## PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN DESERT LIVING





## MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

## Donna 'Doo' Langston

If there is something creative happening in Munds Park, you will probably find Donna Langston right in the middle of it. A proud local with a love for all things artistic, Donna brings her spark and energy wherever she goes.

She is happiest with a paintbrush in hand or signing up for a new art class just to see where it leads. From watercolor and acrylic to mixed media, Donna is always ready to learn something new and bring fresh ideas to life.

Her adventurous spirit and love of learning shine through in everything she creates. We are excited to feature her work on this issue's cover, a true reflection of the creativity and community spirit that make Munds Park such a special place.

A big thank you to Donna for taking on our special request to paint Lefty, our mascot. You captured him perfectly.

Thank you, Donna, for sharing your passion with all of us!

If you're a local artist or photographer and would like your work considered for a future cover, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com to be part of something special.



## **PINEWOOD NEWS**

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & STORY TIPS!**

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

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

## **ADVERTISE WITH US!**

For advertising or content contributions, contact us at 928.286.9827 or Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com. The Pinewood News can be found in Munds Park, Rimrock, and Camp Verde.

## CONTACT INFO

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## COLDWELL BANKER

## NORTHLAND



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

Closed Restaurant with HUGE potential. Was an Italian restaurant opened during COVID and closed 11/9/2021. Sale price includes the land, building, all contents. The community really wants a good restaurant and this could be the one! Owner is a licensed real estate broker in the state of Arizona. Call Bill Spain, owner, 602-622-1196 for details. Owner may carry with a significant down-payment/scenario.



### \$529,000 260 SANDIA CIRCLE

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



## \$275,000 1200 S Riordan Ranch St #125, Flagstaff

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



## **\$749,000**1325 E JAGUAR LN, , MUNDS PARK

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



## \$475,000 95 E FOXBORO RD #11, MUNDS PARK

Lot 11 in Foxboro Ranch offers 1.73 acres backing the forest. Enjoy stocked lakes, trails, clubhouse amenities, and utilities on-site—perfect for building your private retreat among the pines.



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

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



### \$1,395,000 820 E HAVASUPAI RD, MUNDS PARK

Tucked at the end of Havasupai Road, this chalet-style cabin on 1.03 acres offers lake views, privacy, and charm. With vaulted ceilings, a rock fireplace, loft, and trail access to Lake O'Dell, it's a true mountain retreat.

## Starting May 11 Lillie Mae's Pickled Garden is popping up every Sunday!

Find them in the Coldwell Banker Northland parking lot with all your favorite canned and jarred goodies—from pickles to jams and more.

Swing by, stock up, and support local!





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## FIRE DANGER IS HIGH

## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



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

## Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

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

## Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome Tuesday, May 20 3 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

## Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome Thursday, May 8 3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr



## Pinewood Fire District TEMPORARY SERVICE CHANGES DURING STATION CONSTRUCTION

Dear Munds Park Residents,

We are excited to share an important update with our community! As part of our continued efforts to enhance fire protection and emergency services in the Pinewood area, the Pinewood Fire District is currently in the process of constructing a new fire station, located at 475 E. Pinewood Blvd.

This new facility represents a major step forward in our ability to serve you efficiently and safely, and we're grateful for your continued support throughout this transition.



## What This Means for You

During the construction and setup of the new station, several of our community programs and services will now be operating out of our temporary location at 17704 Fairway Drive, including:

- Ash Disposal Program For safe and convenient drop-off of fireplace and wood stove ashes.
- Address Sign / House Number Program To help improve visibility and emergency response time by providing reflective address signs.
- Chimney Brush Lending Program Our free resource for residents to keep their chimneys clean and safe.

These services are now available by appointment or during designated hours at the new site. If you have questions about availability or how to participate in any of these programs, we encourage you to reach out to us directly at 928-286-9885.

## Temporary Changes & Continued Service

While we are transitioning to the new station, please know that our firefighters and emergency response teams remain fully operational. There will be no interruption to emergency services during this time. We're committed to ensuring the same level of responsiveness and care you've come to rely on.

We'll continue to keep you informed as construction progresses and will announce a community open house once the new station is fully operational—we can't wait to welcome you in!

Thank you for your patience and ongoing support as we build a safer and stronger Munds Park.

Pinewood Fire District

## MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY WATCH TOWN HALL

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 6:30 PM Pinewood Country Club

Start the new year informed and involved.

Join us for the first Community Watch Town Hall of 2025—an important evening of updates from local and county leaders who serve Munds Park. From fire and law enforcement to forest management, flood mapping, and weather forecasts, this is your chance to hear what's ahead and ask questions that matter.

Whether you're a full-time resident or a weekend neighbor, your voice counts. Let's come together to keep our community strong, safe, and connected.

Mark your calendar. Bring a friend.

Continued on page 7A

## Steve D. Valentine Real Estate Strategist Serving From Phoenix to Flagstaff Steve@valentinegroupaz.com (602) 854-8475 text/call Instagram @SteveDValentine @Mundsparkaz SCAN MEI

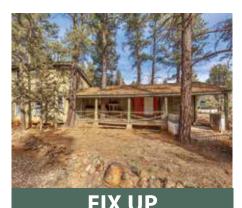


## FEATURED PROPERTIES



\$335,000 1020 E Caribou Munds Park

2/2 400 sq ft deck, split floor plan, Gorgeous kitchen, spacious great room, plenty of storage & great yard space. .



\$240,000 856 Hillside Munds Park

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



\$599,900 17680 Mormon Munds Park

Quiet Near acre lot tucked in the pines. Perfect place to build your dream home in Munds.



\$625,000 410 E Turkey Tr Munds Park

Adorable. 1300 sq ft Cabin is ready to make memories and income! Updated and in incredible condition 3bd/2bth Vltd Ceilings Grt rm plan covered deck and Storage shed.



\$475,000 3929 Villa Theresa Glendale

Union Hills/43rd Ave 4/2 with pool and large cul de sac lot with RV parking no HOA. Over 2300 sq ft open floor plan and recently updated.



\$47F.000

\$475,000 6664 Rose Garden Glendale

67th/101 Arrowhead Golf Community 3/2 split plan, low maintenance yard great room floor plan great location in Glendale



**1,350,00**7122 W Redfield
NW Peoria

3700 sq ft 5bd/4bth currently under renovation. Ready for market Summer 2025. Who is ready for an upgrade.



\$275,000 6804 Turquoise Peoria

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

View properties at Valentine Group AZ.com

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## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 5A

## WOLVES WANT TO ROAM. A COURT SAYS: NOT SO FAST.

Mexican gray wolves are venturing farther than the rules allow—and some are heading toward us.

These endangered wolves, once nearly wiped out, have slowly been reintroduced to the wild in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. Their official range? South of Interstate 40. But in recent years, wolves like "Anubis" and "Hope" have wandered into the Flagstaff area, showing the animals are ready to expand. The problem is, federal rules don't yet allow it.

And now, a U.S. District Court just doubled down on those limits.

In a ruling issued March 31, the court backed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's current recovery plan, including keeping I-40 as the northern boundary. Environmental groups had argued that for wolves to truly recover, they need more space—including wildlands north of I-40. But the judge sided with federal and state wildlife officials, saying their science-based plan is both legal and reasonable.

That means, for now, any wolf that crosses I-40 can still be relocated south—even if it finds better habitat up here.

Conservationists worry this restricts natural recovery. Wildlife officials say it's about managing a delicate balance—supporting wolves without stirring too much conflict.

So what does it mean for us? If you're out hiking in the backcountry near Flagstaff, Camp Verde, or even Munds Park, don't be surprised if you spot paw prints that weren't there before. The wolves may not be officially welcome—but they're still coming.

## What do you want to read about?

Send your questions, curiosities, and can't-miss ideas to Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com—this paper's better when you're part of it.

## FORT TUTHILL'S FUTURE TAKES SHAPE WITH BOLD NEW MASTER PLAN

The Coconino County Board of Supervisors (Board) has officially approved the Fort Tuthill County Park Master Plan Update, setting in motion a bold, 10-year vision to elevate community recreation, sustainability, and cultural celebration across one of the county's most beloved parks.

This plan outlines a flexible, phased roadmap to improve accessibility, sustainability, recreation, and cultural experiences at Fort Tuthill. While actual implementation will depend on future funding and evolving community needs, the Master Plan serves as a valuable guide for how the park may grow and adapt over time. Highlights of the planned improvements include:

- The Heart of the Park A new central plaza concept featuring Indigenous art, historical storytelling, vendor kiosks, and a flexible event space designed to bring the community together.
- Enhanced Amenities Proposed upgrades such as ADA-accessible paths, modern restrooms, new ramadas, and shaded promenades for comfort and safety.
- Expanded Recreation Ideas for new features including a custom nature-inspired playground, new pickleball courts, upgraded trails, a new multipurpose event building, and upgraded equestrian facilities.
- Sustainable Infrastructure Updates are envisioned to improve drainage and support year-round park usability using low-impact development practices.

Coconino County Parks & Recreation extends its heartfelt thanks to those whose passion and commitment brought this plan to fruition: Coconino County Leadership, Dr. Fred Solop and Dr. Nancy Wonders of GlobaLocal Vision, Wheat Design Group, and the extensive engagement of many community members throughout this collaborative and transparent process.

"This Master Plan is more than a blueprint. It's a commitment to future generations," said Cynthia Nemeth, Director of Coconino County Parks & Recreation. "We're honoring our past while building a dynamic, welcoming space for everyone to enjoy."

Further information and materials about the Master Plan are available on the Coconino County Parks & Recreation website.

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## **MAY 2 - 4**

## ARIZONA WINE COUNTRY ARTISTS VILLAGE ARTS & CRAFT FAIR

Explore the inaugural Arizona Wine Country Artists Village in Old Town Cottonwood. This event pairs exceptional local art with Arizona's vibrant wine culture, showcasing high-end crafts and artwork amid wine tasting rooms and scenic views.

**Date:** May 2, 3, 4 (Fri-Sun)

**Time:** Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM, Sunday

10 AM to 5 PM

**Location:** 187 E. Pima Street, behind Cottonwood City Hall and The Belfry Brewery, Cottonwood

**Admission:** Free

## MAY 9, 16, 23, 30

## RED DIRT CONCERT SERIES

Enjoy live music under the stars every Friday evening in May at the Red Dirt Concert Series, hosted by Sedona Parks and Recreation. Each show features a headliner and local opener at the scenic Posse Grounds Pavilion.

Date: Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Time: 5 PM - 8 PM

Location: Posse Grounds Pavilion, 525 Posse

Grounds Rd., Sedona

Admission: Free

Bring a chair or blanket! For more information on Red Dirt Concert Series, visit www.sedonaaz.gov/parkevents or call (928) 282-7098.

## **SATURDAY, MAY 10**

### VERDE VALLEY WINE FESTIVAL

This is the premier wine event in Northern Arizona! Experience the best of Arizona wine country with selections from top wineries, local breweries, and distilleries. Meet winemakers, enjoy great local cuisine, and relax to live entertainment in the scenic surroundings of Riverfront Park. Plan your visit today for a memorable experience with family and friends!

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025

Time: 11 AM - 6 PM

Location: Riverfront Park, 1284 E River Front Rd.,

Cottonwood

Tickets: thevvwf.com

## **MAY 16 - 18**

## **OVERLAND EXPO WEST**

Join adventure travel enthusiasts at Overland Expo West, the world's premier overlanding event. Explore hundreds of vendors offering camping, 4x4, and motorcycle equipment, enjoy expert-led classes and demos, gear showcases, and adventure travel films. Camp on-site to fully engage in the overland lifestyle.

Date: May 16–18 (Fri–Sun)

**Location:** Fort Tuthill County Park, 2446 Fort Tuthill

Loop, Flagstaff

Hours: Fri & Sat 8 AM-5 PM, Sun 9 AM-3 PM

**Tickets:** Day Passes, Weekend Passes, and Camping

Passes available online, prices vary

For more details visit the Overland Expo official site.



## **GET FRESH PRODUCE!**

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

## JUNE 2

## BINGO AT PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Bingo kicks off Monday, June 2nd at the Pinewood Country Club! This event is open to everyone—no membership required. Come enjoy a fun night with neighbors and prizes!

Date: Monday, June 2, 2025

Time: 6pm

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 7 & 8

## FLAGSTAFF HULLABALOO FESTIVAL

Experience a weekend of music, art, and community at the Flagstaff Hullabaloo Festival. Enjoy live performances, a bike parade, costume contests, giant puppets, circus acts, a kids' zone, local food, craft brews, and artisan vendors—all in the cool pines of Wheeler Park.

