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THANKSLECTION

November brings two important days: one when we help decide our nation's direction, and another when we give thanks for its many blessings.

By POLK.NEWS Staff



AI-generated illustration

Editor's note: We wrote this article before Election Day, but most readers will receive this edition after the voting has ended.

November holds two important days: Election Day, when we help decide our nation's direction, and Thanksgiving Day, when we give thanks for its blessings.

By the time you read this, Election Day has likely come and gone. Look around you. We're still here. Our nation still exists.

Listening to the campaign rhetoric, you might have wondered whether that would be possible. Voices on the Democratic side warned of disaster if Republicans won. Voices on the Republican side warned of disaster if Democrats won. Follow that reasoning, and apparently America was doomed either way.

Or perhaps our nation is stronger than the campaign speeches would have us believe.

Our republic was built to endure disagreements, changes in leadership and even poor leadership. But its endurance depends on something more lasting than which party wins an election: our commitment to the Constitution and the principles that hold our system of government together.

When Benjamin Franklin described that government as "A republic, if you can keep it," he left Americans with a responsibility that continues long after the ballots are counted.

Keeping it means respecting the Constitution, protecting eligible citizens' right to vote, safeguarding the integrity of elections and settling disputes through lawful processes. It means defending peaceful speech—even when we disagree—and recognizing that political disappointment never excuses violence or destruction.

We can debate policies, question leaders and work toward different outcomes in the next election. Those are ways of participating in our republic. Our shared commitment to its constitutional foundations is what allows those disagreements to continue without tearing the country apart.

Those limits matter when they restrain our opponents, and they matter just as much when they restrain the people we voted for. Keeping a republic requires holding our own leaders to the same standards we expect their opponents to honor.

That shared commitment gives us something worth being thankful for: a country where losing an election need not mean losing our voice, and where we can work peacefully to change direction.

And that brings us to November's other gathering: Thanksgiving. After a season spent discussing what divides us, we have an opportunity to remember what we share—a community, a country and people whose place at our table matters more than their political opinions.

Here in Polk County, we can bring different opinions to the same table and still have plenty to be thankful for. Family. Friendship. Faith. The people who make our lives better, including a few whose political opinions leave us scratching our heads.

Gratitude does not require pretending that everything is perfect. It simply asks us to recognize what is worth appreciating and preserving: our freedoms, the people who help us through difficult times and the chance to keep working toward something better.

So go ahead and buy the turkey. Invite the family, including the relatives who voted differently.

As for how you should cook the turkey—and whether everyone in your family will agree—that is a debate we dare not enter.

Happy Thanksgiving from the staff of POLK.NEWS.

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WHEN THE PAYCHECK ISN'T ENOUGH

Shared housing may offer financial breathing room - and a sense of community.

By POLK.NEWS Staff



EconoVR room photo, digitally retouched. Person added using AI.

For some people earning minimum wage or close to it, working steadily still does not cover the basics.

In an 10/2026statewide Stetson University survey, 40% of likely Florida voters named cost of living and inflation as their top voting issue - well ahead of other concerns.

For workers already stretching every paycheck, housing can be the largest bill they face. But an apartment's rent is only the beginning. Add electricity, groceries, healthcare, car insurance and phone service. For someone also making car or furniture payments, expenses can exceed the paycheck.

Borrowing to close the gap can leave less money available next payday. An illness that means missing work can turn a strained budget into a crisis.

When there is little left to trim, changing the biggest expense may offer a way forward.

A room instead of an apartment

Shared housing providers such as PadSplit and EconoVR offer alternatives to carrying the cost of an entire apartment. Occupants rent rooms and share common areas, including kitchens.

PadSplit advertises Lakeland rooms at $162 weekly with utilities included. Membership benefits include furnished rooms, Wi-Fi, laundry access, free 24/7 telehealth services and credit reporting. The company also offers job-matching resources and financial education. Certain rooms permit two occupants with host approval; prices, fees and availability vary.

EconoVR's host reports two-person occupancy rooms for $175 weekly, with utilities and Wi-Fi included. Rooms are furnished with a full-size bed, bed linens, dresser, flat-screen smart television and individual air conditioning. A shared kitchen supplies cookware, dishes and utensils; guests provide their own food.

For someone starting over, furnished accommodations also reduce the need to purchase furniture and household essentials. Compare complete charges, occupancy limits and included services before booking.

More information: PadSplit.com and EconoVR.com.

The savings come with a tradeoff

Lower housing expenses mean giving up some privacy and being considerate. Two-in-the-morning drum solos, disruptive parties and loud music do not mix well with housemates who need their sleep.

Nor should someone have to wash your dishes just to use the sink. Cleaning up, respecting boundaries and following household rules are essential. You need not become everyone's best friend, but patience and cooperation matter.

A household can become a community

EconoVR's host recalls two older women who had felt lonely living alone. They became close friends, shopping together and talking for hours. Another resident loved cooking; housemates contributed ingredients, and shared dinners helped create a patchwork family.

The host also reports residents sharing rides, helping one another find work and, in some cases, paying down debt and putting money aside for a home deposit. Some stayed after they could afford to leave because they valued the companionship.

Shared living may not suit everyone. But for people comfortable with the arrangement, lower housing expenses can provide an opportunity to regain financial stability.

A different way to live today may create room for a better tomorrow.

Disclosure: EconoVR Inc. publishes POLK.NEWS. Its host supplied its pricing, amenities and resident accounts.

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SCAN FOR SERVICE

GIVE IT A THROW

Disc Golf Finds a Home in Polk County

BY POLK.NEWS STAFF



A flying disc, a metal basket and a walk through the park: disc golf turns a simple idea into a sport that can be as relaxed—or competitive—as you want.

Polk County has an active disc golf community, with courses, organized weekly games and volunteers working to improve places to play. In 2024, the City of Lakeland reported that Holloway Park's course hosted more than 4,000 rounds annually. The local scene has also expanded with additions such as Peace River's 18-hole course, which opened in July 2023.

The basic idea resembles traditional golf: complete each hole in as few attempts as possible. Instead of swinging a club, players throw a disc toward a raised metal basket. Each throw counts, and players continue from where their previous throw landed until they finish the hole. Trees, distance and changes in terrain provide the challenge.

For newcomers, the attraction is easy to understand. You can enjoy an outdoor activity, work on a skill and spend time with friends without needing to assemble an entire team. Play for your personal best, challenge a friend—or simply enjoy the walk.

Those looking for company have a local starting point. The Polk County Disc Golf Club lists weekday doubles and weekend events at area courses. Its volunteers help maintain and improve courses while organizing opportunities for friendly competition. Check **pcdg.club** for current locations, schedules and event fees before heading out.

WHERE TO GIVE IT A TRY

Lake Parker Park, Lakeland: This nine-hole course offers a shorter round on the park's northern edge. Entrances include 910 E. Granada Street and 820 E. Robson Street.

Holloway Park, Lakeland: Located at 2402 Holloway Park Drive, off U.S. 98 South, this 18-hole course combines open and wooded play, with short and long tee options.

Hidden Oaks at Loyce E. Harpe Park: Find the park at 500 W. Carter Road in the Mulberry/south Lakeland area. The 18-hole course features elevation changes and a technical layout that rewards accurate throws.

Peace River Disc Golf Course, Bartow area: Located at 2200 County Road 640, this 18-hole course offers multiple tee and basket combinations for different levels of challenge. Bring drinking water; the club notes that none is available on the course.

Publix Charities Park, Lakeland: The city identifies a practice field just south of Common Ground Playground—a place to work on your throws before tackling a full course.

Wherever you play, remember that parks are shared spaces. Give walkers and other visitors the right of way, wait until the throwing area is clear, and leave the course clean.

Your first throw may not land where you intended. Fortunately, that gives you an excellent reason to try again.



POLK UNDERCOVER OPERATION RESULTS IN 281 ARRESTS

BY POLK.NEWS STAFF

The Polk County Sheriff's Office announced 10/30 that a seven-day undercover operation targeting alleged child sexual exploitation and human trafficking resulted in 281 arrests.

> ***"It is extremely disturbing when we encounter nasty child predators like these who are very eager to have sex with children. This is why we conduct these types of undercover operations. During this investigation, we arrested 7 predators who work at local theme parks, and a children's football and cheerleading coach. This is why it's critically important that parents continually monitor not only their children's online activities, but also to know who the adults are in your children's lives."***
>
> **— Sheriff Grady Judd**

The joint-agency investigation, "Polk Around and Find Out II," resulted in 239 arrests related to prostitution offenses, 31 involving alleged sexual offenses targeting children, and 11 other arrests.

Suspects collectively face 198 felony charges and 290 misdemeanor charges, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Investigators said the 31 suspects in the child-related investigation communicated online with undercover detectives posing as children or their guardians and solicited unlawful sexual activity.

Seventeen suspects told detectives they worked at local theme parks or resorts. Seven of those suspects were among those arrested in the child-related investigation, the agency said.

In the prostitution-related portion of the operation, 117 suspects were arrested for allegedly soliciting prostitution. Another 122 were arrested for allegedly offering prostitution.

Detectives, One More Child and the Florida Department of Children and Families screened those 122 people for trafficking or exploitation. All were offered services, and investigators identified 11 human trafficking victims.

