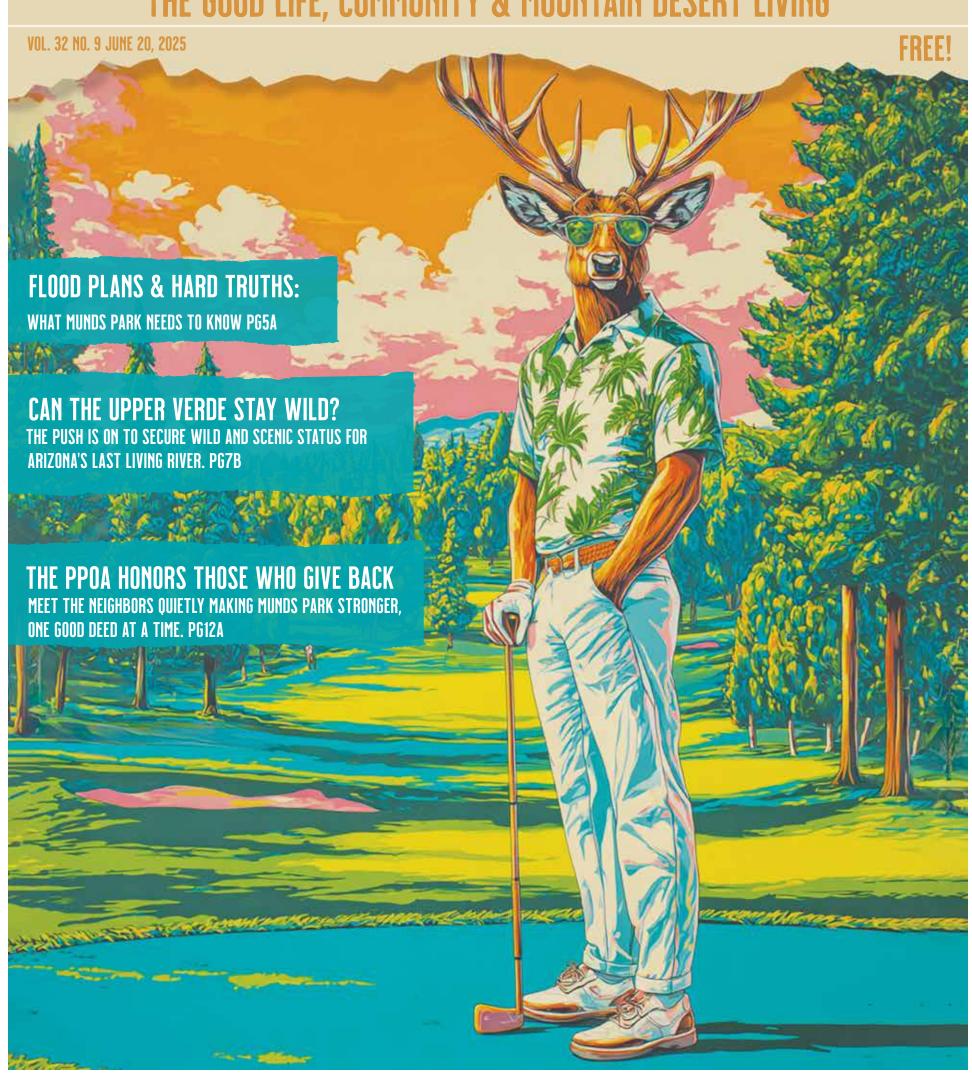
PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN DESERT LIVING



PINEWOOD NEWS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & STORY TIPS!

The Pinewood News welcomes feedback and story tips from our readers. We encourage comments on any subject or article we publish. We will consider publishing received letters, except those that invade privacy or are libelous. All letters must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification. Note that letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Send your letters to: PO Box 18977, Munds Park, AZ 86017, or email us at Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

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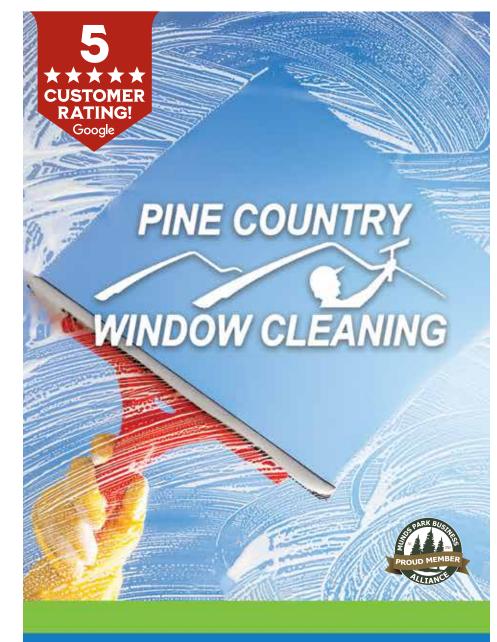
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\$1,295,000 17612 E FAIRWAY DR, MUNDS PARK

Closed restaurant with HUGE potential! Includes land, building, and all contents. Community is eager for a great eatery! Call Bill Spain at 602-622-1196. Owner may carry with strong terms.



\$405,000 685 E OAK DR, MUNDS PARK

Beautifully maintained home with vaulted ceilings, split floor plan, and eat-in kitchen. Covered deck plus private patio, storage shed, and raised garden. Turnkey & ready to enjoy!



\$509,000 260 SANDIA CIRCLE

Escape to this charming A-frame cabin in Munds Park. Vaulted ceilings, a huge deck, cozy fireplace, and rental income potential make it the perfect getaway—just 20 minutes from Flagstaff.



\$495,000 17165 ELK PLACE, MUNDS PARK

Tucked beneath the towering pines, this cozy mountain retreat blends rustic charm with modern comfort. Vaulted ceilings, open living, wood-burning fireplace, and a large deck create the perfect space to relax and enjoy.



\$649,500 17380 CRYSTAL BROOK PL

Move-in ready Munds Park cabin with vaulted ceilings, new roof, floors, T&G pine, updated kitchen/baths, and XL loft. Enjoy a covered porch, paver patio, and prime location near golf, clubhouse, and trails.



\$269,000 1200 S Riordan Ranch St #125, Flagstaff

Perfect for an NAU student, or second home. Conveniently located across NAU and downtown Flagstaff. Newly painted interior. Stack unit Washer & Dryer. HOA covers water, trash, sewer and hot water.



\$749,0001325 E JAGUAR LN,, MUNDS PARK

In desirable Animal Hill, this 4-bed, 3.5-bath cabin offers two suites, game room, open living with wood stove, fenced yard, garage, and deck. Most furniture included—move-in ready retreat!



\$3,450,000 1430 E PUMA PL, MUNDS PARK

Tucked in the northeast corner of Animal Hill, this 7,142 sq ft Grand Lodge estate on 3.21 forested acres offers timeless craftsmanship, soaring ceilings, chef's kitchen, elegant suites, and expansive decks for year-round enjoyment.



\$615,000 17310 TRAILWINDS PL, MUNDS PARK

Furnished 3-bed, 2-bath chalet with vaulted ceilings, huge windows, A/C, spacious deck, awning, and soaking tub. Private, peaceful setting near trails, Odell Lake, and Pinewood golf. Move-in ready year-round retreat!



\$795,000 12 E OAK DR, MUNDS PARK

This cozy cabin features an open layout, chalet windows, and a warm gas fireplace. A loft offers extra sleeping space, while the fenced yard with dog run, spacious decks, and ample parking make it ideal for getaways.



\$295,000 230 E CEDARWOOD DR, MUNDS PARK

Remodeled mobile home with new laminate floors, fresh paint, new vanities, updated PEX plumbing, metal carport, and 2 sheds. Please call ahead—owner lives there year-round.



\$344,900 17145 S MESCALERO DR, MUNDS PARK

Upgraded, furnished home on large lot with RV parking, 10x14 shed, deck, fire pit, and fountain. New appliances, luxury vinyl flooring, updated baths. Split floor plan with office and great indoor-outdoor space.



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Upgrading fixtures in bathrooms and kitchens offers a quick, impactful refresh. Modern faucets and handles not only enhance aesthetics but also improve functionality and efficiency. These updates boost property value, and with energy-saving features, they offer long-term cost savings.



This summer, we're giving back to our First Responders in a special way.

Book any job in the month of May and June and portion will go back to our local Pinewood Fire Department.

FIRE DANGER IS HIGH

BEFORE YOU BURN, ALWAYS check the Pinewood Fire District website at www.PinewoodFire.org for fire restrictions.



AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church Every Monday, 6 pm 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday, 10:45 am 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend. Stay informed about what's happening in our community—your presence and participation is essential!

Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!
Tuesday, July 1
6:30 pm • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome Tuesday, July 15 3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr.

PPOA Annual Public Meeting

Saturday, July 19 1 pm • Pinewood Country Club

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome Thursday, July 10 3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

County Talks Flood Strategy for Munds Park

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

Listen up, friends. This article is the "eat your vegetables" part of community journalism. I'd rather write about just about anything else, but the FEMA flood maps and flood mitigation matters. They affect property, wallets, and lives. So I show up, take notes, and provide you with the Cliff notes.

On June 4, Coconino County hosted a community meeting in Munds Park to discuss flood mitigation and what comes next as FEMA's updated floodplain maps near finalization.

Let's translate the government speak, shall we?

The FEMA Floodplain Maps Are Here

FEMA has spoken. The new maps are here, they're not changing. FEMA will be approving the maps July 9 or sooner. From there, they'll go into effect six months later.

If your home lands in a newly designated flood zone, expect your mortgage company to come calling. With insurers pulling out of rural areas like ours, that could mean fewer coverage options and a higher price tag for flood insurance.

Thinking of remodeling? Better budget more money and brace for a sea of red tape.

It's the reality of the situation.

Now We Talk Mitigation

Here's where things get tricky. Flood mitigation isn't just about throwing up a dam and calling it a day. It's a massive coordination effort between agencies that don't share calendars, priorities, rules, regulations, or even the same vocabulary.

The County can't easily build a dam on Forest Service land. They can't reroute water without considering its downstream impact—hello, Sedona. And they can't do much of anything without looping in Salt River Project, which (fun fact) owns the water.

And those are just a few of the obstacles. Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager and Flood Control Administrator, mentioned many more. But in the interest of keeping your eyes open and your coffee cup upright, I'm giving you the short list.

This isn't a project. It's a diplomatic mission, with many stakeholders and the added complications of natural forces—like gravity and runoff—that couldn't care less about government timelines or budget.

Lucinda put it like this: "It's a concert, and all the musicians have to be in tune before the music can even start."

The Reality Check

Munds Park is on the roster, listed as number one for flooding, but it may not land at the top of the priority list. The County still has a lot of work to do before determining which flood area gets attention first, but the hard truth is this: flood mitigation costs millions—plural. Resources are limited, and even though Munds Park ranks high for a 100-year flood event, we could still slide down the to-do list.

Why? Our floods tend to hit in winter, from November through February, and mostly on the west side—right when the RV park is closed and the seasonal homes are sitting empty, waiting for summer and margaritas.

So while a big flood could damage property and roads, it's expected to affect maybe ten full-time residents. And when the County is trying to cover a lot of ground with limited resources, ten homes don't move the needle. This isn't about fairness. It's about math.

But that doesn't mean all is lost.

Local Highlights continued on page 7A . . .

