

PINEWOOD NEWS

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN LIVING SINCE '93

VOL. 31 NO. 12 AUGUST 2, 2024

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The Pinewood News will attempt to publish letters 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.

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259 E FOXBORO ROAD, 7

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307 E Foxboro Road, 4

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18005 S DIXIE LANE, 48

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\$449,500

17305 BIG SKY DR

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\$1,249,000

1110 E LAKE MEADOW CIR

Luxury cabin on a quarter-acre near Lake O'Dell, with cathedral ceilings, fireplace, & expansive windows. Upgrades include central air, renovated kitchen/bath, new paint.



449,000

17295 S ZIA PLACE

Remodeled, metal roof, paver driveway, and 2 sheds. Split floor plan: primary bedroom suite, new kitchen, family room, laundry, and 2 beds. New bathrooms, flooring, windows, & paint.



\$900,000

1185 E RAINTREE RD

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\$594,000

17435 SEQUOIA DR

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\$575,000

260 SANDIA CIR

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635 E OAK DR

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733,500

1120 E LAKE MEADOW CIR

Nestled among ponderosa pines, this renovated home offers a fireplace, forest views, and access to Pinewood Country Club and O'Dell Lake. Ideal for outdoor enthusiasts.



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SPEED ISN'T A SUPERPOWER

Why Slowing Down Matters

By Sandee Caviness

Anyone familiar with the I-17 corridor knows it's not just a highway; it's a hazard. The stretch is notorious for heart-stopping headlines—closed lanes, emergency sirens, and too often, tragedies that could have been prevented. We locals know to always pack an extra gallon of water, because the odds are good you'll be stuck on the 17, thanks to the breakneck pace of less careful drivers.

It's not just the interstate that's feeling the heat. Here in Munds Park, where the pace should shift down to a serene 25 mph, the reality is anything but tranquil. Our streets, meant for leisurely drives, walking dogs and children's laughter, are becoming racetracks. Residents are reporting close calls a little too close to home, and frustration is mounting as fast as the speedometers are rising.

The problem peaks on holiday weekends, where the mix of high speeds and high spirits becomes particularly volatile. This year, the surge in concerns has been palpable. At a recent PPOA meeting, the community's plea was loud and clear, and a resident made a direct request: "Get the word out. Make it big." So, we did—right on our front page.

For those hosting visitors in our lovely slice of paradise, here's a call to action: Make the rules crystal clear. Embed the speed limits in your welcome packets and pre-arrival emails. It's a simple nudge that could safeguard our community's wellbeing.

Our community has had enough. Slow down. If you're renting out your space, make it part of your guest's introduction to Munds Park to respect our limits. We're not just protecting lawns—we're protecting lives. Our children, cyclists, joggers, pets, and wildlife are all counting on you to shift gears down. Remember, slow your roll and respect the roads: slow, steady, and considerate. It's not just courteous; it's crucial.



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

NEED TO KNOW RECAP OF PINEWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS' ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

The Annual PPOA and quarterly Community Watch Meetings offer ideal opportunities for community members to gain insights and raise questions about issues of personal or communal interest.

Both meetings were held this past July. However, this report focuses on the Annual PPOA meeting, which took place on Saturday, July 20th, at the Pinewood Country Club.

PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB UPDATE

Rick Schmidgall revisited the history of the Country Club, highlighting that it was established in 1959 primarily to promote lot sales. Initially, purchasing property in Munds Park automatically granted membership to the Country Club. After some years, a legal challenge by property owners wishing to withdraw from membership led to a vote, transforming the establishment into a private club.

Rick underscored the central role of the Country Club in enhancing Munds Park's appeal and property values, particularly following a \$5 million upgrade that has attracted additional members.

Despite its exclusive membership, the Country Club actively supports the community in various impactful ways:

To support the development of the Fire Department's new station, the Country Club sold the basketball court for a minimal cost and donated the skateboard park.

In collaboration with the PPOA, they host BINGO nights benefiting the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary (PFDA).

They own Lake O'Dell and allow local residents access for recreational activities (please see page 15 for more details).

They partner with the PFDA to organize the annual Pinewood Golf Fundraiser.

UPDATE FROM FIRE CHIEF, JOSH TOPE

Fire Chief Josh Tope has announced a delay in the construction timeline for the new fire station, attributing the setback to a 41% inflation-induced increase in labor and material costs. Despite these challenges, the team is pressing forward with the design process and efforts to bridge a funding gap of approximately \$400,000. This shortfall has been accounted for in the overall budget of \$6.9 million, assuming no further price hikes occur.

The department hopes to begin the build by July or August next year.

Regarding community inquiries about the relocation of the basketball courts, a new location has yet to be secured, but efforts are ongoing to find a suitable site.

COCONINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE BY DEPUTY CHIEF BRET AXLUND

Activity stats for Munds Park for the last three months are:

Accident Private Property	1
Burglary	1
Disorderly Conduct	3
Sexual Assault	1
Accident - State	1
Found Property	1
Harassment	1
Theft	2
Assault	1
Lost Child	1
Violation of Fire Ban	1

Continued on page 9



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

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Bret Reports on Increasing Train Robberies

Train robberies are on the rise, with cartels exploiting open borders to loot rail cars, causing losses worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Just last week, over a four-day period, cartels targeted and robbed 27 cars.

These robberies span from San Bernardino through to New Mexico. Authorities issue a stern warning: if you encounter a stopped train, particularly in the Williams area or wooded regions, do not stop or approach. Instead, immediately call 911. The individuals involved are bold and willing to use violence.

During the week of July 15, the Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with Homeland Security, apprehended a group of 40 individuals linked to these crimes. As law enforcement intensifies its efforts, the criminals grow more desperate. Many involved in these hijackings are coerced, with cartels threatening their families and employing other manipulative tactics to enforce compliance.

The cartels are now extending their criminal activities to target trucks as well. If you witness any suspicious activity, do not intervene—call it in.

An increase in Fire Citations Noted

Illegal fires pose a significant public safety hazard, prompting authorities to issue citations for every violation observed. However, about 80% of reported incidents actually involve legal fires, specifically campers using propane rings that comply with Stage I fire restrictions. This misreporting strains already limited resources. The public is urged to verify the illegality of a fire before making a report, to help ensure that emergency services can focus on genuine threats.

Enforcement Tightens on Unsafe OHV Use and Speeding

UNSAFE OHV USE: Authorities are no longer issuing warnings for unsafe operation of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs). Effective immediately, violations will result in tickets, and if the driver is underage, the vehicle will be impounded for 20 days.

SPEEDING: Residents noticing an uptick in speeding are encouraged to contact the sheriff's office to request increased patrolling in their neighborhoods.

GENERAL REMINDER: The speed limit throughout Munds Park is 25 miles per hour. This limit is enforced to ensure the safety of all community members and will be strictly monitored.

Join Coconino County's Search & Rescue Team

Coconino County isn't just vast—it's the second-largest county in the U.S. and a hub of crucial search and rescue operations. With only three deputies to handle an impressive 130-140 calls this year, the real heroes are the citizens who volunteer. Right now, 130-140 dedicated volunteers are standing ready to help.

Interested in making a difference? You can become part of this dynamic team by completing training in either Community Emergency Response or Search and Rescue Teams. For more details and to get involved, reach out to Jon Paxton at jpaxton@coconino.az.gov. Your community needs you—step up today!

ALERT FROM THE COCONINO COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Ammon Barker, Chief Deputy for the County Attorney's office, visited Munds Park to raise awareness about a concerning trend: a rise in scams and identity theft nationwide. Last year, these fraudulent activities resulted in losses of approximately \$1 billion, with seniors—often those with substantial savings—frequently targeted.

To protect yourself, it's advised not to answer calls from unknown numbers. Thanks to advancements in artificial intelligence, scammers can now mimic the voices of your loved ones, making the calls seem frighteningly legitimate. To safeguard against these deceptions, establish a secret word or phrase known only to you and your family members. This simple step can help you quickly identify fraudsters. Stay vigilant; these scams are happening now, not just in the future.

Stay tuned, as the Pinewood News is collaborating with the County Attorney's Office to bring informative classes to Munds Park. These sessions will focus on navigating the increasingly complex landscape of scams and fraud. Designed to empower our community, they will provide essential knowledge and tools to protect against fraudulent activities.

UPDATE FROM PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT'S NEW DIRECTOR

David Richards, aka D.R., the new Director of the Pinewood Sanitary District (PSD), delivered a straightforward update: the recent rate increase will not be the last. After years of neglect and mismanagement, our sanitary infrastructure requires significant, costly repairs.

Continued on page 15



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\$229,000

405 E OAK DRIVE

This is a two bedroom, 1.5 bath with brand new carpet, newer dishwasher and garbage disposal. Also a newer roof. All electric split floor plan, open kitchen. Property is ready for your occupancy. Covered and exposed front deck for those cool summer days. Carport with an entrance right into the utility room.

A couple of sheds off the backside..

