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THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN DESERT LIVING

VOL. 32 NO. 14 SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

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TREASURES. A
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Services Sunday, 10:45 am

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Munds Park Town Hall

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

Thursday, September 18, 2025

6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club
Munds Park

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!

Tuesday, October 7

6:30 pm • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd
Munds Park

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, September 16

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Wednesday, September 10

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 7A

LOCAL REALTORS PUSH BACK 9A

Pinewood Sanitary District quietly changed the rules on home sales, leaving realtors scrambling and sellers facing surprise costs. We asked PSD for answers and looked at what it means for local homeowners.

WHY ANOTHER FIRE BOND 12A

Fire Chief Josh Tope explains why the Pinewood Fire District is back on the ballot this November, what changed since the first bond, and why a second bond is the most stable way to cover rising costs.

SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD 15A

The Silent Starlet is a sparkling pink cocktail inspired by Clara Bow, Hollywood's original It Girl. Bold, glamorous, and unforgettable.

THINGS TO DO 16A

Local events, activities, and outings to make the most of your time in the pines.

THEY CAME LIKE A PACK OF WOLVES 22A

Clayton and Chris Wooley were having coffee in their yard when eight unleashed dogs attacked. Their story raises bigger questions about off-leash culture in Munds Park and what it means for public safety.

LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT 21A

From the rubble of Ground Zero to the quiet cabins of Munds Park, Tom Ford's story is one of grit, service, and second chances. Meet the man behind Liberty Plumbing.

PINEWOOD NEWS KIDS 11B

From ancient messengers to modern-day geniuses, pigeons have done it all. It's time we gave this bird a second look.

FALL FORAGING 1B

Golden chanterelles, lobster mushrooms, and winter chanterelles—how to spot them, cook them, and enjoy the season.

WINTER-PROOF YOUR HOME 4B

A complete guide to preparing your mountain home for winter, from roof to pipes to emergency access.

SEPTEMBER HOROSCOPE 19B



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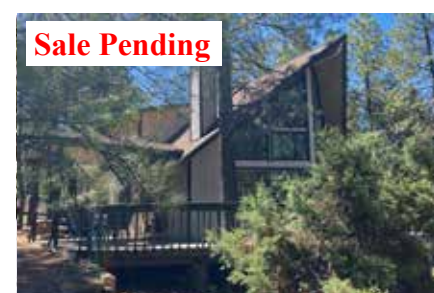


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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

OLD FARMER’S ALMANAC FORECAST

A Milder, Wetter Winter Ahead for Northern Arizona

The Old Farmer’s Almanac has released its winter 2025–26 forecast, and if you live in Munds Park, Flagstaff, or Verde Valley, here’s what to expect when the cold season rolls in.

For Flagstaff and Munds Park, the long-range outlook points to a warmer-than-normal winter with fewer snowstorms than usual. While snow will still fall, the Almanac predicts overall below-normal snowfall for northern Arizona. Residents should circle late January, early February, and late March on the calendar, since those are expected to bring the heaviest snow of the season.

In Verde Valley, where winter weather often rides the line between rain and snow, the forecast suggests a different story. The region is expected to see above-normal precipitation paired with above-average temperatures. That could mean more rain events, slick roads, and the occasional surprise snowfall, especially in the higher terrain around town.

The Almanac places northern Arizona in its Intermountain region (Region 13), where conditions are forecast to be wetter than usual but with snowfall split north and south. Northern zones, including Flagstaff and Munds Park, lean toward lighter snow totals, while southern areas are more likely to see storms deliver above-average snow.

Bottom line: It may not be the kind of winter that buries cars under snowbanks, but the mix of warmer air and extra precipitation could still keep residents on their toes.

Source: *The Old Farmer’s Almanac 2025–26 Winter Forecast via SnowBrains*

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coconino County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following item:

Case No. AM-25-001: A complete update to the 2015 Coconino County Comprehensive Plan text and data, including new and updated maps, figures, tables, vision, goals and policies, to be adopted as a Major Amendment. The Comprehensive Plan boundary encompasses the entirety of Coconino County’s approximately 12 million acres (18,619 square miles).

Applicant: Community Development Department

Representative: Melissa Shaw

Supervisor District: 1 (Patrice Horstman)

Supervisor District: 2 (Jeronimo Vasquez)

Supervisor District: 3 (Tammy Ontiveros)

Supervisor District: 4 (Judy Begay)

Supervisor District: 5 (Lena Fowler)

Said public hearing will be held on September 24, 2025, at 5:30 pm using web-based or other technology. Instructions will be posted at our website at: www.coconino.az.gov/2216/Zoning-Boards-and-Commissions a minimum of 24 hours before the hearing. Any person wishing to testify may file a written statement prior to that time. Any interested person may observe the meeting and comment during the public comment period. For more information, please contact Melissa Shaw at mshaw@coconino.az.gov or call the Coconino County Community Development at 928.679.8850.

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LOCAL REALTORS PUSH BACK ON PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICTS OVERREACH



Pinewood Sanitary District (PSD) quietly changed the sewer rules for home sales, and sellers were the ones paying the price.

Realtors told me the new process was more expensive, less predictable, and more stressful than ever. Some buyers got nervous with vague letters from PSD. Some sellers got hit with thousands in surprise repairs. Worse, PSD did the bare minimum to notify the public, placing it online as if scrolling through the sewer district's website is anyone's idea of a Saturday night.

So I listened.

I met with five of Munds Park's most seasoned realtors: Bob Joncas, Dave Kraemer, Debi Bright, Elizabeth Hausman, and Nancy Shelton. Together, they have more than a century of experience working with local buyers, sellers, and PSD itself. They remember when the process was straightforward, when the rules made sense, and when the district kept things running with scoping services.

That's not what they see now. What used to be simple and affordable has turned into a costly guessing game. They believe homeowners deserve to know how things have changed.

For decades, PSD required a pre-sale sewer line scope before transferring service to a new owner. The district handled the inspection for a flat \$250 and notified the owner of any necessary repairs. Realtors said the system worked. Scheduling was easy, staff were responsive, and costs were predictable.

Recently, the district stopped doing the inspections itself. The mandate stayed, but sellers now had to hire local plumbers to scope the line and submit the results to PSD for final approval.

That is when the real headaches began. Some plumbers were fair and professional. Others, not so much. Reports varied. Prices varied. And costs climbed. Realtors said that when PSD handled inspections, only one or two homes in ten needed repairs. With plumbers, it jumped closer to nine out of ten, and the fixes were anything but cheap.

And PSD still had the final word. Realtors described the approval process as inconsistent at best. A cabin with a belly in the line might pass one week and fail the next. A pipe laid over rocks, which is common in Munds Park, might slide through on one property and get flagged on another.

If PSD did not like a plumber's assessment, especially if the report was written without an accompanying video, the district sent a letter. The letter stated that visual documentation was "strongly encouraged," and while the findings would be accepted, PSD would "not be responsible for any future issues."

That letter becomes a material fact. By law, the realtor must disclose it to the buyer and their agent. Even though the letter doesn't say there's a problem, it leaves enough doubt to make buyers nervous.

Here's one example. A homeowner had a sewer line running beneath a finished storage shed built on a concrete slab. The plumber scoped the line and found it open and clear. No cracks. No leaks. No clogs. The line was laid over rocks, which is common and often unavoidable in the Park. While it would have been smart to stake the property before building, PSD isn't responsible for the line. The homeowner is.

Still, PSD strongly recommended repairs. Not because there was a problem, but because the rocks could eventually cause damage. Even though the plumber confirmed the line was sound, PSD issued a letter. That letter was enough to shake the deal.

Because the pipe ran beneath the shed, the only options were to demolish the structure or reroute the line. This underscores the importance of surveying property before beginning construction.

Unfortunately, that reminder came too late. As the home was about to close, the buyer got nervous. And the seller, with a functioning line and a clean report, had to pay \$5,000 out of pocket just to keep the deal alive. PSD's inspection process left many sellers struggling with unclear rules and extra requirements before they could close a sale. If those requirements weren't met, PSD refused to transfer service to the new owners.

Let me say that again: PSD, unlike any other utility in Arizona that we could find or that any of our realtors have encountered in their long careers, will withhold service and block the transfer to a new owner.

...Continued on page 11A

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1410 E LOBO LANE

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PSD OVERREACH

...Continued from page 9A

These were the concerns raised by the realtors, and these were the questions taken straight to PSD.

Pressing PSD for Clarity

After hearing concerns from local realtors, I looked into it further. PSD’s latest draft resolution does propose requiring a licensed plumber, but that rule isn’t final. The board hasn’t scheduled a vote until September 11, 2025.

Yet the rules were already being enforced.

When I spoke with David Richards (D.R.), District Manager for Pinewood Sanitary District, I laid out what this meant for sellers and realtors. He admitted that mandating sewer scopes before a sale was unusual, something he had not seen in his career.

So I brought those concerns to the PSD monthly board meeting.

On August 14, I asked the obvious: Why push a policy without a full board vote? Why roll it out without filing with the county? Did they understand the mess it was creating for the community? I pointed out that no other utility we reviewed requires a pre-sale inspection, let alone blocks the transfer of service based on a test that no other sewer district mandates.

The board’s response was basically silence. There was no real discussion of the problem, no answers, no timeline, and no possible solutions. The only comment came from D.R., who reiterated that sewer scopes were not the responsibility of PSD staff and should fall to plumbers instead. He made it clear he wanted out of the scoping business entirely. Whether these rules would remain or be scrapped was left uncertain.

PSD Considers Rolling Back Rules

After the board meeting, I asked D.R. for a follow-up. To his credit, he showed up and answered all of our questions, laid out PSD’s position, and listened.

We learned that once the board meeting broke, D.R. put a plan on the table for the board to vote on. On September 10, the PSD board is set to vote on tossing the mandate. If that passes, PSD returns to being what it is supposed to be: a utility company. Inspections will fall where they belong, between buyer and seller. Service will transfer without being blocked, and PSD will exit the real estate business.

There’s a lot to consider with these mandates. PSD has long required a pre-sale scope. The new mandate shifts that responsibility from PSD staff to a licensed plumber, creating added hurdles for sellers. Another existing rule, requires every home to have a sewer cleanout located between two and ten feet from the house. If it was missing, sellers had to install one before the line could pass inspection.

How the board intends to enforce these requirements while still allowing sales to remain a matter between buyer and seller remains unclear.

Friends, this is why speaking up matters. Realtors had been raising alarms one at a time, and when it felt like no one was listening, they reached out to Pinewood News to share their concerns with the community. That helped bring the issue into the open.

Would the board have heard them eventually? Maybe. But the point remains: you have to go, you have to say what is wrong, and when changes this significant are in play, PSD has to do its part too. Posting online does not cut it. Ratepayers who pay attention expect real notice, whether in the paper or on the back of the bill.

