

PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN DESERT LIVING

VOL. 32 NO. 12 AUGUST 1, 2025

FREE!

A woman with long grey hair, wearing a patterned shawl and large hoop earrings, crouches in a forest. In the background, a tent is visible among trees. The scene is misty and atmospheric.

WE STILL CRY FOR THE LAND.

COVER by Sandee Caviness & MidJourney



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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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Saturday, August 30th
10am - 2pm



Daniella Zamora
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**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & DESERT MOUNTAIN LIVING

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church

Every Monday, 6 pm

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday, 10:45 am

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend.

Stay informed. Your presence and participation is essential!

Thursday, September 18, 2025

6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club



Join the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary for an Ice Cream Social!

The Pinewood Fire Auxiliary invites you and your family to a sweet treat. Enjoy some tasty ice cream, meet our board members, and find out more about what we do to support our community and our firefighters. It's a delicious way to connect!

Tuesday, August 5

6:30 pm • 17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, August 19

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr.

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, August 14

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 9A

This issue covers both the Community Watch and Annual Pinewood Property Owner Association Meetings.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR 15A

A reader argues that political floats don't belong in local parades. The editors push back in the name of free speech.

THINGS TO DO 16A

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

TRAVEL 18A

Think you know Concord? UNSTOPPABLE Stacey dishes up tacos, tunes, and WWII history in this East Bay gem.

ONE EMBER FROM DISASTER 20A

The Byrne's Family Fight to Save Mormon Mountain

PINEWOOD NEWS KIDS 1B

A flaky crust, ripe summer tomatoes, and just enough cheese to turn this classic pie into a hometown favorite.

WHAT IT MEANS TO CARE FOR THE FOREST 7B

From plastic bags in the trees to an abandoned RV kids are playing in, the forest is paying the price. It's time to clean it up—together.

PINEWOOD PLAYERS PRESENTS 8B

Eight plays. One airport. Pinewood Players take the stage with Airport Encounters by Scott Mullen.

MUNDS PARK TRAIL STEWARDS 9B

How the Munds Park Trail Stewards got their start, and why their volunteer work still matters today.

WORD OF THE DAY 11B

An old word for what Munds Park does best—showing up and pitching in.

HOROSCOPE 15B

August isn't pulling punches. From Venus vibes to retrograde ruckus, your horoscope is here to guide the ride.



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WE STILL CRY FOR THE LAND.



The 1971 “Crying Indian” public service announcement from the Keep America Beautiful campaign became one of the most unforgettable environmental messages of the last century. One image said everything. A man in buckskin, portraying a Native man, stood at the edge of a polluted river, watching what we had done. A single tear fell, and for a moment, the country saw itself clearly.

The message was simple. The land was hurting—and we were the reason. It reached people. It reached children. It reached me. The campaign sparked a national conversation about personal responsibility and environmental respect. Littering dropped, public awareness rose, and the ad became a cultural landmark.

But not everyone took it to heart. Over time, the message faded. And the littering returned.

My visit to Mormon Mountain with Kim and Ray Byrne brought it all home again. She took us to dump sites in the forest, showed us abandoned RVs, pointed out littered trails, and picked up trash as she spoke. Her frustration was clear and contagious. The story isn’t new. Scroll through any Munds Park Facebook group and you’ll find “trash warriors” doing their best to keep environmental respect part of the conversation.

What’s it going to take for people to care for the land again?

I’ve never understood how someone can stand in the quiet grace of a forest and not feel called to protect it. Maybe they’re checked out, too far removed from nature, expecting someone else to clean it up—like the street sweepers in the city. If a person doesn’t feel tied to a place, they won’t feel the need to protect it. It’s not theirs in the heart. So they leave behind what they carried in: the trash, the noise, the forgetting to care.

What we need are reminders. Gentle ones. Consistent ones. Invitations to return to the habit of care, and to feel connected again.

At The Pinewood News, we’ll keep doing our part. We’ll share the stories. We’ll walk the trails. And we’ll remind each other that respect doesn’t have to be radical to be effective. It just has to be constant.

Every act leaves a trace. Let yours be a good one.

Read Kim and Ray Byrne’s fight to save Mormon Mountain on page 20A, and her call to keep the forest beautiful on page 7b.



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY WATCH & ANNUAL PPOA MEETING REVIEW

This is what we like to call the “eat your vegetables” report. It may not be the most thrilling read, but it’s full of need-to-know updates for anyone who cares about what’s happening in Munds Park. Whether you live here year-round or just for the season, being informed helps you stay safe, speak up if necessary, and be a better neighbor.

Pinewood Fire District Update by Fire Chief, Josh Tope

As always, with construction or home remodeling, you run into snags. The new firehouse build is no different. Due to additional foundation work required, the move-in time was delayed by five weeks and our firefighters should be able to nest in their new space in the middle of June 2026.

Josh does report that their temporary digs are working out nicely.

The new firehouse, because of inflation and other financial hurdles, is over budget. There is a \$ 1.3 million shortage, bringing the grand total of the firehouse to \$ 5.8 million.

Due to the shortfall, the Pinewood Fire District will be approaching the community for another bond initiative to be voted on in November 2025. Voting will be in person at Munds Park Community Church or by mail-in ballots. As always, you must be registered to vote in Coconino County to participate in the voting process.

Josh will post more details later, and of course, we will cover it in here in the Pinewood News, so stay tuned.



Deputy Patrick Collins Shares an On-the-Ground Look at Local Law Enforcement

Sheriff's deputies cover a staggering amount of ground. Coconino County is the second-largest county in the United States by land area, spanning approximately 18,661 square miles. Deputies respond to difficult calls—everything from suicide and domestic violence to robberies and even train robberies. Crime doesn't take a break in the high country, and the department is doing its best to support all the communities it serves. Deputy Collins made this point not to downplay our concerns, but to help manage expectations.

In June, deputies responded to accidents, false home alarms, business checks, disturbance complaints, DUIs, and a suicide call.

Sheriff Axlund Reports on Spring Activity in Munds Park

Between April and June, deputies responded to 347 calls in Munds Park. That's six fewer than during the same time last year. While the overall number of calls dipped slightly, deputies spent more time handling law enforcement issues.

Police-related calls rose from 227 to 251. That's 72 percent of all calls this spring, up from 64 percent in 2024. Deputies focused primarily on disturbances, traffic enforcement, and patrols.

Fire-related calls dropped from 15 to just 2. That may indicate better compliance with fire restrictions.

Medical assists also declined, from 70 to 58. But there were two suicide-related calls this spring. None were reported during the same period last year. It's a reminder that mental health support remains an important part of community safety.

Deputies increased their patrol rounds from 244 to 254. At the same time, traffic stops fell from 18 to 11. This could mean that added patrol visibility is helping reduce unsafe driving before it starts.

Noise complaints, logged as “disturbing the peace,” dropped from 15 to 9. Forest patrol calls were also cut in half, down from 10 to 5. That number may rise again as summer visitors return.

What This Means for Munds Park

- Keep it quiet. Sound travels farther in the pines than on city streets. Respect your neighbors after dark.
- Drive like you can read street signs and actually care about the community. The speed limit throughout the Park is 25.
- Stay fire aware. Only two fire calls were logged, but the risk is always present.
- Check in on each other. A simple conversation can make a real difference.
- Report concerns. Deputies can't be everywhere, but they can respond where needed.

Fewer calls doesn't mean less work. With law enforcement taking a bigger share of the load, it's up to all of us to help keep things running smoothly this summer.



Coconino Emergency Management Update by Tim Carter

One of the largest wildfires in U.S. history, the White Sage Fire, is burning now. The good news is that it's in a sparsely populated area with a lot of federal land, but it's a stark reminder that fire season is here and dangerous.

When Emergency Manager Tim Carter came to speak at the Community Watch meeting, his team was monitoring ten wildfires, three flash flood events in the southern part of the county, and one earthquake—just to round things out.

Coconino County is currently operating at Preparedness Level 4 out of 5. That means wildfire activity is high, firefighting resources are stretched, and any new emergency could face a delayed response. A PL4 designation is a warning. It signals that the system is already under pressure, and conditions are primed for more fire.

... Local Highlights continued on page 11A



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\$625,000

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and Storage shed.



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\$275,000

6804 Turquoise
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1000 sq ft 2bd/1 bath 2 car garage
investment opportunity Fix up needs repair

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If you're not signed up for Ready Set Go, you're putting yourself and your family at risk.

This is not Phoenix. In Munds Park, we have very few exits. If a fire starts and the alert says "SET," that is when you leave. Not on "GO." SET means go. Do not wait. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand why that matters here. Visit coconino.az.gov/Ready---Set---Go to register and review the evacuation process. If you don't know what it is, learn it today.

Carter made an important point that hasn't been widely reported. "When you get your notice from the county that you need to evacuate, the message may simply say LEAVE. There may not be time for more information."

This is critical for families. There may be no map, no plan, no instructions—just a command to GO. If you don't have your own evacuation plan, you're behind. Do not depend on the government to save you. They will do their very best, but ultimately, it is our responsibility to protect ourselves.

What about shelters in Munds Park?

This question comes up at every Community Watch meeting, and the answer remains the same. There are no wildfire or flood shelters in Munds Park. Emergency management officials have determined that there is no safe location in the Park to shelter residents during a wildfire.

Instead, Coconino County has dozens of pre-vetted shelters located throughout the region. If evacuation becomes necessary, residents will be relocated to places like Sedona, Kachina Village, or Flagstaff—whichever site is safest based on the incident. The goal is to avoid moving people more than once, which is why Munds Park will not be used as a shelter site during major fire emergencies.

In the case of a flood, residents will be told to shelter in place. If you live in a flood zone, make a plan now. Connect with a friend or neighbor on higher ground and arrange to stay with them if and when needed.

The County will do everything it can during a crisis, but at the end of the day, it is up to each of us to be ready. Make a plan. Talk to your neighbors. Don't wait.

The exception is snowstorms.

For severe winter weather, the Munds Park Church is a certified Red Cross shelter. It's fully stocked, has served the community well in the past, and let's be honest—if you have to be stuck somewhere in a

blizzard, it might as well be a place with heat, snacks, and a little help from above.

What happens to I-17 during an evacuation?

This is one of the most critical questions for Munds Park, and the answer depends on the situation. With only a few exits in and out of town, the highway can become a choke point during an emergency. If evacuation is necessary, the Coconino County Sheriff's Department will coordinate with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) to shut down parts of I-17 to inbound traffic. This may include closing the highway as far south as Camp Verde or Awatukee, or north toward Flagstaff, in order to keep lanes clear for Munds Park residents to get out safely.

