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ISLAND IN THE SUN

• S E N T I N E L •

February • 2024

Issue 12 47th Year

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Island in the Sun Community Newsletter

Manager Editor: Tammy Blaisse

Proofreader: Rusty Leslie

Media Delivery Team: Nancy Bilcheck, Ernie Grow, Roy and Jan Wisdom, Sudie Borders, Cheryl D'Andrea; Sue Morley; Mike Malliet; Colleen Marshall, Cynthia Sadusky, Phil Tursi, Sonny Dumlao and Cecile Morock

March 2024 Media Deadline February 4, 2023

Please e-mail articles and photos submissions to: iits.sentinel@gmail.com

You can also drop off articles not sent via e-mail at Lot 297.

Representative to the Federation of Manufactured Home Owners (FMO):

Tate McIntyre, Lot #23

Please submit corrections to iits.sentinel@gmail.com or report to an HOA Board member.

Island in the Sun HOA Board

President.....	Jill Norwick	Lot 253	727-243-4592.....	jillnorwick@yahoo.com
Vice Pres	Rusty Leslie.....	Lot 310	865-232-9072.....	kohanadancer@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tammy Blaisse.....	Lot 297	580-301-4828.....	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com
Secretary	Kathy Stevens	Lot 47	952-221-0878.....	KathyStevens@hotmail.com

Directors

1 Yr	Steve Malara	Lot 202	732-977-4867.....	sbombers@aol.com
2 Yr	Nancy Bilcheck.....	Lot 184	203-913-9450.....	nbstuff@sbcglobal.net
3 Yr				

HOA Liaison Committee:

.....	Jill Norwick	Lot 253	727-243-4592.....	jillnorwick@yahoo.com
.....	Tammy Blaisse.....	Lot 297	580-301-4828.....	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com

Non-Board Positions

Robo Call	Sharon Carnes	Lot 169	727-506-1601
Neighbor Helping Neighbor			OPEN

2023 Committees

Committee.....	Name/Chair.....	Lot#.....	Phone#.....	Email.....	Co-Chair	Lot # .	Phone #
Activities.....	Committee	297	580-301-4828.....	iitsactivities@yahoo.com	Committee	253	727-243-4592
Bingo.....	Linda Olone.....	73	727-214-7334				
Bingo Callers	Linda Olone.....	73	727-214-7334				
Dominoes	Jan Wisdom	70	214-336-6834				
Ladies Lunch.....	Cindy Sadusky ...	14.....	717-587-2498				
Library.....	Cindy Sadusky ...	14.....	717-587-2498.....		Nancy Bilcheck..	184	203-913-9450
Media Delivery	Nancy Bilcheck..	184.....	203-913-9450				
Membership	Tammy Blaisse ...	297.....	580-301-4828.....	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com			
.....	Rusty Leslie.....	310	865-232-9072.....	kohanadancer@gmail.com			
Phone Book.....	Tammy Blaisse ...	297	580-301-4828				
Pickleball.....	Paul Ranck	134					
Potluck	Ciel Gordon.....	182.....	952-486-1507				
Remembrance Corner....	OPEN						
Shuffleboard	Elaine Ranck	134					
Rummikub.....	Rose Leduc.....	160.....	727-797-8026				
Sign Board	Clayton Malseed. 83	707-510-7981					
Texas Hold'Em	Rick Morabito	174.....	303-704-9772.....		Rose Leduc	160	727-797-8026
Welcoming	Rusty Leslie	310.....	865-232-9072.....	kohanadancer@gmail.com			
Yoga	Kathy Bowen						

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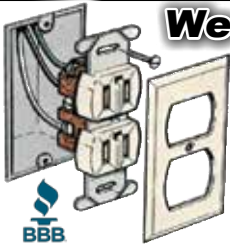
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Attention Island In The Sun Residents

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Would you like to see Island In The Sun related articles in your newsletter?



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FROM THE EDITOR

Hey all! I still need someone to step forward to take over the monthly media by February 2024 or we may not have one.

If you have any suggestions for articles you think would interest our community, please feel free to reach out to me. We love to hear good news! In addition, if you come across an article that you think would be of interest, please share. I will need the original source as well.

Please send any articles, suggestions, or photos to me at iits.sentinel@gmail.com or stop by Lot 297. If you would like to be highlighted or have a resident event highlighted in an upcoming edition for any of our sections, please let me know. See you all soon!

Thank you to our contributors this month, Rusty Leslie, Linda OLone and Jill Norwick

Thank you,
Tammy Blaisse

This publication, *Island in the Sun Sentinel*, also referred to as the *Monthly Media*, contains names, contact information, community articles and information, an activities calendar as well as general interest articles. IITS residents can contribute ideas, articles, and photos to the publication. Contact Tammy Blaisse at iits.sentinel@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is February and time to pay your HOA dues. Your HOA runs events every month and save the money needed for the negotiations with Cal-Am coming next year and has your back when you need help. Remember, it was your HOA who held the line with your property fee raises this year and had Cal-Am lower this year's raise.

The HOA keeps you informed, entertained, fed and promotes better relations with each other and Cal-Am making ITTS the friendly community you want to live in. More members means more and better activities, more funding for negotiations and to strengthen our hand, as well as bring us together as one. You also get access to the IITS HOA Facebook Page. We on the HOA Executive Board need your support to make our community the best it can be.

