# PIRE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN DESERT LIVING



# PINEWOOD NEWS

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

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

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

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#### **CONTACT INFO**

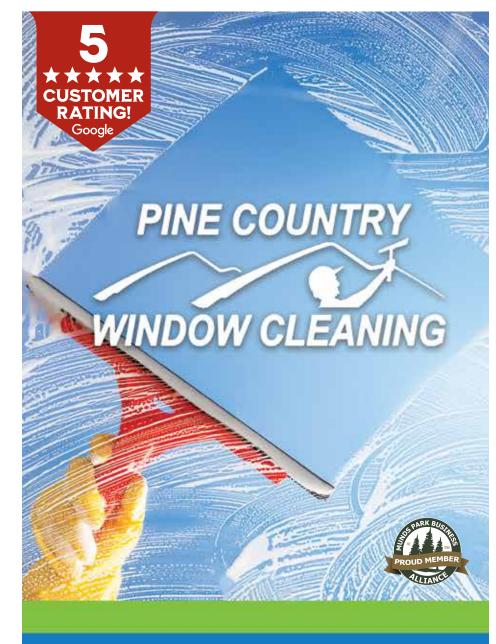
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#### **PROUDLY LOCAL**

Owned & Operated by Munds Park's own Marilyn & Dave Kaminski and their three little scallywags. We love Munds Park!

Thank You for Supporting a Local Business!



# COLDWELL BANKER

# NORTHLAND



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

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



#### \$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!



#### \$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.



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

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



#### \$649,500 17380 CRYSTAL BROOK PL

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



#### \$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



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

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



#### \$509,000 **260 SANDIA CIRCLE**

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



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

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



#### \$649,000 17310 TRAILWINDS PL, MUNDS PARK

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



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

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



**Becky McBride** Designated Broker/Owner 928.606.1385 Becky@flagstaffrealestate.com



**Regina Bailey** Associate Broker 928.699.7069 Regina.Bailey@ProvidentAZ.com



Sonia Draper **REALTOR®** 928.699.8621 Sonia@Draper-Realtor.com



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**Holly Zamora RÉALTOR®** 928.853.7176 holly@jbreandco.com



**Aaron Lewis RFAITOR®** 928.707.4950 aaron@flagstaffareaproperty.com









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— Dan, Munds Park Resident

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— John & Stephanie K., Munds Park Residents





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# FEATURED MOUNTAIN HOMES BY DEBI BRIGHT



#### 17055 S JOY PL, MUNDS PARK

Newer furnished doublewide on oversized cul-de-sac lot with forest views! Added square footage, open layout, wood-burning fireplace, solar tubes, fenced yard, and front deck. All-electric with plenty of parking.



#### **405 E CEDAR WOOD DR, MUNDS PARK**

Brand-new 4-bed, 2-bath Cavco with vaulted ceilings, large windows, and over 1,600 sq ft. Open floor plan, ceiling fans throughout, and a deep full-width covered porch. All-electric. Ready by end of April!



#### **105 BISON DR, MUNDS PARK**

Chalet-style cabin with open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, and huge windows. Main-level beds, oversized loft, dual-pane windows, A/C, paver drive, large deck, shed, and Starlink ready. Seller may consider owner carry.



#### 17765 S BUCKSKIN CIR, **MUNDS PARK**

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



#### **1235 E FOX PL, MUNDS PARK**

This chalet has it all—vaulted T&G ceilings, open floor plan, 3 beds/2 baths on the main level, loft, and oversized bonus room with private balcony. Wraparound redwood deck, 2-car garage, storage, and lush landscaping. Enjoy the peace and privacy of a large lot with mature trees. Move-in ready and waiting for your mountain lifestyle.



# **Debi Bright**

Managing Broker / Realtor®

928.699.7703 CELL BrightDebi@gmail.com

#### **RE/MAX Pinewood**

15 W Pinewood Blvd PO Box 17218 Munds Park, AZ 86017





39 YEARS OF MAKING YOUR DREAMS A REALITY

# FIRE DANGER IS HIGH

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

# 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

#### Munds Park Town Hall

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

Next Meeting July 17, 2025 Pinewood Country Club

#### Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

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

# Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome Tuesday, June 17 3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr.

#### **PPOA Annual Public Meeting**

Saturday, July 17
1 pm • Pinewood Country Club

#### Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome Thursday, June 12 3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr







# PINEWOOD'S ORIGINAL FIRE STATION MAKES WAY FOR THE FUTURE

After standing strong for 52 years, Pinewood's old fire station has been reduced to rubble, making way for a modern, state-of-the-art firehouse. The original station, built half a century ago, began as the base for an all-volunteer crew—neighbors helping neighbors, answering the call with grit and heart. Over time, as the community grew and the demands increased, so did the department. Today, Pinewood is protected by a fully staffed, full-service fire department trained to handle everything from wildfires to medical emergencies. While the old walls may be gone, the legacy of those early volunteers—and the community they built—lives on. Stay tuned as the next chapter for Pinewood's firefighters begins!

# SPEAK UP, COCONINO RESIDENTS! The Future of Our County is Taking Shape

Coconino County wants to hear from you! The public review period for Envision 2045, the updated Comprehensive Plan, is now open. From Monday, May 19 through Friday, July 18, you'll have a chance to weigh in on how our communities grow, change, and thrive over the next 20 years.

This Plan was built from the ground up—two years of work, 39 communities, dozens of outreach events, surveys, and open houses. Local voices helped shape it, and now it's time to make sure the final version reflects your values, your priorities, and your vision for the future.

This 60-day window is your opportunity to read the full draft and share your comments before it heads into the public hearing phase. Every voice counts—residents, business owners, and community groups alike.

#### Here's how you can get involved:

- Read and comment online: Visit coconinocounty.konveio. com/envision2045
- Review a hard copy at your local library or the County's Community Development office
- Schedule a meeting with County Planner Melissa Shaw: mshaw@coconino.az.gov
- Join an Open House or Webinar—check out the full list of upcoming events here: www.coconino.az.gov/2207/ Comprehensive-Plan-and-Amendments

Let's build the future of Coconino County—together.



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

Local Highlights Continued on page 7A



# Mountain Dreams Realt Integrity and Service Before Profit or Commission

Pinewood: (928)853-4529 Phx. Toll Free: (602)291-1631



**Ⅲ** MLS

Pat & Bruce Moore - Marketing Pinewood / Munds Park for 46 Years Northern Arizona MLS & Phoenix MLS

# Country Living In The Pines



**1225 E. Cougar St - \$449,900 Huge Lot / Amazing Views** Bright Kitchen & Open Floor Plan 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath Large Back Deck Call Pat Moore (928)853-4529



**255 E. Oak Dr -** \$415,000 **Completely Remodeled** Open Floor Plan 1152 SqFt, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Covered Deck, Work Shop Call Pat Moore (928)853-4529



**17155 Iron Springs** - \$199,900 VACANT LOT for Manufactured Home All Utilities & Sewer Tap are in place Call Bob Joncas (928)853-8542



17065 Grizzly Ridge - \$675,000 **Close to National Forest** 1,624 SqFt, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths 2 car Tandem Garage, Covered Deck Dead End Street Call Sharon (602)717-4414



**320 E. San Felipe Pl - \$499,500 WOW Describes the Interior** Vaulted Ceilings, 4 Bedroom, 2 Baths 1440 SqFt, Front & Back Decks Corner Lot, Garage, extra parking Call Pat Moore (928)853-4529



**605** E. Hillside Dr - \$479,900 **Completely Remodeled Cabin** 864 SqFt, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths T&G wood ceilings, Front & Side Covered Wrap-Around Deck Call Bob Joneas (928)853-8542



**660 E. Trout Creek - \$459,000 Charming Multi-Level Cabin** 1,225 SqFt, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Fireplace, open-concept living area Large Deck, Storage Shed Call Beth Hausman (623)570-3076



1320 E. Caribou Rd - \$425,000 **Borders National Forest** 1,012 SqFt, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Large Deck Overlooking Forest Paver Driveway. Call Beth Hausman (623)570-3076



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



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



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



**17710 Maverick Cir - \$619,900** Chalet on well-Treed Cul-de-Sac Lot 1,344 SqFt, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths T&G ceilings, river rock Fireplace Wrap Around Deck, Large ATV Shed Call Bob Joneas (928)853-8542

REALTOR®
John
Sharapata
(480)695-8929

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REALTOR® Sharon Treat

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REALTOR® Rob Moore

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#### LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 5A

# ARIZONA PASSES LAW Strengthening Wildfire Mitigation & Utility Standards

Governor Katie Hobbs has signed House Bill 2201 into law, marking a major step forward in wildfire prevention and utility accountability across Arizona. Championed by Rep. Gail Griffin, the legislation earned bipartisan support and backing from rural leaders and utility providers, including Arizona Public Service (APS), Salt River Project, and Tucson Electric Power.

The law requires utilities to submit wildfire mitigation plans every two years to the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. These plans must identify fire-prone areas, outline vegetation management strategies, and include power shutoff protocols during extreme fire conditions.

Janet Dean, Public Affairs Manager with APS, said the company supports the new law, noting that while APS already has a comprehensive fire mitigation plan developed over several years, HB2201 helps establish consistent statewide standards for all utilities. She added that the legislation also brings needed clarity around utility liability related to wildfires.

HB2201 also offers legal protections for utilities that follow their approved mitigation plans, helping to stabilize liability risk and protect ratepayers from the types of lawsuit-driven utility cost spikes seen in other states.

"This is forward-looking, responsible policy," said Rep. Griffin. "It protects our grid, our communities, and our wallets."

The law reflects Arizona's growing focus on energy security, fire resilience, and rural infrastructure. For more, visit azleg.gov.

### 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.

# COCONINO COUNTY TACKLES GROWING WILDFIRE & INSURANCE CRISIS

Living among the pines comes with a cost, especially as wildfire risk makes insurance harder to get, keep, or afford. Coconino County now ranks in the top four percent of U.S. counties most at risk for wildfire. With insurers raising rates or exiting altogether, the County Board of Supervisors and Flood Control District are launching a series of public work sessions to explore solutions.

The first session will be held Tuesday, June 3, from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. at the County Administrative Building, 219 E. Cherry Ave., Flagstaff. The session will also be streamed live at youtube.com/coconinocnty. A recording will be posted at coconino.az.gov/floodcontrol.

Speakers include Dr. Kimiko Barrett and Doug Green of Headwaters Economics. Since 2005, more than 120,000 structures have burned in wildfires across the United States, with damages exceeding 70 billion dollars. Of those costs, 46 percent are incurred at the local level.

The series will explore what's working in other high-risk communities, from home hardening to Firewise planning, and how Coconino residents can take action to protect homes, neighborhoods, and their financial future.

Press Release Coconino County Communications Team

### COCONINO COUNTY REAL-TIME ROAD UPDATES ON AZ511.GOV

Travelers can now access real-time updates on Coconino County roads through AZ511.gov, Arizona's official transportation information site. The County is now using ADOT's Travel-IQ system to post live data on construction, closures, special events, and emergency conditions—enhancing safety and planning for drivers, cyclists, and road crews alike.

AZ511 now includes rural road conditions in addition to highways, offering alerts via web or app. Users can also visit coconino.az.gov/CountyRoadStatusMap or download the AZ511 mobile app for custom route alerts.

Local Highlights continued on page 9A





# YOUR DREAM STARTS HERE!





#### MountainDreamsRealty.com



#### \$425,000 1320 E CARIBOU RD, MUNDS PARK

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



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

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



#### \$650,000 17665 MUSTANG RD, MUNDS PARK

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



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

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



#### \$459,000 660 E TROUT CREEK RD, MUNDS PARK

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

**READY TO SELL?** Let's make your home the next success story! Contact us today to get started!

#### **Bob Joncas**

Associate Broker | Realtor®

(928)853-8542 (Cell)

BobJoncas@aol.com



Elizabeth Hausman Realtor® (623) 570-3076 (Cell)

EHausmanAZ@Gmail.com

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Escape to your own paradise with our portfolio Second Home Loan options, designed to bring you closer to the vacation home you've always imagined. At Residential Mortgage, we understand the unique needs of buying a second home. That's why our tailored financing solutions offer competitive rates and potential savings-making your dreams of a serene retreat more achievable and affordable.

