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LAKE HIGHLANDER

• P I P E R •

N

September • 2025

Issue 7 49th Year

A Rainbow after a storm at Golden Gate



*Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud
-Maya Angelou*

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Fall Anecdotes



1. The Leaf Pile Surprise

"One autumn afternoon, my kids raked a huge pile of leaves in the yard. Just as they were about to jump in, our golden retriever beat them to it—leaves flying everywhere, tail wagging like crazy. The laughter that followed was pure joy."



2. Pumpkin Patch Proposal

"A couple I know got engaged in a pumpkin patch. He carved 'Will you marry me?' into a pumpkin and handed it to her while they were picking out gourds. She said yes, surrounded by hay bales and falling leaves."



3. First Sweater Weather

"Every year, my grandma would knit us new sweaters for fall. The first chilly morning we wore them felt like a warm hug from her—even after she passed, we still pull them out and remember her love."



4. Apple Orchard Mishap

"We went apple picking and got a little too ambitious. Our bags were overflowing, and one apple rolled out, causing a mini avalanche. We ended up with more apples than we could carry—and made pies for the whole neighborhood."



5. Back-to-School Butterflies

"I still remember my daughter's first day of kindergarten in September. She clutched her tiny backpack and looked up at me with nervous eyes. By the end of the day, she was beaming and couldn't stop talking about her new friends."



6. Bonfire Bonding

"One crisp evening, we gathered around a bonfire with blankets and mugs of cider. Someone brought a guitar, and we sang old songs under the stars. It was one of those nights that felt timeless."



7. The Pie Contest Twist

"At our town's fall fair, I entered a pie contest for fun. My crust crumbled, and I was sure I'd lose. Turns out, the judges loved the flavor—and I won third place! Now it's a yearly tradition."



8. Lost & Found

"I dropped a mitten during a fall hike. A week later, someone had hung it on a trail sign with a note: 'Found this cozy friend—hope it finds its way home.' It did."



9. The Leaf Journal

"My son started collecting colorful leaves and gluing them into a notebook. He named each one and wrote stories about where it came from. It became his 'leaf journal'—a beautiful mix of nature and imagination."



10. Squirrel Shenanigans

"We decorated our porch with mini pumpkins. One morning, we caught a squirrel trying to roll one away like a bowling ball. It didn't get far, but it sure made our day."



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Philippians 4:13

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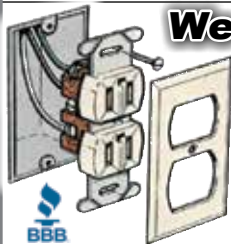


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Publishers Note:

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**

Snow birds

The License Plate Parade

In Florida, locals often joke that you can tell winter has arrived not by the weather, but by the sudden influx of out-of-state license plates. One resident recalled how their quiet street turned into a mini United Nations of vehicles—New York, Ontario, Michigan, and even a few from Alaska. “It’s like a car show for snowbirds,” they said, “except everyone’s driving a beige Buick.”



The Bingo Showdown

At a community center in Arizona, a long-time snowbird from Minnesota shared how competitive bingo nights became the highlight of her winter. “You’d think we were playing for gold bars,” she laughed. “One lady brought her own lucky dauber and wore a visor like she was at a poker table in Vegas.”

The Great Thermostat Debate

A couple from Quebec who wintered in Naples, Florida, had a running disagreement: the husband wanted the AC blasting, while the wife insisted on keeping windows open to “feel the tropical air.” Their compromise? Alternating days of climate control. “We called it the thermostat truce,” they joked.

Golf Cart Culture

In many snowbird communities, golf carts are the preferred mode of transport. One retiree from Michigan recounted how he customized his cart with fuzzy dice, a mini fridge, and even a horn that played “La Cucaracha.” “It’s not just a ride,” he said, “it’s a lifestyle.”



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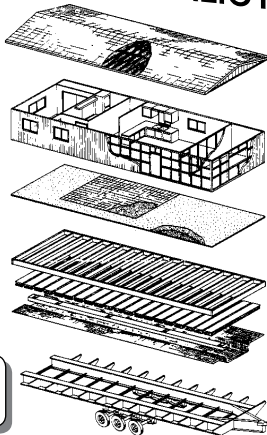
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Fall Jokes to Leaf You Laughing

Why did the tree worry about going back to school?
It was afraid of getting stumped!

