

PINEWOOD NEWS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF MUNDS PARK, AZ FOR 30 YEARS

VOL. 30 NO. 14 SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Every Sunday	Munds Park Community Church Services	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	9 & 10:45 am
Every Monday	AA Meetings hosted at Munds Park Community Church	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	6 pm
Every Thursday	Spread the Bread Get some for your neighbors too!	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	10 am
Every Friday!	BINGO at the Country Club - The Community is Welcome!	395 Pinewood Blvd	7 pm
Tuesday, September 5	Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary Members Meeting - Public Welcome!	475 E Pinewood Blvd	6:30 pm
Thursday, September 28	Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting - Public Welcome	18075 Fairway Dr	3 pm
Tuesday, September 19	Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting - Public Welcome	475 E Pinewood Blvd	3 pm
Wednesday, November 15	Munds Park Community Watch All Mundsies are Encouraged to Attend	475 E Pinewood Blvd	6:30 pm

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & STORY TIPS!

The Pinewood News is always interested in feedback and/or story tips from our community and welcome comments on any subject or article written.

The Pinewood News will attempt to publish every letter received, except for those that are an invasion of privacy or libelous. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Letters: PO Box 18977, Munds Park, AZ 86017 • email: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com

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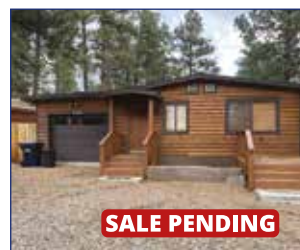
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805 E PINEWOOD BOULEVARD

Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a deep double car garage. Lot is over a quarter acre. Three large bedrooms, 2 updated baths. When you walk into the front foyer you'll look over the large sunken living room with it's own fireplace, dining room with an additional fireplace and open kitchen with amazing high ceilings. Separate utility room backing the kitchen, large panty. Up the stairs to all bedrooms and baths. Two extra large trex decks. Front is covered. Back yard is fenced. Seller is willing to sell the home with basic furnishings.

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17100 S ELK PLACE

Newer 2019 Cavco doublewide that shows like new. Located at the end of a quiet cul de sac. Heavily treed lot with plenty of available parking.

Taxes for land only.

1404 square foot livable, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Open floor plan, Large covered trex deck. Come take a look. Easy to show.

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1265 E BOBCAT DRIVE

Spacious chalet nestled on a wooded lot. 3 large bedrooms, loft, and 2 baths. New flooring, kitchen with corona countertops, trex decking, concrete driveway, electric car plug, new appliances, fresh paint. Alarm system, Ring doorbell, Nest thermostat. French doors open to covered side deck. Seller-owned propane tanks, newer roof. Storage at the back, fenced yard. Central propane heat on main level, electric wall heater upstairs. Private showings confirmed through Showingtime.

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\$269,500

185 E CEDAR WOOD DRIVE

One of the best buyes in Munds Park. A well maintained-2 bedroom split plan with 1 and 3 quarter baths. Palm Harbor Manufactured home fully furnished. Two large screen T.Vs, paved long driveway, large supersized composite deck with all patio furniture included. Covered carport (19x14) and a large storage shed. Beautiful landscaping, drip water system. Many pine trees and attractive curb appeal.

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\$304,000

110 E OAK DRIVE

Impeccably maintained. Tons of parking on this oversized lot. Two large sheds both sitting on concrete pads, one with power. This 16 foot wide single wide mobile sits on a full mason foundation with piers (not jacks). This unit is not moving anywhere. New double pane windows thru out, lots of storage, electric fireplace in the living room and most furniture will convey with the sale of this property. Large circular graveled driveway, new roof and plenty of room for all your toys.

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Pinewood

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JOIN US IN PRESERVING THE BEAUTY OF MUNDS PARK

The forests are our treasures, places of wonder and beauty, and they need our collective hands to maintain that charm. Our last 2023 Munds Park Trail Stewards (MUTS) Volunteer Event is on Saturday, October 14, beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Location: Pinewood Trailhead (240 Turn Around) - found at the east end of Pinewood Blvd, a mere .2 miles past the cattle guard.

Our Mission: We'll be dedicating our time to removing litter along the Forest Service roads.

By 12 noon, we'll conclude our trail work. As a token of gratitude for your time and effort, a **complimentary lunch will be served.**

RSVP: Your presence will make a difference. Please confirm your attendance by October 6 by dropping an email to mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com.

Packing List: Work gloves (though we'll have some extras), long pants, sturdy shoes, sunblock, dress according to the weather, and your sense of humor!

We'll ensure you stay hydrated and have the necessary supplies like water, gloves, and trash bags.

For the most recent updates, potential changes, or additions to the event, do check the MUTS website at www.mundsparktrailstewards.com or Pinewood News.



LOCATION CHANGE FOR LABOR DAY SATURDAY!

Join us at the Munds Park Farm-to-Table Market this Labor Day Saturday from 8 AM to 12 PM at the Basketball Courts on Walapai!

Experience the season's bounty – from fresh produce and fish to delectable pies and sweets. Don't miss out on honey, bread, and special treats for your furry friends! Decorate your home with rustic decor inspired by the Pines.

We'll be back at Agee's the following weekend and continue every Saturday through mid-October. See you there!



PINEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESENTS

4th Annual Labor Day Weekend Fundraiser

Proudly Sponsored by Agee's BBQ

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Corn Hole Tournament: Registration at 4 pm, games at 5 pm

Live Music at 6 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Activities begin at 11 am

Dunk Tank • Water Balloon Toss for Kids • Live Music 2 pm

Three live bands leading up to our headliner: "FOUR ON THE FLOOR"

Lucky Draw: Raffle Drawing at approximately 7:30 pm

Win cash with one of 3 raffle tickets

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Support the heart of our community: The Pinewood Fire Department.

Join us for raffle tickets, Agee's BBQ, incredible music, and a memorable time with neighbors.

Come for the cause, stay for the fun!



PINEWOOD
COUNTRY CLUB

PICKLEBALL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS SEPT. 8-10

The pickleverse is abuzz with excitement about PCC's first-ever pickle-ball club tournament on Sept. 8-10. If you have ever wanted to know why pickle-ball is getting so much attention, this would be a great showcase of talent to watch.

Ladies doubles teams will battle it out on Friday, Sept. 8, starting at 9 a.m. with mixed doubles slated for Saturday and mens doubles on Sunday.

Pinewood pickle-ball players have been training and attending camps and clinics with Coach Sharon all summer long in anticipation of the tournament. There are currently almost 200 active members of the PCC Tennis & Pickle-ball Club with pickle-ball players making up the vast majority of members. It's a dynamic and diverse group and open to all members of Pinewood Country Club.

For additional tournament details, please visit the front desk at PCC or email Paul Mehlhorn at pmehlhorn@gmail.com.



A half a mile from Heaven!

Interested in joining?

Contact Daniella Zamora, Membership/Events Coordinator
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THE FLUSHING SAGA CONTINUES

WITH AN IMPORTANT BOND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023

By Bill Spain

Some naysayers would have you believe that the laundry list of problems at the Pinewood Sanitary District was caused by malfeasance, inaction, and ineptitude. There is some reality in that assumption. Decisions made twenty years ago by various individuals have come back to haunt the District with the current operational issues, lack of management policy and procedures, lack of certifications, protocols and

organization required to operate a well-run business. Those problems have been identified and addressed over the past two years by a hard-working, committed Board of Directors and several key essential staff members who lived through the shenanigans of the past. Many know exactly what I am referring to as it was not a quietly kept secret over the past two decades.

The reality of our current situation is that work, which should have been planned, orchestrated, and implemented a decade ago, is now long overdue in an aging sewer district plant that is behind the times. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has imposed state-enforced requirements upon us. Our only options are to either make the necessary repairs to the plant and collection system or face fines, penalties, and mandates from ADEQ. The latter would be both painful and costly for the Munds Park community.

Over the last two years, we have managed to decipher, untangle, and align "real" financial budgets. We've constructed a five-year working budget, formulated a ten-year capital needs assessment, and identified the structural changes necessary to streamline our financial accounting and office systems. The Board voted to reduce office administration expenses by 50%, switch from monthly to quarterly billing, and reduce postage and other administrative costs. We revamped the employee benefits package, saving thousands of dollars monthly. The high computer and internet support costs were slashed by more than 50% and replaced with swifter, more cost-efficient alternatives. As employees retired or relocated, their positions remained vacant until the Board could establish a conservative and feasible budget. After thorough assessment by the District Manager and the Board, employee layoffs were executed to align the financials for WIFA loan approval.

The Pinewood Sanitary District is currently well-positioned to plan and execute the ADEQ-mandated repairs, while also preparing for the future growth and needs of the Munds Park community. We have made substantial

progress in collecting outstanding construction fees from businesses and individuals who sought annexation into the District between 2003 and 2014. Both Pinewood Partners Development (a 23-acre area south of Agee's) and Shuster Company Properties have either settled their construction fees in full or set up an independent escrow, with the funds scheduled for distribution to the Sanitary District after the November 7th election. Currently, Inspire Communities RV Park remains the sole entity yet to comply, but a judicial decision on this matter is expected soon.

WE HAVE MADE INCREDIBLE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING ISSUES AND PROBLEMS THAT ORIGINATED DECADES AGO.

If you've been following the Pinewood News over the past year, you're aware of the transparency the Board has championed throughout Munds Park. The Board's dedication to rectifying past mistakes has brought us to the brink of a bond vote. If you would like to catch up, you can read all our articles online at www.ThePinewoodNews.com.

As with any aging facility, repairs become necessary over the years as equipment becomes obsolete. In the past three years, the Pinewood Sanitary District has been subject to two separate administrative consent orders issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

ADEQ oversees all sanitary and wastewater districts in Arizona. They possess the authority to mandate repairs and improvements in special taxing districts, levy fines for inaction, and even shut down an entire sewer system if it negatively impacts the environment or fails to meet the minimum acceptable standards as prescribed by law.

Since 2020, PSD has experienced excessive seasonal water flows through the plant. This has necessitated the release of large amounts of water bypasses to prevent plant backups and potential failures. Essentially, the sixty-year-old sewer manholes are leaking profusely, allowing substantial volumes of water to infiltrate the sewer system. This results in bypass releases into the Oak Creek and Verde Valley River tributary systems. Such releases are prohibited by state law, leading to violations each time they occur. The facility has faced dozens of these bypasses and has been sanctioned by ADEQ through Consent Orders. The District's only recourse is to hold an election to raise bond money to address the leaky collection system. Though the plant was designed with a maximum flow capacity of 600,000 gallons, it has seen flows exceeding a million gallons a day on multiple occasions over the past two years.

