

PINEWOOD NEWS

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

VOL. 33 NO. 5 APRIL 17, 2026

COMPLIMENTARY



CELESTIAL EVENTS

THE GIFT OF A REAL NIGHT SKY

In the city, night never really shows up. The sky stays lit, and the day simply fades into something dimmer.

In Munds Park, when the sun goes down, it gets dark. The kind of dark that lets the stars come through clearly. You step outside, and before long, you find yourself looking up longer than you meant to.

It is not something people talk about much when they live here. It is simply part of the rhythm. But it is getting harder to find.

Dark skies and bright stars are a gift we still have. A real night. The heavens shine through, and we are lucky to live beneath them.

Keep the gift. Keep outside lights dim, shielded, or off when not in use. It is worth it.

What to watch for in the night sky.

APRIL

Pre-dawn planet gathering: Best April 18–23. Mercury, Mars, and Saturn cluster low in the eastern sky before sunrise, with Neptune nearby for telescope users only. This is visible from Munds Park, but the planets sit very low, so a clear eastern horizon is important. Best about 30–45 minutes before sunrise.

Lyrid Meteor Shower: Peaks April 21–22. Expect ~10–20 meteors per hour under ideal dark skies (higher possible with fireballs). The radiant is in Lyra (high overhead in the north), and the Moon is waning crescent/not too interfering—excellent conditions in northern Arizona. Best after midnight until dawn.

Crescent Moon with Venus and the Pleiades: Best April 18–19. A thin waxing crescent Moon appears near brilliant Venus in the western evening sky, with the Pleiades nearby. This is an easy and attractive naked-eye sight from Northern Arizona. Binoculars may also reveal soft earthshine on the Moon's dark side.

MAY

Full Flower Moon: May 1. May opens with the Full Flower Moon, the traditional full moon of spring bloom. It rises around sunset and stays visible through the night, lighting the

landscape and making for a beautiful evening under the night sky in Northern Arizona.

Eta Aquariid Meteor Shower: Peak: May 5–6

Fast meteors before dawn. It's stronger farther south, but Northern Arizona can still catch plenty of bright streaks under dark skies.

Crescent Moon near Venus and Jupiter: Best May 18–19. A thin waxing crescent Moon appears near Venus and Jupiter in the western sky after sunset. Venus will be much brighter, while Jupiter may sit lower and be a little harder to catch if your horizon is blocked.

Blue Moon: May 31. A Blue Moon is when there are two full moons in one calendar month. The second full moon is called the Blue Moon. It doesn't usually look blue. It's just a name for something that doesn't happen very often. That's why people say "once in a blue moon" when they mean something is rare.



Sometimes, when you stand very still and look up at the night, you find it has been waiting for you all along.

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, May 8**



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SOLD!



\$400,000
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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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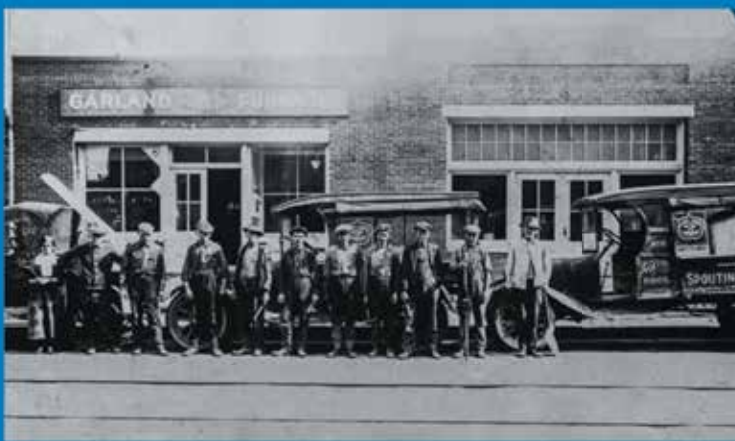
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PINEWOOD

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, May 5

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

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Tuesday, April 21

3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome

Thursday, May 14

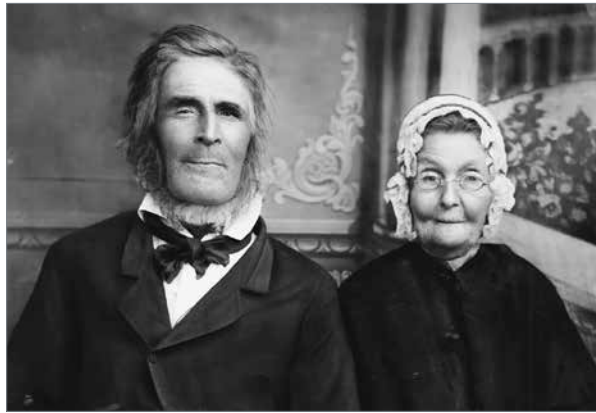
3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr • Munds Park



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS 6A

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

MOMMA'S STACKED ENCHILADAS 11A

A hearty family favorite built on scratch cooking, hungry kids, and the kind of homemade dinner people remember for years.

SKYLINE SEDONA 15A

For adventurers ready to splurge, Apex Air Tours offers a bird's-eye look at Sedona's red rock country.

BADGE & BALLOT 16A

The family history behind Frances Munds begins with pioneers, fighters, and reformers whose grit helped shape the woman she would become.

CRACK IN TIME 20A

A rare Wupatki adventure sends visitors crawling through sandstone into a remote site filled with petroglyphs, ruins, and questions that still linger.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ROC 1B

What homeowners expect from the Arizona Registrar of Contractors, and what the process actually delivers.

HOW TO WASTE AN EVENING PROPERLY 6B

A gentle case for porch sitting, low lights, cool air, and letting the night in Munds Park restore what the day wore down.