FEATURED MOUNTAIN HOMES BY DEBI BRIGHT



17105 S DEER RUN RD

Spectacular manufactured home on a large level lot, meticulously maintained with gravel-covered yard—no mud! 14x16 shed with electric and workshop. New flooring, high baseboards, and privacy fence. Most furnishings convey. Quiet street near National Forest



1065 E CHALET PLACE

Quaint and affordable 16-wide getaway on a quiet, treed cul-de-sac with its own putting green! Wraparound covered deck with awnings, farm sink, gas cooking, fireplace, gazebo, patio, and water catch system.



1235 E FOX PL

This chalet has it all—vaulted T&G ceilings, open floor plan, 3 beds/2 baths on the main level, loft, and oversized bonus room with private balcony. Wraparound deck, 2-car garage, storage, and mature trees. Ready for mountain living!



17765 S BUCKSKIN CIR

Beautiful 3-level, 3-bath cabin on a culde-sac with panoramic views and a Trex wraparound deck. Primary suite upstairs, beds on each level, laundry room, gas fireplace, propane heat, large lot, and plenty of parking.



17960 GREEN MOUNTAIN RD

Serene 2-story retreat with new Trex decks, roof, whole-house generator, and EV outlet. Updated kitchen, spa-like primary suite, forest views, fenced yard, and bright interiors. Movein ready and made to unwind.

Enjoy a spacious lower-level family room with large windows and peaceful views.

Fresh paint, granite counters, gas stove, and high-end appliances throughout.

Perfect for entertaining, gardening, or simply enjoying the quiet of the pines.



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

. . . Continued from page 5A

The Hidden Win

Here's the silver lining: even if no big mitigation happens here, improvements elsewhere in the region can still benefit us.

How? Through FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS). The better the county scores, the lower our insurance premiums.

Yes, it's indirect. Yes, it's slow and arduous. But it's real.

If the Pineapple Express Comes Knocking

Floods are scary, but at least we see them coming. The Pineapple Express, for example (a weather system that hauls moisture from Hawaii straight into our backyards), usually shows up on the radar days in advance.

So, if you're in a risk zone, sign up for alerts. And if your phone rings, take a little floodcation. Visit friends. Book a room with a bar and room service. Because odds are, if the water rises, you're coming home to chaos, so you might as well get a decent night's sleep.

For the rest of you, shelter in place like you mean it. Keep at least two weeks' worth of food, water, medications, and non-electric entertainment on hand at all times. Do you really want to get in the car, fight traffic, and play bumper carts with panicked shoppers? Or would you rather reduce stress knowing you're covered in an emergency?

There are hundreds of online resources for preparing for natural disasters. Look one up and get to work. Plan ahead. This is your responsibility.

But let's not pretend we're out of the woods.

The Bigger Threat

The real threat to Munds Park isn't flooding, I mean, it's not good, but the real danger is wildfire.

Floods are the occasional scandal. They are inconvenient, dramatic, and spaced out just far enough to forget until they crash through the door. Fires are a steady affair. They arrive every season, unapologetic and always take center stage. And when they do, it's not just a few homes on the line. It is the whole town. At the worst possible moment, when every cabin is full, the grills are lit, and the exits are few and slow.

Let me be blunt: there is no sheltering in place for fire. None.

If you are not signed up for alerts, you are not prepared. If you do not

have a go-bag, you are not prepared. If your evacuation plan involves intuition, you are not prepared. You are gambling. And nature does not care how clever you think you are.

If you are signed up for READY, SET, GO, here is what the adults know. You should already have a go bag. You should already know your route. And when the county says SET, that is not a dress rehearsal. That is your cue. You do not wait for GO. You do not wait for flames licking the treetops. You leave on SET. I tell you this because our exits are limited, and sometimes you only have minutes between SET and GO.

A Final Word

Not everyone was happy with how the meeting unfolded. One resident, who had caused a disruption at a previous town meeting on the same topic, was stopped after asking a single question to prevent things from going off track. County officials reminded attendees that the format was for questions, not debate. The individual left upset, with deputies following as a precaution.

In today's climate, where disgruntled voices can raise safety concerns, having law enforcement present was appreciated.

As for the County team, they deserve real thanks. After a full day on the job, they showed up to face a room full of concerned residents and deliver news no one wanted to hear. They didn't sugarcoat it. They didn't dodge. They answered questions, offered one-on-one time after the meeting for property-specific concerns, and handled the evening with professionalism.

One thing was clear: there's a lot of work ahead when it comes to flood mitigation, and it's going to take time, money, and patience.

So here's the deal. Preparing for natural disasters falls on us. Knowing what's coming and how to respond is essential. When disaster hits, ignorance won't keep you safe. Relying on the government won't either. They can't be everywhere for everyone, even with the best-laid plans.

Fortify your home against flooding. Clear defensible space for fire. Make an evacuation plan and go over it with your family. Don't wait for the government. Don't expect rescue. You prepare. You plan. And if you can, you help. That's how it works up here.

... Local Highlights continued on page 9A





YOUR DREAM STARTS HERE!



MountainDreamsRealty.com



\$399,999 1320 E CARIBOU RD, MUNDS PARK

Escape to this updated Munds Park retreat beside Coconino National Forest. Featuring three bedrooms, two baths, a modern kitchen, and a spacious deck with forest views. Includes a paver driveway, landscaped yard, and direct trail access—perfect for outdoor lovers seeking peace and nature.



\$599,900 **335 SANDIA CIRCLE**

Experience mountain living with vaulted ceilings, wood-burning fireplace, and new Rheem furnace (2023). Enjoy front and back covered decks, a seasonal creek, dog run, and forest views. Don't miss this pine retreat!



\$650,000 17665 MUSTANG RD, MUNDS PARK

Move-in-ready furnished cabin in Pinewood's Animal Hill! One level with open layout, wood ceilings, game room, central heat/AC, and new deck with forest views. Steps from the Coconino Forest entrance and right next to the iconic Coconino Castle.



\$469,900 **605 E HILLSIDE DRIVE**

Immaculate remodeled mountain cabin with all new roof, HVAC, kitchen, bath, windows, and more! T&G ceilings, wraparound deck, tons of upgrades, and plenty of parking. Move-in readyowner may carry! Don't miss this gem!



\$448,000 660 E TROUT CREEK RD, MUNDS PARK

Discover this cozy 2-bedroom, 2-bath cabin in central Munds Park. Enjoy an open layout with a rustic brick fireplace, updated roof and windows, spacious entertaining deck, long driveway, and storage shed. A turnkey retreat offering comfort, charm, and convenience—ready for you to move in!

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

. . . Continued from page 7A

GET OUTDOORS & FEEL GREAT!

The Munds Park Trail Stewards (MUTS) invite you to roll up your sleeves and join us for our next volunteer event Saturday, July 19th. This is your chance to spend a rewarding morning in the fresh mountain air while helping maintain the trails we all love in the Coconino National Forest.

Meet-up: Pinewood 240 Trailhead at 8:15 a.m.

Wrap-up: Around noon — followed by a free, hearty lunch to celebrate your hard work!

What to bring: Long pants, sturdy shoes, and weather-ready gear. We'll supply the water, tools, and plenty of good vibes.

Everyone works at their own pace — no pressure, just progress. And trust us, there's nothing like the satisfaction of seeing the trails shine thanks to your effort!

RSVP by July 12th: mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com (A quick email helps us plan the lunch!)

Don't miss the 8:15 a.m. safety meeting before we hit the trails.

Plans can shift, check for updates at mundsparktrailstewards.com

Come out, get your hands dirty, and feel good about making a difference!

FRYBREAD TACO DINNER SERVES UP GREAT FOOD FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Cancer Support Community Northern Arizona invites you to its 4th annual Native Frybread Taco Dinner—a community favorite you won't want to miss. The event takes place Thursday, July 10, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 3600 N. Fourth St., Flagstaff.

For a \$25 suggested donation, build your own frybread taco, join in the silent auction, and enjoy fun entertainment. Meals are available to enjoy on-site or to go.

All proceeds help provide free programs and support for those impacted by cancer across Northern Arizona.

Learn more at cscaz.org or call 928-236-2333.

COCONINO COUNTY PLANS TO COLLECT MORE IN PROPERTY TAXES

Coconino County is planning to collect more from property owners next year, similar to what was done last year. The Board of Supervisors will vote on it at a public hearing on June 24, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Where's the increase coming from?

- General Fund (for basic county services)
- The County plans to collect about 2% more than last year. Even though the tax rate would go down slightly, higher property values mean most people will see a small increase in their bill.
- Public Health Services: The tax rate stays the same, but higher property values will result in slightly higher bills.
- Flood Control: Same tax rate, but higher property values mean a bit more owed.
- Library: The County is proposing a small rate increase for library services, which would be the largest percentage increase among these districts.

Didn't they do this last year too?

Yes. Last year, the County approved similar small increases. The pattern is consistent: property values go up, rates stay the same or decrease slightly, but overall collections increase.

How much more would you pay per year?

If your home's taxable value is \$100,000, here's about what the increases would mean:

- General Fund: about 95 cents more
- Public Health: about \$1 more
- Flood Control: about \$2.40 more
- Library: about \$3.25 more

If your taxable value is higher, the increase will be larger.

What can you do?

- Attend the public hearing on June 24 at 6 p.m.
- Send written comments at least 24 hours before the hearing to boardcomments@coconino.az.gov
- Mail comments to 219 E. Cherry Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001

... Continued on page 15A





840 E. Caribou

Affordable and Adorable! Three bedrooms, two baths, fully renovated, single levels cabin on a quiet street. Light and bright, and upgrades galore including a brand new roof, heat and central air conditioning. Fenced yard, two covered patios and lots of great outdoor space. Comes fully furnished and move-in ready!











MUNDS PARK 4TH OF JULY

CELEBRATIONS DETAILS

CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 12B

EVERY MONDAY

BINGO AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

Bingo at the Pinewood Country Club! This event is open to everyone—no membership required. Come enjoy a fun night with neighbors and prizes!

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Pinewood Country Club, 395 Pinewood Blvd, Munds Park

ALMOST EVERY TUESDAY

PINEWOOD PLAYHOUSE MUSIC JAM NIGHT

Bring your instrument (or just your voice) and join fellow music lovers for a casual, come-as-you-are jam session. All levels welcome—from pros to kazoo dabblers. PA provided for singers. Free to attend, no RSVP needed.

Date: Most Tuesdays, check website at

pinewoodplayers.com **Time:** 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Location: Pinewood Playhouse, Pinewood Country Club, open to the community

YOGA IN THE PARK WITH CHRISTY SHAFT

Breathe deep and flow into summer with yoga sessions for all levels.

Dates & Times:

Friday June 27

Chair Yoga 9 AM, Mat Flow 10 AM

Saturdays June 28 Mat Flow 9:30 AM

Monday June 23, 28

Chair Yoga 9 AM, Mat Flow 10 AM **Location:** Munds Park RV Park Rec Hall

Fee: \$15 per class

SAT & SUN, JUNE 28-29 HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF ARTS

Celebrate the diverse cultures of the Colorado Plateau at this amazing festival featuring Native American artists, dancers, musicians, and cultural experts. Enjoy hands-on activities, live performances, and shop directly from artisans on the scenic grounds of the Museum of Northern AZ.

Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N.

Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ

Admission: \$20/day or \$25/weekend (adults); \$10/day or \$15/weekend (youth 10–17); \$10/weekend (MNA members & Native Americans); FREE for children under 10

JUNE 30 - JULY 6

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS - WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

Celebrate 138 years of rodeo tradition at the World's Oldest Rodeo in Prescott. Enjoy eight thrilling performances, parades, dances, and family-friendly events. Experience the excitement of steer wrestling, bull riding, & barrel racing!

