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# SOUTHWIND

## BREEZES



### March • 2026

Issue 1  
50<sup>th</sup> Year

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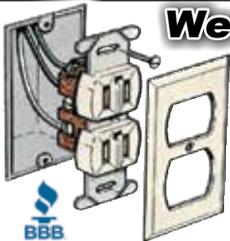
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## Have You Heard about “Banana Ball”?



There is a new sport that’s fun to watch. It’s called Banana Ball and was created by Jesse Cole, owner of the Savannah Bananas. Banana Ball is loosely based on baseball with a great deal of silliness mixed in. When watching Banana Ball you learn to expect the unexpected.

### Key Banana Ball Rules:

- **Rule 1: Win the Inning, Get the Point.** Each inning is worth one point; the team with the most runs in an inning wins that point.
- **Rule 2: Two-Hour Time Limit.** No new inning starts after 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- **Rule 3: No Stepping Out.** Batters cannot step out of the box; doing so results in an automatic strike.
- **Rule 4: No Bunting.** Bunting is prohibited and results in a strike or severe penalty.
- **Rule 5: Batters Can Steal First.** Batters can attempt to steal first base at any time, including on a walk or wild pitch.
- **Rule 6: No Walks Allowed.** If a pitcher throws ball four, it becomes a "sprint" where the hitter runs to as many bases as possible before the ball becomes “active”. The ball becomes “active” once the defense has touched/tossed the ball to every defensive player on the field. Only then can the runner be tagged out.
- **Rule 7: No Mound Visits.** Mound visits are not allowed.
- **Rule 8: Fan Catch = Out.** If a fan catches a foul ball in the stands, the batter is out.
- **Rule 9: Showdown Tiebreaker.** Tied games go to a showdown: a pitcher vs. a hitter with only one fielder.
- **Rule 10: The Banana Ball Challenge.** Teams, and sometimes fans, can challenge any ruling on the field.
- **Rule 11: The Golden Batter.** A team can select any player in the lineup to bat at any time.

In addition to these unique (bizarre?) rules, you never know when a player or players will break out in song or dance! Trick plays such as behind-the-back/between-the-legs catches, backflip catches, and acrobatic fielding are tracked. The visiting team can earn an “Equalizer Point” if they execute more trick plays than the home team by the end of the 8th inning. Even the officials get in on the fun with the twerking Home Plate Umpire and the First Base Ninja Referee being fan favorites.

The sport started out with the Savannah Bananas team based in Savannah, Georgia. There are now five additional teams: Party Animals, Firefighters, Texas Tailgaters as well as two teams newly added for 2026 – the Loco Beach Coconuts and the Indianapolis Clowns. The Indianapolis Clowns are a historic baseball team known for pioneering high-energy and comedic performances, formerly of the Negro Leagues. The team is being revived for the 2026 Banana Ball season and are a perfect fit for the Banana Ball philosophy of Entertainment First.

You may be asking Who are the players of Banana Ball? They include players who have experience in Division I, II, or III college baseball, those who have played in the minor leagues, as well as former USA Women's National Team players. Ideal candidates have a "knack for entertainment", including, but not limited to dancing, acting, or other performance arts.

Tickets for 2026 Banana Ball games were made available via a lottery which was opened October 25, 2025. Because the games are played in a variety of stadiums across the country,



interested people pick the city for which they want to be entered in the lottery. Games in Florida will be in Tallahassee, Jacksonville and Orlando. I entered the lottery for Orlando tickets but wasn't selected. The alternative is to watch Banana Ball on TV.

In 2026, Banana Ball games and events will be primarily broadcast on ESPN2, ESPN+, Disney+ and the official Banana Ball YouTube channel.

A Banana Ball Watch Party is a fun excuse to get friends together for a good time. Suggested snacks include banana splits, banana bread and/or bananas foster.

There is much more information about Banana Ball online at [thesavannahbananas.com](http://thesavannahbananas.com).

## March 2026 Birthdays



Date	Resident	Lot #
March 1	Paul Corbin	105
March 1	Stan Shinko	152
March 2	Pat Coite	28
March 3	Cheryl Ramsey	67
March 8	Joanna Haslitt	69
March 9	Betty Lutz	74
March 11	Ann Mackin	26
March 14	Sharon Johnson	62
March 14	Carol Styers	203
March 17	Jim Cannon	154
March 18	Dee Branzell	66
March 19	Mike Jehnzen	184
March 19	Carl Mankowski	130
March 21	Marge Mankowski	130
March 24	Joanne Zeffiro	118
March 26	Susan Ryan	138
March 27	Martine Deer	85
March 27	Leanne Harvey	99
March 27	Frank Komar	156
March 31	Teresa Corbin	105



## March 2026 Anniversaries

Date	Residents	Lot #
March 6	Pat & Ray Coite	28



Happy Anniversary!



