



March 2022

Issue 1
46th Year

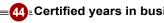
Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Photo credit to Mickey & Murray Crocker and other
Sugar Creek residents showing their Irish spirit!



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HOA Officers

Vice President: Serena Libby727 3253693 **Treasurer:** Diane Pelkey727 7444992 **Ass't Treasurer:** Tammy Tynan519 7518408 Activities Director: .. Tim Sheimo727 3323294

After hours emergency:727 6419556

Recipes

Chicken taco soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 15oz can chili beans
- 15oz can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 15oz can diced tomatoes
- 12oz can chicken breast
- 1 cup water
- 2 bullion cubes

DIRECTIONS

- To a dutch oven or large pot over medium heat add the olive oil, once hot add the onion and let soften.
- Add the rest of the ingredients in. Let simmer covered for 20 minutes stirring frequently.
- Enjoy with your favorite toppings, tortilla strips, diced tomatoes, cheese, cilantro, sour cream, green onions, and more! I like to serve with corn muffins on the side.



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Sunday- Thursday July 10-14 \$2349 per person (double occupancy) includes round trip air to Rapid City from Tampa.. round trip airport transportation, six meals. Mount Rushmore,

Crazy Horse Monument, Custer State Park 'the Badlands, Wall drug Store, tour of Deadwood, tour of Boot Hill, free time in Rapid City and Dogwood.

1 DAY TOURS

Wednesday March 9 HARD ROCK CASINO Tampa \$30

JERSEY BOYS RESCHEDUED to Tuesday May 24. Just a few seats remaining! The Story of Frankie Vali & The Four Seasons 8:00 p.m. at

remaining! The Story of Frankie Vali & The Four Seasons 8:00 p.m. at Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater \$89 per person HAPPY TOGETHER Wednesday June 1 7:00 p.m. at Ruth Eckerd Hall in

HAPPY TOGETHER Wednesday June 1 7:00 p.m. at Ruth Eckerd Hall In Clearwater \$99 per person featuring The Turtles. Chuck Negron (formerly of Three Dog Night), Gary Puckett. The Association, The Vogues, The Cowsills. The Happy Together Marketplace

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Stuffed pepper soup

Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 bell peppers diced
- 1 onion chopped
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 14.5 ounce can diced tomatoes
- 14.5 ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 32 ounce beef broth
- 1 cup rice



Instructions

- 1. In a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat, cook ground beef, onions, bell peppers, and seasonings until meat is no longer pink. Add minced garlic, stir and cook for two additional minutes. Drain and return to pot.
- 2. Add tomatoes, crushed tomatoes, Worcestershire sauce, beef broth, and rice. Stir.
- 3. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and cook until rice is tender, approximately 25-30 minutes.
- 4. Ladle soup into individual bowls and top with cheese.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

im Sheimo and Aimie Stuyvesant reside in lot 149. Tim was born in Melrose Park, Chicago on ll-27-73. Oldest of four children, he has two sisters and a brother. His mother Dolores, lives in Lakeland, Fla. Growing up, for a time, Tim's family was homeless. As a result, he attended thirteen different high schools, graduating honor roll from Franklin Grove Highschool in Illinois. He received his BA and Masters from e-Army-U and NIU.



Tim entered the Army in 1992. He served in Afghanistan and Iraq for seventeen years as a Level 1 Trauma surgical Physician Assistant on a far forward surgical team, attached to joint special operations command. In 2009, he was honorably discharged with a medical disability.



During the years, Tim worked as a Locomotive Engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad in Proviso, Illinois. Has had 20 years experience as a brewer/bartender and proud to state he makes his own beer. He also plays nine musical instruments and paints. He's been skateboarding since he was a child.

Tim was married before and has a daughter Melanie, age 16. He met Aimie three years ago while skate boarding in Seminole park.

Aimie was born in Morgantown, West Va. In 1972. She is an only child and her mother Betty, resides in Seminole, Fla. She graduated from high school in Shelby, North Carolina 1992, received her Associate's Degree from West Va. Career College 1994 in Office Technology with a Medical Emphasis. Aimie taught independent living to developmentally disabled adults for fifteen years. In



2009 she moved to Florida. At present and for the past sixteen years Aimie works for Home Shopping Network.

Married previously, Aimie has three children: Cherril, Madison, and Michael plus three grandchildren, Myra, Ellie and Roman.

