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February • 2025

Issue 12
48th Year

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Philippians 4:13

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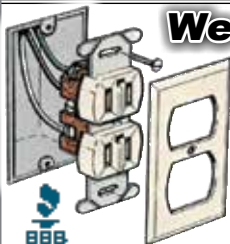


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February Major Holidays

Groundhog Day (February 2): Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow?
Valentine's Day (February 14): A day to celebrate love and affection.



Presidents' Day (February 19): Honoring all U.S. presidents, past and present.

Monthly Observances

Black History Month: Celebrating the contributions and history of African Americans.

American Heart Month: Raising awareness about heart health.

National Cancer Prevention Month: Promoting cancer prevention strategies.

Weekly Observances

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week (February 7-14)

Random Acts of Kindness Week (February 11-17)

National Eating Disorders Awareness Week (February 25-March 3)

Daily Observances

February 1: National Freedom Day, National Dark Chocolate Day

February 2: Groundhog Day, World Wetlands Day

February 3: National Carrot Cake Day, National Golden Retriever Day

February 4: National Homemade Soup Day, National Thank a Mail Carrier Day

February 5: World Nutella Day, National Weatherperson's Day

February 6: National Chopsticks Day, National Frozen Yogurt Day

February 7: National Ballet Day, National Send a Card to a Friend Day

Source:

<https://www.today.com/life/holidays/january-holidays-and-observances-rcna43156>

<https://parade.com/living/february-holidays-observances>

On timing

The right time comes when one is ready.

*At times it is folly to hasten; at other times to delay. The wise do every
—thing in its proper time.*

— Ovid

On strategy

What you can't get out of, get into wholeheartedly.

— Mignon McLaughlin

If you can't change your fate, change your attitude.

— Amy Tan



Learning to appreciate the ordinary



Author Mitch Albom says that for his book *For One More Day*, he became fascinated by how people answer this question: If they could spend one more day with a loved one already departed, how would they spend it? What would they do?

Albom says in a piece for *Parade*, that what he found time and again was that people wanted to spend an ordinary day doing ordinary things with the people they had loved. Almost everyone, he says wanted to tell the person that they loved him or her one more time. Some said they wanted to do the habitual things they always did with the person, such as head to the race-track, or eat in a favorite hamburger joint and talk about old times.

One son wished that he could share knowledge that would have relieved his father from guilt over an incident where the father threw a snowball and accidentally blinded another son. Later, after the father's death, the family learned that the son had a condition that had predisposed him to this happening. He wanted to give his father the gift of lifting his burden.

One man longed for a moment with his son who died in a car accident. He wanted to go for a walk with him in the woods that had been their getaway.

Albom says asking people about this scenario, helped him understand what we yearn for. Often, he says, it's not something exotic or faraway. It's about connection. And realizing that a normal day is some-thing we should all treasure, he says.

A lesson in being bold

Risks make most people uncomfortable. It seems that most humans want security, and when they attempt something out of their comfort zone they wish for something akin to a guarantee that what they are about to try will pay off.

Arthur Gordon, in the *Guideposts Pocket Book of Inspiration*, says that once, when he had to make a decision, he complained to a friend that he'd go ahead with the thing if he was "sure" he could do it.

His friend, being older and somewhat wiser than Gordon, took out a pen and began to write something down. Then he pushed the piece of paper over to the younger man. It read: Be bold—and mighty forces will come to your aid.

Gordon says it was the best advice he has ever got—ten. These words, he later found out, were from a book by Basil King called *The Conquest of Fear*, and they had a profound effect on him. He realized that failing was not a problem in his life, but that fear of failure was a big problem. It acted as a limiting factor on what he would even try.

He also recognized that whenever he had jumped in over his head, that he had in fact rose to the occasion and performed well. It didn't seem to matter whether the motivation came from courage or from circumstance.

Boldness then, Gordon surmised, was when you take on more you're sure you can handle. Then the powers that all of people possess are activated, such as increased energy, learning skills, exercising sound judgment, coming up with creative ideas and even enhanced strength and endurance.