## March 2026 Events in Palm Harbor:



- **Valspar Championship (March 17-22):** Palm Harbor features the prestigious PGA Valspar Championship held at Innisbrook Resort's Copperhead Course. This is a major PGA Tour event.
- **Palm Harbor Museum 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Tea (March 7):** The Palm Harbor Historical Society holds its popular annual tea on the back patio at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Tickets are available from Eventbrite starting at around \$55.
- **Rock the Harbor (March 7):** 12-6 PM at Crabby Bill's Palm Harbor, located at 1114 Florida Avenue. This monthly event features live rock music, vendors, and food, according to Crabby Bill's Palm Harbor.
- **Spring Spruce Up (March 7):** The Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation community cleanup event at the Sutherland Boat Ramp runs from 9:00 am to 10:00 am followed by fishing tips. This free community event focuses on beautifying the Sutherland Bayou Boat Ramp (2119 US-19 ALT) to help maintain the area's natural, coastal charm.

## March 2026 Events in Dunedin:



- **Dunedin Seafood & Music Festival (March 7):** Held at Dunedin Marina from 12:00–9:00 p.m., featuring live music and local seafood.
- **Lotz of Blessings – Be The Glow 5K Run (March 7):** A 5K run for charity. This annual fundraiser directly supports Lotz of Blessings' food insecurity programs, including Pack-A-Snack, Brown Bag Buddies (PB&J), and Blessings Boxes. The Crest Lake Park route is 5K (3.1 miles) and will take participants around the perimeter of the lake, following a marked course. Crest Lake Park, 201 S. Glenwood Ave., Clearwater. Registration is online.
- **International Women's Day Luncheon (March 6):** International Women's Day is a global celebration observed annually, dedicated to honoring the achievements and contributions of women throughout history and contemporary society. A celebration at Bon Appetit 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, with the 2026 theme "Balance the Scales". Registration is online via the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce website.
- **City of Dunedin State of the City (March 12):** Held at Dunedin City Hall, featuring networking and a 2026 vision presentation. Event will begin with community networking from 6 – 7 p.m. with light refreshments and the State of the City presentation from 7 – 8 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. It will also be livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube and Spectrum Cable 639.
- **St. Patrick's Day 5K/10K (March 15):** A festive run/walk starting at 8:30 a.m. at HOB Brewing Company. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome to partake in this fun-filled day. Participants can choose between a fast and flat 5K course or a double loop 10K route, both located on the scenic and fully paved Pinellas Trail. Fees are \$54 (includes t-shirt) for the 5K and \$64 (includes t-shirt) for the 10K.
- **MLB Spring Training (Feb 27–March 24):** Toronto Blue Jays play at TD Ballpark. Also, the Philadelphia Phillies play at BayCare Ballpark.

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## An Addition to the February Breezes

You may recall there was a three-way tie for first place in the Southwind decorated cart/bike/wheeled device contest. We were late submitting a picture of the additional contestants who were tied. Apologies to Pat and Ray Coite. Here is a photo of Ray with their cart. You were great Mr. and Mrs. Claus!



## Cornhole Tournament Winners

Southwind's first Cornhole Tournament of 2026 was held Saturday, February 7. Despite the cooler weather lots of Southwinders and their guests turned out for the event. Compliments to our wonderful neighbors who worked diligently to bring us great food and a fun time! And a special BIG thank you to Carl Mankowski who organized the players and kept the games moving. The winners were Terry Goldstein and her cornhole partner Larry.

## The Cookie Sheet

Most of us in Southwind know that Cookie Pontis is a gifted baker who generously shares her wares with family, friends and neighbors. Cookie has graciously agreed to share some of her favorite recipes with Southwind Breezes.

### *Baked Carmel Corn*

#### *Ingredients*

- 4 Quarts popped corn
- ½ Cup butter
- 1 Cup brown sugar
- ¼ Cup white Karo syrup
- ¼ tsp soda
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp vanilla

Melt butter, stir in brown sugar, Karo syrup and salt. Stir constantly until it comes to a boil, then boil five minutes without stirring. Remove from heat. Add soda and vanilla. Pour over popped corn. Mix well and bake I shallow pan at 250° for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Remove from oven.

