

OFFICE: 6800 150th Avenue North, Clearwater • FL 33764 • (727) 536-3553

ecember 2023

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Chairman – Gary Sproule Sec. - Roger Chase

BINGO

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BOWLING

Chairman – Bill Kohls

CORN HOLE:

President: Carla Lies Treasurer: Ernie Ruff At Large: Dave Barrell

COURT WHIST

Chairman - Betty Bober

CRIBBAGE

Chairman - Roberta Patterson

DANCE CLUB

President – Julie Burns
Secretary – Open
Treasurer – Terry Paul
Ticket Sales – Marilyn Thygesen
Decorations – Kim Pepin
Entertainment – Carla Lies
At Large – Vacant

EUCHRE

Chairman - Sue Berton

GOLDEN AGERS

President – Cookie Caron Treasurer – Ann Barrett

GOLF CLUB

President – Ken Paradine
Secretary – Bill McKenzie
Treasurer – Lou Chantigny
Golf Captains – Joe Spencer &
Doug Griffiths
Mini putt maintenance –
Keith Pardine &
Joe Spencer

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LIBRARIAN

Linda Raimondi

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NICKEL BINGO

Eva Szabo

OHIO BUCKEYES CLUB

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PARK CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman - Linda Raimondi

POOL CLUB

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VESPERS

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD:

PEN BOARD MEETING: The December Annual Open Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM @ CH. All Lessees are invited to attend.

BULK TRASH PICKUP: The last Saturday of the month, December 30, 2023.

OFFICE CLOSED: The office will be closed December 25, 2023 & January 1, 2024 for the Christmas & New Year holidays.

DIAL DIRECTORY: Please submit any changes you have for the park directory to the office by the end of the year.

2023 PROPERTY TAX BILLS: Tax Bills were out as of November 1, 2023. If you have not received yours, please go online to pinellastaxcollector.gov

- ✓ Under the Property Tax menu click on Pay Your Bill
- ✓ Enter your park address
- ✓ Your name should come up, click on it
- ✓ Either pay your bill, or scroll down and print your bill

The bills are due no later than March 31, 2024.

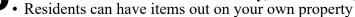
HERON HALL: The Board of Governors weekly meetings are held on Wednesdays at 8:00 AM at Heron Hall.

www.ranchmobilepark.org Reminder, the website is for your use. Bulletins, Board Meeting minutes, obituaries, activity information, sales list, and much, much more is there for you. If you need the password for the protected areas of the website email, call, or stop in the office, or simply ask your neighbor.

Matthew's will be moving December 5 & 19, 2023, weather permitting.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR NOTES

ARK WIDE YARD SALE: Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 8AM to 2PM.

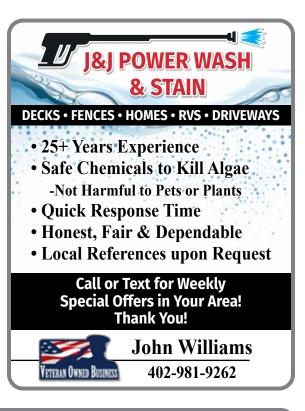


- Clubs can use the outside common areas
- All yard sale participants (both residents and clubs) are responsible for cleaning up and storing away or disposing of any unsold items by the evening of the day of the sale.

HOBBY CLUB CRAFT SALE: Friday, December 9, 2023, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. All proceeds will be donated to the High Point Charities that the Ranchers support over the holidays.









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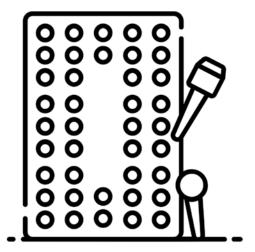
11590 U.S. Highway 19 North • Clearwater • FL 33764



Wednesday Cribbage

		J
Name	Total	
10/4/2023 Lisa Brand Chuck Davis	7 5	109 331
10/11/2023 Bill Westerman Marie Pelletier Ray Jewell	7 4 4	82 389 418
10/18/2023 Chuck Davis Eva Szabo Ray Jewell	6 6 6	229 206 201
10/25/2023 Linda Jewell Donna Reid Mona Kirtland	7 5 5	108 330 293
5:30 PM @ CH	\$5.00	FEE







DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

18 Louis Vedrode Denise Foster 11 Steve Groh 2 Debbie Ziegler 11 Michael Jariz 19 Patricia Fleck Bob Fletcher 11 Darcia Lange 19 Fred Large 19 Gerald Stone Charles Halker 11 Ed Muck 12 Susan Berton Malenka Madeleine Souliere 19 James Waterman Charlie Mason 12 Mike Martin 20 Thersa Stephens Gary Murray 12 Mario Morra 21 Howard Chesley Robert Arcand 21 Ann Perry 13 Jean Cahill Jake Bubelis 23 Roberta Forseen 6 13 John Cushing 24 Joan Yarro Bernie Lake 13 Roger Quandt 6 Alice Summers 14 Ronald Bennett 25 Carol Szumita Brenda Gorseth 14 Lois Bruzek 26 Ron Gurney Mike Surano 14 Susan Delorme 26 Carolyn Mc Gann 26 Karen Sullivan 14 John May Norma Surano Lou Lowery 15 Ellen Fletcher 27 Rosemary Papadopoulos Bryan Marshman 15 Irene Krystallidis 28 Al Noel 16 Phil Blye Dorraine Beleno 31 Linda MacKenzie Linda Hirst 16 Noella Gallant 31 Laura McKenna 16 Jane Jensen 31 Bill Mueller Chervl Kuhn 10 Bonnie Carpenter 18 Scott Small

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

	Brien & Carol Swartout	1969
1	Roger & Annette Thibault	1962
3	Slugger & Angela Labbe	1994
6	Rey & Arlene Houde	1966
7	Harold & Mary Parr	1973
9	Gary & Ruth Sproule	1977
11	Steve & Julie Plaia	1982
11	John & Tina Provost	2010
13	Al & Sara Noel	1969
18	John & Sherry London	2004
20	David & Linda Hirst	
27	Murray & Arlene MacNeill	1980
28	Wayne & Debbie Stott	
31	Bruse & Tammy Ferriero	2021
31	Al & Sue Malenka	2019
31	Nick & Sandra Maniskas	
31	Mike & Lois Wilson	1977



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BETTER HEARING STARTS HERE



ACROSS

- 1. It comes in a loaf
- 6. Cobras
- 10. Play parts
- 14. Spooky
- 15. Not the whole
- 16. The central part
- 17. American symbol
- 18. Request
- 19. Hint
- 20. Wealth and success
- 22. Peel
- 23. Rock
- 24. Little kisses
- 25. Pear type
- 29. Retaliated
- 31. Arithmetic mean
- 33. Resident
- 37. Befall
- 38. Born here
- 39. Expunction
- 41. Expunges
- 42. Thin
- 44. Filth
- 45. Select by voting
- 48. Transfer
- 50. Teller of untruths
- 51. Devastation
- 56. Put words
- 57. In the center of
- 58. Insignia
- 59. TTT
- 60. Rubber wheel
- 61. Drama set to classical music
- 62. Makes a mistake
- 63. Cards with one symbol
- 64. Adjust again



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DOWN

- 1. Toot
- 2. Backside
- 3. Therefore
- 4. Afflicts
- 5. Ocean trenches
- 6. Give permission
- 7. Containing salt
- 8. Make-believe
- 9. Remain
- 10. Licensed
- 11. Infant's illness
- 12. Torso

- 13. Sows
- 21. Knickknack holder
- 24. Prison-related
- 25. Ruth, baseball
- legend
- 26. Not under
- 27. Bristle
- 28. Move back and forth 49. Work hard
- 30. Universal
- 32. No longer a child
- 34. Tubular pasta
- 35. Always
- 36. Bird home

- 40. Confined to certain
- regions
- 41. Deciphers
- 43. Craving
- 45. Gentry
- 46. Protective covering
- 47. Consumer of food
- 51. Information
- 52. Adhesive strip
- 53. Mid-month days
- 54. Beast
- 55. Tidy

