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• P I P E R •

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July • 2025

Issue 5 - 49th Year



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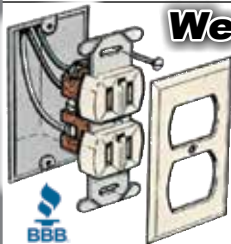


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Publishers Note:

Monthly Media has published The Lake Highlander Piper (at no cost to your community) for decades and we very much want to continue providing a printed version for all the community residents. A printed newsletter showcases important community events and activities, as well as shares messages from dozens of businesses that provide valuable products and services for the Lake Highlander residents. Digital and e-mail newsletter alternatives are convenient and they are a great compliment to the printed version, we publish this newsletter online too. However, a digital only newsletter as a replacement to this printed version might leave some residents in the dark.

The printed Lake Highlander Piper provides the following:

- Familiar formatted community news ready for you to read
- No websites or cluttered e-mail in-boxes to comb through to find your community news
- Relevant businesses who offer specialized services for your home and lifestyle
- Puzzles and games for you to enjoy throughout the month
- Monthly Media's Emporium page where we showcase home goods for sale, other Pinellas County community events for you to visit (craft fairs, bake sales, etc.), and many other great classified listings

If you would like to keep Lake Highlander specific info published in this newsletter please let your community leaders know!

-Monthly Media Staff

Attention Lake Highlander Residents

Editor Needed!!!

Would you like to see Lake Highlander related articles in your newsletter?

Do you have a computer with email capabilities?

Then you could be the next editor of Lake Highlander!

**If you would be interested please contact
Monthly Media at 727-484-7488**



Anecdotes



Fireworks and Friendship

“When I was 10, my family went to a Fourth of July fireworks show at the local park. I got separated from my parents in the crowd and started to panic. A kind older couple noticed and stayed with me until we found my family. Every year since, we’ve met at the same spot to watch the fireworks together. They became like honorary grandparents to me.”



The Great Watermelon Contest

“One July, our neighborhood held a watermelon-eating contest. My little brother, who was 6 at the time, entered just for fun. He didn’t win, but he made everyone laugh by wearing a watermelon helmet he carved himself. It became a tradition—now every year, someone shows up in a watermelon hat!”



The Picnic That Wasn’t

“We planned a perfect July picnic—blanket, sandwiches, lemonade, the works. Just as we sat down, a sudden summer storm rolled in. We ended up eating in the car, soaked and laughing. It wasn’t the picnic we planned, but it’s the one we still talk about every year.”



A Dog’s First Fourth

“Our rescue dog, Max, had never experienced fireworks before. On his first Fourth of July, he was terrified — until he realized he could sit in my lap and get belly rubs the whole time. Now, every year, he climbs into my lap as soon as the first firework pops.”



Grandma’s Garden

“Every July, my grandmother’s sunflowers would bloom taller than me. She’d take a picture of me standing next to them each year. When she passed, I planted sunflowers in her honor. Now, every July, I take a photo with them and feel like she’s still with me.”

On life

There is more to life than increasing its speed.

— **Mahatma Gandhi**



On the bumble bee

Aerodynamically the bumblebee shouldn’t be able to fly, but the bumblebee doesn’t know that so it goes on flying anyway.

— **Mary Kay Ash**

On courtesy

Life is short, but there is always time enough for courtesy.

— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

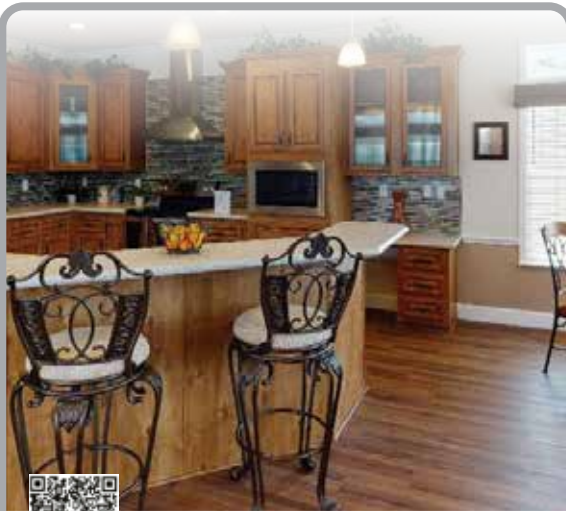
Leaving Florida?

