartment Company Owner in Central Florida
- ➋ **ATS, Bethany Leytham - \$2,500**
Red Light Camera Company Lobbyist Tampa, Florida
- ➌ **Larry Klein - \$30,000**
Owner of Errol Estate

70% of Kilsheimer’s Campaign Contributions Come From Outside Apopka

As your Mayor, I’ll continue working to make Apopka a place we are proud to call home. - Bryan Nelson

Vote Bryan Nelson for Mayor on March 13.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Bryan Nelson for Apopka Mayor, non-partisan.

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PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF APOPKA MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION MARCH 13, 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the Canvassing Board for the City of Apopka General Election will meet on March 13, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., at the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, 119 West Kaley Street, Orlando, Florida, for the purpose of examining absentee ballots and canvassing the votes cast in the March 13, 2018, General Election, however, not tabulated.

At 7:00 p.m., the Canvassing Board will continue to canvass the absentee ballots, the early voting and precinct returns, and to certify the election if there are no provisional ballots needing review. The Canvassing Board will reconvene on Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. (or 12:00 p.m. in the event a recount is required), at the office of the Supervisor of Elections to conduct the audit, in accordance with Chapter 101.591, Florida Statutes and Rule 1SER08-4, F.A.C.

In accordance with the Florida State Government in the Sunshine Law, all Canvassing Board meetings are open to the public.

AVISO PÚBLICO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD DE APOPKA ELECCIÓN GENERAL 13 DE MARZO DE 2018

A QUIEN PUEDE INTERESAR:

Aviso por este medio que la Junta de Escrutinio para la Ciudad de Apopka y las elecciones general se reunirá el 13 de Marzo de 2018, a las 4:00 p.m. en la Oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Orange en el 119 West Kaley Street, Orlando, Florida, con el propósito de examinar las papeletas ausentes y de escrutar los votos emitidos en el 13 de marzo de 2018, las elecciones generales, sin embargo, no tabulado.

A las 7:00 pm., La Junta de Escrutinio continuará para sondear las papeletas ausente, la votación temprana y el distrito devoluciones, y para certificar la elección si no hay las papeletas provisionales que necesitan revisión. La Junta de escrutinio se reunirá, el jueves, 15 de marzo de 2018, a las 2:00 p.m. (o las 12:00 p.m. en caso de requerir un recuento), en la oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones para llevar a cabo la auditoría, de acuerdo con el Capitulo 101.591, de los Estatutos de Florida y Regla 1SER08-4, F.A.C.

De acuerdo con el Gobierno del Estado de Florida en la Ley del Sol, todas las reuniones de la Junta de Escrutinio son abiertas al publico.

City of Apopka / Ciudad de Apopka, Flkorida
Linda F. Goff
City Clerk / Secretario de la Ciudad

Publish: March 9, 2018
Publish: The Apopka Chief 159876

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.theapokachief.com,
news@theapokachief.com

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

All About Apopka

www.orangecountyfl.net

City of Apopka Telephone Numbers City Hall.....407-703-1700 Mayor’s Office407-703-1703 City Administrator407-703-1750 City Clerk.....407-703-1704 Community Devel.....407-703-1712 Code Enforcement407-703-1738 Finance Dept.....407-703-1725 Fire (non-emerg.)407-703-1756 Parks and Rec. Dept.....407-703-1741 Police Chief.....407-703-1789 Police (non-emerg.).....407-703-1771 Job Line.....407-703-1721 Solid Waste Collect.....407-703-1731 Street Maintenance.....407-703-1731 Utility Billing407-703-1727 Medical, fire emergency.....911	Orange County Telephone Numbers Animal Services407-254-9140 Auto/Boat Tags407-836-4145 Building Dept.....407-836-5760 County Chairman.....407-836-7370 County Commission.....407-836-7350 County Attorney.....407-836-7320 Clerk of the Court407-836-2065 Elections Supervisor407-836-2070 Fire/Rescue407-836-9111 Garbage Collecting407-836-6601 Health Dept.....407-836-2600 Hunting/Fishing Lic.....407-836-4143 Parks and Rec. Dept.....407-836-6280 Property Appraiser407-836-5000 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	Other Area Numbers of Note U.S. Senators Bill Nelson (Dem.).....407-872-7161 Marco Rubio (Rep.)407-254-2573 U.S. Representative Val Demings (Dist. 10)321-388-9810 State Representatives Jennifer Sullivan (Dist. 31).....352-742-6275 Kamia Brown (Dist. 45).....407-905-3807 State Senators Randolph Bracy (Dist. 11).....407-656-6716 Orange County Commissioner Bryan Nelson (Dist. 2)407-836-7350 Orange County Public Schools Pupil assignment407-317-3233 Bus routes.....407-317-3800 Superintendent407-317-3202 School Board.....407-317-3236 Miscellaneous The Apopka Chief.....407-886-2777 Museum of the Apopkans 407-703-1707 Chamber of Commerce407-886-1441
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Corbeil: Courtesy is to treat others as you want to be treated

Continued from page 2A

dress and honked the horn. After few minutes, I honked again. Since this was the last fare of my shift, I thought about driving away. But, instead, I walked to the door and knocked.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small, elderly woman stood before me in a print dress and a hat with a veil, right out of a '40s movie. By her side sat a small suitcase. Behind her, the furniture was covered with sheets.

I took the suitcase to the cab, then, returned to assist the woman. She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated,' I told her.

'You're a good person,' she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?' 'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly.

'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to hospice.' In the rearview mirror, I could see her eyes glistening.

'I don't have any family left,' she continued in a soft voice, and the doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. 'What route would you like me to take?', I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city, past the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator, through

the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived as newlyweds. Sometimes, she'd ask me to slow down in front of a building or corner where she'd sit staring silently.

As the sun was creasing the horizon, she said, 'I'm tired, let's go now.'

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a small convalescent home. Two orderlies came out, solicitous, and obviously expecting her. I took her small suitcase to the door where she was already seated in a wheelchair. 'How much do I owe you?' she asked reaching into her purse.

'Nothing,' I answered. 'You have to make a living,' she said. 'There are other passengers,' I responded, giving her a hug.

'You gave an old woman a moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.'

I squeezed her hand and then turned and walked into the dim light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of a life closing.

For the rest of the day, I wondered, what if she had gotten an angry driver or one impatient to end the shift? What if I had refused the fare, or had honked once and driven away? On quick review, I don't think that I've done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think our lives revolve around great moments. But, great moments can catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in what many consider a small one. People may not remember exactly what you did or said, but

they will always remember how you made them feel.'

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you. That ye may love one another, as I have loved

you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another." John 13:34 and 35.



The Way I See It
Patti Bankson

Wherein Lies the Peace

DACA. The Dreamers. Whether it's outside Sen. Chuck Schumer's home, in Indianapolis, Indiana, outside the Capitol in Washington, D.C., a square in Racine, Wisconsin or anywhere else "Dreamers" are protesting, as I've watched them behave badly and listened to their shouting, I thought about what brought them to this place...but I wasn't thinking about who did what or when they did it. I wasn't thinking about who dreams or doesn't dream. I wasn't thinking about what's legal or what's constitutional... I wasn't thinking about what is or isn't fair.

I was thinking, those involved in this battle have gobbled up a misleading message served them by their "leaders"... I was thinking that this battle is about people who feel they've been let down by those they believed to be the source of everything they want and need...

they're hurt and disappointed. Their expectations have been violated and the response is an angry demand for non-existent rights... a promise of NO PEACE unless they get what they want. The reality is that even if, or when, they get what they're demanding there will still be no peace for them, because they're trusting the wrong people. Or the wrong person. Their whole lives are invested in the external and as important as that may be in this world, I wondered about what and who they are inside? I heard their words, their message... and I know that they're like I was once... different time, place and circumstances, but the same disengagement from their spirit, the same lack of recognition of their real need. They need someone to save them alright, but that someone isn't in government. He's in the message of this song...

When you feel forgotten, when you feel you're all alone, when you feel like giving up; And when you feel discouraged, and everything's uncertain, when you feel you're just not good enough; When it's slipping through your hands and

you've done all you can and there is still so much more to do, It's easy to forget, in times like this...

Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you and He cares about everything you're going through. Your name is engraved on the palm of His hand and that's a promise you can hold on to. Easy to forget in times like this, Jesus loves you.

When the gathering is over and the people are all gone, and you're about as broken as can be. When the sun ain't shining and the nights are just too long, and the weight of it all drives you to your knees. See, I've been where you are, when God just seems so far and I needed to be reminded too. It's so easy to forget in times like this...

Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you and He cares about everything you're going through. Your name is engraved on the palm of His hand and that's a promise you can hold on to. Easy to forget in times like this, Jesus loves you. (Words from song "Jesus loves you" by Jeff and Sheri Easter)

Comments Welcome
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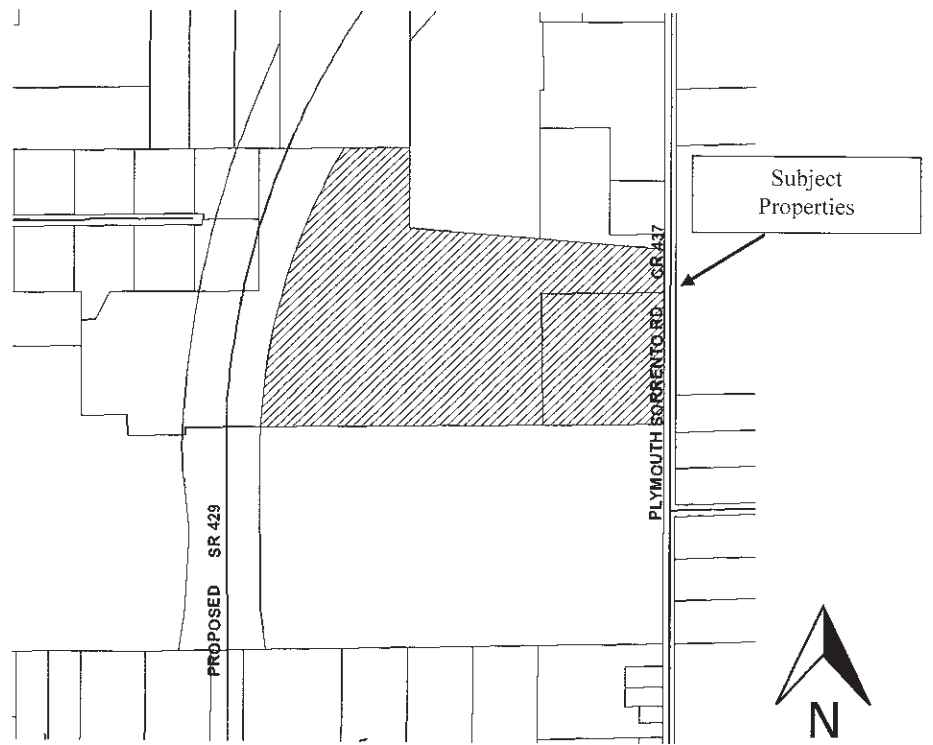
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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LARGE SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given that **AHIFO-18 LLC** has made an application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article XII, Section 12.04.00, to the City of Apopka City Council for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM "COUNTY" RURAL SETTLEMENT TO "CITY" MIXED USE-INTERCHANGE FOR 51 +/- ACRES**. This application relates to the following described property located at 5502 and 5526 Plymouth Sorrento Road.

Parcel I.D.: 12-20-27-0000-00-032; 12-20-27-0000-00-090
Contains: 51.0 +/- Acres



ORDINANCE 2611

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 SETTLEMENT TO "CITY" MIXED USE - INTERCHANGE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF PLYMOUTH SORRENTO ROAD AND EAST OF THE PROPOSED 429, OWNED BY AHIFO-18 LLC; COMPRISING 51.0 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for the future land use ordinance 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, March 21, 2018, 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 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
Community Development Department

March 9, 2018
Publish: The Apopka Chief

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How to prepare your garden after the effects of winter

Lawns and gardens can bear the brunt of winter weather and are often in need of tender loving care by the time spring arrives.

Preparing a garden for spring and summer involves assessing any damage that harsh weather might have caused. As temperatures climb, gardeners can heed the following post-winter garden preparation tips in an effort to ensure some successful gardening in the months ahead.

Assess the damage. Even if winter was mild, gardens might still have suffered some damage. Inspect garden beds and any fencing or barriers designed to keep wildlife from getting into the garden. Before planting anew, fix any damage that Mother Nature or local wildlife might have caused over the past several months.

Clear debris. Garden beds and surrounding landscapes that survived winter without being dam-



Even if winter was mild, prepare your garden by inspecting for overwintering pests, clearing debris and cleaning.

aged might still be littered with debris. Remove fallen leaves, branches and even litter that blew about on windy winter days be-

fore planting season. Make sure to discard any debris effectively so it does not find its way back into the garden.

Turn the greenhouse into a clean house. Spring cleaning is not just for the interior of a home. Cleaning a greenhouse in advance of spring can help gardeners evict any overwintering pests that can threaten plant life once spring gardening season arrives. A thorough cleaning, which should include cleaning the inside of greenhouse glass and washing flower pots and plant trays, also can prevent plant diseases from surviving into spring.

Check for pests. Speak with a local gardening professional to determine if there are any local pests to look out for and how to recognize and remove these pests from gardens. Pests may hibernate in the soil over the winter, and such unwelcome visitors

can make it difficult for gardens to thrive come spring and summer.

Assess plant location. If plants, flowers or gardens have struggled in recent years or never grew especially vibrant, then gardeners may want to assess the location of their plant life before spring gardening season begins. Some plants may not be getting enough sunlight in certain locations on a property, while others might be overexposed to the sun during spring and summer. Moving plants that are not thriving prior to the start of spring gardening season may be just what gardens need to flourish in the coming weeks.

Spring gardening season is right around the corner, so now is an ideal time to prepare gardens for the warmer seasons ahead.

Simple ways to avoid injury while gardening

Simple ways to avoid injury while gardening.

During the winter, many people anxiously await the arrival of warm weather so they can get back outdoors. Gardening is one outdoor activity that attracts many a devotee.

Although gardening can be a worthwhile and enjoyable hobby for people of all ages, like other activities, gardening carries certain safety risks, even though few people may give much thought to the risk of getting hurt when gardening. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that gardeners suffer thousands of injuries every year. Many of these injuries involve lawn and garden equipment or accessories used while tending to plants. From



From lawn mowers to pruners to manual garden tools, gardeners may handle various pieces of equipment that can make them susceptible to injury if they're not careful. To reduce their risk for injury, gardeners can follow these important safety precautions.

lawn mowers to pruners to manual garden tools, gardeners may handle various pieces of equipment that can make them susceptible to injury if they're not careful.

To reduce their risk for injury, gardeners can follow these im-

portant safety precautions.

Plant gardens in raised garden beds and containers to reduce the need to stoop down to tend to plants. Raised beds are easier on gardeners' backs and knees.

Wear long-

sleeved shirts and durable pants to protect arms and legs from branches, thorns and insects.

Remove tripping hazards, such as roots, lumber, rocks, and loose gravel, from the yard at the start of gardening season.

Wear gloves to prevent blisters from forming and to protect hands from any chemical products used in the garden. Gloves also can keep hands clean, ensuring bacteria and fungi do not find their way into open cuts or scrapes.

Vary activities and take periodic breaks so prolonged repetitive motions do not contribute to soreness or injury.

Follow instructions for tools, and always use the right tool for the job.

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Two companies submit bids to city to replace amphitheater canopy

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

amphitheater's fabric canopy, which Hurricane Irma damaged last September.

Two companies submitted bids in the second request for proposal (RFP) round to replace the Apopka

The city of Apopka announced the bid results on Monday, March 5, at City Hall.

The two companies that submitted were Close Construction, of Okeechobee; and Big Span Structures, of Crystal River.

Price quotes were not disclosed at the RFP meeting, nor did city spokesman Robert Sargent reveal them after the meeting.

"This is a request for proposals - prices are not included at this point," he wrote in a Tuesday, March

6, email. "There is no budget - we are working with FEMA to reimburse us for the repairs, which were caused by Hurricane Irma."

The city staff will review the submittals for accuracy, and a recommendation will be presented to the Apopka City Council for an award. However, a timeline for these events has not yet been established.

As part of the bid, po-

tential contractors were encouraged to attend a non-mandatory individually scheduled site visit from February 12 through February 16. The submission deadline was March 5.

The first RFP round opened in October 2017 with a November submission deadline. However, because the city of Apopka received only one bid, that proposal was determined as

outside of the project's budgetary means, according to RFP documents. The city then decided to re-bid at a later date.

According to the RFP documents, the city prefers that the proposed replacement canopy be hurricane resistant for winds up to 150 miles per hour, and have at least a five-year warranty for material and workmanship.

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SERVICE 11:30 AM
SATURDAY

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Contributors to city campaigns for Feb. 10-23

City election contributions
February 10-23

Note: All contributors are from Apopka unless otherwise noted.

MAYOR

Joe Kilsheimer

Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
Louis Betz, Tampa-\$1,000-C
Suree Vyas, Longwood-\$1,000-C
Bobby Garfinkel, Longwood-\$751.11-C
Aaron Mighty-\$500-C
Shiann Piekarski-\$100-C
Dana Boyle, Orlando-\$50-C
78 Political Committee, Orlando-\$1,000-C
Cheryl Kilsheimer-\$72.70-I

Bryan Nelson

Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
Nadena Hooper, Salem, Ala-\$500-C

Tracey Wooten-\$250-C
Emmanuel Vivar, Longwood-\$500-C
Sharon Lee Gates-\$100-C
Amanda Ryan-\$100-C
Mike McGraw-\$100-C
Robert Paul Ryan III-\$100-C
Area 51 Motorsports, Inc., Sorrento-\$250-C
Mid Florida Aviation LLC, Sorrento-\$250-C
Five Cranes LLC, Eustis-\$1,000-C
Sara Ryan-\$100-C
David Gragg, Orlando-\$100-C
Harold W. Laws, Fort McCoy-\$200-C
Frederick Pullum, Orlando-\$200-C
Gary Kreisler, Longwood-\$100-C
Virginia Rankin, Tavares-\$500-C
Armando Gutierrez, Coral Gables-\$250-C
Shutts & Bowen, Miami-\$1,000-C
Michael Grindstaff, Orlando-

\$250-C
Daniel O'Keefe, Windermere-\$500-C
Rain Investments, Orlando-\$500-C
Bio-Tech Consulting, Orlando-\$500-C
Amick Holdings, Inc., Orlando-\$500-C
Floriday Properties, Winter Garden-\$500-C
Kathleen Mclver, Maitland-\$500-C
Sara Ryan-\$50-C
Carol Vincent-\$50-C
Karen Brienzan-\$50-C
Robert Garfinkel, Longwood-\$1,001.11-C
Robert Garfinkel, Longwood-(\$1.11)-C
Donna Krebbs-\$25-C
Alicia Mansfield-\$100-C
Evan Anderson, Orlando-\$100-C
Rowe Enterprises-\$1,000-C
Maureen Landers-\$250-C
Robert Caldwell-\$100-C
Bryan Nelson-\$316.21-I

Bryan Nelson-\$115-I
Realtors PAC, Orlando-\$1,000-C
Channel Partners, Inc., Lake Mary-\$1,000-C
Lake Helen Holdings LLC, Lake Mary-\$1,000-C
Daytona Holdings LLC, Lake Mary-\$1,000-C
Explorer Cove Investments LLC, Lake Mary-\$1,000-C
Porkie's BBQ-\$50-I
Patty Redlich-\$200-C
William Matthews-\$250-C

CITY COUNCIL

Seat 1

Suzanne Kidd

Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
David A. Duckworth-\$50-C
Gayle Lashley, Orlando-\$100-C
Betty J. Gordon-\$50-C
Jonathan Huels, Orlando-\$200-C

See CAMPAIGN Page 11A

Fair: Car show will highlight fair on Saturday

Continued from page 1A

news when it comes to the fair. As the symbol of the kind of environment the area promotes newer additions over recent years have only increased what was an already high level of anticipation.

With some age now, as the Apopka Fair has matured and continues to evolve, the uniqueness of the area through a family-first theme is the essence of what has been put on display during the weekend. But what has made the uniqueness of the growth possible is the diversity with which it has been done.

"The fair has always been successful because organizers believe in and put the focus on the family," DeClue said. "That is because what makes this area unique is the conduciveness to raising children and growing family themes. Apopka's way of life is centered on the family and the values are family-based. So we have felt that if the fair is supposed to represent Apopka and the area, then the family should be the main theme and the centerpiece. We can still improve the fair, but we have created a core which incorporates the need to keep changing with the times while maintaining the uniqueness of Apopka being put on display."

With that said, the direction is even more so an expression of organizers matching the area's continuing promotion of an ever-growing population that has brought diversity to the city. All the while, the area has remained true to its character, family-first and friendly roots fostering that direction.

"Every year, we try to put on a better fair within the context of the family themes driving the representation of the uniqueness of Apopka," DeClue said. "Like we do every year, a couple of new touches or wrinkles designed with the intention of uniqueness and continuing to provide fun for the family were added."

This year's fair will once again boast a healthy dose of the tried-and-true as a means of fostering those family themes characteristic of Apopka.

The sounds, smells and shining chrome of automobiles will also return as a further expression of the purpose of the fair.

Held as a part of every Apopka Fair, the 17th annual Antique, Classic, and Special Interest Car Show takes place on Saturday, March 10.

A new partnership will be featured this year. In an effort to add a new wrinkle to the flavor of the cars presented, the Rotary Club of Apopka and the Antique Automobile Club of America's Florida Region (AACA) joined forces.

More than 125 automobiles participated in the 2017 show, a record. However, being held on Saturday, March 10, an even greater number is expected. During each of the past shows, the number of participants has continued to

steadily increase. However, the AACA's participation this year secures a new record being set.

Two military vehicles will be featured, a 1982 Chenoweth Fast Attack Vehicle and a 1933 Chevy van. Both are provided by Roger Francis, a member of the First Florida Chapter Military Vehicle Preservation Association for 20 years.

Several appear in the slide show on the fair's website. Awards include double the number of People's Choice Awards than the first show and the Celebrity Choice Award. Music by a DJ, Dash plaques to the first 100 cars registered, a 50/50 drawing and neat door prizes are being planned again. Presenter of the Celebrity Choice Award is Matt Austin.

Giving the fair that special flavor, the midway consisting of more than 50 combined rides and games will be run by what has become an old friend, Paradise Amusements. About 25 rides were present last year and the same is expected once again.

Another stalwart that has made the fair so special is the assortment of food vendors. The focus on a variety of food choices remains the same.

Other miscellaneous vendors will be present as well.