Optional: Sprinkle with chocolate and/or coconut.



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## Dear Southwind Readers

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This month let's wrap up the good vibes from February and share some fresh ideas as we step into March and inch closer to Spring. It's the perfect time to think about our gardens, throw open our windows, and refresh our homes. I spent a delightful day picking strawberries at Weck Farms, a family-owned U-Pick strawberry farm in Lutz. Oh, what a treat it was to gather those sweet, natural goodies!

I also experienced some loss this month, saying goodbye to little dog Pesto, so I'm looking forward to a fresh start this year. Thankfully, Spencer is here, filling my days with his playful puppy energy and keeping my spirits up. So, please bear with my attempts at being a little poetic!

A huge shoutout to Jan Snyder for her contributions to this month's edition.

## MARCH – A lyrical Introduction

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In the heart of March, a name resounds,  
Named for Mars, where valor abounds.  
The Roman god of war leads the way,  
As winter's chill begins to sway.  
In ancient tales, this month would start,  
The military's march, a warrior's art.  
With fields awakened from winter's rest,  
New life stirs, the earth is blessed.  
Once the first, now the third in line,  
Yet still it carries an essence divine.  
A season of beginnings, of battles and seeds,  
Where courage blooms, and nature heeds.  
Thus, March arrives with a hopeful tune,  
A call to arms, beneath the moon.  
For in this month, as cycles renew,  
Life takes flight in every hue.  
March is here, a time to refresh our yards,  
Bringing in colors, planting blooms like shards.  
In Palm Harbor, where the sun starts to rise,  
The frost waves goodbye, and warmth fills the skies.  
It's a prime month for planting, oh, what a treat,  
Time to swap cool-season plants for something bright and sweet.  
Before summer's humidity arrives with a drive,  
Let's dig in the dirt, and watch our gardens thrive.  
So, grab your trowel and let's get to work,  
With vibrant annuals, our gardens will perk.  
March is the moment; let's make it a spree,  
As nature awakens, come garden with me!  
Hugs,  
Tony Chambers & Spencer (attempting to "green-a-fy" lot 122)



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## Keeping Southwind the most beautiful park-home in Palm Harbor

This month is the time we start to look at freshening up our yards. Adding colorful plants with seasonal blooms. March is a prime, transitional planting month in Palm Harbor, FL (USDA Zone 10a), as the risk of frost passes and temperatures warm up. It is the ideal time to transition from cool-season crops to heat-loving vegetables, herbs, and annuals before the intense summer heat and humidity arrives.

**Here are March planting tips and suggestions for Palm Harbor:**

### Flowers & Herbs

- **Annuals:** Add color with heat-tolerant flowers like marigolds, petunias, zinnias, celosia, amaranth, and gomphrena.
- **Herbs:** Plant basil, Mexican tarragon, rosemary, and mint (in containers).
- **Pollinator Garden:** Plant milkweed to attract butterflies.

### Trees & Shrubs

- **Pruning:** Prune cold-damaged plants and shrubs but avoid pruning spring-blooming plants (like azaleas) until *after* they bloom.

### March Gardening Tips for Palm Harbor

- **Last Frost Risk:** While rare, late cold snaps can occur in March; be prepared to cover tender plants if temperatures drop.
- **Water Management:** March is typically dry. New plants need daily watering for the first 1-2 weeks, then 2-3 times a week until established.
- **Soil & Mulch:** Apply 2-4 inches of mulch to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Top dress beds with compost or composted cow manure to boost soil health.
- **Fertilize:** Fertilize established shrubs and trees, as well as new blossoming plants, with a slow-release fertilizer.
- **Pest Control:** As the weather warms, monitor for aphids, caterpillars, and mites.