Jill Norwick

IITS HOA President

jillnorwick@yahoo.com

TREASURER MESSAGE

As usual, just a reminder to everyone HOA dues are still only \$15 a year and should be paid by February 1st. Remember, if you want to vote for your board next year or on any issues you need to become a member. You can contact me at Lot 297, Rusty Leslie at Lot 310 or Jill Norwick at Lot 253. Our information is in the front of the media guide. Your membership allows you to have a voice in how the HOA is ran, provides the community as a whole to have a louder voice with Cal-Am when needed, such as community issues and

...continued on page 9

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negotiations. As a perk to being a member your tickets to events are \$5.00 cheaper, attend three events and your dues will have paid for themselves. Membership cards will be delivered to the members in February.

Please reach out to your Board Members if you have any questions or concerns, we all will do our best to help you.

Tammy Blaisse
IITS Treasurer

OPEN POSITIONS:



We have a few open positions if you are interested in volunteering for anything.
NON-Board Positions

1. We need volunteers for Bingo. We are looking for callers. Duties would be once a month or so. The computer does most of the work, and almost all of the calling (with the exception of one game). It is a very simple program to use, and we are a fun bunch to spend time with! If you are interested, please call Linda at 727-214-7334.
2. Remembrance Corner - OPEN - Need this person to report obits to **Rusty Leslie** for adding to Media Guide and so we are able send a card from the community.
3. Neighbor Helping Neighbor – OPEN - need Volunteer.
4. Bocci Ball - OPEN - Need Volunteer
5. Media Guide – Need a Volunteer soon

February Birthdays

- 1 Nancy McGann
- 4 Bob Stevens
- 13 Jerry Wooten



February Anniversaries

- 14 Jerald Cardin & Sudie Borders
- 14 Irving & Helen Leonard

We would love to add your birthday and anniversary to our list! E-mail your name and date to iits.sentinel@gmail.com so your friends and neighbors can help you celebrate your special days!

Please help me keep this list up to date. If you notice a resident listed who no longer lives in IITS, please give me a heads up. Thanks!



FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:



4 ways to find out all about our events:

1. Make sure you sign up for the robocalls as well, as event information is being sent via robocall, too. Contact Jill Norwick at jillnorwick@yahoo.com with your lot #, telephone number and name to join the list. These numbers are shared with no one.
2. Check out the Marquee at the park entrance by the clubhouse for upcoming events. HOA Events and announcements are located on the front and Resident Sponsored Activities are located on the back, if you would like your activity listed on the back please let Jill Norwick or Tammy Blaisse know.
3. The calendar is kept current in the glass case at the Clubhouse.
4. Please join any or all of these IITS FaceBook Groups, we post activities on these pages only.
 - a. Island in the Sun Social Group
 - b. IITS uncensored, sort of
 - c. The Official Island in the Sun HOA - 2022 (HOA Members only) This page is only for HOA business.

Please contact the activities committee for activities you would like to start at iitsactivities@yahoo.com. We will provide you with help to get started. The activities committee will remain as a committee and no longer has a chairperson. The committee works as a group, if you email the above address the emails will be brought to each meeting for discussion and action.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

These activities are not HOA or Cal-Am sponsored activities. They are resident led. Ladies Luncheon is held monthly, a different restaurant is chosen each month and announced on the various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse. Shuffleboard is held on Fridays at 1 pm, join the fun.

Like to play Texas Hold ‘Em, join the group at 6:30 pm on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Pickle Ball is a fun activity that is enjoyed by many in the community. They play Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and would love to see more players. The group is willing to teach new players.

Chit Chat is on Friday nights at the Clubhouse from 5 to 7pm. Bring whatever you would like to drink. You may bring a snack if you would like to share, but that is not necessary to join us for some good old fashioned chatting around the table. Be aware, Politics, Religion and HOA are not discussed during this time.

May is Kentucky Derby and we are looking for a resident to led this activity. Someone will come up and turn on the projector and TV for the derby. Anyone who like to volunteer to make sure this event happens please contact Jill Norwick, Rusty Leslie or Tammy Blaisse

Anyone wanting a resident activity to be spotlighted in the Media Guide please contact Tammy Blaisse.

See the calendar in the Media or on the clubhouse board for upcoming daily activities, HOA activities and Cal-Am activities.

continued on page 13



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SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE HOA EVENTS

In February we are planning a Mardi Gras party on the 17th. We will have music and food and King Cake Cupcakes, there will be five babies in the cupcakes and the people who receive a baby will get a door prize. Tickets will be \$10.00 for HOA members and \$15.00 for Non-Members.

March 16th brings us to our St Patrick's Day party and we will be celebrating with traditional Irish Food and a DJ. Tickets will be \$10.00 for HOA members and \$15.00 for Non-Members.

In April we will be having the popular Tampa Game Night back. They bring a live Game Show Experience, this is an interactive game show with buzzers, podiums, videos and sound effects. Tickets will be \$15.00 for HOA members and \$20.00 for Non-Members.

