PINEWOOD NEWS

MUNDS PARK'S GUIDE TO THE GOOD LIFE & MOUNTAIN LIVING SINCE 1993

VOL. 33 NO. 66 NOVEMBER 6 2026

COMPLIMENTARY



CELESTIAL EVENTS

A SEASON OF SHOOTING STARS, SUPERMOONS & HOLIDAY SKIES

Throughout November The Seven Sisters Return for Thanksgiving

November brings one of the prettiest sights of the season: the Pleiades star cluster, also known as the Seven Sisters. These sparkling stars have long been associated with changing seasons and agricultural traditions, making them a fitting sight for Thanksgiving. Look east after dark for a tiny cluster of stars resembling a miniature dipper. Binoculars reveal even more of this beautiful stellar family. A lovely reminder that the night sky has been marking the seasons for generations.

November 11–12 | A Second Shot at Fireballs

The Northern Taurids take their turn, with the same reputation for bright, slow meteors. A thin crescent Moon sets early, so look up from late evening through midnight.

November 16–17 | The Leonids

History's great meteor storms came from the Leonids. This year will be modest, but expect swift meteors, some leaving glowing trails. Watch after midnight, once the Moon sets.

November 24-26 | A Thanksgiving Moon to Remember

November's Beaver Moon is a supermoon, appearing a bit larger and brighter than usual. It reaches full phase on November 24, just two days before Thanksgiving. Catch it rising in the east around sunset and enjoy a little extra moonlight for the holiday.

November 25 | Uranus at Its Best

The distant ice giant reaches opposition, its brightest of the year. The nearby full Moon makes it tough to spot this week, so try again in early December. Under exceptionally dark skies, sharp eyes may glimpse it without equipment, but binoculars and a good star chart offer a better chance. Look for it in Taurus, near the Seven Sisters.

December 13–14 | The Geminids: Don't Miss This One!

The year's best meteor shower, with bright meteors that sometimes flash with color. The crescent Moon sets by mid-evening, leaving dark skies. Start around 10 pm. Activity builds after midnight. Bundle up!

December 21 | Winter Solstice

The longest night of the year, with the solstice at 1:50 pm Arizona time. Astronomical winter begins, and from here the days grow longer.

December 21–22 | The Ursids

A modest shower radiating from the Little Dipper. A bright, nearly full Moon will hide the fainter meteors, but patient watchers may catch a few bright ones before dawn.

December 23–24 | Christmas Eve Supermoon

The last and largest supermoon of 2026 turns full at 6:28 pm on December 23 and will still shine full on Christmas Eve. Step outside and enjoy the holiday moonlight.



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.

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PINEWOOD NEWS

MUNDS PARK'S GUIDE TO THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN LIVING SINCE 1993

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church
Every Monday, 6 p.m.
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday • 10:45 a.m.
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend.
Stay informed. Your presence and participation is essential!
Thursday, June 17, 2027
6:30 p.m. • The Fire House

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary Meeting

The Community is Welcome!
Tuesday, November 10 & December 1
6:30 p.m. • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Tuesday, November 17
3 p.m. • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Thursday, November 12
3 p.m. • 18075 Fairway Dr

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 7A

Historic flooding brought widespread damage and unexpected challenges to Munds Park. Our Local Highlights cover the storm, its impact, and the community's response.

THINGS TO DO & SEE 14A

From holiday lights and parades to Christmas markets and family traditions, discover festive events throughout Northern Arizona!

VETERANS DAY SALUTE TO DICK DRINEN 17A

From the Berlin Crisis to 35 years in the Arizona Air National Guard and decades of service to Munds Park, Dick Drinen has spent a lifetime serving others. At 90, he remains as humble as ever.

GARDENS IN THE PARK 21A

Warner's Nursery celebrates the beauty of traditional Christmas decorating, from fresh-cut trees and natural ornaments to wreaths, garlands, and family traditions that make the season special.

BADGE & BALLOT RETURNS 23A

Young Frances Willard heads east for an education, where unfamiliar food, new adventures, and a refusal to kiss the boys earn her the nickname "The Nevada Wild Cat."

PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB'S FUTURE 25A

A $7.2 million renovation, member concerns, and some difficult questions about the Club's relationship with Munds Park. A candid conversation with Club leadership offers surprising answers and reason for hope.

BOOK REVIEW 2B

In The Witch by Freida McFadden, a centuries-old estate, unsettling secrets, and the Salem witch trials come together in a suspenseful mystery with an ending that keeps readers guessing.

HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL 3B

Turn leftover turkey into a creamy, comforting Tetrazzini casserole, paired with roasted Brussels sprouts, apples, caramelized onions and pistachios for a delicious seasonal meal.

SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD 5B

Our Shaken & Stirred Pecan Pie Martini brings the flavors of Thanksgiving dessert to your cocktail glass, with a little Martini history and a make-ahead tip for easy entertaining.

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WHEN THE WATERS CAME TO MUNDS PARK

Flood damage, difficult days & neighbors pitching in

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

The flooding that swept through Munds Park on Sunday, November 1, left damaged businesses, flooded properties, closed roads and a community facing an enormous cleanup. The Pinewood Sanitary District's wastewater system was also under considerable strain, with manhole covers popping as floodwaters overwhelmed parts of the community. Thankfully, despite the damage, no one was injured in Munds Park. For that, we are immensely grateful.



Pinewood Fire Department firefighters rescue a family trapped by rushing floodwaters at the underpass entering Munds Park. A powerful reminder of how quickly moving water can become dangerous. — Photo by Jay Ross

In the aftermath of a serious flood, questions naturally arise about what could have been done differently and who, if anyone, is responsible. Asking those questions is reasonable. But it's equally important to put the events into perspective.

Munds Park was developed in an area with known flood risks, long before today's engineering studies and floodplain mapping were available. Coconino County has studied those risks for years, held public meetings, warned residents about potential flooding, and worked with engineers and other agencies to identify mitigation options. The County has been transparent about the risks, as evidenced by its public warnings and updated floodplain maps.

Unfortunately, identifying a problem and solving it are two very different things. Government operates on "government time," and nature doesn't wait.

Coconino County has enormous responsibilities, from managing the aftermath of major wildfires to addressing flooding, damaged infrastructure and the needs of communities spread across a vast region. Resources are limited, engineering solutions are complicated, and changes to drainage systems must be carefully evaluated to avoid creating problems downstream. Progress can be frustratingly slow.

And even when that work is completed, there are limits to what engineering can accomplish.

Sunday's storm was not confined to Munds Park. Communities across northern and central Arizona, including Sedona, Rimrock and Camp Verde, faced dangerous flooding and evacuation orders. This was a powerful weather event affecting an entire region. Could additional drainage improvements have reduced some of the damage in Munds Park? I'm sure they could have, just as improvements throughout the region could have reduced damage elsewhere. But preventing flooding when nature is determined is another matter. We humans like to believe we can control everything. That's ego, not reality.

The reality is, we live in mountain country. We face the very real possibility of wildfires, severe winter storms and flooding. These are risks we must learn to live with and prepare for.

Preparing for those risks is a shared responsibility. Government has an obligation to assess hazards, pursue reasonable protections and communicate danger. But waiting for government to protect us from every disaster is a fool's errand. Ultimately, we must take responsibility for understanding the risks where we live, preparing our homes and families, and looking out for one another. When nature strikes, we cannot count on government to prevent the damage or guarantee that help will arrive when we need it.

County & State Assess Flood Damage

By Monday morning, Coconino County personnel and Pinewood Fire Chief Josh Tope were already visiting local businesses, documenting damage and gathering information about how floodwaters moved through the community. These assessments will help the County better understand the impact of the flooding, identify areas of concern and determine what additional measures or assistance may be needed.

Also on Monday, November 2, Governor Katie Hobbs declared a statewide emergency following the severe storms and flooding across Arizona, including Munds Park. The declaration makes $200,000 in emergency funding available to support response and recovery efforts statewide. It also allows state agencies to coordinate assistance with debris removal, damaged roads, public infrastructure and other emergency needs.

While the declaration includes Munds Park, it does not automatically provide financial assistance to individual homeowners or businesses. However, it opens the door for additional state resources as local communities assess the damage and begin recovering.

Were the Emergency Alerts Enough?

There is, however, one area where we believe the community deserves a clear explanation.

Genna and I are registered for emergency alerts in Yavapai County, where we live, and Coconino County, where we work. As Rimrock and Camp Verde experienced serious flooding Sunday, our phones were sounding throughout the day with emergency notifications. A bridge leading into Rimrock was flooded, and our area received instructions to shelter in place. We were also receiving notifications from the National Weather Service and the Watch Duty app.

Coconino County did send two Rave alerts with Flash Flood Warnings, at 4:31 a.m. and 7:36 a.m. After that, however, the alerts stopped, even

... Local Highlights continued on page 9A

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...*Continued from page 7A*

as conditions in Munds Park grew more serious. By midday, there was no way in or out of the community, yet residents received no shelter-in-place order or any notice that access had been cut off.

Meanwhile, *The Pinewood News* was fielding calls from concerned Munds Park residents asking what they should do. With roads flooding, Interstate 17 in chaos, and access to the community severely restricted, we urged people to stay put and avoid traveling to or from Munds Park. We also posted emergency information and updates on our Facebook page throughout the day. We routinely keep residents informed through Facebook, but this time we found ourselves trying to fill a gap in the County's emergency communications.

This is disappointing, particularly because we have spent years encouraging residents to register for emergency notifications. This year, we have been especially persistent following what we learned at the Town Hall about the strong possibility of a difficult winter and increased flooding risks.

When an emergency happens, these are the systems we encourage people to rely on. A warning early in the morning is important, but residents also need updates as a situation unfolds. We would like to understand why additional notifications were not sent as conditions worsened.



Munds Canyon roars beneath Pinewood Boulevard as floodwaters transform the normally quiet stream into a rushing torrent, complete with whitewater rapids. — Photo by Jessica Shrake

We have contacted Coconino County and are awaiting an explanation. Once we receive a response, we will share it with our readers.

In the meantime, we continue to strongly recommend registering for Coconino County emergency alerts at www.Smart911.com. We also encourage residents to enable National Weather Service alerts on their phones and use the Watch Duty app as an additional source of emergency information. And, of course, you can follow The Pinewood News Facebook page. We will continue doing everything we can to keep our community informed when emergencies arise.

Ultimately, the most valuable thing we can do is prepare for what may come, recognize that no one can guarantee our safety against every natural disaster, and take care of one another when trouble arrives.

October Was Just the Beginning: More Storms Ahead

The October 10–13 storms should have gotten our attention. According to Megan Taylor of the National Weather Service in Flagstaff, Munds Park received 3.33 inches of rain, while Oak Creek Canyon recorded 3.27 inches and Flagstaff Pulliam Airport measured 3.30 inches. It was a remarkable amount of precipitation in a short period, and a reminder of the warnings residents heard at the recent Munds Park Town Hall.

But what followed was considerably more serious.

According to Taylor, the Munds Park area received an estimated 5 to 5.5 inches of rain during the November 1 weekend alone. Including the rainfall from Thursday and Friday, the four-day total reached an extraordinary 6.5 to 7.25 inches.

That's an enormous amount of water for any community to manage, particularly one with known drainage challenges and aging infrastructure.

And here's what should concern us as winter approaches: What happens when heavy rain falls on an existing snowpack?

Rain-on-snow events can accelerate melting, sending additional water into already saturated ground, streams and drainage systems. Add icy roads, heavy wet snow, falling tree limbs and the possibility of additional flooding, and the challenges become considerably greater.

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At the recent Town Hall, Taylor warned that a very strong El Niño could bring more frequent storms, heavier precipitation and an increased risk of flooding this winter. While no one can predict exactly how much rain or snow Munds Park will receive, the events of the past few weeks demonstrate why preparation matters.

And Taylor's latest message leaves little room for complacency.

"This is not the end of the active pattern; we expect the active pattern to continue through the winter months," Taylor told The Pinewood News.

"We urge people not to let their guard down."

Taylor, who serves as Acting Meteorologist in Charge and Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Flagstaff, emphasized the importance of remaining connected to emergency notifications and understanding the warnings issued by her office.

