

PINEWOOD NEWS

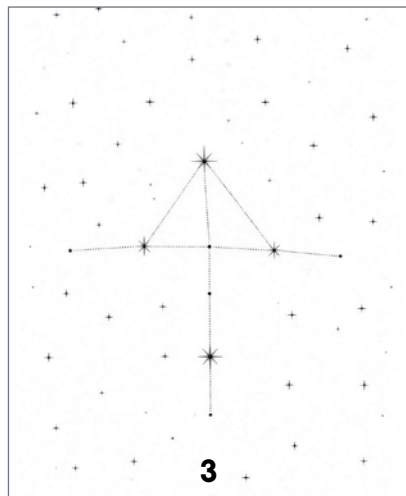
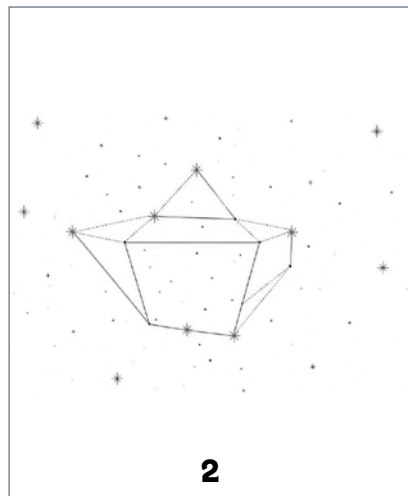
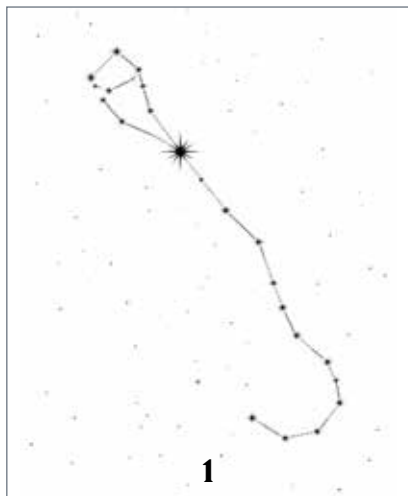
MUNDS PARK'S GUIDE TO THE GOOD LIFE & MOUNTAIN LIVING SINCE 1993

VOL. 33 NO. 13 AUGUST 21, 2026

COMPLIMENTARY



NAME THAT CONSTELLATION



Match Each Star Pattern To Its Name

___ Cygnus

The Swan (also called the Northern Cross). In myth, it represents Zeus disguised as a swan or the musician Orpheus. Its brightest star, Deneb, marks the swan's tail.

___ Sagittarius

The Archer, usually shown as a centaur drawing a bow. Its brightest stars form the famous "Teapot" shape and point toward the center of our galaxy.

___ Cassiopeia

The vain queen who boasted she was more beautiful than the sea nymphs. The gods punished her by placing her in the sky as a distinctive W (or M) that circles the pole star.

___ Scorpius

The Scorpion that stung and killed the hunter Orion in Greek myth. Its bright red heart is the star Antares, whose name means "rival of Mars."

Solutions on page 10B

Celestial Events to Watch For

Partial Lunar Eclipse: August 27

Watch Earth's shadow cover nearly all of the Full Moon. In Northern Arizona: begins 7:33 p.m., peaks 9:12 p.m., ends 10:51 p.m. Look east-southeast in early evening. No equipment needed.

Moon & Saturn: August 29-30

Look east in late evening for the waning Moon near Saturn, a steady, pale point of light. Visible much of the night.

Venus & Spica: September 1-2

Look low in the west after sunset for bright Venus near the star Spica, about 1½ degrees apart. Venus shines steady and bright; Spica is fainter beside it. Great in binoculars.

Moon & Pleiades: September 3

Look east-northeast before dawn for the waning Moon near the Pleiades star cluster, the Seven Sisters. Striking to the naked eye or in binoculars.

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.

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The next issue of the Pinewood News on stands, **Sept. 4th**



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PINEWOOD NEWS

MUNDS PARK'S GUIDE TO THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN LIVING SINCE 1993

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church
Every Monday, 6 p.m.
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pilates

Senior-friendly Pilates classes are held weekly
Mon: 10 to 11 a.m. & Wed: 11 a.m. to noon
Munds Park Community Church
17670 S. Munds Ranch Rd
For details, contact Chris Woolley at:
760-688-6452 or ChrisWoolley06@gmail.com

Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend.
Stay informed. Your presence and participation is essential!
Thursday, September 17
6:30 p.m. • The New Fire House

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!
Tuesday, September 1
6:30 p.m. • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Tuesday, September 15
3 p.m. • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Thursday, September 10
3 p.m. • 18075 Fairway Dr



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 7A

This is where locals come for verified updates, thoughtful community news, and information they can trust.

THINGS TO DO & SEE 12A

Local events, good outings, and perfectly valid reasons to ignore the laundry.

SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD 17A

Pour once, play on. This old-school punch was made for card night and still knows how to keep the evening moving.

ACCORDING TO EMILY POST 18A

When Pinewood Country Club had to remind members to watch their language, Emily Post suddenly felt very current.

HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL 20A

From tiny checkerboard sandwiches to seasoned pretzels and chocolate-topped oat bites, these three recipes are ready for game night.

TRAVEL 22A

He didn't invent Champagne, and he probably never "tasted the stars." In Hautvillers, France, the real story of Dom Pérignon turns out to be even better than the legend.

BOOK REVIEW 5B

In 2050, humanity is choosing a global leader, and one of the candidates isn't human. Artificial Wisdom mixes AI, politics, climate catastrophe and murder into one very timely thriller.

WINGS OVER ARIZONA 11B

From northern Arizona to nearly every corner of the world, Barn Swallows are remarkable travelers with a surprising place in conservation history.



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FIRE DANGER IS HIGH

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

PPOA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Pinewood Property Owners Association held its annual community meeting with board members Lisa Aaroe, Kim Agee, Lamont Boyd, Jamie Carter, Laurie Henke, Bob Membery, Larry Metzler, Robert Moore, Bill Spain, Barb Timberman, Gail VanDeurzen, and Karen Zintak.



Dick Drinen & PPOA Board President, Barbara Timberman

A thank you to Dick Drinen

Dick Drinen received special recognition for his many years of service to Munds Park. A permanent resident since approximately 2000, Drinen previously served as commander at Camp Navajo and continued serving after retirement on the Pinewood Fire District Board, Pinewood Sanitary District Board and as a past president of PPOA.

PPOA also honored Dale Ingram for outstanding community service. Dale moved to Ohio earlier this year because of health issues, but not before giving eight amazing years to Munds Park. He joined

the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary just two weeks after moving here and volunteered until he left. PPOA reminded residents that nominations are welcome each year for people who give their time to the community.



Left to right: Shane Reagan, Marisol Quezada, Kayla Gonzales, Zayne Palmer, Lisa Aaroe and Kim Agee

PPOA Scholarships Awarded

PPOA announced four college scholarship recipients for the fall 2026 semester: Zayne Palmer, Kayla Gonzales, Marisol Quezada and Shane Reagan.

Each semester, PPOA awards graduating high school seniors who live full time in Munds Park and demonstrate well-rounded leadership up to \$3,000 toward college, career training or another field of study.

Gonzales will attend Washington State University and plans to become a teacher. Quezada will attend Coconino Community College and hopes to become an art teacher. Reagan, also at Coconino Community College, plans to become a wildlife biologist. Zayne Palmer spent a season with Bear Jaw after high school and is now setting his sights on a career in the fire service.

Congratulations to all the scholarship winners, and we wish them much success!

...Local Highlights continued on page 9A

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17215 Creekside Pl \$525000

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1415 E. Bobcat Cir - \$575,000
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17075 S. Deer Run - \$425,000
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 Full Laundry Room, with W/D
 Primary Bath has Shower + Tub
Large Front Covered Deck
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Vacant Land

17755 S Iron Springs Rd - \$199,000
 All Utilities & Sewer Tap Are In
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17375 Crystal Brook Pl - \$192,000
 End of Cul-de-Sac 10,500 SqFt,
 Call Bob Joncas (928)853-8542

17035 S. Teal Place - \$195,000
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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

...Continued from page 7A

Fourth of July Decorating Winners

This year’s first-place winner was Carolyn Charles of Fairlane, whose home was covered with flags, lights and decorations across the yard and both decks. Charles won \$200. Monica Manning took second place and \$150 in her first year entering, and Kela Kinner received third place and \$100. Different judges are selected each year, and PPOA encouraged residents to enter next summer, or give a decorated neighbor a nudge to do it. You can’t win if you don’t play!

Parade Organizers Already Looking at 2027

The Fourth of July Parade was declared another successful year, with no incidents reported despite an exceptionally large turnout.

Feedback from volunteers and residents has already produced a list of improvements for 2027. Plans include a second complimentary shuttle, about 10 more volunteers, additional traffic control on Crestline and Fairway, monitors to keep the parade moving and most likely portable toilets along the route.

County Update

Frog Tank flood Project Moves Into Feasibility Work

District 3 Supervisor Tammy Ontiveros updated residents on a project the county is studying to help protect Munds Park from serious flooding.

The biggest concern is a rain-on-snow event, when rain falls on accumulated snow and sends a large amount of water downhill quickly. The idea is to slow that water before it reaches the community.

The county is looking at building a flood-retarding structure near Frog Tank, north of the northbound ADOT truck stop. Ontiveros compared it to a bathtub with a controlled drain. During a major flood, the structure would temporarily hold water back and release it more slowly instead of letting it rush downstream all at once.

For now, nothing is being built. The county is still figuring out whether the location and ground conditions will work, and environmental studies are underway. If the project proves feasible, it would still have several steps to go through before construction.

The county is also seeking federal help to move the project forward, so

this would be a multi-year effort rather than something residents will see built next summer.

There is a reason the county is looking at it. FEMA records show significant flooding in the Munds Park Wash area in December 2004, along with flooding in 1979. The question now is whether slowing water upstream could reduce the damage when the right combination of snow and rain hits again.

Public Works

Public Works has concentrated much of its summer work in Munds Park on drainage maintenance and assisted with drainage and road restoration around the new Pinewood Fire Station.

The Willard Springs Green Waste site, temporarily closed while it was used as a staging area during the Pocket Fire, has reopened. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through October 31, with the last load accepted at 4:30 p.m.