This is why early evacuation is so important. Waiting too long could mean getting stuck in gridlock, especially if thousands of people try to leave at once.

During an evacuation, leave the toys behind. No side-by-sides, trailers, boats, or extra vehicles. In an evacuation, every car matters. Extra gear can clog the road and delay emergency response. It's not worth the risk. Prioritize people, not property.

Coconino County is updating its multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.

This plan identifies the natural and man-made hazards that pose a risk to our communities and outlines a county-wide strategy to reduce those risks. It also plays a key role in helping the County and its communities qualify for state and federal funding to support disaster prevention and recovery projects. Beyond funding, the plan guides long-term efforts to protect residents, businesses, and infrastructure from the impacts of future disasters and a changing climate.



Scan the QR code to share your input on the updated plan. Your feedback helps shape how Coconino County prepares for future disasters.

... Local Highlights continued on page 13A

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"EVERYONE @ Midtown is Wonderful with our kids! We highly recommend them!"
- Rusty Ruff's Human

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- KC's Human

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17295 BIG SKY DRIVE

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17055 S JOY PLACE

Newer furnished doublewide on oversized cul-de-sac lot with National Forest views. Added square footage, open layout, wood-burning fireplace, solar tubes, fenced yard, and 12-ft front deck. All-electric with plenty of parking.



\$659,000

17845 LONGBOW ROAD

Perfect single-level 3-bed, 2-bath getaway near the Country Club, park, and Lake O'Dell. Open floor plan, propane heat, newer roof, oversized garage, large shed, patio, and mature trees on nearly ¼ acre. Move-in ready!



\$525,000

105 BISON DRIVE

Spacious chalet with open floor plan, vaulted windows, 2 beds/2 baths on main level, oversized loft, plus bonus reading loft. Features include paver drive, large deck, A/C, shed, and Starlink. Seller may consider owner carry.



\$934,000

1235 E FOX PLACE

This chalet has it all—T&G ceilings, open floor plan, 3 beds/2 baths on main, loft, and a huge bonus room with private balcony and bath. Wraparound redwood deck, 2-car garage, extra storage, and lush, tree-filled lot. Peaceful setting with room to relax, entertain, and enjoy mountain living.



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Coconino National Forest by Cody Myers

This season’s weak monsoon has left the forest dry and dangerous. Due to the high fire risk, Stage 2 Fire Restrictions are now in effect. That means no campfires are allowed anywhere, including both developed and dispersed campsites.

Tree thinning projects are ongoing and remain essential for reducing wildfire fuel, improving forest health, and managing competition among trees. The Coconino National Forest is nationally recognized for its timber restoration efforts, but budget limitations mean only a fraction of the necessary thinning work gets done.

Even with those efforts, Coconino County ranks higher than 96 percent of U.S. counties for wildfire risk. Fire damage costs taxpayers far more than prevention, often running into the billions. Insurance rates are also climbing as wildfire threats grow.

One of the major challenges is the low market demand for the small pine trees removed during thinning, which makes it difficult to recover costs through timber sales.

Despite the drought, the overall health of the forest remains stable. Bark beetle activity is low this year, though past infestations, worsened by earlier drought conditions, have already killed many trees. An extended drought has also pushed trees into dormancy as a survival mechanism. While dormancy helps conserve water and energy, it also makes trees more vulnerable to pests and disease. Ongoing monitoring and management remain critical.

The Forest Service report shows steady progress, but limited resources still leave major gaps in protection. Flip to page 20A to read how local residents Kim and Ray Byrne are stepping up and asking the community to help protect Mormon Mountain before it’s too late.

Arizona Public Service Update by Janet Dean, Community Affairs Manager

Over the past 18 months, maintenance and fire mitigation work have focused on improving system resiliency in Munds Park. During this time, approximately 232 maintenance jobs were completed in the community, including 68 pole replacements. These poles were identified through a process called OSMOS testing, which involves a visual inspection, digging around the base to check for decay, and tapping the pole to detect any internal damage. Most of the planned work is nearly finished, so the team will be less visible in the community for now. Vegetation management will return in 2026 on a roughly two-year cycle, with visits happening more frequently than in previous years.

Coconino County Flood Control District & County Public Works Update by John Carr, Engineering Supervisor



Flood Maps

FEMA approved updated flood maps on July 9, 2025. Coconino County has six months to comply, with the new maps becoming effective on Jan. 9, 2026. If you plan to build in a newly designated floodplain area, it’s strongly recommended to follow the higher flood construction standards now, as they will become mandatory when the maps go into effect.

To view the flood maps online, visit www.coconino.az.gov/MundsParkFloodway

Williard Springs

The Willard Springs Greenway Station remains open to collect green waste, helping prevent illegal dumping in the forest. The site offers free disposal of green waste to all County residents. It is open Fridays and Saturdays through October from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the last load accepted at 4:30 p.m. Willard Springs is located about 15 miles south of Flagstaff, just west of Interstate 17 at the Willard Springs Road Exit 326.

Road Maintenance and Culvert Work

Significant infrastructure work has been completed in Munds Park, including pavement preservation and grading. Upcoming drainage projects will include installing large culverts on Trout Creek and cleaning roadside ditches on several local roads. Property owners are solely responsible for maintaining and cleaning out their own driveway culverts.

Spot a Problem? Here’s a Fix You Might Not Know About

SeeClickFix is an easy-to-use tool that allows residents to report issues, such as potholes or trees blocking signs, by simply taking a photo and sending it directly to Coconino County. You can submit requests at any time from your smartphone, tablet, or computer. Submissions are responded to Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with concerns routed to the appropriate County department. The SeeClickFix app is available for download on Google Play and the Apple App Store. Please remember, SeeClickFix is not a replacement for 911 in emergencies.

... Local Highlights continued on page 14A

MEET US AT SPORTSMUNDS

Where the Game’s Always On and the Beer Is Always Cold

Family-owned. Flagstaff proud.

For over 40 years, we’ve been pouring drinks and giving folks a reason to stick around a little longer—Now in Munds Park.

- Full NiMarco’s Pizza menu—eat here or take it home.
- Pool • Cornhole • Live Acoustic Sets Every Weekend
- Beer, wine, and liquor TO GO (yes, really).

No pretense. Just good food, good drinks, and a place where regulars feel like family, and newcomers feel like regulars.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

THURS–SAT: 11 AM–2 AM • SUN–WED: 11 AM–MIDNIGHT
928-286-1927 • 17570 S Munds Ranch Rd, Munds Park



BUY ONE WELL DRINK OR DRAFT AT REGULAR PRICE GET THE 2ND DRINK FOR \$1.00!

Limit one offer per customer per visit. Dine-in only. Must be 21 or older.
Valid with coupon only. Expires 10/31/2025.

Public Works Emphasizes Transparency
& Accountability

The agency recently passed its American Public Works Association accreditation audit as well as the Prop 403 sales tax audit, which examined how road maintenance funds were spent and whether the projects were effective. Coconino County’s roads have a high pavement condition score in the 80s out of 100, ranking better than most other counties in Arizona.

Prop 403 Road Maintenance Sales Tax expires in 2034

The Prop 403 Road Maintenance Sales Tax hasn’t increased since the 1980s, making the road maintenance sales tax especially important for funding local road repairs and maintaining the service residents expect. This tax will expire in 2034, so the county plans to launch an education campaign around 2031 or 2032 to inform residents about its value and advocate for renewal.



Coconino Board Supervisor Update
by Tammy Ontiveros, District 3
Board Supervisor

Tammy remains actively engaged in three key issues relevant to Munds Park: addressing the wildfire insurance crisis, advocating for local control over short-term rental regulations, and prioritizing projects in FEMA-designated special flood hazard areas.

Wildfire Insurance Crises

To keep homeowners’ insurance affordable and accessible, fire fuel reduction must occur both at the individual property level and across neighborhoods. This effort needs to be demonstrated to and validated by insurers, approved by state regulators, and properly maintained and monitored.

I recently met with county management and department directors to discuss next steps for Coconino County. Our flood control district administrator will organize future board meetings featuring proposed speakers from the insurance industry, fire departments, the Forest Service, and other individuals that can share successful examples from other communities. The goal is to reduce fire risk and maintain insurance eligibility for homeowners.

Be sure to watch for community meetings in the Pinewood News.

Short Term Rentals

At the end of May, I attended a meeting in Sedona organized by Mayor Scott Jablow. The meeting brought together elected officials from across Arizona, including mayors, a state senator, state representatives, county assessors, a Yavapai County supervisor, and myself. Mayor Jablow’s goal is to present a united front to state legislators advocating for returning control over short-term rental regulations to local governments. Although no action is expected this year, ongoing meetings will continue to prepare for the next legislative session, which I will attend and advocate to give control back to the mayors.

Note from The Pinewood News

We attended two of the mayor’s meetings and published an extensive article on the challenges facing our towns and cities, explaining why mayors want and need local control over short-term rentals. It’s important to clarify that none of the mayors are calling for a ban on short-term rentals. Instead, they are advocating for sensible limits to prevent communities from becoming overwhelmed. You can read the full article online here: thepinewoodnews.com/post/the-

heartbreaking-sell-off-of-the-american-dream. Please note that the views expressed are those of The Pinewood News, and the reporting on the mayors’ requests and statistics is an accurate report at the time of publishing.

Flood Control

At the recent Flood Control meeting, it was noted that the County Flood Control District has launched a plan to prioritize projects in FEMA-designated special flood hazard areas, including Munds Park. These areas face a high risk of severe flooding, making it challenging for both the Flood Control District and the Board of Supervisors to create a prioritized project plan. Community involvement is important, and residents are encouraged to stay engaged by attending upcoming meetings to review progress and provide input.

Pinewood Country Club Update

Rick Schmidgall, President of the Pinewood Country Club Board, spoke to the crowd about the club’s growing role as more than just a golf destination. He described it as a social club with a variety of amenities and activities, and invited non-members in attendance to visit and consider joining.



He gave a special mention to the PPOA’s 4th of July Parade, noting that it brought record attendance to the club. Over the three-day weekend, approximately 2,800 wristbands were issued to guests. With only 850 members, and a typical capacity of 400 to 500 guests, the turnout was exceptional. Rick said, “From our club standpoint, we had more people than ever before come through,” and added that they enjoy having new visitors, hoping they might become members in the future.

