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MONTHLY  
MEDIA  
Newsletters

484-7488

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• FOCUS •

October • 2025

Issue 8  
49<sup>th</sup> Year

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Monika Senti  
Melissa Mazzari  
Dan Self  
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### **ELS employees at Glen Ellen:**

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Alicia Miller-	Administrative Assistant
Maintenance Tech-	Duke Vallary

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# Anecdotes

# October

## 🍁 Leaf It Alone

A man spent hours raking his yard into perfect leaf piles. His dog thought it was a game and dove into every single one. The man sighed, “I guess fall is for falling... apart.”

## 🎃 Pumpkin Patch Panic

A toddler in a pumpkin patch picked the biggest pumpkin and tried to carry it. After two steps, she dropped it and yelled, “It’s too spicy!” Her parents still aren’t sure what she meant.

## 🧥 Sweater Weather Confusion

A Floridian wore a sweater on the first cool morning of October. By noon, it was 85°F again. He said, “I regret everything,” while peeling it off in the parking lot.

## 🐿️ Squirrel Surveillance

A woman noticed a squirrel staring at her from the tree every morning. She started waving. One day, she brought it a peanut. The squirrel took it, then threw an acorn at her. “I guess he prefers local produce.”

## 🧟 Costume Crisis

A kid wore a vampire costume to school but forgot the cape. He improvised with a black trash bag. When asked what he was, he said, “I’m a budget Dracula.”

## 🕸️ Decor Dilemma

A man decorated his porch with fake cobwebs. His neighbor complimented him—until she realized they were real cobwebs. He shrugged, “Nature’s doing a better job than I ever could.”

### *On Wisdom*

*By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.*

— Confucius

### *On experience*

*Good judgment comes from experience, and often experience comes from bad judgment.*

— Rita Mae Brown

### *On time*

*You must have been warned against letting the golden hours slip by, but some of them are golden only because we let them slip by.*

— James M. Barri



# Autumn



## 🍂 The Great Leaf Chase

**A** man tried to rake leaves on a windy day. Every time he made a pile, the wind scattered it. After the fifth attempt, he yelled, “I’m just giving the yard a haircut now!” His dog thought it was a game and chased every leaf like it was a squirrel.

## 🧥 Sweater Roulette

A woman wore a chunky sweater to work because it was 55°F in the morning. By lunchtime, it was 82°F. She spent the afternoon fanning herself with a file folder and muttering, “Florida fall is a prank.”

## ☕ Pumpkin Spice Panic

A guy ordered a pumpkin spice latte and took it outside to enjoy the crisp air. A gust of wind blew leaves into his cup. He took a sip and said, “Extra fiber. Very seasonal.”

## weathermap Forecast Fail

A family planned a fall picnic based on a “clear skies” forecast. It started raining halfway through. They huddled under a tree with soggy sandwiches and declared it “a very authentic autumn experience.”

## 🐿️ Squirrel Sabotage

A woman set out decorative mini pumpkins on her porch. A squirrel stole one every day. She finally put out a fake one. The squirrel tried to bite it, got mad, and threw it at her window.

### *On change*

*We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance.*

—Harrison Ford

*Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must be prepared for changes.*

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

### *On stepping into life*

*It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird, it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.*

—C.S. Lewis

### *On rules for life*

*Always speak the truth, think before you speak, and write it down after-wards.*

—Lewis Carroll



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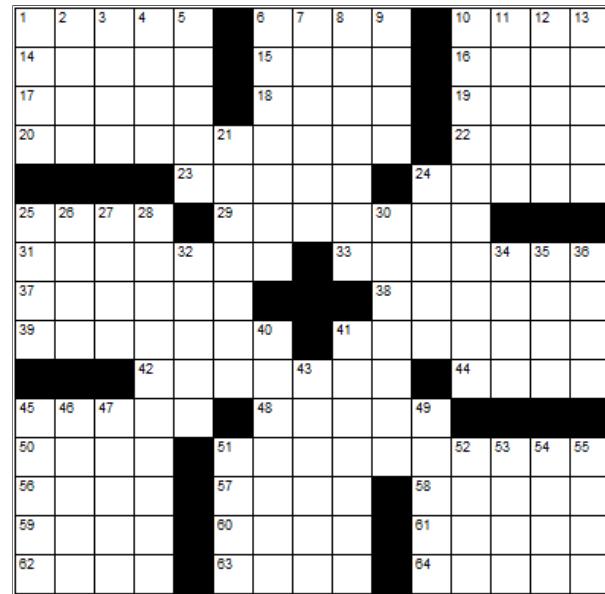
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## ACROSS

