

PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN DESERT LIVING

VOL. 32 NO. 16 OCTOBER 10, 2025

FREE!



**PINEWOOD
NEWS
KIDS!**

PAGE 19



COVER by Sandee Caviness & Midjourney

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2025 CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

When the forest goes quiet and the air turns crisp, our night skies come alive. Munds Park isn't just any place to stargaze—we're part of a certified Dark Sky community. That means porch lights are shielded, streetlights are limited, and the heavens get the spotlight they deserve.

The beauty of living here is that your own backyard is one of the best stargazing spots you'll ever find. No road trips, no crowded overlooks. Just step outside, give your eyes 20 minutes to adjust, and look up. Meteors streak brighter. The Milky Way stretches wider. Even casual observers get a front-row view to the cosmos that most people have to chase.

Here's what's worth watching in the skies above Munds Park this fall and early winter.



Lunar Moments & Seasonal Markers

Full Beaver Moon – November 5

November's full moon gets its name from the busy season of beavers building their winter lodges and, historically, the time when traps were set before rivers froze. Expect a bright, cold light that evening—perfect for a moonlit walk, less ideal for faint meteor spotting.

Quick Tip: The darker the night sky, the better your odds of seeing faint objects. Around New Moon, the stars, Milky Way, and meteors shine their brightest. Around Full Moon, think moonlit landscapes and glowing treetops instead.

Winter Solstice – December 21

Mark your calendar for December 21 at 10:03 AM—the official start of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the shortest day and longest night of the year, a natural reset that ancient cultures celebrated long before calendars told them to.

Meteor Showers to Watch

Fall brings a string of meteor showers, each with its own personality. Some offer a few brilliant streaks, others fill the sky like cosmic confetti. All are visible from Munds Park if skies are clear.

Meteor Shower	Peak	Best Viewing Time	Meteors/hr*	Why It's Worth Watching
Orionids	Oct 21–22	Before dawn	~15	Fast, bright streaks that seem to fly out of Orion. Perfectly timed with New Moon this year—great viewing.
Northern Taurids	Nov 9	Late evening	~3	A slow, steady shower known for dramatic fireballs. The bright moon will dull most, but the occasional big one can still surprise you.
Leonids	Nov 16–17	After midnight	10–15	Famous for their history of meteor "storms." This year's thin crescent moon makes for excellent viewing conditions.
Geminids	Dec 13–14	Late night	Up to 120	The season's showstopper. Even with some moonlight, the sheer number and brightness make this one worth the thermos and gloves.
Ursids	Dec 21–22	Night through dawn	5–10	A quiet but pretty shower that peaks near the solstice. With almost no moonlight this year, it's a great excuse to bundle up and stargaze.

Keep the lights low, keep your eyes up, and together we'll keep Munds Park's night skies shining bright.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & STORY TIPS!

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

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The next issue of the *Pinewood News* will hit the stands, **Friday, November 7, 2025**





COLDWELL BANKER NORTHLAND

REDUCED



\$1,295,000
17612 E FAIRWAY DR
MUNDS PARK

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

REDUCED



\$600,000
17380 CRYSTAL BROOK PL
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Move-in ready Munds Park cabin with vaulted ceilings, new roof, floors, T&G pine, updated kitchen/baths, and XL loft. Enjoy a covered porch, paver patio, and prime location near golf, clubhouse, and trails.



\$495,000
17165 ELK PL
MUNDS PARK

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

SOLD



\$405,000
685 E OAK DR
MUNDS PARK

Beautifully maintained home with vaulted ceilings, split floor plan, and eat-in kitchen. Covered deck plus private patio, storage shed, and raised garden. Turnkey & ready to enjoy!

REDUCED



\$327,900
17145 S MESCALERO DR
MUNDS PARK

Upgraded, furnished home on large lot with RV parking, 10x14 shed, deck, fire pit, and fountain. New appliances, luxury vinyl flooring, updated baths. Split floor plan with office and great indoor-outdoor space.

SALE PENDING



\$437,000
245 BARNWOOD TRL, MUNDS PARK

Darling little getaway on a beautiful large treed lot (9750 sq ft). Cozy wood interior with vaulted ceiling and a pellet stove in living room. Plenty of room on the lot for a garage or to add on. Home comes furnished too?



\$425,000
1170 E COUGAR ST
MUNDS PARK

Cozy 2-bed, 2-bath home among pines and oaks, bonus room, private deck overlooking Munds Canyon, fenced yard, gazebo, bunkhouse, garage, granite upgrades, mostly furnished. Peaceful mountain retreat.



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17065 Grizzly Ridge - \$550,000
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PINEWOOD

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & DESERT MOUNTAIN LIVING

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church

Every Monday, 6 pm

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday, 10:45 am

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd • Munds Park

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend.

Stay informed. Your presence and participation is essential!

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!

Tuesday, November 4

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

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, October 21

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Thursday, November 13

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park



LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 7

Stay in the loop with everything local: public notices, community updates, and helpful info that keeps our community connected.

WINE TASTING & MORE 11

A new wine bar is bringing heart and hometown flavor to Munds Park. Step inside Wine Tasting & More, where good wine and good company meet.

THINGS TO DO 14A

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

EPERNAY CHAMPAGNE 16

Champagne Épernay proves that great wine welcomes everyone. Forget the dress code and explore a village where history, hospitality, and bubbly flow freely.

SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD XX

A Paris-born classic with a bourbon soul, the Boulevardier is the drink October was made for.

HOME MADE & WONDERFUL 15

Thick noodles, tender beef, and a velvety broth come together in this stick-to-your-ribs classic. Perfect for cozy fall evenings.

PINEWOOD NEWS KIDS 19

On Halloween night, two not-so-ordinary kids learn that being weird might be their greatest superpower.

GARDENS IN THE PARK 28

Plant now, party later. Warner's Nursery is serving up crisp air, spring bulbs, and a full lineup of fall fun all October long.

HEALING AMERICA'S DIVIDE 25

Through the lens of a Munds Park MD, this piece looks at the roots of political division and shares thoughtful steps toward restoring empathy and understanding.

SECONDHAND SLEIGH BELLS 31

The best gifts aren't wrapped in plastic or pumped out by the thousands. They're waiting on dusty shelves, under handwritten price tags, in shops filled with charm and cheer. Flip to find your holiday treasure map.

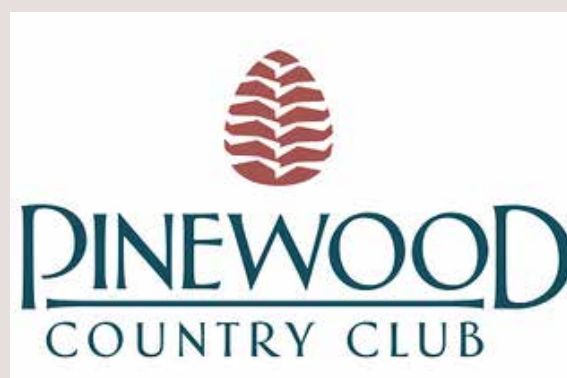


Munds Park Charm, Minutes from Flagstaff



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A Club owned by the members, for the members, with a wide array of indoor and outdoor amenities and activities. Come and experience the "true" Club in the country, where friends are family, where casual is formal and where retreat finds its true meaning.



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YOUR LINK TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUNDS PARK

COMMUNITY WATCH UPDATE

The Munds Park Community Watch meeting on Thursday, September 18 had a solid turnout. The room was filled with those who came to hear the latest from the county, and there was plenty to cover. For those who couldn't make it, here's the rundown.

The new firehouse is moving forward and is expected to open in the summer of 2026. County staff reported that our roads and forest are currently in good shape, areas that need help are being worked on, and as for the weather, we'll take it as it comes.

Wildfire insurance remains a tough issue. County officials recognize it's a financial strain and are working to help reduce costs, but much of the burden falls on homeowners. Ensure your property has a defensible space and is prepared in case the worst happens. Visit wildfireprepared.org to learn how to protect your home. In a mountain town, that responsibility starts with each homeowner.

The leash law discussion was direct. It is illegal to let your dog roam freely in our neighborhoods and in the forest. If an injury occurs because a dog was not leashed or properly contained, the county can prosecute and issue hefty fines. Please keep your pets secured for everyone's safety.

Short-term rentals are also drawing attention at the state level. Lawmakers are looking at 2026 for potential legislation that could give local governments more control, including the ability to set caps based on community needs. Progress is steady, but slow. If you are experiencing problems with an STR near your home, report it. Contact information is available in the back of the *Pinewood News*.

Crime and traffic stops remain steady but low—it's still "Mayberry USA" here. But one serious concern was raised: five suicide calls in just three months. That's a heartbreaking number for a community our size. Check in on your neighbors, make eye contact, lend a hand. Sometimes a simple conversation can make all the difference.

The next town hall is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pinewood Country Club. Community involvement keeps our town strong.



BIG CHECK, BIGGER HEARTS

The Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary presented a check for \$44,425.11 to Chief Josh Tope — proceeds from the Agee's Labor Day Fundraiser, powered by the Auxiliary's tireless volunteers. Special thanks to the organizing committee pictured here (L-R): Barb Sherman, Kim Agee, Norma Whittaker, Gail Van Deurzen, Chief Josh Tope, Cheri Schultz, Zoe Anderson, Amanda Palmer, and Deanne Martin.

