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SIAND NELSUN

February 2025 C Issue 12

VALENTINE'S

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Island in the Sun Community Newsletter

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 Linda Olone at 727-214-7334, email linda.olone@gmail.com, or Lot 73

Manager Editor: Linda Olone

Media Delivery Team: Nancy Bilcheck, Ernie Grow, Roy and Jan Wisdom, Sudie Borders, Cheryl D'Andrea; Sue Morley; Steve Marshall, Mike &

Proofreader: Rusty Leslie

Cynthia Sadusky, Phil Tursi, Sonny Dumlao and Cecile Morock

March 2025 Media Deadline February 4, 2025

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

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

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

Need Volunteer

Please submit corrections to <u>linda.olone@gmail.com</u> or report to an HOA Board member.

Island in the Sun HOA Board

President	Tammy Blaisse	Lot 297	580-301-4828	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Rusty Leslie	Lot 310	865-232-9072	kohanadancer@gmail.com
Treasurer	Cathy Ralston	Lot 184	203-257-3376	iitshoatreasurer@yahoo.com
	Ken Gonska			
1 yr	Steve Malara	Lot 202	732-977-4867	smbombers@aol.com
				mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com
3 yr	Trish Kurinsky	Lot 251	609-339-0346	

Non-Board Positions

Robo Call Chrissie Riley	Lot 290	404-353-1801	chrissiegriley@gmail.com
Neighbor Helping Neighbor	OPEN		- ,

2025 Committees

. Name/Chair	#	.Phone#.	•••••	Email
Pattie McDonough	. 266	.727-475	-0360	
. Chrissie Riley	.290	.404-353	-1801	
. Linda Olone	. 73	.727-214	-7334	
. Linda Olone	.73	.727-214	-7334	
. Teresa Amato				
. Cindy Sadusky	. 14	.717-587	-2498	
. Cindy Sadusky	. 14	.717-587	-2498	
Nancy Bilcheck	. 184	.203-913	-9450	
. Tammy Blaisse	.297	.580-301-	-4828	tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com
. Rusty Leslie	310	.865-232-	-9072	kohanadancer@gmail.com
				00
. Paul Ranck	.134			
. Ciel Gordon	. 182	.952-486	-1507	
OPEN				
. Elaine Ranck	134			
Rose Leduc	160	.727-797	-8026	
. OPEN				
. Rick Morabito	. 174	.303-704	-9772	
. Rose Leduc	. 160	.727-797	-8026	
	.310	.865-232	-9072	kohanadancer@gmail.com
. Kathy Bowen				
	Pattie McDonough Chrissie Riley Linda Olone Linda Olone Teresa Amato Cindy Sadusky Nancy Bilcheck Nancy Bilcheck Tammy Blaisse Rusty Leslie Tammy Blaisse Paul Ranck Ciel Gordon OPEN Elaine Ranck Rose Leduc OPEN Rick Morabito Rose Leduc	Pattie McDonough 266 Chrissie Riley 290 Linda Olone 73 Linda Olone 73 Teresa Amato 14 Cindy Sadusky 14 Nancy Bilcheck 184 Nancy Bilcheck 184 Tammy Blaisse 297 Rusty Leslie 310 Tammy Blaisse 297 Paul Ranck 134 Ciel Gordon 182 OPEN Elaine Ranck 134 Rose Leduc 160 Rose Leduc 160 Rusty Leslie 310	Pattie McDonough 266 727-475 Chrissie Riley 290 404-353 Linda Olone 73 727-214 Linda Olone 73 727-214 Teresa Amato Cindy Sadusky 14 717-587 Cindy Sadusky 14 717-587 Nancy Bilcheck 184 203-913 Nancy Bilcheck 184 203-913 Tammy Blaisse 297 580-301 Rusty Leslie 310 865-232 Tammy Blaisse 297 580-301 Paul Ranck 134 Ciel Gordon 182 952-486 OPEN Blaine Ranck 134 Rose Leduc 160 727-797 OPEN Rick Morabito 174 303-704 Rose Leduc 160 727-797 Rusty Leslie 310 865-232	Cindy Sadusky 14 717-587-2498 Cindy Sadusky 14 717-587-2498 Nancy Bilcheck 184 203-913-9450 Nancy Bilcheck 184 203-913-9450 Tammy Blaisse 297 580-301-4828 Rusty Leslie 310 865-232-9072 Tammy Blaisse 297 580-301-4828 Paul Ranck 134 Ciel Gordon 182 952-486-1507 OPEN Elaine Ranck 134 Rose Leduc 160 727-797-8026 OPEN Rick Morabito 174 303-704-9772 Rose Leduc 160 727-797-8026 Rusty Leslie 310 865-232-9072

