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# LAKE HAVEN



## HAPPENINGS

Manager:  
Dennis Morden

### April • 2016

### Issue 2 40th Year

**"Take Me Out to the Ball Game..."**  
Elaine Handrigan of Down Yonder won a Tampa Bay Rays  
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## PARADISE ISLAND UPDATE

*Pat Walker, Association Secretary*

---

The snow has melted up north so our seasonal residents and visitors are packing up and heading out. I'm informed that Rte. 95-North is one long traffic jam. We wish you safe travels and a happy summer; we'll hold down the fort until you return. For us locals, it's time to break out the sunscreen and bathing attire and reclaim our beaches.

There are still many activities to participate in before the lazy days of summer set in. Sign up for the Pot Luck Dinner – it's always delicious and the accompanying camaraderie is delightful. Association members bring a side dish to share; guests pay \$5 at the door; bring your beverage and place setting. Shirley Cole and Sheila Watt did a fabulous job with the March entrée – their Chicken Fricassee had everyone going back for seconds. Thanks to all our guests for supporting this monthly dinner.

The members-free Ice Cream Social is scheduled Saturday, April 9. Irene and I plan to add a few new touches to this traditional farewell salute to our snowbirds. Guests pay \$3/each. Come on out and absorb those empty calories with the rest of us; you may gain a few ounces, but I'm certain they will look good on you.

On Saturday, April 16, Carolyn is hosting another of her renowned Country Breakfasts featuring biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs and sausage. Tickets are available from Janel Balogh #41, don't miss it.

To give you advance notice of social plans, the Paradise Island event schedule through November is posted on the bulletin board. Save the dates, you won't want to miss out on any of these fun times.

Hope you were among those who attended the Spring Dance; the music provided by the AI & DJ Band kept everyone on the dance floor throughout the evening.

The Hobby Club is still going strong. March was filled with social activities: Annual Luncheon, Tea Social, and Baby Shower supporting the Bay Area Pregnancy Center. Now it's down to business creating unique and interesting items for the Arts & Craft Sale in November. Membership is open to women in all three parks; drop in some Tuesday morning and check us out, we would love to tell you all about our club goals and activities.

Have you noticed several new homes are now available in Paradise Island? If you are a new resident to our park, WELCOME. As soon as we know you are here, we will put introductory information in your mail tube. We encourage residents to join the Association and invite you to attend the monthly meeting and all social activities.

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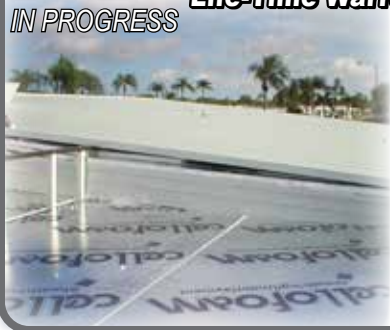
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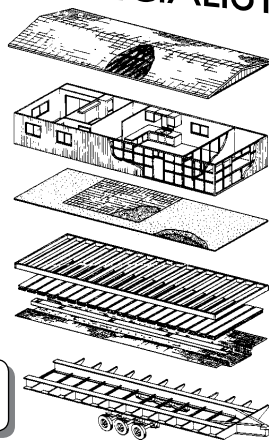
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## One step back to greatness

---

Actor Humphrey Bogart was a classic leading man, but even he felt self-conscious about his looks. When he was cast opposite Ingrid Bergman in the 1942 film *Casablanca*, he worried that audiences wouldn't believe that a beautiful woman like Bergman could possibly be attracted to a man who looked like him.

So he came up with an idea. In every scene he played with Bergman, he took a step backward, forcing her to move closer to him to remain in the shot. Bogart hoped that would convince moviegoers that she was genuinely attracted to him.

It worked, and *Casablanca* has become one of the most popular films (and love stories) of all time.

## Misplaced optimism

---

Joe, a golfer, joined three people at a golf course to make up the foursome. The three friends teed up, but when Joe hit his first shot, it went directly into the trees. The trio suggested he play a second ball in case he couldn't find his first one, but Joe shrugged them off and went out to search for his ball.

After 10 minutes, Joe couldn't find his ball, but he insisted on looking some more. Finally one of the other golfers said, "Joe, we're holding everyone up. Why don't you just drop another ball and take a penalty stroke?"