...Continued on page 9



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Find the local businesses that keep Munds Park running and support your community paper. Scan the QR code to connect with them.

Text 315 to 928-260-3077



FEATURED MOUNTAIN HOMES BY DEBI BRIGHT



\$439,000

17290 ALEGRIA PLACE

2020 Cavco with 3 spacious bedrooms—one with private entry off the south-facing deck, great for an office. Open layout, high ceilings, large island. Covered front porch, paver driveway, shed, quiet cul-de-sac, trail access, and plenty of parking.



\$404,000

17075 WINTERGREEN DRIVE

A little gem in the woods with updated kitchen and bath, wood floors throughout, and a wood stove (no primary heat). Extra-large lot, furnished, with big front and back decks. Main-floor bedroom, loft with half bath, plus utility room with office space.



\$629,000

75 BISON DRIVEL

Charming chalet with open floor plan, fireplace, and extra-large covered Trex deck off the kitchen and living room. Main-level primary bedroom opens to private deck. Two furnished bedrooms upstairs, garage with backyard access, shed for storage, and Starlink included. Backs to acre lots.



\$462,000

405 E CEDAR WOOD DRIVE

Brand-new four-bedroom, two-bath Cavco with over 1,600 sq ft, vaulted ceilings, large windows, and open floor plan. Features deep covered front porch, ceiling fans throughout, abundant natural light. Completion expected by end of April.



\$779,000

17265 TRAIL WINDS PLACE

One of the largest lots in the area, just minutes from the forest. 2,500 sq. ft. with heated garage, spacious kitchen, oak floors, upgraded windows, and freshly painted inside and out. Primary suite on main, two large bedrooms upstairs, bonus room, and great indoor-outdoor flow.



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UPDATE FROM THE PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT

Lateral Sewer Scopes

Effective immediately, Pinewood Sanitary District (PSD) will no longer require lateral sewer scopes during property transfers. While this inspection is no longer mandatory, PSD strongly recommends that both buyers and sellers consider having a lateral sewer scope performed. This proactive step can provide valuable peace of mind by identifying potential issues early and ensuring transparency in the transaction.

Construction

The Odell Lift Station Removal project is progressing smoothly, with only a few minor issues encountered—none of which have been significant. The local community has been exceptionally cooperative and supportive throughout the process. To date, neither PSD nor Summit Construction has received any complaints.

Winterizing Your Home with Propylene Glycol

Propylene glycol (PG) is a safe and effective antifreeze commonly used to winterize homes, particularly in plumbing systems and seasonal properties. It works by lowering the freezing point of water, helping to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting during cold weather.

When used properly, PG is non-toxic and environmentally friendly, making it the Pinewood Sanitary District’s recommended choice for residential winterization. Before use, please ensure that any PG-based antifreeze is clearly labeled as non-toxic.

Notice to All Residents: Utility Easement Access Required for Sewer Main Repairs

PSD will be conducting essential sewer main repairs throughout the Park. These repairs are critical to repairing and restoring our infrastructure and preventing inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues. As many of you may be aware, PSD is currently under a Consent

Judgment obtained by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Attorney General’s Office, which requires us to take prompt corrective action.

To complete this work, PSD must access utility easements, which are legally designated areas for public utilities. Unfortunately, many of these easements have become inappropriately obstructed by fences, sheds, boulders, and other personal property.

We respectfully ask all residents to:

- Clear all obstructions from utility easements adjacent to their property.
- Work cooperatively to ensure timely access for work crews.

Important: If PSD is required to remove any obstructions to access easements for PSD lines and equipment, the homeowner(s) will be responsible for any associated costs. In some cases, costs may be shared between neighbors on both sides of the utility easement, depending on the specific situation.

We appreciate your prompt attention and cooperation in this matter. Your support is vital to ensuring the reliability and safety of our sewer infrastructure.

Thank you, Pinewood Sanitary District

...Continued on page 11

How to Vote on the Firehouse Bond

Election Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

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

How to Vote: The bond will appear on the Tuesday, November 4 ballot. You can vote in person at Munds Park Community Church, or vote early by mail starting Wednesday, October 8.

Voter Registration Deadline: Monday, October 6, 2025

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



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Fixture Upgrades

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NOW OPEN IN MUNDS PARK

Wine Tasting & More!

There's something new uncorked in Munds Park, and it's pouring heart, flavor, and hometown charm.

Local resident Deanne Martin has turned a longtime dream into reality with the opening of Wine Tasting & More, a cozy, welcoming spot built around good wine, good food, and even better company. A full-time Munds Park local since

2019, Deanne fell in love with the spirit of this mountain community, and now she's pouring that love into every glass.

"I've always enjoyed entertaining and bringing people together," Deanne says. "Creating a place where neighbors can gather, relax, laugh, and enjoy amazing wine just felt like the right next chapter."

At Wine Tasting & More, you'll find a carefully curated selection of Arizona wines, paired with charcuterie boards, fondues, caprese skewers, and seasonal small plates. When the snow starts to fall, you can cozy up with homemade chili, hearty soups, and toasted paninis, all thoughtfully matched with wines from Arizona and around the world.

Backing Deanne is a team that makes the experience shine. Annette Esposito and Bev Poole bring warmth and friendly expertise to every pour, making sure guests feel right at home the moment they step through the door.



And there's more on the way, including wine-based cocktails, rotating seasonal menus, and a lineup of events designed to bring people together. Think Bingo nights, live jazz, Paint & Sip evenings, and more. It's a little something special, right here at home.

Deanne extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped bring her vision to life, especially Cheryl and Robert Rydzynski, Gail and Rick VanDeurzen, Kim and Matt Agee, and all the kind folks who stopped by with open arms and thoughtful gifts.

Whether you're a wine lover, a curious sipper, or just looking for a place to kick back and connect, Wine Tasting & More is your new local spot. Come raise a glass with us, your seat's waiting.

Serving Hours

Wed & Thu: 4 PM – 8 PM • Fri & Sat: 3 PM – 8 PM
Sun: 4 PM – 8 PM • Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Located in the back of Agee's BBQ
17730 S Munds Ranch Rd, Munds Park

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay in the loop on menus, events, and new seasonal offerings.

Cheers, Munds Park. Let's make memories, one pour at a time.

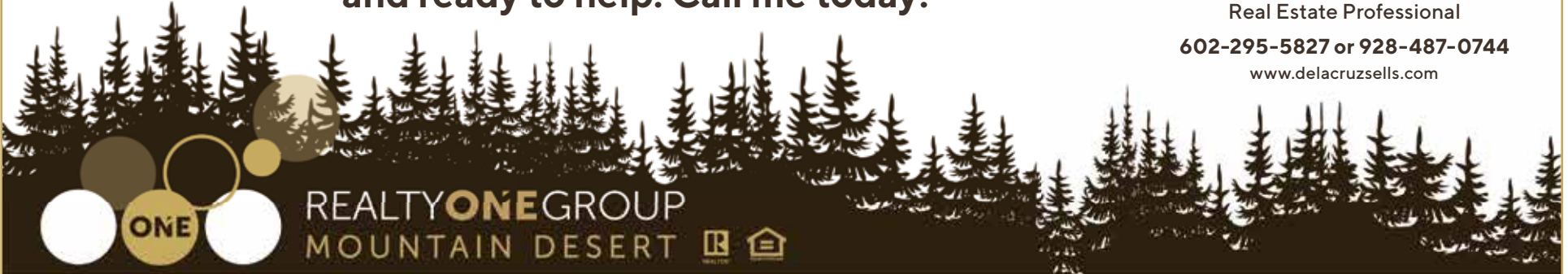
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TURNING "FOR SALE" to "SOLD" in Munds Park!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

FALL FESTIVAL AT WARNER'S



Enjoy a family-friendly day with a hay maze, pumpkin patch, balloon twisters, face painters, and a petting zoo. Food trucks will be on-site with treats for purchase.

Time: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Location: 1101 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff

For information: warnersnursery.com

Admission: Free.

THROUGH OCTOBER



PUMPKIN FEST & CORN MAZE BRINGS FALL FUN!

Celebrate the season with pumpkin picking, live music, farm shows, and farm-fresh treats at Mortimer Farms'

annual fall festival. Enjoy traditions, laughter, and wide-open farm views.

Time: 9 am–9 pm

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

Admission: \$20–\$25, children under 2 free

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

FALL FEST AT SLIDE ROCK



Celebrate the arrival of autumn with picnic areas, kids' activities, nature demos, and plenty of fall color along Oak Creek.

Time: 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Location: Slide Rock State Park, Sedona, AZ

For information: azstateparks.com

Admission: Free with park entry

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

MUNDS PARK TRUNK OR TREAT



Bring the Halloween spirit to life at the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary's Trunk or Treat. Enjoy decorated cars, games, crafts, and plenty of candy in a fun, safe setting for the whole family.

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Pinewood Country Club parking lot

For information: Contact Gail VanDeurzen at 623-670-0255

Admission: Free

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

PUMPKIN FUN!