We need hosts to continue these events. People have asked for certain events and while we would like to make them happen, we cannot without people volunteering to host. People are also needed to help with the set-up, replenish food if needed and most of all clean up. We are required to completely clean up like we were never there and that takes some effort.

New Year's Eve Bash 2023

What a wonderful time we all had at our annual New Years Eve Bash!

Thank you to our HOA and to all those that helped to make it the great event that it was. Those that helped set up and clean up and those who took tickets and sold 50/50 and tickets for the raffles were so appreciated. We could not have done it without you.

The food was so good, catered for us with an appetizer round, main course and dessert round, all called by table so we did not have to stand in huge lines.

After the food came the dancing so many people got up and danced and they had fun along with those who enjoyed watching.

The HOA gave out surprise gift certificates in appreciation to those who had helped out all year at the events. A lovely surprise. Those that won the 50/50, door prizes and gift baskets were all smiles.

Midnight came and suddenly it was 2024.



Welcome to the New Year!!
May 2024 be filled with good health and
happiness for us all.



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WELCOME WAGON CORNER

by Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie

Happy February to all from my little corner of the world.
Let's welcome some new members to our wonderful community here at Island in the Sun:

Ken and Cheryl Gonska

If you are a new to our community and manufactured home living, I will be happy to give you information on how it all works here and answer any questions you might have. I love doing welcome visits and meeting new people. I hope you love living here as much as I do and take advantage of all the activities we offer.

Thank you for taking to time to read this.

Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie

Lot 310 - corner of Nassau and Windward – first intersection as you come in, blue house on the left with yellow SUV – that's me. Come to my side door and ring the bell.

Call or text me at 865.232.9072

Email me at kohanadancer@gmail.com



PRECIOUS PETS

If anyone has a Pet or few you would like to share with the community please reach out to me at iitsactivities@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY PARKING

We know parking can be a hassle since we can't use the sidewalks anymore. We have been asked by the city to please park as many of our vehicles in the driveways (off the street) on Monday's to facilitate the garbage and recycling trucks getting through. If the trucks cannot get through there will be no pickup on that street. Eventually, if the trucks continue to have an issue getting through we could possibly end up with Dumpsters at the Clubhouse as opposed to cans at our homes.



BINGO


Bingo!! Bingo!! Bingo!! Bingo is a self-funded activity. It is not sponsored by the HOA, nor Cal-Am. We try to raise funds in any way we can to maintain the activity and keep our payouts at a level where people want to come. Our typical participation is around 25-30 people a night. We would love to see that number grow! More people, bigger payouts! Come to Bingo, bring your neighbors/friends! Come out and join the fun with us!



IITS Rules and Regulations

Home Owner Guidelines

1. All Residents must receive the express written permission of Community Management before installing any type of antenna, satellite dish, or other electronic device on their unit or property. The Federal Communications Commission has established guidelines for the installation of these devices and prohibits Community Management from not allowing the devices unless they cause a safety problem or interfere with the Community's infrastructure.
2. No storage is allowed on the patio, carport or under the mobile home. Furniture designed for "indoor use" may not be stored or used on patios or driveways. Only furniture designed for "outdoor" use such as patio furniture may be used on patios and driveways.
3. Temporary or permanent additions of any type must have prior written approval of Community Management, and an alterations form must be completed and filed with Management, prior to installation or the beginning of any related work.
4. Mobile homes shall be attractively maintained in accordance with the following standards:
 - a. Siding must be in good condition and kept clean. All paint and trim must be clean and in good condition
 - b. Windows, screens and shutters must be in good condition, free of cracks, holes or tears.
 - c. Skirting must be white split-face brick or other material approved by Community Management. All brick for skirting or planters must be in place and neat and clean in appearance.
5. The maximum number of permanent occupants allowed per mobile home is four (4).
6. All manufactured homes must be kept in good repair, including utility buildings. Residents must immediately repair any water leaks in or from pipes or fixtures in, on or under the manufactured home or lot. Broken windows, peeling paint, dull exterior of a manufactured home, or dirt, grime or mildew visible from a Community roadway or an adjacent lot must be corrected. The exterior surfaces of the manufactured home including



the eaves and trim shall be kept free of mildew or discoloration. Manufactured homes must be washed at least annually. Peeling, fading, or damaged exterior surfaces must be restored to the condition of a well maintained home in the Community. Changes from the original material and color of a screened area must be approved by the Community Manager prior to installation. All exterior materials used in upgrading must be approved in writing by the Community Manager prior to their use on the home. The materials used must be consistent with the types of materials used on well maintained homes in the community. Upon failure of Resident to take appropriate corrective action after receipt of notice, Community Management may, but has no obligation to have the necessary work performed.

