

PINEWOOD NEWS

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

VOL. 33 NO. 14 SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

COMPLIMENTARY



PROTECT THE NIGHT

ENJOY OUR DARK SKIES

One of the best things about Munds Park happens after dark. Our community enjoys remarkably dark skies, which means more stars, a brighter Milky Way and a night sky that many places have lost to excessive artificial light. Take a look at this month's celestial events, find a clear night and enjoy the show overhead.

Have questions about Dark Sky rules in Munds Park? Bring them to the Munds Park Town Hall on September 17 (see details on page 10A). A representative from Coconino County will be there to explain what the rules mean, answer questions about outdoor lighting and help clear up some of the confusion about what is and is not allowed.

Moon Meets Mars | September 6

Early risers can catch a waning crescent Moon near Mars before dawn. Look east toward Gemini in the hours before sunrise.

Moon & Jupiter | September 8

Another good reason to get up early: a very thin crescent Moon will appear close to bright Jupiter in the eastern sky before sunrise.

New Moon | September 10

The Moon turns new at 8:27 p.m., giving Munds Park beautifully dark skies. The nights surrounding September 10 will be some of the best of the month for stargazing and spotting the Milky Way.

Moon & Venus | September 14

Look west just after sunset for a slim crescent Moon paired with brilliant Venus. Both should be bright enough to see while twilight is still fading.

Autumn Begins | September 22

Fall officially arrives in Arizona at 5:05 p.m. with the September equinox. From here, our nights continue getting longer, which is pretty good news if you like stars.

Harvest Moon | September 26

September's full Harvest Moon reaches peak illumination at 9:49 a.m. Arizona time. Watch for it rising in the east around sunset that evening. Saturn will also be nearby in the night sky.

Neptune at Opposition | September 25–26

Neptune reaches opposition, placing Earth between the distant planet and the Sun. This is the best time of year to see Neptune, but you'll need a telescope or good binoculars and a finder chart to pick out the tiny blue world.

Find Cassiopeia | ALL MONTH

Look toward the northeast for Cassiopeia and its unmistakable W-shaped pattern. It climbs higher as the evening progresses and makes a handy guide for finding the Milky Way stretching through our September sky.



"You know, it's not just the quiet, or how clean the air feels. It's that when you look up, you can see the sky the way it was created to be... magnificent."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & STORY TIPS!

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

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The next issue of the Pinewood News on stands, **Sept. 18th**



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PINEWOOD NEWS

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meetings - Feel Better!

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

Pilates

Senior-friendly Pilates classes are held weekly
Mon: 10 to 11 a.m. & Wed: 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, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Town Hall

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

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!
Tuesday, October 6
6:30 p.m. • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Tuesday, September 15
3 p.m. • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Thursday, September 10
3 p.m. • 18075 Fairway Dr



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 7A

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

THINGS TO DO & SEE 14A

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

SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD 17A

Before the coolers get emptied and the cabins get closed, there's time for one more round. The Long Weekend is bright, easy and made for stretching summer just a little longer.

HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL 19A

Summer corn doesn't need much help, but butter, smoke and a little mischief certainly can't hurt. Three easy finishes take it from the grill straight to the Labor Day table.

TRAVEL 20A

One coin in Trevi Fountain was supposed to bring Stacey Wittig back to Rome. Seven return trips later, she's still finding reasons to believe it.

GARDENS IN THE PARK 23A

September is one of northern Arizona's best planting months. Warner's Nursery shares what to plant now, from cool-season vegetables and late bloomers to trees, shrubs and spring bulbs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 3B

LOCAL INK 4B

Three original stories from members of our community, each with a voice, a memory and a story worth sharing.

BOOK REVIEW 11B

After Wilbur Budd dies at 81, a mystical train offers him one impossible chance to relive his most meaningful memories. But when the rule not to interfere starts to crack, so does everything he thought he knew about his own life.

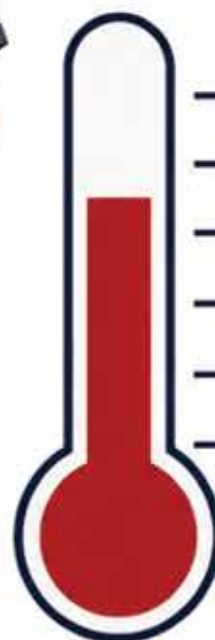
WINGS OVER ARIZONA 15B

Red-winged Blackbirds have lost a third of their population since 1970, but simple steps like collision-proofing windows, keeping cats indoors, and skipping rodenticides can help turn that around.

A Summer of Giving Back.



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING ON A GOOD THING

The Munds Park Town Hall, moving forward together.

We asked the community what would make the Town Hall more useful, and the answers gave us a pretty clear direction.

The biggest finding may be who is not attending. Nearly two-thirds of respondents have never attended a Munds Park Town Hall. Some did not know the meetings were being held, while many others said they would consider attending.

So, first things first:

**The next Munds Park Town Hall is
Thursday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m.
at the Fire House.**

And we are already making changes.

Residents told us they want Town Hall focused on the issues affecting Munds Park right now, with less repetition, more time for questions and useful updates from returning agencies. The strongest preference was for a brief update followed by one important issue in greater detail, with agencies presenting only when there is something new to report.

That is where we are headed.

There was no clear preference for one meeting format, but most favored meetings of about an hour to 90 minutes. Many also said the length matters less than whether the information is useful.

What do you want to talk about?

Short-term rentals topped the list, followed by wildfire and evacuation readiness, public safety, forest health and emergency communications. Residents also want updates on county projects, water and sewer infrastructure, road maintenance, APS outages and flood mitigation. Written comments added dark sky compliance, unsafe use of ATVs, side-by-sides and e-bikes, property maintenance, noise and loose pets, and ways to become more involved in the community.

Several people also raised a very practical question: When there is a problem, who should residents contact, and what can that agency realistically do about it?

Every issue participants raised in the survey has come before the Town Hall, many of them repeatedly over the years. That in itself is worth noting. Some are longstanding concerns with no simple answer. Others keep resurfacing often enough that it may be time to ask whether there is more we can actually do. The survey did not give us a new list of problems. It showed us which ones are still with us.

Residents also want to hear from more of the organizations working within Munds Park. The Pinewood Property Owners Association received the strongest interest, followed by the Munds Park Business Alliance, Munds Park Trail Stewards and CERT.

What is new, is the call for more follow-through.

One of the clearest results was what residents want to happen when a serious issue requires more than discussion. More than eight in ten respondents supported forming a working committee to work toward real solutions.

...Local Highlights continued on page 9A

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17375 Crystal Brook Pl - \$192,000
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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

...Continued from page 7A

About Streaming The Town Hall

We know this isn't the answer everyone was hoping for. We know there are legitimate reasons some folks cannot attend. Munds Park is a second-home community, and not everyone is here year-round. That is also why Town Hall meetings are held during the summer season, when the greatest number of homeowners are here. For those who are here, we think showing up matters. We understand the request for streaming. There's real convenience in being able to join from home, and we don't take that lightly. But some things are simply better when people are together. The Town Hall is one of them. Sitting in the room with your neighbors, asking your question and having a conversation, hearing someone else ask a question you had not thought of, and meeting the people actually doing the work in this community are all different from watching it through a screen. Watching a meeting is not the same as taking part in one. Munds Park is one of those rare places where community still shows up. It is part of the good feeling we have when we are here. We know one another, we look out for one another, and showing up always makes a difference. We can think of no better place to honor that than the Town Hall.

And for those who cannot be there, the *Pinewood News* will cover the meeting in detail in the following issue, so you can read what happened at your leisure. That commitment to making good use of everyone's time is also why we take the survey seriously. The survey didn't tell us Town Hall needs to be reinvented. It told us where we can improve. We also have a responsibility to make good use of the time residents give us, and the survey helps us do that by refocusing future meetings around the issues and questions the community said matter most. Keep it current and focused, but leave room for questions and bring the right people into the room. When Munds Park identifies a serious problem, create a path toward doing something about it. We can do that. The next Town Hall agenda is on page 10A. *The 2026 Munds Park Town Hall survey received 82 responses. Percentages are based on those who answered each question.*

JOIN US IN GIVING BACK
MUNDS PARK FOOD DRIVE!

Pinewood Country Club's annual Food Drive benefiting the Flagstaff Family Food Bank runs August 30 through the end of September. Donations may be dropped off in collection boxes in the Pinewood Country Club lobby, 395 E. Pinewood Blvd. Suggested items include tuna or chicken, nuts, trail mix, crackers, protein bars, peanut butter, pasta, canned goods, microwavable meals, diapers, toilet paper, toiletries, pet food and grocery gift cards. Financial donations are also welcome. Checks may be left at the front desk, payable to Flagstaff Family Food Bank (Tax ID #86-0708380). Please write "Pinewood Country Club Food Drive 2026" on the check. Learn more at hotfoods.org. Every donation helps. Thank you for helping take care of our Northern Arizona neighbors.

...Local Highlights continued on page 10A



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MUNDS PARK TOWN HALL AGENDA

Thursday, September 17, 2026
6:30 p.m. • Pinewood Fire House

Preparing for Winter

By Fire Chief Josh Tope, Pinewood Fire Department

Chief Josh Tope will help residents get ahead of the season with practical advice drawn from the calls the Pinewood Fire Department sees most often when winter arrives. He'll cover safer winter driving, heating appliance inspections, simple steps to prevent emergencies at home, and what short-term rental owners should consider before guests arrive. He'll also update the community on any new happenings with the department.

Protecting Our Night Sky

By Mark Stento, County Code Enforcement Compliance Manager

What does it actually mean to live in a Dark Sky community? Mark will explain the outdoor lighting ordinances, what residents can do to help protect our night sky, and what steps to take when a neighbor's lighting becomes a problem. He'll also clear up some of the common confusion around Dark Sky requirements and answer questions from the community.