December Crossword



December Monthly Holidays

- Art and Architecture Month
- Egg Nog Month
- Handwashing Awareness Month
- Hi Neighbor Month
- Learn a Foreign Language Month
- Made in America Month
- National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month
- National Fruit Cake Month
- National Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month
- National Pear Month
- Procrastination Awareness Month
- Read a New Book Month
- Root Vegetables Month
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month
- Sign Up for Summer Camp Month
- Stress-Free Family Holiday Month
- Tomato and Winter Squash Month
- Tropical Fruits Month
- Universal Human Rights Month
- World AIDS Awareness Month
- Write a Friend Month

Weekly

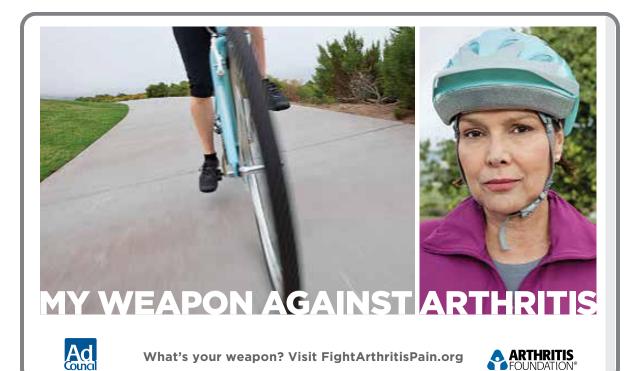
- Hanukkah* (changes yearly and lasts for 8 days)
- National Handwashing Awareness Week (first week)
- National Influenza Vaccination Week* (typically first week)
- Tolerance Week (first full week)
- Human Rights Week (second week)

Daily

- December 23: Festivus, National Roots Day, National Pfeffernüsse Day
- December 24: Christmas Eve, National Egg Nog Day
- December 25: Christmas Day, National Pumpkin Pie Day
- December 26: National Whiners Day, Boxing Day, National Candy Cane Day
- December 27: National Fruitcake Day, Make Cut-Out Snowflakes Day













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Do we really want to have the Midas touch?

In modern times, the name Midas is associated with someone who has such good luck that everything seems to go his or her way—and they become rich without even trying. But the original meaning of the King Midas story was very different.



Midas was the king of Phrygia, according to Edith Hamilton's classic book Mythology. Phrygia was the land of roses, and Midas maintained large, beautiful rose gardens near his palace.

One day, the old man Silenus wandered off from Bacchus' caravan because he was intoxicated. The rotund and aging drunkard was found passed out in a bower of roses near the palace. The servants, having a little fun, bound him with garlands of flowers and crowned him with a wreath of roses and took him stumbling and looking ridiculous to King Midas as a great joke.

Midas welcomed Silenus and entertained him for two days. Then the king led the old man back to Bacchus, the god of wine and intoxication, where he belonged. Bacchus was so glad to get Silenus back that he told Midas that whatever wish he made would come true.

Without giving the matter any thought, Midas immediately wished that whatever he touched would turn to gold. Bacchus, being a god, of course, immediately saw the folly of the king's wish, but granted it anyway.

Then Midas sat down at his table to take his dinner, but as he lifted his food to his lips he saw that it had become a lump of metal. Frightened, and beginning to suffer from hunger and thirst, he was forced to hurry off to Bacchus again and beg him to take the favor he had been granted back. Bacchus instructed the king to wash in the source of the river Pactolus and he would lose the fatal gift. The king did so, and that is why, they say, that gold was found in the bed of that river.

And what are we to take from this tale? Midas was not able to profit from his riches because he had committed a folly, which was just as fatal as sin. Even though the poor king meant no harm, he had failed to use his intelligence, and because of that he faced certain doom, had he not begged the gods to rid him of what he had asked for.

The story tells us that failing to use our intelligence can bring us to ruin just as quickly as wrongdoing. That being intoxicated with the so-called "riches" of our world can bring us down quickly, and the best course of action is to stop and think about the consequences of what we are about to ask or wish for.

On giving

Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.

— Barbara Bush

The habit of giving only enhances the desire to give.

