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# ISLAND IN THE SUN

• S E N T I N E L •

E

December • 2025

Issue 10  
49<sup>th</sup> Year

## Ernie's Dream Team from East Bay Oaks MHP

Photo: Jeryl Danieli, Dominic Danieli, Elaine Mihara, Ernie Ranger, Anne Emond, Florence Brown, Sara Spanos and Mich Emond. Photo Credit: David MacAskill



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# Island in the Sun Community Newsletter

This publication, Island in the Sun Sentinel, also referred to as the Monthly Media, contains names, contact information, community articles and information, an activities calendar as well as general interest articles. IITS residents can contribute ideas, articles, and photos to the publication. Contact Linda Olone at 727-214-7334, email [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com), or Lot 73

**Manager Editor:** Linda Olone

**Media Delivery Team:** Nancy Bilcheck, Ernie Grow, Roy and Jan Wisdom, Sudie Borders, Cheryl D'Andrea; Sue Morley; Steve Marshall, Mike & Cynthia Sadusky, Phil Tursi, Sonny Dumlao and Cecile Morock

**Proofreader:** Rusty Leslie

**January 2026 Media Deadline December 4, 2025**

**Please e-mail articles and photos submissions to:** [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com)

You can also drop off articles not sent via e-mail at Lot 73

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

Need Volunteer

Please submit corrections to [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com) or report to an HOA Board member.

## Island in the Sun HOA Board

President.....	Pattie McDonough .....	Lot 266 .....	727-475-0360 .....	<a href="mailto:mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com">mcdonoughpattie@gmail.com</a>
Vice - President.....	Roger Brown			
Treasurer .....	Cathy Ralston.....	Lot 184 .....	203-257-3376	
Secretary .....	Ken Gonska.....	Lot 313 .....	303-704-5555	
1 yr .....	Steve Malara .....	Lot 202 .....	732-977-4867 .....	<a href="mailto:smbombers@aol.com">smbombers@aol.com</a>
2 yr .....	Lisa Hoffman.....	Lot 125		
3yr .....	Kimberly Riesenbach.....	Lot 185 .....	609-471-8608.....	<a href="mailto:kimberlyriesenbach@gmail.com">kimberlyriesenbach@gmail.com</a>

## Non-Board Positions

Robo Call .....	Chrissie Riley .....	Lot 290 .....	404-353-1801 .....	<a href="mailto:chrissieriley@gmail.com">chrissieriley@gmail.com</a>
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## 2025 Committees

Committee.....	Name/Chair.....	Lot# .....	Phone#.....	Email
Activities Committee .....	Kimberly Riesenbach.....	Lot 185 .....	609-471-8608 .....	<a href="mailto:kimberlyriesenbach@gmail.com">kimberlyriesenbach@gmail.com</a>
	Chrissie Riley.....	290 .....	404-353-1801	
Bingo.....	Linda Olone .....	73 .....	727-214-7334	
Bingo Callers .....	Linda Olone .....	73 .....	727-214-7334	
	Ron Castor			
	Betsey Springman			
Dominoes .....	Jan Wisdom			
Ladies Lunch.....	Cindy Sadusky .....	14 .....	717-587-2498	
Library.....	Cindy Sadusky .....	14 .....	717-587-2498	
co chair .....	Nancy Bilcheck.....	184 .....	203-913-9450	
Media Delivery .....	Nancy Bilcheck.....	184 .....	203-913-9450	
Membership .....	Pattie McDonough .....	266 .....	727-475-0360	
Phone Book .....	Tammy Blaisse .....	297 .....	580-301-4828	
Pickleball.....	Paul Ranck .....	134		
Shuffleboard .....	Elaine Ranck .....	134		
Rummikub.....	Rose Leduc.....	160 .....	727-797-8026	
Sign Board .....	Chrissie Riley.....	290 .....	404-353-1801	
Texas Hold'Em .....	Rick Morabito .....	174 .....	303-704-9772	
co chair.....	Rose Leduc.....	160 .....	727-797-8026	
Welcoming .....	Rusty Leslie .....	310 .....	865-232-9072.....	<a href="mailto:kohanadancer@gmail.com">kohanadancer@gmail.com</a>
Yoga .....	Kathy Bowen			

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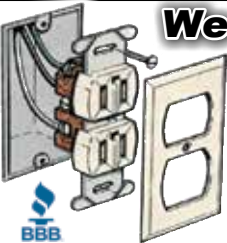


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## FROM THE EDITOR

Linda Olone

Hello IITS!!