7. Laundry Lines: No one is permitted to hang towels, rugs, rags, or any wearing apparel on the manufactured home, on or in the carport and/or screen room, awning, storage shed, or on any other appurtenance to the home or fixture on the homesite. Outdoor clothes drying devices (umbrella clotheslines, drying racks or any other type of clotheslines or device) may only be installed on Home Owner's homesite in a location which is not visible from the street, or if such placement is not possible, the device must be placed in the most inconspicuous location possible and must be shielded from view to the greatest extent feasible.
 - a. "T" clotheslines, and clotheslines which are not installed or designed to be stored at the end of each day of use, are not allowed on any homesite in the Community.
 - b. No clothesline or other clothes drying device may be placed so as to obstruct a driver's view of any street, driveway, sidewalk or intersection, nor may they be installed on or encroach upon any common area or restrict access to property located within the Community. Additionally, outdoor clotheslines and devices shall not be installed nearer to a lot line than the height of the device. Written approval of the specific location of a clothesline or other clothes drying device must be obtained from Community Management prior to the installation of that clothesline or clothes drying device in order to ensure that the device is located in conformance with the aesthetic standards of the Community.
 - c. Any clothesline or other outdoor drying device must be removed and stored before sunset on each day of use.
8. Community Management reserves the right of access to the mobile home lot at all reasonable times for the purpose of utility maintenance and mowing and to the mobile home itself in the event of imminent danger to an occupant of the mobile home or to the mobile home.
9. Fruit trees are prohibited and may not be planted in the Community.
10. All trees located on Resident's lot, or planted by Resident on Resident's lot, are the property of the Community Owner. No trees of any type shall be removed or sold to anyone without receiving prior written approval from Community Management. Oak trees are protected by Florida law and special permits are required for removal. Maintenance, care and removal of trees located on the Resident's lot shall be at the sole expense of the Resident. Tree maintenance which is to be performed at resident's expense includes tree or limb removal, limb trimming, fertilizing, root trimming or removal, leaf raking and removal, and repair or treatment of damage, disease, or infestation from lawn pests.
11. Do not violate privacy of others by trespassing on their lots.

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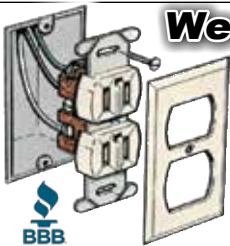
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
MARCH		
S M T W T F S		
3 4 5 6 7 8 9		
10 11 12 13 14 15 16		
17 18 19 20 21 22 23		
24 25 26 27 28 29 30		
31		
4	5	
6:30 pm Poker	1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm Ru 6:30 pm 7 pm H
11	12	
6:30 pm Poker	1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	1 pm F 6:30 p <i>M</i>
18	19	
6:30 pm Poker	1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball <i>President's Day</i>	1 pm F 6:30 p Pickle
25	26	
6:30 pm Poker	1 pm Dominoes 6:30 pm Pickleball	1 pm Ru 6:30 pm 7 pm Lef

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 pm Bingo	2 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 10 Am Activities Committee
6 Rummikub Pickleball DA Board Mtg	7 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	8 7 pm Bingo	9 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	10
13 Rummikub Pickleball Mardi Gras	14 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 7 pm Bingo	16 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	17 6 pm Mardi Gras Party
20 Rummikub Pickleball	21 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	22 7 pm Bingo <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	23 1 pm Shuffleboard 5 pm Chit Chat 6:30 pm Poker	24
27 Rummikub Pickleball t, Right, Center	28 10 am Yoga 6:30 pm Poker	29 7 pm Bingo		



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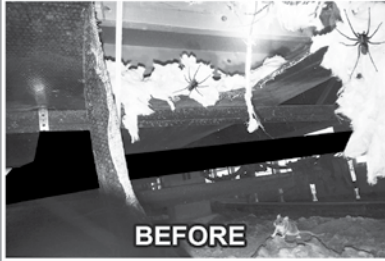


February Holidays and Observances



- 01 Black History Month
- 01 National Freedom Day
- 01 National Get Up Day
- 01 World Interfaith Harmony Week
- 02 Groundhog Day 2024
- 02 National Wear Red Day
- 02 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- 02 Candlemas Day
- 02 National Hedgehog Day
- 02 National Tater Tot Day
- 02 Give Kids A Smile Day
- 03 National Golden Retriever Day
- 03 National Women Physicians Day
- 03 National Carrot Cake Day
- 03 Feed the Birds Day
- 04 World Cancer Day
- 04 International Day of Human Fraternity
- 04 Rosa Parks Day
- 04 Thank Your Mailman Day
- 05 National Weatherperson's Day
- 05 World Nutella Day
- 06 National Frozen Yogurt Day
- 06 National Chopsticks Day
- 07 National Signing Day
- 07 Safer Internet Day
- 07 National Send a Card to a friend Day
- 07 e-Day
- 07 National Fettuccine Alfredo Day
- 08 National Boy Scout Day
- 08 National Kite-Flying Day
- 09 National Toothache Day
- 09 National Pizza Day
- 10 World Pulses Day
- 10 Lunar New Year
- 11 Super Bowl day
- 11 National Inventors' Day
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 11 Thomas Edison's Birthday
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 12 Darwin Day
- 12 International Epilepsy Day
- 13 Mardi Gras
- 13 Galentine's Day
- 13 World Radio Day
- 13 Paczki Day 2024 (Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 Arizona Statehood Day
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 14 National Donor Day
- 14 International Book Giving Day
- 15 Singles Awareness Day
- 15 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
- 15 International Childhood Cancer Day
- 15 World Anthropology Day
- 16 National Almond Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 18 Pluto Day
- 19 Presidents' Day Holiday
- 19 Daisy Gatson Bates Day
- 19 International Tug of War Day
- 20 National Love Your Pet Day
- 20 World Day of Social Justice
- 21 International Mother Language Day
- 21 National Sticky Bun Day
- 22 National Walking the Dog Day
- 22 World Thinking Day
- 22 National Chili Day 2024
- 22 George Washington's Birthday
- 22 National Margarita Day
- 23 Battle of the Alamo
- 23 National Banana Bread Day
- 25 National Clam Chowder Day
- 26 National Pistachio Day
- 27 National Pokemon Day
- 27 World Spay Day
- 27 World Non-governmental Organization Day
- 28 Rare Disease Day
- 28 National Pancake Day 2024
- 29 Bachelor's Day