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# MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1	2 9:30 am Pool Exercises	3 9:30 am Pool Exercises 1:00 pm Golf 6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
8	9 9:30 am Pool Exercises	10 8:30 am Breakfast 9:30 am Pool Exercises 1:00 pm Golf
15	16 9:30 am Pool Exercises	17 9:30 am Pool Exercises 1:00 pm Golf 5:00 - 6:30 Dinner 7:00 pm Hike
22	23 9:30 am Pool Exercises	24 9:30 am Pool Exercises 1:00 pm Golf
29	30 9:30 am Pool Exercises	31 9:30 am Pool Exercises 1:00 pm Golf

Daylight Savings Begins @ 2am

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> Pool Exercises Canasta 10 pm Happy Hour Q&A Forum	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises 6:00 pm Poker	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises	<b>7</b>
<b>10</b> Men's Pool Exercises Canasta	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Pool Exercises 12:30 pm Ladies Lunch 6:00 pm Poker	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises 9:30 - 11:00 am Koffee Klatch	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises	<b>14</b>
<b>17</b> Pool Exercises Canasta 9 pm St. Patrick Irish CA Resident Meeting <b>Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises 6:00 pm Poker	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises 6:00 pm Sunset Social (aka LCR) <b>First Day of Spring</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Community Yard Sale
<b>24</b> 9 am Pool Exercises Canasta	<b>25</b> 8:30 am Pool Exercises 6:00 pm Poker 6:00 - 7:30 pm Music Bingo and Hot Dogs	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Pool Exercises	<b>28</b>
<b>31</b> 9 am Pool Exercises Canasta				APRIL 8 M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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## Some History of March and the Ides of March

**W**illiam Shakespeare created mystique around the Ides of March with his late 16th-century classic, *Julius Caesar*. But where did the term originate? Why is it a symbol for bad luck? Learn more about the Ides of March's history, its ties to Shakespeare, and what notable events have occurred on that date over time. What is the "Ides of March"?

The term "Ides" comes from Latin, meaning "to divide," marking a turning point in the month. The Ides is one of three key days in the Roman calendar. The Kalends kick off the month, and the Nones pop up on the 5th or 7th, depending on the month. In March and other months with 31 days, the Ides always falls on the 15th; it falls on the 13th in months with 30 days. In 2026, it will land on a Sunday. The Ides traditionally marked the arrival of the new Moon and was cause for celebration! As Southwind residents, we have a variety of celebratory events and programs each month to keep the fun going! Be sure to check out both the HOA and park calendars for all the activities happening each month. March 15 may also be a charming day for reflection, perhaps? Spend a few moments getting to know your new neighbors, as well as someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Do you know their name, the pup or cat's names?

### Where Did the Ides of March Come From?

Back in Roman times, they had a unique way of tracking days, breaking them down around three standout phases of the Moon. In March, the Kalends signified the new Moon, the Nones named the first quarter, and the Ides marked the full Moon, casting a bright light on the middle of the month.

These Ides fell on the 15th in March, May, July, and October, while in the shorter months, they showed up on the 13th, reshaping the surrounding days. The time between these important dates was known as "before the Nones," "before the Ides," and "before the Kalends." Interestingly, the Ides of March heralded the arrival of the new Roman year when the Moon shone its fullest before January and February were added later.

### Should You Fear the Ides of March?

Like any superstition—think Friday the 13th—bad luck is all about perspective. So, go about your day on March 15 without worrying too much. If someone whispers, "Beware the Ides of March," take it with a grain of salt; after all, Julius Caesar might have shrugged it off as well! Not too much salt! Last month I provided healthy eating options.... a simple pinch will do you.

### Caesar's Last Ides of March

Legend has it that Caesar, the powerful Roman general and dictator, received a foreboding warning on March 15, 44 B.C. Ignoring the advice, he met his end, slain by a band of senators. Led by the likes of Brutus and Cassius, the conspirators believed they were preserving the Republic. But some say his alterations to the calendar and departure from traditional customs sealed his fate.

*...continued on page 26*



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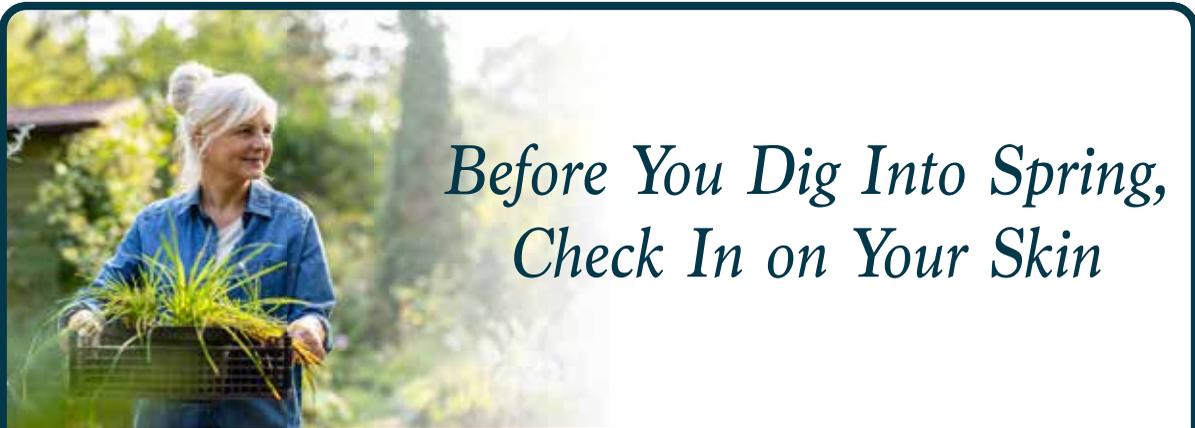
## Notable Events on March 15

