

PINEWOOD NEWS

The hometown newspaper of Munds Park, Arizona since 1993

VOL. 28 NO. 18

DECEMBER 13, 2021

FREE!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Munds Park!



THE VIEW FROM HERE

An Arizona Christmas



by Bill Cowan

As the icy cold fingers of December are upon us and the blowing snows of January will soon follow, I think back to a time 158 years ago that might be thought of as the first Arizona Christmas. After the Southwest was taken from Mexico in 1848 and thrown open for the first great westward surge of Gringos from the east, what is today Arizona was initially part of the Territory of New Mexico. The capital of it all was Santa Fe. In those days most people were simply passing through following the 49ers to the gold fields of California. (This was not the football team but the original gold seekers.) As late-comers

crossed the desert in the 1850s and arrived in the gold fields they found most of the diggings already claimed. Slowly homesickness and reality drew many of them east again. It was on this eastward migration that gold was discovered in the mountains west of Tubac and along the banks of the Gila River in Southern Arizona. Tucson, Tubac and Yuma, the main settlements at the time, were a long ways from the New Mexico territorial capital in Santa Fe. The observation was made that the area was a No Mans Land - "No government, No counties, No civil officers, No laws, and crime stalked abroad in our midst in open day." Sounds like Pinewood before Curtis Nelson,, and maybe a few times since.

The Gadsden Purchase of 1854 brought land south of the Gila River into the U. S. Almost immediately after the completion of the Gadsden Purchase Charles Poston, an Ohioan, and Sylvester Mowry, a former army officer turned mining entrepreneur, along with several other notable Anglo pioneers of southern Arizona began to lobby for the creation of a territory separate from New Mexico. Beginning in 1856 many measures for this separation were introduced into congress. Finally during the Civil War, on February 24, 1863, Congress passed and Abraham Lincoln signed the Organic Act establishing Arizona Territory.

There was one catch though. The government had to make it to the new territory and be sworn in on Arizona Territorial soil before the end of the year 1863. Appointment of officials had to be made. Passage booked, wagons and horses to carry all of the new appointments to the new land had to be secured. A military escort, Jose Francisco Chaves and a company of soldiers had to be appointed and outfitted to see that the bureaucrats were not picked off by very capable Native Americans intent on preserving their homeland, nor by politically motivated Confederate rebels wanting to secure the west for their own means had to be arranged. The first governor, John A. Gurley, died before they could even get away from the east. And all of this during a time when the country was fighting a terribly bloody civil war with itself.

Bureaucracy in general moves at or near the pace of molasses on a cold morning, and this was no different. Additionally this was a project of fairly monumental



Charles Poston (April 20, 1825 – June 24, 1902) was an American explorer, prospector, author, politician, and civil servant. He is referred to as the "Father of Arizona" due to his efforts lobbying for creation of the territory. Poston was also Arizona Territory's first Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives – Wikipedia



Sylvester Mowry (January 17, 1833 – October 17, 1871) was an American politician, miner, and land speculator best remembered as an early advocate for the establishment of the Arizona Territory. He was also a West Point graduate and officer of the United States Army stationed at Fort Yuma.



Before 1863 Central Arizona was known as "Tierra Incognita," or Unknown Land. With the discovery of gold in the Bradshaw Mountains and Civil War action in southern Arizona, it was decided to investigate Northern Arizona as a potential site for the new Territorial Capital. Within weeks of Governor John Goodwin (center) arriving at Del Rio Springs in January 1864, an exploring party entered the Verde Valley.



Lieutenant Colonel Jose Francisco Chaves, of the 1st New Mexico Infantry, commanded the military escort for Territorial Governor John Goodwin between

Albuquerque and Chino Valley which became the first established seat of government for the Territory of Arizona. He returned to New Mexico in April 1864 via the Verde Valley, Chaves Pass and Sunset Crossing. His return route between Sunset Crossing on the Little Colorado River and the Verde Valley became known as the Chavez Wagon Road.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored by the Munds Park Business Alliance
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Date	Happening	Location	Time
Every Sunday	Munds Park Community Church Services	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	10:45 am
Every Monday	AA Meetings hosted at Munds Park Community Church	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	7 pm
Every Thursday	Spread the Bread - Get some for your neighbors too!	17670 S Munds Ranch Rd	10 am
Thursday, January 13	Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting - Public Welcome	18075 Fairway Dr.	3 pm
Tuesday, December 21	Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting - Public Welcome	475 E Pinewood Blvd	3 pm

The Munds Park Community Church will have a special worship service Christmas Eve at 6pm.

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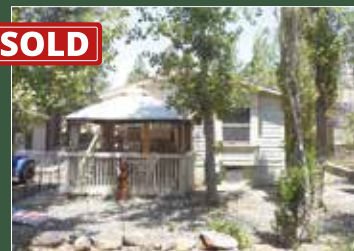


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While APS is ready to make repairs after storm damage, winter weather can disrupt electric service, so the utility recommends customers take steps now to be prepared before a winter emergency ever happens.