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$429,000

17810 S WALAPAI ROAD, 62

Explore this updated townhome with easy paved access, ideally located near the Country Club, park, and tennis courts. Enjoy a south-facing covered deck with views of the golf course and stunning sunsets. Features include a primary suite on the main level, updated kitchen and baths, newer carpet, and convenient main level washer and dryer. Upstairs, find another large bedroom and an extra-large loft with a skylight and walk-in closet. Sold mostly furnished; see exclusions list.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$796,000

240 E APACHE ROAD

Ideal property on nearly an acre in Pinewood Subdivision with a detached guest house and garage. Features a large yard with a seasonal stream bed. Main level includes a large entry, living room with rock fireplace, sliding door to covered patio, two bedrooms, and 1.5 baths. Upstairs, added in 1986, has a bunk room, bath, and large closet. One of the first homes in NorthernAir, located on a private road in a desirable area.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$674,900

190 BISON DRIVE

This meticulously maintained mountain cabin in Munds Park is a turn-key, fully furnished property. On the main level, you will find two bedrooms and two updated bathrooms. The upper level boasts an oversized loft, usable as a game room, bunkhouse, or office. Inside, you will notice rich wood floors, custom-built bench seating in the great room, and a spacious open kitchen, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The chalet style features a grand floor-to-ceiling stone wood-burning fireplace. Additionally, the cabin offers front and back decks for outdoor entertaining and enjoying the mountain surroundings.

CALL ELIZABETH HAUSMAN



\$609,000

6 E OAK DRIVE

Chalet with an oversized garage. Corner lot with lots of parking. Roof less than 10 years old, painted just a couple of years ago. Trex decking surround the cabin with a covered porch on the side to enjoy those cool breezes. Easy access to the garage by a covered breezeway. Three bedrooms with a large loft. Primary bedroom with its own bath on the second level. Home being sold furnished with the exception of a few personal items.d. This is an extremely desirable area of the subdivision.

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1035 E CARIBOU ROAD

Extremely well-maintained newer doublewide manufactured home with upgraded appliances, plush carpet, ceiling fans in all bedrooms, living room, and front porch. Features a large double-door shed, ample parking with a circular driveway, and a yard with apple and other fruit trees. Plumbing wrapped in heat tape and hardiboard skirting. Includes a real wood-burning fireplace with a blower. Energy-efficient, all-electric home available for showing.

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\$889,000

1325 E JAGUAR LANE

Large concrete drive leads to an oversized single-car garage. Sit on the covered deck and enjoy the grass. Open the front door to a huge living room, dining room, and kitchen. Woodburning stove. Kitchen is all electric with an extra-large island. Back door leads to the shed. Down the hall to the primary bedroom with its own bath. Another primary bedroom with its own bath and a bedroom with walk-in closet. Upstairs addition with its own balcony. Family room is large enough for a pool table and seating. Up two steps to the sleeping area and a half bath. Plenty of parking. Oversized lot with trees.

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SLOW-COOKED CORN CHOWDER CELEBRATING SUMMER'S BOUNTY OF FRESH CORN

By Venita Dee

Hello! Let's cook up something special: a corn chowder that's perfect for this season—especially since so many of you have stocked up on fresh corn from Hauser Farms, known for their incredibly sweet and crisp corn. This recipe will let those fresh flavors shine.

Contrary to popular belief, corn chowder isn't just for the colder months; it's a versatile comfort food that adapts beautifully to any season. It serves as a light yet satisfying meal in the summer, perfect for showcasing the season's bounty.

Start with the freshest corn you can find—right from the farmer's market. You'll strip those cobs down like they're the last ones on earth, grabbing every bit of sweet, crunchy goodness. Throw those kernels into the slow cooker with some hearty potatoes, chicken stock, and a bunch of aromatics like thyme, garlic, and onions. They're going to be the backbone of flavor for your chowder.

Now, the slow cooker is where the magic happens. You just set it and forget it. Go about your day, do your thing, and let that slow simmer work its wonders. After a few hours, those flavors will meld together into something really special. To finish, stir in heavy cream for that creamy texture we love. Then top it off with a fresh mix of bacon, red onion, chives, and a splash of lime juice—just to give it a little kick.



Here's what you'll need to gather:

- 14 ears fresh yellow corn (about 3 lbs.), divided
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 2 medium-sized russet potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1 small yellow onion (about 5 oz.), chopped
- 4 thyme sprigs
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 4 thick-cut bacon slices, cooked and crumbled
- 1/2 cup finely chopped red onion (from 1 small onion)
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh chives
- 2 Tbsp. fresh lime juice (from 1 large lime)
- 1 cup heavy cream

Ready to get started?

1. Cut corn kernels from cobs using a sharp knife. Reserve 1 cup corn kernels.
Place remaining corn kernels in a 5- to 6-quart slow cooker. Working over a rimmed pan, use the back of the knife to scrape cobs to release all juices (the "milk") from cobs.
2. Add corn milk, stock, potatoes, yellow onion, thyme sprigs, garlic, salt, and pepper to slow cooker.
3. Cover and cook on LOW until potatoes are very tender and chowder has thickened slightly, about 6 hours.

Continued on page 21



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A photograph showing a variety of food items. In the foreground, there's a cup of white coffee next to a square pastry topped with strawberries. Behind it, a sandwich with meat, cheese, and vegetables is visible, along with a plate of fresh fruit including melon and grapes.

2024 PINWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION CITIZEN AWARDS

Each year, the Pinewood Property Owners' Association honors a community member whose contributions resonate far beyond ordinary involvement. These are the individuals who don't just live in Munds Park; they enrich it, crafting a legacy of generosity and engagement that defines the spirit of our community.

The hallmark of those I interview, who have dedicated their lives to our community, is a profound sense of commitment—often found among the older generation. They are the ones who were raised not just to survive but to serve. They don't merely write checks; they are the first to roll up their sleeves, sharing their most valuable asset—their time—with others.

This ethos is the signature of Munds Park, a tradition of active, caring stewardship that transforms our slice of the Coconino National Forest into a community in the truest sense. As new generations make their homes among these storied pines, we hold a collective hope: that they too will grasp this mantle, continuing to nurture the independent, vibrant spirit that makes Munds Park a place where community means more than just proximity—it means looking out for one another.

TOM EADE: A PILLAR OF MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY

By Sandee Caviness

In Munds Park, one name that resounds with warmth and respect is Tom Eade. Known for his amiable presence and profound contributions, Tom has been a cornerstone of volunteer efforts here since his retirement 23 years ago. His involvement with organizations such as the Pinewood Property Owners' Association, the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary, and the Munds Park Trail Stewards is driven by a heartfelt commitment to enhancing the place he cherishes as home—a commitment that has earned him his second Citizen's Award from the PPOA.

Tom's journey to Munds Park began post-graduation from UofA, leading to an unexpected settlement here instead of Colorado, owing to high costs. "A friend suggested Munds Park," Tom recalls. "Zelle, my wife and his Mother, explored the area, quickly fell for its charm, and didn't hesitate to purchase our first home here." This decision sparked a lasting bond with the community.

Quick to connect with his new neighbors, Tom found camaraderie and community through shared outdoor activities. "Fishing and hunting brought many of us together," he notes. It was Dale Meranda, then president of the PPOA, who saw Tom's potential and warmly nicknamed him 'Kid' for his relatively early retirement. Dale's friendly persuasion led Tom to embrace volunteer work as part of his daily life in Munds Park.

Throughout his years with the PPOA, Tom has been instrumental in various initiatives, from beautifying the firehouse with a new planter box to managing the welcome signage at the entrance of Munds Park. His collaboration with Bill Spain in the tree planting initiative, despite mixed results and opinions, underscores his dedication. "We faced challenges, but succeeded in planting over a hundred trees," Tom admits. The project he takes most pride in is setting up flag stakes along Pinewood Boulevard for the American flag—an effort that infuses our community's main street with a visible display of American spirit.

His commitment extends through the rhythm of the seasons, marking holidays like the 4th of July and Labor Day with community-enriching

projects, from flag placements to parade preparations. His service also includes a stint on the board of the Pinewood Sanitary District and collaborative county projects with local government officials, aimed at infrastructural improvements.



The Munds Park Trail Stewards hold a special place in Tom's heart. Even after the loss of his wife last year, Tom chose to maintain his involvement with MUTS, finding solace in the natural beauty and the camaraderie of the group. "Stepping back from other commitments, I find peace working on the trails," he shares.

Tom's narrative is deeply intertwined with a legacy of service, influenced by a childhood spent in a military family that traversed the globe. "Living a life shaped by my father's Air Force career instilled a robust sense of duty," he reflects. His service continued through his own Marine Corps stint during the Vietnam War, a period marked by trials and deep reflections on commitment and community contribution.

Today, Tom sees the essence of his efforts as part of a broader generational ethos of service. Yet, he acknowledges challenges, particularly the cultural shift with newer generations and the impact of short-term rentals on community cohesion. "The STRs are a pressing issue, as they often disrupt the local community fabric," he states, expressing a need for more centralized advocacy to preserve the community's integrity.

Discussing the future, Tom highlights the ongoing need for volunteerism. "It's crucial for continuity in community efforts," he asserts, suggesting that even small contributions can lead to significant communal benefits. "Engaging in just a couple of events can foster a greater sense of community and personal satisfaction."

As he now focuses on caring for his aging relatives, Tom's story is a poignant reminder of the enduring power of community ties and personal dedication. His ongoing commitment serves as an inspiration, urging others to contribute to the well-being of their own communities.