County Issues That Matter to Munds Park

By Tammy Ontiveros, Coconino County District 3 Supervisor

Short-Term Rentals

Short-term rentals remain one of the issues residents ask about most. Supervisor Tammy Ontiveros will discuss where things currently stand, what authority the County has, how complaints and enforcement are handled, and what residents should know when a rental property is creating an ongoing problem in their neighborhood.

Abandoned RVs and Encampments

Abandoned RVs and long-term encampments, particularly on public lands around Munds Park, continue to raise questions about safety, fire risk, sanitation and enforcement. Ontiveros will explain who has jurisdiction, what the removal process looks like, which agencies are responsible, and what residents should do when they encounter a problem.

What's Ahead for the Munds Park Business Alliance

Mike Shrake, President, Munds Park Business Alliance

The Munds Park Business Alliance has been part of the community for many years, and now it is being reorganized under new leadership with new ideas taking shape. Mike Shrake will introduce what's ahead, how the Alliance hopes to support local businesses and the community, and how business owners can get involved. If you own a business in Munds Park, this is a good opportunity to learn more. Residents will want to hear what is coming too, because several of the plans are designed to benefit the community as a whole.

Preparing for the 2026 Elections

By Whitney Juszcak, Coconino County Elections Department

The Coconino County Elections Department will provide an overview of the 2026 election cycle, including the July 21 Primary Election and November 3 General Election. Come learn how you can support your neighbors as an election board worker.



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870 E Beaver Pl

\$575,000

Experience effortless mountain living in this beautifully updated 4-bedroom, 2-bath Munds Park retreat, tucked away on a quiet cul-de-sac and designed for comfort and functionality. Thoughtfully refreshed throughout, the home features a stunning new kitchen, beautifully remodeled bathrooms, new flooring, fresh paint, and a spacious primary suite with an oversized shower. Step outside to a beautifully landscaped, fully fenced backyard—perfect for entertaining, gardening, or simply relaxing in the crisp mountain air. Turnkey and move-in ready, this inviting split-floor-plan home is the perfect blend of modern updates and mountain charm.



Scan to see
property details
and photos.



Jesse Calvin
Realtor

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JesseSCalvin@gmail.com



WOODY’S PROGRESS REPORT

Last issue, we confirmed that Deanne, owner of Wine Tasting & More, is working toward an agreement that could eventually move the wine bar into Woody’s. The important words remain “working toward”. No contract has been signed, no deal is done and nobody is popping corks just yet.

Still, the tips continue to come in. Our latest tip arrived with a photograph of the demolition crew working at the old Giant gas station in Flagstaff and this report: “Rumor. The wrecking crew from the old Giant gas station in Flagstaff is coming to Woody’s near you.” We have no confirmation that the crew is headed south, but after months of watching Munds Park’s finest example of blight with forest views sit stubbornly unchanged, a demolition crew anywhere within reasonable driving distance is enough to get our attention.

Of course, if Deanne gets the contract signed and Woody’s really does get a new life, we may eventually have to retire our surveillance operation and turn our investigative talents toward another local mystery. We are confident Munds Park will provide one. In the meantime, however, nobody is packing up the binoculars.

Until somebody puts ink on that dotted line, Woody’s Progress Report remains very much in business. Genna will not be hanging up her wigs just yet. She remains on the case, watching Woody’s closely, gathering intelligence and maintaining a completely unnecessary level of secrecy, considering Deanne is perfectly willing to talk to us. But we have an investigative reputation to uphold, and frankly, being incognito is more fun.

Keep the tips coming to [Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com](mailto>Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com). We’re not done yet!



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Mountain Getaway with Room for Everyone

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Experience mountain living in this beautifully renovated 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath Munds Park retreat with a versatile split-level floor plan, perfect for guests or extended family. Recent updates include a completely remodeled kitchen, new LVP flooring, and fresh interior and exterior paint, while two wood-burning fireplaces create a cozy ambiance on chilly mountain days. Large front and back decks, a fenced backyard, RV space and ample parking make this turnkey retreat perfect for relaxing, entertaining or enjoying as a second home.



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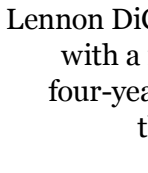
...Continued from page 10A

PINEWOOD PLAYERS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Pinewood Players has awarded \$7,000 in college scholarships to four students with strong ties to its youth theater program.



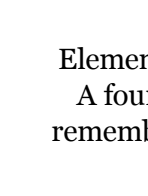
Gavin Craig received \$2,000 and is studying Business Analytics at the University of Central Florida, with hopes of one day working in analytics for the Phoenix Suns. He participated in Pinewood Players Drama Camps for two years and graduated cum laude.



Lennon DiCello received \$2,000 and will study Accounting with a minor in Art at Maricopa Community College. A four-year Drama Camp participant, he played the Cat in the Hat in Seussical Jr. and graduated cum laude.



Kyle Jones received \$1,000 and is studying Hospitality with a minor in Business at NAU. A longtime Drama Camp participant, Kyle spent many years helping with tasks and activities that supported the program. He has also volunteered with the Pinewood Fire Department and Pinewood Property Owners Association.



Sophia Sima received \$2,000 and is studying Elementary Education at Northern Arizona University. A four-year Drama Camp participant, audiences may remember her as Gertrude McFuzz in Seussical Jr. and Mrs. Bucket in Willy Wonka.

Congratulations to all four students, and to Pinewood Players and its supporters for continuing to invest in Munds Park's young people.

APS BILL HELP AVAILABLE FOR MIDDLE-INCOME ARIZONANS

A temporary state program is offering APS customers who may earn too much for traditional assistance programs help with their electric bills. Power AZ is available to households earning up to the state's median income, including a one-person household with gross monthly income up to \$4,894 and a family of four earning up to \$9,412 a month. Those who qualify may receive up to \$640 in standard assistance, with up to an additional \$500 available for households facing an eligible financial crisis. Funding is limited and APS says it may expire in September.

Applications are available through Arizona's A-to-Z Arizona Portal. For help applying or to request a paper application, call 1-866-494-1981, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ARIZONA ROAD DEATHS FALL AGAIN

Arizona saw fewer traffic deaths for the third year in a row, continuing a welcome downward trend on roads across the state. According to ADOT, 1,156 people were killed in traffic crashes in 2025, down 5.2% from the year before. Total crashes also fell 4.4%, from 123,535 in 2024 to 118,052 in 2025. Speed, alcohol impairment and failure to use seat belts or helmets remain among the leading factors in fatal crashes. Alcohol-related deaths dropped more than 11%, and motorcycle fatalities also declined. The numbers are moving in the right direction, which is good news. Let's keep them headed that way. Slow down, buckle up, stay sober behind the wheel and give the road your full attention.

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Time: 8 p.m.

Location: 65 Pinewood Blvd



EVERY MONDAY!

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, SEPTEMBER 5



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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



MUNDS PARK TRAIL STEWARDS

Help improve the trails that
keep Munds Park moving. MUTS
volunteers will continue work on
the Rocky Road OHV motorized
trail realignment at Horse Park.

Work at your own pace, enjoy the forest, and stay for a
free lunch afterward.

Time: 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. NOTE: The meeting time has
changed to 8:00 a.m. We are meeting little early since
we must carpool 25 minutes to Horse Park.

Location: Meet at Pinewood (240) Trailhead

Details: RSVP by September 5 at
mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com. Bring long
pants, sturdy shoes, weather-ready clothing.
Water and trail equipment are provided. Check
mundsparktrailstewards.com for updates.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25



OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

Munds Park Community Church is
hosting a free Oktoberfest evening
for neighbors, friends, and families.
Enjoy German food, live music, a
fire pit, games for all ages, and a

little community spirit under the pines.

Time: 4-8 pm

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

Details: Bring a friend, or two, or three!

Admission: This event is free, including the good food!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



PINEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Pinewood Fire Department
Auxiliary Golf Tournament returns

to Pinewood Country Club for a 4-person scramble
open to members and non-members. All money raised
supports the Pinewood Fire Department and the
citizens of Munds Park.

Location: Pinewood Country Club

Admission: \$185 per player

Deadline to Enter: September 21, 2026

Contact: Cheri Schultz, 310-686-5168,
PFDA.pres@gmail.com



Leash up before you head out.

BEYOND THE PARK

FRIDAY-MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4-7



COCONINO COUNTY FAIR

The Coconino County Fair returns
to Fort Tuthill County Park over
Labor Day weekend with exhibits,
entertainment, carnival fun, food,
animals, and plenty of fair favorites for the whole family.

Time: See website for details

Location: Fort Tuthill County Park, Flagstaff

Details: coconinocountyfair.com

Admission: See website for details

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



BEGINNER ARCHERY CLINIC

Worth the drive for anyone curious
about archery, no experience
needed. This hands-on morning
clinic covers equipment, safety,
range etiquette, and beginner skills at the Fort Tuthill
Archery Range. Just show up ready to learn and have fun.

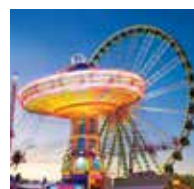
Time: 9 am-noon

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

Details: Pre-registration required

Admission: \$29

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10-13



YAVAPAI COUNTY FAIR RETURNS TO PRESCOTT

Worth the drive for a classic county
fair with livestock, exhibits, food,
rides, and family-friendly fair fun.

One of Arizona's longest-running
fairs, it began in 1913 as the Northern Arizona State Fair
and still feels rooted in local tradition.

Time: Thur-Sat, 9 am-10 pm; Sunday, 9 am-6 pm

Location: Prescott Rodeo Grounds
840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott

Details: yavapaifair.com

Admission: Check website for details

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



FLAGSTAFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

Worth the drive for a full day of
local music in downtown Flagstaff.
This free, family-friendly festival
celebrates Flagstaff bands while
raising awareness and funds for the

Haven Walker Music Scholarship Fund, which supports
area student musicians.

