

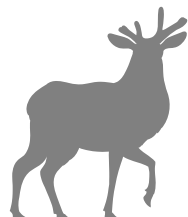
PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY, AND MOUNTAIN LIVING IN MUNDS PARK SINCE 1993

VOL. 33 NO. 1 JANUARY 9, 2026

COMPLIMENTARY

THIS NEW YEAR
LET US LOVE
ONE ANOTHER



2026 CELESTIAL EVENTS

Why Munds Park Loves the Dark Sky

The night sky here isn't just a backdrop. It's a presence. With little artificial light, Munds Park offers clear views of stars, planets, meteors, and the Milky Way that feel close enough to claim as our own. Away from city glare, our eyes adjust and thousands of points of light step forward, patient and steady.

Celestial events feel sharper here, more personal. A meteor streaks by, a planet rises, and you notice. Moonlit nights, faint constellations, and familiar rhythms are easier to follow when nothing competes for attention. In that quiet, the sky reminds us how small we are, and how connected we've always been.

People who love this sky treat it gently. Porch lights are lowered. Windows glow instead of glare. Not because of rules, but because affection changes behavior. When you care for the night, you do not try to outshine it. You let it be what it is, and in return, it gives you everything.

To find Dark Sky approved lighting for your cabin, visit: www.darksky.org/what-we-do/darksky-approved

Cosmic Calendar: What to watch for in the night sky.

JANUARY

Quadrantid Meteor Shower: Now through–January 16

One of the year's strongest showers, with a short, punchy peak. Best viewing is after midnight through dawn.

Moon & Saturn Close Pairing: January 23

Look west after sunset. The Moon and Saturn appear close together, a great easy target for binoculars.

FEBRUARY

February's Full Snow Moon

The Snow Moon reaches peak illumination Sunday, February 1. Step outside after dusk to see the Full Moon in all of its glory!

Six-Planet Alignment: Late February

(best around February 28) Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune gather on the same side of the sky after sunset. Venus and Jupiter are easiest. Uranus and Neptune generally require binoculars and darker skies.

MARCH

Total Lunar Eclipse: March 3, 6:38 A.M. ET.

A total "Blood Moon" lunar eclipse visible from Arizona, when a full Moon turns a deep copper-red as it passes through Earth's shadow.

APRIL

Lyrid Meteor Shower

The Lyrids peak on the night of April 21–22, 2026, when you can expect to see an average of 10 meteors per hour in dark, clear skies. This meteor shower is visible from both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, but it is much more active in the Northern Hemisphere, where the meteors' radiant is high in the sky.

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Outpost (Post Office)

Wine Tasting & More

Bashas - Camp Verde

Camp Verde Community Library

The next issue of the *Pinewood News* will hit the stands, **Friday, February 6, 2026**





COLDWELL BANKER NORTHLAND



\$429,000

17810 S WALAPAI RD • UNIT #: 55

Exceptional townhome! Spacious treed area on south of unit. Vaulted ceilings and cozy pellet stove insert in fireplace provides warmth and ambiance. New flooring, refrigerator, portable air conditioner and dishwasher. This home comes furnished and ready for your summer and winter enjoyment.



REDUCED

\$400,000

1170 E COUGAR ST

Cozy 2-bed, 2-bath home among pines and oaks, bonus room, private deck overlooking Munds Canyon, fenced yard, gazebo, bunkhouse, garage, granite upgrades, mostly furnished. Peaceful mountain retreat.



\$437,000

245 BARNWOOD TRL

Darling little getaway on a beautiful large treed lot (9750 sq ft). Cozy wood interior with vaulted ceiling and a pellet stove in living room. Plenty of room on the lot for a garage or to add on. Home comes furnished too?



REDUCED

\$475,000

17165 ELK PL

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.



SALE PENDING!

\$475,000

17380 CRYSTAL BROOK PL

Move-in ready Munds Park cabin with modern upgrades, vaulted ceilings, and cozy charm. New roof, floors, kitchen appliances, and more. Ideal for weekends or year-round living. Great community amenities.



SALE PENDING!

\$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.



Becky McBride

Designated Broker/Owner

928.606.1385

Becky@flagstaffrealestate.com



Regina Bailey

Associate Broker

928.699.7069

Regina.Bailey@ProvidentAZ.com



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928.606.2778

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Aaron Lewis

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PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & DESERT MOUNTAIN LIVING

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend.

Stay informed. Your presence and participation is essential!

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!

Tuesday, February 3

6:30 pm • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd
Munds Park

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, February 17

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Thursday, February 12

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park



LOVE ONE ANOTHER 6A

This January skips the usual self-improvement checklist and asks something harder. What would it look like if our only resolution was to love the people right in front of us.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 8A

Stay in the loop with everything local: public notices, community updates, and helpful info that keeps our community connected.

THINGS TO DO 10A

Local events, holiday activities, and outings to make the most of your time in the pines.

HOME MADE & WONDERFUL 13A

A simple, old-school approach to making real bone broth, slow-simmered for nourishment and flavor.

SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD 15A

A January drink that keeps the ritual and skips the regret.

GARDENS IN THE PARK 17A

Simple winter ideas to help your garden grow better all year.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS 19A

Fresh ideas to get outside, get curious, and have more fun in Arizona's wild places.

NATIONAL PARKS 20A

New park fees, new rules, and a clearer line between who gets in free and who pays more starting in 2026.

BOOK REVIEW 3B

A powerful novel that imagines the life and voice history never wrote down.

TRAVEL 5B

Sunshine escapes that trade winter gray for warmth and easy days.

PINEWOOD NEWS KIDS 8B

A kids story about trees, how they grow, and why they matter. A reminder that even the quietest things have an important job to do.

LOCAL LORE 11B

This is a county shaped by land, weather, and a sense that something greater set the terms.



LEAVE NO TRACE.
If Sasquatch & the Aliens
can do it, so can you.



NOT YOUR STANDARD NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Love One Another

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

We're not going to talk about making more money, budgeting better, dieting, exercising, getting organized, or climbing a career ladder.

You will not find the usual January promises here.

Those resolutions have been handed down year after year. They are not wrong, but they are worn thin. If those are your goals for 2026, you already know where to find help. There is an endless supply of self-help books, podcasts, search results, and videos ready to walk you through every step.

What we are choosing to focus on instead is heavier. Harder. Less discussed.

Last year, we wrote about the most valuable thing we are given and the easiest thing to waste: time.

This year, we are asking how we will use it.

Loving one another.

The world is starving for it. And it does not arrive in bulk. It only moves one person at a time, starting with you.

Munds Park likes to think of itself as community-minded. In many ways, that is true. It is friendlier than most places. People wave. Neighbors help neighbors. There is still a sense that you are seen where you live.

And yet, if you listen closely to conversations, or linger long enough in our Facebook groups, you can feel the strain. The sharp edges. The quiet divisions. The places where patience wears thin.

Real community does not happen by accident. It requires effort, whether you live in a small mountain town or a crowded city block.

And here is where it gets uncomfortable.

This is not about loving the neighbor you enjoy a drink with or the one who shares your sense of humor. This is about the neighbor whose name you never learned. The one who votes

YOUR LINK TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUNDS PARK

A WIN FOR THE NIGHT SKY

Coconino County is marking Flagstaff being named International Dark Sky City of the Year, a recognition that reflects decades of commitment to protecting Northern Arizona's night skies.

Flagstaff became the world's first International Dark Sky City in 2001, building on lighting protections that date back to 1958. Coconino County followed with some of the strongest outdoor lighting standards in the world, including early limits on both light spectrum and output. Today, county and city codes exceed those set by DarkSky International, placing the region among global leaders in dark sky protection.

Why does this matter? An estimated 80 percent of Americans can no longer see the Milky Way from where they live. In Northern Arizona, that view is still part of daily life, something many communities have already lost.

For Munds Park, this recognition is also a reminder. We are a Dark Sky community. That designation only works if residents help protect it. Turning off outdoor lights when they are not in use, keeping lighting low, and using shielded fixtures all make a real difference.

Dark skies don't maintain themselves. They're protected one porch light at a time.

Source: Coconino County Communications Office

UPDATES FROM THE PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT

Recommended Inspection

Pinewood Sanitary District encourages homeowners to have their sewer laterals inspected every year by a plumber. Regular inspections help identify problems early—such as damaged pipes, faulty backwater valves, or root intrusion—which can prevent costly repairs. Because sewer laterals are underground, issues often go unnoticed until serious damage occurs. By staying proactive with maintenance, homeowners can protect their properties and support the long-term health and efficiency of the PSD wastewater system.

