

# PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN DESERT LIVING

VOL. 32 NO. 5 APRIL 18, 2025

FREE!

*Happy Easter!*

## **SHE GAVE UP MILLIONS TO SAVE THE LAND**

CLAUDIA HAUSER GETS CANDID: LIFE ON THE  
FARM, THE FIGHT TO KEEP IT PG12

## **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY MONTH**

WHY THE NIGHT SKY IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR PG11

## **EARTH DAY**

WHAT THE CHINA TARIFFS EXPOSED: IT'S NOT  
JUST TRADE—IT'S OUR WAY OF LIFE PG23







## MEET OUR COVER ARTIST

*Diane Deam*

If you've spent any time in Munds Park, chances are you've come across the art of Diane Deam—affectionately known by Genna as “Momma Diane.” A beloved local talent, Diane is known for her serene landscapes, hand-painted cards, and for founding the popular Munds Park Rocks group. She and her fellow rock artists delight the community by hiding painted rocks for neighbors and visitors to discover—little gifts of joy that brighten trails, doorsteps, and hearts.

Many of us are lucky enough to have her artwork hanging in our homes, and we're proud to feature her as the very first local artist on the cover of The Pinewood News—a tradition we hope to continue.

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



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## 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](mailto:Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com).

### ADVERTISE WITH US!

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

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[ThePinewoodNews.com](http://ThePinewoodNews.com)







# COLDWELL BANKER NORTHLAND



**\$1,495,000 • 17612 E FAIRWAY DR., MUNDS PARK**

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



**\$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!



**\$425,000**

**307 E FOXBORO RD LOT 4, MUNDS PARK**

Experience luxury living at Foxboro Ranch Estates on this 1.99-acre lot bordering National Forest. Enjoy 116 acres of open space, lakes, and scenic trails in this premier Northern Arizona community.



**\$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.



**\$495,000**

**17563 S OSPREY CIR LOT 16**

Build your dream home on this 1.82-acre lot in Foxboro Ranch, backing the Coconino National Forest. Enjoy lakes, trails, wildlife, and peaceful mountain living just minutes from Flagstaff.



**\$529,000**

**260 SANDIA CIRCLE**

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



**REDUCED!**

**\$275,000**

**1200 S Riordan Ranch St #125, Flagstaff**

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

**Starting May 11**

**Lillie Mae's Pickled Garden is popping up every Sunday!**

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

Swing by, stock up, and support local!



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Designated Broker/Owner  
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## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



### AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church  
Every Monday, 6 pm  
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

### Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday, 10:45 am  
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

### Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

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

### Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

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

### Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

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

### MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY WATCH TOWN HALL

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

Start the new year informed and involved.

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

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

Mark your calendar. Bring a friend.

### AT LAST, THE NEW FIRE STATION IS BEING BUILT, WE ARE SO EXCITED!!

Agee's annual Pinewood Fire Department Labor Day Fundraiser is August 30th to raise funds to help furnish the new station. Split the Pot ticket sales begin Memorial Day weekend. To donate, volunteer or for more information, email [pfdauxdonations@gmail.com](mailto:pfdauxdonations@gmail.com) or call/text Lisa at 602-399-0415 for donations or Gail at 623-670-0255 to volunteer.

### NEED TO KNOW

Wildfire preparedness and spring cleanup efforts are in full swing across Munds Park. Here's what residents need to know about road maintenance, green waste drop-off, and upcoming community cleanup opportunities:

#### Willard Springs Is Open

Due to a dry winter and heightened wildfire risk, the Willard Springs Green Waste Site opened on March 7. The site is open Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through October 31. Last loads are accepted at 4:30 p.m. Green waste only—no household or bulk items.

#### Bear Jaw Cleanup Day: April 28 (Tentative)

Bear Jaw Interagency Fire & Fuels will once again assist with creating defensible space by picking up green waste curbside. Date may shift depending on wildfire risk—check [coconino.az.gov/BearJawCleanupFlier](http://coconino.az.gov/BearJawCleanupFlier) for updates.

#### Community Cleanup Days: May 30 – June 7

Bulk waste vouchers will be mailed to property owners in early May. Vouchers are good for use at the Cinder Lake Landfill during the dates below:

Cinder Lake Landfill

6770 E. Landfill Road, Flagstaff, AZ

Mon–Fri: 7:00 a.m.–4:15 p.m. | Sat: 7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. | Closed Sunday

More details at [coconino.az.gov/CommunityCleanupDays](http://coconino.az.gov/CommunityCleanupDays).

For questions, contact Public Works at (928) 679-8300 or email [countyroadsinfo@coconino.az.gov](mailto:countyroadsinfo@coconino.az.gov).



**Only You  
Can Prevent  
Wildfires.**

*Local Highlights continued on page 7*



# Steve D. Valentine

Real Estate Strategist Serving From Phoenix to Flagstaff

Steve@valentinegroupaz.com

(602) 854-8475 text/call

Instagram @SteveDValentine @Mundsparkaz



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## FEATURED PROPERTIES



### MUNDS STARTER

**\$335,000**

1020 E Caribou  
Munds Park

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



### FIX UP

**\$240,000**

856 Hillside  
Munds Park

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



### NEAR ACRE

**\$599,900**

17680 Mormon  
Munds Park

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



### ADORABLE

**\$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 Vlt'd Ceilings Grt rm plan covered deck and Storage shed.



### RENOVATED

**\$475,000**

3929 Villa Theresa  
Glendale

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



### ARROWHEAD RANCH

**\$475,000**

6664 Rose Garden  
Glendale

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



### ½ ACRE

**1,350,00**

7122 W Redfield  
NW Peoria

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



### FIXER UPPER

**\$275,000**

6804 Turquoise  
Peoria

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

View properties at [ValentineGroupAZ.com](http://ValentineGroupAZ.com)



HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPE

*We heard it too—so we checked.*

Let's be honest—nothing travels faster in town than a good rumor. You know they're fun to listen to! But let's clear a few things up...

Borracho's Is For Sale!

Not quite. Tommy's always said, "Come in with the right number and it's yours." But that doesn't mean he's posting it on Craigslist. In reality, he's busier than ever—he's opened two new bars down in Rocky Point and he's got plans for his own tequila line. So no, Borracho's isn't going anywhere. Except maybe south... to bottle sunshine in a glass.

Agee's Is Closing

False. Kim and Matt are simply leasing the bar to Deane Martin, who's working on opening a wine bar—hopefully in time for Memorial Day toasts. Kim and Matt are focusing more on their family and that mouthwatering BBQ (because priorities). The Agee's full bar will still be around on weekends, serving up wine, booze & beer, and a little live music on the side. It's not goodbye—it's just a remix.

The Sports Bar Is Reopening

We wish! But no signature = no opening. There's hope, there's interest, but right now it's a waiting game. So keep your jersey ready, just don't bet the nachos on it happening this season.

There's a New Mexican Restaurant Coming

Well... someday, maybe. But today? Nada. Nothing's signed, sealed, or salsa'd. Just one of those "maybe" ideas still sitting on the stove.

Heard a rumor and want to know if it's true? Drop us a note at Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com. We're all ears.



How to Play!

We've hidden 10 Easter eggs throughout this issue of The Pinewood News—tucked into articles, nestled between ads, and maybe even peeking out from the crossword.

Find all 10 and email us their locations for a chance to win a Limited Edition Pinewood News Hat, they're egg-ceptional!



How to Enter:

- Scan the pages and jot down the page numbers or section names where you spotted each egg.
- Send your answers to: hello@thepinewoodnews.com with the subject line: Egg Hunt Entry.
- Deadline: April 30, 2025.

Winner will be notified by email and announced on social media and in the May 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of The Pinewood News. Good luck!

PARKS & RECREATION  
COMMISSION VACANCY

The Town of Camp Verde is currently accepting letters of interest to fill a vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Commission. This open seat is for a term that runs through January 2026.

The Parks & Recreation Commission plays a vital role in guiding the development and enhancement of recreational opportunities in Camp Verde. If you are passionate about community involvement and want to help shape the future of our parks, trails, and recreation programs, we encourage you to apply.

Letters of interest will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2025, in the Town Clerk's Office located at 473 S. Main Street, Room 102.

Forms can be picked up in person or downloaded from the Town's website at [www.campverde.az.gov/departments/boards-commissions](http://www.campverde.az.gov/departments/boards-commissions).

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**Best of Flag 2024**

**Flagstaff Best of BUSINESS 2022**

**Midtown Animal Clinic**

**SCAN ME**



APRIL 30 - MAY 4

VERDE VALLEY FAIR & RODEO

This classic county fair features rodeo events, nightly bands, and dance parties after the rodeo. Enjoy a full carnival, delicious fair food, livestock shows, and a variety of arts & crafts.

**Date:** April 30 - May 4

**Location:** 800 E Cherry St, Cottonwood, AZ

Join us for a celebration of community and tradition at the Verde Valley Fair, where there's something fun for everyone!

MAY 2 - 4

ARIZONA WINE COUNTRY ARTISTS VILLAGE ARTS & CRAFT FAIR

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

**Date:** May 2, 3, 4

**Time:** Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM

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

**Admission:** Free

MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

RED DIRT CONCERT SERIES

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

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

**Time:** 5 PM - 8 PM

**Location:** Posse Grounds Pavilion, 525 Posse Grounds Rd., Sedona

**Admission:** Free

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

SATURDAY, MAY 10

VOLUNTEER WITH MUTS

Join us as we maintain the Forest trails surrounding Munds Park.

Meet at the Iron Springs trailhead at 8:15 a.m. We will finish trail work around noon; afterward, a free lunch will be served.

R.S.V.P. prior to May 3rd, via email at [mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com](mailto:mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com).