LOCALS LOVE OUR DARK SKIES 7B

Why the star-filled skies over Munds Park matter, and how a few simple lighting choices can help protect them.

BLUEBIRDS IN THE PINES 9B

This piece shares early nesting activity on Munds Park's bluebird trail and points readers to one of Arizona's best birding resources.

EARTH DAY HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT 11B

A frank & funny reflection on fear-based environmental messaging, personal responsibility, and why caring for the land matters.

SMART APPS FOR MOUNTAIN LIVING 15B

The best apps for alerts, road conditions, wildfire updates, and trail navigation in and around Munds Park.

EVERYDAY LIFE DESERVES BEAUTY 18B

A thoughtful piece on why beauty should not be saved for holidays or company, and how simple acts of care can make home feel new again.

YOUR LINK TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUNDS PARK

A GARDEN GROWS & THE FARMERS MARKET RETURNS



The market will be run by Catherine Seginski, the same organizer behind the farmers market so many people enjoyed when it was held at the old Agee's BBQ spot. This time, the plan is for something even better, with more room, more vendors, and more of the atmosphere people loved in the first place. Organizers say the market is expected to include music, food trucks, and at least 30 vendors, giving Munds Park residents one more reason to get out early, grab a coffee, stroll the booths, and head home with something fresh and local.

And really, what more can you want on a Saturday morning than baskets of good produce, neighbors out visiting, music in the air, and a place that feels alive in all the right ways?

Part of what will make this new space especially appealing is the setting itself. Landscaping is underway, with trees, shrubs, and ground cover planned along the perimeter and into the meadow. The goal is to create a place that feels attractive, welcoming, and worth lingering in, not just a functional stop along the road.

There is even hope for a pumpkin patch in the fall, with one section dedicated entirely to pumpkins if the season cooperates. It is exactly the kind of detail that gives this project a little extra charm and hints at what it could become for families and seasonal residents alike.

In their earlier conversation with Pinewood News, Tim and Zoe spoke about wanting to create more than just another business venture. They talked about building a place with a stronger sense of community, something practical, low-key, and pleasant where people could gather and enjoy life a little more. With the garden, the market, and the landscaping now coming together, that idea is starting to look very real.

Fresh organic vegetables. A Saturday farmers market people already trust. A prettier, greener setting. A little more connection. A little more life. For Munds Park, this sounds like a very good thing.

Community Garden

Interested in renting a garden space to grow your own organic food? Contact Zoe Smith during regular business hours at 480-244-8295.

Munds Park Farm to Table Market

Farmers Market is starting May 9th from 9 am – 1 pm
Find the market on Facebook @Munds Park Farm to Table Market

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Memorial Day Heroes Remembered



Saturday, May 23

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pinewood Fire Dept. Bloodmobile
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To schedule your appointment, scan the QR code or visit vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: pinewoodfire).

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-25-VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org.

Lets start the Local Highlights section with some fun news!

For those who love fresh organic vegetables, the simple pleasure of digging in the dirt, and a good farmers' market on a Saturday morning, this is the kind of news that feels like spring itself.

A community garden and an expanded farmers market are coming to west Munds Park, bringing with them the kind of fresh, wholesome energy many locals have been hungry for. Readers may remember Tim Smith and his daughter Zoe Smith from our earlier coverage of their larger plans for the 26-acre parcel near the interstate. What once sounded like a hopeful vision is now beginning to turn into something the community can actually see, smell, taste, and enjoy.

If you missed the article on Tim and Zoe, you can find it under Stories at ThePinewoodNews.com.

The community garden is expected to be ready around the first week of May. It is being designed to make gardening easy and inviting, with mostly 4-by-8-foot raised beds and some round garden options. The Smiths believe that size is just right for most people. Big enough to grow a generous amount of food, but manageable enough that it still feels fun instead of turning into a full-time job.

Plots will rent for \$150 for the season, generally running from May through October, depending on weather and frost. The raised beds, soil, and water will all be provided. That means gardeners can skip a lot of the sweat and startup cost and get straight to the good part: planting tomatoes, peppers, squash, herbs, greens, and whatever else they have been itching to grow. Even better, the garden will be fully organic, with no pesticides allowed.

And then there is the Saturday market, which is officially a go.

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FIRE DANGER IS HIGH

APS SAYS CUSTOMERS SHOULD PREPARE NOW FOR FIRE SEASON OUTAGES

With fire season approaching, APS is asking customers in communities in Coconino County to be ready in case extreme wildfire conditions lead to a Public Safety Power Shutoff. The utility said this shutoff tool has not been used since it was introduced in 2024, but customers in potential impact areas should prepare now. Residents can check whether their address falls in a possible shutoff area at aps.com/psps.

APS recommends taking a few simple steps now:

- Make sure your APS account has your current phone number and email so you can receive outage alerts.
- If someone in your home depends on life-sustaining medical equipment that needs electricity, sign up for the APS Medical Care program.
- Put together a basic emergency kit with water, non-perishable food, a can opener, flashlights, batteries, a radio, first aid supplies, and a portable phone charger.
- Have a plan in place in case you need to leave home during an outage.
- Clear weeds, overgrown plants, trash, and debris around your home.
- Learn how to manually open your garage door or any electric security gate.
- If you have livestock, make a plan now for their care.

Coconino County Emergency Manager Tim Carter said the county is working with APS on wildfire preparedness efforts, including vegetation management and power shutoff planning. Residents can also sign up for county emergency alerts at coconino.az.gov/ready

Source: APS press release.

START NOW ON FIRE SEASON PREP

This is not our usual approach, repeated wildfire warnings, but this is not a usual year.

