

PINEWOOD NEWS

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER OF MUNDS PARK, ARIZONA SINCE 1993

VOL. 30 NO. 1

JANUARY 5, 2023

FREE!

HOW TO KEEP THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT ALL YEAR LONG!

A CONVERSATION WITH STEVE BOWYER,
PASTOR OF MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

- PAGE 18 -

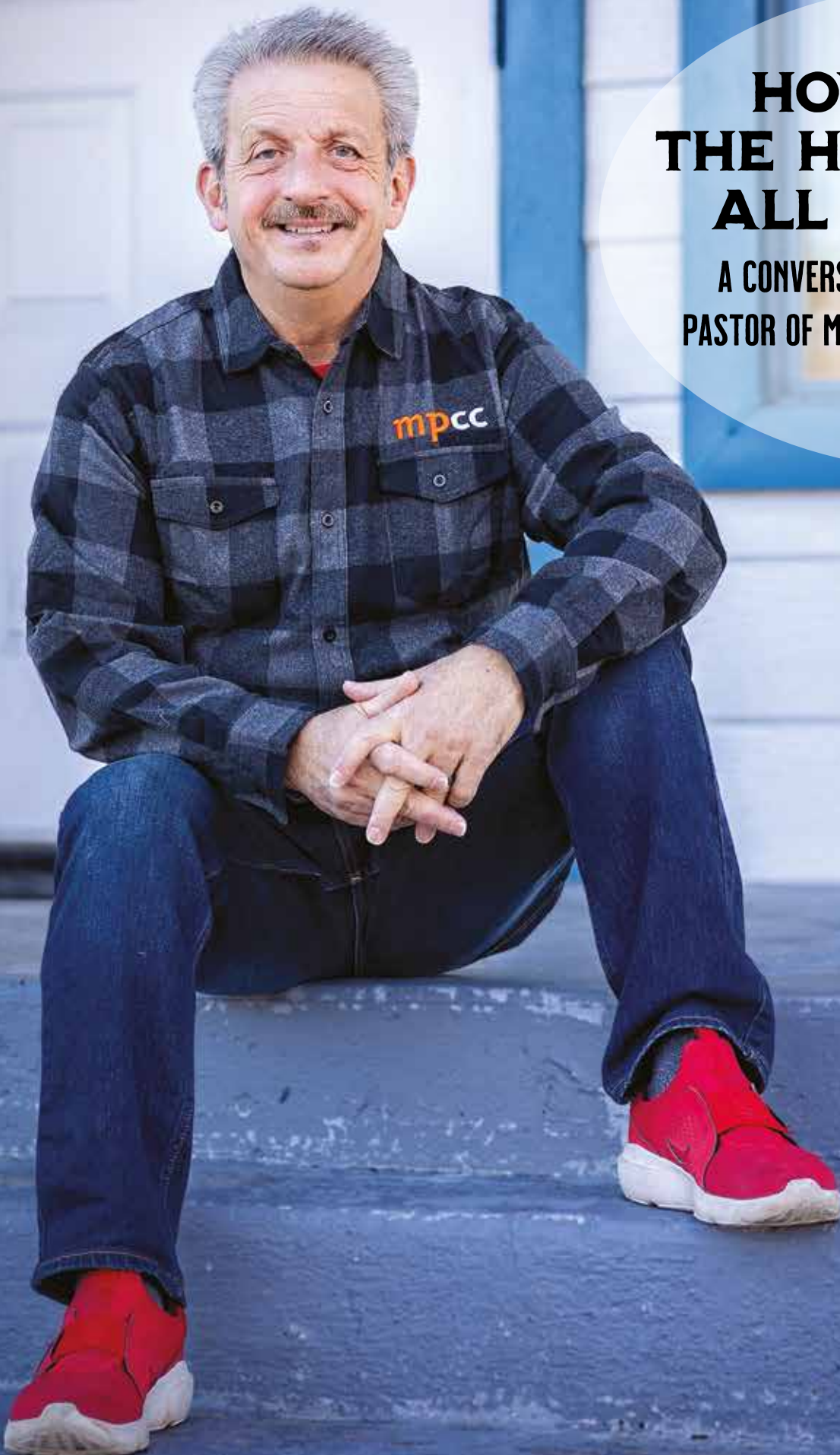


Photo by Barbara Sherman Photography

 **PINEWOOD
NEWS
KIDS!**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored by the Munds Park Business Alliance
Building Business Partnerships for a Stronger Community



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Every Sunday	Munds Park Community Church Services	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	10:45 am
Every Monday	AA Meetings hosted at Munds Park Community Church	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	7 pm
Every Thursday	Spread the Bread Get some for your neighbors too!	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	10 am
Tuesday, February 7	Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary Members Meeting - Public Welcome!	475 E Pinewood Blvd	6:30 pm
Thursday, January 12	Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting - Public Welcome	18075 Fairway Dr	3 pm
Tuesday, January 17	Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting - Public Welcome	475 E Pinewood Blvd	3 pm

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE PINEWOOD NEWS ON NEWS STANDS FEBRUARY 2, 2023.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Pinewood News is always interested in feedback from our community and welcome comments on any subject or article written.

The Pinewood News will attempt to publish every letter received, except for those that are an invasion of privacy or libelous. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Letters: PO Box 18977, Munds Park, AZ 86017 • email: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com



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NO PARKING ON STREETS
November 1 through April 1

County Ordinance 2017-11. Violation is a civil traffic offense that carries a minimum \$200 fine and may include other penalties, including towing the vehicle at the owner's expense.



PINEWOOD NEWS

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER OF MUNDS PARK, ARIZONA SINCE 1993

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Chevron	Pinewood Powered by Re/Max
Coldwell Banker Realty	Shell Gas Station
Kota's Coffee House	The Outpost (Post Office)
Motel in the Pines	

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The next deadline for advertisements or articles

January 23, 2023





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\$899,500

17385 E MOUNTAINSIDE PL

Beautiful log-sided forest retreat in Pinewood County Club. Nearly a half-acre lot, private and serene. West facing air decks with circular stairway. Fenced paver backyard with built-in firepit. Gorgeous stone faced central fireplace, separate living and family rooms, formal dining, gourmet kitchen.



\$829,900

290 LODGE DR

PICTURE PERFECT! This home is simply incredible. Backs forest, tranquil, serene and absolutely gorgeous. Home boasts three bedrooms, two baths, two plus oversized insulated garage with built-in lift and RV parking.



\$405,000

1260 E. JAGUAR LN

Cute chalet on a beautiful lot with many Oak and Pine Trees. New Laminate flooring, interior has been newly painted, great covered back deck, and large fenced area in backyard.



\$399,000

17265 CREEKSIDE PL

Great looking log-sided three bedroom, one and three quarter bath cabin in Pinewood Country Club. Home boasts formal living, dining, and beautiful kitchen. Large covered deck patio, great for entertaining and a one car garage.



\$307,000

255 E OAK DR

Very well cared for home with 2 bedrooms 2 baths. New roof within last 3 years. Open floor plan and vaulted ceilings in living room. Large 12 x 10 workshop and another storage shed too. New carpet. All electric

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THANK YOU MUNDS PARK!

*By Branden Mohler, Captain/CEP,
Pinewood Fire District*

On November 8, 2022, the Pinewood fire district had Proposition 446 on the midterm ballot. This Prop. was to allow the district to sell bonds up to \$4,513,000, to build a new station to increase fire fighter safety and help better serve Munds Park and Surrounding areas. Prop 446 passed with 68.92% (519) in favor and 19.45% (170) not in favor. The Pinewood fire district would like to thank all who voted for prop. 446. With this prop the district can start to move forward on building a new station to increase fire fighter safety and provide better service to the areas we serve. As of now the timeline for the new station is being discussed and we will update the community as we move forward. Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Pinewood Fire District and prop 446.

NOTICE TO SELECT BOARD MEMBER

Pinewood Fire District Board of Directors

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Pinewood Fire District is in the process of selecting a replacement board member for the Pinewood Fire District Board of Directors to complete the term ending January 2026.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Interested parties must be eligible voters in the fire district.
2. Pinewood / Munds Park must be your primary, full-time residence.
3. A letter of interest must be dropped off at the Pinewood Fire Station or emailed to Cheif@Pinewoodfire.org no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 13, 2023.
4. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. and normally last less than one hour. All board members are expected to attend if possible.
5. The Pinewood Fire Board will notify all parties that have turned in a letter of interest as to when their interviews will take place.
6. Any questions should be directed to a board member or the Fire Chief.



MUNDS PARK SNOW BLOWERS

Well, that was fun! For the 12 of us who could make, it we started with a Meet and Greet Thursday night at MadJack's. We then hit the mountain not knowing what to expect for weather and snow conditions. Happy to

say though, the weather was great as were the snow conditions.

We returned to MadJack's for the après ski happy hour where grinds were consumed and tequila was split. Special thanks to Debbie Schwartz for designing our new Munds Park Snowbowler patches! Each of us has one and extras will be handed out as new members join.

If interested, please respond directly to: jack.corson@cox.net or text me at 480-258-8933. Thanks, MadJack.

NOTICE FROM PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT

Dear Munds Park residents,

Please remember that Pinewood Sanitary District crew members will be out in the Park performing routine sewer cleanings and inspections with our Vactor Truck and camera van.

We would like to kindly remind you that we may need access through driveways and fenced-in easements.

Beginning 12/22/22, PSD crews will be working on the following streets: Walapai Rd, Longbow Rd, Sundance Rd, Stringer Rd, Half Moon Rd, E Ox Bow Rd, E Meadow View Rd, Golden Pond, Pinewood Blvd.

Streets previously worked on but may not be completed: Hillside Dr, Orchard Pl, Joy Pl, Fairlane Rd, Cedarwood Dr, Oak Dr, Hunter Pl, Teal Pl, Pintail Pl, Penguin Pl, Mescalero Rd, Alder Pl, Big Sky Dr, Condor Pl, Redwood Dr, Chalet Pl

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Wishing all a Happy & New Year!



\$345,000

17145 S ELK PL

This 16 X 80 Single Wide is so Roomy with a Split Plan. 2 huge Bedrooms ; especially the Primary Bedroom. The Bath is also large. The Secondary Bedroom is also roomy with space for whatever you need in the way of furniture. The Kitchen has Plenty of Workspace and Cabinets; includes fridge and is open to the Dining Area and Living Room. Enjoy the ambiance of the Fire Place in the Living Room as well. Central Electric Heat. This unit was placed on one side of the lot which allows for a larger side yard which can serve many purposes. No Garage. This property being sold unfurnished. (With exception of Fridge.)

