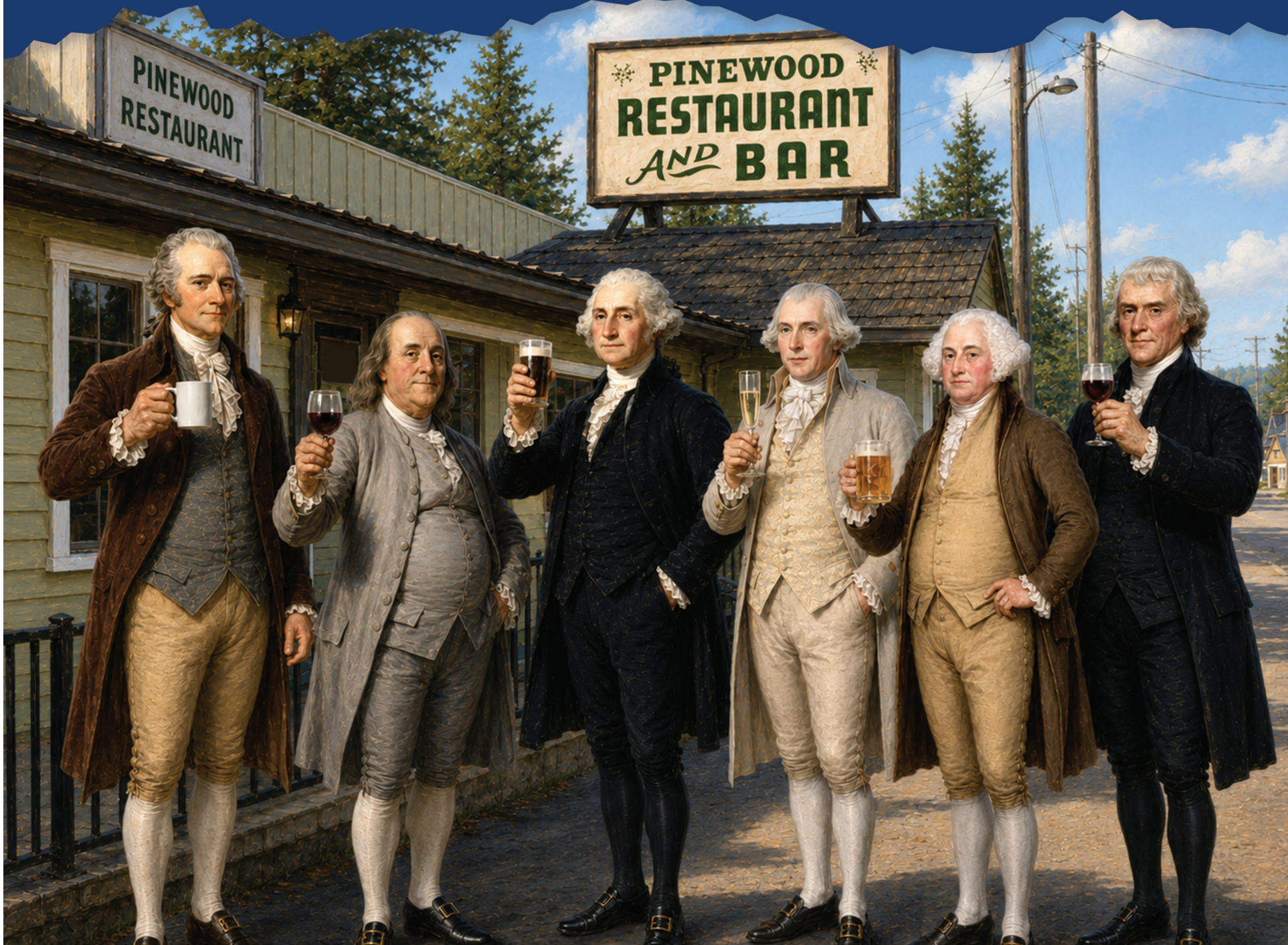


PINEWOOD NEWS

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

VOL. 33 NO. 10 JULY 4, 2026

COMPLIMENTARY



★ SPECIAL EDITION ★

AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

1776 – 2026

PARADE GUIDE | LOCAL HISTORY | COMMUNITY HEROES
READERS' FAVORITE WRITERS INSIDE



JULY SKIES BRING THE MILKY WAY, MOONLIGHT & A LITTLE 1776

The Fourth of July began under a bright Moon. In 1776, the Moon was past full but still bright in the night sky, hanging over a young country that had no electric lights, no glowing porches, no headlights climbing the road home.

Just candles, lanterns, bonfires, and a sky full of stars. Can you imagine how beautiful the night skies must have been?

That is the sky Munds Park still tries to protect. As an official Dark Sky Community, we can enjoy the holiday sparkle, then turn off what we do not need and let the stars return. Then let the evening settle, step outside, and enjoy the sky.

July 4 Weekend Sky

The Fourth of July weekend arrives just a few days after the Full Strawberry Moon, so the Moon will still be bright enough to soften the night sky and wash out some faint stars.

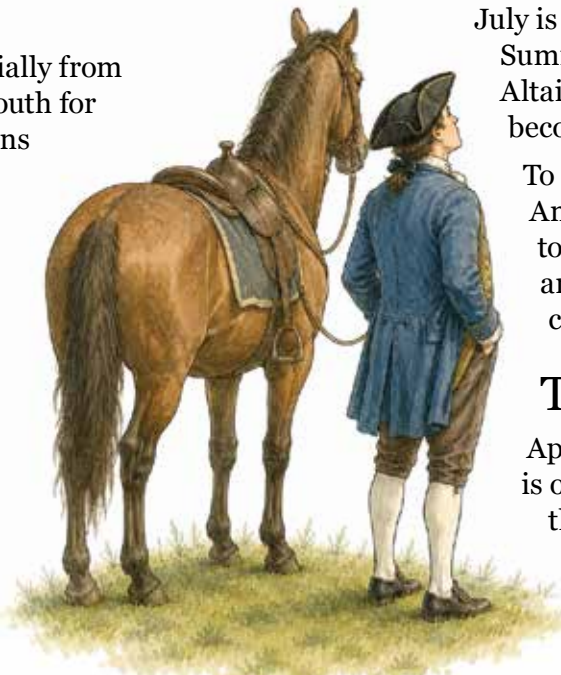
That does not make the sky less worth watching. It simply changes the show. Look for the Moon, the brightest stars, and the early rise of summer constellations. After the holiday lights fade, give the sky a little time to settle. The stars are patient. We can be too.

Best Dark-Sky Window: July 10 through 18

The New Moon arrives July 14, making the nights around it the best dark-sky stretch of the month.

This is prime time for the Milky Way, especially from darker spots away from town lights. Look south for Scorpius and Sagittarius. Sagittarius contains the Teapot shape, and from a dark enough location, the Milky Way can seem to rise from it like steam.

These are the nights that remind us why dark skies matter. One porch light may not seem like much, but enough of them together can dim the very thing people come here to see. Shield the light, warm the color, turn off the extra, and the whole neighborhood gets a better sky.



First Quarter Moon: July 21

The First Quarter Moon arrives July 21. This is one of the best Moon phases for binoculars or a small telescope because shadows make the craters, ridges and mountains easier to see.

A full Moon can look bright and flat, but a quarter Moon has texture. Look along the line between light and dark, where the rugged lunar surface stands out. It is a fine night for porch astronomy, especially for children who want to see the Moon as a real place and not just a glowing coin in the sky.

Summer Constellations

July is a good month to learn the summer sky. Look east for the Summer Triangle, made of three bright stars: Vega, Deneb and Altair. As the evening goes on, the triangle climbs higher and becomes easier to spot.

To the south, Scorpius curves across the sky with bright Antares glowing near its heart. Nearby Sagittarius points toward the center of the Milky Way. On dark, clear nights around the New Moon, this part of the sky is rich with stars, clusters and faint glowing clouds of gas.

Tips for Munds Park Stargazers

Apps such as Stellarium or SkySafari can help you find what is overhead, but do not forget to simply look up. Sometimes the best part of stargazing is not naming everything. It is standing quietly under a sky our community has promised to protect.

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, **July 24**





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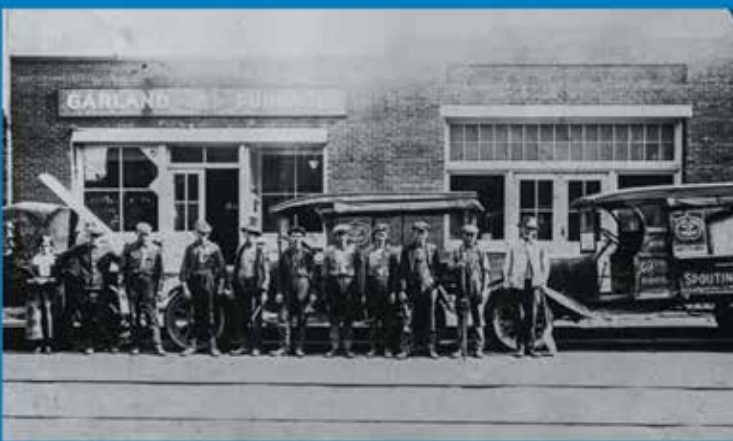
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PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & DESERT MOUNTAIN LIVING

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church

Every Monday, 6 p.m.

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pilates

Senior-friendly Pilates classes are held weekly

Mondays: 10 to 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: 11 a.m. to noon

Munds Park Community Church

17670 S. Munds Ranch Rd

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

Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday, 9:00 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, 2026

6:30 p.m. • The New Fire House

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!

Tuesday, July 7

6:30 p.m. • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, July 21

3 p.m. • 18075 Fairway Dr

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Thursday, July 9

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.

EVERYTHING 4TH OF JULY 10A

THINGS TO DO & SEE 12A

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

MEET THIS YEARS GRAND MARSHAL 16A

For fifty years, Len Friedlund showed up for Munds Park. This July, Munds Park shows up for him.

THE BEST LITTLE PARADE IN ARIZONA 22A

The story of how a few grandchildren, a pile of kitchen pots, and one determined grandmother created the tradition that still brings Munds Park together every Fourth of July.

HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL 27A

Happy hour in Munds Park is practically a community institution, and the right dish makes you the guest everyone hopes shows up.

SHAKEN & STIRRED 29A

Benjamin Franklin, colonial taverns, and the hot-rum history of the Flip, a drink once finished with a fireplace poker and just enough danger to keep the room honest.

TRAVEL 30A

Stacey Wittig looks at a rare summer of anniversaries, from America's 250th birthday to Route 66's 100th and Flagstaff's 150th.

FROM THE PORCH 3B

George Washington speaks across 250 years with a message about faith, freedom, and the duty of citizens.

GARDENS IN THE PARK 5B

From a 120-year-old elm in Boston to new plantings across the country, the Liberty Tree remains a living symbol of America's founding spirit.

THE LONG ROAD TO PINEWOOD 14B

From a small village in Mexico to the heart of Munds Park. The story of David and Ludy is one you won't forget.



Dear Munds Park,

We could begin with the food, the family, or the story of Saigon Kitchen. But before all of that, we want to begin with thank you.

We are honored to bring Vietnamese food to Munds Park. Food with warmth and history. Food meant to be shared.

I look forward to cooking for my neighbors.

Dennis Tran

Saigon North, Munds Park

OPENING JULY 2026

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

FIRE STATION 41 GRAND OPENING

On Friday, June 19, the Pinewood Fire District celebrated a milestone years in the making with the grand opening of the fully rebuilt Fire Station 41. An estimated 200 to 250 community members gathered to mark the completion of the most ambitious project in the district's history.

The event opened with a flag ceremony as the colors were raised over the new station for the first time, accompanied by bagpipes. Fire Chief Josh Tope and Pinewood Fire District Board President Dick Drinen marked the occasion with the official ribbon cutting. Guests were then invited inside to tour the facility and see the new systems, apparatus bays, and firefighter accommodations firsthand.

Chief Tope addressed the crowd with gratitude for the many hands that helped bring the project to completion. He noted that the district carried out the demolition and full rebuild without ever interrupting service to the community, and credited the patience and trust of Munds Park residents with helping make that possible.

"Your understanding throughout the construction process meant the world to us," Chief Tope said. "You showed us once again what makes Munds Park such a special place, a community that works together for the safety and well-being of all."

The new station was built to improve emergency response and better protect the health of firefighters. Tours highlighted modern decontamination areas to reduce exposure to carcinogens, dedicated gear storage, advanced ventilation systems, and design and technology improvements to reduce response times when every second counts.

Chief Tope recognized the people and organizations whose contributions helped bring the project to completion, including the Pinewood Fire District Board, Station 41 firefighters, the district's office manager, the Fire Auxiliary, and the Agee family, who raised more than \$150,000 and helped furnish the new building. He also thanked the Munds Park community, which passed two bond measures that provided the primary funding for the rebuild, along with PSD's Dave Richardson, PPOA, the Highlands and Summit communities, and the Pinewood News.

With Station 41 now open, Chief Tope called the new facility "far more than a modern building," describing it as an investment in the safety and future of Munds Park.



Fire Chief Josh Tope and Pinewood Fire District Board President Dick Drinen had the honor of cutting the ribbon.



The American flag is raised over the newly rebuilt Fire Station 41 for the first time

Photos by Barbara Sherman

... Local Highlights continued on page 9A

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"Wonderful clinic! The staff is friendly, the facility is spotless, and we were seen right on time. Penny actually enjoyed her visit. We'll definitely be back!"
- Gina A.

★★★★★
"Dr. Mac and Dr. Holly are amazing. Locally owned and operated, cat-certified, reasonably priced. They make you and your fur babies feel like family. ♥ Voted Best of Flag several times. There's a reason. My kitties Sophie, Romeo and doggos Harper and Blaze are so lucky to get such awesome care!"
- Andrea Z.

★★★★★
"Very nice staff, techs, and doctors! Every employee here is an animal lover and understanding of what we're going through/paying for. Also, the whole place was so clean, idk how they get it that clean with all the animals they see, amazing clinic!"
- Gabriel C.



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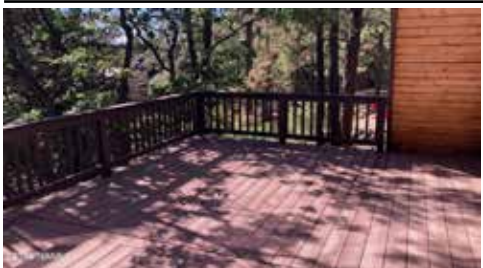
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17840 S Highland Pl - \$530,000
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17075 S. Grizzly Ridge- \$425,000
Quiet Cul-de-Sac / Close to Forest
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17375 Crystal Brook Pl \$192,000
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17625 S Stallion Dr. - \$599,000
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... Continued from page 7A

FLAGSTAFF'S HIGHWAYS GO AMBER FOR DARK SKIES

If you have driven through Flagstaff recently and noticed something different about the highway lights, you are not imagining it. The Arizona Department of Transportation finished installing amber LED fixtures at more than 370 state highway locations last week, completing a \$1.1 million project that is the first of its kind on interstate highways in the country.