The county also reported another successful year for Munds Park community cleanups and plans to return in spring 2027.

Fire District

Fire Chief Josh Tope shared that a first-of-its-kind federal wildfire mitigation project involving private property in Munds Park is finally moving forward.

The program is HMGP, FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Coconino County submitted the proposal in 2019 in support of the Pinewood and Highlands fire districts to reduce wildfire fuels on private property in Munds Park and Kachina Village.

Tope said the project has reached Phase 2, funding has been awarded and approximately \$400,000 will be shared between the Pinewood and Highlands fire districts. The work will involve about 35 properties, particularly along drainages where fire could move toward developed areas. Crews are expected to begin around September, primarily along Pinewood Boulevard and behind the golf course.

Property owners have individual treatment plans. Because the original agreements were signed about six years ago, the County Attorney advised that they be renewed, and homeowners are now being contacted.

...Local Highlights continued on page 10A



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— Christina R.

 ★★★★★
"Our fur-footed friends are more than just pets - they are part of the family. The caring veterinary staff will treat your pets as if they were their own."
— David B.

 ★★★★★
"Everyone on the Staff is friendly, caring and professional. They go out of their way to provide the best possible care and support."
— Paul D.

 WELLNESS

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 DIAGNOSTICS

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

...Continued from page 9A

Pinewood Sanitary District

No, You Cannot Hook Your RV Into the Sewer

Pinewood Sanitary District Manager, David “DR” Richardson warned residents not to connect RVs or motorhomes to residential sewer lines.

The reason matters. Waste sitting in an RV holding tank becomes anaerobic. When a large amount is dumped into the sewer at once, it can overwhelm the treatment process and force PSD to use additional chemicals to treat it. Richardson cited 1,800 gallons of one treatment chemical costing more than \$22,000 as just one example of how expensive this theft of service can be.

Those added costs take money away from an aging sewer system that already needs major repairs and improvements.

If you see or suspect an illegal RV sewer connection, call the Pinewood Sanitary District at (928) 286-9166.

Watch Your Sewer Bill

For July, August and September, the WIFA portion of the sewer bill is \$2.28 per month, bringing the total monthly charge to \$87.28.

Richardson cautioned residents who manually send the same payment each month to look at the bill before paying it. With so many second homes and seasonal residents, PSD has struggled to keep customer contact information current. Door hangers used to reach delinquent accounts recently brought in approximately \$15,000 in one month.

About Those Utility Easements

Utility easements are part of every property, and homeowners are responsible for keeping them clear so utility companies can reach sewer, water, electric and other lines when work is needed.

Problems come up when fences, sheds, landscaping or other improvements are placed in those easements. If a utility needs access, those obstructions may have to be moved or removed, and the

homeowner can be responsible for the cost. The easement still has to function as an easement, even if something has been built on top of it.

So if PSD has to work on a sewer line in your easement, be prepared to make sure they can get to it.

Sheriff’s Office

E-bike or Motorcycle?

Lt. John Jamison of the Coconino County Sheriff’s Office addressed a growing problem in Munds Park: children riding high-powered electric bikes and motorcycles recklessly on public streets.

Arizona law draws an important line. A legal electric bicycle has operable pedals and a motor under 750 watts. Many of the faster machines people call “e-bikes” are actually powerful electric motorcycles and are subject to very different rules.

Jamison said deputies have encountered children as young as 9 or 10 riding them in Munds Park. Parents need to pay attention to what their children are actually riding. If the machine is legally a motor vehicle and a parent knowingly allows an underage or unlicensed child to ride it on a public road, the parent can face a criminal citation. Arizona law classifies knowingly permitting an unauthorized minor to drive a motor vehicle as a Class 2 misdemeanor.

And regardless of what the machine is called, speeding, wheelies and reckless riding on neighborhood streets are a safety problem. If you know the family, talk to the parents. If you are not comfortable doing that, call the Sheriff’s Office and report it. Jamison said it is especially helpful to tell dispatch where the rider lives or is staying, if you know.

For non-emergencies, call the Coconino County Sheriff’s Office at (928) 774-4523, option 1. Call 911 for an emergency.

Noise Complaints Need a Complainant

Jamison also addressed noise complaints, particularly those involving vacation rentals. Deputies will usually begin with a warning, but a second call may result in a citation, and especially serious disturbances can bring immediate enforcement.



\$375,000

140 HUNTER PLACE

2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 867 SF

Sweet, well-maintained two-bedroom, two-bath manufactured home on a large, flat cul-de-sac lot. Features a covered porch, updated flooring, 2024 roof, landscaped fenced yard, powered shed, A/C, remodeled guest bath, laundry room and furnishings included too.



\$525,000

17215 CREEKSIDE PLACE

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,272 SF

Park-like cul-de-sac setting on a 9,000-square-foot lot with Trex deck, lush gardens, two sheds and fenced gravel drive. Spacious interior offers large kitchen with island, generous primary suite, updated carpet, exterior paint and air conditioning.



\$359,000

1100 E COYOTE ROAD

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,296 SF

Well-priced three-bedroom, two-bath home with full laundry, spacious primary suite, walk-in closets and sunny bath. Two guest rooms, ample parking, large shed, front porch and shaded Trex deck, plus room for a garage or toys.



\$439,900

17310 BIG SKY DRIVE

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,405 SF

Beautiful three-bedroom, two-bath home on a heavily treed lot with an oversized east-facing deck, fenced yard, brick-paver parking, stocked kitchen, accessible second bath, fresh exterior paint, workshop-ready shed, and all furnishings included in the sale.



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Anonymous complaints can limit what deputies are able to do. Officers can still respond, but if enforcement needs to go further, they may need an identifiable complainant willing to say their peace was disturbed and, if necessary, testify.

If deputies need someone to testify about a repeat offender and you're not willing to do it, enjoy the music.

Unfamiliar Police Cars In Munds Park

A resident asked about DPS troopers recently running radar on Pinewood Boulevard. Jamison explained that the Sheriff's Office sometimes works with DPS and other law-enforcement agencies on larger operations.

That means residents may occasionally see officers from outside the area working in Munds Park. Those efforts can involve traffic stops tied to investigations into drug trafficking, human trafficking and other serious crimes.

PPOA Can't Do It, Munds Park Business Alliance Steps In

During the PPOA meeting, former board member Chuck Steen raised a concern about the badly faded parking-space lines at the Outpost, noting that he used to handle the striping when he served on the board.

PPOA President Barbara Timberman and Treasurer Jamie Curtis explained that because the property is privately owned and the Outpost is a for-profit business, the PPOA's 501(c)(3) status limits what it can spend there.

The Munds Park Business Alliance heard the concern and stepped in. The group will pave the parking area, repaint the lines and freshen up the billboard just outside the Outpost, including replacing signs in poor condition.

The Basketball Court

When the new fire station was built, Munds Park lost its basketball court, and residents have been asking for it back ever since.

At the PPOA meeting, Pinewood Country Club President, Rick Schmidgall said someone from the Club was already working with PPOA on a replacement. After the meeting, PPOA said that was not the case.

So we called Country Club General Manager Gary Pearce. His answer was pretty simple: no one is really working on it. He and PPOA President Barbara Timberman have mentioned the basketball court in passing, but there has never been a formal conversation.

The Club does have a possible location and will ask the community to pay for the court. PPOA says it is willing to help financially, but because the property is privately owned, the Club would need to grant the PPOA a 99-year lease for \$1 so the court remains available to the community. That requirement was news to Pearce.

So here we are. The community wants a basketball court, the Country Club has a possible place for one and PPOA says it is willing to help pay for it. A year after we first asked the PPOA about it, the two groups still have not sat down together. Perhaps that is the next step.

One Final Observation

This was PPOA's annual meeting. Residents heard updates from the county, the Sheriff's Office, the Fire District, the Sanitary District and the Country Club. What they did not hear was an annual report from PPOA itself. There was no overview of what it accomplished last year, how much money it raised, where the money went or its plans for the coming year.

At the end of the meeting, Barbara Timberman noted that donation envelopes were available and could also be used to share concerns or community needs.

Donors may reasonably want to know how their contributions are being used and what PPOA's priorities are for the coming year.



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EVERY SATURDAY



KARAOKE AT PINEWOOD RESTAURANT & BAR

Nothing says small-town Saturday night quite like friends, a good song, and someone brave enough to take the mic. Join DJ Ruben for

karaoke every Saturday.

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: 65 Pinewood Blvd



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!

Time: 6 p.m., every Monday

Location: Pinewood Country Club

EVERY TUESDAY

TUESDAY MORNING HEALTH WALK

Start the day with a community walk through Munds Park. All are welcome to move, connect, and enjoy a little fresh air before the day gets bossy.

Time: 6:30 am

Location: Starts from 255 Hillside, Munds Park

Details: Walk lasts 45-50 minutes. All are welcome!

AUGUST 27



PAINT & SIP AT WINE TASTING & MORE

Enjoy a creative evening at Wine Tasting and More's Paint & Sip event. Bring your inner artist!
Time: 5 p.m.

Location: Wine Tasting and More, 17730 S. Munds Ranch Rd., Munds Park

Details: www.winetastingandmore.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5



PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB CRAFT FAIR

Pinewood Country Club is hosting a Labor Day Craft Fair and inviting local vendors to show off their handmade goods to the community. All are welcome, and

vendor spaces are available.

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Pinewood Country Club

Contact: Daniella Zamora, 928-233-8271, dzamora@pinewoodcountryclubaz.com

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



MUNDS PARK TRAIL STEWARDS

Help improve the trails that keep Munds Park moving. MUTS volunteers will continue work on the Rocky Road OHV motorized trail realignment at Horse Park.

Work at your own pace, enjoy the forest, and stay for a free lunch afterward.

Time: 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. NOTE: The meeting time has changed to 8:00 a.m. We are meeting little early since we must carpool 25 minutes to Horse Park.

Location: Meet at Pinewood (240) Trailhead

Details: RSVP by September 5 at mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com. Bring long pants, sturdy shoes, weather-ready clothing. Water and trail equipment are provided. Check mundsparktrailstewards.com for updates.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25



OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

Munds Park Community Church is hosting a free Oktoberfest evening for neighbors, friends, and families. Enjoy German food, live music, a fire pit, games for all ages, and a

little community spirit under the pines.