THE QUIET STRENGTH OF KAREN TUCKER

By Sandee Caviness

Karen Tucker is the kind of person whose smile lights up a room and whose energy keeps Munds Park running. You might not know her by name just yet, but her friendly smile and warm greetings are a staple in town.

Her week is packed with hard work, spread across three local spots.

Whether she's greeting you with your mail at The Outpost, ringing up your late-night snacks at Chevron, or dishing up some BBQ at Agee's, Karen is everywhere. From Monday to Wednesday at The Outpost, she's there with a smile. Tuesday nights, she's the last one to lock up at Chevron. Come Thursday, you'll spot her at Agee's, and then it's back to Chevron for those 12-hour long weekend shifts Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Seven days a week, her dedication is as unwavering as her cheer—she's a true cornerstone of our community.

When I asked Karen why she works so tirelessly, I braced myself for an answer I wasn't sure I wanted to hear. "Karen, why do you work so hard?" I asked, hoping for a light-hearted reply about staying busy. Her answer, though simple, carried the weight of reality: she needs to make ends meet.

"It's necessary," Karen shared, shrugging off the heaviness of the fact. "I do enjoy the extra pocket money, and honestly, I like to keep busy."

Curious about her life outside of work, I asked, "With the extra money, do you find time to enjoy it?" Her response was straightforward. "Not really, I don't do much outside of work," she admitted.

Despite the demanding hours, Karen still dreams of simpler pleasures. "I'd love to go to church on Sundays, play dime BINGO, or catch a play by the Pinewood Players—I hear they're quite funny. But my 12-hour weekend shifts at Chevron make that tough."

So, what does she do with any scrap of free time? "I catch up on sleep," she said with a giggle, a testament to her resilience and the quiet strength it takes to keep smiling through such a packed work schedule.

I had heard about Karen's kindness beyond her work, so I asked her to share more about it. "Karen, I've heard that with the little free time you have, you help a neighbor. Can you tell me about that?"

"Yes," she replied warmly. "I have a 95-year-old neighbor and friend who's lived in the Park for over forty years. She needs a little help with getting her groceries, mail, and packages, so I do that for her every Wednesday. I really enjoy it," Karen shared with genuine affection. "We touch base about every three days and have wonderful conversations."

Extraordinary. Working tirelessly seven days a week to pay the bills, Karen unselfishly gives away the little free time she has to help a neighbor in need. This reminded me of my article about Pastor Steve and Sara and their philosophy of the six front doors. Karen may miss church, but it is already deep inside of her—she embodies the spirit of compassion in everything she does.

I wondered where Karen got her tireless work ethic, the kind that keeps her moving with a genuine smile for everyone she meets. She attributes it to her upbringing, which was shaped by values from both her parents. "I'm old school," Karen explained. "My father taught me the value of hard work, and my mother instilled in me the importance of kindness." She noted that work ethic seems less common among the younger generations but values it deeply as a personal lesson.

Karen has called Munds Park her full-time home for nine years, having bought her house in 1999 after her father passed away. "We used to visit every season as a family," she recalled. Both she and her sister were drawn

to the welcoming atmosphere and the community spirit. "We especially loved the winters here, cozying up with a hot toddy by the fire," she shared with fondness. Karen added that she doesn't have many moments like that anymore, although she hopes to in the future.



Karen's connection to Munds Park runs deep, even though her demanding schedule limits her leisure time. "This community is so caring it keeps me strong," she said, appreciating the neighborly gestures that define local life. For example, when someone heads to Flagstaff, they often offer to pick up items for others. "That's just about every single person I know up here," Karen noted, contrasting it with her upbringing in Buckeye. "It's unique to Munds Park."

Karen also finds joy in the stories of the people she meets, a contrast to her younger days. "I missed out on listening to my parents and grandparents tell about the old times," she admitted. "But today, as I meet people and customers, I get to hear their stories. Everyone has a story to tell, and I love listening to them." This newfound appreciation for history has grown over the years, and she now values the tales of past generations and their journeys.

Karen, known for her warm smile, kind words, and helpful attitude, radiates such positivity that Genna couldn't help but ask: "With all the sunshine pouring out of you, is there ever a situation where you just want to punch someone in the taco?" Karen laughed and said, "No," still laughing, "I really can't say there's anyone I want to punch! I just feel sorry when people get frustrated and lash out. I try to help them instead."

Genna followed up by telling Karen that everyone she comes into contact with seems to fall in love with her. "You always have time for someone, you always seem to care, and you make people's hearts smile," Genna observed. Then, she asked, "How does it make you feel inside, knowing all these people love you, so much so that they gave you the Citizen Award?"

Karen's response was heartfelt. "I feel fantastic," she said. "I've got to tell you, when I heard I got the award, I was puzzled. I didn't die; I'm not sick or ill, so I didn't understand why I was nominated. But it makes me feel very proud."

For the final question, Genna asked, "When do you get to retire?" Karen's reply was straightforward and resolute. "I'm not planning to," she said. "I'm 72 now, and as long as I can keep going, I will. I'll retire when I die."

Karen Tucker's life in Munds Park is a testament to the power of kindness. Each day, she exemplifies the profound impact one person can have by simply being present and compassionate. With a smile as steady as her tenacious work ethic, Karen shows us that true community spirit is woven through countless small, caring acts. Her genuine connections, reminds us all that compassion is often found in the everyday—lifting spirits, easing burdens, and reinforcing the bonds that make a community feel like home.

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but we make a life by what we give."*

— Winston Churchill

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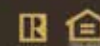
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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 9

Here are some key points from the update:

Capacity Challenges: Our treatment plant can handle 600,000 gallons of water, but in 2023, PSD received a staggering 2.3 million gallons within a 24-hour period. To manage this influx, the plant had to bypass excess water, which has led to regulatory scrutiny. We're currently under a consent order with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Attorney's Office, resulting in annual fines of \$50,000.

Public Cooperation Needed: The director emphasized the need for community assistance, particularly from owners of short-term rental properties. It's crucial to remember the three P's for what can go down your toilets: pee, poop, and paper. Products marketed as 'disposable wipes' and paper towels do not break down properly and should not be flushed as they cause severe issues and costs for our systems.

RV Sewage Warning: Residents should not allow RVs to dump into the sewer system. This is considered theft of services and there's no capacity for the extra inflow. If you observe such activities, please report them to PSD at (928) 286-9166.

Staffing Needs: The district is looking to hire more crew members. If you know someone certified for this work, encourage them to apply.

Legal and Billing Updates: The ongoing legal issues with the RV Park may soon be resolved. Also, moving forward, PSD will issue bills quarterly.

Community Concerns: During the meeting, a question arose about whether short-term rentals are contributing to the overflow. D.R. confirmed that these rentals use approximately five times more sewer services than residences. An audience member inquired about the possibility of charging short-term rentals more to offset the financial impact on the community. PSD board members are considering this but must find a legal way to implement such charges.

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR RESIDENTS:

VOTING LOCATION CHANGE: This year, voting will take place at the Munds Park Community Church, not the Firehouse.

EVENT CANCELLATION: We regret to inform you that the "Spread the Bread" event on Thursdays has been discontinued.

WHERE YOUR PPOA DONATIONS GO

- The PPOA is committed to transparency about how your contributions make a difference in our community. Here's a breakdown of where donations are utilized:
- **College Scholarships:** Each year, two students receive \$1,500 per semester, totaling \$6,000 across four semesters.
- **Monday Night BINGO:** Supports the organization and funding of this popular community event.
- **Community Safety Day:** A day dedicated to promoting safety awareness within Munds Park.
- **4th of July Parade Sponsorship:** Fully funds our annual Independence Day celebration.
- **Pinewood Boulevard Lighting:** Enhances safety and aesthetics through lighting along the main boulevard.
- **Support for Fire Department Auxiliary:** Funds seasonal activities.
- **Memorial Flags:** Maintains and replaces flags at the post office, Memorial Garden and along Pinewood Boulevard.
- **EpiPens for Bear Jaw Crew:** Provides essential medical supplies for emergency response teams.
- **Grants to Arizona Children's Theater:** Encourages local arts by supporting theatrical productions for children.

- **Funding for Christmas Lighting:** Helps beautify the community during the festive season.
- **Meals for Bear Jaw Crew:** Provides breakfast and lunch as a gesture of appreciation for their service.

Thank you for your continued support, which enables these valuable community initiatives.

QUESTION FROM A READER



"I'm curious if anyone else is confused about this new sign appearing one day at the entrance to Lake O'Dell? Was this initiated by PWCC's attorneys to shield from legal liability? Is the PWCC board serious about restricting lake use to paid members ONLY? Back in the '80s a similar sign was posted, but ALL PROPERTY OWNERS were club members in those days."

We followed up with the Country Club at the PPOA meeting. Rick Schmidgall, board president, said the sign at Lake Odell is to discourage people outside of the Munds Park community, including short-term rental guests, from using the lake. Hosts are not allowed to advertise the lake, nor are their guests permitted to use it. Munds Park property owners are allowed to enjoy the lake. The posted restrictions apply to everyone.



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SEDONA INTRODUCES SHUTTLE CONNECT

A CONVENIENT WAY TO EXPLORE THE CITY & ITS TRAILS



Get ready to enjoy Sedona like never before! Starting Thursday, August 29, 2024, the city will unveil the Sedona Shuttle Connect, a new on-demand transit service. This innovative, app-based system will offer seamless rides across West Sedona, Uptown, Tlaquepaque, Hillside, and the Sedona Shuttle Park and Ride lots, making travel around Sedona easier and more enjoyable.