When the National Weather Service issues a Flood Watch or Winter Storm Watch, it's time to prepare. A watch means conditions are favorable for potentially dangerous weather. Don't wait until a warning is issued, when dangerous conditions may already be occurring or imminent.



A muddy mess throughout Kota's Coffee House — Photo by Genna Caviness

Preparation means checking drainage around your property, protecting exposed plumbing, having emergency supplies available, and making plans before roads become impassable. It also means staying informed through multiple reliable sources, including National Weather Service alerts, County emergency notifications and Watch Duty.

As Taylor reminds us, preparation is crucial to staying safe through serious weather events.

Munds Park has already received two powerful reminders of what nature can deliver, and winter hasn't even begun.

We may not be able to prevent the next storm, but we can be better prepared when it arrives. And if the events of this past weekend taught us anything, it's that taking care of one another is just as important as taking care of our own homes.

The Day After: Checking In on Our Local Businesses

The day after the flood, Genna and I drove to Munds Park to see how our local businesses were holding up. Most owners had arrived only shortly before we did, so everything was still raw. Some were assessing the damage, and others were already starting to pick up the pieces. What we saw most was shock and sadness.

Running a restaurant or bar in a seasonal community is hard enough. We've seen the challenges firsthand, from the fire at Sigon North to the flooding that has now affected several local businesses. For owners who work so hard to keep their doors open, even one unexpected setback can be financially devastating.

We went to check on our neighbors, offer our support and share what we saw.

Kota's Coffee House

When we arrived, owner Stephanie looked understandably overwhelmed. Muddy water and thick sludge covered the floors throughout the coffee house, and as the cleanup got underway, the sewer began to back up and overflow. On top of that, a power outage had put the refrigerated products at risk. With this being their slowest season, every day the doors stay closed means lost revenue they can't easily make up.

But Stephanie and Phil weren't facing it alone. Employees and friends showed up with wet vacs, brooms and squeegees, and other community members pitched in. Everything had to be carried out so the water could be removed and the floors cleaned, an enormous job, but people simply rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

Unfortunately, the damage proved more extensive than initially thought. Water-damaged drywall also needed to be replaced, turning what everyone hoped would be a relatively quick cleanup into a larger repair project.

The additional repairs have pushed back Kota's reopening. Stephanie and Phil are eager to welcome customers again and will share updates as the work progresses.

Munds Park RV Resort

When we stopped by Munds Park RV Resort, staff were still assessing the damage. They provided us with the following statement:

Munds Park RV Resort had completed its scheduled seasonal closure just one day before the flooding occurred, and fortunately, our seasonal residents and guests had already departed the community.

While we are incredibly grateful that our residents were not on-site when the flooding began, we recognize that many have homes, RVs, and personal belongings at the resort, and we understand how concerning this situation is for them.

Our immediate priority is safety. Members of our operations teams are on-site to assess the extent of the damage and begin determining the appropriate next steps.

Although we anticipate property damage, it is too early to understand the full impact. We are committed to keeping our residents informed as we learn more and to approaching the recovery process with care

... Local Highlights continued on page 12A

Join Us

for the

5th Annual Christmas Lighting Festival

Presented by
Munds Park Business Alliance

Saturday, November 28, 2026

Gather with community, Food,
Live Music & Activities @ 4:30
Welcome & Message @ 6pm

Munds Park Community Church parking lot

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd
Munds Park, 86017

The Munds Park Business Alliance will host the 5th Annual Lighting Festival to kick off the Christmas season with song, friendship, and the lighting ceremony.

Dress warm and bring a lawn chair!

We will have fire pits, kids crafts, cookies, popcorn, hot cocoa, coffee & lots of singing! Come Gâther, Eat & Socialize!

The Munds Park Community Church will ignite hope, share a message and have engaging worship music for all to enjoy. After the lighting ceremony, guests can travel Pinewood Boulevard to see light displays throughout our little business district.

Holiday Magic

...Continued from page 10A

and urgency.

Our thoughts are with the entire Munds Park community and everyone affected by this flooding. We are grateful to the local emergency responders and all those working to keep the community safe.

Munds Park Community Church

The fellowship hall at Munds Park Community Church flooded, but fortunately, the damage was manageable.

When we arrived, church elders and members were already hard at work. Baseboards had been pulled, carpets were drying, floors were being mopped, and items from the storage shed were being carried out and checked for water damage.

There was still plenty to do, but the church seemed to have been spared the more serious damage seen elsewhere in the community.

Pinewood Country Club

The damage at Pinewood Country Club looked extensive. Just inside the entrance, the sunken meeting room to the left still held one to two feet of standing water. It looked like an indoor pool. The water also appeared to have pushed farther in, toward the restaurant and bar.



The meeting room just inside the Pinewood Country Club entrance takes on the appearance of an indoor swimming pool. An estimated one to two feet of water covers the floor, reflecting the room above. — Photo by Genna Caviness

Club staff were still assessing the situation and weren't ready to talk about the extent of the damage. We respected their need to focus on the work in front of them and will follow up when the time is right.

What is clear is that the club has a long recovery ahead.

Pinewood Fire Department

The new Pinewood Fire Department building came through the flooding without any damage. That was great news, and not just because the building is new. It meant our firefighters had a working station to operate from and could keep responding to calls and answering questions while the community was flooding. It's a great example of the community's investment paying off.

One of the department's fire trucks, however, wasn't as lucky. On Sunday, firefighters responded to a call about a family with children trapped by floodwaters near the Interstate 17 underpass. When they went to restart the truck to leave the scene, it wouldn't start. The floodwaters had taken it out, and it had to be towed away for repairs, leaving the department temporarily down one truck.

Pinewood Sanitary District

The Pinewood Sanitary District shared encouraging news. Despite the extraordinary conditions, the District reported that it had one small



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bypass on Sunday. In simple terms, a bypass redirects wastewater when part of the system can't operate normally. The brief duration was good news, though crews were still checking for possible damage throughout the system and across Munds Park.

Residents reported manhole covers popping up during the flooding, and District staff worked hard to answer calls and assess conditions. What makes their efforts especially remarkable is that several employees live in Camp Verde, where flooding affected their homes, and some struggled to reach Munds Park. One employee, Jeff, had reportedly been awake for 40 hours, fielding calls and answering questions from concerned residents. He did his absolute best with what he had to work with.

Responding to an emergency at work is hard enough. Doing it while your own home and family are dealing with the same disaster is another burden entirely.

We thank the entire Sanitary District team for their hard work and hope their own homes and families came through the flooding safely.



Just west of the Chevron station. — Photo by Fire Chief Josh Tope

Pinewood Restaurant & Bar

Given the flooding nearby, we expected to find considerable damage at Pinewood Restaurant & Bar. Fortunately, the restaurant had only a little water inside.

When we arrived, Ludy and David were mopping up what was left, and the restaurant was already open for business. They were understandably relieved. What could have been devastating required only a small cleanup.

However, the restaurant closed later that day as Jesus and Angelica dealt with flooding near their home in Camp Verde. With Clear Creek roaring behind their property, their immediate concern was getting their animals to safety. Thankfully, the family and animals were unharmed.

The restaurant has since reopened, grateful to have escaped serious damage and thankful for the community's concern and support.

Satchmo's Roadhouse

At Satchmo's Roadhouse, owner Jamie was surveying the damage when we stopped by, and it was clearly weighing on him.

The landscaping he had recently finished was washed away, but his biggest worry was what the rushing water might have done beneath the building. Erosion or shifting around the foundation and its supports could be a serious problem, though the extent of any structural damage wasn't yet known.

Water had also gotten inside, but with the building's rustic, well-worn floors, Jamie was still trying to tell what was old wear and what was new damage from the flood. The food truck hadn't been inspected yet, leaving another question unanswered.

As we stood talking, Jamie pointed to a freezer lying near the entrance. "That's not even ours," he said. "I'm not sure where it came from."

For Jamie, the concerns are real. Having just opened this summer, with all the expense that comes with that, and with big plans for 2027, he has no idea yet where all of this will land.

SportsMunds, NiMarco's Pizza & Empty Nest

All three businesses experienced flooding, with muddy water making its way inside and leaving employees with a difficult cleanup. While the damage was not as extensive as what we saw at other establishments, removing the water and cleaning up the mud was no small undertaking.

Amanda, the owner of NiMarco's let us look around as they worked to get things back in order. Standing water in the parking lot added to the challenge, making an already exhausting job even harder. Although these businesses appear to have escaped the worst of the flooding, the cleanup was still a considerable effort, and further assessment may reveal additional damage.

Flood Damage Reached Throughout Munds Park

The damage extended well beyond the businesses and areas hardest hit by the flooding. Throughout Munds Park, homeowners dealt with sewer backups, damaged and washed-out yards, leaking roofs and water intrusion. Even homes outside designated flood zones were affected, a reminder that heavy rainfall can cause serious problems anywhere in our community. While some residents faced relatively minor cleanup, others were left with significant damage and repairs that may take weeks or longer to complete.

Giving Thanks

As we head into the Thanksgiving season, we have much to be grateful for. Buildings can be repaired, businesses can reopen and belongings can be replaced. Lives cannot. The losses are real for those affected, but we are thankful our community was spared a far greater tragedy.

With winter still ahead, let Sunday's flood remind us to prepare our homes, make emergency plans, stay informed and look out for our neighbors. The National Weather Service has warned that this active weather pattern may continue through the winter, and we would be wise to take that seriously.

Now, more than ever, let's support our local brick-and-mortar businesses. Stop in for a meal, grab a cup of coffee, shop locally and help those who are recovering get back on their feet. These businesses are an important part of our community, and right now, they need us.

Perhaps that's what Thanksgiving is really about: recognizing how fortunate we are, remembering those who are struggling and sharing what we can with one another. After everything this community has been through, we have plenty of reasons to give thanks, and plenty of chances to show it.

THINGS TO DO & SEE!

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WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA!

Send your wishes, dreams, and Christmas wonders straight to the North Pole! Santa cherishes every letter he receives, and he always takes time to write back. Watch your mailbox for a special keepsake note from Santa himself, sprinkled with a little North Pole magic to treasure for years to come!

Mail your Christmas wishes to:

Santa
c/o Pinewood News Kids
PO Box 18977
Munds Park, AZ 86017

Mail by December 18 so the elves get it to Santa in time!

MUNDS PARK

EVERY THURSDAY
SPREAD THE BREAD

Start Thursday with a simple act of neighborly sharing. Volunteers bring fresh bread from Wildflower in Flagstaff so the Munds Park community can enjoy something good together. It is not need-based, just bread shared with kindness.

Time: 10 am until the bread runs out. Arrive early for the best selection!

Location: Munds Park Community Church, 17670 S. Munds Ranch Rd

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
JOIN OUR FAMILY FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

There's a seat saved just for you! Munds Park Community Church invites you to a cozy, family-style Thanksgiving feast. It's completely free, with plenty of good food and friendly faces.

Time: 1 pm

Location: Munds Park Community Church

Please RSVP: mpccchurch.office@gmail.com or 928-286-2022

Admission: Free

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
5TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FESTIVAL

Munds Park kicks off Christmas with music, food, fire pits, kids crafts, cookies, popcorn, hot cocoa, coffee, singing, and the annual lighting ceremony. Gather with neighbors, dress warm, bring a lawn chair, and stay afterward to enjoy light displays along Pinewood Boulevard.

Time: Festivities begin at 4:30 pm; welcome and message at 6 pm

Location: Munds Park Community Church, 17670 S. Munds Ranch Rd

Details: Presented by Munds Park Business Alliance. Dress warm & bring a lawn chair.

Admission: FREE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
SANTA'S VISIT

Ho ho ho! The Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary is bringing holiday magic to town, and Santa Claus is coming to town too! Santa and Mrs. Claus are dashing down from the North Pole to greet every little one in Munds Park. Bring your kiddos to snap a merry picture with Santa and his reindeer, then take home a stocking stuffed with jolly goodies!

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: The Pinewood Fire House

RSVP: Norma at 602-316-5660 by November 10

BEYOND THE PARK

NIGHTLY, NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 30
THE POLAR EXPRESS

The Grand Canyon Railway's Polar Express brings the classic holiday story to life with a nighttime train ride from Williams to the "North Pole." Families can enjoy the story, hot chocolate, cookies, and a visit from Santa aboard the train.