Get ready now:

- Download the APS app or visit aps.com/outagecenter and sign up for APS outage alerts to receive text/email updates about power outages.
- Update your contact information with APS to ensure you receive important information.
- Create a power outage safety kit that includes items like a flashlight, extra batteries, portable cell phone charger, battery-powered radio, first-aid kit and water.
- Keep important phone numbers such as those of medical providers, family, friends and APS stored in your cell phone or by your home phone. Customers can report outages or electrical emergencies by calling our 24/7 Outage Hotline at 602-371-3680 (855-688-2437).
- If you use life-sustaining medical equipment that requires electricity, call to register for the APS Medical Care Program at 602-371-7171 (800-253-9405). This alerts APS of your needs in the event of an outage.
- Stock up on water and non-perishable food items.
- If you have an electric garage door, be sure you know how to open it manually.
- Make a plan to check on neighbors.

During a power outage:

- Report a service outage via the APS app or visit aps.com/outagecenter.
- Visit aps.com/outagemap to track power restoration times.
- Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows.
- Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Keep your phone fully charged and a portable charger on hand.
- Dim brightness in cell phone settings to save battery life.
- Wear layered clothing and use blankets to stay warm.
- Turn off and unplug electronics and appliances to avoid electrical spikes when power is restored. After power is restored, wait 5-10 minutes to plug in and turn on.

Information provided by APS.

MUNDS PARK TRAIL STEWARDS

By Larry Metzler

The Munds Park Trail Stewards would like to say goodbye to a dear friend and a founding member, Veronica “Roni” Evaneshko. Roni passed away on October 30, 2021. Roni, along with Diane Lawrence and the Munds Park community, organized the Munds Park Trail Stewards in the early days. Roni performed many tasks in the MUTS organization. One of Roni’s most ambitious achievement was getting the Irons Springs Trailhead approved by the local community and the Coconino National Forest Service. Roni also was a dog lover. Guess who’s input provided the Munds Park Trail Stewards with the nickname, the MUTS. We will miss you Roni.

The Munds Park Trail Stewards are honored to be named the recipient of memorial donations in memory of Wayne Kochert. Wayne was an avid hiker and loved the trails around Munds Park, in which the MUTS help to maintain. Wayne and his surviving wife, Barbara, were seasonal Munds Park residents. Thank you for the donations.

The MUTS would like to send about a special thank you to Barb and Bob Timberman. The Timbermans provided the MUTS a lunch spot and delightful lunches. After nine years, Barb and Bob have decided to let others have the joy of serving MUTS lunches. By-the-way, if you have not had some of Barb’s cooking, you are really missing out on some good eats.

The Munds Park Trail Stewards (MUTS) held their last scheduled 2021 Volunteer Event on October 2nd. We will start our volunteer events either April or May in 2022, look for updates in the Pinewood News or the MUTS website.



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HOLIDAY TRADITIONS PART II



By
Sara Bowyer

Christmas is full of traditions in our home. Some have been handed down from when we were children, some started with our new family years ago, and some started along the way. Traditions not only bring us together, they give us something to look forward to and remind us of things that

are important. We all have that one recipe our mom makes whenever we come home that just makes you feel safe and warm. My kids each have a different meal they love and it's sometimes hard to keep track!! Have you ever tried to cook a Christmas meal for your extended family and try to have that "one thing" that is important to each person? It's hard for sure! We all have memories associated with Christmas and many of them are around food. But traditions can range from a wide variety of things. They can be objects you put out or hide, food items, activities and even places you visit. Here are just a few of our family's favorite Christmas traditions:

1. The Advent Calendar that was mine when I was a little girl. It's a Christmas tree with pockets full of ornaments and you open one each day in December. My kids had to rotate each year who got to put the angel at the top of the tree on Christmas morning. I have made them each their own as they have grown up and have their own homes to decorate now.
2. Matching Christmas pajamas. Made by me for many years and then out of convenience I started buying them. The first year my kids received store bought PJs you would have thought the world had ended. I always tell young moms to not start a tradition that they don't want to carry on forever!!

3. The crocheted angel on top of our tree that my aunt gave me and Steve our first year of marriage.
4. A large iron nail hanging on the tree to remind us the reason for the season is Christ and what He did for you and me!
5. Charcuterie on Christmas Eve
6. Cinnamon rolls in the shape of a Christmas tree Christmas morning
7. Butter molded in antique pewter ice cream molds
8. My Great Grandmother's pound cake for dessert
9. Stockings full of crazy, cheap toys

However, my two most favorite traditions center around my kids. When the kids were very young, I wanted them to be part of the gift giving to each other. So, I would have them draw a picture to each sibling showing them why they loved them. As they got older and could write, they started writing letters to each other that they would read on Christmas Eve. Several years they were short on words, but it got them in a habit of ending the year thinking of all the reasons they loved their siblings.