Time: 4-8 pm

Location: Munds Park Community Church, 17670 S. Munds Ranch Road

Details: Bring a friend, or two, or three!

Admission: This event is free, including the good food!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



PINEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary Golf Tournament returns to Pinewood Country Club for a 4-person scramble open to members and non-members. All money raised supports the Pinewood Fire Department and the citizens of Munds Park.

Location: Pinewood Country Club

Admission: \$185 per player

Deadline to Enter: September 21, 2026

Contact: Cheri Schultz, 310-686-5168, PFDA.pres@gmail.com

BEYOND THE PARK

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026



MOONLIGHT HIKES

Worth the drive for a guided Sedona evening hike by sunset and moonrise. A naturalist leads hikers through Red Rock State Park, with time for scenery and information on Verde Valley history, geology,

botany, archaeology, and wildlife.

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: Red Rock State Park, 4050 Red Rock Loop Road, Sedona

Details: Registration required. www.azstateparks.com

Admission: \$20.00

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 29-30



HOPI ARTS & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Worth the drive for Hopi art, traditional social dances, cultural education, and a meaningful Flagstaff day trip. The festival brings artists and community

together while sharing Hopi culture with Northern Arizona visitors.

Time: Saturday, 10 am-6 pm; Sunday, 11 am-5 pm

Location: Flagstaff Mall, 4650 US-89, Flagstaff

Details: hopifestival.com

Admission: Free

FRIDAY-MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4-7



COCONINO COUNTY FAIR

The Coconino County Fair returns to Fort Tuthill County Park over Labor Day weekend with exhibits, entertainment, carnival fun, food, animals, and plenty of fair favorites for the whole family.

Time: See website for details

Location: Fort Tuthill County Park, Flagstaff

Details: coconinocountyfair.com

Admission: See website for details

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10-13



YAVAPAI COUNTY FAIR RETURNS TO PRESCOTT

Worth the drive for a classic county fair with livestock, exhibits, food, rides, and family-friendly fair fun. One of Arizona's longest-running fairs, it began in 1913 as the Northern Arizona State Fair and still feels rooted in local tradition.

Time: Thur-Sat, 9 am-10 pm; Sunday, 9 am-6 pm

Location: Prescott Rodeo Grounds
840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott

Details: yavapairfair.com

Admission: Check website for details

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



FLAGSTAFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

Worth the drive for a full day of local music in downtown Flagstaff. This free, family-friendly festival celebrates Flagstaff bands while raising awareness and funds for the Haven Walker Music Scholarship Fund, which supports area student musicians.

Time: Noon-10 pm

Location: Heritage Square, 6 E. Aspen Ave, Flagstaff

Details: flagstaffmusicfestival.com

Admission: Free

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT 12-13 & 19-20



OAK CREEK ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

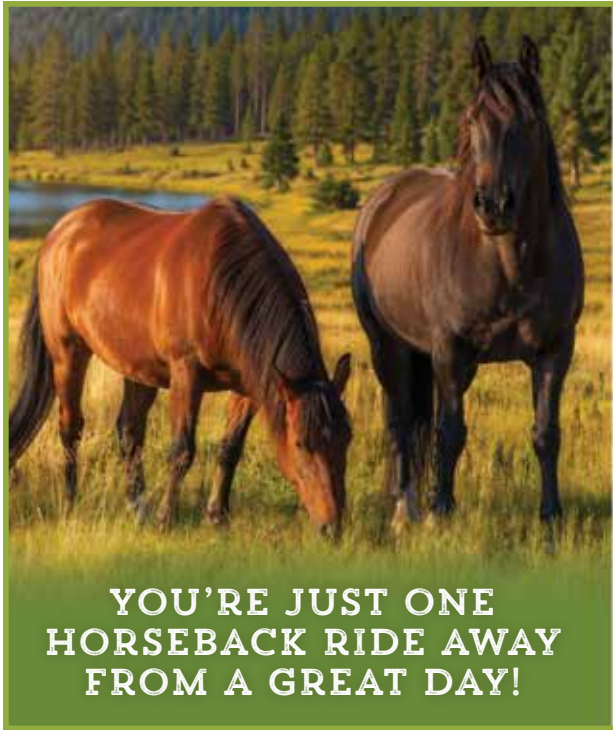
Worth the drive for an easy Sedona-area art stop. Browse paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, Native American art, food booths, and live music at Bell Rock Plaza in the Village of Oak Creek. A good day trip for shoppers and art lovers.

Time: 10 am-5 pm

Location: Bell Rock Plaza, Village of Oak Creek Sedona

Details: oakcreekartsandcraftsshow.com/shows

Admission: Free



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FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-20



PICKIN' IN THE PINES

Head to Flagstaff for three days of bluegrass and acoustic music, camping, workshops, jamming, children's activities and a band contest. The 20th anniversary

lineup includes The Infamous Stringdusters, Blue Highway, Kitchen Dwellers and more.

Time: Gates open 9 am daily. Music begins 10 am Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am Sunday.

Location: Pepsi Amphitheater
2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff

Details: See website pickininthepines.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19



FALL SPLENDOR SEDONA-VOC GARDEN TOUR & COMMUNITY GARDEN FEST

Worth the drive for gardeners and anyone curious about high-desert landscaping. Tour five Sedona-VOC gardens, then visit the free Community Garden Fest for vendors, Master Gardener lectures, a pollinator garden, and Rotary BBQ.

Time: 7:30 am-2 pm

Location: Big Park Community School
25 W. Saddlehorn Rd, Sedona

Details: Tour maps are emailed to paid garden tour attendees the day before the event. Community Garden Fest requires no reservation.

Admission: Visit www.extension.arizona.edu/yavapai-county-garden-tours

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26



CORNUCOPIA: FLAGSTAFF FALL FESTIVAL

Worth the drive for a full fall day in Flagstaff with entertainment, food, local vendors, and activities for all ages. Families can make an easy

afternoon of it at Thorpe Park, with plenty to browse, taste, and enjoy.

Time: 11 am-6 pm

Location: Thorpe Park Ball Fields,
560 N. Thorpe Road, Flagstaff

Details: flagstaffarizona.org

Admission: \$10; kids 12 and under \$5;

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WOODY'S PROGRESS REPORT

Well, look what happened. You people finally started talking. After weeks of begging for tips, rumors, suspicious sightings and wildly unverified theories, three separate messages landed in our inbox with essentially the same question: Is Wine Tasting and More moving to Woody's?

One tipster wrote in to ask whether what she'd heard was true: "Well, I heard that the Wine Tasting at Satchmo's is going to take over Woody's. Is it true? I don't know how reliable my source was, but that's what I heard." Another reader had heard the same thing and seemed a little surprised that *we* apparently had not. Oh, we'd heard it. The rumor has been wandering around the Park. We just knew that when it comes to Woody's it's best to hold until something solid comes through, so we kept our mouths shut and waited for things to shake out. But two tips saying the same thing? It was time. We called Deanne, owner of Wine Tasting & More.

And yes, the rumor is true. Sort of. Deanne confirmed that she is working toward an agreement to move the wine bar into Woody's. The dotted line has not been signed, and until it is, she does not consider the deal done. Smart. What is definite is that both Satchmo's and the wine bar will close for the season on October 31, though Satchmo's normally closes seasonally anyway. The wine bar, on the other hand, will close until further notice while Deanne waits to see whether an agreement can be reached with Bill Moore, who manages the Woody's property for Gary Shuster. If it happens, her hope is to reopen in the spring and turn Woody's into something beautiful.

I know, be still our hearts!



We can also clear up one part of the rumor mill: Satchmo's did not kick the wine bar out. Deanne's venture has encountered more than its fair share of potholes, detours and roadblocks through previous ownership and leasing arrangements, but those obstacles were not put there by Satchmo's. She was very clear about that. She also said District 3 Supervisor Tammy Ontiveros has offered to help move the permitting process along once a contract is signed, giving them the best chance possible of being ready for spring. Once that dotted line actually has some ink on it, The Pinewood News will sit down with Deanne for the real story, including her plans for the wine bar and what she hopes Woody's can become.

Meanwhile, another reader reported spotting two men at Woody's at approximately 11:15 in the morning, prowling around the west and south sides of the building and doing what the witness described as "likely something nefarious." He and his wife made no attempt to hide the fact that they were watching, then headed to Pinewood Restaurant for a nice lunch. Brave souls. After months of staring at an empty building, we now have rumors, witnesses, suspicious men and an actual person willing to answer our questions. Without question, this is the strongest investigative week we have had yet.

Until we know the lease is solid, we will continue our relentless pursuit of truth. When will Woody's, Munds Park's most famous eyesore, finally get a facelift and a little life? We may, at long last, be getting closer to an end of this eyesore.

So here's your assignment: get over to Wine Tasting and More, order a glass, maybe two, and help Deanne build the Woody's war chest. If enough of us drink for the cause, we might finally get rid of the eyesore! Community service has never tasted so good!

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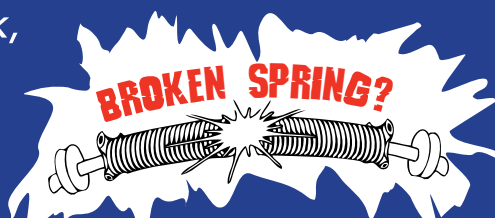
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1943 BRIDGE PUNCH

Made for the Long Game



Bridge was once such serious social business that it had its own punch. In 1925, the same year contract bridge was taking shape, Joe Fitchett's *About Town Cocktail Book* published a recipe for Bridge Punch, giving card players something to pour while staying in the game.

The original recipe called

for half a cup of mint jelly, the kind of fearless 1920s decision that suggests the hostess had spoken and the table knew better than to argue.

By the early 1930s, bridge had become a genuine national craze, driven in large part by a showman named Ely Culbertson, who published bestselling books, ran a bridge magazine and understood that a card game could use a little theater. Late in 1931, he staged the much-hyped Bridge Battle of the Century against rival Sidney Lenz, a 150-rubber match played first at the Hotel Chatham and later at the Waldorf-Astoria. Newspapers covered the action closely, and living rooms across the country filled with card tables where partners could disagree without raising their voices, at least in front of company.