Continued on page 17



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Dedication Day, September 1979, for the Glenn Miller Memorial Flagpole.

THE PAST 50 YEARS

A REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF THE PINEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

An interview with Fire Chief Josh Tope by Sandee Caviness

Over the course of half a century, the Pinewood Fire Department (PFD) has undergone a remarkable and inspiring transformation. Starting as a grassroots volunteer initiative, it has grown into a comprehensive and dedicated fire department, adeptly responding to the evolving needs of our community.

In 2003, when Josh Tope came onto the scene, there was a significant shift taking place. Chief Huizenga had initiated hiring a second full-time firefighter for each shift. Just prior to Josh's arrival, the team consisted of one full-time captain for each shift, amounting to three captains in total, and Chief Huizenga. The remaining workforce was made up of 27 volunteer firefighters.

Regrettably, as the PFD volunteers aged and the spirit of volunteerism waned among new Park residents, the pool of volunteers started to shrink. Moreover, some volunteers wanted to pick and choose which emergencies they were comfortable responding to—this was deeply concerning, especially when a rapid, comprehensive response was vital. Despite a core group of stellar volunteers, the nature of PFD calls became increasingly challenging, demanding greater professionalism and accountability. Josh acknowledged that this transition was uncomfortable yet necessary. The solution was to introduce a third tier. This involved maintaining

a roster of a full-time volunteer, adding reserves, and expanding the recruitment of firefighters to areas beyond Munds Park to attract younger recruits. Before this change, PFD could only recruit firefighters from within Munds Park. That's how we got Josh; he was one of the first firefighters recruited from outside of the Park. The strategy was to not only recruit outside of Munds Park but also to attract new recruits by providing on-the-job training to aspiring firefighters and subsequently assisting them in securing roles with other departments. This approach proved successful,

with the top-performing recruits often being hand-picked to join PFD when positions became available.

From heroic volunteers to a top-tier professional

team, the growth story at PFD is remarkable. In the 1970s, while most Arizona fire departments solely focused on firefighting, PFD was ahead of the curve. The visionary leaders of PFD recognized the vital importance of EMT ambulance services and secured a Certificate of Necessity (CON) from the Arizona Department of Health Services in 1976, making our fire department the State's second official ambulance service provider.

PFD has adapted to the times, responding to changing demographic nuances and pivotal global threats. Each public safety challenge has been met head-on. In the wake of 9/11, PFD stepped up, arming themselves with specialized training to address potential terrorism threats, encompassing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear responses. Further, to

Enduring Wisdom from Veteran Firefighters
When I asked Josh about the timeless advice given by veteran firefighters, his response was touching. He shared a favorite quote:
"The best thing an old firefighter can teach a new one?
How to become an old firefighter."

meet the unique demands of our territory, PFD took on advanced skills—swiftwater rescue, cold water rescue, and rope rescue. Skills you'd typically associate with much larger departments. Josh says they might not boast all the resources, but PFD is rich in the essential knowledge and expertise to spring into action when it matters most.

Nestled within the forest, Josh said our most pressing threat was a wildfire blazing through. In the early years, the forest surrounding the Park was largely untouched and overgrown, and at a heightened risk of wildfires. The overgrown forest was largely ignored. However, leaders at PFD took decisive action. They formed a Firewise Community and a Wildland Division, fostering relationships with state and national forest service. Today, treatments, prescribed burns, and commercial thinning projects are standard practice. This proactive approach, paired with the cultivation of strong ties to forest services, has prioritized Munds Park for treatments that mitigate the risk of fires. This pivotal shift will save lives and millions of dollars in damages should a wildfire brush our door.

The Fire District's growth has been essential even with modest growth in residential structures, with approximately only 100 cabins added. However, the heart of Munds Park for a long time, was its older generation. These long-standing residents gave the Park its character and soul, nurturing our community for decades. However, as time moved on, many of these cabins have been passed down, with the younger generation converting them into vacation rentals or, some, into long-term leases. This evolution means cabins that once stood serene with seasonal use now hustle with a revolving door of guests throughout the year.

With the growth, especially during the summer months, the PFD has seen a sharp rise in emergency calls. Monthly calls have jumped from an average of 20 to 70—a 250% increase.

Today, the PFD is unionized, offering better pay and benefits, and staffed with a Captain, Engineer, three firefighters, and two of them must be paramedics. Further, the station is equipped with two ambulances, all outfitted with advanced life support equipment and an engine, ensuring a robust response to any emergency. In earlier years, if two emergencies occurred in quick succession, the PFD would have to seek assistance from

the Highlands Fire Department or Guardian. However, they are now fully equipped to handle back-to-back emergencies independently, even handling a third call to provide essential life-saving measures while awaiting additional support.

THE FUTURE OF FIREFIGHTING

I had to ask Josh about the hot topic of AI: Does he see AI benefiting firefighters? He said they're already using it! ChatGPT has proven to be very helpful with administrative tasks, and he envisions AI in their future.

He went on to explain that currently, technologies are in place specifically designed to monitor firefighters' whereabouts. In events such as intense house or wildfires, visibility can be severely compromised. Firefighters typically operate in teams for safety, but challenges arise when they are in a vast structure, like a four-story building spanning 4,000 square feet. Modern technologies equip these brave men and women with GPS, enabling the incident commander to track their positions. While these systems aren't AI-driven yet, he anticipates the integration of AI in the near future.

Medicine, specifically paramedicine, demands a deep understanding of numerous drugs and their appropriate dosages. Their stockpile includes 38 distinct medications essential for complex emergency treatments. AI harbors

the potential to revolutionize this field, aiding in dosage calculations, among other things. Josh can imagine ambulances equipped with sensors that accurately weigh a patient. The system then could determine and display the correct drug dosages efficiently and precisely using AI.

As for the future of emergency medical services, Josh points to well-funded locales like Dubai for a hint. They're at the forefront, employing methods to tackle high-rise fires with firefighters outfitted with jetpacks and deploying drone ambulances for swift patient transportation to medical facilities.

That's astounding! I couldn't resist asking Josh if he'd soon request jetpacks from the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary. With a smile, he replied, 'Not yet'.



One of the earlier Pinewood Fire Trucks

Continued on page 11



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THE PAST 50 YEARS

Continued from page 9

RECRUITING

Josh points out that staffing is a challenge, a challenge faced nationwide. The allure of a robust pension, which once attracted recruits, has lost its appeal for the modern generation. They value life experiences over material possessions or long-term financial stability.

Moreover, he states that while today's youth display greater emotional intelligence, they often lack fundamental skills such as changing a tire or fixing a leaky faucet. Therefore, Josh has shifted his recruitment focus. He looks for integrity, morals, ethics, and compassion in potential recruits. He's confident in teaching them the technical aspects; what's vital is knowing that when he sends a firefighter into a home, they will show respect and genuinely work to provide the best care possible. Simply put, they need to care deeply about the community they serve.

WHO WOULD JOSH CALL?

I asked Josh if he could partner with any superhero to fight fires and save lives, who would it be?

Josh said it would need to be someone super quick like Superman—after all, he's faster than a speeding bullet, can start fires with his laser eyes, and douse them with his frosty breath. But wait, Josh remembered the eco-hero from the 90s! Ding, ding! Captain Planet! A blue-skinned, green-mulleted superhero combined with the power of earth, fire, wind, water, and heart. Whether it was a rogue tsunami or a fire threatening a forest, Captain Planet was the go-to guy. With his rallying cry, "The power is yours!" he seemed perfectly suited for any calamity. So, in a playful manner, Josh gives his superheroic nod to the delightfully retro and earth-loving Captain Planet. Why? Because, in Josh's words, he's "just so obscure!"

The journey of the Pinewood Fire Department showcases how strong leadership and the support of a giving community both with time and money, can create a modern, resilient force. Adapting to changing landscapes, embracing new technologies, and valuing core principles, PFD firefighters are the heroes of Munds Park. It's not merely a fire department; rather, it's a testament to the strength of community bonds and the unwavering commitment of those who serve. As PFD continues to write its story, it's sure to encompass growth, transformation, and service for a safer, brighter future.

This weekend, come join us at Agee's Labor Day fundraiser. Enjoy good food, drinks, and merry moments, all while contributing to the donation jar for their new and well deserved state-of-the-art firehouse. Let's gather those funds and bring jetpacks to Munds Park! Can you imagine?

Event details on page 5.

HEART & HELMET

In the early years, firemen didn't wear facemasks. Their primary protective gear consisted of what they dubbed 'Day boots'—just rubber boots pulled up to their thighs. Back then, firefighters epitomized the rugged, macho image. If those firefighters could see today's counterparts in all their modern gear, they might raise an eyebrow. Nowadays, firefighters don turnout pants and full protective gear. Skipping this gear could lead to disciplinary actions and expose them to significant health risks, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and lung ailments. Over the years, the profession has grown more knowledgeable and proactive about health and safety, and this includes mental health.

According to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, there are between 100 and 200 firefighter deaths by suicide each year—and this estimate is considered low. This rate is double that of the general population, making firefighters more likely to die of suicide than on duty. Firefighters stand on the frontline of disasters and heartbreaking emergencies, causing mental trauma and PTSD.

Josh pointed out that, unlike in the past when firefighters might suppress their emotions and feel isolated, they now have the support of a strong mental health program that they started with fellow fire agencies in the area. This program offers awareness and resources to help firefighters manage the stresses of their job. Additionally, districts are stepping up, providing firefighters with counseling and EMDR therapy.

EMDR, which stands for 'Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing,' is a psychotherapy designed to diminish the distress linked to traumatic memories, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Josh believes this therapy is an invaluable tool in helping our heroes feel better. He's experienced it himself, and says it's an amazing and helpful tool.

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UNSTOPPABLE STACEY

TRAVEL WRITER

By Stacey Wittig



Hadrian's Arch in Jerash



UNSTOPPABLE Stacey at Wadi Rum, Jordan



Wadi Rum camel caravan

JOURNEY THROUGH JORDAN

I sit in Sufra, Amman's trendy restaurant, sipping refreshing mint lemonade, a beverage I would soon come to understand was a typical drink in Jordan. Our evening walk to the restaurant passed colorful shops and eateries on Rainbow Street, the city's hip strip, a veritable foodie's heaven lit up for the night.