Location: 840 Rodeo Dr., Prescott

Details & Tickets: www.worldsoldestrodeo.com



GET FRESH PRODUCE!

Starting Saturday, May 10, your weekends just got fresher—join us for farm-fresh produce every Saturday through October!

SATURDAY, JULY 5

FAIRLANE PALOOZA!

Celebrate the 4th of July weekend with your neighbors in Munds Park! It's a traditional jam session! Enjoy live music, good company, and a relaxing evening under the pines. Bring chairs and your favorite beverages!

Time: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: 245 E. Fairlane, Munds Park

Admission: Free

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

COCONINO COUNTY BOOKMOBILE

Stop by the Pinewood Clubhouse for the Coconino County Bookmobile on the second Wednesday of each month! Services include free notary, 10¢ black-and-white printing, and access to library materials.

Date: Second Wednesday of every month

Time: 10:45 AM – 2:00 PM Location: Pinewood Clubhouse

SATURDAY, JULY 19 CAMP VERDE CORN FEST

Corn Fest pays homage to the Verde Valley's famous sweet corn, grown at Hauser and Hauser Farms. This is a "corny" old-fashioned family event with plenty of food, fun, games, music, vendors and, of course, sweet corn. Street fair vibes. Roasted Hauser & Hauser corn. Fresh-picked sweetness to take home. What more do you need?

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Hollamon Street & Community Center

Gym, Camp Verde, AZ

Admission: Free (NO PETS, Service Animals only)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30 COUNTRY CLUB CRAFT FAIR

Join the Pinewood Country Club on Labor Day for their annual Craft Fair! All are welcome to support your local artist!

Time: 10AM - 2PM

Location: Pinewood Country Club

OCTOBER 11-12, 2025 FORT VERDE DAYS

Join Camp Verde's biggest homecoming tradition! Fort Verde Days brings 65 years of history to life with a lively Main Street parade, delicious eats, artisan vendors, live music, and special events at Fort Verde State Historic Park.

Time: Saturday 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Parade at 10:00 AM); Sunday 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Main Street & Fort Verde State Historic Park, Camp Verde, AZ

Admission: Free (Service animals only)



SEDONA COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

Join us every Sunday for a sunny marketplace experience! Discover a wide array of local fresh seasonal produce to unique artisan creations.

Date: Every Sunday **Time:** 11 AM - 3 PM

Location: 2201 W SR 89A, West Sedona

PRESCOTT FARMERS MARKET

Support local farmers, enjoy seasonal flavors, and help grow a healthier, stronger local economy with every purchase.

Dates: Every Saturday, 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Location:** 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

MORTIMER FARMS

Shop farm-fresh at Mortimer Farms in Dewey! Open daily with fresh produce, locally raised meat, milk, and eggs—straight from the farm to your table.

Date: Open Daily **Time:** 8 AM – 6 PM

Location: 12907 E State Route 169, Dewey, AZ

OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

Friday nights in the Verde Valley features locally grown fruits and vegetables, artisan foods, and handcrafted goods like pottery, jewelry, and soaps—all set to live local music. Bring a chair, grab a bite, and enjoy a relaxed evening under the trees with your community.

Dates: May 16, 23, 30

Time: 5 p.m. and continue until dark **Location:** 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

VERDE VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

Discover real food from real farmers at the Verde Valley Farmers Market. Enjoy fresh, locally grown produce while supporting our community's farmers. Operated by local growers.

Date: Every Saturday & Friday from May 10 to October 4, 2025

Time: 8 AM - 11 AM

Location: 75 Hollamon St, Camp Verde

WINDMILL PARK FARMERS MARKET

Shop fresh and local every Thursday at Windmill Park! Find farm-to-table produce, sprouts, fruits, nuts, eggs, vegan organics, fresh bread, and honey—straight from local growers.

Date: Every Thursday **Time:** 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: 9950 E Cornville Rd, Cornville, AZ



OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

Shop locally grown fruits & vegetables, homemade items and more while listening to fabulous regional musicians.

Dates: Every Friday, starting May 9

Time: 5 PM Until Dark

Location: 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

FLAGSTAFF URBAN FLEA MARKET

Explore the eclectic and vibrant Flagstaff Urban Flea Market, a gathering of artisans and peddlers offering a unique variety of goods. Find everything from records, antiques, and books to handmade woodwork, ceramics, and vintage clothing. Plus, discover gems and minerals, soaps, used tools, comics, toys, jewelry, up-cycled goods, flowers, and other funky treasures.

Date: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, June 14th through

October 25th

Time: 9 AM - 2 PM

Location: City Hall parking lot, 211 W. Aspen, Downtown Flagstaff on Historic Route 66

Admission: Free

PEDDLER'S PASS OLD-TIME FARMERS & FLEA MARKET

Visit Peddler's Pass Old-Time Farmers & Flea Market in Prescott Valley, a bustling open-air swap meet offering a diverse array of items. From seasonal farm produce and yard-sale secondhand goods to antiques, tools, collectibles, and rocks & gems, there's something for everyone. Known as "the best swap meet in Arizona," this family-friendly market features affordable finds and a wide variety of vendors.

Date: Every Saturday & Sunday, Year-Round **Time:** 6 AM - 3 PM (Early morning is prime

time for the best picks)

Location: 6201 E. State Route 69,

Prescott Valley **Admission:** Free

TWO COYOTES MARKET IN THE PINES

Enjoy a wide selection of fresh baked breads, pastries, pies, various food trucks and vendors selling wonderful crafts!

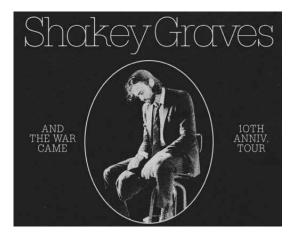
Operated by Munds Park Residents Susan & Bill Havermale

Date: Saturday, May 17, 9 AM - 1 PM **Location:** 17620 N Munds Ranch Rd.



HITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND

All The Good Times: The Farewell Tour Thursday, August 7, 2025 **BUY TICKETS HERE**: pepsiamp.com



SHAKEY GRAVES & THE WAR CAME

10th Anniversary Tour w/ special guest: Batty Jr. Monday, August 25, 2025

BUY TICKETS HERE: pepsiamp.com



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19TH ANNUAL PICKIN' IN THE PINES

Bluegrass & Acoustic Music Festival
September 12-14, 2025
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FLAGSTAFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

Celebrate Flagstaff's music scene at the free Flagstaff Music Festival, featuring local bands across genres like rock, funk, soul, and reggae. Held in downtown's Heritage Square, this community event supports the Haven Walker Music Scholarship Fund.

Date: Saturday, September 20

Time: 2 PM – 9 PM

Location: Heritage Square, Flagstaff

Admission: Free



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About the PPOA

The Pinewood Property Owners' Association (PPOA) was originally incorporated on June 15, 1962, as the Northern-Aire Property Owners' Association, a non-profit organization. The original incorporators were J.P. Donohue, L.D. Beck, E.V. O'Malley Jr., L.L. Oakes, Norman H. Hanson, W.E. Homes Jr., Joseph S. Lentz, and J.E. Dudding. The name was officially changed to Pinewood Property Owners' Association on December 28, 1972. At that time, membership required annual dues of \$10. In 2014, this policy changed—today, everyone who owns property in Munds Park is automatically a member of the PPOA, and there are no annual dues.

About the Awards

Each year, the PPOA recognizes individuals who represent the best of what our community stands for. The Citizen Award is given to those who consistently show commitment to helping others, contributing their time and energy to support Munds Park. The Good Samaritan Award is given to someone who offers help without hesitation, often in simple but meaningful ways that make a difference.

While there may be no formal criteria or lengthy nomination process, the people chosen are those whose actions reflect a spirit of kindness and community service. These awards are about recognizing people who strengthen the fabric of our town by simply showing up and doing good.

CELEBRATING THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Pinewood Property Owners' Association 2025 Citizen & Good Samaritan Awards



CITIZEN AWARD
Dick Drinen

When it comes to public service in Munds Park, few names are as closely tied to volunteer leadership as Dick Drinen. His commitment to the community has spanned many years and many roles.

Dick has served as president of the Pinewood Property Owners Association, where he worked on behalf of the community in countless ways. He made phone calls, attended meetings, and interacted with various county and loal organizations to represent the interests of our residents. That kind of effort takes time, patience, and dedication, all of which Dick gave freely.

He also served as president of the Sanitary Board and currently holds the position of president of the Fire District Board. These are not ceremonial roles. They require consistent involvement, decision-making, and a strong understanding of the community's needs.

What makes Dick's contributions especially meaningful is that all of this work has been volunteer. He did it not for personal gain, but because he cares about Munds Park and wants to see it thrive. His steady leadership has helped guide important decisions and ensure that the systems we rely on continue to function well.

We recognize Dick Drinen not just for holding these positions, but for the years of thoughtful service he has given behind the scenes. His work has helped keep Munds Park moving forward, and we are deeply grateful. This Citizen Award is a small way of saying thank you for all that he has done and continues to do for our town.



Terri Perry

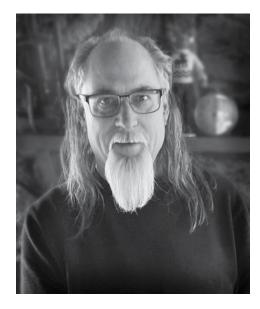
Terri Perry has a quiet way of making a big impact. She doesn't look for attention or praise. Instead, she offers support to others in personal, caring ways, often without people even realizing where the help came from.

One person recalled meeting Terri during one of the hardest times of their life. After learning about a cancer diagnosis, Terri reached out, offering her time, her ear, and her experience. At the time, they had never even met. But Terri had gone through her own journey with cancer, and her willingness to share that experience was a source of strength and comfort.

This is just one example. There are many more like it. Terri gives her time and her heart freely, without ever making a show of it. She is exactly the kind of person who embodies the spirit of the Citizen Award.

Her thoughtfulness, empathy, and natural instinct to help others make her a valued part of Munds Park. She doesn't need to be asked. She sees when people are struggling and steps in with quiet support. That kind of presence leaves a lasting mark.

Terri, we thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. You remind us that one person's kindness can mean the world to someone else. Your care and compassion do not go unnoticed. You make this community stronger, and today, we're proud to honor you.



GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD

Wes Deam Sr.

Every town has someone who always seems to be in the right place at the right time—the person who shows up, rolls up their sleeves, and simply says, "How can I help?" In Munds Park, that person is Wes Deam Sr.

Wes doesn't wait for emergencies to strike. He's already watching, already listening, already ready. When someone posts on Facebook that they're stuck in the snow, he's one of the first to respond—showing up with shovels, chains, and the kind of calm that makes a bad day better. When an event needs volunteers, Wes is there. When a neighbor needs a hand, he doesn't ask why—he just asks when.

This year's Good Samaritan Award is just one small way we can thank Wes for the many big and small ways he gives back. His help isn't flashy, but it's deeply felt. Whether he's digging out a snowbound car or setting up chairs for a community event, Wes brings kindness, dependability, and a genuine desire to make life easier for those around him.

We've written about Wes before and described him as a "gentle guardian"—a quiet presence who makes life better for others in ways large and small. That description still fits. His actions might not always be seen by everyone, but the effects of his kindness are felt throughout the community.

This year, we are proud to recognize Wes Deam Sr. with the Good Samaritan Award. It's a simple way to say thank you for the countless ways he makes this town stronger and more caring. His example reminds us all that even small actions can make a big difference when they come from a generous heart.