Bridge Punch hung around, too. In June 1943, *Gourmet* published its own version, nearly two decades after Fitchett's recipe appeared. Punch had become a natural companion to an evening of cards, and the reason is still obvious today.

Punch solves a real problem. A host can set the bowl down, put the glasses beside it and actually sit down to play instead of ducking into the kitchen every ten minutes to mix another round while everyone waits. This way, the host gets to enjoy the game fully too.

That may be the best argument for bringing punch back to game night. It asks very little once it is made, looks generous sitting on the table and lets everyone refill a glass without interrupting the bidding or the flow of the game.

For this version, the old proportions have been brought down to a more reasonable size. Use a handsome punch bowl, plenty of good ice and small stemmed goblets or proper punch cups. A red plastic cup will hold the same liquid, technically, but so will a measuring cup, and nobody is suggesting that either.

Fresh mint and a few thin citrus wheels are enough decoration. Pour the punch, take your seat and let the cards cause all the trouble.

1943 Bridge Punch, Quarter Batch

Serves about 12

Ingredients

- Tips from 1/4 bunch fresh mint
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup strong black tea, cooled
- 6 1/3 fl. oz. brandy, which is exactly one-quarter of a modern 750 ml bottle
- 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice
- 3 tablespoons fresh grapefruit juice
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon or lime juice
- 1/4 of a medium can crushed pineapple, including its juice
- 1/4 bottle or jar maraschino cherries, minced
- 1 fl. oz. medium or dark rum, or 2 tablespoons
- Good Ice

The Method

Muddle the mint lightly with the sugar. Add the tea, brandy, citrus juices and pineapple, then stir in the minced cherries and rum. Chill for at least two hours. Serve over good ice in small punch cups or stemmed goblets.



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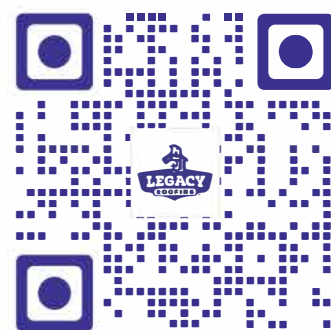
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F-BOMBS AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

BY SANDEE CAVINESS



that carefully because I have already confessed in a previous column that I have been known to talk like a sailor. My mother tried to raise a proper lady, with mixed results, so I am hardly going to clutch my pearls because somebody used the F-word. The email was a useful reminder for me, too, which may be the saddest little part of this whole thing. Apparently, even those of us who know better can get comfortable enough with certain words that we stop noticing how often we use them or who happens to be sitting nearby.

We are very good at recognizing bad behavior in other people. We are

considerably worse at recognizing it in the mirror.

So I pulled out my 1957 copy of Etiquette to see what Emily actually had to say. Emily had very little patience for vulgar language. In her chapter on the words we choose, she calls coarse or profane slang “beside the mark,” her elegant way of saying it simply misses the point of what good conversation is supposed to do.

I imagine Emily at the country club, sitting in the bar enjoying her tea when the first F-bomb floats across the room and one hand goes to the pearls. She takes another sip of tea and carries on. Then comes another, and another, and by the time somebody has worked the same vulgar

I was at my desk working through email when one from Pinewood Country Club came through. I figured it was the usual, dinner specials, a golf reminder, something about end-of-the-season events. I opened it as I always do, and about two lines in I actually said out loud, “Oh, you have got to be kidding me.”

General Manager Gary Pearce had written to the entire membership because swearing in the clubhouse had become so frequent and uncomfortable for guests that management finally had to say, in the nicest possible way, “knock it off”.

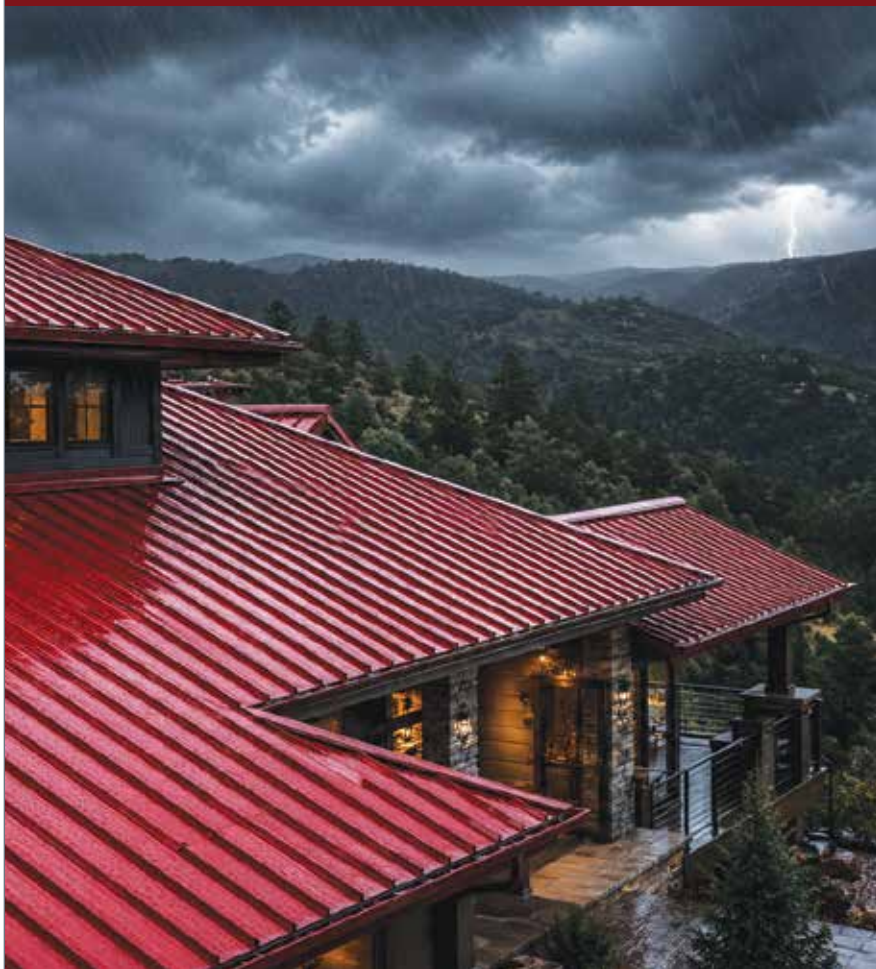
A private country club is the kind of place where membership dues run steep enough that you’d expect the polish to come standard, along with a certain standard of behavior. People join, in part, because they want a place that feels a little more refined than the rest of the world, where they can bring guests, sit down to dinner and reasonably expect that the conversation at the next table will not sound like a sports bar during the playoffs. Unless, of course, it was the playoffs. In which case, temporary diplomatic immunity may apply.

For this column, that email was pure gold.

But sit with it a second longer and it stops being quite so funny. I say

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word into every other sentence, the teacup comes down on the saucer with the stearn force of a gavel. Order in the clubhouse.

That was really the point of Gary’s email. Vulgar language had become common and disruptive enough that even a fine establishment had to address it. The Club was clear about who else shares the club. Families. Guests. Employees. Members of every age, none of whom signed up to spend the evening listening to somebody else’s foul mouth.

That is exactly where Emily puts the responsibility, on the person doing the imposing. In “The Enjoyment of Public Places,” she writes that beyond the courtesies we show friends and neighbors, there are countless other small kindnesses we owe the public at large simply by sharing space with them.

That idea may be the whole story.

You can be having a wonderful time. You can be among friends. You can be completely unbothered by the language coming out of your mouth, and everybody at your table may be equally unbothered. None of that means the room stays unchanged. Somewhere behind you, the mood shifts. A conversation someone was enjoying gets interrupted by a conversation they never wanted to be a part of.

Our own comfort is not the only comfort in the room.

There’s something wonderfully absurd about the country club angle. We all have preconceived ideas of “The Country Club,” steep dues, an exclusive membership, a polished social setting that should come with some built-in understanding of how to behave. Emily would correct me on that assumption, too. She was quite clear elsewhere in Etiquette that money and social position do not make a person a gentleman or a lady. Character is revealed in behavior, not in what someone can afford.

Apparently the dues cover the golf, the dining room and the wine list. Manners are still BYO.

There is another truth about reminders like Gary’s. The people who need them most have an amazing ability to believe they were written

for somebody else. Somewhere, somebody probably read that email, nodded gravely at what has become of people these days, and then turned to the person beside them and said, “Can you believe this shit?”

That is probably why Emily Post still works so well even today. She did not assume people were naturally polished. She assumed we needed standards because people get careless, comfortable, loud, self-absorbed and occasionally obnoxious. Her solution was simple enough.

Her advice was simple enough.

Pay attention to the people around you. Good manners are simply knowing you are not the only person in the room.

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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

A LITTLE SOMETHING BETWEEN TURNS



Checkerboard Finger Sandwiches



Parmesan Garlic Ranch Seasoned Pretzels



Peanut Butter Chocolate Oat Bites

A proper game night deserves snacks that are as spirited as the players themselves. No fussy plates, no hovering over a stove once the cards are dealt, just good, honest food that can be snatched up between turns and shared easily.

For this issue of Homemade and Wonderful, three snacks do the job beautifully: Checkerboard Finger Sandwiches, crisp little Parmesan Garlic Ranch Seasoned Pretzels, and Peanut Butter Chocolate Oat Bites. They're the sort of things that come together in a cheerful burst of activity before anyone arrives, get set out in bowls and on platters, and are promptly forgotten once the real fun begins.

Make them, put them within easy reach, and let the evening take over. The only serious decision left is who deals first.

Checkerboard Finger Sandwiches

Makes about 24 small sandwiches • Serves 6 to 8

These little sandwiches look much fancier than they are. White and wheat bread create the checkerboard pattern, while turkey, sharp cheddar and a light honey-Dijon spread keep the filling simple, sturdy and easy to eat between turns.

Ingredients

- 8 slices soft white sandwich bread
- 8 slices soft whole-wheat sandwich bread
- 8 ounces thinly sliced turkey
- 6 ounces thinly sliced sharp cheddar cheese
- 4 tablespoons softened butter
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Directions

1. In a small bowl, stir together the softened butter, Dijon mustard and honey until smooth. Season lightly with salt and pepper.
2. Spread a thin layer of the honey-Dijon butter over each slice of bread, then layer with turkey and cheddar.
3. Stack the sandwiches so the bread alternates white, wheat, white, wheat. Press gently, wrap tightly and chill for about 30 minutes.
4. Trim off the crusts, then cut each stack lengthwise into equal strips. Turn every other strip around so the white and wheat



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bread alternate, using a little of the honey-Dijon butter between the strips to help hold them together.