Time: Departure times vary by date

Location: Grand Canyon Railway Depot, Williams

Details: Schedule, tickets, and arrival instructions at thetrain.com

NOVEMBER 15 THROUGH DECEMBER 24
COUNTRY CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM

Mortimer Farms brings Christmas to the farm with a decorated Christmas Walk, life-size snowmen, a Grinch scene, a life-size nativity scene, and the Farm Park's rides, games, and activities. After dark, the lights turn the walk into a holiday treat for families.

Time: Daily, 7 am-7 pm. Christmas Eve closes at 2 pm.

Location: Mortimer Farms, 12907 E. State Route 169, Dewey

Details: Tickets and holiday updates at mortimerfarmsaz.com.

Admission: $14 per person ages 3+

NOVEMBER 19 THROUGH DECEMBER 20
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Scrooge, three Christmas spirits, and a little holiday magic take the stage in this lively adaptation of Dickens' classic. Presented by Theatrikos and Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival, the production brings the familiar story to life with Christmas carols, humor, and a few ghostly surprises.

Time: Evening performances at 7:30 pm; select matinees at 2 pm

Location: Doris Harper-White Playhouse, 11 W. Cherry Avenue, Flagstaff

Details: Performance dates and tickets at theatrikos.com/events

NOVEMBER 27 THROUGH JANUARY 3
HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS AT LITTLE AMERICA

Millions of twinkling Christmas lights transform Little America's forested grounds into a holiday wonderland. Bring the family, bundle up, and enjoy a stroll through the sparkling displays. A wonderful way to celebrate the season with children, grandchildren, or someone special.

Time: After dark; see website for details

Location: Little America Hotel, 2515 E. Butler Avenue, Flagstaff

Details: flagstaff.littleamerica.com

Admission: Free

FRIDAY–SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4–5
THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

A Christmas tradition comes to life as the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra joins NAU's Community Dance Academy dancers for Tchaikovsky's magical ballet. Follow Clara's adventures through a world of dancing snowflakes and sugarplum fairies. The one-hour Lollipop Matinee is perfect for younger children.

Time: Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm; Saturday Lollipop Matinee, 2 pm

Location: Ardrey Memorial Auditorium, 1115 S. Knoles Drive, Flagstaff

Details: Performance information and tickets at flagstaffsymphony.org

Admission: Tickets required. See website for details.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
WINTER WONDERLAND & TREE LIGHTING

Downtown Flagstaff celebrates the season with live music, games, crafts, free hot cocoa, and a visit from Santa! Bring the family, bundle up, and enjoy an afternoon of Christmas fun before gathering for the magical lighting of the downtown tree.

Time: 2:30-7 pm; tree lighting at dusk

Location: Heritage Square, 22 E. Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff

Details: Tree lighting time to be announced. Updates at downtownflagstaff.org/holidays

Admission: Free

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
OLD TOWN CHOCOLATE WALK & TREE LIGHTING

Christmas gets a little sweeter in Old Town Cottonwood! Stroll along beautifully decorated Main Street, sampling handcrafted chocolates and holiday treats from participating shops and restaurants. Stay for the community Christmas tree lighting, festive music, and carolers.

Time: Chocolate Walk, 3-7 pm; tree lighting, 5:30 pm

Location: Historic Main Street, Old Town Cottonwood

Details: Chocolate Walk tickets and bags must be picked up at the Civic Center by 6 pm. Visit oldtown.org/chocolate.html. Tree lighting is a separate public event.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
HOLIDAY LIGHTS PARADE

Downtown Flagstaff lights up for a favorite holiday tradition! Watch illuminated floats and festive community entries make their way through historic downtown. Bundle up, bring the family, and find a cozy sidewalk spot for an evening of Christmas cheer.

Time: 6-8 pm; parade begins at 6 pm

Location: Historic Downtown Flagstaff, beginning at Beaver and Elm streets. Route follows Beaver to Aspen, Aspen to San Francisco, and San Francisco to Elm. For more details: Visit flagstaffchamber.com.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
HOLIDAY SWEET STROLL AT TLAQUEPAQUE

Christmas fills Tlaquepaque's beautiful courtyards with Dickens-era carolers, Santa, holiday treats, music, and festive shopping. Children can enjoy free crafts and face painting. At 5 pm, guests are invited to help light the luminarias, creating a spectacular candlelit evening.

Time: 3-7 pm; luminaria lighting at 5 pm

Location: Tlaquepaque Arts & Shopping Village, 336 State Route 179, Sedona

Details: Shops and galleries stay open late. Visit tlaq.com/events/holiday-magic-2026

Admission: Free

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THE QUIET COLONEL

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

Dick Drinen spent 35 years in the Arizona Air National Guard and more than two decades serving Munds Park. He'd rather we wrote about someone else.

Picture a runway in West Germany during the Berlin Crisis. An American F-104 Starfighter sits at the far end with its engine running and a hydrogen bomb slung beneath it. The jet is burning fuel so fast that a truck stands alongside, topping off the tanks as it idles. Somewhere to the east, Soviet bombers are moving through an air corridor toward West Germany.

That's how a fellow officer described the scene to Dick Drinen years later. If the order came, the pilot was to fly toward Moscow, release the weapon, and try to reach Finland, because he wouldn't have the fuel to make it back to Germany. The order never came. The Soviet planes turned around, and the fighter stood down.

Dick was in Germany that winter, part of an Arizona Air National Guard unit sent overseas during one of the most dangerous standoffs of the Cold War. Even so, when I asked to feature him in our Veterans Day issue, the 90-year-old turned me down. He had never seen combat, he said. Other veterans deserved the attention more.

I respectfully disagree.



Col. Richard L. "Dick" Drinen, Arizona Air National Guard, circa 1990.

A Detour That Lasted 35 Years

Dick never set out to make a career of the military. At Arizona State University he joined Air Force ROTC and was named an outstanding cadet in his sophomore year. The program then required three years of active duty after graduation, and he was willing. When that jumped to five years, he reconsidered. His family owned Phoenix Optical Company, and he had always planned to join the business.

By graduation in 1959, the draft was looming. Dick wanted to avoid the Army; if he served, he wanted it to be in the Air Force. A friend mentioned an opening in the Arizona Air National Guard, and on June 16, 1959, Dick enlisted in the 197th Fighter Interceptor Squadron of the 161st Fighter Group at Sky Harbor Airport.

He started at the very bottom, as an Airman Basic. After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and supply training at Amarillo Air Force Base, he came home to Phoenix.

The deal was six years of monthly weekend drills and two weeks of annual training, fitted around his job at the optical company. When those six years ended in 1965, he was free to walk away. By then, though, he had discovered he loved it. He stayed, and he calls it one of the best decisions he ever made.

Fourteen Below & Four Weeks of Clouds

To understand where Dick went in 1961, a quick refresher helps. After World War II, Germany was carved into zones run by the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. The western zones became West Germany, and the Soviet zone became East Germany. Berlin was split the same way, even though the whole city sat inside East Germany.

By 1961, millions of East Germans had fled west, many of them through Berlin. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev demanded that American, British and French forces leave West Berlin. President John F. Kennedy refused. On August 13, East German authorities began putting up the barriers that became the Berlin Wall. Kennedy answered by building up American forces, including calling up National Guard and reserve units.

On October 27, American and Soviet tanks faced each other at Checkpoint Charlie, the crossing between East and West Berlin. The fight was over whether Western military personnel had to submit to East German border controls to enter East Berlin. Neither side began pulling back until the next day. Both nations had nuclear weapons, and planning documents from the period show the Kennedy administration weighed the possibility of nuclear escalation over the city.

Dick's unit was among those called up. Its F-104s were shipped to Ramstein Air Base in West Germany, and Dick followed in November. He arrived to temperatures of 14 below zero and four straight weeks of overcast skies, about as far from Phoenix as weather gets. Even after the clouds cleared, he joked, he had trouble keeping his directions straight.

Did he understand how close the world was to nuclear war?

"Oh, absolutely. We all knew that," he told me.

Was he scared? Yes, he said, and the thought still frightens him today. The men didn't talk about it much. They knew what was happening, they trained for war, and they did their jobs.

"We were trying to do everything we could to keep it from happening," he said.

Copies of The Arizona Republic made their way around the unit, and Dick noticed something odd. Incidents the men considered fairly minor made the paper, while situations they thought were far more serious never appeared at all. The reporters, he said, simply didn't know everything that was going on. The F-104 on the runway, a story he heard long after he came home, is the one that has stayed with him most.

... Continued on page 19A



$450,000

17840 S HIGHLAND PL

2 BEDS | 1 BATHS | 1,528 SF

large lot with a 1500 sq ft A Frame. Large wraparound Trex deck.



$429,900

17310 BIG SKY DR

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,405 SF

Beautiful three-bedroom, two-bath home on a heavily treed lot with huge east-facing deck, fenced yard, abundant parking, stocked kitchen, workshop shed, furnishings included.



$650,000

710 E TURKEY TRAIL

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,602 SF

The chalet everyone's been waiting for! Situated on a 6,500-square-foot lot, this year-round home features southern exposure, generator, propane heat, spacious kitchen, Trex deck, primary suite, loft, two bedrooms and garage.



$579,500

420 N LODGE DR

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,259 SF

Completely remodeled and furnished, this forest-backed home offers spectacular views, new kitchen and baths, picture-window dining room, updated flooring, garage floor, and abundant wildlife out back.



$419,000

17890 S WALAPAI RD 29

2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,509 SF

Townhouse on the green belt with golf course views and wildflowers. Newer kitchen, well maintained. Primary bedroom on main level. Upstairs loft sleeping area with walk-in closet, second bedroom.



Debi Bright

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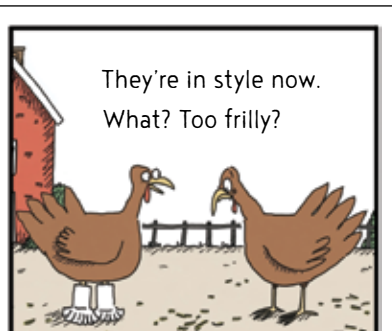
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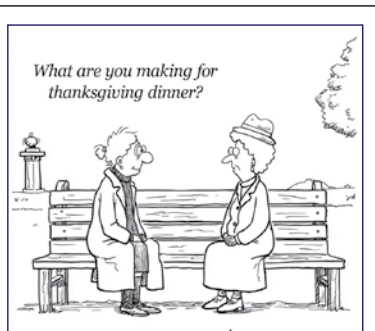
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THE QUIET COLONEL

...Continued from page 17A

The crisis eventually eased without American and Soviet forces coming to blows, though Berlin stayed divided until the Wall opened in November 1989.

Demoted, Then Commissioned

Dick's unit came home in August 1962, and plenty of his fellow Guardsmen decided they'd had enough. Their departures opened up slots, including officer appointments, so Dick applied for a direct commission.

What happened next still makes a good story. In November 1962 he was promoted to staff sergeant and proudly sewed on his new stripes. A month later, someone discovered he hadn't met a unit requirement for promotion to noncommissioned officer. The promotion was reversed. Off came the new stripes, and back went the old ones.

On February 2, 1963, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. His enlisted buddies had the explanation ready: "They wouldn't make him an NCO, so they made him an officer!"

The officer his friends teased kept on climbing. He made first lieutenant in 1966 and captain two years later, then major in 1972 and lieutenant colonel in 1979. Along the way he held command positions, worked in logistics and became deputy commander at Arizona Air National Guard headquarters, all while still working in the family optical business. On March 11, 1987, the man who couldn't hang on to his staff sergeant stripes became a full colonel.

He retired from the Guard on April 29, 1994, after 35 years. Then he went right back to work for the state, joining the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in 1995. In July 2000 he moved to Camp Navajo, west of Flagstaff, as Director of Administration, and stayed until he retired in March 2004 at age 67.

"Barry, This Is Lou"

A long career in Arizona's military community put Dick in the company of some famous names. Senator Barry Goldwater, who was also a major general in the Air Force Reserve, kept close ties with the state's military community and often flew with members of Dick's unit.