He also shared that moving PPOA’s Bingo Night from Friday to Monday has been a success, and said the club is happy to help out when possible.

These events bring new faces into the clubhouse and offer the Country Club valuable exposure to potential members. As the PPOA continues to support legacy events that benefit the broader community, including the Club, it would be meaningful to see support flow both ways. An annual financial contribution from the Country Club to the PPOA would go a long way in demonstrating a shared commitment to the success of Munds Park.



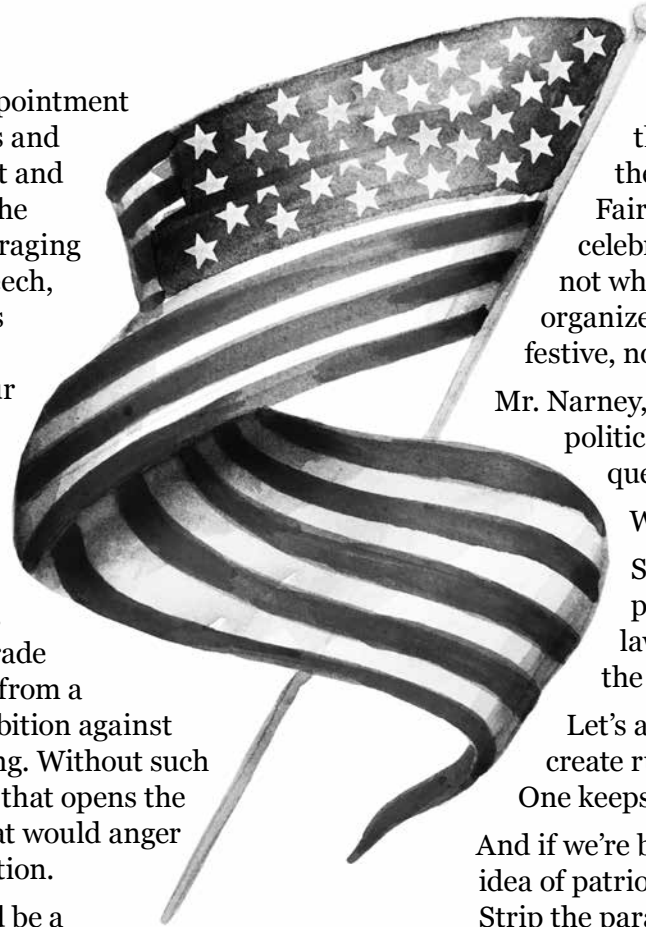
Pinewood Property Owners
Association Update by
Barbara Timberman

Barbara Timberman kept her update short and to the point. The organization continues to maintain community flags and fund its scholarship program. As for the larger projects, including the new basketball court and the memorial garden, the PPOA is still working to find suitable space. In the meantime, all donations are being held securely in savings until the projects are ready to roll.

The next Community Watch Meeting will be on September 18, 2025
at the Pinewood Country Club



MUNDS PARK ORGANIZERS STAND FIRM ON FIRST AMENDMENT



Letter to the Editor,

I am writing to express my strong disappointment regarding the inclusion of political floats and displays in both the recent Electric Light and July 4th parades. While I acknowledge the statement in the Pinewood News discouraging such displays, and fully support free speech, I firmly believe these political intrusions are in poor taste, highly divisive, and ultimately detrimental to the spirit of our community celebrations.

During the July 19th PPOA meeting, I was informed that no action could be taken, with some asserting it was purely a “free speech” issue. However, this interpretation is incomplete. Courts have consistently upheld the right of parade organizers to restrict floats that deviate from a specific theme or violate a general prohibition against political or overtly commercial messaging. Without such restrictions, indeed, anything goes, and that opens the door to potentially offensive displays that would anger many, regardless of their political affiliation.

The July 4th parade, in particular, should be a celebration of our nation’s independence, not a platform for political agendas. We must aim to maintain a non-partisan atmosphere, fostering a sense of community rather than promoting political viewpoints.

As an independent committee, the PPOA is well within its rights to enact a rule restricting political displays or floats. I urge the PPOA to develop and enforce such a policy, just as they would any other policy designed to ensure public safety and maintain the neutrality and celebratory spirit of our parades. This is a critical step to preserve the integrity of our community events.

—Steve Narney
Munds Park Resident

The Editor’s Response,

Every year, someone complains about political floats in the parade. And every year, someone suggests banning them altogether. Mr. Narney says they’re in poor taste. Fair enough. Nobody loves getting hit with politics during a celebration—not at the movies, not at a concert, and certainly not while watching a small-town parade. That’s why our organizers discourage political floats. They want the day to feel festive, not divisive.

Mr. Narney, and others, argue that parade organizers could prohibit political displays. That’s true. Legally, they can. But the real question is—should they?

We don’t think so.

Sure, parade organizers have the legal authority to censor political expression. But in Munds Park, we follow a higher law: the Constitution. We respect our neighbors’ rights, and the First Amendment doesn’t need a permission slip.

Let’s also not confuse safety with censorship. It’s one thing to create rules that protect the crowd. It’s another to police ideas. One keeps you alive. The other just keeps you unchallenged.

And if we’re being honest, “nonpartisan” sounds fine until someone’s idea of patriotism starts to look like someone else’s politics. Then what? Strip the parade of anything that ‘might’ stir up a debate?

That’s not unity. That’s uniformity.

If your neighbor’s float makes you mad, clap for the next one. Cheer for the veterans. Grab a hot dog from the Auxiliary and move on.

The Pinewood News proudly supports our parade organizers’ decision to keep this a community where all voices can be heard. That’s not just tolerance. That’s the American spirit.

After all, if we can’t handle free speech on the Fourth of July, what exactly are we celebrating?

— Sandee Caviness
Editor



Nancy Shelton

Associate Broker

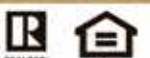
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Affordable and adorable and what a location! This cozy two bedroom, two bath cabin has it all. Open floor-plan, big windows, privacy on the oversized lot. Recent upgrades include a no-maintenance composite wraparound deck, fresh exterior paint, furnace and CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING. All furniture and furnishings are included too.



EVERY SATURDAY

DJ RUBEN & KARAOKE



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

Time: 8PM

Location: Pinewood Restaurant & Bar, Munds Park

EVERY MONDAY

BINGO AT PINWOOD COUNTRY CLUB



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

Time: 6:00 PM

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

ALMOST EVERY TUESDAY

PINWOOD PLAYHOUSE MUSIC JAM NIGHT



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

Date: check website at pinewoodplayers.com

Time: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

COUNTRY CLUB CRAFT FAIR



Join the Pinewood Country Club on Labor Day for their annual Craft Fair! All are welcome!

Time: 10AM - 2PM

Location: Pinewood Country Club

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

COCONINO COUNTY BOOKMOBILE



Stop by the Pinewood Clubhouse for the Coconino County Bookmobile for a great read! Services include free notary, 10¢ black-and-white printing, and access to library materials.

Date: Second Wednesday of every month

Time: 10:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Pinewood Clubhouse

Hosting an event, big or small?

Let us know at

Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com

so we can spread the word!

Munds Park Farmers Market
at Agee's BBQ Patio
Saturday
9-1 PM
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK - MUNDS PARK FARM TO TABLE MARKET

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 - 7

YAVAPAI COUNTY FAIR



Four days of rides, livestock shows, arts & crafts, food and live entertainment at the historic Rodeo Grounds—fun for the whole family.

Time: Check website for details

Location: Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds, 840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott

Info: yavapaifair.com

Admission: Ticket prices TBD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

FLAGSTAFF MUSIC FESTIVAL



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

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

Location: Heritage Square, Downtown Flagstaff

Admission: Free

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 - 26

SEDONA PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL



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

Time: Daily 8 am – 5 pm

Location: Sedona Arts Center + venues across Sedona

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

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



Pepsi Amphitheater Presents
19TH ANNUAL PICKIN' IN THE PINES

Bluegrass & Acoustic Music Festival

September 12-14, 2025

BUY TICKETS HERE: pepsiamp.com

FRI & SAT, OCTOBER 10 & 11

PRESCOTT ANTIQUE SHOW & VINTAGE MARKET



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

Prescott Rodeo Grounds.

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

Location: Prescott Rodeo Grounds, 840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott

Info: prescottantiqueshow.com

Admission: \$10 General Admission

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 & 12

FORT VERDE DAYS



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

Note: Service animals only.

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

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

SAT & SUN, AUGUST 2 & 3

PRESCOTT ART & WINE FESTIVAL



Stroll the Courthouse Plaza, sip local wines, and explore fine art from over 100 talented artists at this laid-back summer festival in downtown Prescott. A wine-tasting experience featuring Willcox

Wine Country adds a flavorful twist for guests 21 and over.

Time: 9 AM–5 PM both days

Location: 120 South Cortez Street, Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza, Prescott

Info: mountainartistsguild.org

Admission: Free entry; wine-tasting tickets available for purchase (21+)

AUGUST 29 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2

COCONINO COUNTY FAIR



Ready for carnival rides, livestock shows, local food, music, and family fun at this end-of-summer tradition! A Labor Day weekend favorite, the fair celebrates the best of Northern Arizona.

Time: Check website for times

Location: Fort Tuthill County Park, Flagstaff

Info: www.coconinocountyfair.com

Admission: Check website for admission fees



Farmer's MARKETS

SEDONA COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

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

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 11 AM - 3 PM

Location: 2201 W SR 89A, West Sedona

PRESCOTT FARMERS MARKET

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

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

Location: 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

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

Dates: September 5, 12, 26

Time: 5 p.m. and continue until dark

Location: 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

VERDE VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

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

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

Time: 8 AM - 11 AM

Location: 75 Hollamon St, Camp Verde

WINDMILL PARK FARMERS MARKET

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

Date: Every Thursday

Time: 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: 9950 E Cornville Rd, Cornville, AZ



Community MARKETS

OLD TOWN MUSIC & THE MARKET

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

Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: 5 PM Until Dark

Location: 187 E. Pima St., Cottonwood

FLAGSTAFF URBAN FLEA MARKET

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

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

Time: 9 AM - 2 PM

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

Admission: Free

PEDDLER'S PASS OLD-TIME FARMERS & FLEA MARKET

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

Date: Every Saturday & Sunday, Year-Round

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

Location: 6201 E. State Route 69, Prescott Valley

Admission: Free

TWO COYOTES MARKET IN THE PINES

Enjoy a wide selection of fresh baked breads, pastries, pies, various food trucks and vendors selling wonderful crafts!