Monthly Board Meetings Open to the Public

Residents are invited to attend PSD's monthly board meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM. These meetings offer a valuable opportunity to stay informed about ongoing projects and ask questions during the Call to the Public.

RV Hookups Prohibited

PSD is reminding visitors and residents that RV hookups to residential cleanouts are not permitted. This policy protects the integrity of the sewer system and helps prevent costly damage. The district appreciates everyone's cooperation in following this important rule.

Public Utility Easement: Use & Safety Requirements

Contractors and non-contractors are advised that permanent structures may not obstruct Public Utility Easements. Before beginning any work, individuals must call 811 to initiate BlueStake notifications, ensuring all underground utilities are properly located. Permission must also be obtained from all relevant utility providers before entering or using a PUE. Failure to follow these rules may create safety hazards, interrupt service, and result in legal and financial consequences.

Access Needed for Upcoming Sewer Main Repairs

PSD will soon conduct priority-based repairs to sewer mains, beginning with the most severe issues. Changing conditions may require immediate access without prior notice. To support safe and timely repairs, all utility easements must remain accessible at all times. If PSD must remove obstructions to reach sewer lines or equipment, homeowners will be responsible for associated costs.

STAY SHARP WITH THE WISE GUYS

Coconino County officials report two scams circulating locally: check washing from stolen mail, and phone calls falsely claiming to be from the Superior Court or Detention Facility. These callers use threats of warrants or arrest to pressure people into sharing personal or financial information.

A reminder worth repeating: the courts and detention staff do not threaten residents, demand payment by phone, or ask for personal information. Official court notices are sent by mail.

If a call feels urgent, aggressive, or off, hang up. Caller ID can be faked. Never send money or information to someone who contacted you first.

If you believe you've been targeted, contact the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at 928-774-4523.

Staying calm, skeptical, and unhurried is still the best defense.

SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

**Avalanche
Snow Removal**
Oscar Hollaway
(928) 707-3527

Goodfellas
(480) 532-3084
John Tyrrell
(928) 951-6532

The Cabin Man
Wes Deam Jr
(928) 666-0882



SHORT-TERM RENTALS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ARIZONA

Across Northern Arizona, short-term rentals (such as Airbnb and VRBO homes) remain a frequent topic of discussion because they can affect housing availability, neighborhood character, and long-term affordability.

State Law Still Limits Local Control

A 2017 Arizona law (SB 1350) prevents cities and towns from banning or broadly restricting short-term rentals. Earlier this year, the Arizona Court of Appeals reinforced that limitation when it ruled that Sedona could not block a mobile home park from being used for vacation rentals. The court found that state law protects such properties as residential units, and that local zoning or bans cannot override that framework under current law.

Legislature May Revisit the Rules in 2026

County leaders across Arizona are also preparing for the next legislative session. At the 2025 County Supervisors Association Policy Summit held in Yuma, county supervisors approved a resolution urging the state legislature to return more authority over short-term rentals to local governments.

The resolution calls for allowing counties and municipalities to set occupancy limits, density caps, and zoning restrictions for short-term rentals, as well as creating stronger enforcement tools such as registration fees or penalties to address repeated violations. It also emphasizes protecting residential neighborhoods and preserving housing availability through locally tailored solutions.

County leaders have also raised concerns about what they describe as unfair tax treatment, advocating for certain short-term rentals to be assessed at commercial property tax rates rather than residential rates.

If the legislature takes up these proposals in 2026, local governments could gain greater flexibility to manage where and how short-term rentals operate, while still remaining within a statewide framework.

Local Rules Still Apply in Unincorporated Areas

For Munds Park and other unincorporated areas, short-term rentals are regulated by Coconino County, not by a city or town.

Property owners operating a short-term rental in Munds Park are required to obtain a county STR permit, maintain a state Transaction

Privilege Tax license, notify nearby neighbors, and comply with county safety and operational standards. The county also prohibits the use of short-term rentals for large events or gatherings without separate approval and requires a designated local contact who can respond if issues arise.

Cities such as Prescott and Sedona operate under their own municipal ordinances, but those rules do not apply in Munds Park. County regulations are the governing authority here, and enforcement is handled at the county level, within the limits set by state law.

What it means for Northern Arizona

Housing advocates in communities such as Williams and Flagstaff argue that short-term rentals have reduced the supply of long-term housing, making it harder for teachers, firefighters, and other essential workers to find places to live. Local officials have asked state legislators for more tools to manage STR impacts, but so far state law has limited what communities can do, though that could change in future sessions.

A Quick Note for Neighbors

If you live next to a short-term rental that is causing ongoing issues, Coconino County has established reporting and compliance channels. For convenience, the relevant county contact numbers are printed in the back of each issue of the Pinewood News, making them easy to find when needed.

Sources: Arizona Capitol Times; KNAU



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15



BINGO NIGHT WINE TASTING & MORE

Classic bingo, good wine, and a solid reason to get out on a winter night. Games start at 6 pm, and arriving early is your best bet for a good seat.

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: 17730 S. Munds Ranch Rd, back of old BBQ

Admission: Free

EVERY FRIDAY, JAN 9 - MAR 27



FAMILY FRIDAYS AT ARIZONA SNOWBOWL

Start the weekend on the slopes with discounted lift tickets and rentals. A relaxed way to ski together, whether your crew includes kids, adults, or both.

Time: All day (see website for details)

Location: Arizona Snowbowl, Flagstaff, AZ

For information: arizonasnowbowl.com

Admission: Discounted pricing (see website)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 - 19 ONLINE



IPHONEOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Sedona Arts Center offers a hands-on workshop focused on simple techniques for taking better everyday photos with your phone.

Learn how to capture landscapes, people, and moments, using tools you already have.

Time: 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Location: Sedona Arts Center, Sedona

For information: sedonaartscenter.org

Admission: Paid workshop (see website)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22



TRIVIA NIGHT WINE TASTING & MORE

Bring your random facts and enjoy a relaxed trivia night with wine and good company. Come early to grab a seat and settle in.

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: 17730 S. Munds Ranch Rd, back of old BBQ

Admission: Free

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - 19



OIL PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS COURSE

Verde Valley Archaeology Center & Museum offers a three-week beginner oil painting course where you'll

learn basics like mixing color, using brushes and materials, and creating a still-life painting to take home.

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (Thursdays)

Location: 460 West Finnie Flat Rd, Camp Verde

For information: verdevalleyarchaeology.org

Admission: \$145 per person (course fee)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

INDIGENOUS TRAILS & THE ANZA EXPEDITION



Learn how the Anza Expedition crossed the desert using Indigenous trail knowledge during a talk by anthropologist Aaron M. Wright, Ph.D. A complimentary reception follows.

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: Verde Valley Archaeology Center, 460 Finnie Flat Road Camp Verde

For information: verdevalleyarchaeology.org

Admission: Free

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026



10TH ANNUAL FLAGSTAFF CHOCOLATE WALK

Head downtown for an afternoon of chocolate samples, shopping, and community fun as this sweet local tradition hits year 10. Start at the Visitor Center, then stroll to participating businesses for treats along the way.

Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: 1 E. Route 66, Flagstaff

For information: downtownflagstaff.org/do/10th-annual-flagstaff-chocolate-walk

Admission: Free

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12- 16



I HEART PLUTO FESTIVAL

Lowell Observatory hosts its annual celebration of Pluto with talks, programs, and events that mix science with a sense of wonder. You may

leave knowing more than you expected.

Time: Varies

Location: Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, AZ

For information: iheartpluto.org

Admission: Varies (see website)



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14



ARTS & CRAFTS AMERICAN STYLE

Browse pottery, woodworking, jewelry, paintings, photography, and stained glass at this classic arts and crafts show. It's a

local favorite for finding something original and handmade.

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Clemenceau Heritage Museum, 1 N. Willard Street, Cottonwood

For information: clemenceaumuseum.com

Admission: \$1.00

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21



THREE DOG NIGHT WITH AMBROSIA

Three Dog Night teams up with Ambrosia for a classic rock show packed with familiar hooks and sing-along moments. If you know the radio hits, you already know the words.

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Findlay Toyota Center, Prescott Valley

For information: findlaytoyotacenter.com

Admission: Ticketed (see website)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Sedona hosts its annual St. Patrick's Day parade with local groups, floats, and plenty of green on display. A lively morning tradition that

draws a friendly crowd.

Time: 10:30 am

Location: Downtown Sedona, Sedona, AZ

For information: sedonaaz.gov

Admission: Free

SOUP'ER BOWL

Join us at the heart of Munds Park for a delightful soup competition that's **open to everyone!** Bring your favorite homemade soup along with the recipe, or simply come ready to taste and help judge the best soups in town.