"Growth has been steady and, over the years, organizers have found ways to provide an aspect of relaxation for the attendees," DeClue said. "But this year organizers felt the time to directly provide attendees with an area to relax has come as a part of continuing to keep up with the times while offering something for everyone. We try to stick with what has been done in the past and relying on the more traditional activities. But we don't want the fair to be entirely and all about offering the same exact activities over and over every year. We want to include some diversity and new experiences for everyone."

The beer and wine garden continues to be a featured activity of the fair. A selection of craft beers from Florida Beer Company as well as cider, wine, and sangria will be offered.

The hours for the beer and wine garden are, Thursday 5-9 p.m.; Friday 5-10 p.m.; Saturday 1-10 p.m.; and Sunday 1-7 p.m.

Live musical entertainment will be present on Friday and Saturday nights at the beer and wine garden. Scheduled to perform are Bobby Sanders (Friday), Eric Daniels (Friday), and Casey Brents (Saturday).

"The beer and wine garden is supposed to be an area where those over 21 can relax and enjoy themselves; take a load off so to speak," DeClue said. "A good value will also be included to further create an atmosphere of relaxation and enjoyment. We are going to have security present at all times to make sure that purpose remains the same and the

garden isn't abused."

Blood donations will be taking place as well throughout the weekend at the Big Red Bus.

Family night will once again be held on Thursday.

Armbands are available on Thursday for \$15. By purchasing an armband, attendees can ride the rides an unlimited number of times. A \$2-off coupon for armbands purchased between noon and 2 p.m. on Sunday can be found in the Apopka Fair flyer distributed over the past month. The armbands are valid until 4 p.m. on Sunday. The full price is \$20. A family pack of 24 tickets can be purchased for \$20. Sixty tickets or a family value ticket pack costs \$45. Individual tickets are \$1. Prices are set by Paradise Amusements and subject to change.

Hours for the fair are 5-10 p.m. on Thursday. On Friday, the fair opens at 5 p.m. and closes at 11 p.m. Saturday hours are noon to 11 p.m. Noon until 8 pm are the hours of operation on Sunday.

Admission into the fair is free. However, parking is \$5 for an entire day. Animals are not allowed on the property.

"Assisting local charities and showcasing the beautiful city of Apopka is very important to the Rotary Club," DeClue said.

One example is a history of multiple organizations volunteering as parking lot attendants and receiving a portion of the fees.

Sponsorships are still being sought. Companies presently committing to sponsorships are, Apopka Golf and Tennis at Errol Estates, Belben Realty Group, CF Insurance Services Inc., Cobb's Tractors, FirstCard Merchant Services, Florida Hospital Apopka, Lake Apopka Natural Gas, Legal Shield, Metro Bench, Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Primerica, St. Germain Chiropractic Clinic, Wal-Mart, Waste Management, and *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter*.

"Every year, organizers are excited to be able to hold and run the fair," DeClue said. "This year is no different in that sense. To last this long is an accomplishment in itself and more reason for the excitement. However, the community is just as responsible for the fair's success over the course of the previous 16 years. Without the support we have received there isn't a fair once, let alone for 17 years. The fair is a massive undertaking, far more people than the organizers are needed."

"Spring means the fair in Apopka. The fair means spring is kicking off in Apopka. Organizers have been waiting to kick off the spring season with the fair and the time has finally come."

For more information, including any activities/events and sponsorships, visit www.apopkafair.com.

For information about the car show on Saturday, call the director, Lowell Swanberg, at 407-886-5844.

Natural gas district honors employees

In its third year, National Gas Utility Workers' Day 2018 honors employees who provide communities nationwide with their natural gas utility. While officially recognized on March 18, Lake Apopka Natural Gas District will celebrate workers throughout the week prior with employee engagement and appreciation events.

The significance of March 18 comes from the date in 1937 when a school explosion in New London, Texas, led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an emphasis on safety. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas

distribution, and the employees of distribution companies like the district endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.

"This exciting week of festivities is dedicated to the hard work of natural gas utility employees and their accomplishments in the community," a gas district spokesman said. Lake Apopka Natural Gas District workers have been presented with many safety awards and accolades, most recently including the prestigious American Public Gas Association's national S.O.A.R. (Systems Operational Achievement Recognition) award – the second time the honor was bestowed upon the district.

"These devoted employees play a crucial role in the area's energy efficiency and are committed to the wellbeing of its residents. In celebration, the district will host a company-wide appreciation breakfast and presentation to honor their utility workers and highlight that safety is job number one," the spokesman said.

Since its founding in 1959, the district has provided natural gas into the homes and businesses of Clermont, Apopka, Winter Garden and the surrounding communities.

One-sided: Budget balanced from red-light camera revenue

Continued from page 2A

rule, which is something that cities and counties are always screaming about.

The new mailer, the group also says that the cameras brought in \$3.6 million to the Land administration. Well, guess what, the current administration also balances its budget using revenue from red-light cameras, as will the next administration until the cameras are

voted out of existence in Apopka.

This type of mailer is the worst kind because it comes from those who have no interest in the betterment of Apopka, but only in causing confusion using partial-truths and out-and-out lies to affect our election.

The Central Florida Fairness Fund is anything but fair. It's nasty politics, reflecting poorly on those who would stoop to that level.

Interest: We hope these races turn out a good number of voters

Continued from page 2A

outcome of the election. Throughout our history, the Apopka community has been a caring one, helping each other in times of need, whether it's a family's financial need after a sudden death of a breadwinner or a neighbor's need to patch a roof after a hurricane slams the area.

As of Thursday, March 8, nearly 2,000 people have already

voted either by mail or via early voting.

We do urge those who plan to vote on Election Day to make sure they know where to cast their ballot. Apopka's voters are now broken into two precincts for city elections with most of north Apopka set to cast their ballots at the recreation offices at the Northwest Recreation Complex at 3710 Jason Dwelley Parkway. The rest of

Apopka will continue to vote at the Apopka Community Center/VFW, 519 S. Central Avenue.

Please check your sample ballot card or go online at www.ocfelections.com if you need more information about where to vote.

We hope there is a great turnout for the election next week and if there is a runoff in one or both of the City Council seats, we would hope those

races would also attract a good number of voters. That runoff, if necessary, will be held April 10 with vote-by-mail and early voting again available for registered voters.

Apopka needs your interest and your

vote as we are a fast-growing community and no matter who is mayor or city commissioner, this area will continue to be attractive to citizens looking to relocate to Central Florida.

Take the time to

cast your ballot so your voice can be heard and that our community will have the leader it deserves.

May God bless Apopka as we continue in our endeavor to make this the best place it can be.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHANGE OF ZONING NEW ERROL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AND MASTER PLAN CITY OF APOPKA

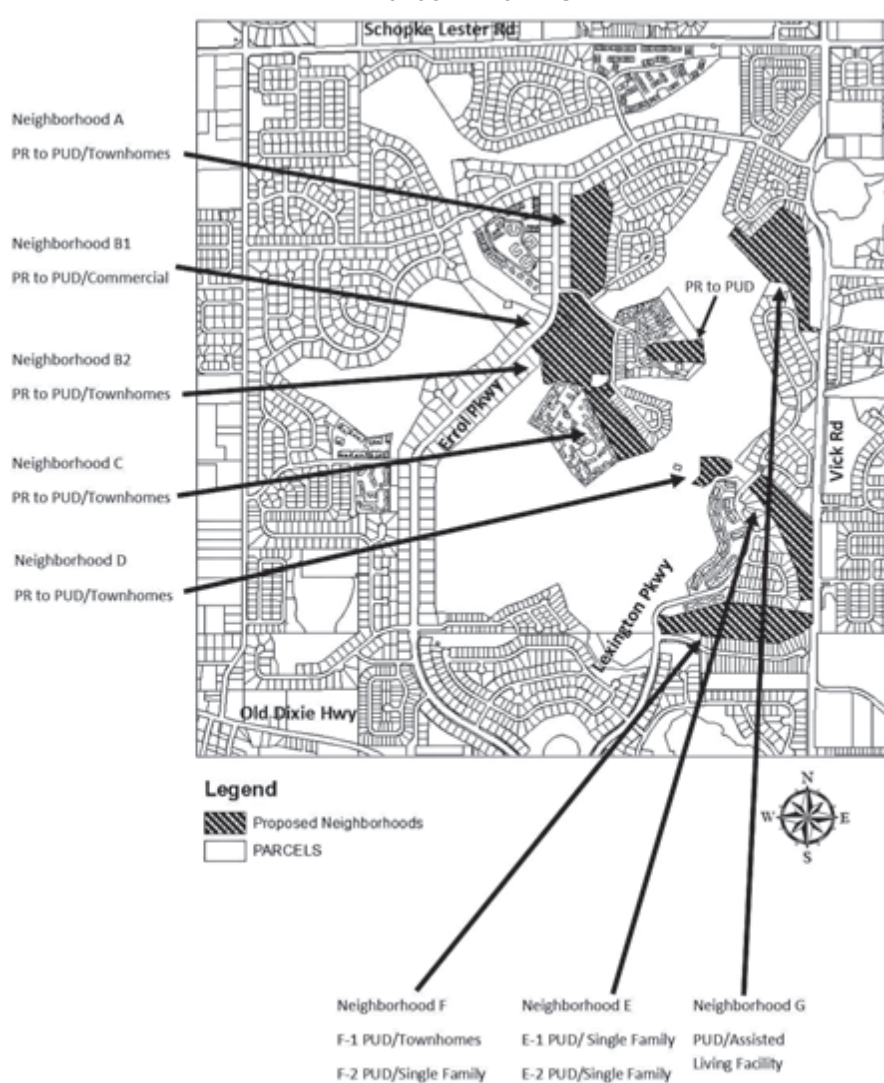
NOTICE is hereby given that **SIGNATURE H PROPERTY GROUP** has made an application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article XII, Section 12.04.00, to the City of Apopka City Council for a **CHANGE IN ZONING FOR APPROXIMATELY 75.09 +/- ACRES FROM PARKS AND RECREATION AND PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT WITH A MIX OF USES INCLUDING SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, TOWNHOMES, ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, AND COMMERCIAL RECREATION. A MASTER PLAN ACCOMPANIES THE PROPOSED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE.**

ORDINANCE 2638

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM PARKS AND RECREATION AND PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (NEW ERROL); FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF VICK ROAD, SOUTH OF WEST LESTER ROAD, AND NORTH OF OLD DIXIE HIGHWAY, COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 75.06 +/- ACRES, MORE OR LESS AND OWNED BY 5th HOLE INVESTMENTS LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Parcel ID #: 32-20-28-0000-00-003; 32-20-28-0000-00-008;
32-20-28-0000-00-004 (Portion)
Contains: 75.09 +/- Acres

PROPOSED ZONING



PR = Parks and Recreation Zoning
 PUD = Planned Unit Development
 SF = Single Family Homes

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the change of PUD zoning and Master Plan request at a scheduled meeting held at the Apopka Community Center, 519 S. Central Avenue, Apopka, Florida 32703, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, March 20, 2018 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Further notice is given for a public hearing for the adoption of the proposed, PUD zoning and Master Plan, and associated Development Agreement, which will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at a scheduled meeting in the Apopka Community Center, 519 S. Central Avenue, Apopka, Florida 32703, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, March 27, 2018, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday, April 11, 2018, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed PUD zoning ordinance, master plan and associated development agreement 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.

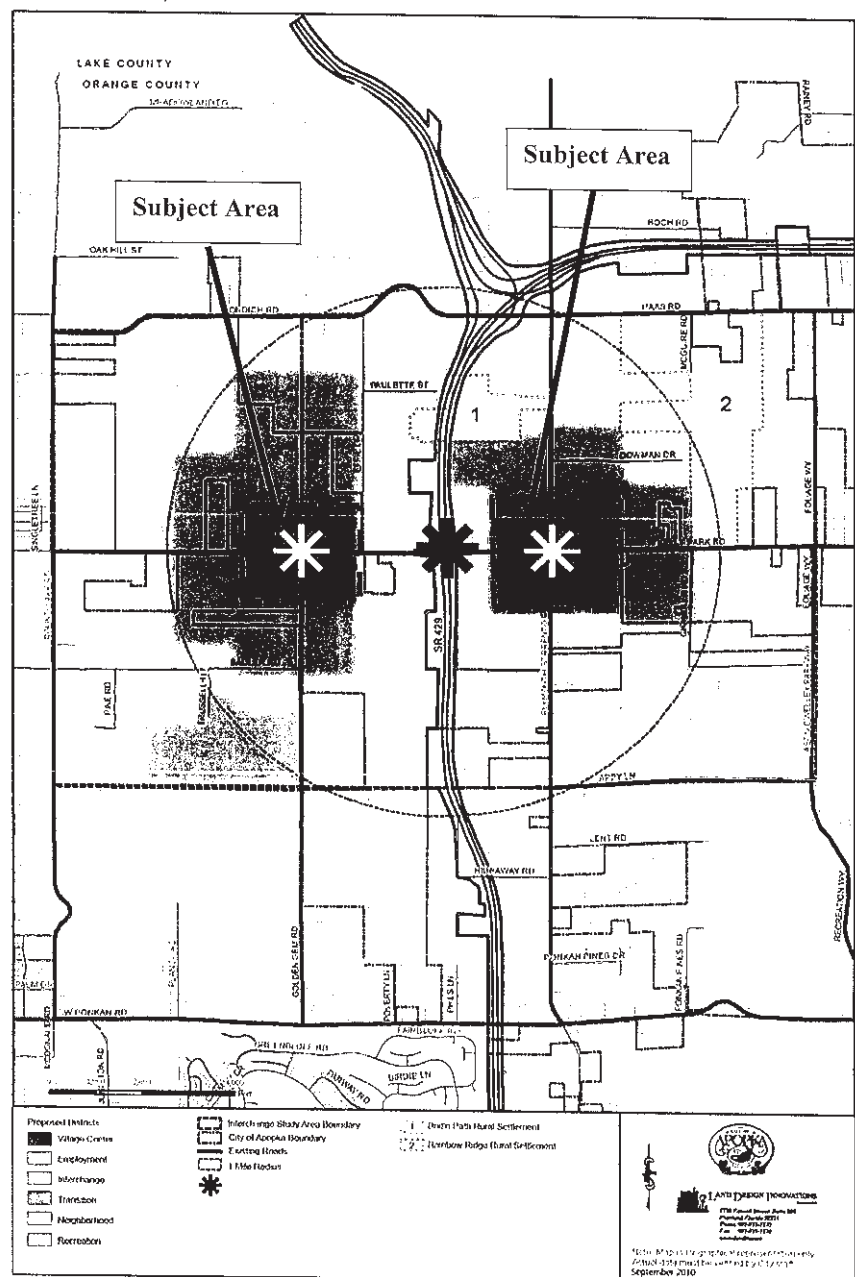
Apopka City Council
 Apopka Planning Commission
 Community Development Dept.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TEXT AMENDMENT TO APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Element, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article XII, Section 12.04.00, Table 20.10, to change the minimum floor area ratio (FAR) for the Village Center Character District from a minimum 0.30 FAR to 0.15 FAR, as further described in the proposed Ordinance. The proposed amendment affects all properties that may be assigned the Village Center Core District as generally shown in the map below and available at the Apopka Community Development Department, City Hall in more detail:

ORDINANCE NO. 2605

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 POLICY 20.10 AND TABLE 20.10; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Notice is given that a public hearing for the proposed amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity 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, March 21, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Future Land Use 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
 Community Development Department



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 March 13, 2018

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aliceynolan@gmail.com

 <https://www.instagram.com/aynolan/>
 [@alicenolancitizenadvocate](https://www.facebook.com/alicenolancitizenadvocate)

PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY ALICE NOLAN CAMPAIGN FOR APOPKA CITY COMMISSIONER, SEAT 2

Campaign: More contributors to Apopka municipal races are listed

Continued from page 8A

Bickley Chipman Wilson, Maitland-\$100-C
 Realtors Political Advocacy Committee, Orlando-\$1,000-C
 Sandra L. Algarin-\$50-C

Gene Knight
 Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
 Lisa Tanski-\$50-C
 Fred Kinney-\$50-C
 Linda Miller-\$50-C
 Vanessa Cieszynski-\$50-C
 Gene Knight-\$1,400-C

Theresa Mott

Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
 Robert W. Caldwell-\$100-C

Alexander Smith
 Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
 TeQuirite Dericho-\$50-C
 Brittany Baldwin, Orlando-\$41-C
 Yvonne Holmes-\$30-C
 Vince Gray-\$200-C
 Alice Rozier-\$20-C
 Alberta Huffman-\$20-C
 John C. Cloran-\$80-C
 Monique Morris-\$300-C
 Johnny Munoz-\$152-C
 Patricia Cloran-\$250-C

Othellus Swift-\$425-C
 Lorenzo Bridges-\$20-C
 Virginia Jenkins, Seniors on the Move-\$200-C
 Mary H. Boykin-\$20-C
 Riller Boykin-\$10-C
 William Arrowsmith-\$250-C
 Dante Anderson-\$100-C
 Kenya Munoz-\$50-C
 Archie Prewitt-\$10-C
 Charlotte Gant, Richardson, Texas-\$100-C

CITY COUNCIL

Seat 2
Leroy Bell
 Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan

Betty J. Williams-\$25-C
 Alonzo Williams Jr.-\$50-C
 Bobby Scott, Sharon Scott-\$100-C
 Aqua Reb., Inc.-\$200-C
 Owen & Deborah Sliter-\$50-C

Alicia Koutsoulieris
 Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
 None

Alice Nolan
 Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
 Gregory Peacock, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.-\$250-C
 Joyce Farber-\$1,000-C

Bob Elmquist-\$50-C
 Justin Lucas-\$50-C
 Joni Lucas-\$600-C
 Sharon Lee Gates-\$50-C
 Allison Guthrie-\$50-C
 Jamie Lucas-\$50-C
 Betty Land-\$250-C
 Earl Banks, Winter Park-\$250-C
 John Land Jr., Clermont-\$500-C
 Daphne Hooper-\$500-C
 Robert Hooper-\$500-C

Diane Velazquez
 Note: C-cash, check, PayPal; I-in-kind; L-loan
 Philip J. Dubois-\$100-C

Gil Alvarez-\$100-C
 Leonard's Plumbing, Inc., Orlando-\$50-C
 Sam Ruth-\$250-C
 Roseli Morris-\$40-C
 Carl Coleman-\$20-C
 Michael S. Rowe-\$500-C
 Diane Velazquez-\$50-I
 Diane Velazquez-\$25-I
 Robert Olszewski, Winter Garden-\$100-C
 Realtors Political Advocacy Committee, Orlando-\$1,000-C
 Alice F. Jacobs, DeLand-\$100-C
 GrayRobinson PA Florida Political Action Committee, Orlando-\$500-C

Moore: Natural access control suggested as means of increasing school safety

Continued from page 2A

with shooters in the United States. All but one succeeded in harming another human being. This statistic thus averages out to more than one incident per week. The subject must be discussed.

Sean states that while the adults debate whether to outlaw weapons or arm teachers there are some facility ideas that can be implemented almost immediately. He mentions three fundamental ideas: natural surveillance, natural access control and natural territorial enforcement.

He suggests using windows, lighting and enhanced views to communicate that staff always has "eyes on the street." This is natural surveillance.

Natural access control means separating the public and private spaces through fencing and clearly defined points of entry. This idea has been actively followed since the Sandy Hook murders in Connecticut. I'm grateful to the taxpayers for funding the half-penny sales tax as many improvements have been funded through this stream of revenue.

Natural territorial enforcement means maintaining clean, orderly grounds that affirm the idea of active ownership. This certainly has been followed with the newer facilities. Recently, I attended a spruce-up effort by the district on an older campus. I'm amazed at the attention to even the height of landscaping OCPS uses to foster clear views of students and other potential harmful situations on campuses.

Mr. Tracy mentions design standards incorporating the philosophy of single buildings for single

points of entry. He also mentions more extreme forms of security including bullet-proof glazing, metal detectors, and additional resource officers. While all well-intentioned, these become problematic due to the limited nature of school safety funding. Additionally, do we want to treat our children more like prisoners and inmates rather than students attending elementary school? The pub-

lic will need to weigh in on these features as there is a cost.

Finally, I can never mention specifically which schools are utilizing any or all of these safety features due to the importance of not publicizing the data to the general public. Our children are safer if we don't discuss specifics on social media. If you have a concern, go to the principal. Please, please do not

post any lapses on Facebook or Twitter. You may inadvertently be sharing information that could be used against our children.

School safety is the most important subject we can be discussing at this time. I hope you will get involved in reporting anything you might see or hear. Unfortunately, it seems today it will take a village to keep our children and grandchildren safe.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LARGE SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given that multiple property owners of the TWO parcels appearing below have made an application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187 (c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article XII, Section 12.04.00, to the City of Apopka City Council for a **change in the Future Land Use Designation for approximately 39.48 +/- acres from "County" Rural to "City" Mixed Use - Interchange.** This application relates to the following described property generally located north of west Kelly Park Road and west of Jason Dwelley Parkway.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LARGE SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT - NEW ERROL CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given that **SIGNATURE H PROPERTY GROUP** has made an application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article XII, Section 12.04.00, to the City of Apopka City Council for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FOR APPROXIMATELY 75.09 +/- ACRES FROM PARKS AND RECREATION TO RESIDENTIAL LOW SUBURBAN (0-3.5 DU\AC), RESIDENTIAL LOW (0-5 DU\AC), RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM LOW (0-7.5 DU\AC), AND COMMERCIAL (MAX 0.25 FAR).** This application relates to the following described property generally located west of Vick Road, South of West Lester Road, and north of Old Dixie Highway.