Mandatory Morning Safety Meeting is at 8:15 a.m.

Bring: long pants, sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and a smile.

Water and trail tools are provided.

Everyone works at their own pace, and at the end of a good days work a delicious free lunch is provided.

Check the following for updates: [www.mundsparktrailstewards.com](http://www.mundsparktrailstewards.com).

SATURDAY, MAY 10

VERDE VALLEY WINE FESTIVAL

The Verde Valley Wine Festival, the premier wine event in Northern Arizona, is returning to Riverfront Park in Cottonwood, Arizona. Experience the best of Arizona wine country with selections from top wineries, local breweries, and distilleries. Enjoy live music, local food, and shop from regional artists and artisans.

**Date:** Saturday, May 10, 2025

**Time:** 11 AM - 6 PM

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

**Admission:** Early Bird \$20/person includes a wine glass and 6 tasting tickets; \$25 at the door. Non-drinker tickets \$10 at the door.

**Tickets:** [thevvwf.com](http://thevvwf.com)

Celebrate Mother's Day at this festive gathering! Meet winemakers, enjoy great local cuisine, and relax to live entertainment in the scenic surroundings of Riverfront Park. Plan your visit today for a memorable experience with family and friends!

MAY 16 - 18

OVERLAND EXPO WEST

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

**Date:** May 16-18, 2025 (Fri-Sun)

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

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

**Tickets:** Day Passes, Weekend Passes, and Camping Passes available online, prices vary

For more details visit the Overland Expo official site.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

BINGO AT PINWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

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

**Date:** Monday, June 2, 2025

**Time:** 6pm

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

JUNE 30 - JULY 6

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS - WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

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

**Date:** June 30 - July 6, 2025

**Location:** 840 Rodeo Dr., Prescott, AZ

**Check website** for shows, times & tickets at [worldsoldeastrodeo.com](http://worldsoldeastrodeo.com)



Farmer's MARKETS

SEDONA COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

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

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Time:** 11 AM - 3 PM

**Location:** Wells Fargo Bank parking lot, 2201 W SR 89A, West Sedona

PRESCOTT FARMERS MARKET

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

**Dates:** Every Saturday, April-October: 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Location:** 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

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

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

**Time:** 5 p.m. and continue until dark

**Location:** 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

VERDE VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

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

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

**Time:** 8 AM - 11 AM

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





## Community MARKETS



### RUBY'S SPRING OPEN AIR MARKET

Get ready for a weekend full of discovery at Ruby's Spring Open-Air Market, hosted by Ruby Road Vintage in Camp Verde. This multi-vendor, outdoor market is a haven for those seeking unique items ranging from handcrafted goods and one-of-a-kind gifts to tasty treats and much more.

Voted #1 Consignment Store by The Verde Independent, Ruby Road Vintage is more than a shop; it's a treasure trove of vintage, antique, and handcrafted items. Ideal for anyone seeking unique and timeless pieces, it's the go-to destination in Camp Verde.

**Dates:** May 24-25

**Time:** Saturday & Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

**Location:** 851 E. Howards Rd. Camp Verde

### 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

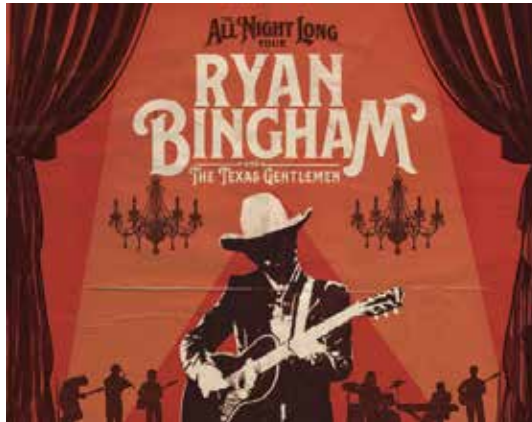
**Admission:** Free



### LOS LONELY BOYS & STEEL PULSE

Saturday, May 3, 2025.

**BUY TICKETS HERE:** [pepsiamp.com](https://pepsiamp.com)



### RYAN BINGHAM & THE TEXAS GENTLEMEN

The All Night Long Tour

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

**BUY TICKETS HERE:** [pepsiamp.com](https://pepsiamp.com)



### NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND

All The Good Times: The Farewell Tour

Thursday, August 7, 2025

**BUY TICKETS HERE:** [pepsiamp.com](https://pepsiamp.com)



Pepsi Amphitheater Presents

### 19TH ANNUAL PICKIN' IN THE PINES

Bluegrass & Acoustic Music Festival

September 12-14, 2025

**BUY TICKETS HERE:** [pepsiamp.com](https://pepsiamp.com)

## Affordable & Adorable!



## \$549,000

315 Sandia Circle

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



**Nancy Shelton**

Associate Broker

**928-856-0152**

[NancySheltonRealtor@gmail.com](mailto:NancySheltonRealtor@gmail.com)

**REALTYONEGROUP**  
MOUNTAIN DESERT







## NEW LOOK, SAME GREAT SERVICE YOU TRUST!

Liberty Plumbing has a fresh new look—but don't worry, it's still the same team you've counted on for years. New logo, same dependable plumbing service you know and love.

Serving Munds Park & Surrounding Areas // 30 Years of Experience // Munds Park Resident

### About Liberty Plumbing

At Liberty Plumbing, we handle everything from new construction to remodels and service for both residential and commercial projects. With over 30 years of experience, we guarantee your satisfaction—no matter the size of the job. Our licensed, insured, and bonded team is hand-picked for both skill and courtesy.

### FREE Safety Inspections

We are finding an alarming amount of safety violations in Munds Park. Be sure your home is protected and schedule a free inspection with Liberty Plumbing today.

#### We inspect:

- Valves and flex lines
- Wash machine hoses
- Water heater exhaust
- Gas lines
- Incorrect work

### A Few of Our Services

- Drain Cleaning
- Faucet and Sink Upgrades
- Gas Lines for New Fixtures & Propane Tank Relocations
- RO Systems
- Tank-less Water heaters
- Toilet Repair
- Water Heaters
- Water Softeners

### Is your shut off hard to turn?

We do stop waste valves.



### Tankless Water Heaters

When you need a water heater replaced or upgraded, trust Liberty Plumbing.

### Fixture Upgrades

Upgrading fixtures in bathrooms and kitchens offers a quick, impactful refresh. Modern faucets and handles not only enhance aesthetics but also improve functionality and efficiency. These updates boost property value, and with energy-saving features, they offer long-term cost savings.



### We Winterize Cabins.

**NO SERVICE CHARGE PLUMBER**

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ROC #188630, #211459

Call or Text **928-851-7773**

[Libertyplumbingaz.com](http://Libertyplumbingaz.com)



# TURN DOWN THE LIGHTS TURN UP THE STARS: WHY DARK SKIES MATTER

By Teddy Johnson

There's a reason people fall in love with Arizona at night. It isn't just the sunsets—it's what comes after. The Milky Way stretches across the sky like a ribbon. Planets wink into view. Constellations slowly take shape. And in places like Flagstaff, Munds Park, Sedona, Rimrock, and Camp Verde, that darkness is no accident. It's protected—on purpose.

Each April, we celebrate International Dark Sky Month to honor something most of the world has already lost: the night. But here in Northern Arizona, we're still holding the line.

## Why It Matters

Dark skies aren't just beautiful. They're essential. Nocturnal animals depend on natural darkness to hunt, mate, and migrate. Birds use the stars to navigate. Frogs call less when the night is too bright. Sea turtles, where they nest, can't find their way to the ocean under glare.

And it matters to us, too. Artificial light impacts sleep, disrupts circadian rhythms, and chips away at the quiet peace we come here to enjoy.

Preserving our night skies isn't just for stargazers—it's about keeping our communities quiet, natural, and connected to the land. It's part of what makes this part of Arizona feel peaceful, grounded, and worth protecting.

We're Not Just Lucky. We're Responsible.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) grants special status to communities that actively work to reduce light pollution. Arizona proudly leads the way.

Flagstaff became the world's first Dark Sky City. Sedona, Camp Verde, and other towns have followed. Communities like Munds Park and Rimrock are part of this effort too, relying on county code enforcement and neighbor-to-neighbor awareness to make it work.

Because it takes more than a designation to keep the stars shining. It takes dedication.

## What You Can Do

You don't have to give up outdoor lighting. You just have to be smart about it.

- Use warm-colored bulbs instead of bright white or blue.
- Aim your fixtures downward.
- Install timers or motion sensors so lights are only on when needed.
- Turn off lights before bed.
- And make sure fixtures are shielded so the light doesn't spill into the sky.

These small changes make a big difference—and they're easy to do. If you're unsure whether your setup is compliant, Coconino County can help. (See sidebar for details.)

## Why Do We write about This Every Year?

Every year, more people discover the charm of Northern Arizona and move in. They bring with them porch lights, flood lights, string lights, and more—often unaware of the impact this has on our dark skies.

That's why we publish this reminder each April. Because once the dark sky fades, it doesn't come back. Let's keep Arizona a place where you can still see the stars. Let's protect what the rest of the world forgot.

## How to Talk to a Neighbor About Their Bright Lights

Sometimes the problem isn't yours—it's next door.

If a neighbor's lights are overly bright, unshielded, or on all night, it's okay to bring it up. Most people just haven't heard about the guidelines, and a friendly heads-up can go a long way.

You might say something like, "Hey, I've been learning about our Dark Sky status. Did you know we're supposed to shield outdoor lights and aim them downward? It helps keep the stars visible—and it's better for wildlife too. I didn't realize it myself until recently!"

If a polite conversation doesn't change anything, you can always contact the county to step in. See sidebar to the right.