D.R. deserves credit for listening and acting once he understood how this was affecting local sellers, and the realtors deserve equal credit for standing their ground on behalf of their clients and neighbors. That is how a community looks after itself. Change rarely happens in silence—it happens when people raise concerns, others listen, and both sides work toward a solution.

Until next time, check the back of your bill or pick up the Pinewood News. Staying informed is part of how we all keep this community strong. We’ll continue following this issue and report on the outcome.

5

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Tucked away at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac in the desirable Animal Hill neighborhood, this stunning four-bedroom cabin truly has it all. The oversized great room features soaring T&G ceilings and walls of windows that capture the beauty of the expansive 2/3-acre lot. The lower level offers a complete second living area, perfect for spreading out or hosting guests. Enjoy two spacious levels of decks and multiple outdoor living areas designed for year-round enjoyment. Offered fully furnished and turn-key ready, this home is ideal for family gatherings, or a relaxing retreat.



Scan to see property details and photos.



WHY PINEWOOD’S FIRE DISTRICT NEEDS A SECOND BOND

A conversation with Fire Chief, Josh Tope

If you’ve been wondering why the Pinewood Fire District is asking for another bond this November, you’re not alone. I sat down with Fire Chief, Josh Tope to understand exactly what’s going on, what’s changed since voters approved the first bond, and why this new funding request is necessary.

What changed since the last bond?

In 2023, voters approved a \$4.5 million bond to fund a much-needed new fire station. At the time, the estimated construction cost was around \$5 million. The plan was solid, and the district was ready to move forward.

Then inflation hit. Hard.

Between 2023 and 2024, construction costs rose about 34%, mostly due to workforce shortages and rising labor costs. Suddenly, that five-million-dollar station was going to cost over seven million. Understandably, the district hit pause to reassess before breaking ground.

What’s already in place?

The fire district has already secured the majority of the needed funding:

- \$4.5 million from the original voter-approved bond
- About \$1 million saved through years of careful budgeting and community fundraising

That leaves a shortfall of roughly \$1.3 to \$1.6 million. That is what the new bond would cover.

Why ask for another bond instead of taking a loan?

Chief Tope explained that there are only a few options for fire district funding: the annual operating budget, a lease-purchase loan, or a voter-approved bond. The operating budget is already stretched to cover essential services like salaries, training, and emergency response. A loan is possible, but it comes with real downsides.

Loans, also called lease-purchase agreements under fire district rules, carry higher interest rates and must be paid back from the district’s day-to-day operating funds. That means less flexibility and a higher risk of future service cuts, especially if the economy takes a downturn.

A bond, on the other hand, is a more stable option. It is paid through a small, dedicated property tax that is kept entirely separate from the operating budget. That separation matters.

If the economy weakens, property tax revenue may drop. Since loans are paid out of the fire district’s operating budget, a downturn could mean difficult choices like delayed equipment replacement, wage freezes, or service reductions.

A bond, however, is funded by a separate voter-approved tax. That means bond payments continue regardless of the economy, and core services remain protected. Simply put, a bond helps ensure stability. A loan adds risk.



Pinewood’s future firehouse, built for safety, service, and the next generation. Opening summer 2026.

What would this bond cost homeowners?

For the average home in Pinewood, assessed at \$233,000, the new bond would cost about \$21 per year. That comes out to about \$9 per \$100,000 in assessed value. (It’s worth noting this is the assessed value, not the market value.)

As home values rise over time, the tax rate typically decreases, even though the total payment stays the same. This helps keep costs manageable for homeowners year over year.

Why the new station still matters

The current fire station was never built for a 24/7 professional crew. It began decades ago as a volunteer station, and while it has been modified over the years, it lacks the space, safety, and facilities needed today.

The new station has been carefully designed to meet modern standards for health, safety, and emergency response. It will include proper living quarters, cancer mitigation features, mental health considerations, decontamination areas, and room for future growth.

Chief Tope emphasized that the goal is to ensure that firefighters are safe, supported, and ready to respond when the community needs them most.

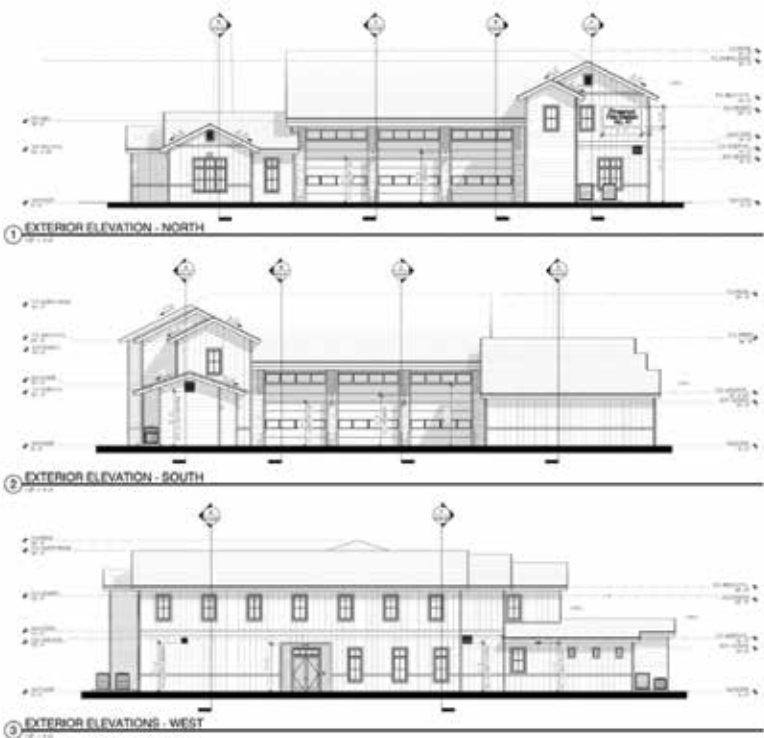
What happens if the bond does not pass?

If the bond is not approved by voters, the fire district will fund the shortfall through a lease-purchase loan. That would still get the station built, but it would put added pressure on the district’s budget and could limit its ability to adapt to future challenges.

This is not about asking for more than what was originally planned. It is about finishing the job the community already supported, in the most financially responsible way possible.

The fire district is not taking this request lightly. They have worked hard to fund as much of the project as possible through previous bonds, long-term savings, and careful planning. The new bond is a small addition that makes a big difference. It ensures the station gets completed the right way, without compromising core services or financial stability.

If you have questions or want to learn more, Fire Chief, Josh Tope and the district staff are always open to conversations. They care deeply about the people they serve and are doing everything they can to build a safe, sustainable future for Munds Park.



How to Vote on the Firehouse Bond

Election Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

What You’re Voting On: A \$1.3 million bond to help fully fund the Pinewood Fire District’s new fire station.

How to Vote: The bond will appear on the Tuesday, November 5 ballot. You can vote in person at Munds Park Community Church, or vote early by mail starting Wednesday, October 8.

Voter Registration Deadline: Monday, October 6, 2025

Who Can Vote: Only registered voters who live within the Pinewood Fire District boundaries are eligible to vote on this bond.

If you’re a part-time resident and want to participate, you can temporarily change your voter registration from Maricopa County to Coconino County. You can switch it back after the election.



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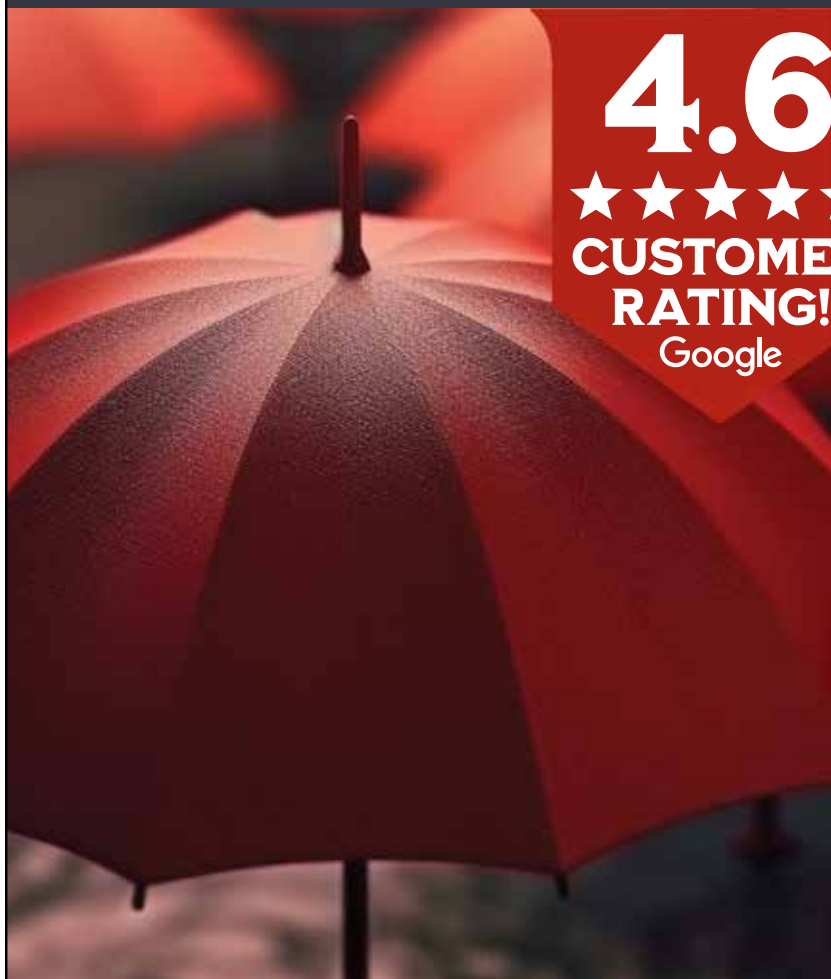
— John & Stephanie K., Munds Park Residents



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SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD THE SILENT STARLET

BY DICK TRUDEAU

She came from nothing and made herself a legend. Not the quiet kind. The kind that gets whispered about in studio backrooms and yelled about in tabloids. Clara Bow was the original bad girl of the silver screen, back when movies didn't talk and women weren't supposed to either.

The industry didn't know what to do with her. Audiences couldn't get enough. She had that unnameable quality that lit up the room before she even walked in. A face that could launch a thousand movie stills, and a laugh that let you know she'd seen things and wasn't sorry for any of them.

Hollywood called her The It Girl. What she had, no one could teach. Brooklyn roots, red hair that caught the light just right, and a way of owning every frame like it owed her rent. And it did. She raked in ticket sales that saved studios, pulled off performances that other actresses wouldn't dare touch, and lived like the rules didn't apply. Because they didn't. Not to her.

The whispers started early. Too many parties. Too many men. Too much skin. Never mind that her male co-stars were doing the same, worse even, and getting pats on the back for it. Clara got warnings. Headlines. Sabotage. She was everything America claimed to love—until it got nervous and turned on her.

By the time the talkies rolled in, Clara had been dragged through every kind of mud Hollywood could fling. The same industry that cheered her rise quietly pulled the curtain down. She walked away before they could shove her out.