Date: June 7-8, 2025 (Sat & Sun)

**Time:** Saturday 10 AM–9 PM; Sunday 11 AM–6 PM **Location:** Wheeler Park, 212 W Aspen Ave, Flagstaff, **Admission:** \$15–\$20 general admission; VIP and kids'

pricing available

## **JUNE 21 & 22**

## PRESCOTT BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Celebrate summer with free live music at the 44th Annual Prescott Bluegrass Festival! Held under the shady elms of Courthouse Plaza, this family-friendly event features top bluegrass acts, food, raffles, and a welcoming community vibe.

Date: June 21-22 (Sat & Sun)

**Time:** Sat 11 AM–9 PM, Sun 11 AM–3:30 PM **Location:** Courthouse Plaza, Downtown Prescott

Admission: Free

Bring a chair, soak up the tunes, and enjoy one of Arizona's most loved summer traditions!

## **JUHE 30 - JULY 6**

## PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS - WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

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

**Date:** June 30 – July 6, 2025 **Location:** 840 Rodeo Dr., Prescott

**Check website** for shows, times & tickets at

worldsoldestrodeo.com



## SEDONA COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

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

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

Location: Wells Fargo Bank parking lot,

2201 W SR 89A, West Sedona

## PRESCOTT FARMERS MARKET

This isn't just a place to shop—it's a celebration of local agriculture and community. Support Arizona farmers, boost community health, and make fresh, locally grown food more accessible. Mingle with locals, savor the flavors of the season, and help strengthen our local economy, one delicious purchase at a time.

**Dates:** Every Saturday, April–October:

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

## OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

These Friday night events showcase the best of the Verde Valley, with locally grown fruits and vegetables, artisan breads, jams, and baked goods, and a wide array of handcrafted goods like pottery, jewelry, soaps, and rustic décor. Local musicians provide a backdrop of live music—from folk and country to blues—creating a lively, welcoming atmosphere. Many visitors bring lawn chairs to relax under the trees, enjoy the tunes, and snack on food from local vendors. It's more than a market—it's a community evening out.

**Date:** May 9, 16, 23, 30

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

## VERDE VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

Discover real food from real farmers at the Verde Valley Farmers Market, launching this season with our much-anticipated plant sale fundraiser. Experience the freshness of locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs, directly benefiting our community's farmers. This year, we continue our partnership with the Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition program, aiming to expand its impact. The market is operated by local farmers—a place where community roots run deep, offering tastes from three seasons.

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

Time: 8 AM - 11 AM

Location: 75 Hollamon St, Camp Verde



## OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

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

Dates: Every Friday, starting May 9

Time: 5 PM Until Dark

Location: 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

## FLAGSTAFF URBAN FLEA MARKET

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

**Date:** 2nd & 4th Saturdays, June 14th through October 25th

Time: 9 AM - 2 PM

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

Admission: Free

## PEDDLER'S PASS OLD-TIME FARMERS & FLEA MARKET

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

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

time for the best picks)

Location: 6201 E. State Route 69,

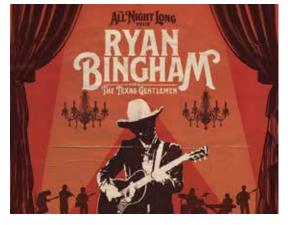
Prescott Valley **Admission:** Free

## TWO COYOTES MARKET IN THE PINES

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

Operated by Munds Park Residents Susan & Bill Havermale

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



## RYAN BINGHAM & THE TEXAS GENTLEMEN

The All Night Long Tour
Tuesday, June 10, 2025
BUY TICKETS HERE: pepsiamp.com



## **HITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND**

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



## Pepsi Amphitheater Presents 19TH ANNUAL PICKIN' IN THE PINES

Bluegrass & Acoustic Music Festival

September 12-14, 2025

**BUY TICKETS HERE:** pepsiamp.com

## FLAGSTAFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

Date: Saturday, September 20

Time: 2 PM - 9 PM

**Location:** Heritage Square, Flagstaff

**Admission:** Free

## Affordable & Adorable!







**\$539,000** 315 Sandia Circle

Affordable and adorable and what a location! This cozy two bedroom, two bath cabin has it all. Open floor-plan, big windows and lots of privacy on the oversized lot. Recent upgrades include a brand new no-maintenance composite wraparound deck, fresh exterior paint and a brand new furnace and CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING. Propane tank is owned, not leased. All furniture and furnishings are included too.



REALTYONEGROUP MOUNTAIN DESERT





## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 7A

## GET OUTSIDE, GET DIRTY, & DO SOME GOOD!

The Munds Park Trail Stewards (MUTS) are hosting their next volunteer trail day on Saturday, May 10th, and we want you on the team.

Help keep the Coconino National Forest trails in great shape while enjoying a morning outdoors with friends and neighbors. We'll meet at the Iron Springs Trailhead at 8:15 a.m. for a short safety talk, then hit the trails until noon.

- Meet at 8:15 a.m. at the Iron Springs Trailhead. Trail work wraps up by noon, followed by a free lunch.
- Bring: long pants, sturdy shoes, and weather-appropriate gear. Water and tools provided. Everyone works at their own pace.
- Safety meeting starts at 8:15 sharp.
- RSVP to: mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com. For updates, visit mundsparktrailstewards.com.

Let's give a little time and make a big impact. See you on the trail!

## LADY NINERS KICK OFF NEW SEASON

The Lady Niners will kick off their 2025 season on May 7 with a fun Kentucky Derby-themed competition.

The Lady Niners are members of Pinewood Country Club who play nine holes each Wednesday morning. Members are generally women who prefer shorter golf outings, have limited time or are looking for a less intense golfing experience than a full 18-hole round.

This lively group of golfers focuses on the fun of the game and also hosts luncheons, practice rounds and other social activities during the summer season.

All women who are members of Pinewood Country Club are welcome to join. Membership information is available at the pro shop or call membership director Marilyn Koch at 602-989-5901.



## AGEE'S LABOR DAY FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT THE PINEWOOD FIRE DEPT.



Now that the new building is in progress, it's time to raise funds to furnish the inside of the new station!





## TRAIN ROBBERIES ALONG I-40 ARE CARTEL LINKED— KEEP MOVING & CALL IT IN

If you see a train or truck being robbed along I-40, don't stop—keep moving and call it in. That was the warning from Coconino County Sheriff Jim Driscoll during a town hall in Munds Park in 2024, and the message remains just as urgent today.

Northern Arizona has become a key target in a growing trend of freight train heists carried out by organized criminal groups with suspected ties to drug cartels. These aren't petty thefts—they're calculated, fast-moving operations that often involve armed individuals and insider coordination.

In the latest case, suspects were arrested after robbing a train between Kingman and Williams. The stolen cargo? Unreleased Nike sneakers, loaded into box trucks and on their way to the black market. This follows a January robbery near Perrin, outside Williams, where over 1,900 pairs of Nike shoes—worth about \$440,000—were stolen in similar fashion.

## How It's Happening

Crews target trains carrying high-value cargo and force emergency stops in remote areas by tampering with brake lines or onboard systems. Once the train is down, thieves use bolt cutters or power tools to open specific containers—often with surprising accuracy, suggesting they have inside information. Getaway trucks are staged nearby, and in a matter of minutes, the goods are loaded and the crew is gone. Some trucks use fake plates or are quickly abandoned to avoid detection.

## Why Northern Arizona?

Long stretches of remote rail line between Kingman, Flagstaff, and Winslow offer ideal conditions for these thefts. Limited surveillance, difficult terrain, and slow response times give thieves the window they need to get in and out before law enforcement can catch up.

## The Bigger Picture

Nationwide, train thefts jumped 40% in 2024, with an estimated 65,000 incidents and over \$100 million in direct losses to the freight industry. Arizona's numbers are growing, and so is the threat to public safety.

For local residents and travelers along I-40, the sheriff's message remains critical: stay alert, don't engage, and report what you see. These operations are dangerous, and confronting them could put you in harm's way.

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## SHERIFFS ANNOUNCE ZERO TOLERANCE OHV POLICY ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA

Both Yavapai and Coconino Counties Respond to Growing Complaints and Accidents

With off-highway vehicle (OHV) use still surging across Arizona since the pandemic, law enforcement agencies in both Yavapai and Coconino Counties are stepping up efforts to address violations and protect public lands.





plan to enhance OHV enforcement, approving a \$557,370 grant application to fund patrol vehicles, OHVs, aerial surveillance, and a dedicated OHV coordinator. Rhodes made it clear: the goal is to support responsible riders while cracking down on vandalism, illegal riding, and unsafe behavior that's already led to injuries—and even deaths.

In neighboring Coconino County, the Sheriff's Office has adopted a zero tolerance approach to OHV violations. According to spokesperson Jon Paxton, common issues include underage drivers, lack of helmets, unregistered vehicles, and excessive speed—many of which have contributed to a rise in serious and fatal accidents.

During holiday weekends, Coconino County increases staffing in high-traffic OHV areas and coordinates with Game and Fish and the Forest Service. The county also leans heavily on education, distributing safety information through checkpoints staffed by the CERT team. Paxton confirmed the department is pursuing a grant to purchase additional OHVs and fund full-time staff and overtime for future task forces.

Both counties agree: outdoor recreation is part of life here, but not at the expense of safety, property, or the environment.

## I-17 WILDLIFE OVERPASS PROJECT SET TO BEGIN NEAR FLAGSTAFF

A major wildlife safety project is set to begin along Interstate 17 between Kelly Canyon and Munds Park. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in partnership with Arizona Game and Fish, has secured a \$24 million federal grant to construct the Willard Springs Wildlife Overpass near milepost 327 and install wildlife fencing along a nine-mile stretch.

The project, aimed at reducing vehicle-wildlife collisions and reconnecting critical habitats, is one of only 19 nationally to receive funding in the first round of the Federal Highway Administration's Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program.

Key elements include:

- Construction of a wildlife overpass bridge
- Installation of wildlife fencing and escape ramps
- Guardrail and barrier upgrades
- Seeding disturbed areas with native plants

Construction is expected to start in May 2025 and finish by fall 2026. Lane restrictions and detour crossovers will help maintain traffic flow during the work. For updates, visit azdot.gov/Wildlife.

## Hanging Baskets







10" Plastic 4-6 plant combo \$29.99

12" Plastic 6-8 plant combo \$34.99

16" Fiber 12-14 plant combo \$59.99









## 25% off Roses



## 928-639-0122

Visit Us Online at VerdeRiverGrowers.com 300 S. Rocking Chair Ranch Rd. Cottonwood, AZ 86326 Between Mingus and 89A

Monday - Saturday 8am-5:30pm • Sunday 9am-4pm

Ad Valid April 30 - May 6, 2025
Limited to stock on hand, while supplies last.



# THE REAL FARM TO TABLE PART 2: WHY SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD MATTERS

A Summer Series

~Get comfortable, this 15-minute read is worth your time.

*By Sandee Caviness* 

Welcome back to our summer series, where we're spending time with the people who raise our beef, grow our produce, care for the land, and keep Arizona's ranching and agriculture traditions alive.

In this issue, we head to Windmill Mountain Ranch, where raising cattle isn't just a way to make a living. It's a way of life, a connection to the land, the animals, and the kind of work that built this country.

Behind every steak sizzling on the grill and every hamburger landing on our plates, there's a rancher carrying the weight of a country that's forgetting how food really gets to the table.

Across Arizona and the country, the people who raise and process real beef—ranchers and local butchers—are losing ground. Big packers have moved in, setting the price regardless of quality. Whether you raise the best beef in the state or cattle barely fit for market, it all gets tossed into the same system. They weigh it, pay it, and move on. It is an assembly line—built for speed, not care. And to keep that machine running, the rules keep tightening, squeezing out the independent ranchers and hometown butchers who once kept this country fed.

And out on the land, the real pressures never let up. Water gets tighter. Costs climb. And through it all, the ranchers who are still standing don't do it because it's easy. They do it because it's in their blood.

Thanks for riding with us and standing with the ranchers who are still out here fighting for the land, cattle, and a better future.

## A CONVERSATION WITH BECKI ROSS & HER SON WYATT, WINDMILL MOUNTAIN RANCH

At Windmill Mountain Ranch, raising cattle isn't just a business. It's a family tradition carried on by Dustin and Becki Ross and their two sons. Wyatt and Nate. Together, they raise beef the old-fashioned way—on open land, under wide skies, with hard work, care, and pride. Every steer, every pasture, and every decision reflects a family deeply rooted in the land they love and the life they've chosen to preserve.

