

PINEWOOD NEWS

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

VOL. 33 NO. 6 MAY 8, 2026

COMPLIMENTARY

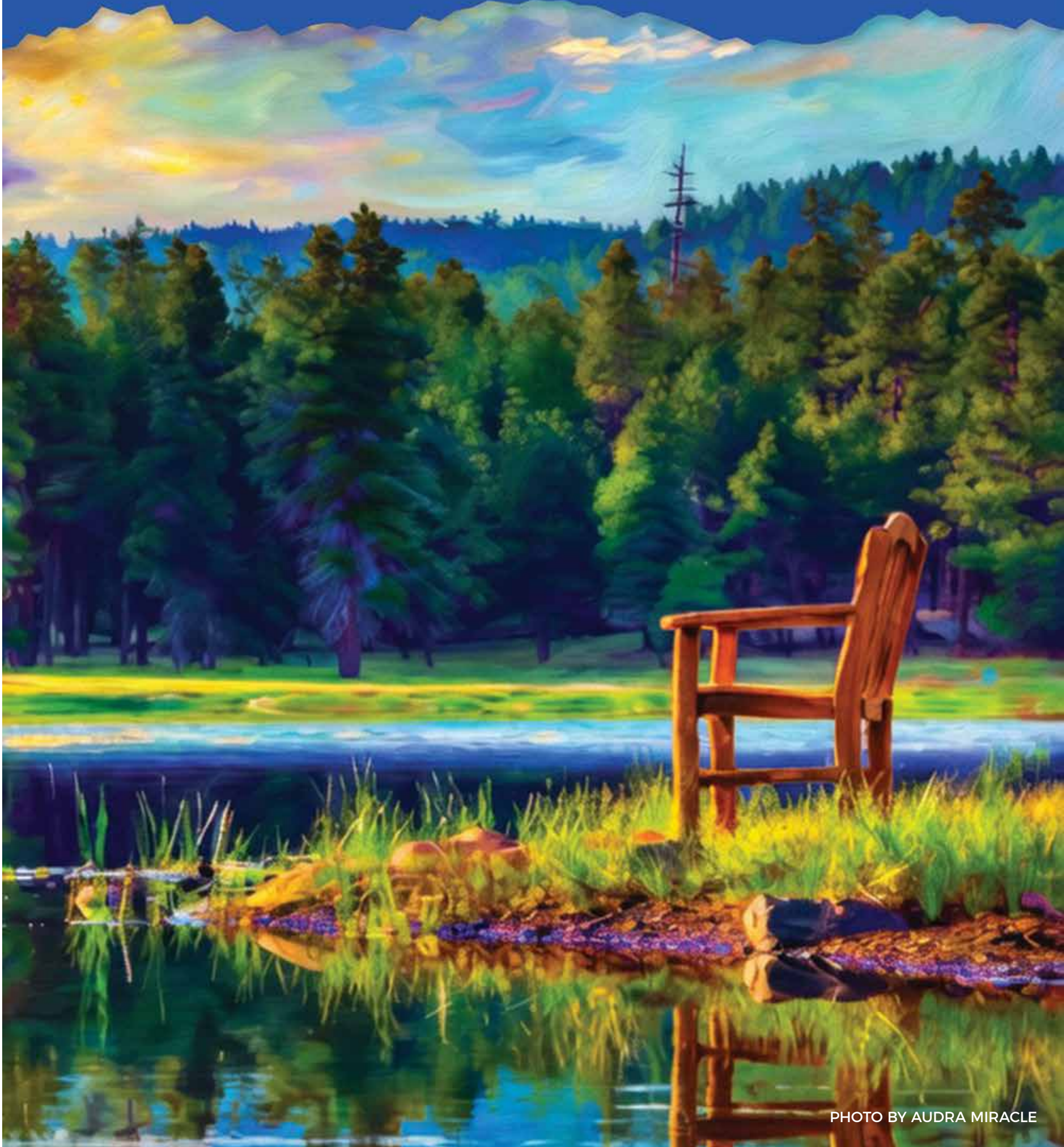


PHOTO BY AUDRA MIRACLE

THE WONDER WAITING AFTER SUNSET

In Munds Park, we do not have to go far to be reminded that the night sky is one of Northern Arizona's quiet treasures. Step outside on a clear evening, let your eyes adjust, and the sky begins to reward you. First a few bright stars. Then the Big Dipper. Then, if the night is dark enough, the faint wash of the Milky Way begins to show itself.

That is not an accident. Northern Arizona has some of the best stargazing conditions in the country, thanks to high elevation, dry air, and decades of dark-sky work. Flagstaff was named the world's first International Dark Sky City in 2001, and Camp Verde became a certified Dark Sky Community in 2018. Coconino County also encourages lighting practices that reduce glare, light trespass, wasted energy, and sky glow. In plain English: point lights down, keep them warm and shielded, and let the stars do their job.

For Munds Park, this matters. Our porch lights, driveway lights, cabin lights, and business signs all add up. Good outdoor lighting does not mean living in the dark. It means lighting what needs to be lit, when it needs to be lit, without spraying light into the sky or into a neighbor's window. The reward is one of the best free shows left in the world.

From May 10 through the end of June, Northern Arizona offers several good reasons to look up.



What to watch for in the night sky this May.

May 16 New Moon. A new moon is one of the best gifts the sky gives stargazers. With no moonlight washing over the night, faint stars and deep-sky objects have a better chance to show themselves. This is a wonderful time to look for the Milky Way as it begins to emerge in the southeast, along with summer constellations, star clusters, and nebulae. In Munds Park and across Northern Arizona's high-elevation dark skies, even a simple pair of binoculars can reveal far more than the naked eye alone. Give your eyes at least 20 minutes to adjust to the dark, and resist the urge to check your phone unless you enjoy starting over. Best stargazing time is all night, especially after 10 p.m.

May 18 through 20 Crescent Moon near Venus and Jupiter. A thin waxing crescent Moon appears near Venus and Jupiter in the western sky after sunset. On May 18, the Moon will be close to bright Venus, with Jupiter farther away but still part of the scene. On May 19, the Moon appears between Venus and Jupiter. By May 20, the Moon shifts closer to Jupiter and the bright Gemini stars Castor and Pollux. Venus will be the brighter planet, while Jupiter may sit lower or be harder to catch if trees, cabins, or ridgelines block your western view. Best viewing time is about 45 to 60 minutes after sunset, looking west.

May 31 Blue Moon. A Blue Moon is when there are two full moons in one calendar month. The second full moon is called the Blue Moon. It does not usually look blue. It is just a name for something that does not happen very often. That is why people say "once in a blue moon" when they mean something is rare. The May 31 full moon will brighten the night sky, which makes it less useful for faint stars or the Milky Way, but lovely for casual moon watching. Best viewing time is evening through the night, as the Moon rises near sunset.

Ongoing Sky Sights. Throughout May and June, Venus and Jupiter will be two of the easiest evening planets to spot in the western sky. By late June, the Summer Triangle becomes easier to find, with Vega, Deneb, and Altair rising into the eastern sky. The Milky Way also begins to make a stronger appearance later in the evening, especially around the New Moon dates. Best viewing is on dark, clear nights away from bright lights.



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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Bashas - Camp Verde
- Camp Verde Community Library

The next issue of the *Pinewood News* will hit the stands, **Friday, May 22**





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SALE PENDING!

\$859,900

**1380 FISHLAKE DR
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Welcome to your Munds Park dream home, tucked among mature oaks and Ponderosa pines on a spacious 12,700-square-foot lot. This 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath beauty features soaring ceilings, a cozy fireplace, updated kitchen, private primary balcony, remodeled bath, expansive composite deck, two-car garage, Generac generator, greenhouse, large safe, and KnoxBox.



REDUCED



**\$475,000
17165 ELK PL**

Tucked beneath the towering pines, this cozy mountain retreat blends rustic charm with modern comfort. Vaulted ceilings, open living, wood-burning fireplace, and a large deck create the perfect space to relax and enjoy.



**315,000
17050 BIG SKY DR**

Affordable summer retreat among the trees. This furnished, move-in-ready 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features two spacious covered decks, a peaceful wooded setting, ample parking, and great versatility as a vacation getaway, second home, or full-time residence for easy outdoor living.

SOLD!



**\$1,295,000
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Closed restaurant with HUGE potential! Includes land, building, and all contents. Community is eager for a great eatery! Call Bill Spain at 602-622-1196. Owner may carry with strong terms.



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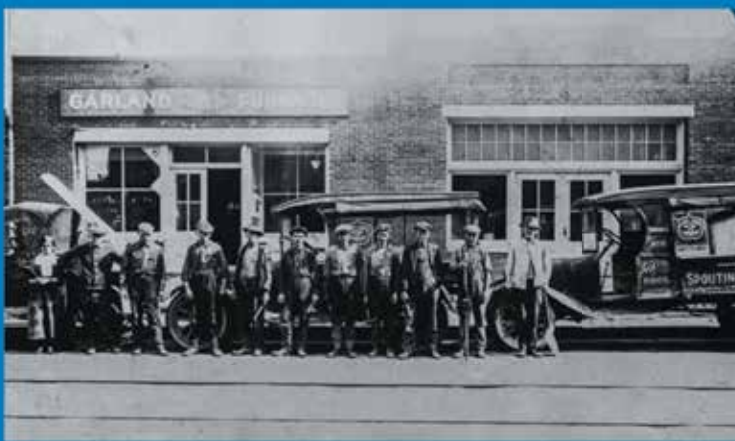
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For many families, a mountain home or cabin isn't just a weekend retreat. It's where holidays are spent. Where grandchildren learn to fish. Where memories turn into traditions.

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PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & DESERT MOUNTAIN LIVING

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meetings - Feel Better!

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

Pilates

Senior-friendly Pilates classes are held weekly
Mondays: 10 to 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: 11 a.m. to noon

Munds Park Community Church
17670 S. Munds Ranch Rd

For details, contact Chris Woolley at:
760-688-6452 or ChrisWoolley06@gmail.com

Munds Park Community Church Services

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

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend.
Stay informed. Your presence and participation is essential!

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!

Tuesday, June 2

6:30 pm • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, May 19

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Thursday, May 14

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 6A

This is where locals come for verified updates, thoughtful community news, and information they can trust.

THINGS TO DO & SEE 12A

Local events, good outings, and perfectly valid reasons to ignore the laundry.

CEVICHE DE CAMARÓN 11A

Cold, citrusy, crunchy, and just spicy enough to make the chips nervous.

LIGHTS OUT 15A

After five years of glowing vehicles and a growing July 3rd tradition, the Electric Light Parade has come to an end.

BADGE AND BALLOT 17A

Before Frances Willard Munds became one of Arizona's most formidable women, she was a small, sharp-minded girl riding ten hard miles for school in the wild country of Pine Valley.