Arizona is entering an active stretch of the fire season. The latest national fire outlook shows above-normal significant fire potential expanding across much of the Southwest in May and continuing through June, with relief expected if the monsoon arrives in July.

Below-average precipitation, warm temperatures, weak snowpack, and dry fuels are all part of the problem. For Munds Park and surrounding Northern Arizona communities, that means the window to prepare may be shorter than usual this year.

Now is the time to clear pine needles and debris, trim brush, review your evacuation plan, and keep an eye on fire restrictions. We will keep covering this because it matters. A little work now can matter a great deal later.

Source: National Interagency Fire Center outlook, and the National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook, issued April 1, 2026.

Munds Park Town Hall

Join us for the first Community Watch Town Hall of 2026, an important evening of updates from the local and county leaders who serve Munds Park.

A featured discussion will be led by Fire Chief Josh Tope, who will explain the cancellation of Bear Jaw, why it happened, and what the future may hold for community cleanups and pine needle removal.

Hear updates, ask questions, and be part of the conversation as we work to keep Munds Park strong, safe, and prepared. Whether you are a full-time resident or a weekend neighbor, your voice matters. Bring a neighbor.

Thursday, May 21, 2026
6:30 pm • Pinewood Country Club

...Local Highlights continued on page 8A



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FROZEN JR. AUDITIONS & SUMMER THEATRE CAMP ARE HERE

BY APRIL PLONSKI



Young performers are invited to step into the spotlight this summer as Arizona Children's Theatre presents "Frozen Jr.", a magical musical experience designed especially for kids and teens.

Auditions will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2026, and Sunday, June 28, 2026, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Munds Park Community Church. No prior theatre experience is required—just enthusiasm, creativity, and a willingness to have fun.

The three-week theatre camp will run June 29 through July 17, 2026, meeting Monday through Friday from 1:00–4:00 p.m. Participants will learn acting, singing, and stage skills while preparing for live performances. The production will culminate in shows on Thursday, July 16; Friday, July 17; and Saturday, July 18, 2026.

Registration is now open for "Frozen Jr." and can be completed online at <http://www.arizonachildrenstheatre.com>.

In addition, the theatre is offering its popular "Becoming a Star" Camp from June 22–26, 2026, also from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Munds Park Community Church. This camp is perfect for beginners looking to build confidence and learn the basics of musical theatre.

Arizona Children's Theatre is dedicated to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every child can experience the joy of performing arts. Their mission is to provide an educational opportunity that fosters confidence, creativity, and a love of musical theatre—ensuring that no child is left behind.

Families are encouraged to sign up early and join what promises to be an unforgettable summer of music, friendship, and fun.

MPCC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN



MPCC Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and registration is now open for all children entering kindergarten through sixth grade.

This fun three-day program will be held June 9, 10, and 11. T-shirt pick-up will take place Monday, June 8, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Be sure to register by May 25 so your child can join the fun.

To sign up, at www.vbspro.events/p/be6bec

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

Bookmobile Stop at Pinewood Country Club Clubhouse

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Time: 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM (1.5 hours)

Location: Pinewood Country Club Clubhouse

WHY MUNDS PARK SEWER BILLS NOW INCLUDE A WIFA FEE

PSD staff said earlier notices explained the details of the WIFA fee, but did not clearly explain why it was added to customer bills. In the November 7, 2023, election, district voters approved a \$15 million WIFA loan for wastewater infrastructure improvements, with 75% support. District officials say the funding will help update the sewer system, protect long-term service reliability, and meet requirements under a court-ordered Consent Judgment.

The project and financing were discussed in public meetings in January and February 2024, and again on March 12, 2026, when the fee was reviewed. The district says the work is being completed in four phases and is now in Phase 2. The WIFA fee took effect April 1, 2026, to repay the loan over time and help avoid placing the full cost of these improvements on customers all at once.

PPOA

2026 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Pinewood Property Owners Association proudly awards scholarships to support local students as they take the next step toward their future.

For 2026, three \$2,000 scholarships will be offered to full-time Munds Park residents who have recently graduated from a Flagstaff high school. These scholarships are available to students pursuing either academic studies or an accredited trade school program.

Students who maintain good grades may also be eligible to have the scholarship extended for a second year.

For information contact Barb Timberman at (928) 606-0194. The application deadline is June 8.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE PFDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, September 27, 2026, at Pinewood Country Club. Open to members and non-members, this morning shotgun four-person scramble will raise money for the Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary to support the Pinewood Fire Department and the citizens of Munds Park. Time is still to be announced. For more information, contact Cheri Schultz at 310-686-5168 or PFDA.Pres@gmail.com

*Join me as I keep company
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HOME MADE & WONDERFUL MOMMA'S STACKED ENCHILADAS

BY GENNA CAVINESS

Growing up with five siblings, my mom had a house full of hungry mouths to feed. Somehow, she managed to put good, scratch food on the table every single night, and she did it with love.

One of our all-time favorite dinners was her stacked enchiladas. Momma made hers with seasoned hamburger and red enchilada sauce. When that big stack of goodness hit the table, the whole family lit up. It was hearty, satisfying, and full of homemade flavor. I know my siblings still make her original version to this day. It is a true family staple.

Over the years, in our own home, we have put our own spin on it. Since we do not eat much red meat anymore, I started making it with shredded chicken instead. I found that green enchilada sauce is perfect for slow-cooking the chicken, making it tender and full of flavor. But I could not let go of the red sauce completely, so I use both. The mix of tangy green and rich red sauces makes these enchiladas full of flavor, and mighty hard not to clean the plate. This is the kind of generous, homey meal you make when you want everyone around your table to leave full, happy, and maybe just a little bit spoiled.