I've heard of the Jordanian's love of food and fabulous spreads of mezze or appetizers, but I'm eager to sample the small bites for myself. With the intoxicating aromas of wood fire and warm bread in the air, I settle at an impeccably set table looking forward to a fun evening of savoring traditional Jordan food.

"The taste of the soil is in our vegetables," explains my new friend Mohammad Qamhiya as the mezze begin arriving. The numerous bowls and plates are to be shared with the whole table. It takes three waiters to load the tabletop with the plethora of mezze, served all at once instead of one or two at a time like tapas in Spain.

Many small plates are based on local vegetables such as green beans in olive oil, pickled purple cauliflower and Baba Ganuj, smoked eggplant and sesame paste. Other mezze, like chicken livers cooked with garlic and coriander, spicy lamb stew or lamb spleen stuffed with celery and chile sauce and then roasted, celebrate local meats.

"Never had lamb spleen before," I grin at Mohammad, "So pile it on." From our table, we observe the bread maker slapping dough to the side walls of his olla-shaped oven, trying to keep up with our consumption of the rustic flatbread.

If I could taste the soil in the vegetables, it would be the taste of limestone. Amman is located in the highlands of Jordan—which means it's cooler than other parts of this desert country—and is built on seven limestone hills. Jordan's capital rolls up and over the hillsides giving spectacular views of city lights by night and limestone-clad buildings by day. The creamy color of the local rock makes a stunning mono-tone of Middle Eastern architecture that stretches out into the suburbs.

Mohammad wants to show me the massive ruin site of Jerash, built of the same creamy limestone, so we plan to leave the next day for the UNESCO site fifty minutes away.

"The largest Greco-Roman ruin site that you've never heard of," I laugh to my friend as we walk through the sprawling archaeological site of columns, colonnades and colossal temples. I'm awed by the layers of time as Mohammed points to a wall with the base stratum made of straight-edged, Greek blockwork that the Romans had built upon with tooled, round-edged masonry and are now capped with smaller limestone blocks of the Islamic era. An age-old olive oil press sits near the wall.

I hate leaving Jerash, one of six Jordanian UNESCO World Heritage sites. A half-day is undoubtedly not enough time to experience the open-air museum. I'm tempted to spend more time dreaming in the 3000-seat theatre, wandering the ancient hippodrome or exploring what was left of the early Christian churches (400-600 AD.)

But a wine tasting and dinner at The Winemaker in Amman are calling. The tasting room and restaurant are run by Zumot, which harvests grapes at three vineyards around Jordan. Each vineyard has a specific terroir for the structure of the 20-plus wines they produce. During the wine tasting, I imagine that I taste – wait for it – limestone – in the dusty cab-merlot blend on their Saint George label. The Cabernet Sauvignon won a gold medal at the 2011 Mundus Vini International.

From upscale Amman, we don our keftiyeh—the native, nomadic headgear—and head out to the backcountry of Wadi Rum, where Lawrence of Arabia roused Bedouin tribes in the Arab Revolt of 1916-18. Today the majestic desert is a national preserve full of sandy gorges, petroglyphs and archaeological sites.

We experience the famous Bedouin hospitality with song and dance around a fire at our campsite. Under a field of stars, we enjoy zarb, a traditional meal of lamb, vegetables and spices cooked underground in the sand, and then I retire to my private goat-hair tent. Watching the morning break from atop my Bedouin camel and the contemplative 45-minute ride back to civilization was the high point of my Jordan journey.

But no trip to Jordan would be complete without a visit to Petra, the ancient city carved into rose-colored sandstone cliffs. I wander the massive UNESCO World Heritage site alone—the Indiana Jones theme song is stuck in my head.

"How would this look when it was a tax station for the 800-plus camel caravans that carried spices from the Saudi peninsula towards Rome, Greece and Egypt? As a crossroads of civilization at the time of Christ, this place must have been bustling," I imagine.

At the end of the day, I walk out of the sandstone ruins, a little sad knowing I'll leave Jordan soon. Until I look down at the ancient Roman pavers at my feet and realize they're made of – you guessed it—limestone, which makes me smile.

Enjoy this article? Then don't miss signing up for Stacey's stories at www.unstoppablestaceytravel.com.

This story was first published in Lake Erie Lifestyle Magazine.

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EXPERT ADVICE TO PROTECT YOUR HOME & INSURABILITY

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With the increasing threat of wildfires and shifting insurance dynamics in the Park, it's imperative that homeowners be well-informed. To help safeguard both your property and insurance coverage, consider the following advice for savvy insurance decisions.

Maintain Firewise Status: Maintaining a Firewise status is not only essential for safety but also for ensuring Munds Park remains insurable. The following steps can significantly reduce fire risks:

- Remove pine needles and leaf litter from roofs, gutters, and surrounding areas to reduce fire risks.
- Store firewood piles away from structures to create defensible space.
- Keep trees and landscaping trimmed and consider cutting trees that hang over your home.
- Always log hours and dollars spent on fire mitigation efforts at pinewoodfire.org/firewise to maintain our Firewise status.

Avoid Unnecessary Claims: Taking preventive measures and filing claims cautiously can positively impact your insurance eligibility and premium rates for years to come:

- Understand that any claim you file can impact your insurability for up to five years. This applies to the specific location (e.g., if a previous homeowner filed a claim on the property) and to the individual insured (e.g. if you filed a claim while living at a different residence).
- Properly winterize your home to avoid broken pipes and costly water damage.
- Consult with your insurance agent before filing small claims.

Communication is Key: To ensure you're adequately covered and receive the best rates, effective communication is essential:

- Be honest with your insurance agent about your specific needs.
- Different types of homes, (primary, secondary, rentals, etc.) have varying coverage needs.
- Inform your insurance carrier when you make changes to your property like replacing the roof or adding a security system.
- If your carrier is non-renewing your policy or exiting the market, share this information with your neighbors.
- Seek an insurance representative familiar with Northern Arizona's unique market.

Be Flexible: Recognize that insurance needs and costs differ between regions. Flexibility and a proactive approach can save you money.

- Consider increasing deductibles to lower premiums.
- Sometimes, it's better to accept a premium increase from your carrier.
- Other times, it's better to seek a different carrier.
- Carriers' risk appetites can change. Working with an independent insurance broker provides flexibility to switch carriers when needed.
- Shop for insurance early; many carriers offer "early shopper discounts".

Prevent Coverage Gaps: Do not let your insurance lapse as it can be costly and limit your options:

- Many carriers won't offer coverage on homes with a lapse in coverage.
- Carriers that do offer coverage will charge higher premiums.
- Check both physical mail and email a month before your renewal date.

Understand Your Policy: Carefully read your Declarations page and inquire about key policy details:

- Is the deductible for wind and hail different from all the other perils deductible?
- Are the limits of insurance sufficient to rebuild your home? The Dwelling limit of insurance should reflect the cost to rebuild your home, stick by stick, in the event of a total loss. It does not reflect the market value nor the value of the land underneath it.
- Is the valuation set at replacement cost value, functional replacement cost, or full repair cost?
- A policy written at actual cash value will include consideration of depreciation based on age at settlement. This is particularly common amongst mobile home insurance carriers. As an example, last month, a fellow Mundsie asked me to review his policy. At first glance, it appeared that the Dwelling was covered for \$150,000. However, after further review, we determined that the Insured would receive only \$40,000 in the event of a total loss!

By adhering to these recommendations, Munds Park homeowners can significantly reduce risks, protect their investment, and make sound choices. Staying vigilant and informed is the first line of defense against both natural disasters and market volatility. As the insurance landscape evolves, educated decision-making can make a substantial difference in safeguarding your home and peace of mind.



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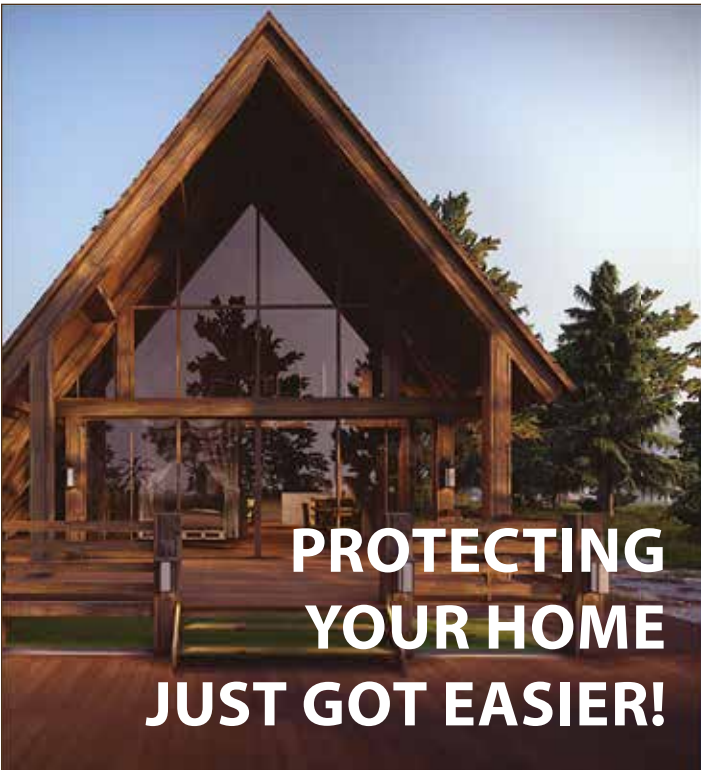


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THE FLUSHING SAGA

Continued from page 7

Simultaneously, the District confronts another pressing set of issues. Due to age, the main sewer lines and connecting lateral lines are all showing signs of failure. Just last month, a major line collapsed at Stallion and Lobo on the Northeast side of Munds Park. This collapse resulted in sewage leakage onto the ground, requiring an immediate \$50,000 emergency repair and disrupting sewer service to forty-two homes in the area. This problem is pervasive throughout the forty-one miles of sewer lines in the Park.

By collaborating with the engineering firm Ardurra from Flagstaff, both the District staff and board have formulated a plan to address the repairs in stages, starting in spring 2024. The areas with the highest concentrations of failing lines and manholes will be prioritized for repair. The primary areas identified include Animal Hill and all canyon-sloping areas where main sewer lines are exposed to the elements. The \$15 million project is anticipated to be executed in four installments over two years. The initial area of concern is estimated to cost \$3.5 million to rectify.