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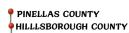
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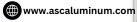


Other services:

- Patio covers
 - Awnings
- Windows
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FROM THE EDITOR

Linda Olone

Hello IITS!!
It's the month of love! Wouldn't it be nice if everyone did something nice for one of your neighbors this month? There are so many going

through so much. Please show some love to your neighbors! After all, they put up with you all year! Love to all!

Please send any articles, suggestions, or photos to me at linda.olone@gmail.com or stop by Lot 73. 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.

Thank you - Linda Olone – linda.olone@gmail.com – 727-214-7334.

From the HOA president:

Presidents Message

FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTE:

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 Chrissie Riley at chrissiegriley@gmail.com or Tammy Blaisse at tammy.blaisse@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 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 (HOA Members only) This page is only for HOA business.

Please contact the activities committee for activities you would like to start at mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com, chrissiegriley@gmail.com We will provide you with help to get started.



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OPEN POSITIONS:

Te have a few open positions if you are interested in volunteering for anything.

VOLUNTEER

NON-Board Positions

- 1. We need volunteers for Bingo. 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 Volunteers.
- 4. Sign Board OPEN need someone to update the sign board as needed.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE HOA EVENTS

The Activities committee has the following activities planned for each month this upcoming year.

Volunteers are always needed to host, set up and tidy up – please let Pattie, Chrissy or Rusty know if you would like to help out at any of these events.

Thank you to all those who volunteer their time to make these events great for our community.

February 15th 7pm Can-Am Appreciation - More to come.

March - Community Yard Sale Date will be provided once approved by Cal-Am

March – March Madness Game Day, Date TBD There will be numerous fun and different games to play with prizes. Popcorn/Snow Cones and chips to be provided.

April – Community Scavenger Hunt Items will be hidden around the community - More to come. **April 5th – Community Craft Show** – Residents can purchase a table for \$10.00. Our last craft show was a great success! Come join the fun!

May –Kentucky Derby Party and Memorial Day picnic If we can get a host for the Memorial Day picnic!

June – Pool party with Games - More to come.

July - Back to School Pizza Party - More to come.

August - Breakfast at the Clubhouse - More to come.

September 1st, 11 am Labor Day Cookout - More to come.

October 31st 6:30 PM Halloween Golf Cart parade and Party immediately afterwards

November – Arts & Craft Fair with lunch for sale

November – Collecting items for our Veterans, will be taken to the Veterans before Thanksgiving December 31st New Years Eve Party - More to come.

We need hosts for many of these events or they cannot happen as planned. The HOA cannot afford to continue to support events without hosts and participation. I know many people are unable to host, but we have a lot of able-bodied people who can host or co-host. Once you try it, you'll find it is not as tough as you would imagine, the activities committee will always be there to help and guide you through the process.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

hese activities are not HOA or Cal-Am sponsored activities. They are resident led.

The Boys who Brunch - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse.

• The Ladies who Lunch - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse.

• Like to shoot pool? Every Saturday at 10 am there is a group who play 8 or 9 ball at the clubhouse. They are always looking for new players.

• Texas hold 'em Poker is played in the clubhouse on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:30 pm. Come prepared to have fun.

• Bingo – NEW DATES PENDING in the clubhouse.

• LRC – 3rd Tuesday of every month – bring your dollars!

• Anyone wanting a resident activity to be spotlighted in the Media Guide please contact Linda Olone.

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

Please note: the 2 calendars don't always sync up, so if in doubt, please call Rusty Leslie for HOA activities, and the Cal-Am front office for Cal-Am activities.

WELCOME WAGON CORNER

by Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie

Telcome to my little corner of the world and to a cold February. Stay warm out there. If you are new to our community and manufactured home living, I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Our activities are listed in the center of this media guide.