1. Incorrect
6. Wheelchair access
10. Cummerbund
14. A 4 base hit in baseball
15. One of the Great Lakes
16. Arm bone
17. Drama set to classical music
18. All right
19. Lives, in brief
20. Relating to menopause
22. A heavy open wagon
23. Go inside
24. In need of cleaning
25. Tallow source
29. Universal
31. Spoke
33. To the touch
37. Streamer
38. Mild expletive
39. Less reputable
41. Interpret incorrectly
42. Confined to certain regions



## DOWN

44. Glimpse
45. Grizzlies for example
48. Pertaining to the sun
50. Precipitation
51. Being at the right time
56. Rear end
57. Thought
58. Female demon
59. Misfortunes
60. Breathing organ
61. Enlighten
62. Colors
63. French for "Head"
64. Pub game

1. Which person?
2. Lariat
3. Portent
4. Detective \_\_\_\_ Wolfe
5. Vineyard fruit
6. Proved false
7. Come to light
8. Mosque turret
9. Rind
10. Social group
11. Assumed name
12. Haughty response
13. Hurried
21. Irate
24. Freshwater fishes
25. Subscriptions
26. Mormon state
27. European volcano
28. Affection
30. Extreme
32. Harnesses
34. Frosts, as a cake
35. Jump
36. Countercurrent
40. What's left
41. Non-metric road distance
43. Instant
45. Plait
46. Not late
47. A long narrow passage
49. Angered
51. Pitching to one side
52. Nil
53. Arab ruler
54. Search (through)
55. Articulates



# October

# Crossword



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# Halloween

## Origins & History

- **Ancient Celtic Festival of Samhain:** Halloween traces back over 2,000 years to the Celtic festival of Samhain, marking the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. Celts believed that on this night, the boundary between the living and the dead blurred, allowing spirits to roam the earth.
- **Christian Influence:** In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as All Saints' Day, and the night before became known as All Hallows' Eve, eventually shortened to Halloween.
- **American Evolution:** Irish and Scottish immigrants brought Halloween to the U.S. in the 19th century. It evolved from somber spiritual traditions into a fun, community-centered celebration.



## Traditions & Activities

- **Trick-or-Treating:** Children dress in costumes and go door-to-door saying "Trick or treat!" to receive candy. This practice stems from medieval "souling," where people collected food in exchange for prayers.
- **Costume Parties:** People of all ages wear costumes ranging from spooky creatures to pop culture icons and attend themed parties.
- **Pumpkin Carving & Jack-o'-Lanterns:** Inspired by Irish folklore about "Stingy Jack," people carve pumpkins into faces and light them with candles to ward off spirits.
- **Haunted Houses & Corn Mazes:** These attractions offer spooky thrills with eerie decorations, jump scares, and ghostly themes.
- **Horror Movies & Storytelling:** Watching scary films and sharing ghost stories are popular ways to embrace Halloween's eerie vibe.

## Symbols & Superstitions

- **Ghosts & Spirits:** Represent the belief that the dead return on Halloween night.
- **Witches & Black Cats:** Associated with magic and superstition.
- **Skeletons & Gravestones:** Symbolize death and the afterlife.
- **Bats & Spiders:** Creatures of the night that add to the spooky atmosphere.

Source:

<https://www.history.com/articles/history-of-halloween>

<https://calendarena.com/halloween/>



*"Shadows of a thousand years rise again unseen, voices whisper in the trees, 'Tonight is Halloween!'"*

— Dexter Kozen

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# Halloween Pets



## The Hot Dog Dilemma

A golden retriever named Max was dressed as a hot dog—complete with bun and mustard. At the local pet parade, he saw a real hot dog stand and bolted toward it, tail wagging. The vendor panicked, thinking a giant hot dog was attacking. Max just wanted a snack.