Tim and Aimie are members of The Pinellas Bee Keeper Assn. in Seminole. They have and maintain beehives there. Tim states he is able to make his own mead from their bee's honey. They also brew and ferment beer and homemade fruit wines. They are both avid scuba divers, exploring the fresh water springs in Florida. Wow!

Tim and Aimie give credit to Tom Spratt and Mary Vernieri in Lot 53, for starting our Friday night happy hour on the pool deck. Eventually the happy hour expanded to include "Flat Top Shakers" grill time the first Friday of the month which is open to all owners. Tim states: "Residents pay \$5. for grilled chicken, ribs, pork, etc. We have meetings and use the HOA Shangri La Facebook group to ask for suggestions as to what we cook. We never turn anyone away for lack of money. People bring food dishes to share as well. This event offers a great opportunity to break bread with your neighbors and helps to bring the community closer together." Tim and Aimie agree to the reason they enjoy living in ShangriLa: The people in the community. We are lucky to have such industrious, caring and friendly new members join our family. They moved here three years ago and has made an amazing impact on the community.

Welcome!

Your roving reporter Polly Pifer

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Jokes

A pastor and two of his deacons are out on the river fishing in their rowboat. Twelve o'clock rolls around, and one of the deacons notices a nice spot on the bank to have lunch. He turns to the others and says, "That looks like a nice spot for lunch. What do you say we have lunch over there?"



The other deacon agrees, and so does the pastor. The deacon stands up in the boat, steps out onto the river and walks over to the bank. The pastor looks on with amazement, and thinks to himself, if his deacon is holy enough to walk on water, surely he can.

The other deacon stands up, picks up the picnic basket, steps out of the boat, and walks over to the bank and sits with the first deacon. Again, to his amazement, the pastor thinks again, if his second deacon is holy enough to walk on water, surely he can.

The pastor stands up, steps out of the boat, and sinks into the water. The first deacon turns to the second and says, "Think we should have told him where the rocks are?"

A recently deceased man finds himself at the gates of Heaven and tries to walk in. St. Peter stops him, and asks what he wants. "I'd like to get in," the man replies.

St. Peter tells him that before he can enter, he has to answer a series of questions about what kind of life he's led. The man agrees. St. Peter asks him how he treated his family while he was alive. "Not very well, I guess," the man says. "I never paid much attention to them." St. Peter then asks the man how often he went to church. "Um, never," the man replies. Then St. Peter asks him if he ever did any community service or volunteer work. "Nope, never," the man says.

Exasperated, St. Peter asks the man if he ever did anything good in his life. "Well, there was that woman I saved from the biker," the man says. St. Peter asks him to elaborate.

"Well, I was driving down the road one day, and I saw this big, scary biker trying to attack a woman by the side of the road. So I stopped my car, walked up to the man and tried to get him to leave the woman alone, but he paid no attention to me. So I walked over to the man's Harley-Davidson, and tipped it right on its side. The man promptly let go of the woman and ran to his bike, at which point I punched him right in the nose. The woman got away safely."

"Wow, that is an impressive story and a very good deed," St. Peter tells the man. "When did this happen?"

"About 15 minutes ago," the man replies.

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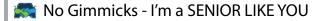






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Two seventy year old men, Moe and Sam, have been friends all their lives. It seems that Sam is dying, so Moe comes to visit him. "Sam," says Moe, "You know how we have both loved baseball all our lives. Sam, you gotta do me one favor. When you go, somehow you've got to find a way to get a message to me to tell me if there's baseball in heaven."

Sam looks up at Moe from his deathbed and says, "Moe, you've been my friend many years. This favor I'll try to do for you." And with that Sam passes on.

It is midnight a couple of nights later. Moe is sound asleep when a distant voice calls out to him, "Moe...Moe..."

"Who is it?" says Moe sitting up suddenly, "Who is it?"

"Moe, it's Sam."

"Come on. You're not Sam. Sam died." said Moe, coming awake.

"I'm telling you," insists the voice. "It's me, Sam!"

"Sam? Is that you? Where are you?" asks Moe.

"I'm in heaven," says Sam, "and I've gotta tell you, I've got some good news and some bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," says Moe.

"The good news is that there is baseball in heaven."

"Really?" says Moe, "That's wonderful! What's the bad news?

"You're pitching Tuesday!"