"All right." Joe turned and headed for the pro shop.

"Where are you going?" the other golfer asked.

"I have to buy another ball."



It's like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head.  
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—Patrick Rothfuss

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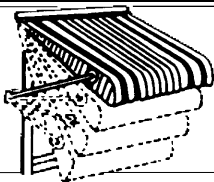
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George Lordstrom, Saint Petersburg, FL



## LAKE HAVEN TREASURE COVE HAPPENINGS!

*Written by Bob Baker, Treasurer, Park 2 Association*

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Day.” Fools “April Is 1st April Friday,

**A** reminder for all Park 2 Association members: All association members are welcome but when you get the notices in your mail box about the monthly association dinners it is essential that you let Bob and Eileen Scott, Lot 277, know before the deadline given in the notice if you are going to attend. They buy only enough groceries to feed those who sign-up. Please don't show up expecting to be fed if you haven't let them know in advance that you will be there. Please tell the Scotts in person or by phone – no email.

With our winter residents returning north for the summer, our last association meeting until next Fall will be at 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 4th in Club House 2.

Another reminder: Unless your pet is a service animal, dogs weighing more than 30 pounds or 18” in height are not allowed in the park. The park rules and regulations require all dogs to be on a leash when outside and dog walkers must have some means of picking up their dog's litter.

Well, the annual White Elephant Sale, held this year on February 27th, is now history. Some of those who worked on the affair thought we had fewer customers than in recent years and the net sales this year were some \$500.00 less than the average sales for the last five years. Some tables did have sales better than last year's sales and some tables did less. That is to be expected but the main reason for our lower sales is attributed to a lack of furniture and other large items this year. Remember that this function is our main fund raiser that, among other things, provides a meat for our monthly potluck dinners; 100% of the cost of our association dinners which are free to association members each month and helps toward the costs of our annual Christmas dinner. Many thanks again to those who did donate items to sell and to those who did work not only to get things priced and ready but who were there that Saturday to handle the sales. If you are interested, a detailed financial report is on the bulletin board in the club house.

Remember when we were young, the time between Christmas seasons seemed like forever. Now, as adults, after one Christmas it seems like such a short time before Christmas is here again. I say that because the caterers for our annual Christmas dinner for this year have already been booked. The dinner entrees are the usual prime rib or chicken marsala. The per person cost should remain the same (\$15.00 for association members and \$25.00 for non-members). Mark December 14th on your calendar now and plan on being with us that night in the club house.



# LAKE HAVEN PARK III ASSOCIATION NEWS April 2016

*Linda Parker, President Park III Association*

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**S**adly, the “social season” at Park III is coming to an end. In a few short days and weeks, it will only us “full-timers” left here until the return of the our friends from the north in October. We have had a busy, exciting and fun-filled six months of great food, lively dances and reuniting with friends. During the past year we have welcomed some new residents and friends who have taken part in the festivities at Park III.

But, we’re not done yet. The Grand Finale, End of the Year Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 3, from 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM. The menu will include a wide array of delicious food choices, plus beer wine and soda, and again, music and dancing by Ray Curtis., and it will take place around the pool. This event has grown to be one of the most popular of all and it will, no doubt, be sold out. Details will be forthcoming in your information tubes.

Our White Elephant Sale, held on March 12 was a huge success, which means we made a lot of money which we will use to finance the activity calendar for the coming year. By far, the biggest reason for the success of the sale was the tremendous volunteer effort by Park III Association members. Over thirty of our friends worked nearly eight hours on Saturday selling the merchandise. Some of these same people worked to set things up on Thursday and Friday. It is impossible for me to express my thanks enough. We just have the best group anywhere... ”Park III is the Place to be.”

Nearly all of our activities will be suspended for the summer, but we will have another full schedule of events ready when our friends return in the fall.