ORDINANCE NO. 2581

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 PARKS AND RECREATION TO RESIDENTIAL LOW SUBURBAN (0-3.5 DU\AC), RESIDENTIAL LOW (0-5 DU\AC), RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM-LOW (0-7.5 DU\AC), AND COMMERCIAL (MAX 0.25 FAR) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF VICK ROAD, SOUTH OF WEST LESTER ROAD, AND NORTH OF OLD DIXIE HIGHWAY, COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 75.06 +/- ACRES, MORE OR LESS AND OWNED BY 5th HOLE INVESTMENTS LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Parcel ID #: 32-20-28-0000-00-003; 32-20-28-0000-00-008;
 32-20-28-0000-00-004 (Portion)
 Contains: 75.09 +/- Acres



Parcel I.D.: 07-20-28-0000-00-011; 07-20-28-0000-00-048
 Contains: 39.48 +/- Acres

ORDINANCE 2591

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 TO MIXED USE - INTERCHANGE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF WEST KELLY PARK ROAD AND WEST OF JASON DWELLEY PARKWAY, OWNED BY WON CHUL LEE; BONG JIN CHOE; SOON CHONG; WON CHUL LEE; AND SEA MYOG; COMPRISING 39.48 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

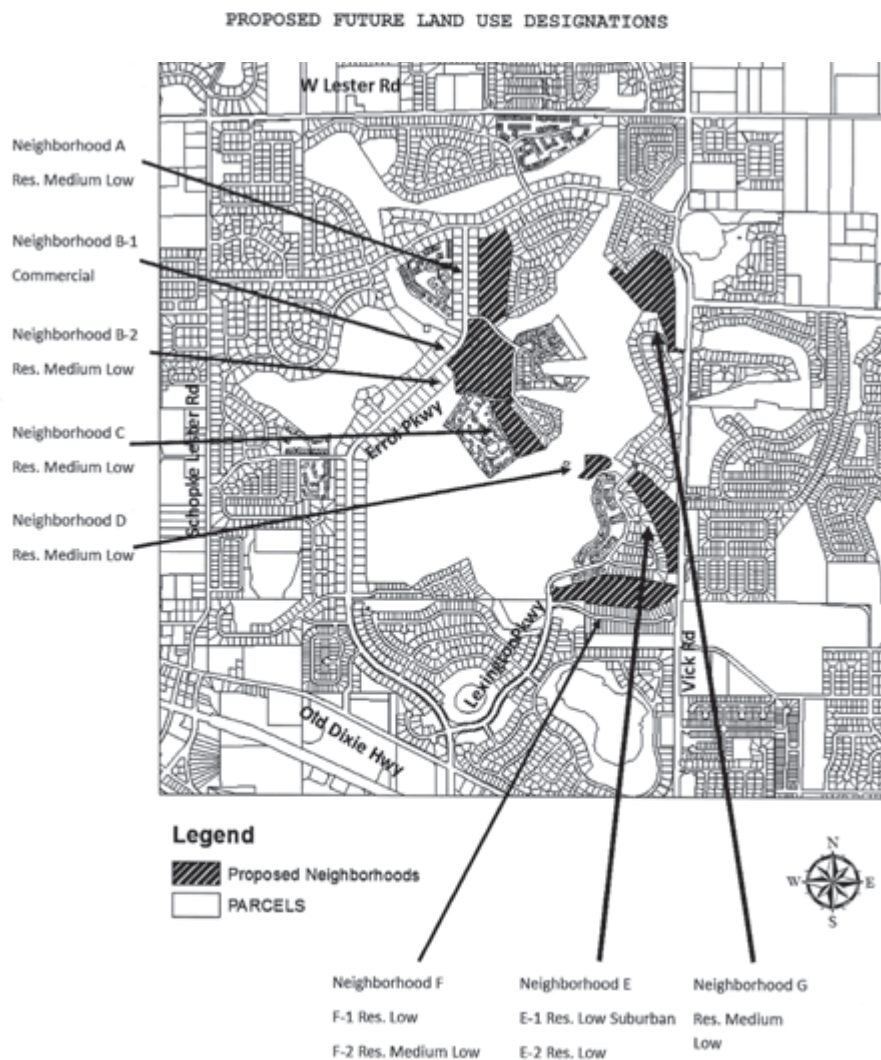
NOTICE is given that a public hearing for the future land use ordinance will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, March 21, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use 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
 Community Development Department

March 9, 2018
 Publish: The Apopka Chief

159886



Further notice is given for a public hearing for the adoption of the proposed large scale future land use amendment, which will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at a scheduled meeting in the Apopka Community Center, 519 S. Central Avenue, Apopka, Florida 32703, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, March 27, 2018, beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use 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
 Community Development Dept.

March 9, 2018
 Publish: The Apopka Chief

159885

Forum: Subject matter of two-hour townhall event ranged widely

Continued from page 1A

Koutsoulieris said she understands the cameras' purpose is to increase safety, but learned from discussion with citizens that more are ticketed for rolling stops and turning right on red as opposed to driving into the intersection. She suggested keeping the cameras but not enforce the right-hand turn, if that's why motorists are getting tickets.

"I think that, maybe, they should be tweaked a bit," she said of the cameras.

Bell and Nolan would like to get rid of the cameras. Bell said the cameras have proven they don't keep anyone safe, and Nolan said she has seen several statistics arguing the benefits, and many more claiming they're disadvantageous.

Both candidates said that fat could be trimmed from other areas of the city budget.

"To make up for the shortfall, it's the \$250,000 that we give to the police department it would also give to the fire department. That's \$400,100," Bell said.

Bell also said that instead of the city paying the Department of Corrections to work inside the city, the

department should borrow equipment from the city, thus saving the budget \$63,000.

Velazquez said the red-light cameras protect the intersections and, therefore, make them safe for pedestrians, especially for students in the school zones, according to Velazquez.

"We're trying to promote a walkable Apopka, and if you go to some of the busy intersections, they are not safe for the pedestrians or the students," she said.

There are 9,110 students between the 11 schools within the city of Apopka, not counting the three high schools, Velazquez said. She said she got the numbers from the Orange County School Board.

Should Apopka be a sanctuary city?

At first, Velazquez and Nolan each answered "absolutely not" to the question of whether Apopka should be a sanctuary city — one that doesn't cooperate with the federal government regarding undocumented immigrants — then clarified their stances after Bell and Koutsoulieris explained their positions that Apopka should be one.

Bell said he doesn't care "if you came on top of a ship or below a ship —

you're an immigrant." Undocumented immigrants have worked hard to grow the city and the state and therefore deserve a shot at citizenship, he said.

"We all play a part in this. The ship that we came on, it sprung a leak, and if we don't all take a bucket and start bailing it out, we're all going to sink," Bell said.

As a first generation Greek-American, Koutsoulieris said she understands the "value of people coming here and fulfilling the American dream." Because of "current rhetoric," sanctuary cities have a misconception that they attract criminals to the United States and different cities would be a safe haven for them, she said. Sanctuary cities' true intention is to protect immigrants and students already in the country as well as the community, she said.

To Velazquez, sanctuary cities carry a "negative connotation" due to the interpretation that they protect criminals. She pointed out that for decades, many farm and nursery hands in Apopka have been undocumented.

"There has been a real pushback on that (sanctuary city status), and it shouldn't be that," she said.

"It should be a city that

takes care of its residents."

Citizens should decide whether their city should be a sanctuary city because "because we're the ones that will have to live with it day to day," said Nolan. Though more people in the community don't want sanctuary city status, it's not because they don't want immigrants, but because the community doesn't like how improperly governments set up sanctuary cities.

"Apopka can do what we do, and we already do it," Nolan said. "We already have a lot of immigrants. We already take care of our people."

Seat 1 Red-light cameras

All but Kidd want to at least modify the red-light cameras.

Mott said she was open minded in the beginning when the cameras were installed, but now opposes them because the data presented before the City Council does not show that the cameras promote public safety. Rather, the information was ambiguous, she added.

Those who run a red light will run a red light, Knight said. "Someone will get hit, but you can't change someone's driving habits all the time," he said. As for the revenue, the city

will have to review the budget and also find grants to recover the lost revenue if the cameras are turned off.

After listening to the data, Smith concluded that the cameras are a method of receiving revenue. He said he was nearly hit by a vehicle about six times at corners where the cameras are, meaning they are not deterrents in reducing accidents.

"The cameras really don't change an individual's behavior," he said. "I also have a best friend who refuses to come to Apopka because of the cameras."

Smith would support cameras as crime surveillance.

Kidd said that people "have to take personal responsibility" for stopping at red lights. Doing away with the cameras would also be costly for the city. Kidd said she spoke with Deputy Police Chief Randy Fernandez, who said that replacing the cameras would require four officers per intersection within a 24-hour period at almost \$125,000 per police officer to hire one.

"That's an awful lot of money," she said.

Should Apopka be a sanctuary city?

Kidd believes the term "sanctuary city" is "somewhat of a misnomer," especially since Apopka has a huge immigrant population worthy of protection. She also said the city police should not "necessarily be working as an arm of the federal government's immigration service."

"I'm very disturbed when I hear stories that the parents of children at some

of our schools have been followed as they pick their children up from school, and that's wrong," she said. "These are people who work in our farming and nursery industries. They are a part of the fabric of this community, and I believe they deserve protection."

Smith also believes immigrants should be protected. At a February candidate forum held at the Farmworkers Association of Florida in February, he learned that other cities have a protection plan for the citizens.

"We should intercede, see what that plan is, and duplicate that here in our city," Smith said.

Knight is against the sanctuary city status, but added that he "feels bad" for the children of immigrants. "We are a nation of laws," he said. "If we break one law, why not break them all? But I feel bad for the kids for the fact that it's not their fault. There should be a program so they can find their way to citizenship, but I don't want to see (Apopka as) a sanctuary city. Hopefully, they'll work this out in government."

Mott said she sees the issue being dealt with at a national level, but trickles down to the city level. Therefore, it's a topic that must be addressed.

"I cannot, in good conscience, support something that oppresses someone else," she said. "These people deserve opportunities. Even for me, a black woman, there was a time when, by the color of my skin, I wasn't allowed to do things."

VOTE TO ELECT

MARCH 13TH

EARLY VOTING
MARCH 5-9, 2018



Alexander H. SMITH

FOR APOPKA CITY COUNCIL SEAT 1

BE THE CHANGE AGENT

- ✓ Provide opportunities for our youth! Venues where youth can be involved in wholesome activities without fear of endangerment.
- ✓ Work with the citizens of Apopka to create a vision for all the people.
- ✓ Care for our seniors.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



- ✓ Lead the effort for better planning for our neighborhoods.
- ✓ Create a business friendly and pro-job environment.
- ✓ Maintain the "suburban" values of our city as we grow.



BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY

- ✓ Increase transparency and citizen participation in government.
- ✓ Listen and act on the concerns of the people of Apopka.

A VOICE FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE!

VOTE TO ELECT ALEXANDER H. SMITH

FAMILY

- Married to Linda C. Smith
- Father of five children: Kenya, Dante', Donnell, Deidra and William.
- Surrogate father to two nephews and a niece: Archie III, Adrain and Tony

PROFESSION

- Retired Agriculture teacher. Taught for 39 years in Orange County.
- Associate Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Apopka

ORGANIZATIONS AND BOARDS

- Past President - Florida Association of Agricultural Educators, Florida FFA Board of Directors and Orange County Agriculture Teachers Assoc.
- Two terms on County Commissioner Agricultural Advisory Board
- Advisory Board for the Orange County Agricultural Extension Service
- Member - First Agriscience Leadership Team for the State of Florida
- Treasurer - South Apopka Ministerial Alliance
- Member - African American Council of Christian Clergy (AACCC)
- Member - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., NAACP, FNGLA and Orange County Farm Bureau

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES

- Graduate of Apopka High School
- Graduate of Florida A&M University
- Graduate of Apopka's Citizen Police Academy
- Horticultural Professional Certification

HONORS

- Finalist for Humanitarian of the Year by the Orange County Black History Committee in 2009
- Marvin C. Zanders Humanitarian of the Year in 2013

★★★ VOTE MARCH 13TH ★★★

EARLY VOTING MARCH 5 - 9, 2018

CONTACT ALEXANDER H. SMITH PHONE: 407-906-1832 EMAIL: SMITHFORAPOPKA@GMAIL.COM

WWW.SMITHFORAPOPKA.COM

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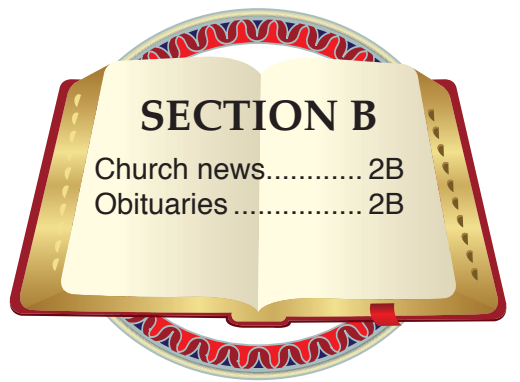
KIDZCLUB AFTER SCHOOL DANCE PROGRAM

Lifestyle



Try these
flavorful recipes
and make them
your favorites.
See page 6B.

Kitchen Kapers



Apopka author debuts her new novel

Award-winning Apopka author Mary Flynn had little trouble deciding how to write her debut novel "Margaret Ferry."

In a market focused more and more on family dysfunction, domestic abuse, drugs, murder and sex, Flynn has taken the high road with a captivating novel that has not a word of profanity.

"Just because a story contains intrigue, conflict and catastrophe, and even wicked behavior, it doesn't mean someone has to be killed," Flynn said.

Her mission is to create stories the family would not be embarrassed to share, stories that compel the reader with characters that ring true in situations that keep the pages turning, and almost always with the most unexpected turn of events.

In 1950s Brooklyn,



Mary Flynn
... award-winning author

Margaret Ferry's compassion crosses the line when she stubbornly disregards the wishes of her parental aunt and uncle at a time when her uncle is dealing with the theft of his valuable research and her aunt is coming to terms with heartbreaking medical news. Compounding their struggles is Aunt Lolly, whose innocent intentions usually have disastrous re-



Mary Flynn's debut novel is titled "Margaret Ferry."

sults. Lolly's gift of a beautiful vintage shawl leads to catastrophe and the unfolding of events that are inexplicable, mystifying and life-changing beyond their Brooklyn neighborhood. Amid trials and tribulations is a story of love, miracles, and a secret whose consequences are unknown until the final surprising twist.

Flynn is a life-long writer, poet and essayist, formerly with Hallmark Cards and published in the *New York Times* as well as "The Saturday Evening Post Anthology of Great American Fiction." She was also a long-time international conference speaker for Disney Institute before retiring recently to write full-time.

Her stories are an eclectic and imaginative mix of humor, pathos and irony exploring the human experience, often with a surprising twist. She relishes in magical realism.

Flynn is available for book signings, book clubs. Upon request, she is always delighted to present her "Confessions of a Hallmark Greeting Card Writer."

"Margaret Ferry" is available online through Barnes and Noble at www.barnesandnoble.com.

Orange County Library System is a medal finalist

The Orange County Library System is among the 29 finalists for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced on Monday, March 5.

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to their communities. For 24 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service and are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

"The 29 National Medal finalists showcase the tremendous ability of libraries and museums to serve as vital community resources," said IMLS director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "The Institute of Museum and Library Services is honored to recognize these leading institutions. We congratulate them on the work they are doing across the United States."

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities.

"Our goal is to help change the lives of people in our community by offering meaningful

opportunities to learn and grow," said Orange County Library System director/CEO Mary Anne Hodel. "We work hard to ensure that the resources we offer are relevant and useful to those that we serve. For us, winning a National Medal would be more than just an honor – it would be a testament to our organization's commitment to excellence and our desire to be a transformative force in our region."

IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited the Orange County Library System to share their story on social media. To #ShareYourStory, visit www.facebook.com/USIMLS or www.twitter.com/us_imls and use #IMLSmedals.

National Medal winners will be announced later this spring. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions at the National Medal Ceremony on May 24 in Washington, D.C.

To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the IMLS website.

To learn more about the library system, visit www.ocls.info.

Fuddruckers ribbon cutting



Members of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, city officials and owners of Fuddruckers participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony held Monday, March 5, at 2300 E. Semoran Boulevard, Unit A, at Piedmont Plaza. Outside, eager patrons were in line awaiting the restaurant's opening.

Activities, games, cooking and more among library events

The following are April events that will take place at the North Orange Branch Library, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka. For questions and more information, call 407-835-7323.

Spring Into Good Health With Yoga

Mondays, April 2-30, 2 p.m.

Join Michelle from Soul-Ga Yoga for a five-week series that will help improve patience and increase relaxation. Learn breathing techniques designed to ease stress as well as deep stretching movements to release all tensions. All levels welcome.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in comfortable clothing and bring their own mat.

Peek-a-Boo Bunny

Tuesday, April 3, 11 a.m.

Hop your way through an adventure filled with ev-

erything bunny sees! Bring a friend to sing and play through interactive stories, activities and more! Ages 2-5.

One Book, One Community: "A Wrinkle in Time"

Wednesday, April 4, 5:30 p.m.

Take a trip with a timeless classic. Adventure through space and time with unearthly activities and challenges. Ages 6-12.

ArtReach

Saturday, April 7, 11 a.m.

Celebrate with local artists as they lead workshops that foster creativity and empower children to use art as a way to make positive changes! Ages 6-12.

Extreme BINGO

Thursday, April 12, 4 p.m.

Bingo isn't just for our grandparents anymore! Test your skills and play

for a chance to be crowned Bingo Master. Ages 11-18.

Diabetes Informational Session

Friday, April 13, 11 a.m.

Join Family Physicians Group to find out what you need to know about diabetes. Learn about the different types of diabetes, symptoms and causes, and what you can do to manage diabetes and stay healthy. Refreshments will be provided. To register, visit www.ocls.info or call 407-835-7323.

Cuisine Corner Junior: Mug Recipes

Wednesday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.

Prepare for a mini-meal lesson in adulting. Quick fix recipes, all in a mug! Ages 8-18.

Earth Day, Hooray!

Thursday, April 19, 11 a.m.

Celebrate Earth Day with your little one with na-

ture-friendly stories, crafts and activities. After all, it's never too early to start learning about protecting our planet! Ages 2-4.

Conflict Resolution: Getting to Yes

Sunday, April 22, 2 p.m.

Mediator Regina Russell will guide you through conflict resolution using the steps and principles from "Getting to Yes" by Roger Fisher and William H. Ury. Discover the difference between constructive and harmful conflict.

Learn the tools of conflict resolution including setting boundaries, clarifying values and utilizing one's own power.

Fashion Forward

Saturday, April 28, 2 p.m.

What will you wear to school? Find new ideas and create your own inspiration board as we watch a super stylish movie. Ages 11-18.

NORWF scholarship applications being accepted online

Applications are being accepted for the \$1,000 Alice Beth Miner Memorial Scholarship that is offered by the Northwest Orange Republican Women, Federated, an Apopka-based organization.

The scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior, full-time undergraduate or graduate college student, and applicants already accepted into or attending an accredited college. Applicants must be registered or pre-registered Republicans living in Orange County and have demonstrated leadership on campus, at a place of worship or in the community.

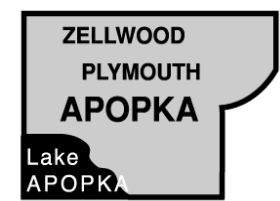
Applicants must have participated in the campaign process either as a candidate in a school or community organization or by helping with a campaign such as with mailings, waving signs, delivering signs, driving for door-to-door canvassers, and distributing flyers. The scholarship application is available online at www.norwf.org. The application deadline is Monday, March 26. The Alice Beth Miner Memorial Scholarship is not a need-based scholarship.

For more information, email Marty Harrison at martyaoui@aol.com, or call Harrison at 407-886-1922.

Mansion tour, Renaissance fair and fitness fair are part of upcoming events

The East Lake Historical Society and the Zellwood Historical Society, in partnership with the Tavares Community Theatre Company and the Lake County Historical Museum, invites the public to explore the historic Sydonie Mansion on its tours, Tuesday through Thursday, March 13-15.

Tours begin at 10



FocusOn N.W. Orange County

a.m., with the last tour beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Sydonie's address is 5538 Sydonie Drive, Mount Dora.

Tickets are \$28. Advanced sales only. Tickets may be purchased at www.TourMountDora.com

Proceeds will benefit the East Lake Historical Society and the Zellwood Historical Society.

...
The Avian Recon-

ditioning Center (ARC), will host the family-friendly Spring Affaire Renaissance Fair on Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the center, 323 W. Lester Road, Apopka.

There will be flight demonstrations throughout the day. Barony of Darkwater, SCA, is providing entertainment. Music will be performed by the Olym-

pia High School Chamber.

For more information, call ARC at 407-461-1056.

...
The 12th annual Apopka's Health and Fitness Fair will have many organizations on site to help promote the importance of health and fitness. Admission is free.

The health fair is scheduled for Saturday,

April 21, 9 a.m.-noon at the Fran Carlton Recreation Center, 11 North Forest Ave., Apopka.

There will be health screenings, informative lectures, exercise and safety demos, refreshments and prize drawings.

The city is seeking vendors for the event. Call 407-703-1642 for more information.

Give Us This Day

(See verse below)

The Lord's Prayer is noteworthy for being a petition to God to fulfill our basic needs, though in a very modest way. To ask of God that He give us "our daily bread" suggests that our basic physical needs are really quite modest, and that we should be content with meeting those needs with something as simple as bread. It also drives home the point that we are beggars of God. All of us, from the richest to the poorest, rely on God's beneficent hand. The richest among us have been given the most, and should be thankful stewards of God's gifts.

The poorest among us have perhaps been liberated from the trials and tribulations of caring for piles of material things, and that too is reason to be grateful. There is nothing shameful in being a beggar, because we are all, in effect, beggars, since none of us created the material from which we draw our lives. Being beggars is perhaps a reason to be humble, but not something for which we should be ashamed. Keep in mind that everything ultimately comes from God and belongs to God.

— Christopher Simon

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Honor Your Loved Ones
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First Baptist Church to host luncheon workshop for seniors and their families

First Baptist Church of Apopka, corner of Main Street and Highland Avenue, will host a seniors luncheon on Tuesday, March 13. The pro-

gram will be presented by the Florida Department of Financial Services and will be about the department's Operation S.A.F.E., a free workshop for seniors,

their families, and their caregivers. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to 407-886-2628 and bring a covered dish for the luncheon.

Obituaries

CASSANDRA DEAN CHRISTIE, 61, Tampa, died Monday, March 5. Mrs. Christie periodically worked as a counter manager for luxury cosmetics and fragrances. Survivors: husband, Kevin "Duke," mother, Carrie Dean, Clermont; father, Billie Dean, Apopka; siblings, Sabrina, Brockberry, Kimberly Dean, Clermont, Kitrina Henderson, Woodbridge, Virginia, Ryan Dean, Orlando.

TABITHA LYNN MCCLANAHAN SOUZA, 39, Apopka, died Tuesday, February 13. Mrs. Souza was born in Orlando. Survivors: parents, Robert and Kay-rine Gable and Jeffery McClanahan; husband Joseph II; children, Corey, Joseph III, Daniel Taylor, Jaelynn Taylor; siblings, Sabrina Smith, Judith Casteel; grandmother, Mildred Wambles. Loomis Family Funeral Home, Apopka.

MARTHA MARQUEZ, 80, Apopka, died Thursday, March 1. Mrs. Marquez was born in Havana, Cuba. She was owner operator of several retirement homes, including Orange Villa Retirement Home in Apopka. Survivors: children, Dave, Lou, and Maria Fernandez; siblings, Hilda M. Viera and Aida L. Guas three grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Loomis Family Funeral Home, Apopka.

See OBITUARIES Page 3B

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Woman's Club winners



The GFWC Apopka Woman's Club have selected winners of its arts and crafts competition. In the first row are, (l-r), Martha Kizer, winner of three first-place ribbons; Sue Newton, first place; and Cynthia Drayton, two first-place ribbons. In the second row are, (l-r), Ellen Gibson, first place; Sharon Canfield, second place; and Diane Rieves, People's Choice Award. Kizer, Newton and Drayton are also first place winners of the GFWC District 7 arts and craft competition, and Gibson placed third. They will therefore compete in the May 5-7 state competition at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando.