A Complete Listing of Resident Services can be found on the page before your calendar



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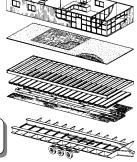
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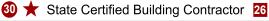
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h little pill here in my hand I wonder how you understand Just what to do, or where to go To stop the aches that hurts me so. You work in regions there below As down my throat you quickly go. But where I wonder, little pill How do you know where I am ill? And, just how do you really know Just where you are supposed to go? I've got a headache, that is true. My broken bones need attention too. But how can anything so small End my aches in time at all? Do you work alone, or hire a crew To do the good things that you do? I'm counting on you mighty strong to get in there where you belong! Don't let me down, and do not shirk, But do your undercover work. So, down my throat be on your way And end my aches another day. Don't take a wrong turn is my plea, Next pill doen't come 'til three.









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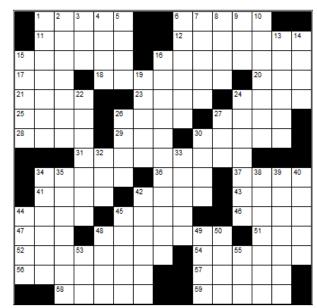


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ACROSS

- 1. Long-tailed parrot
- 6. A type of coffee
- 11. Hemp
- 12. Scholarly
- 15. Jubilant
- 16. An eating disorder
- 17. Woman
- 18. Journal keeper
- 20. Explosive
- 21. Violent disturbance
- 23. To endure (archaic)
- 24. Clothing
- 25. Feudal worker
- 26. Teller of untruths
- 27. Not there
- 28. Adolescent
- 29. Hankering
- 30. Silly mistake
- 31. Fights
- 34. Steeple
- 36. Before, poetically
- 37. Skin irritation
- 41. Paris airport
- 42. Exclude
- 43. "Iliad" city
- 44. Run away
- 45. Engendered
- 46. Harvard rival
- 47. Record (abbrev.)
- 48. A window above a door
- 51. Religious sister
- 52. Emigree
- 54. Unhealthy vapors
- 56. Resulting
- 57. Shoemaker's awl
- 58. Overact
- 59. Homes for birds

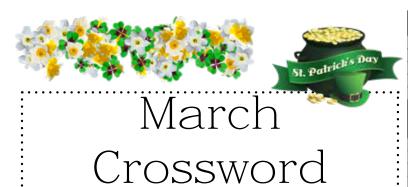


DOWN

- 1. Listlessness
- 2. Type of shellfish
- 3. Feline
- 4. Breezed through
- 5. Dry riverbed
- 6. One who denies
- 7. Jagged
- 8. Brusque
- 9. Citrus drink
- 10. Something firmly attached
- 13. Kindling
- 14. Dines

- 15. Everglades bird
- 16. An orderly grouping 19. French farewell
- 22. Ductile
- 24. Compactness
- 26. Stringed instrument
- 27. Furrow maker
- 30. Decay from
- overripening
- 32. Attempt
- 33. Gratings
- 35. Exact
- 34. Earnest

- 38. A
- surveying instrument
- 39. Pillars
- 40. Doglike nocturnal mammal
- 42. A citrus fruit
- 44. No charge
- 45. Small goose
- 48. Threesome
- 49 Portent
- 50. 5280 feet
- 53. Some people chew
- this
- 55. Donkey







Monthly Media 727-484-7488 220 Bahama St Venice, FL 34285 Pineapples take 2 years to grow?

It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky?

The word 'queueing' is the only English word with five consecutive yowels?

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- MAR 20, SUN— "MY BIG FAT ITALIAN FUNERAL" dinner at Selzers...\$99
- MAR 26, SAT—MACDILL AIRFEST with the Blue Angels & chair...\$59
- MAR 27, SUN— "Joseph & Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"...\$74
- APR 2, SAT— "3 Redneck Tenors" Suncoast B'way Dinner Theater...\$99

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MARCH • 2022

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Shangri La Star

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8	9	10	Happy Hour 4 pm pool	12
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Happy Hour 4 pm pool	19
22	23	24	25 Happy Hour 4 pm pool	26
29	30	31		

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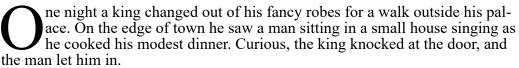






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The wooden sword



"How can you be so happy with such a small house and small meal?" the king asked.

"I make just enough money fixing people's shoes to get by," the man explained.