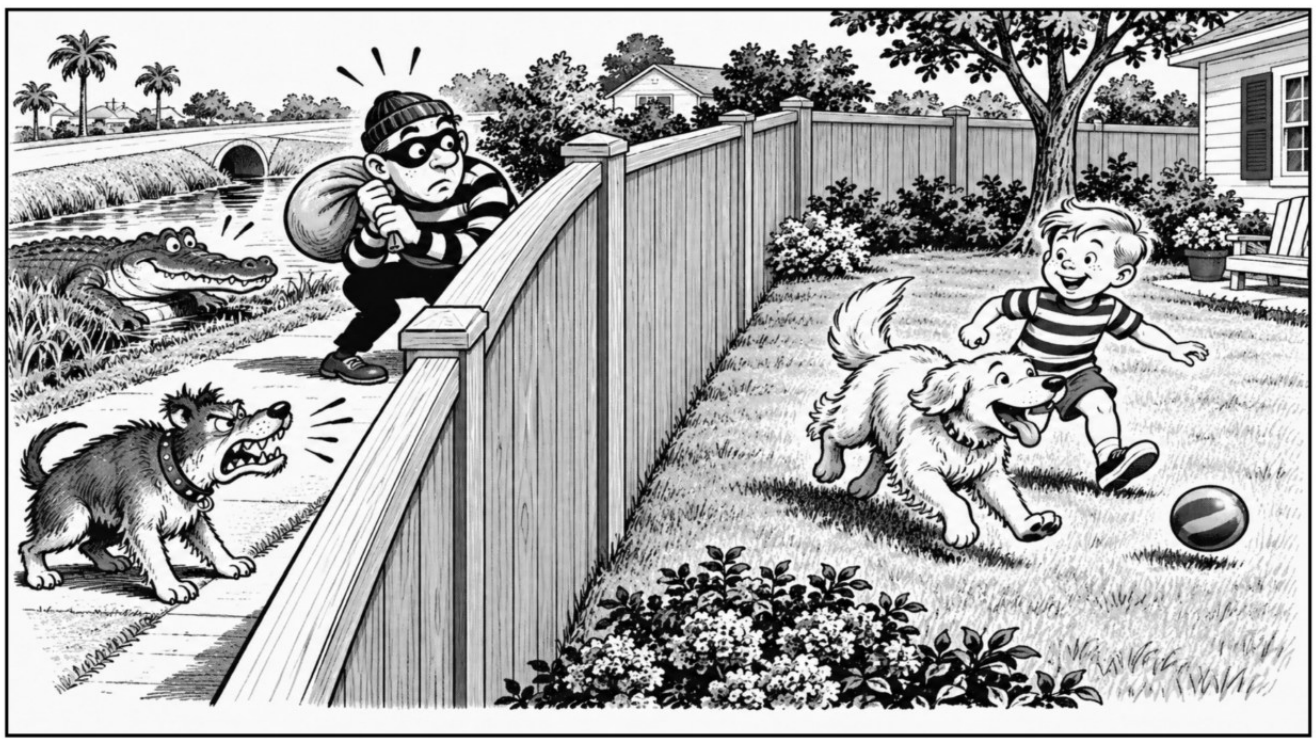
Participating agencies included the Lakeland, Auburndale, Bartow, Davenport and Lake Wales police departments, along with other local, state and federal agencies.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Source: Polk County Sheriff's Office news release, 10/30/2026.

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“I NEED TO TALK TO MY SON”

How a Bitcoin ATM scam cost one mother her money—and her confidence

BY POLK.NEWS STAFF

The scam began with a warning pop-up on a computer screen claiming the system had been hacked and instructing its user to call the displayed number immediately.

According to POLK.NEWS publisher Christopher Shipley, when his mother called, the people answering claimed to represent a national law enforcement agency. They told her someone was trying to steal her money and said they could protect it—but she had to act immediately.

Their instructions: withdraw cash from her bank and deposit it into a Bitcoin ATM to “secure” it.

She repeatedly told them, “I need to talk to my son.”

Shipley said the callers insisted she could not hang up. They warned that she would lose everything unless she stayed on the phone and followed their instructions. Each time she wanted to consult him, they pressured her to continue.

His mother remained on the phone while withdrawing money inside the bank, Shipley said. No teller asked her about the call or what was happening. Later, as she nervously fed cash into a Bitcoin machine inside a store, nobody there asked either.

By the time Shipley reached his mother and met her at home, she had already deposited the money.

He took the phone and told the callers they should be ashamed of themselves. According to Shipley, the woman on the line laughed and replied, “Your mother should be more careful.”

Shipley and his mother filed a report with the Lakeland Police Department. They also contacted the Bitcoin ATM operator, which told them it could not help recover the money. Shipley said the family’s efforts brought no resolution.

The damage went beyond the financial loss. His mother lost trust in other people—and in herself. Afterward, she no longer trusted her judgment when making financial decisions.

She had tried to stop and ask her son for help. The callers kept pressing until she acted against that instinct.

NEW PROTECTIONS ARE COMING

Florida has enacted new safeguards for cryptocurrency kiosks, commonly called Bitcoin ATMs. The transaction limits and refund protections take effect January 1, 2027. Daily transactions will be capped at $2,000 for new customers and $10,000 for existing customers. Machines must also display fraud warnings.

The law requires a full refund within 72 hours for a customer’s first transaction involving fraud when its conditions are met. The customer must notify both the operator and law enforcement or another governmental agency within 60 days and provide proof, such as a police report or notarized affidavit.

Until those protections take effect, victims cannot rely on this new mandatory refund requirement. And even a $2,000 daily transaction limit can exceed a month’s income for someone living on a limited retirement income.

STOP THE CALL BEFORE MOVING THE MONEY

The Federal Trade Commission warns that scammers use alarming messages and computer pop-ups to steer people toward Bitcoin ATMs. Depositing cash does not protect a threatened bank account—it can send the money straight to the scammer.

If someone tells you to withdraw or transfer money to keep it safe, hang up. Call your bank using the number on your bank card or statement, and speak with someone you trust. Do not use a number supplied by the caller or the pop-up. Report scams to local law enforcement and **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**.

You do not need the caller’s permission to stop. If someone insists you cannot speak with your family before moving your money, end the call.

Sources: Christopher Shipley; Federal Trade Commission; Florida HB 505, Chapter 2026-178.

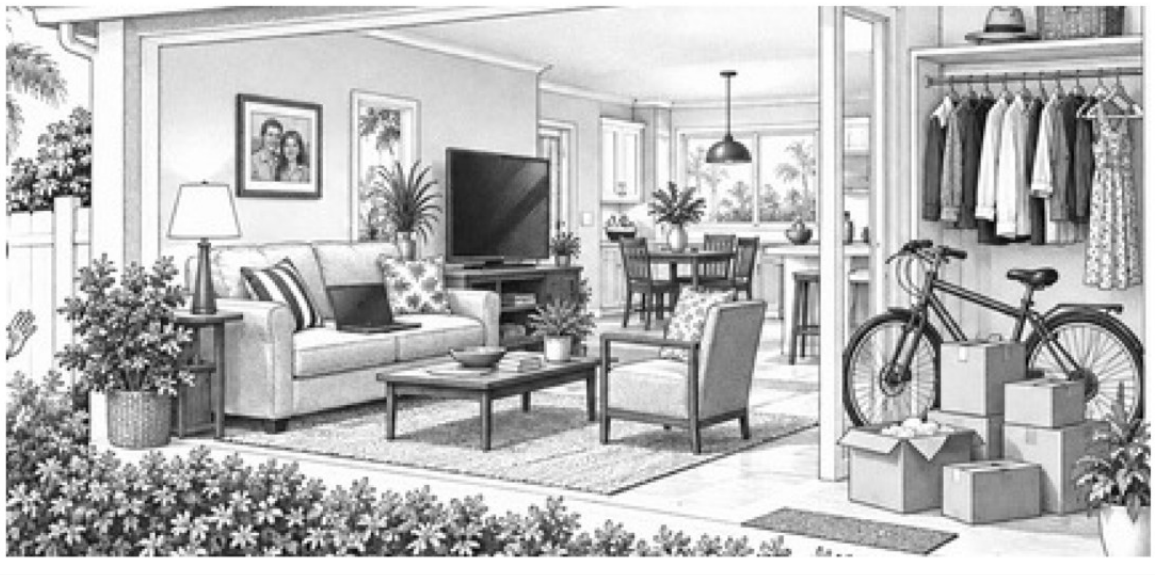
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A BIGGER SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK

What the 2027 increase means for your budget

BY POLK.NEWS STAFF



Illustration of a sample benefit check.

For Polk County residents stretching retirement checks across groceries, electricity and other necessities, the new year will bring some additional income.

Social Security benefits will increase **3.6 percent in 2027**. The Social Security Administration estimates that the average retired worker's monthly benefit will rise approximately **$75**, from $2,095 to $2,170 before deductions.

The increase is called a cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA. It follows a formula established by law using a federal consumer price index to help benefits keep pace with inflation.

WHAT WILL YOU RECEIVE?

The dollar increase depends on your benefit. A person receiving $1,000 monthly before deductions would gain approximately $36. A $1,500 benefit would increase about $54, while a $2,000 benefit would rise approximately $72.

Those are estimates before deductions and Social Security's rounding rules. Medicare premiums are usually deducted from Social Security payments, so changes in those premiums can affect how much of the increase reaches your bank account.

WHEN DOES IT START?

Social Security recipients will begin receiving higher payments in January 2027. For Supplemental Security Income recipients, the increased January payment arrives December 31, 2026, because New Year's Day is a holiday. That is January's payment arriving early, not an extra holiday payment.

Watch for your personal COLA notice showing your updated benefit information. Social Security says paper notices will be mailed in December. Eligible recipients can also view notices through their personal account at **ssa.gov/myaccount**.