At the same time, the plant itself hasn't seen any major replacements or improvements since the early 1990s. The plant's chemical chlorine treatment facility needs an overhaul, with safety and monitoring devices installed. A new aerobic digester, twice the size of the current one, is required to replace the existing unit. New screens, filters, and pumps need to be acquired. The district's vehicle fleet, now all over ten years old, should be replaced in a staggered manner over the next two years. There's a need for a new dump truck and a new Bobcat. Numerous aging components must be serviced by staff to ensure an efficient operation.

Thankfully, the west side sewer additions will be fully operational within the next two months. Construction funds have been collected, and agreements have been established with all west-side owners and operators, except for Inspire Communities RV Park. Currently, the Sewer District is in litigation with Inspire RV Park, seeking a judicial resolution due to their persistent refusal to cover construction costs for Phases 1, 1A, and 2. These phases were annexed into the Sewer District upon the request of the park's

prior owner. Concurrently, a comprehensive agreement has been finalized with the Shuster Companies. They have committed to covering 100% of their construction fees for all their properties, which includes a provision in Phase 5 to escrow funds until after the bond vote is approved.

Good things have been happening at the District over the past few months. We've made significant strides in reducing ongoing operating costs, phasing out outdated and expensive-to-repair equipment, and restructuring job descriptions to better align with the performance goals and objectives set by the District Board.

On November 7, 2023, a special mail-in ballot vote is scheduled for all full-time residents of Munds Park. The voters are being asked to approve a special \$15-million WIFA loan. This loan will fund the necessary repairs and facilitate the purchase of vital new plant components and equipment required for the repairs over the next two years. **It's crucial that everyone VOTES and endorses the bond request.** This ensures that we can maintain the quality of life that a well-functioning sewer system affords our rural forest community.

Some local full-time residents question the need for this bond. They suggest the community should allow Coconino County to assume control of the operation and handle the state-mandated repairs. However, Matt Ryan, our current Board of Supervisor, along with other Coconino County officials who attended the Community Watch meeting on August 9th, emphasized that this would be a grave mistake. The pain and suffering Munds Park would endure with the restrictions imposed, the massive outlay of government funds, and the immediacy of repairs that would have to be made would be "very Painful," as several county officials suggested at the meeting. Additionally, the learning curve for county officials would add months, if not years, to the project, increasing the overall expense and result in a significantly higher sewer bill to all Munds Park homeowners/taxpayers.

For those interested in learning more about the importance of this bond initiative, please plan to attend the next Pinewood Sanitary District Board meeting on September 28, 2023 at 3 pm at the District offices located at 18075 Fairway Drive.

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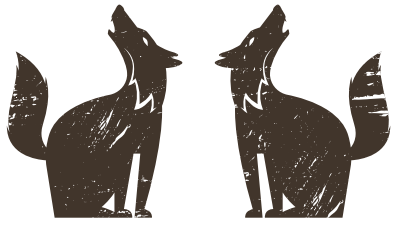


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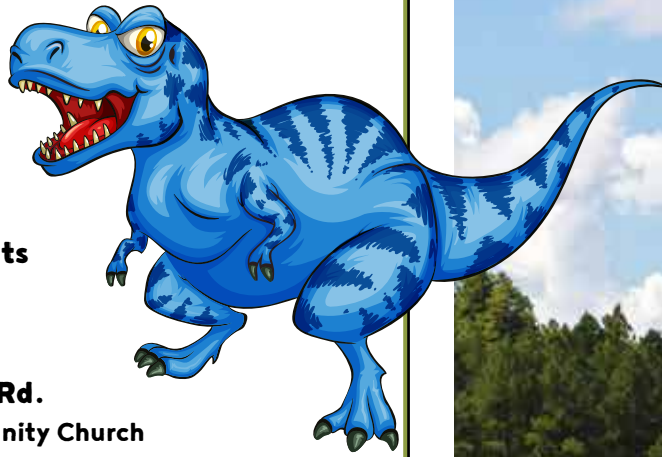
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If you ever thought demigods had it rough, then you haven't met the unsung heroes of Munds Park. Yeah, I'm talking about firefighters. The kind who face roaring dragons (well, fires) and save the day without the use of magical weapons (just incredibly cool equipment).

Imagine your muscles are aching, and you've just climbed what feels like Mount Olympus' number of stairs, hauling an equipment bag that weighs about as much as a minotaur. Who does that?

They're the titans of the real world, going through Herculean physical tests to prove their might. I mean, think about it: they need to be as sturdy as cyclops, fast as Hermes, and as smart as Athena. Their training isn't some walk through Elysium, either. They're constantly updating their knowledge, like downloading the latest 'how-to-defeat-a-monster' manual, ensuring they and the folks around them stay safe.

The secret? Just like Camp Half-Blood or Hogwarts gets visits from legendary heroes, schools have these brave firefighters visit. Every year, like clockwork, the sages of Pinewood Fire Department spread their wisdom at the Family Safety Day in Munds Park. Their lesson? How to be safe when Prometheus's gift decides to get a bit unruly. And guess what? Their greatest strength isn't in the individual might of an Achilles or a Hercules. It's their teamwork. They hold the line (and their hoses) together, united against the blaze.

Living the life of a firefighter is kind of like pulling night duty on a quest. Some of them camp out at the firehouse 24/7. And when they're not squaring off against fires, they're ensuring their gear is in top condition. And, oh boy, just when they think they can get a break,

have some nectar (or you know, dinner), the alarm sounds, and it's off to another daring adventure. Forget about a 3 a.m. dragon attack! These guys are up and ready for any emergency at any time!



Speaking of gear, let's talk about their armor. It's not celestial bronze or Stygian iron, but it's equally impressive. Flame-resistant jackets, helmets that could make Ares envious, masks, and oxygen tanks – everything needed to step into Hades' kitchen and come back out. Plus, those sturdy boots? Perfect for a swift kick or navigating the heat.

But it's not just about the armor. Their chariots – I mean, fire trucks and engines – are decked out with gadgets and gizmos that even Hephaestus might whistle at. Whether it's a hose that channels the power of Poseidon or axes that can rival those in the armory of the gods, these tools make sure that the modern-day heroes can always save the day.

And, here's a twist, firefighters don't just tackle fires. They have rescue chariots designed to aid those in dangerous automobile accidents. Jacks, glass-cutters, and tools that would make any master inventor proud, all ready to free those trapped.

In some realms, like Munds Park, these fiery warriors also double as healers. Ever heard of paramedics? They're like the guardians of health, always ready to mend and heal. With rescue chariots as their steeds, they race against time, ensuring no life is left in the balance.

So, if you've dreamt of being a hero, of standing tall in the face of danger, maybe it's not a quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece you need. Maybe, just maybe, the call of firefighting is the adventure you're destined for. The firefighters of Munds Park are proof that you don't need divine blood to be a hero. All you need is courage, commitment, and the desire to make a difference.



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BRAMBERLY THE WISE BEAR & THE SECRETS OF THE HONEY BEES!

By George Dee

Bramberly, a wise old bear with a heart as golden as honey, sat under the shade of an old oak tree. He watched joyfully as the busy bees buzzed around, collecting nectar and pollinating the colorful flowers surrounding his favorite spot in the woods.

"Ah, my little friends," calling the nearby children who often visited him for tales, "Would you like to know the magic of these incredible creatures?"

The children's eyes gleamed with curiosity. "Tell us, Bramberly!"

Bramberly cleared his throat and began, "You see, honey bees aren't just responsible for the delicious honey we love to eat. They're vital pollinators, which means they help plants grow by transferring pollen from one flower to another, allowing them to produce seeds and fruit. Without these bees, many of the fruits and veggies we love would be hard to find."

One of the children, a young girl named Donna, tilted her head. "How are bees so good at spreading pollen?"

"Well, Donna," Bramberly chuckled, "did you know that bees have two pairs of wings and they can fly up to 15 miles per hour? Their quick flights and keen sense of smell, with 170 odorant receptors, help them locate and move between flowers efficiently."

Donna's eyes sparkled with wonder, "Is it true that bees have five eyes?" "That's right," he said, guiding the children to look closer at a resting

bee. "And these bees, they have a special basket on their hind legs, called a corbicula, where they carry pollen. And if you've ever wondered about that buzzing sound, it's because they beat their wings 200 times per second!"

The children gasped with amazement.

"In their home, called a hive, there can be up to 50,000 bees," Bramberly continued. "The hive has a queen, the only one who lays eggs. Then there are worker bees, which are all females. They collect food, protect the hive, and even clean it! And then there are the drones, the males, who mate with the queen ensuring the hive survives."

A boy named Joe interjected, "And the honey? Where does the honey come from?"

Bramberly nodded, "To make just one pound of honey, bees have to visit about 2 million flowers. In their short five to six-week life, a worker

bee will produce just about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey. Yet, they make excess honey to store for winter. We get the extra."

Donna asked, "So, when a bee stings, it dies, right?"

"Yes," Bramberly sighed, "That's the price they pay to defend their hive."

Joe's face turned sad, "I heard bees are disappearing. Why?"

Bramberly's eyes grew somber. "It's a big concern, Joe. Many factors are causing this, and it's called the 'colony collapse disorder.' But we can help. Planting nectar-rich flowers, buying local honey, and reducing pesticide use can make a difference."