Today, Windmill Mountain Ranch helps feed around 4,000 families, raising beef the way it was meant to be: on open land, under wide skies, with the kind of care you can taste. The ranch spans 85 acres in Sedona, 117 acres on the mountain, and roughly 125,000 acres of grazing permits from the U.S. Forest Service.

Alongside their beef cattle, the family also runs a working dairy—part of a tradition that dates back to the late 1940s. "We've been raising cattle the same way for decades," Becki says. "The only thing that's changed is how we sell it."



The family history is stitched deeply into the land itself. Dustin's greatuncle and grandfather started the original Windmill Ranch, which once included Newman Park and the areas around Munds Park. After they passed away, the family made estate decisions that eventually split the ranch into two separate operations.

Before the split, Becki and Dustin ran cattle along Fox Ranch Road, spending falls in Newman Park.

"These are sentimental areas for us," Becki says. "Every pasture, every trail, holds a memory."

Today, part of the original Windmill Ranch was sold to the Wright family—a name many in Munds Park will recognize. If you've ever seen cows wandering through the Park, chances are they're Wright cattle.

Though part of the original Windmill Ranch was sold off, Becki, Dustin, and their family stayed put—keeping their cattle, their land, and their way of doing things.

## A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Most cow-calf ranches sell their calves after weaning because they don't have the space or setup to feed them out to finished weight. These operations are built for raising calves, not for full-scale feeding, so the cattle are moved to larger facilities that can handle the next phase.

Windmill Mountain Ranch takes a different approach. They move their weaned cattle to their feeding operation in Gila Bend, where the animals are raised to finished weight. From there, they're hauled to a local processing plant in Buckeye just 50 minutes up the road. The beef is then sold directly to consumers, restaurants, and local grocers.

It's an all-house operation. The cattle are raised, fed, and finished under their watchful care.

"We're working hard to sell locally in Arizona," Wyatt says. "We're mainly in Phoenix right now, but we would love to expand to Northern Arizona grocery stores and restaurants."

Still, despite all their effort, the reality is their herd is bigger than what they can sell through direct ranch-to-table sales. That means some cattle still have to go the commercial route—sold to giant packers like JBS that dominate the industry.

## FACTORY BEEF: FASTER, CHEAPER, & NOTHING LIKE IT SHOULD BE

The beef that moves through major commercial packers is homogenized, a factory product designed for shelf life and visual appeal, not for flavor or quality. Many large plants use carbon monoxide gas during packaging to keep beef looking bright red in stores. It's legal here in the U.S., even though the European Union bans the practice for being deceptive. The gas locks in color, making the meat look fresher than it really is, even when it's past its prime.

Ground beef often contains meat from hundreds or even a thousand different cows. That makes traceability difficult, and tracking the source can be a nightmare if there's a recall. Labels like "Product of USA" are often slapped onto imported beef that was simply processed or packaged here, adding to the confusion.

And it's not just how the beef is packaged or blended, it's how the cattle are raised. To speed up production, factory systems rely heavily on growth hormones, antibiotics, and high-energy feeds designed to fatten animals faster. It's a race for weight, not for taste. Faster. Heavier. Cheaper. Everything that once made beef good, such as natural growth, regional character, and flavor, gets stripped out along the way. That's where it all falls apart: true quality, local character, animal welfare, and honest food, all sacrificed in the race to go faster and cheaper.

## THE LOSS OF THE LOCAL BUTCHER SHOP

It wasn't always this way. Butchers used to be part of every town, family-run operations that knew the ranchers by name. Over the years, independent processors were regulated out of business, one by one.

What's left is a meatpacking system so consolidated, so centralized, that it squeezes small producers out of the market.

The big four beef packers—JBS, Tyson, Cargill, and National Beef—control about 85% of the market.

One of the biggest players is JBS USA, which operates a massive beef processing plant in Tolleson, Arizona. That facility alone can process up to 6,000 head of cattle in an eight-hour shift. The scale is staggering—and it has to be, because Americans eat a lot of beef and expect it cheap. But when you build for speed and volume, you lose everything that once made it good. Corners are cut, and quality is lost.

And when we traded thousands of local butcher shops for a handful of massive plants, we didn't just lose quality, we lost food security.

When COVID hit, that same JBS plant shut down for just one week, and suddenly, there was a beef shortage. Not because ranchers ran out of cattle. But because there wasn't anywhere left to process them.

Shutdowns like that can be devastating for producers like Windmill Mountain Ranch. Cattle still need to be fed, watered, and cared for daily. And when operating on tight margins, even an extra 10 to 15 days of delay can be a breaking point, especially for smaller ranches.

It was a wake-up call. When processing is controlled by just a few major players, the whole system becomes fragile.

Selling to big packers is the easiest option for ranchers, but not all of them want their beef going through that system. They want their hard work to mean more than just turning a profit. That matters too, of course, but they also want the community to enjoy their beef.

Unfortunately, small local butchers, who take time with the animals and pride in their craft, face hurdles at every turn. While large plants have full-time USDA inspectors on site, small processors often struggle to get inspection time at all. And when they do, it can come with a large price tag. Fees pile up fast and become unmanageable for smaller operations.

Wyatt explains, "It's hard for small processors to survive. They get boxed out by rules and costs that were made for huge plants, not for people who want to slow down and do it right."

And when inspections happen, it's not the slow, careful process you might imagine. In the biggest plants, cattle are checked at a speed of about fifteen seconds per animal. Six thousand cattle, eight hours, and barely a moment for real care.

That's not food safety.

"The USDA acts like it's here to protect consumers," Wyatt says. "But the more I learn, the more I realize it's built to protect the big packers—and keep them big."

## WHY BIGGER ISN'T BETTER

We already talked about what happens when you trade thousands of local butcher shops for a handful of massive plants. You don't just shut down local processors and lose quality; you lose food security. It only took a one-week shutdown at JBS during COVID to show how fragile the system really is.

That should have been a wake-up call. But here we are, still feeding a system that runs at a staggering pace, at the cost of everything that should matter.

Today, cattle often travel hundreds of miles just to reach a slaughterhouse large enough to take them. Wyatt said it's not unusual for them to be hauled across state lines, packed into trailers for up to 23 hours straight. That's miles and long hours of stress for the cattle.

Further, think about what it takes to run 6,000 head of cattle through a plant in just eight hours. That's hundreds of animals per hour. Every hour. Moving, pushing, forcing. It's not hard to figure out what gets lost when you move living beings through a system built for speed instead of care.

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## THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 13A

Harvesting animals has always been part of how we survive. It's not something to hide from; it's essential to our survival. But somewhere along the way, we stopped treating harvesting animals with the respect it deserves. We can be humane and thoughtful, and we don't have to race cattle through concrete tunnels and steel kill floors just to shave a few pennies off the price of a hamburger.

Consumers can change this. Keep reading.

## WHY STRESS MATTERS

When cattle are stressed before processing, their bodies release a flood of hormones like cortisol and adrenaline. That stress makes the meat tougher, darker, and less flavorful. It's one of the reasons low-stress handling matters—it protects the quality of the beef just as much as the breed or the feed.

Wyatt explains, "When a cow begins to fear for their life, their pH levels will increase, affecting everything, including the taste of the meat."

I asked: how could a processing plant running 6,000 head in eight hours possibly prevent stress?

Wyatt's answer was simple. "They don't. You've probably heard of grades like Prime, Choice, Select, and Commercial—but there's also Cutter, and something called dark cutter beef."

Dark cutter happens when the animal's too stressed. The meat turns a deep, ugly red—almost like liver—and everything that makes the meat taste good gets lost. Instead of the rich, buttery flavor you get from cattle raised with care, you're left with beef that's dry, flat, and sometimes metallic.

Cutter beef, the USDA's second-lowest grade, is what you get when stress takes over. The muscle tightens, the flavor fades, and the tenderness is gone before it reaches the grill. The more fear and exhaustion an animal endures, the worse the meat. That's what the grading system is really tracking—not just marbling, not just age of the animal, but the toll of a system that pushes too hard, moves too fast, and forgets the life it's taking—turning a gift into something barely fit to eat.

At Windmill Mountain Ranch, it's different. Their cattle travel less than an hour to a local processor. From the truck to the harvest floor, stress is kept to a minimum.

"We don't haul single animals," Becki said. "There's always a companion in the trailer. It keeps them calmer. It matters."

It's not just genetics or feed that make good beef. It's the handling. It's the care. It's the respect for the life you're taking.

Consumers can change this. Keep reading.

## A SMARTER WAY TO BUY BEEF

Real quality—the kind you can see, smell, and taste—starts and ends with knowing your rancher.

Some ranchers, like Windmill Mountain Ranch, sidestep the factory system by selling beef the old-fashioned way: by the quarter, half, or whole animal.

A quarter beef gives you about 100 pounds of take-home cuts, a half yields around 200 pounds, and a whole steer brings in close to 400 pounds of beef for your freezer.

The beef is processed by a local butcher, packaged, labeled, and frozen, just like grocery store meat, but marked "NOT FOR SALE" because it didn't pass through a USDA plant.

You're not buying random cuts out of the grocery cooler. You're buying a share of a real animal from the rancher of your choice.

At Windmill Mountain Ranch, they offer not only quarter, halves, and wholes, they also offer USDA-processed individual cuts for those who just want a few steaks at a time.

Either way, your dollars stay closer to the land, and your beef comes with a name and a story, not a corporate logo.

And when you buy local, you're not just helping ranchers. You're protecting real choice for yourself, too.

"If I were selling to a grocery store in Sedona or Camp Verde and they wanted grass-fed beef, I could have a real conversation about making the switch," Wyatt said. "And if there was ever a problem, they'd know exactly who to call. That's safety—and it's customer service."

When you step outside the factory system, even just a little, you help rebuild something real.

And the beef? Phenomenal. Richer, cleaner, and a world away from the gas-flushed, store-bought cuts flashing fake color and a "Product of USA" sticker they didn't earn.

## STEWARDSHIP, RESPECT, & RESPONSIBILITY

I first met Becki at the Verde Natural Resource Conservation District meeting in Camp Verde. I went looking for ranchers to interview, and left with a lot more. What I learned that day was hard to hear but too important to ignore.

If we want local beef on our plates, it's not enough to buy it. We have to protect the land that makes it possible.

Ranchers lease land from the U.S. Forest Service, working alongside hikers, campers, OHV riders, and even hot air balloon tours. It's public land, but it's also working land, and too many people forget, or never learned, what that really means.

When OHV riders leave marked trails, they tear up fragile soil. Erosion follows, sending silt into the water tanks and streams that ranchers and wildlife depend on. It's the same slow damage now choking Bartlett Lake—a problem that didn't begin with floods, but with footprints and tire tracks, one careless or unaware turn at a time.

Further, when fences are cut so OHV riders can trespass, cattle roam into places they shouldn't be. Fences in Munds Park? Cut those and the cattle can end up on the I-17—a horrible disaster waiting to happen. Every broken fence costs ranchers time, money, and sometimes, lives.

And then there's the uglier side.

There have been cases where people have shot cattle for sport—left them bleeding out in the dirt, wasted and rotting under the sun. It's not hunting. It's not an accident. It's cruelty. It's theft. It's a punch in the gut to ranchers.

Every cow lost this way is more than money stolen. It's a sad statement about our society, a sign that somewhere along the way, we lost our connection to nature and our respect for life.

## HOW TO BE A BETTER STEWARD

Know where you are. Use apps like OnX Hunt to tell the difference between public and private land. Respect boundaries—and remember that a fence is there for a reason.

Stay on marked trails. Don't cut across open land, trample meadows, or carve out your own path.

Don't break the living crust by going off trail. In the high desert, the "soil" isn't just dirt. It's a thin, living layer that holds moisture, prevents erosion, and anchors everything that grows. Break it, and the land starts slipping away.

Camp only in designated areas. Pulling off into open spaces damages fragile ground and risks wildfires.

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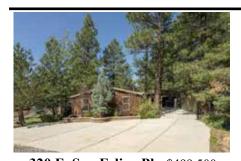
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## THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 14A

Respect the work that's been here long before you showed up. Fences, cattle, and backroads are not yours—they're part of a system that feeds people. Respect it.

If you love this land, show it. Ride like you mean it. Camp like you mean it. Leave it better than you found it.

What the Ranchers Want You to Know

At the end of our conversation, I asked Becki and Wyatt, "If there's one thing you want people to take away from this story, what would it be?"

They didn't hesitate.

"Know your farmer. Vote with your dollar."