Again, I want thank everyone for their overwhelming support. It is very humbling and very much appreciated. Thank You All, and I’m looking forward to the coming season with great enthusiasm





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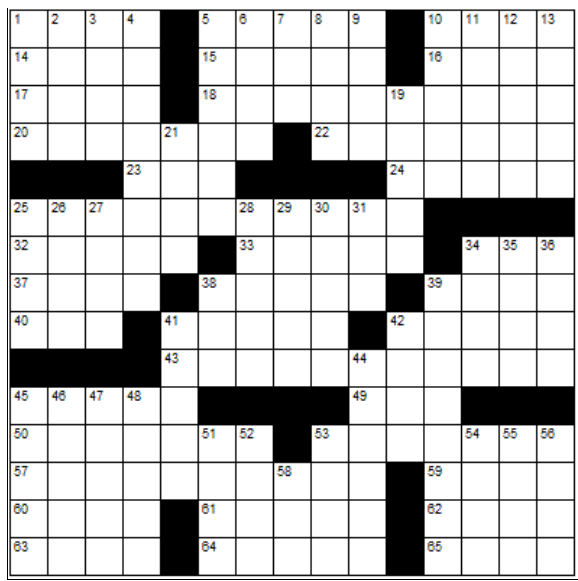




# April Crossword

## ACROSS

1. Decree
5. Yokels
10. Journey
14. Balcony section
15. Drink garnish
16. Hindu princess
17. Absent Without Leave
18. Intolerable
20. Deep purplish red
22. Sleep
23. Compete
24. Expectorates
25. Being present everywhere at once
32. Magnetic induction unit
33. Disorderly revelry
34. Chart
37. Connects two points
38. Growing old
39. Garden tool
40. N N N N
41. Display
42. Aromatic seeds
43. Walkers
45. Philippine tribal chief
49. Charged particle
50. Forward
53. Clothing
57. Officer
59. Roman robe
60. Portent
61. Slogan
62. Black, in poetry
63. Lease
64. Overweight
65. Writing table



## DOWN

21. Bites
25. Leer at
26. Principal
27. Religious sisters
28. Nosed (out)
29. A river through Paris
30. Anagram of "Sneer"
31. Henpeck
34. Mother
35. Analogous
36. Writing implements
38. Card with one symbol
39. Demolished or subverted
41. Athletics
42. Prune
44. Walk quietly
45. Painful grief
46. Japanese cartoon art
47. Not quite a teenager
48. Razz
51. Audition tape
52. Prig
53. Picnic insects
54. Gown
55. Prima donna problems
56. Lean
58. Consumed food







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



# April Sudoku

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



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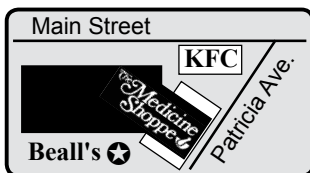
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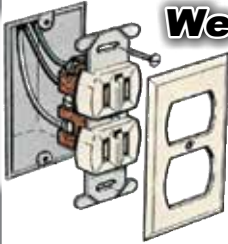
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| Sunday                                     | Monday   | Tuesday                     |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| MAY 2016                                   |  |                             |
| S  | M  | T                           |
| 1  | 2  | 3                           |
| 8  | 9  | 10                          |
| 15   | 16   | 17                          |
| 22   | 23   | 24                          |
| 29   | 30   | 31                          |
| 3  | 4  | 5                           |
| 5:30 PM -<br>Potluck Dinner-<br>Park 2     | 6:45PM - Ladies Poker<br>-1*<br>7 pm: Association<br>Meeting - 2 | 9:30AM<br>6:15PM<br>ing - 1 |
| 10   | 11   | 12                          |
|  | 6:45PM - Ladies Poker<br>-1*                                     | 9:30AM<br>6:15PM<br>ing - 1 |
| 17   | 18   | 19                          |
| 5:30 PM -<br>Association Dinner-<br>Park 2 | 6:45PM - Ladies Poker<br>-1*                                     | 9:30AM<br>6:15PM<br>ing - 1 |
| 24   | 25   | 26                          |
|  | 6:45PM - Ladies Poker<br>-1*                                     | 9:30AM<br>6:15PM<br>ing - 1 |





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## April Fool!

---

It's April 1st—the day for practical jokes large and small. If you're looking for inspiration, remember one of the all-time great media hoaxes.

In 1957, the BBC's respected news program Panorama ran a story celebrating a bumper spaghetti crop in Switzerland—thanks to a mild winter and the near elimination of the destructive “spaghetti weevil.” The program included footage of Swiss farm workers pulling strands of spaghetti from trees and laying them in the sun to dry.