5. Press the strips back into a loaf shape, then slice crosswise into small checkerboard sandwiches.

Parmesan Garlic Ranch Seasoned Pretzels

Ingredients: Serves 10

- 1 13-ounce box or bag hard pretzels
- 2 tablespoons ranch seasoning
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 5 tablespoons avocado or vegetable oil
- 5 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 250°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. If using foil, coat it lightly with cooking spray.
2. Break the pretzels into bite-size pieces and place them in a large bowl.
3. In a separate bowl or measuring cup, whisk together the ranch seasoning, sugar, garlic powder, oil, melted butter, parsley and Parmesan.
4. Pour the seasoning mixture over pretzels and toss until evenly coated.
5. Spread the pretzels in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet. Use two baking sheets if necessary so they are not crowded.
6. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes so they bake evenly.
7. Cool completely before serving. Store leftovers in an airtight container at room temperature for up to one week.
8. Note: If using packaged ranch seasoning, one 1-ounce packet is the right amount.

Peanut Butter Chocolate Oat Bites

Ingredients: Makes 9

- 1 heaping cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1/3 cup maple syrup or honey
- 1 to 2 tablespoons ground flaxseed and/or chia seeds, optional
- 2 to 3 tablespoons nut milk or other liquid, if needed
- 2/3 cup dark chocolate chips or chopped dark chocolate
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter, for the chocolate topping
- Sea salt, optional

Directions

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the peanut butter and maple syrup or honey until smooth. Stir in the rolled oats and flaxseed or chia seeds, if using.
2. The mixture should be slightly sticky. If it seems too dry or crumbly, add 2 to 3 tablespoons of nut milk until it holds together.
3. Divide the oat mixture among 9 silicone muffin cups and press firmly into the bottoms.
4. Melt the dark chocolate with 2 tablespoons of peanut butter and spoon it over each oat cup. Sprinkle with a little sea salt, if desired.
5. Freeze for at least 30 minutes, then remove the bites from the muffin cups and serve.



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THE TRUE STORY OF DOM PÉRIGNON

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG

You've heard the story. I'd heard the story. Dom Pérignon, that ingenious Benedictine monk, accidentally invented Champagne, took one glorious sip and called to his fellow monks, "Come quickly, I am tasting the stars!"

It's such a good story that I almost hate to ruin it. Almost. The famous tale of Dom Pérignon inventing Champagne is just that — a tale. Sparkling wines existed before his time, and Champagne as we know it evolved over decades rather than exploding fully formed from one monk's wine bottle.

On a delightful lantern tour through Hautvillers, France, our engaging guide, Maxime Fevre of the Hautvillers Tourist Office, gently popped that particular bubble. Maxime, who serves as a tour guide for the tourism office, led us through the narrow streets of this hilltop Champagne village as evening settled in.

"The devil is in the bottle, and Dom Pérignon was not a fan of the devil," Maxime told us.

And who could blame him? In those days, bubbles weren't necessarily something to celebrate. Fermentation could restart after wine was bottled, building enough pressure to burst the relatively fragile glass bottles of the time. Lost wine, broken bottles and potentially cascading explosions in the cellar earned sparkling wine a rather ominous nickname: "the devil's wine."

Suddenly Maxime's comment made perfect sense. The man whose name today graces one of the world's most famous Champagnes wasn't trying



Dom Pérignon Sculpture | Photo by Victor Grigas

to put more bubbles into his wine. He was trying to make better wine.

Dom Pérignon: Spiritual Father of Champagne

As we followed Maxime by lantern light, with vineyards dropping away toward the Marne Valley, the Dom Pérignon story became much more interesting than the legend. He may not have invented Champagne, but I came away convinced that this

Benedictine monk deserves another title: the spiritual father of Champagne.

Dom Pérignon came to the Abbey of Hautvillers in 1668, when winemaking was considerably less precise than it is today. He became obsessed with producing better wine, and three practices associated with his work sound remarkably modern: pruning vines to control yields, carefully blending wines and grapes, and pressing grapes gently and efficiently. Historical accounts credit him with advocating hard pruning and low yields to improve quality, while the Comité Champagne identifies him as one of the early pioneers of deliberately blending wines from different vineyards and crus to create something better than the individual parts.

Pressing was important, too. Winemakers in Champagne began perfecting gentler pressing techniques during the second half of the 17th century, separating the juice quickly from the skins. That made it possible to produce clear white wine from dark grapes — an essential



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building block for the Champagne we drink today.

So Dom Pérignon didn't invent Champagne. He helped establish principles that moved Champagne winemaking dramatically forward. I think that's a better story anyway.

About Those Stars...

Unfortunately, I have another bubble to burst. Dom Pérignon apparently never called his fellow monks over to “taste the stars,” either. The wonderfully romantic line showed up in Champagne advertising in the late 19th century — well over a century after Dom Pérignon died in 1715. Apparently Champagne marketers were pretty good at blending stories, too.

By now, I was looking at Hautvillers differently. This wasn't simply a pretty Champagne village trading on the name of a famous monk. We were walking the streets where innovations that helped shape one of the world's most celebrated wines actually took place.

And those streets deserve some attention of their own. Hautvillers means “high village,” an appropriate name for a town perched above the Marne Valley with vineyards spilling down the surrounding hillsides. As we walked, Maxime pointed out some of the village's whimsical wrought-iron signs. About 140 decorate buildings around Hautvillers, traditionally illustrating the profession, passion or personality of the person behind the door.

Where Dom Pérignon Rests

Inside the Saint-Sindulphe church adjoining the former Abbey of Hautvillers is the tomb of Dom Pierre Pérignon. The abbey itself is private, but visitors can enter the church and stand before the grave of the monk whose work became so intertwined with the history of Champagne.

After Maxime's stories and our lantern-lit walk through Hautvillers, that simple grave slab felt like the perfect ending. Here rested a Benedictine monk who never invented Champagne, probably never “tasted the stars” and apparently wasn't all that fond of the pesky bubbles in the first place.

Yet through his relentless pursuit of better wine — pruning, blending, pressing and paying attention to quality — Dom Pérignon helped change Champagne forever.

So, sorry to burst your bubble. The legend may not be true, but in Hautvillers, France, I discovered that the real Dom Pérignon story is worth raising a glass to.

If You Go: Hautvillers, France

Eat: Loisiium Wine & Spa Hôtel Champagne

Just outside Hautvillers, LOISIUM serves up vineyard views with its polished wine-country style. We enjoyed an impeccable lunch beside floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the vines.

Stay: La Goutte d'Or

This restored 19th-century B&B in Avize offers cozy rooms, excellent breakfasts and gracious hosts. I loved its peaceful setting amid the Côte des Blancs vineyards.

Taste: Les Enfants de Bacchus

Give your palate a break from Champagne at this Hautvillers vinegar tasting room, where regional wines are transformed into artisan vinegars. It's a fun stop—and a great place for an unusual souvenir.

Tour: Hautvillers by Lantern Light

Our lantern tour with Maxime Fevre brought Hautvillers' history and Dom Pérignon legends to life. Maxime's humor made it one of my favorite ways to experience the village.

UNSTOPPABLE Stacey Wittig is a travel writer, author and Camino pilgrim with a soft spot for soulful adventures, local flavors and a good glass of bubbly. Find more of her travels at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com.



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THE STORY OF SCRABBLE GRAMS

Newspaper readers reaching for their morning coffee found a fresh brain teaser to chew on when Scrabble Grams arrived on puzzle pages: a pen-and-paper spinoff of the board game that has captured more than 100 million players worldwide since its debut decades earlier.

The puzzle was the work of Joe Edley, the 1980 National Scrabble Championship winner, whose credentials in the word game world ran deep. Edley cut his teeth self-publishing a puzzle magazine called Tile Rack in the mid-1980s, a venture that landed him a post with the National Scrabble Association, penning puzzles for its newsletter, Scrabble News.

Unlike its board game namesake, Scrabble Grams required no opponent and no board. Readers were handed a rack of seven letters and asked to build the highest-scoring word possible, tallying points just as they would across a Scrabble board.

Newspaper editors took notice. Several papers redesigned their puzzle pages to make room, running Scrabble Grams alongside fellow syndicated favorite Sticklers six days a week.

The puzzle proved no passing fad. It went on to hold its place on puzzle pages for years to come, spawning its own compiled puzzle books and cementing itself as a fixture of the daily paper for word lovers everywhere.

Starting this issue, local word lovers can get in on the fun too. Pinewood Word Rack will become a standard feature in the Pinewood News, giving readers their own daily dose of letter-rack strategy right alongside their favorite hometown headlines.

Pinewood WORD RACK

SOLUTION PAGE 10B

							RACK 1	Letter Score: _____
P ₃	A ₁	R ₁	C ₃	M ₃	S ₁	E ₁	+50 Bonus: _____	Total: _____
							RACK 2	Letter Score: _____
T ₁	O ₁	S ₁	E ₁	F ₄	S ₁	R ₁	+50 Bonus: _____	Total: _____
							RACK 3	Letter Score: _____
G ₂	R ₁	M ₃	A ₁	N ₁	O ₁	I ₁	+50 Bonus: _____	Total: _____
							RACK 4	Letter Score: _____
T ₁	A ₁	R ₁	T ₁	L ₁	S ₁	I ₁	+50 Bonus: _____	Total: _____

PAR SCORE 200–225
BEST SCORE 240

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word using the letters in each rack. Add the point values of the letters. A 7-letter word earns a 50-point bonus. Add all four rack scores for your final total. Blank tiles have no point value.