One of Dick's favorite stories involves two Phoenix physicians, Lt. Colonel Louis Claypool and Major James Hurley, who closed their medical practice when the unit was sent to Germany. During the deployment, a senior Air Force officer ordered Claypool to take command of a hospital in Berchtesgaden, Bavaria. Claypool wanted to stay with his men and said so. The officer insisted.

So Claypool, as the story goes, picked up the phone and called Goldwater. Dick still remembers how the call began: "Barry, this is Lou. Guess what they're trying to do to me here?"

According to Dick, Goldwater called the Secretary of the Air Force, and the transfer went away. Claypool stayed with his unit.

Dick also became friends with Governor Rose Mofford through his Guard and state work, and sometimes drove her to official engagements. His favorite Mofford story happened at jury duty. Dick and another Guardsman reported for jury service and found the governor there too. The jury commissioner recognized her and told her she didn't have to stay.

Mofford declined. She was a citizen like everyone else, she said, and would serve if selected. She spent her time visiting with the other prospective jurors until she learned she wasn't needed.

To Dick, that was Rose Mofford in a nutshell: friendly, approachable and in no hurry to pull rank.

The Road Up I-17

Dick knew Munds Park long before he lived here. He first came up on hunting trips, before much of today's community existed. His parents bought property here in 1965, and he visited regularly over the years while living and working in the Phoenix area.

His work for Phoenix Optical took him all over the north country: Flagstaff, Sedona, Cottonwood, Prescott. Somewhere along Interstate 17, he decided that someday he would live up where it was cooler.

Someday came in July 2000, when the Camp Navajo job brought him north and he moved into his parents' summer home. The commute was about 30 miles, and he enjoyed the drive through the forest.

He didn't stay a newcomer for long. He started sitting in on Munds Park Sanitary District meetings just to learn how things worked. That was the beginning of roughly 26 years of local service.

He joined the Pinewood Property Owners Association in 2002 and eventually became its president. He has also volunteered with the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary. When we talked, he was treasurer of Munds Park Trail Stewards, chairman of the Fire District Board with two years left to serve, and still President of the Sanitary District board, though that service was set to end in November.

... Continued on page 20A



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THE QUIET COLONEL

...Continued from page 19A

Some of his work is less glamorous. Dick no longer does the physical trail work, but the volunteers' tool trailer lives at his house. He maintains the equipment, fixes what breaks and keeps every tool accounted for. When I remarked on how carefully he does it, he credited his years in Air Force supply. Some skills never retire.

What He's Proudest Of

I asked Dick what made him proudest of his military career. He didn't mention rank, promotions or commands. He talked about the people: the officers and enlisted men and women he served with, some of the most wonderful people, he said, he ever worked alongside.

He doesn't claim the military made him a volunteer, either. Ask why he has given so much time to Munds Park and he talks about loving Northern Arizona and wanting to make his home here. The reasons are his own. The record speaks for itself.

When Dick first turned us down, he was thinking of the veterans who fought in combat. They have earned our deepest gratitude. But when the country called up his unit in 1961, Dick went to Germany not knowing whether the standoff over Berlin would turn into a war. After that he stayed in uniform for more than three decades, went on to work for the state, and has now spent 26 years on local boards and looking after the trail volunteers' tools. I'd call that service.

If more of us gave our time to the places we call home the way he has, our communities would be stronger for it.

At 90, Dick still may not think his story deserves the attention. Thirty-five years in uniform and more than a quarter century of community service say otherwise. We're grateful for his service to our country, his many contributions to Munds Park, and his willingness to share his story.

I'm awfully glad he changed his mind.

SUDOKU

CREATED BY PAUL MASON · SOLUTION PAGE 14B

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THANKFUL FOR YOU & FOR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

BY MISTI WARNER-ANDERSEN, CO-OWNER, WARNER'S NURSERY & LANDSCAPE CO.

As we head into this holiday season, all of us at Warner's Nursery would like to thank all of you who visited Warner's Nursery this year. Whether you came in to get a new houseplant, take a class or enjoy a refreshment from Dottie's Garden Coffee Shoppe, please know we are so thankful for you.

We're also looking forward to seeing you in the coming weeks as you deck out your homes with holiday cheer. According to professional interior decorators, the trend this year for Christmas decor is traditional, evoking nostalgia for the holidays past.

It's sometimes referred to as "Cozy Cottage Christmas Decor" and it has several key components: Real trees with lovely evergreen scents; a traditional palette of crimson, creams and warm, earthy browns; and ornaments that are homemade or have stories attached to them.



Photo by Kateryna Hliznitsova

Your first step is selecting your tree. Picking out your holiday tree is a wonderful family tradition. Take the time to walk the rows, circle a few favorites, and let everyone weigh in. The hunt is half the fun, we think, and often the part kids remember best.

Let Nature Do the Decorating

Some of the most charming holiday tree looks are courtesy of the great outdoors: pinecones, sprigs of holly, berries, dried orange slices, cinnamon sticks. Maybe pop some corn for an old fashioned garland. Add a few wooden or nature-themed ornaments, a handmade piece or two, and a simple strand of warm white lights, and you have a tree that feels both classic and fresh.

The same goes for the front porch. Wreaths and garland are timeless for a reason. Hang a wreath on the door, drape garland along the railing, and add a lantern, a basket of pinecones, or a potted evergreen by the steps. An afternoon spent decorating the porch together, with cocoa in hand, is a tradition in itself, and it greets every visitor with a bit of old-fashioned warmth.

Finding the Right Tree

At Warner's Nursery, the selection this year leans toward the traditional. Fresh cut trees include Douglas Fir, Nordmann Fir, and Noble Fir, each known for its fragrance and full shape. For families who want a tree that lasts beyond the holidays, potted options include Baby Blue Spruce, Colorado Spruce, Dwarf Alberta Spruce, Austrian Pine, and Vanderwolf Pine. After Christmas, a potted tree can be planted in the yard, where it becomes a living reminder of the season for years to come.

You'll also find traditional wreaths and garland, along with nature-themed gifts and ornaments, at Warner's and in our gift shop, Dot's Back Porch, named for our grandmother Dot Warner, who founded the nursery.

A Season Worth Slowing Down for

However you celebrate, we hope this Christmas leaves room for the things that matter most: time together, a little time outdoors, and traditions to carry forward. There's something special about choosing a tree and bringing home a bit of nature to share with the people you love. Warner's Nursery will have its Christmas tree offerings available the week of Thanksgiving.

Happy holidays & happy gardening from all of us at Warner's Nursery!

When it comes to buying or selling in Munds Park, there's comfort in working with someone who already calls it home.

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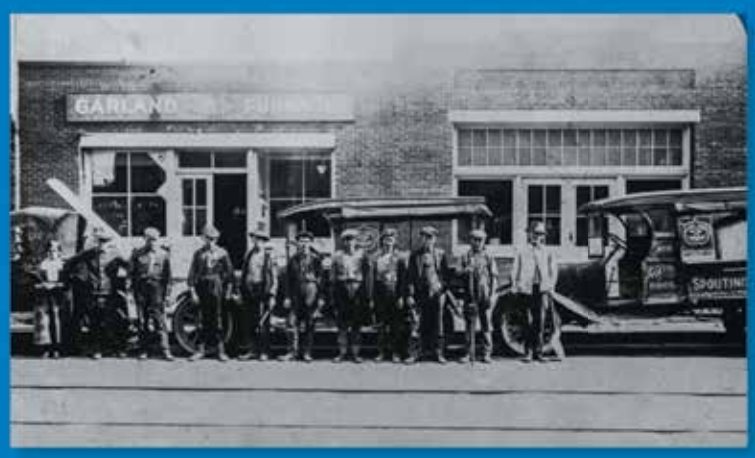
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The Nevada Wild Cat

PART VI

A Note to Our Readers: It has been a while since our last installment of Badge and Ballot, and we thank you for your patience. Going forward, we will not let so much time pass between episodes. For those just joining us, or in need of a refresher: Frances Willard was born two months early in 1866 on her grandfather's ranch near Sacramento, the granddaughter of a Lewis and Clark explorer and a fiery frontier politician. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Pine Valley, Nevada, where one terrible year took her father, two brothers and her baby sister. Hungry to learn, she rode the narrow-gauge train to school in Palisade for nearly two years. When we left her, in the fall of 1881, she was fifteen years old and on a train bound for Maine, thinking, "At last my wish is going to come true."

Some Arizona stories ought to be better known than they are. This is one of them.

The train that carried Frances Willard east in the fall of 1881 did not bring her home by supper. It carried her across the whole width of the country, past prairies and rivers and cities she had only read about, until the sagebrush of Nevada was a memory and the air smelled of pine and wood smoke. She was fifteen years old, small for her age, and a very long way from her mother.



There were more boys than girls in Frances's grade, and they decided they ought to have the special privilege of kissing the girls of their grade good night. Frances did not agree.

She arrived in Maine in the first part of September, just in time to enter the Maine Central Institute at Pittsfield. Her brother-in-law, Al Ricker, had chosen her living quarters, a boarding house near the school, and those first days were such a whirl of enrolling, unpacking and learning her way around that Frances had no time to be homesick.

That changed at the supper table. Frances had grown up on her mother's western cooking: cereal and bacon and eggs in the morning, good meat, potatoes, and vegetables from the garden, along with pies and cakes that were the pride of the Willard kitchen. The boarding house had other ideas. Sometimes it served pie for breakfast. At other meals came baked clams, clam chowder, fried mackerel, and fish, fish and more fish. Meat appeared only now and then, and when it did, it was never cooked well. Dessert was usually oatmeal, boiled into a sticky, mushy mass, with sweetened skimmed milk poured over the top. Frances did not like any of it.

A ranch girl can put up with a great deal, and Frances tried. But after a while she became convinced that if she stayed in that house much longer, she would surely starve. She went to Al and asked him, please, to find her another place to live before she starved to death. Al only laughed. He called her a spoiled darling and told her she would soon get used to eastern food.

The trouble was not only the food. Mary Willard, believing her daughter too young to manage her own finances, had sent the money for Frances's room, board and tuition to Al, so Frances had no way to change her situation on her own. She could have written to her mother and complained. She would not. Her mother had already borne too much grief, and Frances was not going to add to it over a plate of clams. So she made the best of it. She spent what little pocket change she had on small treats from the shops in town, and she ate the pine nuts she had brought from home, the same pine nuts the family had gathered and roasted in the hills above Pine Valley. In a strange land, a handful of them must have tasted like home.

At last, in desperation, she sat down and wrote to her mother. She did not complain about Al, and she did not cry for rescue. She asked, plainly and politely, whether her allowance could be sent directly to her, so she could find another place to live, because the food at her boarding house was impossible for her to eat. And she made a promise: if her mother trusted her with the money, she would keep strictly to a budget. Mary's answer came quickly. She sent plenty of money, urged Frances to find a new place at once, and promised that from then on her allowance would come straight to her.

Frances lost no time. The new place she found suited her perfectly. Her landlady served good western food, the kind her mother cooked. She helped Frances choose new clothes for the school term, and she mended and washed for her too. Frances grew so fond of her that she came to love her like a second mother, and she stayed under that roof for as long as she remained in Maine.

She kept her promise to her mother, too. She learned to handle her own money in a businesslike way, and that lesson became as valuable a part of her education as anything she learned in a classroom. Her mother always sent extra money anyway, even though Frances never asked for it.

When her first school year ended, Frances's older sister Jennie wrote with an invitation. Jennie and her husband, Earl Goodwin, had moved from Nevada to Maine's far north, the Aroostook country near the Canadian border, and she wanted Frances to spend her vacation with them.

Frances gladly accepted, and the trip turned into an adventure of its own. Her train took a detour through the edge of New Brunswick, in Canada, and partway along, the conductor called out that there would be an inspection at the Customs Office. Frances, who had never crossed a border in her life, had no idea what that meant or what she was

... Continued on page 24A

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supposed to do. So she simply stayed in her seat and did not go out to declare her baggage. When she reached her destination, she found her trunk had been broken open. The customs officers had inspected her belongings and sent the trunk on its way. Her brother-in-law teased her about her traveling experiences.