Time: Noon-10 pm

Location: Heritage Square, 6 E. Aspen Ave, Flagstaff

Details: flagstaffmusicfestival.com

Admission: Free

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT 12-13 & 19-20



OAK CREEK ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
Worth the drive for an easy Sedona-area art stop. Browse paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, Native American art, food booths, and live music at Bell Rock Plaza in the Village of Oak Creek. A good day trip for shoppers and art lovers.
Time: 10 am-5 pm
Location: Bell Rock Plaza, Village of Oak Creek Sedona
Details: oakcreekartsandcraftsshow.com/shows
Admission: Free

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-20

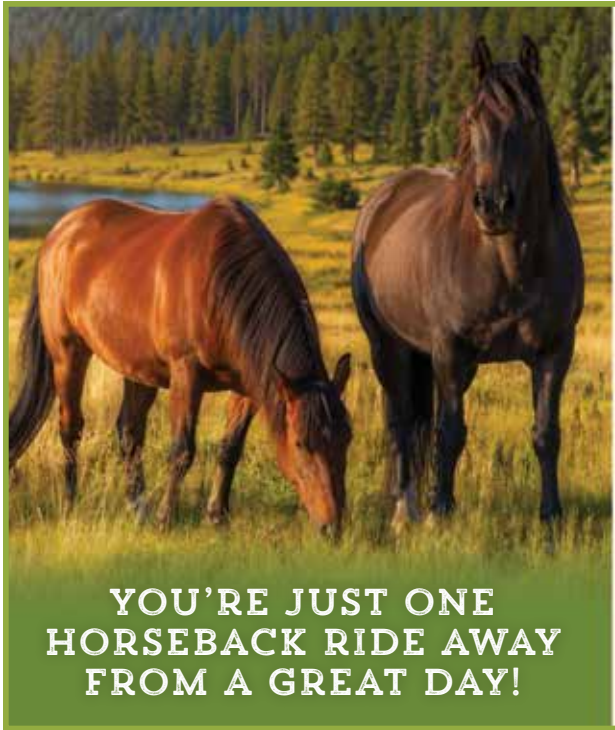


PICKIN' IN THE PINES
Head to Flagstaff for three days of bluegrass and acoustic music, camping, workshops, jamming, children's activities and a band contest. The 20th anniversary lineup includes The Infamous Stringdusters, Blue Highway, Kitchen Dwellers and more.
Time: Gates open 9 am daily. Music begins 10 am Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am Sunday.
Location: Pepsi Amphitheater 2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff
Details: See website pickininthepines.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19



FALL SPLENDOR SEDONA-VOC GARDEN TOUR & COMMUNITY GARDEN FEST
Worth the drive for gardeners and anyone curious about high-desert landscaping. Tour five Sedona-VOC gardens, then visit the free Community Garden Fest for vendors, Master Gardener lectures, a pollinator garden, and Rotary BBQ.
Time: 7:30 am-2 pm
Location: Big Park Community School 25 W. Saddlehorn Rd, Sedona
Details: Tour maps are emailed to paid garden tour attendees the day before the event. Community Garden Fest requires no reservation.
Admission: Visit www.extension.arizona.edu/yavapai-county-garden-tours



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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19



HOPE FEST ARIZONA
Hope Fest Arizona is a free, faith-based community outreach festival with live music, speakers, a Hope Serves Resource Fair, family activities, and a car and motorcycle show. It connects guests with service organizations supporting veterans, first responders, families, and vulnerable neighbors.
Time: 10 am-10 pm
Location: Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza, 120 S. Cortez Street, Prescott
Details: Music lineup, speakers, volunteer information, and schedule at hopefestaz.com
Admission: Free

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT 25-OCT 4
FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE



Worth the drive for curious kids, grown-ups, and anyone who still asks "why?" This 10-day festival brings free science events to Northern Arizona, including workshops, lectures, guided hikes, hands-on activities, and programs for all ages.
Time: Varies by event
Location: Various locations in Flagstaff
Details: Full schedule at scifest.org
Admission: Free. Some events may require registration or tickets due to space limits. Check schedule for details.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26



CORNUCOPIA: FLAGSTAFF FALL FESTIVAL
Worth the drive for a full fall day in Flagstaff with entertainment, food, local vendors, and activities for all ages. Families can make an easy afternoon of it at Thorpe Park, with plenty to browse, taste, and enjoy.
Time: 11 am-6 pm
Location: Thorpe Park Ball Fields, 560 N. Thorpe Road, Flagstaff
Details: flagstaffarizona.org
Admission: \$10; kids 12 and under \$5;

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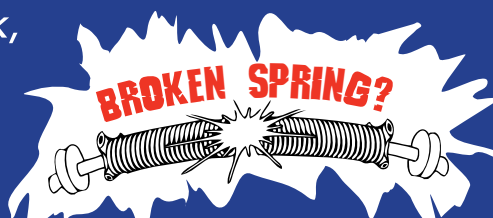
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THE LONG WEEKEND

Labor Day is the weekend when Americans honor the dignity of work by doing absolutely none of it.

In Munds Park, this responsibility is taken seriously. Grills are lit, coolers are stocked, somebody has invited six people over and somehow 14 have arrived.

It is also the last big weekend of summer, or at least it feels that way. The afternoons are still warm enough for the deck, but the evenings have begun making their case for a sweater. Soon after, people will start packing cars, closing cabins and promising they'll be back soon. Some will. Some won't make it back until the snow is gone.

So before everybody starts stacking patio chairs and talking about winterizing pipes, there is still time for one more proper summer drink.

This one starts with tequila, and the bottle you choose will change the character of the drink. Blanco tequila is clear, usually unaged, with a brighter, more distinct agave flavor. Reposado rests in oak for a few months, which softens it and adds a little vanilla, spice and warmth. Añejo spends considerably longer in the barrel and becomes darker, richer and better suited to sipping.

For The Long Weekend, a good blanco or reposado works beautifully. Blanco keeps the drink crisp and summery; reposado makes it rounder and a little warmer as the evening cools off. Neither choice is wrong, which is exactly the amount of pressure anyone should face on a three-day weekend.

Fresh pink grapefruit gives the drink a slightly bitter edge that tequila loves, lime wakes everything up, and a little agave takes off the sharp corners. Soda keeps it light enough to enjoy while dinner is still on the grill without forgetting that dinner is still on the grill.



Ingredients

- 2 oz. good blanco or reposado tequila
- 1½ oz. fresh pink grapefruit juice
- ½ oz. fresh lime juice
- ½ oz. agave nectar
- 1½ to 2 oz. club soda
- Good ice, Crystal Ice is the best
- Coarse salt, optional
- Grapefruit wedge

The Method

For a salted rim, run a lime wedge around half of a tall glass and dip it lightly in coarse salt. Salting only half lets everyone decide how much they want without committing to it for the next 20 minutes.

Fill the glass with Crystal Ice. Add the tequila, grapefruit juice, lime juice and agave to a shaker with the ice and shake until well chilled. Strain into the prepared glass, top with club soda and give it one gentle stir. Garnish with a grapefruit wedge.

Taste before serving. Grapefruit varies wildly in sweetness, so another small squeeze of lime or a touch more agave may be needed. Cocktails, like potato salad and family gatherings, occasionally require adjustment.

Then take it outside and enjoy. There will be plenty of time Tuesday for answering emails, making lists and remembering all the things that were supposed to get done after Labor Day.

Until next time, sip responsibly and enjoy!

The Long Weekend was created for Shaken & Stirred in Pinewood, with a nod to the classic Paloma.



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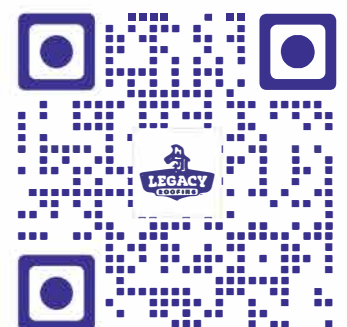
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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL CORN ON THE GRILL



Before grilling, spread a very thin layer of mayonnaise over each ear. Grill as directed until lightly charred and still crisp. As soon as it comes off the grill, brush it generously with melted butter, then hit it with chili powder, celery salt and hot sauce.

Garlic Herb Corn

- 5 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 small garlic clove, finely minced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives
- Salt and black pepper
- Lemon wedges

Hot Honey Corn

- Sweet corn already knows what it is doing. Hot honey simply encourages bad behavior.
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 to 2 teaspoons hot sauce
- Pinch of salt
- Lime wedges, optional

Put It Together

For each version, stir the seasonings into the melted butter when appropriate, then brush, drizzle or otherwise generously smother the hot corn until every side gets its share.

Add the chili powder, celery salt and hot sauce to the Fairground Corn. Finish the Garlic Herb Corn with lemon, and give the Hot Honey Corn a squeeze of lime if you like.

Serve immediately, while the butter is still running between the kernels and everyone still has some hope of eating it neatly.

There are foods that improve with careful technique, expensive ingredients and a little patience. Corn on the cob is not one of them.

Give it a hot grill, enough butter and a few good things to roll around in, and it will take care of itself.

That may be why grilled corn belongs at the end-of-summer cookout. It can sit beside burgers, steaks, chicken or whatever else is getting its turn over the fire, with no fuss. A little char gives it those smoky edges that make grilled corn worth grilling in the first place.

For Labor Day weekend, start with four ears of fresh corn and choose your favorite way to finish them. Or make all three. Nobody has ever complained about too much corn.

Grill the Corn

Heat the grill to medium-high. Grill the corn, turning every few minutes, until the kernels are lightly charred but still crisp and juicy. Corn only asks for one bit of restraint: don't overcook it. The kernels should still have that crisp, almost al dente snap that bursts with sweet juice when you bite down. Give it enough time over the heat to pick up a little char and smoke, then get it off the grill. Leave it there too long and that beautiful snap turns soft and mushy, which is a genuine waste of good summer corn.