Crews worked from May through June, replacing outdated high-pressure sodium lights with amber LEDs chosen specifically to reduce light scattered upward into the night sky. Every I-17 and I-40 interchange in Flagstaff now carries the new fixtures, including the large interchange where the two interstates meet. Portions of Milton Road and Route 66 near downtown have also been converted.

The timing carries some meaning. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Flagstaff's designation as the world's first International Dark Sky City. Lowell Observatory and the U.S. Naval Observatory both call Flagstaff home, and last year the city received the Dark Sky Place of the Year award from DarkSky International. For mountain residents who chose the ponderosa corridor partly for its skies, anything that reduces light pollution along the I-17 corridor is a step in the right direction.

More details are available at azdot.gov/FlagstaffLightingProject.

Source: Arizona Department of Transportation



COCONINO COUNTY PASSES FY27 BUDGET: PERKS FOR CAMPER, FAMILIES & OPEN-SPACE FANS

The Coconino County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on June 23 to adopt a \$460.4 million balanced budget for fiscal year 2027, covering July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. For mountain residents and visitors, several of the approved priorities land close to home.

County Manager Andy Bertelsen described the budget as a careful response to economic uncertainty and potential federal funding losses. The county is holding onto its \$15 million stability fund, a financial cushion designed to absorb unexpected revenue shortfalls without cutting services abruptly.

Outdoor enthusiasts will want to pay attention to two green-space moves. The budget authorizes Parks and Recreation to pursue grant funding to upgrade Fort Tuthill Campground, near Flagstaff, with the goal of turning it into more of a destination experience for campers. Fort Tuthill is a well-traveled stop for families and weekend visitors throughout the ponderosa corridor. Separately, a newly donated 488-acre property called the Gonzalez Ranch, located north of Interstate 40 near Williams, will be formally dedicated as a public natural recreation site and maintained by the county's Parks and Recreation department.

Families with kids in county schools should note a change in how federal Secure Rural Schools funding flows. A new distribution formula will send more money directly to public schools in Coconino County while simultaneously increasing the county's federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes revenue. Congress recently passed three years of SRS authorizations, and the restructured formula is designed to maximize the benefit over that period.

Other approved highlights include the grand opening of the new Peaks Youth Center, a lobby renovation at the Health and Human Services building on King Street in Flagstaff, and the start of demolition on the old county jail downtown, clearing a site that has sat idle since 2001.

Residents can track the county's progress on its six-priority strategic plan, Coconino Forward: Where Vision Meets Action, through a new public dashboard at coconino.az.gov/coconinoforward.

Source: Coconino County Communications



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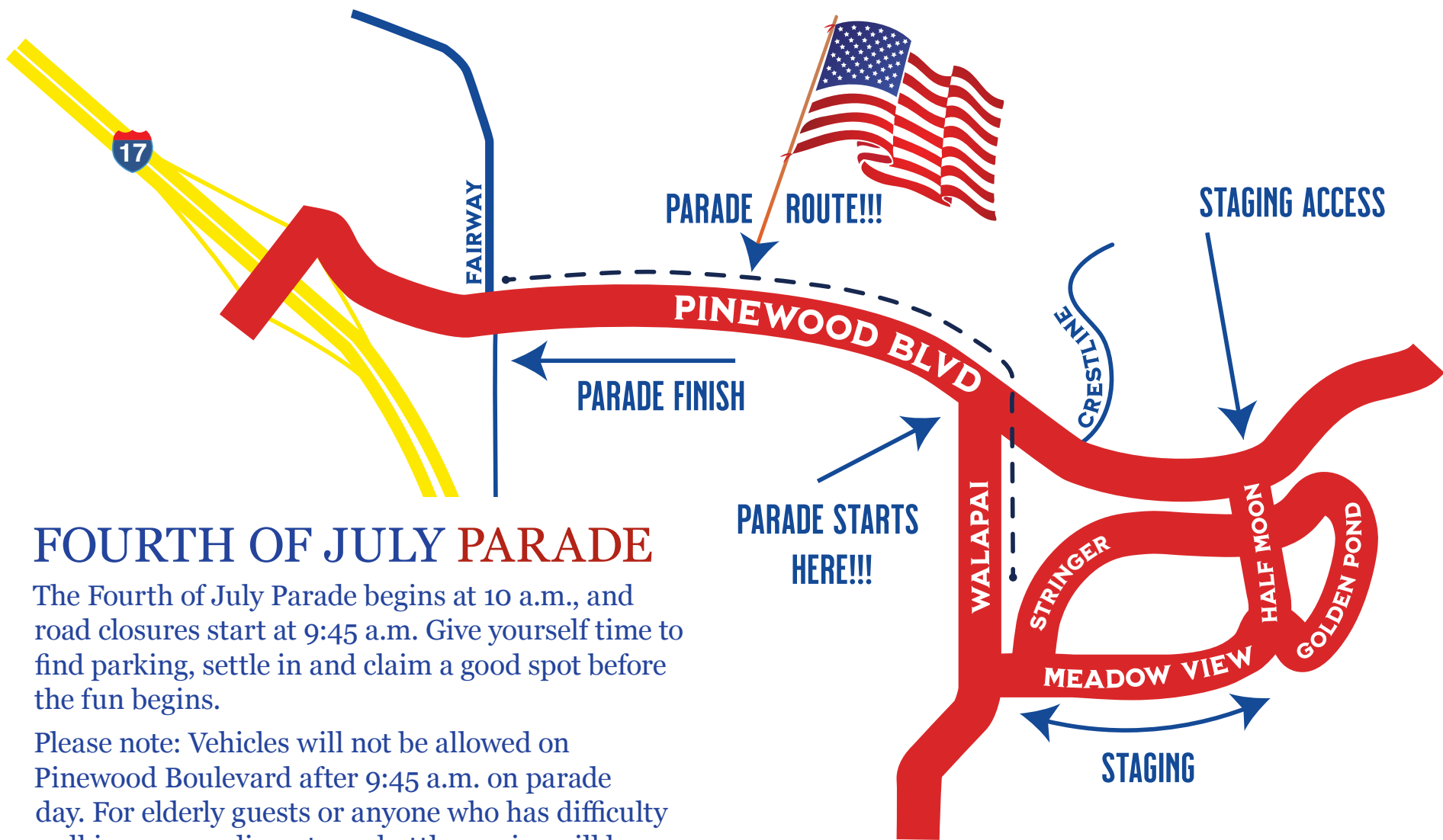
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MUNDS PARK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION!



FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

The Fourth of July Parade begins at 10 a.m., and road closures start at 9:45 a.m. Give yourself time to find parking, settle in and claim a good spot before the fun begins.

Please note: Vehicles will not be allowed on Pinewood Boulevard after 9:45 a.m. on parade day. For elderly guests or anyone who has difficulty walking, a complimentary shuttle service will be available at Pinewood Boulevard and Fairway Drive.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE 4TH OF JULY

Farmers Markets

The **Munds Park Farmers Market** is adding extra Fourth of July fun, with more vendors and live music by PK Gregory's One-Man-Honkabilly-Blues-Band.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | 17777 S. Munds Ranch Road

Two Coyotes Farmers Market will be open on the Fourth with new vendors and fresh finds. Stop by, browse around.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | 17620 N Munds Ranch Rd.

Stop by the Pinewood Fire Auxiliary

Beginning at 10 a.m., the Pinewood Fire Auxiliary will be serving FREE hot dogs, water, chips and cookies **in front of the fire station** during and after the parade. Donations are appreciated.

It's a Munds Thing will be handing out FREE water by the Fire House too beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing while supplies last.

Enjoy Free Egg Rolls from Saigon North

Dennis, owner of the upcoming Saigon North restaurant, will be cooking up crispy deep-fried egg rolls for the Fourth of July. They will be FREE to the community while supplies last.

Look for his staff along Pinewood Boulevard, serving goodness one egg roll at a time.

Corn Dogs, Coffee and a Good Cause

The Munds Park Business Alliance will be hosting corn dog and a coffee truck in the Coldwell Banker parking lot starting the evening of July 3rd, and all day July 4. Ten percent of sales will be donated to "PMJ" Domestic Violence Center.

The MPBA is also sponsoring red, white and blue celebration lighting at the Coldwell Banker building in honor of America's 250th Independence Day.

Kota's Coffee House

Kota's Coffee House will be open on the Fourth, with Buddy's Dog House serving hot dogs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., or until sold out. Kota's will also have Italian sodas, smoothies, matcha lattes, Monster Mashers, coffee drinks and more.

Wine Tasting & Moore

When the Fourth of July crowds start to feel like too much of a good thing, Wine Tasting & Moore offers a quieter place to land. They'll be open all weekend with food and wine specials, perfect for anyone who wants to celebrate the holiday comfortably and with a good glass in hand.

Sportsmunds

Sportsmunds will keep the holiday weekend rolling with live bands Friday and Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m., free cornhole for kids and adults, free giveaways and all-day happy hour drink specials.

Happy hour runs all day, every day. See specials on page 19B.

Fairlane Palooza

Keep the Fourth of July celebration going into the evening at Fairlane Palooza, featuring Comin' Home and feel-good music under the stars. There will be music, games and prizes, making it a fun outdoor stop for families, neighbors and anyone not quite ready to call it a day.

Bring your own chair and BYOB.

Hours: Saturday, July 4, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Location: 245 Fairlane Road



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Market In The Pines
MARKET OPEN EVERY SATURDAY!
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Parking behind the Munds Park Community Church



Munds Park Farmers Market
Saturdays
9am-1pm
at Munds Ranch
FRESH PRODUCE & LIVE MUSIC!
Your weekends just got fresher—
join us for farm-fresh produce & more every
Saturday at 17777 S Munds Ranch Rd!

EVERY SATURDAY



KARAOKE AT PINWOOD RESTURANT & BAR

Nothing says small-town Saturday night quite like friends, a good song, and someone brave enough to take the mic. Join DJ Ruben for

karaoke every Saturday.

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

THROUGH THE SUMMER SEASON



YOGA IN THE PARK

Join Christy Shaft, PT and Certified Yoga Instructor, for accessible yoga classes designed to support strength, balance, flexibility, and ease.

Yoga in the Park offers weekly Chair

Yoga and |Mat Flow Yoga classes.

Fridays: Chair Yoga, 9-9:45 a.m.; Mat Flow Yoga, 10-11 a.m.

Saturdays: Mat Flow Yoga, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Mondays: Chair Yoga, 9-9:45 a.m.; Mat Flow Yoga, 10-11 a.m.

All classes are open to community and visitors.

NOTE: There will be no yoga at the Rec Center on Friday, July 3, or Saturday, July 4, but all other classes will remain the same for the month.

Location: Munds Park RV Resort

Admission: \$15 per class

Details: Facebook: Yoga in the Park

SATURDAY, JULY 11



MUNDS PARK TRAIL STEWARDS TRAIL DAY

Help care for the trails that make Munds Park special. Volunteers work at their own pace, with water and trail tools provided. Bring long pants, sturdy shoes, weather-ready clothes, and a happy face. A free lunch follows the morning's work.

Time: Meet at 8:15 am; trail work ends around noon

Location: Pinewood (240) Trailhead, Munds Park

Details: RSVP by July 3 at mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com. Check mundsparktrailstewards.com for updates.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5



PINWOOD 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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



PINWOOD 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

BEYOND THE PARK

EVERY FRIDAY!



BARN DANCE

Kick off the weekend with live music, dancing, and a farm-night crowd that knows how to have a good time. Dinner is available if you want to make a full evening of it.

Time: 6- 10 p.m.

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

Details: mortimerfarmsaz.com

Admission: See website for dinner and ticket details

FRI-SAT, JULY 10 & 11 & JULY 18 & 18



WILLIAMS NIGHT RODEO

Worth the drive for a summer night under the lights in Williams. Expect ranch bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, team roping, breakaway roping, barrel racing, bull riding, vendors, and a Boot Scramble for kids in the audience.

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Williams Rodeo Grounds,
750 Airport Road, Williams

Details: williamsnightrodeo.com

Admission: Tickets required. See website for details.

SAT & SUN, JULY 11-12 & JULY 18-19



BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL AT MORTIMER FARMS

Pick blackberries straight off the vine, ride the grain train, meet farm animals, catch live music, and watch a butterfly release.

Homemade ice cream tops it off. The farm sits at a cooler elevation, making this a great summer drive from Northern Arizona.

Time: Opens at 7 a.m.; evening entertainment runs 3-9 p.m.

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

Details: Visit mortimerfarmsaz.com

Admission: Visit mortimerfarmsaz.com

SATURDAY, JULY 18



CAMP VERDE CORN FEST

Worth the drive for a classic summer street fair with fresh roasted Hauser & Hauser Farms corn, food vendors, music, games, and cool indoor vendors at the

Community Center Gym. Bring the family, but leave pets home. Service animals only.

Time: 9 am-4 pm

Location: Hollamon Street and Community Center Gym, Camp Verde

Details: visitcampverde.com/cornfest

Admission: FREE

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 24-26



SEDONA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL

Worth the drive for bird lovers, families, photographers, and anyone who enjoys Sedona in summer. The festival includes

hummingbird viewing, presentations, garden tours, banding demonstrations, birding trips, a marketplace, Kids Day, local art, and a plant sale.

Time: Fri and Sat, 10 am-5 pm; Sun, 10 am-4 pm

Location: Sedona Performing Arts Center, 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Road, Sedona

Details: Schedule & tickets at sedonahummingbirdfestival.com

SATURDAY, JULY 25



BEAT THE HEAT TRACTOR AND ENGINE SHOW

Worth the drive up Highway 89. The Northern Arizona Antique Tractor & Engine Association brings

out antique iron for a day of displays, a tractor pull, plowing, engine exhibits, hay rides, and a barrel train for kids. Food on site. Good for all ages.

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: 5285 E. Pumpkin Patch Rd., Flagstaff

Details: Call Jim at 928-699-7434

Admission: Free

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 1-2



FLAGSTAFF CHILI FESTIVAL

Worth the drive for chili lovers and anyone who enjoys a good local cook-off. Sample chili, vote for favorites, visit vendors,

and support a community event that benefits Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flagstaff.