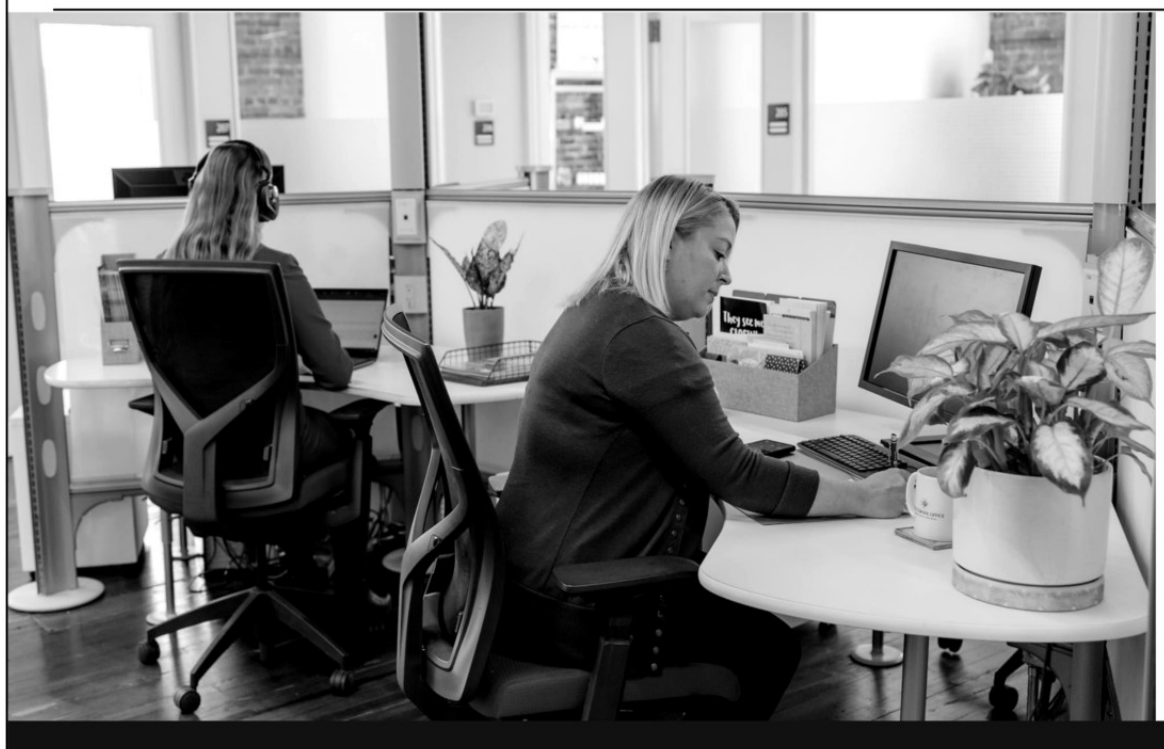
Before adjusting your budget, check the amount remaining after deductions. That is the figure to use when planning for groceries, bills or an unexpected expense.

The increase will not erase every rising cost. But for someone counting dollars until the next payment, a little more room in the monthly budget matters.

Source: Social Security Administration.

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AMERICA'S ECONOMY PICKS UP SPEED

Stronger growth brings opportunity, but household budgets still tell their own story.

BY POLK.NEWS STAFF

REAL GDP GROWTH

2.2% to 3.4%

Q2 to Q3 2026 | Annualized | BEA advance estimate

The U.S. economy gained momentum during the summer. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that inflation-adjusted gross domestic product grew at a 3.4 percent annualized rate in the third quarter of 2026, up from 2.2 percent in the second quarter.

In an 10/29 release, the White House welcomed the report and emphasized business investment as a sign of economic strength. The administration credited its policies for the improvement; that is its assessment of the results.

WHAT DROVE THE GROWTH?

The bureau identified investment, consumer spending and government spending as contributors. Falling exports partly offset those gains. Investment growth included equipment and business inventories.

GDP measures the goods and services produced across the economy. The reported 3.4 percent is an annualized pace, not the actual increase over three months. The bureau puts the quarter-to-quarter gain at 0.8 percent.

WHAT IT MEANS CLOSER TO HOME

For Polk County businesses, a growing national economy can offer a more favorable setting for sales and expansion. Equipment purchases can create work for suppliers, while consumer spending supports businesses serving households. Those are possible channels for growth, not a forecast of local hiring.

A national growth figure also cannot tell a family whether its paycheck covers the rent. A business owner still has to weigh sales against wages, insurance, financing and other expenses before expanding.

The practical distinction is between the economy producing more and an individual household having more money left at the end of the month. Both matter, but they are not the same measurement.

A SNAPSHOT, NOT A PROMISE

This is the bureau's first estimate for the quarter and may be revised. Its next estimate is scheduled for November 25.

The report provides evidence of faster national growth. For local households and small businesses, the useful question is how that momentum eventually shows up in orders, opportunities and income.

For families watching this report, the most useful signs of progress will be practical ones: a better job opportunity, steadier hours or more breathing room after the bills are paid. For a small business, it may be stronger demand that makes an expansion worthwhile. Faster growth is a welcome starting point. Its value becomes clearer when more households and businesses can see that improvement in their own circumstances.

Sources: BEA, 10/29/2026; *White House,* 10/29/2026. *Reporting checked November 3, 2026.*

General information, not individualized financial advice. Economic estimates may change.

CD RATE WATCH | TOP 10

Selected bank offers, ranked by APY | Checked Nov. 3, 2026

BANK	TERM	APY	MINIMUM
Popular Direct	18 mo	**4.80%**	$10,000
Happen Bank	24 mo	**4.76%**	$500
CIBC Bank USA (Agility)	12 mo	**4.50%**	$1,000
EverBank	24 mo	**4.50%**	$1,000
Marcus / Goldman Sachs	12 mo	**4.40%**	$500
Bask Bank	12 mo	**4.35%**	$1,000
Hancock Whitney*	24 mo	**4.25%**	$1,000
First Internet Bank	12 mo	**4.00%**	$1,000
Quontic Bank	12 mo	**4.00%**	$500
Forbright Bank (Growth)	9 mo	**3.75%**	$1,000

*Hancock Whitney: its checking/savings account required for online funding; confirm ZIP eligibility. APY = annual percentage yield. Rates may change; fees and early withdrawal penalties may reduce earnings. Sources: official bank pages; selected offers, not a full market ranking. **POLK.NEWS does not provide financial advice. Seek advice from a qualified financial advisor.**

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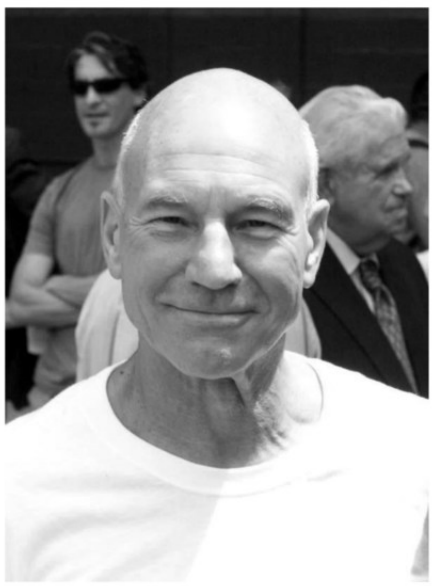
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SIR PATRICK STEWART

JULY 13, 1940 - 10/28/2026 | AGE 86

From Shakespeare's stage to the bridge of the Enterprise



Patrick Stewart in 2004. Photo courtesy of U.S. Army / Cdt. Patrick Caughey. Public domain in the United States.

A LIFE ON STAGE AND SCREEN

1966: Joins the Royal Shakespeare Company
1987: Debuts as Captain Jean-Luc Picard
2000: Plays Professor Xavier in *X-Men*
2010: Knighted for services to drama

Sir Patrick Stewart, the actor whose commanding voice and thoughtful presence carried him from classical theater to two of the world's best-known screen franchises, died 10/28 at 86. The official Star Trek site and the Royal Shakespeare Company paid tribute to a performer celebrated by generations of theatergoers, television viewers and movie fans.

Born in Mirfield, Yorkshire, on July 13, 1940, Stewart joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1966. His more than 40 productions included roles as Shylock, Prospero, Macbeth, Antony, Claudius and Henry IV.

THE CAPTAIN WHO BECAME AN ICON

In 1987, Stewart took command as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. He played the Enterprise captain through seven television seasons, ending in 1994. Picard was a leader whose authority rested as much on thought, restraint and principle as on the power of his starship.

The role continued in four films: *Star Trek Generations* (1994), *First Contact* (1996), *Insurrection* (1998) and *Nemesis* (2002). Stewart later returned in *Star Trek: Picard*, which ran from 2020 to 2023, bringing the character's story to another generation of viewers.

A CAREER BEYOND THE ENTERPRISE

His film history reached well beyond Star Trek. Stewart played Leondegrance in *Excalibur* (1981) and Gurney Halleck in David Lynch's *Dune* (1984). Comedy audiences saw him as King Richard in *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* (1993), while his voice brought Pharaoh Seti to life in *The Prince of Egypt* (1998).

Beginning with *X-Men* in 2000, Stewart became Professor Charles Xavier, giving the mutant mentor another instantly recognizable screen identity. He returned in *X2*, *X-Men: Days of Future Past* and *Logan*.

Stewart continued returning to theater. His later work included *The Tempest* and *Waiting for Godot*, the latter alongside Ian McKellen. His solo *A Christmas Carol* won an Olivier Award in 1994. He was knighted in 2010 for services to drama.

A VOICE FOR OTHERS

Away from performing, Stewart supported people affected by domestic abuse. Refuge, which named him an ambassador in 2007, remembered his years of fundraising and advocacy, including his willingness to discuss the violence he witnessed as a child.

His legacy lives in the audiences he introduced to Shakespeare, the ideals he embodied as Picard and the people he supported beyond the stage.

By POLK.NEWS Staff
Sources: RSC; StarTrek.com; Paramount+; AFI Catalog; SOLT; Refuge.