Fairground Corn

- 4 ears fresh corn
- 2 to 3 tablespoons mayonnaise, enough for a thin coating
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon celery salt, or to taste
- Hot sauce
- Lime wedges



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St. Peter's Basilica | Stacey Wittig photo

TRAVEL

GO BACK TO ROME. IT'S NEVER THE SAME TRIP TWICE.

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG

Rome hooked me on my first trip in 1998. I expected this huge, historic city to feel overwhelming to a Munds Park girl like me. Instead, Rome felt surprisingly approachable. Maybe it was the piazzas, maybe it was all the walking, or maybe it was the handsome Italian who chatted my girlfriend and me up one evening and led us to his family's restaurant "just nearby" — which turned out to be more than several blocks away. By the time we arrived, it felt less like we'd been "sold" dinner and more like we'd been welcomed into the family. It taught me my first Romano lesson: wear good walking shoes.

I've returned seven times since, and every trip has revealed something I missed before. Along the way, I've learned a few tricks for making Rome feel surprisingly manageable: reserve the big-ticket sights ahead of time, wear those comfortable walking shoes and—if your time is short—consider guides who can save you steps while pointing out the stories and details you might otherwise walk right past.

Start With the Colosseum

On my first Colosseum tour, I remember stifling a giggle when our guide casually used the word vomitorium. Of course, my mind went exactly where yours probably just did. But no — the Romans did not build

special rooms for losing your lunch after too much wine. A vomitorium was a passageway designed to move huge crowds quickly in and out of the amphitheater, essentially "spitting" spectators back onto the streets.

That little lesson made the Colosseum feel less like a monument and more like a place that once buzzed with real people. If it's your first trip, go inside. Standing within those massive walls gives you a much better sense of ancient Rome's scale and engineering genius.

Wander the Roman Forum

From the Colosseum, continue into the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. If the Colosseum shows you how Romans were entertained, the Forum shows you how they governed, worshipped and conducted business. You're walking through what was once the heart of ancient Rome, surrounded by temples, arches and civic ruins.

Experience St. Peter's Basilica

Even after multiple visits, walking into St. Peter's Basilica makes me stop and look up. The scale is almost impossible to take in — marble columns, elaborate chapels, Michelangelo's Pietà and artwork everywhere you turn. For me, St. Peter's is more than magnificent



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architecture. It is a sacred place traditionally built over the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle.

On one of my early visits, I climbed to the top of the dome. Alternatively, you can take an elevator partway, but you'll still tackle hundreds of steps before moving outside for an unforgettable view over St. Peter's Square and Rome. If you're able, I recommend doing it.

Look Up in the Sistine Chapel

The first time I entered the Sistine Chapel, I remember craning my neck toward Michelangelo's ceiling and thinking, How can I possibly comprehend this in one visit? You may have seen the images reproduced hundreds of times, but standing beneath that ceiling is completely different.

To reach it, you pass through the Vatican Museums, filled with sculpture, tapestries and frescoes. Don't feel like you have to absorb everything. You can't.

Toss a Coin Into Trevi Fountain

You can see a hundred photos of Trevi Fountain, but the real thing still has a way of stopping you in your tracks. It feels theatrical: sounds of rushing water, coolness on your arms and the larger-than-life sculpture suddenly opens up before you.

And yes, toss a coin. Tradition says that one coin over your shoulder guarantees your return to Rome. Considering I returned seven times after my first visit, maybe there's something to it! Access to the area closest to the fountain is now controlled, so check current entry procedures before going.

Slow Down in Piazza Navona

I love Piazza Navona because it feels like Rome showing off — fountains, churches, cafés and history packed into one elegant square. Yet it is hidden away. From the 1600s into the mid-1800s, parts of the

square were flooded on summer weekends so Romans could cool off and enjoy the spectacle.

I still laugh remembering one visit when my husband, Dan, and I had a map in our hands and somehow couldn't find Piazza Navona. Rome can do that to you. The streets twist, piazzas hide around corners, and sometimes the best part is what you discover while looking for something else.



Trevi Fountain | Photo by Michele Bitetto

Walk the Appian Way

One of my most meaningful Rome experiences came during my walking pilgrimage from Rome across the boot and down to Bari on the Adriatic Sea. As I followed the ancient Via Appia south, I kept thinking about St. Paul, one of Christianity's most influential early missionaries and the author of many New Testament letters. After appealing his case to Caesar, Paul was brought to Rome as a prisoner and escorted along the Appian Way toward the city, where he would eventually be imprisoned and, according to Christian tradition, executed.

That history changed the walk for me. The Via Appia was no longer simply an ancient road lined with ruins and umbrella pines. I was walking a route connected to soldiers, travelers, pilgrims — and Paul himself — nearly 2,000 years ago.

Maybe that's what keeps pulling me back to Rome. The monuments are magnificent, but every return trip teaches me to slow down, look closer and discover another layer I missed before.

UNSTOPPABLE Stacey is an Arizona-based travel writer, Camino author and longtime Italy traveler who has visited Rome eight times and shares her adventures at UNSTOPPABLEStaceyTravel.com. Get links to her recommended Rome tours there.

Read more about Stacey's new Camino book and Amazon recognition on page 22A.



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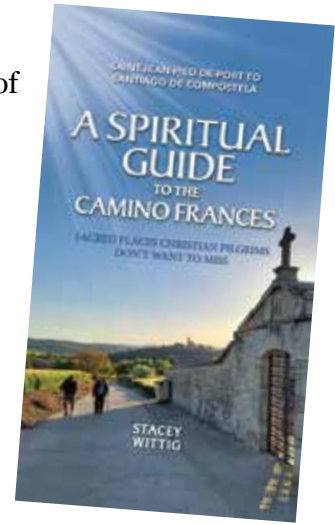


From the Media Release

MUNDS PARK, Ariz. Local travel writer and Pinewood News columnist Stacey Wittig has released a new book about the spiritual side of walking Spain's famous Camino de Santiago.

A Spiritual Guide to the Camino Francés: Sacred Places Christian Pilgrims Don't Want to Miss was named an Amazon "Top New Release in Literary & Religious Travel Guides" following its April release.

Wittig drew on more than two decades of Camino experience to create a guide to churches, chapels, monasteries and other sacred places that pilgrims can easily overlook as they walk toward Santiago de Compostela.



"You can walk right past a small chapel or ancient sacred site without knowing why pilgrims have stopped there for centuries," Wittig said. "I wanted to help pilgrims slow down and understand the spiritual significance of the places they encounter along the way."

Organized geographically along the Camino Francés, the book includes historical and spiritual background, Scripture, reflection and prayer prompts, as well as an "If You Only Have a Minute" feature for pilgrims making a brief stop.

Wittig writes about pilgrimage, walking adventures, culture and travel through UNSTOPPABLE Stacey Travel and her Pinewood News column. She is a member of the International Food, Wine & Travel Writers Association and American Pilgrims on the Camino.

Flagstaff-area designer Mike Russell designed the book's cover.

A Spiritual Guide to the Camino Francés: Sacred Places Christian Pilgrims Don't Want to Miss is available in paperback through Amazon.



Scan to Find Stacey's Books on Amazon

Explore Stacey Wittig's Books

Stacey Wittig is the author of several books on the Camino de Santiago and pilgrimage travel. Readers can find her books by searching Stacey Wittig on Amazon or visit UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com for more of her travel writing.

MUNDS PARK AUTHOR'S NEW CAMINO BOOK EARNS AMAZON RECOGNITION

For 18 years, *Pinewood News* readers have traveled the world with Stacey Wittig.

As our longtime travel writer, Stacey has taken readers far beyond Munds Park, sharing the places she visits through the history, people, food, faith and unexpected discoveries she finds along the way. Her stories have been a part of this newspaper for many years, and we are incredibly grateful for the time, talent and miles she has given to our readers.

We are also very proud of what Stacey has accomplished beyond our pages. An award-winning travel writer and author of several books, she has built a career around something she does exceptionally well: going somewhere interesting, asking good questions and bringing the story home.

Usually, Stacey is the one telling us about someplace or someone else. This time, we are very happy to turn the page toward Stacey and celebrate some news about one of our own.



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SEPTEMBER: A TIME OF TRANSITION FOR GARDENERS

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



September is a special time for gardens here in northern Arizona. It's a time of transition – there's still a lot of life left in your late summer garden, with late bloomers that grow quickly and give your garden beds or patio containers a splash of color. (Deadheading flowering plants will help encourage those last few blooms, by the way). Then there's the flowers that love the cool temps of this time of year: mums, asters and the second wave of hardy pansies and violas that you haven't seen since spring.

You can also still harvest from your veggie garden as well. Cool season vegetables like arugula, broccoli, spinach, kale, onions and radishes will germinate within 30 days and can stand a light frost.

Your best bet, if you are growing cool season vegetables from seed, is to find out the growth rate and calculate the time needed to grow versus the first expected frost. In the Flagstaff area, that can range from late September to mid-October depending on what section of town you are in.

But the stars of the fall planting season are your trees, shrubs and bulbs.

Many experts prefer fall planting to spring for trees and shrubs. The biggest benefit is the combination of warm soil and cool air that autumn provides. It's perfect for stimulating root growth, which means your tree or shrub will be less likely to suffer from transplant shock.

Additionally, at this time of year, the earth is wonderfully saturated from the monsoon rains. This also encourages deep root growth.

This doesn't mean you don't have to worry about watering! You should always make sure any newly planted plants get daily watering, regardless of the time of year or rain levels.

Lastly, there is one more thing you should be planting – although you won't get to see the results until next year – bulbs.

If you want tulips, crocuses, hyacinth, irises, and daffodils next spring, you need to get their bulbs in the ground now. I can't tell you how often we get people in March asking if we have daffodils they can plant.

Here are some basic tips to getting

gorgeous spring blooms:

Your optimal time to plant is late September through October. The cool night temperatures prevent the bulbs from rotting and the coming winter will guarantee your bulbs get the necessary chill needed to bloom in spring.

Bulbs need at least partial sun and well-draining soil. If your soil is mostly clay, amend it with planting mix.