It's our final month of the year! Happy Holidays! I wish you all the very best for the upcoming celebrations for 2025 and a blessed new year! Enjoy life!

This will be the last issue I will be involved with. It's been fun serving you in this way.

The HOA is looking for a replacement editor. If you are interested, please contact Pattie McDonough.

Thank you - Linda Olone



## Island in the Sun PHONE BOOK

It is that time of year, getting ready for the annual printing of the community phone book. Anyone not already in the community phone book who would like to be added, please send your name(s), phone number(s) and lot number to [tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com](mailto:tammy.blaisse@yahoo.com), or text 580-301-4828. If you would like call with the information, please leave a voice mail for me, if I have questions I will call you back. If you know of someone in the community phone book who no longer lives here please let me know that. The deadline for this information is December 15th. Thank you!



## From the HOA president

Pattie McDonough

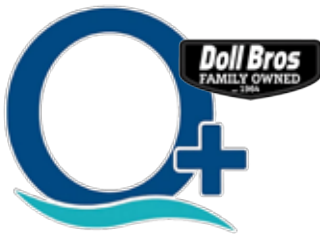
If anyone has any questions about anything going on here in Island in the Sun, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I welcome it. If I don't answer, please leave me a message and I will return it as quickly as I can. I do work during the day, so I may not get back to you until evening.

Sincerely,

Pattie McDonough – 727-475-0360







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## FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

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- 4 ways to find out all about our events:
1. Make sure you sign up for the robocalls as well, as event information is being sent via robocall, too. Contact Chrissie Riley at [chrissiegriley@gmail.com](mailto:chrissiegriley@gmail.com) or Pattie McDonough with your lot #, telephone number and name to join the list. These numbers are shared with no one.
  2. Check out the Marquee at the park entrance by the clubhouse for upcoming events. HOA Events and announcements are located on the front and Resident Sponsored Activities are located on the back, if you would like your activity listed on the back please let Pattie McDonough know.
  3. The calendar is kept current in the glass case at the Clubhouse.
  4. Please join any or all of these IITS Facebook Groups, we post activities on these pages only.
    - a. Island in the Sun Social Group
    - b. IITS uncensored, sort of
    - c. The Official Island in the Sun HOA (HOA Members only) This page is only for HOA business.



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

## OPEN POSITIONS:

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

**NON-Board Positions**

1. **HOA is looking for an Editor for the monthly media guide. Please contact Pattie McDonough.**
2. Remembrance Corner - OPEN - Need this person to report obits to Rusty Leslie for adding to Media Guide and so we are able to send a card from the community.
3. Neighbor Helping Neighbor – OPEN - need Volunteers.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

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We would love to add your birthday and anniversary to our list! E-mail your name and date to [linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com) so your friends and neighbors can help you celebrate your special days!

### December Birthdays

15 Margaret Arnold  
19 Rose Simmons



23 Tom Boeckley  
24 Jeanne Langston





## Reminder

**R**eminder to pick up your doggie poop and help keep our community clean. Waste stations are located all around the park for your convenience.



## RESIDENT ACTIVITIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



- **Weekly Football Pool** - \$5.00 to play. “You pick the winners” See Linda Olone. Lot 73 or call 727-214-7334 to play. Posted weekly on the social page.
- **The Men’s Breakfast** - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse. The participation is typically 6-12 men. All guys are welcome including people visiting the community. It’s a great way to meet your neighbors! Hosted by Ron Holzer
- **The Ladies who Lunch** - meet monthly. The restaurant, date and time are announced on various IITS Facebook pages, sign up is online or at the Clubhouse. Hosted by Cindy Sadusky
- **8 or 9 Ball Pool** - Like to shoot pool? Every Saturday at 10 am there is a group who play 8 or 9 ball at the clubhouse. They are always looking for new players. Hosted by Elliot Lipford
- **Texas hold ‘em Poker** is played in the clubhouse on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:30 pm. Come prepared to have fun. Hosted by Rick Morabito
- **Bingo** – Every Monday, played in the clubhouse. Hosted by Linda Olone
- **LRC (Left, Right, Center)** – 3rd Tuesday of every month – bring your dollars! Hosted by Nancy Bilcheck
- **Pickle Ball** – Played Monday and Tuesday night at 6:30 – Join Dave and Malissa St Clair.