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NOTABLE LIVES: NOVEMBER 2026

Walter Koenig

1936 - 2026 | Age 90



Died
10/25/2026

Photo:
NASA, 1976 (crop)
Public domain
(U.S.)

Walter Koenig gave generations of science-fiction viewers a familiar face on the bridge of the Enterprise. As Pavel Chekov, he joined *Star Trek* in its second season and continued the character in the films that followed. His youthful navigator became part of an ensemble whose friendships and adventures outlasted the original series.

Koenig also played Alfred Bester on *Babylon 5*, showing a very different side of his screen presence. The Television Academy remembered him as both a performer and writer. For many fans, his work remains a connection to television's enduring vision of people from different backgrounds exploring the future together.

Eva Marie Saint

1924 - 2026 | Age 102



Died
10/6/2026

Photo:
20th Century Fox
Public domain
(U.S.)

Eva Marie Saint's career linked Hollywood's classic era with generations of television audiences. She played Edie Doyle in *On the Waterfront* and Eve Kendall in Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*, two of her most enduring screen roles.

Her films also included *Exodus*, *A Hatful of Rain* and *All Fall Down*. On television, she earned an Emmy for *People Like Us* and appeared in *How the West Was Won* and *Taxi!!*. Younger viewers encountered her voice as Katara in *The Legend of Korra*. Across drama, suspense and animation, Saint's work reached audiences far beyond the era in which she first became a star.

Susan Saint James

1946 - 2026 | Age 80



Died
10/26/2026

Photo:
Universal Television
Public domain
(U.S.)

Susan Saint James became a familiar presence in American homes through three distinctive television roles. As Peggy Maxwell in *The Name of the Game*, she won an Emmy in 1969. She later starred as Sally McMillan opposite Rock Hudson in *McMillan & Wife*.

In *Kate & Allie*, Saint James and Jane Curtin brought humor to a story about two divorced mothers sharing a household. Her film work included *Love at First Bite* and *Outlaw Blues*. Away from acting, she supported Special Olympics. Her performances moved easily between mystery and comedy, making her recognizable to viewers across several decades.

Elke Sommer

1940 - 2026 | Age 85



Died
10/28/2026

Photo:
NBC Television
Public domain
(U.S.)

Born in Berlin, Elke Sommer built a screen career that carried her from European films to Hollywood comedies and thrillers. She starred with Paul Newman in *The Prize* and with Peter Sellers in *A Shot in the Dark*, becoming a familiar face in 1960s cinema.

Her credits also included *The Art of Love*, with James Garner and Dick Van Dyke, and *Boy, Did I Get a Wrong Number!*, with Bob Hope. Sommer continued working on stage and television as her career developed. In later years, painting became a major focus. Her work bridged countries, languages and several forms of artistic expression.

Dolores Huerta

1930 - 2026 | Age 96



Died
10/28/2026

Photo:
Jay Godwin / LBJ Library
Public domain
(U.S.)

Dolores Huerta devoted her life to organizing workers and expanding opportunities for communities whose voices often went unheard. She helped build the farmworker movement with Cesar Chavez and became a nationally recognized advocate for laborers, women and children.

President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. Through the foundation that bears her name, she continued encouraging community organizing and participation in public life. Announcing her death, the Dolores Huerta Foundation emphasized her belief that ordinary people could work together to achieve change.

Dennis Hastert

1942 - 2026 | Age 84



Died
10/3/2026

Photo:
United States Congress
Public domain
(U.S.)

Dennis Hastert, the Illinois Republican who served as U.S. House speaker from 1999 to 2007, died at 84. His years leading the House made him a central figure in national politics, but his later criminal case permanently altered his legacy.

Hastert pleaded guilty to violating banking laws while concealing payments connected to sexual abuse of former students. In 2016, he received a 15-month prison sentence. His death closes a public life marked by both extraordinary political power and a profound betrayal of trust.

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Sources: Television Academy; Associated Press; Dolores Huerta Foundation. Photos: NASA / Wikimedia Commons.

ROOM TO ROAM

Polk County dog parks offer space to play - and a few responsibilities to share.



Illustration: a typical dog-park outing.

For a dog that enjoys canine company, a park visit offers room to run, new smells to investigate and a chance to play. Owners get an outdoor break and an opportunity to meet neighbors.

Polk County has options from downtown Lakeland to Winter Haven and Poinciana. Choose a park that suits your dog, follow posted rules and check current hours or closures before leaving home.

A successful outing is not about staying longest. It is about heading home with a happy, comfortable dog.

BEFORE YOU UNCLIP THE LEASH

Start with prevention. Ask your veterinarian whether vaccinations are current, including protection against parvo, distemper, rabies and leptospirosis. Puppies should avoid dog parks until their veterinarian confirms they are adequately protected.

Clean up promptly. Parvo spreads through infected feces and contaminated surroundings, even without direct contact with a sick dog. Leptospirosis bacteria can spread through infected urine and contaminated soil or water. Bring fresh water and your own bowl; discourage drinking from puddles.

Watch the play. Use the appropriate size-separated area where provided. Stay attentive and leave if play becomes rough or your dog seems frightened. A quiet leashed walk may suit some dogs better.

Keep illness at home. Skip the park if your dog is coughing, vomiting or has diarrhea. Bring waste bags, close gates securely and keep a leash handy.

FIND A PARK NEAR YOU

Dog Leg Woods
3326 Cleveland Heights Blvd., Lakeland

Douglas Cook Park
955 Wedgewood Estates Blvd., Lakeland

Lake Crago Dog Park
525 Lake Crago Drive, Lakeland

On Dog Time
145 N. Lake Ave., Lakeland

DiOGi Park - Loyce E. Harpe Park
500 W. Carter Road, Mulberry

Simmers-Young Park
339 American Spirit Road, Winter Haven

Poinciana Community Park
5109 Allegheny Road, Poinciana

Sources: City of Lakeland; Visit Central Florida; Cornell Veterinary Medicine; CDC; AVMA.

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NOVEMBER 2026

GET OUT & EXPLORE

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 6, 2026



First Friday: Goin' Country

6–9 PM • FREE

Kentucky Avenue and Munn Park, Downtown Lakeland

Head downtown for a country-themed evening of shopping, dining and community fun.

DETAILS downtownlkld.com

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 6, 2026



Misery: opening night

7:30 PM • $24–$30

Lakeland Community Theatre, 121 S. Lake Ave., Lakeland

Stephen King's thriller comes to the stage. For mature audiences. Additional performances November 7–8 and 13–15; select your date and time when booking.

DETAILS lakelandcommunitytheatre.com

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 6, 2026



Hadestown on the big screen

7 PM • $5

Gem Theater, 118 NW 1st Ave., Mulberry

Watch a filmed stage production of the musical inspired by Greek mythology. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; outside refreshments are welcome.

DETAILS gemtheatermulberry.org

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 7, 2026



Mindful Masterpieces

10 AM–NOON • DROP-IN

Mulberry Cultural Center, 103 E. Canal St., Mulberry

Make a junk journal during Arts & Health Week. Journals and scrapbook elements are provided; bring photographs, magazines or other collage materials if you wish.

DETAILS mulberryculturalcenter.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 7, 2026



Central Florida Food Fest

5–9 PM • TICKETED • AGES 21+

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Sample food and drink offerings in the botanical gardens and Event Center. Festival tickets are required; the park is otherwise closed to the public that day.

DETAILS centralfloridafoodfest.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 7, 2026



The Women of Rock

7 PM • TICKETED

Polk Theatre, 121 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland

Vegas Show Bands brings its Women of Rock Las Vegas Show to the historic downtown theatre. Select seats through the theatre's ticket link.

DETAILS polktheatre.org

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 8, 2026



Art Crawl 2026

11 AM–5 PM • FREE

Swan Brewing, 115 W. Pine St., Lakeland

Browse artwork from more than 70 local artists, watch demonstrations and live art, and enjoy performances. This outdoor festival welcomes families and pets; food trucks will be on-site.

DETAILS mulberryculturalcenter.com

TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 10, 2026



Mature Adults Luncheon

10:30 AM–12:30 PM • REGISTER

Lakes Church, 1010 E. Memorial Blvd., Lakeland

Niah and Allisha Merrill present a music ministry program in the Gathering Area. Standard admission is $10; first-time guests attend free. Bring a friend and reserve online.

DETAILS golakeschurch.churchcenter.com

TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 10, 2026



Silent Book Club

6–8 PM

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Bring your reading and meet the Polk County Library Cooperative for book recommendations and information about library resources, followed by quiet reading time. See the park's event page for the gathering point.

DETAILS bonnetspringspark.com

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 11, 2026



Adventure Day: archery

10 AM–3 PM • FREE

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Try archery near the Nature Center. Archery is for ages 8 and older, with on-site registration and a waiver. Other family games are available; children need adult supervision.

DETAILS bonnetspringspark.com

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 11, 2026



Surviving the Holidays

6:30–8 PM • FREE • REGISTER

Victory North Campus, 1401 Griffin Rd., Lakeland

GriefShare and DivorceCare offer workshops for people facing the holidays after loss or divorce. Childcare is available. Reserve limited seating through the church office: 863-859-6000.

DETAILS victorylakeland.org

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 11, 2026



A Salute to the USO

7 PM • TICKETED

Ritz Theatre, 263 W. Central Ave., Winter Haven

A Veterans Day tribute with comedy and music recalling classic USO entertainment.

DETAILS theatrewinterhaven.com

Dates verified November 3, 2026. Check the organizer's website for availability and any changes before leaving.

NOVEMBER 2026

GATHER, LEARN & CELEBRATE

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 14, 2026



ShredFest

9 AM–NOON • FREE

Lakeland Solid Waste, 605 Evelyn Ave., Lakeland

Bring up to five file boxes of paper per vehicle for secure shredding and recycling. Staples, paper clips, folders and envelopes do not need to be removed.