Operated by Munds Park Residents Susan & Bill Havermale

Date: Every Saturday, 9 AM - 1 PM

Location: 17620 N Munds Ranch Rd.



NEW LOOK, SAME GREAT SERVICE YOU TRUST!

—FREE— SAFETY INSPECTIONS

We are finding an alarming amount of safety violations in Munds Park. Be sure your home is protected and schedule a free inspection with Liberty Plumbing today.

\$100^{OFF}

WATER HEATER

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STOP WASTE VALVES

Contact us:
(928) 851 - 7773

www.libertyplumbingaz.com

WHY YOU NEED TO SQUEEZE CONCORD, CA ONTO YOUR SUMMER BUCKET LIST

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG, TRAVEL WRITER



What's left of Port Chicago after devastating 1944 blast that killed 320

Photo by "UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig



Concord Pavilion, designed with a flat roof not to obstruct the views by Frank Gehry

Photo by "UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig



Sugar Plum Coffee Shop in Concord, CA

Photo by "UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig

Think you know Concord, CA? Think again. From taco trails to a Frank Gehry music venue to WWII heritage sites, these must-do adventures may surprise you.

As your intrepid travel writer who never stops exploring (hence the name UNSTOPPABLE Stacey), I've uncovered the best adventures, bites and culture-packed moments in this small town with big vibes in the East Bay. Whether you're craving taco trails, live music under the stars or touring a real WWII Victory ship, Concord's got it goin' on.

So lace up those walking shoes (or grab your swimsuit!) and check out these top things to do in Concord CA—because this city's serving up way more than you might expect.

Things to Do Concord: Stroll Through Historic Todos Santos Plaza

Start your Concord exploration at its heart: Todos Santos Plaza, a charming downtown square with a rich past and a bustling present. Named one of California's "Great Places" by the American Planning Association (fancy, right?), the plaza is home to concerts, food trucks and the can't-miss Thursday Farmers' Market (June through September, 4–8 pm).

Bonus: On July 17, I caught The Ronstadt Experience—a Linda Ronstadt tribute band that had me singing in the streets.

Things to Do for Foodies: Follow the Taco Trail

Food lovers, rejoice! The Concord Taco Trail is a spicy self-guided tour through over 40 taquerias. My top pick? Los Portales, winner of the 2024 Concord Taco Trail competition. I fueled up here, and I'm still dreaming about that handmade tortilla action.

Hot tip: Pair your tacos with a cold local brew (coming up next).

Sip Local on the Concord Beer Trail

Craft beer fans, Concord is calling! Hop on the Beer Trail and taste your way through local breweries pouring everything from hazy IPAs to crisp pilsners. Favorites like Epidemic Ales, Side Gate Brewery and Concord Tap House each bring their own vibe—whether you're into outdoor patios, small-batch brews or a hoppy punch to the taste buds. Cheers to supporting local!

Rock Out at the Iconic Concord Pavilion

Music lovers, this one's for you: the Concord Pavilion has been entertaining crowds for 50 years and was designed by none other

We have a dog-friendly patio!

GET YOUR TAIL WAGGING WITH A COFFEE FROM KOTA'S!

Proudly pouring locally roasted
Firecreek Coffee & Espresso

Specialty teas, plus Chai & Matcha Lattes

Pastries Baked Fresh in house Daily

Biff's Bagels from our friends in Flagstaff

The Famous Kota's Breakfast Sandwich

...plus more breakfast favorites

Lunch Sandwiches, Melts, & Paninis

OPEN DAILY, 7AM TO 2PM



KOTA'S

COFFEE HOUSE

(928) 286-2331

17680 S. Munds Ranch Rd.

Munds Park, AZ 86017



NOW BLENDING: Root Beer Shakes, Strawberries & Cream, Mango, Pina Colada, and more—try our new Blenders Menu!

than architect Frank Gehry, of Guggenheim Museum Bilbao fame. Big names grace the stage, and the summer concert scene is legendary. Pro tip: grab lawn seats for chill vibes and killer sunset views.

Step Aboard a WWII Victory Ship

History buffs, get ready to set sail—figuratively, of course—on the Red Oak Victory, a World War II-era cargo ship docked in nearby Richmond. This floating museum gives you a hands-on look at maritime life during the 1940s, complete with crew quarters, cargo holds and sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay. A fascinating detour for anyone who loves naval history or vintage vessels.

Dive into Splashy Fun at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor

Got kids? Or just a big kid at heart? Then you’ve got to visit Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Concord, the biggest waterpark in Northern California. Bonus points for being a Certified Autism Center, making it a more inclusive splash zone for everyone.

Explore the Stories of Service at Port Chicago

Concord’s history runs deep—and sometimes it’s sobering. Visit the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial and Thurgood Marshall Regional Park, which honors the Port Chicago 50, a group of African American sailors who stood up for justice after a tragic 1944 explosion. I’ll be writing about Port Chicago, the nation’s largest World War II disaster on U.S. soil, in the next issue of Pinewood News.

Jam with Jazz History at Dave Brubeck Park

Jazz it up at Dave Brubeck Park, named for Concord’s own jazz legend. This 8-acre green space offers picnic spots, a stage for community concerts and wide lawns perfect for your next picnic or a chance to “Take Five.”

More Things to Do Concord CA: History, Shopping and Nature

- Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park – Just 35 minutes away, this inspiring museum celebrates the women who kept America running during WWII
- Galindo House and Gardens – Step back in time at this restored 1856 home with lovely gardens
- John Muir National Historic Site – Wander this peaceful 9-acre park, once home to the famous conservationist, and admire some of Muir’s original orchard trees
- Sugar Plum Coffee Shop – A local favorite for hearty breakfasts, retro 50s diner vibes and bottomless coffee served with a smile

Where to Stay in Concord

I rested my head at the stylish and convenient Hilton Concord. It’s centrally located and gets bonus points for sustainability efforts and pet-friendliness.

Plan Your Adventure to Concord CA

Whether you’re chasing tacos, jazz vibes or local history, you’ll find plenty of things to do in Concord CA to fill your weekend (and then some). So what are you waiting for? Come explore, eat, sip, splash and stroll—Concord’s got a little something for everyone.

And remember, wherever the trail takes you, stay UNSTOPPABLE. Get more inspiration for unstoppable travel at unstoppablestaceytravel.com.



JOIN US FOR
Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner
Plus, enjoy our bottle service—
carry out your favorite liquor to go!
Taco Tuesday & Mexican Food Thursday is BACK!

OPEN DAILY
Wednesday 11am - 8pm
Thursday-Tuesday 8am-8pm

ORDER TO GO! (928) 286-0332
65 Pinewood Boulevard • Munds Park, AZ

TWO COYOTES
Market In The Pines

OPEN EVERY SATURDAY!
Starting Saturday, May 17 from 9 am - 1 pm

Enjoy a wide selection of fresh baked breads, pastries, pies, various food trucks and vendors selling wonderful crafts!

Operated by Munds Park Residents
Susan & Bill Havermale
bhavermale3@gmail.com

Located at 17620 N Munds Ranch Rd.
Parking behind the Munds Park Community Church

ONE EMBER FROM DISASTER

The Byrne's Family Fight to Save Mormon Mountain

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

Good for porch-sitting with a Kota's coffe: ~10 minute read

Kim Byrne doesn't just live under the ponderosas around Mormon Mountain; she grew up in their shade. Her grandparents parked one of the original trailers in Munds Park, off Oak Road, in the early 1970s. Her dad swung a hammer as a general contractor, and her mom, proudly dubbed the "deli dolly," served sandwiches at the old Chevron, later working shifts at the Mobil station and the Pinewood Country Club. Kim spent her childhood summers chasing squirrels through the forest and pretending she was Smokey the Bear.

Okay, not really—but these days she carries a real shovel and a sharper roar, and anyone who knows her says the description fits.

Ray, the handsome young man she met at Greenway High School, joined the Marine Corps, married Kim, and came home determined to raise kids where the ponderosas outnumber streetlights.

After decades of building their business, America Roofing, in the Valley, the couple purchased a year-round residence at the south end of Mormon Lake in 2018. The cabin sits within the Coconino National Forest. Three more branches of the family tree now happily crowd the dinner table, making Kim's grandkids fifth-generation Arizonans.

At sunrise, Ray raises the flag over their porch, coffee in hand, while Kim checks the wind, reading it the way her dad once read blueprints. They know which aspens turn first, which meadow flushes green after a good spring rain, and which ravens will scold you for walking too

close to their nest. Sunday dinners on the deck stretch long past sunset as they watch the moon glide over their cabin and give quiet thanks for one more night under honest, unfiltered starlight sky. That kind of affection—part patriotism, part plain gratitude—is what fuels their fight to keep the forest safe.



Ray and Kim Byrne
Photo by Genna Caviness

The Boiling Point

Kim Byrne isn't just a raging voice on Facebook. She's a warrior for Mormon Mountain, relentless in her fight against indifference from officials who shrug and campers who don't care. When Kim contacted Pinewood News, asking for county contacts and copying us on a string of emails, only to be met with apathy and excuses, Genna and I figured it was time to see for ourselves.

So we climbed into Kim and Ray's UTV and headed up the mountain. The forest didn't need to explain itself. You could see the danger. Ponderosa pines pressed together so tightly that sunlight barely touched the ground. Layers of dry pine needles gathered underfoot like spilled kindling. Ray said hunting is nearly impossible now. There's just too much growth. You can't see ten feet ahead.

Kim's frustration isn't just justified. It's screaming for action. She fumes each time she sees smoke drifting up from abandoned campfires, fully aware that fires of any kind are banned under Stage II restrictions.