Wrap up the season with an evening of fall fun featuring beer, food trucks, kids' activities, live music, and hundreds of glowing pumpkins.

Time: 3:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

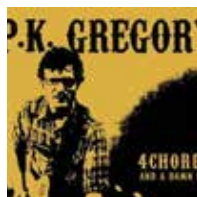
Location: The Arboretum at Flagstaff, Flagstaff

For information: thearb.org

Admission: Pre-sale Member \$14, Non-member \$19, Youth (5–17) \$8, Under 5 free; Day of Event Member \$20, Non-member \$25, Youth (5–17) \$10, Under 5 free

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

P.K. GREGORY LIVE AT PAGE SPRINGS CELLARS



Settle in with a glass of local wine and enjoy an intimate acoustic performance by singer-songwriter P.K. Gregory on the patio.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Page Springs Cellars, 1500 N Page Springs Rd, Cornville

For information: pagespringscellars.com

Admission: Typically free with tasting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

GERMAN WINE TASTING & PAIRING: OKTOBERFEST



Celebrate Oktoberfest with a German wine tasting and food pairing hosted by Wine Tasting & More.

Time: 4:00–8:00 p.m.

Location: Behind Agee's BBQ, 17730 S Munds Ranch

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 & 26

CELEBRACIONES DE LA GENTE (DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS)



Honor loved ones with altars, live music and dance, hands-on art, and traditional foods at this community celebration. Enjoy activities throughout the weekend.

Time: Saturday 10:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Location: Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff

For information: musnaz.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

WALKIN' ON MAIN



Stroll through historic Old Town Cottonwood while enjoying local wine tastings, art exhibits, classic cars, and live music in a lively street festival atmosphere.

Time: 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Location: Old Town

Cottonwood, AZ

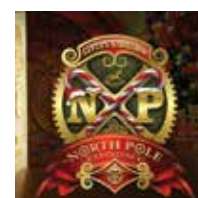
For information: cottonwoodaz.gov

Admission: Free; wine tasting priced

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 &

THROUGH DECEMBER

NORTH POLE EXPERIENCE



Climb aboard a festive trolley ride to Santa's workshop for a holiday adventure filled with elves, toy building, and Christmas magic. Multiple daily departures are available throughout the season.

Time: See website for departure times

Location: Little America Hotel, Flagstaff, AZ

For information: northpoleexperience.com

Admission: \$58–68 per person

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE



Kick off the festive season with a sparkling evening parade through downtown Prescott, featuring illuminated floats, music, and holiday cheer.

Time: beginning at 6:00 PM on Cortez Street

Location: Downtown Streets and Heritage Park, Prescott, AZ

For information: prescott-az.gov

Admission: Free

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!



The Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary is bringing holiday magic to town! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making their grand arrival at Munds Park Community Church.

Bring the kids to snap a picture with Santa and his reindeer and take home a stocking full of holiday goodies.

Spots are limited—reserve yours today!

RSVP: Linda Burnett (call or text) 619-954-6901

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Munds Park Community Church



**Arizona Snowbowl Picks
November 21 for Opening Day!**



HALLOWEEN Trunk or Treat

VOLUNTEER FOR TRUNK OR TREAT!

We need volunteers to help with games, crafts, and activities—it's a fun way to give back to the kids. Candy donations are welcome and can be dropped off at the Post Office or Gail's place at 17255 Kay Place. The event takes place Saturday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pinewood Country Club parking lot. To decorate a car, volunteer, or donate candy, contact Gail VanDeurzen at 623-670-0255.



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

Starting November 1st, market hours are 9:30am till 12:30pm.

Location: 900 Iron Springs Road, Prescott,

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,



Community MARKETS

FLAGSTAFF URBAN FLEA MARKET

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

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

Time: 9 AM - 2 PM

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

Admission: Free

PEDDLER'S PASS OLD-TIME FARMERS & FLEA MARKET

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

Date: Every Saturday & Sunday, Year-Round

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

Location: 6201 E. State Route 69, Prescott Valley

Admission: Free



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FROM OUR READERS



“Mary Edwards bids farewell to workdays and hello to world wonders—walking the Vatican, marveling at the Acropolis, and exploring the treasures of Egypt. Retirement, done in style!”



“Mary Edwards bids farewell to workdays and hello to world wonders—walking the Vatican, marveling at the Acropolis, and exploring the treasures of Egypt. Retirement, done in style!”

Got The *Pinewood News* packed in your suitcase?
Send us a photo from your getaway, and let's see where our little paper ends up next! Send your photos to Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.



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BEEF & NOODLES

One glorious, bubbling cauldron of comfort.



Now, let's not pretend this is dainty fare. No, no. This is a stick-to-your-ribs, homemade goodness afare. We've taken the soul of a classic chicken and noodles dish and dialed up the goodness with beef. Because sometimes, darling, chicken just won't cut it.

What Exactly Is Stew Meat?

You may spot something labeled "beef stew meat"—handy little cubes, ready to toss in. But if you're like me, you like to choose your meat, looking for that perfect marbling. Grab a chuck roast or a top or bottom round. Take your knife and cube it into one-inch pieces. They should be generous enough to bite but small enough to surrender to the fork.

The Secret to That Rich, Velvety Texture?

Here is where the fun begins. First, the beef gets a dusting of flour before it hits the hot pan. When that flour toasts, it leaves behind

flavor and a little magic that thickens the broth later. Second, the noodles cook directly in the pot. As they bubble, they release starch, giving you that rich, glossy stew that clings to the spoon. And don't you dare skip the frozen egg noodles if you can find them. Thick, chewy, satisfying — they hold their own in this glorious mix.

Directions

1. In a bowl, coat the beef cubes with flour, seasoned salt, and pepper.
2. Heat butter and olive oil in a large Dutch oven until the butter foams. Lay in the beef in a single layer and let it brown beautifully. Do not fuss with it; let it sizzle until golden, then turn. Remove the beef to a plate.
3. Into the same pot go the onions, mushrooms, and garlic. Stir, scrape, coat up every browned bit of goodness from the bottom. Cook for 7 minutes.
4. Pour in the stock and Worcestershire, toss in the thyme, and return the beef to the pot. Bring it to a simmer, cover, and let it quietly transform for an hour and fifteen minutes.
5. Lift the lid, breathe in the aroma, and fish out the thyme. In go the noodles. Bring back the simmer, then lower the heat and let them cook until tender, about 20-25 minutes.
6. To the table it goes, piping hot, with a dollop of sour cream and a sprig of parsley if you want to be fancy.

Ingredients

3 Tbsp. flour
 1 tsp. seasoned salt, divided
 1 tsp. ground black pepper, divided
 1 ½ lb. beef stew meat (or chuck roast), cut into 1" cubes
 2 Tbsp. butter
 1 Tbsp. olive oil
 1 yellow onion, chopped
 12 oz. mushrooms, sliced
 4 garlic cloves, chopped
 1 qt. beef stock
 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
 4 sprigs thyme
 1 (12 oz.) bag frozen egg noodles (Reames, if you can find it!)
 Sour cream and chopped parsley, for serving

"I was 32 when I started cooking; up until then, I just ate."

— Julia Child

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THE LEAVES ARE CRUNCHING, TAILS ARE WAGGING, AND PUMPKIN SPICE IS BREWING.

EPERNAY CHAMPAGNE

Elegant Heritage with a Down-to-Earth Welcome

BY “UNSTOPPABLE STACEY” WITTIG



Musée du Vin de Champagne et d'Archéologie on Avenue de Champagne

I stepped off the train in Épernay with a flutter of nerves. Everything I'd read about this Champagne capital conjured images of châteaux behind iron gates, manicured gardens and polished guests in flowing sundresses. I, on the other hand, wore hiking boots and my Camino shorts. Should I have ducked into a thrift store and bought a dress before boarding the train from Reims?

Those worries fizzled away with my first glass of bubbly. I quickly discovered that Épernay isn't a velvet-roped playground for insiders. It's a wine-soaked village eager to teach, taste and befriend, where curiosity counts more than couture.

Known as the “capital of Champagne,” Épernay sits at the heart of the region's chalky hillsides, just a 90-minute train ride from Paris. Its main artery, Avenue de Champagne, is often called the richest avenue in the world—more than 200 million bottles slumber in cellars beneath its cobbles. UNESCO added the “Hillsides, Houses and Cellars of Champagne” to its World Heritage list in 2015, and 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of that inscription as well as the centennial of the street's official name.

Walking along the wide boulevard lined with ornate façades, I braced for exclusivity. Instead, doors were open. Guides waved visitors inside, tasting rooms bustled with travelers in sneakers, and a sign at the Office de Tourisme Épernay en Champagne pointed to free daily pours. The visitor center hosts a different producer each day from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., giving visitors a chance to meet vignerons and sample cuvées at no charge. Staff happily book cellar tours, bicycle rides through vineyards or tickets to Pressoria, the new interactive museum in nearby Aÿ-Champagne. Even the Musée du Vin de Champagne et d'Archéologie Régionale welcomes you to sniff, swirl and learn—no tuxedo required.