Momma Peggy

Ingredients

- 8 boneless chicken thighs or breasts, or cut the recipe in half if cooking for two
- 1 28-ounce can green enchilada sauce
- 1 28-ounce can red enchilada sauce
- 1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
- 1 white or yellow onion, chopped
- Garlic powder, to taste
- Pepper, to taste
- Cumin, to taste
- Corn tortillas
- Sliced black olives
- Green onions, sliced
- Grated cheese

Directions

1. Place the chicken in a slow cooker. Add the chopped onion, green enchilada sauce, cumin, garlic powder, and pepper. Cook on high for 4 hours.
2. When the chicken is done, shred it as finely as you like, then stir it back into the green sauce.
3. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
4. In a saucepan, heat the red enchilada sauce and tomato sauce together. You will use this to quickly dip the tortillas so they stay soft in the oven. You can also use hot oil instead, but I usually use the sauce.
5. Set out the green onions, black olives, and grated cheese in bowls so everything is ready to go.
6. Dip one corn tortilla into the warm red sauce very quickly. If you leave it too long, it will fall apart and make a mess, and nobody needs that. Place the tortilla on an oven-safe plate. Add a layer of shredded chicken, cheese, green onions, olives, and a little more red sauce. Repeat the layers until you have as many as you like. We usually do 3 or 4 tortillas. On the top layer, I like to be generous with the cheese and red sauce.
7. Place the plate in the oven for 4 to 5 minutes, or until the cheese is melted.

Be careful when you take the plates out. They will be extremely hot.

Top with your favorite salsa, fresh cilantro, diced onions, sliced jalapeños, sour cream, or even a fried egg.

I hope you enjoy these as much as we do!

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THINGS TO DO & SEE!

CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 2



CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION AT TLAQUEPAQUE

Head to Tlaquepaque for an afternoon of music, dancing, and good food in a courtyard setting

that feels made for a fiesta. Easy outing for families, and a solid excuse to spend the day in Sedona.

Time: 11a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Tlaquepaque Arts and Shopping Village, 336 State Route 179, Sedona

Details: visitsedona.com

Admission: FREE

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 9-10

MOTHER'S DAY FINE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

A lovely excuse to head to Prescott for a spring weekend of fine art, browsing, and downtown charm. This outdoor festival

features juried artists, vendors, and a festive Mother's Day weekend setting.

Time: Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Historic Courthouse Plaza, Downtown Prescott

Details: mountainartistsguild.org

Admission: See website for details

SUNDAY, MAY 10

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AT DA RANCH

Treat Mom to a brunch with live music, a build-your-own bouquet bar, and a pretty ranch setting that feels like a real outing. Seating is limited and runs in

90-minute time slots.

Time: 10 a.m. & 12 p.m. seatings (90 minutes)

Location: DA Ranch, 1900 Dancing Apache Rd, Cornville

Details: www.daranch.com

MUNDS PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 2



GIVE A MORNING & FEEL GOOD!

Join Munds Park Trail Stewards to help maintain the non-motorized Brad and Mud Tank trails, then stay for a free lunch after. Please RSVP.

Time: 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Iron Springs trailhead

Details: RSVP by email to mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com. Bring long pants, sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and a smile. Water and trail tools will be provided. Check for updates at www.mundsparktrailstewards.com, as the event may change or be postponed.



BEGINNING JUNE 1ST

BINGO AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

Bingo at the Pinewood Country Club! This event is open to everyone—no membership

required. Come enjoy a fun night with neighbors!

Time: 6 p.m., every Monday

Location: Pinewood Country Club

WINE & OUTDOORS

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 24-26



SIP! EXPERIENCE

Enjoy your Sip! weekend with a vineyard walking tour and a tasting flight featuring library wines from DA Ranch. Good wine, open sky, and live music nearby.

Time: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (vineyard tour at 11:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.)

Location: DA Ranch, 1900 Dancing Apache Rd, Cornville

Details: www.daranch.com/events-at-daranch

Admission: Starting at \$58 per ticket

SATURDAY, MAY 9



VERDE VALLEY WINE FESTIVAL

Sip local wines, browse vendors, and enjoy live music at Riverfront Park in one of the Verde Valley's signature spring events. It is a good

excuse to spend a Saturday outdoors.

Time: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Riverfront Park, 1284 E. River Front Rd, Cottonwood

Details: verdevalleywinefestival.com

Admission: See website for details

FRIDAY, MAY 15-17



OVERLAND EXPO WEST

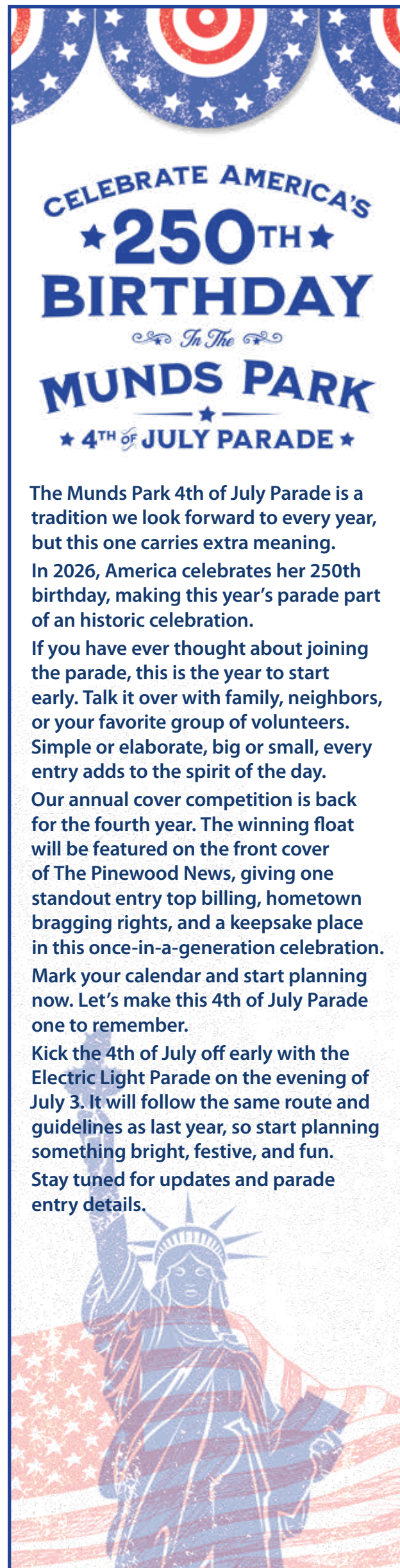
Three days of overlanding gear, classes, & hands-on training, plus rigs to admire. If you like dirt roads, camp setups, and learning from people who have actually done the miles, this is for you.