The Aroostook country was beautiful. Wild raspberries grew in the pastures, sweeter than any cultivated berry. Large and small farms bordered the village, and that part of Maine was famous for its potatoes. Earl farmed a large acreage of them, and they brought him an excellent income.

Best of all, Jennie's cooking was just like their mother's. Jennie also sewed Frances some warm new clothes for the coming school term, and Frances was delighted with them. The visit ended far too soon. When it was time to go, Jennie and Earl pressed some extra money into her hands, and Jennie sent her off with a cake, a pie and other good things for the trip back. Frances never forgot their generosity.

In September, she began her second year, and she liked the school better all the time. It was the first graded school she had ever attended, and after the scattered country schools of Nevada, she loved the order of it, passing one examination and moving on to the next. Every morning began with exercises and chapel, and every student was required to attend, whatever their religion. There was no dancing, because the school was run by the Free Will Baptists. But there was no shortage of fun. Entertainments and sports filled the school auditorium and the grounds, and afterward the boys were always glad to walk the girls home through the evening dark to their boarding houses.

There were more boys than girls in Frances's grade, and the boys came up with an idea. They decided they ought to have the special privilege of kissing the girls of their grade good night, whenever they were lucky enough to walk one of them home.

Frances did not agree.

She had been taught to have no familiarity with the boys, and she meant to keep it that way. When the time came, she refused to be kissed by any of them, and she made her refusal stick. The boys gave her a name for it. They called her "The Nevada Wild Cat."

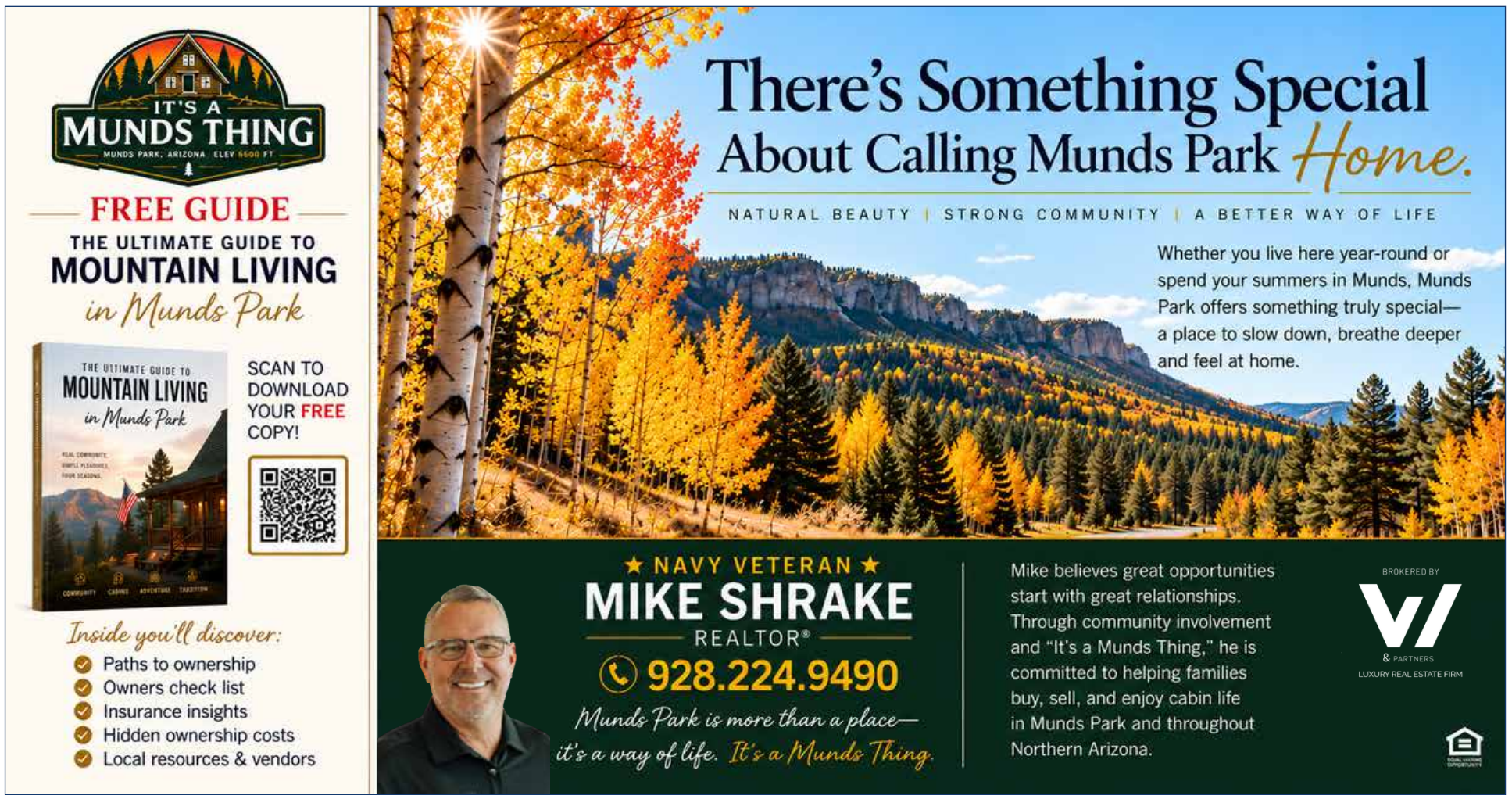
It did not make her any less popular. Many of the boys admired her, and more than one hoped to become her beau. But Frances had not come three thousand miles to find a sweetheart. She had come for an education, and she did not care especially for any of them. Her heart, it would turn out, was being saved for someone else.

When her next vacation came around, she spent part of it with Nellie and Al and part of it with friends who had a cottage on Lake Sebasticook, not far from Pittsfield. They spent long, lazy days fishing from a launch, dropping their lines straight over the side without poles. Usually they pulled up a white perch, which they kept. If it was a yellow perch, it went back into the lake, because yellow perch were not very good eating.

There were clam bakes too, the great seaside feasts of New England. Frances went to them, and she enjoyed the company. But she never did learn to like clams. She was still a Willard of Nevada, after all. Maine could teach her a great many things, and it did. It could not change her taste for a good western supper, or her mind once it was made up.

To be continued...

Editor's Note: Badge and Ballot is a narrative retelling based on family recollections preserved by Sally Munds Williams, Frances Munds' own writings as referenced in those recollections, and supporting historical research. While grounded in documented events, some scenes have been lightly shaped with descriptive detail and storytelling texture to bring the people and places to life for modern readers.



PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB TAKES ON THE HARD QUESTIONS

Club Manager Gary Pearce and Board President John Prescott sit down with The Pinewood News.

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This story was written before the Great Flood. We do not yet know how flooding at Pinewood Country Club will affect its proposed renovation plans. We are publishing the story as originally written because it offers insight into the Club's plans before the storm and raises broader questions about its future and its relationship with the Munds Park community.*

Members question a $7.2 million renovation, while longtime residents remember when the Club was everyone's neighbor.

When my inbox fills with emails about the same subject, I know it's time to ask questions. This time, the subject was Pinewood Country Club and its $7.2 million Golf Master Improvement Project. Members questioned the expense, the assessments they were being asked to pay, and whether those who rarely or never play golf should contribute as much as those who do. Some asked a harder question: The Club drifted from its community roots long ago. Is it now becoming a playground for the privileged few, leaving longtime members behind?

"In a small town, stories travel faster than facts."

I sat down with Club Manager Gary Pearce and Board President John Prescott. They gave me an hour and a half of their time and took on all but one of my questions, none of them easy. A few of their answers challenged my own assumptions. I also raised concerns I've heard throughout my years publishing *The Pinewood News* about Pinewood's changing relationship with Munds Park. By the time we finished, I understood the logic of the renovation and had several misconceptions corrected. But I had come with a question of my own: What does it mean to be a good neighbor?

Why $7.2 Million, & Why Now?

The largest expense involves something most golfers never see: the irrigation system. According to Club leadership, approximately $3.5 million of the $7.2 million project is needed to replace aging irrigation infrastructure. These systems don't last forever, and delaying necessary repairs can turn an expensive problem into a considerably more expensive one. Anyone familiar with the infrastructure challenges facing the Pinewood Sanitary District can appreciate why waiting for a system to fail is rarely a sound financial strategy.

The irrigation isn't the whole story, though. After heavy rains, parts of the golf course and its sand bunkers take a beating, so drainage improvements are also part of the plan. Up to 13 acres of irrigated turf will be converted to native grasses, helping conserve water and reduce maintenance costs. The project will also include renovating existing tee boxes, relocating select tees to provide more playing options, renovating existing greenside bunkers, and adding fairway bunkers. The ultimate goal is to make the course more enjoyable and accessible for golfers of every skill level while continuing to provide a challenge for those looking to test their abilities. All sensible. Still, readers wanted to know: Pinewood has done just fine with this course for nearly 60 years. Why redesign it at all?

Gary and John made it clear that Pinewood is a golf-centered country club, and maintaining an attractive, competitive course is central to its future. The Board believes that if major infrastructure work is required, it makes sense to address related course improvements at the same time. Pinewood is not simply trying to preserve what it has today. Like other businesses, it wants to improve the experience it offers its customers, in this case, its members. Members may reasonably disagree about whether every proposed enhancement is necessary, but the distinction between essential repairs and improvements matters when considering the project's cost.

A Project Years in the Making

One of the biggest surprises from my interview was how long this renovation has been in the works. Planning began around 2020 as part of the Club's ten-year improvement plan. By 2022-2023, about $6.5 million had been budgeted,
with construction planned for 2027. This was not sprung on members without warning.

The Club sent numerous communications explaining the improvements and held three town hall meetings to answer questions and gather feedback. About 80 members turned out for each of the town hall meetings. For a club of more than 1,600 members facing a substantial financial commitment, that's a thin turnout. Still, the door was open, and those who attended or submitted comments had their say.

The feedback also led to changes. The architect's original proposal exceeded the budget, so the project was cut to about $10.5 million. After more member input, the Club scaled it back again to the current $7.2 million. Not everyone agrees with the final decision, but the Board clearly listened and adjusted.

Some members asked why they couldn't vote on the assessment. Under the Club's governance, that decision belongs to the Board, which members elect. Members can disagree with the Board's judgment, but disagreement isn't exclusion. The record shows years of planning, ongoing communication, and changes made in response to feedback.

The Board also considered completing the work in stages. While this approach would lower the immediate cost, it could mean reopening finished work, prolonging disruption, and paying more in the long run. All you have to do is ask Josh Tope how difficult it was to manage the budget over the course of building the Pinewood Fire Department's new firehouse. From design through construction, the prices just kept climbing. Completing related work together in this economy will be more economical, even if the initial price is hard to swallow.

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Why Must Everyone Pay?

The assessment is $2,500 for single memberships and $5,000 for couple memberships, whether or not members play golf. To put that in perspective, 2026 annual dues range from $1,240 for a Social single to $7,645 for a Golf couple. For a Golf couple who both play, the assessment equals about two-thirds of a year's dues. For a Social couple, it's nearly three years' worth. That gap was at the center of many emails I received, particularly from Social members who enjoy dining, cards, and other clubhouse activities.

According to the Club, Pinewood has 887 memberships: about 19% Social, 60% Sports, and 21% Golf. As John explained in a recent letter, Golf and Sports members have the same course access. Golf members simply prepay for unlimited seasonal golf, while Sports members pay as they play. That means about 81% of memberships include full use of the course. In 2026, Golf members played 71% of member rounds and Sports members played 28%.

"For a Golf couple who both play, the assessment equals about two-thirds of a year's dues. For a Social couple, it's nearly three years' worth."

Social members are a different story. They hold 19% of memberships but played about 1% of rounds. Their access is limited, and many have no interest in golf. So I asked directly: Why should they pay the same as members who use the course all season? Gary and John acknowledged that the Board struggled with that question and considered charging Social members less. In the end, it followed the principle used for previous assessments: major improvements to Club assets are shared by the entire membership.