You'll want the hole for your bulb to be about 3 times the size of the bulb. So large bulbs like tulips or daffodils will need to be about 8 inches deep and other, smaller bulbs will be planted about four inches deep.

Make sure your bulb's "nose" (the pointy end) is facing up out of the hole.

We hope you enjoy the end of summer and the beginning of one of our favorite seasons – fall. If you need help with making the transition and extending your garden, visit Warner's Nursery. We'd be glad to help.



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140 HUNTER PLACE

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Sweet, well-maintained two-bedroom, two-bath manufactured home on a large, flat cul-de-sac lot. Features a covered porch, updated flooring, 2024 roof, landscaped fenced yard, powered shed, A/C, remodeled guest bath, laundry room and furnishings included too.



\$499,900

17215 CREEKSIDE PLACE

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,272 SF

Park-like cul-de-sac setting on a 9,000-square-foot lot with Trex deck, lush gardens, two sheds and fenced gravel drive. Spacious interior offers large kitchen with island, generous primary suite, updated carpet, exterior paint and air conditioning.



\$359,000

1100 E COYOTE ROAD

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,296 SF

Well-priced three-bedroom, two-bath home with full laundry, spacious primary suite, walk-in closets and sunny bath. Two guest rooms, ample parking, large shed, front porch and shaded Trex deck, plus room for a garage or toys.



\$439,900

17310 BIG SKY DRIVE

3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,405 SF

Beautiful three-bedroom, two-bath home on a heavily treed lot with an oversized east-facing deck, fenced yard, brick-paver parking, stocked kitchen, accessible second bath, fresh exterior paint, workshop-ready shed, and all furnishings included in the sale.



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17810 S WALAPAI RD #72

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\$449,000

735 E REINDEER DR

Charming 2-bedroom Munds Park cabin on a quiet street, featuring skylights, stainless appliances, wood-burning fireplace, newer roof, two decks, storage shed, and access to forest trails and Pinewood Country Club.



\$198,000

645 E TROUT CREEK RD

Beautiful 7,500-square-foot Munds Park lot on a quiet, tree-lined street, ideal for a cabin or year-round home, with easy access to Pinewood Country Club, Lake O'Dell, forest trails, restaurants and recreation.



\$475,000

840 E CARIBOU RD

Fully furnished 3-bedroom, 2-bath Munds Park retreat with fireplace, updated kitchen, patios, Tuff Shed, newer A/C and roof, near Pinewood Country Club, Lake O'Dell, trails and forest.



\$584,000

17680 S. MUSTANG

Beautifully updated and fully furnished, this three-bedroom, two-bath cabin features a warm open floor plan, fireplace, modern kitchen, wraparound Trex deck, garage, RV parking, Starlink, fenced yard and easy national forest access in Munds Park.



\$358,000

17115 BIG SKY DR

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17730 S. MUNDS RANCH ROAD



MUNDS PARK RUNS ON VOLUNTEERS

Looking for a way to give back? You're in the right place. Each issue, we'll spotlight volunteer projects around the Park, all in one convenient spot, so our community's good eggs can find something that fits their schedule. Take a look, pick what speaks to you, and help make this community a great place to live.

MPBA Adopt-A-Highway Roadside Clean-up



Join us to spruce up our community! We're picking up roadside litter along a scenic stretch of highway between mileposts 321 and 322. It's a simple way to make a real, visible difference in just a few hours, and help keep our roads beautiful.

We'll provide: Trash bags and safety vests
 Please bring: Gloves, comfortable closed-toe shoes, and sun protection
 Date and Time: Tuesday, September 8th at 8:00 am
 Location: Meet at the Coldwell Banker building parking lot
 RSVP to Mike Shrake mike@itsamundstthing.com or 928-224-9490

Munds Park Trail Stewards Forest Trail Maintenance



Help us realign the Rocky Road OHV motorized trail at Horse Park! This hands-on project will improve trail safety and sustainability for riders and visitors. Come spend a morning outdoors, work alongside fellow trail stewards, and enjoy a free lunch afterward.

We'll provide: Water and trail equipment
 Please bring: Long pants, sturdy closed-toe shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and a smile (gloves and sunscreen recommended)
 Date & Time: Saturday, September 12 from 8:00 a.m. to noon
 Location: Meet at the Pinewood (240) Trailhead. Please be on time, volunteers will carpool 25 minutes to Horse Park.
 RSVP: MundsTrailStewards@hotmail.com

MPBA Adopt-A-Highway Roadside Clean-up



Lend a hand and help keep our roads looking great! We'll be clearing roadside litter along the highway between mileposts 322 and 323, a small effort that makes a big impact. Come spend a few hours outdoors, and meet fellow community members.

We'll provide: Trash bags and safety vests
 Please bring: Gloves, comfortable closed-toe shoes, and sun protection
 Date and Time: Saturday, September 19th at 8:00 am
 Location: Meet at the Coldwell Banker building parking lot
 RSVP to Mike Shrake mike@itsamundstthing.com or 928-224-9490

PFDA Requesting Halloween Volunteers



We're bringing back our annual Children's Community Halloween Party, held indoors at the fire station, rain or shine! Volunteers help decorate, set up and run games, and create a special day for our littlest ghosts and goblins.

We'll provide: All decorations and party supplies
 Date and Time: Saturday, October 31, from 11 AM to 1 PM
 Location: Fire station
 RSVP to Gail VanDeurzen at Rick2Gail2@Yahoo.com

Give a Call, Get a Call



Heart of the Park, an arm of the Munds Park Business Alliance, was created to give the community one central place to connect volunteers with local needs.

Volunteers can add their names to the call list. When an organization, group, or community project needs extra hands, Heart of the Park reaches out to see who's available and interested. There's no ongoing commitment: when the call comes, you simply say yes if the opportunity works for you.

Contact Heart of the Park at: mike@itsamundstthing.com or 928-224-9490

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LOCAL INK



Some of our favorite pages begin with a reader who has something to share.

Local Ink is a place for your stories, memories, photographs, poems, adventures, observations, and ideas. You do not have to think of yourself as a writer, and you do not have to know exactly how to put it all together. If there is something you would like to share, send it to us. We are happy to help you shape it for the paper.

This issue includes two Local Ink contributions, and we hope they encourage a few more of you to give it a try.

The Pinewood News is your community paper, and there is always room for your voice in it.

If you have a story, an idea, a memory, or something you think your neighbors would enjoy, we would love to hear from you.

Send your stories to: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

LOCAL INK

MY FIRST COOK

BY SHARON ARTHUR MOORE

My very earliest cooking memory, indeed maybe my earliest memory of any sort, is standing on a wooden kitchen chair stirring scrambled eggs at a gas stove, in a cast iron skillet, the only kind of skillet we owned. Given where we were living (we moved a lot), I'd guess I was about four. Whether I asked to do it or whether she was super busy with my two younger siblings, I'll never know. She had no memory of this momentous occasion. Memories are tied to emotion, affect. Clearly, because I remembered it, the event meant more to me than to her.



Betty Arthur

Another cooking memory is when I was about 12. For Christmas, my favorite aunt gave me one of those twelve-bottle-spice-racks. The spices Mother used were: pepper, cinnamon, and chili powder. I was thrilled with the gift. There was something called Basil. Another was labeled Oregano. Wow! I remember so clearly Mother turning to Aunt Wanda, saying, "What have you done?"

Still, despite her trepidations (and some food discarded as inedible), she encouraged me to figure out what these bottles could do to food. But she was like that in all of our interests. Curious about something? Let's look it up. Want to try something new? Why not? All three of us were pretty active in high school because she supported us in being in plays, joining clubs, running for class office, or being on sports teams.

But from an early age, I knew cooking was my passion, not just what you did to feed the family. Mother was as adventurous with her cooking as budget and imagination allowed. We were very poor for a good bit of my childhood. Food availability was sometimes an issue. Still, at one point, we had gardens and half a pig and cow each year when we lived on someone else's farm and took care of his animals and brought in crops. No pay, but we had free rent and access to food that Mother canned like crazy.

She had food curiosity, too, so that's probably where I got it. We were the first in our family to try fried shrimp. We made pizza, back when pizza was just hitting the Ohio farm country consciousness. And boy did those early pizza yeast doughs stink up the house! Interestingly we had to coax other family members to try these foods we were immediately hooked on.

Throughout her life she collected recipes and we shared them with one another. We'd talk food on the phone each time we chatted. Sometimes when we were together, we'd try to cook some new recipe.

I'll miss that.

Mother died peacefully Sunday, September 7, 2014, sitting in her chair having just made her famous Mexican Cornbread and with cherry pie fixings on the counter. I like to remember her like that. Cooking to the end. Hugs, Mother, at that big kitchen in the sky.

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LOCAL INK

GRANDMA

BY LOU BLAZQUEZ



Grandma, circa 1950.

The problem with my grandmother isn't recalling my first impression, but forgetting the last.

As a toddler, an emerging concept of my father's mother in the Bronx was feeling her focused love. My parents lived on Washington Ave. and Grandma a short block away. I went there often.

My first clear recollection is being the recipient of her greatest expression of affection: cooking. I was three, and we were in her sparse kitchen, which had a slight echo—everyone was poor in 1953. We sat at the table having soup. I remember nothing of the meal, just this: stopping for a moment and staring at her with my little heart filled with the purity of a child's love and no ability to express its power.

I've seen that shortcoming when my daughter was two after returning from our hunt. I sat Jamie in a tiny chair in the bathtub. I emptied our capture from a pillowcase: three collared lizards caught on Schnebly Hill Road near Flagstaff. Her eyes widened in amazement and, unable to verbalize, gave an extended high-pitched squeal of delight. She bounced in the chair, a treasured moment for a father who was silent in success.

At three, I didn't scream. When Grandma's head was lowered to accept her spoon, she wasn't watching me. Covertly, I winked at her. She winked back. I burned with embarrassment at being caught and stared at a very pleased face. She was always wonderful as I grew.