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February



February is a fascinating month with a lot of unique characteristics! Here are some interesting facts about February:

Shortest Month: February is the only month with fewer than 30 days. It has 28 days in common years and 29 days in leap years.

Leap Year: Every four years, February has 29 days instead of 28. This extra day is called Leap Day, and it helps synchronize the calendar year with the solar year.

Named After Purification: The name February comes from the Latin word "februum," which means purification. The ancient Roman festival of purification, Februa, was held on February 15.

Birthstone and Flower: February's birthstone is the amethyst, symbolizing piety, humility, and sincerity. The birth flowers are the violet and the primrose.

Historical Events: Many significant historical events have occurred in February, such as the founding of the Boy Scouts of America (February 8, 1910) and the signing of the Treaty of Paris, ending the Spanish-American War (February 6, 1899).

Zodiac Signs: February is associated with two zodiac signs: Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) and Pisces (February 19 - March 20).

Black History Month: In the United States and Canada, February is celebrated as Black History Month, honoring the contributions and history of African Americans.

Groundhog Day: Celebrated on February 2, this quirky tradition involves a groundhog predicting the weather for the next six weeks based on whether it sees its shadow.

A few famous people born in February:

Michael Jordan (February 17, 1963): Legendary basketball player and six-time NBA champion.

Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809): The 16th President of the United States, known for leading the country during the Civil War and abolishing slavery.

Steve Jobs (February 24, 1955): Co-founder of Apple Inc. and a pioneer of the personal computer revolution.

Rihanna (February 20, 1988): International pop star and entrepreneur.

Charles Darwin (February 12, 1809): Naturalist and biologist known for his theory of evolution by natural selection.

*Source: <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/famous-people-born-in-february.php>
<https://www.famousbirthdays.com/feb.html>*



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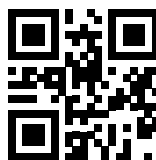
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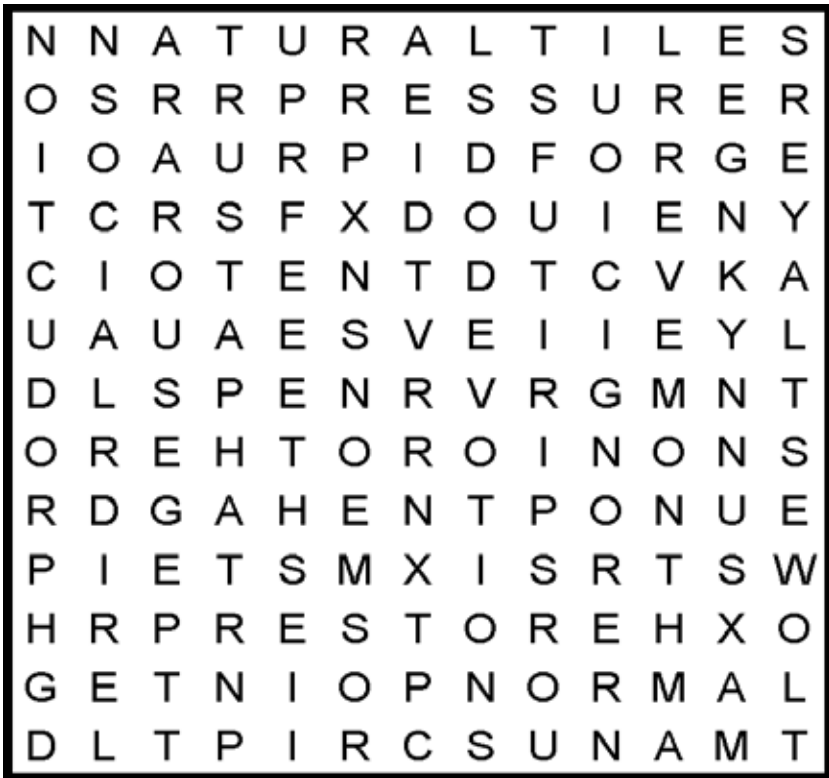
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February Word Search



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Romance Scams

www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes

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.**

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In about a week, the prisoner received another letter from his wife: "Dear Husband, You will not believe what has happened. Some men came with shovels to the house. They dug up the whole back garden."