What else has transpired on the Ides of March? Here's a delightful mix of historical moments:

- Romans commonly settled their debts on this day.
- Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. president, took his first breath on March 15, 1767.
- Maine became the 23rd state on March 15, 1820.
- In 1917, Czar Nicholas II of Russia stepped down, ending a 304-year dynasty.
- A fierce blizzard roared through the Northern Plains in 1941, with winds hitting over 70 mph.
- Thornton Wilder's novel *The Ides of March* emerged in 1948, set in Caesar's Rome.
- In 1952, La Réunion island saw an epic 73 inches of rain in just 24 hours.
- In 1971, CBS announced the end of *The Ed Sullivan Show*, a network staple for 23 years.
- The internet saw its first domain name, Symbolics.com, registered on March 15, 1985.
- And in 1994, March 15 marked Constitution Day in Belarus, celebrating their new constitution.

Do you think the Ides of March carries a sprinkle of good or bad luck? Share your musings and favorite bits of history about this intriguing day with your Southwind friends and neighbors!





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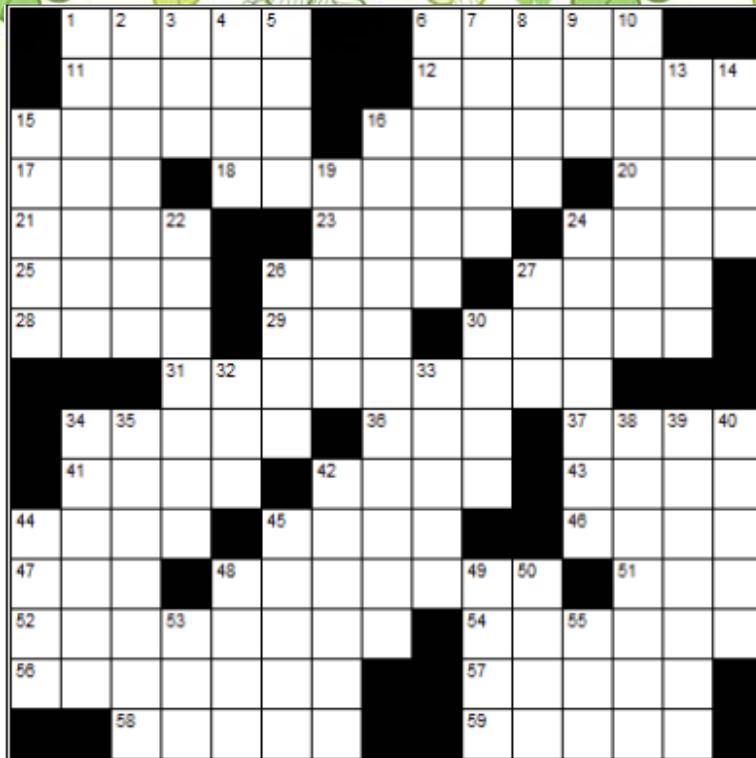
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27. Puncture
28. Against
29. Animal companion
30. Invoices to pay
31. Flashy
34. Earth tone
36. Small piece of cloth
37. A cooperative unit
41. Jury member
42. Chats
43. Decorative case
44. Darling
45. Carry
46. Tatters
47. N N N
48. Kneecap
51. Destroy the interior of
52. Snobs
54. Blood vessel
56. Nerve junction
57. Tally
58. Color of most grasses
59. Rip up