Start with kindness. Then follow up with the facts.



## Starlight in the Square!

April 24 | 7 pm - 10 pm

Celebrate Dark Sky Week at  
Heritage Square!

Join us for a unique evening of stargazing, curated tastings, and specialty drinks as we celebrate International Dark Sky Week in Flagstaff's historic Heritage Square. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with amber lighting, atmospheric music, and laser-guided sky tours.

We'll be dimming the lights in the Square for optimal stargazing, offering you up-close views of celestial wonders like Mars and Jupiter through telescopes!

## Coconino County offers Support for Keeping the Dark Sky Dark

### Lighting Inspection

Request an inspection of your exterior lighting. It includes a written report. \$55/hour plus mileage, two-hour minimum. Email Mark for details. See below.

### Code Violation Report

Notice illegal lighting? File a report here at [www.coconino.az.gov](http://www.coconino.az.gov) and search for Code Violations and Enforcement

### Fixture Review

Not sure if a light is compliant? Send it in for review at [mstento@coconino.az.gov](mailto:mstento@coconino.az.gov).

### Still Have Questions?

Email or call Mark Stento, Code Enforcement Compliance Manager, at (928) 679-8856 or [mstento@coconino.az.gov](mailto:mstento@coconino.az.gov)



# THE REAL FARM TO TABLE:

## WHY SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD MATTERS

### *A Summer Series*

*~Pour a cup of coffee—this 15-minute read is worth your time.*

*By Sandee Caviness*

Welcome to our summer series, exploring the people who grow our food, care for our land, and quietly hold up the foundation of our local economy: Arizona’s farmers and ranchers.

Behind every neatly packaged item on the shelf is a farmer fighting to stay afloat. In Arizona, droughts drag on and subdivisions stretch across once-productive land, pushing ranchers and growers to the edge. The ones still standing are fueled by grit, stubbornness, and sheer will. But they can’t keep doing it alone.

If you’ve been paying attention, you already know: all over the U.S., we’re losing vast amounts of farmland. Developers show up with deep pockets and bulldozers. Regulations stack up. Labor gets scarce. And then nature throws in a late freeze, a flood, or a wildfire—just to keep things interesting.

In this series, you’ll hear from the ones still standing. The ones who’ve weathered droughts, debt, and red tape, and still show up at dawn. They’re not just worth listening to. They’re worth standing with.

Thanks for showing up.

### A CONVERSATION WITH CLAUDIA HAUSER, HAUSER & HAUSER FARMS

It’s mid-morning when I pull into Hauser & Hauser Farms. The air still holds a hint of chill. Tractors line the drive, pecan trees stand dormant, and the fields are being prepped for the season ahead. Come summer, this quiet stretch will buzz with life as locals line up for for what’s often called the best sweet corn in the state.

For me, it’s the first time I’ve visited the farm. I’ve seen the Hauser name sweep through local Facebook groups, with neighbors taking orders for corn runs like it’s a gold rush. But I’d never met Claudia Hauser until now. I’d heard a lot about her—sharp, respected, the kind of woman who calls it straight and doesn’t waste time dressing it up. My kind of conversation.

Claudia Hauser didn’t grow up on a farm but married into a family that worked the land for six generations. And after decades beside her husband Kevin, raising their kids through growing seasons, long harvest nights, and unpredictable weather, she’s as much a part of the land as the crops they pull from it.

The Hauser family’s roots stretch back to Iowa, where Kevin’s grandfather farmed before heading west. In 1948, Kevin’s father, Dick Hauser, began raising and hauling citrus in North Phoenix. By the early 1970s, Kevin moved to Camp Verde. He began working the soil planting, expanding, and eventually farming in Paulden and California’s Central



### A CONVERSATION WITH CLAUDIA HAUSER, HAUSER & HAUSER FARMS

Photo courtesy of © Morgan Heim

Valley, where he grew walnuts, oranges, and olives. For the Hauser’s, farming runs deep. It’s in their blood, their bones, and their way of life and they wouldn’t have it any other way.

When Kevin passed away just over five years ago, it didn’t stop the work but it changed everything. Grief didn’t come with a pause button on the irrigation schedule.

Zach, the oldest son, stepped in to take over the day-to-day management of the farm with no spotlight, just quiet resolve. Ben, their youngest son, was in law enforcement, building a life of his own when Kevin’s condition worsened. Claudia asked him to come home, there was no other way. Ben left his career, stepped into the rows with his brother, picked up what needed carrying, and never looked back. Just like the rest of the family, he showed up and that’s how they made it through.

Claudia’s daughter, Emily, helps at the corn stand during the summer, and Zach’s wife, Sherry, is right there during the rush of corn season too. They’re part of the rhythm, part of the reason the farm keeps going. When it’s time to work, everyone works.

They tend to three family-run farms across the Verde Valley. The pecan trees stretch across one farm like a cathedral, steady and familiar. The other two rotate between sweet corn, field corn, malt barley, alfalfa, and watermelons, following a three-year cycle to protect the soil. The rotation isn’t just good farming—it’s a promise. That this land will keep producing, that their grandchildren, eleven of them, will have something real to inherit. Not just a name, but a way of life.

### MIDNIGHT IN THE FIELDS

When spring hits, the season doesn’t ease in. It launches full tilt. For the Hausers, that means 24-hour irrigation schedules. Water has to move from one row to the next without pause. Alarms ring at odd hours. Boots hit dirt before sunrise. There’s no such thing as “we’ll get to it later.” The fields don’t wait.

Years ago, when Claudia’s husband Kevin ran the farm, the motto was simple: no excuses. Chop chop. Get it done. That didn’t change when he

got sick and it didn’t change after he passed. But it did make Claudia and her sons stop and ask: Is there a better way to do this?

Back then, Claudia would wake in the middle of the night, pull on her boots, grab a flashlight, and head out into the kind of dark that makes your ears do the seeing. Camp Verde doesn’t do streetlights, it’s a Dark Sky community. The stars show up. So do the wild things.

She’d walk alone into acres of silence to move the water by hand. No apps, just the weight of rusted metal gates, soaked shoes, and the rush of water changing course because she told it to.

“It scared the hell out of me,” she says now, laughing. “But the water had to move.” And so did she.

Today, things look different.

The pecan orchard runs on sprinklers. The other fields are managed by center pivots, giant steel arms that crawl across the land delivering water with precision. No more midnight hikes with a wrench in hand. Now, they run the system from a phone, adjusting water flow based on what’s planted—alfalfa gets one rate, corn another. Just tap and go.

The tech didn’t just bring convenience. It brought sanity and sustainability. They use less water, less labor, and save money. But without support from the Nature Conservancy, none of it would’ve been possible. Center Pivot systems are priced far out of reach for most family farms.

“They gave us options we could never have afforded on our own. No farmer can,” Claudia says.

She still gets up early, 3 or 4 a.m., but now it’s to hit the gym. After that, it’s time for bookkeeping, then pruning pecan trees, a part of the job she loves. Just her, the fresh air, and her music.

“I’m an introvert,” she says. “Give me a field and a playlist, and I’m good.”

The family runs the farm from sunup to sundown. There’s equipment to maintain, rows to plant, crops to rotate, and a hundred quiet tasks that keep the land alive.

But these days, that’s not the hardest part.

The real fight? It’s the slow, steady squeeze of land, rules, and water rights slowly closing in from every side.

### NOT ALL GROWTH IS PROGRESS

Claudia Hauser has seen it coming for years. Her late husband did too. Kevin was talking about the loss of farmland two decades ago, long before anyone else was paying attention. Now, people are finally starting to get it. Farms are being swallowed by development at a pace that makes your head spin—and your dinner plate look a little more fragile.

Yes, people need homes. But they also need food. You can’t build on every acre and still expect a harvest.

“When you’re a farmer through and through,” Claudia says, “and you’re not about to give it up—not going to sell out—you’d think the land would be enough to hold your ground.” But development doesn’t ask permission. It just rolls in and dares you to stop it.

That’s already happened to farms in the Valley, where the city crept up and swallowed the edges. Where subdivisions butted right up against farmland and made it impossible to maneuver a tractor without worrying about traffic or lawsuits.

Claudia worries the same fate is creeping toward Camp Verde. Their three farms are spread across the Verde Valley and getting from one to the next means driving big equipment down city roads that weren’t built for farm equipment. “You try moving a combine through town traffic,” she says. “You can’t.”

Losing space to work is only part of the problem development brings. As the city creeps closer, so do the problems. The Hauser’s have faced break-ins, vandalism, and theft—most of it, Claudia says, from people high on drugs. They’ve lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now, every field is wired with surveillance. Not because they wanted to live that way. Because they had to.

To make matters worse, Claudia sat through a community meeting in Chino Valley and heard what no farmer wants to hear: Yavapai County is the next big growth corridor, and Camp Verde’s got a target on it.

You don’t slap a bullseye on a town that grows your food and call it progress. That’s not progress. That’s planned destruction neatly packaged in a pantsuit and PowerPoint.

It made her sick. Bone-deep sick.

Here’s the thing, urban sprawl doesn’t just squeeze farmers out. It cuts into food supply, history, wildlife, water, and the very reason people move to rural places in the first place. Then the new folks show up and want to reshape it all.

“We live out here because we like the open spaces, the wildlife, and the quiet,” Claudia says. “Not to mention, this is where we grow your food. If you can’t survive without a five-minute grocery run, don’t move to where we grow the groceries.”

Her advice for city transplants dreaming of a Costco, a Trader Joe’s, and another thousand rooftops? Move to where those things already exist. Don’t roll into a farm town and try to fix what was never broken. It’s not just okay—it’s essential—to leave farmland, farmland.