But the real ones never forget. Not the real stars. Not the real stories. And not the real drinks.

The Silent Starlet is a toast to Clara. To all the women who got written off because they were too something for someone. It's pink on purpose. Fizzy like a comeback. A little sweet, a little sharp, and not asking for permission.



Photo courtesy the Daniel D Teoli Jr. Archival Collection



The Method

- One ounce of gin. Use good gin—not the stuff that smells like potpourri.
- Half an ounce of raspberry syrup. Keep the raspberry syrup fresh (you can simmer raspberries with sugar and water for 10 minutes, then strain).
- Half an ounce of fresh lemon juice.
- Shake that with ice. Strain into a chilled flute.
- Top with sparkling rosé. A dry sparkling rosé works best so it doesn't get overly sweet.
- Drop in a raspberry like a scandal you're not ashamed of.

The first sip hits with a wink. The second makes you sit up straight. By the third, you're telling stories you shouldn't, and meaning every word.

Cheers! Here's to the legends that don't ask permission.



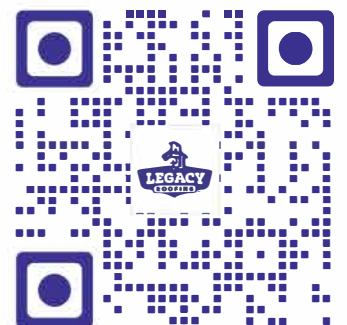
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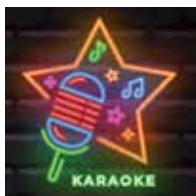


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Saturday
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GET FRESH PRODUCE!
Starting Saturday, May 10, your weekends just got fresher—join us for farm-fresh produce every Saturday through October!

EVERY SATURDAY

DJ RUBEN & KARAOKE



Time to grab the mic and steal the spotlight! Karaoke night is all about laughs, tunes, and maybe a little off-key magic.

Time: 8PM

Location: Pinewood Restaurant & Bar, Munds Park

EVERY MONDAY

BINGO AT PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB



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

Time: 6:00 PM

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

ALMOST EVERY TUESDAY

PINEWOOD PLAYHOUSE MUSIC JAM NIGHT



Bring your instrument (or just your voice) and join fellow music lovers for a casual, come-as-you-are jam session. All levels welcome—from pros to kazoo dabblers. PA provided for singers. Free to attend, no RSVP needed, open to the community.

Date: check website at pinewoodplayers.com

Time: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Location: Pinewood Playhouse, Pinewood Country Club, open to the community

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

FLAGSTAFF MUSIC FESTIVAL



Celebrate Flagstaff's local music scene downtown with community bands raising funds for the Haven Walker Music Scholarship. Local artists, community sing-along, and lots of live rhythm.

Time: Noon – 10 pm (bands from ~1 pm onward)

Location: Heritage Square, Downtown Flagstaff

Admission: Free



Arizona Snowbowl Picks November 21 for Opening Day!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

WITCHES RIDE OF MUNDS PARK



Grab your hat, outfit, and broom for a spirited ride through town, then join Happy Hour at Pinewood Country

Club. Open to all who register, not just members. Proceeds benefit Northland Family Center.

Time: 4 p.m. (registration 3–3:55 p.m.)

Location: Start at Pinewood Country Club Parking Lot, Munds Park, AZ

Admission: Minimum \$20 donation

Registration: www.northlandfamily.org

FRI & SAT, OCTOBER 10 & 11

PRESCOTT ANTIQUE SHOW & VINTAGE MARKET



Now in its 20th year, this treasure hunt is worth the drive. Shop antiques, vintage goods, clothing, furniture, and home décor across three packed buildings and outdoor booths at the

Prescott Rodeo Grounds.

Time: Friday 12–5 PM, Saturday: 8 AM–3 PM

Location: Prescott Rodeo Grounds, 840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott

Info: prescottantiqueshow.com

Admission: \$10 General Admission

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10-11

FALL IN PRESCOTT: THE BIG STING COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL



Spend two days by Watson Lake enjoying live performances from top country artists, local food vendors, and the crisp autumn air. The festival pairs great

music with Prescott's scenic beauty, making it a favorite fall tradition for fans near and far. Bring your boots, a blanket, and be ready for good tunes and good company.

Time: Gates open at 2 PM Friday, 12 PM Saturday

Location: 3101 Watson Lake Park Rd, Prescott, AZ

Info: www.thebigsting.com

Admission: Tickets start at \$85



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Friday, September 26 • 4 PM

Munds Park Community Church

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Join your neighbors for an evening of food, fun, and community spirit!

SAT & SUN, OCTOBER 11-12

FALL WEEKEND IN SEDONA: 34TH ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL



Discover fall in Sedona with juried artists, live tunes, local flavors, and sweeping red-rock views—plus food trucks and libations to round out the weekend.

Time: Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.,

Sunday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Location: Sedona Red Rock High School, 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Road, West Sedona

Admission: \$15 for both days; children 12 and under free with a paying adult.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

WINGS AND WHEELS: SEDONA AIRPORT DAY



See vintage and modern aircraft, classic cars, food trucks, and panoramic mesa views at Sedona's annual aviation celebration. Fun for all ages and free to attend.

Time: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Location: Sedona Airport, 235 Air Terminal Dr, Sedona, AZ 86336

Info: sedonaairport.org

Admission: Free

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 & 12

FORT VERDE DAYS



Step back in time and celebrate one of Arizona's longest-running traditions! Fort Verde Days returns for its 65th year with a lively parade down Main Street, food trucks, craft vendors, and old-fashioned fun at Fort Verde State Historic Park. Enjoy historic reenactments, live entertainment, kids' activities, and a full weekend of frontier spirit in the heart of Camp Verde.

Note: Service animals only.

Time: Saturday parade at 10AM, festival 11AM–7PM | Sunday 11AM–4PM

Location: Main Street & Fort Verde State Historic Park, Camp Verde

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 – 26

SEDONA AIRPLANE AIR FESTIVAL



Watch master artists paint Sedona's dramatic red-rock landscapes in real time during this week-long celebration packed with public paint-outs and free events.

Time: Daily 8 am – 5 pm

Location: Sedona Arts Center

Contact: Sedona Arts Center, (928) 282-3809

Admission: Most public elements are free; workshops may require fees



Farmer's MARKETS

SEDONA COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

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

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 11 AM - 3 PM

Location: 2201 W SR 89A, West Sedona

PRESCOTT FARMERS MARKET

Support local farmers, enjoy seasonal flavors, and help grow a healthier, stronger local economy with every purchase.

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

Location: 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

Friday nights in the Verde Valley features locally grown fruits and vegetables, artisan foods, and handcrafted goods like pottery, jewelry, and soaps—all set to live local music. Bring a chair, grab a bite, and enjoy a relaxed evening under the trees with your community.

Dates: September 12, 26

Time: 5 p.m. and continue until dark

Location: 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

VERDE VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

Discover real food from real farmers at the Verde Valley Farmers Market. Enjoy fresh, locally grown produce while supporting our community's farmers. Operated by local growers.

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

Time: 8 AM - 11 AM

Location: 75 Hollamon St, Camp Verde

WINDMILL PARK FARMERS MARKET

Shop fresh and local every Thursday at Windmill Park! Find farm-to-table produce, sprouts, fruits, nuts, eggs, vegan organics, fresh bread, and honey—straight from local growers.

Date: Every Thursday

Time: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: 9950 E Cornville Rd, Cornville, AZ



Community MARKETS

OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

Shop locally grown fruits & vegetables, homemade items and more while listening to fabulous regional musicians.

Dates: September 5, 12, 26

Time: 5 PM Until Dark

Location: 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

FLAGSTAFF URBAN FLEA MARKET

Explore the eclectic and vibrant Flagstaff Urban Flea Market, a gathering of artisans and peddlers offering a unique variety of goods. Find everything from records, antiques, and books to handmade woodwork, ceramics, and vintage clothing. Plus, discover gems and minerals, soaps, used tools, comics, toys, jewelry, up-cycled goods, flowers, and other funky treasures.

Date: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, June 14th through October 25th

Time: 9 AM - 2 PM

Location: City Hall parking lot, 211 W. Aspen, Downtown Flagstaff on Historic Route 66

Admission: Free

PEDDLER'S PASS OLD-TIME FARMERS & FLEA MARKET

Visit Peddler's Pass Old-Time Farmers & Flea Market in Prescott Valley, a bustling open-air swap meet offering a diverse array of items. From seasonal farm produce and yard-sale secondhand goods to antiques, tools, collectibles, and rocks & gems, there's something for everyone. Known as "the best swap meet in Arizona," this family-friendly market features affordable finds and a wide variety of vendors.

Date: Every Saturday & Sunday, Year-Round

Time: 6 AM - 3 PM (Early morning is prime time for the best picks)

Location: 6201 E. State Route 69, Prescott Valley

Admission: Free



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THE COMMUNITY RALLIES TO RAISE \$42,121 FOR THE PINEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT!

The Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary, together with Agee's BBQ, hosted the 5th Annual Labor Day Fundraiser in support of our Pinewood Fire Department. Thanks to the hard work of the Auxiliary volunteers, the generosity of their sponsors, and the incredible support of this community, \$42,121.11 was raised for our firefighters.

Congratulations to our Split the Pot winners:

- 1st place – Darcie Ruiz, \$7,943.75
- 2nd place – Alex McPherson, \$4,766.25
- 3rd place – Lynn Edlebeck, \$3,177.50

And a heartfelt thank you to the sponsors, whose support made this event possible:

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- Confident Comfort – Aaron Keams
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- Dynamic Plumbing – Joe & Annette Esposito
- Findlay Honda – Jacob Lundie
- George Ross Painting – George Ross
- Ignace Brothers Commercial
- Liberty Plumbing – Tom Ford
- Movement Mortgage – Jared Plonski
- Sardella's Pizza – Amanda Sardella
- SealMaster of Arizona – Dave Boon
- Valor Contracting – Jacob Lindenstein
- Wine Tasting and More – Deanne Martin
- Woodland Renovations – Larry McCoy



Photos by Barbara Sherman

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- ✓ Munds Park Resident



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FROM THE PILE TO THE PIPES, HONORING 9/11

Meet Tom Ford of Liberty Plumbing

If you've ever needed a plumber in Munds Park or surrounding areas, chances are you've seen the Liberty Plumbing truck or even shaken hands with Tom Ford himself. But what you may not know is the story behind the man who owns it. Tom isn't just a business owner. He's a neighbor. He and his family have a cabin right here in Munds Park, and they spend time in the area whenever they can.

Long before all that, Tom was a kid growing up in a small apartment near JFK Airport in Queens, New York. His dad drove a city bus and worked long hours. His mom waited tables before finding steady work with a plumbing company. They didn't have much, but they worked hard, and Tom learned from them early on that showing up and doing the job right mattered more than anything.