The second one started when the kids were teenagers. After looking around us and seeing all the blessings God had poured out on our family over the year, we decided to take the money we would spend on the kid's large gift for Christmas and give it to them over Thanksgiving. They each then had till Christmas to give that money away. Any way they wanted. It could be all to one place or they could spread it out. They could give it to a charity or to a person they knew was having a hard time. The options

Continued on page 9



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FOOD

Continued from page 7

were limitless and their own. It was up to them, alone, to give their gift to someone else and they had to keep it a secret until Christmas morning.

Then, on Christmas morning, instead of opening the gift, we each told how we spent the money and the blessing that came with it.....and there was always a blessing!!! Each year, the 5 of us gave to 5 completely different places....it was so fun to see where God directed each of us. And it reinforced in my kids a spirit of giving and looking out for others.

I have one last favorite tradition and of course it is food!! It started while we served in our first church in Minot, ND. The first Christmas we were there, the senior pastor's wife made us these amazing sandwich cookies. So light and small you could just pop them in your mouth by the handful! We all loved them so much they became our Christmas cookie tradition and still are today. In the last few years, my son, Jared, has taken over this tradition and makes them for us all!

Sandwich cookies

1 cup butter

2 cups sifted flour

½ cup whipping cream

Mix. Chill dough. Cut dough into fourths. Roll out first fourth to 1/8 inch on a floured board, keeping the others in the frig until ready to use. Cut with a small round cookie cutter, the size of a donut hole. Prick with a fork and toss in sugar to coat. Continue with each fourth. Bake 7-9 minutes at 375 until just light brown. Cool.

¼ cup butter

1 egg yolk

¾ cup powdered sugar

1 tsp vanilla

Food coloring. We use green and red

Mix together and then place a small dollop between two cookies. Enjoy!



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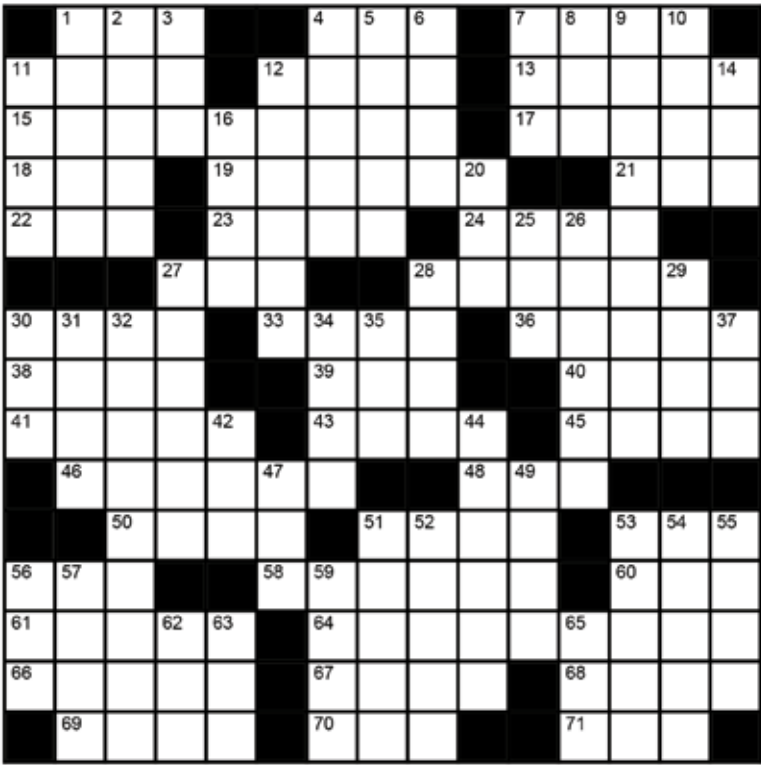
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason
Solution pg. 26