The king thought this poor man was very foolish. The next day he signed a law forbidding anyone to fix shoes for pay.

That night he visited the man again. "The king passed a law against fixing shoes," the man explained, "so I got a job carrying water from the river."

Annoyed, the next day the king passed a law against carrying water for pay.

The man took a job as a woodcutter. Losing patience, the king ordered all woodcutters to report to his palace and serve as guards. He gave them all swords.

The man, needing money, carved a sword from wood and sold his own sword to a peasant. But the next day the king spotted the peasant carrying a sword. Enraged, he arrested the man and then ordered his guards to the palace. Spotting the man he'd been talking to, he pointed his finger and said, "I order you to cut off this thief's head."

At first the man protested. "I have never killed even a fly."

But the king insisted. So the man approached the peasant, his hands trembling. Then he had an idea.

He lifted his head and cried, "Oh, God, if this man is guilty, let my sword slice his head clean off. But if he is innocent, turn my sword to wood so that I may spare him!"

He drew his sword, and the people cheered, believing they had seen a miracle.

The king was suddenly moved by the man's cleverness. Calling him over, he revealed that he had been the man's visitor, and said, "Now that I see how wise you are, I would like you to come live in the palace and be my chief advisor. I have much to learn from you."

Storytelling is the commonality of all human beings, in all places, in all times.

— Rives Collins

You may tell a tale that takes up residence in someone's soul, becomes their blood and self and purpose. That tale will move them and drive them, and who knows what they might do because of it, because of your words. That is your role, your gift.

— Erin Morgenstern





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- 4. Has your doctor called you to explain your risk of coronavirus?
- 5. Is your doctor's office offering doctor phone visits?
- 6. Does your doctor allow walk-in visits?

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- 7. Are you able to call your doctor anytime, day or night?
- 8. Do you have any difficulty getting to and from your doctor?
- 9. Is your doctor helping to make sure you receive all of your prescription refills?
- 10. Is your doctor offering to help you get your medications delivered?

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March Calendar

B rain Injury Awareness Month. More than 5.3 million adults and children are living with a permanent brain injury-related disability in the United States. If you know someone who is living with a brain injury, or if you have one yourself, join the #MoreThanMyBrainInjury campaign to help educate people about what it's like to live with a brain injury.

Red Cross Month. Red Cross Month has been an annual tradition since 1943, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation. Join the Red Cross mission by volunteering, donating blood, learning lifesaving skills, or making a financial contribution.

Social Work Month. The theme for Social Work Month 2022 is "The Time is Right for Social Work." During Social Work Month, take time to learn more about the positive contributions of the profession and celebrate the social workers you know.

Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating March "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

Weekly



GBT Health Awareness Week, March 1-7. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people encounter discrimination in employment, relationship recognition, and insurance coverage on a regular basis; consequently, they are less likely to be able to afford vital health care than their straight and non-transgender neighbors.

National Consumer Protection Week, March 6-12. National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) is a time to help people understand their consumer rights and make well-informed decisions about money.

Save Your Vision Week, March 6-12. Few realize how many people lose their sight every year. Many forms of blindness can be cured if discovered soon enough, and many people blinded by accident could have kept their sight had they taken minor eye safety precautions. Our eyesight and the eyesight of our children should be paramount on our list of personal responsibilities. Money can't buy it, but a checkup and early care can preserve it.

National Poison Prevention Week, March 20-26. National Poison Prevention Week raises awareness of poison prevention nationwide. The week is an opportunity to highlight the dangers of poisoning for people of all ages and promote community involvement in poisoning prevention.



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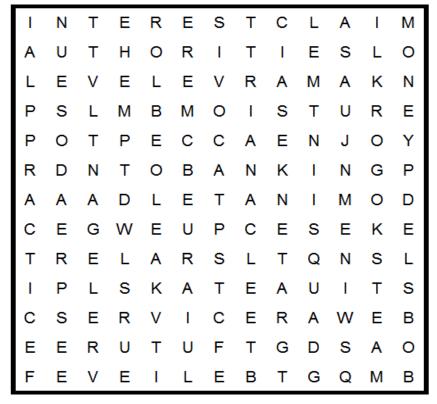


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March Word Search





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March Days



Torld Wildlife Day, March 3. This year's theme, "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration," seeks to draw attention to the status of some of the most endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and to drive discussions towards imagining and implementing solutions to conserve them.