Time: Sat 10:30 am-3:30 pm; Sun, 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Location: Thorpe Park, 191 N. Thorpe Road, Flagstaff

Details: flagstaffarizona.org

Admission: \$10.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 29-30



HOPI ARTS & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Worth the drive for Hopi art, traditional social dances, cultural education, and a meaningful Flagstaff day trip. The festival brings artists and

community together while sharing Hopi culture with Northern Arizona visitors.

Time: Saturday, 10 am-6 pm; Sunday, 11 am-5 pm

Location: Flagstaff Mall, 4650 US-89, Flagstaff

Details: hopifestival.com

Admission: Free

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

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-20



PICKIN' IN THE PINES

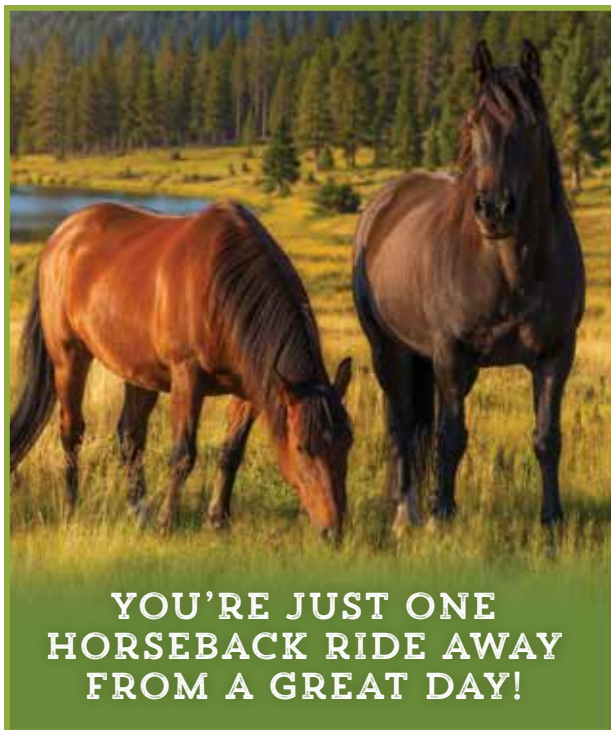
Head to Flagstaff for three days of bluegrass and acoustic music, camping, workshops, jamming, children's activities and a band contest. The 20th anniversary

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



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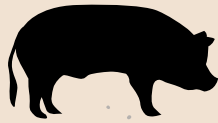
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WE'RE SO EXCITED TO MEET OUR MUNDS PARK NEIGHBORS!

17730 SOUTH MUNDS RANCH ROAD

THE USS ARIZONA REPLICA COMES TO MUNDS PARK

Before it rolls down Pinewood Boulevard this Fourth of July, the 42-foot USS Arizona replica has a story worth telling.

This 42-foot USS Arizona replica began as a movie prop. Its hull was used in the 1970 film *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, which recreated the attack on Pearl Harbor for the screen. After production, the props warehouse sold off movie pieces, and in 1984 the replica was gifted to Cecil and Pat Gates.

That is where the story becomes more than Hollywood history.

Cecil Gates was not simply a collector of military memorabilia. At age 17, he personally witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor and the sinking of the USS Arizona. Decades later, when he chose this replica, he was choosing something tied to one of the defining memories of his life.

The Gates took the replica to their cabin on Lake Almanor in California and launched it on July 3, 1984. For a time, the ship was motorized by two Sail Drive motors, which were later removed. Over the years, the replica has appeared at special events along the West Coast, around the Statue of Liberty in New York, and at Pearl Harbor for commemorations.

Now, this 42-foot piece of history is coming to Munds Park.

LTC Bill Simon, U.S. Army retired, president and founder of the 1st Lt. Frank Luke Jr. Memorial Museum and Research Center, is bringing the USS Arizona replica to the Munds Park Fourth of July Parade. Simon calls it a "42-foot beauty," and it is easy to see why. But the vessel's real power is not its size. It is what it asks people to remember.

The USS Arizona remains one of the most solemn names in American military history. On Dec. 7, 1941, 1,177 service members died aboard the



LTC Bill Simon, U.S. Army retired, president and founder of the Lt. Frank Luke Jr. Memorial Museum, stands with the museum's 42-foot U.S.S. Arizona replica. The display honors the 1,178 lives lost and reminds us that some gave all.

battleship during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ship still rests there today, beneath the memorial that honors those who never came home.

That memory is part of what Simon and the Frank Luke Museum work to preserve.

The museum, based in Goodyear, is named for 1st Lt. Frank Luke Jr., a Phoenix-born World War I aviator and Medal of Honor recipient. Known as the "Arizona Balloon Buster," Luke became one of Arizona's most noted military figures before he was killed in France in 1918 at just 21 years old.

Through the museum and its collection, Simon works to keep military history visible, especially for younger generations. Dates and names can fade when they stay trapped in textbooks. But a 42-foot USS Arizona rolling down the street has a way of stopping people in their tracks. History does pretty well when it takes up a whole lane.

The Fourth of July in Munds Park is one of the community's proudest traditions. Families line Pinewood Boulevard, flags rise from porches and golf carts, and for a few hours, the whole town seems to gather in one place.

But the Fourth of July is not only about celebration. It is also a day to remember the people who served, the families who waited, and those who never came home.

When the replica rolls down Pinewood Boulevard, it will be more than a remarkable sight. It will be a reminder of Pearl Harbor, the USS Arizona, and the Americans who never came home.



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Photo by Barbara Sherman

Len Friedlund

INDEPENDENCE DAY 1776 - 2026

HONORING LEN FRIEDLUND

2026 Fourth of July Grand Marshal

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

For as long as most Munds Park residents can remember, if you were looking for Len Friedlund on the Fourth of July, you wouldn't find him on a float or cheering on the sidelines. You'd find him working, coordinating 30 to 40 volunteers, making sure traffic monitors were in position, reminding parade participants of the rules, and ensuring everyone was safe. For more than 10 years, Len Friedlund was the parade, the invisible engine behind the celebration, the reason it happened at all.

This year, the community is turning the tables.

Len, 90 years old and freshly retired from what might be the longest roster of volunteer commitments any one person has ever held in Munds Park, or maybe anywhere, has been named Grand Marshal of this year's Fourth of July Parade, the very parade he spent years organizing and running. The man who made sure everyone else had their moment in the sun is finally getting his own.

And trust me, he's been at our side making sure we didn't skip a beat.

The thing you have to understand about Len Friedlund is that he is not a man who does things halfway. He's smart, genuinely smart, the kind of smart that has a fully formed picture in his head and the conviction to follow it. And anyone who has worked with him knows he is detail-oriented. He is deeply funny. And he is, by the warm and affectionate consensus of virtually everyone who knows him, stubborn as a mule.

Over the decades, that combination of attention to detail and sheer stubbornness became one of Munds Park's great natural resources.

Len was born in Chicago and grew up in Calistoga, in California's Napa Valley. His connection to this mountain community began, as so many good things do, with a nudge from his father.

In 1968, his dad convinced him to buy a lot in Munds Park. Len eventually built an A-frame on it, sold it, and then, years later, came back to build the spacious two-story cabin where he now lives. He designed the home himself, drawing on the architectural studies he had begun at Stanford University before leaving school to support his growing family.

That detail says a great deal about Len. The architect in him never left, but neither did the man who understood that family came first.

He built his cabin with six bedrooms and with intention. He wanted his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to have a place to land. His son Tim lives with him there now, and his son John plans to follow when he retires. The man who had spent decades looking after the whole community had built his own home to be a community in miniature, one with room enough for the generations still to come.

Len has 8 children, 18 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. He does not do anything small.

Len has been married three times, and his last marriage, to Chuvie, lasted 45 years. He also raised Alma, his late wife's niece, as his own. For those who know Len primarily as a community

organizer and board member and rule-enforcer, this is the part of the portrait that fills in the rest of him: a man whose sense of family was as expansive as his sense of community. He even has a soft spot for small dogs, a detail his friends mention with a fondness that speaks to the gentleness beneath all that stubborn competence.

Len brought a full life with him when he settled in Munds Park. He had spent 21 years in computer programming at AlliedSignal (now Honeywell) before retiring.

Someone may have forgotten to tell Len what retirement actually means.

What Len built in Munds Park over more than 50 years is almost impossible to fully catalog, though we shall try.

He served on five Boards of Directors simultaneously. He was Vice Chairman of the Pinewood Sanitary District for 12 years. He founded the Community Watch Program and coordinated a team of 21 captains working alongside the Pinewood Fire Department and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office to keep 3,200 homes safer. He served as Secretary of the Pinewood Country Club, where he has been a member since 1968, one of the longest-serving members in its history. He was Vice President of the Pinewood Property Owners Association. He served as Assistant Director of the Munds Park Business Alliance. He spent five years as a volunteer patrol officer with the Coconino County Sheriff's Department. He was a proud member of the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary and CERT.

He helped launch the Adopt-a-Highway program, leading volunteers who cleaned up two miles of I-17 south of Munds Park three times a year, hauling away up to 70 bags of trash per cleanup. In 2016, he was named Man of the Year by the Munds Park Business Alliance, in part for helping plant 175 pine and maple trees throughout the community alongside Bill Spain and Tom Eade.

Somewhere in between all those board meetings and cleanup crews, Len also found time to earn his real estate license, putting it to work alongside his longtime friend Bill Spain at Provident Partners.

And every major holiday weekend, quietly and without fanfare, Len and his volunteers placed dozens of American flags along Pinewood Boulevard.

Most people who drove past those flags never knew who put them there, and Len was perfectly fine with that. The point was never to be seen. The point was to make sure the flags were.

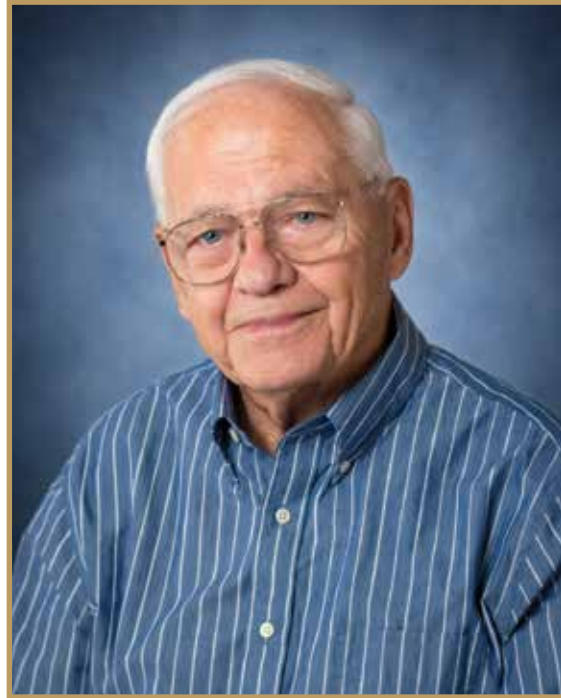
Oh, and there's more. Len has coordinated his high school reunions for years. At 89, he drove himself to Calistoga for his 50th. His graduating class had 28 people, and only five are still living. He was not about to miss this one.

One thing that doesn't appear on any official roster but may be Len's most lasting contribution: he had a gift for bringing people in. When Tom Gulliver and his wife moved to Munds Park in 2015, Len was at their door before long with his "neighborhood

...Continued on page 19A

INDEPENDENCE DAY

1776 - 2026



HONORING LEN FRIEDLUND



Our Grand Marshal. Our neighbor. Our friend.

Some people join a community. Some people build one.

Len Friedlund, one of the original founders of the Munds Park Business Alliance, spent years doing what true builders do: showing up early, solving problems quietly, gathering neighbors to volunteer, strengthening safety, and making Munds Park better than he found it.

This Fourth of July, we are proud to honor Len as Grand Marshal, and grateful for the steady hand and generous heart he has given this town.



With respect and thanks,

MUNDS PARK BUSINESS ALLIANCE & MUNDS PARK VOLUNTEER ALLIANCE



*1066 Threads • Above & Beyond Cleaning • Arizona's Children's Theater • Coconino Community Theatre • Dynamic Plumbing
Goodfellas Junk Removal • It's A Munds Thing • Kota's Coffee House • Liberty Plumbing • Munds Park Community Church
Pam On The Spot • Pine Country Window Cleaning • Pine Gables Towne Center • Roberds Design Company • Sevilla's Painting
TFC Construction Two Coyotes "Market In The Pines" • Wine Tasting & Moore*

GRAND MARSHAL LEN FRIEDLUND

... Continued from page 17A

watch” speech. Weeks later, Tom found himself on the PPOA board, the beginning of an eight-year friendship built on service side by side. That pattern repeated itself across decades and dozens of people, neighbors who arrived as strangers and left as stewards of a community they had come to love. “It would be impossible to overstate the positive impact that Len has made on the Community of Munds Park,” Tom Gulliver wrote. “I will forever remember him fondly.”

The letters people have written about Len say what a list of titles never could.

Lucinda Andreani, Coconino County’s Deputy County Manager, has called him “the Mayor of Munds Park” for years, and means it as the highest compliment. “His ability to advocate and negotiate on behalf of the community is remarkable,” she wrote. “The innumerable positive impacts he has had on Munds Park will be his legacy for many, many years.”

Tammy Ontiveros, Coconino County District 3 Supervisor, remembers meeting Len when she was still a candidate trying to understand the communities she hoped to serve. Len took her on a field trip. He connected the dots, from the sanitation district to the country club to the parade. He answered every question. He invited her to the Community Watch meetings. “He probably has no idea how much he taught me,” she wrote, “or the example he set. He has inspired me to be my best every day and to live with purpose. I can honestly say that my life has been blessed and enriched by my friendship with Len. I think the world of him.”

Fire Chief Josh Tope wrote that Len’s involvement in the fire volunteer program, the fire hydrant adoption program, and Community Watch had “helped strengthen the safety, preparedness, and spirit of our community,” and that his commitment had made “a lasting difference in Munds Park.”

Marc Della Rocca, Community Relations Manager for Coconino County Public Works, still remembers his third day on the job, a Community

Watch meeting where he quickly learned that Len was not exactly Public Works’ biggest fan, but cared fiercely about the community. They built something from that honest tension: genuine mutual respect and a real friendship. Len eventually started calling him “his guy.” Marc says that through Len, he learned what a true partnership between residents and local government actually looks like.

Pastor Steve, who has known Len as both a friend and a fixture of the community, put it with quiet simplicity: “You are a wonderful friend and servant for the citizens of this community. Munds Park would not be the idyllic place that so many call home but for your contributions.”

And then there’s Bill Spain. Of all the people who have written about Len, Bill may be the one who knows him most completely, and it shows. “Len’s kindness and vast background with the local community and county leaders has benefitted Munds Park more than any other person I am aware of,” he writes. “Munds Park is a better place because of his existence, contributions, and his love for the community.” He closes the way only a true old friend can: “He is loved by many. He is loved by Jesus, even though he has yet to discover this fact. He is loved by Bill and Dee Spain.”