- Across**
1. Gear tooth
4. PC "brain"
7. R.p.m. indicator
11. Diving birds
12. Guinness and others
13. Lowest deck on a ship
15. An apparatus resembling a gun for applying a substance (such as paint or insecticide) in the form of a spray
17. Bacteria discovered by Theodor Escherich
18. Cloak-and-dagger org.
19. Peptic problems
21. Blonde's secret, maybe
22. Driver's lic. and others
23. Albanian coins
24. Talk like Daffy
27. Caribbean, e.g.
28. Big name in British comedy
30. Form of ether
33. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ____"
36. Corporate department
38. Handed-down history
39. Bed-and-breakfast
40. Neural network
41. Kind of raise
43. The Everly Brothers, e.g.
45. "Hey ... over here!"
46. Christmas decorations
48. Wrigley Field flora
50. Sullivan had a really big one
51. Heredity carrier
53. Instinctive
56. Blemish
58. Texas oil city
60. Cellular stuff
61. "A Lesson From ____"
64. Wits
66. Native New Zealander
67. Cambodian currency
68. Snakelike fish
69. Christmas tree topper
70. Always, in verse
71. "Take ____"
- Down**
1. Boy with a bow
2. Gumbo vegetables
3. Troop grp.
4. Coop sound
5. In one's disposal or custody
6. "Back in the ____"
7. Bunion's place
8. ____ de Triomphe
9. Stupid or foolish person
10. Sacred
11. Fungal spore sacs
12. Radiant
14. Cobbler
16. Christmas season
20. Artful
25. "____ magic!"
26. Swindler
27. Santa's is loaded with presents
28. Fragrant wood
29. Catches
30. "A Nightmare on ____ Street"
31. Carol
32. Perfumery fixative
34. Gives a hand
35. African antelope
37. Band performance
42. Everyday article
44. Christmas glitter
47. Couple
49. Wiener schnitzel meat
51. Magical wish granter
52. Banana oil, e.g.
53. Inexperienced
54. "I give up!"
55. Makes lace
56. Mother, in British dialect
57. "Ah, me!"
59. Calamitous
62. Victorian, for one
63. "Yes, ____!"
65. DiCaprio, to fans



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THE VIEW FROM HERE

Continued from page 1



Map showing the Confederate state of Arizona which then led to the U. S. Congress creating the Territory of Arizona on February 24, 1863. Instead of dividing the territory along the 34th parallel as did the Confederacy, they divided it north and south in order to make it more difficult for the rebels to gain access to California. Notice that at this time our territory also included Las Vegas. Courtesy of Alexandra Stern.

proportions. Transportation particularly in the west was an arduous task. Christmas of 1863 found the Territorial Party still not here but doggedly bearing down on the eastern border of what would become Arizona. They were not confident they had made it onto Arizona soil until sometime on December 27th and as the boundary had not been surveyed, they continued on for two more days just to make sure they were actually in Arizona. The heavily laden wagons ground to a halt at a waterhole called Navajo Springs in a snowstorm on the afternoon of December 29th. There John Goodwin and the others were sworn in with a rousing speech delivered by Richard McCormick. All stood around a blazing campfire and drank heartily to the future of our great state.

Mowry and others in southern Arizona had grown tired of waiting for the United States Government to take any kind of action. However the Confederacy had recognized Arizona as a separate territory early on. The Stars and Bars, the Confederate banner, had flown over the Old Presidio in Tucson early in the war. Lieutenant James Barrett of the 1st California Cavalry fought the Battle of Picacho Pass, the only Civil War action in Arizona, to drive the Rebels out. As a result the government was set up for business far to the north, near the goldfields of the Bradshaw Mountains, first at Del Rio Springs in Chino Valley and later at what they named Prescott. The first official Christmas was celebrated there in 1864.

During these days of hustle and bustle though, when we are all so busy trying to make a buck and live our lives free from Covid, I like to think back to the Christmas these men had, hunched on an open wagon seat fighting the cold and snow, hurrying on to fulfill the Destiny of our great land - the creation of Arizona! To me that was the first Arizona Christmas.

If you get out into our spectacular Northern Arizona back woods please try to make the place better for your presence, do not litter, and try to leave the area cleaner than you found it.

Merry Christmas and Enjoy Northern Arizona.

This is the last of Bill Cowan's 12 part series articles, The View from Here—the history of Munds Park. We hope you've enjoyed it as much as we have! You can see all of Bill's articles at www.ThePineWoodNews.com.

To our friend Bill Cowan, we can't thank you enough for contributing to the PineWood News and our community!

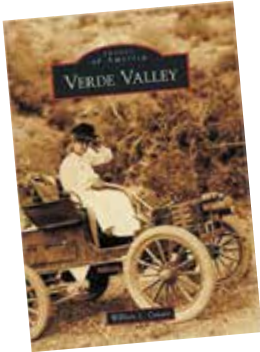
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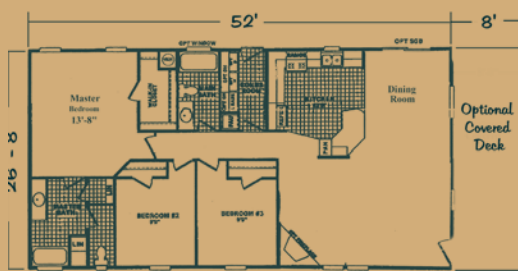
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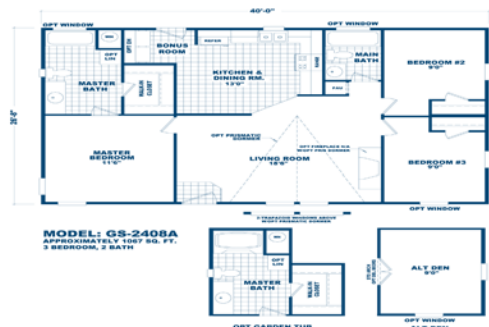


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TRAVEL

THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE



By
Stacey Wittig
Travel Writer
Unstoppable
Stacey

They said it couldn't be done. What I mean is, people told me I could not get my pilgrim credential stamped at the Vatican's St. Peter Cathedral. One of the pilgrim's honored possessions is their credential or pilgrim passport that allows them into special accommodations. The passport is also a way

to store memories. Each stamp is a lightweight, mini-souvenir—a symbol that recalls stories after the wayfarer returns home.