LET THE MASTERS IN 19A

Bach, Beethoven, Vivaldi, Debussy, and Copland have been waiting patiently. You do not need a music degree, only a little quiet and a willing ear

WALKING THE MISSION TRAIL 22A

A pre-dawn pilgrim walk through San Antonio's historic missions becomes part history, part faith, part friendship, and one very good reason to pack comfortable shoes.

PACK WATER. BRING SENSE. 3B

National parks are worth the trip, but in 2026, visitors should expect fewer staff, bigger crowds, and no patience from nature for bad planning.

LISTEN FOR THE WARBLERS 7B

Yellow-rumped Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, and Yellow Warblers may be tiny, but their songs make spring and summer in Northern Arizona feel fully awake.

GROWING MORE THAN VEGETABLES 9B

A family garden gives kids fresh air, real responsibility, a little science, and the proud magic of eating something they grew themselves.



PAGE 11B

STEPPING OFF THE HAMSTER WHEEL 22B

A personal story about baptism, faith, and the surprising grace that came from making room for what matters most.

FIRE DANGER IS HIGH

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

YOUR LINK TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUNDS PARK

COUNTY SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON SAFER LOCAL ROADS

Munds Park residents will have a chance to speak up about local roadway safety concerns at Coconino County's Roadway Safety Summit meeting on Thursday, June 18, at Pinewood Fire Station.

The meeting is part of the county's Roadway Safety Action Plan, a planning effort focused on reducing serious crashes, identifying safety challenges, and guiding future roadway investments on County-maintained roads.

Residents are encouraged to bring specific examples, including rough roads, dangerous curves, poor visibility, speed concerns, or problem intersections.

Thursday, June 18
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Pinewood Fire Station | 475 E. Pinewood Boulevard

For more information, visit coconino.az.gov/RoadwaySafety.



Photo sent in by Michael Shrake.

WOODY'S PROGRESS REPORT

Well, folks, put down your coffee and clutch your pearls! Woody's just got its first actual update in over a decade.

Thanks to a sharp-eyed reader's tip and the photo they sent in, the long-running saga of the abandoned gas station that time forgot is finally showing signs of life.

After sitting there like a post-apocalyptic eyesore since 2013, the property appears to be getting cleaned out. From the looks of it, the building may be getting prepped for some kind of remodel, though what comes next is still anyone's guess.

That alone is legitimately exciting news for a property that has been the neighborhood punchline for years.

Stay tuned. The next issue of Woody's Progress Report might actually have something to report besides leaves blowing through the parking lot.

Miracles do happen.

...Local Highlights continued on page 9A

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Memorial Day Heroes Remembered



Saturday, May 23
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pinewood Fire Dept. Bloodmobile
475 E Pinewood Blvd.



To schedule your appointment, scan the QR code or visit vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: pinewoodfire).

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-25-VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org.

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CELEBRATE AMERICA'S
 ★ 250TH ★
 BIRTHDAY
In The
 MUND'S PARK
 ★ 4TH OF JULY PARADE ★

Sponsored by
Pinewood Property Owners' Association
Presented by Len Friedlund & The Pinewood News

Sign up for the Munds Park 4th of July Parade!

The parade will take place on Saturday, July 4, at 10 a.m.

Parade participants may begin lining up at 8 a.m.

You can register here or online at www.ThePinewoodNews.com.

Name: _____

Vehicle License: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

NOT PERMITTED: E-bikes, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and similar personal ride-on devices are not allowed on the parade route.

Type of Entry (check one): ATV Truck/Car Golf Cart

Truck with Trailer UTV Walking Group

Other: _____

Approximate number of participants: _____

Please return the form to the Munds Park Post Office during regular business hours, or mail it to:

The Pinewood News | PO Box 18977 | Munds Park, AZ

Or email to Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com

Questions? Contact Sandee Caviness at (602) 400-9404, or Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

PINEWOOD NEWS FLOAT CONTEST!

Every float in the parade is eligible for the 4th Annual Pinewood News 4th of July Parade Float Contest. The winning float will be featured on the cover of Pinewood News, along with a special story celebrating the hometown spirit, creativity, and hard work behind it.

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

*Written on behalf of 4th of July parade organizers
 Len Friedlund, the Pinewood News & sponsor,
 the Pinewood Property Owners' Association.*

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

Munds Park still has something deeply American and increasingly rare: neighbors who show up, volunteers who give their time, families who gather, and traditions that endure because attentive people care enough to protect them.

Our 4th of July Parade is one of those traditions. It's one of the best days of summer, especially as America marks its 250th birthday.

But a good parade depends on good behavior.

In recent years, volunteers trying to keep the event safe have been argued with, yelled at, and even threatened. Safety rules have been ignored. Barricades have been bypassed. Private property has been crossed. Candy has been thrown, tempting children into the street, and water bombs have damaged cameras and smartphones. Last year, unsupervised juveniles on e-bikes rode dangerously through the parade route.

None of that is harmless. And to be blunt, we are not talking about just a few incidents. There is always someone in the crowd who thinks it is funny to make things difficult. But now it is too many people with too few manners, and it is enough to make loyal volunteers of this three-decade tradition start to step back.

So we are asking, plainly: help us.

Keep children close and out of the parade route. If you are hosting guests or renters, let them know in advance that this is a 'community' event and that the rules matter. If you are participating in the parade, follow the rules. Pack it in, pack it out. And if you see a volunteer, thank them. That's a nice thing to do.

It's easy.

Keep Politics Out of the Parade

This parade, our parade, comes with one sincere request: leave politics at home.

No one is going to censor you.

But for one day, let's set the political signs and divisions aside and enjoy one another.

I hear it can be a lot of fun.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer opportunities are available for parade day, for help with crowd awareness, traffic direction, and safety support.

We're especially looking for people who feel comfortable speaking up kindly when needed and help keep things safe. We'd love to have you join us.

We also welcome young volunteers! If you want to give your children an opportunity to give back, they can help clean up trash left behind.

If you are interested, please contact Genna Caviness at (602) 717-6617 or Genna@ThePinewoodNews.com.





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New Listing

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... Continued from page 6A

THE 811 “CALL BEFORE YOU DIG”

The 811 “Call Before You Dig” service is a nationwide call center that notifies local utility companies when someone plans to dig. Once a call is placed, utility companies mark the approximate locations of underground lines so excavators can dig safely. Even if a dig location has been excavated in the past, new utility lines may have been installed since the last project. Calling 811 ensures current and accurate markings.



In all U.S. states, including Arizona, state law requires anyone planning to dig to contact 811 in advance. This law applies to homeowners, renters, property managers, landscapers, and contractors and construction crews

Failure to call 811 before digging can result in:

- Fines and penalties
- Responsibility for repair costs
- Civil liability if damage causes injury, property loss, or service interruption
- Enforcement actions by utility regulators

Calling 811 is free, easy, and typically takes just a few minutes.

1. Call 811 at least three business days before digging.
2. Provide the location and type of work planned.

Utility companies dispatch crews to mark underground lines—such as gas, electric, water, sewer, telecommunications, and cable—with color-coded paint or flags. Once markings are complete and the wait time has passed, digging may begin—with care around marked areas. If excavation plans change or markings fade, a new request should be made before continuing work.

What the New WIFA Fee Means for Customers

Beginning on April 1 2026, Pinewood Sanitary District (PSD) customers noticed a new line item on their monthly bills: the WIFA fee. This charge is related to funding and compliance requirements associated with the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona. Additional details were included in the quarterly statement, which included a full explanation of how the fee is used and how it supports long term system improvements.



Please note: The WIFA fee will gradually increase as the District draws more funds from the loan. This means each quarterly bill will show a slightly updated WIFA fee until the full loan amount has been used.

To help customers manage their payments conveniently, PSD continues to offer its SurePay Program. This service is free to join and provides a simple, automatic way to pay your bill each month. Anyone interested in signing up can contact the PSD office at 928-286-9166 or visit the district’s website (PinewoodSanitary.com) for the enrollment form.

SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date for the PFDA Golf Tournament on Sunday, September 27, 2026, at Pinewood Country Club. This community favorite promises a fun morning on the course, all in support of the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary. The tournament will begin with a 9:30 a.m. shotgun start, with additional details and registration information coming soon.

For more information, contact Cheri Schultz at 310-686-5168 or PFDA.Pres@gmail.com

COMMUNITY WATCH TOWN HALL

Join us for the first Town Hall of 2026, an important evening of updates from the local and county leaders who serve Munds Park.

A featured discussion will be led by Fire Chief Josh Tope, who will explain the cancellation of Bear Jaw, why it happened, and what the future may hold for community cleanups and pine needle removal.

Hear updates, ask questions, and be part of the conversation as we work to keep Munds Park strong, safe, and prepared. Whether you are a full-time resident or a weekend neighbor, your voice matters. Bring a neighbor.

Thursday, May 21, 2026
6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club



A SMALL GIFT, A BIG THANK YOU

The new Pinewood Fire Station is taking shape, but a station is more than walls, doors, and a roof. It needs the everyday tools, equipment, furnishings, and supplies that help firefighters do their job well.

The Pinewood Fire District Auxiliary has created a registry so the community can help stock the station before the doors officially open. Every item purchased brings the station closer to being fully ready for the people who serve Munds Park.

If you are able, please chip in. Big gift, small gift, practical gift, it all matters.



Scan here to help stock the station for our Pinewood firefighters.

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and surrounding*

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HOME MADE & WONDERFUL CEVICHE DE CAMARÓN

BY GENNA CAVINESS



- 5 to 10 lemons, juiced
- 5 to 10 limes, juiced
- Red Devil Hot Sauce, to taste. We use an entire 6oz bottle.
- 1 to 3 jalapeños, finely chopped
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Wash and rinse the cooked shrimp. Chop into bite-size pieces if needed.
2. Cut or shred the imitation crab.
3. Drain the baby clams.
4. Wash and chop all vegetables.
5. In a large bowl or container, combine the shrimp, crab, clams, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, jicama, celery, onion, jalapeños, and cilantro.
6. Add the Clamato juice, fresh lemon juice, fresh lime juice, hot sauce, salt, and pepper.
7. Stir well. Taste and adjust as needed. Add more citrus for brightness, more hot sauce for heat, or more salt and pepper to bring it all together.
8. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour before serving so the flavors have time to get friendly.
9. Serve cold with your favorite tortilla chips, or tostada shells.

Kitchen Note

If you like more fire, leave the jalapeño seeds in. If you are serving people who think black pepper is a personal attack, remove the seeds and go easy on the hot sauce. Either way, keep everything fresh, cold, and crunchy. That is where the magic is.

We know, summer is not quite here yet, but that is no reason to wait on the good stuff. As fresh vegetables begin showing up in season, this is the kind of recipe that reminds you why homemade food is so good!

That is what Home Made & Wonderful is all about. Fresh ingredients, bright flavor, and food made by real hands in real kitchens. Our readers have better sense than to live on box food, and frankly, our taste buds have standards.