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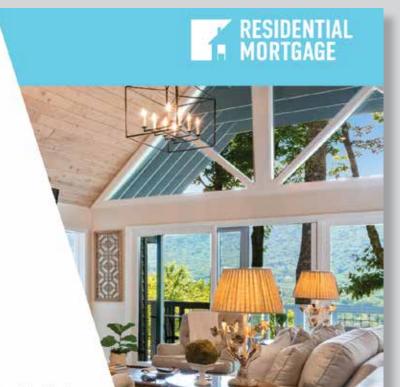


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#### LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 7A

# PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The long-awaited removal of the Odell Lift Station is officially set to begin on May 27, 2025, marking a major milestone in PSD's ongoing infrastructure improvement initiatives.

Mobilization was briefly delayed due to the time required to obtain a County Right-of-Way (ROW) permit. This project is part of a broader initiative to modernize wastewater management systems and address inflow and infiltration (I&I).

The Odell Lift Station, which has served the area for several decades, is being decommissioned to streamline operations and reduce long-term maintenance costs. Its removal will also help mitigate potential overflow risks and enhance the overall efficiency of the sewer network.

Construction crews are mobilized on-site with initial work focusing on site preparation and utility coordination. Residents in the vicinity may experience ingress and egress disruptions, including temporary traffic adjustments and noise during working hours. The District is here to assure the community that all efforts will be made by Summit Construction and PSD to minimize inconvenience and maintain safety throughout the project.

The Odell Lift Station removal is projected to be completed later this year, with updates to be provided as the project progresses.

As of mid-May, approximately 75% of the mapping and survey work for manholes in Munds Park has been completed. This critical phase ensures accurate planning. Survey teams are continuing to work diligently. Please provide our camera crews access to manholes and easements.

For more information or to follow project updates, please visit www.PinewoodSanitary.com.

# LET'S HELP FINISH THE NEW PINEWOOD FIRE STATION

Thanks to incredible community support, Pinewood's new fire station is underway! Now it's time to come together one more time to help furnish the inside and give our firefighters a space that's fully equipped and ready to serve.

Here's how you can be part of the final push:

Split the Pot Tickets: On sale every weekend throughout the park starting Memorial Day weekend. Three winners will be drawn Labor Day Weekend!

New T-Shirts! Featuring a hand-drawn sketch of the old fire station. Available beginning Memorial Day weekend, grab yours while they last!

Raffle Donations Needed: Got a great item or gift card to contribute? Every donation helps. Text Lisa at 602-399-0415 to pitch in.

Volunteers Needed! Help us sell tickets, call or text Gail at 623-670-0255 to volunteer.

Let's finish strong and give our firefighters a space that reflects the heart of this amazing community.

# SCAM ALERT Fake Emails Targeting Property Owners

The Coconino County Manager's Office is warning residents about a scam involving fake emails claiming to be from the "Coconino County Planning and Zoning Division." The messages mention an "outstanding Application Review & Renewal Fee" related to a Conditional Use Permit and include a fraudulent PDF invoice.

#### Important reminders:

- All planning and zoning matters are handled only by the Community Development Department.
- The County does not email invoices or past-due notices.
- Legitimate emails will always come from a @coconino.az.gov address.

If you've received a suspicious message, call Community Development at 928-679-8850 to verify. Stay alert and help spread the word to protect fellow property owners.





#### 570 E. Crestline

For those in search of privacy, space, and a true mountain retreat, this stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bath chalet, with an additional office and open loft, has it all. Nestled on over a full acre, the home offers an open floor plan, soaring tongue-and-groove ceilings, a striking stone fireplace, and expansive picture windows flooding the space with natural light. The wraparound deck overlooking a seasonal creek is an outdoor lover's paradise. Best of all, it comes mostly furnished and move-in ready!









Scan to see property details and photos.





#### **EVERY MONDAY**

# BINGO AT PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

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

Time: 6:00 PM

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

#### ALMOST EVERY TUESDAY

# PINEWOOD PLAYHOUSE MUSIC JAM NIGHT

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

Date: Most Tuesdays, check website at

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

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

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11 COCONINO COUNTY BOOKMOBILE

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

Date: Second Wednesday of every month

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

#### SAT & SUN, JUNE 14-15 FLAGSTAFF FOLK FESTIVAL

Enjoy two days of live music at the Flagstaff Folk Festival with over 100 acts across multiple stages, indoor and outdoor jam spaces, workshops, and food vendors. A celebration of folk and acoustic music for all ages!

Time: Saturday 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM;

Sunday 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Coconino Center for the Arts & Pioneer

Museum, Flagstaff, AZ

Admission: \$15/person/day; Kids 15 & under Free

For more infomation: flagfolkfest.org

# SAT & SUN, 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.

**Time:** Sat 11:00 AM-9:00 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!

# MUNDS PARK 4TH OF JULY

CELEBRATIONS DETAILS
CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 1B



#### **GET FRESH PRODUCE!**

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

# SATURDAY, JUNE 21 TILTED EARTH WINE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

A lively summer evening on the banks of Oak Creek with award-winning Arizona wines, gourmet BBQ, and live music. Enjoy Shinyribs, Eric Krasno Trio, and the Verde Valley Vagabonds under the stars at Page Springs Cellars.

Time: 4:30 PM - Midnight

**Location:** Page Springs Cellars, Cornville, AZ **Admission:** \$75 standard | Kids 12 & under free

More Info: tilted-earth.com

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

# & CULTURE

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

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Location:** Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N.

Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ

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

children under 10

# SATURDAY, JULY 5 FAIRLANE PALOOZA!

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

Time: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: 245 E. Fairlane, Munds Park

Admission: Free

# SATURDAY, JULY 19 CAMP VERDE CORN FEST

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

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Location:** Hollamon Street & Community Center

Gym, Camp Verde, AZ

Admission: Free (NO PETS, Service Animals only)



# SEDONA COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

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

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

Location: 2201 W SR 89A, West Sedona

#### PRESCOTT FARMERS MARKET

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

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

7:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

#### **MORTIMER FARMS**

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

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

Location: 12907 E State Route 169, Dewey, AZ

# OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

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

**Dates:** May 16, 23, 30

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

# VERDE VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

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

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

**Time:** 8 AM - 11 AM

**Location:** 75 Hollamon St, Camp Verde

# WINDMILL PARK FARMERS MARKET

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

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

**Location:** 9950 E Cornville Rd, Cornville, AZ



# OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

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

Dates: Every Friday, starting May 9

Time: 5 PM Until Dark

Location: 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

#### FLAGSTAFF URBAN FLEA MARKET

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

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

**Time:** 9 AM - 2 PM

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

Admission: Free

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

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

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

time for the best picks)

Location: 6201 E. State Route 69,

Prescott Valley **Admission:** Free

# TWO COYOTES MARKET IN THE PINES

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

Operated by Munds Park Residents Susan & Bill Havermale

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



# LAKE STREET DIVE WITH COUCH

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 Doors @ 5:30pm / Show @7:30pm **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



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# 19TH ANNUAL PICKIN' IN THE PINES

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#### FLAGSTAFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

Date: Saturday, September 20

**Time:** 2 PM – 9 PM

**Location:** Heritage Square, Flagstaff

**Admission:** Free

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# THEREAL FARMTO TABLE PART 3: WHY SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD MATTERS

A Summer Series

~Grab a seat, this 12-minute read is worth your time.

By Sandee Caviness

Welcome back to Part III of our Real Farm to Table series, where we're spending the summer with the people who grow, harvest, and hustle to keep Arizona's food supply rooted in the land and grounded

In this issue, we're headed to Mortimer Farms in Dewey, where the rows are long, the harvest is real, and the mission reaches far beyond feeding people. This is a place where food meets education, where neighbors meet farmers, and where every seed planted is a stand against sprawl.

Because out here, it's not just crops and cattle under pressure. It's the future of local food. The developers keep circling. The rules keep tightening. And the price of doing it right, really right, keeps rising. But the Mortimer's are still standing. Still planting. Still betting it all on a future that tastes like food grown with care and raised by hand.

Thank you for sticking with us as we follow the people fighting to keep Arizona's food honest, the land protected, and the farm-to-table promise alive.

#### HOW MORTIMER FARMS WAS BORN (AND ALMOST LOST)

Let's start with what didn't happen.

The land that became Mortimer Farms didn't fade quietly into the concrete jungle, even though that's where it was headed. Rows of crops nearly became rows of garages. Asphalt came within inches of winning.

But this wasn't that land. It had something else in mind, even if it came dangerously close to becoming another stretch of beige rooftops and homes made of ticky-tack.

But fate, zoning delays, and a very determined farm family had

It all started, as many good stories do, with two people in love and a dream for their kids.

Gary Mortimer grew up in Iowa, surrounded by soybeans and cornfields. Sharla came from Arizona cotton country. Different crops, same foundation. Both of them were raised to respect the land, to work until the job was done, and to know where dinner really came from. When they met and started a life together, they knew what kind of future they wanted: one where their kids would get dirt under their nails and learn to care for more than just themselves.

In 1986, Gary started Mortimer Nursery in Prescott, and it is still there for your landscaping needs. But landscaping was just the start. They



dreamed of the rhythm of farm life. The chaos. The calm. The long days that start before sunrise and don't end until the animals are fed and the fences checked.

In 2003, they found a ranch about ten miles from what would later become Mortimer Farms. The owner, an elderly woman with no heirs willing to take it on, was ready to pass the ranch along. But she gave them one warning, half joking and half not: if they ever sold it, she'd haunt them till the end of their days. They agreed without hesitation. Some promises are worth keeping.

They started with cattle, then added pork. Turkeys and chickens came and went with the seasons. The Mortimer kids didn't just grow up around farmland; they grew up inside it. Their home was a classroom, their chores a daily lesson in responsibility, grit, and gratitude. This was the life Gary and Sharla had imagined for their children, and they were living it.

Then came the plot twist. In 2006, a 300-acre piece of land near Dewey. once a farm, was sold to developers. Cue the bulldozers. Except they never came. Permitting got tangled. Deadlines got missed. And for seven years, nothing happened except weeds.

The old farm was fading. Overgrown. Forgotten. Another patch of God's land waiting to be paved over.

Then, the mayor of Dewey, wanting more for his community, made the kind of call that only happens in small towns. He connected the developers with the Mortimer's and offered a simple fix: lease the land and make it matter again.

Gary and Sharla didn't need a sales pitch. They saw more than weeds and old fences. They saw possibility. Maybe it wasn't forever. But even for a little while, they could turn this place into something that fed more than just people. It could feed understanding.

By then, Sharla was already showing up in classrooms with a handcranked ice cream maker and a quiet mission to teach kids where food

really comes from. As the handle turned and the kids waited patiently for the homemade ice cream, she'd pass around the ingredients and ask them where they thought each one came from. Then she'd tell them. Milk from a cow. Sugar from a field. Vanilla from a bean that grew on a vine. Simple things, grown by people from the land and gifted by the animals.

Out at the ranch, the lessons got bigger. They hosted ranch days where kids rotated through hands-on stations, like a living textbook. They held the tools of a working cowboy and learned how beef is raised, how water is managed, and how soil needs care. Most importantly, they saw the full story of how food gets from land to table.

Mortimer Farms offered a better classroom. Closer to town and easier for families and schools to reach, it gave those lessons a home. For the Mortimer's, this farm was about offering the community something real and tangible. A place where people could step into a working farm, walk the rows, ask questions, and leave with a little more understanding than they came with. And maybe a basket full of fresh food, too.

They had built something meaningful on land that wasn't theirs. It didn't matter. Even if the farm was temporary, the impact was not.

The developers looming in the background had other plans. Their project had stalled for years, tangled in red tape and boardroom disputes. In a final move to cut loose a business partner, they decided to foreclose on themselves.

They told Gary and Sharla not to worry. The lease would hold. Nothing would change.