Time: Friday & Saturday 9 to 5, Sun 9 to 3

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

Details: overlandexpo.com/west

Admission: See website for details



CELEBRATE AMERICA'S ★ 250TH ★ BIRTHDAY *In The* MUNDS PARK ★ 4TH OF JULY PARADE ★

The Munds Park 4th of July Parade is a tradition we look forward to every year, but this one carries extra meaning.

In 2026, America celebrates her 250th birthday, making this year's parade part of an historic celebration.

If you have ever thought about joining the parade, this is the year to start early. Talk it over with family, neighbors, or your favorite group of volunteers. Simple or elaborate, big or small, every entry adds to the spirit of the day.

Our annual cover competition is back for the fourth year. The winning float will be featured on the front cover of The Pinewood News, giving one standout entry top billing, hometown bragging rights, and a keepsake place in this once-in-a-generation celebration.

Mark your calendar and start planning now. Let's make this 4th of July Parade one to remember.

Kick the 4th of July off early with the Electric Light Parade on the evening of July 3. It will follow the same route and guidelines as last year, so start planning something bright, festive, and fun.

Stay tuned for updates and parade entry details.

FAMILY FUN

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

WARNER'S NURSERY KIDS CLUB

A Little Dirt Never Hurt. Kids will examine different types of dirt and learn which is best for different plants, then build a "perfect"

dirt layer.

Time: Sunday afternoons at 2pm

Location: Warner's Nursery
1101 E. Butler Ave., Flagstaff

Details: www.warnercompanies.com

Admission: FREE with advance registration required

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29-SUNDAY, MAY 3

VERDE VALLEY FAIR

Five days of classic fair fun at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds, with exhibits, food, and plenty to keep the whole crew busy. Go for an hour, stay for the whole "one more ride" negotiation.

Time: See website for details

Location: Verde Valley Fairgrounds
800 E Cherry St, Cottonwood

Details: vvfair.com

Admission: See website for details

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 23-26

VERDE VALLEY BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

Catch peak spring migration with guided birding tours, hikes, and workshops based at Dead Horse

Ranch State Park, plus trips across the Verde Watershed. Family Nature Day happens Saturday, April 25, with hands-on activities and live animal exhibits.

Time: See website for details (Family Nature Day Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Location: Dead Horse Ranch State Park
675 Dead Horse Ranch Rd, Cottonwood

Details: verderiver.org/events/verde-valley-birding-and-nature-festival-2026/

Admission: See website for details (Family Nature Day is free)

MONDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 29-JULY 5

WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

Prescott's signature summer traditions returns for a full week of rodeo action, western spirit, and holiday-week crowds. Gates open

two hours before each performance, so there is time to grab food, shop, and settle in before the fun starts.

Time: Check website for times.

Location: Prescott Rodeo Grounds
840 Rodeo Dr., Prescott

Details: worldsoldestrodeo.com

Admission: See website for details.

LIVE MUSIC & THEATER

EVERY FRIDAY!



BARN DANCE

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

Time: 6– 10 p.m.

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

Details: mortimerfarmsaz.com

Admission: See website for dinner and ticket details

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 29-31



FLAGSHAKES PRESENTS EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Catch this interactive, actor-driven play in an intimate setting where the audience helps shape the night. Funny, tender, and the kind of show

you'll talk about on the drive home.

Time: See website for details

Location: Beaver Street Theatre
11 S Beaver St, Suite 2, Flagstaff

Details: flagshakes.org

Admission: See website for details

FRIDAY, MAY 1



RED DIRT CONCERT SERIES OPENER

Kick off Sedona's free Red Dirt Concert Series with live music at the Posse Grounds Pavilion. Bring a chair or blanket and settle in for an easy Friday night outdoors.

Time: 5 – 8 p.m.

Location: Posse Grounds Pavilion
525 Posse Grounds Road, Sedona

Admission: FREE

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 22-24



GRATEFUL FESTIVAL

This 3-day Flagstaff music festival brings live bands, camping, yoga, vendors, and a full weekend of mountain air and good energy. If your crowd likes jam bands and a festival feel under the pines, this one is worth a look.

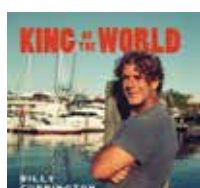
Time: Friday welcome concert 6 – 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Tuthill Fairgrounds
2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff

Details: gratefulfestival.com

Admission: Tickets from \$15; kids 12 and under free

SATURDAY, MAY 9



BILLY CURRINGTON

Grab your boots and head to Pepsi Amphitheater for a country night under the pines with Billy Currington.