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

## Calendar

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

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



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## Ladies Lunch

Cindy Sadusky

**L**adies Lunch. The ladies of Island In The Sun get together on the 3rd Thursday of every month, at noon, to enjoy lunch together at various restaurants around the Clearwater area. I love choosing one of many locally owned restaurants, hopefully allowing us to experience restaurants that we may not have chosen ourselves. There are many that we have visited that have become favorites! I also welcome suggestions from the group. It should be a restaurant that can accommodate a group between 8-14 women, accept reservations and will do separate checks.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE HOA EVENTS

### Activities Committee

Hi everyone.

**T**he Resident Activities committee has the following activities planned for each month this coming year. Please contact Pattie McDonough if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.



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

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

### **December 31st New Years Eve Party - More to come.**

All activities are held by the residents, the HOA's only involvement is to provide the funds needed to set up the activity, provide guidance if the host wishes, we will help the host if needed, provide the 50/50, Raffle Basket and tickets if needed. The HOA does not determine what activities are held, you as residents do that.

Thanks to all those who volunteer their time to make these events a great one for our community.

Your activities committee is working hard to provide the residents with fun activities.





# Communications

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

HOA will continue to use Robo call.

## SIGN UP FOR IITS ROBOCALL TO STAY INFORMED

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



HOA will continue to use Robo call.

**The phone messaging service is used to:**

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

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

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_



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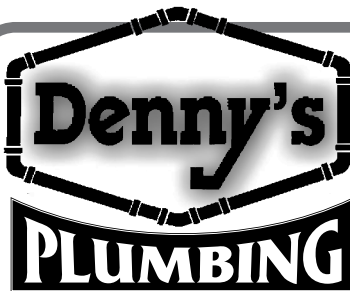


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## WELCOME WAGON CORNER

*Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie*

**W**elcome to my little corner of the world and to a busy December and the holiday season.

If you are new to our community and manufactured home living, I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Our activities are listed in the center of this media guide.

If you have lived here awhile and have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

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

Have a wonderful month of December

Rusty (Rosalind) Leslie

I am in Lot 310 - corner of Nassau and Windward.

Just come to my screened porch and ring the bell.

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welcome!

## Bingo News!!!!!!

**B**ingo is back! Every Monday night! Bring your friends, bring your neighbors, bring your family!

If you are looking to get involved in something, come join us for Bingo.

Let's get our crowd up so we can pay more money! Participation is sure way to keep this event going. Please feel free to bring your family and friends.

See you all soon! Thank you ~ Linda Olone



## Local Business Recommendation

**W**e need your help!!!! Which local businesses do you recommend?

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

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

Send me your info – contact info below.

Please help get these lists going!!!

Send any information to Rusty - 865.232.9072

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www.fti.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.**

**ReportFraud.ftc.gov**

**Report Imposter Scams Online to  
the Federal Trade Commission**

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Medical ASSOCIATES**

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**7** **27**



## Be Active

Being physically active can help you stay strong and independent. For older adults, regular physical activity supports a number of health benefits, including brain function, balance, and bone strength.

- Try to get at least 150 minutes (or two and a half hours) of moderate activity per week. Moderate means any activity that gets your heart beating faster.
- Do activities that make your muscles work harder than usual at least two days of the week.



## Free At-Home Hearing Test

AARP Members can take a free hearing test once a year from the safety and comfort of your home. This test can be taken via phone, computer, or mobile device. While the test itself isn't new, the convenience of taking it on your preferred device is.

The National Hearing Test is an independent and scientifically validated hearing screen test developed with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This confidential test can be the first step towards your hearing health.

Visit The National Hearing Test website and use your AARP login.