But anyone who's ever loved a piece of land knows you don't trust promises when paper is being passed between lawyers. You show up. Gary walked into the auction room alone, phone to his ear, with Sharla and Ashlee hanging on every word.

Somehow, against every reasonable expectation, he was the only one

in the auction room. No other bidders. Just Gary, standing there with nothing but faith in the moment and the feeling that maybe this was meant to be. He turned to the auctioneer and asked, "What if I bid one dollar over the opening price?" He looked up and said, "Then you have 24 hours to deliver a check."

Gary put down a nonrefundable deposit with no guarantee they could follow through. In truth, the odds were stacked against them.

It was December 30, 2020, that holiday stretch between Christmas and New Year's, when people were tired, fat, and distracted. While most were easing into the end of the year, the Mortimer's were scrambling to save a farm. Somehow the right doors opened. The paperwork moved. A loan officer said yes. The funds cleared. The check was printed and driven to Phoenix by hand. And just like that, the land was theirs.

A miracle shaped by hope and maybe a little of the season's grace.

#### THE FIGHT TO KEEP IT A FARM

From that moment on, the land was theirs. No lease, no looming deadlines. Just sun, soil, and long days working the land.

Of course, no farm stays safe for long. Not when developers are circling with plans in hand, dollar signs in their eyes, dreaming of rooftops where roots once ran deep.

Mortimer Farms doesn't have a conservation easement—the legal kind of promise that says no matter what, this land stays a farm. They've thought about it. Maybe one day. But for now, their plan is simple: hold

Ashlee, the Mortimer's daughter, knows they're the exception, not the rule. "You don't often get to save a farm from development," she said. "Most of the time, developers buy the land, and that's the end of the story. They pour pavement, and it's gone. Forever."

And still, the letters show up. Fat offers. Fancy promises. Polite inquiries about what it might take to make the farm disappear. Most

"When someone asks in person," Ashlee said, "I don't sugarcoat it. I tell them we saved the farm from development. And no, it's not for sale not now, not ever."

"We're lucky," Ashlee said. "People in Dewey still want chickens in their yards and goats in the grass. They want dirt under their nails, not concrete under their kids' feet. Our town gets it. Our local government backs it. But that's not the case everywhere." The town's mindset on responsible growth is part of what makes survival possible.

And that's the bigger concern. Across the country, farmland is disappearing. Every year, more and more acres are turned into developments, shopping centers, and parking lots. And once it's gone, it

Farmers are up against enormous pressure: land prices, estate taxes, regulations, and rising costs that make survival harder every season.

Ashlee knows farmers who had to walk away from their land. Good people who did everything right but still couldn't make it work. They didn't want to sell. They just had no choice.

And with every loss comes a heavier cost, one that's harder to see. Ashlee has seen the toll it takes on the people behind the fields. "Mental health struggles in agriculture are higher than any other industry," she said. "It's not just the work. It's the isolation, the financial stress, the heartbreak of losing something your family built." She knows farmers who have quietly battled depression, anxiety, and burnout, all while trying to keep their farms alive. "Most of them won't talk about it, but it's real. It's everywhere."

That's why Mortimer Farms stays open to the public. So people can see what farming actually looks like. So they can ask questions, see

Continued on page 15A

12A The Pinewood News | JUNE 6, 2025



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

#### THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 13A

the work, and understand why it matters. "A lot of laws that hurt agriculture get passed because people don't realize what they're voting for," she said. "So if we can be a bridge, maybe we can help shift that."

The estate tax is another silent killer. When a landowner dies, the cost of transferring that land to their children can be so high that the only option is to sell. Entire generational farms are lost because of one tax bill.

For Ashlee and her family, this work is more than a job. It's a calling. They're feeding people, caring for animals, protecting the land. Some days, it feels like magic. Other days, it's exhausting. "There are days I think, is this really what I want to do for the rest of my life?" she admitted. "And then a little kid walks in with blackberry juice on their face and reminds me exactly why we do this."

# THE TRUTH BEHIND LABELS, REGULATIONS, & FEAR

Ashlee is careful with politics but not with the truth.

"I believe in whole foods," she said. "I only shop the perimeter of the grocery store. I try to eat the way we grow—fresh, local, simple." When possible, she gets everything from the farm's own market or deli. If we don't carry something, she asks if it can be grown or stocked.

That mindset puts her in partial agreement with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., especially when it comes to being more aware of what we eat. "He's right about that," she said. "People should think about what they're putting in their bodies." But when it comes to agriculture, she's more cautious.

"He, like many others, presents the exceptions as if they're the rule," she said. "Especially with pesticides." According to Ashlee, pesticide use isn't careless or constant. It's tightly regulated. Farmers have to be trained, certified, and regularly evaluated by the Department of Agriculture. "Farmers use pesticides as a tool in their toolbox. They're not dumping chemicals on the land. Pesticides are a last resort, used responsibly and sparingly. Sometimes, they're the only option to save a crop—the difference between covering the farm's mortgage and losing everything.'

At Mortimer Farms, they haven't needed to spray their crops. But Ashlee pushes back against the idea that all pesticide use is harmful. "We're not certified organic, but we grow as if we are, and in many cases, better than organic." Like farmers across the country, the Mortimer's use crop rotation, companion planting, and crop varieties best suited to their land to keep disease and pests in check. These practices reduce the need for spraying and, in Mortimer's case, eliminate it entirely.

Labels are another frustration. Words like "organic," "non-GMO," and "natural" are everywhere but often misunderstood. "Most people think organic means no pesticides," she said. "The real problem is how labels are misunderstood by consumers and manipulated by marketers or retailers (the middleman) to sell products, which feels disingenuous."

That's why she puts her trust in local food. She wants people to come to the farm, ask questions, and get real answers. No scare tactics. Just facts.

"I saw a post from a farmer saying the government shutdown would close local farms," she said. "That's not true. Our farm doesn't rely on federal money. A shutdown wouldn't change how we operate. That kind of message just scares people. Why not give them the facts and let them decide?"

When asked whether RFK Jr. might help farmers through regulation, Ashlee was cautiously optimistic.

"He might," she said. "During Trump's first term, there were positive changes through deregulation. People looked at the rules and asked whether they made sense or just added red tape. That made a big difference for farmers."

If Kennedy brings that same clarity to agricultural policy, Ashlee

is open to it. "We don't just need fewer regulations. We need smarter ones. Ones that help us do what we do best—grow real food for real people."

# THE REALITY OF SHARED GROUND

The Mortimer's lease about 35,000 acres of Forest Service land to graze their cattle, and that land comes with its own set of challenges. Forest fences get cut. Trash gets dumped. ATVs roll through where they shouldn't. It happens more than most people realize, especially during hunting season. Some take shortcuts through pastures, cut fences, close open gates, or open ones that were shut. They don't realize they're disrupting grazing patterns or blocking access to water. Sometimes, the cattle end up in the wrong pasture. Sometimes, they end up dangerously close to the road.

Ashlee's response isn't anger. It's education. "Most people just don't know," she says. "If the gate is open, leave it open. If it's closed, leave it closed. It might seem like a small thing, but it could be the difference between a safe herd and one that can't reach water."

She's patient, even when it's frustrating. Because teaching is part of the job. Maybe the

most important part.

Ashlee sees what happens when people are too far removed from their food. She once sat in a high school agriculture class in Prescott and heard a student say brown milk comes from brown cows. She's watched guests pull whole tomato plants out of the ground, thinking that's how you harvest the fruit. These aren't failures. They're chances to teach. And Ashlee is ready. Patient. Clear. Never condescending.

And the public shows up hungry for answers, for truth, for the chance to learn something real. "You don't know what you don't know," she says. "That's why we open our farm. It's why we invite the public to our real working farm, to connect to the story of their food."

#### WHAT MAKES MORTIMER'S SPECIAL

Mortimer Farms is a full-scale, working farm. In any given season, they're harvesting as many as 54 different fruits and vegetables. Peaches, pumpkins, sweet corn, strawberries, blackberries, tomatoes, apples—you name it, they probably grow it.

Every morning, produce is pulled from the dirt or plucked from vines and walked just a few yards to their market, deli, or Windmill Kitchen. Guests can shop or pick it themselves and sometimes see it transformed into something warm and delicious before they leave the parking lot. That's what "local" really means here, grown feet away from where it's served or sold.

Continued on page 16A

#### THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 15A

The animals are part of it, too. The Mortimer's manage the cattle from start to finish—calving on the ranch, growing out on leased forest land, and finishing near the barn on a grain ration they mix themselves.

The animals eat well: garbanzo beans, corn, free-range hay, a few vitamins, and clean water from the farm's own wells. Nothing fancy, just the good stuff. No shortcuts, either. Just a close eye on what matters and a promise to do it right. When the time comes, the animals are processed by USDA-certified partners in Chino and Phoenix and then brought back to the farm, ready for the table.

The farm and ranch feed each other. When the pumpkin festival season ends, the cattle move in and enjoy the leftover pumpkins.



The vines become feed, clearing the ground for the next crop. Hooves aerate the soil, and manure fertilizes it. Everything feeds something else. It's symmetry.

Most of what Mortimer Farms grows stays close to home. Nearly everything, including beef, produce, prepared meals, and pantry goods, is sold directly to customers through their on-site market, kitchens, or one of six local farmers' markets. A small amount goes wholesale to nearby farms and restaurants, but only when it makes sense for the operation.

What sets them apart is not just how they grow, but how they connect. These are not just customers. They are neighbors. Families. People who want to know where their food comes from and trust the answer when it comes from Mortimer Farms.

That is why the gates stay open. So people can walk the rows, ask questions, and get honest answers. So a kid can pull a carrot from the ground or lock eyes with a calf and begin to understand the full picture. Not for entertainment, but for education. Because once people understand their food, they care about it. And that changes everything.

It's easy to think food comes from stores, not soil. But Mortimer Farms reminds us otherwise. It's a place where rows of crops grow alongside rows of questions, where the truth is muddy and honest and sometimes picked fresh that morning. What they've built isn't just a farm—it's a stand. For food. For families. For the future. And no matter how loud the offers or how fast the world moves, the Mortimer's are staying rooted. Not because it's easy. Because it matters.



#### **MORTIMER FARMS**

#### A Year-Round Celebration of Agriculture & Community

Mortimer Farms isn't just a place to buy fresh produce—it's a hub of seasonal festivals and family-friendly activities that celebrate the richness of farm life. Here are some of the standout events that make Mortimer Farms a must-visit destination:

#### Seasonal Festivals & Events

Friday Night Barn Dance (March–October)

Dance under the stars to live music on Arizona's largest dance floor, complemented by farm-to-table dinners.

Blackberry Festival (July 12–13, 19–20)

Celebrate the blackberry harvest with pick-your-own experiences, farm rides, and a magical butterfly and ladybug release.

Watermelon & Sweet Corn Festival (Aug 23-24)

Pick sweet corn straight from the field and join in on watermelon games and contests.

Pumpkin Fest & Corn Maze (Sept 27–Oct 27, 2024)

Experience the festival that put Mortimer Farms on the map. Enjoy a sprawling corn maze, pumpkin picking, hayrides, live entertainment, and farm-inspired games.

#### **Ongoing Farm Experiences**

Pick-Your-Own Produce

Strawberries, asparagus, blackberries and more, straight from the field.

Farm Park & Animal Encounter

Rides, games, and plenty of chances to pet a goat or meet a chicken.

Windmill Kitchen & Market

Enjoy farm-to-table meals and shop for fresh produce, baked goods, and unique gifts at the on-site market and kitchen.

Whether you're looking to connect with agriculture, enjoy seasonal festivities, or find the perfect venue for a special occasion, Mortimer Farms offers a diverse range of experiences that cater to all ages and interests.

**Mortimer Farms** 

(928) 830-1116 www.mortimerfarmsaz.com 12907 E. State Route 169 Dewey, AZ 86327





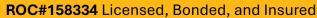
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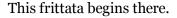
# HOME MADE & WONDERFUL

#### Field-to-Skillet Frittata

BY SUENET

Some summer mornings feel like an invitation. The sun comes in soft through the windows. The day hasn't rushed in yet. And if you're lucky, you'll find yourself walking through a farmers market with a basket on your arm and no real plan, just the pleasure of looking.