There will be prizes, but the real treat will be the fun and fellowship around the table.

This event is **FREE** for the community! Come hungry!

Saturday February 7, 2 pm
Munds Park Community Church

Please RSVP
928-286-2022



Community MARKETS

RUBY'S OPEN-AIR SPRING MARKET

A monthly outdoor market filled with vintage finds, handmade goods, seasonal treats, and plenty of small town charm. Shoppers can browse, snack, and enjoy a relaxed day among pumpkins, sunflowers, and local vendors.

Date: Saturday, February 22 + 23

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

Location: Ruby Road Vintage, 851 E Howards Rd, Camp Verde

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 Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Time: 6 AM - 3 PM (Early morning is prime time for the best picks)

Location: 6201 E. State Route 69, Prescott Valley

Admission: Free

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, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

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,

NOW THROUGH SPRING 2026

ARIZONA SNOWBOWL



Grab your gear and hit the slopes at Arizona Snowbowl, where lift tickets for the 2025-26 season are now available online—some deals start as low as \$10 if you buy early and pick offseason dates.

Time: Daily

Location: Flagstaff-area resort

For information: www.snowbowl.ski

Admission: Prices vary by date; online early purchase gets the best rate.

Pro Tip: Purchase your ticket in advance online, pick a weekday if your schedule allows, and you'll likely get the best value.

DAILY, WINTER/SNOW SEASON FLAGSTAFF SNOW PARK



Tubing lanes built for speed, a kiddie hill perfect for tiny thrill-seekers and enough snow play space to build an entire snowman family. With tube rentals ready to go and outdoor firepits to warm your fingers, this spot turns a regular

winter day into a full-on "did we really just do that?" kind of outing.

Time: See website for daily session times

Location: Fort Tuthill County Park, 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff

For information: flagstaffsnowpark.com

Admission: See website for ticket pricing

DAILY, WINTER/SNOW SEASON BENHAM SNOW PLAY AREA



A simple, wide open spot south of Williams where families can roll giant snowballs, build snowmen and enjoy relaxed winter fun without fees or frills. It's quiet, low key and great for anyone who wants a basic snow day without the crowds.

Time: Daylight hours

Location: Benham Snow Play Area, Perkinsville Road, south of Williams

Admission: Free

SNOW PLAY TIPS FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA

- **Always check road conditions** before heading out. Road closures can happen without warning.
- **Follow parking rules.** Some areas, including Fort Tuthill, have winter parking restrictions
- **Bring your own gear** when visiting non commercial spots. Pack sleds, warm layers and any safety items your group needs.
- **Pack out everything you bring.** Trash and broken sleds have become a real issue at free snow play areas, so help keep the forest clean.
- **Natural snow varies.** Even in Flagstaff, officials note that some seasons start slow and certain public areas may not have enough snow for sledding.
- **NEVER park along any highway for snow play.**



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FEATURED MOUNTAIN HOMES BY DEBI BRIGHT



\$750,000

1350 E THUNDERBIRD TRAIL

Large Chalet with easy access to deck and entry. Covered carport that leads to a single car garage with entry up to the upstairs family room. Fenced in yard. All showings must have an appointment.



\$774,000

1410 E LOBO LANE

Remodeled home with vaulted ceilings, propane fireplace, Trex decking, and updated kitchen. Main-level primary suite, bonus room, guest bath, garage with remote, and covered front and back porches. Great for entertaining.



\$535,000

17010 TEAL PLACE

Backs National Forest with two large bedrooms plus a flexible third room for office or den. Fireplace and enclosed Arizona Room for forest views. Large carport, storage, new carpet, walk-in pantry and primary closet, two baths, fenced yard, private summer landscaping.



\$439,000

17290 ALEGRIA PLACE

Almost-new 2020 Cavco with three large bedrooms, including an office option with private deck entry. Open great room and kitchen with high ceilings and big island. Covered porch, quiet cul-de-sac, easy trail access, shed, paver drive, walkway, ample parking, entertaining deck.



\$319,500

110 E OAK DRIVE

16-wide manufactured home: new flooring, appliances, roof, dual-pane windows; solid foundation, dog run, two powered sheds. Fully furnished, covered porch.

LOTS FOR SALE

46 E OAK DR \$279,00

Over 40,000 square feet lot. Absolutely incredible views from the top. Heavily treed.

17615 S MUSTANG RD \$300,000

One of the last remaining lots available on Animal Hill, well over 6800 sq ft, sloped toward the street and around the corner from the National Forest

17375 CRYSTAL BROOK PL \$199,500

Secluded from the road. A long driveway that opens to an extra large lot with beautiful oak trees surrounding the perimeter.



Debi Bright

Managing Broker / Realtor®

928.699.7703 CELL

BrightDebi@gmail.com

RE/MAX Pinewood

15 W Pinewood Blvd

PO Box 17218

Munds Park, AZ 86017



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BONE BROTH IS NOT JUST STOCK

Beef, Chicken, or Turkey

This is not quick soup stock. It is the kind of bone broth that has always happened when good cooks saved bones and vegetables in the freezer, waiting until there was enough time and enough scraps to let a pot simmer long enough to do more than add flavor. It was meant to give real nourishment.

Prep Time: about 20 minutes

Cook Time: 12-24 hours

Yield: 3-4 quarts

Ingredients

- 4-5 pounds of mixed bones (beef, chicken, or turkey). Use different cuts of bones from the same animal. Joints and knuckles make a real difference.
- 1 onion, halved or saved trimmings
- 2 carrots, roughly chopped or peels and ends
- 2 celery stalks or tops
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1 bay leaf or a few parsley stems
- 1-2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- Cold water, just enough to cover
- Salt, added at the end

Optional but helpful

- Extra wings or chicken feet for better body
- Black pepper or lemon juice for finishing

Before You Start

Save bones from meals and keep them in the freezer until you are ready to make broth. The same goes for vegetable trimmings like onion ends, carrot peels, celery tops, and garlic skins. Skip strong vegetables such as cabbage or broccoli, which can overpower the pot. When broth becomes a habit, most of the work is already done before you begin.

Instructions

Roast the Bones

Heat the oven to 425°F. Spread the bones on a roasting pan and roast until well browned, about 35-45 minutes. This step gives the broth depth and warmth. Do not season the bones yet. That comes later.

Fill the Pot

Transfer the roasted bones to a large stockpot or crock pot. Add cold water just to cover. Too much water thins the flavor and weakens the broth.

Add Vegetables & Vinegar

Add the vegetables and the apple cider vinegar. The vinegar helps draw minerals from the bones as the broth cooks. You will not taste it, but the broth will be better for it.

Let it Simmer

Bring the pot to a gentle boil, then lower the heat to simmer. This is not something to rush. A quiet simmer keeps the broth clear and clean tasting.

Simmer times

- Chicken: 12-18 hours
- Turkey: 16-20 hours
- Beef: 18-24 hours

Why the Simmer Takes So Long

Bone broth relies on time more than effort. When bones simmer slowly at low heat, collagen from joints and connective tissue breaks down into gelatin. This gives broth its body and that gentle jiggle once it cools. That jiggle is a sign the broth was given enough time to do its work.

Shorter cooking produces stock, which is perfectly useful but lighter in body. Bone broth depends on classical cooking time, using slow, gentle heat to fully release collagen and the amino acids that support joints, skin, and connective tissue.

If your broth thickens in the refrigerator, the long simmer did exactly what it was meant to do.

...Continued on page 14A

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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

...Continued from page 13A

In a crock pot, cook on low for the same amount of time and let it take care of itself.

These longer simmer times reflect classical cooking time. Slow, gentle heat allows collagen to fully release from the bones, creating a richer, more nourishing broth than quick-cooked stock.

Strain & finish

When the broth is done, let it cool slightly and strain out the bones and vegetables. Taste, then add salt gradually until it tastes right to you.

Storage

Cool the broth and refrigerate it as soon as possible. Overnight chilling allows the fat to rise and solidify, which is easy to remove if you prefer a lighter broth. The broth will keep up to five days in the refrigerator or several months in the freezer. Freeze in smaller portions, leave room for expansion, and label containers with the date.

Notes from the Kitchen

- Good broth will thicken and turn a little jiggly when cold. That is exactly what you want.
- Chicken feet may look questionable, but they add wonderful body to the broth. No one will know they were there.
- Beef is deep and grounding, chicken is familiar and useful, and turkey sits right in between.

This kind of cooking does not shout for attention. It simply shows up, does its job, and leaves you better fed than before. That is wisdom worth keeping.