CALL SAM TILLERY



\$390,000

830 E. HILLSIDE DR

Beautiful Four Bedroom 1993 Double-wide Manufactured Home with huge, covered deck for entertaining. Vaulted T&G Wood Ceilings. Great Room with Split floor plan. Large Primary suite with bathroom. New PEX plumbing throughout. New paint inside & out. New upgraded kitchen cabinets and counter-tops. Wood laminate flooring throughout. Separate laundry room. Numerous Ponderosa Pines shade the property. Large lot with fenced yard and an ample storage shed. Don't miss this well-maintained home. Comes Furnished with a One Year Home Warranty.

CALL BOB JONCAS



\$499,900

790 E CARIBOU RD

RUSTIC LARGE 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH WITH 3 SEPARATE LOFTS A FRAME. TWO LOFTS HAVE CLOSETS. CENTRAL PROPANE HEAT, LARGE DECK WITH SLIDERS ENTERING INTO THE DINING ROOM, LANDSCAPED, CIRCULAR DRIVEWAY, HIGH TONGUE AND GROOVE CEILING. WOOD BURNING FIREPLACE, UPGRADED KITCHEN FURNISHING TO CONVEY AT THE CLOSE OF ESCROW. A SHARE OF STOCK FROM PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUE COULD BE AVAILABLE.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$480,000

17035 S. ORCHARD PL

RIGHT ON THE NATIONAL FOREST LINE! Adorable 2 BR, 2 BA Home! Kitchen is Roomy, has gorgeous cabinets & blends into a Dining/LR Area. Family Room has 2 Full Walls of Windows and a Tongue and Groove Vaulted Ceiling. A Perfectly enjoyable room allowing you the enjoyment of light and forest! HVAC SEER RATING IS 18. Out back is the patio which leads you out to a completely fenced yard with 3 gates. And there you are: ON THE FOREST with Beautiful Views of Trees; Deer and Elk etc. Don't forget the Workshop with electricity and a burn pit. Much work done on the house shown by attachments. One patio; one deck.

CALL SAM TILLERY



\$930,000

566 E CRESTLINE RD

3 level, 2-car garage, + detached garage, gated entry. Main level consists of a large bedroom, full bath, family room, wraparound deck. Main level consists of 2 bedrooms, bath, kitchen, living area and more wraparound decks, upper level consists of a large loft, huge primary suite with a personal deck, double sinks, tub and separate shower, walk in closet. Living room fireplace has a pellet stove insert. Home is equip with central air conditioning. All appliances will convey. Private road leads to property. Watch arrow sign to get you into this property.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$995,000

17955 GOLDEN LAKE TRAIL

Log sided cabin with open floor plan, front deck & covered back deck, 4 beds + loft with its own bath. Over 2800 sq ft, a short distance to the National Forest, Lake O'Dell and hiking trails. Central propane heat, 2 fireplaces. Fenced in backyard. Garage. Primary suite is large and open with its own propane fireplace, double doors opening to the back covered deck. Bath has double sinks and walk in closet, + a walk in shower. Home has distressed wood flooring, tile and carpet thruout. Loft bedroom at top of stairs is open, large and sleeps at least 4 or more.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$699,000

17570 STALLION DR

3 BR +Loft; 2BA Chalet w 1.5 car Garage on a Huge Lot of 20,652 square feet and on a Canyon. Laundry/Mud Room with ample Cabinets. Kitchen, Dining Area and Living Room which all enjoy the beauty of the Forest through a wall of Windows. Giant Deck which enhances the awe and privacy of the Forest. Wood-burning Fireplace in the Living Room. Up the stairs is a Loft which can be used for an office, game room. A huge separate primary suite with plenty of closet space plus bath. Don't Miss this one!

CALL SAM TILLERY OR BOB JONCAS



\$565,000

17350 S BIG WOODS PL

ADORABLE 2-BEDROOM; 2-BATH CABIN AT THE END OF A CUL-DE-SAC ON A 9672 Sq Ft LOT. The front of the home has windows allowing light to come in and display the beautiful scenery. In the Living Room has a huge Propane Rock Fireplace. The cabin is completely furnished with the exception of personal items. The Front Deck is Very Large and a great place to BBQ and enjoy the scenery, especially in the Summertime! Under the cabin you will find the "Garage" which can house an ATV. Check out the separate playhouse in the back yard!

CALL SAM TILLERY



PINEWOOD
15 W Pinewood Blvd
PO Box 17218
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Debi Bright
Managing Broker


DEBI BRIGHT
Realtor® / Associate Broker
928.699.7703 CELL
BrightDebi@gmail.com

BOB JONCAS
Realtor® / Associate Broker
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SAM TILLERY
Realtor®
928.699.1862 CELL
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HOME COOKING

NEW YEAR'S GOOD LUCK BLACK-EYE PEAS

By Sara Bowyer



Happy New Year!!! I am not one to make new year's resolutions. In my mind, they just tend to be another way for us to feel like failures when we don't accomplish them.

Don't get me wrong, I think it is always good to evaluate the last year and make some goals. But new year's resolutions just usually wane and fall short for me very quickly! Now, traditions, on the other hand, are very important to me. And our number one New Year's tradition in my family is black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. This tradition comes from the south and has been part of my family for many generations.

It is said that a spoonful of black-eyed peas on the first of the year will bring you good luck. And maybe that is true, but good luck aside, they just taste SO GOOD!!! I look forward to them every year!

Growing up, my mom and dad always had a New Year's Eve party at their house. It was mostly the same families each year. While the adults would visit, the kids would be in the back room coming up with a variety show to put on for the adults. It brings a smile to my face as I remember some of the skits and the laughter that rang throughout the house. The next day, mom would make a huge pot of black-eyed peas and cornbread, and people would stop by throughout the day to have a "bowl of good luck." I honestly don't know how she did it. I am sure now, as I look back, that she had to be exhausted!! She was amazing!

As we got older, they dropped the New Year's Eve party and moved it all to New Year's Day with an open house. A much better idea in my opinion and the one that I carried on for many, many years. In each of the places we have lived, I have introduced people to black-eyed peas. So many (especially those in the north) have looked at them with a little skepticism. But after one bite, or two, or a bowl, they are asking when they can come

back for more!!! There have been a few, shall we say, holdouts that refuse to try them, but we won't mention how their year went!!

I think my best compliment on our black-eyed pea open house is that twice as we have moved on to a new state, someone has asked if they could carry on the open house and requested the recipe for the peas!!! That always warms my heart. There is nothing better than getting with friends, no matter what time of year, around good food, good conversation and laughter!

The thing about black-eyed peas is they are a lot like turkey. You only make them once a year and when you do you wonder why you don't make them more often. They can be made at any time and freeze really well. They are not hard to make; they just take a while. You start with dried black-eyed peas you find in the bean section of the grocery store. Unless you live in North Dakota where you will find them in the "foreign food" isle along with the Mexican food! That always cracked me up!! I usually buy them well before Christmas because they tend to sell out quickly in places other than

the south (which stocks plenty of them). I never use can or frozen peas; they will not come close to the flavor you want.

Wash and pick through your beans for small stones. Then soak them overnight in a large pot of water.

In the morning, you can place on the stove and add water if needed to about 1-2 inches above the beans or dump the water and add fresh. Either way is fine. Add diced onion (1 large or 2 small), a ham bone if you have one, or a large ham hock if you don't. Salt and pepper and a pinch or two of cayenne

Continued on page 15



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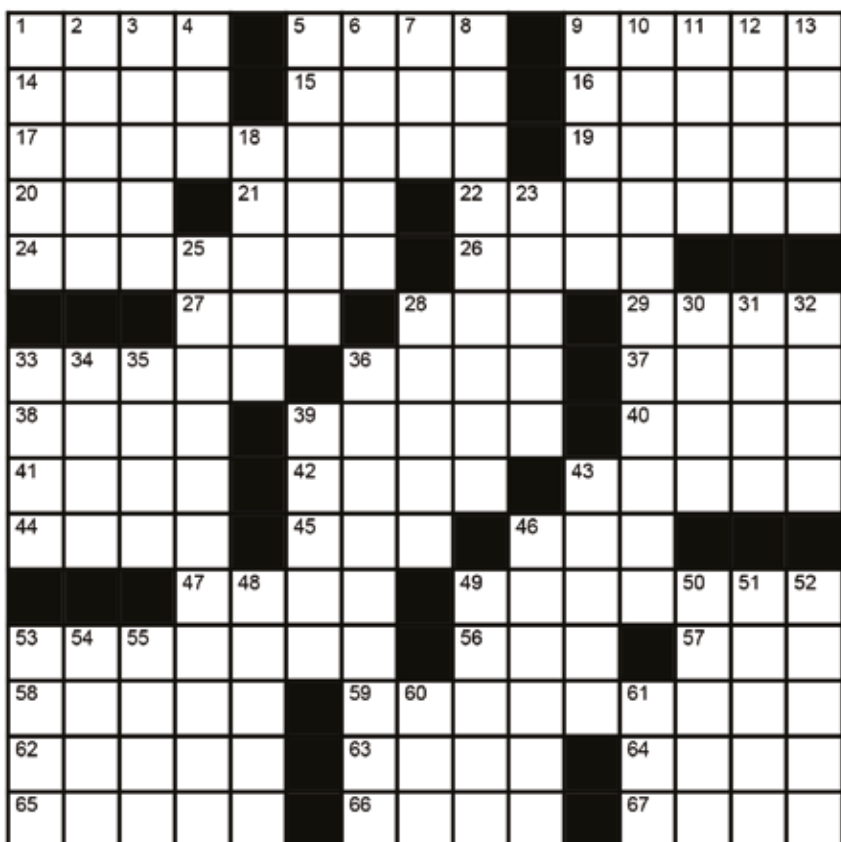
If the borrower does not pick a charity, Fairway will send donations to Munds Park Fire Department Auxiliary.

This ad doesn't constitute a commitment or promise to lend.