[www.nationalhearingtest.org](http://www.nationalhearingtest.org)



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## Ride Share

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Mease Countryside Hospital  
Mease Dunedin Hospital Campus  
Morton Plant Hospital Campus



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

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

## Recipe Row

### Easy French Toast Casserole:

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1 (8-ounce) loaf crusty French bread, cut into bite-sized pieces, or more as needed
- 2 cups milk
- 6 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

#### Topping:

- 1 tablespoon brown sugar, or to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon, or to taste

#### Directions:

Gather all ingredients. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

all ingredients gathered to make french toast casserole

To make the French toast: Stir brown sugar and butter together in a saucepan over medium-low heat until butter is melted and sugar has dissolved, 2 to 4 minutes. Pour butter-brown sugar mixture into the prepared baking dish.

butter and brown-sugar mixture poured into baking dish

Scatter French bread pieces over top in a 1 1/2- to 2-inch layer.

french bread pieces scattered over the butter-brown sugar mixture

Whisk milk, eggs, and vanilla together in a bowl until well combined. Pour over bread pieces, then press bread down with a spatula so the bread absorbs the liquid. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 8 hours to overnight.

bread after sitting overnight, soaking up all the liquid

When ready to bake, remove French toast from the refrigerator and discard plastic wrap. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

To make the topping: Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl; sprinkle evenly over the top of French toast.

topping sprinkled over french toast

Bake in the preheated oven until casserole is golden brown and set in the center, 50 to 60 minutes..



# Did You Know?

Christmas was originally celebrated by the Greeks on January 7th of every year, until Pope Julius I marked December 25th the official date for Christmas celebration in 350 A.D., and is still celebrated on that date to this day, nearly 1700 years later.



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**Circle with a Number:** This shows how many years the advertiser has been a certified business.



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**49**

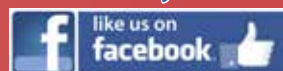
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and loyal businesses at a glance. Happy reading!



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Superior Clean Air Solutions ..... 727-768-1837

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Lake Seminole Square ..... 727-392-3932

## ATTORNEY

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## CARPET CLEANING

Quality Care Plus/Doll Brothers ..... 727-761-8222

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## FLOOR REPAIR

Flatworks ..... 727-431-6875  
Florida Anchor & Barrier Co. .... 727-237-6772  
Perfect Repair & Construction, Inc ..... 727-539-0852

## FURNITURE & MATTRESS

AJ's Beds & Furniture ..... 727-588-0406

## INSURANCE: HEALTH

Dawn-Rae Crutchfield ..... 727-499-8461

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Ron's Handyman Services ..... 727-657-2491

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Swalles Re-Face It, LLC ..... 727-804-1689

## MANUFACTURED HOME SALES/NEW

Citrus Homes/Meadowood Homes ..... 727-535-5262

## MOBILE HOME SUPPLIES - RETAIL

Mobile Home Depot, Inc. .... 727-535-1100

## MOBILE HOME WASH/WAX

Royal Enterprises ..... 727-394-7351  
Wyngarden Mobile Home Wash ..... 727-587-0876

## MOBILE HOME WINDOW FILM

Royal Enterprises ..... 727-394-7351

## PAINTING/INSIDE & OUTSIDE

Payless Painting Services ..... 727-470-5876

## PEST CONTROL

Buggin Out Termite & Pest Control ..... 727-535-2629  
Coby's Tentless Termite & Pest ..... 727-462-0400  
FL Termite & Pest Experts ..... 727-785-2552

## PLUMBING SERVICE

Denny's Plumbing, Inc. .... 727-530-1391  
Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc. .... 727-799-0287  
Largo Plumbing Co. .... 727-596-0525

## REMODELING/INTERIOR

Veterans Mobile Home Services ..... 727-435-0747

## ROOF REPLACEMENT

All Weather Roofing ..... 1-800-297-3758  
AMS Advanced MH Systems ..... 727-471-0820  
Community Roofing of Florida, Inc ..... 727-536-9999

## ROOM ADDITIONS

ASC Aluminum Specialty Contr. .... 727-547-8300  
Bay Area Aluminum Services, Inc. .... 727-585-4442  
Keenan Construction ..... 727-455-0778