Farmers can fight for their land, lock the gates, and still find themselves back in the ring year after year. Thanks to the Nature Conservancy, all three Hauser farms are protected by conservation easements. The development rights are gone—permanently. These are forever farms. Most farms aren’t so lucky.

But even that hasn’t kept the battles off Claudia’s doorstep. Yavapai County tried to hike her property taxes, arguing the land was worth more without development rights. What? She had to hire an attorney and work with a state senator to draft a bill protecting conservation easements from over-taxation.

Let that sink in.

*Continued on page 14*



# THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 13

She gave up development rights to save the land—and they tried to punish her for it.

“I learned fast,” Claudia says. “Politics has nothing to do with doing what’s right. The county assessor and treasurer fought our efforts like they had skin in the game. They didn’t. I pulled the bill. It was never about land. It was always about money.”

## WATER WARS

Brenda Hauser, Claudia’s mother-in-law, stood in front of a room full of suits in 2003 and said the one thing they didn’t want to hear:

Stop draining the farms to fill your swimming pools.



### WATER, WILDFIRE & THE CASE FOR THINNING

Did you know? Mature pine trees can consume between 150 to 200 gallons of water daily . In Arizona’s overgrown forests, this translates to significant water usage.

The Solution: Strategic forest thinning. A pilot project in the Kaibab National Forest demonstrated that thinning approximately 3,400 acres can yield about 75 million gallons of additional water in just one year .

#### Benefits of Thinning

- Water Conservation: More water reaches our reservoirs, enhancing supply for communities.
- Wildfire Mitigation: Reduced forest density lowers the risk and severity of wildfires.
- Economic Support: Selling harvested wood can fund further forest management efforts.

By supporting forest thinning initiatives, we not only conserve water but also protect our ecosystems and communities from devastating wildfires.

In other states, Kentucky, Iowa, and North and South Dakota, agriculture is recognized as vital infrastructure. Farmers are offered technical assistance and financial support to diversify and thrive.

Brenda challenged Arizona’s leaders to do the same.

She didn’t come to beg. She came to warn.

At the time, Brenda was Mayor of Camp Verde and a representative for multiple watershed groups. But more importantly, she was a farmer. She understood what was at stake—not just for her family, but for every Arizonan who eats.

She told lawmakers, “We’re not growing hubcaps—we’re growing food.”

Farms were already being wiped out at breakneck speed, and every meeting about a new golf course or subdivision started the same way: dry up the farms. Never mind that irrigated fields send water back to the aquifer. Housing tracts don’t. Pools don’t.

More than half a million acres were already gone in the West by then.

And now?

Try twelve million.

Between 2015 and 2022, the U.S. lost approximately 12.4 million acres of farmland averaging nearly 1.8 million acres per year. In Arizona, from 2017 to 2022, the number of farms decreased by 2,376, a 12% reduction, and the state lost about 600,000 acres of farmland.

The trend Brenda sounded the alarm about has only intensified. Subdivisions continue to receive “100-year water supply” designations, certifications meant to prove a development has enough water to last a century, even as surrounding wells go dry. And despite being home to one of the most fragile water supplies in the country, Arizona still lacks the legislative tools to require developers to consider the long-term impact on local agriculture and water tables.

Her story wasn’t just a warning. It was a reminder that agriculture is not just about food—it’s about sovereignty, sustainability, and survival.

If Arizona wants to protect its future, it must begin by valuing the people and the land that feeds it.

Brenda saw it coming. Claudia’s living it.

And Claudia doesn’t sugarcoat things. “This is a fight,” she says. “A lifelong one. People will die over water.”

That’s not a metaphor.

Her husband had guns pulled on him for tearing out illegal siphons. He’s had to call for police escorts. They’ve been threatened with tire irons and pitchforks for protecting the waterways that keep their farm alive.

Why? Because some folks think if a ditch runs past their backyard, they own it.

Claudia pays nearly \$20,000 a year for water. Others steal it. And when the Hausers try to stop them? “It’s like the Hatfields and McCoys out here,” she says.

“You want water for more golf courses, pools, and urban sprawl in the desert? Great. Then stop eating.”

## THE COST OF CONTROL

Before Claudia and Kevin secured conservation easements to protect their land in Camp Verde, they had a backup plan. They purchased a couple of farms in California’s San Joaquin Valley. Just in case they were ever forced out of Arizona.

They had no idea what they were walking into.

“When we farmed in California in 2006, everything was fine until it wasn’t,” Claudia says. “Then came the Delta smelt.”

In 2007, a federal judge ruled that water operations in the Central Valley were violating the Endangered Species Act by threatening a two-inch fish called the Delta smelt. In 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service doubled down—ordering massive restrictions on agricultural water pumping to protect the species’ habitat. Never mind that studies showed shutting off the water wouldn’t make a difference. They did it anyway.

“That was the biggest bunch of shit made up by environmentalists I’ve ever seen,” Claudia says. “They cut the water off to save a fish no one’s even heard of. We had no water left to farm. None.”

She and Kevin watched crops die.

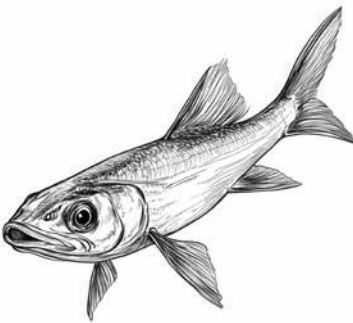
“And now? I can’t sell that farm,” she says. “Can’t wait to get the hell out of California. It’s insane.”

The California story didn’t stop there. In 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, SIGMA, forcing farmers to dry up parts of their own land in the name of aquifer preservation.

“Government got bigger, pencil pushers multiplied, and here they came—checking on us, regulating us, telling us how to run a farm they’ve never stepped foot on or any farm for that matter,” Claudia says. “They call it sustainability. I call it bullshit.”

And it’s not just water.

Last year, the federal government tried phasing out diesel engines, an effort Claudia describes as another foot on



### SO, WHAT THE HELL IS A DELTA SMELT?

About two inches long and barely edible, this little fish brought California’s farming heartland to its knees. To some, it’s a symbol of ecological collapse. To others, it’s the fish that drained the fields. One thing’s for sure: it’s the smallest creature ever to ignite a water war.

Continued on page 17



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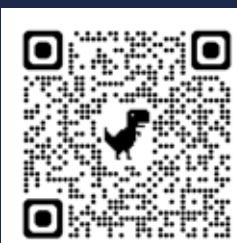


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THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 14

farmers’ necks. “If you want food, you need diesel. Period,” she says. “I read the bill. They buried California and Colorado regulatory language in the footnotes—two of the most impossible states to farm in. You can’t keep tying farmers’ hands and expect full plates. Leave us out of the conversation long enough, and eventually, there’s nothing left to talk about—except what’s missing at dinner. “So much happened while we were working,” Claudia says. “Farmers were busy feeding people. Meanwhile, bureaucrats were in boardrooms making decisions that affect our ability to produce food for our communities.”

The worst part? It’s by design. “Bureaucrats need problems to stay relevant. Even if it’s exaggerated, or total bullshit, it keeps them employed and us fighting to survive.” One bill, in particular, sends Claudia to the moon: Ag to Urban Water. She calls it what it is—“selling out.” The farmer gives up the water rights, the land goes dry, and the pavement follows. First, it’s a water deal. Then it’s a subdivision. That’s how farms disappear, one siphoned acre at a time. “They call that progress? I call it a bunch of crap,” she says. “Golf or food. Pick one.”

Claudia’s not opposed to environmental care. She wants clean water and air. Who doesn’t? But she wants common sense, too. “This isn’t hard,” she says. “You want to help the water table? Thin the forests. Shut down the water parks. Stop building subdivisions with a pool every five feet. But taking water from farmers? That’s madness.” When asked whether she sees the tide turning and whether leaders like RFK Jr. might offer hope. She lays it out plain. “He’s a litigator. That’s how he made his money. I get nervous about the extremism,” she says. “I know he cares about the earth and I respect that. But he needs to sit down with farmers. Protecting the planet shouldn’t mean starving the people. And no, I don’t see regulations getting better.”

DISPELLING THE MYTHS

Farmers are not just fighting bad policy; they are fighting bad press. There’s a lot of noise out there about farming, especially on social media. Scroll through a few reels and you’ll find claims that all corn is genetically modified, that the only real corn seeds come from Mexico, or

that American farmers are out spraying chemicals in hazmat suits like it’s a scene from a sci-fi movie. Claudia rolls her eyes. “Our seeds aren’t GMO,” she says. “They come from a small supplier down in southern Arizona. And nobody out here is suited up in hazmat suits to spray their fields. That’s total crap. It’s fear-driven propaganda. The goal is to make agriculture look irresponsible when the truth is just the opposite.” Take chemicals, for example. Claudia doesn’t dodge the topic—she’s pro-chemical. “People hear that word and freak out,” Claudia says. “But everything in this world is made of chemicals except for light, heat, and sound. Your kitchen table is chemicals. Your drinking water is chemicals. You and I? Chemicals.” It’s not about whether something is a chemical. It’s about the dose, the purpose, and how it’s used. Glyphosate, often cited as a boogeyman in agriculture, is one of the most misunderstood tools in the shed. While lawsuits and headlines have painted it as a health hazard, Claudia points out that major regulatory agencies around the world, including the EPA and EFSA, continue to say it’s safe when used as directed. “And that’s how we use it,” she says. “If we don’t keep weeds off the fields, we lose the crop. But we use just enough, no more. We’re training every year. We follow best practices. And with GPS-guided equipment, we’re more precise than ever.” Over-spraying? That’s for amateurs. “Your average homeowner buys a bottle of Roundup and sprays it like it’s Febreze,” she says. “Farmers? We don’t do that. We can’t afford to. This stuff is expensive. And accuracy isn’t just good science—it’s good business.” Technology has helped tremendously, Claudia says. Today’s tractors are smart. Sprayers are dialed in. Fertilizer and weedkillers are applied with pinpoint precision. Every pass across a field is measured, mapped, and monitored. That’s the part people don’t see on social media because it doesn’t fit the narrative. “Spraying chemicals isn’t reckless,” she says. “It’s calculated. It’s responsible. And most of all—it’s necessary.”