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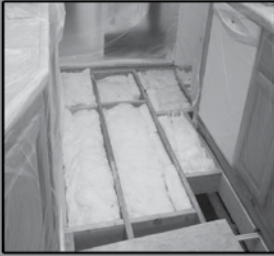
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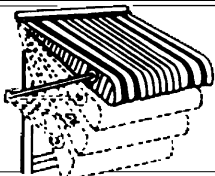
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Today's Inspiration

"17 INCHES" - Coach Scolinos

Twenty years ago, in Nashville, Tennessee, during the first week of January, 1996, more than 4,000 baseball coaches descended upon the Opryland Hotel for the 52nd annual ABCA's convention. While I waited in line to register with the hotel staff, I heard other more veteran coaches rumbling about the lineup of speakers scheduled to present during the weekend. One name kept resurfacing, always with the same sentiment — "John Scolinos is here? Oh, man, worth every penny of my airfare." Who is John Scolinos, I wondered. No matter: I was just happy to be there. In 1996, Coach Scolinos was 78 years old, and five years retired from a college coaching career that began in 1948. He shuffled to the stage to an impressive standing ovation, wearing dark polyester pants, a light blue shirt, and a string around his neck from which home plate hung — a full-sized, stark-white home plate. Seriously, I wondered, who is this guy? After speaking for twenty-five minutes, not once mentioning the prop hanging around his neck, Coach Scolinos appeared to notice the snickering among some of the coaches. Even those who knew Coach Scolinos had to wonder exactly where he was going with this, or if he had simply forgotten about home plate since he'd gotten on stage. Then, finally ... "You're probably all wondering why I'm wearing home plate around my neck," he said, his voice growing irascible. I laughed along with the others, acknowledging the possibility. "I may be old, but I'm not crazy. The reason I stand before you today is to share with you baseball people what I've learned in my life, what I've learned about home plate in my 78 years." Several hands went up when Scolinos asked how many Little League coaches were in the room. "Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?" After a pause, someone offered, "Seventeen inches?", more of a question than answer. "That's right," he said. "How about in Babe Ruth's day? Any Babe Ruth coaches in the house?" Another long pause. "Seventeen inches?" a guess from another reluctant coach. "That's right," said Scolinos. "Now, how many high school coaches do we have in the room?" Hundreds of hands shot up, as the pattern began to appear. "How wide is home plate in high school baseball?" "Seventeen inches," they said, sounding more confident. "You're right!" Scolinos barked. "And you college coaches, how wide is home plate in college?" "Seventeen inches!" we said, in unison. "Any Minor League coaches here? How wide is home plate in pro ball?" "Seventeen inches!" "RIGHT! And in the Major Leagues, how wide home plate is in the Major Leagues? "Seventeen inches!" "SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!" he confirmed, his voice bellowing off the walls. "And what do they do with a Big League pitcher who can't throw the ball over seventeen inches?" Pause. "They send him to Pocatello !" he hollered, drawing raucous laughter. "What they don't do is this: they don't say, 'Ah, that's okay, Jimmy. If you can't hit a seventeen-inch target? We'll make it eighteen inches or nineteen inches. We'll make it twenty inches, so you have a better chance of hitting it. If you can't hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.'" Pause. "Coaches... what do we do when your best player shows up late to practice? or when our team rules forbid facial hair and a guy shows up unshaven? What if he gets caught drinking? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him? Do we widen home plate? " The chuckles gradually faded as four thousand coaches grew quiet, the fog lifting as the old coach's message began to unfold. He turned the plate toward himself and, using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the

...continued on page 33

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John 3:16

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crowd, point up, a house was revealed, complete with a freshly drawn door and two windows. “This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don’t teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We just widen the plate!” Pause. Then, to the point at the top of the house he added a small American flag. “This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast and teachers have been stripped of the tools they need to be successful, and to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?” Silence. He replaced the flag with a Cross. “And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young children, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. Our church leaders are widening home plate for themselves! And we allow it.” “And the same is true with our government. Our so-called representatives make rules for us that don’t apply to themselves. They take bribes from lobbyists and foreign countries. They no longer serve us. And we allow them to widen home plate! We see our country falling into a dark abyss while we just watch.” I was amazed. At a baseball convention where I expected to learn something about curve balls and bunting and how to run better practices, I had learned something far more valuable. From an old man with home plate strung around his neck, I had learned something about life, about myself, about my own weaknesses and about my responsibilities as a leader. I had to hold myself and others accountable to that which I knew to be right, lest our families, our faith, and our society continue down an undesirable path. “If I am lucky,” Coach Scolinos concluded, “you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: “If we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standards, if we are unwilling or unable to provide a consequence when they do not meet the standard; and if our schools & churches & our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to ...” With that, he held home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside, “... We have dark days ahead!” Note: Coach Scolinos died in 2009 at the age of 91, but not before touching the lives of hundreds of players and coaches, including mine. Meeting him at my first ABCA convention kept me returning year after year, looking for similar wisdom and inspiration from other coaches. He is the best clinic speaker the ABCA has ever known because he was so much more than a baseball coach. His message was clear: “Coaches, keep your players—no matter how good they are—your own children, your churches, your government, and most of all, keep yourself at seventeen inches.” And this my friends is what our country has become and what is wrong with it today, and now go out there and fix it! “Don't widen the plate.”