Although some viewers caught on—and chastised the BBC for playing fast and loose in a news program—others fell hook, line, and pasta ladle. Many even telephoned the network to ask where they could get their own spaghetti trees.



## Make new friends all through your life

---

Building friendships and creating thriving social circles is a key component of good health throughout your entire life. From Mayo Clinic's HealthQuest newsletter come these suggestions for making new friends no matter how old you are:

- Take your pet for walks. Make conversation with folks who stop to chat.
- Join a hobby group.
- Volunteer in community groups or at a hospital, church, or school.
- Take a course at your local community college.
- Shape up while meeting new people in an exercise class.
- Get active in a social cause or goal.
- Go out to lunch with a work or social acquaintance at least once a month.
- Ask a small favor of a neighbor or co-worker, and do the same for him or her.
- Volunteer to usher at your local community theater.







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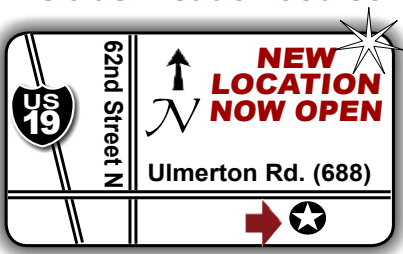
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## Fast and funny

---

Looking to get a few quick laughs? Try some of these short zingers:

- Explaining puns to kleptomaniacs is hard because they always take things literally.
- What's the best thing about Switzerland? I don't know, but its flag is a huge plus.
- I told my doctor that I broke my arm in two places. She told me to stop going to those places.
- I asked my friend in North Korea what living there is like. He said he couldn't complain.
- I was wondering why the Frisbee seemed larger the closer it got. Then it hit me.
- Have I told you this déjà vu joke before?
- I didn't know my husband stole things from construction sites, but when I got home all the signs were there.
- They all laughed when I said I wanted to be a comedian. Well, they're not laughing now.



## A bull by the tail

---

An old rancher filed a lawsuit against a railroad company when his prize bull went missing because a train damaged a section of his fence. The rancher only asked to be paid the fair value of the bull.

A date for the hearing was set, and the railroad sent a slick lawyer to represent it. Just before the hearing began, the railroad attorney approached the rancher and started to pressure him to settle the case immediately. After a few minutes, the rancher gave in, agreeing to half the money he was asking for.



After signing the settlement papers and handing over the check, the lawyer said, "You know, I have to admit, you would have won this case. The engineer was asleep and the train was going too fast when it passed your farm."

The old rancher shrugged. "I was a little worried myself. The darned bull came back this morning."



## Google answers your health questions

---

People turn to Google for all kinds of information. Health is always a concern, so naturally the search engine fields a lot of questions about diseases and symptoms of illness. Take a look at some of the top health-related inquiries people typed into the Google search bar in 2015 (as reported on the CNN website):

- **“Is bronchitis contagious?”** Answer: Maybe, if it’s the result of a bacterial infection.
- **“Is pneumonia contagious?”** Answer: It can be, because most cases of pneumonia are caused by bacteria.
- **“How much water should I drink per day?”** Answer: About half as many fluid ounces as your weight in pounds. For example, if you weigh 140 pounds, you should be drinking about 70 fluid ounces per day (nine cups), although factors like heat, exercise, pregnancy, and other considerations should be taken into account.
- **“How many calories should I consume?”** Answer: Check with a dietician to get advice tailored to your physical needs.
- **“What is Lupus?”** Answer: Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease. Symptoms include headaches, fatigue, joint pain, fever, and rashes.



## Slow down to eat less

---

Eating too fast can lead to eating too much. But when you’re busy, the temptation to cram a meal down your throat may be overwhelming. Here’s how to slow down and savor every bite:

- **Stop multitasking.** Don’t try to eat while you’re working, texting, or doing anything else. Turn off your devices and focus on your meal. You’ll have a better sense of how much you’re eating and how full you feel.
- **Sit down.** Eating over the sink or grazing while you search the refrigerator may result in consuming more unneeded calories. Set the table and put your portions on a plate to keep control of how much food you’re really eating.
- **Chew slowly.** Count each bite as you chew your food, and aim for about 20 seconds of chewing for each mouthful. You’ll force yourself to slow down, and your food will be digested more easily.