This ceviche is flexible, forgiving, and made for tinkering. Add more of what you love. Pull back on what you don't. Make it mild, make it fiery, make it for your family, or make the whole batch and invite friends over. This recipe makes about 5 quarts, but it can easily be cut in half. Around here, we make the full batch and eat it for the next few days. It is that good.

Ingredients

- 1 to 3 pounds cooked shrimp, rinsed and chopped
- 1/2 to 1 pound imitation crab, cut or shredded
- 1 can baby clams, drained
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped cucumbers
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- 1 cup chopped jicama
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 medium white onion, chopped, or 2 bunches green onions, sliced
- About 6 ounces Clamato juice



Dog-friendly patio

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THINGS TO DO & SEE!

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HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?

Send it our way! The Pinewood News welcomes local event submissions for community gatherings, fundraisers, club meetings, classes, family-friendly activities, and other happenings of local interest. Space is limited, and listings are considered based on community relevance, available room, and publication deadlines. Some promotional or business-related events may require paid placement.

Send event details to: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com
We look forward to seeing what you have planned!

CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 9-10

MOTHER'S DAY FINE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

A lovely excuse to head to Prescott for a spring weekend of fine art, browsing, and downtown charm. This outdoor festival

features juried artists, vendors, and a festive Mother's Day weekend setting.

Time: Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Historic Courthouse Plaza, Downtown Prescott

Details: mountainartistsguild.org

Admission: See website for details

SUNDAY, MAY 10

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AT DA RANCH

Treat Mom to a brunch with live music, a build-your-own bouquet bar, and a pretty ranch setting that feels like a real outing. Seating is limited and runs in

90-minute time slots.

Time: 10 a.m. & 12 p.m. seatings (90 minutes)

Location: DA Ranch, 1900 Dancing Apache Rd, Cornville

Details: www.daranch.com

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MPCC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and registration is now open for all children entering kindergarten through sixth grade.

Details: This fun three-day program will be held June 9, 10, and 11. T-shirt pick-up will take place Monday, June 8, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Register by May 25 so your child can join the fun.

To sign up, at www.vbspro.events/p/be6bec

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21



BINGO AT WINE TASTING AND MORE

Grab your friends and head to Wine Tasting and More for a relaxed night of bingo, wine and hometown fun. This cozy Munds Park spot serves wine, charcuterie pairings, specialty drinks, and plenty of good company.

Time: 6 pm

Location: Wine Tasting and More, 17730 S. Munds Ranch Rd., Munds Park

Details: www.winetastingandmore.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28



PAINT & SIP AT WINE TASTING & MORE

Enjoy a creative evening with a glass in hand at Wine Tasting and More's Paint & Sip event. Bring your inner artist!

Time: 5 pm

Location: Wine Tasting and More, 17730 S. Munds Ranch Rd., Munds Park

Details: www.winetastingandmore.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH



MUTS NEEDS BOOTS ON THE TRAIL

Join Munds Park Trail Stewards to help maintain the non-motorized Brad and Mud Tank trails, then stay for a free lunch after. Please RSVP.

Time: 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Iron Springs Trailhead at 8:15 a.m.

Details: RSVP to mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com
Bring long pants, sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and a smile. Water and trail tools will be provided. Check for updates at www.mundsparktrailstewards.com, as the event may change or be postponed.



BEGINNING JUNE 1ST

BINGO AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

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

Time: 6 p.m., every Monday

Location: Pinewood Country Club

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30



PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB CRAFT FAIR

Pinewood Country Club is hosting a Labor Day Craft Fair and inviting local vendors to show off their handmade goods to the community. All are welcome, and vendor spaces are available.

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Pinewood Country Club

Contact: Daniella Zamora, 928-233-8271, dzamora@pinewoodcountryclubaz.com

BEYOND THE PARK

FRIDAY, MAY 15-17



OVERLAND EXPO WEST

Three days of overlanding gear, classes, & hands-on training, plus rigs to admire. If you like dirt roads, camp setups, and learning from people who have actually done the miles, this is for you.

Time: Friday & Saturday 9 to 5, Sun 9 to 3

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

Details: overlandexpo.com/west

Admission: See website for details

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 22-24



GRATEFUL FESTIVAL

This 3-day Flagstaff music festival brings live bands, camping, and a full weekend of good energy. If your crowd likes jam bands under the pines—this is for you.

Time: Check website for details

Location: Fort Tuthill Fairgrounds, 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff

Details: gratefulfestival.com

Admission: Tickets from \$15; kids 12 and under free

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 23-24

PRESCOTT OFF STREET ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW



Spend a spring weekend in downtown Prescott browsing local artisans, crafters, food vendors, and more at this free community arts and crafts show. It is an easy stop for shopping, strolling, and finding something handmade before the holiday weekend gets away from you.

Time: Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Prescott Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, 209 S. Montezuma St., Prescott

Details: prescott.org

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 29-31



FLAGSHAKES PRESENTS EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Catch this interactive, actor-driven play in an intimate setting where the audience helps shape the night. Funny, tender, and the kind of show

you'll talk about on the drive home.

Time: See website for details

Location: Beaver Street Theatre
11 S Beaver St, Suite 2, Flagstaff

Details: flagshakes.org

Admission: See website for details

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 4-6

FLAGSTAFF PRO RODEO

Three nights of rodeo under the pines is a pretty good way to spend an early June evening. This PRCA-sanctioned event brings classic rodeo action to Fort Tuthill with bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, team roping, steer wrestling,

tie-down roping, barrel racing, breakaway, bull riding, and more.

Time: Gates open at 5 p.m.; Rodeo 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Location: Fort Tuthill County Park, Flagstaff

Details: flagstaffrodeo.com

Admission: See website for details

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 6-7

FLAGSTAFF HULLABALOO

Flagstaff Hullabaloo returns to Wheeler Park with live music, giant puppets, a bike parade, costume contests, two performance stages, a large kids area, local vendors, craft brews, cocktails, food, and plenty of Flagstaff fun. The 2026 lineup

includes Mitchum Yacoub, Onus B Johnson, Reposado, Innastate, Giovani Kiyangi, The Skavelinas, Pummin Lummin, Crosstown Players, Whoa Nelly!, Seenan, Tsoh Tso, Nuvatukyaovi Sinom Dance Group, and Robot Apocalypse.

Time: Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Location: Wheeler Park, 212 W. Aspen Ave., Flagstaff

Details: flaghullabaloo.com

Admission: See website for ticket details



YOU'RE JUST ONE HORSEBACK RIDE AWAY FROM A GREAT DAY!

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 13-14

FLAGSTAFF FOLK FESTIVAL



A full weekend of folk and acoustic music, workshops, jamming, and more than 100 acts on multiple stages, all built around community and good listening. Bring your curiosity and your comfiest shoes.

Time: Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Coconino Center for the Arts and the Pioneer Museum, 2300 N. Fort Valley Rd., Flagstaff

Details: flagfolkfest.org

Admission: See website for details

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 20-21

PRESCOTT BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL



Bring a chair or blanket and settle in for a free weekend of bluegrass in downtown Prescott. Enjoy live bands, an evening concert Saturday night, jamming around the plaza, food tents, vendors, and raffles.

Time: Sat. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Goodwin Street, Downtown Prescott

Details: prescott.org

Admission: FREE

MONDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 29-JULY 5



WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

Prescott's signature summer traditions returns for a full week of rodeo action, western spirit, and holiday-week crowds. Gates open two hours before each performance, so there is time to grab food, shop, and settle in before the fun starts.

Time: Check website for times.

Location: Prescott Rodeo Grounds
840 Rodeo Dr., Prescott

Details: worldsoldestrodeo.com

Admission: See website for details.

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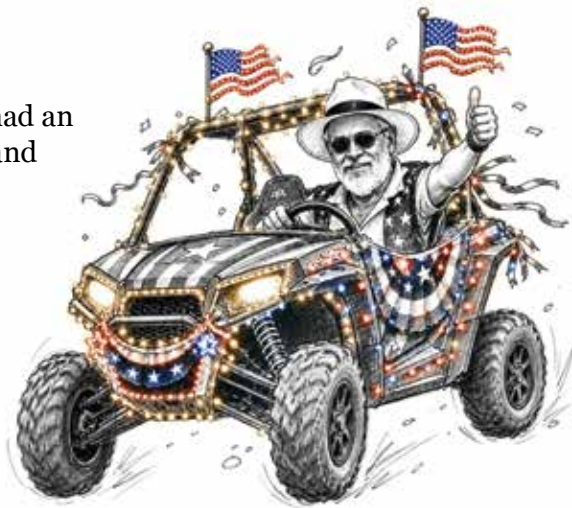
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THE LIGHTS GO OUT ON A MUND'S PARK TRADITION

BY FRED LLOYD



In the year 2020, with COVID-19 in full swing, I had an idea. "Wouldn't it be fun to decorate our vehicles and ATVs and have a nighttime electric light parade?" The idea wasn't all that new. As luck would have it, I live on the street in Phoenix where the very large APS-sponsored Electric Light Parade takes place each year. It's an absolute crowd favorite. It sounded like a lot of fun for Munds Park, so I posted the idea on Facebook. The response was immediate, and by the time the parade began, the procession had grown to over 75 vehicles. Everybody loved it. It's loved by those who decorate their buggies, and it's loved by the spectators along the route. It's the closest thing that our community gets to a traditional nighttime July 4th display. Kids love it, parents love it, and it has grown to over 100 vehicles.

The spectators are indeed very special. It's nothing short of amazing how many people walk out to the street to watch us pass by. There is great excitement everywhere with kids playing, flashing lights, glow sticks, and hundreds and hundreds of lawn chairs. It has become a key summer event for the Park.

Unfortunately, last year's (2025) parade will be the last in the series due to safety concerns. We have always been super-cautious to watch out for spectators. We observed a 7 mph speed limit throughout the entire 90-minute route. We prohibited the tossing of candy and toys to the spectators. No one was ever injured, and no property was damaged. It was a success until powerful electric bicycles arrived on the scene. A group of teenagers riding them in the Park decided to swarm the parade route, popping wheelies and darting in and out of the procession traffic. It was at this point that we became concerned for our spectators' safety. The rude teenagers refused to stand down, and they continued to harass the procession until its end. This was quickly becoming a serious liability.

A parade is considered a public event by the County, and thus a permit is required. Since the event began as a grassroots coalition of side-by-sides traveling together, we elected to conduct

the ride as an ordinary drive through the park. We demanded that all vehicles and drivers be properly licensed, and moreover, every driver was responsible for the safe and legal operation of their vehicle. This was successful for five years (2020-2025), but now, things have changed. It has become clear that the event cannot continue as a casual drive in the park due to its size and complexity. A permit will be needed.