When my sister and I were in grammar school, Dad and Mom took us to visit Great Uncle Charley and Aunt Francis on Gunther Avenue. With emphysema, my uncle tightly wheezed and whistled for each gasp, pausing only for another drag. My chest ached in synchronization each time. I would never smoke.

When I was a freshman in high school, we got the news that Uncle Charley was in the hospital. Death was imminent. Our lives were paused for days awaiting the news. The phone call came. I left the couch and went to the kitchen along with my mother. My father approached from another room. Mom pulled the handset from the wall phone. Seconds later, she turned white and whispered. Dad came to

her side. The phone rested on her shoulder. "Lou," she said. "You're mother's dead."

He took the phone. I returned to the living room couch and continued with TV. My parents hurriedly grabbed a few things. Before leaving, Dad said to my sister and me, "Stay here" and rushed from the apartment.

I was hungry. I made a bologna sandwich, spreading a thick coating of mayo onto Wonder Bread. It helps build strong bodies 12 different ways. I returned to the couch and TV. Halfway through the sandwich, the phone rang. I answered it.

"Louis, we're picking you up. Meet us downstairs."

"Okay, Dad." He must have suspected that I would get into my usual mischief, especially with my

now strong body. I put my sneakers on and finished the sandwich on the way downstairs. I hate to waste food.

The ride was quiet during the 26 miles to Spring Valley Hospital. At the entrance was Aunt Anna engulfed in tears, with longtime friend Lucy at her side. I stayed aloof as they talked. Aunt Anna led us to the elevator and we went up a few floors.

The doors opened to a hospital corridor. Ten feet in front of us was a gurney with someone resting on it. We took a few steps. It was my diabetic grandmother, abandoned on her back in a hospital gown. Her face and chin were upturned and strained to the left. Grandma's mouth held an unfinished scream. She was dead and expressing the truth of her final moments of pain.

Never in my existence have I cried so hard, with pressurized tears blinding me, gasping and gagging for oxygen like Uncle Charlie. A brand-new emotion clenched my throat, lungs, and chest. I once heard a lecherous saying, "You always remember your first." They weren't talking about grief, but I am.

When the salty tsunami expired, leaving eyes dry and barren, I held silence, filled with the purity of grief and still unable to express the power.

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THE TOP 10 WORST DRIVERS ON I-17

BY MADJACK'S MUSINGS



All I'm saying, Jack, is I'm beginning to understand the nickname.

Fellow long-time readers: You may recall this article I penned way back on July 2, 2018. I felt it was worth sharing again, as we can all relate to the experience of driving to and from the Valley to our cabins, right?

Most of us have learned the optimum times for avoiding peak weekend and holiday travel by leaving a day early and returning home a day later. Also, we always check the AZ511 website for real-time traffic updates and conditions.

Hey, here's a thought: just try to RELAX during the drive! If traffic is heavy or a major wreck is causing a traffic jam, what's the point of stressing out, right? There are no practical shortcuts, and you are clearly not going anywhere soon. I recommend counting the saguaros or roadkill, or, if traffic is frozen, release the urchins into the desert to collect scorpions and snakes.

Better yet, spend your time agonizing over the list of infamous driver types below and ask yourself honestly...do I do that?

Yeah, I know. "No way, but my spouse does!"

1. Left Lane Lackeys: Easily the most annoying drivers and my personal pet peeve, as they are quite content to drive significantly below the flow of traffic while hogging the left lane, too oblivious to move into the right lane and allow others to safely pass. Worse, they needlessly back up traffic, thus encouraging the Butt Riders (see below) to execute sometimes dangerous maneuvers resulting from road rage.

It is, after all, Arizona law under A.R.S. § 28-721(B) that drivers traveling below the normal speed of traffic generally use the right-hand lane, except when passing or preparing for a left turn.

2. Butt Riders: Yup, they ride your tail ridiculously close and are equally as dangerous, often experiencing road rage from the Lackeys noted above. Their aim is to intimidate others to move the hell over and, if not, race around you with a quick swerve back into the left lane. That will show you!

3. Road Ragers: These clowns are obsessed with following their own rules, so don't cross their path or you may be subjected to angry outbursts, such as raising a certain finger to say hello. Makes my day, though, when a cop finally pulls them over!

4. Nervous Nellies: These are the overly cautious, timid drivers who are too terrified to even pass a semi, or they'll slow down at mountain curves, constantly riding their brakes and making everyone behind them nervous as well.

5. The Cut-ins: These buttheads wait until the last possible moment to abruptly cut in front of those of us patiently waiting during lane changes or merging. I often see others speed up to cut them off and not allow them to merge, which is also dangerous.

Of course, I've never done that.

6. Texting Toads: C'mon, you know better. These distracted drivers are an accident waiting to happen. Texts can wait.

7. Speed Demons: They have their preferred speed limits, usually somewhere well north of the one posted on the sign, so here again it's quite satisfying when they get busted.

But hey, they are saving a valuable five minutes getting to their destination!

8. Truckers: Most are truly courteous professionals and likely among the safest drivers on the road, as their careers depend on it. However, it sucks getting behind them as they labor up the long, winding hills.

Understandable, but why do they insist on passing another trucker going only one mile per hour faster? Some long backups ensue here.

9. Lazy Loopies: Generally too lazy to bother signaling lane or turn changes or following other standard rules of the road. That includes Arizona's Move Over law, which requires drivers approaching a stationary vehicle displaying flashing or warning lights to move over when safely possible, or slow down when they cannot.

10. Rubberneckers: They're ignorant for slowing everyone down to observe the most trivial freeway incidents. "Lookie there, honey! That man is changing his tire!"

So, there it is, folks. The Top 10 Worst Drivers on our very own Hell's Highway. Which one(s) are you?

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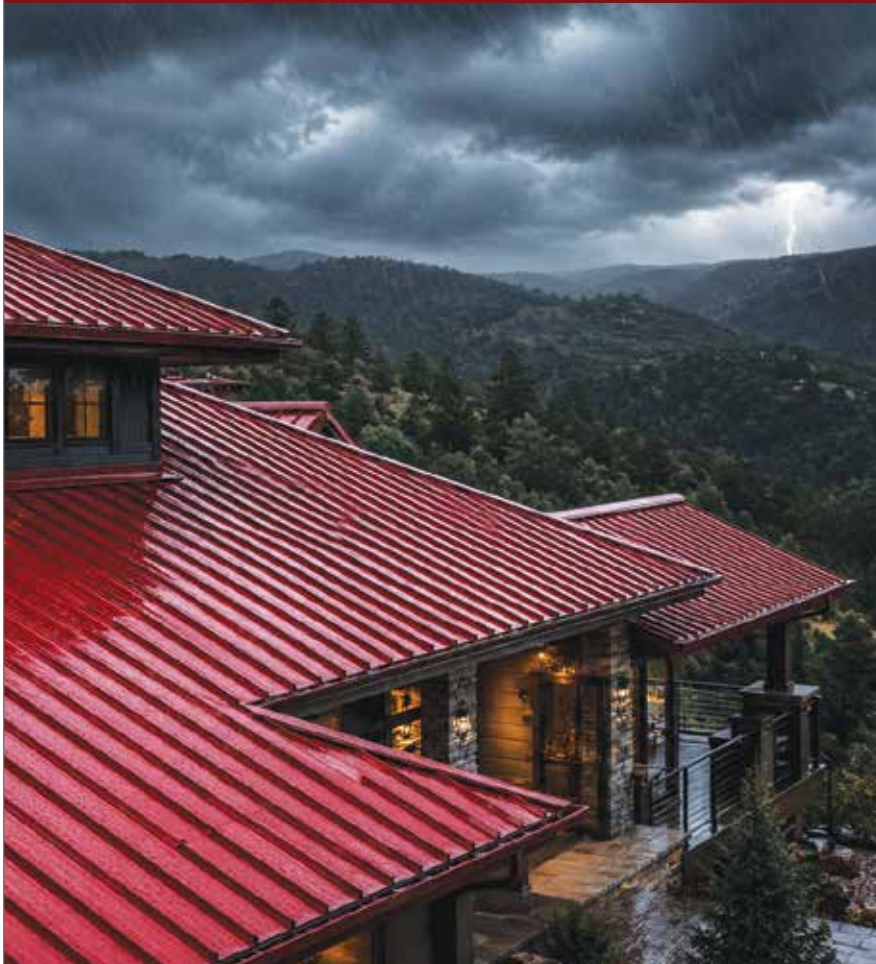
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CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 14B

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			1		6				20		4			
2	15	18	24	12	25		12	23	24	11	21	7	25	7
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4 letter words

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6 letter words

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cuddle
fixing
ignore
kisses
museum
object
resist
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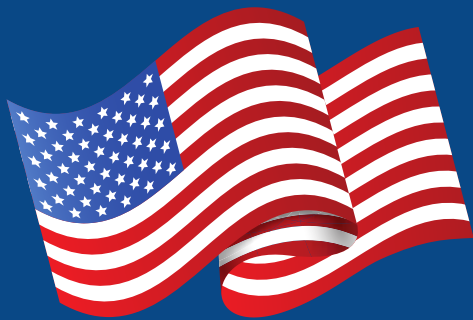
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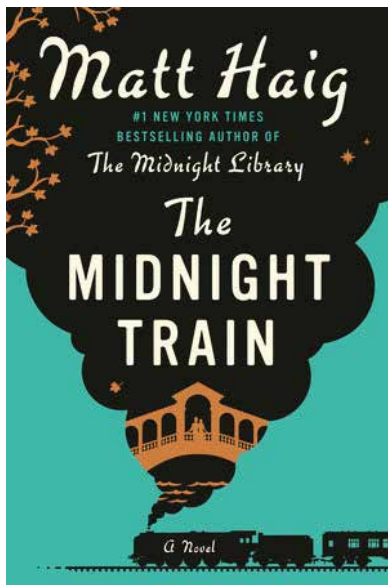
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BY SANDY WRIGHT



The protagonist, Wilbur Budd dies after a full life, at 81.