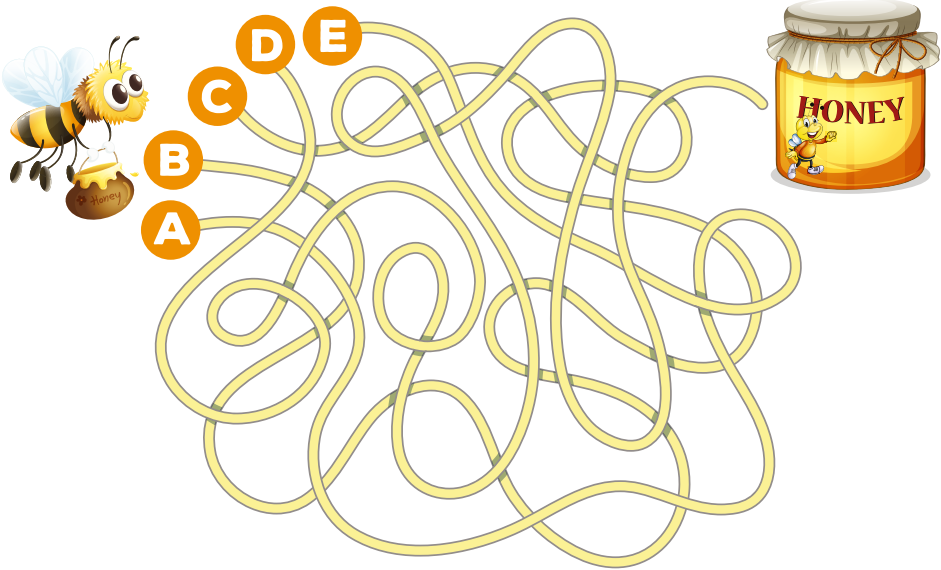
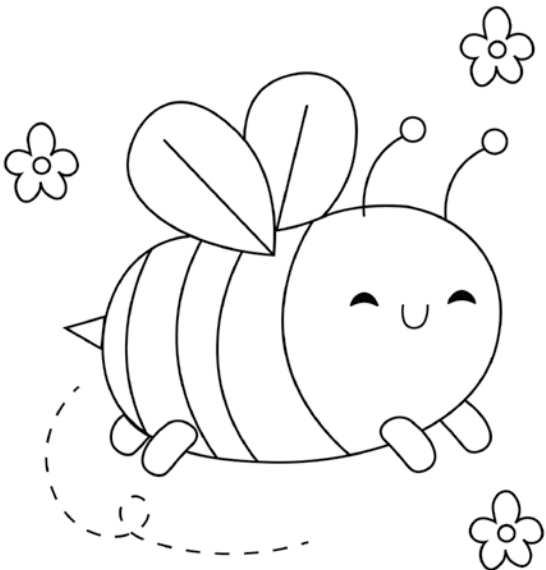
Tommy, another child, stood determined, "We should help! Let's spread the word and plant more flowers!"

Bramberly smiled warmly, "That's the spirit. Every bit of help counts, for the bees give us much more than honey. They make our world thrive."

And as the sun set, the children left with a mission in their hearts, while Bramberly, contentedly watching the bees, knew the future was in good hands.



Illustration by Donna Langston



Sparky's HIDDEN PICTURE PUZZLE



The following objects are hidden in this picture:

- ☐ battery
- ☐ smoke alarm
- ☐ candle
- ☐ flashlight
- ☐ pencil
- ☐ sailboat
- ☐ banana
- ☐ golf club
- ☐ bell
- ☐ sock
- ☐ ruler
- ☐ ring
- ☐ cup
- ☐ button

Answers page 39

For more FUN STUFF, visit SPARKY.ORG!

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

WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words. **Answers page 39.**

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Golden | Flowers | Flight |
| Honey | Fruit | Buzzing |
| Pollinators | Colony | Wings |
| Receptors | Nectar | Queen |
| Corbicula | Magic | Drones |
| Hive | Pollen | Sting |
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But wait, there's more! The best part is, this captivating book is a gift from the author to the wonderful community of Munds Park. With a simple scan of the QR code below, you can unlock the doors to real estate success with your very own FREE copy!

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Embrace the wisdom of generations, the thrill of success stories, and the spirit of community support as you delve into the captivating world of "Limitless Real Estate Strategies." It's time to turn your property dreams into reality, one strategy at a time.

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545 Cedarwood

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PINEWOOD PLAYERS PRESENTS

PINEWOOD PLAYERS 2024 PREVIEW

Pinewood Players celebrated the culmination of another highly successful season of Theater in the Pines with their annual “It’s a Wrap” party on August 31. The 2023 season brimmed with community entertainment and service activities, which included some milestone moments. For the first time in five years, the group produced three full-length plays. These productions marked the Pinewood Playhouse stage debuts for one first-time director and seven new actors. Two students, set to enter college this fall, were each awarded a \$2000 scholarship. The three-week Youth Drama Camp provided performing arts education and summer fun to a record 41 children and sold out all four of its performances. All in all, it was a momentous and memorable season! Pinewood Players extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our loyal members, patrons, and everyone in the community who purchased tickets and attended the performances.

Notwithstanding the successes of the 2023 season, Pinewood Players have never been content to rest on their laurels. They also have never shied away from a daunting challenge. As a testament to this, in 2024 Pinewood Players will stage their first musical comedy in over a decade.

In June 2024, Pinewood Players will present the hit musical comedy, “The Andrews Brothers,” written by Roger Bean and licensed by STAGERIGHTS. The premise? A USO performance by the Andrews Sisters is in jeopardy when they fail to appear shortly before curtain. But, three earnest stagehands are determined to go on with the show! “The Andrews Brothers” is packed with 30 songs made famous by The Andrews Sisters and other iconic artists of the era, including showstoppers like “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree,” “Three Little Sisters,” and “Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive.” The show promises mistaken identities, madcap adventures, and evokes memories of a Crosby-Hope “Road to...” movie combined with elements of “Some Like it Hot.” It’s a musical tribute highlighting the music of an entire generation and our World War II heroes.

Late June and early July will witness the revival of two Youth Drama Camps. The “Kidz Kamp” will span two weeks, catering to 6 to 9-year-old campers, while the “Tween Camp,” designed for youngsters aged 10 and above, will run for three weeks, overlapping with Kidz Kamp dates. Our youngest campers will learn and perform “Pajama Party,” distributed by Hal Leonard/Music K-8. Meanwhile, the older “Twins” (ages 10 through 18) will perform “Dear Edwina JR” from MTI’s Broadway JR Collection. Both camps will culminate in final weekend performances, entertaining parents, grandparents, and drama camp aficionados. For schedules and additional information about the two camps, visit Pinewood Players’

website (www.pinewoodplayers.com) in September. For queries, contact Nancy Cummings at (623)680-9022 or ncummings67@me.com, or Lu Cross at (928)890-9877 or lkcross6726@gmail.com.

The second full-length production, set to begin in late July and span two consecutive weekends, will feature “Exit Laughing,” a hilarious and slightly risqué comedy by Paul Elliot, licensed by Dramatic Publishing. The plot revolves around three southern ladies from Birmingham who, when faced with the death of one of their bridge-playing friends, embark on the most adventurous night of their lives. This night includes an encounter with the police, a stripper, and introduces a whole new perspective on living life to the fullest.

Later in August, the “Reader’s Theater – Cabaret Nights” will make a return to the Pinewood Country Club. Novice actors and actresses will perform funny skits in an intimate cabaret-style setting, complete with tables for four and a cash bar. This event had pleased audiences for over ten consecutive years, and Pinewood Players are excited to reintroduce it to the 2024 calendar. Attendees should be prepared for all-new, uproarious scripts guaranteeing an evening of fun, laughter, and merriment.

Exact dates, times, and more information about the 2024 Theater in the Pines productions will be accessible on the Pinewood Players website come March 2024. In the interim, we send our warmest wishes to all our members, supporters, patrons, and the entire Munds Park Community. “Happy Trails” until we convene again next season!



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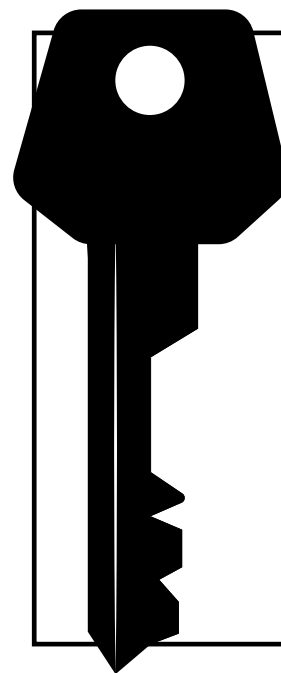
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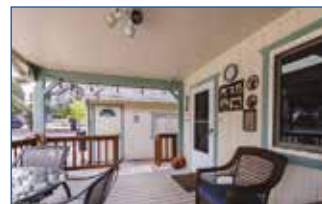
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RACK 2

I ₁	O ₁	K ₅	N ₁	P ₃	R ₁	W ₄

Triple Word Score

RACK 3

A ₁	E ₁	N ₁	N ₁	W ₄	S ₁	M ₃

RACK 4

A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	O ₁	T ₁	N ₁	C ₃

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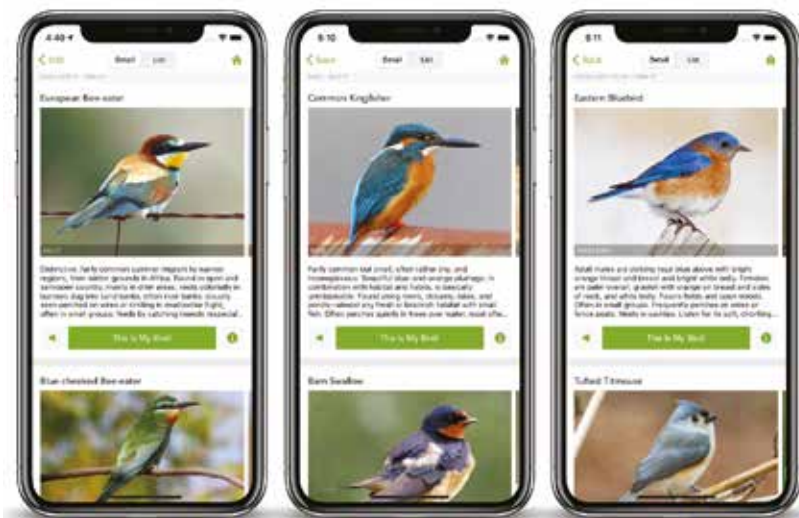
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition.



BIRDS OF MUND'S PARK

PURPLE MARTINS

By Margaret Dyekman



ENHANCE YOUR BIRDING EXPERIENCES!

Do you ever get frustrated when you listen to a bird song but are unable to determine what species you are hearing? Maybe the bird is perched high in the trees, and even with binoculars you can't see it? What about watching a new bird at your bird bath and not sure what it could be, in spite of snapping a photo of it with your cell phone?

You are not alone with these challenges, and now help with bird identification is easier than it's ever been. Here I will share some of the technological advancements that are available to you at no cost, and I guarantee they will make a big difference in understanding birds and nature.

My favorite new birding app is Merlin, a free download from Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. Merlin helps you identify birds you see and hear. It is powered by eBird, the world's largest database of bird sightings, sounds, and photos. I mostly use the sound recording component of the app, but you can also answer a few questions or take a photo and upload it to obtain a bird identification. Merlin has confirmed Pinyon Jays calling as they flew over our house, the singing of Cordilleran Flycatchers and Plumbeous Vireos, and a lone migrating American Pipit at the lake I spotted one fall using my cell phone photo. Now it's not perfect, as my friend told me her small howling dog came up as a Common Loon on the app, but usually any misidentifications are obvious. And in my experience, Merlin has been spot-on.