Out of high school, he had one goal. He wanted to be a New York City police officer. While waiting for the call, he went to work for one of his mom's former coworkers who had started a plumbing business. Tom picked up the trade quickly and joined the union. For several years, he worked in Manhattan on high-rise buildings, then finally got the call to join the NYPD in 1997.

Assigned to the 101st Precinct in Far Rockaway, Tom spent his days on patrol and his evenings still doing plumbing jobs on the side. For years, he balanced both, driven by that same work ethic he saw in his parents. In 1996, he met Tara. They started dating in 2000 and got engaged on September 8, 2001. They threw a big party the next day to celebrate.

Two days later, everything changed.

Tom was off duty on the morning of September 11th. Tara was in Manhattan for her first day back at work. She called to say a plane had hit the World Trade Center. At first, it looked like a small aircraft accident. But as they stayed on the phone, the second plane hit. They both knew this was something much bigger.

Once Tom was sure Tara was out of danger, he headed to the precinct. Officers were being loaded onto buses and sent straight into Manhattan. When they arrived, the towers were still smoldering. Officially, they were there to control traffic. But that didn't sit right. Instead, Tom and his fellow officers joined the rescue and recovery effort on the pile.

He spent the next three months digging through the debris of the Twin Towers. It was brutal. They worked eighteen-hour days, often without proper protective gear, surrounded by dust so thick it was hard to breathe and harder to see. They followed search dogs into unstable buildings, digging with bare hands and handing off buckets in a line



At Ground Zero after the September 11 attacks, Tom Ford, far left, stands with fellow NYPD officers during the early days of recovery.

that came to be known as the bucket brigade. Sometimes alarms would go off warning that nearby buildings might collapse. At first, they ran. Later, they stopped running. They had made peace with the risk.

Tom came home each night for a short breath of rest, then went back in the morning. The emotional toll was heavy. The physical toll didn't let up either. He was injured during that time, and while recovering, another disaster hit. In November 2001, just two months after the towers fell, American Airlines Flight 587 crashed in Queens. Tom saw smoke rising from the site and rushed in once again.

With all of that behind him, Tom and Tara took a trip to Arizona. It wasn't just a vacation. It was a reset. While driving through Anthem, they came across a neighborhood they liked, took a closer look, and on a whim, bought their first house there in 2002. It felt like a new beginning.

Tom officially retired from the NYPD and decided to build something from the ground up. In 2003, he started Liberty Plumbing. He also looked into police work in the Phoenix area and nearly joined the Department of Public Safety. But when he learned he could be placed anywhere in the state, he chose to stay rooted and focus fully on his business.

He ran Liberty Plumbing with the same values that shaped his life: service, honesty, and showing up when it matters. For Tom, plumbing is more than pipes and fittings. It is walking into someone's home during a stressful moment and offering helpful options. It is treating every customer the way you would treat your own family.

Twenty-two years later, Liberty is still going strong. His kids now work for the company. They are learning the trade just like their father did, and they carry on that same commitment to integrity. Whether it is Anthem, Phoenix, or here in Munds Park, Tom's team shows up with the same care and professionalism they've had since day one.

And he has not forgotten what shaped him. Every Liberty uniform bears an American flag and the number 23, honoring the 23 NYPD officers who died on September 11th. That memory stays close. He says when the anniversary rolls around each

year, it all comes back. Not just the pain, but also the unity. He misses that sense of togetherness. He wishes more people remembered.

Tom Ford is more than a business owner. He's a former cop, a husband, a father, and someone who chose to rebuild his life without forgetting where he came from. He is also your neighbor, one of the many who help keep this community running, not just with tools and trucks, but with heart.



Tom and his wife, Tara.



Supporting those who serve. Tom Ford and Fire Chief Josh Tope during a \$1,500 donation drop-off for the new firehouse.

THEY CAME LIKE A PACK OF WOLVES

One Couple's Backyard Turned Battleground

BY SANDEE CAVINESS



It was supposed to be a peaceful morning. A rare Friday off together. Clayton and Chris Wooley sat under their backyard gazebo, sipping coffee and enjoying the stillness. Their dog, Freckles, an Australian Shepherd, was tied securely nearby, and their brand-new puppy, also a cattle dog, just two days home, was leashed to a chair close to Chris. For Clayton and Chris, this was sacred time. Calm. Safe.

Until it wasn't.

Out of nowhere, the peace was shattered. A low rumble of barking cut through the morning stillness. Then, chaos. Three pit bulls came charging from a neighboring yard. No collars. No leashes. No warning.

Freckles, doing what any protective dog would do, darted toward the threat, her lead stretching to its limit, snapping her off her feet. She landed hard on her back, stunned. Immediately, the dogs were on her.

"They went for her throat," Clayton recalls. "I've seen a pit bull attack before. I knew what was about to happen. They were trying to kill her."

He dove into the frenzy, fists swinging, shoving the snarling jaws away from Freckles' exposed neck, screaming for help, but no one came. Then a fourth dog rushed in. Now Clayton was facing four large dogs with only his bare hands and raw desperation.

While Clayton is fighting off a massive dog attack, four Jack Russell Terriers appeared and began biting Clayton's ankles before swarming Chris. Eight dogs in total. Eight unleashed animals, attacking in a wave of chaos and violence.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the yard, Chris was fighting to protect their new puppy, who had become tangled in her leash. With no way to free her, Chris threw herself on top of the tiny dog, using her own body as a shield while the Jack Russells clawed and bit at her, trying to get to the puppy underneath.

By sheer instinct and adrenaline, Clayton managed to unhook Freckles and drag her to safety inside the house. When he came back out, bloodied and breathless, one of the dog owners, an aggressive and belligerent man, confronted him.

The man grabbed Clayton's shoulders, and began yelling at him. Still shaken, Clayton swept his hands off and said, "Don't touch me!", putting him on notice.

The man had the audacity to say it was Clayton's fault. That Freckles, a leashed dog in her own backyard, had "started it." That lie was only the beginning. They claimed they only had five dogs, and there were eight.

Chris and Clayton did the right thing by calling Animal Control. Officers took statements, confirmed the dogs were illegally off leash, and ordered a ten-day quarantine for one pit bull. But so far, there have been no citations. The incident remains under investigation.

Clayton was bitten in the face, with a punctured nose and aggravated spinal injuries. Chris suffered bruises and scrapes. Freckles was bitten in the jaw, and their puppy, only two days home, was left traumatized. Now the family is burdened with emergency room bills, veterinary costs, and ongoing medical care.

The Off-Leash Culture That's Putting Everyone at Risk

This is not just about one attack. It is about a culture in Munds Park that looks the other way. This place is a haven for dogs, and that's a beautiful thing. But it is also known for owners who let their dogs roam off leash, don't supervise them, and allow them to slip out of yards and into danger.



...Continued on next page.



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Story after story surfaces about people being rushed, bitten, or knocked down on walks. Facebook feeds are full of posts about loose dogs, and yet people scroll past them like it is normal. It is not.

Clayton and Chris did everything right. Their dogs were restrained. They were in their own yard. And still, they were attacked. This didn't happen in isolation. It happened in a community where far too many people stay silent, where calling it in is treated like tattling, and where reckless dog owners keep getting away with it.

If your dog roams or escapes and you fail to fix it, you are putting people and pets in danger. Posting about a loose dog on Facebook is a start, but it is not enough. If you do not call it in, Animal Control has no way of knowing what is happening in the Park, and they cannot do anything about it. And if the owner never sees the Facebook post, then what? You still have a loose dog, and nothing gets resolved.

Call it in. Speak up. Hold people accountable. That is how we make this stop.

How to Protect Yourself, Your Children & Your Pets

After an attack like this, the question becomes unavoidable: how do you protect yourself, your pets, and your peace of mind in a community where dogs are often off leash?

Some residents in Munds Park have started carrying pepper spray, tasers, or even firearms while walking their dogs. The fear is real. However, it is essential to understand what is actually legal, effective, and safe in Arizona before anyone makes a terrible situation worse.

Under Arizona law, you are only legally allowed to use deadly force, such as a firearm, if a person's life is in immediate danger. Pets, under state law, are considered property. That means shooting a dog because it is attacking your dog could land you in criminal or civil court. You might think you are doing the right thing, but the law may not be on your side.

Pepper spray and tasers might seem like safer options, but they come with their own risks. Pepper spray can blow back in your face, especially with wind. It does not always stop a dog and can actually make aggressive dogs more frantic. Tasers are even less reliable. Most do not penetrate thick fur, and if you miss, you may just provoke the dog further. Legally, using these tools on someone else's dog, even in defense, could still lead to claims of property damage or even animal cruelty. The law is vague, and there are no clear protections in place for defending your pet with these methods.

So what are your options?

Report every incident. Always. According to Coconino County, every dog roaming at large should be reported. A dog should never be roaming without a human. Posting a photo on Facebook might help identify the owner, but that is not enough. Call Animal Control. You have no idea what you might be preventing—a future attack, an injured animal, or a child in danger. You could even be saving that dog's life. Making the call is not just smart. It is the right thing to do.

If you or your animal is attacked or rushed, call Animal Control immediately. Do not hesitate. And if you are actively being attacked, like in the case of Clayton and Chris, call 911 as soon as possible. That will dispatch law enforcement, Animal Control, and medical responders. It takes time for help to reach Munds Park, so call quickly. This is why these services exist. This is what our tax dollars support. Use them.

Have important numbers saved in your phone, and you can always find them in the back of the Pinewood News. For your convenience, we've listed them here, plug them in your phone now while its on your mind.

Coconino County Animal Management: (928) 679-8756

Sheriff's non-emergency dispatch: (928) 774-4523

Even the non-emergency line goes through dispatch and can trigger a response.

Use non-lethal tools that work. Carrying an air horn, a loud whistle, or a sturdy walking stick might sound simple, but they are highly effective. These tools can startle a charging dog, create space, and give you time to get away without escalating the danger or risking legal trouble.

Know how to act. Experts recommend avoiding eye contact with an aggressive dog, turning your body sideways, and speaking in a calm, firm voice. Do not scream or run. That can trigger the dog further. If a dog approaches, use your stick to create a barrier or your horn to surprise and stop it.

Push for enforcement. The laws to prevent attacks like the one Clayton and Chris experienced already exist. What is missing is accountability. The more reports that come in, the more pressure there is on the county to act. When people stay silent, dangerous behavior goes unchecked. Authorities cannot act on what they do not know. Every report matters.

This is about more than one family's trauma. It is about public safety and the right to feel safe in your own community. Take action. Make the call. And help protect others by doing what the county is asking every resident to do. Call.