What's the best thing to put in a pumpkin pie?
Your teeth!

Why do birds fly south in the fall?
Because it's too far to walk!

What did one autumn leaf say to the other?
I'm falling for you!

Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field!

What's the cutest season?
Aww-tumn!

Why don't trees play poker in the fall?
Too many cheaters!

What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?
Squash!

Why did the apple stop in the middle of the road?
Because it ran out of juice!

What's a tree's favorite drink in the fall?
Root beer!



On plans

We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

—Joseph Campbell

Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless.

— Thomas A. Edison

Turnabout's fair play



A doctor was having trouble with the plumbing in his home. The pipes in his bathroom were starting to leak. Gradually the leak became bigger and bigger. Finally, at about 2 a.m., the doctor decided it was necessary to call his plumber despite the late hour.

The plumber answered the phone with a gruff voice, and it was apparent that he was annoyed at being called upon at such an hour.

"Geesh," he said to the doctor, "do you think you could have waited till a decent hour to call?"

"Well," the doctor answered, "You never hesitate to call me in the middle of the night with a medical problem. I have a plumbing emergency! What else am I supposed to do?"

"You're right," conceded the plumber. "Tell me what the problem is."

The doctor told him about the leak in the bathroom.

"Tell you what to do," the plumber said. "Take two aspirins every four hours and drop them down the pipe. If the leak hasn't cleared up in the morning, call me at my office."

— adapted from *Take This Book, Please*, by Henny Youngman

Make it a double?



A well-dressed man began to stop in a bar every after-noon and order two martinis. After several weeks of serving the man the bartender asked him why he didn't order a double instead.

"Oh," the man said. "It's a matter of sentiment. A few weeks ago a good friend of mine died, and before he went he asked me that whenever I have a drink, I have one for him, too."

"Gotcha," the bartender said with understanding.

But a week later when the man sat down he ordered only one martini.

"Hey, what about your dead buddy?" the bartender asked.

"Oh, this is for him," the man answered. "I'm on the wagon." — adapted from *Take This Book, Please*, by Henny Youngman

On laziness

Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting before you get tired.

— **Jules Renard**

*There is no pleasure in having nothing to do;
the fun is in having lots to do and not doing it.*

— **Mary Wilson Little**

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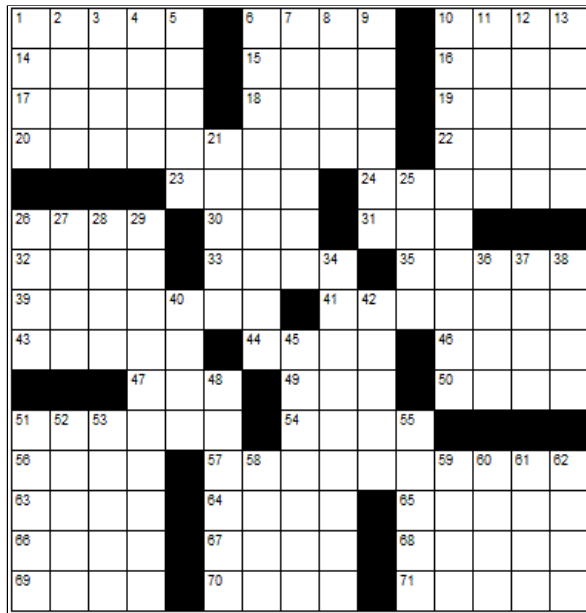


ACROSS

1. Cognizant
6. Beige
10. Clutter
14. Not earlier
15. Blackball
16. Broadcast
17. Moan
18. Writing styluses
19. Nil
20. Value
22. Greasy
23. Coin opening
24. Granny Smiths and Red delicious
26. Ballet attire
30. Half of two
31. Anagram of "Eat"
32. Any minute
33. Voting district
35. Scrutinize
39. Coating of gold
41. Annoying
43. Not liquid
44. Being
46. European mountains
47. Observe
49. S
50. In order that not
51. Mixologist
54. Female deer (plural)
56. Fertilizer component
57. Teasingly
63. Between black and white
64. Whale
65. Red Sea peninsula
66. Wash
67. Bearing
68. Economic down time
69. Got a good look at
70. Strong fiber
71. Affirmatives