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## Lending money to adult children? Be careful

---

**Y**our children may have outgrown their allowance, but their money problems don't automatically end when they grow up. Lending money to adult children can end badly if you're not careful, though. Follow this advice for maintaining a good relationship when your grownup kids hit you up for a loan:

- **Don't lend more than you'll miss.** Risking financial instability for the sake of your children will put your relationship in jeopardy if they can't pay the money back on time. Don't be more generous than you can afford, even if you expect to get the money back.
- **Find out how they'll use the money.** Instead of paying off their student debt, your child buys a sports car. Feel betrayed? Before handing any money over, make sure you know exactly how they'll use it. You can avoid surprises by lending them smaller amounts over time instead of a large lump sum all at once.
- **Set clear terms on late payments or defaults.** You're not being unreasonable to ask for interest if repayment is late in coming. Discuss options ahead of time to eliminate misunderstandings later. You can lower the interest rate or change other terms if necessary (your adult child loses his or her job, for example).
- **Put everything in writing.** A handshake and a promise only mean so much. Set down the details of the loan in a clear document that spells out how much you're lending, when you expect it to be repaid, and what will happen if either of you violates the agreement. Again, this will guard against confusion and hurt feelings later.



## Try this quick fix for minor cuts

---

**W**hen you're bleeding and you can't get your hands on a bandage, Krazy Glue can make a good substitute for healing cuts. The glue seals the outer layer of skin, allowing inner layers to heal quickly. Follow these steps—carefully:

- Wash cut with warm water and dry thoroughly.
- Use a toothpick to dab on a thin, smooth coating of glue over the cut.
- Don't peel the glue off. Let it come off gradually over the next few days.





## Love and money: Pet products are big online

---

**Y**ou can't put a price tag on love, but you can spend a lot of money on those you love—and that includes your pets. The pet care and pet product industry is a yearly \$60.59 billion business, serving almost 80 million households. And like everything else, more and more of that business is online. Forrester Research estimates that online purchases of products for pets hit \$3.7 billion in 2014—6 percent of the total—representing a rise of 76 percent since 2010. Experts expect the online pet case market to grow by 15-20 percent in 2016-2017.



## Lift your glass to these wine stats

---

**D**o you enjoy a glass of wine with dinner? If so, you're not alone. Decanter Magazine estimates that 93 million people drink wine regularly in the U.S., which adds up to 40 percent of all adults. The amount of wine Americans drank last year rose from 2014 by 0.2 percent, but Decanter predicts that by the year 2025, 11 million more people will be wine fans, for a total of 104 million dollars. That's a lot of wine.



## Save your cash when you eat out

---

**E**ating in restaurants can get expensive in a hurry. When you want to get out of the house but you don't want to spend a lot, try these tips to lower your tab:

- **Have a snack first.** Eat something healthy before you head out. Then order a smaller meal or an appetizer instead of a full dinner.
- **Skip the extras.** Don't have cocktails or order dessert. These can add up quickly. Have a glass of wine and your own dessert at home instead.
- **Go out for dessert only.** You can prepare an inexpensive yet romantic meal at home, then go out for ice cream or your favorite dessert afterward.



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Adjustable Walker w/Padded Seat, Brakes, Storage. Like New. \$50/OBO. 727-754-2611, Largo.

Moving Sale: April 9th. 638 Poinsettia Drive, Largo. Many Items!

### WANTED TO BUY

**When selling on consignment always get a WRITTEN QUOTE on the sellers' commission.**

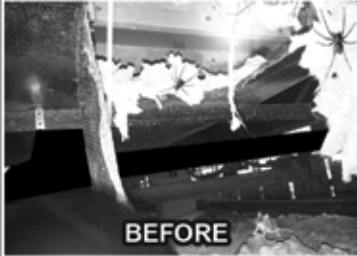
FURNITURE, good clean, pre-owned. Top dollar paid. Joe, 224-9780

College Gal needs a good, inexpensive convertible. Help me out, sell me yours. Call: 727-215-9595

## MAY AD DEADLINE - APRIL 10, 2016

- Advertise BUY, SELL, TRADE ITEMS by sending copy & check to Monthly Media at P.O. Box 1023, Venice, FL 34284.
- Ads over 10 words must be accompanied by \$.80 per extra word or publisher will edit. • No mobile home sales, no professional products or services. SORRY: No ads accepted by phone or email. DEADLINE: 10th OF EACH MONTH.