## The Costume Rebellion

A cat named Luna was dressed as a bat. She tolerated it for exactly 3 minutes before climbing onto the bookshelf and knocking down every Halloween decoration in protest. Her owner said, “She’s not a bat—she’s a wrecking ball.”



## Superdog Takes Flight

A Labrador named Buddy wore a Superman costume with a cape. During trick-or-treating, a gust of wind caught the cape and made it flap dramatically. A toddler screamed, “He’s flying!” Buddy just ran faster, loving the attention.



## The Pumpkin Thief

A pug named Olive was dressed as a pumpkin. She blended in so well with the porch decorations that neighbors kept trying to pick her up, thinking she was a plush toy. She didn’t mind—she got belly rubs every time.



## Bunny in a Shark Suit

A rabbit named Snowball wore a shark costume. When guests arrived, she hopped out from under the couch, and one person shrieked, “It’s a land shark!” Snowball paused, then casually started nibbling on a shoe.

### *Animal Quotes for Halloween*

*“My dog’s Halloween costume cost more than my own. He’s going as a spoiled brat.”*

*“Cats are the only creatures that can knock over your decorations and still look like they’re doing you a favor.”*



*“My pet’s costume is so good, even the squirrels are scared.”*

*“If you think ghosts are scary, try taking a costume off a cat.”*

*“This Halloween, my dog is going as a vacuum cleaner—because he already eats everything off the floor.”*

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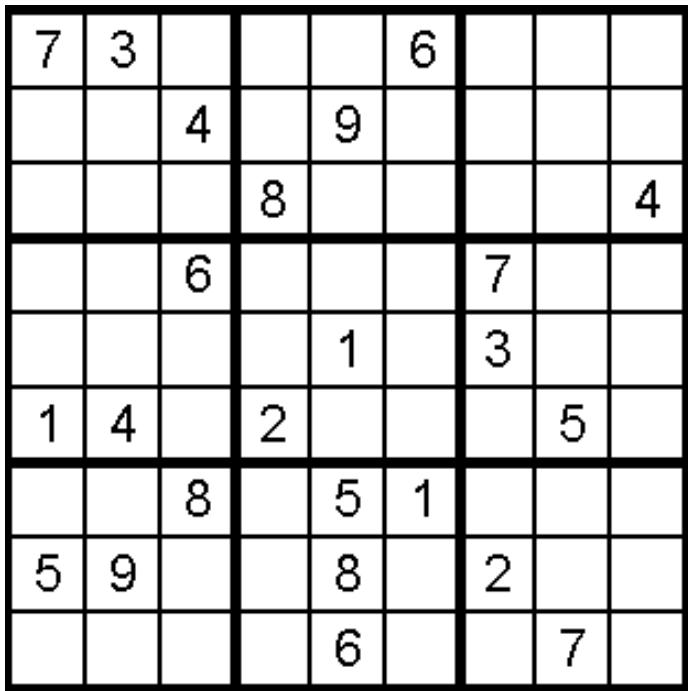


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# OCTOBER



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

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 Community Roofing of Florida, Inc .... 727-536-9999

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 Bay Area Aluminum Services, Inc. .... 727-585-4442  
 Keenan Construction .... 727-455-0778

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Florida Anchor & Barrier Co. .... 727-237-6772  
 Underhome Armor .... 727-282-2045

## TRAVEL/TOURS

Travel Is Fun .... 727-347-1600

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Florida Anchor & Barrier Co. .... 727-330-7821  
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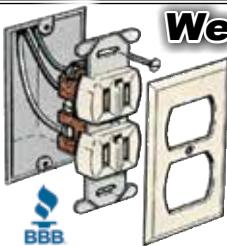
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# OCTOBER • 2025

OCTOBER						
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# Pinellas County Events

[www.visitstpeteclearwater.com](http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com)

## All Epic Halloween Decor in Old Northeast Neighborhood

g in the beginning of October, locals will be putting up spooky house decorations for all. We recommend taking an evening tour this to see some of the most astonishing homes decked for Halloween in the sunshine city!