Valentine's Day

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Neighbor Helping Neighbor

It has long been our dream to be able to help those in our community who are struggling health wise and or financially. People who need help with small things and sometimes larger things. There are so many small ways we can improve the quality of life for all of us here at Island In the Sun.

You can help us by letting us know who in our community are facing challenges:

- who may be shut in and would welcome a visitor,
- who might need help weeding because they can no longer bend over,
- who might need help walking their dog
- who might need help putting something together

You can help by letting us know if you are able to offer help for a neighbor in need and what kind of help.

Our goal is to have a list of people who can help and a list of those who need help so that we can assist them.

If you are willing to help coordinate this once we have it underway please let us know. Your HOA cannot do it alone. We need your help to make this community an even more loving, caring place to live.

Please message either Rusty at 865.232.9072 or Jill at 727-245-4592 if you wish to be part of neighbor helping neighbor.

February Fun Facts



The Month of February

February comes from the Latin word februa, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year. See all the month names.

Did you know:

February is the only month to have a length of fewer than 30 days! Though it’s usually 28 days, February is 29 days long in leap years such as 2020 and 2024.

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC); originally, winter was considered a month-less period.

Originally, February was made the last month of the calendar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.

February Calendar

February 2 is Groundhog Day—the day we find out whether winter will last six more weeks or call it quits early.

February 10 is the Lunar New Year. Celebrated widely throughout East Asia, this holiday begins with the first new Moon after the Winter Solstice and is associated with the Chinese Zodiac.

February 12 is Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday. The 16th president of the United States was born in a one-room, 16x18-foot log cabin with a dirt floor.

...continued on page 37

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February 13 is Mardi Gras (aka “Fat Tuesday” or Shrove Tuesday), which is the final feasting day before the Christian tradition of Lent begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday.

February 14 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent.

February 14 is always Valentine’s Day. Heads up, lovebirds! Today, the holiday is celebrated with love, flowers, and chocolate.

February 15 is Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday and also National Flag of Canada Day!

February 19 brings Presidents’ Day, a federal holiday also known as Washington’s Birthday that is celebrated on the third Monday in February. (George Washington’s actual birthday is February 22!)

February 29 is Leap Day! Happening once every four years, we are given an extra day in February. Some think this day brings good luck. Learn more about leap years.

February is **African-American History Month**. The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American

February Weather

On average, February is the United States’ snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service.

The Full Snow Moon

February’s full Moon reaches peak illumination at Saturday, February 24, 2024. Look skyward on that night to catch the best view of this full Moon!

It’s known as the Snow Moon due to the typically heavy snowfall that occurs in February. Other traditional Native American names for this Moon include the Eagle Moon (Cree), Raccoon Moon (Dakota), and Hungry Moon (Cherokee). Read more about the February Snow Moon here!

Astrology

Zodiac Signs for February: Aquarius (January 20–February 19) and Pisces (February 20–March 20)

February’s Birth Flower

Even though so many roses are sold during February due to Valentine’s Day, the Violet and the Primrose are the symbolic flowers.

The violet signifies watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness. Give a violet to someone to let them know that you’ll always be there for them.

The primrose lets someone know that you can’t live without them.

February’s Birthstone

Like the violet, February’s birthstone is a purple color. It’s the beautiful amethyst.

This gem is a form of quartz; it can range from a pale lilac color to a deep, rich purple.

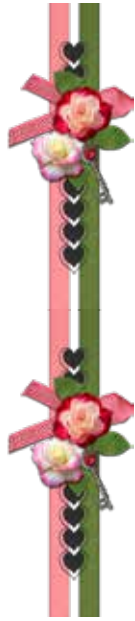
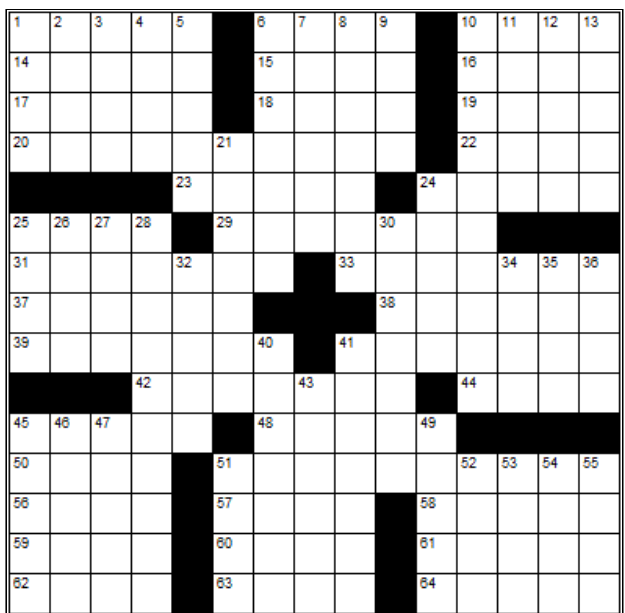
The name is based on a Greek myth that speaks of a nymph named Amethyst who was inadvertently turned into white stone; in remorse, the Greek god Bacchus poured wine over her to turn her a beautiful purple.