Instead of moving straight into eternity, he boards a mystical train that takes him to re-live the moments of his long life that meant the most to him.

Bound by the rule that he cannot interfere, Wilbur observes his past choices, from a difficult childhood to a successful career that cost him his relationship with Maggie, the love of his life.

About halfway through the book, Wilbur takes a huge, potentially dangerous risk. Ask yourself: If you were unhappy with some event in your past, would you risk your future happiness to change it? And how would that change affect the rest of your life?

Haig has given the world a beautifully written novel that is part fantasy, part magical realism, imbued with reminiscing and contemplation of life. Who among us hasn't wished for the chance to revisit the past and change a decision, right a wrong, or just live all over again an amazing moment in time? So many of us get caught in the unrelenting rhythm of the present, with work, family and kids, to the point that we forget our hopes and dreams from the past.

The chapters are short and readable—some less than one page, so you'll fly through the story.

Haig's previous book, *The Midnight Library*, explores all the parallel lives that character, Nora, could have lived, had she made different choices. In contrast, *The Midnight Train* propels Wilbur swiftly through his choice, good and bad.

This is one of those books that will make you look at your life differently. It reminds us that life is worth living, slowing down for, and being grateful for the good in the present moment.

- by Matt Haig
- Viking 2026
- 294 pages

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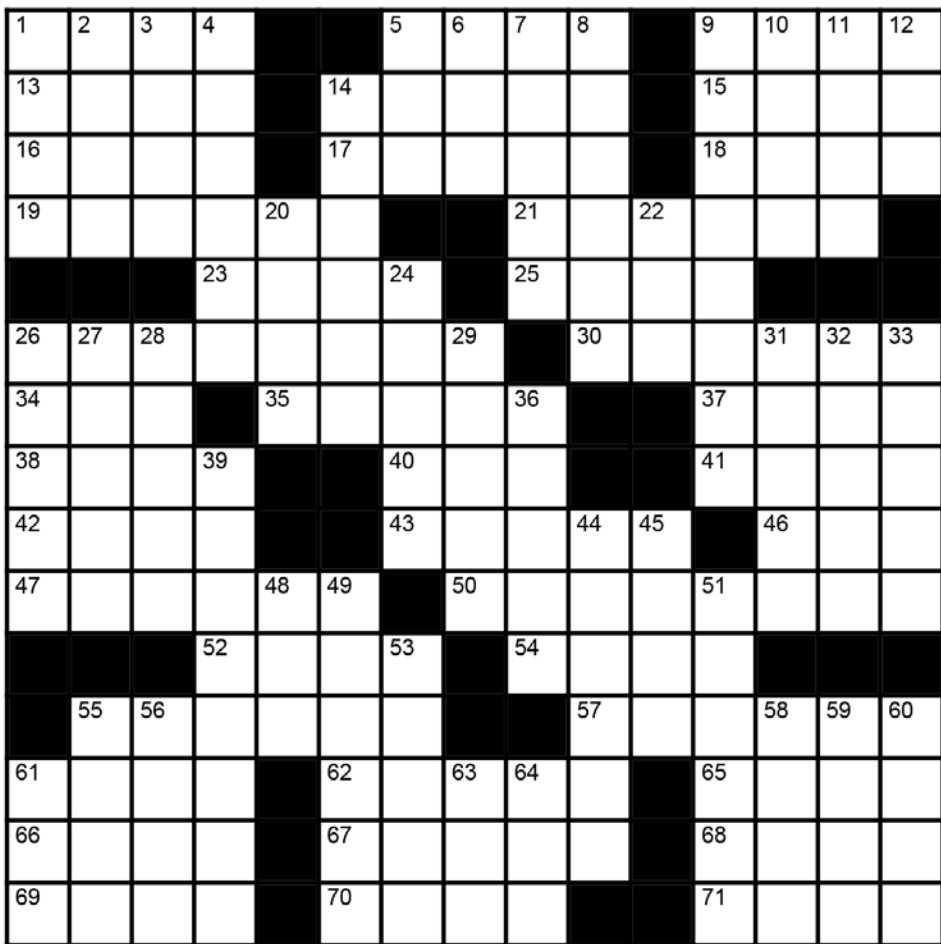
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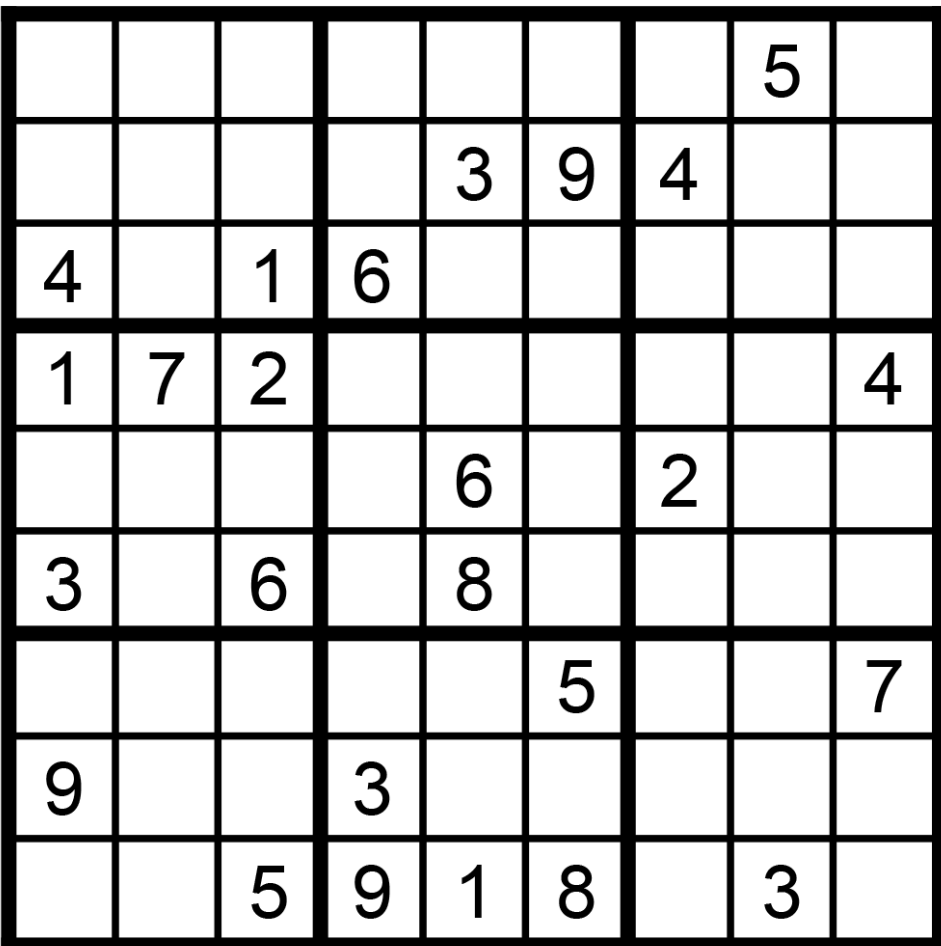
1. Big first for a baby
5. Indeed.com listings
9. Roswell sightings
13. Cart
14. Like the ZIP code system
15. ____ Scotia
16. "God's Little ____"
17. More than plump
18. What a kid grows up to be
19. Tosti's well-known song.
21. Pass on, as lore
23. Deep cut
25. Big name in cosmetics
26. Patient of unknown origin?
30. Lure into a lair
34. High school class, for short
35. Arid plateau of S Africa
37. Italian money
38. All ____
40. "Don't ____!"
41. December 24 and 31
42. Hard work
43. Kind of system
46. "Dig in!"
47. Male admirers
50. Win over with flattery
52. Limerick, e.g.
54. Plod along
55. Eastwood film, ____ Billy
57. Maltreat
61. Member of Europe's largest ethnic group
62. Merger
65. Axis of ____
66. Desire
67. Musical show
68. Officiates
69. Decorative pitcher
70. Ogler
71. Fill beyond full

DOWN

1. Fluffy carpet, or fluffy hairstyle
2. ____ Bell
3. International money
4. Solemn words
5. Employment
6. "____ moment"
7. Iraqi port
8. Record or cookie container
9. Rough
10. April honoree
11. Elliptical
12. Did nothing
14. Grass commonly used on golf courses
20. Soak up the sun
22. Elephant's weight, maybe
24. Forbidden, in Islam
26. Supports, in a way
27. Cat call: Var.
28. Bucketed water wheel
29. Trig function
31. Split
32. "He's ____ nowhere man" (Beatles lyric)
33. Cut's partner
36. Gumbo vegetables
39. Buttonless sweater
44. ____ skating
45. Utility belt item
48. "Smoking or ____?"
49. Safe and sound
51. Long lookers
53. Bank contents
55. Hard punch
56. Titian's "The ____ of Europa"
58. Eye layer
59. Cake recipe instruction
60. "Anything ____?"
61. "Ain't ____ Sweet"
63. "____ Got a Secret"
64. "Days of ____ Lives"

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CODED FILL-IN PUZZLE

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WORD SEARCH

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WINGS OVER ARIZONA

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BY MARGARET DYEKMAN



Red-winged Blackbird

I am writing this article with some optimism in a darkening situation, because there are things WE can do to solve the problem I will describe about Red-winged Blackbirds and other species in North America.

The Red-winged Blackbird is a year-round resident of most of the continental United States. It's a bird I readily saw and heard as a child when my family took vacations at Wisconsin lakes and at Girl Scout camp near woods and marshes. The male is distinctive, all black with bright red shoulder feathers edged with yellow, and the female is a deceptive sparrow-looking heavily striped bird and thus harder to identify. The species feeds on seeds and insects and builds nests in cattails, grasslands, and willow bushes.