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# THE REAL FARM TO TABLE

Continued from page 17

Nearly a century ago, farmers got it wrong. Over-farming in the 1930s helped trigger the Dust Bowl and scarred the land for a generation. But they learned. They adapted. And today, no one understands stewardship better than a farmer.

“You want to talk about taking care of the land? Look at a farmer,” Claudia says. “We don’t strip it bare. We rotate crops to protect the soil. We monitor moisture, adjust inputs, and plant cover crops. We do it because if we don’t take care of this land, we don’t eat. And neither do you.”

The truth is, no one has more riding on the health of the land than the people who work it.

Farmers test their soil, check their water usage, and walk their fields. They keep pollinators in mind. They map out their spraying so that beneficial bugs don’t get wiped out. They understand how weather patterns shift and how pests adapt. They make decisions day by day, field by field because there’s no reset button when something goes wrong.

And while the rest of the world talks about sustainability in boardrooms and branded campaigns, farmers live it, quietly, constantly.

## HELP A FARMER. TASTE THE DIFFERENCE.

When you buy direct from a farmer, you’re doing more than filling your basket—you’re backing the hands that feed your community.

It takes a little planning, sure, but once you’ve had strawberries that smell like summer and taste like sunshine, you’ll never go back. Or corn so fresh it snaps in your hands and needs nothing but a pinch of salt. That’s not just food. That’s timing, care, and flavor the way nature intended.

And here’s the beautiful thing: fresher fruits and vegetables don’t just taste better, they’re better for you. The shorter the time between harvest and plate, the more nutrients your body actually gets.

And lucky for all of us, the season’s just getting started. We’re kicking off the farm stand season with Hauser & Hauser Farms—but they’re just the beginning. All summer, we’ll be sharing local growers and ranchers you can support directly. No middleman. No mystery. Just real food from real people.

So take notes. Make a list. Stock your fridge with intention.

# HOW TO GET THE GOODS FROM HAUSER & HAUSER FARMS

If you’re already a fan, this is just your seasonal reminder. But if you’re new around here, listen up—and maybe go ahead and stick this page on the fridge.

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# HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

## NATIVE-INSPIRED, SOULFUL & GOOD

By Vanita Dee

Some traditions fade quietly over time. Others get pushed aside by convenience or the illusion that faster is better. For many Native communities, traditional foods didn't vanish in a single generation—they were replaced slowly, meal by meal, by disconnection from the land and the original way of eating.

But make no mistake, these recipes are making a comeback. And they're not just nutritious. They're spectacular.

All across the country, Indigenous cooks are reclaiming the flavors their grandparents once knew by heart—meals made with corn, beans, squash, wild game, and local herbs. Food that doesn't just fill a belly, but fills a soul.

### Bringing Native Foods Back to the Table

Mariah Gladstone, member of the Blackfeet Nation and founder of Indigikitchen, is one of the bright minds stirring the pot of this culinary revival. She's not just serving up recipes—she's serving up reconnection. Through her videos and virtual classes, she's reminding communities that traditional food is still here, still possible, and still deeply healing.

No processed shortcuts. No sugar-laden sauces. Just bold, beautiful food with roots—prepared the way it was always meant to be.

And here's the best part: you don't need to be Indigenous to understand the love behind these meals. What Mariah and so many others are



Three Sisters Stew

bringing to the table isn't just food—it's memory. It's respect. It's wisdom passed down in cast iron pots and handwritten notes.

Food this real has a way of changing the way you cook, the way you eat, and maybe even the way you see the world.

### Try This at Home: Three Sisters Stew

Shared with permission from Mariah Gladstone at Indigikitchen.com

This is the kind of recipe that hums with history. Mariah's Three Sisters Stew is named after the traditional trio of corn, beans, and squash—known as the "three sisters" in many Native cultures. Grown together, each plant helps the others thrive: corn offers support, beans add nitrogen to the soil, and squash shades the ground. It's a recipe rooted in sustainability, community, and a deep respect for the land.

And if you're lucky enough to live near a farm stand or farmers market? Get ready. These veggies were made for summer.

### Ingredients

- Your favorite summer squash
- 1 tablespoon avocado oil
- 1 yellow onion diced
- 4 cloves garlic minced
- 2 quarts vegetable stock or water
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 pound fresh corn kernels
- 1 can cannellini beans, drained (15 oz)
- 1/4 cup green onions sliced
- Salt to taste

### Instructions

1. Halve the squash, remove the seeds and skin, then cut into 1-inch cubes.
2. In a large stockpot, heat the oil, garlic, and squash over medium heat and sauté the onions until they are translucent. When the onions are soft, add spices and stir for 60 seconds.
3. Add the stock or water, corn, and beans, and simmer for 20 minutes or until the squash is fork-tender.
4. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed.

Enjoy!



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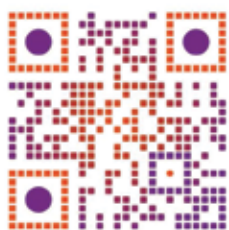


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# CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

## *Can the Trade War with China Be Good for the Planet?*

*By Sandee Caviness*

Most of us haven't lived through a true trade war. For years, global commerce flowed in the background — steady, unquestioned, just part of modern life. But now, trade is on the minds of everyone who stays informed. And beneath the headlines and political noise, I found myself noticing something else.

A possibility.

What if this disruption can be more than a power play between nations?

What if it's a rare chance to reconsider the way we live — what we buy, who we support, and the long-term cost of convenience and cheap products?

Not just because of a trade war with China, but because rethinking our habits might be the most meaningful way to honor Earth Day.

Think about what we've ignored for decades. In our rush to save a dollar or two, we opened the door to a flood of cheap imports from China. And it's cost us more than we ever imagined.

China, and we allowed it, built its economy by undercutting American ingenuity, bypassing fair labor standards, ignoring environmental responsibility, and, in many cases, eroding our own ability to make lasting products.

And because of greed — corporate and consumer — we've bought in.

We accepted the disposable lifestyle without thinking twice about where it leads.

We traded durability for discount prices.

Now we're surrounded by things that were never meant to last.

We don't always notice. But it's there.

The junk drawer full of chargers that no longer fit anything.

The closet with broken gadgets we meant to fix but never did.

The garage, lined with boxes of forgotten appliances, tools that don't



work, and things we'll eventually haul to the thrift store — or the landfill.

It's the quiet build-up of stuff that wasn't made to last.

Things we bought because they were cheap, easy, and convenient.

Things that let us down faster than we expected — but oh well, let's go buy more.

This isn't just clutter. It's the cost of buying cheap and disposable.

Not once, but over and over.

And where does all of it go?

Into the ground. Into the water. In our backyard.

Our landfills grow, our soil pays the price, and fuel gets burned shipping the next container across our oceans full of replacements.

So maybe, just maybe, tariffs on Chinese imports are more than just tough talk.

Maybe they're a long-overdue filter — something that slows the flow of junk just long enough for us to ask better questions.

What if we chose to step out of the cycle?

What if we spent a little more, a little less often — and supported American manufacturers who actually give a damn?

The ones who build things meant to last. Who treat their workers like humans. Who adhere to environmental standards.

Because yes, American-made costs more. But the real cost of cheap?

This is about more than trade. Instead this can be about values.

It's about asking: Do we want to own better things — or just more broken ones?

If we care about the land, the air, and the people doing the work, then maybe buying American is one of the clearest choices we can make.



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# FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR POCKET: AZ FORESTRY APP

*By April Plonski,*

Especially with minimal snowfall in the winter, Northern Arizona's dry climate and dense forests make it especially vulnerable to wildfires. Staying informed and prepared is essential, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Management app is a crucial tool for residents and visitors alike.

### Key Features

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The "AZ Fires Near Me" feature is especially helpful as this is a direct link to Inciweb, a tool used by insurance carriers to determine the proximity of active wildfires and their percentages of containment.

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# GARDENS IN THE PARK

## TOO COLD TO GARDEN OUTSIDE? TRY A COZY INDOOR HERB GARDEN

GARDEN'S IN THE PARK Just because the wind is howling and your garden beds could be buried under a late season snow or frost doesn't mean your green thumb has to hibernate!



start a simple, rewarding herb garden. Herbs are a low-maintenance, high-reward way to keep your gardening game strong all spring long.

Let's face it: fresh herbs at the store are pricey. But growing your own not only saves money, it gives you an unlimited supply of vibrant, flavorful herbs right at your fingertips - perfect for jazzing up soups, sauces, salads, and more.

### What You Need to Get Started

Growing herbs indoors is a lot easier than you might think. In fact, many herbs actually prefer the consistency of an indoor environment: no surprise frosts or summer hail storms to worry about.

Northern Arizona's soil is famously tricky, but luckily, you're in control indoors. Start with a container at least 6 inches deep to give those roots room to stretch. Make sure your container has drainage holes and fill with topsoil, compost, and a bit of sand to keep things light and well-draining. Herbs don't like soggy roots!

### Herb Families and Their Needs

To create a thriving herb garden, it helps to think of your herbs like a quirky little family; each member with their own likes and dislikes.