For a more personal experience, Épernay Tourisme offers a free “Greeter” program that matches locals with visitors for informal tours. Through this service, I met up with Jean-Marie Régnier in Vertus, a

medieval walled village just a few clicks from Épernay. The volunteer promised to guide me around on foot, but instead pulled up in a Citroën van with a dashboard strewn with empty paper coffee cups and half-eaten bags of salty treats. “I am so sorry, Madame, but I speak no English,” he said in perfect English—and then promptly switched to French. We relied on slow speech, hand gestures and laughter as he drove me down bumpy vineyard lanes.

Our first stop wasn't a grand tasting room, but a French version of Home Depot, stocked with stainless tanks, bottling supplies and electric pruning shears. Jean-Marie popped the trunk, pulled out a portable utility light with its cord trailing like a tail, and marched upstairs. I figured maybe our first “tour” was of the returns desk and that he was taking the work lamp in for a new part. While he chatted with the manager, I wandered the aisles like a kid in a candy store for vintners—small-batch fermentation tanks, labeling supplies and rolls of sheep fencing.

Then he motioned for me to follow. We wound past stacks of plastic sheeting and into a back corridor, ducked through a tight doorway and stepped into a dark space, the smell of damp stone wrapping around us. He plugged the light into a socket and, with a buzz, light flooded the space. I found myself standing inside a circular chamber with a vaulted stone ceiling constructed out of limestone blocks—a medieval cheese cellar hidden beneath the store. Surprise! My guide wasn't running errands at all; he was revealing Champagne's layers one at a time. In Champagne country, even a “hardware stop” can turn into a history lesson.

We continued our exploration of Vertus, the largest wine-producing town in the Côte des Blancs. Here, Chardonnay reigns supreme, lending local wines their elegant mineral brightness. I stayed at Hôtel le Relais du Vigneron, which arranges walking tours and tastings of its own Domaine Charles Pougeoise Champagnes. Dinner at the hotel's acclaimed Restaurant Terre de Craie became an edible adventure: a



UNSTOPPABLE Stacey sniffing Champagne aromas at Pressoria, a cutting-edge interactive museum



Jean-Marie points to a central oculus, a ventilation opening in a medieval cheese cellar



Champagne tasting at Maison Boizel

playful amuse-bouche, steak tartare, duck with a surprising medley of corn, an abundant cheese trolley and a cheeky chocolate dessert paired with a drier Champagne. The chef's wink in every course delighted me.

Of course, no visit to Épernay is complete without a stroll along Avenue de Champagne. Moët et Chandon established itself here in 1746, Perrier-Jouët in 1813, and many others built château-like headquarters during the Belle Époque. Touring these cellars feels like stepping into a living museum of French architecture. Yet even in these glittering salons, hikers are welcome.

At Maison Boizel I descended 11 meters underground with our guide Georgie to see traditional wooden barrels, chalk-walled passages and racks of bottles turned upside down by hand over seven weeks. At Maison de Venoge I tasted in an 1837 formal salon dripping with chandeliers. Sunlight danced on parquet floors as I sipped Princes de Venoge Champagne with Directeur Commercial Philippe Manfredini. French elegance, old-world grandeur—and me still in my hiking shorts. No one batted an eye.

I arrived in Épernay worried about my wardrobe. I left feeling embraced—by guides, vignerons and chefs who care more about sharing tradition than enforcing dress codes. Whether you're sipping in a glittering maison or a humble tasting room, Champagne Épernay delivers both elegance and authenticity. Pack your curiosity, not your couture, and wander fearlessly.

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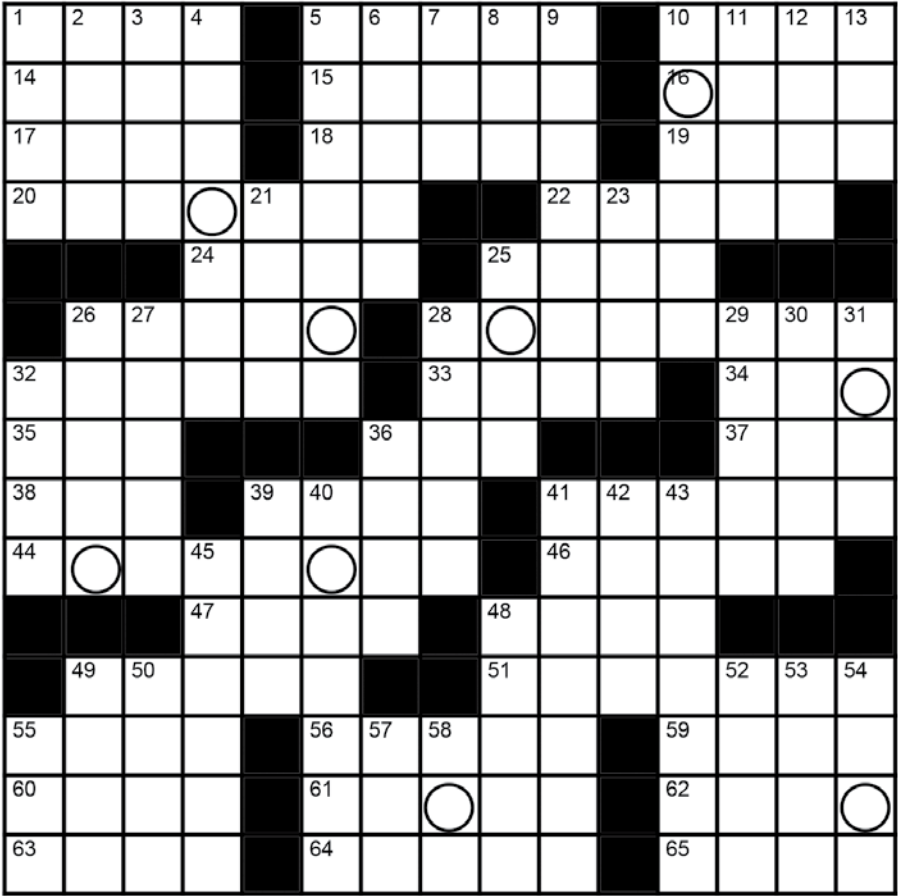
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KB-1 252743 CR-11 275972

✓VERIFIED

CROSSWORD

with a Scrambled Bonus

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 38



Bonus Challenge: Finish the crossword, collect the circled letters, mix them up, and see if you can crack the hidden word!

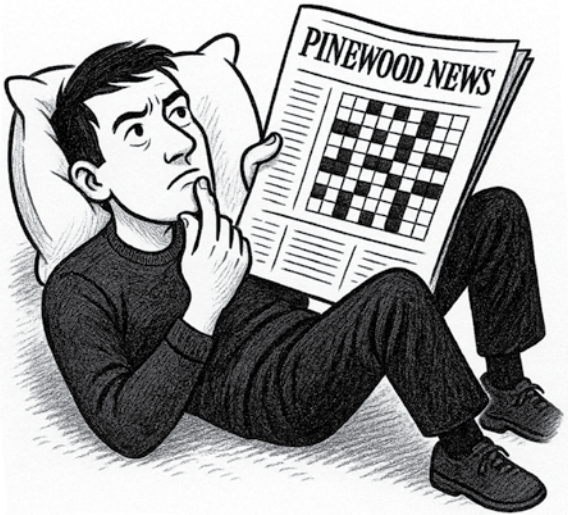
ACROSS

- 1. Elementary particle
- 5. Prepare for surgery
- 10. Out of harm’s way
- 14. Unaccompanied
- 15. Came up
- 16. Listen
- 17. Crosby, Stills and Nash, e.g.
- 18. “M*A*S*H” role
- 19. Learning method
- 20. Tough guy
- 22. Father, Son and Holy Ghost
- 24. Easy gait
- 25. Knee/ankle connector
- 26. Coast
- 28. Unlucky charm with whiskers
- 32. Metal bars covering a drain or window
- 33. ____ On down the road
- 34. Much ____ about nothing.
- 35. Cheerios grain
- 36. Dracula, at times
- 37. Dead letters?
- 38. Adam’s madam
- 39. Glance over
- 41. Volleys
- 44. In a way that relates the sexes or to gender.
- 46. Uses
- 47. Dark and forbidding in appearance or manner
- 48. Lowly laborer

DOWN

- 49. Garden-variety
- 51. Halloween’s month
- 55. Night light
- 56. Basic Halloween costume
- 59. Inlet
- 60. 007
- 61. Scottish schoolmaster’s corrective instrument
- 62. Waste product filtered by kidneys
- 63. Pond dweller
- 64. One whose gaze lingers too long
- 65. Be inclined

- 26. Burial sight market by stone or monument
- 27. Glove material
- 28. Headwear that’s full of legumes
- 29. Cut into slices at dinner
- 30. Parting word
- 31. Spinners
- 32. Departs or leaves
- 36. Emollient
- 39. Delhi dress
- 40. Hold fast to something desperately
- 41. Phantom figure glimpsed in moonlight
- 42. “Thanks ____ !”
- 43. Art technique using carved blocks for printing
- 45. Land on Lake Victoria
- 48. Search party
- 49. Billiards relative
- 50. Yearn
- 52. Hardly the life of the party
- 53. All square
- 54. Interpret
- 55. C.E.O.’s degree
- 57. Hardly a beauty
- 58. Hooter



SOLVING THE PUZZLE
How Crosswords Became a Newspaper Tradition

Crosswords may feel like they have always belonged in newspapers, but the familiar black-and-white grid is just over a century old. The very first modern crossword appeared on December 21, 1913, in the New York World. Arthur Wynne, an editor for the paper’s “Fun” section, had a hole to fill on the page. Inspired by older word games such as acrostics, which are puzzles where the first letters of each line or clue spell out a hidden word or phrase, Wynne invented what he called a “word-cross.”