*May not be redeemed for cash. One \$250 donation per loan. Loan must close and fund with Fairway Branch 817. Offer not available on bond loans. Special incentive offer subject to change without notice. This offer not valid with any other incentives or discounts. If the borrower does not pick a charity, Fairway will send donations to Munds Park Fire Department. Loan must close on or before January 31, 2022. Promotion expires January 31, 2022.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution pg. 35



Across

1. Iron carrier in blood
5. On ____ (without a contract)
9. Of a brain membrane
14. Be next to
15. Raise, as an anchor
16. It may be submitted for a test
17. One hanging near the kitchen sink
19. Black
20. Go downhill fast?
21. Beluga yield
22. Subjects of wills
24. More computer savvy
26. Godsend
27. Ancient
28. Dude
29. Delta deposit
33. Fingerprint pattern
36. Exactly
37. Beseech
38. Make, as money
39. Celebrate
40. Classic board game
41. Arborist's concern
42. Duel tool
43. Flavor
44. Detect
45. Cabernet, e.g.

46. "I do," for one
47. Expressed
49. Caulking stuff
53. Glitter
56. Sue Grafton's "____ for Corpse"
57. "Fancy that!"
58. "Ragged Dick" author
59. Activity preceding liftoff
62. Not so good
63. Toy with a tail
64. Mars, to the Greeks
65. Avalanche
66. Downhill racer
67. Brown rival

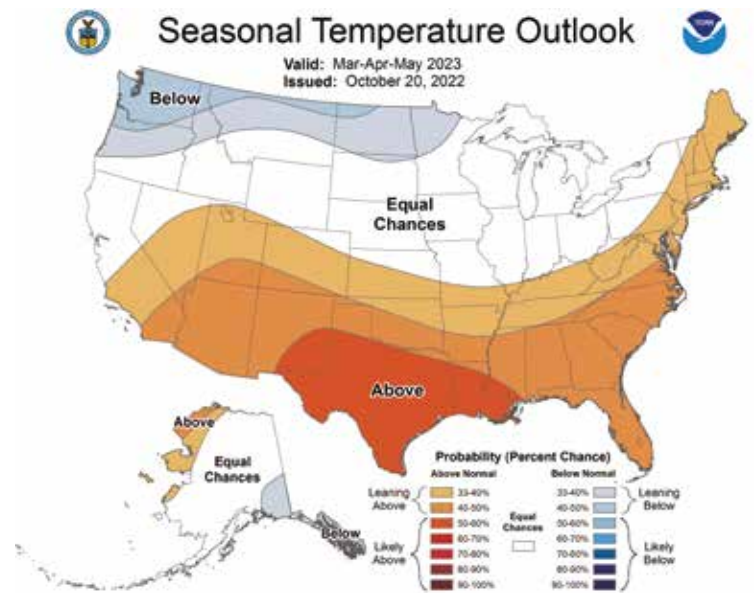
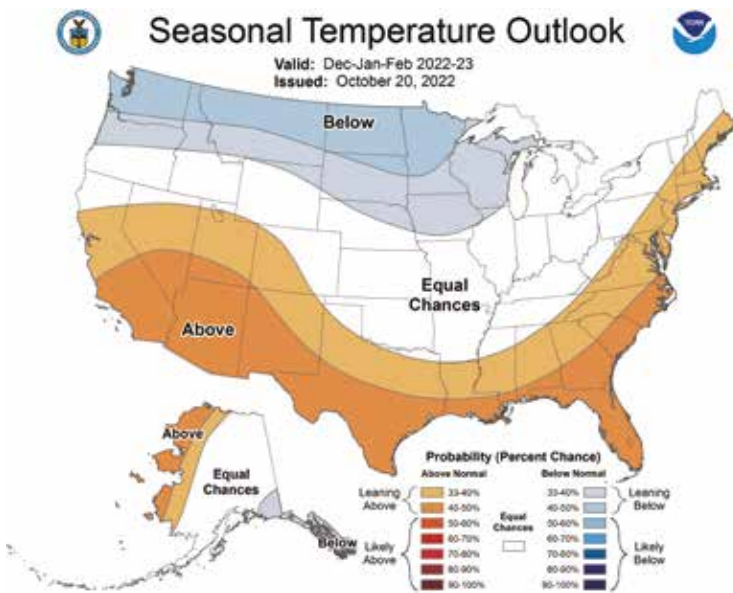
Down

1. Verb with thou
2. Two-wheeled transport with a battery
3. Soother of the savage beast
4. Biblical verb ending
5. Ran off
6. Remote button
7. New Year's ____
8. Have a party, say
9. "____ circumstances beyond our control . . ."
10. Uncontrolled growth around a city

11. Donnybrook
12. Author Rice
13. Pasturelands
18. Voice lesson topic
23. Like a chimney sweep
25. Troublesome situation
28. Blasé
30. Eye part
31. Bringing up the rear
32. Little one
33. Dampens
34. Stringed instrument
35. Black-and-white cookie
36. Old stereo components that play cassettes: 2 wds.
39. Danger
43. Breakfast bread
46. Like blue cheese
48. Be of one mind
49. Reptile's covering
50. Ancient Greek marketplace
51. Staircase post
52. High-strung
53. Wood cutters
54. Alka-Seltzer sound
55. Indian tourist site
60. Black gold
61. Calendar square

WINTER OUTLOOK

NORTHERN ARIZONA



By Dr. Brian Klimowski, Meteorologist in Charge,
National Weather Service Flagstaff, AZ

The weather of 2022 is shaping up to being 'near normal' across the Munds Park area. The year started off relatively dry, with below normal snowfall and precipitation from January through May. These dry conditions were largely offset by a wetter than normal monsoon, which brought copious rainfall to many locations of the area. As of this writing (Nov 15th), much of the area is near, or just below normal precipitation for the calendar year, having received anywhere between 18-20" of precipitation so far in the Munds Park area.

The Winter outlook for northern Arizona will be modulated by the ongoing 'La Nina' conditions - that is, the equatorial Pacific waters are anticipated to be colder than normal. The temperature of the vast Pacific ocean modulate the weather across the globe - and when the temperature of the equatorial Pacific is below normal (as it is during La Nina events), the southern tier of the United States tends to be warmer and drier than normal. We see a

similar setup for the Winter of 2022-23. That is, our predictions are leaning toward warmer and drier than normal conditions for most of Arizona through the Winter and Spring of 2023. Attached are several graphics which show the temperature and precipitation outlooks for the area.

Here in Arizona we know well that it only takes one big storm to define a season, and of course, some big storms are expected this Winter. While there may be fewer storms this year, there will be events with heavy snow, hazardous driving conditions, and very cold temperatures. Winter in the Arizona high country can be challenging, and being prepared is the best course of action.



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Country Living In The Pines



17120 S. Bow String Road

\$425,000

Take a look at this inviting 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Cavco home. Amenities include furnishings, large living room with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, fully equipped kitchen, stainless steel appliances, breakfast bar and separate dining area. Large master bedroom with $\frac{3}{4}$ bath and private toilet room. Relax on the cozy covered front deck. Home is situated on nice size lot, partially fenced, landscaped front, garage for your toys, Electric Vehicle Outlet and room for an RV.
Welcome Home!

*Happy
New Year
from
Bruce & Pat Moore*

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Cell: (602)799-5073

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UNSTOPPABLE STACEY

TRAVEL WRITER

By Stacey Wittig



Maya Bay in Phi Phi Islands, Thailand
UNSTOPPABLE Stacey photo



Malaga City in the Andalusia
region of Spain
Malaga Tourism Bureau photo



Pyramids of Giza in Egypt
Photo by Hipses on Unsplash



VIP 360 Experience on
Princess Discovery
Princess Cruises photo



UNSTOPPABLE Stacey on Lake
Michigan near Two Rivers, WI

PLACES YOU SHOULD VISIT IN 2023 BEFORE THEY GET TOO POPULAR!

Happy New Year! You know I'm a travel writer and avid adventurer if you've read my column for a while. I'm always on the lookout for the next hidden gem, the undiscovered paradise that's just waiting to be explored. And I've got a hot tip for you: certain places on this planet are just starting to catch on with tourists or were half-forgotten after COVID. Some are still relatively unknown.

These are the types of places you want to visit in 2023 before they get too popular and the crowds start pouring in again. But trust me, you don't want to miss the opportunity to experience these fantastic destinations in all their untouched glory.

So pack your bags because we're going on a journey to discover the top places you should visit in 2023 before they get too popular. Are you ready to join me? Let's go!

ANDALUSIA, SPAIN

Andalusia figured high on many "Places to go in 2023," lists with Vogue naming Málaga, Spain, in their "10 Best Places To Travel In 2023." The fashion publication cited the Pompidou Center, a modern art treasure in a multicolored glass cube, as one of the reasons for the vibrant cultural resurgence of the city on the Costa del Sol. I go for the culture and hiking opportunities.

EGYPT: CAIRO AND THE NILE

So many of my friends jetted off to Egypt last year—way more than I remember during the pre-COVID years. Scott's Cheap Flights, one of my favorite travel hacks, named Egypt to its "Where to Go in 2023" list because of the estimated 2023 opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum near the famed Sphinx and pyramids.

But heads-up! My friends at Scott's warn, "the projected opening has already been pushed back twice. When the GEM, as it's being called, finally opens its doors, however, it will be the world's largest archaeological museum, with some 50,000 items on display—including all 5,000 treasures removed from Tutankhamun's tomb."

On my Egypt adventure in the 90s, I had to buck up during a pulse-pounding taxi ride into Cairo to view Tutankhamun (King Tut) in the Egyptian Museum. Avoiding a trip to downtown Cairo speeding in and out

of four lanes with five lanes of vehicles squished into them will be worth a second trip to Egypt for me. I'm looking forward to cruising the Nile again before it starts catching on again.

MAYA BAY, THAILAND

In 2018, the Thai government shuttered the mystical Maya Bay after overtourism stressed its fragile marine environment. At times, 5,000 tourists per day crowded its once pristine beach, and boats dropped anchors pulverizing the coral reef below. However, the national park recently reopened Maya Bay with a cap on the number of tourists that once flooded the idyllic paradise.

My one hour in paradise (visit times are limited) blew me away. Still, the adventure of getting to the remote island halfway between Phuket and Krabi made the destination all that more rewarding. It's good to know that swimming in Maya Bay is forbidden because of pollution from sunscreens. Still, replanted corals are reviving, and black-fin sharks are returning to their natural habitat.

Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument, in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains

The nation's newest national monument is on my 2023 bucket list, and I think it should be on yours, too, before the word gets out. Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument, in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains, commemorates the 10th Mountain Division, who trained there for winter warfare during WWII. Many fought against the Germans in the rugged Italian mountains and founded or managed US ski resorts upon returning from war.

TANGIER, MOROCCO OR MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Travel+Leisure named Morocco to their list of places to go in 2023. So the exotic yet affordable destination is on my 2023 travel list. Stay tuned to hear about my upcoming adventures.