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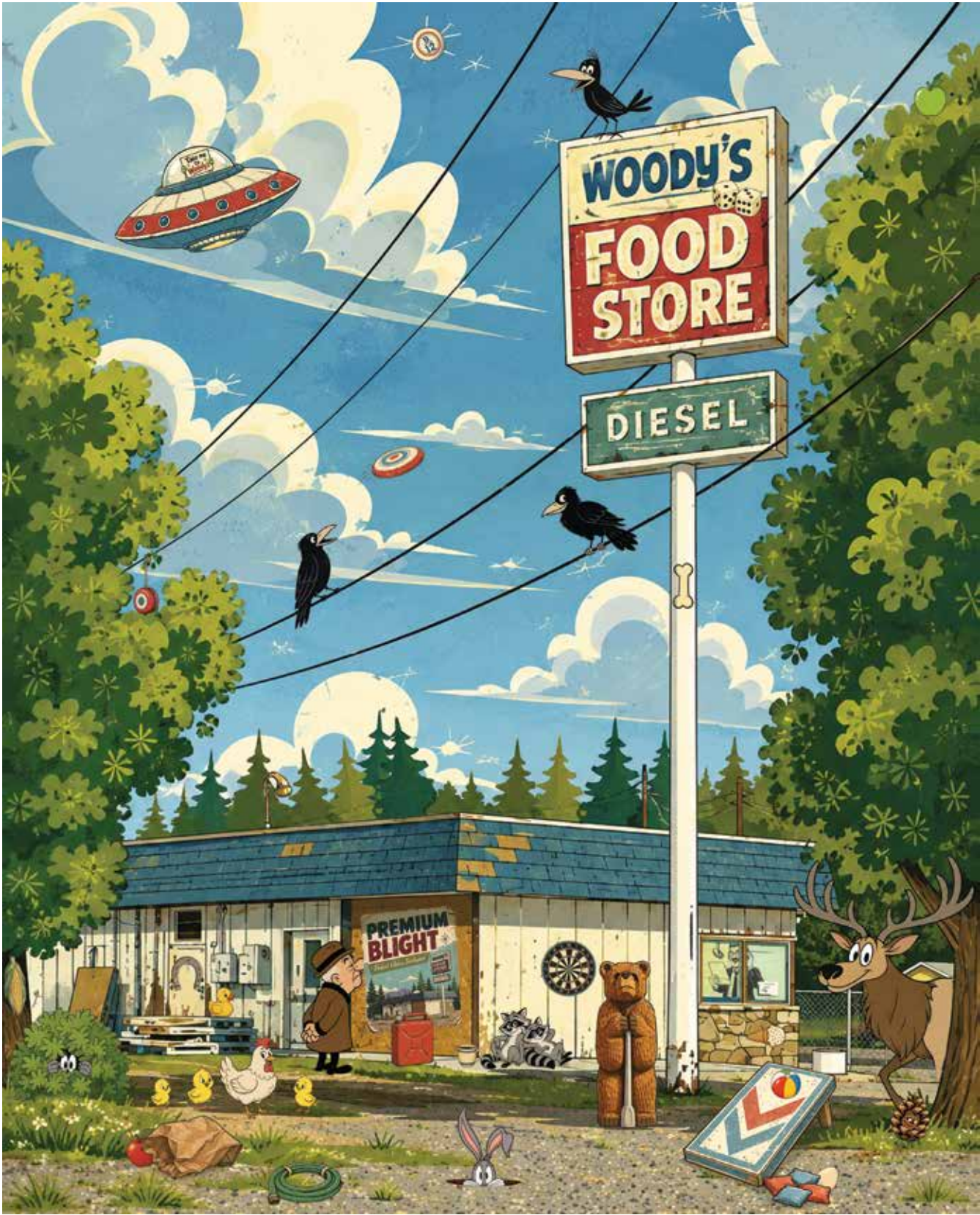
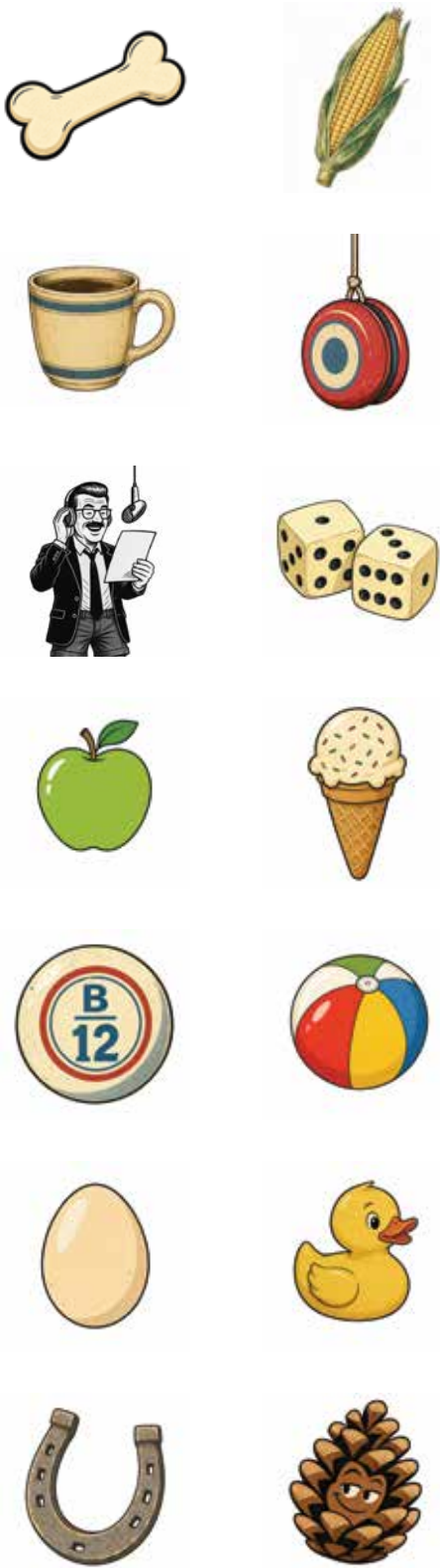
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The Story of Hidden Pictures

Did you know Hidden Pictures is almost as old as Highlights itself? It all started back in June 1946, when two kind and clever people named Garry and Caroline Myers had a wonderful idea. They wanted to make a magazine that was fun to read AND good for growing minds. So they packed up their car in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, and drove all the way to Columbus, Ohio, to make it happen.

Garry and Caroline believed something important: children are the world's most important people. They wanted every page of their new magazine to help kids grow braver, kinder, and more curious. That's how Highlights got its motto, "Fun with a Purpose," and that's exactly what Hidden Pictures puzzles are all about.

Here's how it works. A busy, friendly drawing is full of everyday objects hiding in clever disguises. Maybe a comb is really a fence, or a boot is

secretly a cloud! Finding them takes sharp eyes, patience, and a little bit of detective thinking. Every puzzle solved is a little victory.

In the early days, things were not always easy. Highlights almost ran out of money by 1950! But the Myers family did not give up. Their son Gary Jr. had a bright idea: put Highlights magazines in doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms, so kids everywhere could enjoy them while they waited. It worked, and Highlights has been a familiar friend to children ever since.

Since then, Hidden Pictures has grown and grown. There are puzzle books, activity kits, even a giant flashlight board game! Today, kids around the world, in more than 60 countries, still love searching for hidden objects, just like they did almost 80 years ago.

One picture. One purpose. Endless fun.

WORD SEARCH

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 10B

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

Tuba	Tumble	Turbo	Turnoff
Tuber	Tumult	Turbulent	Turnout
Tubular	Tuna	Turgid	Turnover
Tuck	Tundra	Turkey	Turns
Tufted	Tungsten	Turmeric	Turtle
Tugboat	Tunic	Turmoil	Tutor
Tuition	Tunnel	Turncoat	Tutti Frutti
Tulip	Tupelo	Turnip	Tuxedo
Tulle	Turbine	Turnkey	

THE STORY OF WORD SEARCH

Word searches feel as though they must have been around forever. They haven't. The modern English-language word search dates to March 1, 1968, when Norman E. Gibat printed one in the Selenby Digest, a tiny free advertising paper in Norman, Oklahoma. "Selenby" was itself a play on "sell and buy."

Gibat's first puzzle hid the names of 34 Oklahoma towns in a grid of letters. His idea was wonderfully ordinary: give people something to do while waiting in line at the grocery store. Then teachers began asking for extra copies to use in their classrooms, and the puzzle started traveling beyond Norman.

There is one wrinkle. Spanish puzzle maker Pedro Ocón de Oro also created a similar game called sopa de letras, or "letter soup," around the same era and may have done so earlier. So Gibat is generally credited with introducing the English-language version rather than unquestionably inventing the concept.

Either way, one of the world's simplest and most familiar games owes its popularity to a small-town publication, a grocery-store line and 34 Oklahoma towns.



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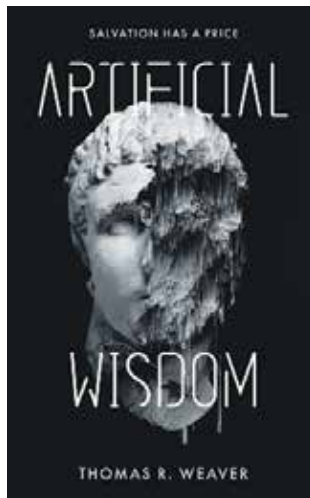


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ARTIFICIAL WISDOM

BY SANDY WRIGHT



Set in the near future, 2050, *Artificial Wisdom* revolves around a massive heat wave which killed 400 million people in the Persian Gulf in 2040, including the wife of journalist Marcus Tully. He's on a mission to uncover whether the disaster was politically engineered genocide or a natural event.

Now the whole planet is both burning and drowning, and the nations of the world decide to elect a global leader to steer humanity through the climate apocalypse. The final two candidates, a former U.S. President...and Solomon, the first artificial intellect to hold political office. The burning question is, can an AI dictator make the tough decisions that a human can't make, and save them from themselves? And is someone trying to sway the outcome?

As Election Day races closer, Solomon's human creator is murdered, and it's up to Tully to find the perpetrator.

Soon Tully is unraveling a conspiracy that goes to the highest levels. As the investigation heats up and the planet hurtles ever closer to the brink, he must find the truth and convince the world to face it. As he delves further, he becomes involved in the murder investigation linked to Martha.

I thought the concept of this book was great. Thomas R. Weaver's imaginative debut novel grapples with some weighty issues. It combines a murder mystery with futuristic elements, themes of

climate change, politics, and AI. It raises questions about humanity's response to climate change and the risks associated with our decisions, as well as the consequences of delaying or ignoring that decision.