It was simple in design, shaped like a diamond, but readers loved it. When a typesetting error switched the name to “crossword,” the mistake stuck and history had its new pastime.

At first, critics dismissed crosswords as a fad. When Wynne suggested the New York World copyright his creation, the paper refused, calling it too much trouble for something they expected to disappear. By 1924, the New York Times piled on, calling them “a primitive sort of mental exercise.”

The public disagreed. That same year, Richard Simon and Max Schuster spotted an opportunity. If people could not get enough of crosswords, why not put them in a book? Their first crossword collection was an overnight hit and launched the publishing house Simon & Schuster. It even came with a free pencil, proof they knew exactly what readers wanted.

Crosswords eventually became more polished. Grids shifted from diamonds to the square patterns we recognize today, and rules about symmetry and clue style emerged. Margaret Farrar, the first crossword editor of The New York Times, set many of these standards and helped transform the puzzle into the form we know now.

Ironically, the Times, the same paper that once sneered, did not run its first crossword until 1942. The country had just entered World War II, and an editor argued that readers might soon face long blackout hours and would need a little escape. The crossword was born in the Times’ Sunday edition and quickly became a cultural institution. Today, the Times crossword is considered the gold standard worldwide.

Crosswords have since crossed borders, languages, and formats, finding a home in nearly every daily newspaper. They have been studied by psychologists, celebrated in documentaries, and even competed over in tournaments like the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, first held in 1978.

As Farrar once said, “You cannot think of your troubles while solving a cross-word.” A century later, millions of solvers still agree.



THE DAY WE DIDN'T WEAR MASKS

(Not the itchy kind. The other kind.)

Our mom eats soap.

Not on purpose, usually. Just little bites when she forgets the soap bar isn't cheese.

Our dad can pop his head off.

It doesn't hurt him, but it's hard to get it on straight again.

One time, he didn't line it up right, and it rolled into his spaghetti.

They're zombies.

And aliens.

Zombie aliens.

From Glarbnar-9.

It's not a fancy place. The sky leaks. The ground shakes. The trees grow upside down and sometimes fall up. The mail is delivered by smelly-gassy birds with one eye that randomly falls out. Nobody wears clothes, but everyone owns a hat—even the headless ones.

I was born on Earth, though. So was Zarn. She's my sister. She's older, taller, and smarter. Not that much smarter, but don't tell her I said that.

We're half-zombie, half-alien, and also just kids.

And we live in a perfectly regular house with a perfectly irregular family.

Every morning before school, we do The Routine:

- Zarn paints fake freckles over her glow spots.
- I squish my antenna under a baseball cap.
- Mom says, "Don't forget to eat something non-living!"
- Dad drools into the cereal, but then, so do I.

And we go.

To school.

Where we pretend.

We pretend we don't talk to mushrooms.

We pretend we don't sneeze glitter.

We pretend our lunch doesn't try to crawl away.

Our friends think we're just weird. But Earth-weird. Not space weird.

Then came Halloween.

The one day we don't have to lie.

I put on a shirt with extra sleeves and let my extra arms hang out. Then I slid into my inside-out skin—the one with the shiny bits and the soft, squishy spots. Zarn dusted off her hiking boots and put on her real face, the one with the sideways smile and glow spots that shine when she's happy. We didn't look normal. We looked like ourselves.

... Continued on page 20

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SCAN ME!

"I like your costume," Mary said. She was a witch.
"You look horrifying," said Bobby. He was a farmer.
"You smell like crayons," said Oliver. He was Superman.

We walked the neighborhood. We filled pillowcases with sugar.
And then—my hat blew off.

My antenna stood up, wiggly and proud.
Zarn froze.
I froze.

The wind did not freeze. It kept on blowing like it had somewhere to be.

"Whoa," said Bobby.
"What is that?" said Mary.
Oliver poked it. "Is this real?"

I didn't answer. My face felt hot. My fingers got sticky. I thought about running.

Zarn reached for my hand. Hers was cold.
Zombie cold.
Alien cold.
Sister cold.
The good kind.

And I said:
"It's me."

We waited.
Waited.
And waited some more.

Bobby blinked. "That's awesome."
"Do you have more of those?" Mary asked.
Oliver said, "Can you smell the moon with it?"

We didn't run.
We laughed.

Zarn's eye glowed a little brighter. Mine twitched and hummed.

Nobody screamed.
Nobody pointed.
Nobody called the government.

They just kept walking.
With us.

Later that night, we sat on the curb, eating candy until our stomachs gave up and rolled on the ground.

"Do you think they really like us?" I asked.
Zarn shrugged. "I think they do."

And I thought: maybe that's enough.
Maybe being weird is okay, if you're kind.
And don't eat your friends.
And ask before you sneeze glitter.
Maybe being us is okay.
Even with slime.
Especially with slime.

WEIRD BUT TRUE HALLOWEEN FACTS



HALLOWEEN IS REALLY OLD

Over 2,000 years ago, people celebrated a festival called Samhain (say it like "sow-in"). They lit big bonfires and wore costumes to scare away spooky spirits. Basically, Halloween before Halloween was even a thing.

PARENTS ARE CANDY SNEAKS

Three out of four parents admit they secretly take candy from their kids trick-or-treat bags. Their favorite swipe? Reese's cups. Watch your stash.

SOME KIDS WOULD TRADE CANDY FOR VIDEO GAMES

A huge survey found that 93 percent of kids said they'd rather get video games than candy. Imagine ringing a doorbell and scoring a brand-new game instead of a chocolate bar.

BEST VS. WORST HALLOWEEN TREATS

The winners: chocolate bars, gummies, and Sour Patch Kids. The losers: raisins, toothbrushes, and candy corn (sorry if you love it).

Your costume could boost your candy haul

Scary costumes or ones based on movies and games tend to earn kids more candy than simple outfits. If you want a heavy bag, go spooky or go pop culture.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PUMPKIN WAS A BEAST

The heaviest pumpkin ever grown weighed 2,749 pounds. That's about as much as a small car made of squash.

JACK-O'-LANTERN WORLD RECORD

The most lit jack-o'-lanterns in one place is 30,581. It happened in Keene, New Hampshire, in 2013. That's enough to light up a whole town.

CANDY CORN HAD A DIFFERENT NAME

When it first came out in the 1800s, candy corn was called Chicken Feed. It even had a rooster on the label. The name changed, but the candy stayed the same—love it or hate it.



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

SPOOKTACULAR FUN! WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words.
Answers page 34.

- Autumn

Bat

Black Cat

Bonfire

Broomstick

Carve

Cider

Costume

Creepy

Fog

Full Moon
- Ghost

Harvest

Hayride

Jack-o-Lantern

Leaves

Owl

Pumpkin

Scarecrow

Spooky





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THE BOULEVARDIER



Left to right: Maurice Salle, Claire Luce, Erskine Gwynne and Belle Livingston attending a gala opening of Belle Livingston's new nightclub—December 1934
Alamy Photo

Serve it over a large cube in a weighty glass. No garnish necessary, unless you're the type who likes to dress up even when no one's looking. And sip it slowly. This isn't one for the background.

The Boulevardier is the kind of drink that feels like company. Old company. The kind that lets you talk or stay quiet and never takes it personally.



The Method

Ingredients:

- 1 oz bourbon (or rye, if you prefer a sharper edge)
- 1 oz sweet vermouth
- 1 oz Campari

Instructions:

1. Add all ingredients to a mixing glass with ice.
2. Stir until chilled and just slightly diluted.
3. Strain into a rocks glass over one large cube.
4. Optional: garnish with an orange twist, but only if it feels right.

You don't stumble upon a Boulevardier. Someone has to hand you one, usually with a story.

It began in Paris, sometime after the Great War and before we forgot how to dress for dinner. The cafés in Montparnasse were full of American expats ducking Prohibition, chasing the myth of themselves in jazz clubs and crowded back rooms. One of them was Erskine Gwynne, a Southern aristocrat by birth, a writer by ambition, and the kind of man who wore his overcoat like a crown.

In 1927, Gwynne partnered with Arthur Moss to publish *The Boulevardier*, a Parisian monthly patterned after *The New Yorker*. The name itself—Boulevardier—comes from the French term for a fashionable man-about-town, someone who strolls the streets of Paris with charm, purpose, and time to spare. Gwynne fit the part. He was well-connected, well-dressed, and had the good sense to frequent Harry's New York Bar, a smoky little joint on Rue Daunou known for serving real drinks with no apologies.

It was there he requested a variation on the Negroni, swapping gin for bourbon. Warmer. Stronger. American, but with manners.

The result was the Boulevardier: a drink that doesn't flirt, doesn't dance, doesn't sparkle. It leans in. Bourbon gives it its soul. Sweet vermouth lays down spice and complexity. Campari tightens it with bitterness, like a well-delivered truth.