And the problem? The Red-winged Blackbird is a species that has been so abundant that no one thought 60 years ago it might be on the decline. And even though the Red-winged Blackbird is still one of the most common species in North America, it has lost a third of its population since 1970. There are several reasons for this decline, and some of the reasons can be easily reversed by people like us.

- Stop birds from colliding with your windows. For every bird you find dead or injured under a window, there are three more you missed. The outside glass reflection can be muted with commercially made products or homemade Acopian Bird Savers. I put Feather Friendly bird tape on our windows and from inside you can hardly see any difference. From the outside, however, birds no longer crash into the glass reflection.
- Keep your cat indoors. Indoor cats live long and healthy lives. They won't be prowling Kachina Wetlands or Odell Lake or a marsh or pond slapping down Red-winged Blackbirds, Dark-eyed Juncos, Mourning Doves and other species for no reason other than their kill instinct.
- Quit using rodenticides. Poisoning a rat or mouse creates a chain reaction – the rat is eaten by an owl or hawk, which gets sick, and then the sick raptor dies, too. Scientific studies show that over two-thirds of Red-tailed Hawks in urban areas have rodenticides in them! It's no wonder birds are declining. There are effective ways to control rodents without using chemicals in most commercial and homeowner situations. Check out bird-safe pest control solutions at azwildliferesource.org.

I love the call of the Red-winged Blackbird, reminding me of summer outings with my family. I like its name, too – a very practical one. And I'd like them to be around for our grandkids and yours and the biodiversity of the planet. Thanks for listening, and thanks in advance if you collision-proof your windows. Need to see an example? Text me and I'll arrange for you to see our Munds Park's windows.

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.

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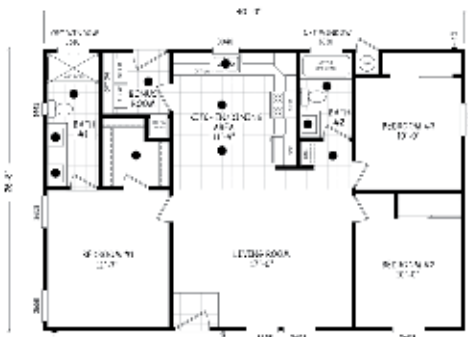


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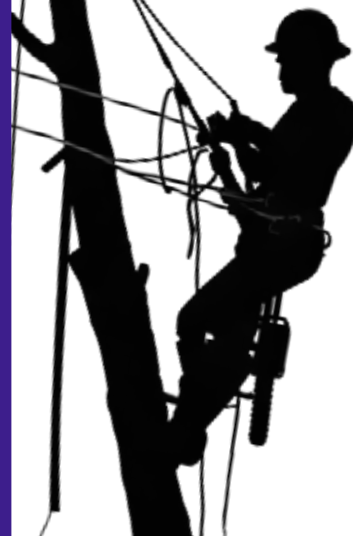
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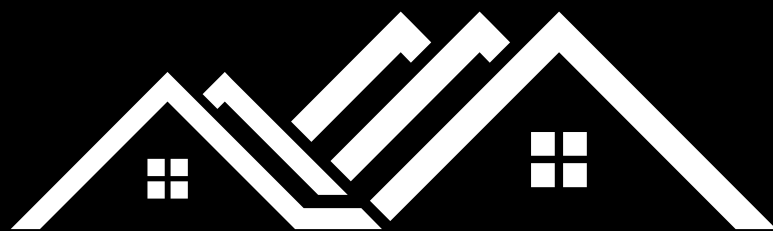
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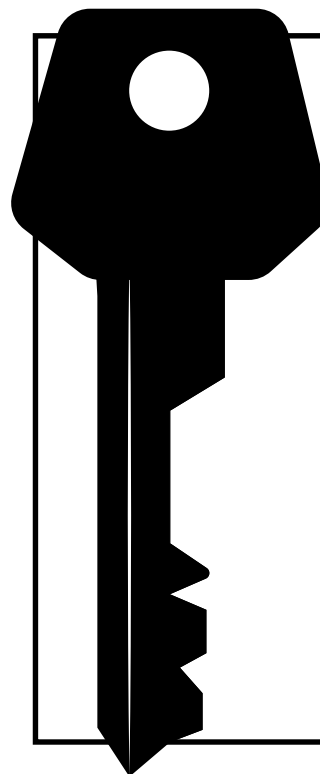
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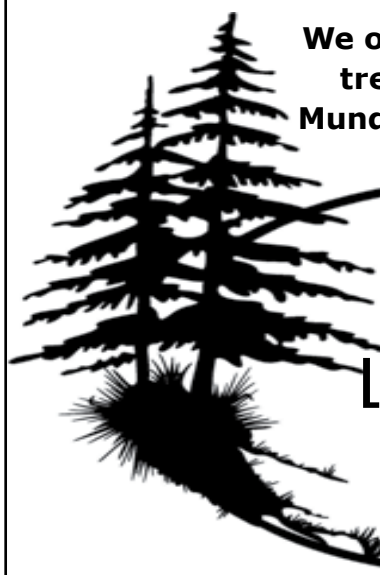
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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAPPINESS & JOY

BY PASTOR JEREMY WEITZEL

Here in the mountains of Munds Park, it is easy to experience happiness with the beautiful weather, the amazing community, and all the wildlife we see every day. But there is something many of us do not realize, happiness and joy are not the same thing. Philippians 4:4 shows us why when it says, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" Happiness rises and falls with the moments of our lives, but joy is something deeper, something that does not change when life in the mountains gets hard.

"Therefore you too have grief now, but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you."

– John 16:22

The happiness we experience, both in our own lives and in the people around us, is circumstantial. It depends on how things are going at the moment, when finances are stable, relationships are smooth, and the kids are getting along. But joy is rooted in something far deeper than this present life. Joy comes from a source we cannot find anywhere in this physical world. As Philippians 4:4 reminds us, we rejoice in the Lord because the Lord Jesus Christ is the only true source of joy.

Our emotions can sometimes trick us into thinking we have joy when what we are really feeling is happiness. And just like happiness, emotions are circumstantial. That first sip of coffee, hearing your favorite song, spending time with friends, or playing with your pets, these moments bring happiness, but they are temporary and can disappear at any time. The joy we receive from the Lord, however, is spiritual and permanent. Jesus says in John 16:22, "Therefore you too have grief now, but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you."

Joy is something we choose, not something that simply happens to us. That is possible because joy is rooted in God's presence, not in our comfort. Happiness comes and goes like the weather, but joy grows when we intentionally turn our hearts toward the Lord. Whether life here in the mountains or back in the valley becomes difficult, we can still rejoice because our joy does not depend on everything going right.

It depends on the God who never leaves and never forsakes us.

Joy was never meant to be experienced alone, it grows best in community. In a small town like ours, neighbors wave from their porches and show up when someone is hurting. Joy

is something we share, and when we share it, we are strengthened together. Choosing to rejoice in the Lord changes how we treat one another and helps us see people through a different lens. Munds Park needs that kind of joy, the kind that transforms a community and makes the love of Jesus visible in the way we live, the way we love others, and the way we walk side by side with our neighbors.

If you are looking for a deeper kind of joy, the joy you have just read about, we would love to have you join us. Our doors are open every Sunday at 9:00am and 10:45am. At MPCC you will find a church that has fun, prays for one another, studies the Word, and shows up for each other. Whether you have been here for years or are new to the Park, there is a place for you at Munds Park Community Church. I am praying for our community, that joy will take root in every home and reach every corner of Munds Park.



**Munds Park Community Church is hosting an Oktoberfest celebration
Friday, September 25, from 4 to 8 p.m.**

**Come hungry for complimentary German food, live music, a fire pit
and games for all ages.**

**Bring a friend or three, because the food is free and the
company is even better!**

**The mountain receives the rain
without asking where it has been.**

**There is grace for where you've been,
and a place beside us for the road ahead.**

Walk with us.

**Walking with Jesus, together.
Sunday services 9:00 am and 10:45 am**

(928) 286-2022
office@mpcc.church
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd
Munds Park, AZ 86017



**munds park
community church**
mpcc.church

COUNTY CONTACTS FOR COMMON CONCERNS

Facebook Is Not 911!

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

For non-emergency issues such as noise, dogs running loose, suspicious activity, traffic concerns, or other disturbances, call Coconino County Sheriff's

Non-Emergency Dispatch at (928) 774-4523, option 1.

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

Dark Sky Compliance**Lighting Inspection**

Request an inspection of your exterior lighting. It includes a written report. Fees are \$55/hour plus mileage, two-hour minimum. Email Mark for details at mstento@coconino.az.gov.

Code Violation Report

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

Fixture Review

Not sure if a light is compliant? Send it in for review at mstento@coconino.az.gov.

Still Have Questions?

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

Domestic Animal & Wildlife Services**Loose Dogs, Nuisance Complaints, or Dog Bites**

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-8756

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

Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

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

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-8756

Found a Stray?

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

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

High Country Humane (928) 526-0742

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

Injured or Dangerous Wildlife

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

Weekends & after hours call 911

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

Loose Livestock

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

Environmental & Emergency Services**Illegal Dumping in Forests or Waterways**

Environmental Quality Reporting Line (928) 679-8886

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

Flooding Concerns

Coconino County Call Center: (928) 679-8525

Emergency Planning and Real-Time Updates

Coconino County Emergency Management (928) 679-8311

Email: emergencymanagement@coconino.az.gov

Fire-Related Concerns**Illegal Campfires on National Forest Land**

Coconino National Forest Dispatch Center (928) 527-3552

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

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

Illegal Campfires (private property) during Fire Restrictions

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

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

Fire Restrictions Information

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

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)**Reckless Driving, Trespassing, or Noise Complaints**

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

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

Short-Term Rental Questions & Complaints**Loud Parties, Parking Issues, Trash or Other Nuisances**

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

(press option 1) For immediate issues with noise, trespassing, blocked roads, or safety concerns.

Ongoing STR Violations or Registration Questions

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

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

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