The Health Benefits of Home Made Bone Broth

Homemade bone broth offers benefits that are hard to find in store-bought versions, mostly because you control the ingredients, the cooking time, and the quality of the bones. There are no shortcuts here, and that is exactly the point.

When bones simmer slowly at low heat, collagen from joints and connective tissue breaks down into gelatin. This is what gives good broth its body and that familiar jiggle once it cools. That jiggle is not a novelty. It is a sign the broth was given enough time to do what it is meant to do. As collagen breaks down, it releases amino acids that help support joints, muscles, skin, and connective tissue, which is why bone broth has long been a favorite during recovery, cold season, or anytime the body needs a little extra care.

This is also why bone broth takes time. Collagen does not rush. Quick cooking produces stock, which is perfectly useful, but longer, gentle simmering allows collagen to fully release. That is classical cooking time at work, not a trend or a trick.

Bone broth also provides minerals such as calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus in a form the body can easily use. A small splash of vinegar during cooking helps draw these minerals from the bones, something quick commercial broths rarely allow time for. Because homemade broth is cooked gently and without additives, many people find it easier to digest and soothing to the stomach, especially when appetite is low.

Just as important, making broth at home avoids preservatives, excess sodium, and artificial flavors often found in packaged versions. You decide how much salt goes in, and when.

In the end, the health benefit is not only what is in the broth, but how it is made. Good bones, gentle heat, and patience produce something nourishing, practical, and quietly satisfying, the way it has always been done.



Some of the best recipes are the ones that get passed around. If you have one you love, send it and tell us why at [Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com](mailto>Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com). We'd love to consider it for a future issue.

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CITRUS ROSEMARY TONIC

January has a way of knocking on the door in slippers, asking if we can keep it quiet for a minute. The holidays were loud. Fun loud, but still loud. Clinking glasses, long nights, longer mornings. So today we're doing something radical. We're keeping the ritual and losing the regret. Same pretty glass. Same good ice. Same feeling of taking a moment just for yourself. Just without the wobble.

We're going to make a Citrus Rosemary Tonic. It's what you make when you want something grown-up in your hand but also want to wake up tomorrow remembering every smart thing you said last night.

Before anyone panics, this is not a lecture about Dry Anything. This is about flavor. About slowing down. About remembering that people were drinking botanical tonics long before anyone decided alcohol was the main character. Rosemary has been used for centuries for clarity and digestion. Citrus has always been the social butterfly of the produce drawer. Put them together and suddenly you're refreshed, awake, and feeling like you made an excellent decision.

Let's do this.

Ingredients

- Fresh rosemary sprigs (one for flavor, one for the glass)
- Fresh orange (about 1 ounce juice)
- Fresh lemon (about 1/2 ounce juice)
- Honey or simple syrup (simple syrup dissolves more easily if you're in a hurry)
- Tonic water or sparkling mineral water (crisp and classic, not overly sweet)
- Good ice (clear if possible, cloudy ice dulls the drink)



The Method

Gently bruise one rosemary sprig with the back of a spoon. You're waking it up, not punishing it. Drop it into a shaker or sturdy glass.

Add the fresh orange juice, lemon juice, and about one teaspoon of honey or simple syrup. Stir briefly so everything behaves.

Fill with ice and shake for about ten seconds. Enough to chill it properly and make you feel like you meant to do this.

Strain into a rocks glass over fresh ice. Top with 2 to 3 ounces of tonic or sparkling water, depending on how bold you're feeling.

Garnish with the second rosemary sprig and a thin citrus wheel if you want to show off, which you probably do.

Take a sip. Notice how it tastes like a real drink, not a compromise. Bright, herbal, lightly bitter, and refreshing without trying too hard. This is the glass you refill slowly. The one that lets the conversation stretch and the evening land softly.

Stay awhile. I'll refresh your glass.



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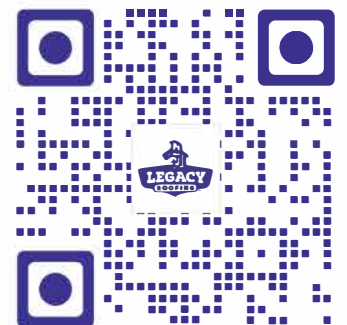
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Happy New Year

Pat & Bruce
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GARDENING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

BY MISTI WARNER-ANDERSEN



Photo by Filip Urban

Happy 2026! In these first few days of a New Year, most of us make resolutions for ways we can improve ourselves — to eat better, exercise more, try harder to break a bad habit.

But have you ever considered making some resolutions for your garden this year?

Like any New Year's resolution, the ones for your garden don't need to be overwhelming. You don't have to do everything on your list, or even start right away. Think of these resolutions as thought-starters for what your garden could be this year.

For example, have you ever wanted to become better at pruning? Often, folks let the trees and shrubs on their property grow until they become an issue (too large, shaggy looking, or in danger of growing into power lines). Then, the response is to overcompensate and prune too aggressively in order to "fix" the problem.

Thoughtful, regular pruning maintains plants, strengthens their structures, and supports better growth over time. Late winter and early spring - before your trees and plants break dormancy - is a great time to take a look and decide where and how much you need to cut.

Another valuable winter project is getting to know your soil. The sad truth about the soil in and around Flagstaff is that it often isn't up to the job of being a good base for your garden. The area's arid climate doesn't give soil a chance to develop, making it nutrient poor. Plus, there's a lot of clay in our dirt, which doesn't give our plants the porous environment needed for proper drainage.

But soil can be improved by amending it. We have soil test kits at Warner's and our experts can help you analyze the results and select the amendments you need to improve your garden's foundation.

If you're looking for something new to try this year, container gardening is worth considering. Containers offer flexibility, especially for gardeners with limited space or challenging soil. They allow you to control soil quality and watering more precisely, and they can be moved to protect plants from late frosts or summer hail storms.

Containers are ideal for herbs, flowers, and even some fruits and vegetables.

Another meaningful resolution is using your garden to support our local wildlife. Even the smallest garden can provide food, shelter, and water for birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects. Native and well-adapted plants are especially valuable because they're suited to our climate.

I'm also a big advocate of becoming more firewise and waterwise. We live in the middle of one of the world's largest ponderosa pine forests in an area that has struggled with drought for decades. That

means practices like spreading out your plants, weeding and getting rid of dead plants, and maintaining a "defensible space" around your home is essential to protect your property from wildfires.

And in our high-elevation desert climate, every drop of water matters. So investing in a rain barrel so you can harvest monsoon rainwater and installing a drip irrigation system are environmentally responsible, plus they will save you money. This is particularly true of drip irrigation, as it delivers water slowly to a plant's roots, reducing evaporation and runoff, so you use (and waste) less water cultivating your garden.

One final resolution I'd encourage gardeners to embrace is staying open to learning. Every year, Warner's offers our Root Camp series of affordable gardening classes taught by knowledgeable experts and designed for gardeners at every level. It's a great way to grow your gardening skills, plus it's a lot of fun. Stay tuned for details about our 2026 classes.

I hope you enjoy making your gardening resolutions for the new year. Winter gives us the space to plan, learn, and imagine what's possible. And when spring finally arrives, those quiet January resolutions can grow into something truly rewarding.

Happy gardening, Misti Warner-Andersen

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WORD SEARCH

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

Baby	Dieting	Gloves	New Year
Ball	Detox	Gown	Old
Black Ice	Eggnog	Gregorian	Party
Boots	Eve	Hat	Skiing
Bubbly	First	Hope	Snow
Clock	Fog	Icicles	Soup
Cozy	Flute	Invite	Time
Dancing	Frost	Janus	Transformation
Day	Goblet	Kiss	Vow
December	Goals	Last	Winter

WOODY'S PROGRESS REPORT



Welcome to Woody's Progress Report (Or Lack Thereof), where we track the thrilling saga of absolutely nothing happening. This prime slice of pavement, complete with a post-apocalyptic gas station, has been sitting empty since 2013. Yes, 2013. Until this rundown gas station gets a purpose, we'll be reporting in every issue on the thrilling "developments" of absolutely nothing.

In this issue's report:

Father Time stopped by Woody's for the New Year, checked his watch twice, tapped the hourglass, shrugged, and left. Sources say even time has given up.



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TAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION OUTSIDE

BY ARIZONA GAME AND FISH

As we reflect on the changes we want, or need to make in the new year, consider adding an outdoor resolution to the list.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) offers several simple ideas that are easy for outdoor enthusiasts to follow and rewarding to keep.

Fish Local

Make it a goal to wet a line this year at one or more of the state's 50-plus waters in the Community Fishing Program. These locations are seasonally stocked with channel catfish, bluegill, and rainbow trout. It is also a great way to introduce a youngster to a fun, lifelong sport. A general fishing license or combination hunt and fish license can be purchased at www.azgfd.gov. Youth under age 10 do not need a license.