Weaver dives into these tough topics in a way that shows a keen understanding of the problems that face us today. It really makes you think about the future we're coming into, especially with the topic of AI now coming up more frequently.

The author's book jacket blurb says he writes stories about tomorrow to help make sense of today, in his own head as much as for his own readers. He certainly got my attention, and unfortunately, increased my fear of the upcoming century.

After reading the book, you may find the ending wasn't completely resolved, and you want more from it.

But never fear. Just wait until November 10 when the next book, *Infinite Wisdom*, comes out. That book picks up five years later, on the precipice of another crisis. So, you have enough time to read this book and buckle up for the sequel!

- By Thomas R. Weaver
- Chainmaker Press 2023
- 357 pages

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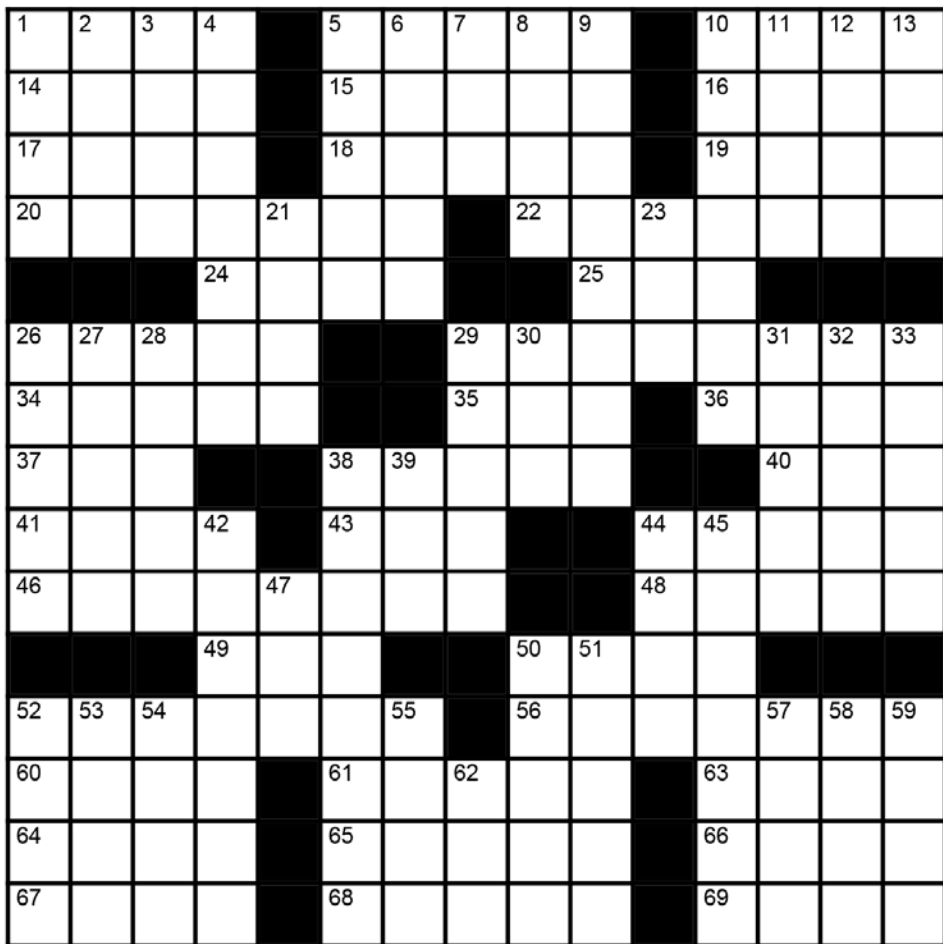
ALL ARE
WELCOME!

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 10B

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 10B

CROSSWORD

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 10B



ACROSS

1. "...cure what ____ you"
5. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the ____"
10. "Back up" PC command
14. "How dull"
15. "Goodbye, Honolulu"
16. "Make It or Break It" actress Gilpin
17. A buck in Bulgaria
18. Boat mover
19. Alternative to Aspen
20. Illustration
24. "Say Hey" Hall of Famer
25. "Measure twice, ____ once"
26. "A Doll's House" author
29. "The Flintstones" period
34. Darns
35. "Let's take it from the ____"
36. Building on a quad
37. "... ____ in a galaxy far, far away..."
38. Brilliant perennial
40. "Dizzy" singer Tommy
41. Apparel
43. "... near, and yet so ____"
44. "Cattle call" respondent
48. Containing good earth
49. "Head for the hills!"
50. "Don't ____ us; we'll..."
52. Intestine sections
56. Word having stress on the last syllable
60. "... ____ and for all!"
61. "Nanook of the North" abode
63. Angers
64. "...following yonder ____"
65. "Go" color
66. Access oozily
67. -- and turn
68. "She never ____ her greedy will": Dante
69. Comfortable, as accommodations

DOWN

1. "... ____ to leap tall buildings"
2. Berry-bearing shrub
3. "Dante's Peak" flow
4. Faked
5. "... and ____ to rise"
6. "A Lesson from ____" (Fugard play)
7. "Canary ____" (1950)
8. "Take --- Train"
9. Printed version
10. Having received a positive vote or approval on an online comment or post
11. "Coming to a theater ____ you"
12. Bit; fragment
13. "Desqueaks" the Tin Man
21. "Iron Chef" necessities
23. "A Raisin in the ____"
26. "Graven" thing
27. "Where the World ____" (Mellencamp)
28. Angry boar's sound
29. "Bedtime" reading
30. "Maximum weight" unit
31. "Great artery"
32. "I do" sayer
33. -- board (nail file)
38. Divisions of a mark
39. "All you can ____" (buffet sign)
42. Audubon Society devotees
44. "____ McBeal"
45. Frisky
47. "Golden Girl" McClanahan
50. An Aussie outback call
51. Brain function transmitters
52. "After whom ____ thou pursue?": 1 Samuel
53. "... as you would have them do ____ you"
54. Andean root vegetables
55. City of the Taj Mahal.

The History of Crossword Puzzles

The modern crossword began on December 21, 1913, when journalist Arthur Wynne created a diamond-shaped "Word-Cross" puzzle for the *New York World*. A later printing accidentally flipped the name to "Cross-Word," and nobody bothered to change it back.

Then things got slightly out of hand.

By 1924, crosswords had become a national craze. Simon & Schuster published a crossword book with a pencil attached and worried so much about the odd little project that they initially left their company name off it. The first printing sold out, and the book eventually topped 100,000 copies. Libraries complained that crossword solvers were crowding reference desks searching for dictionaries and encyclopedias.

The *New York Times* resisted the fad for years, dismissing crosswords as a rather primitive exercise. It finally surrendered in 1942, reasoning that readers living through wartime could use the distraction.

More than a century later, we still enjoy filling in the squares.

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CODEWORD PUZZLE

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			1		6				20		4			
2	15	18	24	12	25		12	23	24	11	21	7	25	7
	24		10		25		8		12		17		23	
25	23	2	8	7	6	22	9		8	22	21	10	8	24
	6		21		12		9		13		22		9	
2	5	24	1	3	23	24	13	11	21	22	16			
	21		24				24		6				20	
15	2	13	9	13	26				1	24	7	2	1	25
	1				2		7				8		2	
			11	2	8	22	25	6	21	22	7	21	9	24
	7		8		1		6		16		20		8	
19	21	7	7	24	7		25	24	22	9	24	22	12	26
	14		24		24		21		2		22		25	
1	24	20	8	15	13	21	12		1	24	7	21	7	25
			11		4				24		24			

The History of the Codeword Puzzle

A crossword without clues sounds like somebody forgot to finish the puzzle, but that is exactly the point of a Codeword.

The game is a relative newcomer to the newspaper puzzle page. Its exact inventor and first appearance are surprisingly difficult to pin down. Codewords appear to have begun in puzzle magazines before making their way into newspapers around the early 2000s, where they became particularly popular in Britain. Today, they are a regular feature on newspaper puzzle pages.

The idea borrows the familiar grid of the crossword, which dates to Arthur Wynne’s famous 1913 “Word-Cross,” but throws away the clues. Instead, every letter of the alphabet is assigned a number from 1 to 26. The same number always represents the same letter throughout the grid.

Solvers crack the code by spotting letter patterns, recognizing possible words and using each discovery to unlock another.

It is part crossword, part cryptogram and, once you get going, a rather satisfying little detective job.



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ALPHASUDOKU

g	e	b	d	i	f	h	c	a
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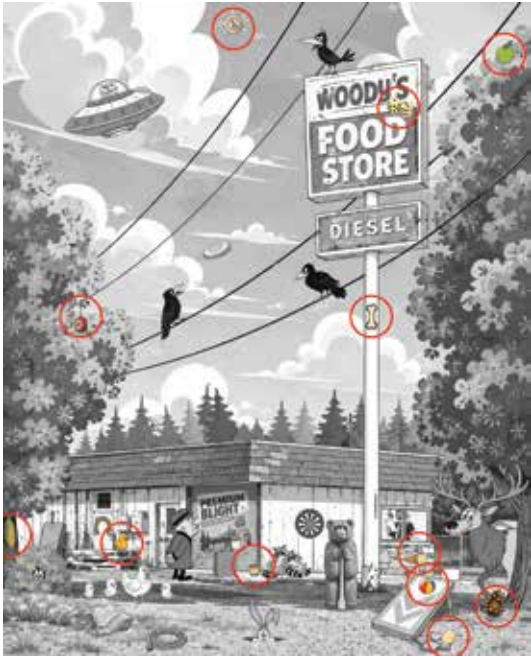
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NAME THAT CONSTELLATION

- 1 Scorpius (the long curved scorpion with stinger)
- 2 Sagittarius (the Teapot)
- 3 Cygnus (the Northern Cross)
- 4 Cassiopeia (the W / M shape)

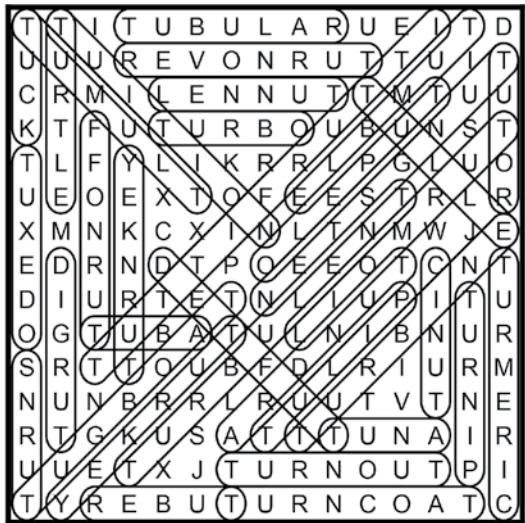
HIDDEN PICTURES



SUDOKU

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

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WINGS OVER ARIZONA

BARN SWALLOWS

BY MARGARET DYEKMAN



Barn Swallow, courtesy of Margaret Dyekman

Barn Swallows are the most common swallow species in the world, breeding throughout most of North America and Eurasia and overwintering in Central and South America, Africa, India, Malasia, and even Australia. Their migration journey, which can span thousands of miles, highlights their endurance and navigational skill. They rely on abundant insect populations along the way, making them sensitive indicators of environmental health. Changes in climate, pesticide use, and habitat availability can influence their success, and conservationists often look to swallow populations as a measure of ecosystem stability.