Pi Day, March 14. Divide any circle's circumference by its diameter and the answer is always approximately 3.14. Keep calculating, as mathematicians have been doing for 4,000 years, and you'll discover it goes on with no pattern literally forever.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The luck of the Irish be with you!

World Storytelling Day, March 20. A global celebration of the art of oral storytelling, celebrated every year on the March equinox.

National Agriculture Day, March 22. This year's theme: "Growing a Climate for Tomorrow."

NUMBERS IN THE NEWS

City or somewhere else? The pandemic changed minds

The pandemic has fueled a change of attitude about where people want to live, according to the Courthouse News Service website. In research conducted by the Pew Research Center, 23% of participants said they preferred living in the city in 2018, a number that declined to 19% in 2021. The number of people who expressed a preference for living in the suburbs was 46% in 2021, a 4% increase from 2018.

Forty-three percent of city residents said they wanted to move in 2021, up from 37% in 2018. Forty percent of suburb dwellers, and 50% of rural residents, said they had no desire to move in 2021, a shift from 36% of suburbanites and 43% of those in rural areas in 2018. Only 8% of any Americans actually moved in 2020, the lowest number since the 1950s, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

It is not in numbers, but in unity, that our great strength lies.

— Thomas Paine

All the mathematical sciences are founded on the relations between physical laws and laws of numbers. — **James Clerk Maxwell**

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Enjoy these quickies

- What do you call a joke that isn't funny? A sentence.
- What's the opposite of artificial intelligence? Natural stupidity.
- What did the nearsighted optometrist say when he was sick? I can't see myself coming in today.
- Why are fewer people going into archeology? Career advancement is in ruins.
- What do you call 12 people doing the work of one? A committee.
- What's the problem with unemployment jokes? They don't work.
- Why are chemists great at solving problems? Because they have all the solutions.
- Have you heard about the guy who stole a calendar? He got 12 months.
- Why don't scientists trust atoms? They make up everything.
- Why did the taxi driver get fired? Passengers didn't like it when he went the extra mile.

Could be worse



Tames was walking down the street one day, and he happened to see his old high school friend, Harry. "Harry, Harry, how are you?"

"Not so good," said Harry.

"Why? What happened?"

"I just went bankrupt," Harry said, "and I don't know what I'm going to do."

"Could be worse," James replied calmly. "Could be worse."

A month or so later, James again encountered Harry, this time in a restaurant. "How are things now?" he asked.

"Terrible!" said Harry. "Our house burned down last night."

"Could be worse," said James again, and he went to sit down at his table.

A month later, James ran into Harry a third time. "Well, how goes it?" he inquired.

"Oh!" said Harry. "Things just get worse and worse. Now my wife has left me."

Harry nodded his head. "Could be worse."

This time, Harry grabbed James by the shoulders. "Wait a minute!" he said. "I'm not letting you off so easy this time. Every time I tell you about the latest disaster in my life you say the same thing: 'Could be worse.' This time, Harry, I want you to tell me: How in heaven's name could it have been any worse?"

James looked at Harry with a little wisp of a smile. "Could have happened to me."

At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities.

— Jean Houston

You can't deny laughter; when it comes, it plops down in your favorite chair and stays as long as it wants. — **Stephen King**

SHANGRI LA STAR MARCH, 2022 S

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ATTENTION RESIDENTS!

Did you know this Emporium/ Classified listing reaches over 21,500 homes in Pinellas County? It goes into 60 community newsletters (just like this one) from Dunedin to St. Petersburg. This is a great market to sell items, advertise your next event, try and get help for a function, and many other things. Remember to think about this the next time you're planning something.

-Monthly Media Staff

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Oakcrest Acorn Community Carport Sale: March 12th from 9am - 2pm. 9925 Ulmerton Rd and 16th Ave. SE. Furniture, collectibles, tools & lots more.

Ranch Mobile Park, Park-Wide Yard Sale, Saturday, March 19th, 8:00am - 2:00pm at 6800 - 150th Ave. N., Clearwater (Largo).

Paradise Island Annual Flea Market & Bake Sale: March 5th, 2022. Paradise Island Clubhouse, 1001 Starkey Rd. 33771. 9am - 2pm, Early Entry \$1 @ 8am. Huge Inventory (Entire clubhouse utilized). Furniture, Household, Tools, Clothing, etc. Canteen open for food Coffee & water. Questions call Ken 727-330-3417.