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Atlas Mobile Home Services ..... 727-515-0511  
Florida Anchor & Barrier Co. .... 727-237-6772  
Underhome Armor ..... 727-282-2045

## TRAVEL/TOURS

Travel Is Fun ..... 727-347-1600

## VAPOR BARRIER

Florida Anchor & Barrier Co. .... 727-330-7821  
Precision Vapor Barriers ..... 727-237-6772  
Underhome Armor ..... 727-282-2045

## VINYL SIDING

AMS Advanced MH Systems ..... 727-471-0820  
ASC Aluminum Specialty Contr. .... 727-547-8300  
Mitchell Siding ..... 727-586-6315

## WINDOW REPLACEMENT

AMS Advanced MH Systems ..... 727-471-0820  
ASC Aluminum Specialty Contr. .... 727-547-8300  
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**sales@monthly-media.com**



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# DECEMBER•2025

Sunday	Monday	Tu
	1	
7	8	
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day		
14	15	
21	22	
First Day of Winter		
28	29	



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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
	Christmas Eve	Christmas		
30	31			
	New Year's Eve			



*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*

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**Steps should be taken to avoid Florida  
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**Last Will &  
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\$125**





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# WC INC.

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**Call Today!**  
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**DO YOU NEED A NEW ROOF?**  
Our Weather-Lok Roof Over System  
Exclusively from AMS is:

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- Quiet
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"This is simply the best roof over system available. We love our new roof.  
Thanks you and your staff."

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AMS carries a wide range of windows designed to fit your home and are energy efficient. Standard features include:

- PVC Vinyl Frame
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"Our new energy efficient windows installed by AMS are beautiful. Everything from start to finish was great."

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Our premium vinyl siding offers:

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17



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# Senior Discounts You Probably Don't Know About, But Should

## Retail Discounts!!

**C**heck local stores to be sure they participate.

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





## Free Smoke Detectors!

The American Red Cross offers free smoke alarm installation through its Home Fire Campaign. You can request a free smoke alarm installation in Clearwater, FL, by completing a form available on the American Red Cross website. The Home Fire Campaign also provides home fire safety education.

Here's how to request a free smoke alarm installation:

1. Visit the American Red Cross website: Go to the Smoke Alarm Request page for South Florida.
2. Complete the form: Fill out the online form with your information.
3. A Red Cross team will follow up: A member of the Home Fire Campaign team will contact you to schedule a free smoke alarm installation appointment.
4. Learn about home fire safety: The Red Cross also provides valuable information and resources on home fire safety.

Also - Many Fire Departments offer free smoke detectors. Call them to inquire.



## Trash collection in Clearwater - 2025

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day: CLOSED. Thursday's collections will be made Wednesday, Dec. 24. Friday's collections will remain the same.  
Jan. 1, 2026 - New Year's Day:



## Free Sewing Lessons

Island in the Sun resident, Donna is offering FREE sewing lessons for anyone interested. Please call Donna at 727-215-0609 to make arrangements.  
Happy Sewing!!

If there is anything you would like to offer our neighbors, please let me know and we will put it in here. (Linda Olone – 727-214-7334/[linda.olone@gmail.com](mailto:linda.olone@gmail.com)) or on Facebook!



## Managing your Diabetes

Here are some natural ways to help manage diabetes or lower the risk of developing it:

1. **Embrace a healthy diet**

- Focus on whole, unprocessed foods: Include plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins.
- Prioritize fiber: Fiber helps slow sugar absorption and promotes a healthy gut microbiome, which can improve insulin sensitivity and lower blood sugar.
- Limit sugary drinks and refined carbs: These contribute to blood sugar spikes and can hinder diabetes management.