Time: 6 – 8 p.m. (doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m.)

Location: Pepsi Amphitheater
2446 Fort Tuthill Loop, Flagstaff

Details: pepsiamp.com/event/billy-currington/

Admission: See website



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17010 TEAL PLACE

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WEEKEND WORTHY

SEDONA FROM ABOVE

Red Rocks, Canyons, & Secrets Only Visible from the Sky



Most Arizona travelers know Sedona from the road. They know the red cliffs rising beyond the windshield, the familiar turnouts, the slow bend of the highway as the landscape begins to stack itself in layers of stone, light, and distance. But from the air, Sedona becomes something else entirely.

Apex Air Tours lifts visitors above that familiar beauty and reveals the larger design of the country. Cathedral Rock, Bell Rock, Boynton Canyon, and the broad sweep toward the Mogollon Rim take on a different kind of scale when seen from above, where the relationships between canyon, mesa, forest, and sky come into view all at once. Apex offers a range of helicopter tours, from shorter scenic flights to longer routes and sunset options, departing from Sedona Airport.

That aerial perspective is the real appeal. This is not only about thrill. It is about seeing a landscape many Arizonans know well in a way few ever do. Riders often praise the smoothness of the flight, the pilot narration, and the striking views through the aircraft's large front windows, all of which make the experience feel less like a stunt and more like a memorable introduction to Sedona's larger geography.

It is, certainly, a splurge. Sedona helicopter tours listed by Apex begin at \$169, with longer and private options priced higher. But for a milestone weekend, a visiting guest, or simply the pleasure of seeing familiar country made new again, the experience makes a persuasive case for itself.

The Details

Apex Air Tours operates from Sedona Airport at 1225 Airport Road. Helicopter tours begin at \$169, with longer, sunset, combo, and private options available. Cameras, phones, and water are allowed on board, while large bags are not. Apex also offers discounts for veterans, active military, first responders, repeat customers, and groups.



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The Blood Behind Her

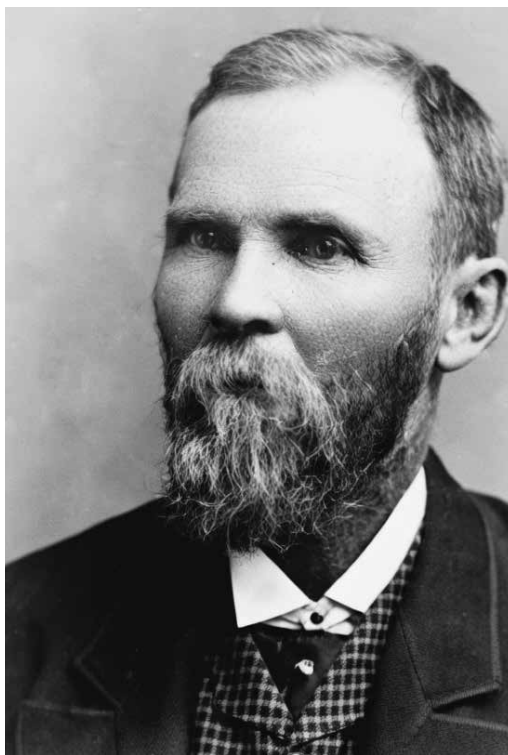
PART II

Some Arizona stories ought to be better known than they are. This is one of them.

Frances Willard Munds and John Munds built their lives in the rough early days of Arizona, where danger and hardship were part of everyday life. But before Frances became a force in her own right, she came from people who had already tested themselves against war, wilderness, loss, and the hard demands of frontier life. This part of the story reaches back into that bloodline and the grit that helped shape the woman she would become.

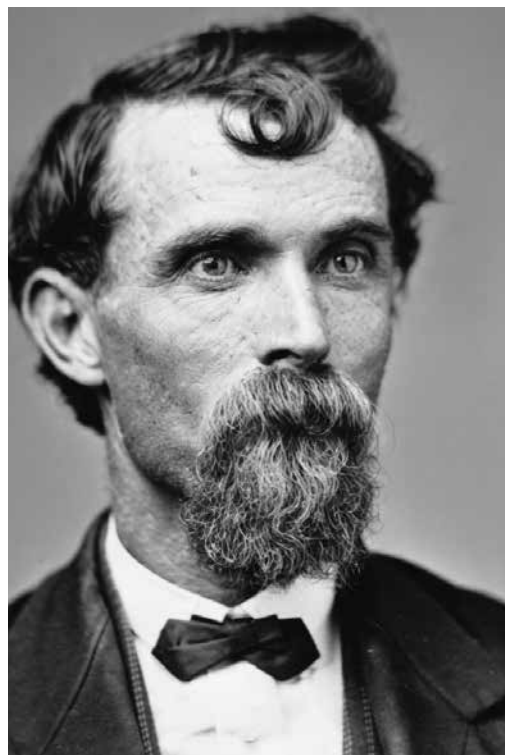
Alexander Hamilton Willard

Alexander Hamilton Willard did not inherit grit. He earned it lash by lash, mile by mile, through wilderness, war, and the raw making of the American West.



James Russell Vineyard

He did not stand politely at the edge of history. Colonel James Russell Vineyard threw himself into it, fighting in war, shaping public life, and taking on slavery in a frontier town where principle could get a man killed.



Frances came from stock that had crossed raging rivers, pushed into new frontiers, and proven its mettle long before she was born.

Her paternal grandfather, Alexander Hamilton Willard, had built much of that prosperous ranch life with his own hands.

Born in Charlestown, New Hampshire, in 1778, he joined the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He was an expert blacksmith, gunsmith, and hunter by the age of twenty-five. He was among President Jefferson's volunteers, sent west to map rivers, cross mountains, and help open a route to the Pacific.