At 90, Len Friedlund has stepped back from his posts. But step back from the parade? Not entirely. This year, even as Grand Marshal, Len is still helping coordinate the parade. Family, long-time volunteers, and close friends who love him have shown up to share the load, making sure the man who helped build this thing finally gets to enjoy it. He spent fifty years showing up for us. Now, it is our turn.

In his congratulatory letter, Tom Eade offered Len a gentle reminder (you can almost see his finger wagging) that the county’s parade rules now apply to Len himself as he rides: no throwing candy, no squirting water, no water balloons, and keep up with the vehicle in front of you.

The flags along Pinewood Boulevard will be flying as he passes, flags that his own hands helped place, year after year, before anyone else was awake to notice. The community he has loved and served will line the street. And for one perfect July morning, all that love will have a place to go. It will go to Len.



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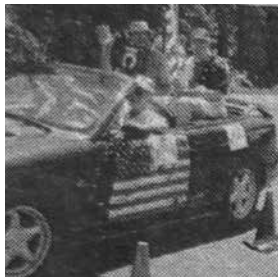


MUNDS PARK GRAND MARSHAL HALL OF FAME

Every Fourth of July, Munds Park honors one of our own. Someone whose quiet dedication, year after year, has helped shape the heart of this mountain community. Long before the flags wave and the floats roll, these remarkable neighbors have served on boards, organized or helped with events, raised funds, supported neighbors, and poured countless hours into making Munds Park a stronger, more connected place to call home.

This Grand Marshal Hall of Fame is our way of saying thank you. It celebrates the individuals who have led the parade not just for a day, but through their everyday service and love for our community.

To every Grand Marshal, your service mattered more than you know. Here at The Pinewood News, we're committed to making sure your contributions live on in the community you helped create. One parade, one act of kindness, and one story at a time.



2003

World War II Veterans
Jim Coursey, Ralph Evans,
Art Eck, & Charles Beck



2005

Edith Hedberg



2009

Matt Ryan
District 3 Supervisor



2012

Jan Toth pictured with
grandson Steiven Toth



2013

Pastor Rex Prisbrey



2014

Dick Gray



2015

John Welsch
Fire Chief



2016

Don Tillery
with granddaughter
Mercedes



2017

Bob Timberman,
pictured with his wife,
Barbara



2018

Walter Hochstrasser



2019

Enid Gustin



2021

Carolyn Manley



2022

Kim & Matt Agee



2023

Carl Withers, pictured
with his wife, Laura



2024

Pastor Steve &
Sara Bowyer



2025

Josh Tope
Fire Chief



2026

Len Friedlund

Help Preserve Our History

As we gathered the history of our Grand Marshals, we discovered that early coverage was sparse. We've pulled together everything we could find, beginning with the earliest record from 2003. There are likely gaps, and that's where you come in.

If you have photographs, memories, stories, or additional details about any of our past Grand Marshals, please reach out. Together, we can fill in the missing pieces and properly preserve the legacy of those who helped build Munds Park into the special place it is today.



THE BEST LITTLE PARADE IN ARIZONA

The History Behind Munds Park's Favorite Tradition

BY JAN TOTH & SANDEE CAVINESS



Yvonne Carney, pictured in 2021, was the original organizer of the Munds Park Fourth of July Parade. What began as a simple hometown idea grew into one of the community's most meaningful traditions.

It all started with Yvonne Carney. She loved her country, and she believed that love was something you passed down to younger generations. She also believed in having a good time with her grandkids.

So on a bright July morning in 1992, all sunshine and pines. A loose circle of grandchildren armed with wooden spoons and every pot and pan their grandmother could spare. Gap-toothed grins. Chins held high. The noise going up into the trees. And at the edge of it all, Yvonne Carney, beaming, watching her grandchildren discover what it felt like to celebrate the country she loved.

That was the first Munds Park Fourth of July Parade.

But the Fourth of July had already meant something in Munds Park long before the parade arrived. Few people remember this chapter now, but it deserves to be said. Nearly a decade before Yvonne's grandchildren marched around the condo parking lot, the fire department began putting on fireworks, funded by the country club and the Pinewood Property Owners Association, who together contributed \$7,000 to get things going.

When the club closed for the evening, they opened their kitchen. And in came the community. Parents, grandparents and neighbors, sleeves rolled up, cooking together through the night. The Auxiliary took charge in the kitchen, shredding beef from the slow cookers and managing the transition from grilled chicken to the main course. Coleslaw came together from scratch. By morning there was a full spread ready for the celebration ahead. The Auxiliary set up the kids games before the Pinewood Players arrived to launch their carnival. Throughout the evening and into the morning, they handled the cooking and cleanup, the backbone of the entire operation. From start to finish, it was a complete and total community effort. And truly, it could not have happened without them.

Like the parade that would follow, the fireworks tradition grew until it became something bigger than the people running it could safely contain. As the event grew and more visitors arrived, families started cooking at home rather than buying the dinners that funded the show.

The fallout zone around the launch site had filled in with property owners who set up their parties and refused to budge, making clear that if anyone got hurt, they would sue. And when the celebration was over, the golf course had to be cleaned of cans and debris before the first tee time, with volunteers back out there at five in the morning. It got to be too much work and too much risk, and eventually the fireworks came to an end.

Munds Park had not forgotten how to celebrate. It just needed someone to remind it. Yvonne Carney was that someone.

It was small enough then to fit in the parking lot at the condos, and sweet enough that everyone wanted to join in. Yvonne's grandchildren marched, the neighbors' grandchildren watched, and pretty soon they wanted in too. The next year there were more kids, and then the adults started joining them. They dressed

up, decorated bikes and wagons, pulled anything that would roll, and followed their neighbors down the parking lot, where ice cream was waiting. It began as a fun, patriotic celebration for little grandkids, and before long the grown-ups were hauling out flags, looking for bunting, and asking if there was room for one more.

There was.

Ken and Mary Frances DeHoff led with their Model T. Uncle Sam showed up. The fire department joined in, with Sparky on the fire engine. The Pinewood Players put on a carnival for the children. The club served hot dogs. The kids came on bikes, skateboards and wagons. Then came golf carts, tractors, quads, ATVs, trucks, horses, dogs and at least one airplane flyover, because apparently Munds Park had decided the sky should not be left out.

By 2002, the parade had outgrown its first route and moved onto Pinewood Boulevard. The old notices in the Pinewood News from those years have the hopeful confidence of people still learning how large a small-town parade could get. By 2003 the route was already being adjusted. Cars lined up on Navajo Road. Walkers gathered on Apache. The congestion at Pinewood Boulevard and Walapai needed sorting out. The route needed work. The excitement did not. Everybody was told to decorate and get ready for the biggest and best parade yet.

By 2004, the parade that began with a few grandchildren in a condo parking lot had become a full Munds Park affair. Four hundred and twenty-three kids, to be exact. And they were not alone. There were trucks, cars, golf carts, motorcycles, tractors, horses, dogs, floats and even a plane. Munds Park had taken a grandmother's idea and added whatever could roll, trot, bark, wave, honk or fly. It was not a polished city parade, and that was the beauty of it. It was homemade, deeply patriotic, and proud in the best possible way.

By then, the Pinewood News was calling it "The Best Little Parade in Arizona." Around here, that did not sound like much of an exaggeration. It belonged to the people who made it, and they loved their country. Veterans who had served rode in places of honor. Families turned out in their best red, white and blue. Neighbors lined the road and cheered on the floats. It was everything a Fourth of July parade should be. Floats kept getting more elaborate. There was the year the Pinewood Yacht Club float stopped people in their tracks, a crew of landlocked Arizonans somehow convincing the whole crowd they had somewhere to sail.



Ken and Mary Frances DeHoff in their Model T, the parade's first car.

Year after year, the parade kept growing because volunteer organizers kept saying yes to the celebration and to the work required to make it happen. That is how a tradition gets made. It grows because the community loves it and the right people roll up their sleeves.

Jan Toth, then editor of the Pinewood News, entered the parade the way many people enter small-town traditions. She asked a question. Could the fire truck be in it?

Yvonne had started the parade for children, not engines, and Jan remembered that Yvonne was not too sure about adding motorized vehicles beyond the DeHoffs' Model T leading the parade. But Yvonne didn't tell her no, which, for Jan, was as good as a yes. I was interviewing Jan over the phone, and I could hear a smile and a giggle when she said that.

So the fire truck joined in, and with it came Sparky, at least once in the form of Jan herself, in a homemade costume that was, by her own account, a little alarming up close. She walked alongside the kids and handed out candy with a friend beside her to make sure she did not fall. She will tell you she nearly died in that suit. She will also tell you it was wonderful.

Pretty soon other vehicles wanted a place too.

When cars wanted to join, Yvonne handed that decision to Jan. One yes had led to another, and before she realized it, Jan had a job.

... Continued on page 24A

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THE BEST LITTLE PARADE IN ARIZONA

... Continued from page 23A

And then one day, Yvonne told Jan she was moving. "This parade's yours," she said. It was that simple, and that enormous.

Jan changed the route as the parade grew. She moved it when it got too large for one place, then changed it again when the next place became too small. It wound through neighborhood roads before moving onto Pinewood Boulevard. Later, she changed the direction of travel, sending the parade west instead of east, which gave it a natural outlet and let it flow. Each move gave the parade more room, and each one brought new problems to solve.

For Jan, the best moment came before the parade moved, when everyone was gathered and waiting in their red, white and blue. She would look down the line and see what Yvonne's idea had become: a town proud enough of its country to show up, decorate, wave, help, and make room for the children. That was what got her. Every year, when the parade started, Jan wept.

And at the other end of the parade, Jan had a spot all her own. When the parade ended, she was the last one down the road. She rode her quad at the very tail of the parade with a snow shovel strapped to the back, the same one she never bothered to take off after winter. As she went, she worked it like she was scooping up after the horses. One-woman cleanup crew. Last float in her own parade. She thought that was exactly right.

A woman who wept at the start of her parade and made people laugh at the end of it. That is worth holding on to.

But the truth is, the bigger the parade became, the harder it became to keep it safe. What had started in a condo parking lot was now out on public roads, with more people, more vehicles and more chances for something to go wrong. Jan saw it before everyone wanted to admit it. Candy was fun until children darted into the street. Water guns were funny until people's cameras and phones got soaked. Quads, cars and floats made the parade bigger, but they also made it harder to keep safe. People did not always follow the rules. Volunteers trying to keep the route safe did not always get the respect they deserved.

None of that erases the good. It explains why the good needed protecting. For years, the parade had run on neighborliness. Line up here. Go that way. Watch the kids. No one had to be told to be decent. That worked when the parade was small enough for everyone to see what everyone else was doing. It did not work as well once the crowd grew and people started treating the rules like suggestions.



1994 Tables set for the Fourth of July barbecue, when Munds Park volunteers cooked, served and celebrated together.



Before the floats and fire trucks, the parade was children on bikes and parents walking beside them.



1995 Children ride along the road in an early parade, as golf carts begin joining the tradition.

The parade grew, and the county stepped in. Permits were now required. Traffic control became serious. The Pinewood Property Owners Association stepped up to cover the permit costs. Dick Drinen, a longtime PPOA member and founder, ensured the approvals and arrangements were handled. When the county initially said the parade would require off-duty law enforcement to control the route, the official they worked with recognized Munds Park's own Community Emergency Response Team as qualified to do the job. That single accommodation saved the parade from costs that would have been very difficult for a volunteer

community event to absorb. After one parade, when a deputy wrote over forty traffic tickets to parade participants, Jan understood that the old way was finished. She did not stop loving the parade. If anything, that was the trouble. She loved it enough to know it could not survive on hometown charm alone.

If Munds Park wanted to keep its Fourth of July parade, people had to protect it. That meant rules. It meant volunteers throughout the route. It meant listening when somebody said no. It meant remembering that the children who made the parade worth having were also the reason it had to be run carefully.

That can be hard for a town to accept, especially a town that remembers when everyone simply lined up and made it work. But a tradition that grows has to grow up too.

Jan eventually passed the torch after seventeen years, to Len Friedlund, and he faithfully carried it for another ten plus years. She had one condition. The parade would always be on the Fourth of July, no matter what day of the week it fell on. Len gave her his word. And he kept it.

A lot of parade work happens behind the scenes. The crowd sees the flags, the floats, the kids, the Grand Marshal and the decorated golf carts. The organizer sees the route, the timing, the permit, the traffic, the questions, the complaints, the cleanup and the small things that become big things if no one handles them.

Len handled them.

Jan Toth, who handed him the parade and watched from afar for seventeen years, does not mince words about what he meant to it. She called him an Energizer Bunny. She said there was an amazing, amazing energy in that man. She said he did ninety percent of the work. And she said this: the parade would not have kept going without him.

He was up at six in the morning after every parade, walking the road, picking up candy that had been run over and gum people had dropped.

Every piece of it. Most people see the parade. Len saw what came after it, and he showed up for that too.

He kept the parade going when it was no longer a sweet little parking lot march and not yet an easy machine. It was work. It was year after year of details. It was making sure the tradition did not become only something people talked about from the old days.

This year is Len Friedlund last year as organizer of the parade. He will still be there, doing what he always does, but this year his friends

are pulling him out long enough to ride as Grand Marshal in the spot reserved for those who have given Munds Park the most.

Thirty-four years later, the Munds Park Fourth of July Parade still carries Yvonne Carney's first idea: give the children a reason to remember the day. Jan Toth helped it through the years when it grew bigger than anyone expected, and Len Friedlund carried it forward for seventeen more. What began as a grandmother's gift has become something the town keeps choosing, year after year.



Thank you to everyone who sent us photos!



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THE HAPPY HOUR DISH THAT TRAVELS WELL

ADAPTED FROM SWEETPEA LIFESTYLE, SWISS ONION DIP SLIDERS WITH HAM.

Happy hours in Munds Park are practically a community institution. Someone texts around noon, neighbors show up around four, and just like that, a perfectly good Wednesday becomes a social occasion. Some hosts take it further, holding the same day every week so guests simply know to show up. Now that is dedication to the fine institution of drinking before five.



If you are a regular on the circuit, it pays to show up with something. Not flowers. Food.

The ideal guest dish travels well, serves itself and gives the host one less thing to think about. Bonus points if people circle back for seconds without being invited.

This week's recipe earns those points. Swiss Onion Dip Sliders with Ham are warm, cheesy and savory, with a creamy Vidalia onion and Swiss filling mixed with ham, spread into soft rolls and baked until golden. A swipe of mustardy mayonnaise on the rolls adds just enough tang to keep the richness in check. Easy to carry, easy to serve and the kind of thing that quietly disappears from the platter.