Obituaries: Mrs. Rodriguez was born in Ciales, Puerto Rico

Continued from page 2B

DOROTHY A. DEL COL, 96, Apopka, died Saturday, February 24. Mrs. Del Col was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Survivors: children, Cynthia Hibler, Deborah Ann Lawson; three grandchildren. Loomis Family Funeral Home, Apopka.

CARMEN RODRIGUEZ, 87, Apopka, died Friday, March 2. Mrs. Rodriguez was born in Ciales, Puerto Rico. Survivors: children, Edna Hernandez, Edwin, Jose; siblings, Amada Marrero, Rafael Marrero, Gustavo Marrero. Loomis Family Funeral Home, Apopka.

KAYLA TALLEY, 22, Apopka, died Friday, March 2. Miss Talley was born in Orlando. Survivors: parents, Danny and Deanna; brothers, Brannon, Justin; grandparents, Scott and Janie Owens, Homer Talley; uncle, Wayne Owens; aunt, Shannon Owens. Loomis Family Funeral Home, Apopka.

GREGORY M. HARDT, 48, Apopka, died Wednesday, March 7. Mr. Hardt was born in Texas. Survivor: best friend, Francis Chancellor. Loomis Family Funeral Home, Apopka.

GERALD G. 'JERRY' WASHBURN, 80, Apopka, died Thursday, February 22. Survivors: wife, Jeanette; children; Robert, Jill Ormachea; brother, Victor; three grandchildren. Carey Hand Cox-Parker Funeral Home,

SHAWN JOSEPH, 27, Apopka, died Sunday, February 25. Mr. Joseph was born in Orlando. Survivors: mother, Sandy; brother, Kevin "Blinky." Loomis Family Funeral Home, Apopka.

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Dorothy A. Del Col

April 21, 1921 - February 24, 2018



Dorothy A. Del Col, 96, of Apopka, Florida, passed away February 24, 2018. She was born April 21, 1921, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mrs. Del Col is preceded in death by her parents Michael Kaczorowski and Theodozia Kaczorowski; husband Aldo A. C. Del Col, a WWII Veteran, and they were married for 60 years; son Dr. Jeffery A. Del Col; siblings William Kaczorowski, Carl Stonska and Mary Ronco.

She is survived by her children Cynthia (Frank) Hibler, Deborah Ann (Thomas) Lawson and daughter-in-law Carol Del Col; grandchildren Laura (Chris) Brown, Stephan Del Col and Zachary

(Racheal) Lawson.

Mrs. Del Col worked before her marriage for the County of Cuyahoga in Cleveland, Ohio, as a translator and secretary for the Department of Health. She was a home maker and devoted mother to her children, always cheerful and always ready for a game of Golf. She and her husband shared a passion for the game. She lived in Independence, Ohio, before moving to Fairmont, West Virginia, where she and her husband resided until 1982 with a move to Jacksonville, Florida. Upon her husband's death, she built a home next door to her daughter Cynthia in Apopka, Florida. She was a wiz at sewing and creating many beautiful outfits for herself. She loved to bake and enjoyed a good meal. She always had a smile and was a great joker.

Services entrusted to LOOMIS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, 407-880-1007, www.loomisfuneralhomes.com

Martha Marquez

February 04, 1938 - March 01, 2018

Mrs. Martha Marquez, 80, of Apopka, Florida, passed away on Thursday, March 01, 2018. Mrs. Marquez was born on February 04, of 1938 in Havana, Cuba. She was preceded in death by her husband, Augustus D. Marquez. She is survived by her children, Dave D. Marquez, Lou Marquez and Maria Fernandez; grandchildren Austin D. Marquez, Dylan D. Marquez and Erica L. Rew; great grandchild Gavin Marquez; and siblings Hilda M. Viera and Aida L. Guas.

Mrs. Marquez came to this country in 1966 from Havana, Cuba with her only son at the time, Dave D. Marquez. They were fortunate that her husband was already in Miami, Florida establishing roots for his family. They moved to Richard Hills in Queens, New York where she gave birth to their 2nd son, Lou Marquez. The family stayed in New York for 4 years before transferring to Chicago, Illinois, where she

was a stay at home mother for her sons.

While searching for a place to call home she came across Bear Lake in Orlando, Florida. Mrs. Marquez saw this as the perfect place to raise her children, it had such wonderful schools which inspired her to open her own daycare that came to be known as Happy Faces Day Care.

A year after owning and operating Happy Faces, she sold her daycare company and decided to start a retirement home business called Silver Oaks Retirement Home, which she also sold after acquiring Orange Villa Retirement Home in Apopka, until her final retirement home called Shady Lane Retirement Home. Mrs. Martha Marquez finally retired herself and spent the rest of her days with her grandkids.

Services Entrusted to LOOMIS FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, 407-880-1007, www.loomisfuneralhomes.com



Apopkan on dean's list at Rollins College

Nicolas Merbach, of Apopka, placed on Rollins College's dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

This distinction is

awarded to students who have completed a minimum of 16 letter-graded semester hours and who have earned a grade point average be-

tween 3.5 and 3.75 with no incompletes or deferred grades. Rollins College is a liberal arts institution located in Winter Park.

Edith Yost McIntire

February 7, 1918 - February 26, 2018

Edith Yost McIntire, 100, of Apopka, Florida was called home to the Lord on February 26, 2018. Edith was born on February 7, 1918, in Crawford County, Ohio, and her family and friends had just celebrated her 100th birthday.

In 1946, Edith and John F. McIntire moved to Apopka from Marion, Ohio. She was a homemaker for their seven children while John worked at Minute Maid/Coca Cola in Plymouth as a mechanical engineer. They both were active in church (First United Methodist Church of Apopka) and scouting. Edith worked at Tiny Tots Kindergarten for almost twenty-five years and taught many children in Apopka. Later she delivered Meals on Wheels for twenty-five years. She was a skilled seamstress and helped with her church bazaar for many years. She made over twenty-five quilts for her family.

Those who knew Edith admired her sweet smile and disposition. She feared nothing, she was patient and kind. When asked, Edith attributed her long life to moderation in everything and trusting in the Lord.

She is preceded in death by her dear husband of thirty-six years, John Franklin



McIntire, and two of her seven children, Jill Kirsten of San Diego and Terry McIntire of Zellwood.

She is survived by her daughters Connie Hawkins, Ocala, FL and Janis McIntire of Moultrie, Ga, her sons Pat McIntire (Susie) of Sorrento, Mickey McIntire (Heather) of Zellwood, and Toby McIntire, Apopka, fourteen grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at United First Methodist Church of Apopka on Saturday, March 10th at 2 p.m. with interment at Greenwood Cemetery at 3 p.m.

Cassandra Dean Christie

December 7, 1956 - March 5, 2018

Cassandra Christie was born in Clermont, Florida, on December 7, 1956. She passed peacefully out of this life on March 5, 2018, at her home in Tampa Florida, surrounded by love.

An exquisitely beautiful woman who was also a wonderful mother and homemaker, Cassandra attended Mercer University and the Florida State University before meeting her husband Kevin Christie in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1983. She spent the next 34 years supporting his military career and conducting volunteer work to assist soldiers and their families.

Cassandra periodically worked as a counter manager for luxury cosmetics and fragrances; she was repeatedly asked to take permanent positions, but she always chose to put her family first and move to the next assignment. Cassandra loved traveling the globe through multiple overseas tours; she lived for years in places others only dream of visiting, and spent days wandering through some of the most beautiful places on earth. Whether dining in Paris, skiing in Austria, or lounging on the beach in Hawaii, Cassandra was happiest traveling. At home, when not ensuring every pillow was straightened and every floor was spotless, Cassandra was content to stay tucked in bed reading mystery novels and watching old black and white movies. Cassandra was justly famous for her fastidiousness, but she

also enjoyed watching football with a bowl of chicken wings, getting her hands dirty tending plants, and she was known to have a glass or two of her favorite prosecco at pretty much any time of day.

Her husband fell head over heels for "Sand" the first time they met, and he adored her from that moment until her last breath.

Cassandra was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Alexandra Johnson. She is survived by her husband, Kevin "Duke" Christie, Tampa, her loving Mother Carrie Dean, Clermont, father Billie Dean (Isadora) Apopka, and siblings Sabrina Brockenberry,

Kimberly Dean, Clermont, Kitrina Henderson (Norris), Woodbridge, VA, and Ryan Dean, Orlando

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 16, 2018, from 10:00 - 11:00 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Riverview, followed by a funeral mass celebrating her life from 11:00-12:00. Immediate family are invited to attend Cassandra's interment at Serenity Gardens cemetery on conclusion of the service. Cassandra will rest next to her daughter, Alex, who prepared the way.

Memories or Condolences can be shared at serenitymeadows.com

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Mayor's Prayer Breakfast set for May 3

John Stemberger, president and general counsel of the Florida Family Policy Council, will be the speaker for the Apopka Mayor's Prayer Breakfast scheduled for Thursday, May 3. The prayer breakfast is sponsored by the Apopka Christian Ministerial Alliance and coincides with the National Day of Prayer.

The annual event will be held at the Apopka Community Center/VFW, 519 S. Central Avenue. Doors will open at 6:30 a.m. The program will take place from 7-8:30 a.m.

A native Floridian, Stemberger attended Florida State University where he studied political science and philosophy before obtaining a juris doctorate of law from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. In 1987, he founded the Institute for Conservative Studies (ICS), a permanent student-led think-tank at Florida State University.

In addition to the private practice of law, in 2004 Stemberger became the president of the Florida Family Policy Council (FFPC). Since starting FFPC, he served as chairman of the campaign to amend Florida's Constitu-

tion to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman, which was adopted by 61.9 percent of Florida voters in 2008. He also launched the "Florida Judicial Accountability Project" by filing a federal lawsuit against the Florida Bar and Judicial Qualifications Commission to strike down Florida's gag order that prohibits judicial candidates from announcing their views on issues during their campaigns and created a statewide judicial voter guide.

He has also launched Strong Marriages Florida, a statewide coalition campaign, to reduce the divorce rate and strengthen marriages across Florida.

In 2009, Stemberger's law firm received international media attention for representing Rifqa Bary, the Muslim teenager from Columbus, Ohio, who fled to Orlando after her father threatened to kill her for not renouncing her faith after her conversion from Islam to Christianity was discovered.

Most recently, as an Eagle Scout and former scoutmaster, Stemberger was one of the primary founders and is now the chairman of the board for Trail Life USA, a Christian scouting movement for boys which started in 2014 and now has around 30,000 members in 700 troops chartered in 48 states.

Stemberger has been married to his wife Olivia for 30 years. They have four children: Joseph, Benjamin, Hannah, and Rachel.

Breakfast tickets are \$25 per person and will be made available in the next few weeks.

Table sponsorships packages are also available. For information on sponsorship packages, contact Jackie Trefcer at *The Apopka Chief*/The Planter at 407-886-2777 or Pastor Darrell Morgan, Apopka Christian Ministerial Alliance president, at 407-886-7427.

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The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 3C of this newspaper.

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U.S. Department of State will increase passport fees

Effective April 2, the U.S. Department of State is increasing the passport execution fee from \$25 to \$35, according to the Orange County Clerk of Courts Office. The U.S. Department of State administers the passport fee.

The \$10 execution fee increase only applies to U.S. passport applicants using the DS-11 form, such as first-time applicants over 16, children under 16, and applicants who re-apply after reporting their previous passport lost or stolen.

The \$10 fee does not apply to adults eligible to renew their passports by mail using the DS-82 form. Renewal customers can mail their application

and supporting documentation directly to the Department of State.

The Orange County Clerk of Courts has five locations throughout the county that can process a new passport application. One is in Apopka, 1111 North Rock Springs Rd.

When applying, two separate forms of payment are required: one for the clerk's office and the other for the Department of State. The clerk's office can also take residents' photos for a \$10 fee.

For information on the passport application process including application fees and acceptable forms of payment, visit the website www.myorangeclerk.com.

WHS alumnus completes basic military training at San Antonio base

U.S. Air Force Airman Dennis Neidkowsky Jr. graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He is a 2009 graduate of Wekiva High School.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Neidkowsky is the son



U.S. Air Force Airman Dennis Neidkowsky

of Dawn Rose-Neidkowsky of Eugene, Ore., and brother of Monique Rose-Neidkowsky of Ocoee.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide To Local Businesses

Local Apopka attorney Patrick Smith offers estate-planning services

Attorney Patrick Smith, a partner at The Law Offices of Joseph F. Phippen Jr. & Associates, is here to help individuals, families, and corporations plan and prepare for the many changes that life brings.

Attorney Smith combines his knowledge in the fields of estate planning, corporations, and charitable giving with true care and concern for his clients. He finds creative solutions for clients in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust dispute resolution, planning for special needs beneficiaries, and charitable gift planning.

Attorney Smith's work is differentiated by his level of service and attention to detail. His technical and analytical capabilities and problem-solving approach are unique among many attorneys.

Attorney Smith's approach to estate planning is to charge flat fees for any estate planning documents instead of using a "billable hours" system. For example, a will costs \$75, a durable power of attorney \$95, a living will \$50, and a Non-Tax Trust Package \$695. He is also willing to review estate planning legal documents and provide

a consultation free of charge.

Attorney Smith also hosts seminars for the elderly to inform them of their legal rights, and donates large portions of his time to do legal work for churches and non-governmental organizations. And, he is a frequent speaker on estate planning and charitable gift planning.

His concern for people extends beyond his current client base. He hosts a weekly radio show called "Ask an Attorney," where he answers any and all legal questions for free, frequently inviting guests such as other attorneys, financial planners, CPAs, and other professions to add their expertise to the show. The show airs at 8 a.m. Saturday mornings on 90.3 FM and 1520 AM.

Even further beyond the legal world, Attorney Smith is contributing to his community. He is currently on the regional board of directors for the American Red Cross, and his personal donations to other organizations include Covenant House and the South Lake High school baseball team.

Attorney Smith is also the author of a book, **The Florida Estate Planning Hand-**



Attorney Patrick Smith will review your current estate planning legal documents and provide a consultation free of charge.

book, which strives to explain estate planning simply and intelligently for everyone. He prides himself on bringing peace of mind to those concerned about their future by helping them prepare for significant life events. In addition, Attorney Smith also practices in charitable giving.

If you'd like to see how you might protect your estate and your rights, call Attorney Patrick Smith at 407-464-0881 to schedule your complimentary initial

consultation today.

More information about Attorney Smith can be found at Phippen & Associates' website at www.attypip.com. His office is conveniently located at 175 E. Main St., Suite 111, Apopka.

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Consumers find objective, comprehensive grocery reviews helpful

When you go online, do you want a flowery review of groceries, or do you want a write-up that's more straightforward and factual? A new University of Florida study shows consumers find the "just-the-facts" approach more useful.

Zhifeng Gao, an associate professor of Food and Resource Economics, led a recent study of customer reviews on Amazon.com with his students, Yuan Jiang and Xuqi Chen, and research scientist Yan Heng, all with the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

People pay attention to these reviews, and retailers should do the same, Gao said.

That's because on-

line shopping is growing in popularity. In the first quarter of 2017, U.S. retail e-commerce sales reached \$105 billion, an increase of 4.1 percent from the fourth quarter of 2016, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Online sales are expected to grow 9.3 percent annually by 2020, according to www.Forrester.com, a service that analyzes web marketing.

As online shopping increases, more people are buying groceries via the Internet, said Gao.

For the latest study, Gao and his team scoured thousands of reviews from Amazon.com, specifically focusing on consumer critiques of coffee. They found certain factors significantly affected how help-

ful consumers perceive online reviews, including physical features of the coffee, Amazon's service, and flavor features.

Among other findings, researchers found consumers prefer reading about objective factors such as how the coffee is packaged and who makes the coffee over whether and why the reviewer likes the taste of the coffee. They see that as subjective.

Consumers also want more in the review than a terse, "I love this coffee," Gao said. They want to know what makes the cup of Joe stand out.

"The findings are important because more retailers are developing their online platform for food sales, and customer reviews have

been shown to have a significant impact on people's purchasing decisions," Gao said.

"Our findings indicate that retailers should encourage consumers who purchase the products from their website to provide more objective reviews about the products and give longer reviews so that other consumers can obtain more helpful information to make their purchase decisions," he said.

The study is published in the Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services.

The mission of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is to develop knowledge relevant to agricultural, human and natural resources and to make that

knowledge available to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. With more than a dozen research facilities, 67 county Extension offices, and award-winning students and faculty in the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UF/

IFAS works to bring science-based solutions to the state's agricultural and natural resources industries, and all Florida residents. Visit the UF/IFAS web site at ifas.ufl.edu and follow us on social media at @UF_IFAS.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Your Guide To Local Businesses

Nelson's Insurance Services can help with your personal or commercial insurance

At Nelson's Insurance Services, they understand the needs of the community for affordable insurance with great customer service.

Bryan Nelson, the owner and president of Nelson's Insurance Services, was born and raised in Apopka and was a member of the graduating class of 1976 from Apopka High School. Bryan's parents, Earl and Flo Nelson, raised Bryan around the prevalent nursery industry in Central Florida.

This instilled a unique understanding of the industry that has fueled the growth of Apopka from a town with only two traffic lights to a bustling city with over 49,000 residents.

Their office building, located at 10 N. Park Avenue, is also a part of Apopka's history, belonging to the Grosenbacher family for many years. A bomb shelter was built as an addi-

tion to the home in the 1950's, and is still functional today.

Nelson's Insurance Services understands that rates and availability of homeowners' insurance are frustrating issues for many local families. In fact, Bryan's and his wife, Debbie's, homeowners' policy was non-renewed several years ago when the insurance carrier left Florida's market. They understand the issues that many homeowners are currently facing and they will do their best to help solve them.

At Nelson's Insurance Services, they have access to many different homeowners' carriers and they will work with their carriers to provide an affordable policy while maintaining appropriate coverage. Homeowners' discounts can be applied for security alarms, updates on the home, senior discounts, and good credit discounts along with



Pictured above in back row are, (l-r), Lisa Mincey, Sunshine Abbott, Debbie Nelson, and Linda Nelson Knudsen. Seated is Bryan Nelson.

many others.

Nelson's Insurance Services has the ability to run a free replacement cost estimator that will ensure that all homes are covered for the correct amount.

Nelson's Insurance Services has access to several different auto insurance markets, which allows them to provide competitive quotes for all drivers and all coverage limits.

Along with personal lines insurance, they

have insurance for commercial needs including general liability, workers' compensation, business auto, and property insurance.

Feel free to visit Nelson's Insurance Services at their office on Park Avenue or visit them at www.nelsonsinsurance.com. Or call them at 407-886-7553 for a free, no obligation quote for all your insurance needs.

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Unify Apopka event set

By Teresa Sargeant
Apopka Chief Staff

The nonpartisan meet-and-greet "Unify Apopka!" intends to strengthen the bond between community members amid a heated political climate within the current election cycle, according to one of the event organizers.

"Unify Apopka!" will take place on Thursday, March 15, 5-7 p.m. at the Fran Carlton Center, 11 N. Forest Ave., Apopka.

Apopka's municipal election is on Tuesday, March 13, when residents will vote for a mayoral candidate as well as commissioners for City Council Seats No. 1 and 2. Arranged by Apopka community activist Rod Love and attorney Greg Jackson, "Unify Apopka!"

will include a distribution of olive branches – a symbol of peace – to attendees. The event's overall aim is to cut down on the "divisiveness" within the community during what Love called a "contentious" election cycle in an email. The event is also an opportunity for elected officials and possible run-off candidates to display leadership by putting community and constituents before themselves, Love added.

"Unify Apopka!" is about coming together and 'agreeing to disagree,' and yet having a common objective of ensuring Apopka is the shining city on the hill inclusive of all willing to help and be heard," Love wrote.

For more information about the event or to assist, send an email to info@falcon-sortium.org.

Beautiful Brows and Beyond ribbon cutting



Members of The Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce, City Officials and staff members of Beautiful Brows and Beyond participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony held Tuesday, February 27 at 2300 East Semoran Boulevard. Pictured holding scissors are Candice Adewole-Smith, owner, and Mayor Joe Kilsheimer. Beautiful Brows & Beyond is located within the newly constructed Piedmont Plaza.

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Enjoy the experience of homemade flavors of Italy at Vincent's Italian Restaurant

In a city like this, which has many Italian restaurants within a short driving distance, it can be very hard to stand out from the crowd.

One veal parmigiana melts into another. One plate of lasagna is very much like the one before it and the one to come after it, for that matter. And the endless processions of all things Italian get tedious through over-exposure.

In order to break away from the pack, an Italian restaurant has to offer something new and different, or it has to do the classics so well that they seem new and fresh. **Vincent's Italian Restaurant** has done just that!

The flavors brought out in the dishes served at **Vincent's Italian Restaurant** are out of this world. Homemade sauces, meatballs, gnocchi, pizza dough, dressings, and desserts are full of flavor that only comes from authenticity and tradition. The homemade food and sauces served are second to none.

Italian cuisine enthusiasts can enjoy some of the finest Italian food and delicacies right here, close to home. As the restaurant owners, Vincent and Josephine Folgore's philosophy is as easy as it is straightforward: "Use the best ingredients as simply as possible and serve them with fanfare and

pleasure."

The carefully crafted menu of **Vincent's** showcases many of the signature dishes that have built a multitude of fans throughout Central Florida. It offers such favorites as chicken marsala and chicken piccata, shrimp scampi, calamari, seafood combo, and eggplant parmigiana along with their delicious pasta dishes, homemade signature pizzas, and salads. Italiano subs, salads and antipasto round out a fabulous, fast lunch menu. And, with a variety of price points, the selections allow for a dining experience that caters to each patron's pallet and budget.

If you are in a hurry or want to enjoy a wonderful Italian meal or pizza in the comfort of your own home, call ahead and place your order. Your meal will be packaged and ready for pick-up. And, if you love chicken wings, don't pass these up. Fresh, plump, never frozen wings are also a favorite of the guests at **Vincent's Italian Restaurant**.

For Vincent, it is always been about the food. And, at **Vincent's Italian Restaurant**, that is the focus. Creating a place where people can experience wonderful Italian cuisine and enjoy themselves with friends, family, and business associates has always been his passion. And,



Italy is a dream destination for anyone who loves food and drink. Located just minutes from Apopka on 441, **Vincent's Italian Restaurant** offers homemade Italian dishes that are always delicious at a very affordable price.

as a family, **Vincent's** focuses on the thing that has always been most important to them, which is making each and every guest feel that they are part of **Vincent's** family every time they dine with them.