**Date:** All Day, every day in October

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Historic Old Northeast  
Petersburg, FL 33701

## FEARville at DK Farms

As the sun dips below the horizon, monsters and maniacs alike will take over this seemingly peaceful farmland, and torment those brave enough to enter. Experience the dark atmosphere of Halloween with walk around characters, haunts, amazing decorations / animatronics / performances. Featuring a best of the night: a full haunted house attraction, two Trails & a Haunted Hayride in Pinellas & Largo.

**Date:** Friday and Saturdays in October

**Time:** 7:00pm - 10:00pm

**Cost:** Starts at \$27. [dkfarmsandgardens.com/fearville](http://dkfarmsandgardens.com/fearville)

**Location:** 1750 Lake Ave SE, Largo FL 33771

## Trunk or Treat Fall Festival

Trunk out and raise funds for Salvation Army at the Trunk or Treat Fall Festival. This is a family-friendly fall event featuring food trucks, live entertainment, candy, reptiles, games, prizes, face painting, and so much more.

**Date:** October 28th

**Time:** 6pm

**Cost:** \$5.00

**Location:** The Salvation Army  
Citadel Center

## The Great Glass & Clay Pumpkin Patch

The Morean Glass Studio space will transform into a great glass pumpkin patch filled with over 100 blown-glass pumpkins made for the event! This will feature fall themed photo-ops for the family.

**Date:** October 11th

**Time:** 10am - 4pm

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** 420 22nd St S. St Pete, FL 33712

## Halloween On Central

Returning this spooky season, Halloween On Central features costume contests, trick-or-treating and more at the largest street festival in St. Pete! Transforming two business districts and 22 blocks of Central Avenue into a vibrant, family-friendly, car-free celebration.

**Date:** October 26th

**Time:** 12pm - 5pm

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Central Ave between Dr MLK Jr St and 31st St. St Pete, FL 33701

## St. Pete Oktoberfest Block Party at 3 Daughters Brewing

This family-friendly event will showcase all things Bavarian, with tons of great beer, some of the area's best food trucks and caterers, live polka bands, traditional Oktoberfest competitions (get your stein-holding muscles ready now), a local market, a costume contest and much more.

**Date:** October 5th

**Time:** 12pm - 6pm

**Cost:** \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door

**Location:** 222 22nd Ave S. St Pete, FL 33712



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## HEALTH



### Dishes with portion-control markers effective

Sometimes simple ideas work best. That seems to be the case with a plate and cereal bowl equipped with markers for proper portion sizes when it comes to helping people lose weight. The dishes appear to help obese patients with diabetes lose weight and decrease their use of glucose-controlling medications, according to a report in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

In the past 40 years, the number of obese U.S. adults increased from 13.4 percent to 30.9 percent—and most cases of Type-2 diabetes can be attributed directly to obesity. When you consider that restricting calories has been shown to improve blood sugar control in diabetics, in part by controlling weight, you get an idea of how powerful a simple tool like a portion-control dish can be. Many studies have shown the number of calories ingested is directly related to the serving size offered. At a time when restaurants seem to be offering ever-larger meals, and the rate of obesity is soaring, most people seem to be unable to determine what correct portion size is on their own.

Researchers at the University of Calgary conducted a six-month study of commercially available portion-control plates and bowls. The plates were divided into sections for carbohydrates, proteins, cheese and sauce, with the rest left open for vegetables. The plates provided for appropriate calorie intake for men (approximately 800 calories) and women (approximately 650 calories). The cereal bowl held a 200-calorie meal of cereal and milk.

Half of the study participants used the plates; the other half received the usual care of being instructed by dietitians. Those using the plates and bowls lost an average of 1.8 percent of their body weight as compared to those not using the plates, who lost an average of 0.1 percent of their body weight. Significantly, 16.9 percent of those using the portion-control plates lost 5 percent of their body weight as opposed to 4.6 percent of those who did not use the plates. Researchers say this is important because a 5 percent weight loss has been shown to decrease morbidity and mortality associated with obesity-linked disorders such as cancer and heart attack. Additionally, 26.2 percent of those who used the portion-control plates decreased their use of diabetes medications after six months as opposed to

10.8 percent of those who did not use the plates. Researchers say these inexpensive tools can help overweight populations with and without diabetes.