DOWN

1. Seaweed
2. Distort
3. At the peak of
4. Backside
5. Anagram of "Sneer"
6. Spying
7. Deceiver
8. Litter member
9. Oust
10. Relating to menopause
11. Electronic letter
12. Move furtively
13. Doesn't go
21. Buffoon
25. Summit
26. Anagram of "Stag"
27. Freshwater mussel
28. Fee
29. Undaunted
34. Disharmonious
36. Handout
37. Little devils
38. Exam
40. Bright thought
42. Adjust again
45. Lures
48. Bury
51. Army brass instrument
52. Impressive display
53. Female ruff
55. Pantywaist
58. Diva's solo
59. Egyptian river
60. Wildebeests
61. Hardly believable
62. Puppy sounds



September Crossword



Statewide Events & Parties

AllEvents.in lists a wide variety of Labor Day events across Florida, including:

Parades and community festivals

Jazz and music festivals

Adventure trips and beach parties

Family-friendly picnics and cookouts

Explore more here: <https://allevents.in/florida/labor-day>

CELEBRATE!



Orlando – GLO Summer Nights at Grande Lakes

Where: JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes

What: A resort-exclusive celebration with glow-themed nights, fireworks, and poolside entertainment.

Note: Events are for resort guests only, but it's a great option for a staycation.

More info: <https://www.orlandodatenightguide.com/labor-day-weekend-in-orlando-19852/>



TradeWinds Island Resorts – St. Pete Beach

What: A beachside celebration with:

Live music

Deck parties

Fireworks on the beach

Poolside games and cornhole

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<https://www.orlandodatenightguide.com/labor-day-weekend-in-orlando-19852/>



Miami – Orange Blossom Classic Weekend

Where: Miami Gardens

What: A major HBCU football showdown between Florida A&M and Jackson State, plus:

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On relaxation

No matter how much pressure you feel at work, if you could find ways to relax for at least five minutes every hour, you'd be more productive.

— Dr. Joyce Brothers



13 ★ 9

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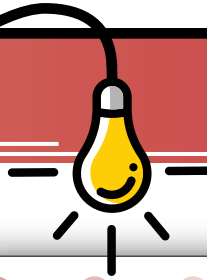


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- 49 Square with a Number:** This counts the years the advertiser has been sharing their story in Monthly Media. A sign of their commitment to your community!

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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.**

ReportFraud.ftc.gov

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.



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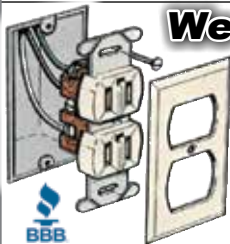
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Pinellas County Events

www.visitstpeteclearwater.com

Saturday Shoppes

Largest Southside marketplace St. Pete, Clearwater, Tampa and even Atlanta. Shop for local handmade crafts, home goods and food truck bites while enjoying a variety of family-friendly fun.

Monthly on the First Saturday

10am - 3pm

Free

Location: 1 Tropicana Dr. St Pete, FL 33701

Gulfport Night Market

Art's Historical Waterfront Arts District spans 10 blocks that includes more than 35 unique locally owned shops, businesses, boutiques, cafes, bars, and restaurants.

Monthly, First Friday and Third Saturday

5pm - 9pm

Free

Location: 3007 Beach Blvd. Gulfport, FL 33707

Dunedin Downtown Market

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

Weekly on Fridays

9am - 1pm

Free

Location: 349 Main St, Dunedin, 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

St. Pete Saturday Morning Market

This vibrant market is a celebration of all things local, featuring farm-fresh produce, artisanal food products and a wide range of arts & crafts. Visitors can wander through rows of vendors, sampling delicious treats from food trucks or picking up unique pieces of jewelry or art.

Date: Weekly on Saturdays

Time: 9am - 2pm

Cost: Free

Location: 350 2nd Ave N, St. Pete FL 33701

Safety Harbor's Market on Main

Safety Harbor Market on Main is every Sunday and offers local hand-crafted items, local food vendors, produce, fresh orange juice, pickled products, and much more! Selection varies each week. Enjoy a walk through quaint downtown Safety Harbor after your visit to the market.