That principle has history behind it. Pinewood has recently invested in its clubhouse, dining areas, bar, restrooms, pickleball courts, and other facilities enjoyed by a broad range of members. Now the golf course needs attention. The Board views these investments as a whole rather than charging only the members who use each amenity. Whether that feels fair to a Social couple paying nearly three years' dues toward a golf course is another question, but it explains the Board's reasoning.

I also asked how members can be confident their money is being managed responsibly. Gary and John said the Club's financial reports are available to stockholder members so they can judge for themselves.

Are Social Members Being Phased Out?

Pinewood still offers everything a country club should: dining, cards, and a full social calendar. But new members can no longer join just for the camaraderie. They must come in as Sports or Golf members. That has left some longtime Social members wondering whether their category will eventually disappear, perhaps after they've paid thousands toward a golf course they rarely if ever use.

Gary stressed that existing Social memberships remain and that the Club does not want those members to leave. He also described a provision I found particularly thoughtful: members who can no longer play golf because of age or other circumstances can switch to Social membership and keep the friendships and activities that have become part of their lives.

Gary said membership categories may change as the Club's needs and industry practices evolve, and he didn't rule out offering new Social memberships again someday. For now, though, a club that went private years ago has narrowed its doors once more.

Management says it isn't trying to push anyone out. But intentions and effects aren't always the same thing. For a retiree who joined for the dinners and card games, a $2,500 assessment for fairways and tee boxes may feel less like an investment and more like a polite invitation to leave. Whether the benefits still justify the cost is a decision each Social member will have to make.

The Waiting List & Membership Costs

Some readers have wondered whether the Club might actually be better off financially when longtime members leave. Each departure opens a spot for a newcomer who pays a $15,000 initiation fee. And since new members can't join as Social members, a Social member paying $1,240 a year would be replaced by a Sports or Golf member paying more. I put that question to Gary, along with reports of a waiting list of people ready to take their place.

Gary's answer was simple: longtime members are part of the Pinewood family, and the Club doesn't want to lose them. It was a heartfelt response, though it didn't fully address the financial question.

He did correct an important assumption. The Club does not currently have a waiting list, though it expects to start one in January 2027. He explained that waiting lists manage capacity and help ensure new members have a good experience. The golf course must accommodate tee times, the restaurant must provide excellent service, and other facilities need room. Admitting as many people as possible would not serve existing members well.

The cost to join the club in 2026 was $30,000, split between a $15,000 initiation fee and $15,000 in stock. Typically, around 30 memberships go unrenewed each year, with a similar number of new members replacing them. Those figures suggest a club holding steady rather than turning over members for profit. Gary recalled that the Club lost about 10% of its membership after a previous assessment and expects some departures this time. The choice will be hard for some, including golfers perfectly happy with the course they already have.

When Golf Balls Leave the Course

Not every concern involved the renovation. A resident recently posted on Facebook that a stray golf ball shattered the windshield of her side-by-side as she drove along Pinewood Boulevard near the course. She wrote that she contacted the Club but felt her concerns were dismissed.

I asked Gary why the Club couldn't simply cover the repair as a gesture of goodwill. He said the matter involved legal and insurance considerations and he couldn't respond. Put simply, his hands are tied.

I understand that legal responsibility for a stray golf ball is complicated. But my question wasn't about liability. It was about how an organization treats a neighbor who has been harmed by its activities. Helping repair a windshield is a modest gesture that can make someone feel respected rather than dismissed.

Then there's the more serious question: What happens when a stray ball hits a person instead of a vehicle? Public safety deserves attention no matter who might bear legal responsibility.

John asked what I thought about netting. Nets aren't pretty, and I doubt anyone wants them lining Pinewood Boulevard. But the risk is real, and I can't say how likely an injury is or what the right fix would be. That's something the Club needs to figure out.

What Happened to the Good Neighbor?

Sitting down with Gary and John also gave me a chance to raise a question I've heard for years from longtime community members who have been here for generations: What happened to the Country Club's relationship with the community?

I've had the privilege of interviewing residents who have called Munds Park home for decades and spent almost as long giving back. When they talk about the Country Club, they fondly recall a time when its doors were open to everyone. They remember when it was the heart of Munds Park. Fourth of July barbecues and fireworks. Easter celebrations. Children's carnivals. The Fire Department Auxiliary filling the Club's kitchen with the smell of baked goods for its fundraisers. The Club wasn't just a place to play golf or have dinner. It was where Munds Park came together. It was where community grew, and neighbors became friends.

But as the stories go on, the tone changes. You can hear the loss and a little wistfulness.

As the Club turned its focus to its private membership, the doors that had always been open began to close. Locals and organizations that once thought of the Club as home found themselves on the outside looking in. In a small mountain community with so few places to gather, that wasn't a minor change. Munds Park lost its living room. The Firehouse and Munds Park Community Church have opened their doors to fill the gap, and the community is blessed to have them. But longtime residents have long memories, and they miss what was. Even grandchildren who grew up spending summers here hold fading memories of what they wish they could share with their children.

The Club still gives back, though on a far smaller scale. It provided land for the Fire Department and property for the community playground, which the Pinewood Property Owners Association (PPOA) pays to maintain. When the community basketball court was lost to construction of the new firehouse, the Club began working to find space for a replacement. Those contributions matter. But residents who remember what the Club once meant to this community can't help but feel what's missing.

I shared those memories with Gary and John. I also told them that nearly every local business owner I've interviewed, including many newcomers, asks me the same thing: How can we help? What can we sponsor? How can we support the volunteers who make this community work? That generosity is what I love most about Munds Park. I wanted to know whether the Country Club still sees itself as part of it.

Gary and John glanced at each other more than once while I talked. They were listening, really listening. But neither offered an answer just yet.

From there, we got into specifics. A couple of the complaints I'd heard turned out to be wrong; others raised legitimate questions.

Take the Fire Department Auxiliary's annual golf tournament. Word around Munds Park was that the Club had pushed it late in the season on purpose, after the summer crowd had packed up and fundraising got harder. Not so. Gary explained that the Auxiliary skipped the tournament the year before, and by the time organizers came back, the calendar was mostly full. They took what was left. In a small town, stories travel faster than facts.

The tournament still raised a question, though. The Auxiliary netted about $14,000 for the Fire Department. The Club took in roughly $8,750 for hosting. Running a tournament costs money, and nobody expects the Club to foot the whole bill. But I had to ask: Did the Club give all it could to the department that protects every one of us?

Gary and John let the question sit, and I continued.

Then there was bingo, a fun community event organized by the PPOA and available because of its generous donors. When the Club moved bingo from Friday to Monday night, it caused quite a kerfuffle. In fairness, Friday is one of the Club's busiest nights, and as a private club, its members expect to park easily and get in without a crowd blocking the entrance. And Monday night has turned out just fine. The fee is another matter. I'd heard the PPOA paid $275 a night for the room. Gary set me straight: it's $125 per event. Fair enough. But why charge at all? Anyone who's been to bingo night knows those players order drinks and tip. That's money walking right through the door. Why charge for the room?

One more look between them. This time, John spoke up.

John pointed to the value the Club brings to Munds Park, including the appeal of the course and its effect on property values. He even suggested that without the course, Munds Park might be little more than another Kachina Village.

A beautiful course does add value. But the reverse is just as true. The Club benefits from the setting, the homes, and above all the people who built this community over generations. The natural beauty draws people here. The friendships, volunteers, traditions, and small businesses are what make them stay. This relationship was never one-sided, and it shouldn't be treated that way now.

None of these were comfortable questions, and I didn't pretend otherwise. To their credit, neither Gary nor John got defensive. They listened. John acknowledged there was something worth considering and explained their roles: Gary runs day-to-day operations, while John's job includes bringing larger questions about the Club's direction and community relationships to the Board.

John said the Board had some things to think about. He even wondered aloud whether the Club might host community activities in winter, when staff are on hand and the demands of golf season ease. Nothing was promised, and I don't want readers mistaking an encouraging conversation for a policy change. But I appreciated his willingness to consider new possibilities.

I walked into that interview with questions about a costly renovation and a strained relationship. I walked out with real respect for how Gary and John handled a difficult conversation. I also walked out hopeful.

The Club doesn't need to abandon its private membership or revive every tradition of the past to be part of community life again. Opening its doors for worthwhile local events, easing costs for organizations that serve Munds Park, and rekindling some of the spirit that once made it our gathering place would go a long way.

For nearly 60 years, Pinewood Country Club and Munds Park have shaped each other. The Club has every reason to invest in its future. I hope that future includes reinvesting in the community that helped make it what it is.

Being a good neighbor is a pretty good place to start.

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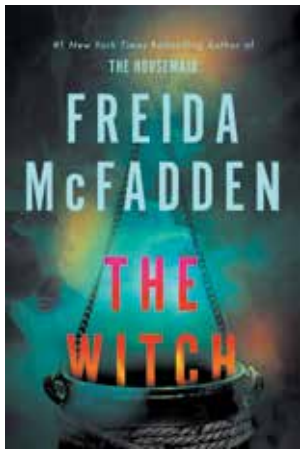
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BOOK REVIEW

FREIDA MCFADDEN'S, THE WITCH

By Sandy Wright



When Julia Barlow loses her job and her apartment, she has nowhere left to go but Pemberton, her family's sprawling seventeenth-century estate in rural Massachusetts, to move in with her grandmother and great auth Ethal. Officially, she's there to caretake her aging grandmother. Unofficially, she's hoping the old house will give her a place to disappear.

Instead, Pemberton begins to unravel her.

Every night, the grandfather clock stops at exactly 3:41 a.m. The lights flicker without warning. And a disembodied voice cries for help outside Julia's bedroom door.

While researching the family and manor history, she learns of a story of woman who was put to death because of witchcraft. And now, Pemberton may be haunted by these women put to death during the Salem witch trials

I picked up The Witch on my sister-in-law's recommendation, hoping for an atmospheric Halloween read. Freida McFadden didn't disappoint. Her signature misdirection and handling of two historical periods kept me turning pages.

She organized alternating narratives between two centuries. Present-day Julia helps take care of her grandmother, who is in the beginning stages of dementia. She meets with a curator from the local museum, who is interested in buying her grandmother's estate, but she is not sure about selling a property that has been in the family since the 1600's. During her meetings with him, she learns much about her ancestors who lived at Pemberton in the past. And she wonders—have their spirits ever left?

In the other timeline of 1692, we meet Caroline Eldridge. She was the second wife to wealthy Archibald Eldridge, and was eventually accused of witchcraft. The accusations, religious hysteria, and the ease with which an entire community (including her husband!) could turn against one of their neighbors was truly distressing. Not unrealistic, unfortunately, but still distressing to read.

The gothic atmosphere is prominent, but McFadden also grounds the mystery with historical themes of persecution, suspicion and psychological unease. The characters are the primary vehicles for the mystery, but the ideas emerge naturally through the storytelling, and successive revelations, as the book progresses, deepens our understanding of them.

True to McFadden form, there is an ending revelation that ties all the pieces together. An ending which I, by the way, didn't quite see coming. I hope you will read The Witch and be surprised also.