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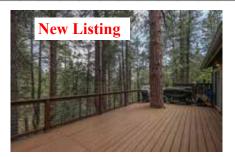
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1320 E. Caribou Rd - \$399,999 **Borders National Forest** 1,012 SqFt, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Large Deck Overlooking Forest Paver Driveway. Call Beth Hausman (623)570-3076



17163 S. Winding Trail - \$595,000 Cedar Log Cabin **Borders National Forest** 984 SqFt, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Large Covered Deck, Large Lot Call Bob Joneas (928)853-8542



17665 S. Mustang Rd - \$650,000 **Single Level Mountain Retreat** Open Great Rm / T&G Wood Ceilings 1,632 SqFt, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Game Room, 2 Car Garage Call Bob Joneas (928)853-8542



17685 S. Palomino Cir - \$539,000 **Charming Chalet Style Retreat** on Cul-de-Sac Lot in Animal Hill Area 1,058 SqFt, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Fireplace, Wrap Around Deck Call Bob Joneas (928)853-8542



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

. . . Continued from page 9A

PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Think Before You Flush: Protect Our Pipes and Planet

Did you know that even wipes labeled "flushable" can wreak havoc on our plumbing and wastewater system?

Despite the marketing, these products do not break down like toilet paper. Instead, they clump together with grease and other debris, forming massive blockages known as "fatbergs." These clogs can cause costly backups in your home and lead to expensive repairs at the wastewater treatment plant.

PSD spends thousands of dollars each year removing these blockages—costs that ultimately affect all of us. The solution is simple: only flush the three P's—pee, poop, and (toilet) paper. Everything else belongs in the trash.



Join Us for "Water Wise in the Pines" – July 19 at 1 PM

To learn more about how you can help protect our water resources, come to the "Water Wise in the Pines" event on Saturday, July 19th at 1 PM at the Pinewood Country Club. This family-friendly event will feature educational booths and water-saving tips. It's a great opportunity to connect with your community and become a steward of our shared environment.

Let's work together to keep our pipes clear and our water clean!

When Selling Your Property

A reminder: as of April 1, 2025, PSD no longer conducts sewer lateral inspections. Property owners who are selling their property must hire a third-party inspector to perform the inspection of the entire lateral sewer line from the dwelling to the mainline tap. The inspection report must then be submitted directly to PSD for review and recordkeeping. This change ensures a more streamlined process and allows for greater flexibility in scheduling inspections.

Rate Increase

Effective July 1st, 2025, the operations/maintenance rate will increase. This adjustment reflects our rising operational costs and continued commitment to maintaining high-quality service. The new rate is \$255 per quarter or \$85 per month. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we implement this necessary change.

Odell Lift Station Construction

Construction of the Odell Lift Station has been delayed due to pending permitting approvals. However, the project is still moving forward and is expected to begin soon. We appreciate the community's patience and continued support as we work through these final steps.

Monthly Board Meetings

You're invited to stay informed and engaged by attending the Pinewood Sanitary District's monthly board meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM. Meetings typically last about an hour and conclude with a call to the public for comments—your voice matters! We hope to see you there.

FLAGSTAFF POLICE TO GET RECRUITMENT AND LEADERSHIP HELP THROUGH STATE GRANT

The Flagstaff City Council has approved a \$150,000 contract to support police recruitment, retention, and leadership training. The contract is fully funded by a grant from the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Awarded to Phoenix-based Performance Protocol, the contract brings in a firm that specializes in law enforcement personnel management. The city is joining an existing state agreement with the firm through cooperative purchasing.

According to city records, the department has lost around 20 officers annually over the past seven years due to transfers, retirements, and career changes. Performance Protocol will audit current hiring practices, train recruitment staff, and implement a data-driven applicant tracking system to help identify successful candidates.

The firm will also lead a leadership bootcamp for supervisors. Police Chief Sean Connolly has said frontline supervision is a major factor in why officers leave departments nationwide. Officers will also receive two years of online coaching and career development services to help reduce burnout and improve retention.

The contract was approved unanimously on the council's June 3 consent agenda.

Ready to Protct and Serve?

The Flagstaff Police Department is looking for dedicated individuals who want to make a difference in their community. If you value integrity, teamwork, and public service, consider a career in law enforcement right here at home. Learn more at flagstaff.az.gov.

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Munds! Looking forward to meeting you.

— Dan, Munds Park Resident

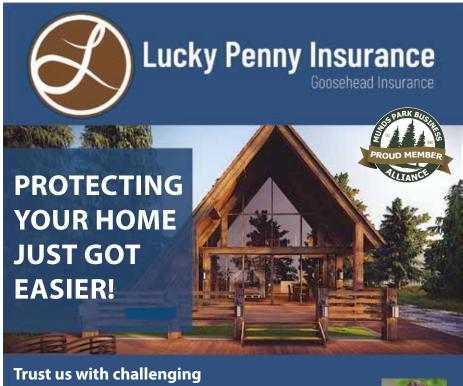
Hi neighbors, I bring Phoenix service and pricing to "Excellent quality product, Rapid Blinds was professional and efficient, we highly recommend."

— John & Stephanie K., Munds Park Residents



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FIGHTING WILD FIRES WITH RED TAPE CUTS

The Promise & Peril of Trump's New Executive Order

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

President Trump has signed an Executive Order "Empowering Common-Sense Wildfire Prevention and Response" in a bid to overhaul how the federal government handles wildfire prevention and response. The move follows the deadly January 2025 wildfires near Los Angeles, which killed at least 30 people and destroyed hundreds of homes. That disaster reignited concerns that local responses were slowed by layers of bureaucracy.

The order gives the Interior and Agriculture Departments 90 days to merge their wildland fire programs. This includes combining budgets, procurement systems, offices, and research efforts. It also directs those agencies to form stronger partnerships with states, tribes, and local governments within the same timeframe. The goal is to create new compacts, mutual-aid agreements, and incentives that let local communities take a greater role in managing and responding to wildfires.

Within 180 days, the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce Departments, along with the White House Office of Science and Technology

Policy, are tasked with delivering a technology roadmap. The plan is expected to focus on artificial intelligence, improved mapping, real-time fire detection, data sharing, and more advanced weather forecasting. The Department of Defense has 210 days to prioritize the sale of surplus aircraft and parts that can be used in firefighting. The executive order also tells agencies to review and remove regulatory barriers that slow prescribed burns, biomass use, wildfire detection, satellite-data sharing, and deployment of firefighting equipment.

The International Association of Fire Fighters, led by President Edward Kelly, has praised the executive order for emphasizing firefighter safety, better coordination, and improved equipment. Support has also come from lawmakers like Representative Fong, who highlighted the plan's focus on giving local firefighters more tools and authority to mitigate wildfire risks.

At the same time, there are critics. Former
U.S. Forest Service chiefs and other wildfire
experts have warned that merging federal
programs during fire season could disrupt
operations and shift focus away from immediate
firefighting needs. Senator Jeff Merkley has
raised concerns about pushing through an
agency reorganization without funding approved
by Congress, arguing that the plan could harm
preparedness efforts. Others worry that loosening
certain environmental rules could create unintended
risks for ecosystems and communities.

Wildfires have been growing larger, more destructive, and more expensive across states such as California, Oregon, and Texas. The executive order promises faster, smarter action through better federal coordination, modern technology, and local partnerships. Whether it delivers will depend on how effectively it is implemented, how quickly agencies move from planning to action, and whether funding comes through in time.

Federal agencies now face a 90-day deadline, by mid-September 2025, to complete the program consolidation and strengthen partnerships. The technology strategy is due within 180 days, by mid-December 2025. The Department of Defense's aircraft plan is expected within 210 days. The executive order represents a major shift in wildfire management policy. Its success will depend on whether those promises lead to meaningful changes before the next major fire strikes.

This article is based on details from the official Executive Order published at whitehouse.gov, analysis and critiques reported by AP News, and a policy summary provided by directivewatch.com.





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The Spicy Mezcalita



Grilled Chicken and Orange Summer Salad



Funfetti Cupcakes

Summer's in Full Swing and the season is officially rolling, and it's great to see the park filled with people enjoying themselves. Sure, the traffic picks up and things get a little louder, but that's part of the fun. For me, it means good company, backyard laughs, and plenty of reasons to cook good meals. Let's jump into some great recipes for your next get-together.

Let's begin with the perfect summer cocktail, the Spicy Mezclita. It's light (no simple syrup) and refreshing, spicy and smoky. Sounds perfect to me! Then when you've got a gang to feed, try this Grilled Chicken and Orange Summer Salad. It's a refreshing salad that can be partially made ahead (grill the chicken ahead of time for simplicity). And, no party is complete without a fun dessert, so let's go with Funfetti Cupcakes. The inner child in you will thank me!

And, speaking of thank you's, after 25 years, I will be leaving Mund's Park. I am so sad to be leaving this lovely community and I am so appreciative and thankful for all the friends I have made and the support that I have received for my blog, The Fancy Pants Kitchen. Thank you for reading my column in the Pinewood News and for following my website. Please don't be strangers...I can always be reached at francine@thefancypantskitchen.com.

With love,

Francine Coles

The Spicy Mezcalita

Makes: 2 cocktails Prep Time: 5 minutes

Total Time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- 3 ounces tequila
- 11/2 ounce mezcal
- 2 1/4 ounce Cointreau
- 2 1/4 ounce fresh lime juice
- 2 slices of fresh jalapeño (plus 2 slices to garnish)
- 2 slices of fresh lime (2 garnish)

Directions

- 1. Combine the tequila, mezcal, Cointreau, lime juice, and 2 slices of jalapeño in a shaker.
- 2. Add ice to above the level of the liquid and shake vigorously for 15 seconds.
- 3. Strain the mixture into chilled rocks glasses containing large cubes of ice and garnish with remaining lime and jalapeño slices.

... Continued on page 21A



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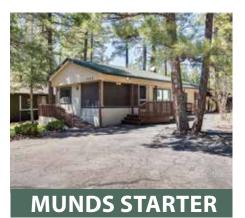
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\$200,000 856 Hillside Munds Park

2/2 plus bonus addition. Great lot location on semi cul de sac. Perfect for new build or new manufactured home.



\$500,00 17680 Mormon Munds Park

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\$625,000 410 E Turkey Tr Munds Park

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\$600,000 1230 Caribou, Munds Park

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1,350,007122 W Redfield NW Peoria

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\$275,000 6804 Turquoise Peoria

1000 sq ft 2bd/1 bath 2 car garage investment opportunity Fix up needs repair

HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

. . . Continued from page 19A

Grilled Chicken and Orange Summer Salad

Makes: 4 Servings Prep Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

- 6 grilled or cooked chicken breasts, cut across the grain into strips
- 2 cups mixed baby greens
- 1 romaine lettuce, washed and torn into small pieces
- 2 oranges, peeled and cut into segments or 2 Asian pears, cut into thin slices
- 1 English cucumber, cut into julienne strips
- 1 red pepper, cut into julienne strips
- 1 pint blueberries
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/2 cup toasted almonds
- Red Chili Flakes

Citrus Dressing

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 2 tsp Kosher salt
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp granulated garlic

Directions

- 1. Pinch each of red chili flakes and black pepper
- 2. In a serving bowl, layer the lettuce, oranges, julienned vegetables, berries, chicken and end with toasted nuts. Cover and chill.
- 3. Citrus Dressing: Mix all ingredients together in a blender and dress salad just before serving. Do not toss salad.