Date: Weekly on Sundays

Time: 10am - 3pm

Cost: Free

Location: 400 Main St. Safety Harbor, FL 34695



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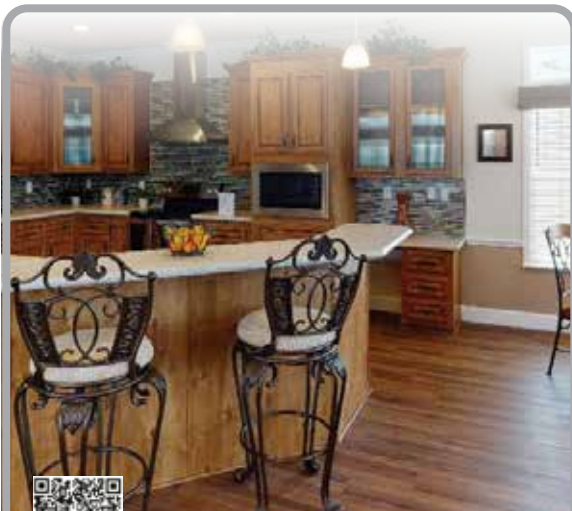
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What Is Labor Day?

Labor Day honors the **American labor movement** and the **contributions of workers** to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of the country. It's a day to recognize the social and economic achievements of American workers.



History

- **Origin:** The holiday originated during the **late 19th century**, a time of growing industrialization and labor unrest.
- **First Celebration:** The first Labor Day was celebrated on **September 5, 1882**, in New York City, organized by the Central Labor Union.
- **Federal Recognition:** It became a **federal holiday in 1894**, following the Pullman Strike—a nationwide railroad strike that led to significant unrest and prompted President Grover Cleveland to make peace with the labor movement.

How It's Celebrated

- **Parades:** Many cities host parades showcasing labor unions, workers, and community organizations.
- **Barbecues & Picnics:** It's also seen as the unofficial end of summer, so families often gather for cookouts and outdoor fun.
- **Retail Sales:** Major sales events happen over Labor Day weekend, especially for back-to-school shopping.
- **Sports:** College football season often kicks off around Labor Day weekend.

Fun Fact

Labor Day is sometimes confused with **May Day** (International Workers' Day), which is celebrated on **May 1** in many countries. The U.S. chose September to distance itself from the more politically charged May Day.

"Without labor, nothing prospers."
— **Sophocles**

"The reward of a thing well done is having done it."
— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."
— **Confucius**

"Work is no disgrace; the disgrace is idleness."
— **Greek Proverb**



September



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Funny Quotes



On vices

He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.

— **Sir Winston Churchill**

To escape criticism — do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.

— **Elbert Hubbard**

If criticism had any power to harm, the skunk would be extinct by now.

— **Fred Allen**

Before you criticize people, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away. And you have their shoes.

— **J.K. Lambert**

I love criticism just so long as it is unqualified praise.

— **Noel Coward**

On friends

The imaginary friends I had as a kid dropped me because their friends thought I didn't exist.

— **Aaron Machado**

On vacations

No man needs a vacation so much as the person who has just had one.

— **Elbert Hubbard**



Cat wisdom

Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later.

— **Mary Bly**

Some people say that cats are sneaky, evil, and cruel. True, and they have many other fine qualities as well.

— **Missy Dizick**

If cats could talk, they wouldn't.

— **Nan Porter**

To bathe a cat takes brute force, perseverance, courage of conviction and a cat. The last ingredient is usually hardest to come by.

— **Stephen Baker**

One cat just leads to another.

— **Ernest Hemingway**

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- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Local maps



FEMA
www.ready.gov/kit

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food, water and supplies for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a portable waterproof container
- ☐ Cash and change
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies, personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- ☐ Mess kits, Paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children





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September



September is the 9th month of the year in the Gregorian calendar.

Its name comes from the Latin word “*septem*”, meaning **seven**, because it was the seventh month in the ancient Roman calendar.

Seasonal Significance

In the **Northern Hemisphere**, September marks the start of autumn (around September 22–23).