Vincent's Italian Restaurant's menu has a variety of pastas, authentic Italian main meals, and delicious pizza and sandwiches made with well-sourced, quality ingredients. Every dish has something to make it different, offering gourmets and fans an unrivalled experience coupled with a rustic, authentic Italian ambience. Each recipe comes from Vincent's wonderful experiences that he drew from in Italy, from the hospitality to the authentic aromas in the kitchen and

the homemade recipes compiled from his time in Italy.

Vincent's Italian Restaurant is a warm and comfortable restaurant that is the perfect place for your dining pleasure or special occasion. **Vincent's** has been successfully bringing family and friends a taste of Italy for over 34 years!

Vincent's Italian Restaurant is conveniently located at 5914 North Orange Blossom Trail in Mt. Dora. Place your carry-out order by calling 352-735-4578. Visit **Vincent's Italian Restaurant** Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. **Vincent's Italian Restaurant** is closed Monday.

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Sports

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See the picture and story at the top of the page about the Apopka Blue Darters wrestlers competing at the Class 3A state meet held March 2-3 at Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee. Apop-

ka's Kendrick Koller placed third in the 182 lbs. weight division-tying for the highest an Apopka High wrestler has earned since 1979. Chris Murray placing second is the highest.

Apopka High wrestlers set new program standards

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief Staff

A host of new standards were set by the Apopka Blue Darters wrestling team during the 2017-18 season up to and including when the lights shone the brightest as well as on the weightiest of stages in the form of the state championship meet.

"The new standard at the top of the list was at least five entries qualifying for the state championship meet, which was reached only after the others during the regular season were reached," first-year Blue Darters coach Brett Simonelli said. "Then the others for the state championship meet developed from at least five entries qualifying. Setting those new standards was the driving force this season. At least as far as the satisfaction of walking out of the Silver Spurs Arena after accomplishing

such a high percentage and by a fairly large margin in some cases was a feeling somewhat like winning the championship.

"This season started, continued, and ended the same way – the level at which we performed was of the utmost, which includes setting those new standards. Even when eliminated at the state championship meet, feeling would, could and should have been far from being on the table or of under-performing."

As a team, Apopka earning the highest place during the modern era was the headline, inside the top 13.5 percent or 11th out of 80 teams. Forty-five points were collected.

In individual competition, Kendrick Koller earning third place and Michael Handy taking fifth was the headline. The 2018 state championship meet was the

See STATE Page 10C



Apopka's Kendrick Koller (top) has the advantage over Christian Thompson of Tampa Wharton in their first-round match at the state meet. Koller pinned Thompson in 1 minute, 55 seconds en route to a third-place finish in the 182-lbs. weight division.

Mustangs whip Jones Tigers 10-0 in Metro baseball tilt

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief Staff

The 2018 baseball season continued with the Wekiva Mustangs' posting a 1-4 record, but improving.

Most tangibly and noticeably, the combined amount of runs scored by the Mustangs over the past two contests was 13 against giving up six. By a combined score of 29-2, Wekiva lost the first three contests.

"Even though at 1-4, the comparison between the first two weeks is clearly not the same team," Mustangs coach Will King said. "The coaches were much happier and satisfied with the play this past week. Several errors and mistakes were still committed. However, unlike the first week, we created the position of having an opportunity to win the second contest against Celebration.



(Photo by Kiara Keaton)

Zac Inklebarger receives congratulations from teammates after hitting a home run. He also hit for the cycle in Wekiva's 10-0 victory over the Jones Tigers. The cycle includes a single, double, triple, and home run in the same game by the same batter.

Way too many errors and mistakes were committed to win any of the first three

contests. Now we are playing with much more energy and focus.

"When young and inexperienced, the season is measured by turning sev-

eral corners. Those basic building blocks are the first corner which need to be turned by a team in order to win."

District competition begins this week with Wekiva facing Olympia in home-and-home series action. The second of the contests is being played today, Friday, March 9, at Olympia. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

"Not reverting back and maintaining that improving play will be the focus this week while preparing for district competition," King said. "There is an excitement about beginning district competition and after what we did last week. We still need to learn how to win, but the level of competitiveness will be higher than expected."

Wekiva 10 Jones 0

Although the home opener of the season was a thorough domination,

Zac Inklebarger and Jason Cranmer stood out. Not only did Inklebarger hit for the cycle, but six RBI's were recorded. In the meantime, Jones couldn't put the ball in play as Cranmer struck out 13 of the 16 batters faced. Pitching all five innings, Cranmer gave up only one hit and a walk.

When taking on Jones, the steady and consistent school of thought was applied. A single by Yadriel Matos and Inklebarger's triple combined to produce the only run needed by Wekiva to win. However, there was no resting on the laurels of needing only the one run as the inning ended with a 3-0 lead. The other runs were produced by means of a single, two walks and an error.

An inning later, Inklebarger added another three tallies to the score by means of the home run.

See WEKIVA Page 10C



Alex Otero (r) gets congratulations from Apopka teammate Gary Lora as Otero runs toward the plate Wednesday, March 7, after clouting a monster fly ball home run over the left-field wall to give the Blue Darters a 2-0 lead over Lake Brantley. Apopka led 4-0 before the Patriots came back for a 6-4 victory.

Blue Darters win two, drop one, now 5-2 overall, 0-1 in district

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka Blue Darters baseball team won two of three games this past week, but the lone defeat was a 6-4 loss to Lake Brantley in the first District 9A-3 contest of the season for both teams.

Apopka had relatively easy times with Edgewater (13-1) and Evans (14-0) as the Blue Darters' record now stands at 5-2.

Lake Brantley 6, Apopka 4

The Blue Darters broke a scoreless tie with four runs in the top of the third inning, but couldn't make the outburst hold up as the Patriots scored three times in the bottom of the third, then tied, and went ahead with single runs in the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings.

Apopka got its first two runs on a towering blast over the left-field wall by hot-hitting Alex Otero, who drove in Nico Santullo, a courtesy runner for catcher Austin Reed. Reed had led off the third with a single up the middle and then moved to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Garrett Evans.

A walk to Gary Lora and then an error that put Dillan Moore on base was followed by a triple to right field by Wes Lutt-

fring, scoring Lora and Moore.

The Darters threatened other times during the game, but couldn't push any more runs across.

Lake Brantley, meanwhile, scored its three runs in the bottom of the third after the first two batters were retired.

Reed and Otero both had two hits for Apopka, while Otero and Luttfring drove in two runs each for the Blue Darters.

Apopka starter Cam Stewart fanned four Lake Brantley batters, but also walked four. He gave up six hits in four innings of work. Jared Tyner pitched two innings for the Blue Darters, striking out three and walking one. He allowed three hits.

Apopka 13, Edgewater 1

Alex Otero led a potent Apopka hitting attack with 4 RBI, including a solo home run, as the Blue Darters scored early and often in the Metro Conference victory on Friday, March 2, at Edgewater.

The Blue Darters pounded out 16 hits while pitchers Caleb Stallings and Jared Tyner combined to give up just two hits as the only Edgewater run was unearned.

It was the second of back-to-back games where the Blue Darters were prohib-

See APOPKA Page 10C



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Race: Alpha Energy Solutions 250
Where: Martinsville Speedway
When: March 24, 2 p.m. (ET)
TV: FS1
2017 Winner: Chase Elliott

NASCAR INSIDER

by RICK MINTER / Andrews McMeel Syndication

Harvick comes up aces in Vegas

After three races of the 2018 Monster Energy Cup Series season, two of which were held on the downforce tracks that dominate the schedule, an early pattern seems to be developing.

Ford drivers, particularly Kevin Harvick, who won both the second race of the season at Atlanta Motor Speedway and Sunday's Pennzoil 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, are faster than many expected.

The Chevrolet teams, especially the four at Hendrick Motorsports, have not shown the speed many expected, especially with the introduction of a new Camaro body.

Tony Stewart, who with industrialist Gene Haas co-owns the four-car Stewart-Haas Racing team, said he's proud of the work done by the entire Ford contingent.

"I think the most impressive part for us is the fact that everybody thought the Fords were going to be underdogs this year, and not only the 4 car [Harvick's], but all of Stewart-Haas Racing cars have had speed, and Penske has had speed, and Roush has had speed," Stewart said.

Harvick, who led 214 of 267 laps and won the first two stages at Las Vegas, said this year is different for his team because it has had a chance to get used to racing Fords after fielding Chevrolets up until 2017. Now the team can spend its time making the car fast.

"Last year we weren't able to focus on anything for the first four months because everything was a problem," Harvick said.

Harvick's latest victory was a significant career milestone, as it gives him 100 victories across NASCAR's top three divisions. He now has 39 wins in Cup, 47 in Xfinity and 14 in the Camping World Truck Series.

"It's been a lot of years accumulated with a lot of great race teams and people and situations," he said. "You've won some that you should, you've won some that you shouldn't. I think when you tag that triple-digit number to it, it really lets you realize that you've been fortunate to accomplish a lot of things and do things consistently throughout the years."

While Harvick has spent the past two weeks talking about wins, many of his competitors are discussing how to outrun him.

Kyle Busch, who took the runner-up spot over Kyle Larson, Martin Truex Jr. and pole-sitter Ryan Blaney, said that's a tall order.

"There was no catching that 4 [Kevin Harvick]," Busch said. "I

don't know what we need to do to catch up and get better like those guys, but certainly, we have some work to do."

Truex Jr., the defending series champion who dominated last year on the intermediate tracks like Las Vegas, said his team also is playing catch up.

"We've got some things coming that we've been working on," he said. "We're right there, we just can't get the balance of our car where we need it."

At Hendrick Motorsports, which fields the cars driven by Jimmie Johnson, Chase Elliott, William Byron and Alex Bowman, the early races of 2018 have been disappointing.

Elliott did finish 10th at Atlanta, but Byron was 18th, two laps down, while Bowman was 20th, three laps in arrears, and Johnson 27th, four laps back due to a mechanical issue.

At Las Vegas, Johnson led the team with a 12th-place finish, but he was a lap down. Bowman was 16th, Byron 27th, and Elliott finished 34th after being involved in a wreck.

Johnson, who has 83 career Cup wins and seven championships, has struggled since the early part of the 2017 season. Since winning at Dover in the 13th race of last year, he's had just one top-five finish.

He said part of his problem is trying too hard to compensate for a car that doesn't have the speed he'd like.

"At the end of last year, and even in Atlanta, I was trying too hard," he said. "I have been trying to carry it and I've crashed more cars in the last six months than I have really in any six-month stretch or whole year stretch."



Kevin Harvick celebrates his second Cup victory in as many weeks following Sunday's win in the Pennzoil 400 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Kyle Busch reaches milestone with Truck Series victory at Las Vegas

Kyle Busch ran his career win total in the Camping World Truck Series to 50 — and his overall win count to 184 — after outrunning Atlanta winner Brett Moffitt and Daytona victor Johnny Sauter in Friday's Stratosphere 200 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Moffitt appeared to be in position to win late in the race, but con-

tact with the lapped truck of Michel Disdier gave Busch a chance to overtake Moffitt and drive away to victory.

Busch also prevailed on the race's final restart to secure his first-ever truck win at Las Vegas, which means he's now won at every active track on the truck circuit.

"This one's pretty cool to be able to win in my hometown and finish my list of Truck Series facilities that I've raced at and I've won at," he said.

For the second straight week, Sauter, who runs the Ilmor Engineering spec engine that NASCAR is championing, said he felt he was outrun by a regular engine from Toyota.

At Atlanta, Sauter lost to Moffitt, who like Busch at Las Vegas was running a Joe Gibbs Racing-prepared Toyota engine.

"Tonight I was frustrated when I got out of the truck because of the restarts," Sauter said. "My best one was the last one, so that was good."

Stewart Friesen, better known for his racing on dirt, had a strong showing in his Chris Larsen-owned No. 52 Chevrolet. He started on the outside pole, won the first two stages and finished fifth.

In the points standings, Sauter leads second-place Moffitt by 39 points heading into a two-week break before returning to the track at Martinsville Speedway for the Alpha Energy Solutions 250 on March 24.

Grant Enfinger, who finished fourth at Las Vegas is third in the standings, one point ahead of rookie Noah Gragson, who finished 12th at Vegas.



Kyle Busch takes a bow following a Truck Series win in his hometown.

Kevin Harvick says youth movement needs veterans' experience, insight

Not surprisingly, now that NASCAR's Monster Energy Cup Series has moved away from restrictor-plate racing at Daytona and on to the downforce tracks that dominate the schedule, the veteran drivers have risen to the head of the pack, which includes a large number of relative newcomers.

But many of those veterans realize that the future of the sport is the youngsters, and the graybeards seem willing to share the spotlight with the fresh faces.

"Look, we need to introduce new people and new stars in our sport," Kevin Harvick said in his winner's interview after the Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. "I love racing cars, and we have to have great competitors to make the diverse fan base have people to root for."

While some, like Kyle Busch, complained about the youngsters getting the biggest share of the preseason hype, Harvick said he's OK with how the promotions have gone.

"When everybody realizes how important the young guys are to the old guys, the tweensers have to do the same," he said. "You have to have somebody to race."

Harvick said he likes the idea of veteran drivers joined on the track by a mix of young drivers like Elliott and Blaney, with ties to the sport's past, and others like Alex Bowman and William Byron, who are new names to race fans but are fast behind the wheel.

"That's what you have to have," Harvick said. "The diversity from young to old is something that we haven't had in a long time, and we're going to corral everybody to make sure that they realize that we all need each other in order to make this sport what we all want it to be."

Harvick said he sees the need for veterans like him, Jimmie Johnson and others to help the youngsters deal with all that comes with the job of being a Cup driver. He also hopes he can help newcomers avoid some of the mistakes he made early in his career — mistakes that often landed him in trouble with NASCAR officials.

"For me right now, the sport is what enthruses me," Harvick said.

"There's so much to learn. We have to teach them about it. Jimmie Johnson and myself have talked about it. Somebody has to explain to them how things work and show them the ropes. And that, to me, is fun."

But being the old men of the group doesn't mean the veterans will yield to the youngsters once the green flag flies.

"You want to go beat them on the race track still," Harvick said. "It's not anything about that. But we need to get back to where everybody can go drink a beer together and have a good time."

And he said the good times have been missing of late.

"It just feels like everybody has kind of forgotten exactly how much fun this is and how lucky we are to walk into this garage on a weekly basis, or to sit in that car on a weekly basis and drive race cars around in circles," he said. "I want to spread that to the rest of them because it's not all sponsors and politics and business and all the things that you think it all is right now."

"It's fun," he said, adding that "You'd better enjoy it, because it might not be here tomorrow."



From left to right, veteran drivers Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Clint Bowyer and Kevin Harvick share a laugh at the track.

Kyle Larson claims Xfinity win

Monster Energy Cup driver Kyle Larson picked up where he left off in 2017 when it comes to racing in the Xfinity Series.

Larson, who had nine top-five finishes, including three wins in 11 Xfinity starts last season, drove away from Xfinity Series rookie Christopher Bell on a late-race restart and won Saturday's Boyd Gaming 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Larson, who was running at the front at Daytona before crashing in his only other Xfinity start this season, now has nine career Xfinity wins.



Kyle Larson celebrates with his son, Owen, in Victory Lane Saturday.

"It was an awesome day," Larson said in Victory Lane. "This car was so fast. It was really fast last year, but you really never know."

Bell, who like Larson loves to compete on dirt tracks when his NASCAR schedule allows, said he enjoyed racing Larson on a superspeedway.

"If I'm going to run second to anyone, I guess I would rather it be him," Bell said. Larson told reporters after the race that the feeling is mutual.

"It's always fun to get to race Bell," Larson said. "He seems to beat me all the time in the dirt stuff, and he edged me out there in qualifying. We were pretty equal there. ... It was cool to race, though."

Xfinity Series regular Justin Allgaier finished third over Ryan Blaney and Elliott Sadler.

Hometown driver Kyle Busch saw his bid to sweep the weekend at Las Vegas unravel due to a pit-stop penalty incurred when the gas man handled a tire during a pit stop. According to the pit stop rules enacted this year, fuelers can kick a tire toward the wall but can't put their hands on it. Busch, who won Friday night's Camping World Truck Series race, finished 14th.

Daytona winner Tyler Reddick, who finished eighth at Las Vegas, is now tied with Elliott Sadler for the series points lead.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

6 Cup victories at ISM Raceway by Kevin Harvick in the past 11 races

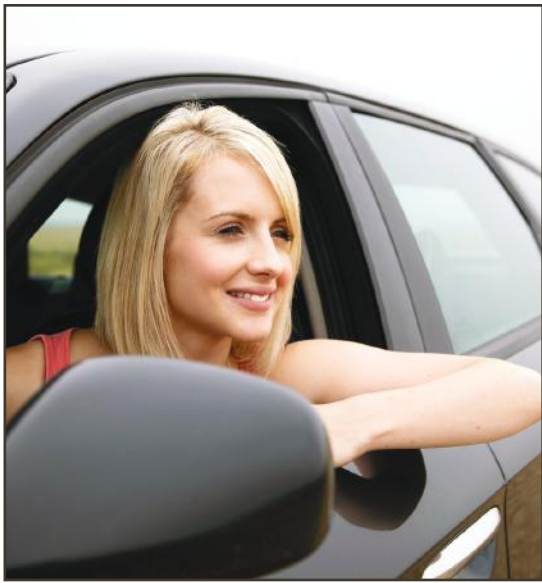
13 Playoff points accumulated so far this year by Kevin Harvick — tops among all Cup drivers. (Daytona winner Austin Dillon is second with five.)

3 Top-10 finishes this season by Joey Logano to top all Cup drivers

0 Laps led this year by Kyle Larson — the fewest of any driver in the top 10 in the standings

NASCAR CUP DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Kevin Harvick, 135
2. Joey Logano, 132
3. Ryan Blaney, 131
4. Martin Truex Jr., 115
5. Kyle Busch, 104
6. Kyle Larson, 104
7. Brad Keselowski, 99
8. Denny Hamlin, 97
9. Paul Menard, 96
10. Austin Dillon, 94



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CLUES ACROSS

- Unpleasant substance
- Oil group
- One-time Yankees rookie sensation
- Ireland
- Less easily found
- Southeast Nigeria people
- Bridgeline Digital stock designation
- Play loudly
- Elegantly fashionable
- Open sore
- Frozen water
- Sacred Islamic site
- "Kokomo" rockers
- Follows sigma
- Cease to exist
- Cool
- Doctors' group
- Less attractive
- Swiss river
- Greek sophist
- Grandmothers
- Afflict
- Russian pancake of buckwheat flour and yeast
- Actress Rachel Wood
- Not bright
- Western Asia peninsula
- Baseball speedster Gordon
- Golf score
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Songs to one's lover
- Cattle's mammary gland
- Having ten
- Fencing sword
- Scarlett's home
- Hold valuables
- Italian Seaport
- Cain and
- Bad places to live
- Large, wading bird
- Witches
- Cover with drops
- Props up the head

CLUES DOWN

- Philippine province
- Shallow channel
- Type of acid
- Cygnus' brightest star
- One who buys and sells securities (abbr.)
- Ill will
- Plant of the goosefoot family
- Intellectual
- Mineral
- Shiny silicate minerals
- Ottoman civilian title
- What you wear when eating BBQ (2 words)
- Soul and calypso song
- Advises
- "The Spanish Tragedy" author
- Surrounds the earth
- Paddle
- Adjusted
- Succulent plant
- Forearm bones
- Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague
- Type of mental illness
- One from Asia
- 007's creator
- Direct toward
- Pie mode
- Large terrier
- Hillsides
- Patriotic women (abbr.)
- Connects words
- For each
- Flower cluster
- Closes a deal
- Arabian desert
- Vaccine against poliomyelitis
- American state
- Religion practiced in China
- Type of sediment
- Hall of Famer Ruth
- "Layla" singer Clapton
- Gamble
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Midway between south and southwest

Solutions to the Crossword Puzzle are found on page 4B of this newspaper.

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67					68					69		

Apopka High boys lacrosse continuing to improve

By Neal Fisher
Apopka Chief Staff

A new season greeted the Apopka Blue Darters boys lacrosse team with a change at the top. And the Drew Green era has begun with a solid 3-2-1 record while not only facing the usual obstacles associated with transition, but facing a better-than-average challenging schedule.

“So far, the play has been about the make-up of the team undergoing transition,” Green said. “Coach Frost left with a solid foundation in place, starting with a line of succession. There is still a core of talent to build around even though 10 seniors graduated last season. In fact, tangible proof is nine players have scored and shared possession of the ball about 10 percent. Then winning the ground balls is 60 percent that is absolutely required to achieve success with the style we play. Basically, most of the players being counted on this season have lived up to the expectations. Continuing into this season, at one point or another, those players carried the team last season. And a couple of freshmen have joined this team.

“On the other hand, there isn’t much middle ground when comparing the experience to the inexperience on the team. Either at least a couple of seasons playing in the same role is present for the player or none. All of the players new to the main rotation are ready as far as development though. Adjusting to new roles of having impact is the inexperience. Also, having a head coach on campus is a benefit compared to not. However,

when change takes place a period of transition is still required.”

Ocoee, Timber Creek, and Evans have fallen to Apopka. The district opener ended with a close 19-15 loss to Montverde Academy. The other loss was also close, to the First Academy and by a score of 11-7.

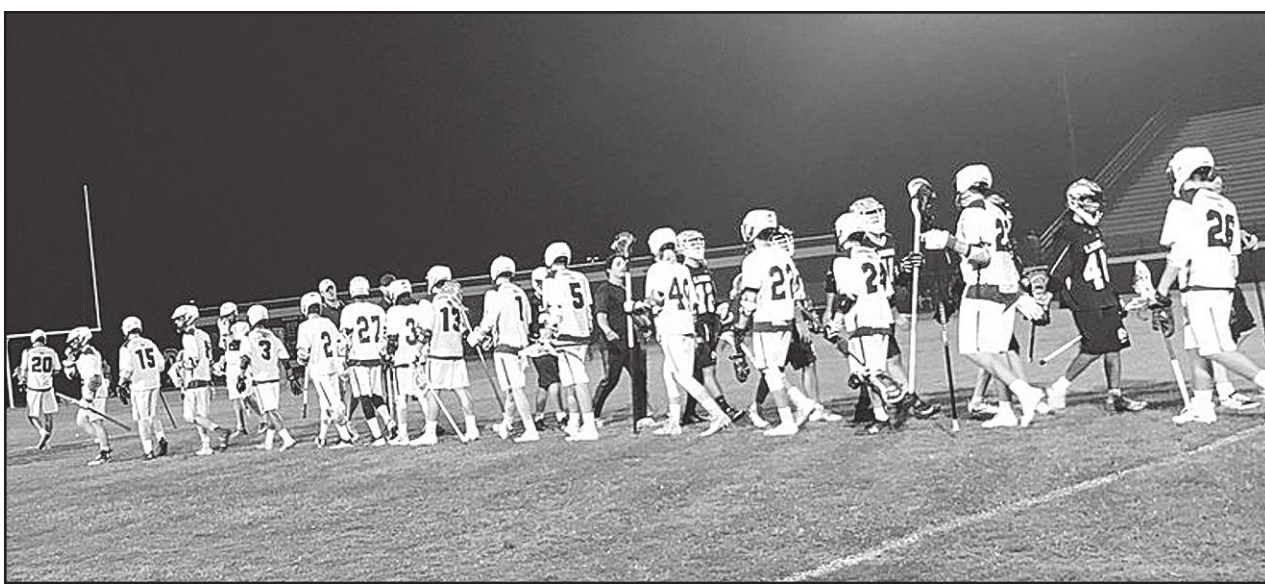
The rest of the members in District 11 are West Orange, Windermere, Lake Minneola, East Ridge, Ocoee, and Evans. (Wekiva is not fielding a team this season). Four teams advance to the district championship tournament.