If you want to see local meat in your stores, ask for it by name. And when they can't deliver—and they won't—walk away. Make a statement. Then turn to your local rancher and buy direct.

You'll pay a little more—but you'll taste the difference. And honestly, it might make you a little mad. This is how food used to taste. This is how it should taste. Somewhere along the way, greed took the wheel, and we were left eating tires.

This isn't just about good food. It's about survival. It's about protecting food sovereignty. And if you're waiting for the government to fix it, don't. Change doesn't start with them. It starts with us.

Buy local. Support the land—and the people who live by it.

## WHAT MAKES WINDMILL MOUNTAIN RANCH BEEF DIFFERENT

"When you buy direct from us, the beef comes from a single animal—it's not mixed with meat from dozens of others or run through a factory system," Wyatt explains. "We raise our cattle from calf to finished weight, then take them to a USDA-inspected facility for processing. The result? You can see the difference on the grill, and you can taste the difference. I had a chef from Christopher's Steak House tell me it was the best beef he'd ever had. We're focused on flavor—not just shelf appeal at the grocery store."

Continued on page 19A



From left to right: Nate, Justin Stewart, Dawnie Stewart (matriarch), Wyatt, Becki, Dustin, Ty, Jacey, Hadley, Tammy, Denton Ross

## Meet the Family Behind Windmill Mountain Ranch

Windmill Mountain Ranch is a true family effort. Dustin and Becki Ross work alongside their sons Wyatt and Nate, their wives Hailey and Regan, Dustin's brother Denton and wife Tammy, and parents Justin and Dawnie. Full-time ranch manager Ethan Crockett and his family help keep daily operations running. Together, they form the heart and hands of a ranching tradition that's generations strong.







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## THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 17A

I knew what he meant.

At the grocery store, everything looks perfect. For me, the rows of flawless fruits and vegetables look fabulous. But flavor? That's a different story. I told Wyatt it's like buying tomatoes—half the time, I only know I am eating one because it looks like a tomato, not because it tastes like one.

After the interview, Becki sent me home with a package of hamburger and two T-bones, along with very strict instructions:

"Don't you dare put that hamburger in spaghetti sauce!" she said, laughing. "Only the grill for this meat!"

I couldn't wait to try it and it did not disappoint.

The T-bone looked different, not that bright red you see at the store. It was paler, but beautifully marbled. And that buttery-soft tenderloin—the sweet little piece tucked on the bone's edge? The whole steak tasted like that. Rich. Clean. Chewed like butter. It was like no other steak I had eaten.

And the hamburger? Chef's kiss.

## How to Get the Goods from Windmill Mountain Ranch

Windmill Mountain Ranch offers beef the way it was meant to be: richly marbled, single-animal sourced, and raised with care from calf to table. You can order direct by the cut, or stock your freezer with a quarter, half, or whole share—whatever fits your table and your appetite.

They keep updates flowing on Facebook and Instagram, so follow along to stay in the loop. New beef drops, local pick-up options, and ranch life snapshots you won't want to miss.

## Where to Find Them:

- Email: Wyatt@windmillmountainranch.com
- Website: www.windmillmountainranch.com
- Facebook: @windmillmountainranch
- Instagram: @windmillmountainranch

As our summer series unfolds, we'll introduce you to more ranchers and farmers you can buy from directly. No middlemen, just real food and real people. Stick with us. There's plenty of goodness coming your way.

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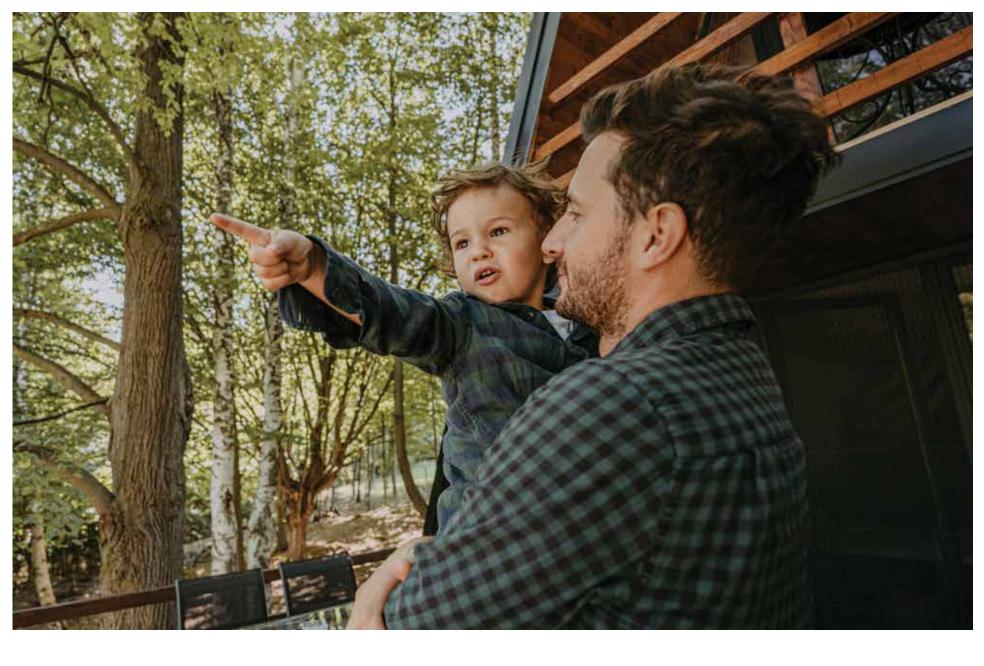
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- Have flashlights, batteries, a portable cell phone charger and water handy.

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## **OPINION**

## Open Letter to Ms. Lucinda Andreani, Coconino County Flood Control District Administrator

The views expressed in this letter are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Pinewood News. This is a submitted opinion piece. Responses may be submitted to Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

Part One: Open Letter to Ms. Lucinda Andreani, Coconino County Flood Control District Administrator

Submitted by Larry Hering, Arizona Registered Professional Engineer #11096, Associate Arizona Real Estate Broker

This is an open letter to you and those copied, as it will also be submitted to the Pinewood News for publication on May 1, 2025. Feel free to provide a rebuttal to the Pinewood News if you feel it is necessary. The purpose of this letter is to summarize the process between Coconino County and FEMA over the past seven years that resulted in the new Munds Park Floodplain Maps, set to take effect on July 9, 2025. Property owners should be aware of how these maps may affect them, especially in terms of property value and insurance costs.

In my opinion, these floodplain maps reflect a serious breakdown between two bureaucracies—FEMA and Coconino County—and will likely have long-term consequences for our community. For example, being placed in a floodplain typically requires mandatory flood insurance if the property has a federally backed mortgage. Since most mortgages fall under this category, the financial implications are significant.

Over the past seven years, I've conducted extensive research on this topic and written numerous letters to Coconino County, including to you as the Flood Control District Administrator, as well as to the County Manager, the County Engineer, JE Fuller Engineering, and the County Attorney. In those letters, I raised concerns that Coconino County failed to adequately communicate the more serious flood risks found in the JE Fuller analysis. I believe that omission has left many Munds Park property owners unaware of the true impact of these changes.

Yes, there were periodic public meetings at the fire station, but to my knowledge, the meeting agendas were never published in The Pinewood News or in another public forum likely to reach residents. In April 2024, when a community meeting was organized by resident Nancy Huzar, you did not attend. I have copied you on dozens of letters over the years and only received one reply.

In several of those letters, I pointed out that the JE Fuller Engineering

report projected a significant flooding event, including estimated water depths. However, the depth of the water and its potential impact on Interstate 17—specifically the ramps and underpass—was never proactively disclosed by Coconino County. In my view, that information was effectively hidden until I uncovered and shared it.

No one from Coconino County, to my knowledge, has

directly addressed or disputed the estimated floodwater depths I referenced—some of which range up to 8 feet in the underpass and 1 to 3 feet across I-17. A website published recently by FEMA now lists flood depths across different parts of Munds Park,

but this tool was not widely publicized.

These depths present serious safety concerns. The county's emergency management evacuation route for Munds Park leads directly into an

area projected to be flooded. This raises questions about planning and public safety that have not been fully addressed.

As a registered engineer and associate real estate broker, I feel it is my duty to speak out. Based on everything I have reviewed, it appears

duty to speak out. Based on everything I have reviewed, it appears the public has not received a full accounting of what these maps mean. Whether one agrees with the new floodplain designations or not, the lack of clear and timely communication has eroded trust.

It is also worth noting that real estate transactions may be affected. Buyers and sellers in Munds Park should be aware that floodplain status is a "material fact" and must be disclosed. Failure to do so could result in legal consequences, as nondisclosure is one of the leading causes of real estate litigation in Arizona.

Some residents believe the maps are flawed. While I can't speak to the intent behind the process, I do believe the public has a right to see the data and understand what it means before FEMA signs off on these maps. As it stands, the process appears opaque and poorly communicated, and that undermines confidence in the decisions being made on behalf of this community.

Sincerely,

**Larry Hering** 

Arizona Registered Professional Engineer #11096 Arizona Associate Real Estate Broker, Delex Realty 602-316-6148



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## **TRAVEL**

## ROUTE 66 ROCKS! FLAGSTAFF'S PLACE ON THE MOTHER ROAD

By "UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig

When you're attending a gathering in Arizona and hear the lyrics, "I'm standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona," chances are others around you will belt out the rest of the song. "It's a girl, my Lord, in a flatbed Ford slowing down to take a look at me." The Eagles' hit, Take It Easy, is almost an anthem for Arizona rockers, especially those who cruise Route 66.

But here's a little secret: Jackson Brown, who wrote the song, was actually inspired by an experience not on a corner in Winslow—but on Route 66 in Flagstaff. According to an interview with Arizona events producer Matthew Ziegler, singer-

songwriter Brown revealed, "The image of that girl driving a truck was an image that came from east Flag(staff)... It wasn't really a flatbed Ford. It was a Toyota truck, and it was pulling out of Weinerschnitzel."

So head to the corner where the Weinerschnitzel once stood, now the Route 66 Dog Haus, grab a green chile cheese hot dog, and maybe you'll be inspired to write your own road trip story.

Here are some more ways to rock on along Route 66 in Flagstaff:

Keep the vibe alive at an authentic Route 66 roadhouse, the Museum Club, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Enter the two-

story log building through the forked trunk of a native Ponderosa pine and walk into another world of strange and curious relics collected over the years. In cool weather, a fire crackles in the fireplace, and in any season, you'll see boots scooting across the wooden floor.

With the celebrated road traversing through downtown, Flagstaff offers many rockin' Route 66 sites. Indeed, the highway earned the name "America's Main Street" because it ran along the main streets of the towns it passed through on its way from Chicago to Los Angeles. Pull over at the Flagstaff Visitor Center, which is housed in the Tudor Revival train station built in 1926, the same year that Route 66 was commissioned in Arizona. Get a free Route 66 Passport and brochures for self-guided historic Route 66 walking tours.

Flagstaff's first Route 66 motel on the 1920s and early 1930s alignment that went south of the railroad tracks is Motel Du Beau. Built in the Craftsman style, the motor hotel boasted a courtyard design that allowed motorists to park in front of their rooms, which was quite an innovation in 1929. Five years later, Route 66 was repositioned to its present alignment. Traffic during the mass migration of Dust Bowl families out of the Plains States forced the construction of the railroad underpass



Route 66 Centennial marker at Flagstaff Visitor Center

motel is easy to find—just look for the 8o-foot tower sign on the south side of the tracks. Nearby, Mother Road Brewing Company is also on the lost portion

on the west side of downtown. The

Nearby, Mother Road Brewing Company is also on the lost portion of Route 66. The name comes from John Steinbeck's epic novel about the Dust Bowl migration, The Grapes of Wrath. The author called Route 66 "the mother road, the road of flight." Celebrate your own journey by lifting a pint of "Lost Highway" or "Tower Station," each named for an iconic Mother Road stop.

Rock' n roll is here to stay at Galaxy Diner. Request the song "Get Your

Kicks on Route 66" while trying to choose from over 100 flavors of malts and shakes. The 50s joint's menu lists "Knuckle Sandwiches" or Blue Plate Specials. Your toes will tap as you peruse walls plastered with glamour photos of stars from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

If you love nostalgic neon, here's a Route 66 tip: hop over to Western Hills Motel, which has the best classic neon in town. The horses' legs seem to move as they pull the covered wagon. Agave Mexican Restaurant serves homemade food with windows overlooking America's Main Street.