Whether you're a resident

or a visitor, accessing this service is simple. Just use the TransLoc app on your smartphone or call the Sedona Shuttle hotline at 928-203-5152. The cost is affordable at just \$2 per ride, with a reduced fare of \$1 for seniors (60+), persons with disabilities, and others who qualify. The Sedona Shuttle Connect will operate from Thursday through Sunday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and daily during peak periods such as spring break and major holidays like Labor Day.

Explore Iconic Trails with Ease

Hiking enthusiasts will appreciate the easy access to some of Sedona's most enjoyed trailheads. Here are just a few of the popular spots you can reach with Sedona Shuttle Connect:

Cathedral Rock: Known for its breathtaking views and challenging climb, Cathedral Rock Trail is a 1.4-mile round trip with an elevation gain of 645 feet. The trailhead can get busy, so starting early is recommended. The hike features stunning panoramas and a steep ascent that rewards you with spectacular vistas from the top (Earth Trekkers) (Dani The Explorer).

Dry Creek Vista: This trailhead provides access to multiple trails, including Bear Mountain and Fay Canyon. It's a gateway to less crowded and equally stunning hikes, perfect for those looking to explore Sedona's rugged beauty.

Little Horse: A moderate 3.4-mile out-and-back trail offering picturesque views of Bell Rock and Chicken Point. It's a family-friendly trail that provides a great introduction to Sedona's red rock landscape.

Mescal: Ideal for those seeking a quieter hike, the Mescal Trail offers beautiful scenery and connects to the Long Canyon and Deadman's Pass trails. It's a great spot for a peaceful hike with fewer crowds.

Soldier Pass: Featuring the Seven Sacred Pools and the Devil's Kitchen sinkhole, Soldier Pass Trail is a 4.5-mile loop that's perfect for experiencing Sedona's unique geological features. The trail is moderately challenging with a mix of shaded areas and open vistas.

How to Get Started

For complete details on Sedona Shuttle Connect and other shuttle services, visit www.SedonaShuttle.com. The TransLoc app, available on Google Play and the App Store, makes it easy to request a ride. The app even uses geolocation data to confirm if you're within the service area.

Additional Benefits

Sedona Shuttle Connect is designed to enhance the overall visitor experience. By providing a convenient transportation option, it aims to reduce the number of cars on the road, alleviating traffic congestion and parking difficulties. This service supports Sedona's broader initiative to create a sustainable and visitor-friendly city.

Plan Your Visit

As Sedona Shuttle Connect gears up for its launch, now is the perfect time to plan your visit. Whether you're staying in Sedona or making a trip from nearby Munds Park, this new service promises to make your adventures in Sedona more enjoyable and hassle-free. Embrace the ease of on-demand transportation and explore all that Sedona has to offer with the Sedona Shuttle Connect.



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The Cocktail Connoisseur's Corner

THE HEART OF TEQUILA: MEXICO'S SIGNATURE SPIRIT

By Dick Trudeau

Tequila's saga began long before it was poured into shot glasses. The distillation of agave dates back to the 16th century, introduced by the Spanish, although indigenous peoples had been fermenting agave long before their arrival.

The tequila we know today started taking shape in the late 1700s when King Carlos IV of Spain granted the first commercial license to produce this spirit. The Cuervo family received the first of these licenses, paving the way for tequila's commercial production. In the 1800s, the Sauza family revolutionized the industry by insisting that only blue agave should be used for tequila, setting a standard that defined its unique identity. This critical decision helped distinguish tequila from mezcal, its broader-category cousin. By the late 19th century, tequila began to be exported to the United States and beyond, marking the start of its global journey.



is the rulebook that keeps tequila true to its roots. These rules dictate everything from where it's made to how it's made. If it doesn't have the NOM seal, it's not the real deal.

The Spectrum of Tequila

The variety of tequila types caters to a wide range of palates and preferences:

Blanco: This is your raw, unadulterated tequila. Clear, sharp, and in-your-face with pure agave flavors. It's what you want in a cocktail that needs a kick.

Reposado: "Rested" in oak barrels for a few months, this tequila is smoother, with a subtle hint of oak. It's for those nights you want to slow sip and savor.

Añejo: Now we're getting serious. Aged for up to three years, these tequilas are complex, rich, with whispers of caramel and spice. This is the good stuff—pour it neat.

Extra Añejo: Over three years in the making, this is the elder statesman of tequila. It's deep, it's nuanced, it's almost philosophical. Sip it slowly.

How to Drink It

Choosing a tequila is all about how you plan to enjoy it. Mixing a cocktail? Grab a blanco. Settling in for a contemplative evening? Añejo is your friend. Whatever you do, respect the drink. Tequila's got a history, a soul, and yeah, it can kick your ass if you're not careful.

In the end, tequila is more than just a spirit—it's a craft, a heritage, and a vibrant part of Mexican culture. So next time you pour one out, remember it's not about getting buzzed—it's about experiencing a piece of history, one slow sip at a time.

The Art of Tequila Making

The making of tequila? It's a craft. A labor of love and a test of patience. Jimadores, the agave farmers, spend about a decade waiting for each plant to mature. When it's time, they get down and dirty in the fields, hacking away the leaves to unearth the piña, which then gets cooked to transform its starches into fermentable sugars.

What follows is a brutal crushing to squeeze out all that sweet agave juice. Fermentation kicks off the party, turning sugars into alcohol, which is then distilled to create that clear, potent spirit known as tequila blanco. This is where aging comes into play—if at all—to mellow the bite and deepen the flavor.

Keeping It Real: The NOM Standards

Nothing about tequila is laissez-faire. The Norma Oficial Mexicana (NOM)



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GARDENING IN THE PARK

10 HOUSEPLANTS THAT WILL CLEAN THE AIR IN YOUR HOME & MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE TOGETHER

By Venita Dee

Ah, houseplants. Those little green heroes that not only make our homes look like Pinterest dreams but also give us the air quality of a Himalayan mountaintop. They're like your very own, low-maintenance roommates—only they don't leave dishes in the sink.

Here's the lowdown on ten fabulous flora that'll detoxify your digs faster than you can say "What's that smell?"

1. Aloe Vera

Think of Aloe Vera as your green, prickly first aid kit. Got a burn? A cut? An ex who won't leave you alone? Okay, maybe not that last one. But the gooey stuff inside is a godsend for skin irritations. Plus, it's like having a little slice of the desert in your home.

2. Bamboo Palm

This tall, elegant beauty isn't just for Instagram likes. Bamboo Palms excel at filtering out nasties like formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene. Bonus: They add moisture to the air. So, if your home feels drier than your ex's sense of humor, get yourself one of these.

3. Boston Fern

Boston Ferns are like the overachievers of the plant world. They kick formaldehyde and xylene out of your airspace and act as natural humidifiers. Plus, they're just so darn lush and green, it's like having a tiny rainforest right in your living room.

4. English Ivy

Feeling a little medieval? Add some English Ivy to your castle. This ivy reduces airborne mold and fecal matter particles (gross, but important), and also tackles formaldehyde, benzene, and other airborne baddies. It's practically a medieval knight, slaying air pollution.

5. Lady Palm

The Lady Palm is a classy broad. She filters out formaldehyde, ammonia, xylene, and toluene, and does it with a flair. Perfect for low-light areas, she'll bring a touch of drama to any indoor space. Think of her as the Greta Garbo of houseplants.

6. Peace Lily

Peace Lilies are the air purifiers of the plant kingdom. They handle formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene like a pro and even help with humidity. If you've got a dry indoor environment, the Peace Lily is your new best friend. Plus, those flowers? Gorgeous.

7. Philodendron

Philodendrons are the laid-back surfers of the plant world. They chill out in almost any indoor condition and remove formaldehyde from your air with a laid-back "no worries" attitude. Hardy, handsome, and happy to hang, what's not to love?

Continued on page 21

"Plants give us oxygen for the lungs and for the soul."

— Linda Solegato



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GARDENING IN THE PARK

Continued from page 19



8. Rubber Plant

The Rubber Plant is tough and effective, just like its name suggests. It's a toxin-fighting machine, particularly good at eliminating formaldehyde. And with those big, bold leaves, it makes a striking addition to any room.



9. Snake Plant

The Snake Plant, also known as Mother-in-Law's Tongue (make of that what you will), is the night owl of air purifiers. It works its magic 24/7, absorbing toxins and releasing oxygen even while you sleep. No wonder it's a bedroom favorite.



10. Spider Plant

Spider Plants are the golden retrievers of houseplants: reliable, non-toxic, and great with pets. They excel at removing formaldehyde and xylene and are super easy to care for. Plus, those baby spiderettes they produce? Adorable.

So, there you have it. Ten houseplants that will not only clean your air but also make you look like you've got this whole adulting thing down. From the soothing Aloe Vera to the dependable Spider Plant, each one brings its own unique set of benefits to the table (or the windowsill, or the bookshelf). Add a few to your home and breathe easy, my friends.