I hope you take advantage of all the activities we offer and that you love living here as much as I do.

Have a wonderful February! Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie

I am in Lot 310 - corner of Nassau and Windward. Just come to my screened porch and ring the bell. Call or text me at 865.232.9072

Email me at kohanadancer@gmail.com



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Bingo!! Bingo!! Bingo!!

ingo is scheduled for every other Monday. See you all soon! Thank you ~ Linda Olone



Local Business Recommendation

What services do you offer to our residents? Are you a handyman, a painter, electrician, house cleaner? Let us know!!

We once had a list of those in the community who offer services to others.

Let's do this again!!

Send me your info – contact info below.

Please help get these lists going!!!

Send any information to Rusty - 865.232.9072

email kohanadancer@gmail.com

stop by 310 - message me on messenger - Let's help each other.

Thank you.

Rusty

Ride Share

ave an appointment at the following places and need a ride:
Mease Countryside Hospital
Mease Dunedin Hospital Campus



Morton Plant Hospital Campus

You can call CareLift for free transportation by Morton Plant Mease volunteers. You must be able to get in and out of the van without assistance, adhere to all safety protocols. The hours are Monday thru Friday 8am to 3:30 pm. Call 727-734-6107 to make your reservations.

If you would like to volunteer to drive the van, they are always looking for people.



Communications

otice: Cal-Am will be communicating information to the residents via texts. Would you like to receive text messages? Just go into Rent Café and edit your profile and select text messaging. (no texting and driving please). If you need help setting this up please contact Katy at the office or Tammy Blaisse, we will be happy to help you.

HOA will continue to use Robo call.

SIGN UP FOR IITS ROBOCALL TO STAY INFORMED

al-Am has a new way of communicating information to the residents. Would you like to receive text messages? Just go into Rent Café and edit your profile and select text messaging. (no texting and driving please)

HOA will continue to use Robo call.

The phone messaging service is used to:

- Remind residents of HOA meetings
- Announce/Remind/Poll activities and events
- Communicate information to specific groups (Bocce, Shuffleboard, etc.)
- Announce safety concerns in the community and surrounding area
- Other uses approved by the IITS HOA Board of Directors.

Please provide your information to Tammy Blaisse at 580-301-4828 or at tammy. I blaisse@yahoo.com. Your information will be used strictly for this messaging service I and will not be shared with anyone else.

Lot #	Telephone Number	
Name(s)		





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Recipe Row

his is an easy cake that's perfect for Valentine's Day. The recipe also includes directions for a great icing recipe. My family makes this every Valentine's Day, and it's a favorite!

Easy Valentine's Day Cake

Ingredients

Cake:

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract (Optional)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk

Icing:

- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract



Directions

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease an 8-inch square pan and an 8-inch round pan.
- 2. Make the cake: Beat sugar and butter in a bowl with an electric mixer until creamy and smooth. Mix in eggs, vanilla, and almond extract. Stir in baking powder and baking soda until just combined.
- 3. Stir in 1 cup flour until just combined, then mix in 2/3 cup milk until well combined. Continue adding 1 cup flour and 2/3 cup milk, alternating until all flour and milk are used and batter is smooth. Pour batter into the prepared pans.
- 4. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of each cake comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes. Cool cakes completely before removing from pans, at least 2 hours.
- 5. Make the icing: Beat confectioners' sugar, butter, and vanilla in a bowl with an electric mixer until fluffy and smooth.
- 6. Remove cakes from the pans. Place the square cake onto a work surface so it resembles a diamond. Cut the round cake in half; place one half adjacent to the top left side of the diamond and the other half adjacent to the top right side, creating a heart-shaped cake. Spread icing over the assembled cake.



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Romance Scams

Romance scams occur when a criminal adopts a fake online identity to gain a victim's affection and trust. The scammer then uses the illusion of a romantic or close relationship to manipulate and/or steal from the victim.

The scammer's intention is to establish a relationship as quickly as possible, endear himself to the victim, and gain trust. Scammers may propose marriage and make plans to meet in person, but that will never happen. Eventually, they will ask for money.