- Hollywood Upstairs Press, 2026
- 382 pages

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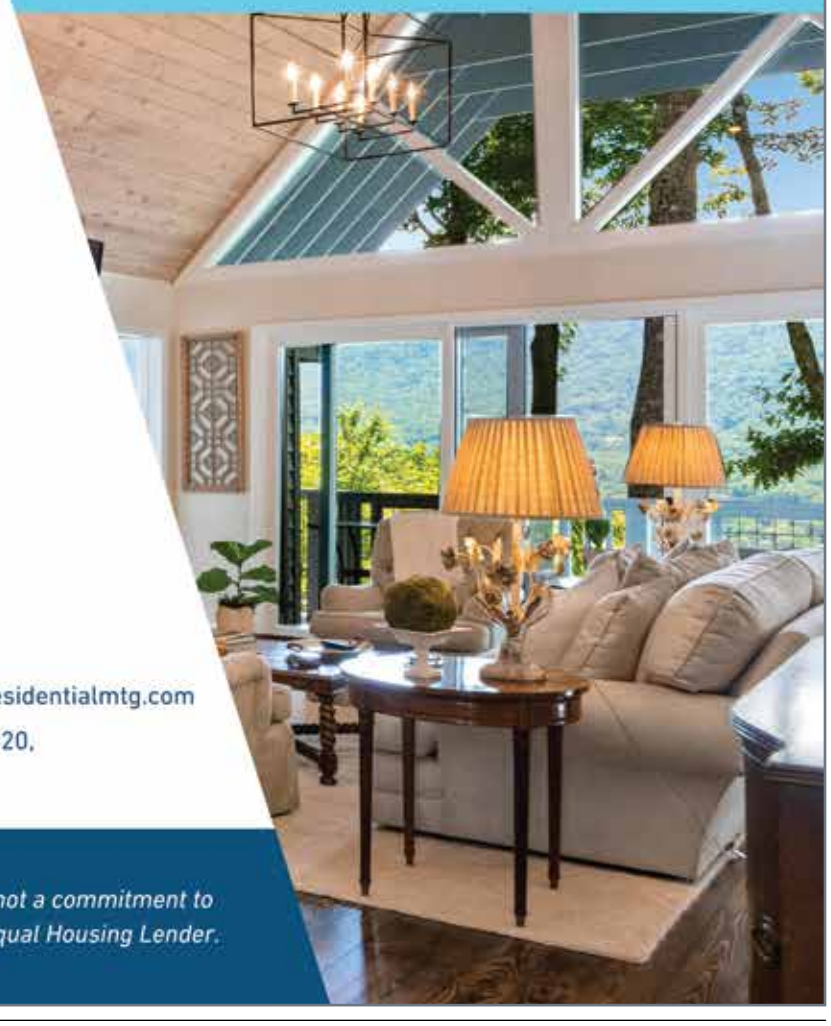
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The holidays bring plenty of good food, family gatherings and, if we're lucky, a refrigerator full of Thanksgiving leftovers. Save some of that turkey for this old-fashioned casserole!

Tender turkey, fresh mushrooms and pasta are tucked into a creamy homemade sauce, topped with cheese and baked until golden and bubbling. It's an easy, comforting meal after the Thanksgiving feast, when the kitchen can use a little rest and there's still good reason to gather everyone around the table.

Make it a meal: Pair this casserole with roasted brussel sprouts, apples, caramelized onions and pistachios. The sweetness of the apples and the crunch of the pistachios are a lovely contrast to the creamy pasta. Bake the casserole first and keep it covered with foil while the sprouts roast; it will stay hot for a good 20 to 30 minutes. Caramelize the onions while the casserole bakes, and everything will be ready together.



Serves: 8 | Prep: 20 minutes | Cook: 40 minutes

Ingredients

- 12 ounces spaghetti
- 3 tablespoons salted butter
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 12 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2¼ cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1⅓ cups half-and-half or light cream
- 8 ounces garlic-flavored spreadable cream cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- 2 cups cooked turkey, chopped
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- ¼ cup shredded Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Prepare the pasta. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Cook the spaghetti in salted water according to package directions until al dente. Drain and set aside.
2. Cook the vegetables. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook until softened. Stir in the mushrooms and cook for 3 minutes more.
3. Make the sauce. Sprinkle the flour over the vegetables and stir for 1 minute. Add the broth and half-and-half, stirring until the sauce thickens and begins to bubble. Let it boil for 1 minute.
4. Add the flavor. Stir in the cream cheese until melted and smooth. Add the parsley, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper.

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...Continued from page 3B

5. Assemble. Combine the spaghetti, turkey, 1 cup of the mozzarella and the sauce. Transfer to a greased 9-by-13-inch baking dish and sprinkle with the remaining mozzarella.
6. Bake. Cover and bake for 20 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with Parmesan and bake 10 to 15 minutes more, until hot and bubbly.
7. A little kitchen wisdom: Cook the spaghetti just until al dente so it doesn't turn soft while baking. No leftover turkey? Rotisserie chicken works beautifully. When reheating leftovers, a splash of milk brings back the creamy texture.

Recipe credit: Adapted from Turkey Tetrazzini by Holly Nilsson, Spend With Pennies (spendwithpennies.com).

Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Apples, Caramelized Onions & Pistachios

Fresh Brussels sprouts and crisp apples are two of fall's finest offerings, and roasting brings out their natural sweetness. Add caramelized onions and a handful of toasted pistachios, and you have a beautiful seasonal side that's just right for the holiday table.

Serves: 8 | Prep: 10 minutes | Cook: About 30 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 pounds fresh brussel sprouts, trimmed and halved lengthwise
- 4 large crisp apples, cored and cut into bite-sized pieces
- 5 teaspoons avocado oil or another neutral oil, divided
- Salt, to taste
- 2 medium yellow onions, thinly sliced into half-moons
- 2 teaspoons pure maple syrup
- ½ cup roasted, salted, shelled pistachios

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Prepare the sprouts and apples. Toss the brussel sprouts and apples with 1 tablespoon of the oil and a little salt. Spread them across the baking sheets, leaving room so they roast rather than steam.
3. Roast. Bake for about 20 minutes, turning once after the sprouts have browned on one side. Roast 5 to 10 minutes more if needed, until tender and lightly browned.
4. Caramelize the onions. Meanwhile, heat the remaining 2 teaspoons oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onions and a pinch of salt. Once they begin to brown, reduce the heat to low and cook for about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft and golden.
5. Add a touch of sweetness. Stir the maple syrup into the onions during the final minute of cooking.
6. Toast the pistachios. Push the onions to one side of the skillet, add the pistachios and toast for 30 to 60 seconds, stirring gently.
7. Bring it together. Transfer the roasted sprouts and apples to a large serving bowl. Add the onions and pistachios and toss gently. Taste for salt and serve warm.

Recipe credit: Adapted from Oven Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Apples by Cadry Nelson, Cadry's Kitchen (cadryskitchen.com). Quantities increased to serve eight.

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THE PECAN PIE MARTINI



There's a stretch of time at the end of Thanksgiving dinner that doesn't get enough credit. The meal is over, the plates have made it to the kitchen, and nobody is in a hurry to go anywhere. Conversation slows down and, somehow, gets better. It's a good moment to bring out something your guests aren't expecting, and this year we're suggesting the Pecan Pie Martini. It tastes like dessert, it pours like a cocktail, and it gives everyone a reason to stay at the table a little longer. Before we get to the recipe, though, the Martini itself deserves a word.

Nobody can say for certain where the Martini came from. There are several origin stories, each told with great confidence, and none of them can be fully proven. That's part of the fun.

The most colorful version takes place in Martinez, California, a small town northeast of San Francisco, around 1860. A miner who had just struck gold walked into a saloon and asked for champagne. The bartender didn't have any, so he improvised with what was on hand: gin, a splash of vermouth, a dash of bitters, and a little maraschino liqueur. The miner liked it, the town got its name on a drink, and the Martinez cocktail was born. Whether it happened quite that way is anyone's guess, but it's a good story to tell with a glass in hand.

The drink's first real paper trail leads to Jerry Thomas, the bartender often called the father of American mixology. Thomas worked in San Francisco in the 1860s, and the 1887 edition of his bartender's guide includes a recipe for the Martinez: Old Tom gin, sweet vermouth, two dashes of maraschino, and a dash of bitters, shaken with ice and strained into a glass. It was sweeter and richer than what most of us picture today, but the bones were there. Gin and vermouth had found each other.

The version we recognize now took shape in New York. One popular account credits Martini di Arma di Taggia, a bartender at the Knickerbocker Hotel, with mixing a drier version for John D. Rockefeller around 1911 or 1912. The maraschino disappeared, the gin got drier, and the vermouth took a step back. What was left was simple and sharp, and it suited a city that liked its sophistication to look effortless.

It's worth noticing how far the drink traveled. It started as a bartender's workaround in a mining town and ended up as shorthand for good taste. Along the way, people kept adjusting it to suit the moment, which is exactly what we're doing here.

The Pecan Pie Martini isn't a classic Martini, and it doesn't pretend to be. It borrows the glass, the shaker, and the sense of occasion, then fills them with the flavors of the holiday table: pecans, brown sugar, maple, and cream. Serve it once the pie plates are cleared and the coffee is brewing, and raise a glass to the people around you. That's what the season is for.

Ingredients

- 1 ounce pecan flavored vodka
- 1 ounce Baileys Irish Cream Liqueur
- ½ ounce vanilla flavored vodka
- 2 ounces heavy cream
- ¼ cup pecans
- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- Pure maple syrup

The Method

Prepare the Garnish

1. In a food chopper or food processor, combine the pecans and brown sugar. Pulse the ingredients and put them in a bowl.
2. Pour the maple syrup onto a saucer and dip the rim of the martini glass in the syrup.
3. Gently dip the rim of the glass into the brown sugar mixture. Give it a small twist.

Pecan Pie Martini

1. Add a handful of ice to a shaker.
2. Measure out your ingredients and pour them into the shaker.
3. Shake hard for about 15 seconds, until the shaker feels very cold. The cream needs a good shake to get light and frothy.
4. Strain the pecan pie martini into your prepared martini glass and enjoy.

Recipe adapted from Beverly's Kitchen

A Tip for Hosts: Make It Ahead

Thanksgiving keeps the host busy, so prep this one before the turkey comes out.

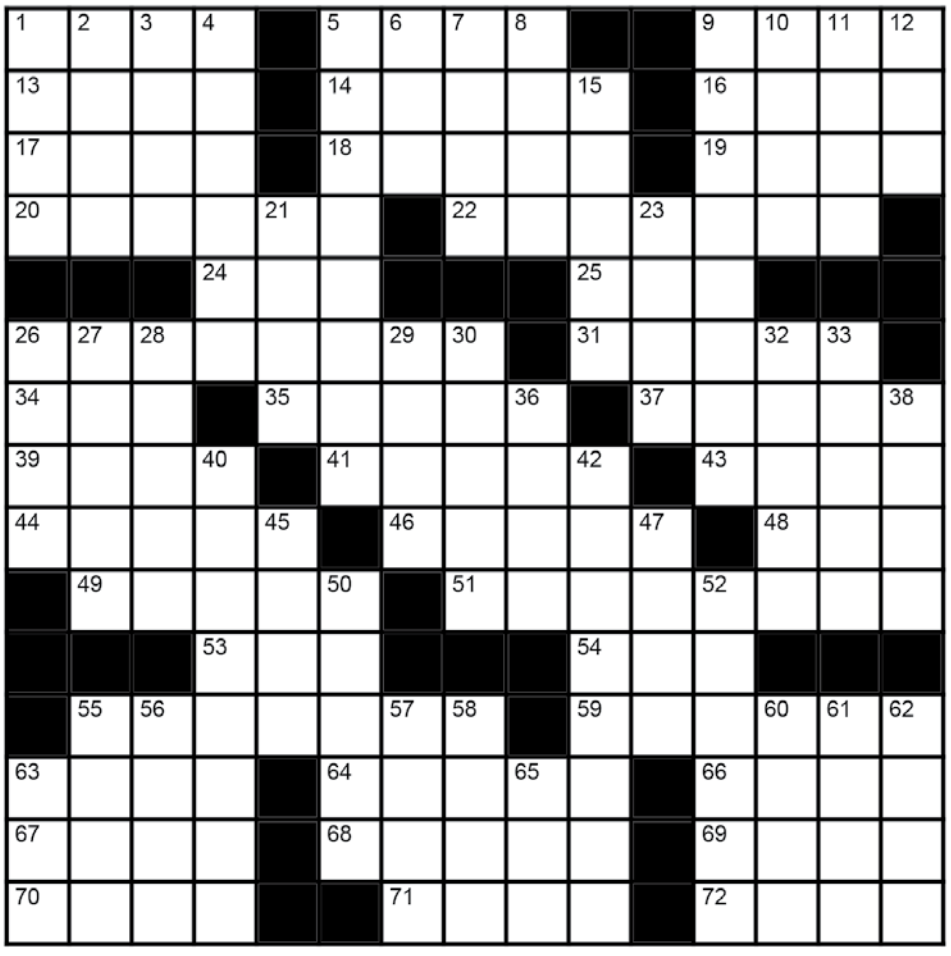
The pecan and brown sugar mixture can be made up to three days ahead. Store it airtight at room temperature.