March 18 - Tell Mark HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Lot 816

Community Yard Sale: Holiday Shores Park, Mar 18th and 19th. Entrances on 104th Avenue North and 106th Avenue North, Largo. 8AM to 2PM



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Doral Village Carport Sale: Saturday, March 12th. 8am-3pm. 29250 US Hwy 19 N. Lot 573 Clearwater. Alternate entrance through Spanish Vistas off of Belcher, signs will be posted.

Regency Heights Carport Sale: Friday and Saturday, March 4-5, 8am-2pm. 2550 State Rd 580, Clearwater.

Community Wide Yard Sale: 30 + homes, maps provided. Bake Sale at Clubhouse. March 5th & 6th, 8am - 2pm. Down Yonder 7001 142nd Ave., Largo

Yard Sale, March 5th, from 10am - 2pm. 67 Redwood Ln. N., Largo, FL.

Serendipity Yard Sale - April 2nd, 8am-3pm. 29081 US Highway 19 N., Clearwater.





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Not so dumb

young boy enters a barber shop, and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I show you."

The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, "Which do you want, son?"

The boy takes the quarters and leaves.

"What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!"

Later, the customer sees the same young boy coming out of an ice cream parlor. "Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?"

The boy licks his cone and replies: "Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over!"

Quite a scare

taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question.

The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second, everything was quiet in the cab. Then the driver said, "Look, don't ever do that again. You scared the living daylights out of me!"

The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much."

The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. Before this, for 25 years, I worked in a funeral home and drove a hearse."

The professor

professor was taking a boat across a wide river. The boatman, humming a happy tune as he rowed, was clearly no scholar, so the professor decided to test him. "My man, can you read?" he asked.

"Nope." The boatman shook his head. "Never had time to learn."

"Then you've lost one quarter of your life. Can you write?"

"No, sir. Too busy making a living."

"Then you've lost another quarter of your life. Can you do arithmetic?"

"No. Never saw much use for it on the river."

"Pity. Now you've lost another quarter of your life. Do you know how much that is?"

"No, sir. But may I ask you a question?"

"Certainly, my man."

"Can you swim?"

The professor smiled. "No. In my learned profession, there was never any need for that."

"Well, sir," the boatman said, "you're about to lose all your life, because this boat's leaking and we're going to sink."





Look! Over there! A leprechaun!

The leprechaun is one of the most popular and enduring symbols of Ireland and St. Patrick's Day. Leprechauns are seen in cartoons, on cereal boxes, and in horror movies. (Trivia: The 1993 movie *Leprechaun* was future *Friends* star Jennifer Aniston's first feature film.)



In Irish folklore, the leprechaun is a little old man, typically dressed in a coat of red or green. As a group they're sneaky and mischievous, and when they're not jealously guarding their gold and treasure, they make shoes. The word "leprechaun" may come from *leath bhrogan*, shoemaker, although some say it's from the word *luacharma'n* (pygmy), since they're known as the "wee folk."

If you happen to catch a leprechaun, you may be in luck. But be very careful—he'll promise you anything if you set him free, including all his gold, but leprechauns are famous for their cunning and will likely trick you out of any treasure they offer.

Follow these suggestions for a successful yard sale

o you have too much clutter in your garage or in your closets? With spring coming, it may be time to hold a yard sale to turn your unwanted stuff into a little extra cash.

The most successful yard sales take some preparation, so here's a checklist to help you get started:



- **Permits.** Determine whether you need a permit from your local government and what, if any, restrictions are placed on signage, location, and times.
- Advertising. Make brightly colored signs to advertise your sale, using thick black markers to write your address. Also, use arrows to give directions. Try posting the signs the night before the sale, and don't forget to remove them once the sale is over.
- Cash. Have plenty of coins and small bills on hand so that you can easily make change. Store the money in a fanny pack where it will be readily accessible but not easy to steal.
- **Pricing.** Use little stickers from office supply stores to place a price on each item. If the object is used, it should be priced around 10 25% of its retail value. If it has never been used or unwrapped, you can ask 50%. But be prepared to haggle.
- Merchandising. To attract attention and visitors, display the most colorful items out front.

It is not wealth one asks for, but just enough to preserve one's dignity, to work unhampered, to be generous, frank and independent.

— W. Somerset Maugham



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