Another favorite free app is eBird, because on this app I report and reference my bird sightings. I keep my life list on eBird and can easily pull up the number of species I've seen or heard from our property, Odell Lake, or any other location. When I travel I can look up birding hot spots for whatever area I am visiting, and eBird information will help me decide if I want to take a hike at a hotspot or a lunch break at a rest stop and tell me what birds I might see. Even though eBird is quite easy to use, starting with the tutorials on the website gives you a head start on learning about its features.

iNaturalist is an app from the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. With it you can identify not only birds but also plants, insects and animals. Take a photo, submit it to iNaturalist, and the app can usually tell you what you are looking at. The Seek app is an outgrowth of iNaturalist that is great for school-aged kids as well as their adult family members. It's a fun tool to use, as you or your child can take a photo of a flower, tree, insect, or other animal and learn its name and more. What a great way to keep active little people engaged in the natural world around them and help them learn how important all species are to our cycle of life!

You can reach me at margaretdyekman@cox.net or by text at 602-620-3210. You can read all about Backyard Birding in Northern Arizona at www.backyardbirdingaz.com and order the book online or get one directly from me. I welcome your questions, reports of sightings, and your suggestions for future articles.



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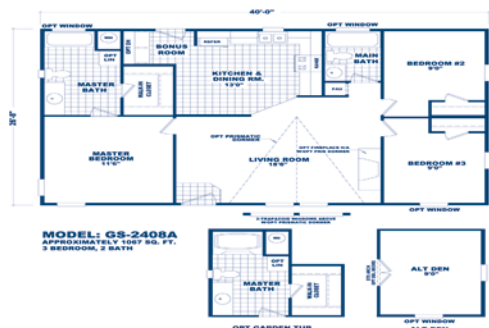


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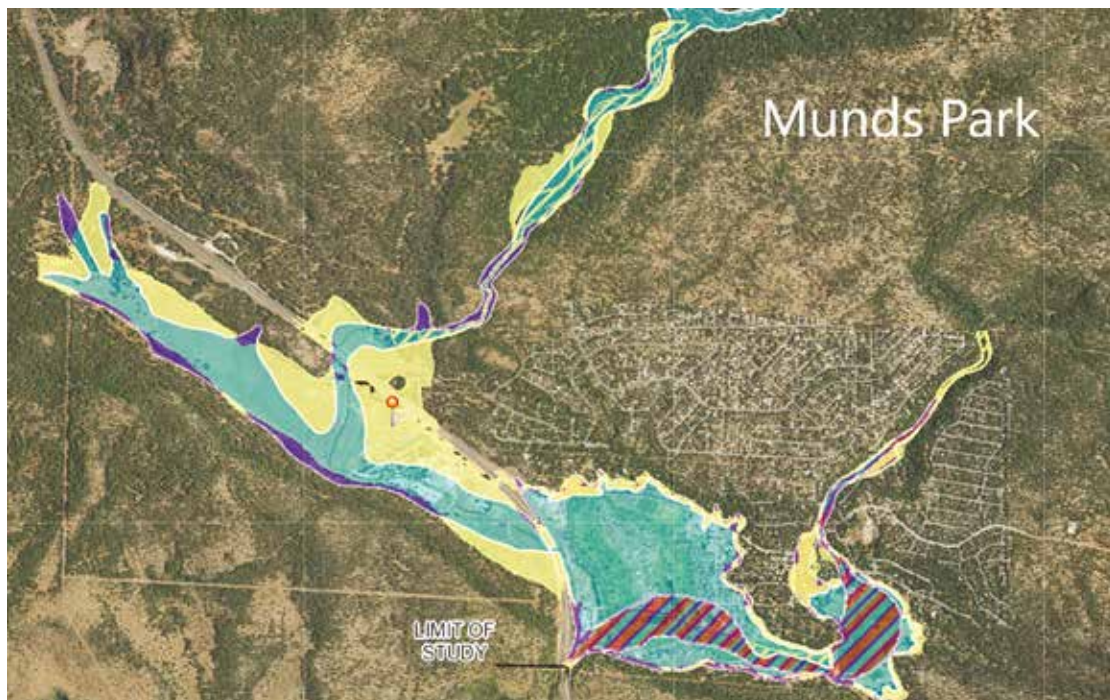
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PRELIMINARY FLOOD MAPS FOR MUNDS PARK

New Maps Show Flood Risks Have Changed

On July 20, 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released updated preliminary flood hazard maps for the Munds Park area in Coconino County. These maps show that roughly 100 properties have been mapped into the newly drawn Special Flood Hazard Area.

The new flood maps are known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and they show the extent to which areas in the Munds Park area are at risk of flooding. FIRMs are used to help determine flood insurance and building requirements. The new maps replace maps that were based on studies more than 30 years old.

Residents and business owners can use the maps to obtain reliable information about their current flood risk on a property-by-property basis. The maps also provide flood zone and elevation data. These help community planners, engineers, builders, and others decide where and how new structures, developments, and remodeling projects should be built. Information about the mapping project and how to view the maps can be found at www.coconino.az.gov/3141/Munds-Park. A Flood Risk Open House meeting is also being held in person and online.

The preliminary flood maps were developed by FEMA in partnership with Coconino County Flood Control District. The process included an extensive, multi-year review of the changes brought about by environmental, land use, and other forces. It used state-of-the-art aerial mapping and risk modeling techniques, new scientific data and a comprehensive pre-release review.

In reviewing the maps, some property owners in the Munds Park area will find that their risk is higher or lower than they thought. If the risk level for a property changes, then requirements for flood insurance and building standards can change as well. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has a cost-saving rating option to help reduce the initial cost of flood insurance. This applies to property owners whose properties' flood risk has gone from moderate-low risk to high-risk (e.g., flood Zone X to Zone A).

If a property owner is planning new construction or improvements to their home or business, then design requirements may also change based on the new flood risk information.

An in-person flood risk open house has been scheduled for September 18, 5:30 p.m. at the Pinewood Country Club, 395 Pinewood Blvd, Munds Park, AZ 86017. This open house will allow Munds Park residents and business owners to learn more about the updated flood maps and how properties may be affected. On-hand experts will share steps that property owners can take to protect their investment. For those unable to attend in person, a virtual open house will be held online on September 13 at 6:30 p.m. More details can be found at www.coconino.az.gov/3143/Munds-Park-Flood-Risk-Open-House-Date.

More information about the mapping project is available at the project website: www.coconino.az.gov/3141/Munds-Park. Individuals with general questions about the local map update efforts can also call the Flood Control District at 928-679-8881 during business hours or email FEMAFloodMap@coconino.az.gov. For information about flood insurance, contact your local insurance agent or visit www.FloodSmart.gov.



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THE VIEW FROM HERE

DR. R.O. RAYMOND'S GRAVE

By William L. Cowan



Dr. R.O. Raymond

Dr. R.O. Raymond, at 80 years old and a lifelong bachelor, served as a doctor in a frontier logging town. Throughout his life, he cared for the wealthy elite, the poor, the mangled, sick woodsmen, and cowboys with the same dedication and diligence. As he approached the twilight of his life, he arranged for the settlement of his final affairs. Among them was the establishment of a charitable foundation dedicated to educating many of Northern Arizona's youth. He also chose a final resting spot, seeking to face the timeless hereafter in everlasting peace and solitude.

During his lifetime, Dr. Raymond donated land that became the foundation for Flagstaff Hospital, the Buffalo Preserve east of Flagstaff, Flagstaff City Park, the Armory,

Camp Raymond (a Boy Scout camp), and later the environmental education facility for Flagstaff Schools. He was undeniably one of Northern Arizona's true benefactors.

In 1904, after finishing medical school in St. Louis, Dr. Raymond ventured westward seeking treatment for the debilitating disease, tuberculosis. Interestingly, during his initial years in Arizona, he worked not as a doctor but in a sheep camp. As he regained his health, he departed from the sheep camp and initiated a medical practice in Williams. By 1909, he had moved to Flagstaff to expand his medical profession. In 1912, he erected an office which still stands just north of the train station at 9 North Leroux. Additionally, he founded the Arizona Lumber and Timber Company Clinic on Riordan Road in Milton, the A. L. & T. company town.

In 1910, a patient named Jose Montoya informed Dr. Raymond that he had a permit for more sheep than he owned or could afford. The doctor proposed buying additional sheep, which Montoya would manage, and they would split the profits. By 1913, Dr. Raymond had bought out Montoya and earnestly

delved into the sheep business. By 1926, he had acquired the Flagstaff Sheep Company, which oversaw the Woody Mountain and Mooney allotments, as well as winter ranges in Bloody Basin and Sycamore Canyon. During these formative years, he began purchasing homesteads, at one point owning numerous small homesteads in Northern Arizona, like Casner Park. Often, he accepted land as payment from those who owed him for treatments. In 1942, amidst World War II, Dr. Raymond collaborated with Frank Auza to fund and construct the Verde River Sheep Bridge, also recognized as the Red Point Suspension Bridge, which spans the Verde River on the western boundary of the Mazatzal Wilderness Area in Bloody Basin.

A passionate conservationist, Dr. Raymond collected specimens, planted grasses and other forage in the forest, and was a staunch advocate for the nutritional value of whole wheat. He would often present his patients with grinding mills for wheat processing. At one point, he even cultivated earthworms in his office basement, distributing them to friends to enrich their garden soil. He would dispense honey to patients and frequently discussed the benefits of composting. Additionally, he carried rolled newspapers in his car trunk, which he utilized to create erosion control dams.

In his latter years, Dr. Raymond frequently visited his Pumphouse Ranch south of Flagstaff. It was here he resolved to spend eternity: buried in a modest pine box, cushioned with pine boughs, nestled in a tranquil grove of trees at the pasture's edge.

If you're ever returning from Flagstaff, glance to the right of the highway before the Kachina Village Exit. You'll spot an old stone building and pond at the park's northern end. This structure once housed the pump supplying water to Flagstaff and gave its name to the Pump House Wash, one of Oak Creek's primary tributaries. Should you exit I-17 at the southbound Kachina and loop back north on the frontage road, you'll discover a county park and playground. Here lies Dr. Raymond, his grave ensconced by the original stone wall, erected to protect his resting place from wandering sheep. While it might not be as serene as in the past, it remains a picturesque spot in our vast outdoors.