For information about portion control plates and bowls in this study, browse The Diet Plate Web site at [www.thedietplate.us/index.php](http://www.thedietplate.us/index.php).

### *On friendship*

*Friendship ... is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything.*

— Muhammad Ali

*The only way to have a friend is to be one.*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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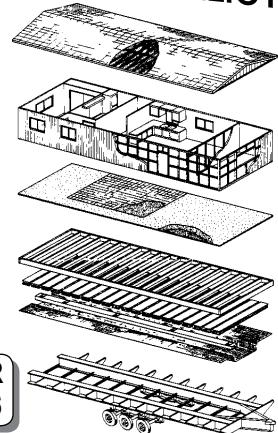
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## Halloween Humor



### The Vampire Who Couldn't Bite

**A** little boy dressed as a vampire went trick-or-treating with plastic fangs so big he couldn't talk properly. At every house, he'd mumble "Trick or treat!" and people would ask, "What are you supposed to be?"

He finally pulled out the fangs and yelled, "I'm a vampire, okay?! But I can't bite anyone because my mom says no chewing plastic!"



### Pumpkin Panic

One family carved a super elaborate jack-o'-lantern and placed it on the porch. The next morning, it was gone. They checked the security camera and saw a squirrel trying to climb inside it, then getting stuck and rolling off the porch like a pumpkin bowling ball.

The squirrel was fine—but the pumpkin? Not so much.



### Ghost in the Mirror

A dad tried to scare his kids by dressing up as a ghost and hiding in the bathroom. He waited quietly behind the shower curtain.

His daughter walked in, saw her reflection in the mirror, screamed, and ran out—because she thought she was the ghost.

The dad never got to jump out. He just stood there, defeated, in a sheet.



### Witchy Mix-Up

A teacher wore a witch costume to school and added a fake wart to her nose. One student stared at her all day. Finally, he raised his hand and asked, "Miss, is that wart part of your costume or... should we be worried?"

## Funny Halloween Quotes

*"I'm just here for the boos."*

*"Halloween: The only time of year when cobwebs are decorations, not neglect."*

*"If you've got it, haunt it!"*

*"I would make a skeleton joke, but you wouldn't find it very humerus."*

*"Witch better have my candy!"*

*"Ghosts are just people who didn't get enough attention in life."*

*"I'm too ghoul for school."*

*"You say witch like it's a bad thing."*

*"Creepin' it real since 1800."*

*"Resting witch face."*



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## October Holidays

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### Major Holidays

Indigenous Peoples' Day / Columbus Day – October 13, 2025 (Second Monday)  
Halloween – October 31



## Monthly Observances

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- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Book Month
- National Pizza Month
- Emotional Wellness Month
- National Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month

## Health & Awareness Days

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- World Mental Health Day – October 10
- National Depression Screening Day – October 9
- National Mammography Day – October 18
- Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day – October 15
- World Arthritis Day – October 12
- World Menopause Day – October 18
- National Physical Therapy Month – All October

## Animal & Nature Days

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- World Animal Day – October 4
- National Fetch Day – October 19
- National Black Dog Day – October 1
- National Pitbull Awareness Day – October 26
- National Pumpkin Day – October 26

### *On patience*

*Patience is the companion of wisdom.*  
— St. Augustine

### *On questions*

*A prudent question is one half of wisdom.*  
— Francis Bacon



## October Anecdotes & Puns



### “Outstanding in His Field”

A scarecrow won “Best Fall Decor” in the neighborhood. When asked how he did it, he said, “I was just outstanding in my field.”

### “Pumpkin Panic”

Someone dropped a pumpkin and yelled, “Squash!” A kid nearby screamed, “It’s alive!” Turns out, it was just a rolling gourd with googly eyes.

### “Oct-over Already?”

A dad told his kids, “Tomorrow is October 31st, so October is officially Oct-over.” The kids groaned. The dad smiled. Mission accomplished.

### “Witchful Thinking”

A woman left a broom on her porch hoping to attract a witch. Nothing happened. She sighed, “Guess it was just witchful thinking.”

### “Nut-flix and Chill”

A squirrel was spotted lounging on a pile of leaves with a half-eaten acorn. Someone joked, “He’s just enjoying some Nut-flix and chill.”