SUDOKU

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 38

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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

Continued from page 11

4. Meanwhile, stir together reserved 1 cup corn kernels, bacon, red onion, chives, and lime juice in a small bowl. Chill until ready to serve, up to 6 hours ahead.
5. Remove half of the chowder and set aside. Process the remaining chowder in the slow cooker using an immersion blender until smooth. (Or transfer half of the chowder to a blender and remove the center piece of the blender lid to allow steam to escape. Secure the lid; place a clean towel over the opening in the lid, and process until smooth.)

Stir together reserved and pureed chowder in the slow cooker. Stir in heavy cream.
6. Divide evenly among 6 bowls; top evenly with fresh corn topping.

This corn chowder is a celebration in a bowl, using ingredients that are at their peak. It's the perfect way to enjoy fresh corn and can be a staple at summer gatherings. Whether you're enjoying it as a light dinner or a hearty lunch, this chowder brings the taste of summer to your table. Enjoy!



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April Plonski

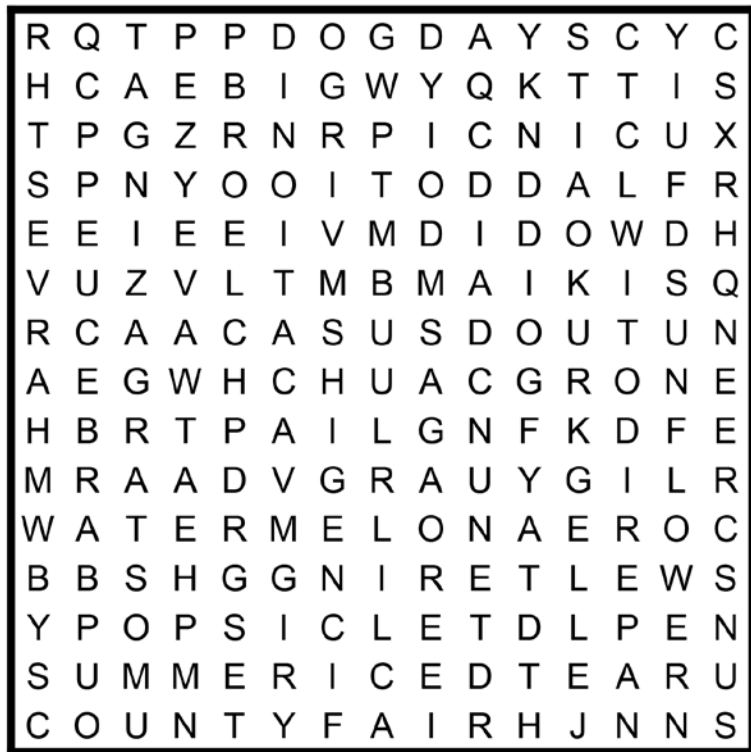
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WORD SEARCH

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- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| August | Hammock | Peridot | Sunscreen |
| Barbecue | Harvest | Picnic | Sweltering |
| Beach | Heat Wave | Popsicle | Vacation |
| Cicadas | Humidity | Road Trip | Virgo |
| County Fair | Iced Tea | Stargazing | Watermelon |
| Dog Days | Languid | Summer | |
| Gladiolus | Leo | Sunflower | |



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BIRDS OF MUNDS PARK

BLACK PHOEBE & SAY’S PHOEBE



Say's Phoebe courtesy of Muriel Neddermeyer



Black Phoebe courtesy of Eric Gofree

By Margaret Dyekman

There are two species of Phoebes that are regularly found in northern Arizona. Phoebes are small flycatchers. I am lucky enough to see both the Black Phoebe and the Say's Phoebe regularly on golf courses. Both species, however, are found in different places on the course as well as in your neighborhoods.

The Black Phoebe is a small black and white flycatcher found primarily in the Southwest and along the California coastal regions. It has strongly contrasted plumage - black above and below with a white breast and under tail. Black Phoebes are almost always found around water, so you can also spot them at the edges of cattle tanks, lakes, and park fountains, for example, or you may notice one when you are trying to retrieve the golf ball you just miss-hit into a golf course pond. The Black Phoebe perches on tree and bush branches, and all types of posts and wires, and it flits down to catch an insect and then flies back to the spot it left. It can skim the surface of a pond and catch small minnows, but most of its prey are insects. You can see Black Phoebes in the Phoenix metro area around the irrigation canals, and once I even spotted a bird in our own back yard perched on the pool diving board.

Say's Phoebes are found throughout the West, all the way from Alaska to Arizona. The coloring on the Say's Phoebe is a gray-brown head and upperparts and a pale rufous belly and undertail coverts. Like the Black Phoebe, it is also a flycatcher and is commonly found around people, but it avoids water and dense forests. When I see the Say's Phoebe in Munds Park, it is almost always on the golf course, and it is on the holes that do not have water, such as number 13, 14, 15, and 16. Besides seeing it perched on a tree limb, you can sometime see it sitting on one of the white sticks indicating out-of-bounds or on the fencing that surrounds smaller trees to prevent elk damage. It flies low to the ground to pursue flying insects. Sometimes it flutters near vegetation to pick insects off the plants. Both of these species are monogamous and often produce two broods a season.

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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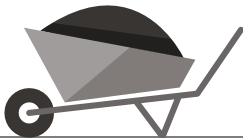
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SATURDAY, AUG 17, 5PM

Men's Steak Dinner

Guest speaker, Al Fadi, a devout Muslim from Saudi Arabia, moved to the United States as a young man to study and convert Americans to Islam. However, God had different plans for him, turning his journey and purpose upside down.

Munds Park Community Church
\$15 donation per ticket
Contact Russ Breese (602) 390-6520 for info



Volunteers removed a huge amount of trash from FR240. What good eggs they are! Thank you!

Volunteer with MUTS and Feel Good!

On July 13, the Munds Park Trail Stewards and Coconino National Forest Service crews maintained a steep hill on the motorized multi-user trail, a quarter mile northwest of Janice Place Forest Access. They relocated rocks, added fill dirt, and installed drainages. Additionally, they cleared trash along Forest Road 240, cleared trees, and reinstalled a sign on the Frog Tank Loop Trail.

The next Volunteer Event is Saturday, August 10 @ 8:15 a.m.

Meet at the Iron Springs Trailhead

We will finish our trail work around noon; afterward, a free lunch will be served.

Please R.S.V.P. via email before attending the event to mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com.

What to bring: Work gloves, long pants, sturdy shoes, sunblock, dress for the weather, and bring a good sense of humor. Water and trail tools are provided.

Please check the MUTS website at www.mundsparktrailstewards.com or the Pinewood News for updates.

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STARLIGHT STORIES

A MUST-WATCH AUGUST ASTRONOMY GUIDE

By Kenneth Paul

This August, the skies above Northern Arizona are set to host a breathtaking array of celestial events, promising both amateur stargazers and seasoned astronomers a spectacular summer show. From meteor showers to rare planetary alignments, here's what you can expect to see in our clear, mountain skies, along with the best local spots for stargazing.

Perseid Meteor Shower (August 12-13)

One of the annual highlights for sky watchers, the Perseid Meteor Shower is renowned for its bright, colorful meteors that often leave long, glowing trails. This year, the peak of the Perseids will coincide with optimal viewing conditions as the First Quarter Moon sets around midnight. The darker sky will unveil the full glory of the meteor shower, especially in the second half of the night. Find a dark spot away from city lights, perhaps near Flagstaff's famous dark sky reserves, to enjoy the show to its fullest.

Conjunction of Mars and Jupiter (August 14)

Mark your calendars for a rare celestial rendezvous as Mars and Jupiter appear to meet in the morning sky. This conjunction, set in the constellation of Taurus, will see the two planets passing extremely close to each other, visible as a nearly singular bright point of light. Such an event is a rare treat and will be perfectly visible from locations like the Coconino National Forest, where the horizon unfolds unobstructed.

Lunar Occultation of Saturn (August 21, 2024)

Prepare for a striking astronomical event where the nearly full Moon will elegantly slide in front of Saturn, temporarily hiding it from view. This event, known as a lunar occultation, will be visible right here in Northern Arizona. The dramatic interaction between our Moon and Saturn provides a perfect opportunity for those with telescopes to witness the gas giant reemerge from the moon's bright limb.



Large Planetary Parade (August 28)

Ending the month with a celestial spectacle, a rare alignment of Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, and Saturn will adorn the morning sky. This planetary parade will be a feast for the eyes, with most of these planets visible to the naked eye under the right conditions. Viewing spots like the high elevations around Sedona or the unlit roads of Munds Park might offer the clearest view of this rare alignment.

Best Stargazing Spots in Northern Arizona

- Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff: Ideal for a more structured viewing experience with professional telescopes and guided events.
 - Buffalo Park, Flagstaff: A local favorite for its accessibility and open skies, perfect for meteor showers.
 - Sedona Airport Overlook: Offers expansive views of the sky above and the stunning landscape below.
 - Munds Park & Rimrock: Known for its quiet, dark environment, making it a prime location for viewing the night sky without much light pollution.
- Each of these events provides a unique opportunity to connect with the universe from our own backyard. Whether you're setting up a telescope or lying back on a blanket, Northern Arizona's dark skies offer some of the best stargazing conditions in the country. Don't miss this chance to witness the marvels of the night sky this August!