— Walt Whitman

December

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Sunday	Monday	Γ
JANUARY 2024 S M T W T F 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 31	Monday 9:00a W	•
6:30p Open Door Church 6:30p Bid Euchre	9:30a Bowling 12:30p Shanghai 5:00p Men's Poker 5:30p Samba	1:00p Liv 7:00p Ma
First Sunday of Advent 10 6:30p Open Door Church 6:30p Bid Euchre	9:30a Bowling 12:30p Shanghai 5:00p Men's Poker 5:00p Golden Agers	9:00a Dai 1:00p Liv 7:00p Ho
6:30p Open Door Church 6:30p Bid Euchre	8:00a Breakfast 9:00a Jan Pre-sale 9:30a Bowling 12:30p Shanghai 5:00p Men's Poker 5:30p Samba	1:00p Liv
6:30p Open Door Church 6:30p Bid Euchre	OFFICE CLOSED 9:30a Bowling 12:30p Shanghai 1:00p Park Dinner 5:00p Men's Poker 5:30p Samba Christmas	1:00p Liv
6:30p Open Door Church 6:30p Bid Euchre		

Ranch Mobile

uesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
<i>y</i> 2						3:00p Corn Hole	1	8:00a Park Yard Sale 9:15a Miniputt 10:00a Shuffle 1:30p Double Deck Pinochle 6:00p Court Whist	2
e Music rk Ralston	5	8:00a Koffee Klatch 10:00a Ukulele 12:30p Nickle Bingo 5:30p Cribbage 6:00p Euchre	6	9:00a Hobby Club 10:00a Golf 12:30p Dominos 3:00p Happy Hour 5:00p Men's Poker 5:00p Bingo Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	7	3:00p Corn Hole	8	8:00a Craft Sale 9:15a Miniputt 10:00a Shuffle 1:30p Double Deck Pinochle 6:00p Court Whist	9
nce Club Mtg e Music liday Dance	12	8:00a Koffee Klatch 9:00a Golf Mtg 9:00a Ukulele 10:00a Annual Mtg 12:30p Nickle Bingo 5:30p Cribbage 6:00p Euchre	13	9:00a Hobby Club 10:00a Golf 12:30p Dominos 3:00p Happy Hour 5:00p Men's Poker 5:00p Bingo	14	3:00p Corn Hole	15	9:15a Miniputt 10:00a Shuffle 1:30p Double Deck Pinochle 6:00p Court Whist	16
e Music	19	8:00a Koffee Klatch 10:00a Ukulele 12:30p Nickle Bingo 5:30p Cribbage 6:00p Euchre	20	9:00a Hobby Club 10:00a Golf 12:30p Dominos 3:00p Happy Hour 5:00p Men's Poker 5:00p Bingo	21	3:00p Corn Hole First Day of Winter	22	9:15a Miniputt 10:00a Shuffle 1:30p Double Deck Pinochle 6:00p Court Whist	23
e Music	26	8:00a Koffee Klatch 10:00a Ukulele 12:30p Nickle Bingo 5:30p Cribbage 6:00p Euchre	27	9:00a Hobby Club 10:00a Golf 12:30p Dominos 3:00p Happy Hour 5:00p Men's Poker 5:00p Bingo	28	3:00p Corn Hole	29	9:15a Miniputt 10:00a Shuffle 1:30p Double Deck Pinochle 6:00p Court Whist	30



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man and a woman met at a Hollywood party and began to get to know each other through the usual introductory chitchat.

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"Yes," said the man. "I'm a stunt man. You know. I drive cars off bridges, I jump from cliffs, I fall out of airplanes...things like that."

"Wow!" said the woman. "How do you manage to stay alive?"

"I wait tables in Santa Monica," he said. As retold from Good Clean Jokes



Best excuses when caught sleeping at your desk

- 1. They told me at the blood bank this might happen.
- 2. This is just a 15 minute power-nap like they raved about in the last time-management course you sent me to.
- 3. Whew! Guess I left the top off the liquid paper.
- 4. I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm!
- 5. This is one of the seven habits of highly effective people.
- 6. I was testing the keyboard for drool resistance.
- 7. Actually, I'm doing a "Stress Level Elimination Exercise Plan" (SLEEP) I learned at the last mandatory seminar you made me attend.
- 8. I was doing a highly specific yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminatory about people who practice yoga.
- 9. Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem.
- 10. The coffee machine is broken...
- 11. Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot.
- 12. Boy, that cold medicine I took last night just won't wear off.
- 13. Ah, the unique and unpredictable circadian rhythms of the workaholic.
- 14. Wasn't sleeping. Was trying to pick up contact lens without hands.
 - from JeffJustice.com

On success

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children...to leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Staying fit in old age keeps the brain sharp, study finds

A study published in the journal Neurology suggests that keeping physically fit in old age can also keep the brain functioning normally.