The prisoner wrote another letter back: "Dear Wife, Now is the best time to plant the garden." —*As retold From Eric's Clean Jokes*

The trials of customer service

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CUSTOMER: What do I need to do that?

TECH: You just need the modem in your computer. That plugs into a phone jack. Sign up for an account, and sign up for online banking with your bank.

CUSTOMER: But where does the money come out?

TECH: I'm not sure I understand?

CUSTOMER: You know ... Does the money come out from that slot on the computer?

— *From the Basic Jokes Web site*



The kind of creativity you don't want in the workplace

A pharmacist comes back from his break and sees a man leaning against the wall, his face strained and nervous. He asks his assistant: "What's wrong with that man over there?"

"He came in looking for cough medicine," she replies. "I couldn't find any, so I gave him a whole bottle of laxatives."

"Oh great!" steamed the pharmacist. "He is going to sue us now. You don't give laxatives to a person with a cough!"

"Well," said the clerk defensively, "look at him. He's afraid to cough!"

— *From CleanJokes.com*



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 misspelled word in the English language.



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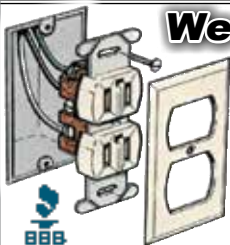
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
2	3	
Groundhog Day		
9	10	
16	17	
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23	24	

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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11	12	13	14	15
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18	19	20	21	22
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On love

Once you have loved someone, you'd do anything in the world for them ... except love them again.

— **Anonymous**

Love has the power of making you believe what you would normally treat with the deepest suspicion.

— **Mirabeau**

Three things can't be hidden: cough-ing, poverty and love.

— **Yiddish proverb**

To love is to suffer. To avoid suffer-ing one must not love. But then one suffers from not loving. Therefore to love is to suffer; not to love is to suf-fer. To suffer is to suffer. To be happy is to love. To be happy then is to suffer. But suffering makes one unhappy. Therefore, to be unhappy one must love, or love to suffer, or suffer from too much happiness. I hope you're getting this down.

— **Woody Allen**



On marriage

A lady of 47 who has been married 27 years and has six children knows what love really is and once described it for me like this: 'Love is what you've been through with somebody.'

— **James Thurber**

The people people have for friends Your common sense appall But the people people marry Are the queerest folk of all.

— **Charlotte Perkins Gilman**

On Valentine's Day

Sales Ad at a Store: 'You are my one and only' valentine cards, now on sale: 4 for \$5. I feel bad for people who die on Valentine's Day. How much would flowers cost then, ten grand?

— **Jay Leno**

On hesitation

He who hesitates is a damn fool.

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On time

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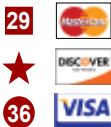
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Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a wonderful opportunity to show your loved ones how much you care. Here are some ideas to make the day special:

Romantic Ideas

1. Candlelit Dinner: Cook a special meal at home or make reservations at a favorite restaurant.
2. Weekend Getaway: Plan a short trip to a cozy cabin, beach, or a city you've both wanted to visit.
3. Love Letters: Write heartfelt letters expressing your feelings and memories together.



Fun Activities

1. Movie Marathon: Watch a series of romantic movies or your favorite films together.
2. Cooking Class: Take a cooking class together and learn to make a new dish.
3. Outdoor Adventure: Go for a hike, bike ride, or a walk in a beautiful park.

Thoughtful Gestures

1. Personalized Gifts: Create a custom photo book, a piece of jewelry, or a handmade craft.
2. Spa Day: Treat your partner to a relaxing day at a spa or set up a spa experience at home.
3. Memory Jar: Fill a jar with notes of your favorite memories and reasons why you love them.