The Mint Plant Family (includes: basil, sage, peppermint, spearmint, thyme, marjoram, and lavender). These Mediterranean beauties thrive



Illustration by Shalom Schultz

in drier soil and do well in smaller containers that dry out faster. The best part? The more you harvest them, the more they grow! Snip just above the nodes and watch them branch out.

The Carrot Plant Family (includes: parsley, cilantro, dill, fennel, and anise). These herbs grow deeper roots and prefer more moisture. When summer rolls around, you'll be treated to sweet-smelling flowers that pollinators love.

The Daisy Plant Family (includes chamomile, calendula, echinacea, dandelion). These tea-time favorites are slow growers but well worth the wait. Once established, they're fairly drought tolerant.

The Onion Plant Family (includes chives, onions, and garlic). Hardy and easy to grow, these are perfect for beginners. They share similar needs with the Mint family - well-drained soil and a little breathing room.

### Annual vs. Perennial Herbs

Knowing whether your herbs are annual (one-season wonders) or perennial (garden companions for years to come) helps with planning. Annuals like cilantro and dill need to be replanted each year, but grow quickly and are great for immediate gratification. Perennials like thyme and rosemary can keep growing season after season with a little TLC, even if they nap through the winter.

### Grow, Snip, Enjoy

Indoor herb gardening in northern Arizona is more than just a way to pass the time until the temperatures rise: it's also a fun, fragrant way to bring life into your home. So grab a few pots, some seeds or starter plants, and begin your herb adventure today. Your taste buds - and your wallet - will thank you!

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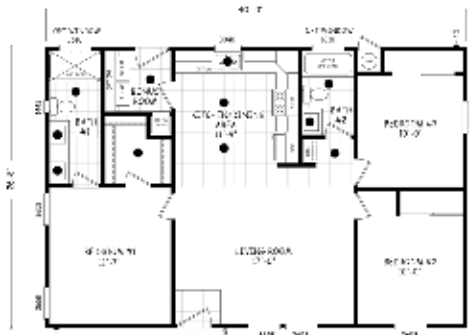


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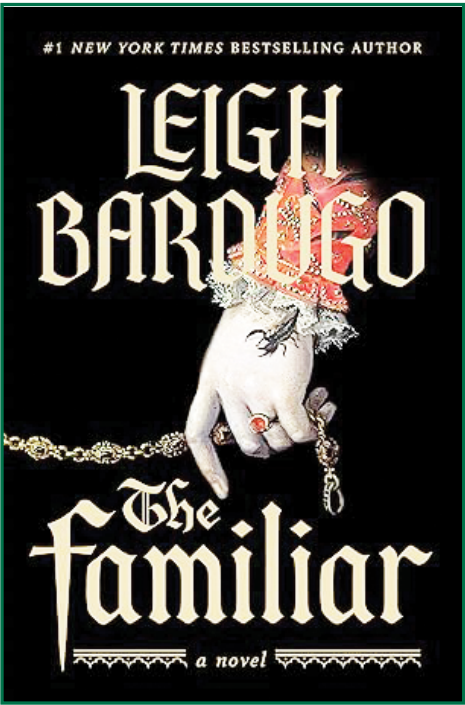
By Sandy Wright

Luzia is a young girl who works in the household of a poor noble family in 16th century Madrid. Accustomed to misery and drudgery in her job, she sings little magic proverbs to make her life a tiny bit easier—phrases to fix a tear in a skirt, to unburn bread, to multiply one egg into two.

When her mistress, Valentina, learns of Luzia’s magical talents, she coerces Luzia to perform these “milagritos” for her guests. Word of Luzia’s performances circulates, and Don Victor de Paredes, a wealthy man who wants to gain King Phillip’s favor, decides to become her patron and enter her in a tournament for the king. She will be in a magical competition where the victor will be the King’s holy champion.

But this is the time of the Inquisition. There is a fine line between miracles and witchcraft. Luzia’s secret Jewish heritage and her magical powers could mean her death.

Don Victor and Valentina outfit Luzia in fine gowns and place her under the tutelage of Victor’s mysterious servant, Santangel. Known as El Alacran, The Scorpion. Santangel is rumored to have made a deal with the devil himself so he will never die.



I enjoyed the depth of the relationship between Santangel and Liza. He helps her during her preparation for the competitions and is captivated by her cunning, her naïve honesty, even her hair.

Luzia gradually learns that her powers are not as small as everyone first thought. As her powers grow, so does her determination to control her own fate.

The Familiar is a story with religion, politics and power plays, betrayals and friendships. But it goes deeper. The author eloquently exposes the brutality inflicted on the Jews and others during the Spanish Inquisition. It’s a shameful real-life history, full of hidden perils. Fear that an improper conversation could be overheard. Grief and loss about friends and family left behind.

In short, the book is about how everyone suffers when religion imposes its beliefs on a minority, told through the personal lenses of the main character’s stories. It’s a captivating and painful read by Leigh

Bardugo. If you appreciate a rich historical fantasy mixed with a strong dose of magic, this book is for you.

- By Leigh Bardugo
- Flatiron Books, March 2025
- 400 pages

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# WINGS OVER ARIZONA

## EARTH DAY & BIRDS

By Margaret Dyekman

Earth Day is 55 years old. Earth Day began in 1970, championed by Senator Gaylord Nelson, and to summarize his rationale for this initiative: "So long as the human species inhabits the Earth, proper management of its resources will be the most fundamental issue we face. Our very survival will depend upon whether or not we are able to preserve, protect and defend our environment. We are not free to decide whether or not our environment matters ... we disregard the needs of our ecosystem at our mortal peril."

The progress we've made as a country since 1970 has been impressive (but not finished by any means): for example, the Clean Air Act, Water Quality Improvement Act, Toxic Substance Control Act, and Endangered Species Act, to name a few, have become laws since then. Birds and wildlife have benefited, as humans have, from these laws.

Birds are a very visible indicator of our planet's health. Unlike small insects or fish under water that are hard or impossible to see, birds are right in our eyesight and hearing, whether we are at home, driving back and forth to work, or in a park. They can be our indicators of deteriorating habitat quality and environmental pollution. If you are reading this column, I imagine that you enjoy seeing the avian wildlife in your backyard very much, experiencing the songs and antics of the many species we have in Northern Arizona. But regardless of the progress we've made to protect our environment for ourselves and the species we share the planet with, there is more you and I can do.

I commend the Pinewood News for running articles about Lights Out – not only do we get to enjoy the natural darkness at night, but it is also important for bird migration to limit unnatural light. The articles about picking up after yourself in the forest and staying fire-wise spread the word about protecting our planet. Small but effective ways you can help birds thrive on our planet are: buy a Federal Duck Stamp, where the money goes to wetlands protection; make tax-deductible contributions to your favorite environmental conservation non-profit; plant native plants; keep cats indoors (safer for the cat, and safer for the native species of birds and small animals like lizards); keep a brush pile on your property where birds can take cover from predators; limit the use of pesticides and eliminate rodenticides; if you have bird baths and feeders, clean them regularly. And one of my top priorities - prevent window collisions. Birds are trying to go from point A to point B, but we put up windows so we can see the sky and birds, and sadly the birds are conned into thinking your window is a passage and they fly right into them. They can't help it, but we can. Do an internet search to "prevent birds strikes" and learn about all the ways you can easily modify your plain glass and make it bird-proof.

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

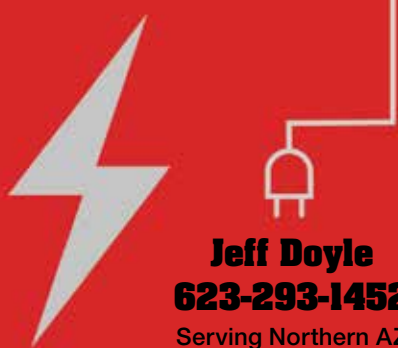


Acorn Woodpecker, courtesy of Margaret Dyekman

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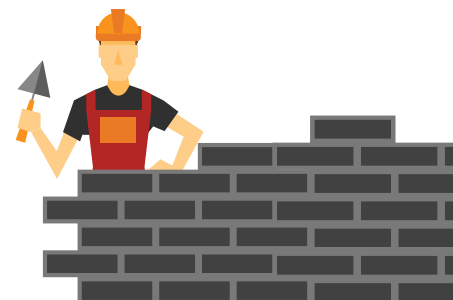
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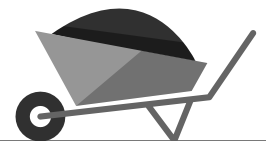
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## FALCONRY: WHEN A HAWK LANDED ON MY HAND & STOLE THE SHOW (& MY HEART)

By “UNSTOPPABLE Stacey” Wittig

I could see the Harris' Hawk perched on the crossbeam of the Arizona ranch's gate, about 50 yards away. His silhouette stood sharp against the desert sky, a predator poised for action. He could see me too—my right arm raised, cloaked in a long leather glove. The anticipation crackled in the air. From behind me, Brian, his handler, let out a sharp whistle. The hawk shifted slightly, then launched into motion.

In an instant, he lifted from his perch, wings slicing through the air with precision. His powerful strokes propelled him forward at nearly 28 miles per hour, closing the distance between us with breathtaking speed.

Within three flaps of his wings, he was nearly upon me.

And then, with a grace that defied his raw power, he landed softly on my hand, as if descending from heaven itself. On my glove, his hawk eyes peered into mine with an intensity that froze time.

My Sky Island Falconry adventure was easily one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life! I'll admit, earlier that day as I headed to the falconry near Tucson meetup spot, a mix of excitement and nerves simmered within me.

The idea of standing face-to-face with a powerful raptor, let alone having one perched on my hand, was both thrilling and intimidating. Those sharp talons, designed for stabbing prey, and the fierce, hooked beak shaped for tearing flesh—it all felt a little daunting.