If someone you meet online needs your bank account information to deposit money, they are most likely using your account to carry out other theft and fraud schemes.

Tips for Avoiding Romance Scams:

- Be careful what you post and make public online. Scammers can use details shared on social media and dating sites to better understand and target you.
- · Research the person's photo and profile using online searches to see if the image, name, or details have been used elsewhere.
- Go slowly and ask lots of questions.
- Beware if the individual seems too perfect or quickly asks you to leave a dating service or social media site to communicate directly.
- · Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.
- Beware if the individual promises to meet in person but then always comes up with an excuse why he or she can't. If you haven't met the person after a few months, for whatever reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.
- · Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone. ReportFraud.ftc.gov

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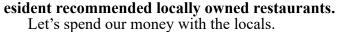
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Senior Discounts You Probably Don't Know About, But Should Retail Discounts!! New ones are bolded below.

heck local stores to be sure they participate.

- 1. Amazon Prime Amazon offers up to 50% off a monthly Prime membership for seniors who receive government assistance, including Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
 - 2. Kohl's 15% every Wednesday. Senior Day
 - 3. Bealls 10% Tuesdays. Senior Day.
 - 4. TJMaxx 10% Mondays Senior Day
 - 5. Ross 10% Tuesday Senior Day
 - 6. Walgreens The first Tuesday of every month is Senior Day at Walgreens. Customers 55 and up who are enrolled in the MyWalgreens rewards program can get up to 20% off their purchase, which includes everything from toiletries to snacks. The discount is also available for online shoppers, and it usually lasts for the first week of every month.
 - 7. Joann Fabrics 20% one day per month. Call the local store 727-787-2088.
 - 8. JC Penney Join the rewards program! get a 30% off JCPenney coupon for your first order, plus you earn rewards for great deals on every purchase.
 - 9. Michaels Get your craft on at Michaels, where anyone over 55 can receive 10% off their purchase every day. Bonus: The discount includes sale items. Make sure to register to get your discount, which can be used in store and online.
 - 10. Pep Boys Car trouble can be a huge pain. Luckily, AARP reported that Pep Boys customers 55 and older can get 10% off their in-store purchase, which can help alleviate the cost of getting your vehicle in tip-top shape.
 - 11. Sam's Club wants to give back to seniors, 50 years or older by offering seniors a special membership offer. Qualified seniors who join Sam's Club online as a new member will receive a 60% discount on a Club membership or \$50 off a Sam's Club Plus membership. Join as a Plus member and get free Curbside Pickup, free Delivery from Club on eligible orders of \$50 or more, free shipping on eligible orders of \$50 or more and early shopping at select locations.

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Did You Know?

Groundhog Day is actually based on a German superstition? Instead of a groundhog, Germany uses a badger.

Americans spend over 18 billion dollars every year on Valentine's Day!

February is the most commonly mispelled word in the English language.



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FEBRUARY 2025

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Island in the Sun

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Rummikub	10 am Yoga		1 pm Shuffleboard	
m Pickleball	6:30 pm Poker		5 pm Chit Chat	
HOA Mtg			6:30 pm Poker	
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Rummikub	10 am Yoga		1 pm Shuffleboard	HOA Event
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			6:30 pm Poker	
	Lincoln's Birthday		Valentine's Day	
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Rummikub	10 am Yoga		1 pm Shuffleboard	
m Pickleball	6:30 pm Poker		5 pm Chit Chat	
			6:30 pm Poker	



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Living in an alternate universe

Rusty Leslie

am currently living at a friend's house here in Knoxville and expect to be here for a few more weeks. It is so strange being back in the city I used to live in and in mid-winter. What was I thinking? I am truly living in an alternate universe right now.

I originally planned to fly up for a family Christmas but that changed when I realized that my grandsons needed help at the store they opened recently. So I packed up the car instead and headed North.

I now find myself with a part time job, interesting after all these years in retirement with my time my own to do with as I please. I work Monday through Wednesdays from 12 to 6pm and enjoy it other than the drive home in the dark on these twisty turny roads. Fortunately most of my drive is via interstate so not as bad as it could be.