Support Wildlife

Volunteers play an essential role in AZGFD's mission to conserve and protect more than 800 native wildlife species. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at www.azgfd.gov/volunteer. Another way to help is by making a donation online or through your state income tax form by checking the Arizona Wildlife Fund box.

Take a Youngster Outdoors

Look for animal tracks together and try to identify what made them. Bring along a bird identification guide and see how many species you can spot. Time spent outdoors creates memories that last a lifetime for both kids and adults.



Be a Wildlife Viewer

Arizona offers some of the best wildlife viewing in the country, with more than 800 native species. It is an inexpensive activity the entire family can enjoy.

Be a Conservationist

It is difficult to imagine what wildlife populations might look like today without the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. To learn more, view a presentation produced by AZGFD and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE4L9KicSeU.

Get Hunting

Do not let the odds of big game draw selections keep you from applying. If you have dreamed of hunting bison, pronghorn, or bull elk, submit an application. Also consider small game and other species that can be hunted year-round. Licenses are available online at www.azgfd.com/license.

Enter AZGFD's Portal

The online portal allows users to create a secure account to manage licenses, draw results, and bonus points through a personal My AZGFD Dashboard. Visit www.azgfd.gov, click Account Login at the bottom of the page, and select Register in the upper right corner.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives no general fund tax dollars. Most funding used to manage more than 800 native wildlife species comes from Arizona's hunters and anglers.



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NATIONAL PARKS

NEW NATIONAL PARK FEE RULES TAKE EFFECT IN 2026

Starting January 1, 2026, changes to national park fees and passes will reshape how millions of visitors enter some of the country's most popular protected lands. The U.S. Department of the Interior announced a revised fee structure that distinguishes between U.S. residents and non-U.S. residents, introduces new digital pass options, and updates the calendar of fee-free days.

What's Changing

Beginning this year, the America the Beautiful annual pass used for entry to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites will have separate pricing based on residency. U.S. residents will pay \$80, while non-U.S. residents will pay \$250. Visitors without an annual pass who are not U.S. residents will also pay an additional \$100 on top of the standard entrance fee at 11 major national parks.

The parks charging this extra per-person surcharge include Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Zion, Grand Teton, Bryce Canyon, Everglades, Acadia, Rocky Mountain, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

The National Park Service will also offer fully digital America the Beautiful passes for the first time. Visitors will be able to purchase and use passes digitally through Recreation.gov. Physical passes will continue to be available.

Fee-Free Days for U.S. Residents

The list of days when entrance fees are waived has been revised. For 2026, fee-free days apply to U.S. residents only. Non-U.S. residents must still pay applicable fees on those dates.

The announced fee-free days for 2026 are:

- February 16, 2026: Presidents Day
- May 25, 2026: Memorial Day
- June 14, 2026: Flag Day / President Trump's birthday
- July 3–5, 2026: Independence Day weekend
- August 25, 2026: 110th Birthday of the National Park Service
- September 17, 2026: Constitution Day
- October 27, 2026: Theodore Roosevelt's birthday
- November 11, 2026: Veterans Day

The National Park Service updated its fee-free day calendar for 2026 as part of broader changes to park access and funding. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth are no longer included. Officials say the revised list focuses on federal holidays, patriotic observances, and historical anniversaries, including Flag Day on June 14.

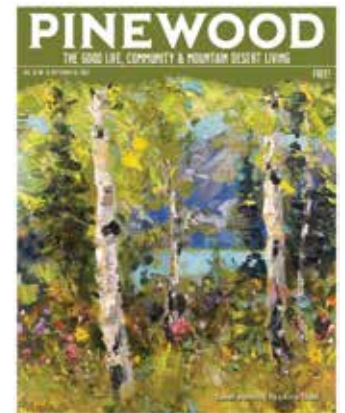
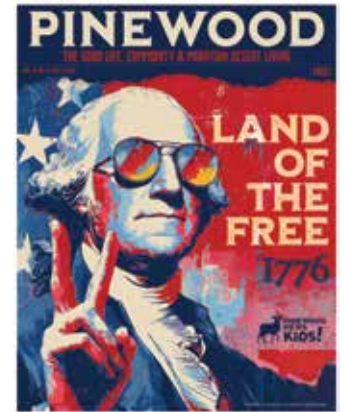
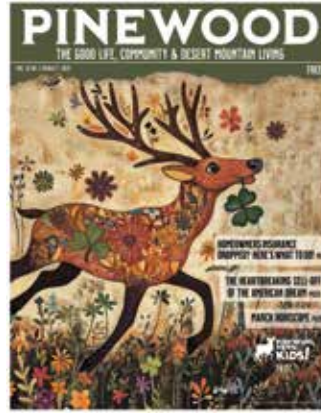
Understanding the Impact

Children under age 16 will continue to receive free entry under existing rules. Standard day-use entrance fees for U.S. residents remain unchanged outside of the non-resident surcharge at select parks. Discount and access passes, including senior, military, and access passes, remain in effect.

Federal officials state that the revised fee structure is intended to prioritize access for U.S. residents while increasing revenue from international visitors at high-traffic parks. The changes take effect January 1, 2026, and visitors are encouraged to check official National Park Service guidance before traveling.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Recreation.gov, National Park Service

WHAT A GREAT YEAR!



Thank you to our readers, writers, artists, and advertisers for another year with the Pinewood News.

This paper exists because of a community that cares about staying informed, connected, and involved. Every issue is shaped by the people who live and work here. The stories you share, the art you create, and the ideas you bring forward reflect the place we call home.

We are grateful for your trust and for the voices that give this paper its character.

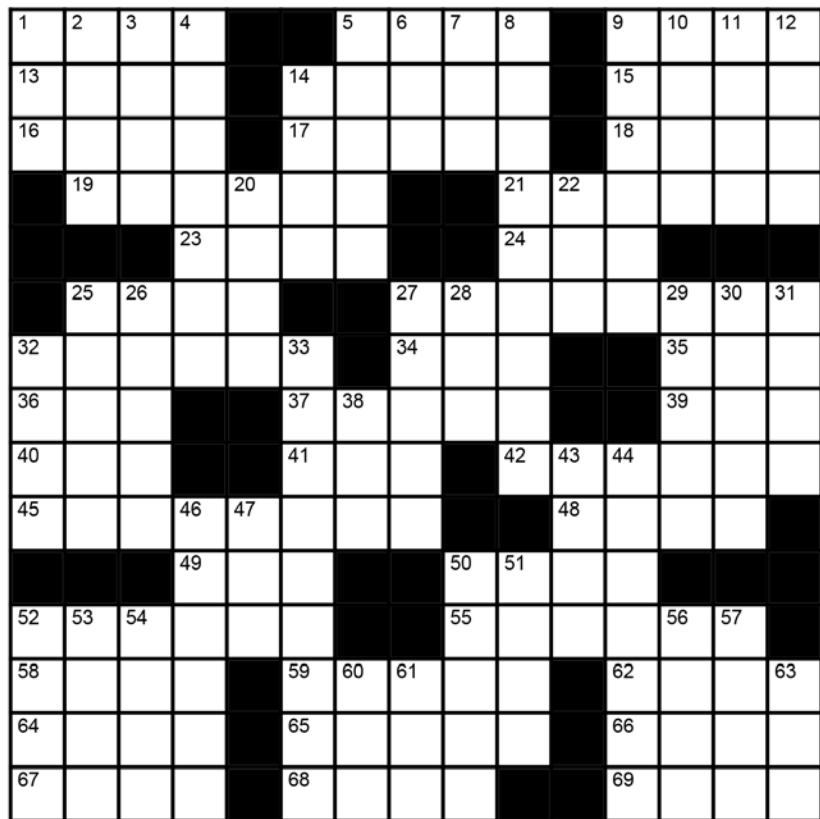
If you are an artist interested in a future cover, a writer with a story to tell, or someone who knows of a local issue worth following up on, we would love to hear from you. Many of our most meaningful stories begin with a simple note or phone call from a neighbor.

You can reach us anytime at Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com or (928) 286-9827.

Thank you for being part of the Pinewood News and for helping keep our community's stories alive.