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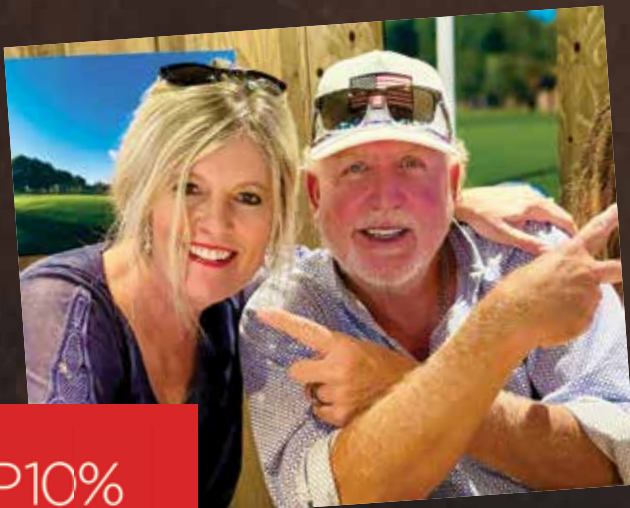
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FALL FORAGING

The Best Mushrooms for Those Who Roam the Wild

When late summer rains sink into the soil and mornings turn crisp, the forests of Northern Arizona shift into high gear. Pines hold the damp air, the duff softens, and suddenly, mushrooms push up through the forest floor. Not all are edible. Some are dangerous. But three species stand out for their beauty, flavor, and the fact that they are relatively easy to recognize: golden chanterelles, lobster mushrooms, and winter chanterelles.

Golden Chanterelles (*Cantharellus* spp.)

How to Identify

Chanterelles are one of the most recognizable mushrooms of fall. Look for funnel-shaped caps two to four inches across, wavy at the edges, glowing golden yellow or orange against the dark duff. The surface feels smooth and firm. Bend down and breathe in. They smell faintly of apricots or peaches. That aroma is a signature.

Flip one over. Instead of knife-sharp gills, you will see blunt, forked ridges that run down the stem. This is the key difference from false chanterelles, which have thinner, sharper gills and lack the fruity scent.

How to Find

Golden chanterelles grow in damp, shady soil under conifers, especially pines and firs. They like mossy ground and the edges of old drainage areas where rain lingers. They usually grow scattered, not in tight clusters, so train your eye to look for those golden flashes under needles and duff. After steady rains, give it a week before heading out. Mushrooms need that time to push up.

Cooking Tips

Sauté chanterelles in butter or olive oil with just a sprinkle of salt and they develop a nutty, fruity flavor. Add them to scrambled eggs, cream sauces, or risotto. They pair well with garlic, thyme, and cream. Avoid overcooking as they toughen if fried too long.

Nutritional & Medicinal Notes

Chanterelles are a source of vitamin D2, potassium, and antioxidants. They support immune and bone health. Some studies suggest antibacterial properties, but research is still early.

Lobster Mushrooms (*Hypomyces lactiflorum*)

How to Identify

Lobster mushrooms are unforgettable. A parasitic fungus takes over a host mushroom, usually *Russula* or *Lactarius*, and transforms it. The cap and stem become hard and bright red-orange, with a rough, almost crusty surface. Inside, the flesh is white and solid.

Size varies, but many grow five to seven inches across and feel heavy in the hand. A fresh lobster smells earthy and faintly seafood-like. If the inside is hollow, brown, or crumbly, it is past its prime.



How to Find

Look for lobster mushrooms under conifers, especially where *Russulas* are known to grow. They favor well-drained slopes with rich duff and often appear in the same spots year after year. They tend to grow partly buried in the needles, so the bright orange surface is often the first clue. After heavy rains, they can be abundant within a week.

Cooking Tips

Because they are dense, lobster mushrooms hold up well in hearty cooking. Roast slices in olive oil with herbs, toss them into chowders, or fold them into risotto. Their firm texture also makes them excellent for grilling. Chop them small and sauté with onions and cream for a sauce that pairs with fish or pasta.

Nutritional & Medicinal Notes

Lobsters are high in fiber and provide protein, potassium, and copper. They do not have a long history of medicinal use, but they are a reliable source of nutrition and make a filling ingredient.

*“The clearest way into the Universe
is through a forest wilderness.”*

— John Muir



... Continued on page 3B



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Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B

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Winter Chanterelles (Craterellus tubaeformis)

How to Identify

Winter chanterelles, also called yellowfoot or trumpet chanterelles, are more subtle. Their caps are brown to gray-brown, one to two inches across, with hollow yellowish stems. The shape resembles a trumpet, open at the top and tapering below. They are thin and delicate compared to golden chanterelles.



How to Find

These appear later in the season, often close to the first frost. They favor mossy, shaded ground, especially near rotting wood or on damp hillsides. Unlike golden chanterelles, they can form generous patches, so once you find one, stop and scan carefully. Their muted color blends in until your eyes adjust.

Cooking Tips

Winter chanterelles have a smoky, earthy flavor. They are excellent in soups and stews. They dry very well and drying concentrates their flavor. Keep jars on hand for winter cooking, or grind them into a seasoning powder that lifts gravies and sauces. Sauté them with butter and cream for a rustic mushroom sauce that carries their flavor beautifully.

Nutritional & Medicinal Notes

Winter chanterelles are high in B vitamins and fiber. A few studies have reported small amounts of vitamin B12 in chanterelles and related species, but levels vary and they should not be relied on as a dietary source.

Why Forage?

Mushrooms offer food, but they also offer perspective. Foraging slows you down. You notice how the pine needles spring under your step, how the forest smells after rain, how quiet it can be when you are listening. Walking in the woods is good for your heart, your mood, and your patience. Even if you come home with an empty basket, you bring back something of value.

Respecting the Forest

Take only what you will use. Cut or twist mushrooms at the base instead of pulling them out. Carry them in a basket or mesh bag so spores can spread as you walk. Always leave part of a patch behind for the forest and its wildlife.

And keep your spot quiet. Mushroom hunters guard their locations for good reason. Too much pressure on a patch can destroy it for years. Protecting your find protects the forest and ensures future harvests. And check before you go: personal, noncommercial foraging is usually allowed in Coconino National Forest, but always follow current forest rules.

The Season Is Now

From late summer rains until the first frost, the forests of Northern Arizona offer golden chanterelles, lobster mushrooms, and winter chanterelles. They are nutritious, delicious, and distinct enough for a beginner to learn. Walk the woods, pay attention, and let the forest surprise you. Whether you bring back a full basket or just muddy boots, you will have stepped into one of fall's quiet gifts.

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PREPARING YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME FOR WINTER

A real-world guide for people who want peace of mind all winter.

Living in the mountains is a gift. But every long-timer has a story of that one winter, the one where pipes froze, the roof leaked, or the heater died. If you don't prepare your home like someone who's been through it, nature will teach you the hard way.

Here's how to do it right the first time.

Before the First Flake Falls

Check Your Heating System Before It's Freezing Outside

If your heater hasn't been serviced in the last year, now's the time. Schedule a licensed HVAC technician to inspect it, change the filters, and ensure it's running safely and efficiently. Waiting until it's already cold puts you at the back of a long line. A simple tune-up now can prevent a breakdown in the dead of winter — or worse, a carbon monoxide leak.

PRO TIP: Many insurance policies recommend or require annual servicing of central heating systems. It's not just smart, it's documented protection.

Clean Your Chimney & Inspect Your Wood Stove

If you burn wood for heat, have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually. Creosote builds up faster at high altitudes and in colder climates, especially with wet or unseasoned wood. Left unchecked, it can ignite and cause a chimney fire. Even if you're just using a fireplace for ambiance, the risk is real.

PRO TIP: Make sure your chimney cap is in place and in good condition to keep out critters, snow, and sparks in.

Gutter & Roof Readiness

Ice dams are the silent destroyers of mountain homes. Clean your gutters, inspect the downspouts, and ensure your roof sheds snow properly.

Have a roofer inspect for loose shingles and weak spots. One snow dump can weigh thousands of pounds.

PRO TIP: Avoid hiring roofers who go door-to-door drumming up business after storms. These quick-in, quick-out crews often aren't local, may not be licensed, and rarely stick around if there's a problem later. Hire one of *our proven professionals* instead. They know the area, stand by their work, and will still be here when the snow melts.

Know Where to Shut Off the Water & Sewer and Keep Them Clear

Don't just "know" where your main water shutoff and sewer cleanouts are. Find them, clear the area around them, ensure the water valves work, and flag them so they can be easily located during a snowstorm.

In the middle of a storm, when a pipe bursts or a sewer line backs up, no one is going to dig through a snowbank for you. At least not cheaply. They can, and often do, charge a premium.

PRO TIP: Snap a picture of the shut-off and cleanout locations and save



them in your phone. If someone else needs to shut things down for you, that photo can save your home.

Insulate & Drain Everything Outside

That hose bib? Drain it. That irrigation line? Blow it out. Outdoor kitchen? Shut it all down. Don't trust "frost-free" anything. Cold finds a way.

Any pipe outside the heated envelope of your home should be drained or wrapped, preferably both.

Or better yet, hire one of our licensed plumbers to winterize your cabin. Having a professional perform the work can also help with insurance coverage in the event of any winter damage.

Line Up Your Snow Plow Guy Now

By the time it snows, it's already too late. Every reliable plow service will be booked solid. Make your calls early and get a seasonal contract if possible.

PRO TIP: Use tall driveway markers or reflective stakes. After just 2 or 3 feet of snow, everything disappears. Make sure your plow service knows exactly where your propane tank, water and sewer cleanouts, shut-off valves, walk paths, and driveway edges are. These areas must stay clear of snow so services like propane delivery and emergency plumbing can still reach your home. Some pros will charge extra or even refuse service if they have to dig through snow to access what should already be visible. And while we hope it's never needed, emergency services also need a clear path to your home.

Prep for Power Outages Like They're Guaranteed

Because they are. Have:

- A serviced generator
- Backup fuel
- Battery-powered carbon monoxide detectors
- Manual backup heat (wood, propane, pellet stove, wool blankets)

Pro Tip: If you're not here full-time, install temperature and water-leak monitors that alert you over a cell network, not just Wi-Fi.

Stack Your Firewood Right

Keep firewood off the ground and covered, but not sealed. Airflow matters because it prevents moisture buildup, which leads to mold, rot, and wood that won't burn well when you need it most. And keep at least a week's supply accessible without trekking across the property in a blizzard.



...Continued on next page.

Mountain-Wise Extras Most People Forget

Seal the Gaps

Critters love warm cabins. Mice can squeeze through a hole the size of a pencil.

Seal around pipes, vents, crawl spaces, and eaves. Use steel wool or metal mesh, not just foam.

It's not if they'll try to get in, it's when.

Winterize the Hot Water Heater

Whether you're staying or not, insulate your water heater and the lines around it. If you're leaving for the season, drain it properly.

This is not DIY territory. Hire a licensed plumber and get it done right. Burst heaters will flood homes.

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Test all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Change the batteries now, not later. Install at least one carbon monoxide detector near sleeping areas and another near your heating source. This is especially important if you use propane or wood heat.

Leaving for the Winter?