I lived here for 16 years, and it is somewhat confusing as half of me is still in Florida and the rest of me is here in Knoxville. I keep wanting to go to Sprouts but that does not exist here. I am living out in the country, five miles from the nearest stores except for the gas station only 3 miles down the road. That is not unusual here in Knoxville as the city was built on an east west corridor along I40. When you head north or south from there you are out in the country in five minutes. The countryside is full of small two-lane roads with big ditches and lots of twists and turns and ups and downs sometimes very steep hills.

I hate the steep hills as I have a high profile SUV and when I get to the top, I cannot see the other side and have to trust that the road continues straight in the direction I am going. I always breathe a sigh of relief when it is there, and I am still on the road and not in a ditch. I love my SUV and love driving it except here on these tiny narrow roads where my vehicle is suddenly 10 feet wide and the road only 8 ft. lol

I am enjoying meeting old friends for lunch. A lovely way to spend a few hours and rekindling our friendships in person but I do miss the sunshine and my village back home. I have bought extra sweaters here and am contemplating a warmer coat with these frigid temperatures. Boots are out of the question as it is so hard to find boots that I can actually get my foot into with my extremely high arch. I forgot to bring the boots I finally found when I used to live here which were the only pair that worked after going to every possible shoe store in the mall. I did not think this out too well.

I am hoping to go dancing at some of our old haunts before I come home. We used to go dancing a lot here. I want to go to the Old Mill in Gatlinburg for lunch one day, a favorite place with a wonderful atmosphere, stairs worn down by a thousand feet and the best corn chowder I have ever had. The Smoky Mountains are also on my agenda if the weather will cooperate at some point. I am loving visiting my favorite thrift stores here and favorite restaurants too.

It is fun being back here as long as I know I can come home. I am relearning the road and interstates and where all my favorite things are. It is a blessing being close to family and spending time together. A fun adventure in this alternate universe. Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Hugs and waves from the freezing north.

Ocean and Iron

We are full of ocean and iron,
From pre-Cambrian seas.
I navigate your meridians,
The currents of your heart,
By the stars in your eyes.
Your precious shores
And archipelagos
Are my ports of call,
Exotic as moons.
Restless, content, yet never alone,
Your private Magellan
I am forever.
Kenn Brody



February Fun Facts



ebruary fluctuates between 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years.

The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flowers are violets and primroses.

The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius which is until February 19th, and Pisces, which is until February 20th.

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile, in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.

The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum," which means purification.

February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.

In Welsh, February is sometimes known as "y mis bach," which means "little month." February and January were the last months added to the Roman numeral calendar.

The Saxons called February "Sol-monath" which means "cake month," because they would offer cakes to the gods during February.

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. Even the White House has misprinted the word "February" before in a press release!

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon

February has been Black History Month for over 40 years.

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The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling."

Unless it's a leap year, February, March, and November start on the same day of the week as each other.

It was in February 1964 when The Beatles made their first American television appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show." Over 73 million Americans watched!

There are many U.S. states that entered the Union during the month of February. These include Massachusetts, Oregon, Arizona, and Mississippi, which were readmitted.

Sadly, on February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle "Columbia" broke apart in flight, which killed all seven crew members. The accident was believed to be a result of damage that occurred during lift-off. The tragedy occurred only 16 minutes before the shuttle was scheduled to land.

On February 2, 1848, U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended their war. The U.S. paid Mexico \$15 million in exchange for California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

So now you know, February isn't all about Valentine's Day.

This month is also about purification. It's a month to prepare for spring: bringing the promise of longer days in the Northern hemisphere.

It's also the only month that can go without having a full moon.

The Healing Power of Gratitude

source AARP

ratitude is perhaps the most important key to finding success and happiness in the modern day. Knowing what we appreciate in life means knowing who we are, what matters to us and what makes each day worthwhile.



Paying attention to what we feel grateful for puts us in a positive frame of mind. It connects us to the world around us and to ourselves. Research demonstrates that focusing on what we are grateful for is a universally rewarding way to feel happier and more fulfilled.