You pass tables lined with fresh tomatoes, crates of greens still damp from the morning harvest, and bunches of chives bundled with string like a bouquet. For a moment, you understand what farm fresh really means.

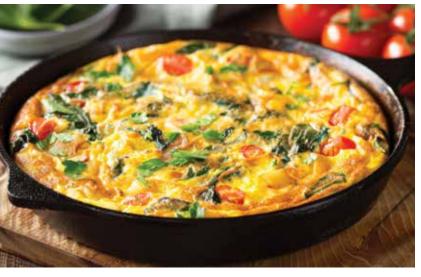


It's made with whatever is fresh and ready. Sweet peppers, a few handfuls of kale, some sharp cheese, a bit of red onion. All folded into eggs and cream, then baked until puffed and golden.

It's not about precision. It's about intention. Choosing fresh produce and herbs, treating them simply, and letting them speak for themselves.

#### **Ingredients**

- 12 large eggs (You can get these at the farmer's market too!)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 8 oz sharp Cheddar, grated (or the cheese you found at the market)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives, plus more for topping
- 11/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3/4 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 2 sweet mini peppers, sliced
- 4 cups curly kale, roughly chopped (Or, whatever leafy green you enjoy.)
- 1 garlic clove, finely grated
- Fresh dill, for finishing



#### **Directions**

Whisk the base.

Heat the oven to 400°F. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream, cheese, chives, salt, and pepper. Let it sit while you prepare the vegetables.

Cook the vegetables.

In a cast-iron or oven-safe skillet, warm one tablespoon of olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and peppers. Cook until softened, about five minutes. Transfer to a plate.

#### Wilt the kale.

Add the remaining oil to the skillet, then stir in the kale and garlic. Cook for just a couple of minutes until the greens soften and darken. Remove half of it and set aside with the other vegetables.

#### Layer it in.

Add half the vegetable mixture back into the skillet. Pour the egg mixture over. Scatter the remaining vegetables gently across the top.

#### Bake until set.

Let the edges cook on the stove for a minute or two, then transfer the skillet to the oven. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, until the center is just set and the top is puffed and golden.

#### Finish and serve.

Let it rest for a few minutes. Sprinkle with extra chives and fresh dill. Serve warm, or let it cool and enjoy it later with a light salad or ripe summer fruit.

This isn't just a recipe, it's an excuse to shop with your senses, to cook without rushing, and to eat with the people you love. Use the markets on page 10A as your guide, but let your instincts do the rest.

Enjoy!



# PAGES IN THE PINES

### A Review of Eruption

BY SANDY WRIGHT

The master of the techno-blockbuster joins forces with the master of the modern thriller.

Michael Crichton began working on "Eruption" before his relatively early death in 2008 at age 66. Best remembered for The Andromeda Strain in 1969 and Jurassic Park in 1990, Crichton was working on Eruption as a passion project for years before his death.

After discovering his notes and partial manuscript, his wife, Sherri Crichton, searched for more than a decade until she found the perfect partner: James Patterson, the world's most popular storyteller.

The research was so scientifically dense that Patterson hired a researcher in Alaska to help weed through it.

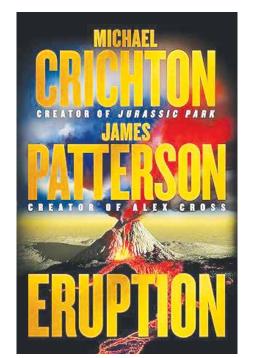
Overall, I enjoyed this, but not in the same way I've enjoyed Michael Crichton's books. It definitely has James Patterson's stamp on it. As the Big Island of Hawai'i faces an eruption of unprecedented intensity, Dr. John "Mac" MacGregor, a geologist at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory, is convinced the volcano was

going to blow, and is tracking the timing so preparations can be made to prepare the island for eruption.

But this time, the U.S. Military got involved. It was worried about not only the volcano, but about the consequences of another, equally dangerous, doomsday secret buried underground near Mauna Loa.

Hawaii was basically formed from volcanos, especially the Big Island. Mauna Loa was the largest and Kilauea small but still the most active. However, seismology reports say Mauna Loa's eruption is going to be "the big one."

Time is short, and all resources are called in, including some that really shouldn't be involved. The Army is throwing everything is has to avert catastrophe, not only from the volcano, but from the other dangerous source.



Mac is let in on the fact the army has stored secret containers of highly radiative herbicides in a lava tube within Mauna Loa. For the reasoning the army chose this site, the reader must suspend disbelief. Accepting it means these stored toxins could spread over the world if the volcano blows, bringing death and destruction to the entire world.

The story itself is dramatic and moves quickly, with short, Patterson-like chapters. There's a lot of interesting information about volcanos (probably thanks to Crichton's prior research).

Several of the characters are well-developed and believable. After reading this book, I can imagine what it would be like to be near an eruption of this magnitude. I also enjoyed the insights about Hawaiian culture. I think many of us don't have a lot of knowledge about the history of Hawaii and her fire goddess Pele.

But don't believe everything you read, either. While there are technical elements in the story, I cannot

bring myself to believe that our military is so stupid that they'd store hazardous material near an active volcano.

Some of the other differences may reflect Patterson's storytelling style. I think he dug into this book and did his best to do justice to his post-humous collaborator. References to social media influencers and billionaires with space exploration companies, for instance. Also, the most recent 2018 eruption of Kilauea. These were clearly efforts Patterson made to modernize the plot.

Despite pushing believability in some places, I still recommend you read Eruption. I finished the entire book in four days, which is unheard of given my usual reading schedule.

- Eruption
- by Michael Crichton and James Patterson
- Little, Brown and Company 2024, 424 pages





#### 555 E. Cedar Wood

Nearly new CAVCO home is move-in ready and shows like a model. Spacious, low-maintenance Trex deck is perfect for entertaining. The open great room features vaulted ceilings, and the kitchen includes stainless steel appliances, ample cabinets, and a breakfast bar. The oversized primary suite includes a walk-in closet and a luxurious en-suite with a soaking tub, dual sinks, and a private toilet room. Outside, enjoy a storage shed, plenty of parking, and RV space. Comes mostly furnished!









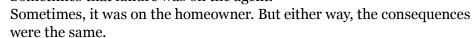




# THE REAL COST OF LOOKING THE OTHER WAY ON STR INSURANCE

BY APRIL PLONSKI, MBA, SCLA

Before I opened my own insurance agency, I spent more than a decade in homeowners claims. I've seen what happens when disaster strikes: homes reduced to rubble, families scrambling to rebuild, and the gut-wrenching moment when someone finds out their claim has been denied. It was never easy telling people that their policy wouldn't cover the damage—especially when they thought they were protected. And far too often, those heartbreaking moments were avoidable. Someone misunderstood the policy, didn't ask the right questions, or wasn't told what they needed to know. Sometimes that failure was on the agent.



Now, here in Munds Park—a community filled with second homes, cabins, and vacation rentals—we're seeing this issue surface again in a major way. The growth of short-term rentals through platforms like Airbnb and Vrbo has done some wonderful things like bring tourism, economic growth, and new jobs to our small town; it has also introduced new risks. Many homeowners continue to carry standard homeowners insurance policies while renting their properties to shortterm guests. What they may not realize is that most of those policies do not cover short-term rental activity. If damage occurs or someone is injured while a paying guest is on the property, the insurance company can deny the claim entirely.

As insurance agents, we have a duty to ask the right questions and explain coverage clearly. If we know—or even suspect—that a client is renting out their home, we're responsible for informing them that their current policy may not apply. Too often, that conversation doesn't happen. Whether it's due to oversight, inexperience, or a rush to close the deal, some agents fail to guide homeowners toward the right type of coverage. That's not acceptable.



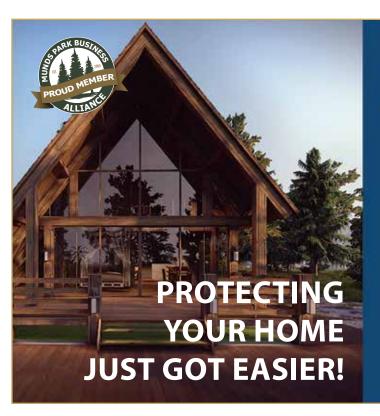
At the same time, consumers have a responsibility to be honest and proactive. Renting your home, even for a weekend here and there, turns it into a commercial venture. If you don't disclose that to your insurer, or if you assume your policy covers "just a few guests," you're taking a significant risk. Some homeowners intentionally avoid the conversation, hoping to keep premiums low. Others simply don't ask the hard questions. But when a claim is denied or a policy is canceled, the consequences can be devastating—and they affect more than just one property owner.

In tight-knit communities like Munds Park, those consequences ripple outward. Insurers track losses by ZIP code. A pattern of denied claims, misrepresented uses, or fraud can lead carriers to raise premiums or pull out of a market altogether. That leaves everyone—full-time residents and seasonal homeowners alike with fewer options and higher costs.

To be clear, not every misstep is malicious. Many homeowners genuinely don't know their coverage is inadequate, and many agents truly believe they're doing their best. But good intentions don't pay for a denied claim. Education and communication must be at the heart of every policy decision.

If you're a Munds Park homeowner, now is the time to review your insurance. Be transparent with your agent about how you're using your home. Ask whether your current policy covers rentals—and get that answer in writing. If you're an agent, take the time to learn your client's situation and match them with the right policy. In my experience, cutting corners helps no one.

Protecting homes isn't just about having insurance—it's about having the right insurance, and that requires honesty, diligence, and accountability on both sides of the conversation. Let's work together to keep Munds Park covered, protected, and informed.





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# WORD OF THE DAY

#### **Psithurism**

BY TESS LANGLEY

**Psithurism** 

noun | SITH-ur-iz-um

The sound of wind whispering through the trees.

There's a sound that moves through the tall pines and across the open flats of the high desert. A hush, a ripple, a whisper from the land itself. That's psithurism.

Not a typo. Not a sneeze. Psithurism. From the Greek psithuros, meaning whispering, it's the word for wind passing through trees. Through juniper and ponderosa. Through the cottonwoods along dry creek beds. Through the places that hold their breath when the weather shifts.



In the mountains and the high desert, this isn't just background noise. It's not just something pretty to fall asleep to. It's how the land speaks. And if you've lived here long enough, you know how to listen.

Because psithurism can be gentle, or it can carry a warning.

You don't need a Red Flag warning to know when the trees are already whispering too much, too fast.

You don't need an alert to know that flames and wind are the worst kind of friends.

And you definitely don't need to be the one who forgets that common sense can be quieter than sirens, but every bit as urgent.

So go ahead, step outside and listen. Let the psithurism wash over you. It's not just pretty. It's powerful. And if it starts to feel more like a warning than a lullaby, trust it.

That sound has been talking longer than any weather app or county notice.

The trees know. Now you do too.

WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?

A Red Flag Warning means wildfire conditions are serious. High winds, low humidity, and dry vegetation make it easy for a small spark to turn into a dangerous fire. During these warnings, campfires, outdoor burning, and anything that could cause a spark should be avoided completely.

In the high desert and mountains, fire spreads fast.

If you're visiting, play it safe. When in doubt, don't light it.





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# YOU SHOULD WRITE A BOOK

BY BRIT ELDERS

Have people said to you, "You should write a book." We have several published authors in our community and there are many others that want to share something via the written word. It's true that there are millions of books out in the world, but there are also billions of stories waiting to be told.

As a published author, people often ask me, "How do you write a book?" My answer to that is simple. Know what you're talking about. No matter what the topic, the key is to know it inside and out. If your story is personal or non-fiction, do the research, verify the facts and present the details. If your story is fiction, which is more difficult to compose than a lived experience, you still need to have

specifics that people can relate to and visualize. It would be difficult to express how sand feels between your toes if you've never been on a beach. Even fantasy has to have elements that people can associate with and imagine as a reality.