Continued on page 15

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GARDENS IN THE PARK

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If you are like us, being healthier in 2023 was near the top of your New Year's resolutions list.

One way to accomplish that? More houseplants!

Plants in your home or office have lots of terrific benefits for your physical and emotional health. Because houseplants breathe in the carbon dioxide we give off, it's pretty obvious that we need them

around. But houseplants also work to remove many airborne toxins, and there are studies that indicate that they help reduce dust in the air of your indoor spaces.

(If you are wondering how plants can remove dust, here's two simple scientific explanations. First, plants raise the humidity level in your home through a process called evapotranspiration. When you water your plant, the water goes from the soil up through the roots, and then into the stems and leaves, where it evaporates into the air through pores on the leaves. This humidity mixes with dust particles and the weight of it drags the dust from the air to the floor. Plus plants produce negative ions which attract dust particles, pulling them out of the air and onto their leaves.)

Then there are the psychological benefits of plant ownership. According to an article published in Psychology Today, studies show that having potted plants around – particularly green, leafy ones – have a calming effect that can boost our mood, our creativity and even how well we interact with others.

There are a few reasons for this. As anyone who has spent a day gardening knows, tending plants is a sure way to help ease signs of stress. That's why doctors often suggest horticulture as a tool in coping with depression or anxiety. You can get that same good feeling tending plants indoors as well, enjoying the sense of purpose and the fun of "playing in the dirt."

And don't underestimate how working with soil can benefit you. A 2007 study found that *Mycobacterium vaccae*, a bacteria found in both indoor and outdoor soil, triggers the release of serotonin, which improves both emotional and mental health.

Finally, there's just the beauty of plants, which can be displayed in so many different ways in your home. Besides the almost endless variety of traditional plant containers, there are terrariums, hanging kokedama (Japanese-style plants in circular moss balls), even glass beakers.

If you are new to houseplants, there are some that are pretty fool-proof like succulents, pothos, or spider plants. Spiders and golden pothos are also among the plants recommended for their air-cleaning benefits. Others are:

- Philodendron (many varieties)
- Dracaena (many varieties)
- English Ivy
- Mother-in-law's tongue (also known as the snake plant)
- Peace Lily
- Chinese Evergreen

To get the full benefits of houseplants you want to have enough around that you can see one or two from pretty much anywhere in your house, but not so many that it feels cramped.

If you'd like to learn more about houseplants and how they can make your 2023 healthier and happier, please give Warner's Nursery a visit! We'd love to help you pick out a plant (or plants!) to beautify your home - and help you be healthier - in the new year.



Chinese Evergreen



Dracaena



English Ivy



Mother-in-law's Tongue



Peace Lily



Philodendron

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FOOD

Continued from page 7

pepper. Bring to a boil, then let the beans simmer until they are very soft and start to thicken. This will take a couple of hours. As they cook, you may need to add more water so keep an eye on them.

In the end, take out the ham bone, taste to see if it needs more seasoning and then add some cubed pieces of ham. I usually leave mine simmering most of the day and we just dip out of the pot. My family serves the black-eye peas in a bowl with chopped tomato and green onion on top and maybe a dash or two of Tabasco sauce!! My mouth is watering just thinking about it! We also serve it with hot, fresh baked cornbread slathered in butter. It makes the perfect meal and also maybe the perfect amount of luck for your new year!

For those of you that need a recipe, there is usually a recipe on the back of the bag of peas when you buy them. Or give me a call and I will step you through it. I hope you enjoy this little piece of the south whenever you make them.

Happy New Year and Blessings in 2023

TRAVEL

Continued from page 11

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Couple inexpensive airfares with an over-the-top hospitality scene, and you can't find a more affordable and welcoming destination than Central Florida. Of course, for us foodies, the frosting on the croissant is the prestigious Michelin ranking on over a dozen Orlando and Tampa restaurants.

Also named on the Travel+Leisure list, Central Florida and its culinary scene was not too busy when I was there in September, but get there soon before school is out to avoid the crowds.

PRINCESS CRUISES

Cruising is back in 2023, with many cruise lines offering new and unique features to make guests feel safe. Recently, I checked out Princess Cruises 360 Experience, which launched me on a foodie Fantasia. Read more about it on my website.

THE GREAT LAKES, USA

Afar magazine reported that the Great Lakes were home to the largest freshwater ecosystem on the planet when they named my favorite lake system to their "Best Places to Travel in 2023."

I once raced around Lake Superior against other Arrowhead Sports Car Club members, but driving around the ENTIRE Great Lakes is on my bucket list for retirement. So no, this time, it won't be a race. Instead, I'll stop to hike, canoe and camp along the way.

"UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig is a travel writer and blogger based here in Munds Park. Follow her 2023 adventures at unstoppablestaceytravel.com.

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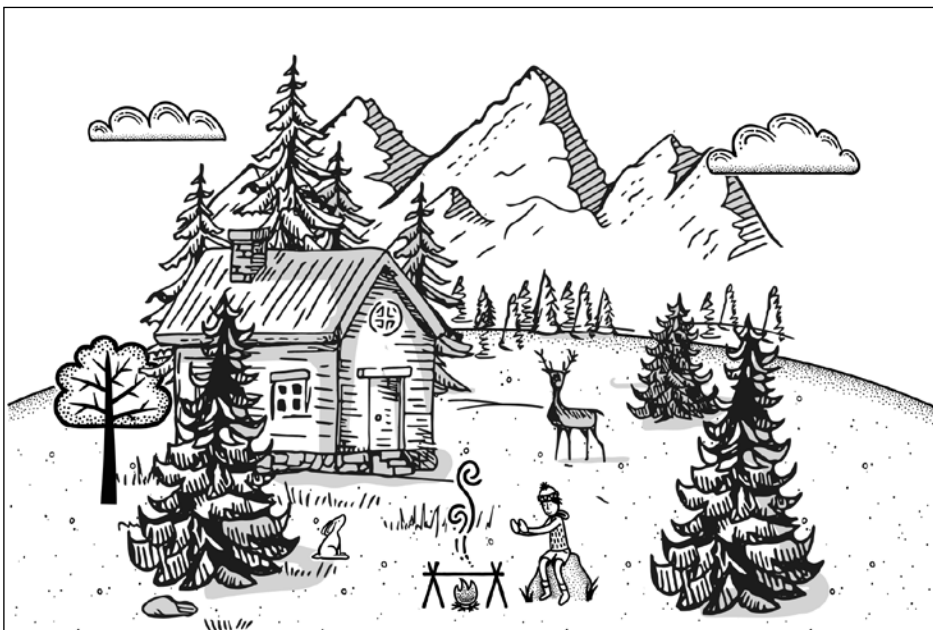
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THE VIEW FROM HERE

MONTEZUMA WELL

By William L. Cowan



Montezuma - Emperor of the Aztec Empire reigning from 1503 to 1520 when killed by Spanish Conquistadores led by Hernan Cortez in what is now Mexico City. His memory is enshrined in a main Prescott street name - Montezuma Street also known as Whisky Row which is located on the west side of Courthouse Square.

Image by Getty



Hernan Cortez, who led the first Spanish incursion into what is now Mexico in 1519, is also remembered with the Prescott street name Cortez street which is on the east side of Courthouse Square.

Image from Wikipedia



Like most native people of the southwest, Yavapai and Apache believe they emerged from the earth. Throughout Central Arizona indigenous people believe they came forth into the current world at Ahagaskiywa or Montezuma Well.

A steamy mist rises off tranquil water as ducks and coots browse unruffled among aquatic plants. The haunting melody of a meadowlark breaks the peaceful stillness of a quiet dawn. A gray fox, ever watchful for a bite to eat or a bite on the back treads silently down to drink—glowing shafts of sunlight break from the eastern horizon of the Mogollon Rim through the morning mist. Sunshine gleams into the recesses of an eastern-facing cliff warming a crumbling stone pueblo where a thousand years ago Sinagua families lived. The quiet beauty of a morning walk at Montezuma Well may last in your memory for a lifetime. Located 35 miles south of Pinewood and 4 miles northeast of the McGuireville exit on I-17, this is a great close destination when you need a little warmth, exercise and escape from the snow or a short side trip when coming up from Phoenix.

The single square mile of Montezuma Well National Monument offers an unexpected diversity of birds, wildlife, riparian and desert grassland ecosystems, and its significance in southwestern archaeology is under-appreciated. There are striking traces of both Southern Sinagua and Hohokam culture. The Yavapai people believe their ancestors emerged from the earth into the present world at this magical spot. Indians from all over the western hemisphere come here to collect water for use in sacred ceremonies.

Located on a hilltop overlooking Beaver Creek, Montezuma Well is a large sinkhole in the five million-year-old Verde Limestone. Each day 1 ½ million gallons of warm spring water flow freely from the depths of the earth. There is a paved trail from the parking lot to the top of the Well overlook. A side trail leads down to water level. Arizona walnut, netleaf hackberry and sacred datura plants shade the entrance to a timeworn cave where water from the well escapes the enclosure. As you travel around the rim another interesting side trail leads down on the creek side of the well. This truly beautiful spot, shaded by large cottonwood and sycamore trees, provides excellent riparian habitats for beavers, kingfishers and black phoebes. Historically where the Well water emerged through the rocks it was directed into age-old Hohokam irrigation ditch for use in growing corn, beans, and squash in the fertile bosque area to the west. There are excellent interpretive signs throughout the park describing the significance of the ruins and identifying many local plants. Along the entrance road, a large Hohokam pit house has been excavated—the farthest north such dwelling in my recollection. Another interesting interpretive site is an ancient irrigation ditch beside the road to the picnic area lined with solid stone travertine condensed out from the mineral-rich water of the well about 900 years ago.

In today's fast-paced world where there is never a free lunch, one of the more endearing qualities of Montezuma Well is that due to its size and staffing needs the National Park Service does not charge for admission. As a subunit of Montezuma Castle the entrance cost is included in that admission whether you visit there or not. Since its acquisition in 1947 entrance to the monument and use of the beautiful picnic area have been free.

The names Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and ultimately Lake Montezuma have an interesting if somewhat dubious origin. In the mid-1800s, William Hickling Prescott (1796-1859) wrote about Cortez' conquest of Montezuma in Mexico. To celebrate the significance of his work in 1864, five years after his death Arizona's first territorial governor, John N. Goodwin, named the capital city of our newly formed territory Prescott after this man. Montezuma Well and Castle were named nearly simultaneously for similar reasons.