If you venture into our unique Northern Arizona back-country, please be cautious with fire, leave it slightly cleaner than you found it, and strive to enhance it with your presence.

Enjoy Northern Arizona, and here's to a wonderful Labor Day!



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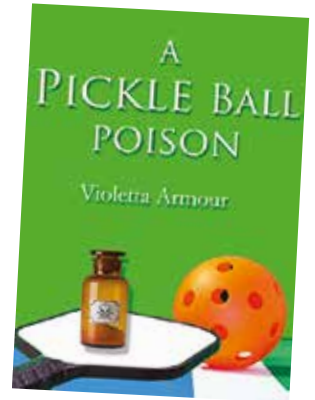
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BOOK REVIEW



By Sandy Wright

Esther Connor wasn't the most popular person on the Pickle-ball courts in her retirement community, but was she disliked enough for someone to poison her?



Evidently. Widow Angelina Popoff, amateur sleuth, and widower Guy Lucchino, detective, pair up again to solve the mystery. And to enhance their relationship, perhaps this time leading to more than friendship.

Meet the entire eccentric pickle-ball gang and possible suspects in an Arizona retirement community where passions abound on and off the court. From gambling addictions to shoplifters to those seeking forgiveness and revenge, A Pickle-ball Poison explores not only America's fastest -growing sport but the human heart.

A member of my Munds Park writer's critique group, Vi Armour has written five adult books and a children's book. Busy lady!

This is the third book in her Dangerous Pastimes series, following A Mahjongg Mystery and S'Mores Can Be Deadly.

A Pickle Ball Poison was an entertaining cozy mystery. The victim, Esther, is killed off early in the book, and Angelina splits her time by quietly investigating the many suspects in her Pickle-ball group and getting to know her boyfriend Guy better.

It appears Angelina is having better luck attracting Guy than she is with her sleuthing. That is, until a couple set on revenge decide to serve her lunch with the same poison they used to kill Esther.

Luckily, this cozy has a happy ending: The bad guys are caught, and Angelina and Guy's romantic relationship continues happily.

Will there be another mystery for the couple to solve? You'll have to ask Violetta.

In the meantime, read A Pickle Ball Poison so you'll be ready.



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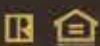
235 E. Oak

This year round home has been meticulously maintained with upgrades galore. 2/2 with popular split floor-plan. Oversized great-room, walls of new Milgard double-pane Low E windows, updated kitchen and baths, tons of parking and room for an RV. Newer upgrades also include no maintenance landscaping, skirting, gutters, pavers, fire pit, resurfaced decks, fencing and interior and exterior painting. As a bonus, it comes mostly furnished!



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property listing!**

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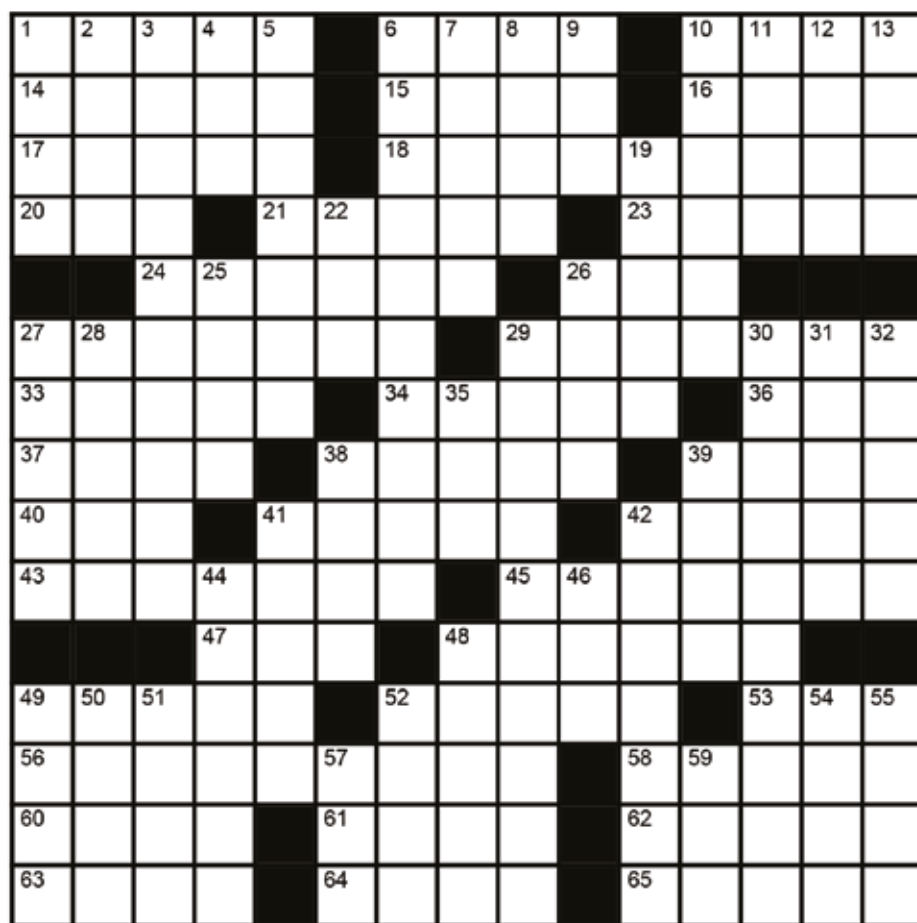
Stunning 3/2 prow-front chalet that's perched up from the road. Garage, plus plenty of additional room for storage. Central air conditioning, brand new appliances, lots of square footage, larger lot, paver drive and so much more. Call me to book a showing!



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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Across

Across

1. Diplomatic skills
6. Carpet type
10. Jacket fastener
14. Esau's father
15. Delicate
16. Designer Chanel
17. Concealed
18. Hangar contents
20. "Come to think of it ..."
21. Book, in France
23. Came up
24. Granny Smiths
26. Entrepreneur's deg.
27. Paul Revere or Nathan Hale
29. Bigmouth
33. Extraterrestrial
34. Japanese noodle dish
36. When doubled, a dance
37. Buffalo Bill's surname
38. Diamond measure
39. Excellent, in modern slang
40. From Okla. City to Tulsa
41. Autumn drink
42. "Rigoletto" composer
43. Say again
45. Flower named for its scent
47. Crooked
48. Bailey's circus partner
49. Bid
52. Seasoned rice dish
53. Away from the bow
56. An untidy storage place, especially a room or cupboard.

58. ____ of roses

60. Shenanigan

61. Oil cartel

62. Upholstery fabric

63. Lady bighorns

64. Education station

65. Mom's brother

Down

1. Rewards for waiting
2. Away from port
3. A stone carving of a draped female figures
4. Little bit
5. Scorpionfish
6. Buying and selling human beings
7. Musical with the song "Aquarius"
8. "God's Little ____"
9. Swindle
10. Sacred beetle of ancient Egypt
11. Faux pas
12. Air force heroes
13. Sit for a photo
19. Jacob's father-in-law
22. U.N. workers' grp.
25. Target
26. Convene
27. Indiana basketballer
28. "Home ____"
29. Wisenheimer
30. Neutral
31. Herringlike fish
32. "Socrate" composer
35. "____ we having fun yet?"

38. Part of N.Y.C.

39. Andean land

41. Schlep

42. Pacific island country, formerly New Hebrides

44. Dances suggestively

46. Victorian, for one

48. Digestion-aiding liquids

49. Eye amorously

50. Blemish

51. "Watch out!"

52. Bishop of Rome

54. Plummet

55. Arborist's concern

57. Coal carrier

59. Freight weight

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SEPTEMBER HOROSCOPE BY CAKE!

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ARIES, FIRE SIGN, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Aries, get ready for your creative projects and fun plans to pick up speed this month. While you might be busy with work or other responsibilities, finding a balance between work and play might be tricky. Aim to be present in both. In September, consider shifting your focus on partnerships for work or personal life. This time brings clarity to romance, the planets are adding extra energy to interpersonal relationships. The energy this month may even prompt some important discussions with those you are closest to.



LEO, FIRE SIGN, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Are you feeling more connected with yourself or is it stirring up grief? Remember, self-focus isn't always easy but it's important for growth. The upcoming month is about understanding how much you truly support yourself. Sometimes we unknowingly neglect ourselves. This month, consider committing to a new relationship or business. The celestial energy this month encourages you to revise past projects. Although your birthday season is over, things are improving. This year may have been a major journey for you and it's written in the stars that it is time to reap the rewards of your hard work.



SAGITTARIUS, FIRE SIGN, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Time to bring those ideas to life that you've been holding onto! Don't wait for the "perfect timing"; take action now, even if conditions aren't ideal. Trust yourself, embrace creativity, and dive in. Sagittarius, an exciting month awaits. Mercury retrograde may cause project delays, but fixing your strategy will lead to success. Chose to collaborate with those who believe in your plans. Keep an eye out for opportunities to connect with skilled individuals. Patience is key during Mercury retrograde until September 15th, but your efforts will pay off.



TAURUS, EARTH SIGN, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

It's a good time to cut back on excessive behaviors and find a healthier balance. Whether it's too much food, risky exercise, negativity, overspending, or isolation, focus on moderation for overall well-being. Look for areas where you can bring more balance.

This month could be great for you, even with Mercury retrograde. Expect enlightening moments and boosted creativity. If past plans haven't worked, try new approaches during this time. The start of September brings lucky alignments for Taurus, enhancing romance, confidence, and adventure. Enjoy the positive vibes!



VIRGO, EARTH SIGN, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

The restful period of the past month is ending, giving way to progress on stalled projects or newfound energy after any recent struggles you've encountered. The end of summer downtime can clarify life goals. Take things up again, step by step. Patience is key, Virgo. With Mercury retrograde in your sign, the month's first half is about slow change. Embrace setbacks as redirection opportunities - Finish the month strong; Be sure to write down any ideas that come to you during this time, Virgo season is here and do your best to enjoy it!



CAPRICORN, EARTH SIGN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Get ready for a back-to-school feeling this month, bringing work and learning opportunities, or even a vacation. The fall equinox brings hope for the future. Planetary transits this month show it's a good time to consider deepening any relationships you treasure. But, career matters are also important, with Mars boosting ambition all month. Make key moves in the first three weeks, as the last week carries intense energy. Use this time wisely to revisit exciting ideas for creative projects that may have gotten lost in the past weeks.