The requirements for permitting an event of this nature are eye-watering. It can take months of planning. Everything must be documented, and certain amenities must be provided. One example is that portable toilets must be furnished. Another is that an emergency services plan must be submitted. A barricade company must be hired to block the streets. A traffic plan must be submitted. The event must also be insured for up to \$2M in the event of damages, and the County must be the named beneficiary. If anyone is curious, see it here: <https://www.coconino.az.gov/1641/Special-Event-Permits>

I'm personally disappointed by this loss. It was my great pleasure to bring this event to my friends and neighbors in Munds Park, however at this time, I don't see a path forward and am forced to resign as its organizer. This was a FUN event for everyone involved. Now, it will endure as a melancholy memory of simpler times when people behaved responsibly in small-town settings. Now that we have big-city people and their undisciplined, reckless children riding dangerous toys and endangering others, the party has been spoiled. I refuse to take responsibility for safety, permitting, and financing (insurance) on my own. Therefore, I will not be organizing or leading the July 3rd procession.

Notwithstanding the above, it seems to me that there is no law against decorating your vehicle and driving it all over town, day or night. Since so many people enjoy this event, I would not be surprised to see folks doing little caravans of their own. Who knows? Thanks to everyone who has joined me in the past to make this one of the most popular annual events in Munds Park.



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A TRUE ARIZONA SAGA OF FRANCES & JOHN MUNDS

A Strong Spirit & Hunger for Knowledge

PART III

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

Frances Willard Munds and John Munds built their lives in the rough early days of Arizona, where danger and hardship were part of everyday life. But before Frances became a force in her own right, she came from people who had already tested themselves against war, wilderness, loss, and the hard demands of frontier life. This part of the story reaches back into that bloodline and the grit that helped shape the woman she would become.

Frances Willard Munds was born into a family that knew how to wrest a life from untamed country.

Her father, Joel Willard, was no dreamer living on talk. A trained surveyor, builder, and ranchman, he was the son of Alexander Hamilton Willard of Lewis and Clark fame. By the time Frances's memories began to take hold, Joel had already lived several frontier lives. He had worked land at Clear Lake, moved the family back to the Willard ranch near Franklin, buried his father there, and in 1870 sold the California place and turned the whole family toward Nevada.

He was looking for good grass, steady water, and ground where hard work could build something lasting. He found it in Pine Valley, California. There he bought a large spread with water rights on Pine Creek, and in that dry country, water was wealth, survival, and power all in one. Joel took four of his older sons and extra hands ahead with the stock. They built the house, raised the barns, set the corrals, and strung miles of fence. Only when the place could shelter a family did he send for his wife, Mary Grace, and the younger children. They came by train to Palisade, Nevada, where Joel met them, then jolted the last fifteen miles by wagon to their new home.

This was the country that raised Frances: dust and stock and saddle leather under blue and some-times bitter skies, where work showed no mercy and no one was coddled. Every hand pulled its share, and then some. Winters were brutal. Snow piled deep enough to swallow cattle and break a man's spirit. Stock had to be fed and watched regardless. Firewood was cut in the distant hills and hauled home. In autumn they gathered pine nuts, roasted them over open fires, and stored them away like gold.

Nearby Shoshone families lived in brush wickiups in the hills, helped with rough ranch work and household work, and gathered pine nuts too, another reminder that survival in Pine Valley depended on knowing the country and learning from those who knew it well.

Yet the valley also offered room to grow. Frances rode horses almost as soon as she could walk. She ran through open fields with her brother Jim and with Flora, the older girl who lived with the family for a time and became her first real playmate after years spent mostly among boys. Small for her age, Frances refused to act it. She rode astride like her brothers, bareback when her father wasn't looking, racing across the ranch with the wind in her face. Her parents preferred the lady-like sidesaddle. Frances preferred freedom.



Artist's rendering of Frances Willard Munds as a young girl, created using artificial intelligence based on historical context.

For all the toughness the land bred into her, what truly set Frances apart was her mind.

At first there was no school near the ranch. The Willards refused to accept that. Education mattered too much in that household. Jennie and Nellie, Frances' older sisters, had been kept in Marysville to finish their own schooling, and when Jennie returned to Pine Valley, fresh from finishing hers, she turned the big dining room into a classroom. Improvised desks lined the walls and lessons began for Frances, Flora, Jim, and neighboring children.

If learning could not be found nearby, the Willards would bring it home. That was what pioneers did— they made do, improvised, and never gave up.

The homemade school lasted until the neighboring children turned the lessons into such disorder that Jennie finally moved on to teach elsewhere. But the Willards did not quit. Soon a school district formed in Pine Valley and a small schoolhouse rose five miles from the ranch. Frances, Flora, and Jim rode there and back on horseback, ten hard miles a day, except when winter made the trail impossible. Frances paid that price gladly.

She was a serious, quick-minded student. One childhood story tells you nearly everything about her. At a children's party, the youngsters were told to make a wish that would surely come true. While others asked for candy, ribbons, or toys, Frances wished for just one thing: to go away to school and get a good education.

At an early age, something inside her was reaching beyond the ranch, beyond the valley, beyond the daily grind of weather and work. Nevada had made her tough. It taught her to ride hard, endure, and accept that comfort was never promised. But the deeper truth was this: Frances was not content with mere survival. She wanted more, and she wanted it badly enough to wish for it the way other children wished for magic.

She did not wait for learning to come easy. She rode toward it through weather, distance, and want. That is how formidable women are made. This was the making of Frances Willard Munds.

To be continued... in the May 22nd issue of the Pinewood News.

Editor's Note: Badge & 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 historical events, some scenes have been lightly shaped with creative storytelling to bring the people and places to life for modern readers.



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VIVALDI, BACH, BEETHOVEN & THE QUIET REVOLUTION OF LISTENING



If Vivaldi, Bach, and Beethoven visited Munds Park in the summer, you have to wonder what they would write.

They are not insulted if you begin late. They are not offended if you begin simply. They only ask that you listen.

And perhaps that is where we have gone wrong. We have stopped taking time to listen and just be.

We live in a place where beauty is already part of our daily life. The mountains are there in the morning. The pines are there in the wind. The sky, which is sometimes blue and sometimes gold and sometimes in a mood no paint store could name properly, does its work without instruction. The stars come out at night whether we have earned them or not. If God speaks in beauty, He has been generous with this place.

There are some pleasures that look difficult from a distance, and then, when we come nearer, turn out to have been waiting patiently all along.

Classical music is one of them.

Think for a moment of the finest things human beings have built when they were not merely trying to get something finished. The Parthenon. Notre-Dame. The old libraries, courthouses, churches, that still make people stop and look. Stone was shaped, wood was carved, glass was colored, arches were lifted, and all of it took time. Someone cared enough to build something beautiful.

Not every building can do that, of course. Some are made only to be useful, but we know the difference between a place that merely holds people and a place that lifts them. We feel it without needing any explanation.

Classical music belongs to that same world of human effort. It is beauty built patiently, note by note, by people who believed that sound could do more than fill a room. It could change one.

People have dressed classical music up in such grand, forbidding robes that many assume you must earn the right to enter. But music does not ask for credentials. It asks only for a little quiet and a willing ear.

You do not have to understand classical music before you listen to it. You can sit down knowing nothing about sonatas, movements, or counterpoint and still be met by something beautiful.

The music does not mind.

It has been waiting a long time. Bach has waited. Mozart has waited. Beethoven, who did not seem like a patient man in life, has somehow managed patience in death. Vivaldi has been playing the seasons over and over again for centuries, and he does not appear to be tired of it.

No one asks us to explain why these things matter. We know they do. So why should music be different?

Classical music can feel intimidating from the outside, but once it begins, the distance disappears. You do not have to know what to listen for. You only have to give it a little room. The masters have a way of meeting you where you are, then taking you somewhere quieter, steadier, and a little more awake.

Try Vivaldi's Four Seasons some afternoon when the house is still. Do not worry about whether you are hearing spring correctly. Spring has never been very strict about such things. Just listen for the bright beginning of it, the quickness, the sense that the world has remembered something pleasant.

Try Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata when the day has worn itself out and you have, too. The first movement does not hurry to cheer you. That is why it helps. It sits beside sadness without making a fuss, which is sometimes the most comforting thing in the world.

... Continued on page 20A

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FROM THE PORCH

...Continued from page 19A

Try Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 when your thoughts are running about like children who have had too much cake. The cello begins, steady and low, and little by little the mind comes back to itself. Nothing has been solved exactly, but something has been put in order.

Try Debussy's Clair de Lune when the edges of the day need softening. You may already know it without knowing that you know it. Some music is like a person you met years ago and liked at once, though you never did catch the name.

And try Copland's Appalachian Spring in the morning, when there is still a chance the day may turn out well. It has space in it. It breathes. It seems to understand open country, fresh air, and the hopeful foolishness of beginning again.

The nice thing is that you need not begin perfectly. In fact, it is probably better if you do not. Perfection makes people stiff, and stiff people miss a great deal. Begin lazily, if necessary. Begin with coffee or a cocktail. Begin with your shoes off. Begin with a beginner's playlist and no noble intentions whatsoever.

Only give it a little quiet.

Classical music asks for that. Just a little time in which you are not scrolling, answering, fixing, checking, or hurrying.

At first, you may feel restless. Most of us do. We have become used to being interrupted, and when the interruptions stop, we hardly know what to do with ourselves. Stay anyway. Let the music come toward you at its own pace. It has crossed centuries to be with you.

After a while, something happens. The heart hears before the mind understands. A phrase returns, and you are glad it came back. One instrument answers another. A sorrow appears, and it moves you. A joy rises, but it does not shout. The music makes room for complicated feelings, which is useful, because most of us are complicated people pretending to be tidy.

That may be why the masters endure.

They knew life was not simple. Bach knew grief. Beethoven knew silence where music should have been. Others knew disappointment, illness, loneliness, poverty, longing, and all the ordinary troubles that have never gone out of fashion. Yet they made beauty anyway.

There is a lesson there, though it is too gentle to call itself one.

Beauty does not remove difficulty. It gives us a place to stand inside it.

And that is no small thing.

So why deny yourself the masters? Not because you are too busy. Everyone is too busy, and much of what keeps us busy is not worth the honor. Not because you do not understand them. Understanding is allowed to arrive later. Not because classical music belongs to someone else. It belongs to anyone willing to sit down and listen.

Open the door a little.

Let Bach in. Let Beethoven in. Let Vivaldi bring the weather. Let Debussy lower the lights. Let Copland open the window.

You may find, after a while, that the beauty outside your home has been answered by beauty within it. And that is a very good thing to discover, especially in a world that spends so much time teaching us to hurry past what might have made us whole.

Listening to classical music feels like a quiet rebellion against the rush. A chance to sit with something beautiful and let it take its time.



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MEET THE PALOMA

The Margarita's Brighter, Bubblier Cousin

If you've already got a little Margarita loyalty in your heart, the Paloma is the obvious next crush for Cinco de Mayo.