As an important mental health principle, the benefits of gratitude extend far beyond what we may imagine. Scientific studies have found that gratitude is associated with:

- Greater happiness
- More optimism and positive emotions
- New and lasting relationships
- Better health
- More progress toward personal goals
- Fewer aches and pains
- More alertness and determination
- · Increased generosity and empathy
- Better sleep
- Improved self-esteem



TIME TO SAVE MONEY

By Kenn Brody, 2024

orothea O'Connor worked as a cashier for a big box store in Greater Boston. She got paid \$20.25 per hour, which would not have been enough to make ends meet even if her manager did not twiddle her hours to make sure she never got a full work week. Closing time, she spread out her coins for a final count, but she was really looking for old coins, those minted before 1921. She pocketed those and replaced them with her own money. She never stole. Her register is always balanced.

She finished in time to catch the Forest Hills train to Jamaica Plain, where her grandparents had built a gabled home with a large porch that wrapped around three sides. She frowned at the weeds, at last year's leaf piles. But it was hers, having passed through three generations. Lights shone through the glass paneled front door. She threw her coat on the hall hook and her bag of coins on the coffee table in the living room. Her oldest, Marcy, 14, was studying and/or watching TV. Little Evan, age 4, was driving his Tonka truck along the wooden floor bordering the old rug, making engine noises. That left the middle girl, Beth. Dorothea found her upstairs in her room, reading and listening to something through pink earphones. She petted her hair, kissed her on her forehead. So far, so good. No mayhem, no injuries, no screaming arguments. She sighed. Wished it was that way every day.

"Beth, time for supper. Wash up and come downstairs."

Down the stairs, she yelled, "Marcy, Evan, suppertime. In the kitchen."

The kids showed up at about the time the mac and cheese were ready. She doled the sticky stuff into three bowls, making sure that little Evan had his special kiddy spoon. None for herself. Food was expensive. She would eat whatever the kids left over. There was a pitcher of cold milk. Evan had a milk moustache. She wiped his face clean.

Dorothea put the dishes in the sink, opened the cabinets where she stored food, frowned. Opened the refrigerator and scowled. They were out of things the kids would eat. They were out of nearly everything. Food was just so expensive nowadays! There was no way she could make ends meet. In the mail was a real estate tax bill, which was higher every year.

Next day, on her break, she went to the computer sales department and did a few Google searches. Just how expensive was food today? The answers were fascinating. The Consumer Price index started in 1913. Flat at about 25 until 1940. It rose, like an impending flood over low ground, year by year. By 1970 it was steep. By Dorothea's time it was a vertical cliff at 350.

She sighed. She knew what she had to do, but it would have to wait until the kids were asleep. She washed dishes, swept the floors, gritting her teeth. This was something she swore she would never do. Her mother and her gramma warned her about it. She picked up the real estate tax bill and swallowed the lump in her throat. If she paid it they would not have food. Twice she went to the cellar door. Twice she stopped in her tracks, turned and walked away. The third time she turned the key and the knob. The door opened like any door. She pulled the chain on the ancient light fixture and was surprised to see the light come on. The stairs, of course, creaked. The cellar floor was concrete, the walls were plastered cement over bricks. Planks covered the old coal scuttle at the far end. She pried off the boards, one by one. The nails made a screeching sound as they pulled out of the dry wood. She flung them aside, working up a sweat.

...continued on page 35





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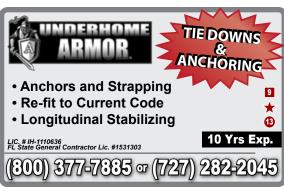
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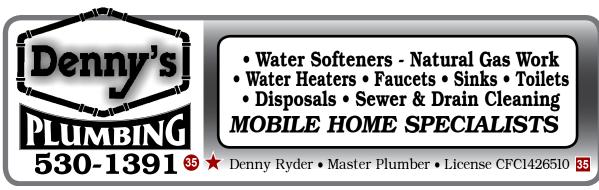
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Inside, like a hole into another place, was a swirl of daylight colors.

Good enough, she thought, it was still there. She went back upstairs and changed her dusty clothes into an old frock, something her gramma would wear. She hoped it was enough. She fetched a flashlight, shook it when it refused to come on, grabbed her bag of coins and two old cloth satchels.

In the light of the flashlight she read the marks Liam O'Connor had scratched into the beam of the coal shuttle, "I built this house for Maisie. October 1922. Liam O'Connor." Dorothea, three generations removed, smiled. How old Liam knew about this...thing...was something she was never told. He found it on land he owned and built the house around it.