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## Monthly Mania: It Pays (Up to \$100) To Patronize the Advertisers in Your Newsletter

**14,492 manufactured home residents have won over \$130,374** since our contest began. It's simple to play ... when you patronize a current advertiser, ask for a Monthly Mania ticket (or a reasonable facsimile) and fill it out completely. Put the ticket in our Monthly Mania drop box in your community or [mail your paid receipt](#) to us at **Monthly Media • PO Box 1023 • Venice, FL 34284**. That's all you do. At the end of the month the Publishers will pick up the tickets and hold a drawing. If your ticket is drawn, we mail you a check.

(Allow 4-6 weeks for mailing of check). **This month's cash winners are:**

|                          |             |                                       |                         |           |                                    |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Richard Proctor .....    | \$100 ..... | Sunset Appliance Service              | Shirley Raymond .....   | \$5 ..... | Haseney Electrical Services, Inc.  |
| Bill Schumacher .....    | \$10 .....  | Knoblach Hearing Care, Inc.           | Bob Sharp .....         | \$5 ..... | Battleline Termite & Pest Control  |
| Patricia Curran .....    | \$10 .....  | Barrons AC & Appliance Service, Inc.  | Sharon Andersen .....   | \$5 ..... | AJ's Beds and Furniture, Inc.      |
| Shirley Moreland .....   | \$10 .....  | Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.           | Marvin Odette .....     | \$5 ..... | Debbie's Salon                     |
| Yolanda Gabriel .....    | \$10 .....  | Modern Pest Control, Inc.             | Joan Taylor .....       | \$5 ..... | ASC Aluminum Specialty Contractors |
| Doris Breault .....      | \$10 .....  | Debbie's Salon                        | Karen Brown .....       | \$5 ..... | Bob's Mobile Home Washing          |
| Richard Cobb .....       | \$10 .....  | Boss Electric Corp.                   | Robert Gornicki .....   | \$5 ..... | O.E. Wilson Insurance              |
| Frank Melanson .....     | \$10 .....  | Largo Plumbing Co.                    | Zoe Ryan-Mersmann ..... | \$5 ..... | Florida Anchor & Barrier           |
| Janet Jenkins .....      | \$10 .....  | A Happy Cleaning & Services           | Robert McGrath .....    | \$5 ..... | Bill the Carpet Guy                |
| Gary Thrasher .....      | \$10 .....  | Haseney Electrical Services, Inc.     | William Kinney .....    | \$5 ..... | Knoblach Hearing Care, Inc.        |
| Donald Opel .....        | \$10 .....  | Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners         | Peggy Gronck .....      | \$5 ..... | Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.        |
| Diane Price .....        | \$10 .....  | American Dream Carpet Cleaning        | Paul Johnston .....     | \$5 ..... | Ron Wyngarden MH Washing           |
| Wayne Cozadd .....       | \$10 .....  | Dental Walk-In Clinic of Pinellas     | Ann Matter .....        | \$5 ..... | Doll Brothers Carpet               |
| Robert Drolet .....      | \$10 .....  | E & E Gliddon Air Conditioning, Inc.  | Richard Paulousky ..... | \$5 ..... | Sunset Appliance Service           |
| William Sotherland ..... | \$5 .....   | Imperial Electric Service of Pinellas | Marie Gengarelli .....  | \$5 ..... | Bob's Mobile Home Washing          |
| Marlene Tatusko .....    | \$5 .....   | Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.           | Kathy Morris .....      | \$5 ..... | Air Masters of Pinellas            |
| Charlotte Ernest .....   | \$5 .....   | Knoblach Hearing Care, Inc.           | Frank Guido .....       | \$5 ..... | Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.        |
| Mary Marks .....         | \$5 .....   | Kathy's Cleaning Service              | Joe Fayocavitz .....    | \$5 ..... | Hellers Mobile Home Washing        |
| Shirley Ellsworth .....  | \$5 .....   | Hellers Mobile Home Washing           | Peggy Novara .....      | \$5 ..... | Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners      |
| Janie Nickerson .....    | \$5 .....   | Bill the Carpet Guy                   | Harriette Reimer .....  | \$5 ..... | Debbie's Salon                     |
| Harold Stofer .....      | \$5 .....   | Royal Enterprise                      | Gene Arend .....        | \$5 ..... | Ray Duncan Plumbing, Inc.          |
| Fran Stutzka .....       | \$5 .....   | Battleline Termite & Pest Control     | Armand Allard .....     | \$5 ..... | Suncoast Auto & Tire, Inc.         |
| Carole Silver .....      | \$5 .....   | Air Masters of Pinellas               | Patty Booth .....       | \$5 ..... | Bob's Appliance Repair             |
| Ilah Meddles .....       | \$5 .....   | Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners         | David McAnally .....    | \$5 ..... | All Weather Roofing                |