Don't miss any issues of the newsletter while you're away for the summer!

Sign up for Summer Mailing:

- Call our office to sign up for Summer Mailing
- \$5.00 flat fee per shipped issue
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- Newsletters are shipped at the beginning of the month
- Pay by check

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- 2. Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know**
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- 3. Watch out for suspicious links and malicious software**
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Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

Make A Family Plan

Step 1: Put together a plan by discussing these 4 questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan.

How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
What is my shelter plan?
What is my evacuation route?
What is my family/household communication plan?

Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household. As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and

responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets, or specific needs like the operation of durable medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance.

Step 3: Create an Emergency Plan

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household

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More Anecdotes



The source of true power

One night after a boxing match, Howard Cosell, the world-famous sports commentator, and a friend were making their way back to their hotel room via a chauffeur driven limousine. While being driven by an alley, Cosell and his friend saw a crowd of young people whooping it up as two boys punched and kicked each other.

“Pull over,” Howard said to the driver.

“I’m sorry, but this is not a safe neighborhood!” said the chauffeur.

But Cosell was adamant, “Pull this limo over NOW!” he commanded.

Before the driver was able to get the car to a full stop, Cosell had the door open and was out on the street striding over to the gang of teens. And then Cosell did something truly unexpected. He did not try to break the fight up as the onlookers had assumed he was going to do. Instead, he started calling the fight.

In only minutes the fight broke up and the teens gathered round the famous sports announcer. Cosell handed out autographs and talked to the young people about what it meant to be a real man—instead of a punk.

When Cosell got back into the limo, the driver turned back and asked, “How did you do that?”

Cosell answered simply: “Because dear lady ... I know who I am.”

— *adapted from YogaTeacher.com (originally retold from a TV interview)*

A lesson in asking advice

One day a young man was going out of his village to visit a neighboring village that he had never traveled to before. As he made his way out of town, he noticed the village wise man sitting in his usual spot meditating.

The young man decided to ask him how long it would take him to get to the neighboring village. He stopped in front of the wise old man and said, “Oh, wise one, how long will it take me to get to the neighboring village?”

The wise man opened his eyes but said nothing. And so the young man asked once again, “Please, wise one, could you tell me how long it will take to get to the neighboring village?”

Again the wise man said nothing and continued to meditate. This angered the young man who said in a fit of frustration, “Please, wise one, I am in a hurry. Tell me how long it will take me to reach the neighboring village?”

Still the wise man refused to answer.

Disgusted, the young man tromped away toward the neighboring village. After he had taken a few steps the old man called out, “It will take you between five and six hours.”

Curious, the young man stopped and asked. “Wise one, why would you not answer my questions before? I asked you three times how long the journey would take.”

The wise man answered, “How would I know how long it would take you to get there if I did not know how fast you could walk?”

The moral: When you ask someone a question you should ask yourself if that person has all the information necessary to answer with accuracy. — *adapted from the Heart N Soul Ezine as originally narrated by Khoo Chong Kok*



July Jokes & Puns



Why did the sun go to school in July?
To get a little brighter!

What do you call a snowman in July?
A puddle!

Why did the firecracker go to school?
Because it wanted to be a little brrrr-ighter!

What's the most patriotic insect?
The "liber-bee"!

Why do Americans eat so much on the Fourth of July?
Because they want to declare their independence from hunger!

What did one flag say to the other flag?
Nothing—it just waved!

Why did the watermelon cross the road on July 4th?
To get to the picnic on the other side!

What's red, white, blue, and green?
A seasick Uncle Sam!



Patriotic Reflections

"America is a tune. It must be sung together."
— **Gerald Stanley Lee**

"Where liberty dwells, there is my country."
— **Benjamin Franklin**

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."
— **Elmer Davis**

"Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."
— **John F. Kennedy**

"My favorite thing about the United States? Lots of Americans, one America."
— **Terri Guillemets**



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SCAM



ALERT

Family Scams

Scammers are good at **pretending to be someone that they're not**. They try to trick you into thinking **a loved one is in trouble**.