CROSSWORD

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 14B



ACROSS

1 Convention group
5 Metallic sound
9 Rock band equipment
13 Turkish money
14 Risk taker
15 Hockey score
16 Pigeon-____
17 Teed off
18 Therefore
19 Chewy candy
21 Bird that catches fish by plunge-diving
23 Snug
24 Aged
25 Gush forth
27 Decorative ribbon
32 Winter sport
34 Waikiki wear
35 Israeli weapon
36 Ump's call
37 Hemp fiber
39 Transgression
40 Final: Abbr.
41 Path to enlightenment
42 Snooping (around)
45 Scheming
48 Cheese nibblers
49 Moray, e.g.
50 Calendar span

52 Illegible handwriting

55 Noted traitor
58 Film genre
59 Cake topper
62 Like some dorms
64 Story starter
64 Pig sounds
66 Vena ____ (vessel to the heart)
67 Garden intruder
68 Grandmas
69 A contemptuous term for a white person.

DOWN

1 Club alternative
2 Big cat
3 Hydrox alternative
4 Medical emblems
5 Shindig
6 Roth ____
7 After-tax amount
8 Calendar or chant
9 "To do" list
10 "September ____" (Neil Diamond hit)
11 Use a beeper
12 Coin opening
14 Cameron of Hollywood
20 Evening wear

22 Tankard filler
25 Cranium
26 Greek bread
27 Loose talk?
28 Private eye
29 Band output
30 Online publication
31 Doorbell sound
32 Progresso product
33 Ginormous amount
38 London's Big ____
43 Saudi Arabia neighbor
44 Hot wind from Africa
46 Closed in on
47 "What's ____?"
50 Americans, to Brits
51 Units of work
52 Winter forecast
53 Traffic ____
54 Minute ____
56 Baker's unit
57 Hindu goddess
60 Spy's org.
61 Setting for TV's "Newhart"
63 Calendar square

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THE BOOK OF LONGINGS

BY SANDY WRIGHT



In her fourth work of fiction, Sue Monk Kidd takes a daring approach to history and imagines the story of a young woman named Ana whose encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes her life.

Raised in a wealthy family, she is ambitious with a rebellious spirit. Because of her station in society, she learns to read and write, and she begs her father for parchment and quills, so she can secretly write narratives about neglected and oppressed women.

However, Ana is forced to marry a widower twice her age whom she does not love. She rebels, and the people of the town threaten to stone her to death. Only the intervention of Jesus prevents this.

When her aged fiancé dies suddenly, Ana is relieved, but her parents say she is damaged goods. By society, she is considered a widow, and therefore not desirable. Jesus appears again to save her, urging he who is without sin to cast the first stone. Then, he offers to marry her, and she readily agrees.

Their marriage carries both love and conflict, as Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers James and Simon and their wives, as well as their mother, Mary. Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to Rome's occupation of Israel, partially led by her brother, Judas. Ana's aunt, Yaltha, moves with her and remains a major guiding force in her life.

Eventually, Jesus realizes that his calling is to serve God, and Ana is forced to move to Alexandria with her aunt to avoid persecution by events in her past. Ana does not see Jesus again until right before his death.

Based on extensive research, this is a humanizing look at Jesus the man, as well as an inspiring story of a woman strong enough to earn his love, while living in a society bent on silencing her. Jesus is full of fire, yearnings, and doubts about being the Messiah. And Ana refuses her traditional role to promote the voices of all women. It's a love story for the ages by a woman way ahead of her biblical times.

I'm recommending this book because it is informative, fascinating and well-researched. Kidd has the ability to make us contemplate social issues. I'd never considered how hard Jesus' family life must have been, and how keenly so many people felt the knee of the Romans on their necks. Actually, I knew these hardships, but Kidd's study and narration helped me become immersed in the life and times of Jesus. She wasn't preachy, opinionated, or dogmatic. Yet somehow, I felt the weight of social injustice, including gender inequality, as the story unfolded.

It also reminded me that there are parts of the world today where people's lives are not much more advanced from this ancient period—women aren't taught to read, can't travel alone, and are merely subsisting with few comforts of modern life. Centuries have passed, but the plight of these women is no closer to heaven now than it was in Jesus's time.

Which brings us to the question: How would our cultures be different if men and women had learned to appreciate each other's spirit?

- The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd
- Penguin Books, April 2020
- 432 pages



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BEST DESTINATIONS FOR WINTER SUNSHINE

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG

Winter is the perfect time to trade gray skies for golden light, and these destinations for winter sunshine deliver warmth when you need it most. From beachside strolls to desert hikes and historic cities, each place on this list offers reliable sun and a slower seasonal pace. Read on to discover which sun-washed destination might be just right for your winter escape.



The golden sands of Mazatlán | Courtesy photo

Mazatlán, Mexico

Best for: Affordable beach sunshine with culture

Mazatlán delivers classic winter sunshine without the crowds or prices of Mexico's more famous resort cities. Expect daytime temperatures in the 70s, long golden beaches, and a historic center filled with colorful architecture and oceanfront promenades. Unlike some resort-heavy destinations, Mazatlán balances beach time with culture, from its historic Old Town to lively neighborhood markets and seafood spots that locals actually frequent. It's one I return to often, drawn back by its easy rhythm, walkability, and sense of place.

Winter is peak season here for a reason — it's dry, warm, and perfect for travelers who want both relaxation and local flavor.

Why Mazatlán shines in winter:

- Excellent value compared to Cancun or Cabo
- Walkable historic district + beach combo
- Increasing interest from US travelers seeking "less touristy" Mexico



Palm trees and sunshine in St. Augustine, Florida | UNSTOPPABLE Stacey photo

St. Augustine, Florida

Best for: Sunshine with history and charm

Winter sunshine in St. Augustine comes with mild temperatures, fewer crowds, and an easygoing pace that feels worlds away from snow and

ice. As the oldest city in the US, it pairs warm-weather strolling with centuries-old streets, Atlantic beaches, and a vibrant food scene. It's a destination I enjoy visiting in winter, when there's time to slow down and appreciate the city's character without the crowds.

Why St. Augustine works for winter travelers:

- Pleasant winter temps without extreme heat
- Ideal for walking, sightseeing, and outdoor dining
- Easy domestic escape with no passport required

Tucson, Arizona

Best for: Desert sunshine, hiking, and wellness

Tucson is a winter sunshine standout for travelers who want warmth and substance. Surrounded by mountains and saguaro-studded landscapes, it offers endless hiking, a UNESCO-recognized food culture, and a laid-back Southwest vibe that's perfect for a reset. Tucson has the added appeal of being closer to home, making a sunny escape feel easy and refreshingly uncomplicated.

Why Tucson belongs on this list:

- Sunny winter days ideal for outdoor adventures
- Thriving wellness and slow-travel scene
- Easy access to nature without sacrificing culture



Tanque Verde Ranch is one of my favorite places to stay in Tucson



Marbella on Costa del Sol, Spain | Photo property of Marbella City Council

Marbella, Spain

Best for: European winter sun with Mediterranean flair

Marbella proves you don't need summer crowds to enjoy southern Spain. Winter brings crisp blue skies, mild temperatures, and a slower rhythm along the Costa del Sol. It's an ideal destination for travelers craving sunshine, tapas, and seaside walks without peak-season chaos.

Why Marbella shines in winter:

- One of Europe's sunniest winter destinations
- Excellent food and cultural experiences year-round
- Perfect base for Andalusia exploration

... Continued on page 7B



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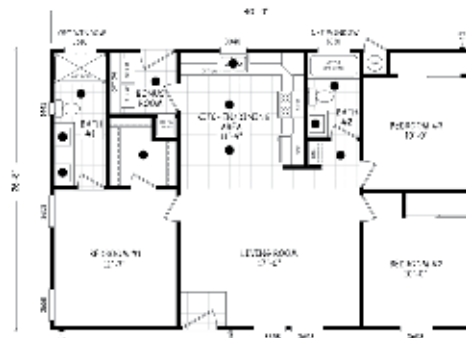


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Tenerife, a ‘most-searched’ winter sunshine destination | Bastian Pudill photo via UNSPLASH

UNSTOPPABLE Pick: Tenerife

Best for: Reliable year-round sunshine

If winter sunshine had a gold standard, Tenerife would be it. The largest of Spain’s Canary Islands sits closer to Africa than Europe, delivering warm, sunny weather even in January and February. Add volcanic landscapes, coastal towns, and nonstop flights from Europe and the US, and it’s no surprise Tenerife consistently ranks among the world’s top winter sun destinations.

Why Tenerife is a UNSTOPPABLE winter destination:

- One of the most searched winter sunshine destinations globally
- Consistently warm temperatures year-round
- Beaches, hiking, wine regions, and charming villages in one trip

Why These Are the Best Destinations for Winter Sunshine

Each of these destinations checks at least three boxes that travelers are searching for right now:

- Warm, reliable winter weather
- Fewer crowds than summer
- Experiences beyond just lying on a beach

From Mexico’s Pacific coast to the deserts of Arizona and the sun-soaked shores of Spain, these places prove winter is one of the best seasons to travel. I’ve gathered a few well-located lodging options on my website to help you start planning. Visit UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com for practical travel tips and destination ideas.