*continued on page 31*



# ROOF OVERS & REPAIRS

## COMMUNITY

*Free Estimates*



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**Come see what we're all about!**

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end of the newsletter for direction and rules**



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**727-484-7488**



- Practice portion control: Utilizing methods like the plate method can help regulate calorie and carbohydrate intake.
- 2. Incorporate regular exercise**
  - Aerobic activity: Engage in activities like walking, swimming, cycling, or dancing to improve insulin sensitivity and lower blood sugar levels.
  - Strength training: Builds muscle mass, which helps your body utilize glucose more efficiently.
  - Aim for a balance: Combine aerobic and resistance exercises for optimal blood sugar control.
- 3. Maintain a healthy weight**
  - Weight loss can improve blood sugar control: Losing even a small percentage of body weight can significantly improve blood sugar levels.
  - Combine healthy eating and exercise for weight management: This combination is key to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight.
- 4. Prioritize sleep**
  - Adequate sleep supports insulin sensitivity: Aim for 7-8 hours of quality sleep each night.
  - Sleep deprivation can negatively impact blood sugar regulation: Lack of sleep can raise cortisol levels, a hormone that affects blood sugar.
- 5. Manage stress**
  - Chronic stress can affect blood sugar levels: Stress hormones like glucagon and cortisol can elevate blood sugar.
  - Explore stress reduction techniques: Consider exercise, meditation, mindfulness, deep breathing, or seeking support.
- 6. Stay hydrated**
  - Drink plenty of water: Water helps flush out excess sugar through urine and can rehydrate the blood, potentially lowering blood sugar levels.
  - Opt for water or low-calorie beverages: Avoid sugar-sweetened drinks that can negatively impact blood glucose.

## For Veterans – Submitted by Pattie McDonough



**H**onor Flight® of West Central Florida, Inc. (HFWCF) was established as a regional hub of the Honor Flight Network in October 2010.

Our mission is to recognize American Veterans for their sacrifice and service by flying them FREE OF CHARGE to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at the memorials dedicated in their honor. Top priority is given to WWII, Korean and terminally ill Veterans. Honor Flight is committed to fly Veterans from Vietnam, Gulf wars and other conflicts.

Honor Flight West Central Florida (HFWCF) is a Tampa, FL based non-profit organization. Our goal is to transport America's Veterans to Washington, D.C. at NO COST, to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Priority is currently given to WWII and Korean Veterans, along with those other Veterans who may be terminally ill. Departure for this one-day trip to Washington, D.C. is from the St. Petersburg – Clearwater International Airport (PIE). here is the website to get an application:

**[Honorflightwestcentralflorida.org](http://Honorflightwestcentralflorida.org)**





## More thrift stores

Rusty Leslie

**W**e have been asked about thrift stores so here are some more recommended in the area by some of our residents, including me.

### Clearwater

Clothesline Two

1899 Drew Street, Clearwater 33765

727.447.3832

Tues – Fri 11 - 5, Sat 11 - 4 , closed Sunday



Hope Children's Home Thrift (supports a children's home)

2881 Gulf to Bay Clearwater 33759

727.754.9707

Mon – Fri 11 - 6, Sat 10 - 6, closed Sunday

HEP Thrift

1212 Betty Lane Clearwater 33755

727.442.9041 X330

Tues – Sat 10 – 4, closed Sunday and Monday

Holy Trinity Thrift

3240 McMullen Booth Rd Clearwater 33761

727.723.7631

Mon – Sat 10 – 4 Closed Sunday



Dunedin

The Scott Shop

1265 Bayshore Blvd Dunedin 34698

727.733.4281

Weds – Fri 10 - 4 Closed Saturday through Tuesday

### Palm Harbor

Suncoast Animal League Thrift

1454 US 19 ALT Palm Harbor 34683

727.303.3125

Mon – Fri 10 – 6, Sat 10 – 5. Closed Sunday

Lisa's Luxury Resale

34844 US 19 N Palm Harbor 34684

Tues – Thurs 11 – 7, Fri 11 – 5, Sat 11 – 4 Closed Sunday

*...continued on page 35*

**Flood Damage??? We can HELP!!!**

# **LOOKED UNDER YOUR MOBILE HOME LATELY?**

**Insulation Under Your Home Falling Down?  
Holes and Tears in Your  
Vapor /Moisture Barrier?**



**FREE**  
**UNDER HOME  
INSPECTION**  
Only with this COUPON



Photographs  
Taken of  
Damaged Areas

**0%  
FINANCING**  
UP TO 18 MONTHS

## **Insulation and Vapor Barrier Repairs**



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State of Florida  
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- Member: National Association of Mold Professionals