If you go to Montezuma Well—drive carefully, please do not collect mementos and try to leave the area better for your presence. Enjoy Northern Arizona.

Send questions or comments to verdehistory@yahoo.com or on Facebook @BillCowan(Rimrock Arizona)

HOW TO KEEP THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT ALL YEAR LONG

*A Conversation with Steve Bowyer,
Pastor of Munds Park Community Church*



Steve Bowyer, Pastor of Munds Park Community Church
Photo by Barbara Sherman Photography

This article was originally scheduled for the December paper, but unfortunately, we had to cancel our last issue of the season because of the flu. Our conversation with Steve is timeless, even with mentions of the holidays, so we are moving forward with the article for our January paper. Enjoy!

By Sandee Caviness

As December pulls a frosty blanket over the land, we gear up to celebrate a season rich in tradition. Christmas, Hanukkah, and other cultural and religious celebrations throughout the month encourage us to reflect, be kind, have gratitude, and give beyond ourselves. It is a time to renew our spirit through our faith or spirituality... to be a better person today than we were yesterday.

In 1843, that is precisely what motivated Charles Dickens to write A Christmas Carol—to help readers reflect and gain empathy for those less fortunate. To become better people. The 19th century was a period of great economic and political unrest. The wealthy prospered in ways never seen before, and the growing gap between the rich and poor created tensions that led to rioting and despair.

While the struggles of the 19th century are different than today's challenges, we are in a time of unrest. I won't list the myriad of issues facing us today, but I will say that throughout history, there isn't a single moment when the world was in total harmony. Not one moment when all the bellies were full and satisfied. Not one moment when all had what was needed. There is always a need. There is always conflict and unrest... somewhere. This is the nature of the world we live in.

The question is, how do we, no matter what life brings us, live joyfully and positively affect those around us? We do this well during the holidays. We gather to celebrate and rejoice in whatever tradition we follow and leave our differences at the door. It's a time when we lend a hand, smile a little more, and think outside of ourselves. It's when we are at our best.

In the spirit of Dickens and the Joy of the holidays, I thought Steve Bowyer, Pastor of Munds Park Community Church, would be a great interview. He is a leader in the Park who can help us carry the holiday themes of hope, peace, Joy and love throughout the year. We can't solve the world's problems, but we certainly can, by our actions, make our lives and our circle of influence a little brighter.

I initially asked Steve to talk to our audience from a spiritual rather than a religious perspective so he could speak to all our readers. Not long into our conversation I realized it was an unfair and impossible request of Steve. He's a pastor. What was I thinking? It was nice of him to try, but his thoughts are worth reading and considering regardless of your religious views.

PRACTICE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Enjoy the pleasure of spreading light within your circle of influence.

Enjoy quiet life in the Park. We're always reading articles on how to slow down and enjoy life. Remember this as you roll through our forest, drive through our streets, and are served by our local businesses. Slow down, have patience and leave the hustle and bustle in Phoenix. It's a gift to enjoy. We're lucky!

Be kind on Facebook. We have many wonderful Munds Park specific Facebook groups to share information and photos. Practice kindness, and don't engage in negativity and gossip. Let your words online spread positivity and kindness.

Share a smile. Smiles are contagious! We all know this. Whenever you're talking to a stranger or a friend, show that you're happy to be with them in that moment. Be present.

Volunteer. Munds Park is a volunteer community and functions best when our community pulls together. Look for the spring issue of the Pinewood News to learn about Munds Park organizations that would love your support, or contact us at Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com for more information.

Peace

How can people live in peace and harmony with one another?

It's pretty basic. Hurt people, hurt people. People who are conflicted, cause conflict. To have peace in your life, home, community and ultimately the world means people must first find their inner peace. It comes from within, and if you ask me, the only place to find lasting real inner peace is a close relationship with Jesus.

For example, Mike Huckabee, previous governor of Arkansas, talks about a time when he was a teenager going to high school. During hunting season, all the boys would load up the trucks, get out at five in the morning, and go hunting before school. They got to school on time, leaving their loaded guns in the truck along with boxes of ammunition. Nobody ever thought of taking a firearm inside and shooting their classmates.

Our nation and culture are walking further away from God and what God represents—A life guided by virtue and morals.

A close relationship with God will give you inner peace and allows you to resolve conflict in your life and with others in a positive and lasting manner.

Love

Love is the greatest gift we can give. How can we carry a loving mood throughout the year?

It's easy to say I love you. It's much harder to show it. Love is not just an emotion or feeling... it's a verb.

Love requires action and grows from sacrifice. Whether it's you and me as friends, me and Sara as husband and wife. It's easy for me to say I love you. We do that a lot. But what communicates love and makes you feel loved by me is if I do something for you, that is a sacrifice for me that adds value to your life. You will also feel love for me. My loving actions will stir feelings in you. When we do that for each other, the bond is as strong as it can be.

Get up in the morning and think of something you can do for someone you love. It can be breakfast in bed, pick-up a favorite tea or coffee from Kota's, or dropping off home-baked goods. However you choose to say I love you, it needs to be an action, not just words.

You will never know how much someone loves you until you know how much they sacrifice for you.

The ultimate example of love and sacrifice is when Jesus left Heaven and came to our imperfect world. Jesus was in the presence of God, surrounded by peace and beauty, and gave up those gifts to save us. That is the ultimate sacrifice.

Love is sacrifice.

Hope

How can one have hope even when times may seem hopeless.

Hope is a decision. To have hope is to have positive expectations about our future. It can bring us peace in the face of challenges and motivate us to envision a better life and take steps to make it happen. It can be hard to do in a society that fuels skepticism and negativity, but we can stay hopeful with conscious effort.

Christians have real and lasting hope. Because of our faith, we have eternal hope because we know whatever we go through on earth, Heaven is waiting.

Joy

How can true joy—the underlying peace that lasts despite life's pressures be obtained?

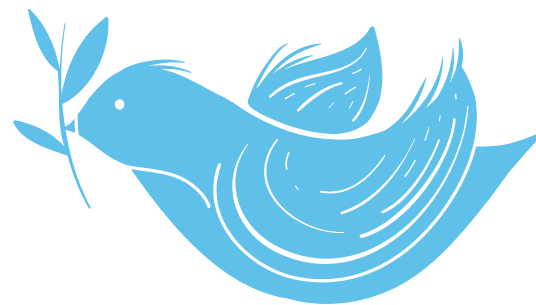
Joy is a choice. Happiness is driven by circumstances. And circumstances change. Joy is something deeper. A deep sense of contentment regardless of circumstances.

Peace, hope and love all bring joy to our lives, and it happens with choice, action, and a close relationship with Jesus.

Jesus came to us and allowed us to have a personal relationship with God; when you do, you will experience these things in a profound and significant way.

In addition to your relationship with Jesus, count your blessings, and be thankful and optimistic. Instead of focusing on the things you don't have, be grateful for what you do have. Changing the way you think about situations can have a positive impact on your life. You can make life more enjoyable by choosing to be thankful for the things that bring you joy. For instance, your relationship with God, a loving and supportive family, wonderful friends, good health, food in your pantry, a place to live, a job you enjoy, etc.

One of the best ways to connect with Jesus and grow closer to experiencing these things and more is by worshiping with a group of believers. We gather every Sunday at 10:45 am, and we would love for everyone in Munds Park to join us.



Give thanks. We tend to forget about the more “invisible” people in our society who keep our lives running smoothly. Thank the person who provides mail service, the barista who prepared your coffee, the snow removal person or cabin cleaner. Write a note or say “thank you” genuinely in person.

Keep our town beautiful. Ensure your trash cans are closed properly and pick up trash even when it is not yours. Try not to get annoyed by the litterbugs. Just feel good about keeping the Park beautiful!

Leave no trace. When visiting our forest, stay on the trail, take your trash with you, and respect plant and wildlife. This act of kindness will be enjoyed by all who visit the forest and for generations to come.

All these simple acts of kindness will travel far and leave you feeling great!

Feel good and have a happy New Year!



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

IMMUNE BOOSTING SHOTS



By Sandee Caviness

It's flu season, and with the addition of COVID and RSV, we can use all the help we can get to stay healthy! For better immune health, Genna and I started drinking booster shots in the morning. Will it keep the flu away? We'll let you know. We do know there's nothing but goodness in this drink, so it can't hurt to try!

Immune Booster Shots are intensely flavored drinks that deliver a super-concentrated burst of flavor that provides your body with powerful anti-inflammatory, immune-boosting, and antioxidant properties.

This drink is not only good for you, but it's incredibly simple to make. Plus, you can customize the intensity of the juice to suit your taste. All you need to make these healthy wellness shots at home is a high-powered blender and a fine-mesh strainer. Easy!

INGREDIENTS

- Coconut Water
- 1 bunch fresh carrots
- 4 Lemons
- 4 Oranges
- 1/2 Ginger Root
- 1 Turmeric Root
- 1 tsp. Cayenne Pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. You don't need a fancy juicer to make ginger shots. Just pull out your high-powered blender and a fine-mesh strainer and start juicing!
2. Chop ginger, Turmeric and carrots. No need to peel the ginger or turmeric since you'll be straining the juice before drinking it. Just roughly chop it to make blending easier.

Ginger is spicy and can cause heartburn. Adjust how much ginger you use to match your tolerance. Genna and I only use 1/2 of the ginger root per batch.

For this batch, the store didn't have fresh Turmeric in stock so I used organic ground turmeric and added 3 tablespoons.

3. Wash and Juice fresh lemons and oranges. The bright citrus flavor of lemon and orange juice pairs well with ginger and tastes much better than bottled. Fresh is always best.
4. Blend until smooth. Blend the ginger, turmeric and carrot pieces together with the coconut water until no chunks remain.
5. Strain well. Straining the mixture helps remove bits of ginger peel and those pesky ginger fibers! To get the most juice, press the solids with the back of a spoon when straining.
6. Combine and stir the lemon, orange, and ginger juice with the cayenne pepper. Add coconut water to get your desired texture. Just be sure not to over-dilute the juice.
7. Serve. Immune boost shots are meant to be drunk all at once as a quick shot. Be careful not to drink more than one shot a day since too much ginger can cause heartburn.

Pile on the health benefits. To make your immune booster shots even healthier, you can always tweak the recipe and add raw honey, aloe vera juice, pineapple juice, or apple cider vinegar.