“In general, the game is up and down the field, fast pace nowadays,” Green said. “For us though, creating the up and down, fast-paced style is vital because athleticism is our forte, calling card so to speak. When continuously moving, athleticism comes into play. And as the name implies, the purpose of the motion offense is to create continuous movement. The concept of creating that continuous movement through the motion offense is present in most sports, most notably in basketball.

“We possess solid skill and talent, but not to the level of the other contenders in the district. The other reason athleticism is our forte and calling card is to compensate for that lack.”

There are several different types of motion offenses. The number of triangles and location on the field vary with each.

However, in general, the main difference between the motion offenses as a whole and others is the players’ location and ball is constantly rotated while moving toward the goal and remaining in that triangle shape.



Two players set at the top of the restraining box, with a third on the crease. When the player located high cuts to the crease, the other fills the space vacated. Originally on the crease, the third player bumps up and replaces that player located high.

Clayton Vogel leads the Blue Darters with 18 goals and has assisted on 18 others.

On the other end, Bradley Peterson has started every contest and given up an average of only 8.8 goals. Peterson’s emergence has left Green with the dilemma every coach wishes for, whom to put between the pipes. Due to qualifying for the state championship meet in the sport of wrestling, Matt Simms did not join the team until this week. Last season, the average goals per contest given up by Simms was under nine as well.

Lining up as an attacker and recording the assist on most of Vogel’s goals is Richard DeShelter.

Michael Moss and Corey O’Dell have formed a strong duo at midfield.

Scoring and standing



The Apopka Blue Darters boys lacrosse team has fashioned a 3-2-1 record so far this season.

out as well are long stickman Garret Crissman and defenseman Noah Altenbach.

“Specifically, learning how to finish a victory has to improve,” Green said.

“Over the course of the season, improvement should occur. Right now though, the lead was given up during both of the losses.”

The rest of the schedule is Lake Minneola

(March 8-past press time), East Ridge (March 13), Windermere (March 27), Dr. Phillips (March 29), Lake Brantley (April 4), Edgewater (April 12) and Olympia (April 13).

Specks and bass are plentiful in area lakes and rivers

Hello Folks,

I missed y’all last week due to a computer glitch. I’m usin’ my grandson’s laptop to write my article this week.

Well, the fishin’ has been great and folks are catchin’ plenty of specks and bass. Folks are catchin’ limits of specks in all the major chains. The Kissimmee Chain, the Harris Chain, and the Butler Chain have been good to catch a mess of specks. Lake Woodruff and Lake Monroe have been producing some nice stringers of



Jim Keck
Goin’ Fishin’

specks, too.

Most folks are driftin’ open water with jigs tipped with a minner. Use brightly colored jigs or gold ice jigs. We had a full moon last week so make sure you check the shallow water ar-

reas for specks. You may find some of the specks goin’ on the beds in some of the lakes.

The guys who fished the FLW tournament on the Harris Chain a couple of weeks ago really caught some nice bass. The total weight for four days of fishin’ was almost 80 lbs. They could weigh in five bass per day, and the angler that had the heaviest stringer was declared the winner.

Congratulations to Chris Johnston for winnin’ the tournament. He won a check for \$125,000. I would have to say that’s

not too bad for four days of fishin’.

The bass fishin’ is still doin’ good in most of the chains in our area as well. The bass have been on the beds in some lakes and they are goin’ on the beds in other lakes.

My fishin’ partner Rick is fishin’ his annual week of bass fishin’ with his nephew Chris and his brother-in-law Greg from Kentucky. They have been fishin’ John’s Lake and the Butler Chain. The Butler Chain has been the hot area so far this week. The three of them caught and

released more than 40 bass in one day. Most of the bass are bein’ caught on plastic worms, slow-sinkin’ Senkos and lipless crankbaits. The biggest bass so far has been a little over four pounds. They still have a few more days to fish. Chris wants to catch a big bass while he is in Florida.

The bass fishin’ has been good over at the St. John’s River. Folks have been catchin’ some specks, a few shad, and some bass as well. Most of the specks are bein’ caught on minners and jigs tipped with a minner. There is plenty of

baitfish in the river so the bass will be bustin’ on the bait fish. Try fishin’ with a top-water bait early in the mornin’ and then make sure you have a lipless crankbait tied on in case the schoolin’ bass start bustin’ on the baitfish. You can also try fishin’ with some shiners along the shoreline cover and the layoffs up and down the river.

Well, I hope you have a great week and take the family and go fishin’.

Tip of the week: fish are bitin’.

Save a few and good luck!

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- Circle K, Keene Rd / Clarcona
- Citgo, 441 & Boy Scout Blvd (Plymouth)
- Citgo, Rock Springs Rd. (behind store by mail)
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- Kangaroo #2334, Rock Springs Rd & Kelly Park Rd
- Kangaroo #1288, Welch Rd & Wekiva Springs Rd.
- Kangaroo #1063, Zellwood, 2691 Highway 441
- Marathon, Main St. (midland downtown)
- McDonald’s, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Mobil, (Citgo) Hwy 441 (next to Burger K)
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- Parten’s Convenience Store, S. Central Hwy 441, in Victoria Plaza Parking Lot)
- Perkins Restaurant
- Plymouth Post Office, Plymouth/Sorrento Rd
- Plymouth Woodshed Restaurant (Highway 441 & Boy Scout Rd)
- Porkies BBQ, Highway 441 (downtown)
- Post Office, N. Park Ave. (Martin St)
- Publix, Park Ave/Rock Springs Rd. & Welch Rd.
- Sam’s Discount, Overland & Apopka Blvd.
- Save-A-Lot, SR 436 at Sheeler
- Sun Resort, 3000 Clarcona Rd.
- Sunoco Happy Foods, Hwy 441 & Plymouth-Sorrento Rd.
- Trader Mae’s, Rock Springs Rd
- UPS Store (The), Rock Springs & Welch Rd. (Publix shopping center)
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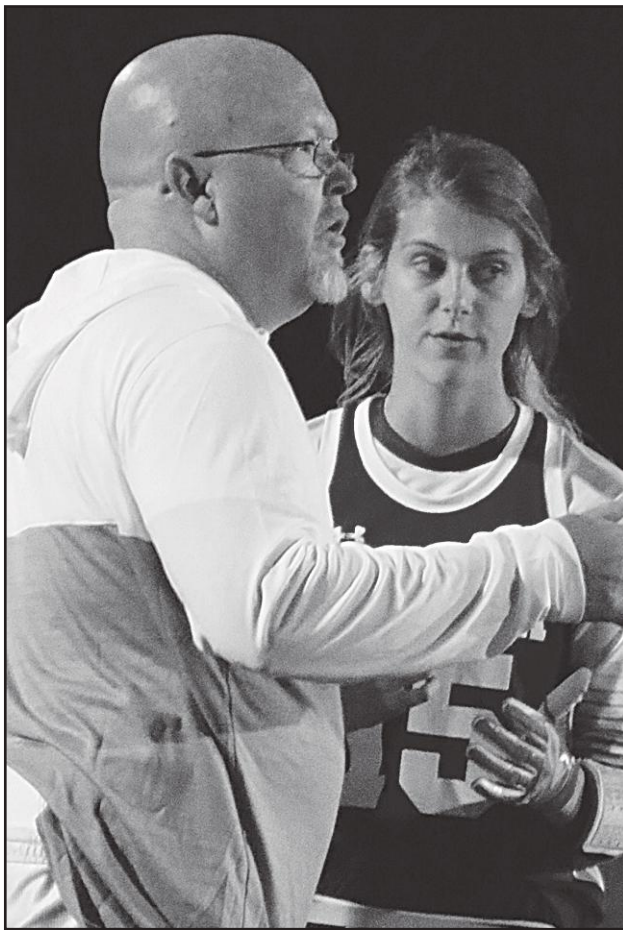
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Apopka Blue Darters begin their flag football season



Grace Darlington stretches the ball ahead as her flag is pulled.



Head coach Matt Houvouras talks with quarterback Allie Hague.



A pass is just beyond the reach of Shonta Alexander on Tuesday, March 6, during the Apopka Blue Darters' District 2A-2 match-up against the Flagler Palm Coast Bulldogs. Apopka fell 6-0 to the Bulldogs. The Blue Darters' next home game will be March 27 against the Windermere Wolverines. The Blue Darters hosted the DeLand Bulldogs on Thursday, March 8, past press time in another district contest.



Middle linebacker Ant McFarley reaches to pull the flag of a Flagler Palm Coast player as the FPC pitches the ball on Tuesday, March 6.

Staff photos by John Peery

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 later 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, FL, 32704-0880

In the period from February 27-March 5, the Apopka Police Department received 1,440 calls for assistance, responded to 22 crashes, issued 51 traffic citations and made 23 arrests. Of these arrests, none were juvenile arrests.

The following were arrested and charged:

Robert Timothy Ash, 35, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike, possession of weapon or ammunition violation final injury stalk cyberstalk.

Jermaine Brown, 45, transient, Apopka, utter false bill.

Jaylon Nicholas Cobb, 21, 19 W. 10th St., Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Jose Lino Cornelio-Dominguz, 20, 569 Maineline Blvd., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Jeremy Taurino Cruz, 31, P.O. Box 680214, Orlando, out-of-county warrant.

William Melqui Escalante-Ortiz, 35, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Amanda Lynn Fuller, 30, 2420 Piedmont Lakes Blvd., Apopka, vehicle theft-grand theft of motor vehicle.

Juan D. Garcia, 23, 527 Moonbeam Rd., Apopka, moving traffic violation-operate motor vehicle without valid license.

Sydney Brianna Green, 19, 1001 Alston Bay Blvd., Apopka, marijuana possession with intent to sell deliver within 1,000 feet of specified area.

Sharon Lee Harrison, 32, 1441 Hidden Meadow Way, Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Cory Mitchell Heers, 34, 810 E. 8th St., Apopka, aggravated battery.

Jonathan Tedreon Hudson, 24, 323 E. Plain St., Donalsonville, Georgia, drugs-possess cocaine, drugs- possess controlled substance without prescription includes marijuana over 20 grams, larceny-firearm grand theft of firearm, marijuana-possess not more than 20 grams, resist officer-obstruct without violence.

Robert Anthony Woodrow James, 30, transient, Apopka, trespassing-occupied structure or conveyance, larceny-retail theft/shoplifting petit 1st offense 2nd degree 1st offense, trespassing-fail to leave, trespassing upon order by owner.

Ian Charles Keller, 33, confidential address, Apopka, battery-touch or strike.

Jodie David Reynolds, 30, 8248 Pembroke Villas Circle, Orlando, vehicle theft-grand theft of motor vehicle.

Anthony Dwayne Sangster, 50, 26644 Cayman Dr., Tavares, drug equipment-possess and/or use, drugs-possession of methamphetamine.

Tommy Lee Scott, 44, 4217 Brittany Rd., Orlando, traffic offense-DUI alcohol or drugs.

Iris Vanessa Silva, 19, 818 Woodview Dr., Apopka, drug equipment-possess and/or use, marijuana-possess not more than 20 grams.

Deandre Teyvaughn Sorrell, 20, 435 Sunrise Dr., Orlando, marijuana-possess with intent sell manufacture deliver within 1,000 feet of specified area.

Lorenzo Trumaine Lamar Spell, 26, 1209 Polk St., Orlando, aggravated assault-with a deadly weapon without intent to kill, damage property-criminal mischief over \$200 under \$1,000, kidnap/false imprisonment-adult.

Daniel Carter Stonecipher, 44, 1409 Green Ridge Dr., Apopka, moving traffic violation-drive while license suspended 1st offense, traffic offense-DUI alcohol or drugs.

Presley Dee Suggs, 25, 575 Lake McCoy Dr., Apopka, out-of-county warrant.

Antonio Alonzo Walker, 27, 3019 Lancer Oak Dr., Apopka, battery-touch or strike, marijuana-possess not more than 20 grams, simple assault-intent threat to do violence.

It's Here!

The 2018 Apopka Voter's Guide

Know Your Candidates!

See Section D in the February 16th Edition of *The Apopka Chief* or visit www.TheApopkaChief.com

Unlike some friends, next-door neighbors, in-laws, or many of the people working or out doing business today, you actually care who speaks for you in our government.

You care so much, in fact, that you spend the time researching each race, issues, and the candidates before you vote. It might be your civic duty to mark a ballot, but you take it to the next level!

You are our kind of voter. Here, you can sit down and review the answers and elicit contrast to seven important and complex questions from each candidate.

There are other ways to learn about the candidates, but we believe **The Apopka Voter's Guide** is an excellent, side-by-side, one-stop guide for voters like you, the ones willing to go the extra step to do more than show up by actually casting an informed ballot.

Be Informed and Vote March 13

The Apopka Chief

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Blue Darters take six to state wrestling meet



Apopka's wrestling coach Brett Simonelli yells out instructions and applauds during a match at the state meet on Friday, March 2, held in the Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee.



Apopka wrestler, 152 lb. Roody Edouard pushes back against an opponent during Friday's state meet at the silver Spurs Arena.



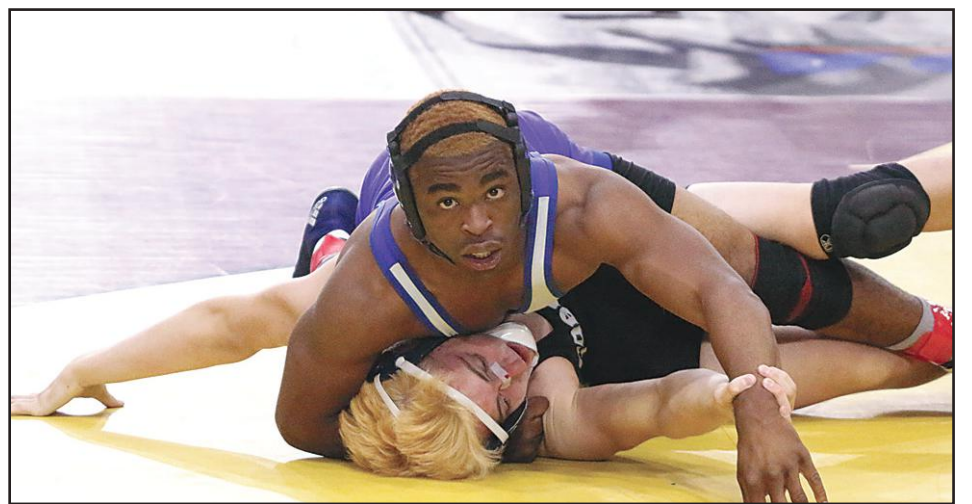
Roody Edouard attempts to take down his opponent in the 152 lb. weight class at the state meet.



In the 195 lb. division Matthew Simms thows an opponent to the mat during their match.



AHS Roody Edouards wworks to free his wrist during his match at the state meet at the Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee on Friday, March 2.



Apopka's Thanks Alcius looks to the official awaiting a whistle indicating he's pinned his opponent during the state meet on Friday.



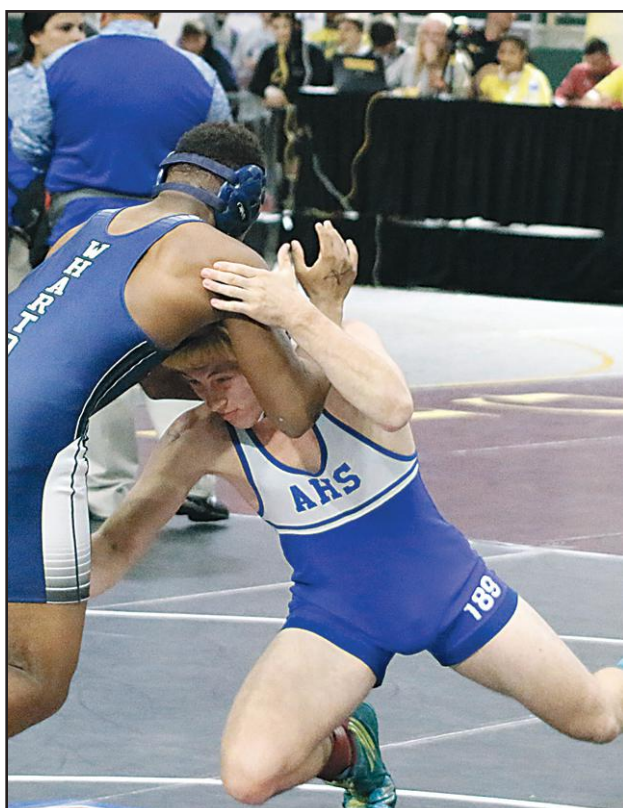
AHS Matthew Simms' momentum carries him through the air over his opponent in the 195 lb. division at the state meet.



Keyshon Talley, wrestling at 170 lbs., balls up his opponent as he attempts to roll him to his back.



Apopka's Matthew Handy underhooks his opponent's arm as he tries to trurn him to his back March 2.



Kendrick Koller shoots on his opponent during his match at 185 lbs. during the state meet.



Keyshon Talley avoids his opponents double leg take down attempt.

**Staff Photos by
John Peery**

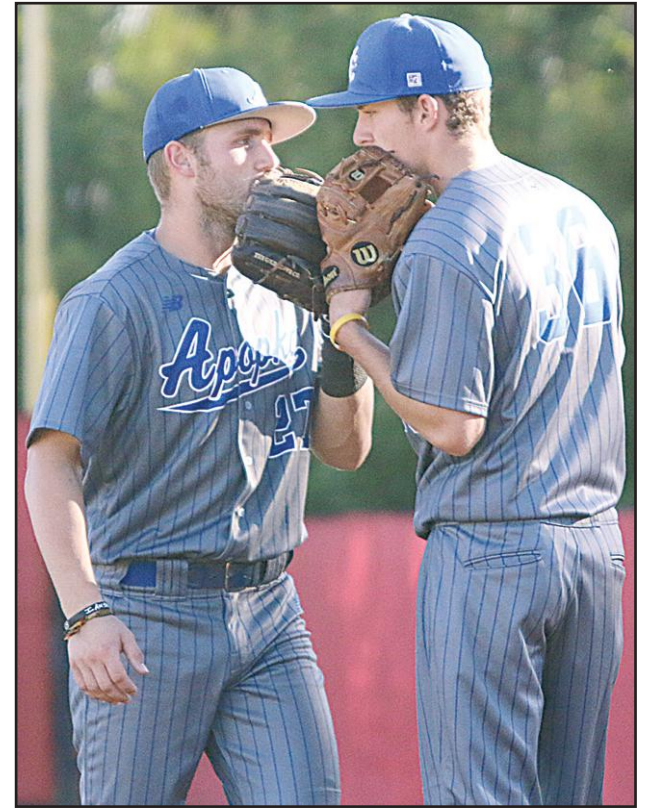
Blue Darters drop Edgewater Eagles like a hot potato



Alex Otero, of Apopka rounds third base heading for home during Apopka's thumping of Edgewater.



Matt Prevesk shakes hands with first year head coach Mike McDaniel at the game on March 2.



Garrett Evans meets Caleb Stallings at the mound during Apopka's game on Friday, March 2.



Apopka's Caleb Stallings rears back to deliver a pitch against Edgewater on Friday, March 2.



Apopka high school's Garrett Brewer applies a tag during an attempt to pickoff a runner at first base during Friday's 13-1 rout against Edgewater.

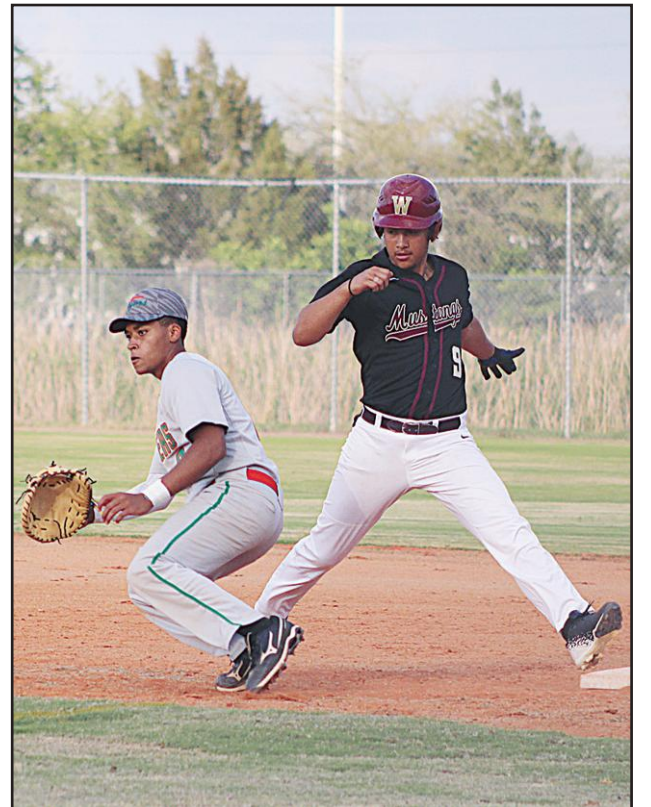
Wekiva Mustangs whip Jones Tigers 10-1



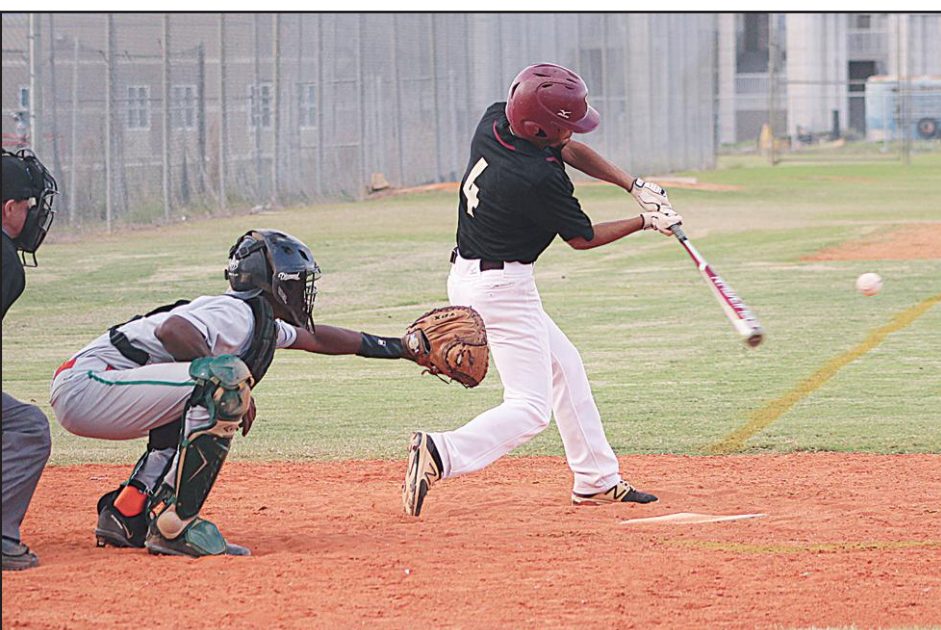
Wekiva's Cale Herrera tries to knock a ground ball down as the Mustangs run over the Tigers 10-0



WHS pitcher Jason Cranmer works to control the ball from the mound on the way to a 10 run victory.