She poked a finger into the portal. She felt nothing. "What the hell," she mouthed, shrugged her shoulders and lunged through. She emerged behind a large oak tree in a meadow.

It was a short walk along a path through the meadow. There were horses and cobblestone streets, automobiles and hand carts. Everyone wore a hat. Dorothea did not wear a hat. People stared.

The main market was in the middle of the next block. Goods were piled on tables with signs on wooden splints, pickles and fish were in barrels, milk was in glass jugs with paper disks for covers, bread was warm, the loaves heaped in pyramids.

Eggs were 35 cents a dozen. Butter 52 cents a pound. Bread, and it was good bread, 5 cents a loaf. Cuts of beef and pork were carved to order and wrapped in paper. Naked chickens hung from hooks.

Dorothea was in heaven. Why didn't she do this sooner? She filled both her satchels and spent most of her coins, less than \$6. She had food for a week! She was light as a feather. She passed a sign advertising a nice room for rent overlooking a pond, \$60 a month with references. Maybe she should move here with the kids? No, that wouldn't work. Modern medicine, education, science – and wages here would be low enough to match the prices. No, it only worked if she earned at modern rates and spent at 1921 rates.

The satchels were heavy, but she would endure that, gladly. When she got back she would write a check for the damned real estate tax.

Just a few more minutes of trudging. Her arms ached. Her arches were bruised through her thin shoes over the cobblestones. The portal was just behind that huge oak, the same one that shadowed her house.

Dorothea stumbled through the portal. It was still dark in her time. The kids were still asleep. She was exhausted. She would put the meat in the refrigerator and leave the satchels on the kitchen floor. She went upstairs, flopped into bed and slept the sleep of the untroubled.

Sunlight streamed through her windows, as it did every morning, but the air was not fresh. There was a ruckus downstairs, kids screaming. She pulled on a robe and slippers and hurried downstairs. There was a stench in the kitchen. Two moldy satchels were leaking nasty fluids. The refrigerator smelled like a charnel house.

Marcy was trying to clean up. She picked up one of the milk jugs, filled with clotted murk, said "Eeewe, why is this here? The label says its over one hundred years old."

February •••









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ACROSS

- 1. Radiolocation
- 6. Combines
- 10. Not yours
- 14. Lacquer ingredient
- 15. Highlands dagger
- 16. Computer symbol
- 17. Another time
- 18. African sheep
- 19. Fluff
- 20. Administration
- 22. Lascivious look
- 23. Kiss
- 24. Not clean
- 25. National symbol
- 29. Temporary
- 31. Beaming
- 33. Plane engine enclosure
- 37. Seek revenge
- 38. Keep in custody
- 39. Trigonometric function
- 41. Made broader
- 42. Intestinal
- 44. Overhaul
- 45. Ready for anything
- 48. Flower feature
- 50. Stinging insects
- 51. Highland native
- 56. Farm building
- 57. Border
- 58. Hesitate
- 59. Largest continent
- 60. Winglike
- 61. Expend
- 62. Exude
- 63. Colors
- 64. S S S



16 22 60 62 63 64

Down

- 1. Unit of paper
- 2. Seaweed
- 3. College bigwig
- 4. Dogfish
- 5. Finger jewelry
- 6. Unyielding
- 7. Frank
- 8. Intoxicated
- 9. Short theatrical episode
- 10. 10 to the centimeter
- 11. More aloof
- 12. 9 person musical group

13. Door

- 21. Distinguished
- 24. Cut into cubes
- 25. Social group
- 26. Molten rock
- 27. Gulf port
- 28. Spicy cookie
- 30. Extreme
- 32. Go-between
- 34. Alley
- 35. Told an untruth
- 36. Prefix meaning
- "Within"

- 40. In a lukewarm way
- 41. Shrivels
- 43. West Indies music
- style
- 45. Old Jewish scholars
- 46. Rent
- 47. Spooky
- 49. Oversight
- 51. Noggin
- 52. Short sleeps
- 53. Member's fee
- 54. Slave
- 55. Crimsons



Crossword









cash

depend depth devotion dire

env	ironment

exist

forge

great

highest

ignore

layers lowest

manuscript month

natural normal

other

point pressure production

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EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Lincolnshire Estates Annual Bazaar will be held Saturday Feb 1st, 8AM to 1PM- 1071 Donegan Rd, Largo. Furniture, tools, jewelry, housewares, bake sale, nick-nacks, linens. Appliances, silent auction, breakfast, and lunch for purchase.