How did I transition from scaredy cat to novice falconer?



UNSTOPPABLE Stacey with Harris' Hawk near Tucson  
Foll Exposures photo

What transformed me from a nervous beginner to an eager novice falconer was the exceptional guidance and soothing presence of the experts at Sky Island Falconry. Under the tutelage of Brian Wood and Nate Danforth, who co-founded this unique educational organization, our small group was gently introduced to the world of falcons.

The journey began with a mellow initiation, as we were first introduced to an itty-bitty owl, allowing us to gradually build confidence and immerse ourselves in this ancient art.

The Eastern Screech Owl, bred in captivity, is very similar to

the Western Screech Owl, native to the Sonoran Desert region. The harmless owl sparked our curiosity, and I couldn't wait to hold it myself. Soon, we were all slapping on our leather falconry gloves, eager to let the little being perch on our forefingers.

Holding the owl helped me to step into the role of falconer as I bonded with the little creature. His big eyes locked onto mine, and I could swear we shared a silent understanding. It was as if he was playfully demanding, "Get me some sunglasses."

Embracing Falconry Near Tucson

I think the whole group felt more at ease once the falcon was introduced. This is the bird that gave the sport of falconry its name. We held the predator, which was hooded (that's where the word 'hoodwinked' came from). By limiting their sight, the hood reduces stress and anxiety,

*Continued on page 30*

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## TRAVEL

*Continued from page 29*

allowing the bird to remain calm in new or potentially frightening situations.

### Harris' Hawk Hunt

Before bringing out the big guns, Harris' Hawks—known for their impressive wingspan of 41 to 47 inches — Brian and Nate told us what to expect next, another clever instructional technique. We're heading off-trail for an authentic hunting experience, using two Harris' Hawks: a male and a female. "Females are the boss. He's playing with fire, is what he's doing," Nate quipped as the chestnut-red male swooped after the larger female.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, these hawks are renowned for their cooperative hunting style, making them the most social raptors in North America. Their teamwork and ease with humans have earned them a special place in falconry and education programs such as this one.

We traversed uneven desert terrain, climbing up to a boulder field scattered with rough, dark stones. The hawks glided effortlessly between towering Saguaro cacti and the highest tips of boulders, keeping a "hawkeye" on any movement below.

Suddenly, a jackrabbit darted across the desert floor, catching their attention. The birds dive down from opposing directions as the jackrabbit takes off like a flash, zigzagging before diving into thick ground cover. It makes another dash for safety, but the hawks are relentless in pursuit. After an intense chase, the jackrabbit finally finds refuge.

But the hunt isn't over yet. The female spots a cottontail and dives after it! The bunny's white tail makes it easier for me to follow, and apparently for her. After darting down several rabbit trails, the cottontail hides under a massive brittlebush. The hawk plunges through the tangle of dried branches with precision. A piercing scream erupts as her talons strike home.

"Now every animal in the desert will know there's a kill and will come," Brian explains matter-of-factly. The rabbit's death cry is nature's dinner bell, summoning predators like bobcats, cougars or coyotes. Vulnerable during this moment of triumph, the hawk takes a protective stance against potential scavengers.

"It never gets old," Brian declares with passion. "There's nothing like working with an animal that doesn't need you but chooses to work with you anyway."

"UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig is a travel writer based right here in Munds Park. Visit her website to read the whole story and get links to the businesses mentioned.

Sky Island Falconry Experience, Tucson, [skyislandfalconry.org](http://skyislandfalconry.org)

Thanks to my new friend, Logan Foll of Foll Exposures Photography, [www.follexposures.com](http://www.follexposures.com).



Falconer Bryan Wood with owl  
Photo by Stacey Wittig

5

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# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## COMMIT TO SELF

By Brit Elders

The weather is warming, and we'll be wearing shorts and swimsuits before long. But how many of us begin a healthy new regime, like exercising or proper eating, only to have someone we care about unwittingly sabotage our efforts?

Most sabotage comes through very subtle statements like, "Oh you don't need to drop any weight." Or "Try this chocolate cake. A little won't hurt you." These comments don't help when what you really yearn for is a pat on the back for committing to better yourself.

When one hears an off-hand remark like, "When are you going to eat like a normal person again?" there is an undercurrent of guilt for not meeting the 'standards' of the people around them.

Instead of feeling guilt for your choice, you should exercise your personal strengths by communicating to your friends, family and co-workers that eating properly is about you, and that you deserve it. Flex your emotional muscles and stand up for yourself. Tell them when you feel that they are acting as saboteurs to your progress. Remind them that this is about you and not about them, because at the same time, you will be reminding yourself.

Don't allow temptation or a sense of humiliation to thwart any aspect of your self-improvement goals. Openly discuss your objectives with your family and friends. Let them know why you are embarking on this commitment to yourself. Explain your goals, and what you need to do in order to achieve them. You might even invite those around you to participate in this adventure.

Here are some suggestions for those days when you feel like giving up and giving in:



- Keep a journal of the positive changes you are experiencing. Refer to that when you need inspiration.
- If you are trying to shed some pounds, don't weigh every day. Twice a week or, in most cases, once a week is enough.
- Set realistic expectations. It took some time to get out of shape and it will take some time to get back into shape.
- Vent! Do not hold in stress. Use the tips below to release frustration, as they will help to avoid needless arguments and added stress:
  - Express what you are feeling verbally, and in a calm non-accusatory manner.
  - Write it down. The simple act of writing your frustration is often enough to release it.
  - If you are really upset, go talk to yourself in a mirror before releasing your anger on another. Take both sides of the argument. Before long, you will be laughing at how silly the entire issue was in the first place.
  - If it is really serious, speak with a professional.
  - Meditation is a wonderful tool for keeping yourself on track and for eliminating stress.
  - Add the word "no" to your vocabulary. Most of us do our very best to please others by agreeing with them. Please yourself with the word "no".
  - Avoid using the phrase, "I can't..." Instead say, "I don't..." "I can't" limits you and makes you feel as if you are restricted. "I don't" places you in a position of power over yourself. That little turn of the phrase can make you feel so much better about yourself, and it reflects your self-confidence to everyone else around you.

Above all, remember that what you do with your life is up to you. It is not about pleasing anyone but you, and, finally, everyone you know will be graced by your new awareness.

You'll be surprised by the gains you make when you provide your own emotional support and own the power needed to reinforce your healthy choices!



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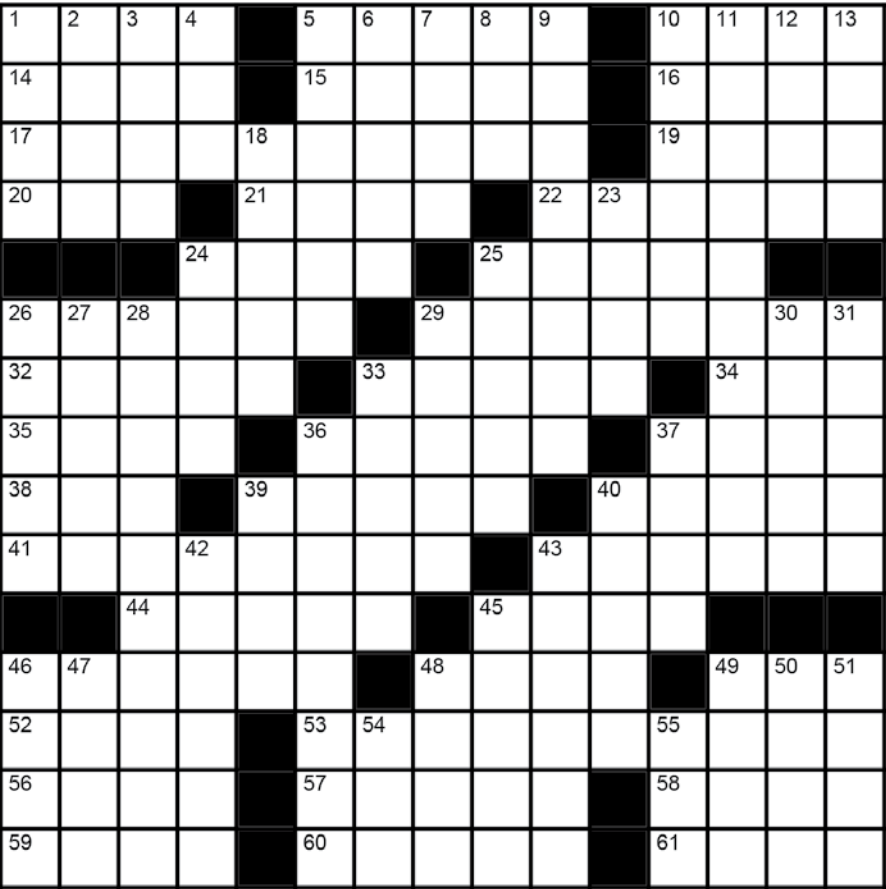


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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- ACROSS**  
1. Wet nurse  
5. Orbital point  
10. Chills  
14. Steak order  
15. Locomotive  
16. Component used as fertilizer  
17. Plural of crematorium  
19. Sketch  
20. Wood sorrel  
21. Not yet final, at law  
22. Juries  
24. Depend (on)  
25. Patriots' Day month  
26. Neighbor of Namibia  
29. Monkey business  
32. Relaxed  
33. Exhaust pipe emission  
34. Go for the gold  
35. Helen of \_\_\_\_  
36. Funny business
37. Young fellows  
38. Relief  
39. Buzz  
40. Pig out  
41. Carrier of a money-laden briefcase, perhaps  
43. "The family jewels"  
44. Cast member  
45. Wacky  
46. Kind of  
48. Japanese wrestling  
49. French vineyard  
52. Chills and fever  
53. Over-the-top  
56. One to grow on  
57. The \_\_\_\_ suspects  
58. Leave in the dust  
59. Shade provider  
60. Fine fur  
61. Vamoosed
- DOWN**  
1. Chevron competitor  
2. Cleopatra's love \_\_\_\_ Antony  
3. Vicinity  
4. Skirt's edge  
5. Number one Hun  
6. Lackluster  
7. Rani's wear  
8. Son of a son  
9. More irritable  
10. Persistent pest  
11. Beside the point  
12. Sound of thunder  
13. Wood cutters  
18. Bless with oil  
23. Circle segments  
24. Like Santa's cheeks  
25. Knight's protection  
26. Place to exchange vows  
27. Persian water wheel  
28. Cheerful disposition  
29. Abnormal growth  
30. Blue \_\_\_\_ Mountains  
31. Those in favor  
33. Angry one  
36. Funny  
37. Shopper's aid  
39. Memorization method  
40. Confuse  
42. Plot  
43. Enchilada alternative  
45. Of a brain membrane  
46. Huck Finn's transport  
47. Petri dish filler  
48. Ticket part  
49. Hip  
50. Trick  
51. Spent  
54. Stars and Stripes land  
55. Santa's little helper

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Please join us for the 4th 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!