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THE GREAT OUTDOORS

HOW ABOUT MAKING AN OUTDOOR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

By Arizona Game and Fish,

As we reflect on the changes we want — or need — to make in the new year, how about adding an outdoors resolution to the list?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department offers some simple resolutions, any one of which should be easy for an outdoors enthusiast to stick to:

Fish local. Make it a point to wet a line this year at one (or more) of the state's 40-plus waters in the Community Fishing Program that are seasonally stocked with channel catfish, bluegill and rainbow trout. This is a great way to introduce a youngster to a fun, lifelong sport. Your reward? Hearing that youngster squeal with delight while pulling in his or her first fish. Buy a general fishing license, or combination hunt and fish license, online at www.azgfd.com/license/ (youth under age 10 do not need a license).

Support wildlife. Wildlife lovers can put their money where their heart is by joining our Conservation Membership program. Your annual dues provide much-needed funding to sustain important wildlife and habitat conservation projects. Help to ensure a wildlife legacy for the future.

Take a youngster outdoors. Look for animal tracks together and identify the critter that made them. Armed with only a bird identification guide, embark on a "hunting" expedition and see how many species you can find. A day in the field will create memories that last a lifetime — for both of you.

Pick it up. Vow to clean up not only after yourself, but those who aren't as considerate. Take an extra trash bag along on your next outing, and spend a few minutes picking up those empty cans, cigarette butts or campsite trash. After all, respected access is open access.

Be a wildlife viewer. Arizona provides some of the best wildlife-viewing opportunities in the nation, with more than 800 species of native wildlife. It's a fun, inexpensive activity the entire family can enjoy.

Invest in good optics. Most hunters know that success in the field begins with a quality pair of binoculars or spotting scope. Don't skimp. Better to buy the best you can afford that fits your needs than settle for a middle-of-the-road piece of equipment and be forced to upgrade later.

Be a conservationist. It's difficult to imagine what our wildlife populations might be like today without the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. For a presentation from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, produced by Arizona Game and Fish, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE4LgKicSeU.

Get hunting. Don't let the odds of being selected in the random draw keep you from applying for what could be the hunt of a lifetime. If you've always dreamed of hunting bison, pronghorn or bull elk, then get in the game and fill out an application. Also, don't overlook small game or other species that can be hunted year-round. Buy a license online today at www.azgfd.com/license.

Enter AZGFD's portal. The portal lets you create a secure account where you can view and manage your licenses, draw results, bonus points and memberships in your own personal "My AZGFD Dashboard" section. Just click on the "My Account" button in the upper right-hand corner of the www.azgfd.gov home page, then select the "Register" option.

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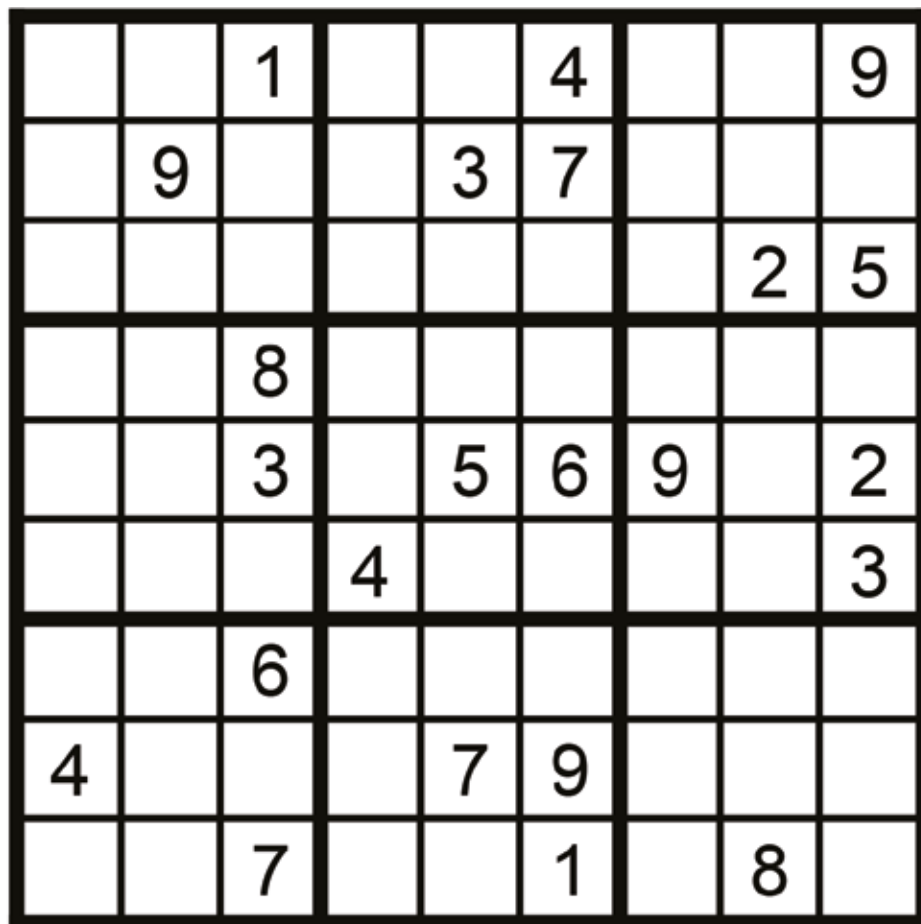
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HOSPICE *of the* VALLEY

GRIEVING CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIND HEALING AT NEW SONG CENTER



Through arts and crafts, Celeste and Adam Estrada expressed their forever love for Gloria, their big sister.



Callie Carpenter (left), Julie Lazzara and Mark D'Aprile attended New Song Center's bereavement event at the park in honor of 4-year-old Landon D'Aprile.



Jada Williams and her dad, Ezra, joined other families to remember and celebrate their loved ones.



By Lin Sue Flood

When Melissa Alvarado's oldest daughter, Gloria, died in May, she quickly realized her family needed professional support and to be around others who could fully grasp their pain.

At New Song Center for Grieving Children, they discovered support groups and meaningful activities to help them find healing. Melissa, her husband and their

two younger kids were among 150 people at New Song's recent bereavement event at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix. "I like being here because these are the only other people who know how we feel," she said. "And the support groups validate our emotions and feelings."

New Song is Arizona's first and largest child and family grief support program. All of the services are provided at no cost. Since combining bereavement programs with Hospice of the Valley in 2009, New Song has served thousands of families, providing:

Support groups for grieving children, teens, young adults and adult caregivers.

Support groups for grandparents, parents and siblings who are grieving the death of a child.

A family support group for Spanish-speaking families.

Pediatric support and counseling for families caring for a child who is medically fragile or has a life-limiting illness.

Day camps for siblings of children living with complex medical needs.

Fun trips to family-friendly places like Butterfly Wonderland or the movies.

"Our mission is to provide comprehensive grief education and support to help families heal after a traumatic loss," said Lisa Schmitt Betcher, executive director of the nonprofit program. "We recognize that children express grief quite differently than adults, more likely through behavior than words."

Within age-specific grief support groups, New Song creates a safe space for youngsters to enjoy art, play, journaling and other forms of expression. Adults attend their own support groups to learn how to help children process grief in a healthy way — and to learn how to help themselves cope with loss.

At the park gathering, the McMullins wore matching gray shirts with the name "William" printed in big, bold letters and three words below it: "brave, strong, superhero." Lauren and Chris McMullin were referred to New Song after their 7-year-old died in April. The couple also have an 11-year-old, Owen, and a 4-year-old, Arthur.

Erica Schwartz, a New Song pediatric bereavement and family support counselor, sees the oldest boy one-on-one. "I feel incredibly lucky that I get to do that," she said, standing near a table covered with "bugs" — a blanket and a hug.

"Owen looks forward to her visit every time," Lauren said.

After bonding over special arts and crafts, all the families formed a large circle. One by one, they shared the names of their loved ones — Gloria, William, Isaiah, Landon ... and many more. Then five white doves were released one at a time — symbolizing grief, courage, memories, love and hope.

As all remaining doves were set free, New Song Clinical Director Jill Lovell reminded the families that everyone's journey is unique. "As individuals, we grieve; as a community, we heal. May we each find our paths towards healing in the days ahead."

Lin Sue Flood is director of Community engagement at Hospice of the Valley.

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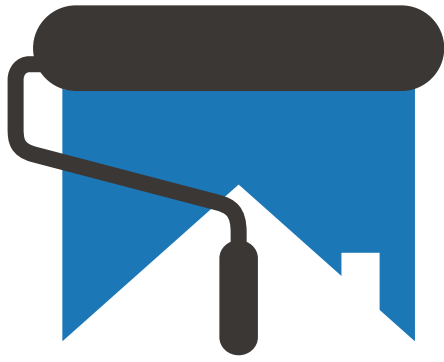
What a rewarding way to make a difference in the lives of families in our community. We invite you to join our dedicated team of trained volunteers who help lead grief support groups in central and north Phoenix, Scottsdale, Gilbert and Avondale. Volunteer training is in January at Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix. Dates are:

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21

5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24

5:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26

Visit hov.org/volunteer/new-song to apply or call (480) 951-8985 or email info@newsongcenter.org for more information. Visit newsongcenter.org to learn more about the program.



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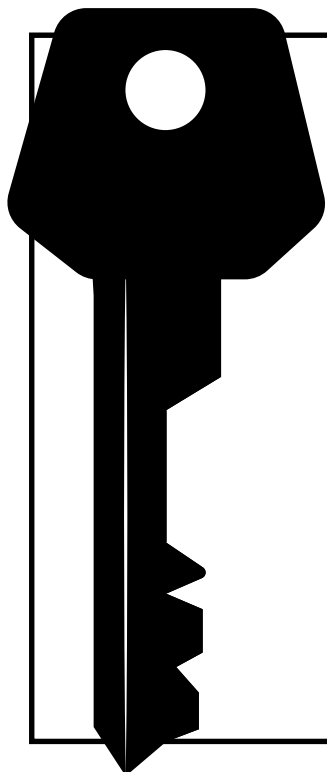
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MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

By Pastor Steve Bowyer

A GREAT AMOUNT OF GOOD WITH ONE SMALL ACT

A few weeks ago, Sara and I were in Israel visiting the historic sites where Jesus taught and performed many of his miracles. When I thought of visiting a country and traveling from one end to the other, my only frame of reference was the U.S. I was thinking like, Los Angeles to New York City. But Israel is a much smaller place.

The size of Israel is 8,630 square miles. By comparison, the size of our state, Arizona is approximately 114,000 sq. mi. The size of the state of New Jersey is 8,723 sq. mi. A great amount of history happened in one small amount of space.