Carport Sale Feb. 1, 2025. East Bay Oaks and Eldorado Village. 601 Starkey Rd and 2505 East Bay Dr. 8am-2pm. NO EARLY BIRDS

Embassy Mobile Park, Inc. Saturday, February 8th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Park-wide Yard Sale. Off of East Bay just west of Tri City Plaza, come in by Wendy's onto Pine Forest Dr. 16416 US Highway 19 N, Clearwater-Largo area.

CARPORT SALE - RANCHERO VILLAGE, 7100 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 8AM to 3 PM

Community Carport Sale Saturday February 8th. Hillcrest MHP from 8-1. Food available at the clubhouse. 2346 Druid Rd, Clearwater.

Carport Sale: Sugar Creek. 10265 Ulmerton, Largo. Saturday, February 8, 2025. 8am-1pm

Community Yard Sale: Holiday Shores Park, Feb 9th and 10th. Entrances on 104th Avenue North and 106th Avenue North, Largo. 8AM to 2PM

Huge carport sale outside and inside. Browse in comfort! Furniture, art, housewares. Saturday, February 15th 8am-NOON 9790 66th St. North, Pinellas Park. Refreshments available.

Carport Sale, Saturday February 22nd 8:00 am to Noon. Golden Acres Rd Park. 1040 Main St Dunedin, Florida

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Community Carport Sales. Oak Crest MHP, 9925 Ulmerton Road, Largo and Acorn MHP, 435 16th St. SE, Largo. Saturday, 2/22, 8-1. Rain date February 23. Lunch available at the Pavilion.

DORAL VILLAGE YARD SALE BIZAAR, Saturday, February 22nd, 8am -1pm, 29250 US Hwy 19N, Clearwater. Furniture, Clothing, Linens, Books, Electronics, Glassware, Jewelry, Kitchen Items, Baked Goods, Lunch, and Great Raffles and Prizes!

Blue Jay Estates Annual Community Rummage Sale. Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1, 2025. 8am to 1pm. Bake Sale and Lunch available both days. Clubhouse and deck. 2755 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34684

2 Day Park Wide Yard Sale Friday February 28 and Saturday March 1st. 8am-1pm. La Plaza MHP 6700 150th Ave N. Clearwater. Our Semiannual Bake Sale will be located at Lot 824 for both days

March Events

Palm Hill Country Club Annual Bazaar. Saturday, March 1st, 8am- 1pm. 1800 Seminole Blvd, Largo.

Sat. March 1st, 8-12noon. Flea Market, Colonial Village, 2000 East Bay Drive, Largo. Furniture, Kitchen appliances, housewares, bicycles, clothing, homebaking.

Lake Seminole Resort Spring Flea Market, Bake Sale and Lunch. Saturday, March 1st, 9:00am - 1:00pm. Located at 10245 110th Ave. N., Largo, Florida

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

White Elephant & Bake Sale, Lake Highlander Park, 1500 #1, Dunedin. Saturday 3/1/25, 8:00am-1:00pm. Small appliances, furniture, lamps, liners, jewelry, baked goods, household appliances, tools, outdoor furniture, miscellaneous. Snacks and drinks.

Regency Heights Carport Sale Friday and Saturday March 7-8. 8am-2pm. 2550 State Rd. 580 Clearwater

Palm Hill 2nd Annual Craft Fair. March 15, 8am-1pm. 28 Tables Inside. North Clubhouse- 8th Ave Entrance Largo

Annual Carport Sale. Saturday March 22, 2025 8am - 2pm. Park Royale Mobile Home Resort. 10611 66 St N Pinellas Park

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Dianne Davis	. \$10	Jones & Sons Plumbing
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Willian Pauser	. \$10	Air Masters of Pinellas
Lara Wolfe	. \$10	Jones & Sons Plumbing
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Mary Marks	\$10	Air Masters of Pinellas
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