Once you have your story in your mind, outline it on paper. As you review it ask yourself the questions, "Does this feel contrived?" "Is it cliché?" and "What is the final impact?" If your story is fiction, develop your characters. Who is the protagonist and antagonist? Besides the obvious, how do they weave into the tapestry of the narrative and what purpose do they serve?

Then start writing. A story finds its legs as you write. Don't be afraid to rewrite again and again. That's what writing is about, perpetual improvement. Don't be concerned that your spelling, grammar or punctuation might not be perfect. There are wonderful tools—like Grammarly—available online to assist with that. What you are chronicling needs to be your priority and if you feel blocked, it's best not to push yourself. Take a walk, bake cookies, do some yard work or find some other distraction until your thoughts refocus on your project. Books can take a long time to create.

Once you have finished with the writing process, read it out loud and share it with a couple of friends for feedback. Does it have a strong beginning and ending? Does it flow? Is anything missing? Do you need an editor? (Editors are available at reasonable prices.)

If you are comfortable with your finished project, you need to determine your audience. Sometimes you write just for yourself or your friends



and family and sometimes you hope to reach a broader market. If you intend to self-publish, choose the platform and follow the instructions. If you want to try to attract a publisher, I recommend that you first write a proposal, which is a necessity. Think of it as an elevator pitch where you describe and outline your book, provide a bio, and demonstrate how and where you will market your work. An excellent outline for a proposal can be found here: https://dancingwordgroup.com/proposal-guide

Next, try to find an agent to represent your work. They are the intermediary between you and the publisher. They arrange for the sale of your project, negotiate the contract and run interference, which prevents tainting

your relationship with your publisher.

The final step is the most difficult. Be patient. Writing takes time but finding a publisher can take even longer. Be prepared to be turned down, rejection of your manuscript is part of the process. Try not to take it personally. In one case, I framed a rejection letter because they raved about the writing ability and content but unfortunately, they were no longer publishing that genre of book.

The hard work begins after you've achieved the steps above. Now it's time to market and publicize your book. Podcasts, radio interviews and social media marketing are the best tools for getting the word to the public. Do your research and find out who is best suited to interview you and cover the topic you want to discuss. If your financially able, you may want to bring in a professional publicist. They do the legwork, and you do the interviews.

A final word to the wise, don't expect to make a living from your first work. Unless you are a J.K. Rowling or James Patterson, you will be developing an audience and a market for your current and future works. Be content with the fact that you've completed a story that you wanted to tell and have the ability to share your thoughts, ideas and experiences with others.

Writing is a process. It's hard work and takes tremendous dedication and discipline. But the reward of having completed something that you can hold in your hand and share with others makes it worthwhile. Whether you access a publisher or self-publish, there is something very special about crafting your creativity and that is, in itself, an awesome achievement. Happy writing!









Give me a call.

#### \$625,000 655 E Trout Creek Road

This super charming and one-of-a-kind home is tucked away on a beautiful, tree-filled lot that gives you tons of privacy and a cozy vibe. One of the best parts? The oversized two-car garage with built-in cabinets for all your gear. And above that? A great studio apartment with a kitchenette, bathroom, and French doors that lead to a private balcony. There has not been anything like it on the Market this year.





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# Munds Park Community Church is Hosting a LUAU!

Come enjoy Pulled Pork BBQ sandwiches and good conversation with your neighbors! Lots of fun, games for the kids, and Corn Hole games!

Dinner and games are FREE-all are welcome!

Friday, June 20, 4 pm Munds Park Community Church



#### **OPEN EVERY SATURDAY!**

Starting Saturday, May 17 from 9 am - 1 pm

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

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# MUNDS PARK 4TH OF JULY PARADE

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Phone Number:
Email:
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Approximate number of persons on vehicle/trailer:

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

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



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!

# WINGS, WORK BOOTS & WILD TRAILS

Two Ways to Give Back to Nature This June

#### BUTTERFLY WALK AT ROCKIN' RIVER RANCH STATE PARK

Join the Butterfly Enthusiasts of Northern Arizona for a guided two-mile walk through Rockin' River Ranch State Park. This monthly event is part of a citizen science project, aiming to count butterfly species and individuals. The trail is mostly flat but includes some rocky areas; sturdy footwear is recommended.

Participants may encounter a variety of butterflies, including Arizona's state butterfly, the Two-tailed Swallowtail, as well as Painted Ladies, Monarchs, and Queens. The park's diverse habitats—

riparian zones, grasslands, and desert scrub—support over 300 butterfly species found in Arizona.



- First Sundays, May-October | 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- 4513 S. Salt Mine Rd, Camp Verde, AZ 86322
- Park sEntry Fee: \$10 per vehicle (1 person), \$20 per vehicle (2–4 people), or \$5 per individual/bicycle
- Meet at the White Cliff trailhead parking lot
- Vault toilets available on-site
- Event proceeds rain or shine

#### What to Bring

- Water, hat, sunscreen, and a snack
- Binoculars and camera (optional)
- Enthusiasm for nature and citizen science

Whether you're a seasoned lepidopterist or a curious newcomer, this walk offers a chance to contribute to butterfly conservation while enjoying the natural beauty of Arizona.



# JOIN MUTS TO HELP MAINTAIN & REPAIR LOCAL FOREST SERVICE TRAILS

The Coconino National Forest Service is actively thinning forest land north of Munds Park, specifically in the area east of Interstate 17 and west of Forest Road 700. The good news? Thinning helps reduce wildfire risk. The downside: the logging equipment has damaged sections of established Forest Service trails.

To help you stay on track, the Munds Park Trail Stewards (MUTS) have placed orange flags along the original trails or alternate routes. Since the heavy equipment is shifting the landscape daily, use caution when hiking in the area.

#### **Details**

- The next MUTS Volunteer Event is Saturday, June 14.
- Meet at: Iron Springs Trailhead at 8:15 a.m.
- Work ends: Around noon, followed by a free lunch served by Trail Stewards volunteers.
- RSVP by June 7
- Email: mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com
- A safety meeting is required at 8:15 a.m.

#### What to Bring

Long pants, sturdy shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and a good attitude.

Water and tools will be provided. Everyone works at their own pace.

Trail conditions and plans can change, so check for updates on the MUTS mundsparktrailstewards.com or in The Pinewood News.











#### **\$480,000** 17300 Big Sky Dr

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# LOCAL LORE

# Arizona's First Lady of the Sky: The Story of Ruth Reinhold

BY LARRY JOHNSON

When Ruth Reinhold first climbed into a cockpit, the world below was still quite sure of itself. It had labeled, boxed, and politely dismissed women's ambitions, especially the airborne kind. A woman's place, according to nearly everyone with a vote, was at the stove, not at the stick of a rattling, unpredictable flying machine.

But the sky didn't care. And neither did Ruth.

She was born in 1902, in Boston, a city more familiar with academic ambition than aviation. She studied fine arts at Boston University and later UCLA. Which is to say: she knew how to draw a line. And she knew when to cross one.

By 1933, Ruth had traded East Coast order for Arizona dust. She took a job with Copperclad Airlines, doing everything from bookkeeping to balancing on tires while repairing radios. The pay was \$7.50 a week and two hours of flying time; that was the real currency, and she didn't waste it.

The planes she flew were barely more than cloth, wood, and courage. Flying in the 1930s wasn't a lifestyle. It was a gamble. Crashes were common, instruction was sparse, and women were almost never in the pilot's seat. When Ruth earned her private and commercial pilot's licenses, she joined a club so small you could count its female members on one page.

Ruth wasn't flying to prove anything. She flew because it gave her the freedom to move, work, and live on her own terms, with no permission required.

She settled in Prescott, a no-frills town with wide skies and a quieter kind of defiance. From there, she mapped Arizona from above, flying charter routes, teaching students, and assisting archaeologists from the air. This wasn't scenic flight-seeing. Ruth helped survey cliff dwellings and prehistoric ruins long before aerial archaeology had a name. She saw what no one else could: stone outlines, forgotten roads, and fragments of ancient homes camouflaged by time but visible from altitude.

For Ruth, flying wasn't adrenaline. It was precision. Peaceful, she called it. Which is a word you rarely hear from people flying single-engine aircraft over unforgiving desert terrain.

She trained student pilots through the Civilian Pilot Training Program in the lead-up to World War II, and during the war, taught instrument flying to B-24 bomber crews. While most women were told to serve by staying put, Ruth climbed into the same airspace as the men she trained, and outflew many of them.

After the war, she kept flying, instructing, and quietly rewriting the rules. For twenty years,



Ruth Reinhold, Arizona's Amelia Earhart.



Ruth Reinhold the personal airplane pilot for Barry Goldwater.



Ruth Reinhold at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport

"The land was dry long before men bled on it. The canyons do not echo their names, and the sun does not pause to mourn.

But the wind still carries what the stones remember."

-Ruth Reinhold, Arizona's Dark and Bloody Ground she served as the personal pilot for Senator Barry Goldwater, one of Arizona's most powerful figures. She flew his trips. She trained his family. And she did it without fanfare, just the same steady hands she'd always brought to the yoke.

People would ask, because they always do, if her husband had taught her to fly. Ruth's answer was perfect:

"No. But I could've taught him."

She had no interest in reputation for its own sake. But the accolades eventually caught up. In 1969, she received the Amelia Earhart Award from the OX-5 Aviation Pioneers, marking 35 years of aviation service. She was the first woman appointed to Arizona's State Board of Aeronautics. And in 1991, she was inducted into the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame.

But by then, she had already moved on to writing.

Ruth's voice on the page was as plainspoken as it was unflinching. Her book Sky Pioneering: Arizona in Aviation History(1982) didn't glorify. It clarified. She tracked the people and machines that shaped Arizona's early aviation days, warts and all. Her writing was less interested in heroes than in telling the truth. Ruth always had more respect for a hard fact than a good story.

She wasn't the kind of historian who sat in archives polishing paragraphs. She preferred fieldwork. Research. Long drives on Arizona back roads in a well-used station wagon with maps spilling out of the glovebox and notebooks wedged under the seat. She dressed for function and looked more like a rancher than a researcher, and that was fine by her.

She understood the land, not just its topography, but its temperament. The scorched valleys, the chill of high desert mornings, the silence between towns. She saw history in layers, visible from above if you knew how to look.

Ruth Reinhold never married. Never slowed down. She flew thousands of miles over a state she knew better than most politicians who claimed to represent it. She taught others to fly, trained combat pilots, chronicled Arizona's air history, and helped preserve ancient ruins with nothing more than her eyes, a cockpit, and an old-school pilot's instinct.

She died in 1985, at 83 years old. She didn't leave behind a publicist, personal brand, or Twitter bio. Just a trail of facts, stories, and flight logs that prove how much one woman can do when the world says no as she calmly flies by.

Photo's courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society



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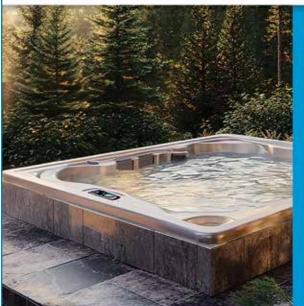
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### **TRAVEL**

### Strange Secrets of Chaco Canyon That Still Baffle Us Today

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG, TRAVEL WRITER



Aerial photo of Pueblo Bonito by Brad Shattuck. National Park Service photo



UNSTOPPABLE Stacey climbs trail through crack in cliff wall.
Stacey Wittig photo



Time lapse photo of Casa Rinconada with star paths.

National Park Service photo

There's something otherworldly about Chaco Canyon. I've been returning for over twenty years, and every visit stirs something deep in my soul. Maybe it's the silence, so vast it almost hums. Or the golden light that slides across ancient stone walls built over a thousand years ago. The ancestral builders left behind monumental architecture, mysterious petroglyphs and sacred roads that stretch straight across the New Mexico desert for miles. No matter how many times I come back, Chaco still takes my breath away—and fills my head with questions.