A stamp from the Vatican's St. Peter Basilica seemed the perfect way to inaugurate my 350-mile walk. Years have passed since I climbed its stairs to the top of the dome, or descended to the crypt of Paul, the Christ convert executed in Rome.

I procured my pilgrim passport at a hostel run by pilgrims of Confraternita di San Jacopo di Compostella in Trastevere. These folks learned about Christian fraternity from the hospitality they received while walking Spain's Camino de Santiago, so they want to offer it to pilgrims who walk in Italy. The week before I left home, someone suggested that I might find "experienced" hiking poles left behind by wanderers who finish their Via Francigena in Rome. The Via Francigena starts at Canterbury, England, and proceeds through France, Switzerland and Italy, an ancient way for pilgrims traveling to Rome. Pilgrims making the way to Jerusalem would continue south from Rome on the Vie Francigene del Sud.



Map of Camino de Santiago, Via Francigena and the trail to Jerusalem.

I was still jet lagging when I rang the bell at the albergue pilgrim accommodations. Sandro, a veteran Camino pilgrim, welcomed me into the space. "Yes, there are plenty of hiking poles," he said. "Come with me." He led me up a flight of stairs and into room decorated with a huge mural and map of how the Camino de Santiago and the Via Francigena connect. Both were traveled by pilgrims in the Middle Ages to get to the three most important Christian pilgrimage sites of the times: Santiago, Rome and Jerusalem. And in the same room, a barrel filled with hiking poles left behind by people who could not take them back home in their carryon luggage.

"These are for you," Sandro said choosing the best for me.

"Do you have a credential that I could buy?" I said hoping to save myself a walk to another pilgrim association.

"No, we don't sell credentials here," he frowned. Then his face brightened, remembering that he had one in his car. Sandro was from Perugia, and traveled to Rome to volunteer at this albergue. His Perugia association supports and staffs Ermita de San Nicolas on the Camino Frances in Spain that is known for its antiquity and Christian foot washing rites. His association offers credentials and I was blessed to receive one in Rome since Ermita de San Nicolas is one of my favorite spiritual hotspots in Spain.

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17305 S Mescalero Dr

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SOLD

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SOLD

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17375 S Mustang Rd

MLS#186103 Backs to National Forest with its own private gate to the forest! Immaculate 4 bdrm, 3 full bath's mountain cabin (approx 3,789 sq ft livable space) Is perhaps the most beautiful home in Munds Park! 2 vehicle garage, central heat + AC, wall of windows facing the forest, too many upgrades to mention. Built in 2003!

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SOLD

\$779,000

17940 S Silverlake Drive

MLS# 185758 Gorgeous multi story home surrounded by pines & alligator juniper. Views of Coconino National Forest, Lake O'dell and Munds Canyon. One of the best lots in Munds Park. 2 large decks. House is being sold fully furnished. 2 car extended garage. Plenty of storage above garage and in basement. Concrete driveway. Master on the main level. Double pane windows threw out. Beautiful flower beds with drip system. Panoramic views. Home has been meticulously maintained.

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\$310,000

1129 E Coyote Rd

MLS#186790 Huge covered porch with low maintenance trex decking. Air Conditioning, central heat. Two bedroom, two baths. Plenty of parking. Large shed with metal roof. Basic furnishing will convey.

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SOLD

\$250,000

17055 Alder Place

MLS#187497 Well maintained mobile on a large lot.

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\$499,000

210 Lodge DR

2BR; 1BA + Loft Cabin! DualPane Windows! Beautifully Oiled T&G Vaulted Ceilings; Light & Airy Kitchen. Small Breakfast Bar. Principal BR is downstairs right next to the Bathroom. Check Out the Convenient and Super Neat Walk-In Pantry/ Laundry/Storage Room. Washer/Dryer Convey. Upstairs you will find a BR towards the back and Den, towards the front (also can be used as a Sleeping area.) Newer Roof (2013) offers 4 extra inches of styrofoam insulation. A Heat Pump for Heating and Cooling. Two Decks Back and Front! Back with remote controlled Shade and it stays! Huge Diamond Shaped Back Yard. 24' long Garage w/ Remote. RV Parking too.