Bake them before you go, wrap them in foil and carry them over warm. Or assemble in advance and bake just before you leave. Either way, you arrive as exactly the kind of guest people are glad to see.

Did you Know? George Washington loved ham so much that Mount Vernon cured and stored its own supply year-round. He was also one of the new nation's largest whiskey distillers, producing thousands of gallons of rye annually. Basically, the man had happy hour covered from both ends.

Swiss Onion Dip Sliders with Ham

Makes: 12 sliders / Prep time: 15 minutes / Bake time: 25 minutes
Total time: 40 minutes

The Filling

- 8 ounces Swiss cheese, shredded
- 8 ounces mayonnaise
- 1 medium sweet Vidalia onion, grated
- 1/2 teaspoon Smash Seasoning (a branded savory blend; substitute seasoning salt or a pinch each of garlic powder and onion powder)
- 1/2 pound thin-sliced deli ham, chopped

Assembly

- 12 Hawaiian rolls, split horizontally as one connected sheet
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons yellow or Dijon mustard

Optional glaze

- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon poppy seeds
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the Swiss cheese, the 8 ounces of mayonnaise, the shredded onion, seasoning and ham. Stir until evenly mixed.
3. In a small bowl, stir together the 1/2 cup of mayonnaise and the mustard. Spread over the cut sides of the rolls.
4. Place the roll bottoms in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Spread the filling evenly over the bottoms, then set the tops in place.
5. If using the glaze, stir the poppy seeds and brown sugar into the melted butter until the sugar dissolves. Brush over the roll tops with a silicone basting brush. If skipping the glaze, proceed directly to baking.
6. Cover with foil and bake 20 minutes. Uncover and bake 5 minutes more, until the tops are lightly golden.
7. Slice into individual rolls and serve warm.

Set the sliders out, step away, and give everyone one more reason to linger.

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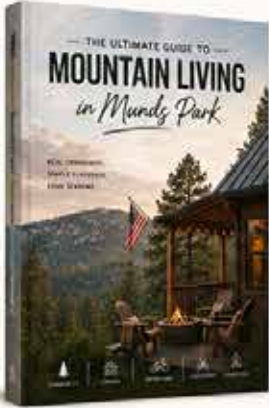
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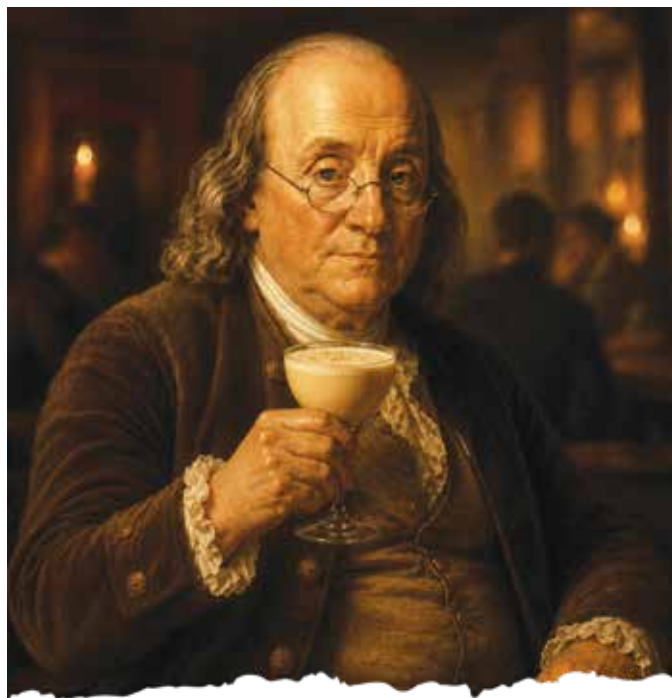
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AT LOGGERHEADS



In 1737, Benjamin Franklin sat down and collected over two hundred ways to say a man had drunk too much without actually saying it, which tells you something about colonial America and probably more about Franklin. He was already running a newspaper, inventing things, and irritating the British, and he still found time to compile a glossary of drunkenness. The man had range.

Some of the terms were blunt enough, words like addled, boozy, and cracked, while others suggested a committee had been involved. Cherubimical is the word for a man who has gotten soft and rosy and started telling people he loves them at a volume the whole tavern can hear. "Halfway to Concord" describes a man who has not yet disgraced himself entirely but has acquired enough momentum in one direction that someone should probably find him a chair.

The colonial tavern was where all of this language lived. It was a working room full of politics, commerce, bad debt, and weather complaints, not a bar with flattering lamps and a bartender who wants to discuss his infusions. The drinks had names like Rattle-Skull, Blackstrap, Bombo, and Flip, and they were built for people with genuine problems, not people looking for something to photograph.

The Flip was the most famous of them. You took rum, beer, and molasses, combined them in a tankard, and then the barkeep would pull a long iron poker called a loggerhead from the fireplace and plunge it directly into your drink. It frothed up, steamed, caramelized slightly at the edges, and arrived at your table still hissing. It was dramatic and warming and probably a little dangerous, which put it squarely in the spirit of the room.

Here is the detail worth keeping: when two men in a colonial tavern got into a serious argument, they were said to be at loggerheads. The

same iron that made your drink could, in a pinch, settle a dispute. That phrase is still in circulation today, which means Franklin's dictionary and the Flip have both outlasted nearly everything else from that era, and that is not a bad legacy for a mug of hot rum and a poker.

The modern version skips the fireplace, which is reasonable given that most of us are working a Munds Park porch in July. What remains is dark rum, a whole egg, a touch of maple, and hard cider, shaken hard enough to go frothy and rich and just barely sweet. It is nothing like what you expect and exactly what you want once the pines start throwing shade and the afternoon slows down enough to deserve something serious in the glass.

The Flip

- In a shaker, combine 2 ounces dark rum, 1 whole egg, 3/4 ounce maple syrup, and 2 ounces hard cider. Dry shake vigorously without ice for fifteen seconds, then add Ice and shake hard again until very cold.
- Strain into a chilled coupe glass and garnish with a generous dusting of fresh nutmeg.

It will not hiss when it arrives, but it will get your attention.

Until next time, sip responsibly and enjoy!



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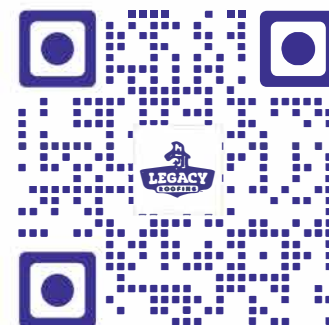
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THE SUMMER AMERICA CALLS US BACK TO THE OPEN ROAD

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG

Some summers are simply better suited to road trips than others. This is one of them. Across America, communities are celebrating the nation's 250th birthday while Route 66 marks its 100th anniversary. Here in northern Arizona, Flagstaff is commemorating 150 years since a group of settlers raised an American flag atop a ponderosa pine and unknowingly gave the city its name.

For travelers, the convergence of these anniversaries creates a rare opportunity to experience America's history not from a textbook, but through a windshield. Whether you're planning a cross-country adventure or simply looking for a meaningful day trip from Pinewood, this may be the perfect summer to answer the call of the open road.

The story begins close to home.

On July 4, 1876, as the nation celebrated its Centennial, a group of settlers gathered in the pine forest north of present-day Munds Park.



Towns like Winslow capture the nostalgic charm and retro Americana of the Mother Road, drawing visitors with their classic streetscapes, vintage character, and enduring Route 66 spirit.

Photo from Sydney Rasmussen

To mark the occasion, they stripped the branches from a tall ponderosa pine and raised the Stars and Stripes atop the improvised flagpole. The site became known as the "Flagstaff," and over time the settlement adopted the name. Today, visitors can view a historical marker commemorating the flag raising on North Thorpe Road between Hopi Drive and Aztec Street in Flagstaff. The event connected this mountain community to a defining moment in American history, and 150 years later that connection remains a source of local pride.

The timing feels especially meaningful today. As America

commemorates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, communities across the country are reflecting on the people, places and events that shaped the nation. Historic sites are hosting special exhibits, museums are unveiling new programs and towns large and small are celebrating their unique place in the American story.



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One of the best ways to experience that story is the way generations of Americans before us have done it: by road.

For a century, Route 66 has symbolized freedom, curiosity and possibility. Officially established in 1926, the highway stretched from Chicago to Los Angeles and became known as the Mother Road. During the Dust Bowl years, families traveled west in search of opportunity. After World War II, vacationing families piled into station wagons and set off to explore a growing nation. The route became a ribbon connecting countless American dreams.

Northern Arizona remains one of the finest places to experience that legacy. Travelers can still find historic trading posts, vintage motels, classic diners and stretches of roadway that evoke the golden age of automobile travel. Communities such as Winslow, Holbrook, Williams, Seligman and Flagstaff continue to celebrate the road that helped define them.

Flagstaff occupies a special place in that history. Long before Interstate 40 whisked travelers across the state, Route 66 carried visitors directly through town. Businesses flourished, motor courts filled with tourists and neon signs lit the night sky. Today, many of those historic buildings remain, offering a tangible link to the generations who traveled the same route before us.

The city's 150th anniversary and Route 66's 100th birthday make a fitting pairing. Both stories are rooted in movement, optimism and the belief that something worthwhile lies beyond the next bend in the road. Both remind us that communities are shaped not only by those who settle there, but also by those who pass through and carry the stories onward.

Of course, not everyone can spend weeks driving across the country this summer. Airline tickets, family obligations and busy schedules often have a way of reshaping our travel dreams. The good news is that you don't need thousands of miles behind the wheel to participate in this uniquely American moment.

A short road trip can be just as rewarding.

From Pinewood, Flagstaff is only about 22 miles away. Yet that brief drive offers an opportunity to explore a city celebrating its

sesquicentennial while honoring both its frontier origins and its Route 66 heritage. Visitors can stroll historic downtown streets, learn about the city's founding, dine in restored buildings and discover how a simple Fourth of July celebration in 1876 helped create the community we know today.

Perhaps that is why road trips remain woven so deeply into the American identity. They allow us to connect places and stories. They encourage curiosity. They remind us that history is not confined to museums and monuments. It lives in small towns, roadside attractions, historic highways and communities like Munds Park that continue to celebrate their past while looking toward the future.

Whether your road leads across the country or simply north from Pinewood to Flagstaff, there may never be a better time to get behind the wheel and discover the stories waiting just beyond the next mile marker.

Munds Park resident Stacey Wittig is an award-winning travel writer and author known as UNSTOPPABLE Stacey. When she's not exploring destinations around the world, she enjoys uncovering the history and hidden stories found along America's back roads and highways. Find more of her travel stories at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com.



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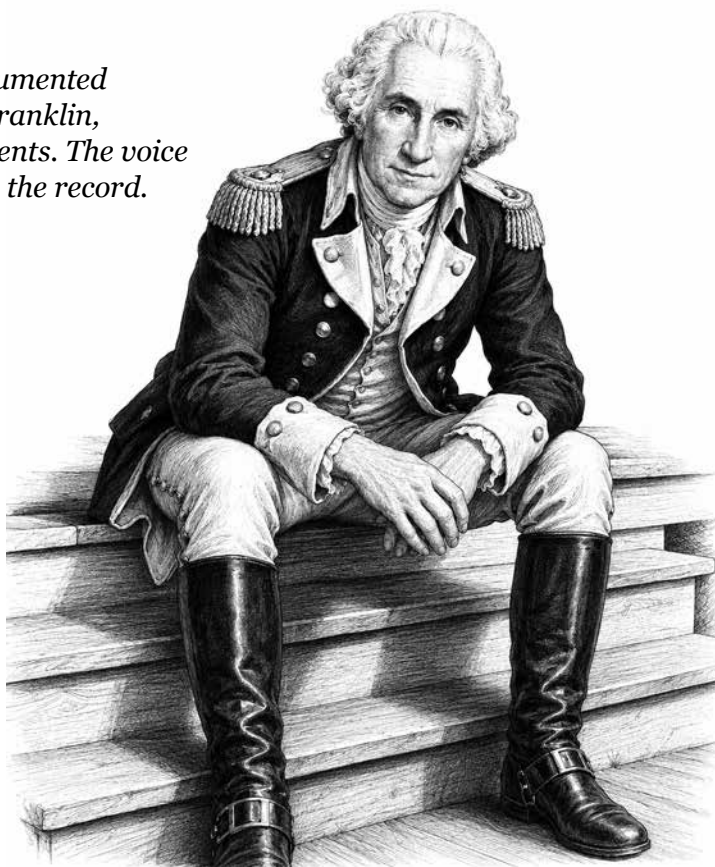
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A 250TH BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

This address is rooted in Washington's documented words and warnings, with support from Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, and the founding documents. The voice is imagined. The concerns are drawn from the record.



Citizens. Americans. Friends.

I am told things have changed considerably since my time. In many ways, they have. In the ways that matter most, they have not.

I served this republic for eight years as its first President. I could have remained longer. I chose not to, because the point was never one man. It was always the people. It was always your good judgment, your character, your willingness to govern yourselves with something more reliable than anger.

I am not certain that is still happening. And so I speak.

Foundation

Let me begin where everything must begin.

Your rights did not begin with a vote or a decree. No government granted them. Your Creator bestowed them, and no parliament, no congress, no party can take them away.

The Congress said it plainly on July 4, 1776: that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.

When we placed your rights in God's hands rather than government's, we were saying something sacred: you belong to something greater than any earthly power. No king, no parliament, no man can own what God has made free.

My colleague Benjamin Franklin, older and in many ways wiser than all of us in that room, called us to prayer during the darkest hours of our Constitutional Convention. He said:

"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

John Adams, who argued with me on nearly everything, agreed on this:

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

What Franklin and Adams left us was not celebration but prophecy. A nation built on pride collapses. A Constitution without virtue becomes parchment. Freedom requires character, restraint, humility, and a moral compass. Without those, even the finest laws become a paper tiger.

What I Feared Most

The thing I feared was not a foreign army, nor financial ruin. Something far more corrosive. Something far harder to see coming.

In the autumn of 1796, as I prepared to leave the presidency, I wrote an open letter to every American citizen. And I said this:

"Let me warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the Spirit of Party generally."

The Spirit of Party, I wrote, stirs up false fears. It turns neighbors against neighbors. And I warned of ambitious men who would learn to exploit that division, who would use it to seize power for themselves and strip it from ordinary people.

I could not have imagined your television. I could not have imagined the small glass screen you carry in your pocket that delivers manufactured outrage, on demand, twenty-four hours a day, to anyone who reaches for it, young and old.

But I understood exactly the kind of men who would build such a thing. And why.