I save it for fall. When the light goes gold by five. When the air smells like firewood and dry leaves. It's not a summer sipper or a holiday showpiece. It's for October nights when you want your drink to keep pace with your thoughts.



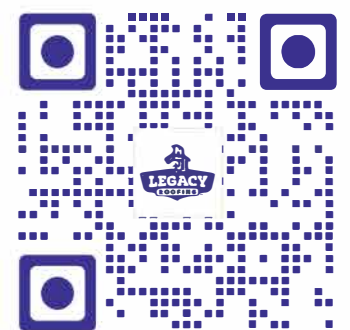
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SUDOKU

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 38

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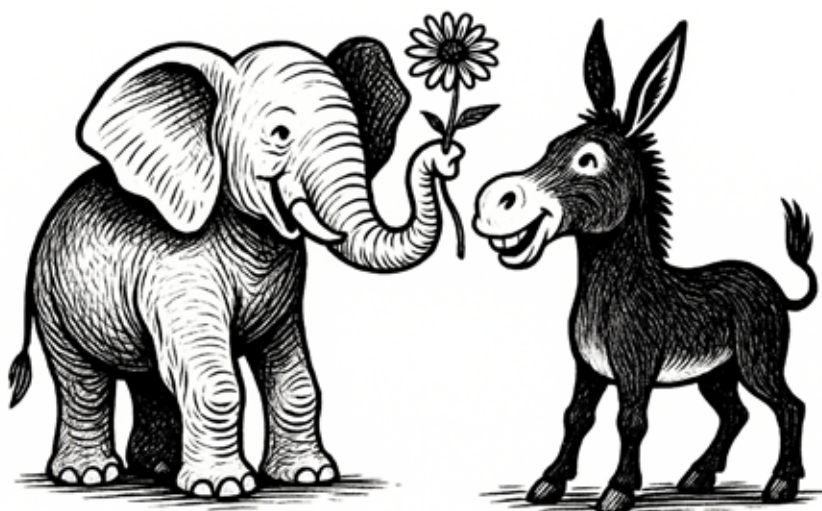
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HEALING AMERICA'S DIVIDE

How Citizens Can Stop the Cycle of Hate

BY LAURIE FARRICIELLI, MD, MUNDS PARK RESIDENT



Bridging divides starts with simple gestures.

America is fracturing under the weight of political anger. Families argue, friendships strain, online strangers hurl insults, and sometimes even threaten violence. Too often, we stop seeing each other as fellow citizens and start seeing “the other side” as something less than human.

Yet democracy depends on recognition of shared humanity. If hatred becomes normalized, the consequences can be severe. The good news is that each of us can act now to slow and reverse that trend.

The Psychology Behind Division & How We Stop Seeing Each Other as People

One of the key forces that enables large-scale hatred is dehumanization, when we start treating people as less than fully human. Psychologists trace it back to classic prejudice theory (Gordon Allport 1954) and contemporary research confirms that it’s a powerful mechanism for moral exclusion.

When people are dehumanized:

- They’re denied complex emotions, moral agency, or individuality.
- Empathy toward them diminishes, making cruelty easier.
- Language shifts: metaphors compare “them” to animals, vermin, objects, or machines.
- Social norms erode: when enough people dehumanize a group, cruelty becomes more acceptable.

As the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy notes, dehumanization often involves denying to others the mental states or attributes we consider uniquely human, such as agency, emotion, and self-reflection, thus excluding them from full moral status.

The risk is that political opponents aren’t merely wrong, but “less than human,” which enables more extreme reactions such as social exclusion, vilification, or even violence.

How Hatred Spreads Through Influence, Messaging, & Conditioning

We can’t discuss large-scale change without understanding persuasion. Manuals and training programs (like The Behavior Operations Manual) describe how repeated messaging, emotional triggers, framing,

and social reinforcement shape beliefs and behavior. While such tools can be used for positive ends like conflict resolution or public health, they also carry risks when misused to amplify outrage.

Some danger patterns include:

- Emotional triggers and framing: Messages framed as existential threats (“they’ll destroy us”) create fear responses.
- Repetition and echo chambers: Hearing the same extreme claims from multiple sources reinforces them as truths.
- Social validation: Approval (likes, shares, agreement) reinforces radical statements and discourages nuance.
- Polarizing narratives: Framing politics as a Manichean struggle (good vs evil) leaves no middle ground.

Unchecked, these dynamics condition groups to distrust, fear, and hate “the other side.”

Eight Steps Citizens Can Take Toward Healing

Here are practical things any person can do, regardless of political identity, to help cool the heat, restore empathy, and resist escalation.

Refuse the Dehumanizing Language

Refrain from calling people “vermin,” “deplorables,” “traitors,”

... Continued on page 27

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WORD SEARCH

Solution Page 38



Bat	Fog	October	Treats
Black Cat	Ghost	Ogre	Wand
Boo	Ghoul	Owl	Warlock
Candy	Grave	Party	Werewolf
Carve	Grim	Potion	Wicked
Cobweb	Haunt	RIP	Wig
Coffin	Hocus Pocus	Skull	Witch
Costume	Mask	Spider	Zombie
Crypt	Moon	Spook	
Dress Up	Mummy	Sweets	
Fangs	Nightmare	Tomb	



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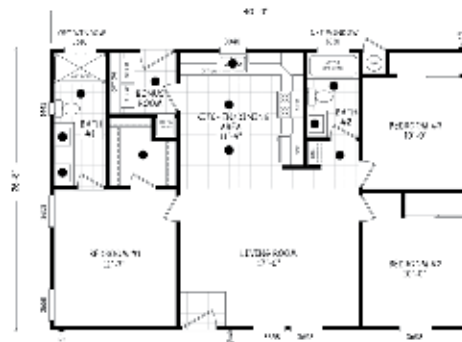


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“animals,” or “monsters.” Words matter. When language marks a group as subhuman, empathy vanishes.

Expose Yourself to Credible, Differing Sources

Read one news source or essay you disagree with. It challenges your assumptions, helps you see human motives behind arguments, and interrupts the echo chamber.

Ask “How did you get there?” Before “Why are you wrong?”

In conversations, asking for thought process, not just disagreement, lowers emotional defenses. This simple pause can open space for reason over reactive rejection.

Humanize Public Figures & Political Opponents

Even those you oppose have stories, struggles, families. Recognizing them as human doesn’t commit you to agreement, but it resists the slide into absolute vilification.

Join Bridge-building Efforts

Organizations like Braver Angels and Turning Point USA bring conservatives, liberals, and moderates together in structured conversations aiming to reduce polarization. Many cities now host Braver Angels workshops to help citizens bridge divides.

Model Calm, Especially When Others Don’t

In family arguments, online debates, or group settings, choosing a measured tone and patience can defuse tension. You might become the only calm voice in the room.

Teach Historical Humility

Encourage awareness that every society believes “this won’t happen here” until it does. Remind youth (and yourself) that hatred often arrives slowly, clothed in familiar language.

Care for Your Emotional Resilience

Fatigue, fear, and isolation make us more vulnerable to influence. Rest, exercise, in-person connection, and time off social media strengthen your internal boundaries. Understanding and knowledge are our armor.

Why Small Actions Matter

One person might feel powerless. But when many people choose to act differently, to pause, to humanize, to question, to resist outrage, the cultural trajectory can shift.

In Germany after WWII, recovery from mass hatred didn’t happen overnight. It took decades of truth-telling, memorialization, reformed education, and a shared commitment to confronting the past. Over time, society rebuilt norms that strongly reject overt hate.

Here in America, we’re at an earlier stage. The turning point is possible, but it requires each citizen to be part of the solution.

Final Word

Hate doesn’t need to win, not if enough people refuse to feed it.

If you care about democracy, family, community, and the next generation, your responsibility is not just to your own beliefs, but to the dignity of every American. Be the person who refuses dehumanization. Be the calm voice. Be the citizen who sees others’ humanity first. Our future depends on it.

Further Reading & Resources

- “Dehumanization: An Integrative Review” (Nick Haslam) distinguishes two forms of dehumanization and reviews empirical studies.
- “The Psychology of Dehumanization” (Verywell Mind) offers an accessible introduction to how dehumanization works psychologically.
- Braver Angels is a cross-partisan organization promoting respectful dialogue.
- Vox article, “The dark psychology of dehumanization, explained,” explores how dehumanizing rhetoric operates in modern politics.
- Trying Perpetrators: Denazification Trials and Support for Justice examines how millions of Germans were processed in postwar tribunals.
- Beyond Intractability: Dehumanization provides an overview of dehumanization’s role in conflict and moral exclusion.



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PLANT NOW FOR SPRING BEAUTY & CELEBRATE FALL AT WARNER'S

BY MISTI WARNER-ANDERSEN



October is a month of transition in northern Arizona. The air is crisp, the colors are turning—and it's the perfect time to plant spring-blooming bulbs while also enjoying all the fall festivities here at Warner's Nursery.

Plant Bulbs Now & Enjoy 100 Days of Spring Color

If you want tulips, daffodils, crocus, and iris to light up your garden next spring, the time to plant them is now. These bulbs need the long chill of fall and winter to bloom in March, April, and May. By planting a mix of early-, mid-, and late-season bulbs, you can create nearly 100 days of non-stop flowers once spring arrives.