On my most recent return to Chaco Culture National Historical Park, I found myself fascinated all over again. Chaco never lets go of its grip on my imagination. Here are just a few of the strange and surprising things that make this place unforgettable:

# The Mesoamerican Connection Hiding in a Cup of Chocolate

Back in 1896, archaeologist George Pepper uncovered 112 cylindrical jars buried in Room 28 of Pueblo Bonito. What were they for? The mystery persisted until 2009 when archaeologist Patricia Crown's breakthrough research with the Hershey company revealed that the jars once held chocolate—yes, actual cacao—brought all the way from Mesoamerica.

So, of course, during my most recent visit, I brought along cocoa mix laced with cinnamon and chile, my nod to ancient rituals. Sitting beside my campfire, I toasted the long-gone Chacoans who once sipped their sacred drink from those intriguing communal vessels.

#### Sun Daggers and Celestial Calendars

Chacoans weren't just builders—they were skywatchers. The alignment of buildings and the Sun Dagger petroglyph on Fajada Butte demonstrates just how attuned they were to the cosmos. Sunlight slices through the spiral petroglyphs during the solstices, while other sun daggers are believed to align with the lunar standstill, eclipses and other celestial moments.

It's clear that this culture had a deep reverence for the sky—and they built their world to reflect it. Today, Chaco Culture National Historical Park is an International Dark Sky Park. It was designated as such by the International Dark-Sky Association in 2013. The park's commitment to reducing light pollution and preserving natural darkness has earned it recognition as a dark sky location.

#### Semi-Mummified Macaws

Here's something that surprised even me: colorful macaws in the high desert of New Mexico. The remains of 34 macaws—some semi-mummified—have been found at Chaco, with 14 discovered in just one room of Pueblo Bonito. These birds, native to the jungles over 1,000 miles away, were carried north through vast trade networks.

Feathers of red and blue appear to have been highly prized, not just for their beauty but also for ceremonial purposes. Along with turquoise, copper, seashells and chocolate, these birds show how far the Chacoan people reached—and how deeply they valued connection.

#### Ancient Superhighways

One of the most mind-blowing parts of Chaco Culture is the road system. These weren't footpaths—they were wide, engineered roads, some inside the canyon and others stretching for miles across the desert. Roads in the canyon measure around 15 feet wide, but those leading to distant outliers? Nearly 30 feet.

What's more, they're straight as an arrow. Instead of bending around hills or adapting to the terrain like modern roads, Chacoan roads run precisely in the cardinal directions. When they do change course, it's with sharp angles, not curves. They weren't just practical—they were intentional.

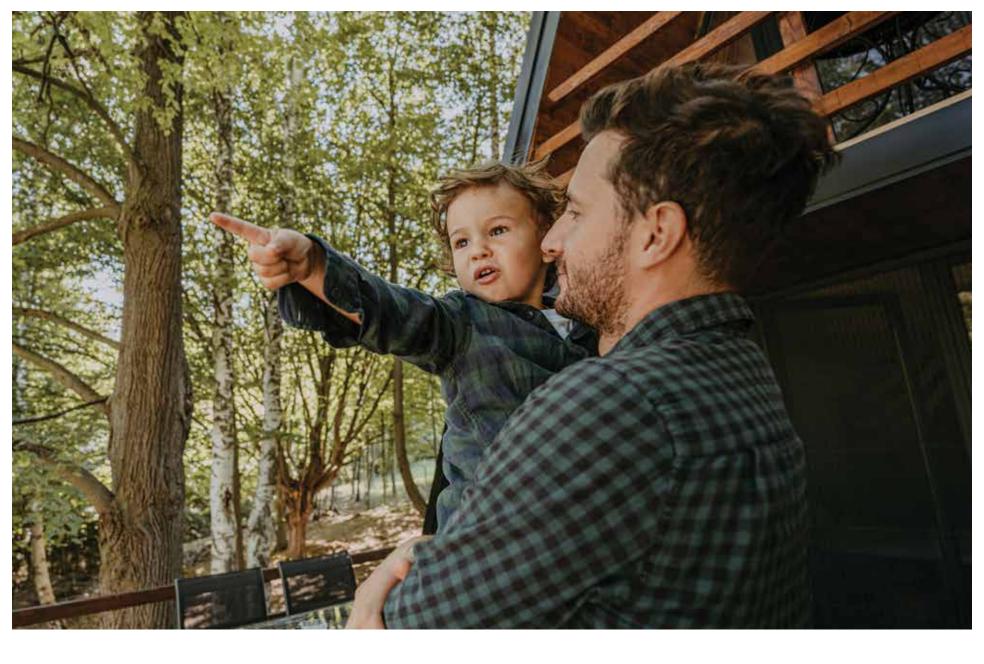
#### A Six-Toed Mystery in the Walls

You might've seen handprints left behind by ancient builders—but have you ever seen a six-toed footprint pressed into plaster walls? I hadn't either until I heard Dr. Crown describe what she found in Room 38 of Pueblo Bonito. A beam was held in place by thick plaster, and within that plaster, the clear impression of a six-toed left foot.

Turns out, polydactyly—having extra digits—wasn't just a biological quirk. It may have been considered a mark of status at Chaco. While you can't visit the footprint itself (Room 38 has been resealed), you can spot six-toed figures etched into the cliff face just north of Pueblo Bonito. Keep your eyes peeled.

Chaco Canyon is more than a destination—it's a puzzle, a place of wonder and a window into a culture that saw the world differently. And that's why I keep coming back.

"UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig is an award-winning travel writer, blogger and author who lives here in Munds Park. Read more about her Chaco Canyon adventures at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com.



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

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

Please visit aps.com/wildfiresafety for more information.





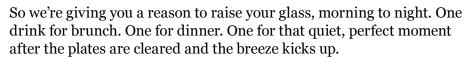
# SHAKEN & STIRRED

### A Full Day of Summer in a Glass

BY VENITA DEE

Honey, it's summer in The Park, which means two things are guaranteed: someone's mixing a drink before noon and nobody's judging. This isn't a place you come to hustle harder. It's where you exhale. Where phones get lost under novels, conversations stretch past sunset, and you can feel the city hustle slip away hour by hour.

And let's be honest, there's a little more pouring going on than usual. Whether you're here for the weekend or the whole season, summer in the pines has a rhythm. The ice clinks. The grill sizzles. The stories get better with each sip.



No complicated ingredients. No pretense. Just what you've got on hand and a good excuse to enjoy it.

Welcome to your most delicious summer yet.

#### BRUNCH: Orange + Vanilla Spritz

Think creamsicle, but grown up and holding court on the patio.

#### Ingredients

- 2 oz orange juice
- 1 oz vanilla vodka (or regular vodka with a drop of vanilla extract)
- Club soda or lemon-lime soda to top
- Orange slice for garnish

#### The Method

Shake the orange juice and vodka with ice, pour it into a tall glass, and top it off with something fizzy. Garnish with an orange slice if you're feeling fancy—or just sip it barefoot on the deck and call it good. It's light, a little nostalgic, and quietly makes the case for drinking before noon.



#### **DINNER: Bourbon & Peach**

This one's built for grilled things, sunsets, and whoever in charge of the tongs.

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 oz bourbon
- Half a ripe peach, muddled (or a spoonful of peach jam in a pinch)
- A splash of lemon juice
- Ice
- Water or club soda to top

#### The Method

Muddle the peach right in your rocks glass, then add bourbon and lemon juice. Stir it with ice, top with a splash of water or soda, and give it a taste. If you've got mint growing nearby, grab a sprig. If not, don't sweat it. This drink doesn't need help.

#### AFTER DINNER: Cold Coffee Old Fashioned

Strong. Simple. Sweet enough to feel like dessert but grown-up enough to earn its place.

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 oz cold coffee or iced coffee
- 11/2 oz bourbon or dark rum
- 1 tsp brown sugar or maple syrup
- Dash of cinnamon or vanilla (optional)

#### The Method

Stir everything with ice until it's cold and smooth, then strain it into a rocks glass. That's it. It's your end-of-day exhale in liquid form—bold, rich, and doesn't require a single extra dish.

So there you have it, three ways to make a good summer day even better. No stress, just easy pours. Try one, try all three and enjoy the season! Until next time, sip responsibly and enjoy.

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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14		Г	Г			15					16			П
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63					64					65				П
66					67					68				П
69					70					71				П

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Perfume 6. Proctor's call 10. Showed up
- 14. Winged 15. Den din
- 16. In the thick of
- 17. Increase the concentration of (a

solution) beyond saturation point 20. Group

investigated in

- "Mississippi Burning" 21. Elliptical
- 22. Birchbark
- 23. bag
- 25. Goofs 26. Biblical path to
- heaven 25. Goofs
- 26. Biblical path to heaven
- 31. Where embryos develop
- 32. Bummed
- 33. Miami basketball
- 37. Affirmative action

- 38. Trees that produce 4. Loud speaker a light honey
- 42. Gloppy stuff 43. Big story
- 45. Caribbean, e.g. 46. Jungle climber
- 48. Preoccupied and forgetful
- 52. More tranquil
- 55. Buzzi of "Laugh-In" problem 56. Open-mouthed
- 57. Five-time U.S. Open champ
- 59. 60's hairdo
- 63. Shakespeare's Puck
- 66. Stuff in a muffin 67. Honker
- 68. Flirt
- 69. Caroled
- 70. \_\_\_-friendly 71. Indo-European

#### **DOWN**

month

- 1. Wine holder 2. Twelfth Jewish
- 3. Auto parts giant

- - 5. Always, poetically 6. Go places
  - 7. Infinitesimal amount
  - 8. Heavy hammer
  - 9. "To \_\_\_\_ is human ..." 10. Nose-and-throat
  - \_ acid
  - 12. Bush-league
  - 13. Bordersers
  - 18. Sponges 19. "God's Little
  - 24. Final notice
  - 25. Poi source
  - 26. Summer solstice month
  - 27. At the peak of 28. Basic monetary unit of Ghana
  - 29. Geopolitical org. that includes Laos and Vietnam
  - 30. Indian lentil dish 34. "Heavens to Betsy!"

- 35. Blue-ribbon
- 36. Warty hopper 39. The Beatles' "Back in the \_\_\_\_'
- 40. \_\_\_ Dee River
- 41. Buttonhole, e.g.
- 44. Woodland activity
- 47. Asthmatic's device 49. "\_\_\_ here long?"
- 50. Wall Street figure
- 51. Hand warmer
- 52. Atkins diet no-nos 53. Ancient Greek
- marketplace
- 54. Father of Leah and Rachel
- 57. Sticky substances 58. Gift on "The Bachelor"
- 60. Criticize harshly
- 61. Santa \_\_\_\_, Calif.
- 62. Actor Wilson
- 64. African antelope 65. In-flight info, for





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# A DAY AT THE MUSEUM OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

### Discovering the Soul of the Southwest

BY JAY OTLEWSKI

As someone who has always loved a good story, especially the kind woven into the landscape of the Southwest, my recent visit to the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff felt less like a museum trip and more like stepping into a living, breathing narrative of the land and its people.

From the moment I walked through its stone and timber entrance, I knew I was in for something special.

Located just a short drive from downtown Flagstaff, perched along Fort Valley Road, the museum sits in a serene pocket of forest with the San Francisco Peaks standing watch in the distance. The setting alone is worth the visit. But what's inside? That's where the real magic happens.

I started my visit with the "Native Peoples of the Colorado Plateau" exhibit. As I stood before intricately woven Navajo rugs and rows of delicately painted Hopi pottery, I was struck by how deeply connected these cultures are to the land.

The exhibit isn't just about artifacts. It's about ongoing traditions, living languages, and art that continues to evolve. There's something profoundly humbling about realizing that you're walking through the stories of communities who have lived on this land for centuries.

One of my favorite parts was the fine arts gallery. It was like walking into a conversation between past and present. Traditional katsina dolls shared space with bold, contemporary sculptures by Native artists whose work pushes boundaries while honoring heritage.

Each piece seemed to whisper, "We are still here. We are still creating."

Then came the geology and paleontology wing. Let me tell you, this was just plain fun. Imagine a dinosaur skeleton looming overhead, ancient sea fossils at your feet, and walls that seem to pulse with the volcanic heartbeat of the Colorado Plateau.