Still want more Route 66? Then, explore the ruins of Two Guns Ghost Town. The abandoned trading post and campground have a swimming

> pool tagged with urban art that makes for Instagrammable photo ops. Your imagination may be snared by fake "Indian Ruins" built by a past owner as part of the timeworn tourist trap. 35 minutes east of Flagstaff on I-40. At Exit 230, head south.

Next year, the Route 66 Centennial promises to be huge, but don't wait! Flagstaff is already alive with Route 66 vibes, and these classic attractions are ready to fuel your nostalgia now. So, get your playlist together, tune up your car and get ready to experience the magic of Route 66 in Flagstaff before the crowds descend for the big celebration in 2026.

Flagstaff Visitor Center

Motel Du Beau

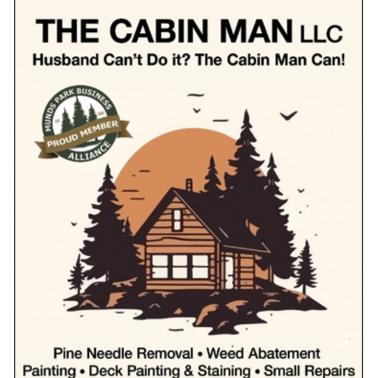
Mother Road Brewing Company

Museum Club

Route 66 Dog Haus

Western Hills Motel and Agave Restaurant

"UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig is a travel writer based right here in Munds Park. Get more travel tips and inspiration when you sign up for her newsletter at unstoppablestaceytravel.com/subscribe.



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## 17425 S SHADOW ROCK PL

Fully remodeled single-level home with three bedrooms, two baths, and nearly 1,100 sq. ft. Sits on a 7,700 sq. ft. lot with oversized shed. Features include propane fireplace, new windows, paint, cabinets, appliances, and pine tongue-and-groove ceilings. Quiet cul-de-sac location. Limited viewings please respect tenant privacy.



## **405 E CEDAR WOOD DR**

Brand new, right off the show room floor. Four bedroom, two baths, open floor plan.  $High\ vaulted\ ceilings, large\ windows.\ All$ electric Cavco unit over 1600 square foot livable with an extra large deep covered front porch that spans the width of the unit. Lots of natural light thru out. Ceilings fans in all four bedrooms and living room. Home is on track to be completed by the end of February.



### 17055 S JOY PLACE

Newer doublewide on oversized cul-desac lot with National Forest views. Seller added extra square footage. All-electric with open floor plan and wood-burning fireplace visible throughout main living areas. Features include fenced yard, solar tubes, 12-foot front deck, ample parking. Sold furnished with Bill of Sale. Great spot for privacy.



### **365 E SAN FELIPE PLACE**

Priced right with major upgrades: metal roof, on-demand water heater, propane heat, and pellet stove. Features include 16x16 covered porch, circular driveway, walk-in pantry, full laundry, split floor plan, and space for a garage. Extra-large primary bath with garden tub. Owned propane tank included for added value.



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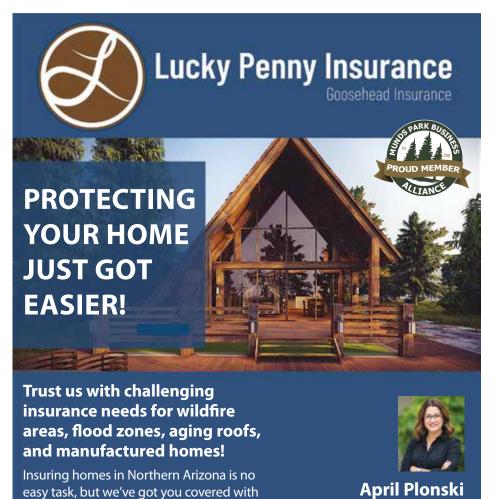


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Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 23B

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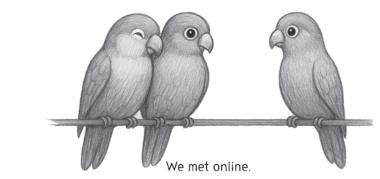
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- 1. Pad \_\_\_ (noodle dish)
- 5. Wren or hen
- 9. Paddles
  - o. Cambodian money
- 14. Think tank nugget
- 15. Pitch
- 16. Untrained
- 18. To the point
- 19. Old name for
- Tokyo
- 20. Musical staff
- 21. Did a blacksmith's job
- 22. More nimble
- 24. Where a baseball team sits
- 25. Final: Abbr.
- 26. Zodiac twins
- 27. Hack
- 30. Ranee's wrap
- 31. Golf bag item
- 34. Sunburn soother
- 35. Question

- 36. Turf
- 37. Sawbuck
- 38. Goodman or Hill39. Wrapped for burial
- 40. Shade of purple
- 13. Cambodian money 42. Used a shovel
  - 43. Latin American
  - dances
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  - or one
  - 47. Date celebrated in many countries as a traditional springtime festival
  - 48. Comic Carvey
  - 49. Rainbow shape
  - 51. TV studio sign
  - 52. Inner city, say
  - 54. Sired, biblically
  - 55. Buddies
  - 56. Maintain
  - 57. Tree of life site 58. Proofreader's
  - mark
  - 59. Sciences' partner

- DOWN
- Test choice
   Female deer
- 3. Fable writer
- 4. Kind
- 5. Quarters
- 6. Slacker
- 7. Coral ridge
- 8. Family man
- 9. Coordinated gene
- cluster
- 10. Rock fan's imaginary instrument
- 11. Put back to zero
- 12. Winter toy
- 15. Cheap cigar
- 17. Without emotion
- 21. Strong, seasoned
- stock, in cookery
- 23. Bumpkin
- 24. Churchill Downs
- event
- 26. Scrawny
- 27. Tabby
- 28. Tavern offering
- 29. "Have a pleasant

- 30. Loudness units
  - 32. Ram's mate
  - 33. Conclude
  - 35. Postpone
  - 36. Danish toy company
  - 38. "Casablanca" star
  - 39. Havana native 41. Native American
  - i. Native Americar
  - 42. Hereditary ruler
  - 43. Like some
  - furniture
  - 44. Strong cord
  - 45. Not so common
  - 46. Welcome
  - 47. A mobile phone (British, informal)
  - 48. "Shucks!"
  - 50. Beanies
  - 2 2244
  - 52. \_\_\_ and downs
  - 53. Wanted-poster letters



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## HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

## KNOW YOUR BEEF, LOVE YOUR BEEF

By Elizabeth Gunkel Buying beef isn't just about filling your freezer. It's about choosing food that's worth eating, whether that means picking up a few great steaks from a local rancher or grabbing the best cuts you can find at

Good beef costs more,

the grocery store.

and that's natural when more

care and time are invested in the final product. If buying direct feels financially out of reach, don't give up. Just buy a little less and buy better. Or buy for special occasions only. Just don't miss out!

Whatever beef you bring home, this guide will help you get the most out of it—how to choose it, how to store it, and how to make sure it tastes every bit as good as it should.

Let's kick things off with the basics: what beef grades really mean—and why real quality goes deeper than just the label.

## BEEF GRADES 101: WHAT DO THEY REALLY MEAN?

The USDA grades beef based on two main things:

- Marbling (how much fat is woven into the muscle)
- Maturity (the age of the animal)

The higher the marbling and the younger the animal, the better the grade—and the better the flavor and tenderness.

Here's how the common grades break down:

### Prime

- Highest quality. Lots of marbling. Super juicy and tender. Found mostly in highend restaurants and specialty butcher shops. Only a small percentage of U.S. beef earns this grade.
- Best for: Grilling steaks like ribeyes, T-bones, and filet mignon.

## Choice

- Still excellent quality, with good marbling, though not as rich as Prime. Widely available in grocery stores and commonly used in restaurants.
- Best for: Roasting rib roasts, smoking brisket, or grilling everyday steaks like sirloins and strip steaks.

## Select

- Leaner and less tender, with less marbling. Often benefits from marinades or slower cooking methods to stay moist. Found in many supermarkets.
- cooked pot roasts, or crockpot meals.

## Standard & Commercial

- Lower marbling and quality. Often sold as ungraded store-brand meat or used in processed foods.
- Best for: Ground beef for tacos, meatloaf, casseroles, or budget-friendly stews.

Continued on page B5

**HOW TO SPOT** 

**BEEF** 

**REAL GRASS-FED** 

Not all "grass-fed" labels

According to Wyatt Ross

mean what you think.

of Windmill Mountain

telltale sign you can't

Truly grass-fed beef

has yellow or orange-

hued fat and a slightly

labeled 'grass-fed' and it

doesn't have that yellow

fat," Wyatt says, "it's

not grass-fed. That's

While grass-fed beef

may have a bit more

that the animal was

Omega-3s, Wyatt says what matters most is

raised without growth

hormones, antibiotics, or

synthetic feed additives.

Corn-fed beef has clean,

Ranch, there's one

fake: the fat.

gamier taste.

marketing."

"If you see a steak

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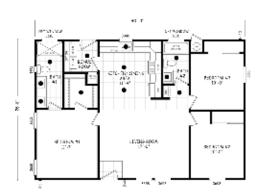


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## **HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL**

Continued from page B3

## BEEF STORAGE 101: KEEPING THE GOOD STUFF GOOD

You worked hard to choose better beef. Here's how to make sure it stays that way until it hits your plate.

## Short-Term Storage (Fresh Beef)

- Keep fresh beef cold—ideally between 32°F and 36°F.
- Store it in the coldest part of your refrigerator, not the door.
- Plan to use ground beef within 1–2 days, and steaks or roasts within 3–5 days.

## Freezing Beef

If you're not using it soon, freeze it.

- Wrap cuts tightly in butcher paper or vacuum-sealed bags to prevent freezer burn.
- Label each package with the cut and date. You'll thank yourself later.

## Best frozen shelf life

- Ground beef: up to 4 months
- Steaks and roasts: 6 to 12 months

## Thawing Beef Safely

- The best way? Slow-thaw in the fridge over 24–48 hours.
- If you're short on time, seal the beef in a leak-proof bag and submerge it in cold water. Change the water every 30 minutes.
- Never thaw beef on the counter. It's a fast track to bacteria you don't want.

## A Few Extra Tips

- Always pat beef dry before cooking for the best sear.
- Let beef come to room temperature for 30-45 minutes before cooking to ensure even doneness.
- Rest cooked beef for 5–10 minutes before slicing. It keeps all the good juices where they belong—inside.

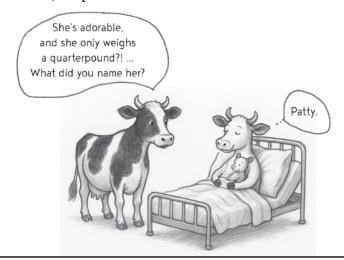
## RESPECT THE JOURNEY

Good beef is more than what's on your plate.

It's the animal, the land, the care, the time, and the people behind it.

Whether you buy a quarter cow from a rancher or a few steaks from a local store, treating it right—from the moment you choose it to the way you cook it—is a way of honoring the work that made it possible.

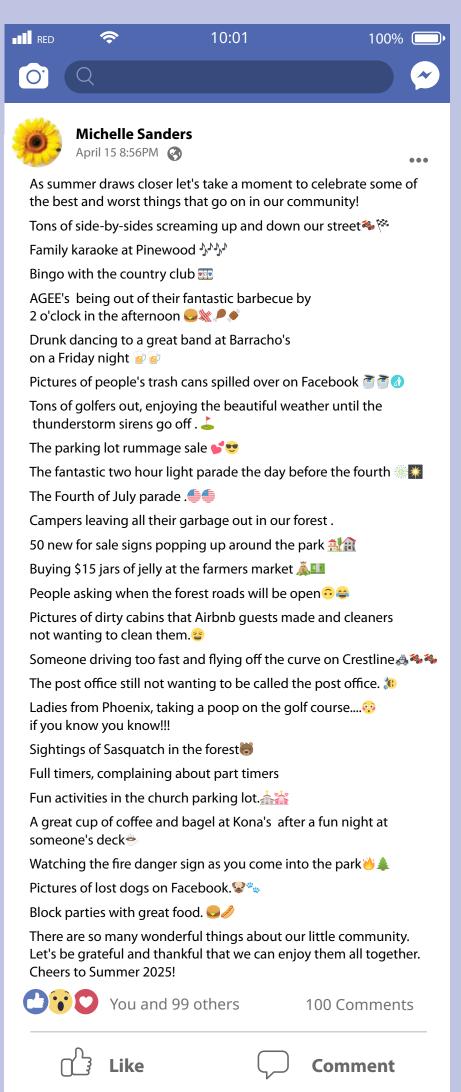
Until next time, keep the fire low and the bread warm.