Every weekend, it's the same circus. The same campsites. The same blind eye. She ticks off the failures like a prosecutor with a full docket: Forest Service posts red flag warnings but refuses to close popular campsites; rangers urge residents to report violations, yet rarely arrive in time to catch offenders, if at all; demolished fire rings magically

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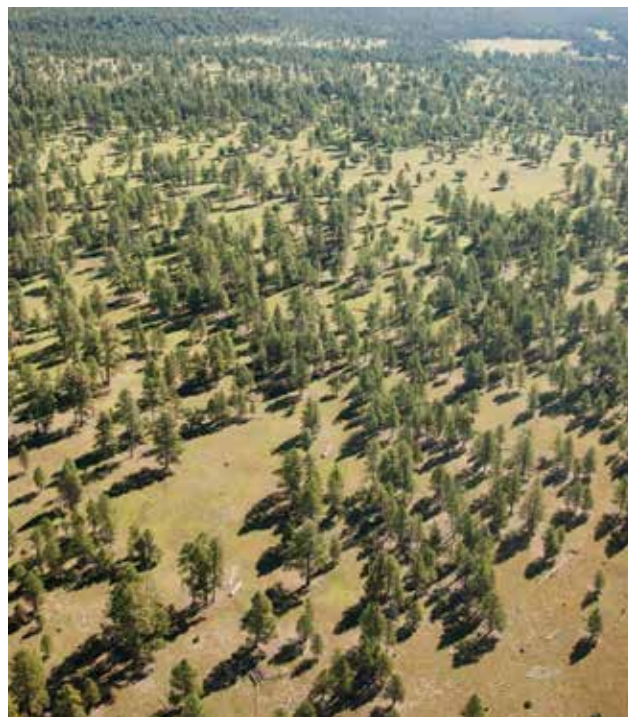


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TURNING "FOR SALE" to "SOLD" in Munds Park!



This Isn't Healthy: This is how the forest looks all the way up Mormon Mountain. When trees grow this tight, a single spark can become a crown fire. Locals say it's time for federal thinning plans to match the scale of the danger.

Photos by Genna Caviness

A Healthier Forest: In a properly thinned forest, sunlight reaches the ground, trees have room to grow, and wildfire risk is significantly lower.

Photo courtesy of SRP

reappear days later; dispatchers can't agree if charcoal counts as an open flame; and glowing embers are left unattended, ready to ignite and turn Mormon Mountain into a smoking memory.

She knows the solution starts with enforcement and forest management. Close the forest to overnight camping during restrictions. Thin the trees before the fire does. Because right now, one spark, one gust of wind, one lost ember is all that separates her community from a wall of raging flames. Kim's running out of ways to get her point across. She is exhausted.

She does know she wants Coconino County to put a circle around Mormon Mountain on the map and enforce a clear policy: day use only, no camping, no fires. Just like they do in Flagstaff and on Bill Williams Mountain.

She can't understand why this isn't already in place. And honestly, it's a fair question. Kim wonders, is the plan to just let the mountain burn?

The people in charge blame it on the budget, but if money is the issue, their logic is lacking. Treating the forest before it burns, through

thinning or prescribed fire, costs between \$100 and \$200 per acre in the Southwest. Putting out a wildfire? That can easily exceed \$1,000 per acre, and that's just the firefighting cost. That doesn't include the homes, the businesses, the lives. FEMA says every \$1 spent on prevention saves about \$4-6 later. So the question isn't whether we can afford to fix it. The question is why we keep choosing not to.

Let's be clear about where the buck stops. The U.S. Forest Service sits under the Department of Agriculture. Congress sets the budget in Washington. From there, it's passed to Forest Service headquarters, then to regional offices. Mormon Mountain falls under the Southwestern Region, based in Albuquerque, and from there, it lands with the local rangers in the Mogollon Rim District. Washington writes the check. The Forest Service divides it up. Local districts decide how to spend it.

When Kim asked the County why the funding wasn't being used for fire mitigation on the mountain, one official blamed the Trump budget

... Continued on page 22A



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ONE EMBER FROM DISASTER

... Continued from page 21A

cuts. Nice try. The problem on Mormon Mountain didn't start with one administration. It's been brewing for decades. And if the current administration has done anything, it's pulled back the curtain on just how much money we do have, if we'd stop wasting it.

We're not going to bore you with the long list of millions to billions of dollars misappropriated by both sides of the political aisle. So the money is there. It's just stuck in a maze of bad choices, political indifference, and bureaucratic waste. Meanwhile, the people trying to save our forests can't get enough funding to clear a firebreak.

If you're frustrated, good. That's the right reaction. But shouting into Facebook won't fix it. Every elected official says the same thing: if you want change, you need to show up. And not alone. In numbers. Not once. Often. Speak up, and keep speaking, until they can't ignore you anymore.

How to Make a Difference

Here's what you need to know: the Forest Service already sees the problem. They know Mormon Mountain is overloaded. They know other high-risk areas across Coconino County need attention. And here's the thing—they want to fix it. They want to do their jobs.

But just like Kim, they're stuck. They're raising their hands, and no one is listening in a way that leads to action.

So if you're tired of wondering if this is the year the fire jumps the ridge...

If you're watching your insurance climb while the trees pile higher...

If you care about protecting this forest and your home...

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Who to Contact

I'll say it again, every public official I've spoken to says the same thing. They need to hear from you—and they need to hear from a lot of you.

So organize. Rally your neighbors. Start a Facebook page focused on forest safety. Write a plan. Post photos. Make calls. Send emails. Be clear. Be respectful. And let them know you're not going away.

Senator Ruben Gallego

Senator Gallego currently serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which oversees the U.S. Forest Service. He holds a leadership role as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Energy. His team is listening, especially when it comes to public safety, forest management, and federal support for high-risk areas.

- Phone (DC): (202) 224-4521
- Phone (Phoenix): (480) 697-3600

Representative Eli Crane

Representative Crane serves Coconino County and represents the area around Mormon Mountain.

- Phone (DC): (202) 225-3361
- Phone (Prescott): (928) 286-5338
- Email: info@eliforarizona.com

Senator Mark Kelly

Strong supporter of forest health & wildfire prevention and advocacy for forest funding and resources.

- Phone (DC): (202) 224-2235
- Phone (Phoenix): (602) 671-7901

District 3 County Supervisor Tammy Ontiveros

Tammy is already engaged on this issue and pushing for action, but she can absolutely use our help. If you have questions, reach out to her office. And if you write to our senators or representatives, be sure to copy Tammy so she's looped in and can amplify the message.

- Phone: (928) 679-7163
- Email: jehammond@coconino.az.gov

This isn't about politics. It's about protecting your home, your community, and the forest we all love and depend on. One voice can be dismissed. A hundred voices can't.

Take Responsibility for Our Land

Kim and Ray carry 20 gallons of water and a shovel in their UTV, every ride, without fail. Most mornings, they drive the forest checking campsites, dousing smoldering fires left behind by careless campers. The kind of people who say they love nature, just not enough to protect it.

They don't just put out fires. They patrol after dark, trying to educate visitors about Stage II fire restrictions. When they feel safe, they ask people to extinguish flames themselves. If they think the campers might get aggressive, they report it instead (Agencies to call are in the back of the Pinewood News). And while they're out there, they pick up trash—especially plastic bags. Kim keeps a sharp eye for those. Deer will eat them if they smell food inside, and that can kill them.

Kim and Ray are tired. They do it anyway. Because someone has to. And they're good eggs.

Here's the deal. You can't legislate stupidity. The careless aren't going away. And the need to patrol this forest isn't going away either. Even if the Forest Service tripled its staff, it still wouldn't be enough for a place this big.

We've wandered a long way from our pioneer roots. Back then, people took responsibility for the land because they knew it was theirs to care for. These days, some folks show up expecting the forest to be

maintained like a city sidewalk. They roll in, tear it up, and head back to the concrete jungle, leaving someone else to clean up the mess.

But the truth is, the people who live here, including the weekenders, need to take ownership, just like the Byrnes do. Grab a shovel. Bring a trash bag. Lend a hand.

It doesn't have to be every time. You don't have to make it your job. Any effort is a generous effort, and it's appreciated.

Because in the end, it's not about doing everything. It's about doing something. A quiet act of care. A small gesture that says, this place matters.

And if enough of us say it with our hands, not just our words, our forest will have a beautiful future.

Editors Note

Since our interview with Kim, we learned at the recent Community Watch meeting that thinning work on the west side of Mormon Mountain had already been approved and is expected to begin this fall.

CARE FOR THE LAND.
TEACH YOUR CHILDREN
TO DO THE SAME.



That's good news. But it's not the whole story. The danger Kim pointed out isn't hypothetical. It's visible. It's urgent. And while any progress is very welcome, the scale of the work doesn't match the scale of the risk.

Residents still report illegal campfires. No camping restrictions have been posted. And enforcement remains inconsistent at best.

There's been more thinning near Munds Park, but illegal fires and trash remain a real and serious issue.

So yes, there's a plan. But for those who live near Mormon Mountain, the fire season is here. Planning alone won't put out smoldering embers or stop reckless behavior on the mountain.

We'll continue to follow the situation and push for more action.



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BACK-TO-SCHOOL TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

BY GEORGE DEE

Hello, young thinkers!

Back-to-school season is here, and while you might be picking out notebooks or hunting for your favorite hoodie, students around the world are getting ready in all kinds of ways. Some traditions are ancient, some are silly, and some are downright sweet.

Let's take a look inside a few classrooms around the globe, and a couple right here at home, and see how kids kick off the school year (or say goodbye to it) with style, respect, and a whole lot of school spirit.

BATHROOM DUTY

Bathroom duty? Yes, bathroom duty, clean-the-floor duty, and empty-the-trash duty! In Japan, all students pitch in to clean the school every single day. Sweeping, wiping desks, scrubbing floors. No janitors needed. This practice is called gakkō sōji (gah-koh soh-jee), and the idea is, if you take care of something, you treat it better. Very smart.

BIRTHDAY FLAG

Over in Denmark, birthdays come with a flag. A real one. When it's your big day, the school raises the Danish flag just for you. It's called the Dannebrog (DAN-uh-broh), and that's how you make a kid feel like royalty.

TAKE A BOW

In Thailand, there's a quiet kind of magic in the morning routine. Students greet their teachers with a wai ("why"), palms pressed together and a respectful bow. It's a common practice, and a quiet but meaningful way to show their teachers respect.



LETTERS FROM THE HEART

In India, they celebrate Guru Purnima ("GOO-roo poor-NEE-mah"). On that day, students thank their teachers with flowers, letters, and speeches that come straight from the heart. It's a reminder that learning is a gift, and a good teacher is a rare treasure.

POWERFULLY LOUD

In New Zealand, some students start big school events with the haka. It's a traditional Māori ("MOW-ree") chant that includes stomping, strong voices, and fierce expressions. The haka is a

way to show pride and unity. When a group performs it together, you can feel the power in your chest. It's not quiet, and it's definitely not forgettable.

HARMLESS CHAOS

Before graduation, Aussie (that's what they call people from Australia) seniors celebrate "Muck-Up Day" with pranks, costumes, and a bit of harmless chaos. Think whoopee cushions, water balloons, silly string in the stairwell and principals pretending not to notice.