It was like a time machine that took me from the Grand Canyon's mighty cliffs to the lava flows of Sunset Crater, all without leaving the building.

I paused for a snack at one of the picnic benches outside (I had packed a lunch—pro tip: do this!). The peaceful forested grounds were the perfect place to breathe it all in.

There are walking trails you can explore, but I opted for a quiet seat

in the shade, watching birds dart through the pines and listening to the wind rustle through the aspens. It's no exaggeration to say the museum's setting is just as enriching as its exhibits.

Back inside, I wandered into the archaeology section, and it felt like flipping through the diary of ancient civilizations. Clay pots, tools, and even remnants of old dwellings told stories of the ancestral Puebloans who once thrived in what's now Northern Arizona. Seeing these items in person was a powerful reminder that this land has always been alive with human history.

To top it all off, I discovered that the museum hosts annual heritage festivals and cultural events. I didn't catch one this time, but you better believe I marked my calendar for the next Hopi Festival.

The idea of seeing traditional dances, trying Indigenous foods, and meeting artists in person sounds like an entirely new adventure waiting to happen.

Before I left, I popped into the gift shop. I'll admit it. I have a weakness for authentic, handmade jewelry, and this place did not disappoint. I ended up buying a small turquoise pendant crafted by a local Navajo artist.

Not only is it beautiful, but every purchase supports the museum and the people it honors. Win-win.

Looking back, what made this trip so memorable wasn't just the stunning exhibits or the peaceful trails. It was the feeling of connection. The Museum of Northern Arizona doesn't just showcase history; it invites you into it.

It reminds you that culture isn't static, and that the stories of this land are still being told.

So, if you find yourself in Flagstaff—or even remotely nearby—do yourself a favor. Visit the Museum of Northern Arizona. Bring your curiosity. Bring your walking shoes. And definitely bring a sense of

Trust me, you'll leave with a fuller heart, a deeper appreciation for Northern Arizona, and probably a handful of photos you can't wait to

Because this isn't just a museum. It's a journey.







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# WINGS OVER ARIZONA

#### Swallows Part One

#### BY MARGARET DYEKMAN







Cliff Swallow courtesy of Muriel Neddermeyer

Swallows have again migrated north and are truly a joy to watch as they fly about hawking insects at speeds of 25-30 miles per hour. Swallows are slender birds with pointed wings and small feet and beaks, and they rely on insects as their food source. It is almost impossible to take a decent photo of them in the air. I know, as I've tried following them around on their swirling flights and I've only shot one good aerial photo out of dozens.

Swallows typically live in open habitats near a body of water, so you can see them at golf courses and park ponds, lakes, rivers, creeks, and the irrigation canals found in parts of Arizona.

Barn Swallows are among the most widespread swallow species on earth, found in North and South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. They have a deeply forked tail, glossy blue-black upperparts, and a rusty throat and forehead. In North America, these swallows now almost nest exclusively under man-made structures. In many cultures, a nesting Barn Swallow is considered a good luck omen and harbinger of spring. Maritime lore is that if a Barn Swallow appears on a vessel, it is a sign that land is nearby.

Tree Swallows are slightly smaller and have iridescent blue-green backs with clean white undersides. Unlike Barn Swallows, they prefer nesting in tree cavities or nest boxes near water. You might install a bluebird nest box and find out that a Tree Swallow has taken over! Tree Swallows eat flying insects but consume more plant matter, especially berries, during colder months when insects are scarce. They are early migrants and can often be seen returning north by late winter or early spring.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows are more subdued in color, with brown upperparts and pale, unmarked underparts. Their name comes from the tiny serrations on the edge of their outer wing feathers. Less social than other swallows, they often nest alone or in small groups in burrows, drainage pipes, or crevices. These swallows are also insectivores, catching insects in flight with their less dramatic but still agile flying style.

What are the biggest threats to swallows? Loss of nesting habitat, with the shift to large industrial agricultural practices. Steel barns, which create more heat than wooden barns. Pesticides and subsequent declining insect populations. Climate change with dryer conditions. Competition with invasive species, such as House Sparrows.

In Part 2, we'll learn about the three other common swallow species in Arizona and what you can do to help stop their decline.

You can reach me at margaretdyekman@cox.net or by text at 602-620-3210. You can read all about Backyard Birding in Northern Arizona at www. backyardbirdingaz.com and order the book online or get one directly from me. I welcome your questions, reports of sightings, and your suggestions for future articles.



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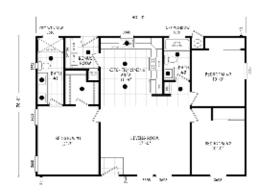


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See model at Model Home Center Bell & Grand Ave.

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- Drywall close off

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# PINEWOOD PLAYERS

### Coming Attractions

BY CINDY SMITH

The Pinewood Players season of performances offers a unique artistic experience for our community. The season will open on June 13 with a blockbuster award-winning play called The One Act Play That Goes Wrong. It is a comedy/mystery written by Henry Lewis, Johnathan Sayer, and Henry Shields and a massive undertaking for our community theater group. However, it is worth the labor and sacrifices made by the cast and crew, as it is sure to leave the community laughing and talking. Please buy a ticket to see this two-act play on one of the following dates: June 13,14,20,21,22. You will not be disappointed!

Two additional adult performances are scheduled for this season. Airport Encounters and Readers Theater- Rogues Gallery. Read all about the plays and purchase tickets through the Pinewood Players website at www.pinewoodplayers.com.

Our dedication to the arts extends beyond our adult performances to our community youth by offering DRAMA CAMP. For over twenty years, we have been offering summer drama camp programs that are second to none. Many youth programs do not have the resources or professional theater facilities to match ours. Pinewood Players Drama Camp offers a nurturing environment where our youth can learn about the performing arts, develop social skills, have fun, and create memories with friends that can last a lifetime. There is still time to sign up your youngsters for either Kidz Kamp (ages 6-8) or Youth Camp (ages 9-18) by completing the online registration forms. However, please hurry, as the registration deadline is June 10, 2025.

The highlight of Drama Camp comes with two performances. Kidz Kamp is offering a one-act musical play entitled "Off Their Rockers," by Jill and Michael Callina, through Shawnee Press. Can you imagine anything cuter than our little guys and gals singing and dancing their hearts out? Next, the Youth Camp Director, Jennifer Adams, has selected "Willy Wonka Jr." by Roald Dahl, produced by Music Theatre International, as this summer's Youth performance. You will be blown away by the talent, the costumes, and the set as our young troupe sings and dances to this beloved story of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Tickets are available now, but hurry; we consistently sell out for Drama Camp performances.

Something brand new this year for Pinewood Players is JAM NIGHT, the brainchild of local musician and multi-talented individual Fred Lloyd.

#### This is Fred's introduction to Music Jam Night at the Pinewood Playhouse:

Whether you're a seasoned shredder or someone who just learned "Twinkle Twinkle" on a kazoo, this jam is for everyone. Bring your guitar, banjo, or that weird theremin you bought on a whim-our 100seat theatre's got room for all your vibes (and your entourage). Singers, we've got a PA system ready to make you sound like a superstar. No gear? No problem—just bring your passion for music.

#### Details That'll Make You Wanna Jam

Where: Pinewood Playhouse When: (Most Tuesdays) during the 2025 season, 6 - 10 pm Check out our calendar at pinewoodplayers.com

Cost: FREE for musicians and spectators. What to Bring: Your instrument, your voice, and a little courage. PA provided for vocalists!

Why should you join in? For the love of music, to make friends, and maybe make your mom proud.

No auditions, no pressure—just pure, unfiltered musical fun. So, dust off that tambourine, tune-up, and let's make music together. See you on stage for Pinewood Playhouse Jam Night. Contact FredLloyd at floyd@grz.com for more information.

Whether it's a comedy, mystery, singing, dancing, or music that makes you happy, we have it all for you at the Pinewood Playhouse. Contact Fred at flloyd@grz.com.

Whatever you are into for fun, come join us! www.pinewoodplayers.com





#### THE FOREST CALLED. IT WANTS TO HANG OUT.

BY GEORGE DEE



In Munds Park, something magical happens.

Some of you live here all year. Some of you roll in on Fridays with city crumbs still in your sneakers. But guess what? You all have the Coconino Forest in your backyard. Yeah. That massive forest with the pine trees and dirt that smells awesome when it rains? That's yours.

While city kids are stuck in traffic or malls, you can:

- Explore trails, climb rocks, look for strange bugs and cool wildlife
- Build a fort and pretend you are on a survival show
- Make a pinecone army
- Play forest hide-and-seek
- Create a nature journal and write down and draw pictures of what you see
- Climb a tree and see what you can see
- Invent a game with rocks and no rules
- Have a picnic with snacks you stole from your own kitchen

You don't need money. You don't need Wi-Fi. You just need shoes, maybe a buddy, and a wild imagination.

The forest doesn't care if you're from the city. It just wants you to come out and play. And seriously, it's so much cooler than watching someone eat spicy noodles on YouTube.

Here's the truth: years from now, you probably won't remember what TikTok video made you laugh today. But you will remember the time you found a frog, or made up a secret trail name, or saw lightning flash behind the peaks.

So go on. Shut the screen. Open the door.

Adventure's right out there. And it doesn't even charge admission.



### **HIDDEN PICTURES!** Solutions 19B



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#### **ADVENTURE WORD SEARCH**

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

Backpack	Mountain
Campfire	Nature
Canoe	Quest
Compass	River
Discovery	Stars
Explore	Trail
Forest	Treasure
Hike	Wilderness
Journey	Wonder

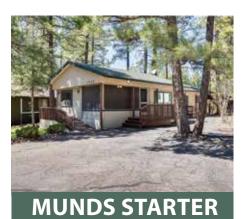
Lake

Map





# FEATURED PROPERTIES



\$300,000 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. .



\$200,000 856 Hillside Munds Park

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



\$500,00 17680 Mormon Munds Park

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.



\$600,000 1230 Caribou, Munds Park

Walk to the national forest from this meticulously maintained 2012 Cavco. Just over 1500 sq ft, open great room, forestview kitchen, ample storage, and space to relax, host, or explore right outside.



**\$725,000**13650 N 70th Ave

Single-level in Crown Pointe! 4 bed/3 bath, 2500+ sq ft on 17,000 sq ft lot. Pebble tech pool/spa, RV parking, 3-car garage, room to expand, HOA allows trailers. Big upside—bring your vision!



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

3700 sq ft fully renovated 5 bed/4 bath with gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, landscaped yard, space for pool, shop, or guest house. Renovation by Boss Lady Red—see ad on page 24A.



\$275,000 6804 Turquoise Peoria

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

# MY MUNDS PARK MOTORCOACH

BY FRED LLOYD

How do you compare a luxury motor coach to a cabin in the Park? Apples and oranges? Okay, we'll give you that one, but these two things significantly impacted our family. We traded one for the other, and in doing so, we learned a bit about life.

We're all familiar with RVs. They come in all shapes and sizes, and some can be pretty big. The largest, heaviest, and most powerful RVs are converted motor coaches, a.k.a. buses—not a school bus type but the Greyhound kind. Luxury RV manufacturers buy brand-new buses and then outfit them with every convenience. Of the bus manufacturers, one brand, Prevost, has been the favorite coach among performing artists and race car drivers over the past 50 years. These things are expensive, and they consume obnoxious amounts of diesel fuel. We would usually burn about 75 gallons per day while driving and

would have to refuel every 2 days on the road. Six miles per gallon was a goal. 5.5 mpg was more the norm, and yes, there's a big difference between the two.

Our first bus, a Liberty Prevost, cost about the same as a new, non-bus motorhome, except it was already 14 years old. New coaches in this category were already well over a million dollars, so this was a bargain at \$175K. Before you ask, there is little comparison between a Prevost coach and a Holiday Rambler Motorhome, for example. One is made as a road vehicle that does a nice job camping, and the other is a camper that they put wheels on. One will go 2 million miles, and the other will be lucky to see 100,000. One is a motorCoach and the other a motorHome —big difference.