# **FLORIDA ANCHOR AND BARRIER COMPANY**

**16** ★ **11590 U.S. Highway 19 North • Clearwater • FL 33764**

**16**

# Need affordable Medicare that's in step with your life?

**Choosing the right Medicare coverage can be confusing.**

**I can help you find a plan that's right for YOU and YOUR BUDGET.**

13 ★ 5



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HMIA008253 5-2020

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**BEAUTY THAT LASTS  
PROTECTION THAT MATTERS**

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|--|---|
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLAM SHELL AWNINGS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BAHAMA SHUTTERS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNROOMS & SCREENS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> & MORE          |



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## Elder Abuse Prevention Program

*Submitted by Pattie McDonough*

**E**lder abuse refers to any knowing, intentional or negligent act causing harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. Abuse, neglect, exploitation, or fraud can happen anywhere, anytime, and often affects the most vulnerable members of our community.

The DOEA Elder Abuse Prevention Program supports programs and services to protect elders from abuse in all forms, physical, emotional, and financial. In partnership with the Department of Children and Families Adult Protective Services, DOEA and the Aging Network work to protect disabled adults or elderly persons from further occurrences of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Services provided may include protective supervision, placement, and in-home and community-based services.

### How to Report Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

The Department works in conjunction with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Adult Protective Services and the Aging Network to protect disabled adults or elderly persons from further occurrences of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Services provided may include protective supervision, placement and in-home and community-based services. To report online – go to the DCF web site at Abuse Hotline | Florida DCF ([myflfamilies.com](http://myflfamilies.com))

To report by phone – call Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873). Press 2 to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable adult. This toll free number is available 24/7. TTY (Telephone Device for the Deaf): 1-800-955-8771. To report via fax, please print and complete the DCF fax reporting form with details and fax to 1-800-914-0004.







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Please contact (727) 573-9444 for more information.



## A Great Story for Christmas

*Author Unknown*

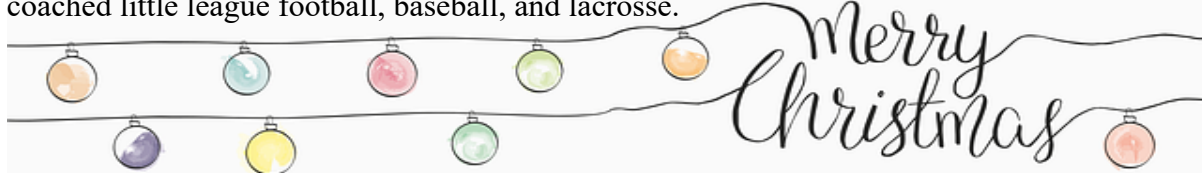
It's just a small white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband, Mike, hated Christmas -- oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it -- the overspending, the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma -- the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties, and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way. Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was an on-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church.

These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And, as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids -- all kids -- and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball, and lacrosse.





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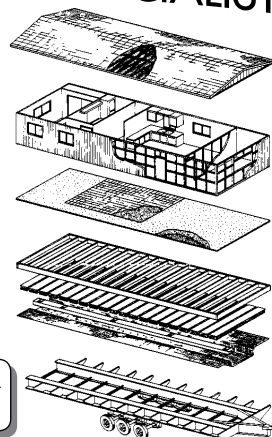


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That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition -- one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us. May we all remember Christ, who is the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always. God Bless! -- pass this story along to those friends and loved ones who you know are the givers who understand the true meaning of Christmas.

## Because of Love

*\*Rev. David L. Griffin*

---

A brother and sister had made their usual hurried, obligatory pre-Christmas visit to the little farm where dwelt their elderly parents with their small herd of horses. The farm was where they had grown up and had been named Lone Pine Farm because of the huge pine, which topped the hill behind the farm. Through the years the tree had become a talisman to the old man and his wife, and a landmark in the countryside. The young siblings had fond memories of their childhood here, but the city hustle and bustle added more excitement to their lives, and called them away to a different life.

The old folks no longer showed their horses, for the years had taken their toll, and getting out to the barn on those frosty mornings was getting harder, but it gave them a reason to get up in the mornings and a reason to live. They sold a few foals each year, and the horses were their reason for joy in the morning and contentment at day's end.