Funfetti Cupcakes

Makes: 24 Servings Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 20 minutes Total Time: 35 minutes

Ingredients for the Cupcakes

- 1/2 cup butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs, room temperature
- 2 tbsp vanilla extract
- 3 cups cake flour (See Chef's Notes)
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/3 cups buttermilk
- 1/3 cup rainbow sprinkles

For the Frosting

- 1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1.5 pounds powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons whole milk

Directions for The Funfetti Cupcakes

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350°F and grease and line 24 cupcake tins with liners. Set aside.
- 2. In a large mixing bowl fitted with a whisk attachment, beat the softened butter and oil together until they become homogenous, about 3 minutes. This will not work if your butter is not completely room temperature.
- 3. Slowly add the granulated sugar to the oil and butter, beating on high until the mixture is light and fluffy and turns a very pale yellow, about 3 minutes.
- 4. Add the eggs in one at time, scraping down the bowl in between each addition. Add the vanilla extract. Beat the mixture on high for 3 minutes more to incorporate as much air as possible.
- 5. In a separate bowl sift together the cake flour, salt, and baking powder. Alternate mixing in the dry ingredients and the buttermilk in 4 batches, starting with the buttermilk and ending with the dry ingredients. Fold in the sprinkles until well mixed. It's okay if the batter still has a few lumps in it—you don't want to over mix it.
- 6. Use a large cookie scoop or a 1/4 cup measuring cup to split the batter evenly into the prepared cupcake tins and bake for 20-30 minutes or until the cupcakes are lightly golden brown and spring back when pressed. Take out of the oven and transfer to a cooling rack. Let the cupcakes cool completely and frost with your favorite frosting!

Directions for The Frosting

- 1. In a stand mixer, beat the softened butter and powdered sugar together until fluffy, about 2 minutes.
- 2. Add in the vanilla, salt and a tablespoon of milk one at a time. If the frosting seems to be getting too runny, stop adding milk. Beat for 3 minutes, or until light and fluffy. Transfer the frosting to a pastry bag fit with a large star tip and frost the cooled cupcakes. Top with rainbow sprinkles or leave plain. Enjoy!

Chef's Notes

- If you can't find cake flour, substitute by measuring out 3 cups of regular flour (following this tip). Remove 6 tablespoons flour and add in 6 tablespoons corn starch. Sift 2 times then use in the place of regular flour.
- Make sure all your ingredients are at true room temperature so that they incorporate seamlessly.
- Do not over mix the batter! This can dry out your cake and cause the sprinkles to bleed into the batter!

Originally featured in June 2021, this recipe was too good to leave behind. It's back by popular demand and still a crowd-pleaser.

TRAVEL

The Real Stories Behind the Real Steel Magnolia Town in Louisiana

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG



Steel Magnolia House Bed and Breakfast Stacey Wittig photo



Paddleboarding on the Cane River Stacey Wittig photo



Kaffie Frederick General Mercantile, Louisiana's oldest general store Stacey Wittig photo

Have you ever landed somewhere that felt like Father Time hit the pause button—in a good way? That's exactly what happened when I rolled into Natchitoches (say it with me: Nak-a-Tish), the first French settlement in Louisiana. This place oozes Creole flavor, rich history and a kind of Southern warmth that pulls you right in and doesn't let go.

If you're hungry for culture, food that sings or a walk through movie history, you'll find plenty to do in Natchitoches. From storied architecture and legendary meat pies to dazzling holiday lights and gators you can feed with a cane pole—this town serves up surprises at every turn.

Savor the Soul of Creole Cooking

If you're like me and will travel anywhere for food, then get ready to fall hard for Natchitoches. The town's cuisine is a delicious fusion of French, Spanish and African influences—each bite telling the story of Louisiana's rich cultural tapestry.

I devoured buttery crawfish étouffée, cheesy shrimp and grits and praline bacon that could make you weep with joy. But it was the legendary Natchitoches Meat Pie that truly surprised me. Designated an official state food, this deep-fried handheld pie—crisp and golden thanks to peanut oil—tastes like a cross between an empanada and a home-cooked Southern goody.

Walk Where the Steel Magnolias Bloomed

Fans of Steel Magnolias will instantly recognize the movie's real-life setting right here in Natchitoches. The town doubled as the filming location for the beloved film, and today, you can stay in the very house where Sally Field's character lived.

The Steel Magnolias Self Guided Tour is one of the most nostalgic attractions in Natchitoches. Pick up a map at the Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau on cobbled Front Street, where you can also find guides for walking tours and plantation drives along the scenic Cane River.

Glide Through Gator Country

For a thrilling twist on things to do, head just outside town to Gator Country Louisiana—the largest alligator park in the state. Spread across seven acres, this hands-on wildlife park is home to over 250 American alligators plus emus, tortoises and more.

Watch live gator feedings, explore the jungle trail and even try feeding a gator with a cane pole. With kid-friendly attractions and educational exhibits, Gator Country delivers wild fun for all ages.

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Architectural Gems and Timeless Landmarks

Wandering through downtown Natchitoches feels like stepping into a storybook. The entire lakefront district is a National Historic Landmark, where every street corner whispers a tale from the past. Among the most charming aspects of Natchitoches are its architecture—a stunning blend of Queen Anne, Italianate, Victorian, Spanish Revival, and iconic French Creole styles.

One standout is Kaffie Frederick General Mercantile, the oldest general store in Louisiana. Inside, a late 1800s freight elevator still creaks its way upward, and purchases are rung up on antique registers. I found myself wide-eyed, surrounded by tin toys, cast-iron cookware and cotton scales once used by farmers in a very different world.

Step Into the Past at Magnolia Plantation

For a deeper understanding of Louisiana's complex history, one of the most compelling things to do in Natchitoches LA is a visit to Magnolia Plantation, part of Cane River Creole National Historical Park. Founded in the 1700s, this remarkably preserved site tells the story of Creole plantation life through original outbuildings, including slave cabins, a blacksmith shop and a rare cotton gin barn.

Wander the grounds on a self-guided tour and explore how generations of enslaved people, tenant farmers and landowners shaped the region's agricultural legacy. It's a powerful and essential stop among the historical attractions in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Lights, History and Holiday Magic

Every holiday season, Natchitoches transforms into a sparkling wonderland with more than 300,000 twinkling lights along its riverfront. The Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights, now in its 98th year, is one of the most dazzling things to do in Natchitoches.

During the festivities (which run from November 23 through January 6), you'll find Saturday night fireworks, music at the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, holiday theater at Northwestern University and candlelit reenactments at Fort St. Jean Baptiste. It's a celebration that feels like stepping into your favorite holiday movie—complete with Southern charm and community joy.

Let Natchitoches Steal Your Heart

For travelers seeking soul stirring experiences, add Natchitoches to your bucket list. The stories, tastes, lights and landmarks await—ready to awaken your sense of awe.

If You Go

Fly into Shreveport, Louisiana, with service from American, Delta or United. Start your journey with a stay at Fairfield Manor, a lovingly restored 1870s mansion where Southern hospitality shines. Before the 1.5-hour drive to Natchitoches, I kicked off my trip with a gourmet breakfast created by the inn's owner, Chef John Cariere. The home's rich, color-filled décor made me feel like I had awakened inside an Impressionist painting.

Fairfield Manor Bed and Breakfast

2300 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA www.fairfieldmanorbedandbreakfast.com

Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau

780 Front Street, Suite 100, Natchitoches, LA www.natchitoches.com

Enjoy this story? Then go to UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com for more travel inspiration!







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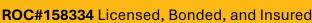
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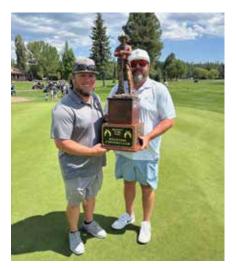


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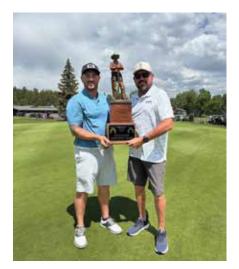
Game Highlights from Pinewood Country Club—Bragging Rights Start Here



On May 10 -11 The Pinewood Men's Golf Association held their Ryder Cup event. Team Canada captained by Doug Grey emerged victorious over Team America.



Hogan Division: Andy Gulick and Jake Ramsav.



Palmer Division: Scott and Nick Francis

The Annual Shootout in the Pines

The Annual Shootout in the Pines member guest tournament was held on June 6-8. This years winners were:

- Palmer Division: Scott and Nick Francis
- Hogan Division: Andy Gulick and Jake Ramsay.

Congratulations to the winners and all of the participants.

Two Day Electric Tournament

On May 31 and June 1 the Pinewood Men's Golf Association held their two day Electric tournament. The flight winners were:

- Elk flight- Glenn Gerston
- Pine Cone flight- Tie between Tom Walker and Brian Palumbo
- Coyote flight- Gary Harper

Pinewood Golfers, Share Your Tips!

Do you have golf advice that could help your fellow players? Want to share your favorite weekend pro tips with the community? The Pinewood News is looking for Pinewood Country Club members who are ready to contribute to our new golf feature.

Whether it's a great putting drill, how to handle a tricky hole at the club, or advice on course strategy, we want to hear from you.

Ways you can contribute:

- Send us your best golf tips or strategies
- Share advice that's worked for you at Pinewood
- Submit photos

You don't need to be a professional writer. We'll polish it up for print.

Email your tips to: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com Your game. Your knowledge. Your paper.

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Any member of the Pinewood Country Club is welcome to submit scores, match results, or sporting event highlights to The Pinewood News. Whether it's golf, pickleball, or a surprise underdog win—we want to hear about it!

Send your stats and photos to: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com



EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR ARIZONA CHILDREN'S THEATER'S MADAGASCAR JR.

Young Stars, Big Dreams, and a Community Ready to Roar!

Anticipation is growing as Arizona Children's Theatre prepares to bring the jungle to life with its upcoming production of Madagascar Jr. Audiences can't wait to see their favorite characters hit the stage and behind the scenes, a passionate cast of young performers will be hard at work, rehearsing lines, learning choreography, and building friendships that will last long after the final curtain falls.

The musical, based on the wildly popular DreamWorks animated film, features the adventures of four zoo animals — Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, and Gloria the Hippo — as they break free from the Central Park Zoo and land in the wild world of Madagascar. With energetic musical numbers, colorful costumes, and laughout-loud moments, Madagascar Jr. promises to be an unforgettable theatrical experience.

What makes this production even more special? It's being brought to life by a cast of local children, many of whom are stepping onto the stage for the very first time.

"Our mission is to invite all children to an educational experience so that they will discover the joy and love of musical theatre. Then share that gift with our general public. We will leave no child behind," says director Lynn Rouyer.

And it's not too late for your child to join in! Arizona Children's Theatre continues to welcome new performers year-round, with exciting roles and educational opportunities in every production. Whether your child dreams of a spotlight moment or wants to try something new in a supportive, fun environment, the stage is waiting.

Families interested in participating can register today at https://www. arizonachildrenstheatre.com.

Performances of Madagascar Jr. will take place at Munds Park Community Church from July 23 - July 25, and tickets will sell out quickly. Don't miss your chance to see this heartwarming, high-energy musical that's fun for all ages.

Come support local youth, experience the magic of live theatre, and discover how your child can be part of the next show — only at Arizona Children's Theatre!