DETAILS lakelandgov.net

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 14, 2026



Estate Planning Seminar

9:30–11 AM • FREE • REGISTER

Lakes Church, 1010 E. Memorial Blvd., Lakeland

PhilanthroCorp leads a seminar in the Downtown Campus Chapel about planning for loved ones and a lasting legacy. Registration is available through Lakes Church's event page.

DETAILS golakeschurch.churchcenter.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 14, 2026



RideSafe Fall Fest

10 AM–1 PM • FREE

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Bring a bicycle or scooter for safety activities on the Family Lawn, plus games and family entertainment. Free children's helmets while supplies last. A parent or guardian must accompany anyone under 18.

DETAILS bonnetspringspark.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 14, 2026



Stone Cold & the Jackal

6:30 PM • TICKETED

Ritz Theatre, 263 W. Central Ave., Winter Haven

General Hospital's Steve Burton and Bradford Anderson present holiday songs, comedy and audience participation.

DETAILS theatrewinterhaven.com

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 15, 2026



Young Adults Friendsgiving

5 PM • FREE • AGES 18–30

Victory North Campus, 1401 Griffin Rd., Lakeland

Young adults are invited to the Family Life Center for a Thanksgiving meal, games and worship. See Victory's event page for gathering details.

DETAILS victorylakeland.org

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 15, 2026



Family Movie Night

6–8 PM • FREE

Lakes Church Auburndale, 341 Polk City Rd., Auburndale

Bring chairs or blankets for an outdoor showing of David on the campus lawn. The movie begins at sundown. Popcorn, drinks and snow cones will be available.

DETAILS golakeschurch.churchcenter.com

TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 17, 2026



Divas of Soul

6:30 PM • TICKETED

Ritz Theatre, 263 W. Central Ave., Winter Haven

A musical tribute to Whitney Houston and Donna Summer.

DETAILS theatrewinterhaven.com

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 19, 2026



Cirque Dreams Holidaze

7 PM • TICKETED

RP Funding Center, 701 W. Lime St., Lakeland

A holiday stage show blending circus acts, acrobatics and live seasonal music. Purchase seats through the venue or call its box office at 863-834-8111.

DETAILS rpfundingcenter.com

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 20, 2026



Daisy Fever Rocks the '70s

6:30 PM • TICKETED

Ritz Theatre, 263 W. Central Ave., Winter Haven

An evening of music celebrating the 1970s.

DETAILS theatrewinterhaven.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 21, 2026



Kids' Fishing Clinic

10 AM–3 PM

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Learn skills near the Treehouse, then try educational fishing. Fishing is for ages 6–14 with an adult and signed waiver. Complete learning stations before fishing; loaner rods are available while supplies last.

DETAILS bonnetspringspark.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 21, 2026



Grand Ballroom Dancing

7 PM • TICKETED

Ritz Theatre, 263 W. Central Ave., Winter Haven

Dance or listen to live music by the Theatre Winter Haven Big Band.

DETAILS theatrewinterhaven.com

MONDAY • NOVEMBER 23, 2026



VISTE Green Bean Snap

10 AM • VOLUNTEER

First Presbyterian Church, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr., Lakeland

Children and families can help prepare fresh green beans for Thanksgiving meals for local seniors. No registration is required; participation is first come, first served.

DETAILS viste.org

Dates verified November 3, 2026. Check the organizer's website for availability and any changes before leaving.

NOVEMBER 2026

THANKSGIVING & BEYOND

MONDAY • NOVEMBER 23, 2026



Adventure Day: climb & play

10 AM–2 PM • FREE

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Guided tree climbing and archery tag join family games near the Nature Center. Climbing and archery tag require ages 6+, a waiver and on-site registration; space is first come, first served.

DETAILS bonnetspringspark.com

TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 24, 2026



Adventure Day: build & explore

10 AM–2 PM • FREE

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Try building challenges, science activities, nature scavenger hunts and mini golf. Sensory-friendly soft play will be near the Boathouse. Children must have adult supervision.

DETAILS bonnetspringspark.com

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 25, 2026



Adventure Day: alligators

10 AM–2 PM • FREE

Bonnet Springs Park, 400 Bonnet Springs Blvd., Lakeland

Explore Florida's alligators through a Gatorland presentation, habitat activities and art near the Nature Center. The Kids' Gator Dash begins at 11 a.m. Adult supervision is required.

DETAILS bonnetspringspark.com

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 25, 2026



Deliver Thanksgiving meals

PICKUP 11 AM–2 PM • REGISTER

RP Funding Center, 701 W. Lime St., Lakeland

Help VISTE deliver meals to local seniors. Drivers must apply in advance; registered volunteers receive instructions. Meals and routes are collected through the venue's drive-through car line.

DETAILS viste.org

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 25, 2026



Thanksgiving Eve Communion

6:30 PM

Victory North Campus, 1401 Griffin Rd., Lakeland

Gather in the North Campus Sanctuary for an evening of worship and communion before Thanksgiving.

DETAILS victorylakeland.org

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 27, 2026



Swan Lake: A Symphony of Lights

7 PM • TICKETED

Polk Theatre, 121 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland

Artistic Space Productions presents its Swan Lake production at the historic theatre. Book through the theatre's official ticket link.

DETAILS polktheatre.org

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 28, 2026



Holiday Craft Bazaar

9 AM–3 PM

Munn Park, Downtown Lakeland

Shop handcrafted goods from more than 45 vendors during Small Business Saturday. Make a day of visiting the downtown shops and local makers.

DETAILS downtownlkld.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 28, 2026



Handmade Cards

10 AM–NOON • FREE

Mulberry Cultural Center, 103 E. Canal St., Mulberry

Drop in to make personalized greeting cards with paint, washi tape, markers and other materials. Supplies are provided for this seasonal craft session.

DETAILS mulberryculturalcenter.com

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 28, 2026



The Last Five Years in Concert

7 PM • TICKETED

Ritz Theatre, 263 W. Central Ave., Winter Haven

Tyler Campbell and Kristen Eliza Brock perform Jason Robert Brown's musical in concert.

DETAILS theatrewinterhaven.com

PREVIEW: TUE • DECEMBER 1, 2026



The Best Senior Christmas Ever!

10 AM–2 PM • AGES 65+

RP Funding Center, 701 W. Lime St., Lakeland

Enjoy live shows, games, vendors and senior resources, plus raffles, gifts and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. RSVP to Melisa Marshall at 863-362-8848.

DETAILS RSVP: 863-362-8848

PREVIEW: SAT • DECEMBER 12, 2026



Medulla Community Farmers Market

8 AM–NOON • FREE

Lakeland Bible Church, 1725 Parker Rd., Lakeland

Shop produce, crafts, farm goods and baked items at the winter market. Vendors are welcome with no participation fee; use the organizer's link to sign up.

DETAILS linktr.ee/medullacommunityfarmersmarket

Dates verified November 3, 2026. Check the organizer's website for availability and any changes before leaving.

WATCHLIST

Local channels.
New arrivals.
A little time for yourself.

LAKELAND ANTENNA PICKS — ALL TIMES EASTERN

3 WEDU / PBS	**Maigret** SUN NOV 8, 15 & 22 • 9 PM A Paris detective untangles complex murders.	**The Gold** SUNDAYS • 10 PM Detectives pursue a stolen fortune.
8 WFLA / NBC	**Chicago Med** WEDNESDAYS • 8 PM Doctors face medical and personal crises.	**Macy's Parade** THU NOV 26 • 8:30 AM Floats, balloons and holiday performances.
10 WTSP / CBS	**Marshals** SUN NOV 15 • 8 PM Kayce helps search for a missing nephew.	**Tracker** SUN NOV 15 • 9 PM A missing-person case exposes a conspiracy.
13 WTVT / FOX	**Best Medicine** TUESDAYS • 8 PM A brilliant doctor adjusts to small-town life.	**Doc** TUESDAYS • 9 PM A physician rebuilds life after memory loss.
28 WFTS / ABC	**Tampa Bay's Morning Blend** MON-FRI • 10-11 AM Local people, businesses and things to do.	**World News Tonight with David Muir** MON-FRI • 6:30-7 PM ABC's national evening newscast.
32 WMOR	**The Big Bang Theory** WEEKNIGHTS • 6:30, 7 & 7:30 PM Comedy.	**FBI: Most Wanted** NIGHTLY • 9 PM Crime drama.
38 WTTA / CW	**Scrabble** THURSDAYS • 8 PM Word-game competition with Craig Ferguson.	**Trivial Pursuit** THURSDAYS • 9 PM Trivia competition hosted by LeVar Burton.
44 WTOG	**Hot Bench** MON-FRI • 4 & 4:30 PM Judges weigh opposing sides of courtroom disputes.	**Flip Side** WEEKDAYS • 8 & 8:30 PM Players guess how different groups think.

STREAMING / SELECTED NOVEMBER ARRIVALS — SUBSCRIPTIONS REQUIRED

Netflix ON DEMAND	**Black Doves: Season 2** NOVEMBER 5, 2026 Helen and Sam face dangerous new complications.	**North of North: Season 2** NOVEMBER 5, 2026 Siaja moves forward with help from her community.
Prime VIDEO	**The Chosen: Season 6** NOVEMBER 15, 2026 A dramatization of the final day of Jesus' life.	**Madden** NOVEMBER 18, 2026 John Madden's journey through football and broadcasting.
HBO Max ON DEMAND	**Tony** NOVEMBER 20, 2026 Young Anthony Bourdain discovers restaurant life.	**The Buffalo Miracle** NOVEMBER 24, 2026 Strangers find shelter together during a severe blizzard.