Angry, as they prepared to leave, the young couple confronted the old folks "Why do you not at least dispose of 'The Old One'. She is no longer of use to you. It's been years since you've had foals from her. You should cut corners and save so you can have more for yourselves. How can this old worn out horse bring you anything but expense and work? Why do you keep her anyway?"

*...continued on page 40*





The old man looked down at his worn boots, holes in the toes, scuffed at the barn floor and replied, " Yes, I could use a pair of new boots".

His arm slid defensively about the Old One's neck as he drew her near with gentle caressing he rubbed her softly behind her ears. He replied softly, "We keep her because of love. Nothing else, just love."

Baffled and irritated, the young folks wished the old man and his wife a Merry Christmas and headed back toward the city as darkness stole through the valley.

The old couple shook their heads in sorrow that it had not been a happy visit. A tear fell upon their cheeks. How is it that these young folks do not understand the peace of the love that filled their hearts?

So it was, that because of the unhappy leave-taking, no one noticed the insulation smoldering on the frayed wires in the old barn. None saw the first spark fall. None but the "Old One".

In a matter of minutes, the whole barn was ablaze and the hungry flames were licking at the loft full of hay. With a cry of horror and despair, the old man shouted to his wife to call for help as he raced to the barn to save their beloved horses. But the flames were roaring now, and the blazing heat drove him back. He sank sobbing to the ground, helpless before the fire's fury. His wife back from calling for help cradled him in her arms, clinging to each other, they wept at their loss.

By the time the fire department arrived, only smoking, glowing ruins were left, and the old man and his wife, exhausted from their grief, huddled together before the barn. They were speechless as they rose from the cold snow covered ground. They nodded thanks to the firemen as there was nothing anyone could do now. The old man turned to his wife, resting her white head upon his shoulders as his shaking old hands clumsily dried her tears with a frayed red bandana. Brokenly he whispered, "We have lost much, but God has spared our home on this eve of Christmas. Let us gather strength and climb the hill to the old pine where we have sought comfort in times of despair. We will look down upon our home and give thanks to God that it has been spared and pray for our beloved most precious gifts that have been taken from us.

And so, he took her by the hand and slowly helped her up the snowy hill as he brushed aside his own tears with the back of his old and withered hand.

The journey up the hill was hard for their old bodies in the steep snow. As they stepped over the little knoll at the crest of the hill, they paused to rest, looking up to the top of the hill the old couple gasped and fell to their knees in amazement at the incredible beauty before them.

Seemingly, every glorious, brilliant star in the heavens was caught up in the glittering, snow-frosted branches of their beloved pine, and it was aglow with heavenly candles. And poised on its top most bough, a crystal crescent moon glistened like spun glass. Never had a mere mortal created a Christmas tree such as this. They were breathless as the old man held his wife tighter in his arms.

Suddenly, the old man gave a cry of wonder and incredible joy. Amazed and mystified, he took his wife by the hand and pulled her forward. There, beneath the tree, in resplendent glory, a mist hovering over and glowing in the darkness was their Christmas gift. Shadows glistening in the night light.

Bedded down about the "Old one" close to the trunk of the tree, was the entire herd, safe.

*...continued on page 43*

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ISLAND IN THE SUN SENTINEL DECEMBER, 2025 E



At the first hint of smoke, she had pushed the door ajar with her muzzle and had led the horses through it. Slowly and with great dignity, never looking back, she had led them up the hill, stepping cautiously through the snow. The foals were frightened and dashed about. The skittish yearlings looked back at the crackling, hungry flames, and tucked their tails under them as they licked their lips and hopped like rabbits. The mares that were in foal with a new years crop of babies, pressed uneasily against the "Old One" as she moved calmly up the hill and to safety beneath the pine. And now she lay among them and gazed at the faces of the old man and his wife.

Those she loved she had not disappointed. Her body was brittle with years, tired from the climb, but the golden eyes were filled with devotion as she offered her gift--

Because of love. Only Because of love.

Tears flowed as the old couple shouted their praise and joy... And again the peace of love filled their hearts.

\* The author says that this inspirational story is a parable and not a true story.

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---

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