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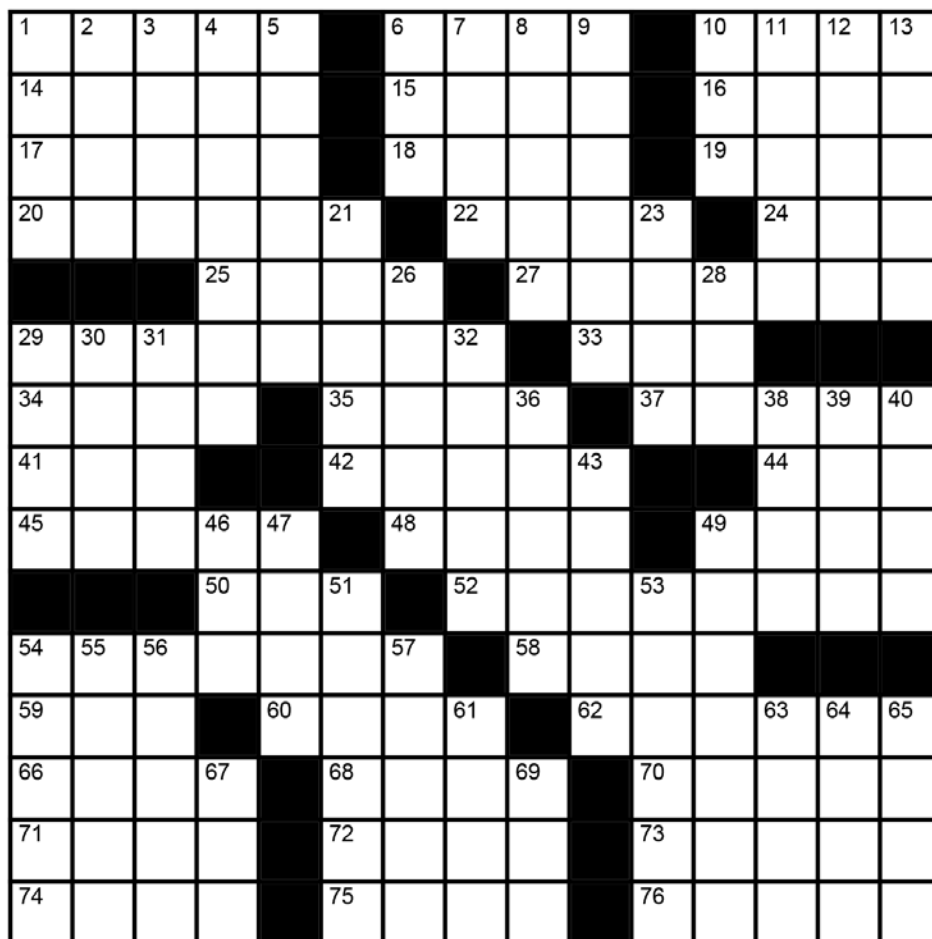
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

1. Servings of ribs
6. Barbecue entree
10. Hindu divinity
14. Bone-chilling
15. On the safe side, at sea
16. Colored eye part
17. Have the throne
18. Spun fiber
19. Fabricated
20. Former German chancellor Willy
22. Cottontail's tail
24. Oolong, for one
25. Halo, e.g.
27. Whaling spear
29. Worldwide sports event held every two years
33. Sign after Cancer
34. Blanched
35. ___ and sciences
37. Choose
41. Air hero
42. Detroit team
44. "___ will be done"
45. Madagascan primate
48. Losing proposition?
49. Barbershop sound
50. Band performance
52. Turtle's shell
54. 17-year insects
58. Cabbagelike vegetable
59. "Give it ___!"
60. Cry over spilled milk
62. Meal on a blanket
66. Lose traction
68. "Pumping ___"
70. Sibling's daughter
71. Forum wear

72. "Buona ___" (Italian greeting)
73. Overhangs
74. A long, long time
75. Adolescent
76. Flexible Flyers

DOWN

1. Balkan native
2. Look like a wolf
3. Diva's solo
4. Celebrity
5. Parody
6. Battle of Britain grp.
7. Misfortunes
8. Summer destination
9. Like Marvin Gaye's "healing"
10. Not brilliant
11. A Muse
12. YouTube offering
13. Economic bloc headquartered in Indonesia
21. Courtroom event
23. Arborist's concern
26. Pungent
28. Neighbor of Ger.
29. Birthstone after sapphire
30. Shoestring
31. Primordial matter
32. Stiff-upper-lip type
36. ___ preview
38. European erupter
39. Fashionable
40. Sort
43. Subway handhold
46. Can. neighbor
47. Change the decor
49. Exceptional
51. Lao-tzu follower
53. Dress styles
54. Hindu social division
55. Ice house
56. ___ of vantage: favorable position
57. Mall binge
61. Achy
63. "Scream" star Campbell
64. Decorated, as a cake
65. British tax
67. ___ de deux
69. A Bobbsey twin



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PINWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS



Tyler Martin, a proud graduate of Flagstaff Christian High School, has been awarded a scholarship from the Pinewood Property Owners' Association. With a commendable 3.6 GPA, Tyler's academic achievements are just one facet of his vibrant high school experience.

Having called Munds Park home for the past five years, Tyler cherishes the close-knit community and the natural beauty that surrounds it. His connection to this charming town runs deep, with fond memories of Christmases spent with

his grandparents who lived here long before his family moved.

Tyler's high school years were marked by his active involvement in student life. As the Vice President of the Student Council for the last two years and a dedicated volleyball player during his senior year, he thrived in the social interactions with friends and teachers that he values most.

This fall, Tyler will embark on an exciting new chapter at Grand Canyon University, where he will pursue a major in computer science with a focus on programming and gaming simulation design. Despite some self-learning, Tyler is eager to dive into formal training and develop his skills further.

When asked about the transition from a small community to a big city, Tyler's response was filled with enthusiasm rather than nerves. He looks forward to the new experiences and opportunities that await him.

Congratulations, Tyler, on this well-deserved scholarship and best wishes for a bright future at Grand Canyon University!



Makenzie Spruill, a graduate of Flagstaff High School, has been awarded a scholarship from the Pinewood Property Owners' Association. With a stellar 4.0 GPA, Makenzie's dedication and hard work have truly paid off. Despite her impressive grades, she humbly shares that her focus was always on doing her best rather than the grades themselves.

Having called Munds Park home since 2020, Makenzie has been a frequent visitor since childhood, often spending time with her grandparents and creating memories,

especially during the 4th of July celebrations. She loves the unique charm of Munds Park, particularly the diversity of the houses and spending time at Lake Odell.

This fall, Makenzie will be attending the University of Arizona, pursuing a degree in Business Management with aspirations in Marketing and possibly Public Relations. Her passion for marketing was evident throughout high school, where she excelled in the graphic design program for four years, learning advertising design and earning college credits through advanced courses.

Makenzie finds joy in the behind-the-scenes aspects of marketing and social media, eager to learn how to attract people to products. She is excited about the opportunities her career can offer, taking her anywhere her ambitions lead. She will be living in a dorm with her best friend from elementary school, ready to face the new experiences and challenges of college life.

Congratulations, Makenzie, on your well-deserved scholarship, and best wishes for a successful journey at the University of Arizona!



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BACK TO SCHOOL: A SMART & FUN GUIDE FOR THE MODERN KID

Hey there, future leaders and thinkers! Summer break has flown by, and it's time to dive back into school. Whether you're moving up a grade or starting at a new school, here's some practical and fun advice to help you kick off the school year with a bang!

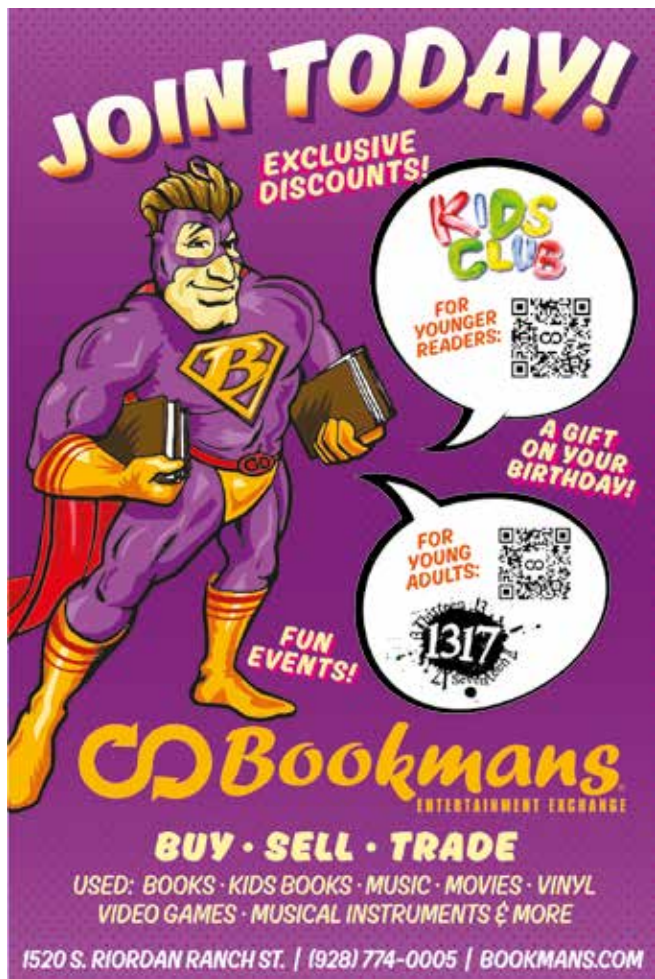
EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE Think of school as your training ground for greatness. Each subject is like a new level in a video game. Math sharpens your problem-solving skills, science fuels your curiosity, and English enhances your ability to communicate. Approach each day with enthusiasm and see every challenge as a chance to level up.