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

In the Philippines, some churches mark the start of school with a backpack blessing. Before the first day, kids bring their bags to church, where leaders offer a prayer for safety, wisdom, and a good year ahead. It's a quiet tradition that helps students begin with calm hearts and full backpacks.



... Continued on page 2B

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL TRADITIONS

... Continued from page 1B

SWEET TREATS

In Germany, the first day of school comes with a giant cone full of surprises. It's called a Schultüte ("SHOOL-too-tuh"), and it's stuffed with toys, treats, and school supplies. Some are so big you can barely carry them. It's part celebration, part comfort, and just the thing to turn nervous into excited.

SEAWEED SOUP

Some South Korean students skip seaweed soup on exam day. Why? It's slippery, and they worry the soup might cause them to "slip up" on the test! Can't blame them for playing it safe.

USA TRADITIONS

Back here in the U.S., we've got a few traditions of our own.

Senior Ditch Day has been around since the 1920s. It isn't about sneaking off or slacking. It's a way for seniors to step outside the routine, spend a day with friends, and let the moment sink in. Some go to the lake. Some grab pancakes. Some just sleep in and watch the clouds. However they spend it, it feels like freedom.

Prom started as a formal walk, a way for students to mark the end of the year with a little grace and a lot of hairspray. These days, it's a swirl of tuxedos, playlists, and somebody showing up in a limo that absolutely wasn't rented by their parents. But at its core, it's still about celebrating how far they've come.

Spirit Week is a week filled with fun activities! Pajama Day, Twin Day, Hat Day, anything-but-a-backpack Day. It's silly on purpose. A reminder that school isn't just about tests and textbooks. It's about showing up, being yourself, and cheering each other on, even if someone brought their books in a baby stroller.

TRY THIS!

If you could invent your own school tradition, what would it be? A high-five tunnel? Ice cream on the first day? Thank-you notes for lunch ladies? Start something fun. If it sticks, great. If it doesn't, at least it was fun to try!

WHAT GEORGE THINKS

It's easy to think your way is the only way. But every tradition started because someone had an idea. Someone said, "Let's try it." That's how good things begin.

So whether you're marching into a classroom or sliding into a seat with a cone full of candy, remember this: school is what you make it. Be curious. Be kind. And maybe help clean up after snack time.

You never know. That might be the start of a tradition worth keeping.

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

— George



WOULD YOU RATHER:
BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Ah, it's back to school time! The pencils are sharp, the backpacks are loaded, and the alarm clocks are back to their villainous ways.

Whether you're a fan of fresh notebooks or you'd rather be climbing trees, one thing's for sure, school is in session. But what kind of student are you?

Let's find out with this "Would You Rather?" game, back-to-school style. Circle your answers, and compare with your friends!

WOULD YOU RATHER...

Carry a backpack that squeaks like a rubber duck every time you walk

OR

Have a pencil that smells like pickles?

Accidentally call your teacher "Mom" in front of the whole class

OR

Trip while walking up to the board?

Have math class on a trampoline?

OR

Science class in a tree house?

Have to write with crayons all year?

OR

Only be allowed to write using invisible ink?

Sit in a desk that makes cow noises when you move?

OR

Have your chair spin every time you get an answer right?

Be the class pet for a day (yes, in the cage)

OR

Only be able to read textbooks written in pirate language

Sit next to a parrot who shouts your secrets?

OR

Ride a llama to school?

Go to a school where recess is two hours long but math is taught by a goat

OR

Switch shoes with your teacher for a day?

Use a glue stick that smells like feet?

OR

Scissors that giggle every time they snip?

BONUS ROUND

Have a pencil that talks, but only tells cheesy jokes?

OR

An eraser that sings opera when you use it?





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

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words.
Answers page 18B.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Backpack | Imagination |
| Binder | Learning |
| Books | Library |
| Chalk | Notebook |
| Classroom | Paper |
| Curiosity | Pencil |
| Desk | Question |
| Discovery | School |
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WORD SEARCH

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B



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Bad	Death	Mary	Rich	Tail
Bear	Doesn't	Meat	Ride	Team
Bit	Faster	Needs	Rule	Teeth
Bob	Fill	Nor	Sand	Test
Born	Glad	Nose	Seed	Wait
Brown	Henry	Note	Send	Wave
Cat	Hit	Pair	Sense	We'll
Century	Huge	Party	Sets	West
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Corn	Lady	Position	Sight	
Dan	Lead	Practice	Sign	



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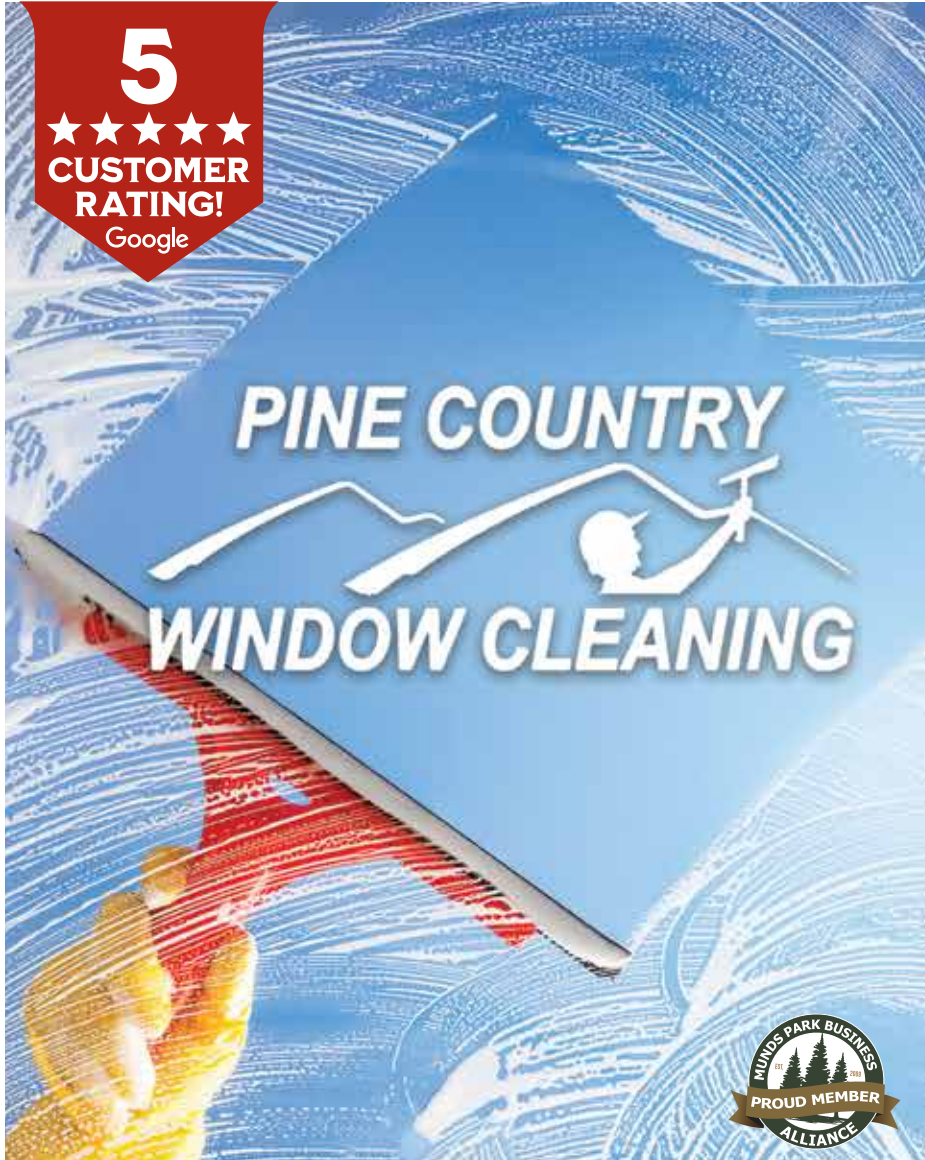





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WHAT IT MEANS TO CARE FOR THE FOREST

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

Kim Byrne isn't just concerned about fire. She's concerned about what's being left behind.

All along the 240 and through the forest surrounding Munds Park and Mormon Mountain, the signs are hard to miss, and it's a story that repeats itself. Trash around fire rings. Plastic bags caught in branches. Beer cans, busted chairs, broken coolers. And every now and then, an RV, abandoned and left to rust under the pines. Litter isn't everywhere, but it's everywhere enough.

"I'm not asking for much," Kim said. "I'm just asking people to treat the forest with a little respect."

She's not wrong. Whether it's careless campers, UTV riders not packing their trash appropriately for rides, or people dumping junk where they think no one will notice, the damage adds up. And not all of it comes from deep in the woods.

When Munds Park residents or guests overflow their trash cans and don't properly lid them, the wind will take that trash out for you—straight through your neighborhood, which your neighbors love, and right into the forest. Paper plates, food wrappers, Styrofoam cups—finds their way into our beautiful forest. It's not only unsightly and heartbreaking to some,



Kim's trash haul from our field trip was impressive. And that RV? It's starting to feel like a permanent part of the forest.

Photos by Genna Caviness



but also dangerous for wildlife. And while some folks shrug and think it's no big deal, others see it as disrespectful to the land, and the community.

Because when you go out looking for peace in the woods and come home more frustrated than when you left, that's a problem.

And while we're talking about

frustration, let's talk about that RV. It's been sitting out in the forest for years now. Rusting. Wide open. Kids play inside it, and it's a hazard. And it's been reported more times than anyone can count. Still there. Still rotting. Still nothing done.

This isn't about blaming every problem on the Forest Service. They've got a huge job and not enough hands to handle all the problems left behind by people who don't care. But removing an abandoned vehicle after three years shouldn't be a big ask.

But here's the truth: this land belongs to all of us. And that means the responsibility does too.

It's not enough to care in theory. We have to care in action. That means packing out your trash every time and not walking past what someone else left behind. Whether it's yours or not, it's ours now. Pick it up. Teach your kids to do the same. That's how we keep our neighborhoods and the forest beautiful.



Nothing irritates a Mundsie more than an overflowing trash can. When bags are stacked instead of secured, wind scatters garbage and the smell draws wildlife, including bears, into the neighborhood. Always close the lid tightly and place a heavy rock on top. The wind in Munds Park is no joke, and a loose lid is all it takes to send your trash flying. Never overfill. If you're running out of room, that's your cue to order another can.