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



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# OPINION

## No Mayor, No Problem—We Lead Ourselves

By Nancy Huzar, Full-Time Resident of Munds Park

It's always inspiring to hear people's opinions and feel their passion for our community. But for some reason, that's often where it stops. Words without action don't bring change, and in a place like Munds Park, it is up to us—the residents—to step up and take the bull by the horns when it comes to issues that impact our community.

Unlike many towns, we have no mayor, no city council, no local government truly advocating for us. Some might see that as a lack of representation—or even a kind of government neglect—but in reality, it creates a unique responsibility. One that falls squarely on us.

Here, leadership isn't handed to elected officials—it's earned by those willing to stand up, take action, and fight for what's right.

Many residents already take on a variety of challenges, not because it's their job, but because they understand that this community is what we make of it.

We may not always see eye to eye, and we may not always get along, but in times of need, we show up for each other. When it really matters, the differences that once seemed so important quickly fade into the background—because at the end of the day, Munds Park is more than just a scenic tourist destination; it is our home.

### Self-Reliance and Holding the County Accountable

For many, Munds Park is more than an ideal tourist area—it is where we live, where we invest our energy, and where we raise our families. We protect and defend it—not a local police department. We go to the County when we have needs that deal with planning and zoning, permitting, and other legal matters concerning our property. But that also means we must hold the County accountable, ensuring that their decisions reflect the best interests of those who actually live here—not just those passing through.

It's time for us to take ownership of our community, to push beyond conversation and into action. Because if we don't stand up for Munds Park, who will?

Let's practice some community involvement—email Pinewood News about what being unincorporated means to you and join us on the Facebook pages!

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# PAWS OF PINewood

*Caring for Your Furry Friends*

## RABIES INCIDENTS

### *A Reminder to Keep Pets Vaccinated*



The Arizona Game and Fish Department reminds the public to protect themselves and their pets by keeping a safe distance from wildlife, especially animals that may be behaving abnormally, such as those that appear aggressive and/or lacking a fear of humans.

The reminder comes as an increasing number of rabies-related incidents have been reported statewide. A recent Arizona Department of Health Services report indicated that foxes and skunks were the most common species to have tested positive for rabies between January and March 2025.

Pets such as dogs and cats, as well as livestock such as horses, should be vaccinated regularly against rabies. In addition, dogs should be on leashes when outdoors and a veterinarian consulted if any domestic animals are injured by wildlife. Unvaccinated animals exposed to wildlife with rabies must undergo a four-month quarantine, and vaccinated animals need to be quarantined for 45 days.

"In Arizona, the principal rabies hosts are bats, skunks and foxes," said Dr. Anne Justice-Allen, AZGFD wildlife veterinarian. "These animals carry their own distinct strains of the rabies virus. When rabies activity within these animal groups increases, rabies can impact other mammals, such as bobcats, coyotes, javelina, cats, dogs, horses, or cows."

To report an animal bite, or an animal acting suspicious, call AZGFD at 623-236-7201. For more information, visit:

[www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-diseases-2](http://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-diseases-2)

[www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/rabies](http://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/rabies)

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



*By Venita Dee*

Yes, we know. Your dog is different. He's friendly. She's perfect. He wouldn't hurt a fly. She listens—usually. But let's get one thing straight: you don't get to decide how other people, pets, or wildlife react to your unleashed pride and joy sprinting full tilt across a trail, street, or neighbor's front yard.

Some dogs don't play nice. Some are reactive. Some are elderly or just trying to take a peaceful walk without having your "friendly" dog's nose in their business. Wildlife? They will attack. Foxes, coyotes, and even javelina don't care how many stars your pooch gets on Instagram.

And—brace yourself—some people just don't like dogs. I know, shocking. But they exist. And they shouldn't have to feel threatened, cornered, or bowled over on their morning stroll because Fido "just wanted to say hi."

Also: dogs get lost. All the time. Even the best-trained dogs. All it takes is one squirrel, one rabbit, one butterfly flapping the wrong way, and suddenly you're printing fliers and crying in a Facebook group.

So here's the deal: Leash your dog. Not because you're a bad owner, but because you're a responsible one. Because you love your dog and want to keep them safe. Because you give a damn about your neighbors. Because you don't want to be that guy.

Leashes save lives. They prevent accidents. They protect your dog from traffic, wildlife, and—let's be honest—your own overconfidence. If you truly love your pet, you don't set them up to fail.



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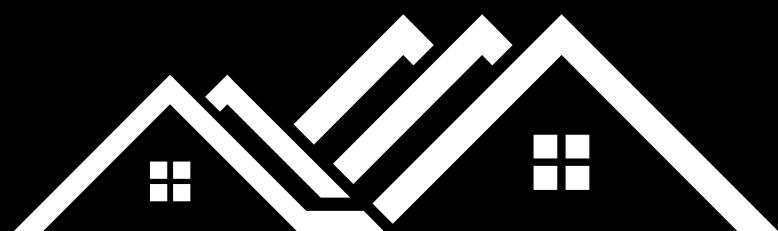
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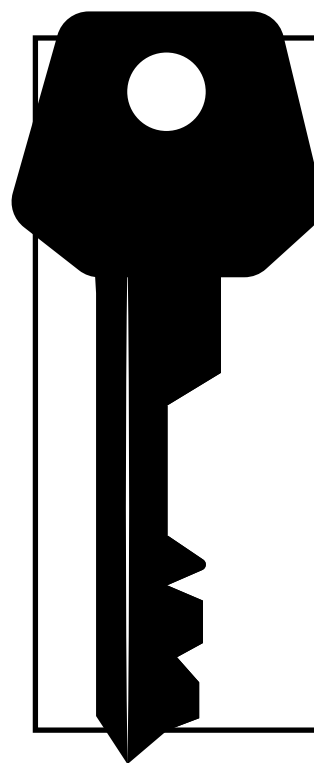
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# MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

## WHAT HOPE DO WE HAVE?

By Pastor Steve Bowyer

Our middle child was born in 1991. When I showed up to the hospital to take Sara and Jason home for the first time, she looked at me with a scared look in her eyes and said they may not let us. There is a problem with his heart.

It turns out he has two defects. The hole in his heart was larger than the technology first showed. And his aortic foot is enlarged but fills the hole so it is not as bad as it might be. Not as bad as it might be. Funny. To a parent with an infant with a heart problem, about all we can think about is how bad it might be. If you were to put your hand on his chest you can feel it. Every beat is a thump/squish; thump/squish.

We looked back over Sara's pregnancy. Did she fall or have a virus that affected his development on that day? Did we do something wrong? What do we do now?

The feelings of guilt, responsibility, and hopelessness can be debilitating.

Jason has led a normal life. He has always been active. He played football, baseball, runs, lifts weights and stresses his heart. His doctor says he will always lead a normal life. Still, to a parent we wonder if his heart will give out prematurely.

Jason and his wife had their second child, a baby boy. They found out he has the exact same defect in his heart. The doctors say that it is not hereditary, but there is still a lot about the genetics of the heart they do not know. We have the advantage of Jason living his life with the defect and we know so much more today. Still, it is your infant son, grandson, who now has to deal with this.

What might happen to him? What precautions will he have to take? What hope do we have?

Metal rusts. Rubber dries out and cracks. Our skin wrinkles. Our hair turns gray and falls out. Our eyes weaken. Our heart will stop one day. What hope do we have? Easter.

God never intended for it to be this way. But, due to events and the course that people chose to take, we now live with the consequences of things that either start out broken or break down prematurely.

Easter is God's answer that gives us hope when things seem hopeless. Jesus overcame the biggest breakdown we face. His body was broken, and it died. But that was not the end. Is that not what we all fear the most? We are afraid that something so important is so broken it can never be fixed. But, whatever breaks in this life never will in the next.

But Easter proved that to be an unjustified fear. Because of Easter, we always have hope. This body will break. The next one is guaranteed and warranted by Jesus.

The hope that have; Easter.

For more information about our church hit our website, [mpcc.church](http://mpcc.church).



### Easter Services

Easter Sunday 10:45 am

### Church Services

Sunday, 10:45 am

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

For more information about our church go to our website, [mpcc.church](http://mpcc.church).

## CROSSWORD

Solutions

A	M	A	H		A	P	S	I	S		N	I	P	S
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## WORD SEARCH

Solutions

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

Solutions

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





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