"Our study suggests that being physically active in old age could keep the brain fit," says study author Boukje M. van Gelder.



Physical activity can improve blood flow to the brain and in so doing reduce the risk of dementia, stroke and cognitive decline. Activity could stimulate the growth of nerve cells in the hippocampus, the region of the brain involved in memory function. This could help the brain prevent further deterioration, because there is a "reserve" of nerve cells available.

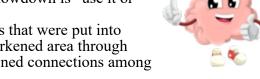
The study included data on 295 men between the ages of 70 and 90, born between 1900 and 1920. The study began in 1990, and the men were tracked for physical activity and mental agility over a 10-year period.

Researchers found:

- Men who reduced their physical activity by an hour or more were 2.6 times more likely to suffer cognitive decline than men who maintained their activity levels.
- Men who performed their physical activity at a lower intensity over a 10-year period were 3.6 times more likely to suffer cognitive decline than those who maintained intensity level.

Researchers prove learning keeps brain physically fit

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have finally proved that when it comes to brainpower the lowdown is "use it or lose it."



According to DrWeil.com's Weekly Bulletin, rats that were put into a two-chambered box and then learned to avoid a darkened area through receiving unpleasant foot shocks exhibited strengthened connections among synapses in the hippocampus.

Weil says that even though this learning/brain health connection has been suspected for decades—that this evidence actually shows the physical change in the brain when learning takes place.

This is an important piece of evidence that learning keeps the brain physically strong.

On kindness

One kind word can warm three winter months.

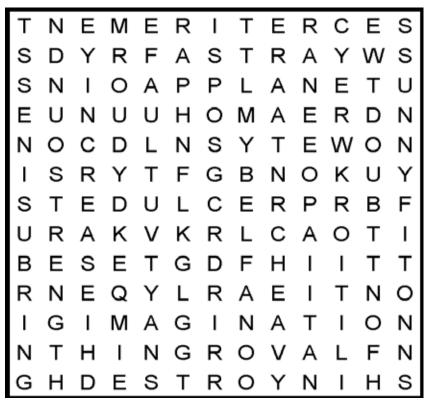
— Japanese proverb

On winter

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.

— Albert Camus

December Word Search



astray	early	imagination	read	strength
	energy	increase	retirement	sunny
beset				sweet
brain	fault	laid	secret	
bring	flavor		share	thing
business	fluid	notice	shiny	trot
	font	notify	sound	
destroy			spud	world
doubt	heavy	planet		
dream	·	preclude		young



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A few Christmas questions

: What do elves learn in school? A: The Elf-abet!

O: If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?

A: Missletoe!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A: Frostbite.

Q: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

A: Because he had low elf esteem.

Q: Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

A: So he can ho-ho-ho.

Q: Where do polar bears vote?

A: The North Poll.

Q: What do you get when you cross an archer with a gift-wrapper?

A: Ribbon hood.

Q: What kind of bird can write?

A: A PENguin.

Q: What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time?

A: Sandy Claus!

Q: How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

A: Fleece Navidad!

Q: Why does Santa's sled get such good mileage?

A: Because it has long-distance runners on each side.

Q: What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

A: Chess nuts boasting in an open fover!

Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus?

A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.

Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called?

A: A subordinate Claus. — from AhaJokes.com









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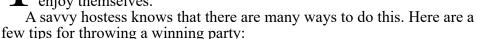
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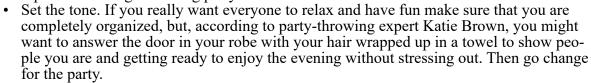


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How to throw a great party

Throwing a party is often a matter of the right combination of providing your guests relaxation and enough structure that they are able to enjoy themselves.