### “Green Day Wake-Up Call”

On October 1st, someone posted: “Can someone wake up Green Day? September’s over.” The internet collectively nodded.

### “Autumn-Mobile”

A kid asked what car is best for October. The answer? “An autumn-mobile!” Bonus points if it’s pumpkin orange.

### “Mock-tober Madness”

A teacher declared the first day of October “Mock-tober” and encouraged sarcastic answers all day. The students thrived. The principal... not so much.

### “Jingle Bell Rock Defense”

One person carries a rock labeled “Jingle Bell Rock” to throw at anyone playing Christmas music in October. It’s a seasonal defense mechanism.

#### Source:

<https://www.lovetoknow.com/quotes-quips/jokes/october-jokes>

<https://discoverjokes.com/jokes-about-october/>

<https://heresajoke.com/october-jokes/>



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Bingo!! Bingo!! Island in the Sun Mobile home park. 100 Hampton Rd, Clearwater, FL 33759. Every Monday night starting 9/22/25. Doors open at 6:00 bingo starts at 7:00.	HOLIDAY BAZAAR. Saturday, November 8th, 2025 from 9am - 2pm. First Lutheran Church, 1644 Nursery Rd., Clearwater. All indoor craft show. Free admission. 217-251-4382 or jayneb1227@gmail.com	Vendors Wanted: Annual Holiday Market at Pointe West Clubhouse, December 6th, 2025. 9am - 2pm. \$20/table or \$30/2 tables. Contact Susan Barnard 317-402-7904
2 Day Park Wide Sale. Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4, 2025. 8am - 1pm. Vendors in the clubhouse on Friday ONLY. Semiannual Bake Sale and Refreshments available Friday ONLY in the Clubhouse. La Plaza MHP 6700 150th Ave. N. Clearwater	November 8th. 9am-2pm. Craft & Bake Fair - Island in the Sun. Multiple vendors with multiple wares. Held in the clubhouse. 100 Hampton Rd, Clearwater, FL 33759. Come check us out!	Carport Sale - Oak Crest Acorn, 9925 Ulmerton in Largo, Nov 1st, 8am-2pm
Community flea market. Paradise Island, 1001 Starkey Rd. Largo. Saturday, October 4th, 9-2. Early bird entry 8am for \$1. Bake sale, hot dogs, golf cart taxi service. Follow signs to the clubhouse.	FALL BAZAAR Rancho Village 7100 Ulmerton Road, Hacienda Clubhouse. Sunday 11/9/25 from 11am-3pm. Crafts, baked goods, raffle baskets & more. Vendors: Rent a table for \$15. Contact: Donna Dahmm 309-263-2640	<b>OTHER</b>
BINGO at Pointe West MHP starting Tues. October 14th. Doors open at 4:30pm. Bingo starts at 6:30pm. 12651 Seminole Blvd, Largo.	<b>Crafters Wanted</b> Fair Nov 15th at Palm Hill Country Club 401 8th Ave, Largo. 8am - 1pm. Email Tom for more information at brendas76@verizon.net	Attention shufflers! Friendly League is looking for additional teams to join our league or a smaller league to merge with ours. Our teams are located within 10 miles of East Bay Drive in Largo and play our games on Thursday. Please contact John Halliday, Embassy Park, johnhalliday3@aol.com, 508-360-3875
Annual Craft Fair Saturday November 1st 9-3pm Paradise Island Clubhouse 1001 Starkey Rd. Largo. 80 plus Tables, Handmade items & Bake Sale	<b>Community Bazar</b> Nov 29th at Palm Hill Country Club 401 8th Ave, Largo. 8am - 1pm. Christmas Decorations, Household Items, Bake Sale, Hot Dogs.	Sell Rickey's Jerky! Join our team—locally or see the country. Full time or part time. Have fun while you cover your expenses or make some money! We're hiring now through the end of the year! Contact Ryan: Info@Rickey'sJerky.com or 503-475-5613 <a href="https://rickeysjerky.com/pages/opportunities">https://rickeysjerky.com/pages/opportunities</a> has more info.
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Daryle King.....	\$10.00.....	Denny's Plumbing
Dave Hepler.....	\$10.00.....	Air Masters
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