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## **HERBS & POTIONS**

Simple Ways to Use the Gifts of Nature

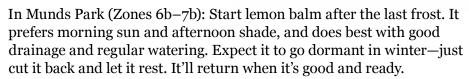
## LEMON BALM: A GENTLE HEALER IN THE GARDEN

## By Suenet

Every good garden starts with knowing your ground. Planting zones are a simple way to match what you grow to where you live. Here in Northern Arizona, we're lucky to have a range: Munds Park falls in Zones 6b to 7b, while Rimrock and Camp Verde are in Zone 8b. When you plant with your zone in mind, the garden tends to give back.

## How to Grow Lemon Balm in Northern Arizona

There's something soothing about lemon balm before you even use it. It smells like sunshine and green things, and grows in that soft, sprawling way that says, "Relax, I've got this."



In Rimrock & Camp Verde (Zone 8b): Here, lemon balm can grow nearly all year. It appreciates some shade in the hottest part of summer and benefits from mulch to retain moisture. If it looks leggy or tired, give it a trim—it'll bounce back quickly.

Garden Tip: It spreads by root and seed, so grow it in a pot or give it a dedicated spot in your herb patch. A little goes a long way.

## Why Gardeners Love Lemon Balm

Lemon balm is more than a pretty leaf—it's a calm mind, a settled stomach, a better night's sleep. Used fresh or dried, it's gentle but effective, making it a favorite among gardeners who like to grow their own remedies.

## Ways to use it:

- Brew a soothing tea
- Create a homemade tincture for calming nerves
- Infuse it in oils or honey for salves or dressings
- Add to baths, butters, or herbal vinegars

## Lemon Balm Sleep Tea

### You'll need:

- 1 tbsp fresh lemon balm (or 1 tsp dried)
- 1 cup hot water
- Optional: chamomile, mint, or lavender

### To make:

Lightly crush the leaves, pour over hot water, and steep for 5-7 minutes. Strain and sip slowly before bed. It's a wind-down in a cup.

## Calming Lemon Balm Tincture

### You'll need:

- Fresh lemon balm, chopped
- Vodka (80–100 proof) or vegetable glycerin
- A clean glass jar and a dropper bottle

### To make:

Jemon Balm

- 1. Fill your jar halfway with fresh lemon balm.
- 2. Cover the leaves with vodka or glycerin.
- 3. Cap and let sit in a cool, dark place for 4–6 weeks, shaking gently every few days.
- 4. Strain and store in a dark glass dropper bottle.

Take 1–2 droppers in water or tea when feeling anxious or wound up.

## Harvesting & Drying Notes

Harvest lemon balm before it flowers for the strongest scent and potency. Clip in the morning after the dew dries, and hang small bundles upsidedown in a cool, dark space. Once dry, store in an airtight jar. Crumble just before use to keep the oils fresh.

There's something honest about growing your own remedies. It connects you to the season, the soil, and yourself. Lemon balm isn't flashy, but it shows up, does its quiet work, and asks for very little in return. The kind of friend every garden needs.







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## **VORD SEARCH**

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B

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Shoot April Easter Loam Fawn Soil Bbq March **Field** Birds May Spade **Buds** Flock Mud Spring Foal Mulch Bulb Sprout Butterfly Nest Frog Sun Calf Fun **New Life** Tornado Chick Glade **Pansy** Tree Daffodil Pollen Tulip Heat Daisy Hoe Rain Vale Robin Woods Dale Joy Kite Sap Worm Duck Earth Lamb Seed Yard



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## **SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD**

## The Cocktail Connoisseur's Corner

## By Dick Trudeau

So, you've got the good beef, the real stuff—maybe a thick-cut ribeye from a local rancher or a tenderloin that practically sighs when you touch it. Now comes the question: what are you going to drink with it?

"Something red" won't cut it here. You need a wine that pulls its weight. Lucky for us, we've got options, really good options, right here in the Verde Valley. The region's winemakers are producing reds with backbone, complexity, and a whole lot of desert soul.

This is your cheat sheet: good pours with great steak and where to find it.



more rugged. And with a strip steak's firm texture and beefy flavor? It hits all the right notes.

Local Pour: Javelina Leap's Estate Cabernet—structured and satisfying without overwhelming the plate.

## Sirloin & Zinfandel: The Weeknight Win

Sirloin isn't fussy, and neither is Zinfandel. But both can surprise you. Local Zin tends to be fruit-forward with a little spice and just enough tannin to play well with a medium-rare sirloin.

Pick up: Arizona Stronghold's Nachise—eads the charge. Friendly, versatile, and

technically a blend, but Zin leads the charge. Friendly, versatile, and available almost everywhere in the state.

## Ribeye & Syrah: The Power Couple

That marbled ribeye you're about to reverse sear? It wants Syrah. Needs it, really. A Verde Valley Syrah delivers bold blackberry, a touch of smoke, and just enough pepper to match the fat without getting lost in it. Local Tip: Page Springs Cellars does Syrah the way it should be done—dark, expressive, with just a touch of the wild.

## Filet Mignon & Sangiovese: Grace with Grip

Filet is lean, elegant, and subtle, which means it needs a red that plays nice. A nice Sangiovese, light tannins, juicy cherry, and that high-desert acidity keep everything in balance. You'll taste the steak, but you won't forget the wine.

Try it with: Merkin Vineyards' Chupacabra Rosso, a Sangiovese blend with Arizona swagger.

## New York Strip & Cabernet Sauvignon: A Classic

This pairing is like Sinatra and a double-breasted suit—timeless. But Verde Valley Cab isn't California Cab. It's leaner, earthier, and a little

## Tri-Tip & Tannat: Underrated & Unapologetic

Tri-tip is the underdog of steak cuts—juicy, flavorful, and criminally overlooked. Tannat is its wine soulmate. It's deep, rustic, and bold enough to keep up. Together, they're what you serve when you want to impress someone without making a big speech about it.

Pour from: Southwest Wine Center in Clarkdale—student-run, boundary-pushing, and making a name for their Tannat.

## Where to Get It

Verde Valley wines are available at tasting rooms throughout Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Cornville, Jerome, and Sedona. Want to skip the crowds? Old Town Cottonwood has walkable tasting rooms from the likes of Merkin, Burning Tree Cellars, and Winery 101. Bring a cooler, stock up for your next dinner, and thank us later.

Steak and wine is a celebration of the land, the people who work it, and the flavors that come from doing things right, the good way.

Drink local. Eat local. And pair it like you mean it.







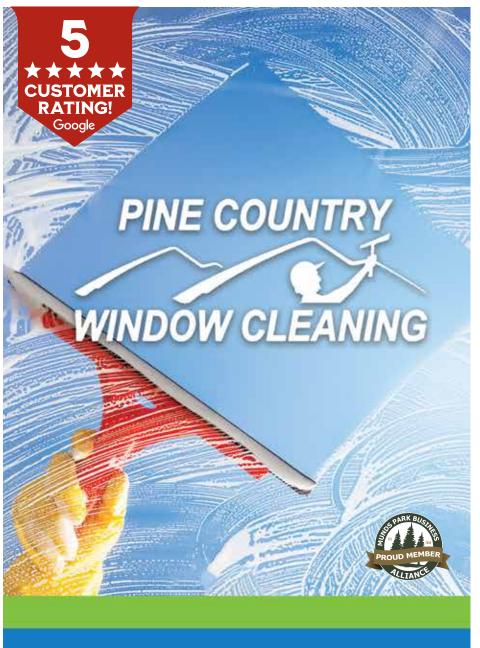


## **\$490,000** 17300 Big Sky Dr

This meticulously maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is full of upgrades, move-in ready and comes fully furnished—just bring your clothes! The property also features two storage sheds with electricity. The larger shed/garage is roomy enough to fit a mid-size sedan and includes an EV charger.

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## WORD OF THE DAY

Quiddity

noun | kwid-ih-tee

The essential nature or inherent quality of something.

A quirky or peculiar feature; an eccentricity.

## By Tess Langley

You know that friend who insists on eating the green M&M's last—not because they taste different, but because she swears they're lucky? Or your partner who always eats the crust you leave behind? That, dear readers, is quiddity in action.

At first glance, quiddity sounds like something plucked out of a dusty philosophy text, and you wouldn't be entirely wrong. The word comes from Latin quidditas, meaning "whatness," and was used by medieval scholars to pin down the essential nature of a thing. Aristotle probably tossed it around during late-night debates with Plato over the metaphysical meaning of soup.

But quiddity isn't just about essence. It's also about the quirks—the small, specific, unmistakable things that make someone exactly who they are.

Like your wife who refuses to purchase the first box on the shelf and always reaches for one in the back. Or the one with a sweet spot for bees and a gift for sneaking puns into every conversation—Bee kind. Bee-lieve. Bee your best self. Then there's the friend who sends the flip-off emoji at 5 a.m. just to say good morning, because somehow, that's his love language. Or the one at game night who can't focus if there's anything on the table besides cards and makes you clear your space before she deals.

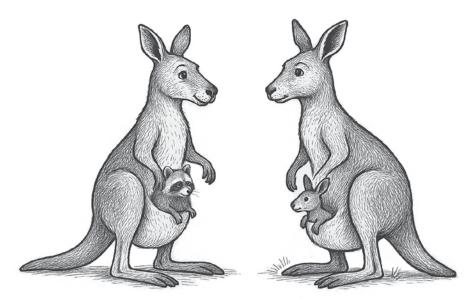
These aren't just habits. They're the little rituals and reactions that make people familiar. They're quirks with roots.

And in ourselves, quiddities can be grounding.

Take your morning coffee, for example. The quiddity of it isn't just caffeine and warmth—it's the chipped mug you always use, the way the spoon clinks exactly once, and the quiet minute you spend staring out the window like you're auditioning for an indie film. Or maybe you've got a playlist just for doing dishes that includes three ABBA songs and zero apologies. That's you—your whatness, your weirdness, your quiddity.

So the next time someone teases you for your rock collection or your need to alphabetize the spice rack, just smile and explain if you have to—half the fun of quiddity is noticing it, even when others don't.

And if they still don't get it? That's their quiddity. Bless it.



After my kid moved out, I put it on AirBNB.

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## **BUGS OF ARIZONA**CUTE, GROSS, & THE JUST PLAIN WEIRD





Sonoran Bumblebee















Apache Cicada Whip Scorpion

By Kennith Paul

Some bugs bite. Some bugs buzz. And some bugs do really weird things with poop. (We're looking at you, dung beetle.)

Welcome to the wild and wiggly world of Arizona bugs! From cuddly-looking bumblebees to nightmare-fuel centipedes, these tiny critters crawl, fly, and creep all over our desert landscape. But don't squish just yet, bugs do a lot of good! They help flowers grow, clean up messes, and make the world way more interesting.

So grab your bug net (or maybe just your curiosity) and get ready to meet nine native insects that'll surprise you, gross you out, or maybe even make you go awe.

### **ASIAN LADY BEETLE**

They look like regular ladybugs, but these beetles can come in all sorts of colors: red, orange, and even yellow. Some have lots of spots, while others have none at all! Unlike the shy ladybugs, these guys are bold and love to sneak inside homes in the fall. But don't worry, they're mostly just looking for a warm nap.

### **SONORAN BUMBLEBEE**

With its fuzzy black-and-yellow body, this bee is the teddy bear of the insect world. It's a great pollinator for wildflowers and tomatoes. And bonus: Sonoran bumblebees rarely sting unless really provoked, so they're more about the buzz than the bite.

### **GREEN LACEWING**

These dainty green insects have big golden eyes and see-through wings that sparkle in the sun. But don't let the elegance fool you, these babies are fierce garden protectors that gobble up aphids like candy.

## PALO VERDE BEETLE

It looks like a flying nightmare. These big black beetles can grow over 3 inches long, have huge jaws, and buzz loudly when they fly. But they're harmless! Their babies live underground for years chewing on tree roots.

### **GIANT DESERT CENTIPEDE**

This orange-and-black crawler can reach 8 inches long and has venomous fangs! It's a desert predator that hunts at night and eats crickets, roaches, and even small lizards. Cool, but... no thanks.

### **DUNG BEETLE**

Yes, it really does what you think. Dung beetles roll animal poop into balls, bury it, and lay their eggs inside. Baby beetles hatch in the poop and eat their way out. Gross? Absolutely. Important for the environment? 100%.

### **APACHE CICADA**

These bugs scream from the trees like tiny chainsaws. The Apache cicada lives underground for most of its life and only comes out to party (and mate) when it gets hot. Their singing can be louder than a lawnmower!