Your Cabin Needs Heat Even When You're Not There

Don't turn off your heat just because you're heading back to the city. Set it no lower than 55°F and don't rely solely on smart thermostats.

Wi-Fi fails. Power cuts out. And if your heat goes with it, so do your pipes.

PRO TIP: Install a cellular temperature monitor that sends alerts when indoor temps drop. Have a trusted local contact who can access your cabin fast if you get an alert. Some insurers now require this for vacant homes.

Schedule a Winter Watch

If you're a seasonal visitor, hire a local to check your place weekly. This is smart and sometimes required by your insurance company.

Why You Should Hire a Professional to Winterize Your Cabin

If you're not living in your cabin full-time, proper winterization is essential. Cold mountain nights can destroy plumbing, flood your home, and leave behind damage that isn't discovered until spring, when it's far too late.

That's why hiring a professional to winterize your cabin is worth every penny.

Licensed plumbers know how to:

- Drain and blow out water lines
- Protect your water heater and fixtures
- Add antifreeze to traps and toilets if needed
- Secure your system so it can handle hard freezes

Insurance companies may require it. Many policies will not cover winter-related water damage unless the home was properly winterized. Hiring a licensed pro gives you documentation that can protect your claim if something goes wrong.

Even better, most local plumbers offer seasonal open and close services. They will winterize your cabin after you leave, then de-winterize it before your next visit. You don't have to guess or worry. It's one call, and your cabin is ready when you are.

PRO TIP: Book early. Once temperatures drop, schedules fill up fast.

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Trunk or Treat

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The Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary is excited to host a Halloween Trunk or Treat, and we need your help to make it an unforgettable event! We're looking for spirited folks to decorate their cars with fun and creative themes and hand out candy (we'll provide the treats).

We also need volunteers to help run games, lead crafts, and assist with other activities. It's a great way to give back and spread some joy to our community's children.

Candy donations are welcome, too! You can drop off any contributions at the fire station, Post Office, or Gail's place at 17255 Kay Place.

If you'd like to decorate a car, volunteer, or donate candy, please contact Gail VanDeurzen at 623-670-0255.

Let's come together to create a safe and fun Halloween for everyone!

When: Saturday, October 25th, 11 am to 1 pm

Where: Pinewood Country Club parking lot

• *Event may be postponed or canceled due to inclement weather.* •

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE PINEWOOD NEWS



After 60 years of marriage, Dave and Carol Kasper did celebrate—but not just with cake and candles. In early August, they hit the road to Illinois and Wisconsin, visiting former neighbors and longtime friends, handing out keepsakes from their anniversary and gathering more memories along the way. Pictured here in beautiful Lake Geneva, it's all smiles and stories, just like old times. Carol's advice? Make everyday count!

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Simon stands proudly with the 4th of July edition of The Pinewood News at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis, Missouri. The photo was taken on July 24th—a quiet moment of reflection at a place that honors service, history, and sacrifice. A fitting stop for a man who understands all three..



Take Us With You!

Headed out of town? Bring The Pinewood News, snap a photo on your adventure, and send it to hello@thepinewoodnews.com with your name, destination, and a quick note. You might see it in an upcoming issue!

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GAME HIGHLIGHTS FROM PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB



Gary Dion



Ron Goldstein



Char Lewis Wins Niners Tournament

Congratulations to Char Lewis who was the winner of the Lady Niners' Presidents Club tournament in August. Her name will be the next one placed on the plaque which was presented to her by Pinewood Country Club Tournament Director Damian Getejanc.

Senior Club Championship Crowns Dion, Goldstein

The Pinewood Men's Golf Association held their Senior Club Championship on August 9th and 10th. The overall Champion is Gary Dion. The Net Champion is Ron Goldstein.

Men's Golf Champions Crowned

The Pinewood Men's Golf Association held its season long 2 man match play tournament. The team that survived and are the champions are Terry Allen and Jerry Callaway. Thank you to all of the teams that competed.

Glow party closes out pickleball season

Pinewood Pickleball will close its season with a glow-in-the-dark party on Sept. 7 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the pickleball and tennis complex. With construction ending play early this year, the club chose to celebrate in style.

Open to all PWCC members and their guests, the night will feature a deejay, refreshments for purchase, and plenty of neon. Attendees are encouraged to wear glow jewelry and other items that shine under black lights. Tickets are available at the door, with more information at the club.



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WINGS OVER ARIZONA

NEST BOX

TRAIL RESULTS ARE IN!

BY MARGARET DYEKMAN



Pygmy Nuthatch courtesy of Muriel Neddermeyer.

It was a pretty good year for the 14 boxes on the Pinewood Country Club nest box trail. One thing about 2025, we had a lot of bird diversity, with five different cavity-nesting species using the boxes. The nest boxes are spread across the 18-hole golf course, most of them set on the edges away from the cart paths. About half of the boxes are on pipes with predator baffles, and the other half are secured by screws to trees.

The boxes produced 13 Western Bluebirds, 7 House Wrens, 6 Pygmy Nuthatches, 6 Mountain Chickadees, and 5 Violet-green Swallows. How do we know this? Well, two of us took turns checking the boxes on a weekly basis from mid-April through mid-August, recording data in an app hosted by NestWatch.org. It takes a little over an hour to monitor all the boxes using a bike or golf cart to get around. We recorded when a nest was first started, usually with twigs and soft material like animal hair, up through the fledglings flying the coop, so to speak. The tiny House Wrens will take three-to-six-inch twigs and turn them sideways to fit through the 1-and-a-half-inch hole and then pile them high into the box. For the House Wren nest, it was difficult sometimes to even look down into the box to see if there was any evidence of eggs or babies. The other boxes had more of what you or I would call a traditional nest - a circle of twigs covered with finer material with an indentation for the parent to sit on the eggs.

The Pygmy Nuthatches, whose babies are like little gray puff-balls, used the box closest to Pinewood Boulevard. The box that is at the back of the golf course driving range had Western Bluebirds nest in it for three years straight. Sometimes when we carefully peeked inside a box, the mother bird was sitting on the nest, so we would have to count eggs or babies on another weekly check.

All in all, it was a good season for baby birds. And compared to the nest box trails at Kachina Wetlands and Picture Canyon, the boxes in Munds Park produced the most young with the most species variety. I think we'll be doing this again next year!

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.



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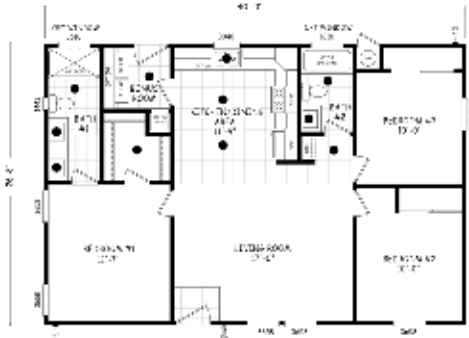
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PIGEONS, THE BIRD YOU'VE BEEN SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATING

BY GEORGE, THE GREAT BRAIN

If you've ever seen a pigeon strutting across a sidewalk like it owns the place, you probably didn't stop and say, "Wow, there goes a war hero, a letter carrier, a scientist's assistant, and a symbol of peace all in one."

But you should have.

Because that bird with the shiny neck feathers and potato-chip diet? It's been flying missions for over 5,000 years. That's right. Before we domesticated dogs, before cats decided they'd let us live with them, people were raising pigeons.

They were messengers for kings, emperors, and pharaohs. Pigeons delivered Olympic results in ancient Greece, and they carried royal orders across entire empires. Long before mail trucks and smartphones, pigeons were our fastest, most reliable messengers. They always found their way home, and they didn't need batteries, signal bars, or lunch breaks.

And then came the wars.

In World War I, a group of American soldiers were trapped behind enemy lines. Surrounded. Running out of hope. They tied a desperate message to the leg of their last pigeon, a small blue-gray bird named Cher Ami. She flew through gunfire and smoke, hit by bullets, one leg barely hanging on. But she didn't quit. She flew twenty-five miles and delivered the message. Nearly 200 lives were saved.

Then came World War II. One pigeon named G.I. Joe flew twenty miles in twenty minutes to stop a bombing that would have wiped out a British battalion. He got there just in time. Another, named Gustav, flew across the English Channel with the first news of the D-Day



landings. These weren't pets. These were soldiers with feathers.

They didn't ask for medals. But they got them.

Now let's talk doves. You know those pure white birds released at weddings? Those are a kind of pigeon. In fact, pigeons and doves are cousins—same family, same smarts, same loyalty. People use "dove" when they want to sound poetic. "Pigeon" when they want to blame someone for the crumbs on the patio. Truth is, both birds are symbols of peace, love, and endurance across many cultures.

And they've earned it.

Pigeons aren't just brave. They're brilliant. Scientists have taught them to recognize words, pick out individual letters, and even spot cancer cells in microscope slides. They remember faces. They can tell art styles apart. They know left from right and up from down and, most importantly, home from not-home.

And when they bond with a human, they remember them for life.

Some pigeons make incredible pets. They're quiet, calm, curious, and clean, once you get the hang of pigeon diapers or a tidy outdoor coop. They won't bark at the mail carrier, and they don't claw the furniture.



... Continued on page 12B

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SCAN ME!

PIGEONS

... Continued from page 11B

They coo. They nuzzle. They preen. Some even like watching television. Plus, pigeons are excellent for people who can't have dogs or cats. They don't mind small spaces. They don't need to be walked. They're happy to perch on your shoulder while you read a book or do your math homework.

And if you're wondering whether pigeons love you back—yes. They choose mates for life. They cuddle. They defend their eggs like tiny, feathered bodyguards. And when they decide they trust you, it's personal.

So the next time you see a pigeon pacing outside a café, don't roll your eyes. You're looking at a bird that's flown through war, delivered news that changed history, inspired peace, and still knows how to share a sandwich crust with style.

TRY THIS!