It's the tequila drink people reach for when they want something bright without the sugar storm, tall in a glass, light on its feet, all sparkle and grapefruit snap. One sip and you get that clean, fizzy bite that makes your mouth wake up and your hand drift back for another. No syrupy haze, no dessert-aftertaste hangover, just crisp, refreshing, and a little bit dangerous in how quickly it disappears.

A little history

The Paloma's birth story isn't the kind you can pin to a single bartender with a perfect date and a proud signature. It's more like a rumor that stuck because it tasted right.

What does help anchor it, is soda.

Back in the 1940s, mixing tequila with bubbly drinks in Mexico was already common, simple and casual, the kind of thing that happens when the weather is warm and you've got something carbonated nearby. Some of these tequila-and-soda mashups went by names like changuirongo, which is exactly the sort of word that sounds like it was coined mid-laugh.

Then grapefruit soda showed up and the plot sharpened.

By 1955, Squirt, that tart grapefruit soda invented around Phoenix in the late 1930s, was being exported into Mexico. Tequila plus grapefruit soda turned out to be one of those effortless matches, bitter and bright, citrusy and clean, with tequila's edge tucked neatly inside the fizz. The kind of combo that just works.



And like most great drinks, it traveled the easiest way possible, by being simple and by being good.

It picked up more momentum in the 1990s, and by the late '90s you start spotting it on U.S. menus under the name Paloma, Spanish for "dove." Some people like to connect the name to the famous 19th-century song La Paloma, which feels fitting. The drink has that same airy, drifting quality, light but memorable.

Today, the Paloma is widely treated as one of Mexico's favorite tequila cocktail. The kind of drink that belongs in hot weather and loud kitchens, at gatherings where someone's always

refilling someone else's glass, or on a quiet afternoon when you're "just having one" and the sunset disagrees.

Ingredients

- 2 ounces tequila
- 1/2 ounce lime juice, freshly squeezed
- 4 ounces Grapefruit soda, chilled, to top
- Pinch of salt
- Garnish: lime wheel

The Method

1. Add the tequila, lime juice, and pinch of salt to the glass, and fill with ice.
2. Top with grapefruit soda, and stir briefly and gently to combine.
3. Garnish with a lime wheel.



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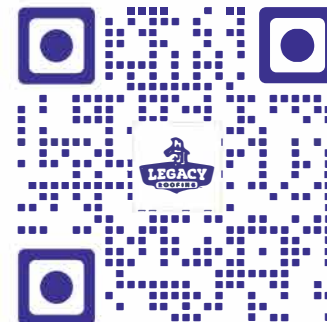
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ONE STEP AT A TIME ON SAN ANTONIO'S MISSION TRAIL

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG

Walking from one historic mission to the next, a day of shared miles, pilgrim blessing and unexpected connection reveals why this path lingers long after the final step.



Mission San Francisco de la Espada at dawn by Stacey Wittig

The alarm went off at O dark thirty, that quiet hour when even San Antonio seems to hold its breath. I laced up my shoes, stepped into the warm Texas morning, and joined a small gathering of pilgrims—some familiar faces, some I was just beginning to know—ready to walk the Mission Trail in San Antonio together, a route preserved by the National Park Service.

We began with something that immediately set this experience apart. A parish priest met us in the dim early light to offer a pilgrim blessing. I've visited plenty of national parks, but this is the only one in the National Park Service system where active parish churches still share the space, where Sunday services are still celebrated, and the doors open not just to visitors, but to a living community of faith.

From there, at Mission San Francisco de la Espada, we stepped onto the trail, the sky just beginning to lighten, the blessing still settling in. There's something about starting before sunrise that shifts your mindset. Conversation comes more quietly at first, your breath visible in the cool morning air, footsteps falling into a rhythm. No one rushes.

No one needs to. As we moved along the Mission Trail in San Antonio, from one mission church to the next, the day began to take shape in a steady pattern—walking, talking, slipping into stretches of silence, then back again.

Fourteen miles sounds like a lot on paper, but out there, it felt different to me. The trail carried us past stretches of river, under canopies of trees, and into the courtyards of centuries-old missions that have witnessed generations of pilgrims long before us. But as the morning wore on, the air warmed, and the

shade became something you noticed, something you were grateful for. By midday, you could feel it in your legs—and in the quiet stretches between conversations. At each mission, I paused to stamp my National Parks passport, a small ritual that made the miles feel tangible, each imprint marking not just a place but a moment.

This chain of missions, preserved together as San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, holds deeper significance as the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in Texas. Each stop felt like a pause in time. At places like Mission San José and Mission Concepción, I found

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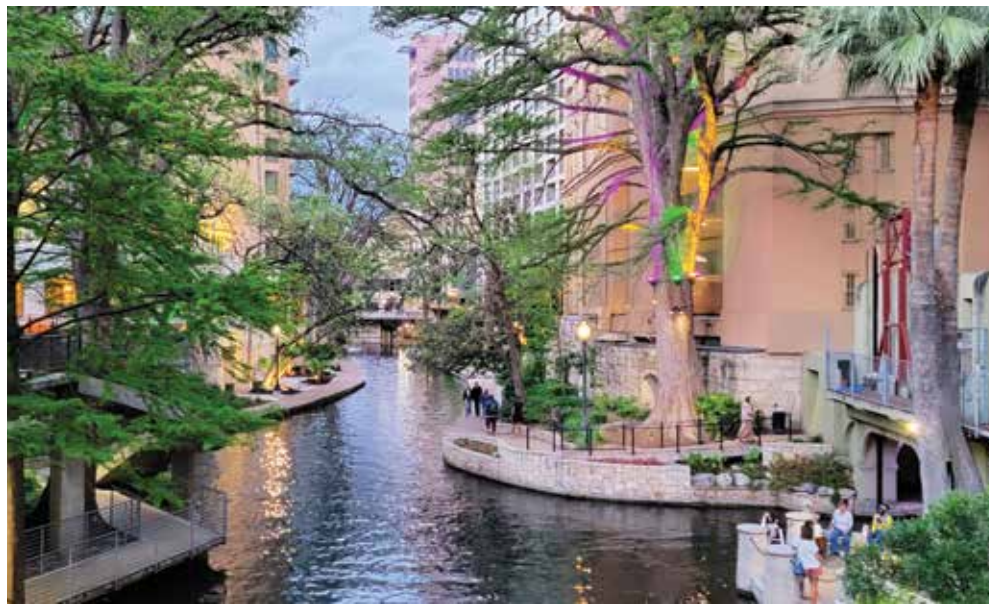
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San Antonio River Walk by Stacey Wittig

the light lingered on the water and the evening crowd gathered. We ended the day at Cafe Rio Mexican Grill, sharing a meal, swapping stories from the trail, laughing about sore feet and early alarms. There's something deeply satisfying about sitting

down after a long walk like that, knowing every mile was earned, every conversation mattered.

It stayed with me the next morning, that sense of contrast San Antonio embraces so effortlessly. Few places let you move so easily between quiet reflection and vibrant city life—between centuries-old mission churches and the energy along the San Antonio River Walk. If you're looking for a destination that offers more than just things to see—something you can feel as you move through it step by step—the Mission Trail in San Antonio delivers. Come for the history, stay for the connection, and don't be surprised if you leave with something you didn't expect to find.

UNSTOPPABLE Stacey is a travel writer who traveled to San Antonio to launch her latest book, *A Spiritual Guide to the Camino Francés: Sacred Places Christian Pilgrims Don't Want to Miss*, at the annual gathering of *American Pilgrims on the Camino*, an experience that inspired her walk along the Mission Trail in San Antonio.

myself running a hand along the stone walls, thinking about all the hands that had done the same over hundreds of years.

But if I'm being honest, it wasn't just the architecture or the history that stayed with me. It was the people walking beside me. This is where the UNSTOPPABLE magic always shows up. Conversations that start casually—"Where are you from?"—have a way of turning into something deeper by mile six or seven. You learn why someone feels called to walk, what they're carrying, what they're hoping to find. And somewhere along the way, without even noticing, strangers begin to feel like friends.

By the time we reached San Fernando Cathedral, the energy had shifted again. The city had fully awakened, the late afternoon light settling against the stone, softening the edges of the day. The quiet of the trail gave way to the hum of downtown San Antonio, and yet we carried that stillness with us inside. At 4 pm, we gathered for a special pilgrim Mass, and I felt that same sense of continuity I had noticed earlier—past and present meeting in one place, movement and meaning held together.

And then, the spiritual gave way to the celebratory, because that's part of pilgrimage too. As we made our way off the trail and back toward the city, the path followed stretches of the San Antonio River Walk, where



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WORD OF THE DAY

TSUNDOKU

NOUN | TSOON-DOH-KOO | JAPANESE

Tsundoku is one of those words that sounds like a game requiring more effort than pleasure, but may actually be proof of a lively mind.

It is a Japanese word for acquiring books and letting them pile up unread. At first glance, that sounds like guilt with a dust jacket. The tower on the nightstand. The stack beside the chair. The history book with a bookmark still sitting bravely on page 37. The novel bought on impulse because the first sentence had nerve. The cookbook opened once, loved immediately, and then buried under a field guide, a mystery, and something about the Roman Empire.

But tsundoku is not the same as not reading.

Book people know this. They may have a novel by the bed, an essay collection in the living room, a gardening book in the kitchen, and an old favorite riding around in the car like emotional support cargo. Some books are being read slowly. Some are waiting for the right mood. Some are kept nearby because their very presence feels like company.

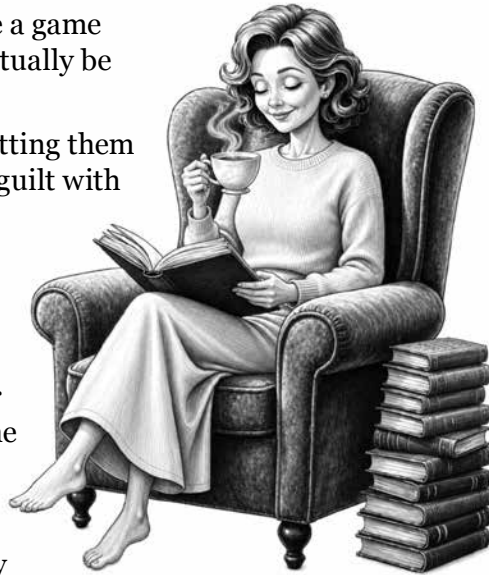
An unread book is not always neglected. Sometimes it is ripening.

That is the charm of tsundoku. It gives a name to the hopeful disorder of a curious life. It is not about owning books for show, at least not at its best. It is about reaching for more than there is time to finish. It is ambition stacked in paper form. It is evidence that the reader still believes tomorrow may bring a quiet hour, a hot cup of coffee, and the sudden perfect book.

So yes, the pile may be leaning. Yes, the shelves may be full. Yes, someone may have said, "Are you really buying another book?" in a tone that lacked imagination.

But the tsundoku reader knows better.

Those unread books are not failures. They are invitations. And sooner or later, one of them will be exactly the book you need.