For Long-Distance Relationships

1. Virtual Date: Plan a video call date where you can cook the same meal, watch a movie, or play games together.
2. Care Package: Send a package filled with their favorite snacks, a handwritten letter, and small gifts.
3. Countdown Calendar: Create a calendar counting down to the next time you'll see each other, with little notes or gifts for each day.

"Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies."
– Aristotle

"Where there is love, there is life."
– Mahatma Gandhi



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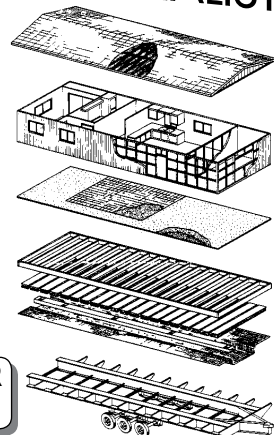
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The art of cleaning out your closet



When you go to your closet to choose an ensemble are you overwhelmed by the choices? Do you have too many clothes? The better question might, in fact, be: Do you have too many clothes, most of which you would never be caught dead in but that you insist on keeping? If so, you may want to review your clothing philosophy, according to Don Aslett in *Clutter be Gone!*

Aslett recommends that before you make any more purchases, you think on these things:

- How much care is this garment going to require. Does it have to be pressed? Does it have to be dry-cleaned? Do you have the time and will to take care of this garment? If you ask yourself this question, you will avoid filling your closet with high-maintenance items.
- Are you hanging on to clothing that looked very good on you—10 or 15 years ago? Are you unable to let go of things you once thought were adorable, but you now think are silly? If so, you need to categorize these things as being obsolete for you now—and get rid of them.
- Is your closet filled with things you bought, but never wore? A skirt that was on sale, but a little too tight and you were going to lose weight to fit into it? A shirt that was beautiful, marked down—and a little too transparent for your taste—but what the heck, you were planning on becoming a little more risqué anyway?
- Do you have a lot of T-shirts that say things that embarrass you and you would never wear now. Are you emotionally attached to these items from your past?

Here are some guidelines from Aslett for cleaning your closet out:

- If you know it's not flattering on you, remove it from the closet.
- If it doesn't fit, remove it from the closet.
- If it's too complicated to wear, remove it from the closet.
- If it's too fragile to wear, remove it from the closet.
- If it's badly damaged, or missing something you won't replace, remove it from the closet.
- If it needs to be altered or repaired, remove it from the closet.
- If you wear it never or rarely, remove it from the closet.

Now sort these things, into three piles. One for cleaning and repairing. One to donate to your favorite charity. And one to pitch. When all is done, arrange what's left in your closet. Make sure that the only items you hang on to are ones you feel good in and wear consistently.

On time

Instant gratification takes too long.

—**Carrie Fisher**

Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.

—**Will Rogers**



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Jokes to brighten your day:

Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything!
Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!

Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts.

What do you call fake spaghetti? An impasta!

Why did the bicycle fall over? Because it was two-tired.

What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese!

Why can't you give Elsa a balloon? Because she will let it go.

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire? Frostbite.

Why did the math book look sad? Because it had too many problems.

What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!

Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one.

What do you call a fish wearing a crown? A kingfish.

Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing!

How does a penguin build its house? Igloos it together.

Why don't some couples go to the gym? Because some relationships don't work out.

What do you call a can opener that doesn't work? A can't opener.

Why did the computer go to the doctor? Because it had a virus.

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack? An abdominal snowman.

What do you call a belt made of watches? A waist of time.



On the power of words and their meanings

A policeman on patrol watched the car go zooming by and run right through a four-way stop sign. In response, the policeman turned on his light and pulled the motorist over. When the policeman began to write the ticket, the motorist protested. "What are you doing?" he said. "You can't give me a ticket for that!"

"Why not?" the officer asked.

"It's true, I didn't stop," the motorist admitted. "But I did slow down — and that's almost the same."