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105 Hunter Pl

MLS#187357: Adorable 2 BR;1.5 BA; 972 Sq Ft.; T & G Ceiling in LR is just stunning; Barnwood Walls; Like New Appliances; FAE Furnace plus Pellet Stove and all on a corner lot. First American Eagle Premier One Year Home Warranty provided by Seller.

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\$450,000

420 Lodge Dr.

MLS#186363: WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE DEER AND ELK IN THE FOREST RIGHT BEHIND THIS ADORABLE 3 Br 2 Ba ; 1 Car Garage ON THE FOREST LINE. Home is presently on Septic which has just been recently inspected and cleaned. The Sewer tap is already in and paid for by seller as Big Plus. Dual Pane Windows through out.Beautiful brick-like wood burning Fireplace with an Insert and blower in LR. Propane Central Heat. French Doors in DR add a ton of light to the home. A NEW ROOF is coming by Jeff Leland. Log Cabin Shed. Two covered decks; front and back. New Survey has been performed and property is staked. Home is unfurnished with the exception of Refrigerator, Washer and Dryer which convey. Most of back yard is fenced. 7900 SQ FT LOT.

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TRAVEL

Continued from page 13



Pilgrim credential



St. Peter Cathedral interior

“I would like to get my first sello (Spanish for stamp) at St. Peter. Do you know where I get my stamp there?” I asked.

“Oh, no. You cannot get a stamp at St. Peter. You have to get your first stamp at the place you spend your first night,” he said.

“Well, that is not true, I got stamps at other cathedrals as my first stamp,” I smiled diplomatically.

“No, no!” You CANNOT get a stamp until your first night of sleep,” Sandro said emphatically. OK, I could tell that I was not going to get anywhere with this old codger, so I thanked him profusely, took his photo by the iconic Camino arrow and left. I’ve received “first” stamps at some of the best loved cathedrals around the world: Notre Dame de Paris, Lourdes, Chartres and Sacre Coeur. I was pretty darn sure that I could get one at St. Peter in Rome, I was just not sure how.

Earlier, I’d messaged Giuseppe, another volunteer from the Vie Francigene del Sud association on WhatsApp. “Get your stamp at the Offices of the Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi,” said my mentor for the southern way. I entered the offices in Google Maps on my phone and followed the directions. Turns out the Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi offices are a few blocks from St. Peter Cathedral. As an office of the Diocese of Rome, they accompany pilgrims along spiritual paths while offering both spiritual assistance and practical organization. Wow! That sounds like the same mission as my Spiritual and Walking Guidebooks!

When I arrived, a fashionista Roman in bowtie and Tweed suit spoke enthusiastically to a French couple. As far as I could tell, his French was parfait—perfect! I waited patiently, knowing this wasn’t the place I wanted to be. I wanted to get my stamp inside St. Peter Cathedral.

“Excusez moi,” he said to the couple and asked me how he might help.

“Ciao! I am a pilgrim of Vie Francigene del Sud,” I said. “I wish to have my pilgrim credential stamped at St. Peter Cathedral. Do you know where I can do that?”

“You do not want a certificate of completion, no?”

“No, I am just beginning. I will complete by spiritual journey in Bari.”

“Get a timbro (the Italian word for stamp) at St. Peter? If there is such a place, I do not know it,” said the Vatican expert. “But if you follow me, I can have your credential stamped here.”

He took me to what looked like a police desk in the next building, and I got the first stamp of my pilgrimage from an officer. Still not being able to take “no,” for an answer, I continued on to St. Peter Basilica. I was determined to get my stamp.

I took the famous Ponte Sant’Angelo across the Tiber, stood in line for over an hour to have my handbag x-rayed by Vatican security, and finally entered the church. The first thing that catches your eye as you enter the world’s largest cathedral, is Pieta, the infamous statue by Michelangelo. After praying in front of the statue—yes, you can actually get in front of Rome’s famous monuments without fighting the hordes of tourists experienced in pre-COVID times—I decide to simply wander the chapels of this sacred space, and not worry about the stamp for time being.

After about two hours of exploring and meditating, the natural progression of wandering the great Basilica took me to the gift shop. One thing I’ve learned over time is that if you haven’t found what you’re looking for, ask the gift shop attendant. After shopping, I showed the cashier my credential and asked, “Where can I get this stamped?” offering a little Camino sign language by holding an invisible stamp in my

right hand and pressing it down on the passport.

The young gentleman in the blue suit briefly looked up and said in English, “Follow him.” He tilted his head towards another man in a navy blazer carrying what looked like a cashier’s drawer. I had to leave the gift shop, dodging happy families buying keepsakes, and walk around to the secure door where I hoped the second man would be exiting. Sure enough, after waiting a few moments that seemed like an eternity, out came the man with the cash.