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BY CINDY SMITH

Pinewood Players will present eight little plays by Scott Mullen. The compilation of plays is called Airport Encounters. All eight plays take place at an airport, and they are linked together by a sarcastic gate agent from Mile High Air, whose motto is "We Fly High." Some of the plays are funny, others are poignant as people go about the business of living their lives.

Max is looking for his soulmate by using his Pokémon Go app. Daniel has just hit twenty million miles of flying, while Violet desperately wants to help him celebrate. Palmer is stuck living at the airport while Zoe works there and watches the mystery man. Jane, in the play entitled Baggage, has a bag full of grief that she needs to unload if she is to board her plane. Meanwhile, Ida and Penny challenge each other to prove who is the biggest Ringo Starr fan in the world.

Heddy is trying to escape to Mexico to find a miracle while Gwen and Annie chase down a pet lizard. A quick-witted Gate Agent, Nancy, ties together all of the drama, tears, and romance.

Airport Encounters is produced and directed by Cindy Smith and Sandy Dyke. Both are delighted to have this talented and energetic cast. Some of the cast members will be acting on the Pinewood Playhouse stage for the first time. Cindy and Sandy want to thank each person who buys a ticket, sends a child to Drama Camp, donates, volunteers, or shares their talent with an audience. You are helping us to keep Pinewood Players and Pinewood Theater alive!



Terry Brown



Robyne Roveccio



Michelle Heilman



Gary Sima



Diane Vasko



Sandy Dyke



Shawna Masolini



Gina Burton



John Fynmore



Jeff Smith



Joe Burton



Fred Lloyd



Stacy LaFrance



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7:00 PM

July 27 and August 3

2:30 PM

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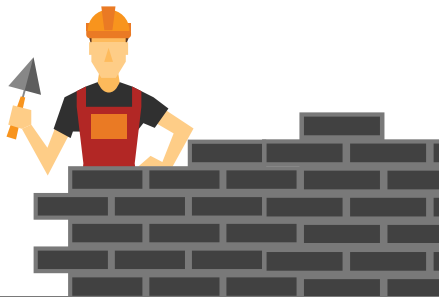
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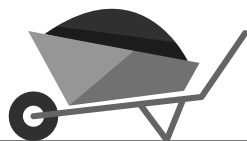
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MUNDS PARK TRAIL STEWARDS

KEEPING OUR FOREST BEAUTIFUL & HOW YOU CAN HELP

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

In 2001, the forest around Munds Park was getting loved to death.

More and more people were heading out into the woods, but no real trail system was in place. So they made their own. A little shortcut here, a boot-worn path there. One frustrated local took it further, cutting his own network of trails, hoping to create a much-needed trail system.

But unofficial trails, no matter how well-meaning, cause real harm. They slice through wildlife habitat, increase erosion, and lead to dangerous conditions for other users. The Forest Service fined the resident, but the U.S. Magistrate who handled the case saw the deeper issue. He strongly encouraged the Forest Service to take action and address the lack of trails in the area.

Munds Park needed trails. Real ones. Thoughtfully planned, properly maintained, and built to protect the forest.

So the community stepped up.

In 2002, the Munds Park Trail Stewards came to life—a group of volunteers committed to protecting the forest and doing the hard work it takes to make real change. Since then, the MUTS have helped the Forest Service build and maintain more than 22 miles of official multi-use trails, all designed to keep people on the right path and protect the land we love.

Every month, MUTS volunteers head out to the forest to care for our trails. On July 19, a handful of MUTS volunteers met at the 240 Turnaround to clean up the Crystal Point Trail. One crew tackled a downed log. Another repaired water drainage. A third sanded and sealed the old picnic table at the top. Just a few hours of sweat in our beautiful forest, and the trail was safer, cleaner, and ready for the next hiker to enjoy.

If you've ever wondered how to give back, this is how. One morning. One trail. One small "yes" at a time.

THE NEXT VOLUNTEER EVENT IS SATURDAY, AUGUST 9.

Meet at Janice Place Forest Access at 8:15 a.m. for a short safety meeting. Work wraps by noon, followed by a free lunch made and served by MUTS volunteers. Tools and water are provided—just bring sturdy shoes, long pants, and a sense of purpose.

To RSVP, email mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com

This is honest work and keeps our forest safe, beautiful, and open for everyone.

More info and updates: www.mundsparktrailstewards.com



Doug Rhodes (on the right) sands the Crystal Point picnic table while Larry Metzler (on the left) follows with a coat of weather sealant.

Photos courtesy of MUTS

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Support the Munds Park Trail Stewards and our National Forest Trails by making a tax-deductible donation today.

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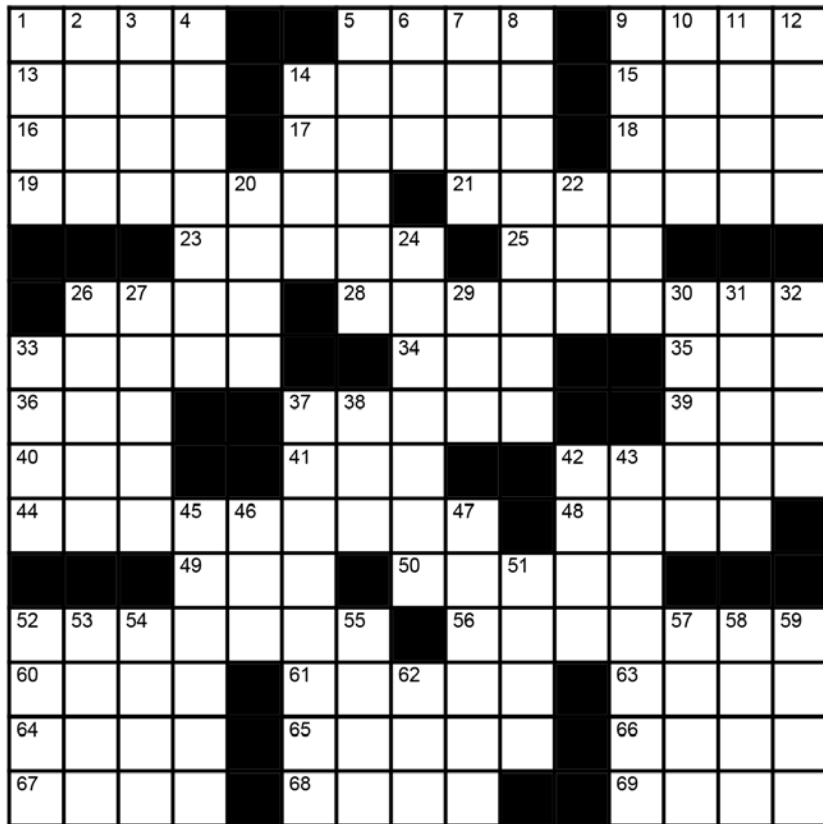
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B



ACROSS

1. Prefix with legal
5. Beef cut
9. "Ali ____ and the 40 Thieves"
13. Actor Baldwin
14. Fruit-peeling device
15. Black, in poetry
16. Trait carrier
17. Fast talk
18. Colorful salamander
19. Of, relating to, or characteristic of estrus
21. Con game
23. Fundamental
25. Fanciful story
26. Blockhead
28. Youth who fell in love with his reflection
33. Pilfer
34. Myanmar monetary unit
35. Belief

36. Aardvark's morsel

37. Cheapskate
39. "____ bad!"
40. "Murder, ____"
41. 911 respondent
42. Hoisting device
44. Practice session
48. Highway division
49. Circle segment
50. Moslem prince
52. Severe
56. Some marriages end in this
60. ____ and hearty
61. Whole ____
63. Backside
64. Against
65. Tear open
66. Old Icelandic literary work
67. Animal with a mane
68. Harp's cousin
69. Flagmaker Betsy

DOWN

1. Use a beeper
2. Guinness and others
3. Landlord's due
4. Sharp
5. Shriveled grape
6. Big coffee holder
7. Computer capacity, for short
8. Cop's cruiser, in old slang
9. Sesame plants
10. In the sack
11. Breakfast dish
12. Add to the pot
14. Furthermore
20. Many an office has one
22. Junior's junior
24. Tape-recorder spindle
26. 1,000 kilograms
27. Timepiece
29. "The Catcher in the ____"
30. 60's protest

31. Rte. running from Key West, FL to Port Kent, ME
32. Urban haze
33. Au ____
37. Forgiving
38. Facebook exchanges, for short
42. Czech or Serb
43. Manual worker
45. Enter cautiously
46. Craft
47. Highlands chap
51. Bit of smoke
52. Indian lentil dish
53. Eastern royal
54. Kind of sax
55. Rabbit fur
57. Change the decor
58. No-goodniks
59. Baseball stats
62. Bobby of hockey



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WORD OF THE DAY

GOWPEN

BY TESS LANGLEY

Gowpen (noun)

Pronounced: GOW-puhn (like “cow-pen”)

Origin: Scots dialect, 14th century

Definition: Two cupped hands joined together to carry something—grain, water, or anything worth the effort.

Before pockets, before bags, before anyone thought to brand a reusable tote, there was the gowpen.

Rooted in the Scots language of the Middle Ages, gowpen described the simplest container we have: our own hands. Farmers used it to carry grain from sack to soil. Children used it to scoop water from streams. Travelers used it to hold berries or share what they had. The word itself likely comes from the Old Norse gaupn, meaning a double handful, and it traveled with the Scots through centuries of hard living and community reliance.

It’s not a common word anymore, but it should be. Because we still see it, every day, right here in Munds Park.

A gowpen is the neighbor who carries firewood up a snowy driveway so someone else doesn’t have to. It’s the early riser who grabs a trash bag and walks the trails before most people pour their first cup of coffee. It’s the volunteer who plows a stranger’s driveway, sits through hours of community board meetings, or brings a hot meal to a friend laid up with the flu.



You won’t find them on social media posting selfies about it. You won’t even always see them do it. But it gets done. And that’s the thing about a gowpen. It’s not flashy. It’s just useful. Two hands. A bit of time. A mindset that says, this is my home, and I’m responsible for what happens here.

Maybe that’s what makes this word worth dusting off. Because the world could use a little less applause for intentions and a lot more quiet effort. And here in Munds Park, we’ve got no shortage of folks who understand that.

So here’s to the Gowpen Crew. You know who you are.

You don’t need recognition.

You just need a reason.

And maybe a good pair of gloves.

Use it in a sentence: “She didn’t wait to be asked. She just showed up with a gowpen of time and a heart for the job.”

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

— Coretta Scott King

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	8							4
	4	2		1				
				3		1		
			4				2	
		4	2	9		6		

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THE GIVING FOREST

Inspired by Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree," with thanks for the roots.