At one point we were on a boat on the Red Sea. There were two miracles related to weather that happened on the Sea. Then, looking toward the shore, we could see the locations where several other events occurred.

One location is the natural amphitheater where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. In previous articles, I have written about this sermon, defining some of the key words from the first few verses recorded in Matthew chapters 5-7. Jesus would have stood by the water on the shore while the people sat or stood up the hillside to hear his words about how to live a blessed life.

A short distance away, near the shoreline, is the place where Peter jumped into the water and awkwardly ran to Jesus to beg to be forgiven after denying he knew Him. Peter had just promised to stand with Jesus, even die with Jesus before letting Him be taken to be executed. Not only did Peter let it happen with little resistance, but he also lied about not knowing His good friend and Rabbi when He needed Him most. He allowed Jesus to stand all alone, without a friend in sight.

Peter deserved a severe punishment. Jesus took a hard fall for Peter on the cross. But Peter ran away with his tail between his legs leaving Jesus to stand alone, avoiding the pain he had promised to stand and take with Him.

Later, on that shoreline, Jesus forgave Peter and restored the friendship and restored Peter into the leadership of the new organization He was about to establish, the Church.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful; for they will be shown mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

Mercy defined simply means not punishing someone who deserves to be punished; even severely. The 'get even' is fully justified but set aside and not pursued. Jesus was merciful toward Peter and did not punish him or hold his desertion against Him even though fully justified to tell him to take a long walk on a short pier, the friendship is over, your ministry is history.

Just like Jesus accomplished a great deal of good in small area of land, being merciful and forgiving someone is one small act that accomplishes a great deal of good.

I do not know who said it first, but I have seen it written many times, not forgiving someone, and holding a grudge against them, is like taking poison and expecting the other person to get sick and die. You are only hurting yourself. They may not even know you are holding something against them.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful." I have defined 'blessed' here in previous articles. It means, deeply content, satisfied, filled with joy. We might think holding a grudge and getting even is satisfying. But Jesus said very clearly, the thing that brings the greatest satisfaction and deepest contentment into our lives is showing mercy to those who hurt us. They deserve to be punished and you might be completely justified in pursuing it. But let it go. Let God handle the 'get even.'

It is one small act that accomplishes a great amount of good. Forgive. It is disproportional the amount of good it will do you to let the desire to get even go and let God handle what needs to be done to make things right. Make being merciful a characteristic of your life and live greatly satisfied and deeply contented.

Jesus did a lot of good in a small amount of space. And with one small act we can accomplish a great deal of good. Be merciful. Forgive.

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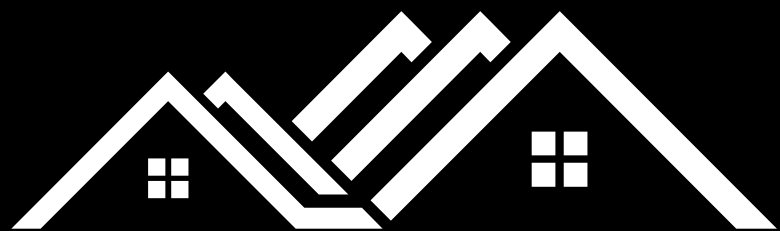
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ARIES

MARCH 21 – APRIL 19

Powerful Intentions

Aries, you might hesitate to start your New Year's resolutions, but you'll be soaring by the end of the month. The emphasis is

on your sector of goals and career, so this is the ideal time to create a game plan for 2023. Do it now while your enthusiasm is high, and you could be surprised by how much you achieve over the coming months.



TAURUS

APRIL 20 – MAY 20

Seeking Adventure

Taurus, a bold emphasis on your adventure, brings many opportunities to further your goals by thinking ahead to all

you'd like to accomplish. The coming weeks until January 20 are excellent for pursuing options that will bring out the best in you. They'll challenge you and encourage your personal growth.

The radiant sun moves into Aquarius on January 20, which means the coming four weeks are a call to spend more time in the spotlight promoting your work and talents. It's your opportunity to shine, so make the most of it to reach your goals.



GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 20

Letting Go

As 2023 welcomes you into its embrace, Gemini, this is a great time to let go of whatever has been holding you back.

The powerful focus on your sector of change and transformation until January 20 is your opportunity to clear out the deadwood. Get rid of emotional baggage, find closure on issues draining your resources, and make space for all the good things coming your way.

The new moon in Aquarius on January 21 is the perfect time to kick-start ideas and projects that have been on your mind for a long time. Get going now while you're feeling enthusiastic about them.



CANCER

JUNE 21 – JULY 22

Kindred Spirits

Relationships are the main focus until January 20, which is excellent for romantic and business matters, collaborations,

and other interactions. Over the coming weeks you'll work better as part of a team rather than going solo. You'll benefit from other people's skills and expertise.

The new moon in Aquarius on January 21 is the perfect time to kick-start new initiatives. Whether you want to start a business, launch a product, or change how you handle your finances, this is an excellent time to make your move.



LEO

JULY 23 – AUG. 22

Getting It Together

Leo, you're ready for hard work as 2023 gets underway. The focus on your sector of work and wellness highlights

coming to grips with your routines and making changes that can enhance your happiness and productivity. There are also opportunities to tackle wellness issues and explore ways to get fitter and enhance your energy and mood.



VIRGO

AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22

Creativity & Pleasure

The year 2023 gets underway with the sun and other key planets in your leisure zone, Virgo. The days until January

20 encourage you to express yourself through art, crafts, or other hobbies. And if you have a brilliant entrepreneurial idea, now is the time to implement it. You never know where it might lead. Romance could also be a priority, no matter what your relationship status.

On the twenty-first, the new moon occurs in Aquarius and your work and wellness sector. It's an invitation to kick-start new habits that can revolutionize your life and enhance your productivity. It's a great time to initiate plans related to your work, business, health, wellness, and anything else that contributes to your goals.



LIBRA

SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22

Ravishing Makeover

Libra, your domestic zone is highlighted until January 20, making this a great time to get organized and your home

shipshape. If you feel like doing a thorough cleaning after the holidays, you might want to go one step further and give your place a fabulous makeover. It's a good time to use fresh colors and a new look to welcome in 2023.

The sun glides into Aquarius on January 20, so the coming four weeks encourage you to tap into your skills and talents and indulge in your favorite hobbies. It's a chance to put down the work projects and take up activities that fill your heart with joy.



SCORPIO

OCT. 23 – NOV. 21

Empowering Conversations

Be ready for some interesting conversations in 2023! The emphasis on your sector of talk and thought encourages you

to speak out on various issues so you can find solutions. This is also a great time to negotiate, close deals, and connect with others on your wavelength. If you have administrative tasks to sort out, you'll be in the mood to declutter and organize your workspace, enabling you to think more clearly.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV. 22 – DEC. 21

Money Matters

Sagittarius, if you're trying to make sense of your finances, you'll be eager to take control as 2023 gets underway. 2023

is the ideal time to set a budget and save for a rainy day. You'll need to take extra care with clever Mercury rewinding until January 18. Keep receipts and paperwork so you can get your money back if necessary.

If you have a project you're eager to launch, go for it at the time of the new moon on January 21. It could take off more quickly than you imagined.



CAPRICORN

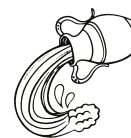
DEC. 22 – JAN. 19

Making an Impact

Capricorn, the emphasis is on your sign, with the sun here until January 20, encouraging you to express yourself and

share your talents with the world. It's an opportunity to focus on yourself and get involved in activities close to your heart.

However, with chatty Mercury retrograde in this sector until the eighteenth, you'll still need to take care with deals and negotiations and be aware that delays are possible. Still, this shouldn't stop you from focusing on your future and setting goals that really resonate with you.



AQUARIUS

JAN. 20 – FEB. 18

Finding Yourself

Aquarius, in 2023, emphasizes tying up loose ends and finding closure on issues draining your energy and resources. The more

effort you put into cutting out the deadwood, the easier things will be when the sun moves into your sign on January 20. This is your chance to dump emotional baggage and be free of anything preventing you from living life to the fullest.

Once the sun moves into your sign, be ready to get moving on plans and goals that you find deeply inspirational. And the new moon in your sign on January 21 is the perfect time to launch a project, begin a new habit, or take a relationship to the next level. Whatever you want to start, do it now.



PISCES

FEB. 19 – MARCH 20

A Dream Come True

Pisces, you might be ready to bring a dream to life and get 2023 off to a fabulous start.

The sun in Capricorn and your sector of long-held wishes could inspire you to get things moving. Taking those first few steps can inspire you to keep going and see it through to the end.

Until January 20, the sun journeys through the sector, encouraging you to broaden your social horizons, so you're also in a peak social time of the year. Have fun!

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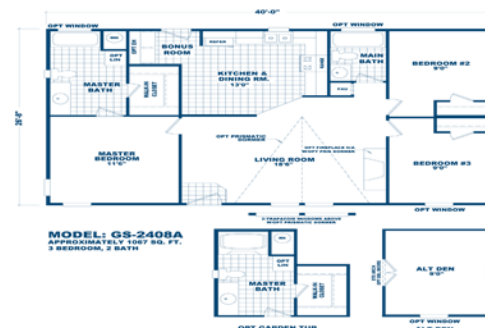


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THE MAGIC OF SNOWMEN

If snow makes you happy, I bet you get excited when you hear a snowstorm is coming. Whether you simply like watching the snowfall or love to play in it, we can all agree that there's something special about Munds Park when blanketed in fluffy snow. It's not only pretty to look at, but a lot of fun to play in and build a snowman! Building snowmen is a timeless activity that is great for family and friends to enjoy together. But did you ever wonder who built the first snowman?

THE HISTORY OF THE SNOWMAN

Unfortunately, it's impossible to identify the first snowman, but humans have been building snowmen for hundreds of years. It seems the idea of creating images in our likeness has been a favorite pastime for generations. Snowmen have been traced back all the way to the Middle Ages. People love transforming balls of snow and a pile of sticks into a wintry friend.



THE WORLD'S LARGEST SNOWMAN

The world's most giant snowman was actually a snowwoman! She was made in Bethel, Maine, in 2008 and named Olympia after Maine Senator Olympia Snow. The 13-million-pound snow beauty towered 122 feet and could be seen from 4 miles away. The snowwoman's

creators broke their own Guinness Book of World Records record of 113 feet in 1999. Olympia is only about 30 feet shorter than the Statue of Liberty! To build the snowwoman, it took 60 volunteers, ranging in age from kindergarteners to senior citizens, as well as the cooperation of the whole town!