## WHIP SCORPION (A.K.A. VINEGAROON)

It looks like a mix between a scorpion and a spider and sprays vinegar from its tail when scared. They can't sting, but they sure smell like salad dressing. Totally harmless—and totally bizarre.

### PEPSIS WASP (TARANTULA HAWK)

This shiny blue-black wasp with orange wings hunts tarantulas—and wins. It stings the spider, drags it into a burrow, and lays an egg on it. The baby hatches and eats the spider alive. Yep, weird and savage

Next time you spot something crawling in the dirt or zipping through the air, don't panic—look closer! Bugs might be tiny, but they've got big jobs and even bigger personalities.

Stay curious, little explorers... and don't forget to check your shoes before putting them on!







Giant silk moth | Photo courtesy of Dori Wittrig

## SECRET LIFE OF MOTHS: NIGHT FLYERS WITH SUPERPOWERS!

When the world gets quiet and the stars come out, a secret team of superheroes takes to the sky. They don't wear capes. They don't make a sound. And most of us don't even know they're there.

They're moths—and they're cooler than you think.

### **MIDNIGHT SNACKERS WITH A MISSION**

While bees buzz all day, moths work the night shift. When you're sleeping, they're zipping from flower to flower, sipping sweet nectar and—without even trying—helping plants grow! As they drink, pollen sticks to their fuzzy bellies and legs, turning them into flower delivery trucks on wings.

Some scientists even call them "ghost pollinators" because they work quietly at night, doing important jobs no one sees!

### **DISGUISE MASTERS OF THE NIGHT**

Moths don't need superpowers—they are superpowered. Some have wings that look like tree bark or dead leaves, making them invisible to predators. Others go full spy-mode with wing spots that look like big, scary eyes. Imagine flashing giant eyes at a bird to freak it out—moths do that without blinking!

## **FAST FLIERS & FANCY DANCERS**

Some moths flap their wings up to 80 times per second—that's faster than a hummingbird! And have you ever seen one hover like a helicopter while sipping nectar? That's the Hawk moth, and it's got serious flight skills. Scientists are studying them to design flying robots and drones that move just as smoothly.

## MORE MOTHS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE

There are more than 160,000 species of moths—and those are just the ones we've discovered. Some are so small they can sit on a pencil tip. Others, like the Atlas moth, have wings wider than a dinner plate!

And moths aren't all brown and fuzzy—some are bright pink, lime green, or covered in shiny metallic scales. One kind even smells like chocolate. Yes, really.

## MOTH DETECTIVES ON THE CASE

How do we know all this? Meet the moth scientists! Researchers like Chris Cosma use glowing light traps to attract moths at night. Then they observe what flowers the moths visit and how they carry pollen. Every moth they study helps us understand more about the secret nighttime world buzzing right under our noses.

## **MOTH-TASTIC FACTS**

- One moth can visit 30+ flowers in a single night.
- Some moths travel hundreds of miles during migration.
- Moth antennae are so sensitive, they can smell a flower (or another moth) from miles away!

Next time you see a moth by the porch light, don't swat it—celebrate it! That fuzzy little flyer might just be a superhero in disguise.

## WOULD YOU RATHER: BUG EDITION

Get ready to choose between the creepy, the crawly, and the totally bonkers. There are no wrong answers—just weird ones.

1. Would you rather...

Scream like an Apache cicada all summer

### -OR

Eat your way out of a poop ball like a dung beetle?

2. Would you rather...

Fight a tarantula like a Pepsis wasp

### -OR-

Live underground for 3 years, munching roots and burping mud bubbles like a Palo Verde beetle larva?

3. Would you rather...

Be a fuzzy bumblebee who belly-flops into flowers, gets covered in pollen boogers

### -OR-

Have giant golden eyes and sparkle-wings like a lacewing baby that eats aphids for breakfast?

4. Would you rather...

Spray vinegar from your butt when scared (like a whip scorpion)

-OR-

Buzz around loudly with giant jaws and freak people out like a Palo Verde beetle?

5. Would you rather...

Be a bold little beetle who sneaks into houses for naps

### -OR-

Hide in someone's shoe like a sneaky centipede?

No matter what you choose—sticky, stinky, or totally strange—bugs have some seriously wild lives.

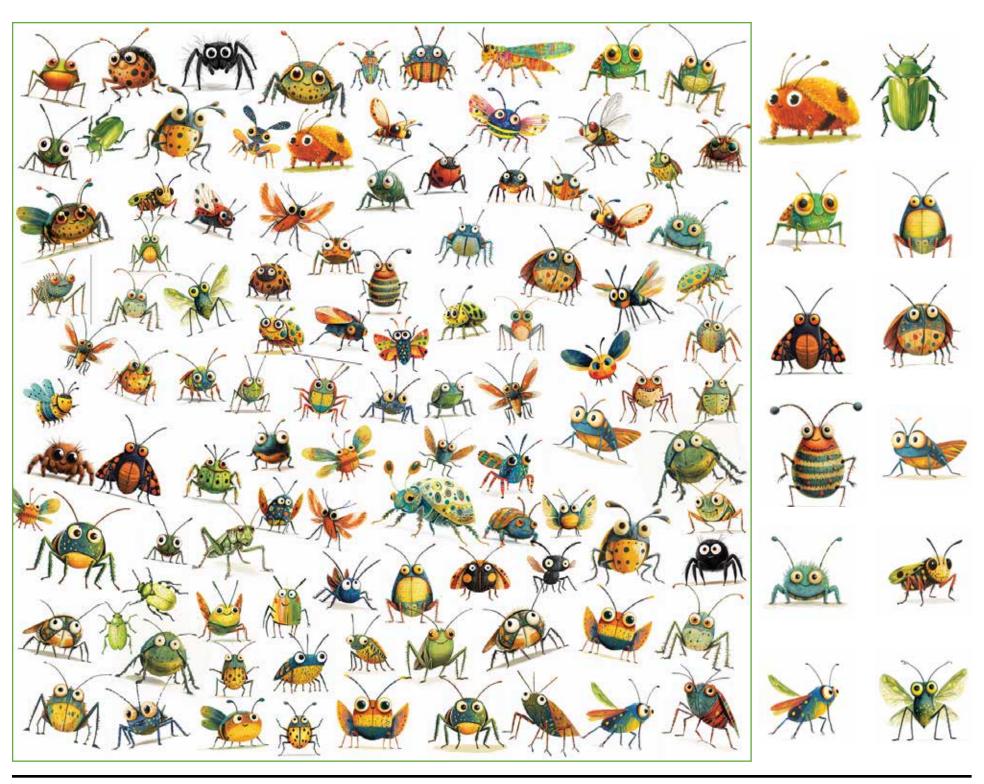
So the next time you spot one crawling by, don't squish it... imagine what you'd do if you had bug powers! Not to mention all these crazy bugs have a job to do to help the environment!

Now go ahead, ask your friends:

Would you rather eat poop or scream like a bug with a megaphone?

SEC B 12 | MAY 2. 2025 PINEWOOD NEWS KIDS!

## HIDDEN PICTURES FIND THE BUGS! Solutions PG23B



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## **BUGS! WORD SEARCH**

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words. Answers page 23B.

Ant	Hornet
Aphid	Ladybug
Bee	Mantis
Beetle	Mosquito
Butterfly	Moth
Caterpillar	Spider
Centipede	Termite
Cricket	Tick
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Firefly

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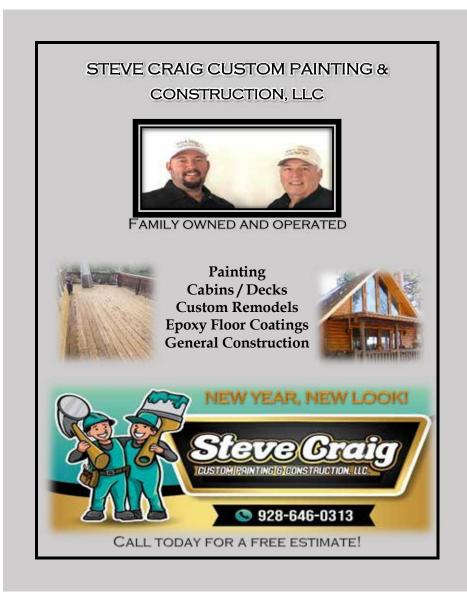
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## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

## RIDE THE ROCK: SEDONA'S HARDLINE TRAIL IS NEXT-LEVEL MOUNTAIN BIKING

There's a new beast in Sedona's red rock wilderness—and it's not for the timid.

Hardline is the latest addition to Sedona's legendary lineup of mountain bike trails, and it's already gaining a reputation for being one of the most thrilling, technical rides in the Southwest. Released alongside a 20-minute YouTube documentary titled The Hard Line by Specialized Bicycles, the trail's story is as bold as the terrain it carves through.

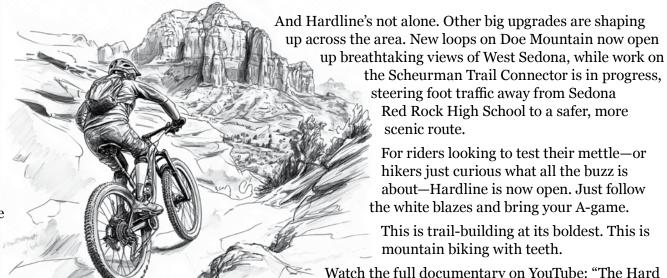
Completed this winter as part of Phase I of the Red Rock Trails Access Plan, Hardline is more than just a path—it's a rider's proving ground. Carved into the landscape just off the Cathedral Rock Trail, it ties into other Sedona classics like Easy Breezy, Templeton, and the iconic Hiline.

What sets Hardline apart? Start with a 60-foot vertical drop, broken by three slickrock rollers that demand flawless timing, balance, and bravery. This isn't a trail for sightseeing. It's a double-black-diamond-rated ride engineered for speed and flow-where hikers yield and riders soar.

Before its official debut, Hardline existed as a rogue 0.92-mile usercreated trail. But instead of wiping it off the map, the Forest Service did something rare: they leaned in. With help from the Red Rock Trail Crew, volunteers, and advocacy groups like the Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition, Hardline became a sanctioned, bike-optimized experience.

Construction began in December, with trail crews working hard through the winter, aided by passionate volunteers who believed in creating a trail that would challenge even seasoned pros. The total cost? Roughly \$40,000 in trail crew time—plus countless unpaid hours from local riders with shovels, pickaxes, and vision.

The release of The Hard Line documentary offers a behind-the-scenes look at this build, capturing both the craftsmanship and the community it took to make the dream ride a reality.



And Hardline's not alone. Other big upgrades are shaping up across the area. New loops on Doe Mountain now open

> the Scheurman Trail Connector is in progress, steering foot traffic away from Sedona

Red Rock High School to a safer, more scenic route.

For riders looking to test their mettle—or hikers just curious what all the buzz is about—Hardline is now open. Just follow the white blazes and bring your A-game.

This is trail-building at its boldest. This is mountain biking with teeth.

Watch the full documentary on YouTube: "The Hard Line" by Specialized Bicycles.

## Don't Be That Guy

If you're riding Hardline, you're part of the community. Stay on the trail, pack out your trash. Don't treat million-year-old rock like it's your backyard shortcut. Do it right, or go ride pavement.





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Approximate number of persons on vehicle/trailer:
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Post Office during regular business hours. You may also mail it to Friedlund,

P.O. Box 17011, Munds Park, AZ, or submit electronically at www.pinewoodppoa.org.

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

## **MUNDS PARK** JULY 3RD **ELECTRIC LIGHT** PARADE!

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

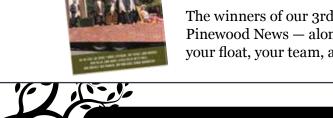
All lighted motor vehicles are invited to attend. All vehicles must be street legal with licensed drivers. Parade route will be printed in the Pinewood News June 21 & July 3rd issue. Be sure and check the Munds Park Facebook groups and the Pinewood News for any late breaking updates.

Flashlight Volunteers: We request the assistance of flashlight volunteers to ensure smooth traffic flow and safety along the route. Spectator Safety: In the spirit of safety, we encourage all spectators to bring a flashlight or other lighted item. Let's illuminate the way together and make this event a shining success. Please remember to keep children and pets under close supervision throughout the evening. Get ready to be dazzled at the 4th Annual Electric Light Parade!



## PINEWOOD NEWS 4TH OF JULY PARADE FLOAT CONTEST!

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



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I wanted to share my experience with acupuncture and Dr. Clayton Woolley, MS, LAc, Dipl. AC.