- Whatever you're going to serve, have it ready to go, and know how you're going to serve it. If it's sit down, you'll want to have the first course on the table before you call your guests in to sit down. If it's a buffet, round up some light help from your guests to do last minute preparations—they'll be relieved to be called upon—just don't ask too much of them.
- Accept all gifts graciously, but don't feel pressure to use what people bring immediately if you already have something else planned. Make sure you thank the person and emphasize you can't wait to try it tomorrow. If someone brings flowers, put them in a vase, but don't destroy the look of your table or room by giving them a central location (unless you want to and feel they will look good).
- Keep people talking and the conversation rolling. Don't let one person dictate what everyone talks about. You are the hostess and you can politely interject if someone takes over inappropriately or focuses on an inappropriate subject. Listen to what the per-son is saying and find a place to interject and segue into a new subject.
- See people out when they are ready to go, but don't linger at the door and ignore your other guests. You want to make sure everyone leaves feeling you truly enjoyed their company and that they added to the uniqueness of the evening.

The next time you panic — think on this

The origin of our word panic is derived from the Greek god Pan. According to the Merriam-Webster New Book of Word Histories, this lusty and musically gifted god was also known for giving great shouts that instilled fear into giants as they battled the gods. Pan was worshipped in Athens because it was believed that he instilled fear into the hearts of the Persians causing them to flee the Battle of Marathon. And that is where we get our word and idea of panic — any sudden and groundless fear.

You can have everything in life that you want if you just give enough other people what they want.

— Zig Ziglar

Some words to keep you hanging in...

Then you're having a bad day, it might do your heart good to embrace the wise words of the beloved Benjamin Franklin (Bite-size Franklin, compiled by John P. Holms and Karin Baji). Here they are:

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

And

Little strokes, Fell great oaks.

Is your self-image ruling your life?

eepak Chopra, in The Book of Secrets, says to be ruled by self-image is to exclude many feelings that we don't believe jibe with our imagined selves. This, he speculates, keeps reality at bay. Chopra says you are no longer ruled by self-image when:

- You let yourself feel what you feel.
- You stop being offended by things.
- You stop worrying about how a situation makes you look.
- You stop excluding people you feel inferior or superior to.
- You stop worrying about what people are thinking of you.
- You stop obsessing over money, possessions and status.
- You no longer feel the urge to defend your opinions.



Moving forward—without looking back

ear can often get the best of even the very brave. Here's a story adapted from Tales for Change by Margaret Parkin, from whence comes the expression "burning the boats." It's a powerful story of facing change—and learning the lesson that sometimes it's best to push forward without looking back:

Cortez, the explorer, was born in Spain in 1485. At the age of 14, he made his way out into the world to study law—but his true ambition was to become a conqueror and explorer.

Cortez had many adventures in his twenties and thirties, and eventually he joined forces with another explorer, Diego Velasquez. Together the explorers hoped to achieve their goal of conquering the Aztec city of Tenochitlan.

Cortez set off with about 500 soldiers in the year 1519 and landed at a spot known as Veracruz. Soon the explorer realized there was talk amongst his men of turning back to Cuba—rather than facing the potentially hazardous journey ahead. The soldiers, in order to conquer Tenochitlan, would have to navigate 200 miles of jungle and swampland before attacking the city, which was surrounded by water.

Cortez knew that he was facing a possible mutiny, and so took the bold action of having all of his own party's boats burnt.

Cortez forced the men to choose to fight or die by taking away all hope of retreat. Cortez's party went on to fight the Aztecs and conquer the fortress city.



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CRAFT FAIR 12/2/23 10 a.m. to Noon. AMERICANA COVE Clubhouse 7201 1st Street NE Saint Petersburg

CRAFT SHOW, BAKE SALE and RAFFLE. Saturday Dcember 2, 9-1. Southwind MHC, 795 Country Road 1. Palm Harbor. 440.227.5906

CRAFT SHOW/ Lunch, Saturday 12-02-2023, 9am- 1pm, AMBER GLADES Clubhouse, 3113 State Road 580, Safety Harbor



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CRAFT SHOW/ Lunch, Saturday 12-02-2023, 9am- 1pm, AMBER GLADES Clubhouse, 3113 State Road 580, Safety Harbor

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Craft Sale 12/9/23 9AM -1PM at Ranch Mobile Park Clubhouse. Refreshments and food sale too

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EVENTS & PROGRAMS

HOLIDAY CRAFTS BIZAAR, Dec 16, 9-2, Pointe West Mobile Home Park, 12651 Seminole Blvd, Largo

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-Monthly Media Staff

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