Once the scammer makes you think they're your grandson and in trouble, they pressure you to quickly send them money. **But it's all a scam.**

Your family member was never in trouble.

- The scammer will say it's **urgent** and that you're the only one who can help.
- The scammer might tell you it's **important to keep it secret**. They don't want you talking to other family members and realizing it's a scam.
- The scammers will **play with your emotions**. They're counting on you to act quickly to help your family or friend. And they're counting on you to pay without stopping to check out whether there's really an emergency. If you get a call like this, you can be sure this is a scam.

Slow down. Verify.

Report Imposter Scams Online to the Federal Trade Commission | [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud)

consumer.ftc.gov/articles



Example of a Family Emergency Scam Call

Hi Grandpa, it's me.



Sebastian? Is that you?



Yes, it's me, Sebastian. Grandpa, I'm in trouble, and I need money for bail.

What happened?

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Independence Day



The Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day, is a major national holiday in the United States, celebrated every year on July 4th. It commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, when the thirteen American colonies declared their independence from British rule.

Historical Background

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, primarily authored by Thomas Jefferson.

This marked the birth of the United States of America as a sovereign nation.

The document emphasized principles like liberty, equality, and the right to self-governance.

How It's Celebrated

The Fourth of July is known for its patriotic displays and festive atmosphere. Common traditions include:

Fireworks: A symbol of celebration and freedom, often held in parks, cities, and waterfronts.

Parades: Featuring marching bands, veterans, floats, and local organizations.

Barbecues and Picnics: Families and friends gather for grilled food, watermelon, and summer treats.

Concerts and Festivals: Many cities host live music, fairs, and community events.

Wearing Red, White, and Blue: People dress in the colors of the American flag.

Reading the Declaration of Independence: Some communities and schools hold readings or reenactments.

Symbols of the Day

- American Flag
- Bald Eagle
- Statue of Liberty
- Fireworks and Sparklers
- Patriotic Music like “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “America the Beautiful”



“Liberty is the breath of life to nations.”

— **George Bernard Shaw**

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.”

— **Ronald Reagan**

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.”

— **Abraham Lincoln**



July



General Characteristics of July:

Length: 31 days

Zodiac signs: Cancer (until July 22) and Leo (from July 23 onward)

Birthstone: Ruby

Birth flowers: Larkspur and Water Lily

Holidays



Independence Day (July 4): Celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Marked by fireworks, parades, barbecues, and patriotic displays.

Parents' Day (Fourth Sunday of July): Honors parents and their role in raising children.

Other Observances

Nelson Mandela International Day (July 18): Recognized by the UN to honor Mandela's legacy and promote community service.

World Population Day (July 11): Raises awareness of global population issues.

Outdoor Activities

Each Day: Swim, sunbathe, build sandcastles, or play beach volleyball.

Camping: Enjoy nature, stargazing, and campfire stories.

Hiking: Explore trails and enjoy scenic views.

Picnics: Pack a basket and head to a park or lakeside.

Boating or Kayaking: Great for lakes, rivers, or coastal areas.

Travel & Exploration

Road Trips: Explore nearby towns, national parks, or scenic routes.

Visit a Theme Park or Water Park: Perfect for thrill-seekers and families.

Attend a Music or Food Festival: Many happen in July!



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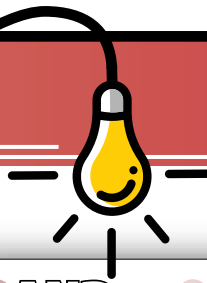
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Did You Know?

The vote for independence was actually on July 2nd, the 4th is the day the Declaration was officially published?



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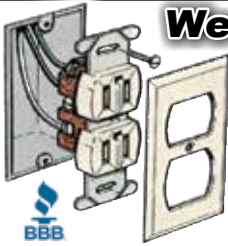
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JULY • 2025

JULY						
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Pinellas County Events

www.visitstpeteclearwater.com

Spa Beach Wednesday Market

Over 50 vendors, you'll discover a fantastic selection of fresh produce, artisan goods, delicious food and unique local finds.