The amethyst was thought to prevent intoxication and keep its wearer thinking sharply. It was worn by English royalty in the Middle Ages.



ACROSS

- 1. Reliance
- 6. Taxis
- 10. Raindrop sound
- 14. Eagle's home
- 15. Affirm
- 16. Wealthy
- 17. Sail supports
- 18. Hindu princess
- 19. Aware of
- 20. Poulting
- 22. Average
- 23. Grin
- 24. Pal
- 25. Stops
- 29. "Hush!"
- 31. Spotted feline
- 33. Cuddle
- 37. Ravel classic
- 38. Trader
- 39. Intestinal
- 41. Type of pony
- 42. Heat-related
- 44. Poi source
- 45. Thick-growing
- 48. They connect points
- 50. Nitpicky to a fault
- 51. In a slow, laborious manner
- 56. 5280 feet
- 57. Rodents
- 58. Red Sea peninsula
- 59. Sounds of disapproval
- 60. Curved molding
- 61. Economic down time
- 62. Hotels
- 63. Flippant
- 64. Affirmatives

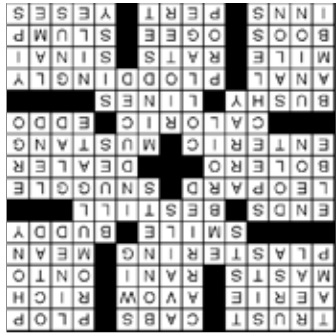


Down

- 1. Pack down
- 2. Genuine
- 3. Celestial bear
- 4. Seats oneself
- 5. Quizzes
- 6. Toted
- 7. Services
- 8. Types of hat
- 9. Large and hurried swallow
- 10. Proclaim
- 11. Delineated
- 12. Group of eight
- 13. Fake
- 21. Involve deeply
- 24. Music genre
- 25. River to the North Sea
- 26. Used in advertising signs
- 27. Buffoon
- 28. Too shocked for words
- 30. Brought on
- 32. Impressive display
- 34. Pleased
- 35. Extend credit
- 36. Therefore
- 40. Montage
- 41. Way of thinking
- 43. Violent troublemaker
- 45. Famous baby deer
- 46. Labor organization
- 47. Beauty parlor
- 49. Pantywaist
- 51. Brace
- 52. Egyptian river
- 53. Wildebeests
- 54. Hardly believable
- 55. Puppy sounds