Early season blooms are hyacinth (which grows to about 10 inches high) and crocus (which reach about 4 inches). Mid-season blooms include muscari (12 inches), tulips (24 inches), and narcissus (16 inches). You can stretch out the season with late-blooming bulbs such as allium and bearded iris (both about 36 inches high) and Dutch iris (a little shorter at 20 inches).

Daffodils are the wild card of the bulb world. They can range in height from 6 to 30 inches and can bloom at any time during the spring, depending on the variety you plant.

Some tips for success:

- Plant deep: About three times the bulb's height, nose side up.
- Prep your soil: Amend to 12 inches deep for good drainage (Warner's Supreme Planting Mix is great for this).
- Feed them well: Bone meal or Dutch bulb food in the hole before planting helps bulbs thrive for years.
- Water wisely: Give them a good soak now, then water monthly if we have a dry winter.

A little effort now pays off big in the spring! Plus bulbs are a budget-friendly way to add color that multiplies over time.

Celebrate Fall at Warner's Nursery

Of course, October isn't just about planting. It's also about pumpkins, costumes, and family fun - and Warner's has a full lineup of seasonal activities for all ages.

Free Pumpkin Patch & Games (all October long!)

Our pumpkin patch is picture-perfect and always free. While you're here, try your hand at cornhole, bowling, tic-tac-toe, and more. We've even got a pumpkin decorating station: just purchase your pumpkin, then use our paints, stickers, and markers to make it your own.

Fall Festival – Saturday, October 18 (10 am – 2 pm)

Mark your calendar for this big day of family fun! Enjoy the hay maze, pumpkin patch, balloon twisters, face painters, and a petting zoo.

Pumpkin Carving Contest (now to Oct. 27th)

Purchase a pumpkin and enter to win a \$100 Warner's gift card. Email photos to info@warnercompanies.com by Oct. 27.

Kid's Club Saturdays

On October 11th at 10 am, our kids club will feature planting fall flowers like violas or pansies in either a free peat pot or a purchased terra cotta pot.

Then on October 25th at 10 am, join us for a scavenger hunt and costume contest for the kiddos with candy basket prizes!

We're putting the finishing touches on all these events, so be sure to check out our website - warnersnursery.com - for updates.

So this October, you can plant for the future and celebrate the season. Stop by Warner's Nursery to select some spring-blooming blubs, pick out the perfect pumpkin, and make lasting fall memories with your family.

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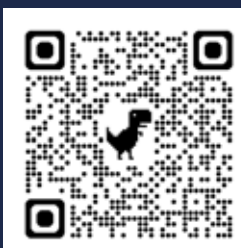


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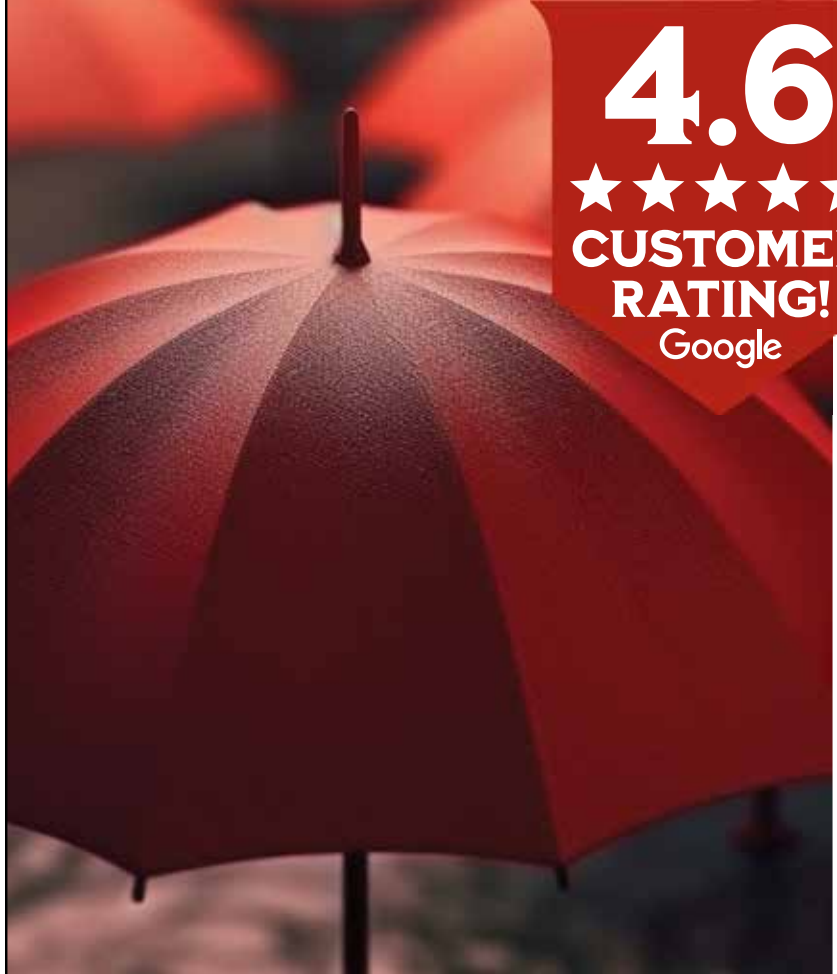
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Local thrift and antique shops in Munds Park, Rimrock, and Camp Verde offer more than just things—they offer the thrill of the hunt. These aren't places for checking off a list. They're for wandering, discovering, and finding that perfect something you didn't know you needed.

Shopping resale is a feel-good tradition. It's a simple, sustainable way to give with intention and support people who care about what they do. And when you shop local, your money stays close to home.

Pro tip: bring cash. It helps these small shops keep more of what they earn. Cards take a cut—and the big banks don't need another dime.

Ready to explore? Here's your guide to some of the best hidden gems in Munds Park, Rimrock, and Camp Verde. Let the treasure hunt begin.

Empty Nest Vintage

A local favorite with an irresistible mix of vintage charm and hidden treasures. Whether you're hunting for something quirky, cozy, or classic, this spot delivers the thrill of the unexpected. (And yes, Genna rarely escapes without buying something.)

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Gypsy Lane Boutique

This whimsical boutique is brimming with style and soul. Discover new and gently loved fashion, handbags, jewelry, and eclectic home décor. Come wander—you never know what you'll fall in love with.

2110 E Beaver Creek Rd, Rimrock, AZ
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Jim's Trading Post

A wild mix of antique gems, fine junk, and folk art finds. It's part gallery, part treasure hunt, and all charm.

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Candy's Creekside Cottage

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3100 E Beaver Creek Rd, Rimrock • (928) 202-3224
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Everything Must Goat Resale Boutique

Quirky name, serious style. From vintage denim and pottery to designer handbags and funky garden décor, this shop is packed with resale treasures you didn't know you needed.

493 S Main Street, Camp Verde • (928) 301-5500
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Twice Nice Thriftique Camp Verde

A thrift shop that gives back. Small in size but big on heart, this shop supports survivors through the Verde Valley Sanctuary. It's a great stop for bargain hunters with a purpose.

527 S Main Street, Camp Verde • (928) 567-8571
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They use whole ingredients, and make nearly everything from scratch. Whether you're passing through or planning a shopping day in Rimrock, this stop is well worth it.

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FACEBOOK OUTRAGE & A SIDE OF RIBS



Frank and Al have made a habit of it. For the past twenty years, the two retired friends have met each morning on the same bench off Pinewood Boulevard, same spot in the shade, and no shortage of commentary on the world as it scrolls by.

Al squinted at his phone. “Here we go again—another Facebook meltdown over Agee’s being closed. Folks show up, see the lights off, and race online to tattletale.”

Frank groaned. “It’s a family BBQ joint, not a corporate chain. Sometimes they shut down for a wedding, a graduation, or just because they feel like it. You want guaranteed hours? Head down to the valley. There’s a heat lamp and frozen meatloaf waiting.”

Al shrugged. “They sell out before dinner most nights. Lunch crowd wipes out the brisket, ribs, and pulled pork. Dinner crowd shows up and finds a locked door and a ‘sold out’ sign.”

Frank jabbed his coffee cup. “That’s not bad business. That’s good barbecue. You smoke it slow, you serve it fresh, and when it’s gone, you call it a day. That’s the dream.”

Al chuckled. “A few brave souls did try to explain that. Said patience is part of mountain life.”

Frank snorted. “Patience? Please. People want city convenience with small-town charm. You don’t get both. You pick one.”

Al scrolled. “And now they’re dragging in Pinewood too—cold fries, wrong burgers, slow service.”

Frank nodded. “Look, if you pay for a meal, it should be decent. Hot fries, right order, nothing fancy. But this ain’t some upscale bistro. It’s a small-town restaurant with a skeleton crew, two working fryers, and a card reader on life support. Some days go smooth. Some days, you get tomatoes whether you want them or not. That’s life.”

“They do work hard,” Al said.

“They do,” Frank agreed. “But miss one side of ranch and folks act like it’s the last straw in a lifetime of broken dreams.”