• Limit of one ticket per visit • Advertiser may have up to 4 winners per month • Advertiser must have bill paid current to qualify • No purchase necessary • Contest void where prohibited by law • Green tickets available at participating Monthly Media advertisers.



## April Is...

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**Financial Literacy Month.** With taxes due, this may be a good time to learn more about good financial practices. Are you ready to accept responsibility for changing your financial situation? Do you believe that you can and will change the way you make financial decisions? If so, it's time to start.

**Month of the Military Child.** More than 2 million children in grades K-12 have parents who are serving in our military. Make a difference in the life of a military child by seeking out opportunities to acknowledge their sacrifice, volunteering for organizations that support them, and recognizing their contribution to the nation.

**National Autism Awareness Month.** A nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion, and self-determination for all and to ensure that each person on the autism spectrum is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.

**National Garden Month.** Gardening grows fun for the whole family. Whether you're digging in the dirt, enjoying the magic of a small seed transforming into a beautiful flower, or observing the bugs, birds, and butterflies, gardening is a delightful way to celebrate the coming of spring.



## Weekly

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**National Robotics Week, Apr. 2-10.** The purpose of National Robotics Week is to celebrate the United States as a leader in robotics technology development, educate the public about how robotics technology impacts society, and advocate for increased funding for robotics technology research and development.

**Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week, Apr. 10-16.** This week recognizes the hardworking men and women who risk their lives and devote huge amounts of personal time and resources while serving the public and helping animals when no one else can.


**National Environmental Education Week, Apr. 17-23.** The nation's largest celebration of environmental education, EE Week reaches hundreds of thousands of students and educators across the United States with non-biased, high-quality, environmental education materials grounded in accurate, timely scientific information and tied to local, state, and national learning standards.

**National Pet ID Week, Apr. 17-23.** Collars and tags are a reliable way to identify your pets should they become lost. Make sure your dog, cat, or other animal friend always wears a current identification tag. Pet supply catalogs, stores, veterinary offices, and animal shelters often have forms to order ID tags.



## The planets: A quick tour of our solar system

**T**hink you know a lot about the solar system we live in? The UPI website shares these intriguing facts about Earth's local neighborhood:

- **Mercury.** The planet closest to the sun can reach temperatures of 800 degrees Fahrenheit, but also a chilly low of -279 degrees at night.
- **Venus.** Farther from the sun but hotter than Mercury, Venus's surface has an average temperature of 875 degrees, hot enough to melt lead.
- **Earth.** Our rotation is slowing, but don't panic. The decrease is only about 17 milliseconds per 100 years, so we won't have 25-hour days for 140 million years. 
- **Mars.** Looking for a rock from Mars? You can find them here on Earth. Meteorites from the red planet have been discovered in the Sahara, Antarctica, and other places.
- **Jupiter.** This gas giant has a magnetic field so powerful it draws space debris into its orbit, thus protecting the inner planets.



- **Saturn.** Saturn is famous for its ring, but they aren't unique. Jupiter, Neptune, and Uranus also possess rings, but they're harder to see from Earth.
- **Neptune.** Winds on Neptune can reach a speed of 1,500 miles per hour or more.
- **Uranus.** All planets rotate, but only Uranus does so on its side. Scientists speculate that a collision with another large object may have caused its tilt.
- **Pluto.** The dwarf planet really is small, relatively speaking. With a diameter of just 1,475 miles, Pluto is much smaller than the continental United States.

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