In the **Southern Hemisphere**, it signals the beginning of spring.

Back to School

September is traditionally associated with the **start of the academic year** in many countries, especially in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Celestial Events

September often features the **Harvest Moon**, the full moon closest to the autumn equinox.

It's also a month known for **clear night skies**, making it great for stargazing.

Historical Highlights

World War II began in September 1939.

The **Constitution of the United States** was signed on **September 17, 1787**.

Birth Flowers

Aster and Morning Glory are September's birth flowers, symbolizing love, wisdom, and affection.

Birthstone

The sapphire is September's birthstone, representing wisdom, loyalty, and nobility.



On goals

A goal without a plan is just a wish.

— **Antoine de Saint-Exupery**

Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity.

— **Louis Pasteur**

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September Holidays



Labor Day – Monday, September 1, 2025
Celebrated on the first Monday of September, this holiday honors the contributions of American workers.

Monthly Observances

- National Suicide Prevention Month
- National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- National Preparedness Month
- National Self-Care Awareness Month

Notable Observances by Date

September 1

- American Chess Day
- Ginger Cat Appreciation Day
- National Cheese Pizza Day
- National Tofu Day
- World Letter Writing Day



September 2–7

- Sept. 2: National Blueberry Popsicle Day, World Coconut Day
- Sept. 3: National Skyscraper Day, U.S. Bowling League Day
- Sept. 4: National Wildlife Day, Eat an Extra Dessert Day
- Sept. 5: International Day of Charity, World Samosa Day
- Sept. 6: National Read a Book Day, Fight Procrastination Day
- Sept. 7: International Bacon Day, National Beer Lovers Day

September 15 – October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month begins – celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

September 22

Autumn Equinox – Marks the first day of fall in the Northern Hemisphere.

September 7

Total Lunar Eclipse – A celestial event where the moon passes completely into Earth's shadow.

September Word Search



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inventory
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laudable

music
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Snow birds



The Early Bird Shuffle

In Port Charlotte, a local diner owner shared how snowbirds would start lining up at 4:30 p.m. for the early bird special. “It’s like clock-work,” he said. “They come in, order the fish fry, and are out before sunset. One couple even brought their own salt shaker because they said ours wasn’t ‘zesty enough.’”

Gator Misunderstanding

A snowbird from New Jersey staying near the Everglades mistook a sunbathing alligator for a “weird-looking log” and tried to take a selfie with it. A neighbor quickly intervened. “I thought Florida wildlife was just flamingos and pelicans,” she said later. “Now I know better—and I zoom in from a safe distance!”

Laundry Room Diplomacy

In a Sarasota condo complex, the shared laundry room became a hub of snowbird diplomacy. One Canadian retiree recalled, “We had a sign-up sheet, but it turned into a social calendar. You’d go to do laundry and end up chatting for an hour about hockey, grandkids, and the best place for grouper sandwiches.”

Golf Course GPS

A Michigan couple new to The Villages got lost on their golf cart trying to find the right course. “We ended up at a pickleball court, then a dog park,” the husband said. “Eventually, someone gave us a paper map. It felt like a treasure hunt—but with sunscreen.”

Community Theater Surprise

In Naples, a snowbird from Ohio auditioned for a local play “just for fun” and ended up landing the lead role. “I hadn’t acted since high school,” she said. “But the director said I had the perfect ‘retired librarian energy.’ Now I’m a star every winter!”



On vices
*Here’s a rule I recommend:
Never practice two vices at once.*
— ***Tallulah Bankhead***

On respect
Respect yourself and others will respect you.
— ***Confucius***

Did You Know?

More babies are born on September 9th than any other day out of the year, and babies born in September supposedly excel more in school and sports when compared to others. The later birthday leads to them being considerably older, giving them a slight competitive, and scholarly edge against their peers



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4. Every month we draw new tickets for **CASH PRIZES** and mail winners a check! **Every month is a new chance to win!**

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Terry Helopoulos..... \$10 Largo Plumbing
Kelly David..... \$10 Perfect Repair and Construction
Lloyd Holbrook..... \$10 Red Royal Electric
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David Crosman..... \$5 Air Masters of Pinellas
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