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BY JILL & MICHAEL GALLINA. SHAWNEE PRESS

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THE WOMEN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Drama Camp's Dynamic Duo Marks Fifth Year of Theater Magic

BY CINDY SMITH



Nancy Cummings



Lu Cross



Jennifer Adams



Elizabeth Peterson

Munds Park residents and Pinewood Players Board members, Nancy Cummings and Lu Cross are looking forward to their fifth season together as Drama Camp administrators. Every year our Drama Campers delight us with quality performances. Nancy and Lu are the dynamic duo that work behind the scenes to provide the quality content in a safe and nurturing environment for both Kids Kamp and Youth Drama Camp. The Pinewood Players Drama Camp has supported young Munds Park actors for 24 years! Our kids gain confidence, learn group cooperation, develop performance skills, and gain an appreciation of all aspects of theater—all while having a great time!

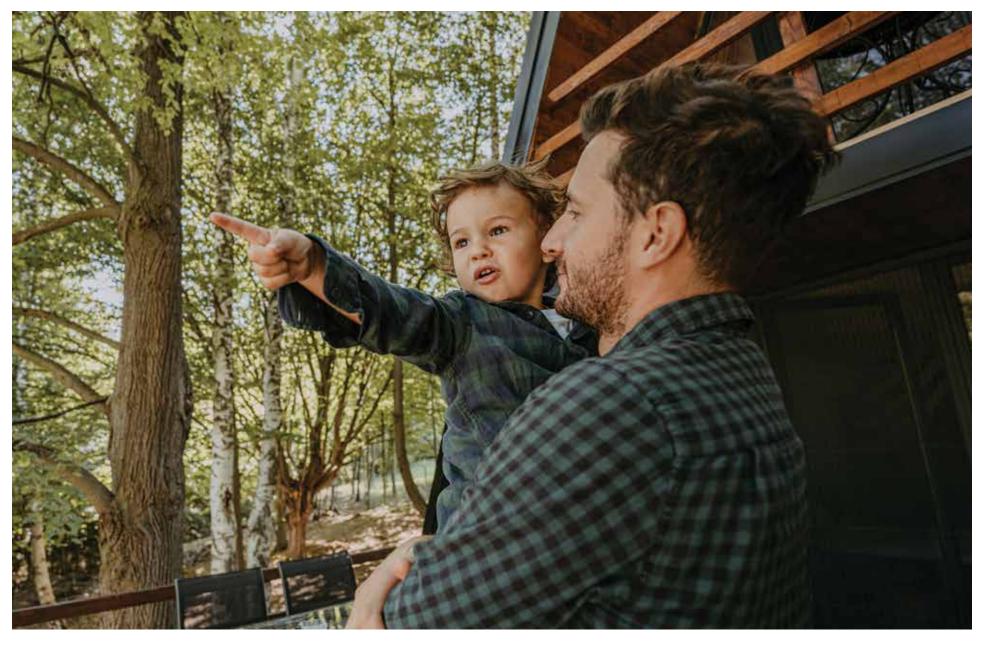
Kids Kamp will be performing Off Their Rockers at the conclusion of the two-week day camp experience. The story takes place in a senior center where all is quiet and calm until the director decides to use music and dance to bring fun and excitement into the lives of the seniors. Through song and dance that were part of the seniors' pasts, they are encouraged to get Off Their Rockers and join in the fun.

The community is very supportive of our "little men and women" and it shows through the sold-out ticket sales year after year.

The Directors of Kids Kamp are Jennifer Adams and Elizabeth Peterson, two talented performing arts, teaching professionals committed to our Youth Drama programs.

Tickets for this performance highlighting our 6- to 8-year-olds are easy to purchase. Simply log onto www.pinewoodplayers.com/tickets and follow the instructions. If you prefer to buy your tickets at the box office, the hours are Saturday 10am to noon or one hour before each performance.

See you at the show!



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Providing you safe, reliable energy is our top priority. That's why we work year-round to prepare for wildfires. During elevated fire conditions, power outages may be extended until crews can perform visual inspections of lines and remove any potential hazards that could pose a fire risk. In the event of a wildfire or severe wildfire risk, power lines may be temporarily taken out of service to protect your community and firefighters. Working together, we can be prepared. Here are some things you can do to be ready for wildfire season.

- Keep grass, weeds, trees and shrubs trimmed. Dispose of trimmings and trash properly.
- Get emergency alerts through local resources and visit ein.az.gov to create an emergency preparedness plan. Visit your county's website to get important information for your area.
- We care about your safety and want to keep you informed with alerts if there's an outage in your area. You can help us by making sure your contact information is up to date. Learn more about managing your alert preferences at aps.com/alerts.
- Have flashlights, batteries, a portable cell phone charger and water handy.

Please visit aps.com/wildfiresafety for more information.





THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Can the Upper Verde River Finally Get the Protection It Deserves?

BY TEDDY JOHNSON

There's a stretch of river in northern Arizona that still runs wild. Clear water winds through rugged canyons. Cottonwoods line the banks. Trout, deer, and eagles still call it home. That river is the Upper Verde, and former Camp Verde mayor Tony Gioia is working to make sure it stays wild for generations to come.

The Upper Verde flows from east of Paulden down to Clarkdale. It is a magnet for outdoor loversanglers, hikers, paddlers, and hunters. The Verde Canyon Railroad rolls along its edge, giving visitors a front-row seat to one of Arizona's most scenic corridors. But despite its importance, the river does not have permanent federal protection.

Gioia is hoping to change that by

pushing for a Wild and Scenic River designation through Congress. The designation would preserve water quality, maintain access, and guide long-term management without shutting out recreation. In short, it would help the river stay as it is, while giving land managers the tools they need to protect it.

To qualify, a river needs "outstandingly remarkable values," a standard set by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Gioia says the Upper Verde meets every criteria. And he is not the only one who thinks so.

Support is growing. Senator Mark Kelly visited Clarkdale in April to observe water quality testing on the river. Every town in Yavapai County, including Prescott, has sent letters of support. The U.S. Forest Service has recommended the designation to Congress. Governor Katie Hobbs also joined the call, describing the Verde as Arizona's longest surviving living river. Her letter highlighted its recreational value, its role in supporting 21 endangered species, and its billion-dollar annual impact on the state's economy.



Photo by Joe Trudeau

Gioia has also spoken with Congressman Eli Crane's staff and is pushing for bipartisan support. He points to the fact that four rivers received the same designation during President Trump's first term, hoping that history might help guide the effort forward.

The first step was getting local buyin, and that has already happened. Now the focus shifts to Washington. For anyone who has floated its waters, cast a line into its current, or just paused to take in the quiet beauty of its canyons, the hope is clear. The Upper Verde is still wild. And many believe the time has come to make sure it stays that way.

Why the Upper Verde Matters

The Upper Verde River, along with its key tributaries Granite Creek and Sycamore Creek, forms the headwaters of the Verde River. This is one of Arizona's most vital waterways. It supplies nearly 40 percent of Phoenix's surface water, supports the recreational and farming economies of the Verde Valley, and holds deep cultural importance for the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The watershed also provides essential habitat for 35 species of wildlife that are listed as threatened, endangered, sensitive, or of concern. Protecting the Upper Verde is not just about preserving a beautiful river. It is about securing water, wildlife, culture, and the future of Arizona.



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Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B

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ACROSS

- 1. Scissors cut 5. Blue Bonnet, e.g.
- 9. Humiliate 14. "___ on Down the painter
- Road" 15. Pitch a tent
- 16. Hiawatha's craft
- 17. Worshipper of all
- 19. ___ of roses
- 20. Explosive 21. Corn servina
- 22. Brownish-yellow
- shades
- 23. Cyst
- 24. Computer
- acronvm 26. Delicate
- 29. How to drive while place
- eating a sandwich
- 33. Jamaican exports
- 34. "M*A*S*H" role 35. "I ____ at the office"
- 36. In the center of
- 37. Get out of bed
- 38. Do laps in the
- 39. NASA scrub

- 40. Early whirlybirds 41. Strange, in
- Scottish slang 42. Ancient WALL
- 44. Catalogs
- 45. An English thane.
- 46. Sweltering 47. Donut-shaped
- 50. Soak up some rays
- 51. "___, humbug!" 54. Sweeping tool
- 55. Furnish with
- battlements, as a
- castle
- 58. Highlanders, e.g. 59. Grand Canyon
- National
- 60. Ancient gathering
- 61. Ottoman title
- 62. "Shoo!" 63. Part of USDA
- **DOWN**
- 1. Aug. follower 2. Indian bread
- 3. "___ that special?!"

- 4. Teacher's favorite
 - 5. Neptune's realm 6. Lion's den

 - 7. Printer's measures 8. Decide to leave,
 - with "out" 9. Source of gum
 - arabic
 - 10. Bikini, e.g.
 - 11. Add to the pot
 - 12. Fly high
 - 13. His and 18. Replaceable shoe
 - part
 - 22. Yellowish earth tones
 - 23. Third molar 24. Fireplace
 - equipment
 - 25. Add spice to
 - 26. Swiss capital 27. Scuttlebutt
 - 28. Compadre
 - 29. Rowing a boat 30. Sunup times 31. Boot

- 32. Audition tapes
- 34. Unkempt
- 43. Gandhi's principle of nonviolence
- 44. "The ___ Ranger"
- 46. Like a
- Chippendales dancer
- 47. Cook's meas.
- 48. Shamu, for one
- 49. Outback hoppers
- 50. "Buona _ (Italian greeting)
- 51. Diminish
- 52. At the summit of 53. Miami basketball
- team
- 55. Bean counter, for short
- 56. Rarer than rare
- 57. "Acid"







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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Osteoporosis "The Silent Thief"

BY CHRISTY SHAFT, PHYSICAL THERAPIST



Throughout our lives, we all encounter various medical challenges. One commonly overlooked area is osteoporosis and osteopenia. Osteoporosis is defined by most professionals as "a musculoskeletal disorder characterized by compromised bone strength, which predisposes individuals to an increased risk of fractures." Osteopenia, on the other hand, is defined as low bone mass, with bone density lower than normal but not low enough to be classified as osteoporosis.

When combined with poor posture, weak bones may lead to symptoms of osteoporosis sooner rather than later. Weak spinal muscles

and improper posture can exert pressure on the spine, resulting in compression fractures that can be quite painful. If you've noticed a loss of height or have developed a significant curvature in your upper back, you may have sustained compression fractures due to osteoporosis. Interestingly, only 20–30% of vertebral fractures are symptomatic, meaning you could have a compression fracture without even realizing it. Poor posture and weak muscles contribute to this type of fracture, and the progressive shift in posture alone can cause persistent back pain and compress the heart, lungs, and other internal organs, limiting their optimal function.

In addition to compression fractures of the spine, weak bones can lead to serious complications if you sustain an injury or fall, resulting in broken bones and debilitating problems. While fractures in the spine are the most common, any bone in the body can be affected. The second most common fracture among individuals over 65 is in the hip, which is also the most disabling type of fracture. Hip fractures have a surprisingly high mortality rate in older adults—higher than many people realize, even exceeding the one-year death rate of some major injuries like car crashes.

Many people believe that osteoporosis only affects the elderly and frail. However, it can impact individuals of all ages, genders, and ethnicities. Therefore, everyone must recognize the serious issues it can cause and learn ways to promote bone strength.

How to Strengthen Your Bones?

Exercise

- Start by consulting your MD about a bone density scan to assess your bone strength, followed by a discussion on potential medications if indicated.
- Weight-bearing exercise is the leading strategy proven to enhance new bone formation. Begin a walking program, even if it starts with just 10 minutes per day—get up and get moving!
- Learn a postural strengthening program tailored for individuals with osteoporosis or osteopenia. Resistance exercises for your midback and joints are also crucial for strengthening bones. You can use weights, elastic bands, or your own body weight.