"But you didn't stop," the officer said. "And the sign clearly says 'STOP.'"

"But it was clear. Nothing was coming," the motorist replied.

The officer then proceeded to pull out his baton and start to hit the motorist.

"What are you doing?" yelled the motorist in surprise.

"Do you want me to slow down or STOP?" asked the officer. — *As retold from Eric's Clean Jokes*



On life

Life is something to do when you can't get to sleep.

— *Fran Lebowitz*

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<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Carport Sale Feb. 1, 2025. East Bay Oaks and Eldorado Village. 601 Starkey Rd and 2505 East Bay Dr. 8am-2pm. NO EARLY BIRDS</p>	<p>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!</p>	<p>Ranch Mobile Park, Park-Wide Yard Sale, Saturday, March 1, 2025, 8:00am -2:00pm at: 6800 - 150th Ave. N., Clearwater (Largo)</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Regency Heights Carport Sale Friday and Saturday March 7-8. 8am-2pm. 2550 State Rd. 580 Clearwater</p>
<p>CARPOT SALE - RANCHERO VILLAGE, 7100 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 8AM to 3 PM</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Palm Hill 2nd Annual Craft Fair. March 15, 8am-1pm. 28 Tables Inside. North Clubhouse- 8th Ave Entrance Largo</p>
<p>Community Carport Sale Saturday February 8th. Hillcrest MHP from 8-1. Food available at the clubhouse. 2346 Druid Rd, Clearwater.</p>	<div data-bbox="536 924 811 1029"> <p>March Events</p>  </div>	<div data-bbox="993 842 1127 867" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2>FOR SALE</h2> </div> <p>For Sale: Genuine 1940's Fiestaware. Call Helen in Largo - 302-540-1778</p>
<p>Carport Sale: Sugar Creek. 10265 Ulmerton, Largo. Saturday, February 8, 2025. 8am-1pm</p>		<div data-bbox="952 961 1167 985" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2>WANTED TO BUY</h2> </div> <p>FURNITURE, good clean, pre-owned. Top dollar paid. Charles, 727-657-7021</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>		<p>Wanted - Stamp Collections. High Prices for Good Quality. Call 709-682-9499</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Palm Hill Country Club Annual Bazaar. Saturday, March 1st, 8am- 1pm. 1800 Seminole Blvd, Largo.</p> <p>Sat. March 1st, 8-12noon. Flea Market, Colonial Village, 2000 East Bay Drive, Largo. Furniture, Kitchen appliances, housewares, bicycles, clothing, home-baking.</p>	
<p>Carport Sale, Saturday February 22nd 8:00 am to Noon. Golden Acres Rd Park. 1040 Main St Dunedin, Florida</p>	<p>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</p>	

MARCH AD DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 10, 2025

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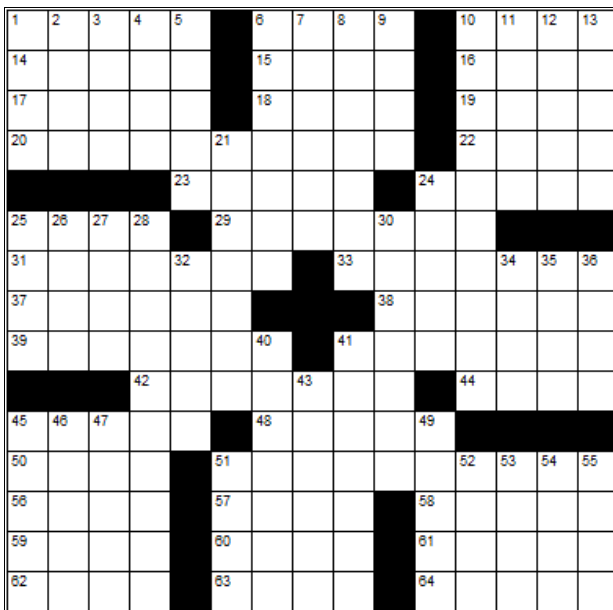
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