The Merchants of Division

The men and women who profit from your anger, the talking heads, the ones fighting for your attention, profit deliberately and enormously. They are not your leaders. They are not your neighbors. They are merchants of division, and your attention is their currency. The louder you shout at the screen, the more they manufacture to keep you shouting. *Nothing is fixed. Nothing is built. No one is helped.*

Thomas Jefferson and I were not always friends. But he said something in his First Inaugural Address that has proven true in every generation since: We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists. He was not speaking of the parties you know today. In his time, Federalists and Jeffersonian Republicans had argued fiercely over the very nature of this republic. Were he standing here now, he would remind us we are all Americans. That was always his meaning. And it was my own.

They have worked very hard to convince you it is you against them. Do not let them. We are all Americans.

Stand together.

Turn from the rage, and focus on the community that's right in front of you. Build something there. The people you see every day, the town you live in, the road you drive. That is where the republic actually lives. If you read the stories in this very paper, you will read about inspiring neighbors doing just that. Reaching out, rolling up their sleeves, and taking care of their community, not caring an ounce about party or politics. They are their brothers and sisters, they are Americans, so they help.

...Continued on page 4B

FROM THE PORCH

...Continued from page 3B

We placed the Tenth Amendment in the Bill of Rights for exactly this reason: to establish beyond question that the power of this republic lives closest to the people, not farthest from them. The federal government was designed to handle what no single state could handle alone. It was not designed to run your life or your community. That was always meant to be yours.

The loudest voices in your country are a thousand miles away. They invoke your name and spend your money and manufacture your outrage, and then ask for your vote as payment.

Your neighbors are right there. The ones who may vote differently and fix your fence anyway. Talk to them. Disagree with them. Help them. Get out into life. That is the republic working as designed.

Spend It On Each Other

I will close as I closed my Farewell Address, with the conviction that held everything else together.

This republic cannot survive on laws alone. It needs people of character. People who believe they answer to something larger than themselves. Without that, the laws are just words with no one willing to follow them.

That belief was the architecture on which we built everything else, the shared belief that we were answerable to something higher than any parliament or king. Men crossed oceans for that belief. They bled in winter fields for it, pledged their fortunes and their lives, and when the work was done, most of them went quietly home to the communities they had fought to protect.

Do yourself, your neighbors and your country a favor. Turn away from the manufactured fury being delivered to you by men who have never met you. Stop surrendering your hours to strangers who profit from your rage.

Your community is not an abstraction. It is the road that needs mending, the neighbor who needs watching over, the child looking at you right now to understand what a citizen is supposed to look like. Show up for each other. That is the whole of it.

The Republic was founded on people taking care of their own communities. That is how we built it. That is how you keep it.

MUNDS PARK

What a Functioning Republic Looks Like

Munds Park is a small unincorporated community. There is no city hall to handle everything for us. We have good county partners, but the heart of this place has always been its own citizens. People show up. They volunteer. They pick up trash, watch out for neighbors, serve on boards, and do the thousand small things that make our slice of the American pie feel like home.

So that small-town feeling everyone loves happens because people care enough to put their hands to the work.

That, my friends, is what our Founding Fathers had in mind. Free people, seeing what needs doing and doing it. Not because someone ordered them to, or they sat in wait for the government. Because this is home, and we take care of our own home.

That is the Republic at its best. That is what happens when people choose to show up for one another.

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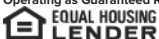
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LIBERTY TREES' MAKING A COMEBACK AS AMERICA CELEBRATES 250 YEARS

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



As horticulturists, we know that a beautiful, leafy tree in a public place can make a great gathering site. They provide shade, filter the

light of the sun, and are easy landmarks to spot. Find a large enough one, and its leafy canopy creates an outdoor meeting space where you can have a big family reunion, hold a yoga class—or even start a revolution.

At least that was the fate of one 120-year old elm tree in Boston.

In 1765, a group of American colonists who called themselves the “Loyal Nine” chose the tree at the corner of Essex and Orange streets as their meeting place to protest the Stamp Act, the first British tax aimed at the colonies. The tree became known as the “Liberty Tree” and Loyal Nine ultimately became the Sons of Liberty.

For a decade, the Liberty Tree served as the rallying point for the growing resistance to British rule. It's where colonists hung effigies of British officials. When the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766, people gathered under the tree to celebrate. After John Hancock's boat was seized by the British custom commissioner in 1768, rebels retaliated by dragging the commissioner's boat from Boston Harbor to the Liberty Tree, where it was the subject of a mock trial, found guilty, and then set on fire. When the Tea Act was passed in 1773, protests began anew around the tree.

Recognizing what a powerful symbol the tree had become, British loyalists felled the tree in 1775, but that didn't faze the American revolutionaries; they just started meeting around the stump.

By that time, communities in almost all 13 colonies had designated their own Liberty Trees as meeting places for those planning to throw



Boston Stamp Act Riot 1765 Bostonians Protesting The Stamp Act By Hanging An Effigy Of Stamp Agent Andrew Oliver From The Liberty Tree In Newbury Street On 14 August 1765 Colored

off the yoke of British rule. At the very least, there were dozens of Liberty Trees and by some estimates there were more than 100.

None of the original Liberty Trees are still standing today, the last one, a tulip poplar in Annapolis, Maryland, that was selected by colonists in 1775 to be their Liberty Tree was felled in 1999 after Hurricane Floyd caused irreparable damage to it.

However, before the original tree was lost, foresters grafted living branches, or scions, onto new rootstocks to create exact genetic clones of the Annapolis Liberty Tree. This year, the Maryland Liberty Tree Project is planting seedlings from the scions in each of the state's 23 counties and Baltimore City,

creating a powerful living commemoration of the Revolutionary era. Pennsylvania is also planting tulip poplars that are descendants from the Maryland tree.

And those aren't the only two efforts to honor the legacy of Liberty Trees.

The Sons of Liberty, the organization that evolved from the Loyal Nine, is marking the 250th anniversary of American Independence by planting a new generation of elm trees in every state to honor the original Liberty Tree in Boston. So far, they've planted more than 260, including three in Arizona.

The Liberty Tree began as a single elm in Boston, and it came to symbolize a people's determination to govern themselves. It is deeply rooted in our values and our history, and it is heartening that its legacy is branching out to hundreds of living descendants across the country.

Happy Independence Day,

Misti Warner-Andersen

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250 YEARS

BY MARGARET DYEKMAN



photo is courtesy of Muriel Neddermeyer.

One of our country's tall tales in the century of our founding was that a squirrel could travel on the treetops from Boston to the Mississippi River, never putting a foot on the ground. The forests were dense and far-reaching, and those were times when the forces of nature meant that humans were at the mercy of environmental events they could not control: drought, floods, cold, heat, and disease. The change brought on by colonization and then the industrial revolution years slowly but surely eroded the upper hand that nature had. People progressively "tamed" the land, changing it in numerous ways.

Today the imbalance is reversed, with the environment at the mercy of humans more than it's ever been before. Vast spreads of prairies have been wiped out for mass production farming, cattle destroy native habitats where buffalo once thrived, rivers are polluted or dammed, concrete and asphalt cover entire ecosystems to support a growing population of human consumers, and climate is altered because of these human interactions. People have prospered over nature, and yet people will not survive without the natural elements on which we depend: clear air, clean water, healthy food, and safe shelter.

Birds are a prime indicator of the health of our planet and our country. Since 1776 North America has forever lost the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Passenger Pigeon, Great Auk, Carolina Parakeet, and Labrador Duck. In the United States and Canada there are now 30 percent fewer birds than there were just 50 years ago. This equates to 3 billion fewer birds. When people tell me, "I'm not seeing as many birds as I used to", I'm not surprised. Habitat loss, window strikes, city lights, water pollution, outdoor cats, draining of wetlands, and pesticides killing natural food sources all contribute to the decline of birds. And I've not even touched on the extinction of other species in the plant, insect, and wildlife world.

Our current state can be darn depressing, yet we've seen citizens and politicians recognize the challenges over the years and take steps to stem the eroding of our natural environment and biodiversity.

Theodore Roosevelt, considered the "Conservation President", established the National Forest Service and creation of five national parks, 18 national monuments, and 51 federal bird preserves. Woodrow Wilson signed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Franklin D. Roosevelt established 140 wildlife refuges, 29 national forests, and 11 national monuments, including sites that would become Zion and Joshua Tree National Parks. He used the Antiquities Act to enhance national monuments like Death Valley and Muir Woods. Richard Nixon oversaw a sweeping time of eco-friendly

legislation, including the creation of the National Environmental Policy Act and creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. He signed landmark laws for the protection of air, water, and species. Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama signed legislation and agreements that benefited public lands and marine reserves.

Today I am not so optimistic, as we see unprecedented rollbacks of protection and attacks on environmental health. If you don't believe me, a review of the National Environmental Defense Council website (NEDC.org) provides a list of changes already in effect or proposed on land and wildlife alone. One proposal will drastically weaken legal safeguards for wildlife by excluding protection against habitat destruction, a leading cause of extinction.

It doesn't have to be this way, the onslaught of attacks on the environment in the name of progress. Progress to what end, and what will suffer as a result? The United States has been an opportunity

... Continued on page 8B



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WINGS OVER ARIZONA

... Continued from page 7B

leader while recognizing its flaws and making changes. Take the Bald Eagle as an example. In 1960 there were only 417 nesting pairs in the United States. Today there are an estimated 72,000 nesting pairs, largely because DDT was banned and the Bald Eagle was given protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

We are a resilient population, and we must stand up for what we value. There is always a push and pull between a perfect balance of preserving the natural environment and resource use, but it is usually the protection of the natural environment that gets the short end of the stick. Then we realize we are in a precarious spot and spend millions of dollars to make a course correction for something that never should have been allowed to happen in the first place.

What is good for birds is good for people. Be an informed voter on environmental issues, contact your representatives on local and national conservation matters, and stand up to protect biodiversity. Pay attention to the extreme shift from environmental protection to elimination, because in the end, the species and financial costs will be on us for generations to come.

Email your comments, questions, reports of sightings, and your suggestions for future articles to margaretdyekman@cox.net or text Margaret at 602-620-3210. You can read all about Backyard Birding in Northern Arizona at www.backyardbirdingaz.com and purchase the book online or by contacting Margaret directly.

SUDOKU

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 26B

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A HISTORY OF PINEWOOD PLAYERS

BY DAN SLOCUM, PAST-PRESIDENT PINEWOOD PLAYERS, LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

This summer marks 250 years since the founding of our great nation. Along with thousands of communities across this grand land, Munds Park will celebrate the history, traditions and institutions that make our community special. Pinewood Players is one of those institutions.

Did you know Munds Park has a theater where live performances are staged? Newer residents may not know about this unique community amenity, or about the amateur theater group that has provided live entertainment for more than 35 years.

Pinewood Players, an amateur theater group with origins dating back to 1990, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with membership open to the public. Everyone is welcome to join, participate in the group's activities, and attend plays and events. The organization has a long history of contributing to the community. In addition to providing entertainment and opportunities to participate in plays and other events, the group conducts Youth Drama Camps and awards annual scholarships to deserving students with connections to the community.

The Early Years

Elaine "Enie" Smart is credited with founding Pinewood Players. Legend has it that the idea to start a theater "club" came to her while walking with a friend in Munds Park on a spring day in 1990.

From that casual beginning, a plan took shape. That summer, Enie and several friends organized a group



The old green theater



"Paris" (Perris, CA) 1995



"Nunsense" 2000

that produced, directed and performed two plays. Elaine Smart is recognized as the founder of Pinewood Players, while four additional talented individuals who worked with her, Hilda Buerkle, Joan Gorges, Jim Hedberg and Norma Thomas, are recognized as co-founders.

Initially, plays were performed on a small stage in the "Bingo Room" at Pinewood Country Club. As the plays grew in popularity, and as audiences and productions became larger, it became necessary to move the shows to the Library, now the Elk Run Room.

Enie continued to lead the group creatively until her death at age 93 in 2006. Her son Bill, a former professional actor, served as the troupe's exclusive director from 1993 through 2008 and remained active in the organization until his passing in 2011.

The founders and Bill Smart are memorialized in the entry of the Pinewood Playhouse with photos and plaques, reminding all who enter of their contribution to the community and a legacy that has lasted more than 35 years.

The Pinewood Playhouse

The popularity of Pinewood Players and its events continued to grow throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. Plays continued to be staged in the Library, and the events became so popular that overflow audiences spilled into the lobby. It became increasingly difficult to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend.

Meanwhile, supporters began donating to help cover production costs and ensure the group

...Continued on page 10B



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COMMUNITY THEATER

... Continued from page 9B

could continue providing entertainment for the community. In 1997, the group incorporated and applied for and received tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status, allowing for tax-deductible donations.

By 2001, it was clear a different venue was needed. The Library was no longer adequate for the audiences or the productions. A vacant building on the Country Club campus was offered as a possible solution. It was a far cry from a theater, but it was large enough. With imagination, one could envision converting the building into a theater. A long-term lease was negotiated with the Country Club, and plans began taking shape.

The community stepped up with donations and volunteers. Many people contributed countless hours to the project, and by the summer of 2002, the Pinewood Playhouse was completed. After more than 10 years of performing in the Country Club Library, Munds Park finally had its very own "Theater in the Pines."

The Evolutionary Years

The years after the Pinewood Playhouse opened were important to the organization's development. Technology and other factors brought significant changes to the organization, its productions and the playhouse building.

Technology improved communication with members and patrons and made participation more convenient. Around 2012, the organization's first website launched, followed a few years later by online ticket sales. The first email newsletter was published in 2013.

On stage, more elaborate productions were made possible by enhancements such as wireless microphones. Musicals and Broadway classics such as "Guys and Dolls," "Steel Magnolias," "Cactus Flower," "On Golden Pond" and "Bus Stop" were performed. Audiences were entertained by hysterical comedies and moved by heart-warming



Drama Camp rehearsing "At the Bandstand" on stage 2023

stories brought to life on the Pinewood Playhouse stage.

At the other end of the performing spectrum, Reader's Theater was introduced to encourage would-be performers to try reading lines while acting out humorous skits for friends and neighbors in a casual setting. Many of these novices embraced the experience and became talented performers on the Pinewood Playhouse mainstage. Reader's

Theater remains a training ground and one of the organization's most popular events each season.

The Pinewood Playhouse also underwent significant physical changes, with additions that created dressing rooms, a make-up room, a covered entry patio and a ticket office. Air conditioning was installed for the comfort of the audience.

Theater technology was upgraded with computerized digital sound and lighting systems, as well as videography equipment. A theater curtain was installed to enhance the stage ambiance.

These formative years established Pinewood Players as a Munds Park institution and positioned the group to evolve as changing demographics and lifestyles ushered in a new era for the community and the organization.

Present Day

Now entering its 36th year, Pinewood Players continues to offer plays, Youth Drama Camps, acting and directing workshops, technical theater training and other events that promote the performing arts in the Munds Park community.