GET YOUR GEAR IN CHECK Just like a pro athlete needs their gear, you need your school supplies. Make sure your backpack is stocked with notebooks, pens, and anything else you need to succeed. A well-organized backpack means you're always ready to tackle whatever comes your way.

STAY CURIOUS & ASK QUESTIONS Don't be shy about asking questions. Whether you're stuck on a tricky math problem or curious about something in history class, asking questions helps you learn more and shows you're engaged. Teachers appreciate students who are eager to learn and participate.

BELIEVE IN YOUR POTENTIAL Remember, every expert was once a beginner. Believe in yourself and your ability to improve. Don't be discouraged by setbacks; instead, see them as opportunities to grow. With determination and a positive attitude, you can achieve great things.

So, get ready to tackle the school year head-on. You've got the tools, the smarts, and the spirit to make this year amazing. Go out there and show the world what you're made of!



TUBE YOUR WAY TO A GREAT BRAIN!

Hello everyone! As we all know, many of you are turning to YouTube over traditional TV, which is fantastic because it offers you a world of options right at your fingertips, anytime you want. While it's great to have so much freedom to choose what and when you watch, it's also important to make wise choices about your viewing. Selecting the right kind of content can do more than just entertain—it can also help you develop a “great brain,” enhancing your ability to think, learn, and understand the world.

Here's a roundup of some awesome YouTube channels that cover a wide range of interests—whether you're into art, science, animals, or even yoga. Each one is designed not just to entertain you, but to expand your mind and inspire learning:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS Explore the natural world with exciting videos about animals, science, and exploration.

TED-ED Experience beautifully animated stories that make complex topics accessible and intriguing, sparking your curiosity on a wide range of subjects.

COSMIC KIDS YOGA Mix up your physical routine with yoga that's wrapped in captivating stories, promoting both physical health and mental relaxation.

PAW PATROL OFFICIAL & FRIENDS Enjoy the adventures that teach teamwork and bravery with your favorite Paw Patrol heroes.

ART FOR KIDS HUB Unlock your creativity with step-by-step drawing tutorials that make art easy and fun.

MARK ROBER Discover the magic of science and engineering through thrilling projects and experiments led by a former NASA engineer.

BRAVE WILDERNESS Venture into the wild to learn about fascinating animals and their habitats in exciting, up-close encounters.

MINUTEPHYSICS Break down the mysteries of physics into bite-sized, easy-to-understand lessons that will expand your understanding of how the world works.

CRASHCOURSE Dive deeper into topics like history, chemistry, and literature with comprehensive lessons designed to supplement your school learning.

THE DODO KIDS For those who love animals, enjoy stories that are not only entertaining but also foster a deeper empathy for wildlife.

Remember, building a “great brain” is all about engaging with content that challenges, educates, and inspires you. These channels are a great start to do just that. Enjoy discovering and learning—your mind is an amazing thing to grow!

HIDDEN PICTURES



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

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Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words.
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NAVIGATING THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Today, I want to demystify the current real estate market for you. Understanding the dynamics is essential for buyers, sellers, and investors alike, as informed decisions are crucial in navigating this landscape.

The real estate market is influenced by various factors, including economic conditions, interest rates, and consumer sentiment. We are presently witnessing a market filled with both opportunities and challenges.

Rising Interest Rates: A significant factor shaping today's market is the increase in interest rates. This rise makes borrowing more expensive, impacting buyers through higher monthly mortgage payments and reducing the pool of potential buyers for sellers. Despite these conditions, remember that real estate remains a long-term investment, with fluctuating market conditions.

Inventory Levels: Many areas are experiencing a shortage of available homes, driving prices up. This scenario benefits sellers who can command higher prices. However, buyers face stiff competition and must act quickly when they find suitable properties.

Buyer Behavior: Despite higher interest rates and low inventory, buyer demand remains robust. The shift toward remote work has increased demand for homes with more space and amenities. Buyers are eager to secure properties before rates climb further, knowing they can refinance at lower rates in the future to build equity.

Investment Opportunities: For investors, the current conditions offer unique opportunities. The high demand for rentals makes investing in rental properties lucrative, with rising rental rates ensuring a steady income. There are also chances to find motivated sellers open to negotiating on price.

Community Insights: In Munds Park, these trends are evident. The area's charm and natural beauty continue to attract buyers, keeping the market competitive. Local enthusiasm underscores the community's lasting appeal.

Advice for Buyers: Prepare to act swiftly. Get pre-approved and engage a knowledgeable agent to navigate this competitive market. Expand your search to various property types or fixer-uppers that align with your ideals.

Advice for Sellers: Leverage the high demand and low inventory. Work with professionals to price your home competitively and market it effectively. Highlight your property's unique features and the benefits of living in Munds Park, where neighbors often recommend properties to prospective buyers.

Advice for Investors: Focus on properties with strong rental potential. Multi-family units or properties convertible into rentals are promising. Collaborate with strategists to pinpoint the best opportunities and formulate a solid investment plan.

The market is dynamic, offering numerous opportunities for those who are well-informed and prepared. Work with experienced professionals to successfully navigate these waters.

If you need personalized advice or have questions, don't hesitate to reach out. Our community is full of cooperative agents ready to ensure Munds Park clients receive optimal support. While I strive to be your go-to agent, I'm committed to connecting you with another excellent professional if needed. Let's capitalize on the opportunities this market presents!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year the Pinewood Players select up to two scholarship recipients. This year we are excited to award two \$2,000.00 scholarships to our worthy recipients: Gloria Gomez and Taryn Dyekman.



Gloria Gomez is a 2024 graduate of Valley Vista High School in Surprise, Arizona. She will attend Northern Arizona University in the fall to pursue a major in Comparative Cultural Studies and a minor in Theatre. Gloria participated in three summer Pinewood Players Drama Camps and performed in three high school theatre productions.

During her junior and senior years at Valley Vista High, Gloria received the Arizona State Seal of Personal Finance

and the Arts Seal and Graphic Design CTE Awards. Following college graduation Gloria's goal is to work in an art museum or gallery while she continues to follow her dream for the performing arts.

This summer Gloria is employed at the Pinewood Country Club.

Congratulations Gloria!



Taryn Dyekman is a 2024 graduate of Shadow Mountain High School in Phoenix, Arizona. Taryn has been accepted to Arizona State University where she will pursue a major in Chemistry and a minor in Spanish. Taryn participated in Pinewood Players Drama Camp for four summers. She was in both the Honors Band and the Concert Band.

Taryn was awarded the Spanish Language Seals of Literacy and Biliteracy in her senior year. After

obtaining her degree in Chemistry at ASU, Taryn plans to attend medical school to become the first doctor in her family.

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ARIES, FIRE SIGN, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

August 2024 propels you into a dynamic phase, Aries. Embrace your pioneering spirit as new opportunities emerge. Bold decisions in your career can lead to significant advancements, but balance is crucial. Relationships require patience and active listening to thrive. Financially, avoid impulsive spending and focus on sustainable investments. This is a month to channel your energy into creative pursuits and personal growth. Embrace self-care routines to maintain your vitality. Trust your instincts, seek wisdom from those you respect, and practice kindness and openness in all interactions.



LEO, FIRE SIGN, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Your birthday season, Leo, is your time to shine! August brings opportunities to pursue your passions and stand out. Your confidence attracts success in both career and personal life. Relationships thrive with your warmth and generosity. Financially, make bold yet wise decisions that reflect your ambitions. Celebrate yourself and embrace your creative side fully. This is a month to focus on self-expression and joy. Engage in activities that bring you happiness and fulfillment. Let your natural leadership inspire others, and remember that an open mind fosters growth.



SAGITTARIUS, FIRE SIGN, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Adventure calls, Sagittarius! August is perfect for travel and expanding your horizons. In your career, take calculated risks and embrace new opportunities. Relationships benefit from your optimism and openness. Financially, investments made now are likely to pay off. Maintain a balance between freedom and responsibility for a fulfilling month. This is a time to explore new philosophies and ideas. Your natural curiosity will lead you to exciting discoveries. Let kindness guide your interactions and decisions, ensuring your adventurous spirit brings positive experiences.



TAURUS, EARTH SIGN, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

August is a month of grounding and steady progress, Taurus. Focus on financial stability and practical matters. Your relationships deepen as you open up emotionally and show vulnerability. Take time to enjoy the simple pleasures and connect with nature, which will rejuvenate your spirit. In your career, consistent effort leads to solid results. Flexibility brings unexpected rewards. Health-wise, incorporate relaxation techniques into your routine. Trust your intuition in making decisions, and remember that kindness can open many doors. Be mindful of your interactions with others.