“UNSTOPPABLE Stacey” Wittig is a travel writer based in Munds Park. Her bylines have appeared at National Geographic Traveler, Forbes Travel and USA Today.

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WHY DO TREES SLEEP IN WINTER?

If trees had calendars, January would be circled in pajamas.

During winter, most trees are not dead. They are resting. Scientists call this dormancy, which is a fancy way of saying “energy-saving mode.”

When days get shorter and colder, trees know it is time to slow everything down. Trees that lose their leaves each fall are called deciduous trees. Oak, maple, and aspen are good examples. They drop their leaves to save water and energy. No leaves means less work. Think of it like turning off lights in empty rooms.

Pine trees are different. They keep their needles all winter, but even they hit the brakes. Sap flow slows. Growth stops. Trees focus on survival, not stretching taller.

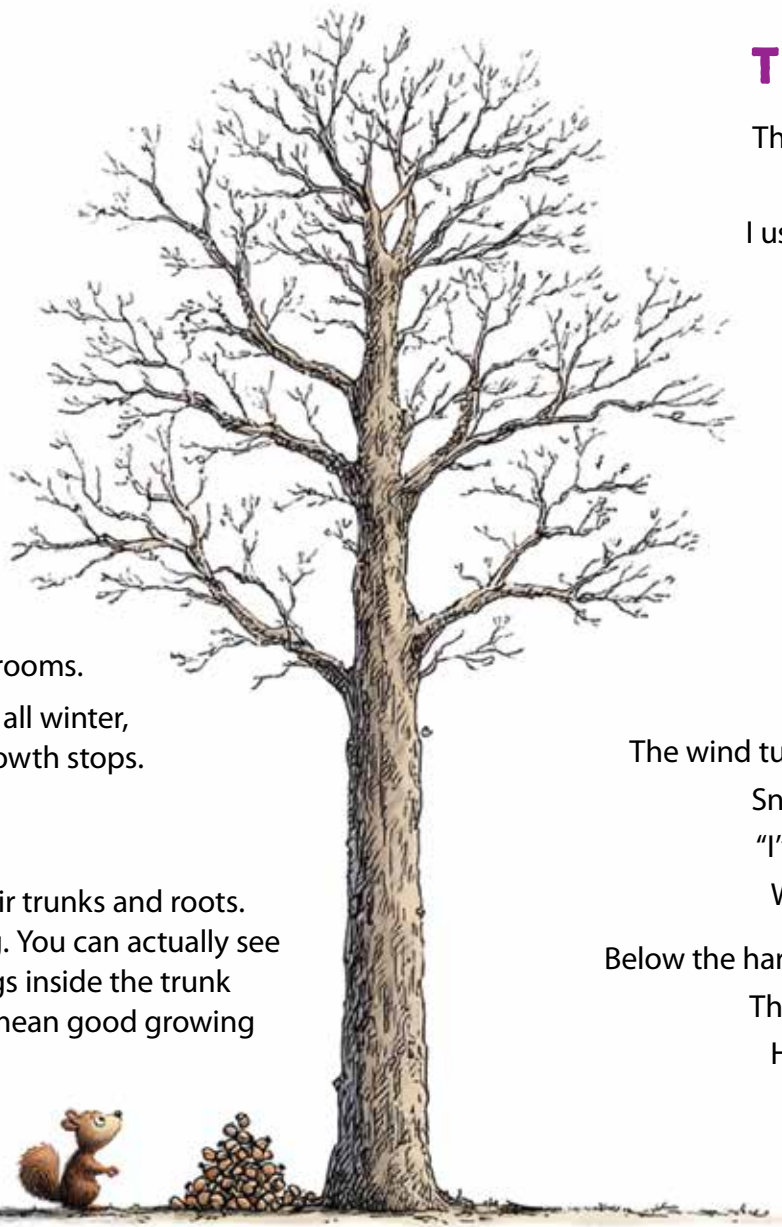
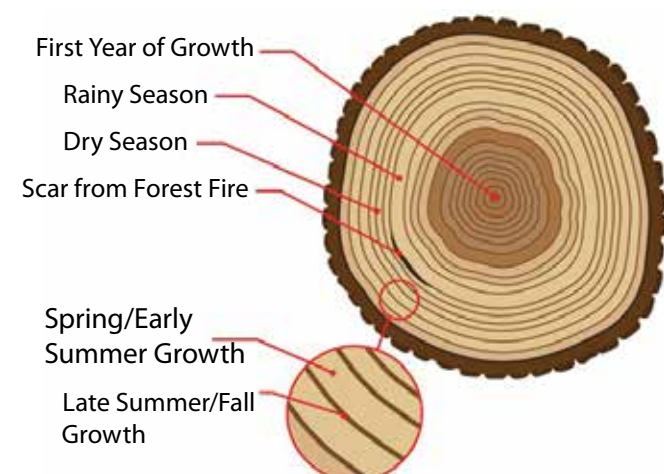
Here is the cool part. Trees plan ahead.

Before winter arrives, trees store food inside their trunks and roots. That stored energy keeps them alive until spring. You can actually see proof of this when a tree is cut down. Those rings inside the trunk show years of growing and resting. Wide rings mean good growing years. Narrow rings often mean tough ones.

So are trees actually sleeping?

Not exactly like you do. They do not dream or snore. But they do enter a low-energy state that protects them from freezing temperatures and dry winter air. When spring brings warmer days and longer sunlight, trees wake up fast. Buds swell. Sap starts flowing again. Leaves return like nothing ever happened.

Next time you walk past a bare tree in January, remember this. It is not empty. It is stocked with snacks, saving energy, and waiting patiently for warmer days.



THE OAK WHO KNEW

The old oak tree leaned on a creaky knee
And said to the squirrel, “Look at me.
I used to wear leaves, a thousand or more,
Now I’m dressed like a coat rack
nailed to the floor.”

“I’m not broken,” the oak tree
said with a grin,
“I’m packing my lunches
and tucking them in.
All summer I cooked with
sunshine and breeze,
Now I’m saving my snacks in my
roots, if you please.”

The wind tugged his branches. The frost said hello.
Snow tried a hat. The oak said, “Too slow.”
“I’ve done this before. I know the routine.
Winter’s just waiting, not being unseen.”

Below the hard ground, where the cold cannot peek,
The oak hummed softly, week after week.
He counted his rings. He rested his bark.
He held onto hope in
the quiet and dark.

Then one fine morning when
birds start to shout

And the sun stays longer before heading out,
The oak will stretch branches, wiggle each limb,
And whisper, “My turn. Let the growing begin.”

Out pop the leaves, fresh, shiny, and new.
Green like a promise that always comes through.
The old oak will laugh, full canopy wide,
“I told you,” he’ll say, “I just needed some time.”

WHAT TREE RINGS CAN TELL US

Trees keep a diary, and it is written inside their trunks.

Each ring you see stands for one year of a tree’s life. When a tree has a good growing year with enough water and sunshine, the ring is wider. When a year is dry, cold, or tough, the ring is thinner. Trees grow fast in spring and early summer, then slow down as fall arrives. That is why each ring has light and dark parts.

Sometimes trees survive hard things. Fires, insects, or injuries can leave scars inside the rings. Those marks stay forever, helping scientists understand what the tree lived through.

By studying tree rings, scientists can learn how old a tree is, what the weather was like long ago, and how forests change over time. Trees do not talk, but their rings tell their story anyway.



AN ELK FROM EVERY ANGLE

As you play Spot the Difference, you’re learning to look closely, just like scientists and artists do. This game teaches you about elk and a way artists like to see the world called Cubism.

Elk are some of the largest animals in Northern Arizona, and winter is when they show how well they are built for cold and snow. Thick fur keeps them warm. Long legs help them move through deep drifts. Their wide hooves spread out like snowshoes so they do not sink. Those giant antlers are not for fighting predators. Elk use them to compete during fall mating season, then shed them in winter to save energy.

Cubism is a way of making art where pictures don’t look normal on purpose. Instead of drawing something exactly as your eyes see it, the artist breaks it into pieces. Faces, people, and objects might look like blocks or puzzle parts. In a Cubist picture, you might see the front, side, and back of something all at once. It can feel strange at first, but that’s the point. Cubist artists wanted people to stop, look longer, and think about what they were seeing.

WANT TO TRY CUBISM YOURSELF?

Draw your favorite animal using shapes and different angles. It doesn’t have to look “right.” That’s the fun part. Ask an adult to help you send a photo of your artwork to Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com. We may share it in a future issue.