Once there was a forest.
It was wide. It was wild.
It had owls and elk and mushrooms.
And it loved the people who came to visit.

The people played.
They hiked.
They roasted marshmallows.
They camped under stars.

And the forest gave.
It gave quiet.
It gave cool shade.
It gave space to breathe.

Then the people brought more.
More tires.
More fires.
More noise.

They made new trails
where no trail belonged.

They drove where the roots were shallow
and the ruts ran deep.

They left trash among the wildflowers.
Cans in the creek.

A broken chair by a log that wasn't theirs.

They built fire rings where there shouldn't be fire.
They cleared brush.

They tied hammocks to saplings too young to hold the weight.

And the forest gave.
It gave its soil.
It gave its silence.
It gave its beauty.

The birds flew farther in.
The elk stopped crossing the ridge.
The wildflowers disappeared taking their color with them.

The people didn't see it.
But the forest was growing tired.

One day, a man returned.
He sat down, unsure of what he was waiting for.
The breeze moved, but not to greet him.
The stillness felt earned.

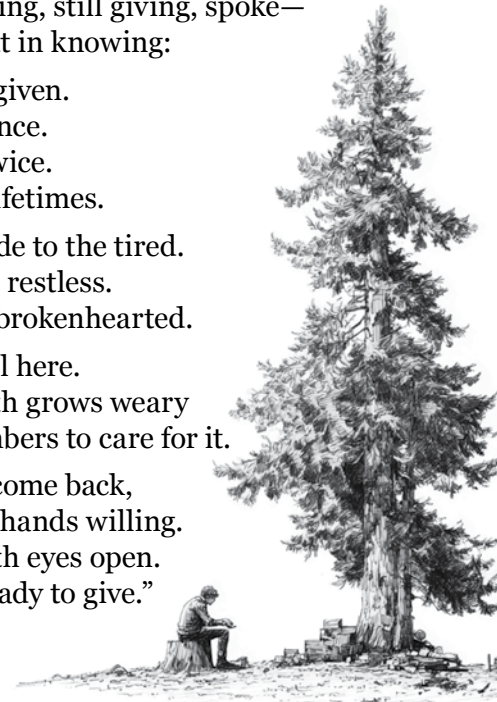
And the forest, still standing, still giving, spoke—
not in anger, but in knowing:

"I have given.
Not once.
Not twice.
But over lifetimes.

I have given shade to the tired.
Rest to the restless.
And quiet to the brokenhearted.

I am still here.
But even the earth grows weary
when no one remembers to care for it.

If you have come back,
come back with hands willing.
Come back with eyes open.
Come back ready to give."



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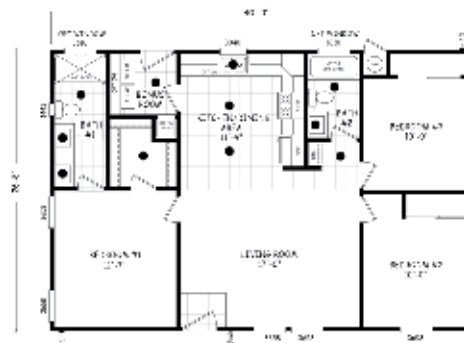


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WHAT THE STARS HAVE IN STORE FOR AUGUST

BY CAKE



ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Aries, August is your month to pause and take stock—yes, even you can slow down occasionally. Reflect on what you’ve accomplished so far this year and where you want to go next. The stars suggest it’s less

about charging ahead and more about strategizing your next move. Think of it as sharpening your tools before the next big adventure. And remember: rest is productive too—though we know you’ll still manage to make it look impressive.



LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Leo, it’s still your season, and August is your time to shine brighter than ever. But this year, the stars suggest adding a dash of humility to your roar. Think of it as “quiet confidence” month—leading by example, not just by volume. Whether it’s inspiring others or tackling a goal, your actions will speak louder than words. And yes, you’ll still be fabulous. After all, the sun never apologizes for shining—it just does..



SAGITTARIUS, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Sagittarius, August challenges you to practice patience—yes, we know, not your favorite word. The stars say slowing down and focusing on one goal at a time will bring clarity and success. Think of it as aiming your arrow before you shoot—it’s still exciting, just more precise. And don’t worry, your adventurous spirit will thank you when the payoff comes. Bonus: the journey is always better when you stop for snacks along the way.



TAURUS, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

Taurus, August whispers: “Change is good.” Before you dig your heels in, hear us out. A little shift—whether in your routine, mindset, or even your furniture arrangement—can breathe fresh energy into your world. The stars

encourage you to embrace the idea of “new” without overhauling everything. Even small tweaks can make a big difference. And hey, if all else fails, treat yourself to a cozy night with your favorite snacks. Change is easier with cheese.



VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Virgo, August says: let your perfectionism take a vacation. The stars want you to try something creative just for fun—no lists, no goals, just joy. Paint outside the lines (gasp!), bake without a recipe, or attempt karaoke if you’re feeling brave. It’s about embracing imperfection and letting your inner child out to play. And if you need permission to make a mess, consider this your cosmic green light. Even the stars aren’t perfectly aligned all the time.



CAPRICORN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Capricorn, August reminds you that even empires need maintenance. Take time to strengthen your foundations—whether it’s reconnecting with loved ones, refining your skills, or simply organizing your workspace. The stars suggest that tending to the basics now will set you up for big wins later. And if anyone asks why you’re decluttering your desk, just say you’re “preparing for greatness.” It sounds dramatic, but hey, it’s also true.



GEMINI, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Gemini, August is all about wrapping up loose ends. Those half-finished projects and unanswered texts? The stars say it’s time to check them off your list. Don’t worry, this isn’t about perfection—it’s about clearing

space for the fun stuff ahead. Plus, imagine how satisfying it’ll feel to finally close those tabs in your mind. Think of it as mental decluttering, with a side of humor. Pro tip: reward yourself with ice cream after every success.



LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Libra, August nudges you to look inward—yes, even you, the social butterfly. The stars suggest taking a little time for yourself to recharge and reflect on what truly makes you happy. Are you saying yes too much? This month is about finding balance, not just with others, but within. Treat yourself to a solo coffee date or a quiet evening with your favorite book. Remember, the scales tip best when you’re centered.



AQUARIUS, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Aquarius, August asks you to reconnect with your community. Whether it’s catching up with friends, volunteering, or attending a local event, the stars say your presence makes a difference. Your unique perspective is exactly what people need right now, so don’t be afraid to share it. And if you end up planning something big? Just know the universe is totally on board. Collaboration is your superpower this month—use it wisely (and maybe delegate cleanup).



CANCER, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

Cancer, August invites you to reflect on your emotional journey this year. What’s working? What’s not? The stars suggest journaling, a long talk with a trusted friend, or even a good cry (with snacks, obviously). This isn’t about

dwelling on the past—it’s about understanding it so you can move forward. Your heart is your compass, so trust it to guide you. Bonus: emotional breakthroughs pair beautifully with cozy blankets and your favorite playlist.



SCORPIO, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Scorpio, August encourages you to step into the spotlight—your way, of course. Share your ideas, speak your truth, and let your voice be heard. The stars say your intensity and passion can inspire those around you, but only if you let them in. Vulnerability isn’t a weakness; it’s a bridge to connection. So go ahead, let people see the real you. And if someone looks shocked? That’s just the magic of being authentically Scorpio.



PISCES, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, August encourages you to dream big—but with a plan. The stars know your imagination is endless, but turning those visions into reality requires a little structure. This month, focus on taking small, actionable steps toward your goals. Think of it as turning stardust into stardom. And if you get overwhelmed? Remember, even the ocean starts with a drop. You’ve got this, dreamer—just keep swimming.

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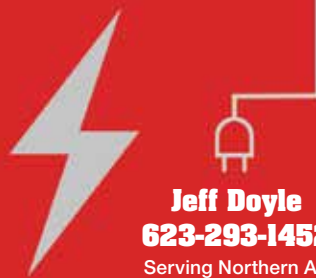
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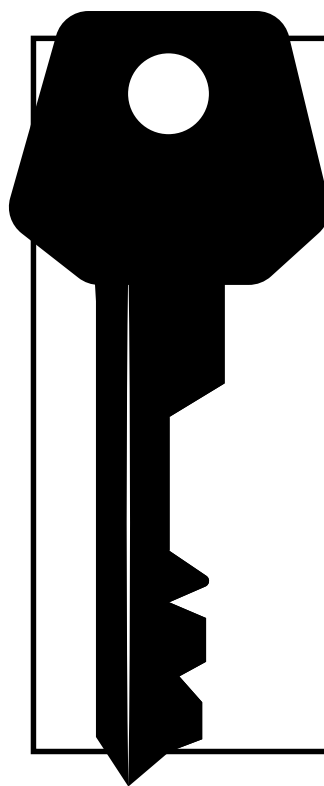
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DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR KEYS ARE?

CALL
Bill's Lock Shop

(928) 699-8868

Serving Munds Park

Just Moved?

Re-keying is the safest thing to do!

Ask about a lock check-up!



Medicare Questions?

Call me anytime, I can help!

602-730-6315

Stacey Sabo, Licensed Agent



Not connected with or endorsed by the US government or the federal Medicare Program.

JUST ONE MORE

Evening gold and a perfect rainbow over Munds Park
Sometimes nature shows off just for us.

Thank you, Christie Beyeler
for letting us share your photo.



J & W Excavating Services

A full-service civil contractor, J & W Excavating delivers top-tier results with the experience to back it up. Licensed, bonded, and insured—because peace of mind matters.

Excavation & Construction Services

- Land and Lot Clearing
- Hillside Lot Construction
- Building Pad Construction
- Grading and Drainage
- Concrete and Paving
- Operator-Assisted Equipment Rentals

Equipment Services

- Dozer
- Excavator
- Backhoe
- Ramhoe
- Truck & Equipment Transportation

FREE ESTIMATES

Call Mark at 480-589-7288

30 Years of Experience • 15-Year Munds Park Resident

ROC #124858 ✓VERIFIED

CROSSWORD Solutions

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

KIDS WORD SEARCH Solutions

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

SUDOKU Solutions

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

WORD SEARCH Solutions

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

WHO HANDLES WHAT IN COCONINO COUNTY

Because Google doesn't always know the mountain way.
Spot an error or missing contact? Let us know: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

Dark Sky Ordinance & Lighting Inspections

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) 679-4123

Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-4123

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

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.



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