## DOWN

1. Ointment ingredient
2. Blink of an eye
3. Cut grass
4. Mid-month days
5. Duration
6. Tapped without swinging
7. Pale
8. Towards the back
9. Addition
10. Mostly white aquatic bird
13. Breathes noisily while sleeping
14. Cease
15. Sporting venue
16. Nonreaders
19. Wading bird
22. Not one or the other
24. Fortify
26. Abbey area
27. Not hers
30. Pleads
32. Arrange (abbrev.)
33. Record company
34. Candidly
35. Discontinuing
38. Knickknack holder
39. Foretold
40. Foggy
42. Received
44. D D D
45. Thigh armor
48. Tube
49. Young woman
50. Curve
53. Driveway surface
55. Craggy peak



# MARCH SUDOKU

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<p>FURNITURE, good clean, pre-owned. Top dollar paid. Charles, 727-657-7021</p>	<p>Palm Hill Country Club Annual Bazaar, Saturday March 7th. 8am - 1pm. 1800 Seminole Blvd. Largo</p>	<p>Craft Fair March 21 st at Palm Hill Country Club 401 8th Ave, Largo 8am - 1pm. Various Crafters, Bake Sale, Food. Crafters can contact Tom at 727-315-4369 to rent a table for \$20</p>
<p><b>EVENTS &amp; PROGRAMS</b></p>	<p>Golden Acres ROA Bazaar. Saturday, March 7, 9am-12:30pm. Clubhouse, 1040 Main Street, Dunedin Florida</p>	<p>Spring Craft Fair, Sunset Palms MHP, 3401 Gandy Blvd., Pinellas Park. March 21st, 9:00am until 2:00pm. Handmade arts and crafts: quilted items, resin art, handmade cards, diamond art creations, jewelry, wreaths and so much more. Homemade baked goods.</p>
<p>2 Day Park Wide Sale. Friday and Saturday, March 6 &amp; 7, 2026. 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</p> <p>HUGE SALE! TRUCK LOAD OF: CRAFT SUPPLIES / WOMENS BOUTIQUE, CRAFT ITEMS, WOODCRAFT, RESIN, BEADS, CERAMIC. TOO MUCH TO LIST. WOMENS CLOTHING, GIFT ITEMS, JEWELRY, BAGS &amp; SO MUCH MORE! ALL NEW w/TAGS. SINGLE ITEMS OR BY THE CASE. LA PLAZA MHP 6700 150th AVE N. FOLLOW THE SIGNS I WILL HAVE FLAGS OUT FRONT OF LOT. This is a neighborhood wide sale. SAT MARCH 6-7, 8AM-?</p>	<p>Lake Seminole Resort Spring Flea Market, Bake Sale and Lunch on Saturday, March 7th, 9:00am - 1:00pm. Located at 10245 110th Ave. N., Largo, Florida</p>	<p>ART/CRAFT FAIR Saturday, March 21. 9 AM to 1PM. Lake Highlander MHP, 1500 County Road 1, Dunedin. Food available.</p>
	<p>SPRING CRAFT FAIR 3/7/26 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. AMERICANA COVE 7201 1st Street NE Saint Petersburg</p>	<p>ARTS &amp; CRAFTS SHOW &amp; SALE 03/21, 11-3 Westwind MHP 3301 Alt19 Dunedin</p>
	<p>Bay Ranch Community Yard Sale March 21st 8am-1pm 7349 Ulmerton Road Largo</p>	<p>Paradise Island Annual Flea Market, March 28th 9am-2pm. 1001 Starkey Rd. Largo. 8am early entrance \$1.00. Large selection of home goods, tools, furniture, linens, clothes, bake sale and more. Follow signs for Clubhouse.</p>
	<p>Bay Ranch MHP Community Yard Sale. March 21st 8am - 1pm 7349 Ulmerton Rd. Largo</p>	