FREE STREAMING — Tubi: MLS on Sat Nov 7 - Inter Miami vs. Charlotte, 4 PM; LAFC vs. Seattle, 7 PM. Pluto TV: free live channels and on-demand titles. Internet required; free services include ads.

Antenna reception varies by address and equipment. Sports and special coverage may alter times. Picks are editorial selections, not audience rankings. Streaming release dates refer to U.S. availability.

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A voice of encouragement

For radio host Mark Bairrington, one listener's message showed what a song can mean.

By POLK.NEWS staff | Based on an interview with Mark Bairrington



Mark Bairrington at the microphone.

Mark Bairrington launched his radio career at 15, earning a whopping $3.25 an hour at a local country station. Years later, that experience helped prepare him for his illustrious career at 107.1 The X—where he now earns exactly zero dollars an hour. It's a volunteer position, and he's happy to do it.

Now the host of the station's Midday Show, airing weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bairrington sees the work as a way to encourage people through music and faith.

His first opportunity came when a friend told him a local country station had an opening. He applied, got the job and began gaining experience behind the microphone.

Years later, while driving during a roughly 10-hour work shift, he searched for something to listen to and found 107.1 The X. After noticing what sounded like one person handling the announcing, he called to offer his experience.

He was told the nonprofit station needed volunteers. The lack of pay did not stop him from joining.

A message that mattered

At Bairrington's first live appearance for 107.1 The X, a music festival, Bairrington and the team were handing out window stickers. A woman approached with her young daughter and told them she listened every day and loved the station.

A few days later, Bairrington played a song about the struggles Christians can face when they make mistakes and feel spiritually lost. The woman emailed the station afterward.

According to Bairrington, she said the song brought her to tears because it reflected how she had been feeling. Its message reminded her that God could forgive her and guide her back to the right path.

For Bairrington, that response made the volunteer work worthwhile: a song had reached someone who needed encouragement.

Serving beyond the microphone

His music ministry also reaches Faith Baptist Church of Lakeland, where he is serving as an interim worship leader. A pastor he had known for about four years asked him to help while the church searched for a permanent leader.

Bairrington also writes and performs music with Spiraling Reverb. His songs include "To Me," "One Chord" and "All the Days of My Life." Listeners can find the band on Spotify, Amazon Music and Apple Music.

Whether sharing a song on the radio or leading worship, his work offers another opportunity for music to carry a message of faith.

LISTEN TO MARK | WEEKDAYS, 9 A.M.-2 P.M.

Online: 1071thex.com • iPhone: Reign Radio app • Android: Online Radio Box app; search "1071 the X" in Ormond Beach. Listening options supplied by Mark.



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The Romans Road to Salvation

God's good news, one Scripture at a time

The book of Romans explains our need for a Savior, what Jesus has done for us and how we can respond in faith.

1. WE HAVE ALL SINNED

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Every one of us has fallen short of God's perfect standard. We need His forgiveness; comparing ourselves with others cannot make us right with Him.

2. SIN HAS A COST

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Sin brings death and separation from God. But eternal life is His gift through Jesus Christ, not a reward we can earn.

3. GOD LOVES US

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God did not wait for us to become worthy. Jesus died for our sins, demonstrating God's love for us.

4. BELIEVE AND CONFESS

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Turn from sin to Christ. Trust His death and resurrection, and confess Him as Lord. Salvation rests in Jesus, not our good deeds.

5. CALL UPON THE LORD

Romans 10:13 (NIV)

"for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.""

This promise is for you. Come honestly to God, acknowledge your sin and place your trust in Jesus Christ.

A PRAYER OF FAITH

Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. Forgive me and save me. I place my trust in You as my Savior and Lord. Help me follow You. Amen.

The words of a prayer do not save you; Jesus does. Express your sincere faith in Him.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP: Read these verses in your Bible. If you have trusted Christ, tell a pastor or mature Christian. Begin reading Scripture and join a Bible-teaching church to grow in faith.

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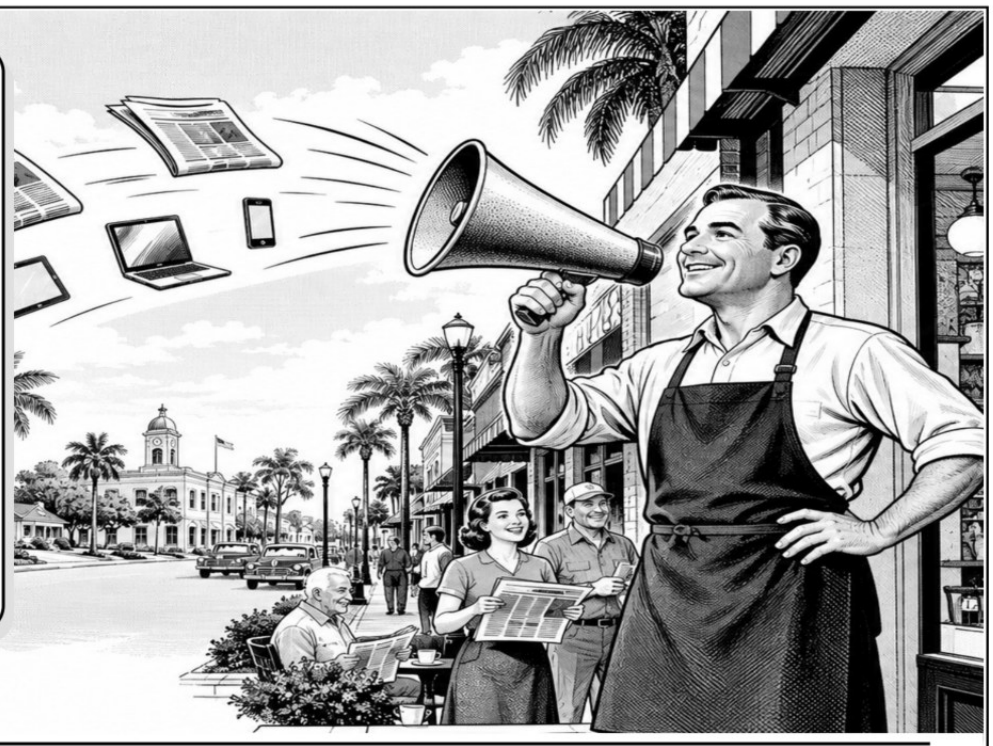
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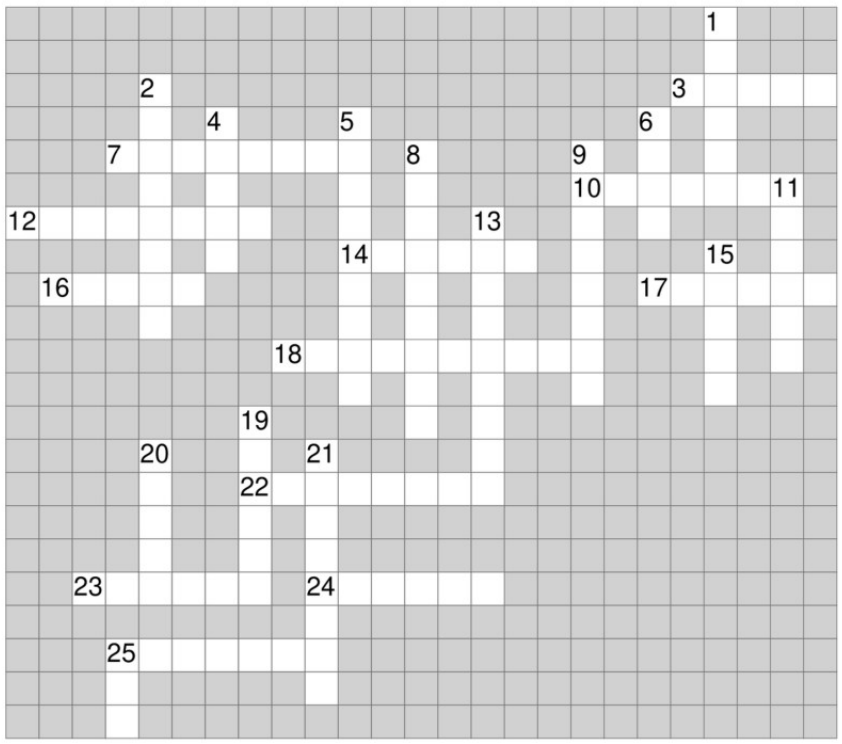
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FUN & GAMES

THANKSGIVING CROSSWORD



ACROSS

3. Sauce spooned over mashed potatoes.
7. Month of U.S. Thanksgiving.
10. Gathering of ripe crops.
12. Forked turkey bone pulled for good luck.
14. Dairy spread often served on rolls.
16. Small individual portions of baked bread.
17. What we give to express appreciation.
18. Horn-shaped symbol of abundance.
22. Starchy vegetables often served mashed.
23. Another name for fall.
24. Relatives gathered around the table.
25. Orange squash used in a classic holiday pie.

DOWN

1. Procession with floats and marching bands.
2. Sport with touchdowns, often watched that day.
4. Green vegetables in a classic casserole.
5. Tart red berry used in holiday sauce.
6. Vegetable with kernels on a cob.
8. The feeling of being thankful.
9. Weekday of U.S. Thanksgiving.
11. Traditional Thanksgiving main-course bird.
13. Food saved after the big meal.
15. Furniture where dinner is served.
19. Cloth or paper used to wipe your mouth.
20. A large, celebratory meal.
21. Seasoned bread mixture served with turkey.
25. Dessert baked in a pastry crust.

ELECTION & CAMPAIGN WORD FIND

Find 30 words in any direction.