They paused as two kids coasted by on bikes, their laughter spilling down the street, spokes ticking like a metronome.

Frank leaned back, eyes narrowing at a memory. “When I worked in the city, I spent more nights staring at a heater vent in some miserable office than at my own dinner table. Missed birthdays. Missed graduations. All of it. Because someone wanted numbers by Monday morning. You trade your time, your memories, for someone else’s convenience. That’s the deal. Up here, if a business closes for a wedding or a graduation, that’s exactly how it should be. You can make yourself a sandwich. The world won’t end.”

Al sipped his coffee. “City expectations meet mountain reality. Up here, family comes first. Things don’t run like clockwork. And that’s ok.”

Frank leaned back. “I’ll take a wrong order and a mountain view over perfect service and brake lights.”

Al raised his cup. “To the slow roll.”

Frank raised his. “And to never needing a reservation to feel at home.”

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THE GIFT YOU CAN'T DOWNLOAD

The reset you've been scrolling past is waiting right out your door.

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

There's something about the wilderness that quietly resets everything. You don't need a study to prove it—you can feel it. The minute you step into fresh air, your shoulders drop. Your thoughts slow down. Your body finally exhales.

Munds Park offers that in abundance. Fresh air. Quiet trails. Towering woodlands and wide, unbroken skies. The kind of beauty that doesn't shout. It doesn't ask anything of you. It just waits for you to notice.

Like most people, I've spent too much time staring at screens. Pulled in by alerts, updates, even random images or words that hijack my time, attention, and sometimes my sense of peace. I forget how good it feels to just be somewhere, fully present.

When I tried to step away, my phone tugged at me. It called to me like I was its servant. It made me feel like I must be missing something important. That tug? That's the game. It's designed to keep your attention away from what really matters. It keeps you distracted, disconnected, anxious, drained, and even angry.

I dumped all my social media except Facebook, keeping that only because I need it for the *Pinewood News*. I highly recommend it. It stung at first, but now? I'm free.



Photo of Lake Odell by Audra Miracle

Practice letting go. Step out of your home. Leave the phone inside. Let your bare feet touch the earth. Walk through the pines. Sit in the quiet. Watch how the light shifts. Smell the air. Listen to the wind. Take in what's real, what's always been there. The great outdoors doesn't ask for anything. It just offers peace, freely.

You don't need to hike for hours or say the right words. You just need to show up and slow down. Munds Park is full of moments that can heal your soul if you let them. Let yourself be still. Let yourself enjoy it.

And when that peace settles in—when you feel clearer, lighter, more yourself—take

a moment to think about where it all comes from.

We didn't build this. We didn't grow the trees or stretch out the sky. We didn't design the kind of quiet that reaches deeper than any noise ever could.

This is a gift. One of the first and finest ever given, and it comes from above.

So take the walk. Breathe the air. Let the wilderness do what it was made to do. Give thanks, then go back to your life a little more grounded, a little more awake, carrying something better than what you came with. The world can wait.

*“I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.”*

— Robert Frost, *The Road Not Taken*

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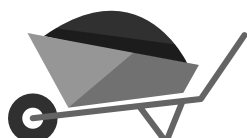
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THE SCORECARD

GAME HIGHLIGHTS FROM PINEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB



Folks, mark this one down in the Pinewood record books. On September 20th, the Pinewood Men's Golf Association held their annual Ponderosa Cup, and once again, David Bagwell proved he's the man to beat. With cool precision and nerves of steel, Bagwell captured the title for an incredible fifth time—setting a new event record.

And the winning didn't stop there. In the mixed couples tournament, George Schuller and Victoria Stearns teamed up for a strong performance that put them at the top of the leaderboard, earning well-deserved bragging rights for the season.

And the champion keeps her crown! A big congratulations to Anita Britton, who clinched the 2025 Pinewood Country Club Women's Golf Association Club Championship. With steady play and sharp focus, she defended her title for the second year in a row—proving once again she's the one to chase on the fairways.



"I used to be old, but it wasn't my cup of tea."

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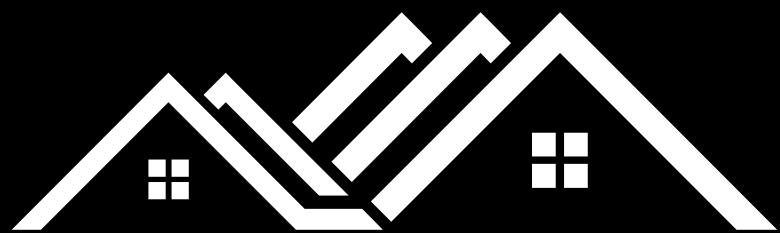


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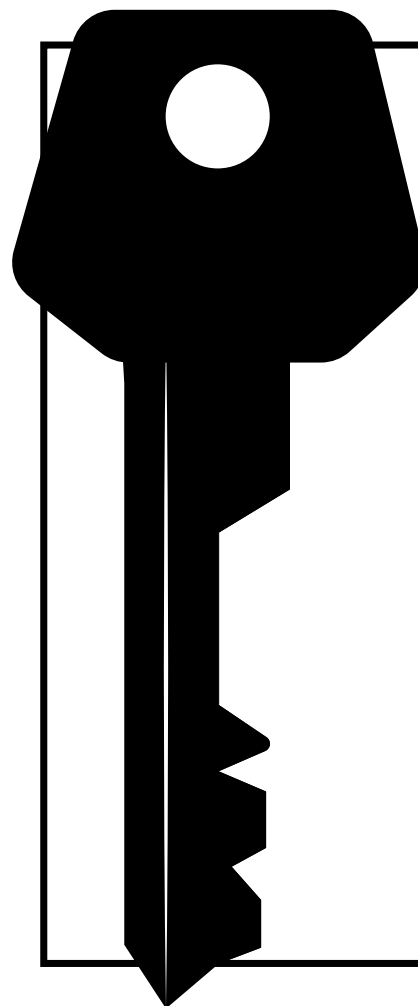
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GRACE AT THE COUNTER

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

As publisher of *The Pinewood News*, I get a behind-the-scenes look at what local businesses navigate every day to serve this community. Over the years, I've had countless conversations with owners, managers, and front-line staff. What they share isn't gossip—it's honest feedback with one common thread: it's tough out there when people forget how to treat one another.

I've had this article in mind for a while. I just never sat down to write it. But after one too many stories about staff being yelled at, dismissed, or treated poorly, I figured it was time. So here we are. This is what I've learned from the people who show up day after day to keep Munds Park running, asking for nothing more than basic human decency.

Munds Park isn't Phoenix; things move a little slower here, and that's part of the charm. We're not built for rush hours or city-scale service. We're built on community, patience, and mutual respect.

But lately, I've heard too many accounts of small business owners and workers being treated like they're beneath the people they serve. That's not the spirit of this place. Folks come here for the quiet, the slower pace, and the connection to nature. You'd think that energy would carry over into how we treat each other, but sometimes it doesn't.

This isn't aimed at the good eggs who show gratitude and good manners. It's for those who've forgotten—or occasionally forget—including me.

Being a good customer isn't just about placing an order or booking a service. It's about how you show up as a fellow human being. Are you making someone's day harder, or easier?

A slower pace often comes with fewer hands on deck. Most of our businesses run lean, especially in the winter months. In the summer, when it gets busy, things can back up. Orders take longer. Lines get longer. And the pressure lands squarely on the staff doing their best to keep up.

Here's the part most people don't see: these workers want to do a good job. They show up early, stay late, work weekends, and roll with the chaos. What makes their jobs harder isn't the rush; it's being treated like they don't matter.

I've heard stories of customers snapping fingers, yelling across counters, tossing money instead of handing it over, or acting like basic kindness is optional. These aren't just bad manners; they chip away at the spirit of what makes this little corner of the world special.

And in a small town, the person behind the counter isn't a stranger.

They might be your neighbor. Your friend's kid. The person who helped you last week when your car wouldn't start. Or maybe they're just another human being doing their best. Either way, they deserve respect.

Business owners deserve it, too. If you see them out with family or friends, that's not the time to bring up business. If you're up early, working late, or thinking about a project on a weekend, that's the time to send an email or wait until regular business hours. Respect their time the way you'd want yours to be respected. And remember, most businesses in Munds Park are owner-operated. They are the secretary, the finance office, the IT department, and everything in between. If they don't pick up the phone on the first ring, be patient.

And unless you've walked in their shoes, resist the urge to tell them how to run their business. If you have feedback, share it in the right setting, not by shouting on Facebook or venting to neighbors. If it's constructive, say it directly to them, in person or by email. And above all, keep it kind.

Respect works best when it runs both ways. Sure, the people providing a service should be polite, but customers play a role too. The folks behind the counter have their own challenges, their own pride in what they do, and their own limits. Dignity and patience aren't extras; they're the basics of being decent to one another.

So the next time you're waiting longer than expected, or something's not quite right, try grace first. Try eye contact. A smile. A simple thank you. It might not speed up the line, but it will make someone's day better—including yours.

And in a world that often feels hurried and divided, that's no small thing.

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High Country Humane (928) 526-0742

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

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Weekends & after hours call 911

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

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

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Environmental Quality Reporting Line (928) 679-8886
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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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