During Monday's varsity baseball game against Jones, Wekiva's Christian Trejo scoots back to first base.



On March 1, Wekiva's Yadriel Matos takes a turn at bat during a game with Jones High School.



Zac Inklebarger, Wekiva's first baseman, catches a pickoff attempt on Thursday, March 1, against Jones High School.

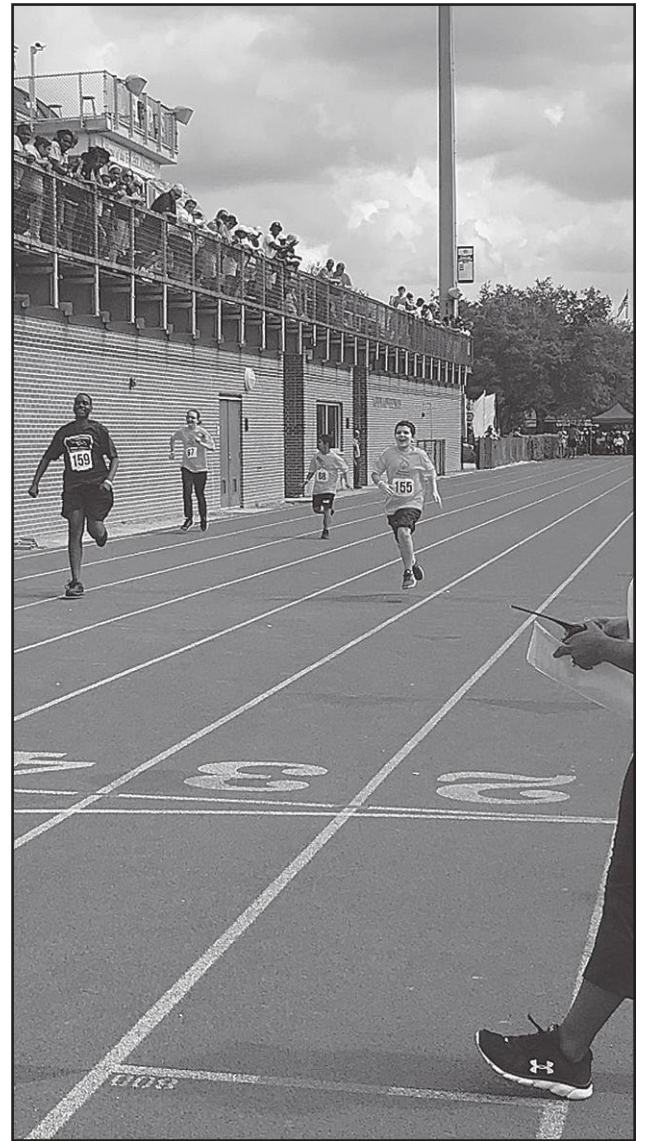
Wekiva High Special Olympians participate in track meet



Aaron Woody of Wekiva High School's Special Olympics took first place in the shot put competition.



Dominick Miller took first place in the 200-meter run and third place in the 100-meter run.



In lane 4 is Dominic Johnson and in lane 6 (maroon shirt) is Dave Fussaint, both of Wekiva High.



Representing Wekiva High School at the Special Olympia track and field competition on February 24 at Lake Highland Prep in Orlando were, (l-r), Joshua Alonso, Dominick Miller (back), Dominic Johnson (front), Jadsia Auz, Brian Matthews, and Aaron Woody.

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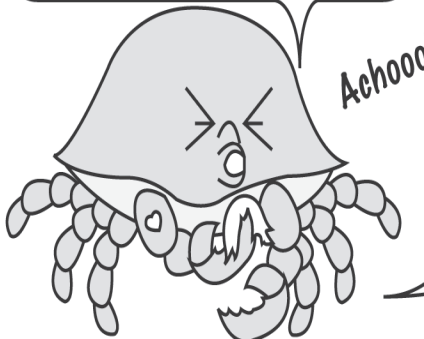
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We weren't sick at all last winter...  ...but this year some of us caught the flu!  Kids: color stuff in! 

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I feel achy, feverish and crabby.



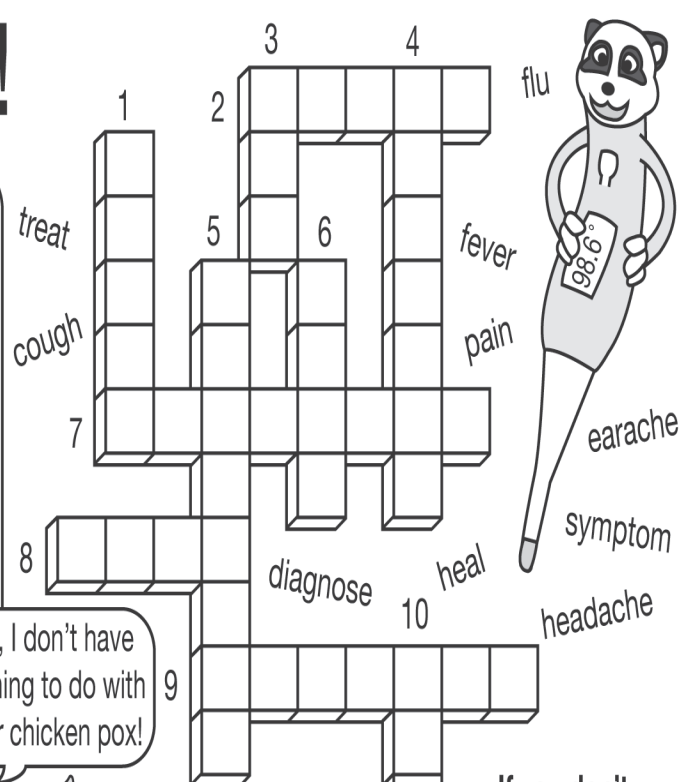
Achooo!

Feel Sick? Get Well!

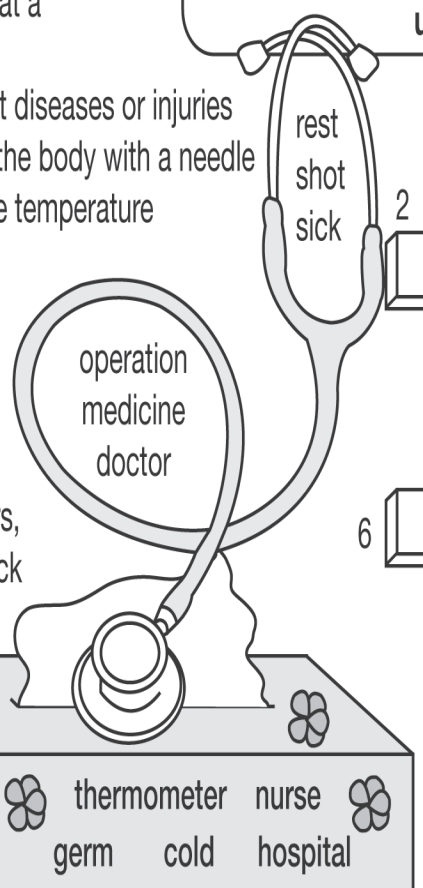
1. person trained to help doctors and take care of sick people
2. treatment of medical problem by using surgery
3. pill or liquid used to treat a disease or relieve pain
4. person licensed to treat diseases or injuries
5. medicine injected into the body with a needle
6. instrument used to take temperature
7. sleep, relax
8. ill, not healthy
9. common sickness: sneezing, runny nose, coughing
10. building where doctors, nurses take care of sick or hurt people
11. tiny living thing that can cause disease

Ugh! I've been sick this week. I caught a virus - or it caught me. I've used all the facial tissues in the house. I think I'll need a huge tractor-trailer truck to deliver more!

I went to see my doctor, who said I have a common cold. She gave me medicine to help me feel better, and told me to rest and drink lots of fluids. Sometimes, the doctor lets me try that cool instrument she uses to listen to sounds in my body. **If you read the clues and fill in this puzzle with words about health care, you will find the name of the instrument under the arrow:**



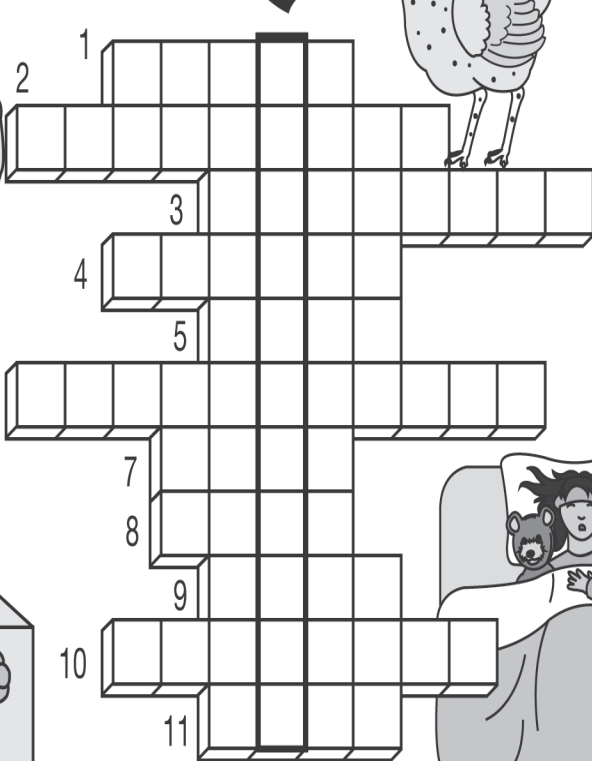
1. treat
2. cough
3. fever
4. pain
5. earache
6. symptom
7. headache
8. diagnose
9. heal
10. flu



rest shot sick

operation
medicine
doctor

thermometer nurse
germ cold hospital



1. rest
2. shot
3. sick
4. operation
5. medicine
6. doctor
7. fever
8. pain
9. earache
10. symptom
11. headache


Hey, I don't have anything to do with your chicken pox!



Read the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle with medical terms.

1. to clear your throat
2. high body temperature
3. virus, short for influenza
4. pain where you hear
5. discover what is wrong
6. to become healthy
7. pain in the top of your body
8. a strong uncomfortable feeling
9. a sign of what is wrong
10. to give medical care

If you don't feel well in class, ask to visit the school nurse.



Doctor, What Have I Caught?



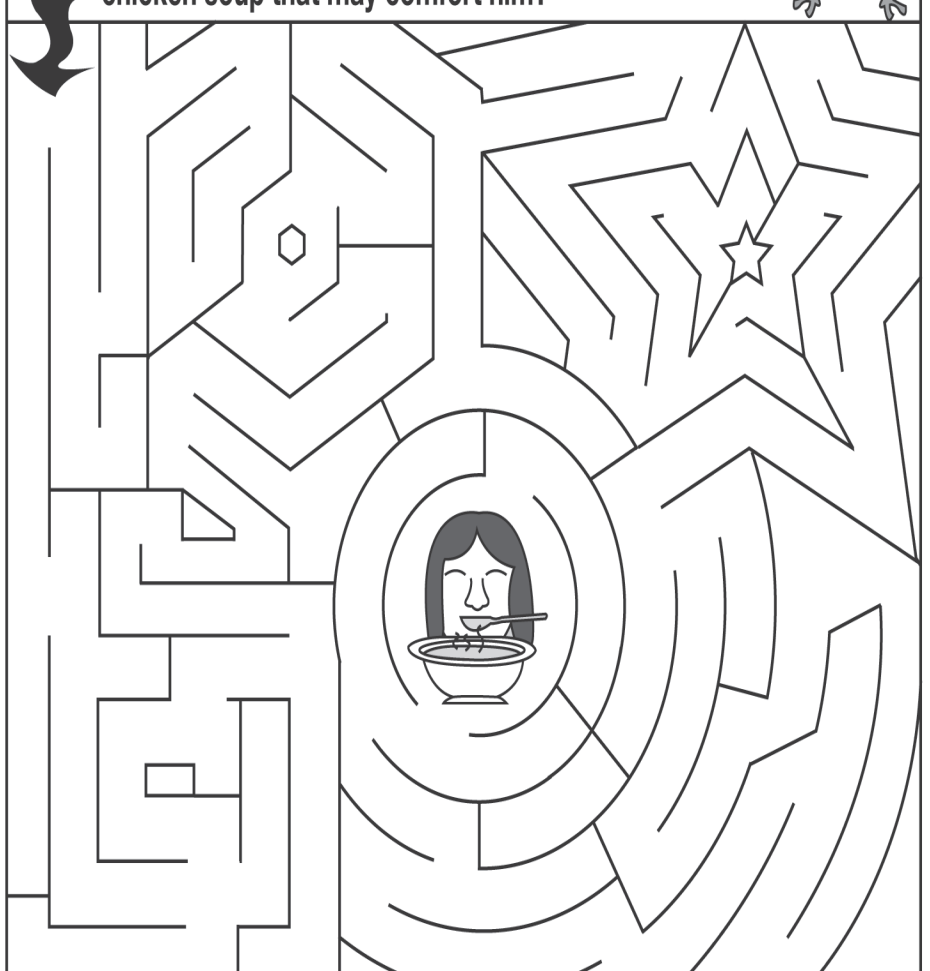
Everyone feels sick from time to time. Thanks to shots and vaccines, doctors are able to help us avoid many diseases. Medicines may help us feel better too.

Can you find and circle these illnesses and medical problems?

R A B I E S O M U M P S I T E I
D I U H J V F R G T J D S O N N
I R T G N I N O S I O P D O O F
A R F G E W A S X C U N M F Y L
R S T O M A C H A C H E J S H U
R O J F E S D T Y H G U G E S E
H R J G O L O I P U Y M G T E N
E E A R I N F E C T I O N E G Z
A T J H L O I Y O G G N H L S A
R H I J O J T E L C V I K H F S
L R J H P K J U D G R A K T O L
X O P N E K C I H C L U H A H R
S A U E R F G T H S E L S A E M
T T O O T J D E C Z Y L I U H J

- pneumonia
- sore throat
- food poisoning
- athlete's foot
- ear infection
- diarrhea
- stomach ache
- influenza
- cold
- mumps
- rabies
- polio
- measles
- chicken pox

Forest has a "little frog in his throat" that makes his voice sound froggy...er...funny. Can you help him get to the chicken soup that may comfort him?

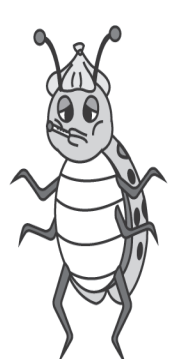




"Healthy" Expressions

Have you ever heard someone say "I feel blue?" You know that they are not really colored "blue," but that they feel a bit sad. An expression that people use to mean something *different* from the actual words they say is called an "idiom" (id' ē ə m). It is almost like a secret code. The English language can be hard to learn because it has a lot of idioms. **Match these 2 groups of "health" idioms to their meanings:**

1. sick as a dog
2. catch a cold
3. fit as a fiddle
4. under the weather
5. head is spinning

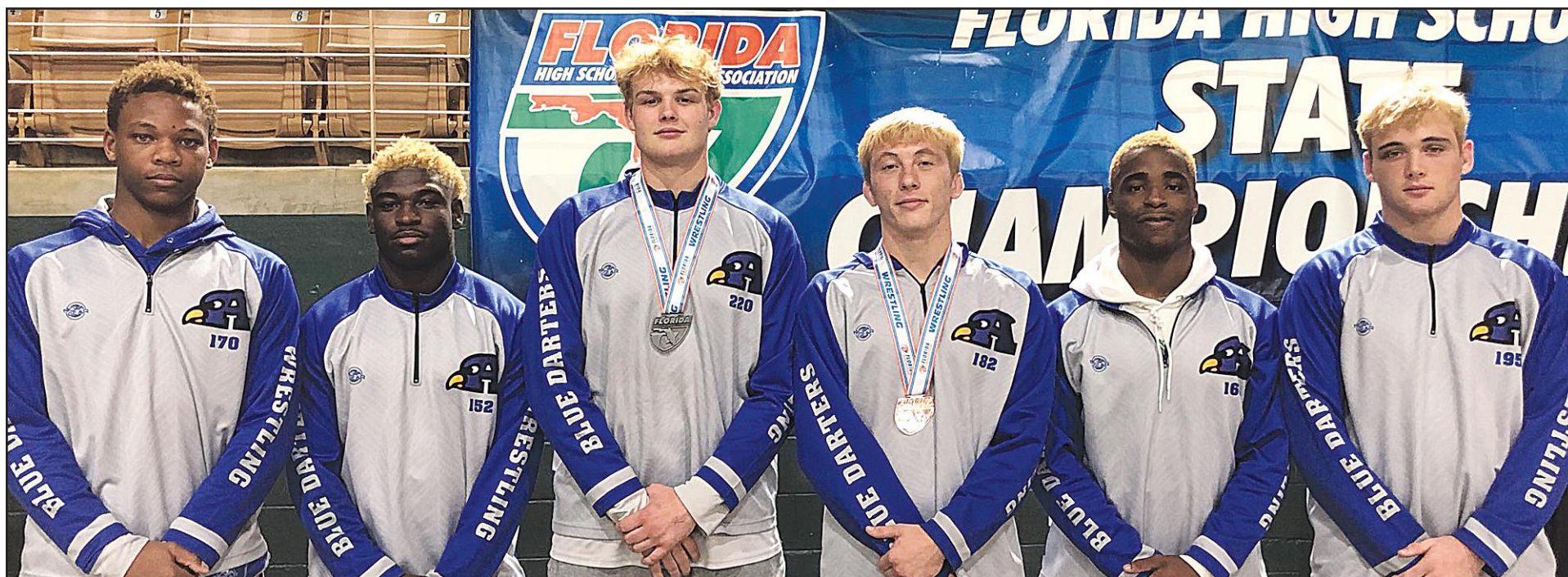
- A. someone in good shape
- B. not feeling 100% well
- C. very sick
- D. feeling of dizziness or confusion
- E. get sick with the common cold



1. on the mend
2. in the pink of health
3. just what the doctor ordered
4. have a "frog" in one's throat
5. there's a bug going around

- A. in perfect health
- B. getting better after an illness
- C. something keeps you from speaking clearly
- D. a cold or virus that everyone seems to have
- E. exactly what is needed





The six Apopka Blue Darters wrestlers who competed at the Class 3A state meet Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3, are, (l-r), Keyshon Talley, Roody Edouard, Michael Handy, Kendrick Koller, Thanks Alcius, and Matthew Simms.

State: 11th-place finish was best in program history for Blue Darters

Continued from page 1C

first in which two Blue Darters stood on the medal stand. Koller's performance also matched Logan Cella's at last season's state championship meet as the best during the modern era. (Chris Murray placed second in 1979.) Furthermore, after 26 seasons passed without a medalist, four have emerged over the past four seasons. Now serving as a coach, Nick Cella (Logan's brother) came home with the fourth place medal four seasons ago.

With a total of 230 points, South Dade claimed the 2018 state Class 3A championship.

"How well we performed in comparison to the potential and capability being measured by the tangible new standards set is obvious," Simonelli said. "Of course, at the simplest level, every team's and individual's overall goal is to keep winning all the way to a championship. Nobody spends all the hours and effort practicing and preparing throughout the year to place second. Yet, there are also the more particular and defined goals set according to the disposition of the circumstances. Three individuals placing at the state and inside the top 10 as a team were the specific goals set by us, but not quite achieved.

"Again though, failing to wrestle our best wasn't the reason for the losses. The opponents' best was a little bit better than ours. All losses at the state championship meet were to opponents who were ahead in the standings as a team and individually. Even the regular season losses were to teams placing ahead of us at the state (Hagerly and Flagler Palm Coast). The value and worth gained from this season is as much about the intangible of wrestling up to the potential and a level far above underper-

forming as the tangible new standards set. Not a lot of teams can say such a level was reached, including in the top 10."

A total of six qualified for the state championship meet under the Apopka banner. Of the 10 teams placing ahead of the Blue Darters at the state championship meet, nine competed with more qualifiers. South Dade's contingent totaled 13 wrestlers. Four other teams numbered nine entries.

Every Blue Darter competing won at least one match, a first as well. The other new standard set was four winning during the first round.

"Those extra points which were the difference between being good and moving into the top five and contending to place in almost all of the classes during the regional championship meet came from everyone preparing for the situation as much as the strategy," Simonelli said. "Of course, we came into the regional championship meet confident. However, rising to the occasion was needed from a few wrestlers, which included some upsets. Then the favorites needed to continue to wrestle as well as previously. All of which needed to continue for 11th place to be earned among the state."

After claiming district and regional championships, Koller defeated Christian Thompson (Tampa Wharton), Lawrence Smith-Jackson (Gainesville Buchholz), Leonard Wooten (Miami Southridge), Eric Saber (Wellington Community), and Sammy Benicid (Coral Park) en route to third place among the state. Third place was garnered with a 3-1 victory. Points were scored by Koller on a takedown during the first period. The lead was extended to the two points on an escape during the second. However, four consecutive matches had to be won by Koller

after falling into the consolation bracket during the second round.

Medal status for Handy was secured by winning during the first two rounds over Bryan Canedo (Royal Palm Beach) and Evan Akel (Riverview). Then a victory by pinfall after only 40 seconds was recorded over Henry Fernandez (Miami Christopher Columbus) to place fifth.

"Winning those last two matches during the medal rounds is a nice and strong way to end the season," Simonelli said.

"However, coming back and realizing the highest possible place after the disappointment says a lot about the wrestlers as people and where the program is going. A reminder heading into the offseason of what is required to place inside the top 10 was delivered in the form of an opportunity to make the most of what is available being realized."