Fun Facts about Olympia

- Eyelashes were made from eight pairs of skis
- 8-foot long nose made from chicken wire
- Lips made from 5 car tires
- Arms made from 2 spruce trees
- Buttons were made from 3 truck tires

THE MOST FAMOUS SNOWMAN

From a song to a legend, the most celebrated snowman of all time and a happy-go-lucky ambassador for snowmen around the (snow)globe is Frosty the Snowman!

Frosty the Snowman was first introduced as a song in the 1950s by Steve "Jack" Rollins and Steve Nelson.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN LYRICS

*Frosty the snowman was a jolly happy soul
With a corncob pipe and a button nose
And two eyes made out of coal
Frosty the snowman is a fairy tale, they say
He was made of snow but the children know
How he came to life one day
There must have been some magic in
That old silk hat they found
For when they placed it on his head
He began to dance around
Oh, Frosty the snowman
Was alive as he could be
And the children say he could laugh and play
Just the same as you and me*

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Steve Valentine

Real Estate Strategist - Munds Park Resident

602-769-3803

Steve@valentinegroupaz.com

IG @iamstevedvalentine

Sponsor of the Pinewood News Kids!

Ooh Frosty the snowman
Knew the sun was hot that day
So he said, "Let's run and we'll have some fun
Now before I melt away."
Down to the village
With a broomstick in his hand
Running here and there all around the square
Saying "catch me if you can!"
He led them down the streets of town
Right to the traffic cop
And he only paused a moment when
He heard him holler "Stop!"
Oh, Frosty the snowman
Had to hurry on his way
But he waved goodbye, saying
"Don't you cry, I'll be back again someday."

Once the Frosty song became a sensation, producers soon turned it into a television hit. The story of a living snowman and a little girl who struggle to elude a greedy magician who is after the snowman's magic hat is a story that is still enjoyed today.

There is no right or wrong way to build a snowman. The only requirement is to have fun! If you build a snowman or snow sculpture this season, send it to the Pinewood News. Who knows, you may see your work in print in our next issue!

Send your photos to [Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com](mailto>Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com). We look forward to seeing your creations!



Frosty the Snowman!

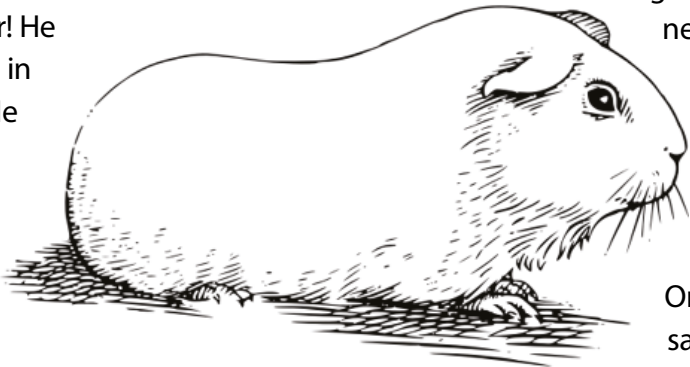
THE GUINEA PIG GODDESS

By Harper Vogrin

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful young girl named Emma. She was the daughter of the all-mighty god, Zeus. She had a hundred siblings, all of which were all brothers. Emma felt so alone in the world with nobody to call her friend. Her father forced her to be around only gods so that she could marry a strong powerful man. In Emma's eyes, her father saw her pain and knew she couldn't live like this.... Without a creation! "Emma, my darling," Zeus said. "You must be a goddess that created something, or else you're no goddess at all!" He stated. "But father, I don't want to marry a man who only cares for my powers!"

Emma cried. "Oh, but you'll be thanking me later! He said. "If you think of running away, I will lock you in this very room until you come to your senses!" He slammed the door shut without a word, leaving only the scraps of dinner, a tuft of fur, and a lucky rabbit foot. Emma sobbed for days, not touching the items her father left until... She had an idea. "You want me to create something," Emma sniffed. "Then I will." She grabbed the dinner, carrots, the tuft of fur, and the rabbit foot. Using all the power in her, Emma combines the objects to make something new.

"Squeak!" exclaimed a ball of fur. Emma Leaped up and stared wide-eyed at the creature on the floor. A set of eyes was staring back at her. Gently, she picked up the tiny creature. Emma felt the soft fur of the fuzzball. Emma had done it. She had created... something. "You need a name," Emma whispered. She thought of the pretty guinea flower and saw the ears of a pig as she stared at it. "Your species shall be called... guinea pigs!" She hollered. She hugged the guinea pig, thinking of a name for her first pet guinea pig. "I know just the name for you!" She grabbed the newspaper and read the front cover. "Everest seashell," She read. "Your name is Everest. What do you think?" the goddess asked. The guinea pig squealed with joy—the perfect



name for the perfect creation.

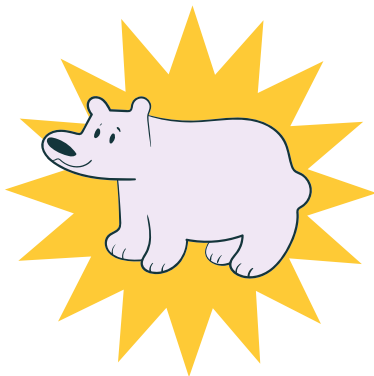
Emma called for her father, setting the trap so the cargo net falls on him, leaving the door open for them to escape. Zeus comes barging into the room while Emma lets go of the rope, watching the cargo net fall. It all happened so fast that Emma didn't know what to do next. "Emma, help me out of here!" Zeus roared. "Sorry father, but I will not let you boss me around," Emma said proudly. She ran out the door with Everest in her hands. She ran so far that her house was out of sight. But Emma kept running. She knew that cargo net wouldn't hold long. She reached the ocean, and without thinking, she dove into the water. With Everest being immortal, Emma could swim for as long as she wanted to. Nothing would ever get in her way, not even her father, the most powerful god.

Once Emma found new land, she knew she was safe. She looked around; the land needed a name, and she knew the perfect one. New Guinea.

1 million years later...Emma had an island full of 20,000,000 guinea pigs. She was living her dream. She sent guinea pigs all over the world so people could enjoy them just as much as she did. One day, A fifth-grade boy named Logan called them hairless rats. Emma was so mad; she went to this boy to give him a taste of her rath. "Young boy, you aren't talking about guinea pigs?" Emma calmly asked. "Oh, 100% I was." Logan chuckled. "Then, if you don't like them, I will curse you, but to me It's more like a gift. This boy will live forever as a guinea pig!" Emma hollered. "NO!" Logan shouted, but it was too late. He was now a long-haired guinea pig. "Let this be a lesson to you all! Do NOT insult guinea pigs!"

The End

FIND 10 HIDDEN PICTURES!



FIND THE HIDING POLAR BEAR!



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

WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words. **Answers page 35.**

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Snowball | Carrot Nose |
| Earmuffs | Button Eyes |
| Jacket | Gloves |
| Snowman | Hat |
| Magic | Scarf |
| Frosty | Snowflake |
| Play | Winter |
| Sparkling | |





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Strategies you might not know about to sell a home!

We are all a little shocked by the sudden change in the real estate market. It feels like someone walked into the room and turned the light off. Now everyone is wandering around in the dark, trying to find the switch to shed some light on the situation. I can tell you; I have been here before... as many of you have, as well. Remember the drastic and sudden downturn in 2008? Scary. The difference between 2008 and now is as drastic as lights going off. Like, night and day differences. Like, losing money and equity, and making money and keeping equity differences.

My favorite movie, *The Big Short*, gives a great Hollywood style highlight of what really happened back then. Most who understand what happened know it had nothing to do with the real estate market and everything to do with lending practices which allowed the market to go up as fast as it went down. The housing market and values before 2008 were based on poor lending habits. The only reason demand has slowed in 2022 is due to rising interest rates. Which means we have fewer buyers who qualify for home loans because of the higher payments the interest rates cause.

I am currently working with my sellers to show them multiple strategies that lead home sales. Some of them get instant gratification and some have long term satisfaction. In my opinion, we can get super creative with seller financing, mortgage wrap, or lease options rather than chasing the prices down. There are many people who would still buy second homes in the current market if there was a way around the current rates. Many of you who own, or are selling, currently have amazing rates and terms on your existing mortgage that could be an asset to a new buyer. IF you are willing to explore the creative financing terms. I'll cover some highlights.

STRATEGY 1 Traditional Sale

Put the home on the market and adjust the price as needed until a buyer can be found. This strategy is typically used when we need to sell the property, pay the mortgage off and need all the current equity in the property. In the current market, there are more properties than current buyers for today's current interest rates making the familiar practice less efficient. And, with the higher competition for buyers... get ready for Open House-a-plaoza and Buyer Desire Repairs.

STRATEGY 2 Off Market Sale (in any condition).

Most the time this works great with a property that needs more work. Or maybe it was inherited, and you don't want to go through the normal sales process of financing, inspections, etc. I am sure you have received the text or call from someone stating they will give you an all cash offer no closing costs or commissions; I know I have. (No, I don't subscribe to that practice,) While the number offered sometimes sounds ridiculous, it may not be that ridiculous once you break down all the costs you potentially have to repair and sell on the open market... not to mention timing. I have created several win-win cash, off market sales with many Munds Park owners over the years.

STRATEGY 3 Seller financing

You become the bank and the lien holder! This is for people who typically own a property free and clear. Maybe you are not using your cabin as frequently? Or it's an older manufactured home that cannot be financed? The cool thing about this strategy is that it creates a stream of monthly income for you. You still have legal recourse to reclaim the property if the buyer defaults. It's like owning a rental property without the responsibility for repairs or improvements or vacancies.

STRATEGY 4 Seller wrap

If you have one of those great 2-3% mortgages and a little equity you could sell the home and wrap the equity and existing mortgage into one payment, which is managed by a third-party servicing company. This type of financing can be complicated and has pros and cons. This does delay the equity payout. You can potentially get a higher price for the home, create cash flow, and you retain your equity until a future date. There are several variables in this situation, and it can be whatever the two parties agree on. Before you adjust your price or think about selling the home, why not explore all the possible strategies that might apply and might be appealing in the current market? These strategies apply with any real estate transaction weather it's your primary residence, 2nd home, or your investment properties.

Reach out for a custom strategy session. I'm ready! Are you?

View more properties at ValentineGroupAZ.com