GEMINI, AIR SIGN, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Now is your moment to embrace the changes you've made in your daily routines over the past couple of months, like adjusting to new environments or moves. Your efforts should start showing rewards, but remember, the process matters not just the outcomes.

Be kind to yourself. This month you may be introspective, spending time alone to figure things out. Some lucky energy this month might bring answers, so jot down your ideas. Expect surprises around the full moon, leading to excitement and good results. As Autumn approaches, this positive energy will intensify, making fall even more enjoyable.



LIBRA, AIR SIGN, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Libra, the fall equinox is a great time to reset. Reflect, live intentionally, and consider your body's needs for the rest of the year. Consider making rest and saving energy in the first half of the month a priority. Mental recovery is important after any changes that have occurred in recent weeks, especially as your birthday season begins on September 22nd. Set ambitious goals and trust your intuition for personal growth. This month ends with harmony in your social life. Feel confident within your community, as there's more to come. Possible conflicts towards the end of the month.



AQUARIUS, AIR SIGN, JAN 21 - FEB 18

During this month, the mysteries of your relationships will become clearer as time goes on. Resolving issues might need a practical approach, even if it involves changing your mindset. Reviewing your family connections is important this autumn, you might finalize even partnerships or romances. The upcoming fall equinox may spark a desire for travel and adventure. Plan trips for new experiences. This month, Virgo season and Mercury retrograde might bring deep self-reflection, surfacing past feelings. It's a good time to untangle emotional knots.



CANCER, WATER SIGN, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

The last couple of months were about rethinking your needs and how you handle resources. It could be money matters or managing your workload more effectively. The goal is to prioritize your well-being and livelihood. During the fall equinox, balance planning and spontaneity. Remember, no need to overwork. This month, you might feel drawn to spiritual practices, follow your intuition. Mercury's retrograde until September 15 might cause social misunderstandings, but it is a good time to reflect on improving your interactions.



SCORPIO, WATER SIGN, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Scorpio, spring and summer were busy with changes in work and life path. Take a breather now as fall arrives—time to slow down and introspect. Consider any cleansing practices for yourself and your home to help you reset. Mental and physical wellness are important areas to focus on in September. During the first half of the month, Virgo season and Mercury retrograde boost your friendships but might make collaboration tricky. But, the planetary transits this month may bring you positive career news.



PISCES, WATER SIGN, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Your goal this month is to balance treats and discipline for a healthy life. Find the sweet spot between pleasure and purpose. The fall equinox is a chance to reset daily habits with self-kindness. If overworked and can't take a break, adjust your schedule for more rest. Pisces, Mercury retrograde in the first half of the month could be frustrating, but it's a chance to improve. Mercury retrograde may also bring up old arguments, be careful with words and avoid taking things personally. Look closely; it's a chance to improve skills.

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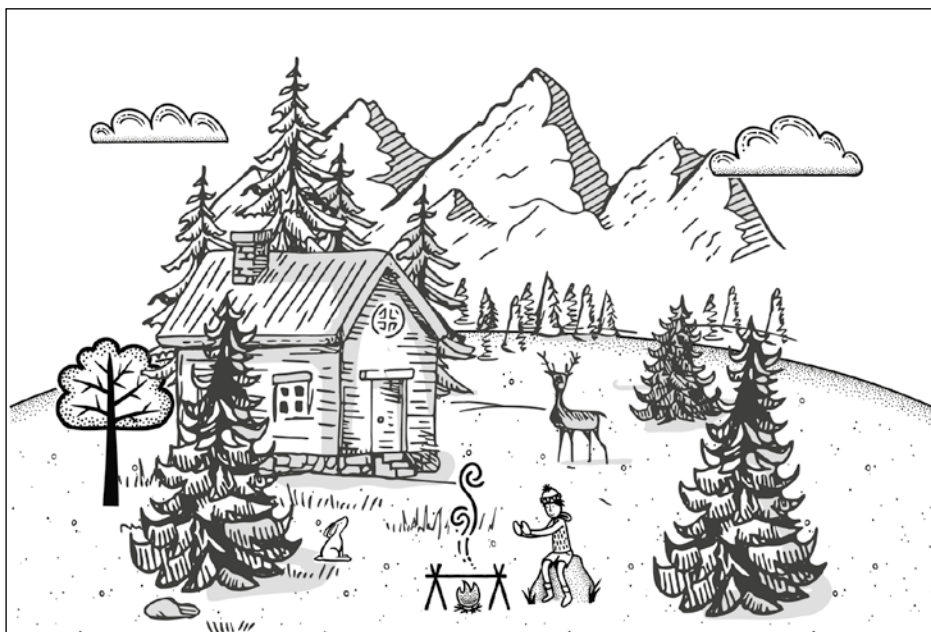
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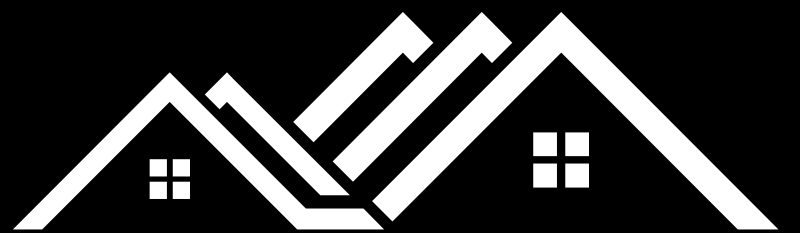
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MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

By Pastor Steve Bowyer

ARE YOU READY TO GO HOME?

Soon, many of you will be leaving us here in Munds Park and heading to your home in the Valley. I am sure there will be mixed emotions. It is beautiful up here and the weather is cool. But soon, it will be cold. And the cool evenings of the desert will be calling.

Dementia is hard. There is no easy way through it if you have a loved one who is diagnosed. Sara went through this with her mom who had dementia for the last few years of her life.

It is hard to say if mom suffered with it. We could not ask because we would not get an accurate answer. She knew something was off. But the family definitely suffered with it because we saw the gradual decline of a brilliant, capable, and accomplished woman.

There was one encouraging sign of hope we all held onto. Mom never forgot God. She never forgot Jesus is her Savior. She never forgot her faith. And she never forgot when she left this life, she would be going to heaven. She was raised Southern Baptist and never lost those roots.

One of the activities we were encouraged to do with her was coloring. We got her a coloring book and crayons and she enjoyed the activity. One day, sitting at her table with her while she colored, Sara found an app on her phone that played favorite old hymns. As the hymns played, mom colored. Then, we noticed something that brought tears to our eyes. She began to sing. Every word. Every note. Every hymn. The app unlocked another corner of her mind that was still very much intact.

Mom developed something that required hospitalization. Sara went to Tucson to help out. The day of discharge came, and Sara arrived in her hospital room that morning to help her pack up and prepare to leave. Mom, not really understanding what was going on, asked Sara why she was there. Sara replied to help her get ready to go. Mom asked, "Go where?" Sara replied, "Home." Next question, "How am I getting there?" Next answer, "I am taking you." Mom had a confused look on her face but complied with Sara's requests to get dressed and ready.

As they drove away from TMC, mom commented that everything looked the same. Sara gently told her she had not been in the hospital that long so, no, nothing had changed.

As they drove, mom looked around with wonder in her eyes. It all seemed so familiar to her. Sara was like, of course it is all familiar. She and dad had lived in Tucson for over 50 years and dad had practiced at TMC almost as long.

They made the turn onto Tanque Verde. Then, turned into the neighborhood. And almost immediately, mom gasped. Sara was startled. Mom exclaimed, "Oh. We are going to my HOUSE." Sara cried.

You see, in mom's diminished mental condition, she thought she had died in the hospital. Maybe, she hoped she had died. Anyway, when Sara told her she was taking her home, she thought Sara meant she was taking her HOME, to heaven. Thus, the confused look about how Sara could take her there.

She was so ready to see Jesus and be done with this life and all that it had taken from her. The day she passed could not have come soon enough for her.

That begs the question for us; how ready are we to see Jesus? We all will. There will be two entirely different experiences for people when they do. Those who believe, it will be joy, relief, excitement. For those who have not believed, confusion. Imagine living your entire life rejecting the idea that Jesus is real, did what He did, and was Who He said. Then, standing in front of Him at the most important crossroads everyone will ever face, on some level thinking, "Oh, you are real." I heard a preacher say once, "There are no atheists in Hell."

Faith. Believing in Jesus. It is believing in the name, or names, of Jesus. All that He is.

If we have faith, it prompts us to obey John the Baptist's message.

"He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." (Luke 3:3)

First, we must acknowledge that we need to be saved. We are in hot water with God and must make things right with Him in order to be invited into his home. Then, we must know how to do what we need to do and with Who.

Four A's. Admit we do things that make God mad. Apologize for them. Adapt to a different way of doing them. Accept Jesus's death on the cross as the punishment we deserve but Jesus took for us. In faith, if you will do these four things, then you will go home to the valley as new person and eventually go home to heaven and get your new life.

Mom hung on to that hope through it all. We did, too. We hung on to it for her. And we hang on to it for ourselves believing that one day we will be sitting around a table again, singing and celebrating being home, for good. Forever.

For more information about our church go to our website, mpcc.church.

In Loving Memory of Ozella Mae Eade

Ozella Mae Eade, 82, passed away August 1, 2023, after a 2-year battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family here in Munds Park. She was born on May 3, 1941, in Turlock, California to the late Orville and Tommie Smith.

Ozella was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Tom and Ozella had been married for more than 53 years. They celebrated their anniversary every year by renewing their wedding vows in a different state or country. She would say the reason she renewed their wedding vows each year was because "she was in it for the honeymoons."

Ozella is survived by her husband Tom Eade, children, Diana Willingham and Dana Thrift, Grandson Thom Miller, great grandson Gavin Dixon and brother Ron Smith.

We thank everyone who has supported us during the difficult times these past months. We express our sincere appreciation to friends, relatives, and healthcare professionals who provided Ozella, support, comfort, and care.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later time. In lieu of flowers, we kindly request that donations be made to the Hospice Promise Foundation at Northern Arizona Hospice, Flagstaff, the Pinewood Fire Department, or a charity of your choice in Ozella's name.

Ozella has left everyone she has met with fond memories of her kindness, love of life, and always wanting to pay a compliment to every person she met. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.



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