What made this possible for me is that I used it in my business, which involved traveling around the country and giving speeches. It was the perfect fit. Of course, a 14-year-old house on wheels has seen a lot of bumps along the road, and everything in it gets shaken and rocked daily. Tightening screws and turning wrenches was just a part



of my everyday life as an owner-operator. I honed my plumbing, electrical, mechanical, pneumatic, and hydraulic skills regularly. As long as it didn't require lifting the vehicle, I could probably do it.

Our coach was equipped with everything a regular house would have, such as a washer, dryer, refrigerator, microwave, oven, water heater, dishwasher, multiple TVs, in-motion Satellite reception, and more, and all of this received regular punishment while rattling down the highway. Actually, Prevosts don't rattle, but I'm trying not to let the truth get in the way here. Anyhow, underneath that luxury accommodation lies a 25-ton heavy truck with three axles, eight wheels, and air brakes.. All of these things get road-worn, and periodic replacements are the norm. Tires, for example, had to be replaced on a

5-year schedule, regardless of mileage. Five year

tire change cycles might seem overly conservative, but not when the real dangers of a blowout are realized. Our lives depended on these tires so we didn't mind getting new ones.

With this fully-equipped home and office on wheels, we planned to spend the entire summer on the road, mainly searching for 70-degree weather. We were largely successful and made it to nearly every state in the lower 48. We did this for seven summers, and despite the luxury of traveling the countryside in a fabulous luxury rock-star coach, we were tired. Rock stars get to sit in the back, and I was no rock star. Being the driver is overwhelming at first, and it is demanding even if you're experienced. There's a lot to be responsible for in that seat. In my seven years, I never rode a single mile in back.

Still, we had great fun and made lasting memories, but we were starting to revisit places we'd been before. We had our favorite campgrounds and were beginning to know them a bit too well. Our parking choices were usually limited because the bus can't park in just

Continued on page 16B



#### MY MUNDS PARK MOTORCOACH

Continued from page 15B

any campground; it needs to have large spaces and 50-amp electrical outlets. Fifty amps, by the way, is 12,000 watts of power. The coach was all electric and used tons of power just running the house. It had four rooftop air conditioners.

As time passed, I grew tired of driving thousands of miles and hooking up sewer, water, and electric lines, sometimes once a day. We were tired of towing and constantly connecting and disconnecting our towed vehicle (The Toad), tired of the constant "minor" repairs (like leaky faucets, loose things, TV problems, Internet problems, power window failures), and, in the spirit of burying the lede, we were lonely. There were times when we were parked 1000 miles away from our friends in 80-degree weather with no place in particular to go, waiting for the summer to break in Phoenix. We felt exiled. You can only do so much tourist-ing before you yearn for home, or in our case, the bus. Imagine flying in a luxury private jet, and then imagine living in it, without a stewardess. After a while, you miss your actual home.

Imagine that. Robin and I had the motor home everybody wanted, yet who knew it didn't come with friends? Sure, we would meet people every day, and our hosts would greet us at my speaking events, but by and large, every night, it was just Robin, Winston, and me. We watched a lot of satellite TV.

By the seventh season, I decided to turn the page. We had a new grandchild near home, and so leaving for six months at a time suddenly became much less appealing. With a melancholy heart, we put it up for sale. We didn't dwell on it much and simply went on with our lives. Soon, however, we learned that some of our non-bus friends bought a cabin in Munds Park. It sounded a little crazy at first, as I had always regarded Munds Park as a wide spot in the road. I'd often driven by exit 322, but I had never taken the ramp.

Our friends invited us to spend a cabin weekend with them, and the hook was set. It took us less than 24 hours to fall in love with the place, and we immediately started cabin shopping. We had some bus money left over and used it for a downpayment. Moreover, we were ironically surprised to realize that our seven-year quest for 70-degree weather was a whole lot closer than we ever knew. Oh, and that other problem, loneliness, was.. over. Our only regret was not coming to Munds seven years earlier! No, that's not right. We arrived in Munds at the perfect time for our journey. Our bus life was truly enjoyable until it wasn't. We still cherish the memories we made with it.

Munds Park could have happened to us at any time during our lives, but we're really glad that it happened when it did. We've made so many friends in Munds Park that now, it feels more like our primary home. There is so much to do, and we love leisurely putting around town in our golf carts and side-by-sides. We meet with friends several times weekly and always make new ones. We are entering our seventh season in Munds, and I can confidently say that our cabin isn't going anywhere. Neither are we. Fun fact: we're driving more in Phoenix now because our friends are all over the valley! It doesn't matter, though, because they're our extended Munds family.





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### WORD SEARCH

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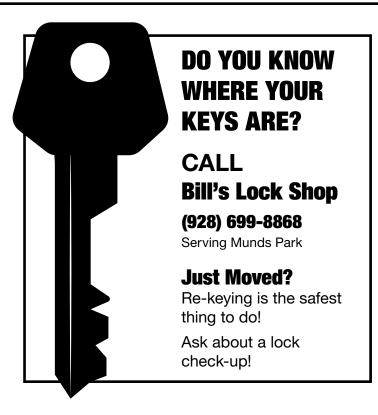
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# JUNE HOROSCOPE BY CAKE

Astrology connects us to the ever-turning rhythms of the cosmos, where each celestial shift offers a chance for growth and renewal. This June, as summer unfolds and the world hums with energy, the stars urge us to celebrate progress, big or small. It's a season for embracing adventure, fostering connections, and leaning into the possibilities ahead. The heavens remind us that life isn't about perfect timing—it's about showing up.

Let this month ignite your courage, curiosity, and joy.



#### ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Aries, June invites you to pause—yes, we said pause—and reflect on your progress. You're halfway through the year, and your goals deserve a little celebration. Use this month to recalibrate and refine your plans, because

let's face it, you're unstoppable when you focus. But don't take life too seriously—squeeze in a spontaneous adventure or two. The stars suggest a balance of reflection and fun, so consider it your cosmic permission slip to mix work with play.



#### LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Leo, June gives you the stage to shine even brighter. Your natural charisma is in full force, so use it to inspire others. Whether it's rallying a team, planning an event, or just being the life of the party, your leadership will make

waves this month. Remember, though: true greatness isn't just about applause; it's about lifting others up. Share the spotlight occasionally—it only makes your light glow stronger. Besides, it's fun being the star maker too.



#### SAGITTARIUS, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Sagittarius, June calls for a reset—not because you've failed, but because you're ready for more. Take stock of where you are, dream even bigger, and map out the next steps. Your adventurous spirit loves the journey, but the

stars remind you that clarity helps you aim higher. This isn't about settling down; it's about leveling up. A little focus now means a lot more freedom later. Oh, and don't forget to pencil in time for mischief.



#### TAURUS, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

Taurus, June whispers one word: adventure. Before you roll your eyes, know that this doesn't mean skydiving (unless you're into that). It could be as simple as exploring a new coffee shop or trying a cuisine you can't pronounce.

Break out of your routine and embrace the unknown—it'll do wonders for your soul. The stars promise that stepping outside your comfort zone will bring unexpected delights. Besides, isn't it time you proved you can be spontaneous?



#### VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Virgo, June asks you to trade perfectionism for creativity. Put away the rule book and try something unconventional—a new recipe, a DIY project, or even dancing in your living room (yes, really). The stars remind you that

life's best moments aren't always perfectly planned. Embrace your creative side without worrying about the results. And if it doesn't turn out the way you imagined? Well, that's what laughter is for. Imperfection is the best kind of charm.



#### CAPRICORN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Capricorn, June invites you to laugh at life's quirks. Your serious side is your strength, but a little humor goes a long way in lightening the load. Whether it's a funny movie, a prank on a friend, or a shared laugh at your

own expense, this month is about finding joy in the unexpected. The stars say a good chuckle is as productive as a perfectly planned day. And yes, you can count laughter as cardio.



#### GEMINI, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Gemini, June asks you to channel your energy into something that truly excites you. Start a new project, pick up a hobby, or dive into an idea you've been daydreaming about. Your natural curiosity is your superpower, so let it lead you somewhere amazing.

The halfway point of the year is your reminder to mix fun with purpose. And if you get distracted by a shiny new idea halfway through? That's just part of your charm.



#### LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Libra, June is your month to explore the art of saying "no." Not every invitation, project, or request needs your immediate yes. Protect your time and energy so you can focus on what truly matters. The stars suggest

prioritizing your own happiness without guilt—after all, a well-rested Libra is a radiant Libra. Plus, saying no now means you can say yes to something amazing later. Your balance isn't just physical—it's emotional, too.



#### AQUARIUS, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Aquarius, June reminds you that your ideas matter. Whether it's brainstorming with a group or presenting your latest innovation, your vision has the power to inspire. The stars encourage you to speak up and share

your brilliance—you might be surprised at how many people want to listen. Remember, there's no such thing as a "weird" idea; the best ones often start that way. Oh, and don't forget to reward yourself after every creative victory.



#### CANCER, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

Cancer, June nudges you to let your hair down—metaphorically or literally, your call. Plan a beach day, host a barbecue, or simply take time to unwind with loved ones. The stars are clear: this month is about finding joy in

connection. You're the heart of your circle, and your presence lights up any gathering. Just don't overdo the emotional labor—your energy matters too. Oh, and sunscreen? A must. You're glowing, not frying.



#### SCORPIO, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Scorpio, June is all about rediscovering your playful side. Your intense focus is legendary, but this month, let yourself loosen up. Plan a game night, tell a silly joke, or just enjoy a carefree day. The stars encourage you to see

the lighter side of life—because sometimes laughter is the best way to recharge your soul. Your power comes not just from transformation, but from the joy you create along the way. Fun looks good on you.



#### PISCES, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, June wants you to focus on personal growth. Pick a habit, skill, or goal and dive in—it's time to invest in yourself. The halfway point of the year is the perfect opportunity to reassess what you want and take steps toward it.

Whether it's journaling, learning something new, or even just committing to better selfcare, every little action adds up. The stars promise that your efforts will pay off. Start small, dream big, and keep swimming forward.

# WHO HANDLES WHAT IN COCONINO COUNTY

Because Google doesn't always know the mountain way.

#### DOMESTIC ANIMAL & WILDLIFE SERVICES

#### Loose Dogs, Nuisance Complaints, or Dog Bites

Coconino County Animal Management ...... (928) 679-4123

#### Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

Coconino County Animal Management ...... (928) 679-4123

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

#### Found a Stray?

High Country Humane ......(928) 526-0742

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

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

#### Injured or Dangerous Wildlife

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

Weekends & after hours call .......911

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

#### Loose Livestock

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

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

#### Illegal Dumping in Forests or Waterways

Environmental Quality Reporting Line ...... (928) 679-8886

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

#### Flooding Concerns

Coconino County Call Center: ......(928) 679-8525

**Emergency Planning and Real-Time Updates** 

Coconino County Emergency Management ......(928) 679-8311

Email: emergencymanagement@coconino.az.gov

#### FIRE-RELATED CONCERNS

#### Illegal Campfires on National Forest Land

Coconino National Forest Dispatch Center ...... (928) 527-3552 Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch (928) 774-4523

(press option 1) Provide detailed location information, such as forest road numbers or GPS coordinates, when reporting.

Illegal Campfires (private property) during Fire Restrictions

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

#### Fire Restrictions Information

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

#### **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHVS)**

#### Reckless Driving, Trespassing, or Noise Complaints

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

#### SHORT-TERM RENTAL COMPLAINTS & QUESTIONS

#### Loud Parties, Parking Issues, or Other Nuisances

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

#### Ongoing STR Violations or Registration Questions

Coconino County Short-Term Rentals Compliance Officer,

Tristan Dowse ......(928) 853-5340

Report violations like unregistered rentals, occupancy overages, or repeated disturbances.

Know Your Rights: Property owners are required to post contact information on-site. If you can't reach the property manager, call the county or sheriff's office.

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

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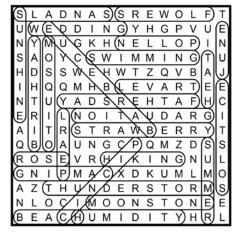
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