Mix the drink the morning of, or even the night before. For eight servings, stir together 1 cup pecan flavored vodka, 1 cup Baileys, ½ cup vanilla flavored vodka, and 2 cups heavy cream in a pitcher. Cover and refrigerate.

About an hour before dessert, rim your glasses and chill them. When it's time to serve, stir the pitcher well, since cream settles. Pour about 4½ ounces into a shaker with ice per drink, shake hard, and strain. Your guests get a fresh, frosty cocktail, and you get to stay at the table.

CROSSWORD

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 14B



ACROSS

1. ___-fry
5. "White Christmas" image
9. ___ the scales
13. What some Irish speak
14. Usually dry gullies of Africa
16. ___ family, including bassoons and English horns
17. Unordained
18. Writing of Horace
19. Yogi had a hand in it
20. Important amino acid
22. Studies again
24. ___ on the back
25. Zoo employee, for short
26. When most Scorpios were born
31. What some skip church to do?
34. ___-wan Kenobi (of Star Wars)
35. ___ the run (munch while in motion)
37. Works in retail
39. Word after wheat
41. Year-end holidays
43. ___ palm (Asian tree)
44. Zs
46. Intestinal obstruction
48. ___-in (short putt)
49. Wee quantities
51. Dollars, informally
53. de Armas who plays Marta on "Knives Out"
54. ___Gabriel, Calif.
55. Time-release med
59. Wryly unexpected
63. What ran away with the spoon, in "Hey Diddle Diddle"
64. Yoyo Ma's instrument
66. ___, calm and collected
67. ___von Bismarck
68. "To eat," in German
69. Wind-powered toy
70. ___ to the throne
71. Turner and Danson
72. Topping on some pastrami sandwiches

DOWN

1. ___-by date.
2. ___ table
3. Wife/sister of Osiris
4. What a new cook depends on
5. Laurel tree
6. Z-catching time
7. ___-Eaters (insole brand)
8. ___-leg jeans
9. Spaghetti sauce ingredients
10. Words at the bridge table
11. ___ and pans
12. ___ the table
15. Waiters also do this.
21. ___ tag
23. "Electric" creatures
26. Yuletide libations
27. symbols, in typography
28. Sweet-singing bird
29. ___ ___ Needlepoint shop purchase
30. Bagels and burger buns
32. A server might bring an extra one
33. "Falstaff" composer Edward
36. Indian evergreen
38. ___ up (absorbs)
40. "A mighty fortress is our God," e.g.
42. Pting to persuade someone without using force, legal commands, or physical compulsion
45. Woks and skillets, e.g.
47. ___face Al Capone
50. Tabasco or sriracha
52. What opportunity does (if you're lucky)
55. Write up, as a speeder
56. ___ spumante.
57. ___ we forget
58. What ___ can I say?
60. Wool knot
61. Wee quantity
62. Wind into a ball
63. Sound made by Homer Simpson
65. ___ the witness (ran the risk of an objection)

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WORD SEARCH

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 14B

Acorns
Autumn
Bake
Baste
Bread
Canoe
Cider
Cook
Delicious
Dish
Eat
Fall
Feast
Ham
Home
Leaves
Maize
Meal
Nap
Native
Oven
Pans
Pie
Plate
Pots
Prayer
Pumpkin
Roast
Rolls
Sail
Sauce
Seasons
Serve
Sleep
Snow
Stir
Stuffing
Tray
Voyage
Winter
Yams

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

DIDN'T CALL A ROOFER?
DON'T TRUST THE ONE AT YOUR DOOR!



Munds Park homeowners are reporting a familiar knock at the door: a roofer they never called, warning that their roof is damaged and needs work right away.

The Pinewood News has received several reports of contractors going door to door in the community, offering free roof inspections and then telling residents they need costly repairs. Consumer protection officials say the pattern matches a long-running scam that targets homeowners across Arizona, and they urge residents to slow down before letting anyone onto their roof.

How the pitch works

The approach usually starts friendly. A salesperson says they were working nearby, noticed damage on your roof, and can take a quick look for free. Once on the roof, they report problems that need fixing immediately, often with a price quoted on the spot and pressure to sign before the day is out. Some claim to have leftover materials from a nearby job and offer a "discount" to use them up.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office has warned about this tactic for years. Its consumer alerts single out contractors who go door to door or call unsolicited offering roof repair, along with those who claim leftover materials, demand money up front, or push for a quick decision. The office lists free inspections from door-to-door salespeople as a red flag.

Not every contractor who knocks is dishonest. But a stranger who shows up unannounced and tells you that you need a new roof deserves a second opinion.

How to Protect Yourself

The Attorney General's Office recommends these steps:

- Keep them off the roof. You don't have to let an unsolicited contractor inspect anything. Ask for a business card and say you'll be in touch.
- Don't sign on the spot. Legitimate roofers will give you time to think it over.
- Get your own inspection. Call a roofer you choose and get written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Check the license. Arizona requires most contractors to be licensed. Look up any company at roc.az.gov, where you can also see its complaint history.
- Call your insurer first. Talk to your insurance company about what your policy covers before sharing any claim or policy details with a contractor.
- Get it in writing and don't prepay. Ask for a written contract listing the work and costs, and never pay for the whole job before it's finished. Paying by credit card makes it easier to dispute a charge.

Already signed? You may be able to cancel.

Arizona's home solicitation law lets buyers cancel most door-to-door sales until midnight of the third business day after signing. Sellers must give you written notice of that right. Cancellation has to be in writing, and sending it by certified mail gives you proof of the date. The protection generally does not apply if you invited the contractor or set up the appointment yourself.

If you think you've been targeted, file a complaint with the Arizona Registrar of Contractors or the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's consumer line outside the Phoenix and Tucson areas is (800) 352-8431.

Choose your own roofer

If your roof does need attention, start with a contractor you already know and trust, or one of the local roofers who advertise in The Pinewood News. The decision about whether you need a new roof should be yours, made on your schedule, not a stranger's.

Please share this warning with Munds Park neighbors, especially older residents and part-time owners who may not see it.

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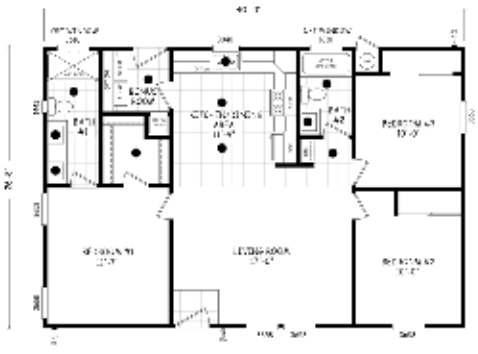
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THANKSGIVING

BY PASTOR JEREMY

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, many of us prepare for family gatherings and festive meals. See, the true spirit of Thanksgiving goes far beyond a holiday feast or a family gathering. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, the Apostle Paul writes, "in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." These words remind us that gratitude is not just something we express one day a year, it is a way of life that shapes our homes and our communities.

"When gratitude begins to change our heart, it also changes the way that we relate to the people around us."

The beginning of Thanksgiving is recognizing the goodness of God and that He is the source of every blessing. These blessings include the food on our tables, the people that we love, and the opportunities we enjoy are all gifts from God. In our busy lives it is easy to focus on the wrong things and when we have gratitude it helps us to see things that we might often overlook. Paul reminds us that living with a grateful heart is an act of obedience and that thankfulness is God's will for us. It is when we recognize God's goodness that gratitude naturally becomes a part of our daily lives.

Every single one of us will go through or has already gone through a tough season in life. Thanksgiving is something that will sustain us through every season. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says "in everything give thanks" which means in all circumstances. We all know that life is not always easy, but the faithfulness of God always remains constant. One of the interesting things I have seen in my own life is when I started to have sincere gratitude in all seasons. My faith strengthened and it helped me trust God's purpose even when I did not understand my circumstances. Thankfulness has a way of changing our perspective, instead of focusing on what we do not have, we remember what God continues to provide. When gratitude begins to change our heart, it also changes the way that we relate to the people around us.

In this season where we celebrate Thanksgiving it leads to being thankful for the things we have in our lives. Having a heart of thanksgiving draws the community together because we tend to encourage and uplift others, creating a connection through gratitude.

When you read Scripture, we see that meals were opportunities for fellowship and celebration. These meals brought people together and created unity within communities. Thanksgiving is a season to open our tables to others because no one should walk alone during the holidays. I feel that one of the best ways to express thanksgiving is to share it with others.

We live in a world that often seems divided and Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to slow down to reflect on God's blessings then connect as a community. Whether this year has been marked by joy or struggle, we can all find reasons to give thanks because God is so good. As the Pastor of Munds Park Community Church, I would love to celebrate the spirit of gratitude with our community. I want to invite everyone, regardless of church background, to join us for our Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 21st. Our desire is simply to share a meal, build friendships, and thank God together for His many blessings. There will be a place for everyone at the table.

This Thanksgiving, let us live out the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 by giving thanks in everything and sharing that gratitude with those around us. Sometimes the most meaningful expression of thanksgiving begins with something as simple as sitting down together for a meal.

Join Us
Sunday Services at 10:45 am

(928) 286-2022
mpccchurch.office@gmail.com
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd
Munds Park, AZ 86017

munds park community church
mpcc.church

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

S	T	I	R	■	S	N	O	W	■	■	T	I	P	S
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SUDOKU

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

WORD SEARCH



COUNTY CONTACTS FOR COMMON CONCERNS

Facebook Is Not 911!

If you have a concern that needs law enforcement attention, even if you are unsure, please call the Sheriff's Office instead of posting only on social media.

For non-emergency issues such as noise, dogs running loose, suspicious activity, traffic concerns, or other disturbances, call Coconino County Sheriff's **Non-Emergency Dispatch at (928) 774-4523, option 1.**

YOUR CALL MATTERS. Reported incidents help guide staffing and response priorities and give the Sheriff's Office a clearer picture of what is happening in our community.

Dark Sky Compliance

Code Violation Report

Concerned about possible noncompliant lighting? File a report at https://www.coconino.az.gov/1940/Code-Violations-and-Enforcement

Fixture Review

Not sure if a light or your property complies with County Lighting Standards? Send photos to Mark for review at 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.

Domestic Animal & Wildlife Services

Loose Dogs, Nuisance Complaints, or Dog Bites

Coconino County Animal Management ..... (928) 679-8756

For serious attacks or issues, call the Sheriff's Office ..... (928) 774-4523

Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

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

Coconino County Animal Management ..... (928) 679-8756

Found a Stray?

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

The Pinewood Fire Department has microchip scanners. You can bring the animal to the firehouse or call .....(928) 286-9885

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

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

Injured or Dangerous Wildlife

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

Weekends & after hours call 911

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

Loose Livestock

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

Environmental & Emergency Services

Illegal Dumping in Forests or Waterways

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

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

Flooding Concerns

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

Emergency Planning and Real-Time Updates

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

Email: emergencymanagement@coconino.az.gov

Fire-Related Concerns

Illegal Campfires on National Forest Land

Coconino National Forest Dispatch Center ..... (928) 527-3552

Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch .....(928) 774-4523

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

Illegal Campfires (private property) during Fire Restrictions

Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch .....(928) 774-4523

(press option 1) Applicable to unincorporated areas of the county.

Fire Restrictions Information

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

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

Reckless Driving, Trespassing, or Noise Complaints

Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Dispatch ..... (928) 774-4523

(press option 1) to report OHVs off designated routes, speeding near homes, or damaging property.

Short-Term Rental Questions & Complaints

Loud Parties, Parking Issues, Trash or Other Nuisances

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

Ongoing STR Violations or Registration Questions

Coconino County Short-Term Rentals Compliance Officer,
Mark Stento ..... (928) 679-8856.

Know Your Rights: Short-term rental owners must register their contact information with Coconino County and provide it in writing to adjacent neighbors. If you never received it, contact the County STR Compliance Officer to verify the rental's registration. Report unresponsive owners, repeated disturbances, or suspected unregistered rentals to the County or Sheriff's Office.

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Bookmark it on your phone for quick
access anytime.

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4.8/5 Stars
100+ Reviews

LegacyRoofingNow.com

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