Wednesdays, June and July

10am - 2pm

Free

Address: 15022 Madeira Way

Spa Beach, FL 33708

Pete Pier Sunset Drum Circle

End with a rhythmic drum circle experience at sunset on the St. Pete Pier. Every Saturday, a group meets for a dance and drum collective under a starlight art installation on the pier. Get there early to sign up for an hour-long djembe lesson. Bring a pot or a make ship drum out of pots and pans to join in on the sound!

Weekly on Saturdays

5pm

Free

Address: St Pete Pier.

1 Ave NE, St. Pete FL 33701

Dunedin Downtown Market

Dunedin Downtown Market is a local open-air market that supports 60+ local vendors selling a mixture of produce, plants, eggs, meats, baked goods, fresh baked goods, take home foods, ready-to-eat lunch bites and locally made handcrafts.

Weekly on Fridays

9am - 2pm

Free

Address: Main Street

Dunedin, FL 34698

Pinellas Farmers & Flea Market

Come out and shop locally grown vegetables, tropical exotic fruits, arts & crafts, antique collections and more at the weekly Pinellas Farmers & Flea Market!

Date: Every Saturday and Sunday

Time: 7am - 2pm

Cost: Free

Location: 13600 Icot Blvd.

Clearwater, FL 33760

Tampa Bay Ice Cream Festival

Celebrate National Ice Cream Day on the St. Pete Pier with the Tampa Bay Ice Cream Festival. Enjoy ice cream and other sweet frozen treats (for purchase) from over a dozen vendors serving their best creations from soft served, craft scoop ice cream, gelatos, popsicles, and more

Date: July 20th

Time: 11am-8pm

Cost: Free

Location: Spa Beach Park on the St. Pete Pier

St. Pete Indie Flea Market

Shop over 100 top local vendors at the historic Coliseum and visitors can expect a variety of locally sourced curated hand-crafted goods, vintage housewares, decor, Mid-century furniture, vintage clothing, antiques, plants, collectables, food, music, art and so much more!

Date: July 13th

Time: 12-4pm

Cost: Free

Location: The Coliseum

535 5th Ave N, St Pete FL 33701

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 Medical Payments.....\$5,000 Each Person
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*NOTICE: Acceptability of all proposed applicants subject to underwriting approval, premium rates are subject to change. Rates will vary based on age of operator, driving record, credit history, garaging address and type of vehicle.

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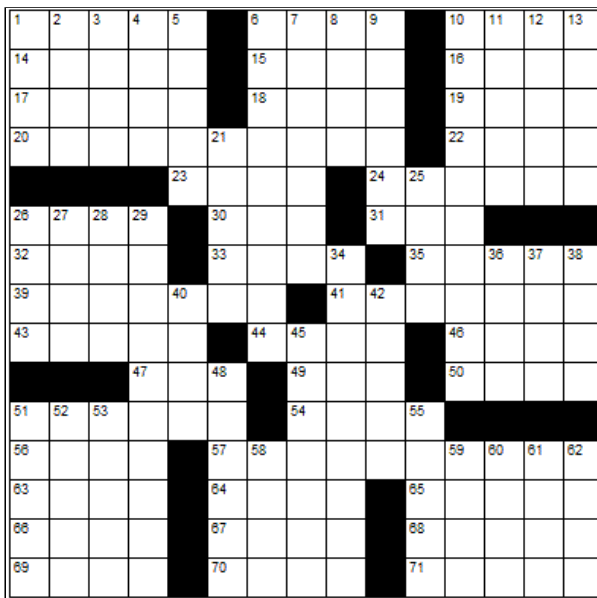


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ACROSS

1. Ghost
6. L L L L
10. Caustic
14. Log home
15. Genuine
16. Grow dim
17. Companionless
18. Freshwater mussel
19. Tall woody plant
20. Apiculture
22. Mild expletive
23. Not early
24. Not down
26. Burst of wind
30. Martini ingredient
31. Excluding
32. Black-and-white cookie
33. Parcels of land
35. Intimidate
39. Asphalt ingredient
41. Hairdos
43. Frighten
44. Arid
46. Durable wood
47. Short sleep
49. Mayday
50. Makes a mistake
51. A yellow fruit
54. Ball of yarn
56. Ancient Dead Sea kingdom
57. Richest
63. Location
64. Back of the neck
65. Neighbor of Pakistan
66. Anagram of "Rent"
67. Always
68. Begin
69. Tallow source
70. D D D
71. Weighty books