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NATIONAL PARKS REQUIRE MORE SELF-RELIANCE

America's national parks deserve the trip, and many of our readers know exactly why. They love the trails, the views, the wildlife, and the rare chance to stand somewhere that reminds us how big and beautiful this country can be. However, in 2026, staffing shortages mean visitors need to plan more carefully and bring a little more self-reliance and good judgment along for the ride.

The National Park Service recorded 323 million recreation visits in 2025. Twenty-six parks set new visitation records. At the same time, recent reports say the Park Service has lost roughly a quarter of its permanent staff. That means fewer hands to manage crowds, maintain trails, clean facilities, run programs, protect resources, and respond when trouble finds someone two miles from the trailhead.

That is the plain truth of it. More people are heading into the parks. Fewer people are available to keep everything running smoothly.

Preparation has always mattered in national parks. These are wild places, even when they have paved roads, restrooms, and visitor centers. Nature has been perfectly capable of humbling people long before Congress discovered budget cuts. A closed restroom, a delayed response, or a washed-out trail can turn a poorly planned day into a miserable one.

So the smart visitor prepares before leaving home.

Check the official park website before the trip. Look for road closures, trail conditions, fire restrictions, timed entry rules, shuttle information, campground updates, weather, and current alerts. Do not rely on a travel blog, an old Facebook post, or someone's cheerful photo from last July. Conditions change.

Pack as if help will take time. Carry water, food, a first-aid kit, sun protection, layers, a flashlight or headlamp, a map, and a way to navigate without cell service. Bring a charged phone, but do not make it your whole plan. In many parks, a phone turns into a camera with a dying battery and no bars. Very modern. Very useless.

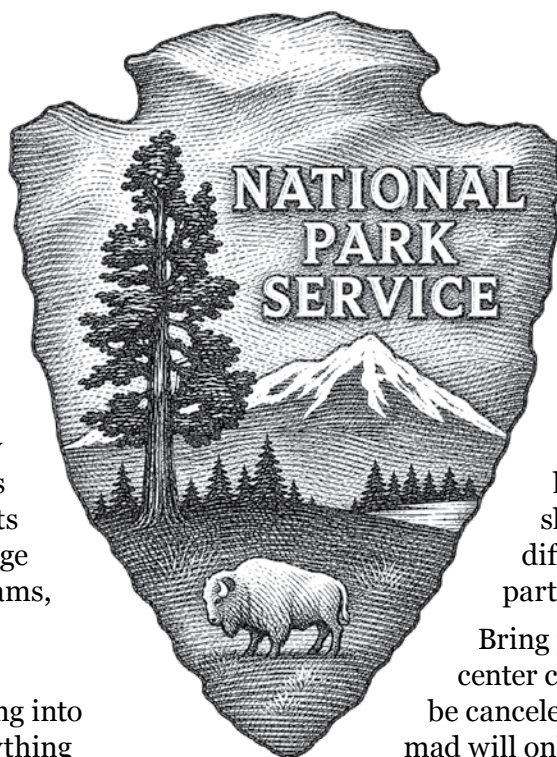
The official NPS app can be useful, especially when maps are downloaded ahead of time. Other trail apps with offline maps can help, too. Just remember that an app is a tool, not a rescue plan.

Bring more water than you think you need. Heat is a quiet thief. It slows your thinking, weakens your legs, and lets pride do the rest. If it is hot, shorten the hike. Start early. Rest in shade. Drink before you feel desperate. No view is worth heat illness.

Know when to turn around. This is the skill too many people forget. Turning back is not failure. If the trail is too hot, too steep, too crowded, or too much for the slowest person in your group, go back.

Stay on the trail. Shortcuts damage fragile ground and get people hurt. Loose rock, steep slopes, slick edges, and crumbling soil do not care how close the overlook appears. Every year, someone thinks, "Just a few more steps." Nature has a sharp way of correcting bad math.

Give wildlife room. Wild animals are not a photo prop. A squirrel does not need your granola bar. Feeding animals puts people and animals at risk. Getting close for a picture is foolish. Use a zoom lens and keep your dignity.



Tell someone where you are going. Leave your route and expected return time with a real person. If plans change, update them when possible. Do not wander into a big landscape with only optimism.

Families should plan for the youngest hiker. Children get tired, hot, thirsty, bored, brave, and reckless, sometimes in the same ten minutes. Older visitors should respect altitude, uneven ground, heat, and the long walk back to the car. Visitors with health concerns, mobility limits, or unfamiliarity with U.S. wilderness areas should check accessibility information and route difficulty before heading out. Pride is a lousy trail partner. It carries nothing and talks too much.

Bring patience, too. A restroom could be closed. A visitor center could have shorter hours. A ranger program could be canceled. A line could be longer than expected. Getting mad will only ruin your day and everyone else's.

The best visitors this summer will be prepared, flexible, and honest about where they are. A national park is not a theme park with hospitality services. It is a wild place with limits.

Do your part. Check the alerts. Carry water. Stay on the trail. Watch the weather. Give wildlife space. Turn around before the day turns mean.

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PINEWOOD PICKLEBALL LEVELS UP WITH COACH SHARON WELSH FALOR

BY MISSY LAGOMARSINO



Coach Sharon

Over the last couple of years, Pinewood Country Club pickleball players have enjoyed the added benefit of having a pickleball professional provide training and support to club members. This year, as the club is ready to open its brand new pickleball complex, Coach Sharon Welsh Falor is taking the organization to new heights.

Coach Sharon's athletic career began on the basketball team in high school, and as a prep school athlete she also competed in downhill skiing and track and field. Her college years included spots on the field hockey, basketball, track and field, and softball teams. All this experience led to a collegiate coaching career.

Eventually, coaching brought her to Northern Arizona University in 1989, and a few years later she became the Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Flagstaff High School.

When she retired, she discovered pickleball and the next competitive chapter of her life

began. Since starting to play the sport, Coach Sharon has participated at the regional and national level of championship games in the United States and has played in the Irish Open, the German Open and the World Games. She began teaching in 2019 and is in the Professional Pickleball Registry for Coaches and Instructors. While she does not play competitively anymore, she has shifted her focus to coaching and training, sharing her love of the sport with others.

This year, Coach Sharon is taking on a larger role within Pinewood Country Club and is truly elevating the member experience. Programming for beginning through advanced players will include ladder play, clinics, lessons, skills & drills programs and more. A new feature this summer is a juniors program in July for the younger, up-and-coming players. If you are interested in learning pickleball or in elevating your game, consider joining Pinewood Country Club for daily play plus excellent programming created by Coach Sharon.

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BY MARGARET DYEKMAN



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Yellow-rumped Warbler

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The Yellow rumped Warbler is one of the most widespread and easily recognized warblers in all North America. Often called "butterbutts" by birders, they display a bright yellow patch on the rump along with yellow accents on the sides and crown. Highly adaptable, they forage for insects in trees, shrubs, and even on the ground, and unlike most warblers, they can digest waxy berries—allowing them to winter farther north than many species. They are regularly found during winter months in central Arizona. Their clear, ringing "tsee tsee TSEE TSEE tsee" song is a familiar sound in western woodlands.

The Common Yellowthroat is a secretive but widespread warbler found across wetlands, marsh edges, and dense brush. It is easier to identify by sound, especially during breeding season when hunkered down in wetlands out of sight singing its distinctive "witchety witchety witchety" call. Males are unmistakable with their bright yellow throats and bold black "bandit mask," while females are more subdued in color. These birds prefer low, tangled vegetation, where they hop and flit in search of insects. There are always breeding pairs at Kachina Wetlands, Picture

Canyon, Sedona Wetlands, and at most of the local golf course and city park ponds wherever thick, moist habitat is available.

The Northern Yellow Warbler is one of the most widespread in North America. Brilliant golden yellow with subtle chestnut streaks on the males' breasts, these birds brighten riparian corridors, willow thickets, and wet meadows. Their whistled song of "sweet sweet sweet I'm so sweet, is a hallmark of spring migration. Yellow Warblers are insect specialists, gleaning caterpillars and other prey from leaves and branches. They are also among the earliest warblers to return each spring, making them a favorite among birdwatchers.

Late spring and early summer are the times to be listening for these singing birds. Having a hard time identifying them? Use the Merlin app on your phone, free to download from Cornell University, and let AI give you a little help identifying the bird vocalizations. Northern Yellow Warblers and Yellow-rumped Warblers often are high in the trees and hard to see, and Common Yellowthroats are hiding in the reeds, so having assistance from an app makes good sense for birders.

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

Photos courtesy of Muriel Neddermeyer



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THE JOYS & BENEFITS OF FAMILY GARDENING

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

A family garden grows a lot more than vegetables. It cultivates magic moments.

I learned to garden working alongside my parents and grandparents, and I've spent countless hours planting and growing things with my sons. And I can tell you that there's this moment when a kid takes a bite of something they grew themselves and their whole face changes. That's when you know it was worth it.

Our family has a particular connection to the soil (my boys are the fourth generation to work at Warner's Nursery) but the benefits of gardening with your loved ones are pretty universal.

First and foremost is the quality time you get to spend together. A lot of activities parents do with their kids are enjoyable - hiking, movies, a Saturday at the park - but there's something special about creating and maintaining a garden. It's a long-term commitment. There's prep work, then nurturing your plants with proper feeding and watering, and finally the satisfaction of seeing your flowers bloom or pulling those first vegetables.

Speaking of vegetables, gardening is genuinely good for everyone's health. Growing a vegetable patch gets your kids outside and moving. And while gardening isn't the most intensive exercise around, it involves plenty of lifting, stretching, and sweating.

It also encourages kids to eat better. Research consistently shows that when children are involved in growing vegetables they're far more receptive to eating them. Part of that is taste: nothing is fresher than a tomato pulled straight from the vine in your backyard. But equally important is the fact that your child invested time and effort in that food. They might shrug at the zucchini from the grocery store. The one they grew themselves? That's a different story.

That sense of ownership connects to something broader: gardening engages kids in learning across the board. On a physical level, digging, scooping, planting seeds and weeding all develop motor skills. For older children, it opens the door to botany - germination, photosynthesis, decomposition. Measuring soil, tracking water, watching growth unfold? That's math and science happening naturally, without a worksheet in sight.



Gardening also teaches responsibility that extends beyond your own backyard. Cultivating something from the earth is a natural entry point for bigger conversations like water conservation and supporting pollinators.

And then there's patience - maybe the rarest lesson of all. We live in a world built around instant gratification, and gardening simply doesn't work that way. Even fast-growing plants take time. But the rewards are almost always worth the wait, and kids who learn that in a garden carry it with them.

One last thing, and it might be the best reason of all: gardening is a genuine stress-reducer. There's real science

behind that; soil contains microorganisms that trigger serotonin production in the brain, your body's own mood-lifter. But a lot of it, I think, comes down to being outside and playing in the dirt. No headlines, no notifications, no to-do list demanding your attention. Just you, your family, and growing something yourself.