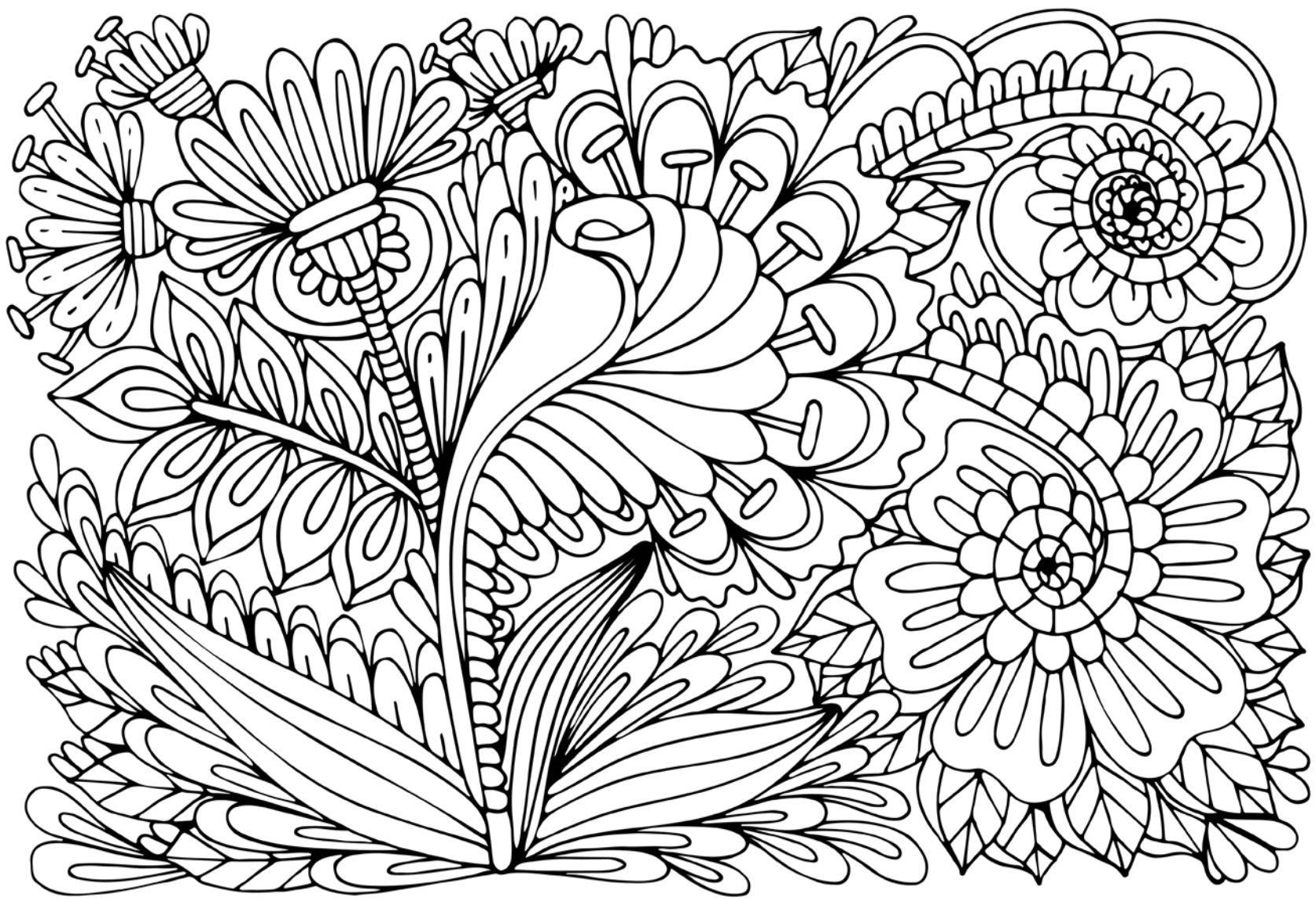
Make a "Pigeon Hall of Fame" poster. Include Cher Ami, G.I. Joe, and Gustav, or invent your own hero bird. Give them names, missions, and medals. Include dates, distances, and dramatic last-minute saves. Your wall might not be ready for this level of avian bravery, but it would be a fun project!

WHAT GEORGE THINKS

We praise lions for being fierce, dogs for being loyal, and owls for being wise. But pigeons? They just keep showing up, quietly brilliant, stubbornly loyal, and always underappreciated. Maybe it's time we noticed.

Until next time, keep your brain curious and your pencil sharp.

—The Great Brain



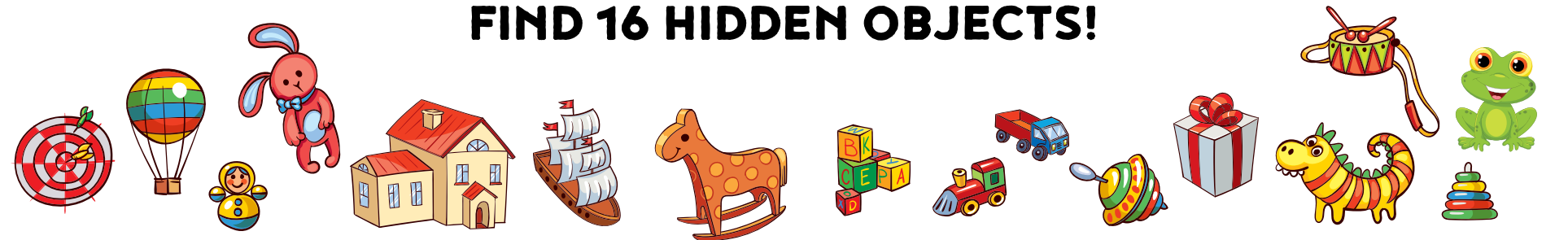
GRAB YOUR CRAYONS: LET'S TALK ABSTRACT ART

Most art looks like things you know, like a tree, a cat, or a superhero. Abstract art is different. It uses colors, shapes, and lines to show ideas or feelings instead of copying the real world.

Think of it like music. You don't need words to enjoy a song, you just feel it. Abstract art works the same way, and there is no "right" answer. So as you color this page, let your imagination take over. Use wild colors, bold patterns, or anything you like. You are not just coloring, you are creating your own abstract art.



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

PIGEONS ARE GREAT WORD SEARCH

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

Answers page 22B

Pigeon
 Dove
 Cher Ami
 G.I. Joe
 Gustav
 Peace
 Loyalty
 Messenger
 Soldier
 Empire
 Pharaoh

Feathers
 Brilliant
 Scientist
 Home



WORD SEARCH

Solution Page 22B

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

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VIGILANCE URGED DURING ONGOING CANINE DISTEMPER OUTBREAK



Photo by Steve Byland

Virus detected in coyotes, & foxes in Maricopa County; pets should be fully vaccinated

Yes, this outbreak is happening in Maricopa County—but don't let the distance fool you. Every day, dogs from the Valley make their way up to Munds Park, and the highly contagious canine distemper virus could easily hitch a ride. Pet owners here should take precautions now.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) has been receiving an increasing number of reports in recent weeks of sick or disoriented coyotes within residential neighborhoods, parks and green spaces.

Laboratory testing has confirmed the diagnosis of canine distemper, a highly contagious and often fatal viral disease that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of both domestic and wild animals, primarily canids.

While distemper cannot infect humans, it poses a serious risk to unvaccinated dogs and certain wildlife species. Pet owners should ensure their animals are fully vaccinated, keep dogs on a leash, and avoid contact with wildlife.

Infected coyotes and foxes may display unusual behavior such as a lack of fear toward humans, stumbling, seizures, or discharge from the eyes and nose. The virus spreads through direct contact, airborne droplets, and shared food or water sources. It's important to note that canine distemper cannot be distinguished from rabies based on clinical symptoms. To that point, it's important to avoid approaching or touching wildlife, and report any sick or dead animals to AZGFD.

The department recommends:

- Keeping pets up to date on vaccinations.
- Avoiding feeding or handling wildlife.
- Supervising pets outdoors, especially near areas with wildlife.

AZGFD will continue to monitor the outbreak and work closely with animal health partners to minimize risks and transmission. Contact your pet's veterinarian for more information on canine distemper.

To report sick or dead wildlife, call the department's 24-hour hotline at 623-236-7201.



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IN LOVING MEMORY

Alan John Kitchen

September 25, 1934 — May 23, 2025



Alan John Kitchen, born September 25, 1934, in North Tonawanda, New York, passed away at age 90 on May 23, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona.

At just 17, Alan joined the United States Air Force — fudging his age on the paperwork because he was determined to serve his country from 1952 to 1956. He served as a cryptographer while in Frankfurt, Germany for two years. After his service, he studied Ceramic Engineering at Alfred University in New York and graduated in 1960.

Alan began his career working in ceramic engineering plants, became a small business owner in 1975, and continued to work as a handyman well into “retirement.” There was hardly a home he and his wife, Ilse, lived in that didn’t showcase his handiwork—furniture he built, rooms he renovated, projects he tackled with care and skill.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Ilse Doerler Kitchen, and his sister, Sally Maxson. He is survived by his children: Lisa (Chris) Baker, Linda Kitchen, Mark (Paula) Kitchen, and Marlene (Luke) Brandemuehl; grandchildren: Jessica (Drew) Kessler, Paul (Margot) Kitchen, Anna (Luke) MacGregor, Jennifer Baker, Sarah Seitz, and Heidi Seitz; and great-grandchildren: Cameron Kessler and Emerson Kessler.

From his teenage years Alan believed in Jesus. He lived his life devoted to the Lord, exhibiting the Fruits of the Spirit in all circumstances. He and his wife loved being a part of church choirs and he was always committed to a Bible Study.

Alan was the definition of a family man—coming home from work to wrestle with his four young children, always involved, always present. He was also an athlete: high school badminton champ, Air Force basketball player, and undefeated family cornhole tournament contender.

His kids carry with them the life skills he passed on—how to use a saw, how to tie a knot, how to be a kind and decent person. To his grandkids, he was “trouble”—in the best way. Playful, mischievous, and full of fun.

Alan loved the outdoors. He could often be found working in the yard, taking long walks in the woods, or camping. He left his mark on every place he lived, and even more so on the people who knew and loved him.

Alan’s Celebration of Life Service will occur on September 20, 2025 at 1 pm at Munds Park Community Church, with light refreshments afterwards.

For those who wish to make a donation in Alan’s name and memory, you can give to:

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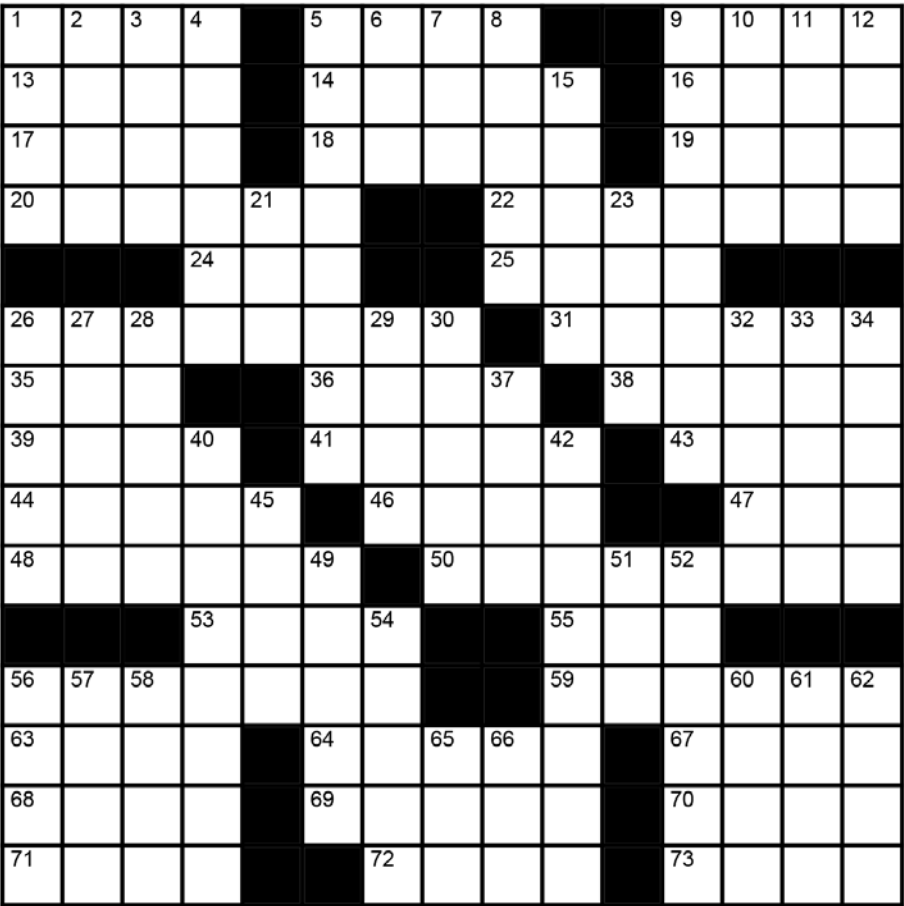
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 22B