DOWN

1. Sign of healing
2. Wan
3. Double-reed woodwind
4. Pig sound
5. Show obeisance
6. Volcano explosions
7. Not strict
8. Been in bed
9. Advertising catchphrase
10. Lingering sensation
11. Freight
12. Notions
13. Accomplishments
21. American symbol
25. Cypher
26. Oodles
27. Acid related to gout
28. Bristle
29. A sporting competition
34. Baby carriages
36. Utiliser
37. Close
40. Average
42. Adjust again
45. Fugitive
48. In hock
51. Beats
52. Farewell
53. French for "Our"
55. A 4-player card game
58. Roof overhang
59. Put ____ words
60. Type of cheese
61. Your majesty
62. Makes lace



July Crossword





July Word Search



airport

election

lava

reason

thee

cantankerous

energy

lodge

route

tile

child

exude

lover

season

tweet

chrome

family

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weird

dishes

humble

occasion

slice

imagination

poison

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SCAM



ALERT

www.usa.gov/scams-and-fraud

Identity Theft

Warning signs of identity theft

- Bills for items you did not buy
- Debt collection calls for accounts you did not open
- Information on your credit report for accounts you did not open
- Denials of loan applications
- Mail stops coming to, or is missing from, your mailbox

How to report identity theft

- To report identity theft, contact:
- The **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** online at IdentityTheft.gov or call 1-877-438-4338
 - The three **major credit reporting agencies**. Ask them to place fraud alerts and a credit freeze on your accounts.
 - The **fraud department at your credit card issuers**, bank, and other places where you have accounts

How to protect yourself from identity theft

- **Do not answer phone calls**, texts, social media messages, or email from numbers or **people you do not know**.
- Do not share personal information like your bank account number, Social Security number, or date of birth.
- **Collect your mail every day** and place a hold on your mail when you will be on vacation or away from your home.
- Review credit card and bank account statements. Watch for and report unauthorized or suspicious transactions.
- **Understand how ATM skimming works** and how to protect yourself
- Learn when it is safe to use a public Wi-Fi network
- Store personal information, including your Social Security card, in a safe place. **Do not carry it in your wallet.**

Imposter Scam

The top types of imposter scams:

An imposter scammer may call, text, or email to convince you they are **someone in authority**. They may even use caller ID to make it look like they are calling from an official government or business' number. To commit identity theft, they try to get you to send money or a gift card or share personal information.

- **Government** imposter scams - Unless you contact them first, government agencies typically initiate communication with you by letter. Unexpected contact or demands through any other method may be a scam.
- **IRS** imposter scams - scammers pretend you owe the IRS money for taxes and may threaten legal action
- **Social Security** imposter scams - scammers claim there is a problem with your Social Security account or promise to increase your benefits
- **Charity** scams - scammers pretend to be from a real or fake charity and try to get you to contribute
- **Grandparent** scams - scammers pretend to be a grandchild or other relative who needs emergency financial help
- **Tech support** scams - scammers tell you your computer's security is at risk and try to remotely access your device and steal personal information or ask for payment
- Scammers may also pretend to be from your **bank or a company you do business with**. You might be told you owe money or there is a problem with your account.

ReportFraud.ftc.gov

Report Imposter Scams Online to the Federal Trade Commission



Hurricane Season is June 1st to November 30th

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIP

ASSEMBLE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Plenty of batteries and a battery-powered radio



Food and water for at least 7 days



Copies of important documents such as:

- Photo ID
- Birth Certificates
- Social Security Cards



Enough supplies for your pets for at least 7 days



2 weeks' supply of medications and a detailed list of required medical devices



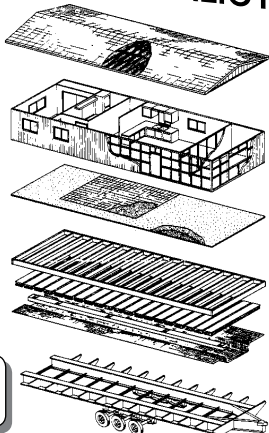
Find a full disaster supply kit checklist at FloridaDisaster.org/Kit



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July



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U.S. National Observances in July



Awareness & Health

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Promotes mental health awareness among underrepresented communities.