E N J L A Z C W H B I S R A J O Y P A N E O K I
N L V R O T A N E S S C V L Y P C Z V X Z P P P
E T A B E D X R X J Q U N C R R E C O U N T G P
S R R U P F F P C J C M O N O T T O L L A B J D
H S D V V I E P H Z I A I X Z D A F U O G I A E
T N E D I S E R P J L B T E E E D F N R O Y A M
L G F R V A N E E I X A C L R M I O T L L G N V
O I D Y G L I C T N E M E S R O D N E Y S U P P
B A Q G X N M I F X D G L A D C N U E Q L Y R C
X P G E T L O N K I A U E F U R A R R E F S I Y
S M I A S N N C S T P C M G Q A C T E M O X M T
C A M M H T E T E D D M N R Q C I O Q V G R A C
Q C Q D J S R B G D Y T S Q I Y Q O L O O M R N
F V C V V I E O M C X Q V T Q P A T P F I G Y N
F Y E C C C A U C U S B U R E G I S T E R F P P
I V N T U O N R U T C I T I Z E N A Y C V W H R
M Z Y C K I T T V W D N X N C U L T R I Q R V A
P G C P C C H Y N O I T I T E P A H S G H T N A

1. BALLOT
2. CAMPAIGN
3. CANDIDATE
4. CAUCUS
5. CITIZEN
6. COALITION
7. CONGRESS
8. DEBATE
9. DELEGATE
10. DEMOCRACY
11. DISTRICT
12. ELECTION
13. ENDORSEMENT
14. GOVERNOR
15. INCUMBENT
16. MAYOR
17. NOMINEE
18. PETITION
19. PLATFORM
20. PRECINCT
21. PRESIDENT
22. PRIMARY
23. RECOUNT
24. REFERENDUM
25. REGISTER
26. RUNOFF
27. SENATOR
28. SLOGAN
29. TURNOUT
30. VOLUNTEER

SIX NEW SUDOKUS

Use 1–9 once per row, column and 3 x 3 box.

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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

PUZZLE 3

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

PUZZLE 4

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

PUZZLE 5

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

PUZZLE 6

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

ANSWERS — NO PEEKING

ACROSS: 3 GRAVY; 7 NOVEMBER; 10 HARVEST; 12 WISHBONE; 14 BUTTER; 16 ROLLS; 17 THANKS; 18 CORNUCOPIA; 22 POTATOES; 23 AUTUMN; 24 FAMILY; 25 PUMPKIN

DOWN: 1 PARADE; 2 FOOTBALL; 4 BEANS; 5 CRANBERRY; 6 CORN; 8 GRATITUDE; 9 THURSDAY; 11 TURKEY; 13 LEFTOVERS; 15 TABLE; 19 NAPKIN; 20 FEAST; 21 STUFFING; 25 PIE

WORD FIND: Word number: row,column direction (count from top left). 1: 4,22 W; 2: 13,2 N; 3: 11,17 N; 4: 15,6 E; 5: 16,11 E; 6: 3,14 SW; 7: 11,8 NW; 8: 3,6 W; 9: 5,16 SW; 10: 5,16 S; 11: 9,11 SW; 12: 10,13 N; 13: 8,19 W; 14: 14,22 NW; 15: 18,13 NW; 16: 6,24 W; 17: 11,7 N; 18: 18,16 W; 19: 18,16 NE; 20: 5,8 S; 21: 6,9 W; 22: 8,23 S; 23: 3,16 E; 24: 2,4 SE; 25: 15,14 E; 26: 10,18 N; 27: 2,10 W; 28: 8,21 N; 29: 16,10 W; 30: 2,19 S

SUDOKU 1 (rows separated by /)
653174298 / 417298536 / 829536174
742859613 / 361427859 / 985613427
134782965 / 596341782 / 278965341

SUDOKU 2 (rows separated by /)
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253461879 / 416879235 / 897235461
534186927 / 972543186 / 168927543

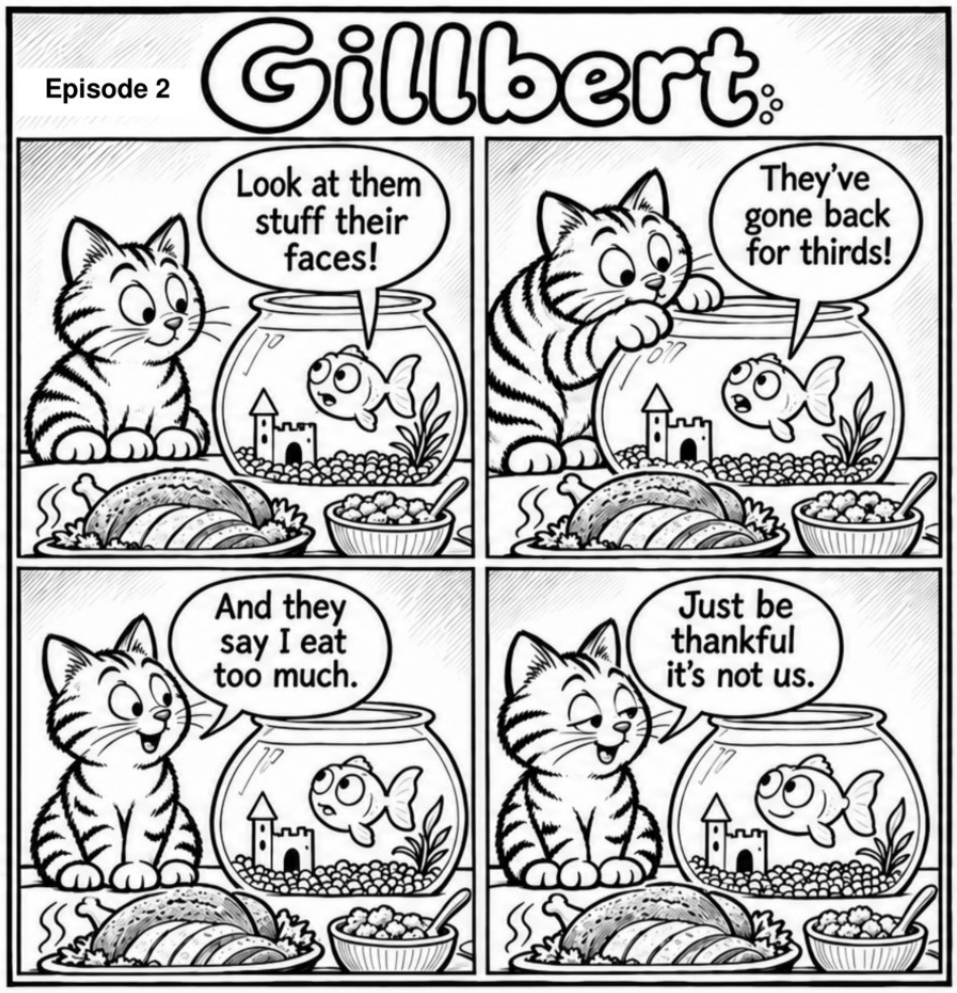
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742658193 / 658913472 / 913742568
374265981 / 265891734 / 891374625

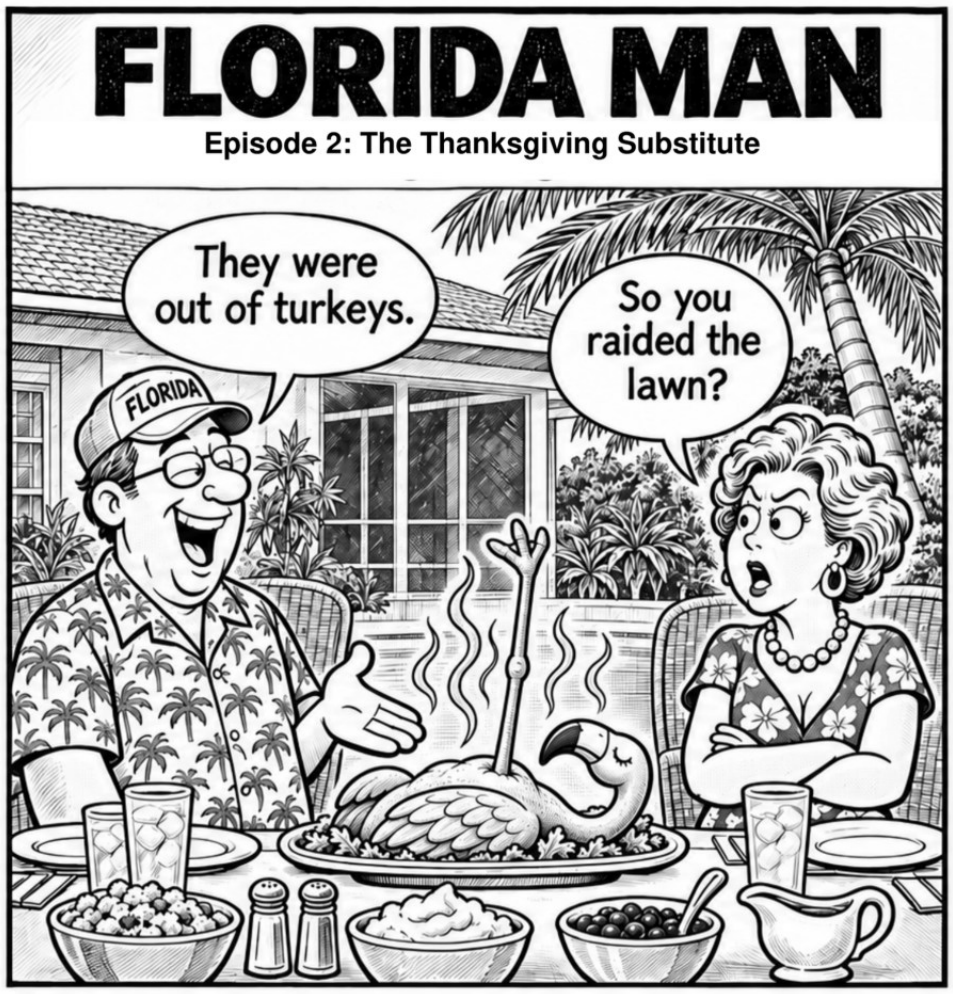
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461279835 / 583416972 / 297538614
758364291 / 346192587 / 129785463