- There are specific exercises and programs recommended for osteoporosis. Consult with your doctor or physical therapist to guide your health in the right direction while considering other joint issues, such as osteoarthritis, that you may already be facing.
- Some studies suggest that vibration therapy might improve bone mineral density. This approach uses devices like vibration plates or targeted vibration tools such as Theraguns or Hyperice Hypervolts. While promising, it's still considered an emerging therapy, so talk with your provider before use.

Diet

- Monitor your diet to ensure adequate intake of calcium, magnesium, Vitamin D3, and Vitamin K2—1,000 to 1,200 mg of calcium per day for post-menopausal women and 800 to 1,000 IU of Vitamin D. Note: Your body can only absorb about 500 mg of calcium at one time, so spread out your doses throughout the day!
- Don't forget magnesium and Vitamin K2—they play key roles in helping calcium do its job.
- Ensure sufficient protein intake for strong muscles.
- Incorporate fruits and whole grains, which contain phytochemicals that support bone health.
- Limit alcohol to no more than two drinks per day, as excessive intake can hinder calcium absorption. Too much coffee can also limit calcium absorption.
- Avoid excessive salt, sugar, and phosphate additives (often found in processed foods), which can interfere with calcium retention.
- Include healthy fats rich in Omega-3, such as olive oil, flaxseed, fish oil, soybeans, or avocado.



LOCAL AUTHOR FEATURE

We Are Not The Same

BY SABRINA GRIMALDI



Author Sabrina Grimaldi

My name is Sabrina Grimaldi, and I'm a Phoenix native and journalist, but northern Arizona has become my second home. I spent my college years in Flagstaff at NAU and have spent many summers exploring the pines, lake, and cabins of Munds Park. That love inspired We Are Not the Same, my debut young adult novel, which takes place in a fictionalized version of Munds Park, along with scenes set in Flagstaff and Phoenix.

The novel, released in May, flips the classic love triangle trope. Instead of competing for a boy, the two main characters—Mati and Aspen—struggle to understand themselves while navigating societal pressures and identity. The story takes place over Fourth of July weekend in a small Arizona mountain town, with a pivotal parade scene inspired by Munds Park's own celebration.

I'll be in town for this year's parade and would love to say hello if you see me! And for anyone spending the holiday weekend in Flagstaff, I'll be signing books at the Barnes & Noble Flagstaff on Saturday, July 5th from 2-4 pm-stop by and grab a signed copy! It's the perfect summer read, especially if you're already in town to celebrate the holiday.

Outside of fiction, I've worked as a freelance journalist and book editor for nearly a decade. I'm also the founder of The Zillennial Zine, a lifestyle magazine featured in CNN, USA Today, and The New York Times.

Sharing this story in the community that inspired it means the world to me. It's available now on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and on request at local bookstores. Follow me on social media @bysabrinagrimaldi for upcoming events & more!



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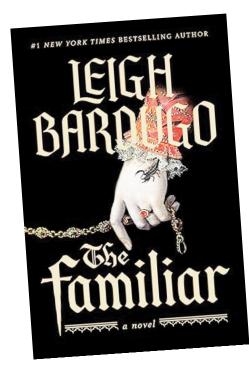
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BOOK REVIEW

The Familiar

BY SANDY WRIGHT



Luzia is a young girl who works in the household of a poor noble family in 16th century Madrid. Accustomed to misery and drudgery in her job, she sings little magic proverbs to make her life a tiny bit easier—phrases to fix a tear in a skirt, to unburn bread, to multiply one egg into two.

When her mistress, Valentina, learns of Luzia's magical talents, she coerces Luzia to perform these "milagritos" for her guests. Word of Luzia's performances circulates, and Don Victor de Paredes, a wealthy man who wants

to gain King Phillip's favor, decides to

become her patron and enter her in a tournament for the king. She will be in a magical competition where the victor will be the King's holy champion.

But this is the time of the Inquisition. There is a fine line between miracles and witchcraft. Luzia's secret Jewish heritage and her magical powers could mean her death.

Don Victor and Valentina outfit Luzia in fine gowns and place her under the tutelage of Victor's mysterious servant, Santangel. Known as El Alacran, The Scorpion. Santangel is rumored to have made a deal with the devil himself so he will never die.

I enjoyed the depth of the relationship between Santangel and Liza. He helps her during her preparation for the competitions and is captivated by her cunning, her naïve honesty, even her hair.

Luzia gradually learns that her powers are not as small as everyone first thought. As her powers grow, so does her determination to control her own fate.

The Familiar is a story with religion, politics and power plays, betrayals and friendships. But it goes deeper. The author eloquently exposes the brutality inflicted on the Jews and others during the Spanish Inquisition. It's a shameful real-life history, full of hidden perils. Fear that an improper conversation could be overheard. Grief and loss about friends and family left behind.

In short, the book is about how everyone suffers when religion imposes its beliefs on a minority, told through the personal lenses of the main character's stories. It's a captivating and painful read by Leigh Bardugo. If you appreciate a rich historical fantasy mixed with a strong dose of magic, this book is for you.

- The Familiar
- By Leigh Bardugo
- Flatiron Books, March 2025
- 400 pages



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MUNDS PARK INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS!



MUNDS PARK JULY 3RD ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE!

Please join us for the 5th annual Electric Light Parade, July 3, 2025. Group assembles at 7 pm in the parking lot next to the Chevron and the parade begins at 8:00 pm.

All lighted motor vehicles are invited to attend. All vehicles must be street legal with licensed drivers. Be sure and check the Munds Park Facebook groups and the Pinewood News for any late breaking updates.

Flashlight Volunteers: We request the assistance of flashlight volunteers to ensure smooth traffic flow and safety along the route. Spectator Safety: In the spirit of safety, we encourage all spectators to bring a flashlight or other lighted item. Let's illuminate the way together and make this event a shining success. Please remember to keep children and pets under close supervision throughout the evening. Get ready to be dazzled at the 5th Annual Electric Light Parade!

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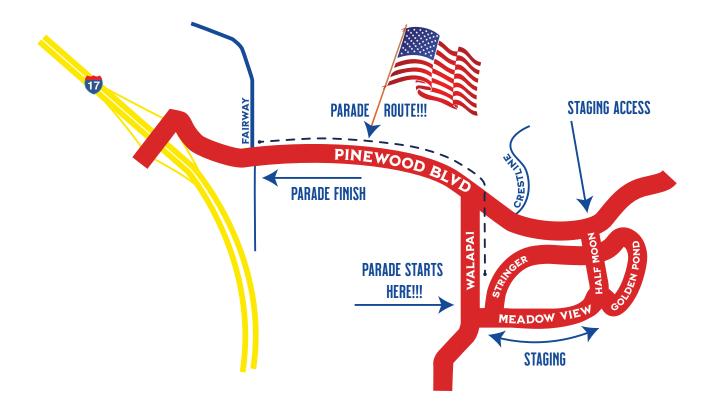
Without you even noticing, the wind can catch one hot ember and take it a mile away and set the forest ablaze.

Nobody wants to be *that* person who sets the community on fire. Seriously. That's not the legacy you're going for.

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KEEP OUR FOREST SAFE. NO FIREWORKS.



MUNDS PARK 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Sponsored by Pinewood Property Owners' Association

It's not too late! Sign up for the Munds Park 4th of July and be a part of this special event!

There is a 150 vehicle limit, so please preregister!
Name:
Vehicle License:
Munds Park Address:
Phone Number:
Email:
Type of Entry: (check one) □ ATV □ Truck □ Truck w/trailer □ Other:
Approximate number of persons on vehicle/trailer:

Return the form to the front desk at the Pinewood Country Club or the Munds Park Post Office during regular business hours. You may also mail it to Len Friedlund at P.O. Box 17011, Munds Park, AZ, or submit electronically at www.pinewoodppoa.org.

For Information Call: Len Friedlund at (928) 600-3896



PINEWOOD NEWS 4TH OF JULY PARADE FLOAT CONTEST!

The winners of our 3rd Annual Pinewood News 4th of July Parade Float Contest will be featured on the cover of Pinewood News — along with a special story celebrating their creativity and craft. This is your chance to have your float, your team, and your artistic talent recognized in the community's favorite publication!

Participant Information

Participant staging starts on Meadow View Rd at Walapai Rd and lines up on Meadow View Rd, Blue Heron Pl, Golden Pond, and Stringer Rd beginning at 8 am. The staging area is accessed from Pinewood Blvd at Half Moon Rd, and participants should follow the directions from event staff who will be directing the vehicles to ensure driveways and streets are not blocked. Walkers and bicyclists will stage in the last condo driveway south on Walapai Rd. Pinewood Blvd and Walapai Rd will close to traffic at 9:45 am, and participants should be in the staging area and in line before 10 am.

Parade Rules

- Observe the rules or be subject to suspension the following year.
- Participation in the parade is strictly at your own risk.
- No alcohol.
- Vehicles must be in the staging area before 10:00 am.
- Licensed drivers only.
- Maintain a safe pace.
- Tossing candy or other items from vehicles is prohibited.
- Spraying water on parade spectators is prohibited.
- Vehicles must not stop on the parade route, or on Fairway to unload participants after the parade is over.
- Registration forms must be completed before the parade.
- License plates must be visible.
- We want everyone to have a great time. Political banners are discouraged.

ON VACATION WITH THE PINEWOOD NEWS

Pack It, Snap It, Share It

BY OUR READERS



From Munds Park to Italy. Paul Wills, his wife, and The Pinewood News soaking up the good life. Bellissimo!



Terri Thorson took The Pinewood News for a wee stroll along the River Liffey. It sure was lovely!



Norma Whitaker's camp checklist: Tent? Check. Great grandsons? Check. The Pinewood News by the fire? Double check.

Got The Pinewood News packed in your suitcase? Send us a photo from your getaway. Let's see where our little paper ends up next! Send your photos to Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.





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GARDENING IN THE PARK

Firewise Gardening & Protecting Your Home from Wildfires

BY MISTI WARNER-ANDERSEN

Sponsored by Warner's Nursery

One of the many joys of living in Northern Arizona is being surrounded by the beauty of ponderosa pines and aspens. Our forests offer peaceful trails, vibrant wildlife, and a stunning landscape to call home. But living in the forest also means accepting the responsibility of wildfire risk.

Although this year's prediction is that Flagstaff will experience a normal monsoon season (which officially started on June 15th), we are coming off one of the driest winters on record. High temps, low moisture, and windy weather have already caused the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County to enact Stage One fire restrictions.

Why Firewise Gardening Matters

While it may feel counterintuitive to focus on wildfire during monsoon season, it's actually an ideal time to prepare. Creating a "defensible" or "survivable" space around your home through smart landscaping can make all the difference when fire threatens.

The idea is simple: reduce the likelihood of your home igniting from wind-driven embers or creeping ground flames. You do this by selecting fire-resistant plants, spacing them wisely, and eliminating "ladder fuels"—those flammable layers that help fire climb from ground to treetop.

From Warner's Nursery Crew to Wildfire Specialist

One new local business that's bringing a firefighter's perspective to home protection is Advanced Fire Defense, founded this year by Flagstaff resident Mike Felts.

Mike got his first summer job 27 years ago as a member of Warner's plant and delivery crew. He went on to be a firefighter and is now a Captain with 19 years of service and a certification as a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist.

"At Advanced Fire Defense, we strive to protect our neighborhoods by empowering homeowners to take proactive steps against wildfire risks," he said. "Through professional firefighter-led solutions that truly work, we help build more resilient communities with shared protection strategies, offering peace of mind through proven preparation." Advanced Fire Defense offers certified home inspections to assess wildfire vulnerabilities, connects homeowners to trusted contractors to address problem areas, and is a distributor and applicator of Komodo Fire Retardant, an eco-friendly treatment that protects trees, fences, and plants until it's washed away by three inches of moisture.