VIRGO, EARTH SIGN, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

August is a time for introspection and meticulous planning, Virgo. Organize your life and set clear, achievable goals. Health and wellness should be prioritized; start new routines that benefit your body and mind. Relationships benefit from open and honest communication. Financially, analyze your budget and make necessary adjustments. Your attention to detail ensures success in your career. Embrace your analytical nature and trust in your practical wisdom. Approach each situation with an open mind and kindness. Take time for self-reflection and personal growth.



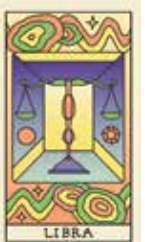
CAPRICORN, EARTH SIGN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

August 2024 is about structure and achievement, Capricorn. Focus on your career goals and long-term plans. Relationships deepen with commitment and honesty. Financially, your hard work and dedication bring significant rewards. Prioritize self-discipline and establish healthy routines. Your determination and patience are your greatest assets. Embrace the challenges that come your way and use them as opportunities for growth. Remember to take time for self-care and relaxation amidst your busy schedule. Approach every task with kindness and an open heart, ensuring success and fulfillment.



GEMINI, AIR SIGN, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Curiosity and social engagement define your August, Gemini. Engage in learning opportunities and expand your horizons. Communication is your strength; use it to mend relationships and build new connections. Stay adaptable in your career, as unexpected opportunities may arise. Financially, consider innovative approaches to increase your income. Prioritize mental clarity through mindfulness practices and physical activity. Embrace your dual nature by balancing your social life with quiet reflection. This month, your versatility and adaptability will be your greatest assets, and a kind word can go a long way.



LIBRA, AIR SIGN, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Harmony and balance define your August, Libra. Focus on nurturing relationships and fostering deeper connections. Creative projects flourish as you express yourself artistically. Financially, collaboration with others brings new opportunities. In your career, your diplomacy and charm open doors to advancement. Prioritize self-care to maintain your inner peace and equilibrium. Seek out beauty and harmony in all areas of your life. Embrace your role as a mediator and peacemaker. Kindness and understanding in your interactions will enhance your relationships. An open heart will guide you.



AQUARIUS, AIR SIGN, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Innovation and originality define your August, Aquarius. Dive into creative projects and embrace your quirkiest ideas. Social connections and collaborations will bring fresh, exciting opportunities your way. Financially, think outside the box to find unique solutions. In your career, ride the wave of change and stay ahead with technological advancements. Balance your need for independence with the perks of teamwork. Your visionary thinking will inspire and lead to breakthroughs. Trust in your ability to see the big picture. Sprinkle in kindness and keep an open mind, crafting a vibrant and innovative month.



CANCER, WATER SIGN, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

August 2024 invites deep emotional healing, Cancer. Focus on home and family, strengthening bonds with loved ones. Your intuition will guide your financial decisions; trust it fully. Prioritize self-care and reflection to recharge your energy. In your career, a nurturing approach leads to significant success. Embrace your sensitivity as a strength, not a weakness. Open your heart to new possibilities and allow yourself to be vulnerable. A small act of kindness can create a ripple effect. This is a time for introspection and reconnecting with your true self.



SCORPIO, WATER SIGN, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Transformation is your theme for August, Scorpio. Embrace change and let go of what no longer serves you. Deep emotional connections strengthen your relationships. Financially, intuitive decisions lead to gains. In your career, your intensity and focus drive success. Trust the process and welcome new beginnings with an open heart. Engage in activities that foster personal growth and self-discovery. Your resilience and determination will see you through any challenges. Kindness and openness will help you navigate transformations smoothly and inspire others along the way.



PISCES, WATER SIGN, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

August 2024 is a time for spiritual growth and introspection, Pisces. Reflect on your inner self and connect with your intuition. Relationships benefit from your empathy and compassion. Financially, trust your gut feelings when making decisions. In your career, creativity and imagination lead to significant breakthroughs. Embrace solitude and self-discovery to find inner peace. Your sensitivity is a gift that allows you to connect deeply with others. Use it to foster understanding and harmony. Kindness and openness will guide you, and trust in the flow of life.

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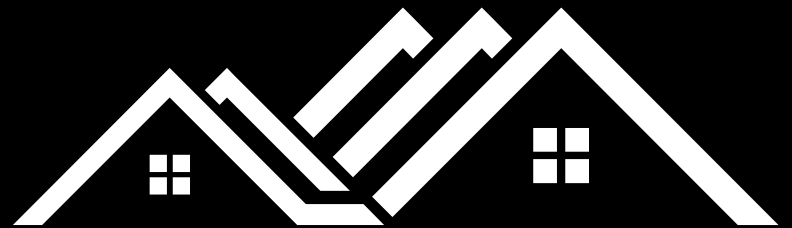
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MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE

By Steve Bowyer

There are times when only the person who loves you the most will deal with your stuff.

We were living in North Dakota and had just had our 3rd child. Our oldest was 4, middle was 2 and still in diapers, and then we had our youngest. Sara, being the desert girl she is, was not thrilled to deal with the brutal winters and needed a break. She loaded up all three and boarded a plane for Tucson to visit her parents.

Sara is a pretty independent sort. I know plenty of moms who would not dare consider flying with 3 kids that young. Much less deal with changing planes in Minneapolis carrying all the paraphernalia that goes with the travel. Each had their own carry-on backpack. And two of them had to be carried between gates along with their backpacks.

By the way, did you know those electric carts that ferry passengers between gates are not for moms traveling with their kids? The cart driver refused to pick her up so one of the gate agents was nice enough to grab a kid and a couple of carry-ons to get them to their next flight on time.

Things were beginning to pile up on Sara this trip. Already, we had experienced what so many other parents had. When you have one child, you can share responsibilities. When you have two, you play man-to-man defense. But with three, you have to play zone, and it is too easy to lose track of any one of the three at any one time. Then came the trip to Tucson, changing planes, a cart-driver who was less than helpful, and then the diaper blow-out of all diaper blow outs.

They had just taken off on the flight from Minneapolis to Tucson. It is a flight of several hours. Our oldest had her activity book and was happy doing her thing. Our youngest was content in his mom's arms. Then came the odor wafting up from our middle. Our #2 had the nastiest #2 explode out of his diaper. Fortunately, he was wearing pants that had elastic both in the waistband and at his ankles. Unfortunately, Sara had carried on everything she needed for that trip except a change of clothes for the kids.

Airplanes recirculate the air. And what can seem like a large plane can get awfully small when the odor from your child begins to make its way from the front to the back. A very nice man sharing the row with Sara kept his eye on our oldest. A very nice flight attendant took our youngest in her arms and walked him up and down the aisle. All while Sara did what only parents who love their children will do. She dealt with the mess.

Those lavatories on the plane are not built for blow-outs and diaper changes like this. She got a bag for the clothes that she could tie off and contain most of the smell. But for the rest of the flight, he spent only in a diaper, and Sara spent hoping the odor would eventually dissipate into the

environment.

There are things that only those who love us the most will deal with because our stuff can get pretty stinky sometimes. Acquaintances will watch from a distance. Some might carry a light load for us for a while. But only a mom would dare unpack a mess like the one she encountered on that plane.

This is what Jesus does for us because He loves us. He died for us, embraces us in the midst of our mess, lifts us out it, cleans us up, and makes us presentable for His Father.

“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on knees, ‘If you are willing, you can make me clean.’ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing. Be clean.’ Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.” (Mark 1:40-42)

Leprosy was a nasty disease. It caused open, oozing sores in its victims. Extremities would rot and fall off. It was not uncommon for a victim to lose their nose, fingers, and toes to the disease.

It was also one of those diseases that scared everyone. It was terminal and incurable. It was acceptable for people to throw rocks at those who suffered with it to keep them away. This man had had no social contact since his diagnosis.

It is significant that Jesus reached out and touched him before he healed him. Jesus embraced the man in the nastiness of his disease. Then He cleaned Him up and made him presentable for God and the man's friends and family.

Leprosy was also seen as an illustration of sin in our life and its consequences. Our body dies a slow and ugly death. But Jesus is not afraid to meet us in that mess and He is not affected by our mess. He affects us.

Jesus does for us what only someone who loves us the most would do. The mess we create of our lives can get pretty stinky. And that condition in a small, confined place can nauseate everyone around. Yet, Jesus takes us on and cleans us up.

Sara did for her son what only a mother would do. Jesus did for us what only our Savior will do. Surrender to Him and let him clean up your mess and make you presentable to His Father.

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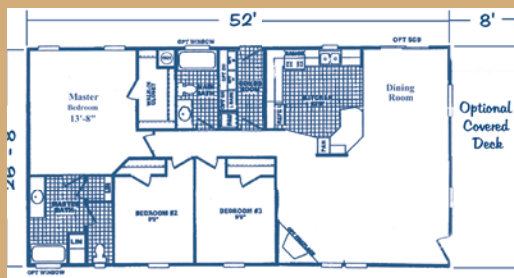
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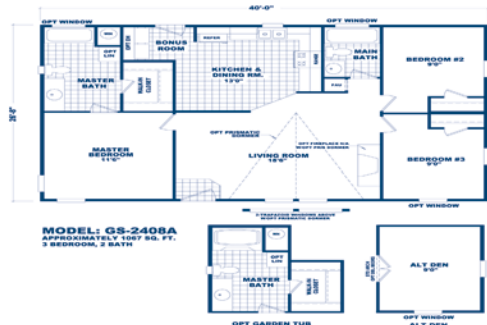


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