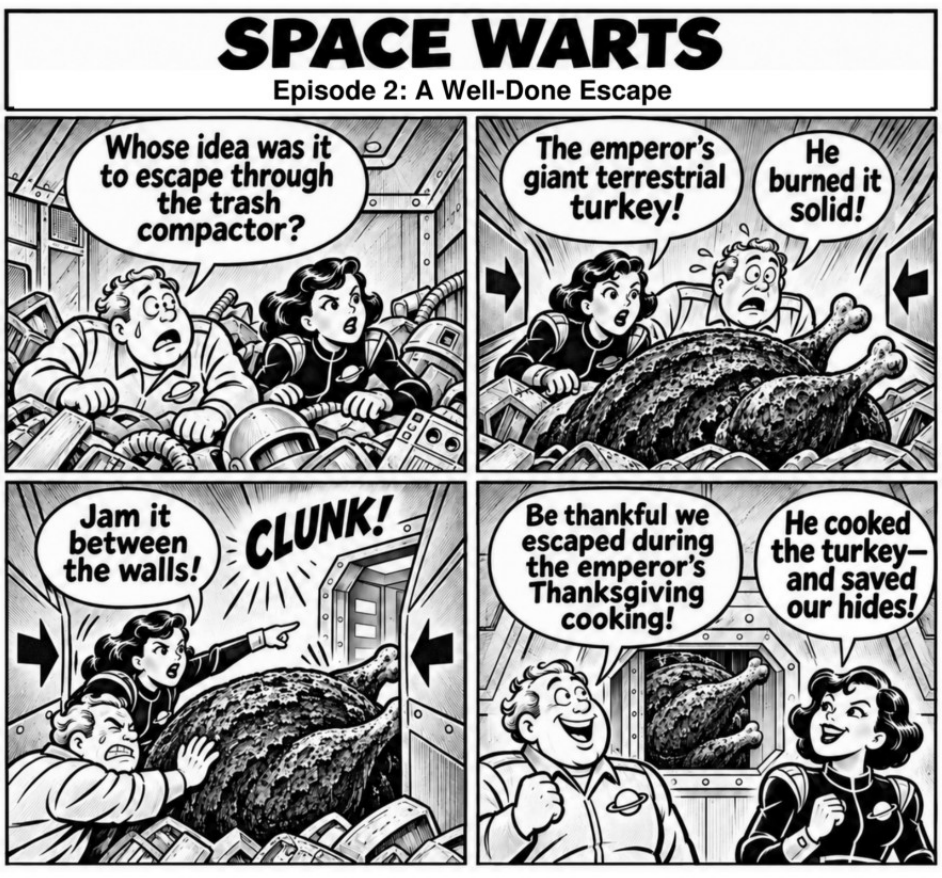
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715264389 / 893157642 / 426938571

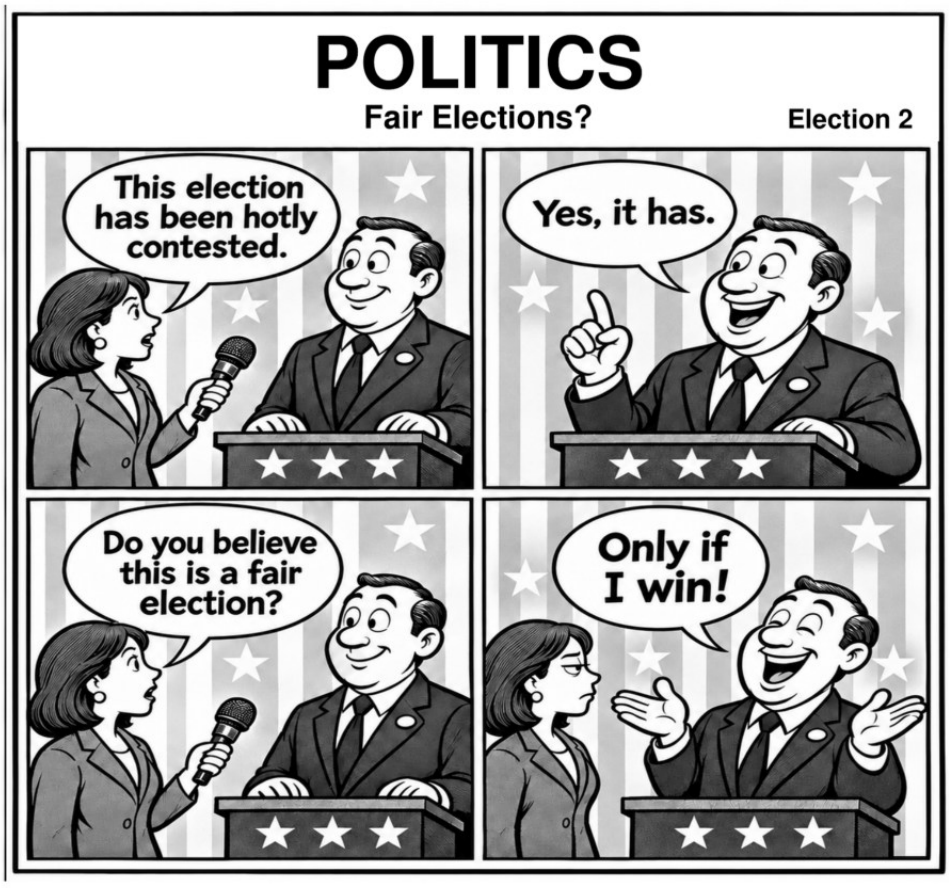
SUDOKU 6 (rows separated by /)
658971423 / 917324586 / 342685179
235816947 / 861749352 / 794253618
473562891 / 526198734 / 189437265

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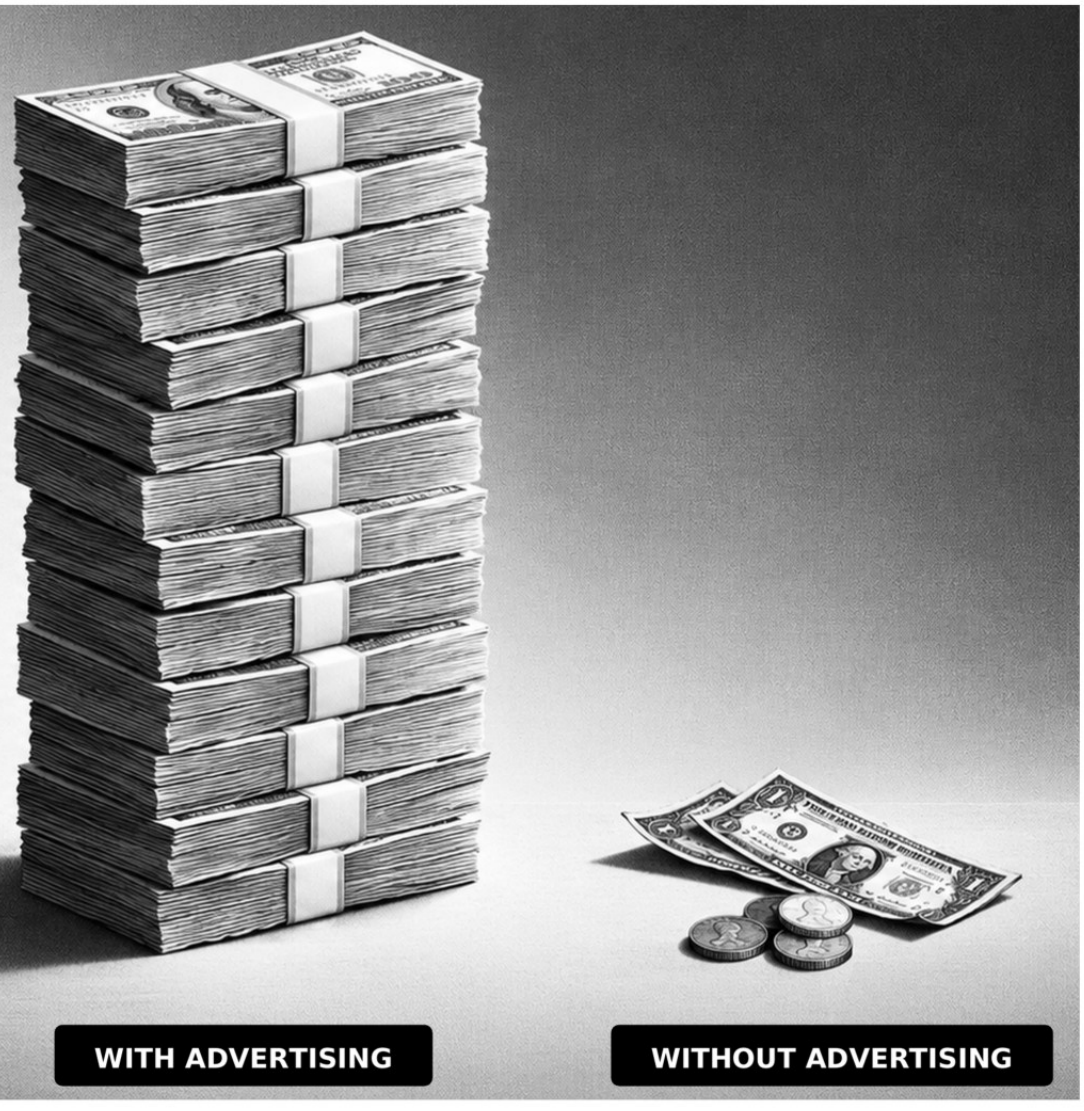
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