Barn Swallows are common in northern Arizona, often seen flying low to the ground, skimming fields, ponds, parks, golf courses, and open meadows in pursuit of insects. With their deeply forked tails, cobalt blue backs, and warm cinnamon underparts, they are an easy swallow to identify, even when zipping past at speeds that defy the taking of a decent photo.

Before manmade structures, Barn Swallows primarily nested in caves or on cliffs, building their mud-and-grass cup nests. Today nests

are more often found on barn rafters, under bridges, and along porch beams, eaves, bridges, and culverts. I can attest to that, as on recent birding trips, I found Barn Swallows nesting on a ledge above the Safeway entrance in Benson, Arizona, and on a shade structure beam at the Kelley Island Ferry on Ohio's Lake Erie shore.

Because of their vast distribution, there are numerous legends about this species. In many parts of the world, having Barn Swallows nesting on one's property is considered a sign of good fortune.

Conversely, lightning may strike a house if a Barn Swallow nest is removed.

Finally, the Barn Swallow has the distinction of indirectly leading to the establishment of the conservation movement in the United States. The destruction of Barn Swallows for the millinery trade is said to have prompted George Bird Grinnell's 1886 editorial in *Forest and Stream* that led to the founding of the first Audubon Society in North America.

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.



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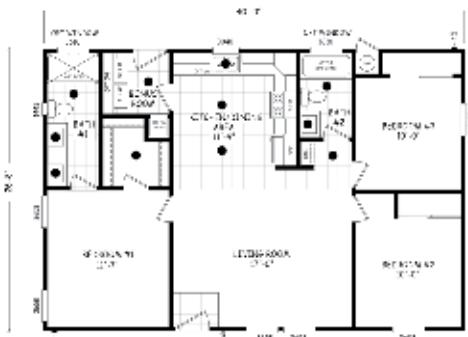


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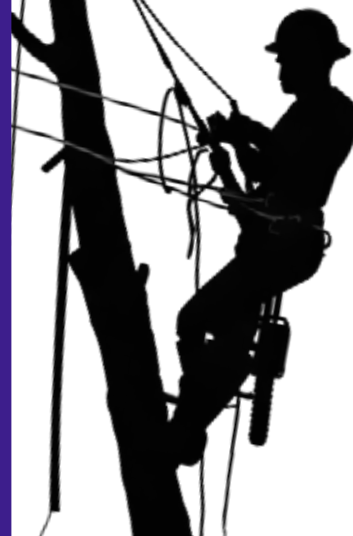
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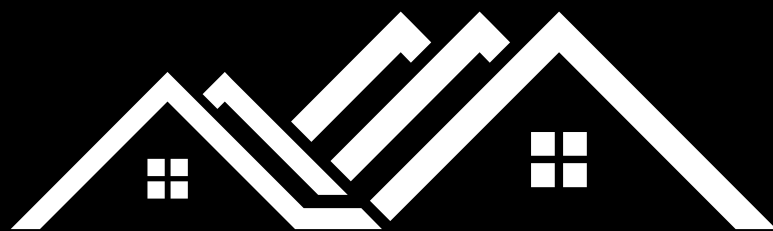
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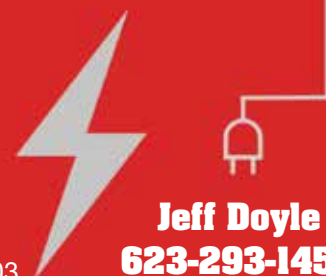


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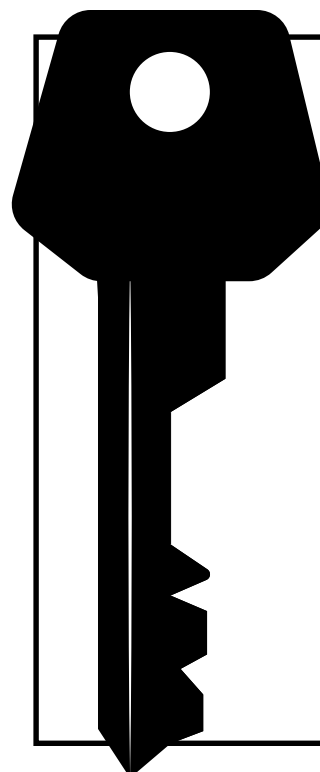
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WHY FORGIVENESS IS SO HARD & SO NECESSARY

BY PASTOR JEREMY WEITZEL

Forgiveness is one of the hardest things any of us have to face. When people come from all kinds of backgrounds and beliefs, we all know what it feels like to be hurt, whether it was a harsh word spoken in a moment of stress, a broken promise, or something deeper that still sits heavy in your chest when you think about it. That kind of hurt has a way of sticking with us. It does not matter if you have been in church your whole life or if you have never stepped inside one. Pain is pain, and letting go of it does not come easy for any of us.

The Bible speaks to this, and one verse in particular gives us a simple but powerful picture. Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." Even if you are not sure what you believe about God yet, those words carry a kind of wisdom that reaches across every boundary. It is a wisdom every community needs, especially a small one like ours where we see each other at the market, at the post office, on the trails, and at the café.

Why is this so hard? Partly because hurt is real. When someone wounds us, it touches more than our minds; it touches our hearts, and the feeling lingers long after the moment itself has passed. We are being asked to let go of something we feel we have a right to hold onto, to release bitterness even when bitterness feels like the only thing protecting us. That is why the whole idea can feel so unnatural, as if it means letting someone off the hook. But it is not pretending the hurt did not happen, and it is not saying the person was right. It is choosing to stop carrying that weight everywhere we go.

Pride makes it harder still. It whispers that the other person does not deserve it, or that letting go means excusing what they did. Pride convinces us that holding onto anger is what keeps us safe, but anger does not keep us safe; it keeps us stuck, replaying the same moment over and over. Pride builds walls around our hearts, and tearing one of those walls down takes more humility than pride ever allows.

Fear plays a role too. We worry that if we forgive someone, they will hurt us again, or that it means going back to the relationship exactly as it was. But this and trust are not the same thing. One is a gift we give;

the other gets rebuilt slowly, on its own timeline. None of this means ignoring wisdom or staying in a harmful situation. It simply means refusing to let bitterness be the thing that shapes our lives.

And bitterness really does shape us. It changes how we see the people around us and how we treat them, and over time it steals joy, drains energy, and leaves us suspicious and closed off. The person who hurt us may move on with their life, while we stay stuck reliving ours. Letting go is what frees us from that weight, so we can breathe, and live, again.

There is a deeper reason this matters, and it is where Jesus comes in. The verse tells us to forgive "just as God in Christ also has forgiven you," and that is the heart of it. Christians extend grace because Jesus extended it to us first, not waiting for us to get our act together or to deserve it, but offering it freely. Whether you have been following Jesus for decades or are still trying to figure out what you believe, that kind of grace is worth paying attention to, because of what it is capable of doing in a person, and in a community.

It also opens the door for healing. There is no guarantee that every relationship will be restored, but restoration becomes possible; without it, things stay broken, and with it, there is hope. It creates space for honest conversation, for growth, and sometimes even for reconciliation. Even when a relationship cannot be repaired, the choice to let go still brings peace, because the weight gets released either way.

And there is something bigger at stake than any one relationship. When people in a community forgive each other, the whole atmosphere shifts into one where people feel safe. When Christians live this out, it shows the world what Jesus is like: a love that does not make sense measured against what we think people deserve.

So yes, it is hard. Hurt is real, pride is loud, and fear runs deep. But it is necessary, because bitterness destroys us, relationships need healing, and Jesus offers a better way. None of this happens overnight. It is worked out one choice at a time, a prayer more than a decision. But every step toward it is a step toward freedom, and toward the kind of life Jesus wants for every person in Munds Park.

Munds Park Community Church is hosting a FREE Oktoberfest celebration Friday, September 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. Come hungry for German food, live music, a fire pit and games for all ages. Bring a friend or three, because even the food is free and the company is even better!

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Domestic Animal & Wildlife Services**Loose Dogs, Nuisance Complaints, or Dog Bites**

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-8756

For serious attacks or issues, call the Sheriff's Office (928) 774-4523

Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

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

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-8756

Found a Stray?

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

The Pinewood Fire Department has microchip scanners. You can bring the animal to the firehouse or call (928) 286-9885

High Country Humane (928) 526-0742

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 call 911

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

Loose Livestock

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

Environmental & Emergency Services**Illegal Dumping in Forests or Waterways**

Environmental Quality Reporting Line (928) 679-8886

(press 1 to leave a message) Reports can be made anonymously.

Flooding Concerns

Coconino County Call Center: (928) 679-8525

Emergency Planning and Real-Time Updates

Coconino County Emergency Management (928) 679-8311

Email: emergencymanagement@coconino.az.gov

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 Questions & Complaints**Loud Parties, Parking Issues, Trash 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

Coconino County Short-Term Rentals Compliance Officer,
Mark Stento (928) 679-8856.

Know Your Rights: Short-term rental owners must register their contact information with Coconino County and provide it in writing to adjacent neighbors. If you never received it, contact the County STR Compliance Officer to verify the rental's registration. Report unresponsive owners, repeated disturbances, or suspected unregistered rentals to the County or Sheriff's Office.

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