The journey tested him early and without mercy. In the summer of 1804, camped along the Missouri, Willard was caught asleep on watch duty. In the wild, dangerous country, it was a betrayal that could have gotten every man in the party killed. Military law was clear. Sleeping on watch was a capital offense. Lewis and Clark spared his life but imposed the severest penalty, one hundred lashes. For four nights in a row, he endured 25 lashes before the entire company at sunset. It was a brutal lesson that discipline was not negotiable when lives were at stake.

Willard endured the punishment and remained with the Corps, proving his worth and stamina. He hunted when the party was near starvation, repaired wagons, forged tools, and worked through the bitter winters. He hauled heavy boats overland across rough country during the long portages and met the expedition's brutalities with strength and courage.

Near the Great Falls of the Missouri, he narrowly escaped death when a grizzly charged him while he was out alone retrieving meat. The bear drove him close to camp before Captain Clark, with three men, drove it off, saving Willard and giving the nearby islands their name, White Bear Islands.

When the expedition returned to St. Louis in 1806, he received his pay and land warrant, but men of his kind were seldom made for settlement.

He later served in the War of 1812, carrying dispatches for William Clark, but when a commission was offered, he turned it down. He had had enough of military rule. After the war, he kept moving west with his growing family. First came Missouri. Then Wisconsin. Each time, he broke new ground and started over. Whenever the country around him grew too settled, it was time for this pioneer to move on.

Then in 1852, at seventy-four years of age, when most men would have been content to sit by the fire with good whiskey and tell stories, he gathered forty-nine members of his family and kin in Platteville, Wisconsin, and organized a wagon train to California. They loaded their covered wagons with supplies, rifles, and whatever hope a family could carry across that much country, then pointed west.

It was no gentle journey. There was dust enough to choke on, rivers to cross, danger never far off, and long nights with wagons drawn in tight for protection and everybody listening hard to the dark. He brought them through it. When they reached the Sacramento Valley months later, only one life had been lost.

There, with his son Joel, he turned rich soil and steady water into a thriving ranch that fed the Gold Rush boom.

They were blessed with opportunity and had the grit to make something of it.

On the other side stood Frances' maternal grandfather, Colonel James Russell Vineyard. He was a fighter in every sense, a man whose life burned with the same unyielding fire that would one day define Frances.

... Continued on page 19A



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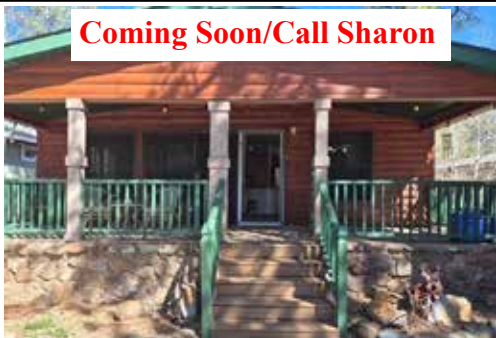
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BADGE & BALLOT

... Continued from page 16A

Born January 16, 1801, in Frankfort, Kentucky, he carried the restless spirit of the frontier. He moved to Platteville, Wisconsin, where he married Mary Ann Thompson and raised a family. When the Mexican-American War broke out in 1846, Vineyard answered the call, serving with distinction and earning the rank of colonel. He returned to Wisconsin a hero and joined the Democrat party. He was elected to the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature (Council) in 1841, then chosen as a delegate to the state's first constitutional convention in 1846, helping shape the framework for Wisconsin's entry into the Union in 1848. He later served in the state assembly.



In 1852, 74-year-old Alexander Hamilton Willard and his wife Eleanor took their family on a wagon train from Platteville, Wisconsin to California — a brutal 2,200-mile trek that took about 5 to 6 months by ox wagon. — Wikipedia Photo

Like many settlers, moving on was in his blood. In the early 1850s, he made his way west to Los Angeles, California, a raw frontier town still finding its footing after the end of Mexican rule. There he founded an abolitionist newspaper and used it as a weapon in the fight against slavery. Though California had entered the Union as a free state in 1850, the battle was hardly over. Southern sympathizers and their allies continued pressing to protect slavery, but Vineyard met them head-on, filling his paper with sharp, uncompromising editorials that attacked slavery as evil and warned against letting it take root in Los Angeles County.

Those words carried a price. Pro-slavery agitators attacked the newspaper office more than once. Vineyard and his staff fought back with fists, clubs, whatever was at hand. He was always a fighter and never afraid to meet violence head-on, never backing down. His paper helped hold the line and Los Angeles County stayed free of organized slaveholding. A real victory in a nation tearing itself apart over the issue.

By 1861, he gained enough respect to win the election to the California State Senate in Los Angeles County, serving in the 1862 and 1863 sessions. In 1863, the Democrats nominated him for the U.S. Senate—a seat he seemed certain to claim in the general election. Then, suddenly,

on August 30, 1863, he died in Los Angeles at age 62. Flags in the Los Angeles County courthouse and at the state capitol in Sacramento flew at half-mast from the day of his death until burial, a rare public honor for a man who had fought fiercely for principle. Masonic services laid him to rest; his story even earned mention in Hubert Howe Bancroft's monumental History of California.

Vineyard wasn't just a politician or editor; he was a bulldog for justice during a time when speaking against slavery could have cost him everything. Including his life.