That, to me, is what a family garden is really for.

Happy gardening, Misti Warner-Andersen



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—Sandee, Editor, The Pinewood News*

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FROZEN JR. CALLS YOUNG PERFORMERS!

Do you love singing, acting, pretending, performing, or just having fun with other kids?

Arizona Children's Theatre is bringing Frozen Jr. to Munds Park this summer, and young performers are invited to be part of the show.

Ask your parents about auditions on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Munds Park Community Church. You do not need theatre experience to try out. You just need energy, imagination, and the courage to give it a try.

The Frozen Jr. theatre camp runs June 29 through July 17, Monday through Friday, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. During camp, kids and teens will learn acting, singing, stage movement, and what it takes to put on a real musical. The fun ends with live performances on Thursday, July 16; Friday, July 17; and Saturday, July 18.

Registration is open now at www.arizonachildrenstheatre.com

There is also a Becoming a Star Camp from June 22 through June 26, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Munds Park Community Church. This camp is great for beginners who want to build confidence, learn theatre basics, and find out what it feels like to shine on stage.

Arizona Children's Theatre works to make sure every child feels welcome, supported, and encouraged. Whether you already love the stage or are just curious, this could be your summer to try something new.

So, kids, ask your parents. Warm up those voices. Practice your brave face. The stage is waiting.



WARNER'S NURSERY KIDS CLUB READY TO PLAY IN THE DIRT & LEARN SOMETHING COOL?

Warner's Nursery Kids Club has FREE Sunday classes for children who like plants, bugs, flowers, bees, crafts, or just being outside. Each class starts at 2:00 p.m. at Warner's Nursery in Flagstaff.

On May 10, kids can grow a seed necklace and make a pet chia pot while learning how seeds sprout with water, light, and a little patience.

On May 17, kids will learn about beekeeping, why bees matter, how honey is made, and simple ways to help bees.

On May 24, kids can create a flower art collage using plant materials found around the nursery and bring home their own planting souvenir.

Kids Club sessions are free, but families need to sign up ahead of time so Warner's Nursery has enough supplies for everyone.

Location: Warner's Nursery, 1101 E. Butler Ave., Flagstaff

Details: www.warnercompanies.com

Register: registration required. Visit the nursery, call (928) 774-1983, or email info@warnercompanies.com



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PPOA 2026 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Pinewood Property Owners Association proudly awards scholarships to support local students as they take the next step toward their future.

For 2026, three \$2,000 scholarships will be offered to full-time Munds Park residents who have recently graduated from a Flagstaff high school. These scholarships are available to students pursuing either academic studies or an accredited trade school program.

Students who maintain good grades may also be eligible to have the scholarship extended for a second year.

The application deadline is June 8. For information contact Barb Timberman at (928) 606-0194.

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Want to help keep Munds Park beautiful after the parade? We need volunteers to help pick up trash left behind and give our community a little extra love.

Interested in helping? Please have your parent or guardian contact Genna Caviness at (602) 717-6617 or Genna@ThePinewoodNews.com.



IT'S A BUGS LIFE

MIRA THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

In the shady meadows and pine-edged clearings of Munds Park, where tall ponderosa trees sway gently and wildflowers bloom in sunny patches, there lived a monarch butterfly named Mira. But Mira did not start as a butterfly. Her story began much smaller.

First, she was a tiny egg. Her mother laid the egg on the underside of a milkweed leaf. The egg was white and round, like a pearl. "This leaf will feed you," her mother whispered before flying away. "It will make you strong for your journey."

After a few days, the egg hatched. Out came Mira as a little caterpillar. She was striped in yellow, black, and white. She was very hungry. She ate the milkweed leaf right away. Then she ate more leaves. And more. Milkweed was her only food. It tasted bitter, but it kept birds away because it made her taste bad to them.

"I eat and grow," Mira said thoughtfully as she munched. "Growing is important. Without milkweed, there would be no caterpillars. And without caterpillars, no butterflies."

Mira grew bigger every day. She shed her skin four times as she got larger. Each time, her stripes looked brighter.

When she was big enough, Mira felt ready for a change. She climbed to a sturdy twig. She hung upside down in the shape of a J. Her skin split open one last time. Underneath was a smooth green chrysalis with gold dots. It hung like a jewel from the twig.

Inside the chrysalis, Mira changed completely. Her body turned soft. Then it reshaped. Legs formed. Antennae grew. Wings started to appear, folded up small. Colors of orange and black bloomed. This took about ten quiet days. No one could see the magic happening inside.

At last, the chrysalis turned clear. Mira pushed her way out into the sunlight. She was no longer a caterpillar. Now she was a butterfly. Her wings were wet and crumpled at first. She pumped fluid into them until they spread wide and strong. She rested letting her wings dry hard.

"Now I can fly," Mira said softly. "From egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. That is the way of monarchs."

Mira fluttered through the ponderosa pines of Munds Park. She sipped sweet nectar from purple asters and yellow sunflowers. As she drank, pollen stuck to her legs and body. She carried it from flower to flower.

"Flowers need help to make seeds," she murmured. "I help by visiting. A little pollen here, a little there. New plants grow because of it."

In a sunny meadow, Mira met a busy honeybee. The bee was dusted in pollen and looked concerned.

"Hello, Mira," said the bee. "Milkweed is getting hard to find. Fewer plants mean fewer eggs and caterpillars. Fewer caterpillars mean fewer butterflies next year."

Mira folded her wings thoughtfully. "I know," she said. "But people can plant more milkweed. And we spread the seeds as we go."

"Will you lay eggs here?" the bee asked.

"Yes," Mira replied. "It is time."

She found a fresh milkweed plant. She curled her abdomen and laid one small egg under a leaf. Then another. Not too many. Just right.

"These eggs will hatch into caterpillars," she told the bee. "They will eat and grow, then make chrysalises. And from those, new butterflies will emerge. Ready to fly far."

The bee buzzed with hope. "How do you know where to go on your long trips?"

Mira looked at the sky. "The sun guides me. The wind helps. The smell of pines and mountains shows the way."

As evening fell, Mira rested on a pine needle. The forest grew quiet.

Stars twinkled above.

"I like being a monarch," she said to the breeze. "I change from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. I help flowers. I start new lives on milkweed. And I journey under the wide sky."

She opened her wings, letting the last light glow through them.

Because even in the high meadows of Munds Park, a small creature with big changes can be very important indeed.





BENNY'S SPARKLY WINGS

Benny the Caterpillar was a champion complainer. He griped about the leaves ("Too crunchy!"), the branches ("Too wobbly!"), and even the sunshine ("Too bright, if you ask me!"). If there was a grumble to be made, Benny made it first, last, and loudest of all.

One sunny morning he inched along, muttering as usual, when he spotted a beautiful butterfly resting on a daisy. She looked strangely familiar, then he realized it was his friend Lucy.

"You changed," Benny said, blinking.

"Of course I did," the butterfly said with a fluttery laugh. "That's the whole idea. You will too."

Benny scrunched up. "But what if I don't like the new me? What if I miss being a caterpillar?"

The butterfly tilted her wings. "Changing isn't about turning into somebody else, Benny. It's about becoming more of who you're meant to be. The

wings come easy. The hard part is choosing nicer thoughts while you're still crawling. Not being negative and grumbling makes you a nicer person—and nice caterpillars grow into the most beautiful butterflies of all."

Benny thought about that for a long time.

That afternoon, when the wind pushed him, he held on tight instead of fussing. When the climb got steep, he kept going. When a grumble tried to pop out, he swallowed it like a sour berry. He told a worried ant, "Don't fret, friend. The leaf is just right for both of us!" Later, he even shared his favorite juicy berry with a tired little ladybug who looked hungry, saying, "Here, this will give you some extra zip!"

Nothing around him changed much, the leaves were still crunchy sometimes, but Benny felt lighter and kinder inside. One quiet morning he woke up with shiny new wings on his back, shimmering with extra sparkles of blue and gold. He gave them a happy flap, grinned a big caterpillar-turned-butterfly grin, and lifted off into the bright blue sky.

And for the first time ever, he didn't complain about a single thing.

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

WORD SEARCH

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

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|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Aster | Grow | Nectar |
| Bee | Honeybee | Park |
| Butterfly | Journey | Pollen |
| Caterpillar | Leaf | Wings |
| Change | Meadow | |
| Chrysalis | Milkweed | |
| Egg | Monarch | |
| Flower | Munds | |





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CROSSWORD

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68					69						70			
71					72						73			

ACROSS

1. Boat owner's rental
5. Bridal shop assortment
10. Spore sacs in fungi
14. Deep sleep
15. A manner of speaking
16. Tiger's warning
17. Thickening agent
18. Heraldic band
19. Whip up a batch of cookies, say
20. Food process
22. Thin and slippery
24. N.Y. neighbor
25. Token taker
26. Neighbor of Fiji
30. Slender
34. Muesli morsel
37. Pack animal
39. Wipe out
40. Rhine tributary
42. Delivery outcome
44. Practice in the ring
45. Forest babbler
47. Clan emblem
49. Snoop
50. South Seas attire
52. One ineligible to vote before 1920
54. Little piggies

56. Cafeteria provision
59. Make intrusive comments
62. Tail-related
64. Route
65. "Stars and Stripes Forever" composer
67. Get plastered
68. Start the pot
69. Pay tribute to
70. The Emerald Isle
71. What the nose knows
72. Skirt type
73. Unwind

DOWN

1. Large number
2. Sensible thinking
3. Insect stage
4. Mom or pop
5. Present
6. "___ to Billie Joe"
7. Like an owl, in a simile
8. Honkers
9. Detects scents
10. Dispute deciders
11. Drench
12. "Well, that takes the ___!"
13. It's all the rage
21. Nose-in-the-air type

23. Strong affection
27. Kernel
28. "True ___:" Wayne film
29. Bow accompanier
31. Reindeer herder
32. Russian leader before 1917
33. Bone-chilling
34. Spheres
35. Surrounding glow
36. Norse thunder god
38. Sgt. Snorkel's dog
41. Barq's or Mug
43. Haw's partner
46. Door feature
48. Baby's cry
51. Performer in a kimono
53. Render impotent
55. Seat by a counter
57. Worship
58. Blue stone
59. Tender-hearted
60. Put ___ words
61. New Mexico Indian
62. Give a hoot
63. Mardi Gras follower
64. Neighbor of a Vietnamese
66. Prince, to a king

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WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Adopt | Gift | Mama | Upbringing |
| Adore | Gratitude | May | Warmth |
| Birth | Heart | Meal | Wife |
| Cake | Honor | Mom | Wise |
| Candy | Hug | Mother | Woman |
| Card | Jewels | Nuclear Family | |
| Care | Kind | Roses | |
| Child | Kiss | Son | |
| Daisy | Lady | Spouse | |
| Day | Lineage | Sweet | |
| Doting | Love | Tulips | |



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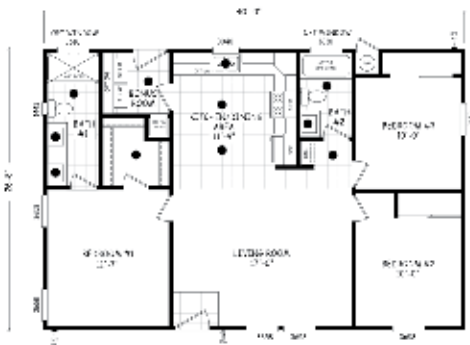
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Photograph by John Burcham

LOCAL LORE

CRESCENT MOON RANCH NEEDS A FEW GOOD HANDS

Some old buildings don't ask for much. A straightened board here, a sound roof there, a door that swings true. They stand year after year through blistering sun and freezing nights, quietly holding up a piece of history with barely a complaint.