ACROSS

1. Years and years
5. Smoothie berry
9. Plod along
13. Perry Como's "___ Loves Mambo"
14. Self-esteem
16. NASA scrub
17. Axis of ___
18. Heat-resistant glass
19. Hydrox alternative
20. Get hold of
22. Sushi wrapper
24. Sylvester, to Tweety
25. Ball field covering
26. Perks like health care
31. Bath powder
35. Tokyo, formerly
36. Shade of color
38. Wind-___ (carried by the wind)
39. Wine barrel plug
41. Eastern V.I.P.'s
43. Milldam (4)
44. Neptune's realm
46. Trim to fit, maybe
47. Luau dish
48. Gasoline, in England
50. On the way out
53. Hard work
55. Anderson's "High ___"
56. Pre-cable need
59. Sounded, as a tugboat horn
63. Pinocchio, at times
64. Primitive calculators

DOWN

67. Hourly pay
69. Two-dot punctuation
70. Excursion
71. Bassoon, e.g.
72. Saturn feature
73. Emcee
1. "Planet of the ___"
2. "I ___ at the office"
3. Cast-of-thousands film
4. Respectful greeting
5. Hankering
6. Boo-hoo
7. Balloon filler
8. That is, in Latin
9. Winter truck attachment
10. Elders' teachings
11. Curved molding
12. "Well done!"
15. Priest's permission to leave the diocese
21. Battle of Britain grp.
23. Saudi, e.g.
26. Jazz genre
27. Bring out
28. Fair-sized musical group
29. "A Brief History of ___" (Hawking's 1988 bestseller)
30. Like some remarks
32. French pancake
33. Workers' group
34. Kind of system
37. Barber's job
40. A band worn to hold

42. Letting stand
45. "High" time
49. Physics lab device, for short
51. Aussie hopper, for short
52. Increase in size
54. Work hard
56. Apple spray
57. "Good one!"
58. Domestic
60. Hawaiian tuber
61. Protection
62. Firm part: Abbr.
65. ___ Baba
66. Bamboozle

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WHAT THE STARS HAVE IN STORE FOR SEPTEMBER



ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Aries, September challenges you to focus that fiery energy on leveling up. The stars are rooting for you to finish what you've started—whether it's a project, a goal, or simply organizing your life. This isn't about slowing down;

it's about channeling your drive into meaningful wins. Embrace the fresh, crisp energy of fall to power your ambitions. Oh, and if you need a little extra motivation, pumpkin spice lattes count as rocket fuel. Let's go!



LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Leo, September invites you to explore the art of playfulness. You're always the one in charge, but this month is about letting loose and rediscovering what makes you laugh. Try something unexpected—join a trivia night,

master a goofy TikTok dance, or challenge friends to a bake-off (bonus points if it's messy). The stars remind you that leadership isn't just about effort; it's about inspiring joy. Your glow shines brightest when it's fueled by fun.



SAGITTARIUS, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Sagittarius, September wants you to embrace the season's spontaneity. Say yes to last-minute plans, whether it's a fall festival, a road trip, or simply running through a corn maze (bonus if you don't check the map). The

stars say adventure doesn't have to be grand—it's about finding joy in the unexpected. And if your adventurous spirit inspires others to tag along? Well, that just means more hands for pumpkin hauling.



TAURUS, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

Taurus, fall is practically your love language, and September is your time to shine. Cozy sweaters, warm drinks, and a slower pace are exactly what you need to recharge. This month, focus on creating comfort—both in your

space and in your relationships. The stars say a heart-to-heart over tea (or pie) could bring unexpected joy. And if anyone questions your third blanket purchase? Tell them you're "investing in your happiness."



VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Virgo, September says: "Take a bow." Your hardworking nature has carried you through, and now it's time to celebrate the harvest of your efforts—literally or metaphorically. The stars suggest a mini victory lap, whether it's

treating yourself to a fancy dinner or just basking in the satisfaction of a job well done. And if anyone points out something you missed? Remind them that even the most perfect pumpkins have a few bumps.



CAPRICORN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Capricorn, September encourages you to balance ambition with gratitude. Take a moment to reflect on how far you've come this year—hint: it's further than you think. Celebrate the wins, no matter how small, and use

them as fuel for what's next. The stars suggest a gratitude practice (yes, even you can try it), because acknowledging what you have is the best way to invite more. And remember: even mountains look beautiful from a picnic blanket.



GEMINI, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Gemini, September's crisp air brings a fresh start, and your curious mind is ready for it. Dive into a new class, podcast, or project that gets those wheels turning. The stars suggest you're most energized when you're

learning, so make this month about feeding your curiosity. And if you decide to share your newfound knowledge with everyone you know? Well, that's just part of your charm. Just try not to turn trivia night into a TED Talk.



LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Libra, September invites you to find beauty in the transitions. Whether it's embracing a wardrobe refresh, redecorating your space, or saying goodbye to an outdated mindset, this is your season of refinement. The stars

suggest that a little change will breathe new life into your world. Bonus points if it involves warm tones and twinkling lights. Oh, and don't forget—you're the designer of your life, so make it as stunning as your Instagram grid.



AQUARIUS, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Aquarius, September is your reminder that connection doesn't always require Wi-Fi. The stars encourage you to unplug and reconnect with your people—call a friend, host a game night, or just enjoy a heart-to-heart. Your

unique energy lights up any room, and others are craving your company. Besides, the world's problems can wait an hour or two while you laugh over cider. Bonus: hugs are optional, but highly recommended.



CANCER, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

Cancer, September invites you to soak in the sentimental vibes of fall. Whether it's organizing a family dinner or revisiting an old tradition, this month is about strengthening your connections. The stars encourage you to lean

into nostalgia without getting stuck in the past. A little comfort food and a heartfelt conversation will warm your heart—and maybe someone else's too. Bonus: baking counts as both therapy and bonding time.



SCORPIO, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Scorpio, September whispers: "Get grounded." The stars suggest connecting with the earth—take a hike, plant something, or just enjoy the crunch of leaves underfoot. This isn't about losing your edge; it's about finding

balance. You're unstoppable when your intensity is paired with calm focus. Plus, grounding yourself might just spark a new idea or two. And no, staring broodingly at a bonfire doesn't count as "connecting with nature"—but it's a start.



PISCES, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, September is about bringing your dreams to life. The stars suggest turning one of those dreamy ideas into reality—whether it's redecorating a corner of your home, starting a creative project, or finally planning that

autumn getaway. You have a gift for turning the ordinary into something magical, so trust your instincts. And if it doesn't go perfectly? That's just part of your whimsical charm. Fall is your season to make magic happen.

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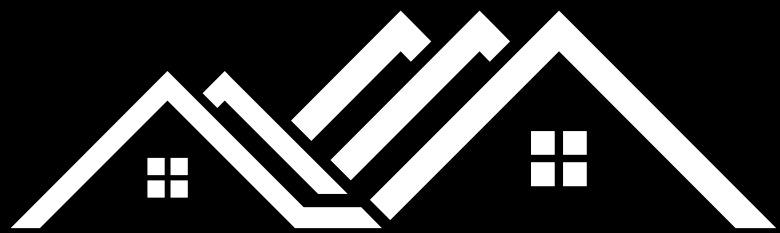
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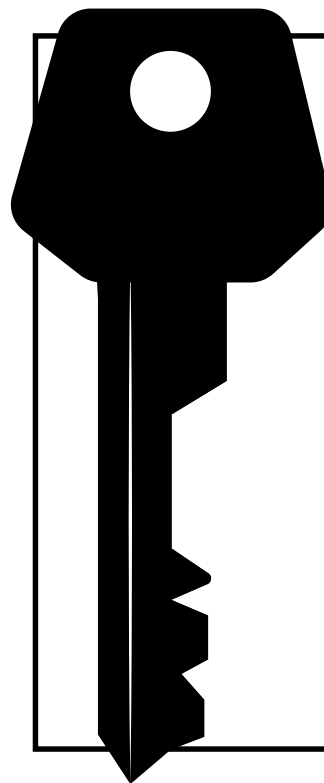


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BY SANDEE CAVINESS



Pastor Steve and his wife Sara

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Open House: Saturday, October 11, 2–4 pm
Munds Park Community Church

After ten years of faithfully serving Munds Park Community Church, Pastor Steve is retiring. Not because he wanted to. He made that clear. But because his health is telling him it's time, and because he cares more about the well-being of the church than holding on for himself.

Pastor Steve has never been about titles or attention. He's been about people. About showing up, listening, praying with you when things were hard, celebrating when things were good, and always pointing us toward hope. He preached the word of God with clarity and conviction. But more than that, he lived it quietly, humbly, and with a heart wide open.

For our family, Steve has been a steady, guiding voice. His words reached us in ways we didn't expect. He helped bring us closer to God not through pressure or preaching, but through honesty, kindness, and a deep belief that every person matters. He reminded us that faith isn't about pretending to have it all together. It's about leaning into something bigger when you don't.

We know we're not the only ones. Steve has touched so many lives here. He's married couples, comforted grieving families, baptized those ready to share their faith, and stood beside people during the hardest moments of their lives. He made our community feel like home. He made church feel like family.

This paper has been one of the ways he shared his heart. With every issue, readers could count on a message that felt grounded and relevant, something that reminded us what really matters and maybe brought us a little closer to Jesus. And though he's stepping down, we'll keep this space open for the new pastor to carry on the tradition of speaking to our readers. The work Pastor Steve has done here doesn't end with him. It lives on in this community.

Pastor Steve, from your Munds Park family, we can't thank you enough. We pray this next chapter brings you cheering in the stands for the D-Backs, days full of relaxation, recovery, and plenty of time with Sara and the kids. You've given this community so much. Now it's time to enjoy the life you've helped so many of us find.

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For serious attacks or issues, call the Sheriffs Office (928) 774-4523

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

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

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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.

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