UV Safety Month

Encourages protection from harmful ultraviolet rays and skin cancer prevention.

Cord Blood Awareness Month

Highlights the importance of cord blood donation and its medical uses.

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

Raises awareness about arthritis in children and teens.



Food & Fun

National Ice Cream Month

Proclaimed by President Reagan in 1984—celebrate with your favorite scoop!

National Hot Dog Month

A nod to a classic American summer food, especially around the 4th of July.

National Grilling Month

Encourages outdoor cooking and summer barbecues.

National Picnic Month

A great excuse to enjoy meals outdoors with friends and family.

On signing the Declaration of Independence

There, I guess King George will be able to read that!

— John Hancock (on his boldly writ-ten name on the document)



On soaring

As long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you otherwise might.

— Marian Anderson



Lighter Side Quotes

On the cost of living

The cost of living is going up and the chance of living is going down.

— **Flip Wilson**

On death

The best way to get praise is to die.

— **Italian proverb**

On thought

The only reason some people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory.

— **Paul Fix**

On smoking

*To cease smoking is the easiest thing I ever did;
I ought to know because I've done it a thousand times.*

— **Mark Twain**

On the future

The problem with our times is that the future is not what it used to be.

— **Paul Valery**

Don't be intimidated by neatniks

*If a cluttered desk is the sign of a cluttered mind,
what is the significance of a clean desk?*

— **Laurence J. Peter**

A little romantic wisdom

Never let a fool kiss you or a kiss fool you.

— **Joey Adams**

On lying

A liar needs a good memory.

— **Quintilian**

On what we remember

One thing you will probably remember well is any time you forgive and forget.

— **Franklin P. Jones**

On nonsense

Forgive me my nonsense as I also forgive the nonsense of those who think they talk sense.

— **Robert Frost**



13 ★ 9

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CRAFTERS WANTED. Fair on Dec 6
 at East Bay Oaks Clubhouse 8am. 601
 Starkey Rd., Largo. Email Liz for more
 info: lizzyy1958@gmail.com

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Fireworks Safety Tips



Before You Light Fireworks

- **Check local laws:** Some areas restrict or ban fireworks—make sure you're following the rules.

- **Read instructions:** Always read and follow the label directions carefully.
- **Have water nearby:** Keep a bucket of water or a hose ready in case of fire or malfunction.
- **Choose a clear, open area:** Avoid lighting fireworks near buildings, dry grass, or trees.



What NOT to Do

- **Don't let children handle fireworks:** Even sparklers can burn at over 1,200°F (649°C).
- **Don't relight duds:** Wait 20 minutes, then soak them in water.
- **Don't point fireworks at people or animals:** Always aim away from crowds and pets.
- **Don't mix alcohol and fireworks:** Stay alert and focused when handling them.



After the Show

- **Soak used fireworks:** Place them in water before disposing of them in a metal trash can.
- **Clean up debris:** Especially in public or natural areas to prevent litter and fire hazards.
- **Check for smoldering materials:** Especially in dry grass or mulch.



Pet Safety

- **Keep pets indoors and in a quiet room.**
- **Use white noise or calming music to reduce stress.**
- **Make sure pets have ID tags in case they run off.**

★ Fireworks Alternatives



Visual Spectacles

- **Laser Light Shows:** Dazzling and colorful, these can be synced to music and are safe for all ages.
- **Drone Light Shows:** Choreographed drones create stunning patterns and animations in the sky.
- **Glow Stick Parties:** Hand out glow sticks, LED bracelets, and necklaces for a fun, glowing crowd.
- **LED Balloons:** Fill balloons with LED lights for a magical nighttime display.

On the easy life

There are two ways to slide easily through life: to believe everything or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking.

— Alfred Korzybski



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 41 ★ 41