Mike's number one piece of advice to keep your home firewise? "Concentrate heavily on the immediate o to 5 feet zone—meaning the home itself and five feet around it."



Flagstaff resident Mike Felts

He suggests measures to prevent embers from penetrating a home, such as 1/8" mesh on all attic and crawlspace vents. Keeping gutters and roofs clean of debris is also key to protecting your home.

"From a landscape perspective, use fire-resistant materials to create a five-foot barrier around the home," he added. "Landscape rock, sidewalks, or brick pathways are a great example of this. Use green, high-moisture plants and plant them in spaced groups if near exterior walls. Lastly, keep the yard clean and clear of heavy debris, pine-needles, and keep native grasses moved to 4 to 6 inches."

You Don't Have to Sacrifice Beauty for Safety

The goal of firewise gardening isn't to remove the nature you love - it's to live in harmony with it safely. With thoughtful plant selection, strategic design, and regular upkeep, your property can be both gorgeous and resilient.

If you have questions about firewise plants or would like personalized guidance, please stop by and see us at Warner's Nursery. And if you're ready to take the next step in home protection, reach out to Mike and his team at Advanced Fire Defense.

Together, we can build a safer, stronger, fire-resilient community - without giving up the beauty of our forest home.

Happy (and safe) gardening!



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WORD SEARCH

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Dip

WORD OF THE DAY

Forbearance

BY TESS LANGLEY

forbearance

noun | for·bear·ance

The quality of being patient, selfcontrolled, and tolerant, especially when provoked or under strain; the act of refraining from enforcing a right or responding in kind to provocation

Let's be honest. Forbearance isn't the kind of word people toss around at coffee shops or in TikTok captions. It sounds old-fashioned, like something scrawled in the margin of a 19th-century sermon or muttered by a stoic judge. But



forbearance packs more punch than it gets credit for. It is the quiet muscle behind real strength, the unshowy restraint that holds the line when instinct begs you to lash out.

At its core, forbearance is the act of holding back. Not because you are weak, but because you choose to. It is patience under pressure. Self-control when emotions run hot. The decision to pause, to give grace, to tolerate what irritates or injures you without immediate retaliation.

The word comes from the Old English forberan, meaning to endure. And while it has been around for centuries, the concept is as relevant as ever. Whether you are dealing with a difficult colleague, navigating a messy breakup, clenching the wheel in traffic, or arguing over politics at the dinner table, forbearance is the difference between making the situation worse and handling it with class.

Think about the last time someone really got under your skin. Maybe it was a snide remark at work. Maybe a relative at a family gathering threw out a political opinion that made your blood boil. The easy play is to snap back, slam the door, fire off a cutting comment or post.

Forbearance is what keeps your finger off the trigger. It is not passivity. It is the choice to rise above. It is the coworker who lets a petty insult slide to keep the team focused. The friend who swallows a comeback to preserve the peace. The citizen who listens, disagrees, but refuses to let the conversation spiral into a shouting match.

And no, forbearance does not mean being a doormat. It is not about letting people walk all over you. It is about knowing when restraint serves you better than reaction.

We live in a culture wired for instant reaction. Social media rewards the snarky clapback. Outrage fuels engagement. Every grievance can be aired, dissected, and litigated in real time. In that environment, forbearance is not just rare. It is radical. It takes guts to pause, to consider, to choose grace over gratification. When tempers flare and opinions clash, especially on politics where lines are sharp and emotions high, forbearance is what keeps conversations civil and relationships intact.

There is also a practical side. Forbearance buys you time. Time to cool down, reassess, and respond in a way that aligns with who you want to be, not just how you feel in the heat of the moment.

Forbearance is a form of generosity. A willingness to give people space to mess up, grow, and do better.

Forbearance is not flashy. It does not trend on X. You will not win applause for it. But it is the trait that separates people who merely react from those who lead with wisdom. So next time you are tempted to fire off that angry email, clap back at a relative's political take, or put someone on blast, choose forbearance. It gives us the space to listen, learn, and grow.

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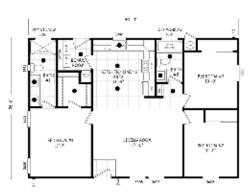


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WINGS OVER ARIZONA

Swallows: Part Two

BY MARGARET DYEKMAN



Cliff Swallow courtesy of

Muriel Neddermeyer





Purple Martin courtesy of Eric Gofreed

Violet-green Swallow courtesy of Eric Gofreed

The previous article covered Barn, Tree, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Now I will describe three other common Arizona species. While they share habitats and behaviors, their differences in appearance, nesting preferences, and migration patterns highlight the diversity within the swallow family.

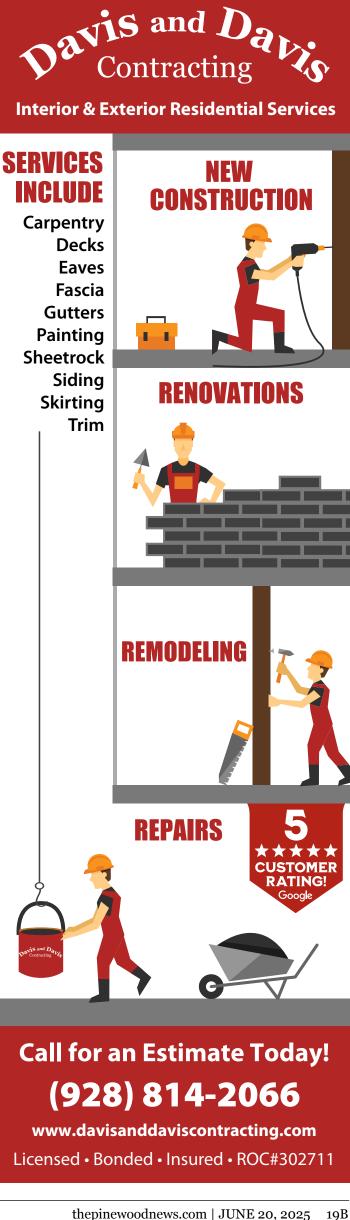
I recently added Cliff Swallow to my yard life list in Scottsdale. A couple years ago the city built a pedestrian bridge over the large irrigation can lnear our house. The Cliff Swallows discovered it and have colonized the area, nesting under the bridge and flying in my neighborhood in search of all the insects attracted by the water. This is the species that is known for its mythical return to the Mission San Juan Capistrano on March 19th of each year. An easy way to identify a Cliff Swallow is by its short square tail and buffy rump.

The Violet-green Swallow is a stunning bird of green, purple, and white colors. You can identify it with the white rump patch see in flight. Unlike the other swallows I've mentioned, which are found in much of North America, the Violet-green Swallow is only regularly found in the west.

And yes, we have Purple Martins in northern Arizona, which frankly was a big surprise to me when I found them in Munds Park and Flagstaff. It is a species found primarily in eastern North America, and in the East they now breed almost exclusively in humanmade structures like nest boxes and gourds. Because of their nesting patterns, this species is conducive to placement of geo-trackers to study migration. Purple Martins are large, glossy blue-black, and vocal. The Desert Purple Martin is a subspecies in southern Arizona and usually nests in Saguaro cavities in Arizona and Cardon cavities in Mexico. The Tucson Bird Alliance, formerly the Tucson Audubon Society, has undertaken studies and surveys of this subspecies because the birds' behaviors are different than that of the forest-nesting birds.

What can you do to help these species prosper? For one, keep cats indoors – always safer for felines and certainly better for our native wildlife. If you have nest boxes, make sure they are not used by House Sparrows or European Starlings; you can research on the internet ways to deter these two invasive species. Donate to a bird habitat conservation organization. Tell your local representative that the federal government's Department of the Interior should not have weakened the Migratory Bird Treaty Act on April 11th this year and that you want the previous rules to be reinstated. Remember, what is bad for birds is almost always bad for people.

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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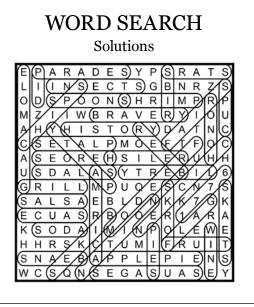
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Fixture Review

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Email or call Mark Stento, Code Enforcement Compliance Manager, at (928) 679-8856 or mstento@coconino.az.gov

Domestic Animal & Wildlife Services

Loose Dogs, Nuisance Complaints, or Dog Bites

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-4123

Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-4123

Report sick or aggressive animals immediately—especially if foaming, staggering, or behaving unusually.

Found a Stray?

High Country Humane(928) 526-0742

Do not approach if the animal appears aggressive. If safe, confine the animal and call Animal Management for pickup or next steps.

Note: Coconino County has leash laws. Dogs must be under control at all times—even in rural areas.

Injured or Dangerous Wildlife

Arizona Game & Fish (Flagstaff Region)(928) 774-5045

Weekends & after hours call911

Don't feed wildlife. Keep trash secure. Report encounters with bears, mountain lions, or sick animals.

Loose Livestock

Department of Agraculture (press 1) (800) 294-0305

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Environmental Quality Reporting Line (928) 679-8886

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Fire-Related Concerns

Illegal Campfires on National Forest Land

Coconino National Forest Dispatch Center (928) 527-3552 Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch (928) 774-4523 (press option 1) Provide detailed location information, such as forest road numbers or GPS coordinates, when reporting.

Illegal Campfires (private property) during Fire Restrictions

Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch (928) 774-4523 (press option 1) Applicable to unincorporated areas of the county.

Fire Restrictions Information

www.coconino.az.gov/2595/Fire-Restriction-Information

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

Reckless Driving, Trespassing, or Noise Complaints

Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch (928) 774-4523 (press option 1) to report OHVs off designated routes, speeding near homes, or damaging property.

Short-Term Rental Complaints & Questions

Loud Parties, Parking Issues, or Other Nuisances

Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch (928) 774-4523 (press option 1) For immediate issues with noise, trespassing, blocked roads, or safety concerns.

Ongoing STR Violations or Registration Questions

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Know Your Rights: Property owners are required to post contact

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RV PARK SPECIAL

\$110,000 MUNDS PARK RV PARK

Enjoy a community with 2 bed, 1 bath park model lined with fully grown trees, Swimming pool & spa.



VIEWS, VIEWS, VIEWS

\$799,00017940 S. GREEN MOUNTAIN

Own your very own tree house. High above the tree-line. 4 bed 3 bath.



COZY GETAWAY

\$324,000 45 E. FAIRLANE

3 bed, 2 bath. Get out of the heat in this cozy spacious built home



MOUNTAIN HOME

\$618,000 17660 S. STALLION DR.

Awesome A-frame on huge 10,500 s.f. lot. 3 bed 2 bath large wrap around deck.



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

\$714,99941215 N. LYTHAM CT.

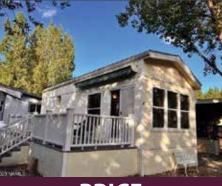
Located in a quiet cul-de-sac in Anthem Country Club. 2,544 s.f 3-bed 3-bath



PRIVATE & RARE

\$849,900 750 HAVASUPAI RD.

3 bed, 2 bath. Huge 36,000 s.f lot. Only a few get to enjoy this private street neighborhood.



PRICE

\$79,000 MUNDS RV PARK

1bed, 1 bath w/AC. Enjoy Swimming Pool & Spa General Store