He led me down a narrow hallway, then turned to the right to an antechamber that led to the sacristy. He called out to a man inside, telling the official what I needed. The administrator unclipped the velvet stanchion rope and allowed me into the room where priests garb up for the Eucharist. I was reminded that in Spanish cathedrals I was often invited into the sacristy to receive my pilgrim stamp. Special access always made me feel like an honored guest. I was more than humbled to be invited into the sacristy of St. Peter Basilica, the home of the Roman Catholic Church. The official took my credential, put it on a large oak table, and pressed down his timbro with a flourish. He handed my credential back to me with a smile. I could hardly believe it! They said it couldn’t be done.

“Unstoppable Stacey” writes from Italy. Her latest pilgrimage takes her from Rome to Bari, Italy, along the Vie Francigene del Sud. She hopes to complete 350 miles in four weeks and be back to Munds Park for Christmas. Follow her spiritual adventures at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com

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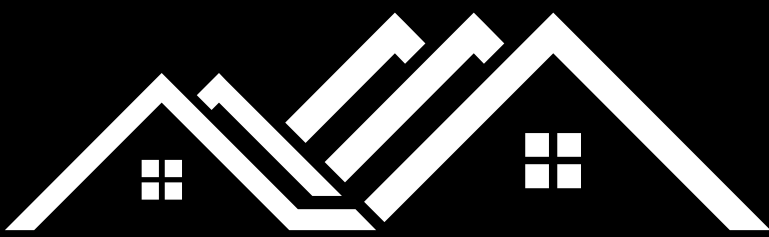
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GARDENING IN THE PARK

KEEPING BIRDS (AND OTHER WILDLIFE) HAPPY THIS WINTER



It's one of the ironies of our relationship with the wildlife around us: we are more likely to think about feeding our feathered and furred outdoor friends when they really don't need it.

From spring through fall, we are outdoors more, so making sure our wildlife has food, water and shelter is more top of mind. But it's during the winter that our intervention is needed more.

The temperature drops in the high county which means that birds and mammals struggle to keep warm. Food sources dry up: seeds blow away in the winter winds, grasses and fruits rot or die off, and other food sources can get buried in the snow. Insects are either hibernating or out of reach, deep under the ground, which is often frozen.

Water sources too can be frozen over, and animals wind up spending precious energy trying to find hydration – and often that can make the difference between life and death.

Then there's shelter. While we are big proponents of winterizing and cleaning up your yard in the fall, the flip side of this is that we are often taking away the places that animals rely on to keep warm and safe during the cold months.

But there are steps you can take to help birds and small mammals as we go into the deep freeze.

First of all, let's talk about feeding our animal friends. A selection of seeds is a good idea for almost all birds, but what they really can use is some fat to help them fight off the cold. The most common way of providing that is with plant-based suet. Blocks are particularly great because the birds will nibble at it and the seeds embedded in the suet are less likely to fall on the ground and possibly get lost in snow.

For birds, having a rich diet during the winter will not only help them survive, but

it will also make for a more successful mating season next year. The more nutrients birds enjoy during the winter, the earlier they will lay eggs and the more likely their chicks will have healthier weights.

For squirrels and small mammals, nuts and cracked corn are a great source of fat and nutrition.

If you are using feeders, make sure to wipe away any snow or ice. Buildup of snow or ice can make it harder for birds to find your feeders in the first place, plus the moisture can cause seeds to rot.



Another simple way to help is to provide a source of clean drinking water. Leave out a birdbath or bowl, but don't just fill it and forget it. Check on it and pour hot water to melt away any ice that forms. Or if you want to make it a little more luxurious for our feathered friends, invest in a heated fountain or birdbath.

The final thing our local wildlife needs is shelter and even if you clean up your yard for winter, there's still a way to provide some housing - build a brush pile. It will provide a safe spot for ground-nesting birds and small mammals as well as hibernating reptiles, amphibians and insects.

It should be in an out-of-the way part of your property with some food sources nearby. Create a base with larger tree limbs and then stack branches, grass and leaves loosely on top of that, which will create lovely nooks and crannies for your wildlife to huddle into.

In fact, your firewood pile can also make a good shelter for wildlife if you place the logs in such a way that they create internal spaces for small animals. Just make sure that you don't bring any small creatures with you when you put that log in the fireplace!

If you have any questions about helping our wildlife during winter, or need bird feeders, seeds or suet, please visit us at Warner's Nursery. We'd be happy to help!