To learn more about the organization, membership, volunteering, participation in stage productions, workshops and other activities, please visit www.pinewoodplayers.com.

WORD SEARCH

SOLUTION PAGE 26B

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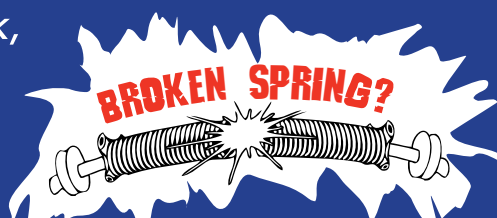
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AFTER 17 YEARS, MUNDS PARK BUSINESS ALLIANCE REFRESHES LEADERSHIP & EXPANDS MISSION

BY BILL SPAIN



The Munds Park Business Alliance has seen many changes over the Seventeen year stretch of service the group has provided to the community.

Launched in 2009 as a remedy to help struggling businesses affected by the Great Recession era, MPBA has become an organization that not only benefits the local businesses but offers support, volunteers and assistance to numerous events throughout the Park.

With the election of a slate of new officers for the 2026-2028 calendar, changes will be seen, felt and appreciated with the full roll-out of the “Heart of the Park” advertising, marketing and development campaign where Volunteers can now join the Alliance to aid in supplementing help where necessary through MPBA supported events. The group will continue to sponsor programs such as Adopt-A-Highway, various Beautification Projects, Local Events, Special Business Openings, The annual 4th of July Parade, Trunk or Treat and the Christmas Lighting Festival as well as support local theater productions with manpower assistance and, of course, fundraisers to raise money for the “PMJ” Domestic Violence Home and specific group nominated charitable organizations. Look for more information in upcoming articles about how you can become involved and participate in giving back to the Munds Park community.

At the June 9th meeting, the group elected officers to lead the refreshed organization forward:

President

Mike Shrake
It's A Munds Thing

VP-Operations

Vanessa Zeigler
Above & Beyond Cleaning

VP-Heart of the Park

MadJack (MadJack) Corson
Community Activist

Secretary

Deanne Martin
Wine Tasting & More

Treasurer

Anthony French
TFC Construction

At-Large

Michael Felton
Goodfellas Junk Removal

Pam Dunphy
Pam On The Spot

*Heart of the Park
Volunteer Coordinator*

Kyle Schlotfelt

*Past President's
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Marilyn Kaminski
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Over 30 Volunteers Join Heart of the Park



Besides the Eighteen Businesses that comprise MPBA for 2026, over thirty volunteers have joined the “Heart of the Park” Volunteer arm of the Munds Park Alliance. Under the tutoring of the executive team and Advisory Council, Mad Jack Corson and Kyle Schlotfelt are establishing this branch of the organization in order to be able to ensure the growth and continuation of cherished long-term traditions and events in the Park.

The newest member of MPBA is Dennis and Jenny Tran of “Saigon Kitchen North.” Saigon kitchen is opening on July 18, 2026 with a special “Buffet Assortment” of their extensive menu offered to a limited number of patrons, (200) for the “Soft Opening” of the newest restaurant in town located at the former Martino’s Restaurant. The opening event is \$75 a person inclusive of taxes and tips and will feature a wide variety of Dennis Tran’s favorite Vietnamese Dishes. There are already over 120 reservations confirmed for this event so if you have interest, contact Bill Spain at 602-622-1196 to get on the list to attend.

If you would like to join the MPBA or the Munds Park Volunteer Alliance, check out our website at MundsParkBusinessAlliance.org, and click on the Join/Renew Membership button to complete an application. You can review our mission, core value and philosophy as well as learn more about sponsorship opportunities and the calendar of events. The next general meeting will be held on July 14, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the Munds Park Community Church Fellowship Hall.



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THE LONG ROAD TO PINWOOD BLVD

Meet Ludy & David, Owners of the Pinewood Restaurant & Bar

BY SANDEE CAVINESS



Photo by Barbara Sherman

The Castro's, Angelica, Ludy & David

Genna and I love sitting down with brick-and-mortar business owners in the Park. These conversations give readers a chance to know the people behind the business and help preserve the local history we all enjoy.

But one story remained unwritten. They had been here long before we arrived, and I suppose I assumed everyone already knew their story. Genna kept saying, “You need to write about Ludy and David,” and I kept thinking, Why? They are Ludy and David. Everyone knows Ludy and David.

Then last December, we were invited to their Christmas party.

It was a crisp, chilly mountain-town evening, the kind that reminds you why people feel lucky to call this place home. The restaurant was full of friendly faces, easy conversation, good food, and the simple pleasure of celebrating the season together.

Ludy was pouring the tallest glasses of wine I had ever seen, or happily accepted. David made his way through the restaurant talking with everyone, and I overheard something that caught my attention.

“People think they know poor,” David said. “But you don’t know poor until you’ve gone to bed not knowing if you’ll eat the next day. I know poor.”

That was the beginning of the story, and we talked about it all the way home. By the time we pulled into the driveway, we both knew we had to share their remarkable journey.

We saved David and Ludy’s story for this issue because it belongs here. The Fourth of July is when we celebrate the men who planted the first seeds of the American Dream, and David and Ludy are what those seeds become when two people spend a lifetime earning them. The dream has never been unattainable; it simply demands real effort. We are only promised a chance.

And sometimes, when a person is willing to do the work, someone good comes along and helps open the door.

So settle in. This story is special.

Their story begins in the small village of San Miguel de Allende, Durango, Mexico, where they first met as young children.

David was just five years old when his father died. By six, he was already working. He attended school only about three months each year. The rest of his time was spent in the fields and on farms alongside his grandfather and uncles. They raised corn and beans, worked with horses and plows, hand-seeded acres of land, and did whatever was needed to help his mother.

“I don’t remember a time when I wasn’t working,” David said without a trace of complaint.

His mother took in laundry and did whatever work she could find, and David helped wherever he was needed. He was just a little boy, but life had handed him work meant for men.

Ludy’s childhood was blessed compared to David’s, but it wasn’t easy. She said girls in Mexico often did not attend school the way boys did, and many married young. As the oldest girl in her family, she was expected to help care for the younger children and keep the house running.

Her mother was strict, and the work had to be done right and on time. There was no room for excuses. Before school, Ludy had to make the beds, sweep the floors, wash the dishes, and get the younger children ready. If she did not finish, her mother told her there would be no lunch waiting at school.

“She meant it,” Ludy said.

But her mother was working just as hard. When Ludy cooked for her brothers and sisters, she also cooked for her mother and carried a meal to her at work.

Ludy understood hardship, but David knew poverty. There was no money, not for paper or even a pencil for school. Ludy’s parents had a tiendita, a little neighborhood store, and she would bring him paper, sometimes even a whole notebook. Other times, she slipped him candy, a cookie, or an orange.

“I felt so bad for him. He had nothing,” she said.

Let me pause here for a moment.

During the interview, Ludy sat beside David, all these years later, still very much in love with him. She looked at him with such tenderness that Genna and I could feel it across the table. It was the same tenderness, I think, that once led a little girl to bring candy to a boy who had nothing.

It was beautiful to witness.

Shoes were a luxury David’s family could not afford. The only ones he had were shoes he made himself. They were enough to get him through the fields, but not strong enough for sports, so when the other children played, David sat out.

He knew he was poor and spoke openly about it.

His family couldn’t afford pork or lard for the beans. His mother used what she had. David told her that one day he would have enough money to cook food the way he liked it, and maybe, he said, even enough to throw some away.

It was not waste he was dreaming about. It was abundance. The wild idea that someday there might be enough food, made the way they wanted it, with some left over. That was the dream of a hungry boy.

“I always told my mom, one day we are not going to live like this,” David said. “This is not going to be our life. One day, things will change.”

When David was eight, drought forced his family to leave their village for a larger city about five hours away, where his mother’s brothers and sisters lived. There was not enough room for the family to stay together, so the children were divided among relatives. David stayed with an uncle.

The move to the city was temporary, but it opened David’s eyes. He saw workers living in small rooms on rooftops, then spent time with a friend whose family had a big house with a swimming pool. To a poor boy from a small village, it felt like paradise.

For David, that became the dream. “I would tell myself, I like this, and I want a house like this one day,” he said.

... Continued on page 16B

THE LONG ROAD TO PINWOOD BLVD

... Continued from page 15B

Then he would head home, where reality waited for him at the door. Sometimes his mother would give him just enough change to buy a half-dozen eggs and a small carton of milk. David would count every coin carefully, stretching it as far as he possibly could.

He still remembers standing in grocery aisles as a boy, watching other families fill their carts. A hungry child, surrounded by food he could not have. Every shelf full. Every cart but his.

David first came to the United States at sixteen, carrying little more than the price of a bus ticket and a stubborn determination to build a better life. He had no money, but he had friends who fed him and helped him along the way. He landed first in Phoenix, then made his way north to Flagstaff, where Ludy's oldest brother was living.

After eight months, David went back to Mexico. He had a girl waiting for him: Ludy, young and in love with a boy who had nothing in his pocket but a dream. They ran away together to Sinaloa and worked the fields from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon for two dollars a day. The sun beat down, and the work was backbreaking. Later, they returned to their small village, scraped together enough to buy a little piece of ground, and built an adobe mud house with their own hands.

Time rolled on, and David and Ludy decided to head north to Flagstaff. America, where dreams can come true, but they don't come easy. They lived in a house with sixteen people, and only three were able to work. Groceries were counted out in coins. Ludy remembered buying one slice of pizza for twenty-five cents at NiMarco's Pizza and sharing it with David for dinner. That single slice was often their meal.

When Ludy became pregnant with David Jr., they needed a place of their own. Ludy went to work at Motel 6. David worked for a while in Sedona, then returned to Flagstaff and started washing dishes at Perkins Restaurant for \$2.80 an hour.

Those early years tested them. They were the kind of years that can break a person or reveal who they truly are. Ludy and David were not the kind of people who break.

David Jr. was still an infant when Ludy rode her bicycle through the snow-filled streets of Flagstaff, the baby strapped close to her, pedaling against the icy wind toward Motel 6 and a job she simply could not afford to miss. No one ever had to wonder what Ludy was made of — pure grit.

At Perkins, David needed more money for his family, but he also saw a way forward. He watched the cooks, jumped in wherever he could, and began learning the line piece by piece.

"I wanted to be a cook," he said. "I did whatever I could to learn."

In 1992, David was heading back to Sedona looking for work when he made a quick stop in Munds Park. He was following the next opportunity, like always.

He pulled into the Lone Pine and asked if they needed help. Diane, Donny Newton's cousin, took his name and phone number. David figured that was that and went on with his day.

By four o'clock, the phone rang. Could he start Monday?

And with that, David's American Dream began. He started that Monday and did what David does best. He worked hard, paid close attention, caught on quickly, and learned the menu inside and out. The owners at the time, Harley and Betty Brown, along with partners Holly and Nell Hollingsworth, treated him well. They even began sharing a portion of the tips with him. After so many years of scraping by, that small act of kindness mattered.

Before long, they asked if he would like to move to Munds Park. They had a place for him on Cedarwood. When David told them he had a

wife and children, the answer was simple: "Bring the family."

Ludy would help clean and wash dishes while still working at the motel. Later, she would spend eight summers working at Pinewood Country Club.

For years, they worked, listened, served, and learned the rhythm of Munds Park. They came to know what the community wanted because they were part of it, day after day, doing the work.

The restaurant itself had its own winding road. It changed hands, and David and Ludy moved in and out of the story more than once. At one point, they moved back to Flagstaff. But over time, one thing became clear: they belonged at the Lone Pine.

In 2002, Betty came looking for David again. She found him in Flagstaff, working at Mike and Ronda's and making \$12.50 an hour. She offered him \$17 an hour and offered Ludy the same. More than that, she offered them a chance to run the restaurant their way. They could choose the hours. They could make decisions. They could treat the place, at least in spirit, like it was their own.

So David and Ludy came back to Munds Park.

Betty had talked about selling them the restaurant, but David did not have the money. So they kept working and dreaming.

Then Don Tillery became interested in buying the restaurant, but only if David and Ludy stayed to run it. He knew they understood the Lone Pine, the customers, and what kept people coming back.

So Don bought it, and David and Ludy stayed.

Years later, when Don sold the restaurant to a new owner, David helped train the incoming crew before stepping back. The Lone Pine carried on for a few more years before closing its doors for about a year.

By then, David and Ludy had built a solid life in Flagstaff. Their work, their routines, and their world were centered there. They weren't looking to start over in Munds Park.

Then Don called again.

He was thinking about taking the restaurant back and told David he planned to sell the Lone Pine to him and Ludy in about a year.

It was the kind of offer you really consider, especially when that dream had come so close before, only to slip away. They were in.

David and Ludy returned to Munds Park and reopened the restaurant. At first, it was painfully quiet. For months, business was slow, but they kept going. They worked hard, adjusted, showed up every day, and refused to give up.

During that stretch, they changed the name to Pinewood Bar and Grill, the name most people in Munds Park know today. Long-time locals still call it the Lone Pine.

In 2014, Don made good on his promise and offered the restaurant to David and Ludy. After years of working in other people's kitchens, after every setback and every time the dream faded, Don Tillery gave them something priceless: the chance to finally have a restaurant of their very own.

And then, almost as soon as the dream was placed in their hands, David nearly lost it.

Over Fourth of July weekend, David was pulled over for a DUI. It was a serious mistake, and David knew it. In his mind, he had ruined his chance at the liquor license and lost the restaurant for good.

The next day, he went to Don, apologized, and told him he couldn't go through with the purchase.

Don wouldn't hear it.

“No, no, no, no,” David remembers him saying. “You are going to fix your shit. I’ll wait for you. Just fix your shit.”

So David and Ludy pressed on, working seven days a week. They worked hard then, and they still do today. Many nights they don’t get home until 1 a.m., only to be back up at 5 a.m. to do it all over again. The dream didn’t come wrapped in comfort. It came with tired feet, long hours, and the kind of relentless discipline they had to choose every single morning.

David fixed his shit, and finally, two years later, everything was settled. On December 18, 2016, their 39th wedding anniversary, Don brought them the papers. The very next day, December 19, 2016, David and Ludy became the proud owners of the Pinewood Bar and Grill.

By the time we sat down for this interview, the restaurant was finally, fully theirs. David and Ludy had just made their very last payment to Don.

David doesn’t speak of Don Tillery as simply the man who sold them the restaurant. He speaks of him as the man who waited for him, the man who believed in them when things looked darkest, and the man who gave him the time and grace to stand back up.

“Donnie was our angel and still is,” David said. “He is a very good man. If I die and God says, ‘Okay David, you get to have another life and you get to choose who your father is going to be,’ Don Tillery is who I would choose.”