Crescent Moon Ranch is one of those places.

Tucked south of Sedona near Red Rock Crossing, the ranch sits at the very base of Cathedral Rock, one of Arizona's most iconic landscapes. Where red stone, clear creek water, and old ranch ground come together in perfect harmony. Long before it became a favorite spot for picnics and photographs, it was working land.

First homesteaded in 1880 by Prescott cattleman John Lee as the OK Ranch, the property started with an irrigation ditch, garden, and orchard. Over the decades it changed hands and purposes, but the buildings, fields, and stories of Arizona's ranching past remain.

Now, HistoriCorps and the Coconino National Forest are looking for volunteers to help preserve that history by rehabilitating the historic barn at Crescent Moon Ranch.

Volunteers will strengthen interior framing, stabilize and repair roof members, install a new roof, restore barn doors, repair siding, and learn proper wood preservative techniques. While it sounds like work for experienced hands, no prior experience is required. HistoriCorps welcomes people of all skill levels. Tools, training, mentorship, and meals are provided.

Three week-long sessions are available:

May 24-29

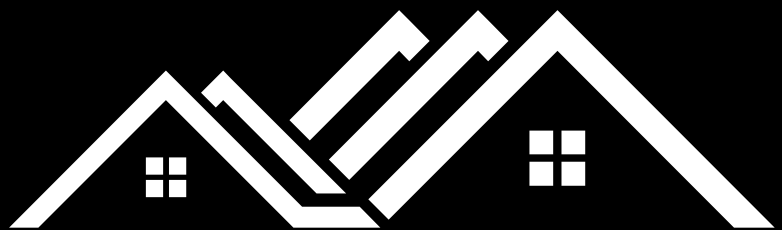
May 31-June 5

June 7-12

Volunteers arrive Sunday evening and work Monday through Friday morning. Primitive camping is available (tents, car campers, truck campers, campervans, and trailers under 35 feet). No hookups, so come prepared to boondock. Leashed, well-behaved dogs are welcome.

There's something deeply honest about this kind of work. You don't have to romanticize history. You get to touch it, steady it, and leave it stronger than you found it.

If you're ready to lend a hand, visit historiCorps.org or email info@historiCorps.org for more details and to register.



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KIDS FIND THE DIFFERENCE



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CROSSWORD

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WORD SEARCH

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

KIDS WORD SEARCH

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

PINEWOOD PLAYERS CELEBRATES SUMMER WITH SHOWS, CLASSES & COMMUNITY

Pinewood Players has been active in Munds Park since 1990 when community members got together and organized a local theater group to provide summer entertainment to the Munds Park area. Since those early beginnings, the theater has grown into an active, multifaceted organization. Not only does Pinewood Players provide opportunities for community members to act in the three adult productions of the season, they also provide a community Drama Camp to serve children and grandchildren in our Munds Park community. Children experience acting, choreography, and singing in the annual musical productions.



they sail out onto the High Seas. Join them aboard the Atlantic Queen for the “Salty Seniors Cruise” with some new and some familiar characters. The laughs are non-stop and indeed very “salty” as the suspense mounts with misplaced jewelry, maybe a wedding and a very cool drag queen. Author Leslie Kimbell has taken us to a whole new level of senior living comedy with her newest story of great friends eager for good times and eligible men.

Pinewood Players, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization that is open to the public

Membership in the adjoining Pinewood Country Club is welcome, but not required.

This year, Pinewood Players is offering Adult Acting Classes and Improv Classes for community members with the hopes they will one day join us as an actor in one of our productions. These classes will be taught by professional actress, Lisa Boser, offering an opportunity to learn and be creative. Later this summer, we will also offer training for those interested in technical theater including lights, sound and working backstage.

Pinewood Players is pleased to announce that our redesigned website www.pinewoodplayers.com now offers one-stop shopping for Membership, Drama Camp, Acting or Improv Classes, Volunteering, Donations, and purchasing Tickets for all shows. Membership in Pinewood Players is open to all members of the Munds Park community. A Single Membership is \$15 for the year and a Family Membership is \$25.

Our first production is Four Old Broads on the High Seas, a sequel to the very popular Four Old Broads presented in 2023. Those lovable Four Old Broads are back with new hijinx, laughs and even murder as

2026 Productions

Four Old broads on the High Seas
June 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, & 20

Seussical the Musical presented by our Drama Camp
July 9, 10, 11, & 12

Mixed Nuts Improv
July 25 & 26



Scan the QR Code for more information.

Four Old Broads on the High Seas

BY LESLIE KIMBELL

Friday & Saturday, **June 12, 13** @ 7:00 PM

Sunday, **June 14** @ 2:30 PM

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, **June 18, 19, 20** @ 7:00 PM

Reservations: www.PinewoodPlayers.com



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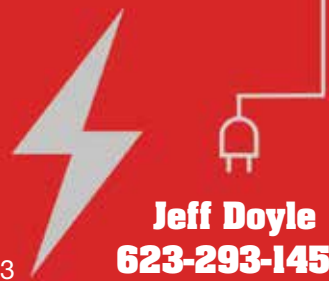
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JUST ONE MORE THE GIFT OF TIME

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

For those who have been reading the paper over the years, you know this section has long been reserved for Munds Park Community Church. It has been part of the Pinewood News tradition since the paper was first published in 1993.

Since Pastor Steve retired, we have continued holding this spot for the church and its next pastor. We hear that day may be coming soon, and we look forward to introducing him to our readers.

In the meantime, this section has been missed. The world feels short on grace these days, and a little more Jesus would not hurt any of us, our lovely town included.

So while we wait, I would like to share a story of my own.

On April 19 of this year, Steve Bowyer performed his final baptisms at Munds Park Community Church. I was one of them, along with my brother in Christ, Chris Massey.

What a beautiful day, made even better by sharing it with so many people in this remarkable community.

How I came to Christ, and the changes that followed, have been profound. It's a good story, but that is for another day.

Today, I want to write about time because learning to protect my time was, in part, what brought me to Christ.

Time is one of my favorite subjects, and I write about it often. Like many people, I spent years on the hamster wheel, working ridiculous hours, missing family time, and when I was around, I was not always fully present. I was tired. I was distracted. I was already thinking about the next thing that had to be done.

I chased professional success and the promise of "more" with everything I had, with little thought of what it actually meant: work more, earn more, acquire more, and then spend even more money and time to insure, store, and maintain it all. I traded hours of my life managing possessions that were supposed to make life better, but instead imprisoned me and kept me from the things that mattered most.

The harder you work, the more successful you become, and depending on your definition of success, that may be one of the biggest lies we are told.

I knew the lie. It had been taught to me by people who had spent their lives believing it too, only to see the truth when time had run out. It just took me a moment to really understand, and longer to act.

I worked for Hospice of the Valley as a home care aide for a time. I knew, in the most intimate way, that life is short. When I was in the field with patients, I was curious. I wanted to understand how they felt, so I asked.

And I will tell you, 100% of the time, and I am *not exaggerating*, each and every patient I spoke to said they wished they had focused more on their family and less on their jobs.

The job, which by American standards is often treated as king, did not wear the crown in those final days. In the end, the regret was not about promotions missed or money not made. It was about time. Time given away. Time spent serving the wrong masters: the job and money.

So why am I writing about time and my baptism?

Because time is how I became open to the Word.

It took years to shed the desire to work more and earn enough for that next thing I had to have, and to finally let go of what was controlling me and stealing my attention.

Interestingly, when I was shedding the workload and making time for a more present life, that was when Genna and I moved to Munds Park. We did not move here to retire. We moved here for the beauty and to work, just not so much that work swallowed the beauty whole.

Soon after, we bought the Pinewood News. I let go of my freelance clients to make room for the paper, protect my work-life balance, and build the life I wanted, one with room to breathe.

It wasn't easy to stay free. Tempting projects crossed my desk and stirred real curiosity. Some arrived wrapped in guilt and that heavy feeling of "I have to." Others waved money that was hard to ignore. Saying yes sometimes came too quickly, and regret followed almost immediately. Deep down, the reason was clear. The very thing I had worked so hard to escape was still standing nearby: the hamster wheel, the slow surrender of time, and the quiet little prison of wanting more.

You don't even have to go looking for more work. Life will hand you plenty to do all by itself.

But freeing up time is about more than "me time" or even family time. I did not fully understand that until today, while reading the Word.

"A life packed with excessive busyness or materialistic pursuits crowds out God's voice and his rightful place in our lives and leaves us unfruitful for him. Stay free from overload whenever you can so you can hear God when he speaks."

— Study note on Mark 4:19, NLT

I stepped off the hamster wheel, and God met me right there. He moved me to a place where I crossed paths with Pastor Steve. I had slowed down enough to hear, and the season was ripe for the seed to take root. And in that quieter life, I found my relationship with Jesus.

And here I thought I was simply making more time for family, friends, and playing in the garden. It turns out, Genna and I found eternal life.

You may have noticed that in the paper, we have been including more stories about leaving your phone behind, taking quiet time, and noticing the beauty around you. We included those articles because they are true and good.

I just didn't understand how good they really were.

Not until today, did I understand that letting go of time-wasting efforts might make room for something much greater. I did not understand the gifts that could come when my focus was no longer pointed toward material things, empty striving, or the daily distractions that keep us too busy to hear God or do His good deeds.

For years, I thought I was trying to reclaim my time so I could give it to the right things, like my garden. :)

Now I understand that after taking time seriously, I was given the chance to live more fully, and find something greater than anything I had been chasing.



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Notice illegal lighting? File a report here at www.coconino.az.gov and search for Code Violations and Enforcement.

Fixture Review

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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

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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

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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

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Tristan Dowse (928) 853-5340

Know Your Rights: Short-Term Rental owners must give their contact details to Coconino County and provide them in writing to adjacent neighbors. If you live next door and never received this information, call the County STR Compliance Officer to confirm the property's registration. For unresponsive owners, recurring disturbances, or suspected unregistered rentals, report the issue to the County or the Sheriff's Office.

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