After unsuccessful spine interventions with surgical doctors, I struggled to get my pain under control. I didn't want to continue with medications or invasive treatments. I was hesitant to try acupuncture, but other patients' good results encouraged me. I figured—what did I have to lose?

Dr. Woolley performed a series of treatments that gave me real relief, without the side effects of medication.

Then COVID hit in 2020, leaving many people, including me, with long-term symptoms.

Multiple doctors admitted that Western medicine didn't have all the answers and suggested I research Eastern medicine and acupuncture.

Dr. Woolley offered his assistance. After a few months of treatments, I went from complete bedrest to steady improvement. My shortness of breath lessened, my energy improved, and I returned to my baseline functioning.

For anyone unfamiliar with acupuncture, it is an ancient Oriental practice that balances the flow of energy—CHI—through the body. Tiny sterile needles are inserted into acupuncture points to stimulate and rebalance energy. It is not painful, can be very relaxing, and you are monitored during your sessions.

Acupuncture can aid in pain management, promote wellness, decrease stress and musculoskeletal pain, help with PTSD, boost the immune system, and assist in recovery from long post-COVID symptoms.

Be patient throughout the treatments, just as you would with any program focused on improving your health.

I'm grateful I gave it a chance.

Sincerely,

Denise Ingram





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

## IN LOVING MEMORY

The loving, devoted wife and beloved mother, Paula Farnell, went to be with the Lord on April 7, 2025. She lived a life full of love, faith, and joy. There was not a single person she met who won't feel her loss. Paula always made sure to give everyone her time—which was valuable—and ensured that the person she was talking to felt heard.

Paula left such a wonderful legacy, being survived by her husband, Rick Farnell; her children, Shane, Sarah, and Sheri; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren: David, Alyssa, Tyler, Kailyn, Travis, Alex, Arabella, Kinsley, Jameson, Dean, Sadie, and Jesse. Paula is also survived by her siblings Donna, George, Loren, and Cindy.

We will forever miss her until we are joined with her again in Heaven.



## **SUDOKU**

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 23B

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## CURTAINS UP FOR PINEWOOD PLAYERS

By Cindy Smith, President Pinewood Player

As we light up the marquee for the 2025 season at the Theater in the Pines, Pinewood Players is thrilled and thankful to offer another great season of entertainment in downtown Munds Park. Donors and supporters allow us to continue making an impact on our patrons. We acknowledge and most heartily thank you! We are a 501c3, which makes your donations tax deductible. This year, we continue our quest for contributions that will allow us to replace the theater seats and flooring, adding to the overall theater experience.

We are lucky to have so many different summer experiences offered locally. Pinewood Players would love to open up new and unique experiences for you and yours this year. Why not expand your exposure to performing arts while supporting your friends and neighbors by attending a Pinewood Players production? Or find a spot within the organization that allows you to shine by joining our community theater group. We are looking for backstage crew members for the first production, The One Act Play That Goes Wrong. In July, we will look for new actors and actresses to participate in a "Readers Theater" play. It's the one time the cast will read their parts, eliminating hours of memorizing and rehearsing. We offer it each season as a training ground for those who want to try acting. Over the years, many have gone on to grace the stage with their talents because of the camaraderie and the positive experiences through Readers Theater participation. If you want to participate in one of the skits, contact Robyne Roveccio at (602) 826-7019 or robyne@robyneroveccio.com. Auditions will be in late July to early August.

We have updated the website, www.pinewoodplayers.com, and loaded it with current information, including an updated online ticketing system to make it easy to become involved, donate, and purchase tickets for all of the performances offered from June through August. Our Season Line Up: The One Act Play That Goes Wrong - June 13, 14, 20, 21 &22. Drama Camp Productions: Kidz Kamp -Off Their Rockers -July 5 &6. Youth Camp-Willy Wonka Jr- July 11, 12 & 13. Airport Encounters – July 25, 26 & 27, plus August 1, 2 & 3. Readers Theater presents Rogue's Gallery on August 21 & 22. Find times, tickets, and more information on the website.

We congratulate all of the 2025 graduates and remind them that Pinewood Players offers a scholarship opportunity for those qualifying graduates with ties to Munds Park. To learn about the qualifications and apply, visit our website today. The application deadline is May 31, 2025, so start today!

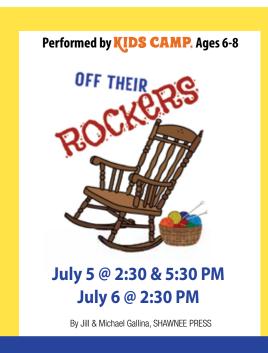
The Pinewood Players Drama Camps are always popular with the attendees and production audiences. We are proud to offer two Drama Camp sessions: Kidz Kamp for ages 6-8 will provide a fun-filled, uplifting play, Off Their Rockers. The second session for the 9–18-year-olds will perform the delicious adventures of Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr. Kidz Kamp and Youth Camp will run concurrently for half days for two weeks. Then, Youth Camp will begin all-day sessions for an additional week. The Youth Camp will hold an all-day audition session on Monday, June 23. Kidz Kamp starts on Tuesday, June 24, with 9 a.m. to noon sessions. Half-day Youth sessions will also begin on June 24 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., June 24 to July 3. Then, from July 7 through July 11, they will have full-day sessions from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

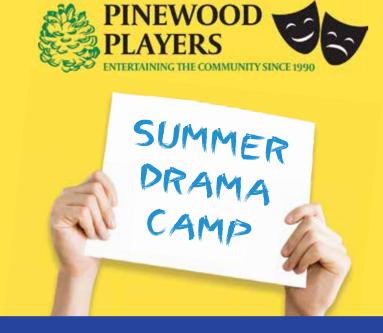
All Munds Park youth are encouraged to join. It is a great way to meet new friends and learn new skills. Kidz Kamp tuition is just \$175, and Youth Camp tuition is \$250. Tuition assistance is offered. Get all the information and register before June 10, 2026, at www.pinewoodplayers.com/ DramaCamp.

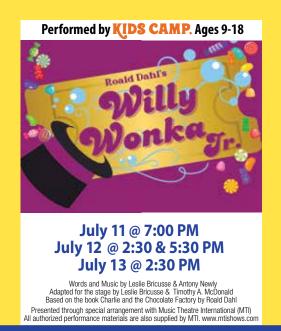
Make 2025 the year you join Pinewood Players!



"No, no, no! Your like, I really, really, love you, and your like, whatever."







Get your campers registered by June 10 at www.pinewoodplayers.com.

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## MAY HOROSCOPE BY CAKE

Astrology links us to the vast rhythms of the universe, where every celestial movement mirrors opportunities for growth. This May, as nature thrives and days stretch longer, the stars encourage us to nurture what truly matters. It's a time for cultivating connections, chasing dreams, and embracing the joy of shared moments. Each shift in the heavens reminds us that progress comes not from perfection but from persistence. Let this season inspire connection, curiosity, and a renewed sense of purpose.



## ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

May sparks your social side, Aries! It's time to reconnect with old friends or make new ones. Love could even make an unexpected appearance during a casual gathering—so show up, even if you're tempted to skip. Your fiery

energy lights up every room you enter, so share it with the people who matter. The stars say this month isn't about "me time"; it's about "we time." Just remember: compliments are free but priceless.



## LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Leo, May is your time to lead in love. Whether it's in your relationship, family, or community, your warmth and charisma inspire others to follow your lead. Organize a gathering, plan a date night, or take charge

of a fun group project. You thrive when you're bringing people together, so lean into your natural talent for connection. This month, love isn't just a feeling—it's an action. And you're the star player in making it happen.



## SAGITTARIUS, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Sagittarius, May reminds you that connection is key. Whether it's gathering a group for a fun outing or simply calling someone you've lost touch with, your presence is a gift to others. Your adventurous nature thrives when shared,

so invite someone along for the ride. Love and friendship are your treasures this month, and the effort you put into them will come back tenfold. Remember, the best memories aren't made alone.



## TAURUS, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

Taurus, May is your month to share your talents. Whether it's volunteering your time, mentoring someone, or simply helping a neighbor, the joy of giving will light up your world. You thrive when you're creating something

meaningful, so put your skills to good use. Acts of kindness have a way of coming full circle, and this month, they'll bring more warmth to your life than you expect. Your steady heart inspires others—lead with it.



## VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Virgo, May is all about using your skills for the greater good. Look for opportunities to volunteer or support a cause you care about. Your knack for organization makes you the perfect person to rally others and make a difference.

But don't keep all the fun to yourself—invite friends or family to join. Helping others will leave you with a sense of purpose and joy that's hard to beat. This month, service is your superpower.



## CAPRICORN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Capricorn, May is about mentoring and guiding others. Someone around you could use your wisdom and steady advice—so share what you've learned with an open heart. This isn't about being the boss (we know you're

great at that), but about lifting others up. Teaching and leading by example will leave a lasting impact, and it might just remind you of how far you've come. Sharing your knowledge is your legacy in the making.



## GEMINI, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

May inspires your natural curiosity, Gemini! Take a class, dive into a new book, or explore a topic that's always intrigued you. Your mind is your playground, and this month, learning is the ultimate adventure. Sharing

what you've learned might even spark deeper conversations with those around you. The more you expand your knowledge, the more connected you'll feel. Bonus: your witty one-liners will be even sharper with some fresh material to pull from.



## LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Libra, May whispers sweet nothings about romance. Whether you're single or partnered, it's time to add a little sparkle to your love life. Plan a date, write a love note, or simply spend quality time with someone special. Your natural

charm is on overdrive this month, so use it to bring joy to those you care about. The stars suggest love doesn't have to be grand gestures it's in the little moments that say, "I see you."



## AQUARIUS, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Aquarius, May calls you to use your creativity to make the world brighter. Host an event, start a project, or collaborate with others who share your vision. You have a knack for inspiring change, and this month, your ideas can spark

something big. Don't keep your brilliance to yourself—this is your time to share it with the world. Oh, and when someone calls you a genius, just smile and say, "I know."



## CANCER, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

Cancer, May nudges you to open your heart. Whether it's reaching out to a loved one or expressing your feelings in a new relationship, this is your month to let your emotions flow. Vulnerability isn't weakness—

it's connection. The stars suggest quality over quantity, so focus on deepening your closest bonds. A little extra effort now will create ripples of love that last far beyond May. And yes, sharing a laugh counts as emotional intimacy!



## SCORPIO, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Scorpio, May calls for meaningful conversations. Whether with a friend, partner, or family member, it's time to talk about the things that truly matter. Sharing your thoughts and hearing theirs will strengthen your relationships in

unexpected ways. Don't shy away from deeper topics; you're wired for connection, and your intuition will guide you to the right words. Sometimes, the most powerful thing you can say is, "Tell me more."



## PISCES, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, May invites you to share your compassionate heart with the world. Consider volunteering, helping a friend, or simply being a listening ear. Your kindness creates ripples that inspire those around you. Don't underestimate

the impact of your actions, no matter how small. This month, you'll find joy not just in dreaming but in doing. And yes, your natural charm will make it feel effortless—just don't forget to recharge when you need it.

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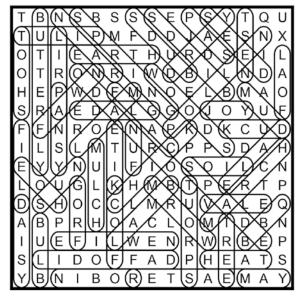
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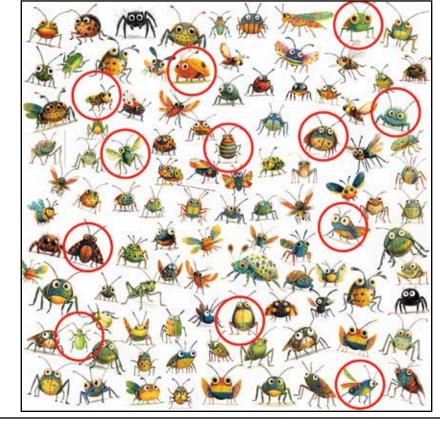
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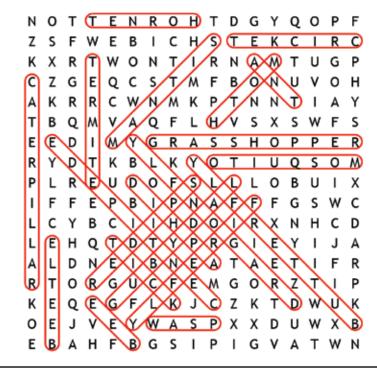
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