**Do you want to see your Picture on the Cover of Monthly Media??**

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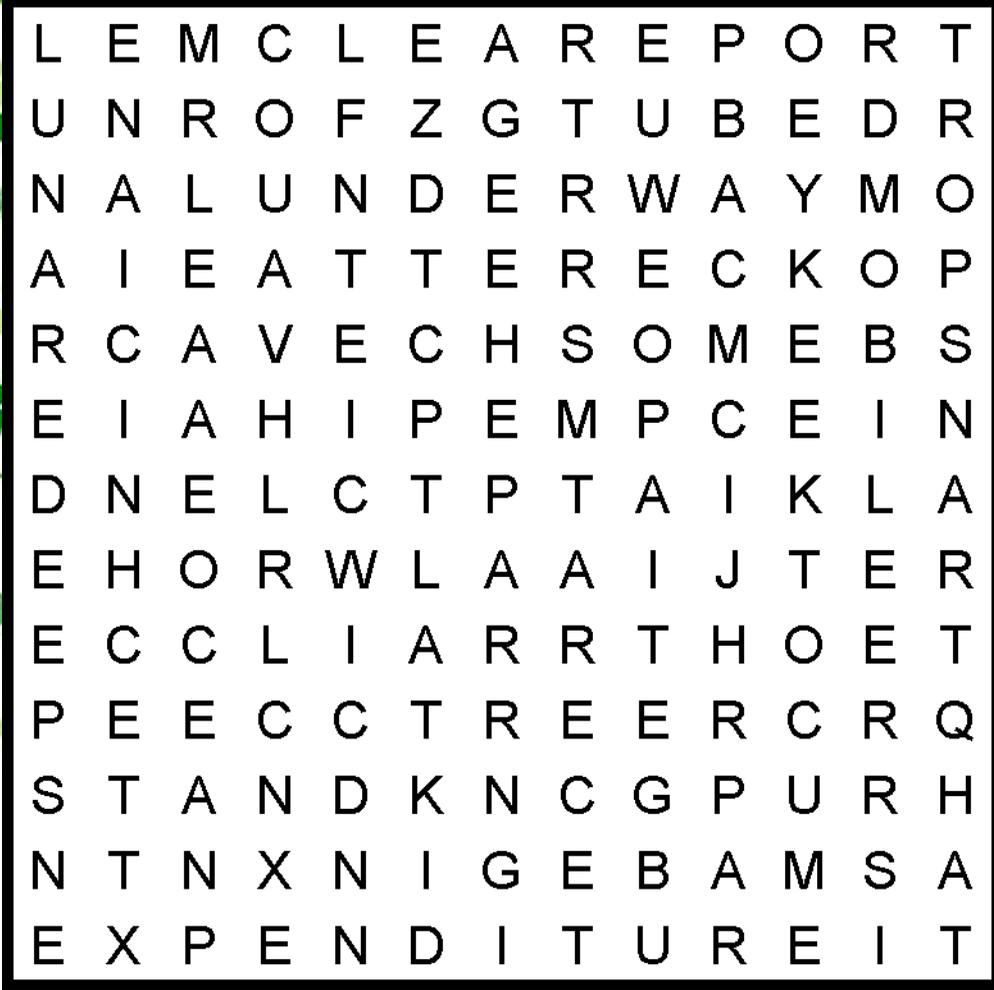
**Monthly Media | 220 Bahama St. Venice, FL 34285**

## APRIL AD DEADLINE - MARCH 10, 2026

Advertise EVENTS, BUY, SELL, TRADE ITEMS, by sending copy & check to Monthly Media at 220 Bahama St, Venice, FL 34285. Ads over 10 words must be accompanied by \$.80 per extra word or publisher will edit. Each new word indicated by a space, numbers included. No mobile home sales, no professional products or services. Envelope must be postmarked by 10th of the month to meet deadline. **SORRY: No ads accepted by phone or email.**



# March Word Search



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architecture  
begin  
cave  
chain  
clear  
clone

complicate  
crawl  
debut  
despite  
eager  
emerge  
entire

expenditure  
imperative  
lend  
liar  
lunar  
major  
mobile

month  
ocean  
pure  
report  
rocket  
some  
speed

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technician  
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transport  
tree  
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Kevin Patton..... \$10 .....	Jones & Sons Plumbing	Kathy Gill.....	\$5 .....	Jones & Sons Plumbing
Cathie Melander..... \$10 .....	Buggin Out Pest Control	Janet Herry.....	\$10 .....	Jones & Sons Plumbing
Phyllis Fayocavitz..... \$10 .....	FL Termite & Pest Control	Dee Bender.....	\$5 .....	Jones & Sons Plumbing
Iris Lopez..... \$10 .....	Gulf Coast Powerwashing	Barbara Hans.....	\$10 .....	Jones & Sons Plumbing
Susan Schafer..... \$10 .....	Boss Electric	Rich Landry .....	\$5 .....	Battleline Pest Control
Kim Roux..... \$10 .....	Boss Electric	Greg Lockwood .....	\$10 .....	Battleline Pest Control
Jane Jenkins .....	Boss Electric			
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