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WORD SEARCH

Created by Paul Mason
Solution pg. 26



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Paul McClellan! Thank you for your letter and kind words! We made this Word Search a bit bigger :)

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------------|--------|
| Bells | Gravy | Mary | Sauce |
| Bread | Green | Mass | Sing |
| Candy | Ham | Merry | Sled |
| Card | Happy | Noel | Sleigh |
| Cedar | Holly | Party | Star |
| Crib | Holy | Pie | Tinsel |
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| Eggnog | Jolly | Port | Wreath |
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9	7	8	2	6	3	1	4	5
3	5	6	4	1	9	8	2	7
8	9	7	5	4	6	2	1	3
1	3	4	7	9	2	5	6	8
6	2	5	1	3	8	9	7	4
5	6	3	9	7	1	4	8	2
7	8	9	6	2	4	3	5	1
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MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

GET LIT FOR CHRISTMAS



By
Steve Bowyer
Pastor, Munds Park
Community Church

Okay, not what you think! During the Christmas season we light 5 Advent candles. Each candle represents something significant about the Nativity that if you allow them into your life, they will change you and your outlook forever.

The first candle represents hope. It is also called the prophecy candle. There are 414 passages in the Old Testament that predict something about Jesus. Every single one of them that refers to his birth and the first time he came have come true. So, if every prediction made about Jesus up to this point have come true, in time all the others will, too. That gives us hope for our future.

Hope is the confidence that whatever God is working on right now, whether we can see it or not, will work out for our benefit in the future, we just do not know when. Even though our lives may feel like everything is out of control, nothing is out of God's control and things will eventually work out for our good in time.

The second candle represents love. It is also called the Bethlehem candle. For God so loved the world that He sent His Son to be born in Bethlehem and die in Jerusalem, so that whoever believes in Him will get into heaven. Only a God who loves us this much would sacrifice so much for us.

Micah wrote one of those predictions in the Old Testament. He predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. But Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. What would get them to Bethlehem and in Mary's condition? Caesar declared a census. They passed an infrastructure bill in Rome and had to raise taxes to pay for the roads and bridges. So, they needed to count the number of people in the empire to know how much more each one should pay. They had to go.

Joseph loved Mary so much that when he found out she was pregnant by another he did not divorce her. And he cared for her as they traveled. Nazareth to Bethlehem was

about 100 miles from about sea level to over 6000 feet above. Think of Mary riding a donkey from Anthem to Munds Park. Now think about how much Joseph loved her and how much Mary loved God to make that trek.

The third candle represents joy. It is also called the shepherd's candle. There was very little to be joyful about in a shepherd's life. They were the poorest group in town. They were on the lowest rung of the social ladder. Nobody invited them into their home. They were dirt poor and they stunk.

Sheep are dumb and dirty. Shepherds slept on dirt floors. Their faces, feet, and clothes were covered in the filth of the fields. But the shepherds were the first to receive the announcement of the birth of the Savior. Had the announcement been made to the elite, the poor never could relate. But since the announcement came to the poor, everyone can relate. No one is beneath receiving what Jesus came to offer.

The fourth candle represents peace. It is also called the angel's candle. When Jesus was born the angels declared peace on earth. Where? You might ask. In the middle east? Hardly. They have been at each other's throats since the sibling rivalry of Ishmael and Isaac. The Prince of Peace came to earth in Jesus.

This is the most wonderful time of the year. It is also the most anxiety producing time of the year. The stress of the holidays this year is multiplied by another variant of the virus and inflation. Yet, we can all experience peace this season when we surrender all the angst we feel to Jesus.

The fifth candle is the Christ candle. It is the one that confirms the other four. With Christ, all things are possible. We can have hope for next year and beyond. We can know someone loves us enough to make significant sacrifices for us when no one else will. We can experience joy that is not affected by our circumstance. And we can have peace when our world is filled with stressors and uncertainty.

Get lit this season. Light the candles, believe in the baby, and receive all He offers.

For more information about our church go to our website, mpcc.church.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Veronica 'Roni' Evaneshko passed away peacefully at Flagstaff Medical Center on October 30, 2021. She was born in Lackawanna, NY January 8, 1936. Roni was a long-time resident of Munds Park, very active in MUTS and the Pinewood Sewer Board. She was perhaps best known as "the lady that walked down the middle of the street with her dog reading a book or magazine." She adored the outdoors, especially the Coconino National Forest. She had a lifelong passion for learning, earning an RN degree, a Master's in nursing and anthropology, and a Ph.D. in anthropology. And she accomplished this all on her own as she was an orphan from birth. She did have three older sisters, all in the orphanage since her mother died in childbirth and her

father was unable to care for them because he had TB. She combined her nursing and anthropology interests by conducting a great deal of grant work in conjunction with U of A, studying the relationship between the incidence of diabetes and the Native American population all over the West. Her papers are available in the archives at NAU. Per her wishes, she has been cremated, and friends and family are invited to participate in a celebration of life memorial in May. Time and place to be announced in the Pinewood News. She is survived by two nephews, Michael Young and Myron Yankoski, both of Michigan, and a myriad of good friends around the country.



Emergency Notifications

Coconino.az.gov/ready

JUST ONE MORE

Photos by Barbara Sherman Photography.



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