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

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words. Answers page 14B.

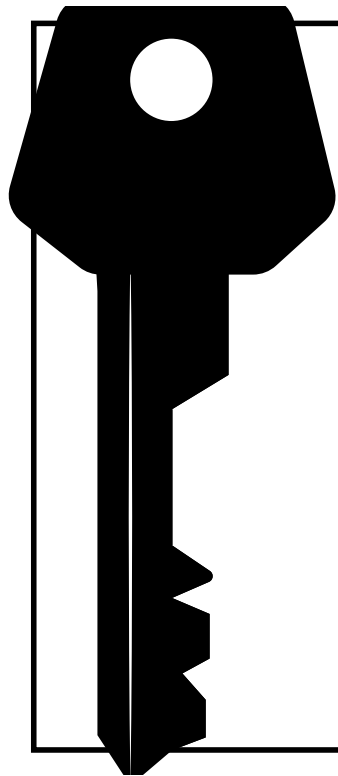
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| Elk | Art |
| Winter | Cubism |
| Snow | Shapes |
| Fur | Pieces |
| Legs | Blocks |
| Hooves | Picture |
| Antlers | Side |
| Tracks | Front |
| Forest | Back |
| Cold | Puzzle |



SUDOKU

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 14B

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Sunset Crater by AZ Office of Tourism



Horseshoe Bend by Johnny Williams

Coconino County did not arrive neatly. It emerged the way Northern Arizona always has, shaped by elevation, weather, fire, water, and time, and never in a hurry to explain itself.

Established in 1891, the county stretches across 18,619 square miles, a reach so wide it defies easy comparison. Forest gives way to lava fields. Red rock yields to alpine slopes. Rivers cut their own logic through stone. You can spend an entire day traveling within the county and still feel as though you have only skimmed the surface.

The county takes its name from the Cohonina people, ancestors of today's Hopi Tribe, whose relationship with this land long predates lines on a map. This was a place known not by ownership, but by understanding. Seasons mattered. Water mattered. Respect mattered. Those truths still hold.

Flagstaff became the county seat because it sat where paths crossed. Timber, rail, and later Route 66 converged here, making it a practical gathering point rather than a showpiece. Flagstaff learned early how to be useful. It offered shelter, trade, and a moment of pause before travelers continued outward into country that asked more of them than comfort.

The landmarks of Coconino County are not ornaments. They are presences. The Grand Canyon draws the eye and the imagination, but it does not stand alone. Marble Canyon introduces the Colorado River with quiet authority. The Vermilion Cliffs rise with the patience of something that has seen centuries pass. Sunset Crater speaks of fire not as destruction, but as creation. Lake Powell reflects the sky back at itself, wide and unforgiving.

Above it all rise the San Francisco Peaks, crowned by Humphreys Peak at 12,633 feet. From there, storms can be read like scripture if you know how to look. Clouds gather, winds shift, and lessons arrive before words ever do.

With just over 134,000 people spread across this vast reach, Coconino County has never been crowded. Towns like Williams, Page, Tusayan, and parts of Sedona exist because people needed footholds, not fanfare. Life here has always required intention. You plan. You prepare. You pay attention.

Living in Coconino County teaches you something quietly, over time. The land does not ask permission. It sets the terms. And if you are willing to listen, it offers a steady reminder that this place answers to something far older, far higher, and far greater than us.

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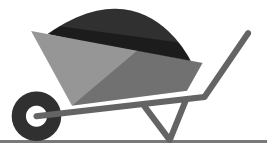
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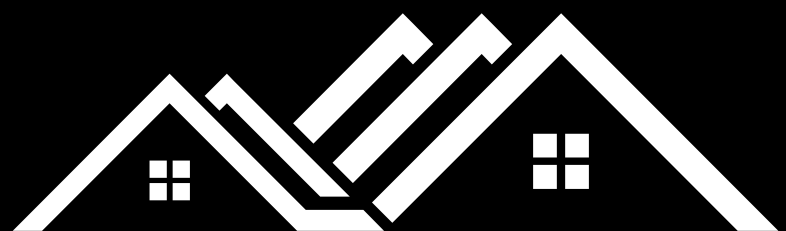
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TREE PRUNING We prune according to your and the
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TREE INSTALLATION Want to plant a new tree? Rely on
Mario and Mario to help choose the most productive and
aesthetically pleasing spot for it.



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SANTA'S LETTERS



Brooklyn



Bowen

This holiday season, Pinewood News Kids invited children to write letters to Santa, and the response filled our hearts. From handwritten wishes to colorful drawings, every letter was sent north, and Santa wrote back to each child.

Seeing the joy on our readers' faces through photographs shared online brought us so much happiness. These two little cuties are just a glimpse of the smiles, that Santa's Letters sparked throughout our community.

We loved every moment of it and are happy to say... we'll be bringing Letters to Santa back next year!

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE PINEWOOD NEWS



Greetings from MadJack in the Grand Tetons National park. We visited Yellowstone and Glacier parks afterwards so that makes #35 out of 63 national parks.

On October 26, 2025, Mark Giebelhaus took Casablanca for a spin, swapping routines for rhythm, mint tea for clocks, and letting Casablanca do what it does best. Proof that one ordinary date can turn into something worth remembering.



Take Us With You!

Headed out of town? Take The Pinewood News, snap a photo on your adventure, and send it to hello@thepinewoodnews.com with your name, destination, and a quick note. You might see it in an upcoming issue!



This Valentine's Day, say "I love you" in the Pinewood News.

This year, send your Valentine a love note through the Pinewood News and we'll publish it in our February issue. Write to your sweetheart, your kids, your parents, your grandparents, your best friend, or your neighbor who always waves first.

Short, funny, heartfelt, or sentimental are all welcome.

Printed here, it becomes something worth saving.

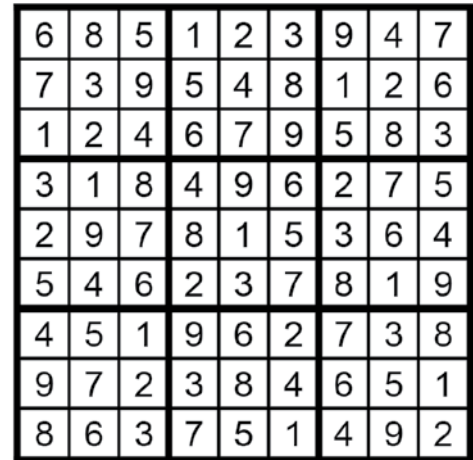
Email your Valentine message to Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com

Deadline: Monday, January 26

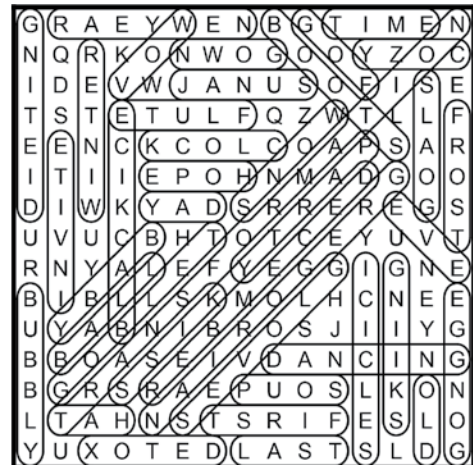
CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



WORD SEARCH



KIDS WORD SEARCH



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



WHO HANDLES WHAT IN COCONINO COUNTY

BECAUSE GOOGLE DOESN'T ALWAYS KNOW THE MOUNTAIN WAY.

Spot an error or missing contact? Let us know: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

Dark Sky Ordinance & Lighting Inspections

Coconino County offers Support for Keeping Our Sky's Dark

Lighting Inspection

Request an inspection of your exterior lighting. It includes a written report. Fees are \$55/hour plus mileage, two-hour minimum. Email Mark for details at mstento@coconino.az.gov.

Code Violation Report

Notice illegal lighting? File a report here at www.coconino.az.gov and search for Code Violations and Enforcement.

Fixture Review

Not sure if a light is compliant? Send it in for review at mstento@coconino.az.gov.

Still Have Questions?

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) 679-8756

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

Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-8756

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

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,

Tristan Dowse (928) 853-5340

Know Your Rights: Short-Term Rental owners must give their contact details to Coconino County and provide them in writing to adjacent neighbors. If you live next door and never received this information, call the County STR Compliance Officer to confirm the property's registration. For unresponsive owners, recurring disturbances, or suspected unregistered rentals, report the issue to the County or the Sheriff's Office.



4.8/5 Stars
100+ Reviews

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every place you call home.**

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