The rest of the Blue Darter contingent was Roody Edouard (152 pounds), Thanks Alcius (160 pounds), Keyshon Talley (170 pounds) and Matt Simms (195 pounds).

High school wrestling matches consist of 14 weight classes.

There are three levels/meets of postseason competition for the sport of wrestling, district, region, and state. Wrestlers earning first through fourth are considered to have placed and not only score points, but advance from the district to the regional, then from the regional to state championship meets.

Fleming Island, Hagerty, Osceola, Columbus, Southwest Miami, Palm Harbor University, Wellington Community, Flagler Palm Coast, and Miami Southridge made up the rest of the top-10, respectively.

Getting the most out of what was possessed by the Blue Dart-



Michael Handy takes control of his first-round match against Bryan Canedo of Royal Palm Beach.

ers began with the first meet of the FHSAA postseason despite the lack of a complete line-up due to disciplinary reasons. Seven individual weight class district championships were claimed and 10 out of 11 placed as well as earned the right to advance to the Region 3A-1 championship meet.

At the Region 3A-1 championship meet at least one victory was earned by nine of the 10 wrestlers to create the position of establishing a team to be reckoned with.

Apopka posted a 20-2 dual meet regular season record and claimed the district championships for traditional individual weight class tournaments as well as for the first ever dual-team competition. Then fifth place was earned at the regional championship meet for the traditional individual weight class tournaments. The other loss was to a school located in New Jersey during the premier

KSA Holiday Tournament (Christmas).

"A week or so off has certainly been earned by this team," Simonelli said. "Then preparation for next season will start with competing for the local AAU sanctioned team.

"Nine seniors are graduating. So, the assumption of rebuilding will be present. However, the wrestlers moving into the line-up next season were being developed this season and are ready along with a strong freshman class coming in. A district championship and state qualifier which can be built around are returning. The rebuilding is in a lack of experience. We will probably lose a few more during the first half of next season as that experience is being gained. Having equal goals as this season at the end of the next is very realistic though because the level of talent and skill will not drop much."

Wekiva: Celebration uses one big inning to defeat the Mustangs, 6-3

Continued from page 1C

The scoring was completed with two runs during the third and fifth.

Totals for the contest were 11 hits and seven walks as 41 batters came to the plate. Seven of the hits were for extra bases.

No errors were committed.

Celebration 6 Wekiva 3

Wekiva suffered a first-hand experience of one bad inning determining the outcome. Furthermore, the four runs which were the difference were scored during the first inning as the Mustangs also suffered the experience of the outcome being decid-

ed as soon as possible.

Two strikeouts were recorded by Wekiva during the bottom of the first. However, the damage had already been sustained by the Mustangs. A walk, hit batsman, and passed ball began the first frame. Celebration's third hitter then singled up the middle to bring

in the first two runs. Failing to throw the ball in a timely manner to first base followed. Allowing more runners to reach base due to the late throw set up the last single hit during the inning further extending the lead in the form of two more runs.

Albeit long odds, the opportunity to win still ex-

isted until the last out. There were two runners on base when a grounder to third base ended the contest. Wekiva had cut into the lead when scoring the three tallies during the last two frames.

The deficit grew back to 6-2 during the bottom of the sixth as the result of two

hits, two walks and an error.

Hits were eight to six in favor of Celebration. An advantage in walks was also held by Celebration, four to two.

Issac Laster pitched the first 6-1/3 innings for the Mustangs. The last 1-1/3 frames saw Inklebarger take to the mound.

Apopka: Most players saw action in big wins over Edgewater, Evans

Continued from page 1C

itive favorites to win – including the victory over Evans (below) – and they took care of business.

"We talk about it all the time because we've got to stay focused no matter who we play," Apopka coach Mike McDaniel said. "It's about us and how we play, and I think the last two nights have shown that."

Apopka scored one run in each of the first two innings, then tallied three times in the third to take command of the contest.

After Otero slapped his homer in the fourth inning to up Apopka's lead to 6-0, the Darters scored four times in the fifth inning, including two on Donovan Lynch's home run, to grab a 10-1 lead.

Three more runs in the sev-

enth inning led to the 13-1 final, the second game in a row of double-digit runs for the Blue Darters.

In addition to Otero's 4 RBI, Lynch and Dilan Moore had 2 RBI each, while Austin Reed, Jeff Casillas, and Kevin McGrath contributed 1 RBI apiece.

Otero had three hits for the Blue Darters, while Garrett Evans, Gary Lora, Casillas, and McGrath each had two hits.

Twelve of Apopka's 13 runs were earned.

Stallings fanned eight Edgewater batters and walked just one in five innings of work. He allowed one hit in picking up the victory.

Tyner struck out three Eagles, walked none, and allowed just one hit in his two innings on the mound.

When asked about Stallings' outing, coach McDaniel was quick and to the point. "Money. He was lights out. He's worked for that. He's really focused. He's all in," the coach said.

Apopka 14, Evans 0

No, it wasn't two touchdowns that the Blue Darters scored, but it was plenty of runs early as Apopka tallied at least three runs in each inning of the five-inning contest on Thursday, March 1, in the first home game of the season for the Darters.

Apopka had just seven hits, but were the recipient of nine walks and four hit batsmen as the Evans pitchers had control issues. The Trojans had five errors, as four of Apopka's 14 runs were unearned.

Garrett Evans led the Blue

Darters with 3 RBI, while Matt Prevesk and Wesley Luttfriing had 2 RBI each. Picking up 1 RBI apiece were Reed, Garrett Fore, Casillas, and Tim Harper.

Evans had just three hits and Apopka's four pitchers combined for eight strikeouts.

Jacob Tyner was the starter on the mound for the Blue Darters. He hurled two innings, fanning four. Josean Nieves, Aaron Hale, and Greg Hemming pitched one inning each for the Darters.

The Blue Darters scored three times in each of the first, third, and fourth innings, while plating five runs in the second.

What's ahead

The District 9A-3 action continues over the next week as the Blue Darters will host Lake Brantley today, Friday, March 9,

in a 7 p.m. contest.

Rival West Orange is next on the docket as Apopka hosts the Warriors on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m., and then travels to West Orange on Thursday, March 15, for a 7 p.m. game.

The following week, the Blue Darters will travel to the Pensacola area for four games over spring break during the 25th annual Aggie Classic hosted by Tate High School.

Apopka will face three teams from Oklahoma – Cascia Hall, Moore, and Mustang – March 19-21, and then will play in a placement game on March 22.

After spring break, the Blue Darters will play eight of 11 regular-season games at home and then will host the District 9A-3 tournament during the first week of May.

Fla Wildlife Commission responsible for varied environments

The state of Florida includes an incredible variety of habitats, including the tropical coral reefs of the Florida Keys, the unique Everglades, temperate hardwood forests, majestic rivers that meander for hundreds of miles, awe-inspiring springs, and nearly 8,000 lakes. These highly productive ecosystems support fishing and hunting, nature viewing, and other recreational and commercial activities.

State Wildlife Action Plan

There is a comprehensive, statewide plan for conserving the state's wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations. It outlines what native wildlife and habitats are in need, why they are in need and, most importantly, what we are going to do about it. Some of the habitats included are: Hard Bottom, Tidal Flat, Natural Lake, Cypress Swamp and Scrub.

Landowner Assistance and Incentive Programs

Over half of Florida is privately owned. The land-use planning efforts and habitat management

decisions made by private landowners today will determine the future for fish and wildlife tomorrow.

Habitats: Artificial Reefs

An artificial reef may be described as one or more objects of natural or human origin deployed purposefully on the seafloor to influence physical, biological, or socio-economic processes related to living marine organisms.

The more than 2,400 carefully planned artificial reefs constructed in state and adjacent federal waters off both Florida coasts have been built to provide recreational fishing and diving enhancement, a socio-economic benefit to adjacent coastal communities, and to increase structural habitat for reef associated or reef dependent fish and invertebrates.

Coral Reefs

Coral reefs can be described as the rain forests of the sea. One census found 3,467 species of algae, plants, and animals associated with coral reefs. Protection and wise use of

Florida's coral reef habitat is our primary concern. The long-term Coral Monitoring Project (CRMP) is the most comprehensive coral assessment program ever established in the Florida Keys.

Seagrasses

Conservation and restoration of seagrass is the primary focus of program staff in aquatic vegetation. Seagrass research helps supply resource managers with the data necessary to make effective decisions about the preservation, management, and restoration of these communities.

Wetlands

Managing wetland habitat is critical to providing the greatest quantity and highest quality of habitat possible to support Florida's waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife.

Habitat Management Programs:

Invasive Plant Management

The Invasive Plant Management Section within the Division of Habitat and Species Conser-

vation of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the lead agency in Florida responsible for coordinating and funding two statewide programs controlling invasive aquatic and upland plants on public conservation lands and waterways throughout the state. Florida's aquatic plant management program is one of the oldest invasive species removal programs with its beginnings dating back to the late 1800s.

With the addition of the upland program, the section oversees the largest invasive plant management program of its kind in the United States. The section also insures that beneficial native aquatic plants in Florida's ponds, lakes, and rivers are protected through its permitting programs.

Management Plans and Planning

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a management interest in approximately 5 million acres of natural resource land in Florida. Lands within the

FWC managed-areas system are comprised of both private lands (especially timber companies) and those under the jurisdiction of various government agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Water Management Districts, the Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Military Affairs, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks.

Fish Management Areas

A fish management area (FMA) is a pond, lake or other body of water established for the management of freshwater fish as a cooperative effort with the local county. The FWC's Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management manages more than 100 water bodies throughout the state that are designated as Fish Management Areas.

Objective-based Vegetation Management (OBVM)

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

(FWC), has lead management responsibility for approximately 1.5 million acres on 42 Wildlife Management and Wildlife Environmental Areas (WMA/WEAs) in Florida. FWC land managers, in cooperation with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), have developed and are implementing an objective-based vegetation management (OBVM) approach to resource management on these Trustee-owned lands.

Freshwater Pond Management

Florida has more than 7,700 named lakes over 20 acres and countless ponds from 1-20 acres. Many of those smaller ponds are on private property. Such ponds, if properly managed can provide wonderful, fishing, birding and wildlife viewing opportunities. However, the management of the ponds should take into account important conservation principles to prevent doing more harm than good.

myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/habitat/

Hydrilla, one of Florida's most prolific vegetations, is restrictive

Hydrilla:

Hydrilla verticillata

Appearance:

Hydrilla is a submersed, much-branched, perennial herb, usually rooted but frequently with fragments seen drifting in the water. Stems can be more than 35 feet long. Hydrilla once was used as an aquarium plant, and has become a weed of economic importance. Hydrilla verticillata is the only species in this genus.

What to look for first

- (a) submersed leaves in whorls of 4 to 8
- (b) saw teeth on leaf margins
- (c) leaf underside usually with one or more bumps on midrib
- (d) tubers

Leaves: submersed; in whorls of 3 to 8, 2-4 mm (0.1-0.2 in) wide and 6-20 mm (0.2-0.8 in) long, bearing coarse (visible) teeth along the margins and usually 1-4 small conical bumps along the underside

of the midrib, which is often red.

Stems: slender with much branching and up to 10.6 m (35 ft.) long; eventually form dense tangled masses at the water surface.

Flowers: female flowers solitary, on long stalks, with three sepals and three petals, each about 4 mm (0.3 in.) long, whitish or translucent, floating at the water's surface.

Other characteristics: two types of special vegetative propagules: turions - fattened leaf buds at stem nodes, green, about 1.25 cm (1/2 in) wide; tubers - small (to 1cm long), off-white, swollen ends of underground stems.

Habitat:

This submersed plant native to Africa and Southeast Asia is a major aquatic weed throughout most of the world's warmer climates. Hydrilla was introduced into Florida in the early 1950s and by the early 1990s occupied more than 140,000 acres of pub-

lic lakes and rivers. Intensive interagency management has reduced the above ground portions of hydrilla to under 50,000 acres.

However, once established, hydrilla produces reproductive tubers numbering in the millions per acre in the soils of Florida waterways. These tubers still impact nearly 140,000 acres and represent hydrilla's regrowth potential, if not continually managed immediately after sprouting. Researchers have not discovered methods to prevent or minimize tuber formation

Because of its aggressive growth rate, never transplant hydrilla from waterway to waterway, and please clean all boats and trailers, live wells, and diving gear of plant material before entering or leaving a waterbody. Possession of hydrilla is illegal in Florida without a special permit.

Distribution:

Origin in Old World,



widely distributed in warmer regions of Africa and Asia, found locally in Northern Europe, introduced into South and Central America, U.S., and Australia.

Behavior:

Hydrilla can grow an inch or more per day and can be found in water only a few inches deep to the deepest parts of Florida's lakes and rivers. In Florida, hydrilla produces dense canopies covering entire surfaces of waterbodies within one or two years after it becomes established. Hydrilla disperses quickly throughout a waterway by stem fragments, buds, runners and tubers.

Why hydrilla must be managed

Hydrilla blocks waterways and limits boat traffic, recreation, flood control and wildlife use. Almost 80 percent of hydrilla's biomass is in the upper 2 feet of the water column producing a dense canopy near the water sur-

face. This exotic pest plant shades out native submersed plant species, reduces oxygen levels and degrades water quality.

Environmental damage caused by hydrilla

Hydrilla canopies lower dissolved oxygen concentrations, reducing aquatic life.

Hydrilla decay doubles the amount of sediments that accumulate in a water body.

Dense hydrilla infestations can restrict water flow resulting in flooding along rivers and canals.

Hydrilla canopies produce ideal breeding environments for mosquitoes.

Dense hydrilla canopies shade out native submersed vegetation lowering biodiversity.

Hydrilla infestations restrict recreational activities such as boating, swimming and fishing.

myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/invasive-plants/weed-alerts/hydrilla

Help for co-existing with 'floaters' when canoeing or kayaking

What are the risks to canoeists and kayakers from alligators?

Encounters between boaters and alligators are not very common, particularly when you consider how many people enjoy recreational boating in Florida. Many people canoe and kayak in Florida waters each year, and alligators can be present in any fresh or brackish water in the state.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) occasionally gets reports of unsettling encounters between a paddler and an alligator.

The majority of these appear to be situations in which the boat bumps into an alligator. This could be because the alligator was in shallow water and could not submerge to avoid contact, or the alligator was on a bank and the boat startled the alligator, causing the alligator to escape toward deeper water in an attempt to flee.

In a few incidents, alligators have actually bitten canoes and kayaks, resulting in minor injuries to

people and damage to their boats.

The best way to protect yourself if you are paddling is to keep your hands and feet inside the boat and to be cautious and aware when entering or leaving the water. You should be especially cautious at dawn, dusk and at night, because that is when alligators are most active.

If you fish from your canoe or kayak, be careful when retrieving fish from the water, and if you keep any fish, do not keep them on a stringer in the water. When back on shore, avoid throwing fish scraps in the water when you clean your fish.

If you have a dog, do not allow your dog to swim in the water (whether you are boating or not), because dogs are at considerable risk from alligators.

Also consider the style of canoe or kayak that you use. Hard plastic boats offer more protection from puncture than inflatable boats.

If you observe a large alligator swimming toward your canoe or kayak, you should paddle quick-

ly away from the alligator until it is no longer swimming toward you. In the unlikely event that an alligator approaches closely to your boat, slap the water's surface near the alligator with your paddle and move as quickly away as possible. In the extreme circumstance that a large alligator lunges at or bites your boat, rap the alligator on its snout with your paddle and quickly paddle away.

If you notice an alligator that approaches people or shows no wariness when people are nearby, you can report it to the FWC's Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 1-866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286).

Alligators

Alligators have inhabited Florida's marshes, swamps, rivers and lakes for many centuries, and are found in all 67 counties. In recent years, Florida has experienced tremendous human population growth. Many residents seek waterfront homes, and increasingly participate in water-related activities. This can result in more frequent alligator-human interactions, and a greater potential for

conflict.

Although many Floridians have learned to co-exist with alligators, the potential for conflict always exists. The following links provide valuable safety tips for co-existing with alligators: Living with Alligators brochure (1.8MB). For Kids: Nuisance Alligators; Alligator Management Program

Crocodiles

American crocodiles primarily are found in south Florida living in brackish and saltwater habitats such as ponds, coves and creeks of mangrove swamps. Recently crocodiles have moved northward within their range and even inland into freshwater areas of southeast Florida. The American crocodile is an endangered species success story. Since 1975 their numbers have increased from less than 300 to more than 1,500 adults. Today, they are classified as a threatened species. The number of crocodile complaints has risen as a result of their recovery and the increasing number of people living and recreating in south

Florida.

What is a nuisance alligator?

Generally, an alligator may be considered a nuisance if it is at least four feet in length and is believed to pose a threat to people, pets or property.

Why aren't small alligators removed?

Alligators less than 4 feet in length are not large enough to be dangerous unless handled. They eat fish, frogs and other small animals. Typically, they are not large enough to be a threat even to small pets. The mere presence of a small alligator is not cause for concern. Occasionally, alligators less than 4 feet in length are legitimate problems and must be addressed. If an alligator less than four feet in length is a concern, call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286).

Why does the FWC not relocate nuisance alligators in Florida?

Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population. We have about 1.3 million alligators in Florida. Alligators live in all 67

counties, and they inhabit all wild areas of Florida that can support them. The removal of nuisance alligators does not have a significant impact on our state's alligator population.

Relocated alligators often try to return to their capture site. They can create problems for people or other alligators along the way. If an alligator successfully returns, capturing it again would be necessary and likely more difficult the second time.

To avoid creating a problem at the release site, nuisance alligators would need to be relocated to remote areas where they would not encounter people.

These remote areas already have healthy alligator populations, and the ones that already live there have established social structures. The introduction of a new alligator to these areas would likely cause fighting, possibly resulting in the death of a resident alligator or the introduced alligator.

myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/alligator/nuisance/



Girl Scouts
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Girl Scouts – 23 new badges spark interest in STEM fields

It's only been a couple weeks since Apopka's Girl Scouts were out and about selling cookies – earning funding to support the activities and programs they will take part in over the coming year. Girls and their families are constantly on the go and are engaged in a variety of Girl Scout activities that make a difference to others in our community – known as the Foliage Girl Scout Community. The Foliage Girl Scout Community holds two annual events in Apopka. Their Thinking Day event on March 10, 2018, encourages girls to think about what it means to make an impact on the world. And, in April they will once again participate in their May Day baskets project.

The May Day baskets project originally started as a local girl's Silver Award project several years ago. The project brings troops together to prepare comfort baskets for residents of the Sunbelt Nursing Home. Girls will work together to collect items, materials, and funds needed to build these much-appreciated baskets. Typical items include body wash, shampoo, pocket sized tissues and baskets. The baskets vary depending on which troop puts them together and what the troop purchases with monies earned through the Girl Scout Cookie Sale program. Then, during the first Saturday in May, Girl Scouts will deliver these

baskets to the residents of Sunbelt Nursing Home. Working together, the Foliage Girl Scout Community constructs and delivers 100 to 120 baskets each year.

This week is an especially important time in the Girl Scouting world. Beginning Sunday, March 11, girls around Apopka and from around the world will celebrate Girl Scout Week with various activities. The highlight of the week is Girl Scout's birthday, which is celebrated March 12. The many activities that girls and their families participate in focus on what it means to be a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader).

The Girl Scout impact

Every day, families make decisions on how to best position their daughters for success. They want their girls to have the courage to be a go-getter, the confidence to be innovative and take risks, and the character to grow into a leader. While a wide range of options that can help enhance a girl's development exist, the Girl Scout model of gender-centric programming has proven to be highly successful.

Girl Scouts has long been considered an outlet for girls, and is one of the few organizations nationally that maintains a focus on girl development. The organization is focused on providing a unique range of experiences to girls at



Girl Scouts work together selling cookies to raise funding for their many projects throughout the year.



Learning about their environment is important to enable girls to grow into becoming future leaders.

each age level. The variety of programs and events includes girl-only opportunities which are critical to giving girls the space to learn in an all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly environment. There are also programs that are open to the whole family – encouraging girls to enjoy activities with their parents, brothers and sisters.

Based on research-backed methods and programming, Girl Scouts offers the flexibility that many of today's families are looking for. Girls can join a traditional troop or as a Juliette - single Girl Scout members who engage in the programs that most interest them.

A report from the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI), The Girl Scout Impact Study, shows that Girl Scouts are more likely to

seek careers in STEM, law, and business—industries in which women are underrepresented. Findings indicate that girls in minority groups (Hispanic, African American, and Asian) experience a greater disparity than their non-Girl Scout counterpart. Compared to their peers, Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to exhibit the following qualities:

- Have confidence in themselves and their abilities (80% vs. 68%)
- Act ethically and responsibly, and show concern for others (75% vs. 59%)
- Take an active role in decision making (80% vs. 51%)



It's possible to be a single Girl Scout member. Known as a Juliette, she can engage with the programs that most interest her. Studying outdoors is beneficial to a scout's development.

New Programming

Last year Girl Scouts introduced 23 new badges, which marked the largest programming rollout in almost a decade. The new Girl Scout programming builds on a girl's skills and encourages their interest in STEM and environmental conservation from an early age. Through an all-girl environment, girls tend to feel more confident in these areas, feel comfortable trying new things, taking appropriate risks, and allows them to learn from failure in a constructive way. As a result, Girl Scouts are more likely to graduate from college, vote, advocate for the environment, and engage in community service as adults.

Girl Scouts of Citrus Council (Central Florida's Girl Scout chapter) has furthered this goal by developing a range of interest-based programs to further enhance the Girl Scout experience and promote STEM activities in Central Florida. Among the new programs formed to cater to these interests are the Per-

forming Arts club, Outdoor club, Earn Your Lab Coat series, Media Girls group, and Stand-Beside-Her advocacy group.

Citrus Council has opened registration for their traditional summer camp sessions taking place at Camp Mah-Kah-Wee, River Point Program Center and other council properties. Girl Scouts and non-Girl Scouts can choose to participate in a variety of camp experiences. Citrus Council also provides income-based financial assistance in an effort to make the camp experience accessible to all girls in our community. In addition to the traditional camp experience, Citrus Council has also outlined a series of mother-daughter and father-daughter outdoor experiences and destination-based experiences for girls to enjoy.

Since its formation in 1912, outdoor experiences has been a cornerstone to the Girl Scout's approach to girl development. Research has shown that girls with more frequent and longer outdoor experiences are more likely to seek challenges and are better at solving problems—qualities that can advance them personally and academically.

Through hands-on and age-appropriate experiences, Girl Scouts is looking to enhance the important outdoor opportunities the organization is known for and address the lack of exposure many girls have to STEM.

Today, in the United States, it is estimated that 64 percent of all women leaders active in government, corporate, military and other fields, were once Girl Scouts.



What do you think these scouts are studying in this outdoor environment?

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