Genna and I could hear the little boy inside him, the boy who had gone through life without a father and somehow found one in the kindness of another man. It was not just gratitude. It was love, loss, and healing all in one sentence, and it brought us to tears.

Today, Pinewood Restaurant & Bar sits in one of the most desired locations in Munds Park. If you’ve been inside, you know exactly what it is: a comfortable, family-friendly mountain-town restaurant and full bar where locals like to settle in, catch up, and feel at home. The menu is straightforward and satisfying, traditional dinner food done right. The regulars have claimed Taco Tuesday and Mexican food Thursdays as their own, along with their special seat. Cold beer, friendly service, and not a pretentious thing on the menu. That’s the Pinewood.

And it is family-run in every sense. Their daughter Angelica works alongside them, learning the business the same way their parents did: by showing up and doing the work. One day, Angelica will carry it forward. The dream they built, it turns out, will last for generations.

No matter how high the snow falls, David and Ludy show up. They are open when others are closed, there when the community needs them, same as they have always been.

Ask David how he made it through, and he does not point only to hard work. He points to faith. “I have a big faith,” he said plainly. “Some people call him different names, but he’s my God. I have my God.”

And in the sweetest turn of all, that same hungry boy now walks the aisles of Restaurant Depot as a man who can buy whatever his kitchen needs to feed an entire town.

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CRYPTOQUOTE

SOLUTIONS PAGE 26B

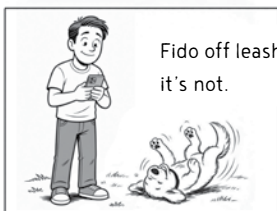
Solve this substitution cipher by matching coded letters to real letters. Remember: each letter consistently represents the same letter throughout the entire puzzle. Start by looking for common short words (like 'THE' or 'AND'), double letters, and word patterns. Spaces and punctuation are your friends and won't change.

ESODW ZIT DGXFZQOFL QFR UTZ ZITO K UGGR ZOROFUL.

FQZXKT'L HTQET VOSS YSGV OFZG NGX QL LXFLIOFT

YSGVL OFZG ZKTTL.

— PGIF DXOK



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— Drew & Casee C, Munds Park Residents



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DOUBLETS

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 26B

Doublets was invented in 1877 by Lewis Carroll (who also wrote Alice in Wonderland). It became a popular word puzzle in Victorian England and has been enjoyed ever since.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Start with a word
2. Change ONE letter at a time to create a new word
3. Each new word must be a real word
4. Keep going until you reach the ending word
5. Try to use as few steps as possible

HIKE

1. _____
2. _____

PINE

HILL

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

to PEAK

WIND

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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WOODY'S PROGRESS REPORT

We have received what journalists like to call a tip.

A reader informed us that big plans are coming for the old Woody's gas station. Naturally, we asked the obvious follow-up question, which was, "What big plans?"

At that point, our source went from concerned citizen to man of mystery. He said he was sworn to secrecy, could not reveal anything, and then, in a display of journalistic cooperation rarely seen outside a kindergarten lunchroom, stuck his tongue out at us and walked away.

So here is what we know: something may be happening. Someone may know what it is. That someone is not us.

This is not quite news, but it is definitely more interesting than an open door, which was last issue's major architectural development.

The old Woody's building remains standing, watching us all with the calm confidence of a place that knows more than it is saying. We will continue to investigate, mostly by staring at it suspiciously while driving by.

Until next time, we have no answers, one secretive reader, and a gas station with better plot development than most television shows.



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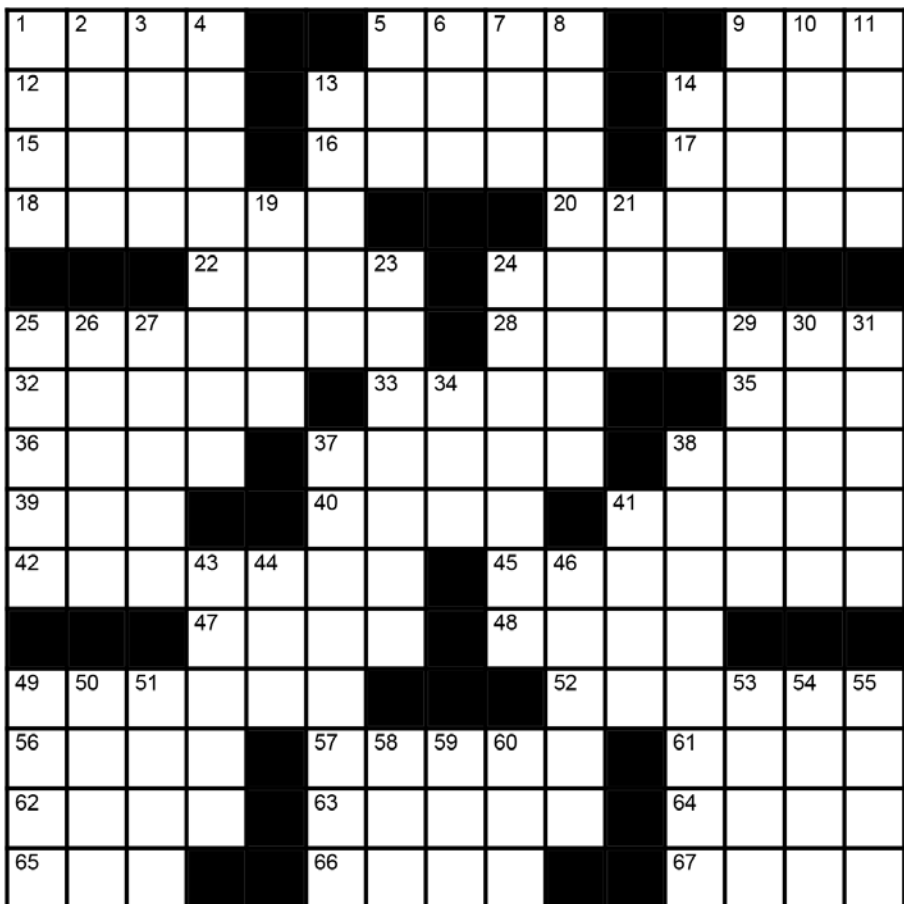
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CROSSWORD

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 26B



ACROSS

1. Bungle
5. Stars and Stripes color
9. Right this minute
12. Govern
13. Bone cavity
14. In ___ straits
15. Visitor to Siam
16. "M*A*S*H" role
17. Sailing
18. Land on Lake Victoria
20. "...one ___ under God"
22. Vehicle with a hatch on top
24. Ceremony
25. "God Bless ___"
28. By ___: unaccompanied
32. Respiratory noises
33. Stars and Stripes, for one
35. "White, wheat, or ___?"
36. "Shake a leg!"
37. "Thank your lucky ___!"
38. Plane-jumping G.I.
39. Shortly before?
40. Scotch ___
41. Caravan's watering hole
42. Recognize, as differences

45. Aretha Franklin classic
47. War god
48. Tent event
49. Thick, heavy shoe
52. Rockbound waterways
56. Ready to eat
57. Asian goat-antelope
61. Diminish
62. Pub stock
63. Cry of accomplishment
64. Petri dish filler
65. "Count to ___" (calming advice)
66. ___ and pray
67. Big party

14. Takes out
19. Speaker's spot
21. Wore away
23. Flowy garments (Var.)
24. Noisy lions or waterfalls
25. Packing heat
26. Polynesian language
27. Little people
29. Wipe out
30. Words of a song
31. Luau, for instance
34. Napkin's place
37. Physical power
38. Groceries holder
41. Norway's capital

DOWN

1. German "Mrs."
2. Aqua-___ (breathing device)
3. Radius neighbor
4. Pod-bearing plant
5. Fluffy scarf
6. What Leary tripped on
7. Red-white-and-blue inits.
8. Investment gains, e.g.
9. Not yet final, at law
10. Black-and-white cookie brand
11. Withdraw gradually
13. Swiss capital
43. Enclosures for canaries
44. Victorian ___
46. American symbol
49. No angel
50. Stir up
51. Unlock
53. Lady ___ (pop singer)
54. Catchall abbr.
55. Blood fluids
58. Cry of surprise
59. Sales ___ (order taker)
60. "Ready when you ___"

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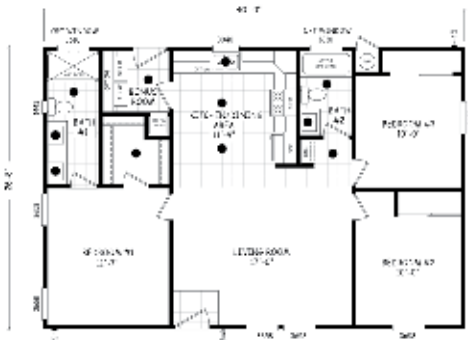


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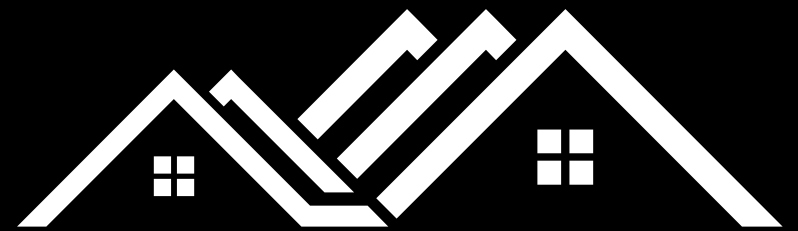
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MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

FREEDOM WORTH CELEBRATING

BY PASTOR JEREMY WEITZEL

As we gather here in Munds Park to celebrate the Fourth of July, this year carries a special weight. America marks its 250th anniversary, a moment that invites us not only to celebrate, but also to reflect. A quarter of a millennium has passed since a group of ordinary people stepped into an extraordinary moment, believing in a vision of liberty worth defending. Their courage shaped the nation we now call home.

On a day like this, I'm reminded of Paul's words, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). It's a powerful reminder that while we cherish the freedoms secured by generations of Americans, the deepest freedom we celebrate today is the freedom God gives, freedom of the heart, freedom from fear, freedom to love boldly and live with hope. Earthly freedom is a gift, spiritual freedom is a promise.

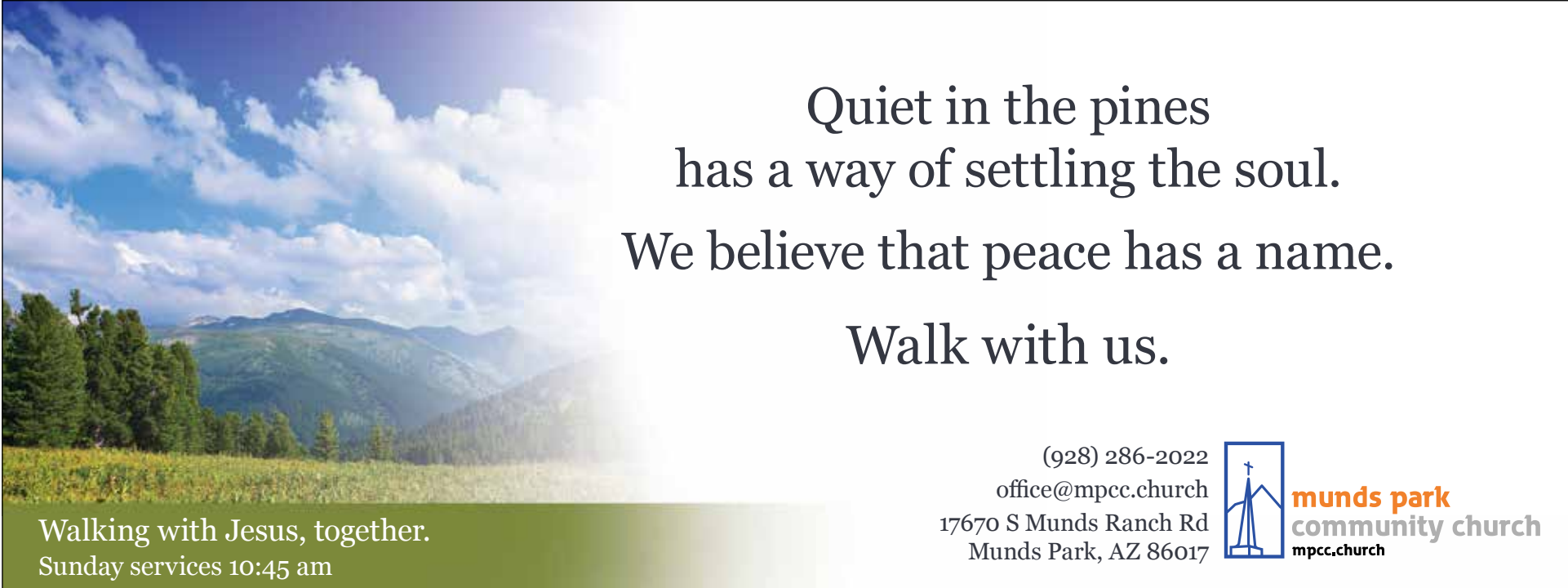
As we honor the men and women who sacrificed so much to secure our nation's liberty, we also recognize that the story of America is still being written and we each play a part. Here in Munds Park, that part

looks like caring for our neighbors, listening well, serving generously, and choosing unity over division. My prayer is that our community would be known not only for its beauty and hospitality, but also for its compassion and grace.

Tonight, as fireworks rise above communities, let each burst of color remind us of the light God calls us to shine every day, a light of kindness, hope, and faith. And as we celebrate this historic milestone, may we do so with grateful hearts, grateful for our country, grateful for our freedoms, and grateful for the God who walks with us through every season.

Happy Fourth of July, Munds Park and happy 250th birthday, America. May God's freedom and peace rest on you today and always.

Pastor Jeremy



Quiet in the pines
has a way of settling the soul.
We believe that peace has a name.
Walk with us.

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



DOUBLETS

HIKE to PINE
PIKE (changed H to P)
PINE (changed K to N)

HILL to PEAK

PILL (changed H to P)
PELL (changed I to E)
PEAL (changed second L to A)
PEAK (changed L to K)

WIND to GALE

WINE (changed D to E)
WILE (changed N to L)
BILE (changed W to B)
BALE (changed I to A)
GALE (changed B to G)

CRYPTOQUOTE

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees."

— John Muir

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

WORD SEARCH

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

BECAUSE GOOGLE DOESN'T ALWAYS KNOW THE MOUNTAIN WAY.

Spot an error or missing contact? Let us know: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

Dark Sky Compliance

Coconino County offers Support for Keeping Our Sky's Dark

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,

Tristan Dowse (928) 853-5340

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

Scan the QR code to view this page online. Bookmark it on your phone for quick access anytime.





4.8/5 Stars
100+ Reviews

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