February
Crossword



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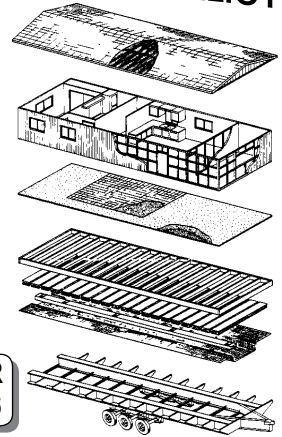
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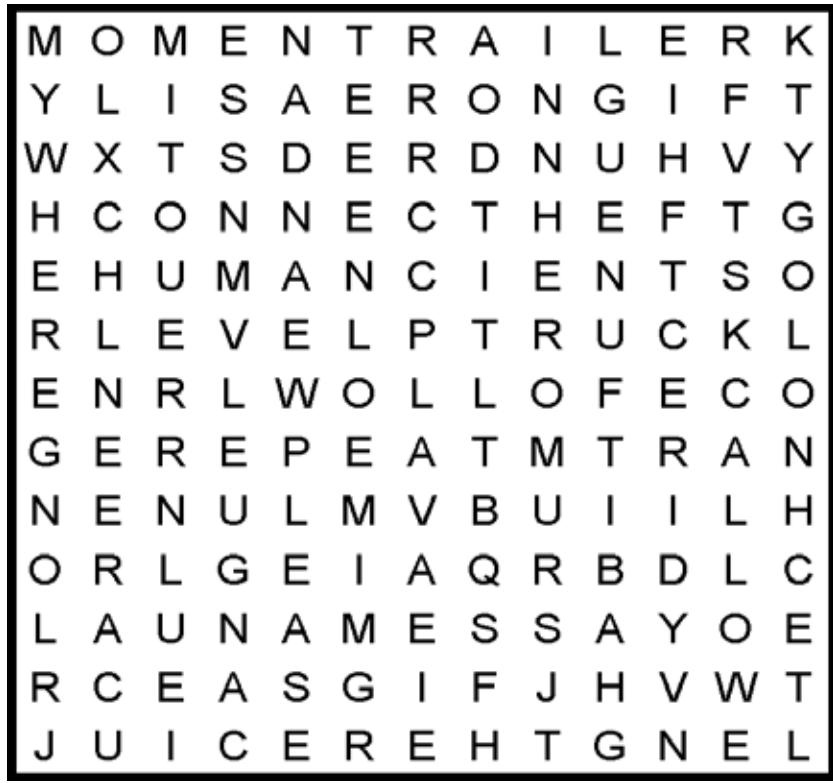
WANTED TO BUY	EVENTS & PROGRAMS	EVENTS & PROGRAMS
<p>FURNITURE, good clean, pre-owned. Top dollar paid. Charles, 727-657-7021</p>	<p>CARPOT SALE- RANCHERO VILLAGE, 7100 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 8 am to 3 pm</p>	<p>Palm Hill Country Club Annual Bazaar. Saturday, March 2nd, 8am- 1pm. 1800 Seminole Blvd, Largo.</p>
<p>OTHER</p>	<p>HUGE carport sale inside and outside the clubhouse. Browse in comfort. Clearwater Cascades, 9790 66th St. North, Pinellas Park. February 17th, 8-2pm. Furniture, décor, housewares, tools. Refreshments available.</p>	<p>Lake Seminole Resort Spring Flea Market, Bake Sale and Lunch on Saturday, March 2nd, 9:00am -1:00pm. Located at 10245 110th Ave. N., Largo Florida</p>
<p>ARTICLES FOR SALE</p>	<p>BriarCreek Community Annual Bazaar. 2/23 5-7pm. 2/24 8am-1pm. 3175 McMullen Booth Road. South of Mease Hospital.</p>	<p>Blue Jay Estates-Annual Community Rummage Sale. Friday, 3/8 and Saturday, 3/9. 8am-1pm. Bake Sale and Lunch available Saturday only. Clubhouse and deck. 2755 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor, 34684</p>
<p>EVENTS & PROGRAMS</p>	<p>Flea Market Sat. Feb. 24th, 8-12 pm. Colonial Village, 2000 East Bay Drive, Largo. Furniture, Kitchen appliances, housewares, bicycles, clothing, home-baking.</p>	<p>Craft Fair, 3-16-24. 8-1pm. Palm Hill Country Club, 8th Ave Clubhouse. Crafts, food, & Baked Goods</p>
<p>HELLO CANADIANS! Canadian Club Canadien Gulf Coast Florida, having survived COVID, is now regrowing to promote fellowship among Canadians in Pinellas County, and foster goodwill with American people. Join us; for our monthly lunch with informative speakers, weekly golf, MLB game, dinner/theater, museums, deep sea fishing. Your first lunch is FREE! For information, email: cccgcf@galt.biz.</p>	<p>Westwind Mobile Home Park 1 and 2 Annual Windfall Tag Sale. Saturday February 24th, 8-1 at 3301 ALT. 19, Dunedin</p>	<p>The Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County, having survived COVID, is regrowing to continue supporting local Veterans, and providing social activities for new and existing Canadian Legion Members. Join us for our monthly Membership Meetings, Remembrance Ceremonies, VSO visits, raids, invasions, MLB game, dinner/theater, museums, etc. For information, email: info@relpost144.org.</p>
<p>Gateway MHP Community Sale, Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 8am-2pm. 10100 Gandy Blvd. St. Petersburg</p>	<p>Doral Village Yard Sale Bazaar, Saturday, February 24th, 8am-1pm. 29250 US Hwy 19N, Clearwater. Furniture, clothing, linens, books, electronics, glassware, jewelry, kitchen items, baked goods, lunch and great raffles and prizes!</p>	<p>WANTED TO BUY</p>
<p>Carpot Sale, Feb. 3, 2024. East Bay Oaks and Eldorado Village. 601 Starkey Rd. 8am-2pm. NO EARLY BIRDS</p>	<p>2 Day Yard Sale Friday and Saturday March 1st and 2nd. Outdoors and in clubhouse. 8am-3pm. Bake Sale in Clubhouse and Refreshments available. LaPlaza MHP 6700 150th Ave N. Clearwater</p>	<p>Wanted to buy stamp collections. High prices for good quality. 709-682-9499</p>
<p>SUGAR CREEK CARPOT SALE. SATURDAY, FEB. 3RD - 8AM-1PM. 10265 ULMERTON RD, LARGO</p>	<p>White Elephant & Bake Sale: Saturday March 2, 2024, 8am-1pm. Small appliances, furniture, lamps, dishes, linens, jewelry, baked goods, lunch. Lake Highlander Park, 1500 Country Road 1, Dunedin</p>	
<p>Carpot Sale: February 3rd, 8am-noon. Golden Acres RO Park. 1040 Main St., Dunedin FL</p>		
<p>Community Yard Sale: Holiday Shores Park, Feb 9th and 10th. Entrances on 104th Avenue North and 106th Avenue North, Largo. 8AM to 2PM</p>		

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connect

direct

easily
engage
essay

follow

gift

habit
human
hundreds

ignore

juice

lame
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level
longer

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moment

names

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popular

relief
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rumor

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technology
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trailer
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February



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



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