What kind of heritage shaped Frances Willard Munds? The kind most people only read about. Her mother, Mary Grace, had already proven what grit and love could do to save her daughter. Her father, Joel, helped carve abundance out of the California earth. Her paternal grandfather, Alexander Hamilton Willard, had gone west with Lewis and Clark and had survived the wild, war, danger, and terrain that would break most men. Her maternal grandfather, Colonel James Russell Vineyard, fought slavery in print and in person, standing his ground in a frontier town fighting for the freedom for all. Frances was born into a bloodline of fighters, builders, and people of deep strength and conviction.

They called her Fannie when she was little, and for those who loved her first, the name never let go. It belonged to the child they nearly lost. But as she grew, she stepped into Frances, a stronger, more dignified name for the woman she was becoming. With blood like hers, she would not be content with the narrow boundaries set for women of her day. The same spirit that had carried her into life, and the example of the family who raised her, would one day carry her into battles of another kind.

To be continued... in the April 17th issue of the Pinewood News.

Editor's Note: Badge and Ballot is a narrative retelling based on family recollections preserved by Sally Munds Williams, Frances Munds' own writings as referenced in those recollections, and supporting historical research. While grounded in documented historical events, some scenes have been lightly shaped with creative storytelling to bring the people and places to life for modern readers.

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I CRAWLED THROUGH A CRACK IN THE EARTH & FOUND AN ANCIENT WORLD IN MY BACKYARD

BY "UNSTOPPABLE STACEY" WITTIG



Wupatki National Monument is close to Munds Park, but worlds away
Photo by Stacey Wittig



Dan Wittig at Crack in Rock
Photo by Stacey Wittig

known as "The Crack-in-Rock Hike." This all-day excursion explores fantastic petroglyph panels and ruins in a remote area normally closed to the public.

People come from all over the country to experience the ancient Puebloan architecture and rock art right here in our backyard. On the almost-sacred pilgrimage to Crack In Rock, I've met people from Massachusetts, Minnesota and Maine.

In 2010, hubby Dan and I crammed our packs with food and water for the archaeological adventure. On Saturday morning at Wupatki's Visitor Center, we introduced ourselves to eight lucky others who were drawn by lottery and to our three guides from the National Park. The strenuous 4-mile cross-country trip is limited to 12 people.

Our destination, Crack-In-Rock Mesa, is one of three mesas that stick out like red rock fingers from the higher Antelope Mesa on Babbitt Ranch land. The sandstone fingers point east towards the Little Colorado River and the Painted Desert that rises on the eastern horizon.

Crack-In-Rock Mesa gets its name from the unusual entryway to the ancient ruins on top. Visitors must slither through a large crack in the mesa's side and crawl up through the red

sandstone to reach the top. The climbing isn't technical, but you must angulate your body to get through the serpentine fracture. I felt like a centipede squirming through the sandstone crack, and interestingly enough, a petroglyph of a centipede-like creature adorns the lower "doorway" of the crack.

In the Hopi tradition, centipedes are known to go back and forth between worlds. We are currently in the Fourth World, according to the Hopis, who claim the ancient Puebloans at Crack In Rock as their ancestors. We emerged from the Third World below. Many of today's Hopi ceremonies begin with a dramatic entry of colorfully attired participants. Was Crack In Rock used for similarly dramatic emergence ceremonies?

Once through the crack, adventurers emerge from a small masonry room that is part of the ruins on top. A plaza contains a mysterious, free-standing wall with oddly-placed niches. Some archaeologists suggest that this nearly north-south-aligned feature is a calendar wall, and ancient sun watchers used it to predict agricultural seasons. Over time, this theory has come and gone.

I've been on top of Crack-In-Rock Mesa pondering the wall three times now. In 1996 and 2003, my Wupatki National Park Service guides seemed to support or at least acknowledge the calendar theory of archaeoastronomers. Archaeoastronomy is the interdisciplinary study of how ancient or traditional cultures understood, interpreted,

At Wupatki National Monument, a rare, lottery-only hike just outside Flagstaff delivers petroglyphs, sacred ruins and a perspective-shifting step into the past.

Wupatki National Monument, only 38 miles northeast of Flagstaff, offers an adventurous travel experience available only two months of the year. The memory-making interpretive program is so limited that oftentimes names remain on lengthy waiting lists for months. And once your name's been drawn, and you make the journey, the program is so popular that you're asked not to repeat it for three years.

If you are a hiker or an archaeology enthusiast, you should throw your hat into the ring now. This October, Wupatki National Monument offers the ranger-guided trekking experience

and utilized celestial phenomena, such as the sun, moon, stars, and planets. It combines archaeological evidence with astronomical methods to explore the role the sky played in ancient societies. My friend and former Coconino Community College instructor Bryan Bates wrote a paper describing the wall at Crack in Rock as an ancestral Hopi Wall Calendar.

In 2010, my guides scoffed at the suggestion. “The wall becomes a divider of sacred space,” Holly Richards, Wupatki National Park Ranger, relayed the recent theory of the day for the unusual wall. “It divides people who ‘know’ from those who do not.” Unlike in our culture of fast food and immediate information, in Puebloan cultures, “Information is not disseminated widely. No one is intended to know everything,” she added. The wall could have been used to protect information by separating those with it from those without. One of the things I find fascinating about archaeology is the relatively fast pace of new theory development and the expulsion of old theories.

During the strenuous excursion, you’ll learn about prehistoric dwellings as well as the recent history of the Wupatki area. We learned the difference between a female and a male Navajo hogan. We saw remnants of the cowboy era. We walked across fields where the ancient ones grew corn. If you’ve been following my recent Chaco Canyon adventures, you’ll be intrigued to find that Wupatki is considered a Chacoan-influenced community.

If you miss the Wupatki lottery, don’t worry. Rangers and volunteers at the Wupatki National Monument Visitor Center will help you discover archeological sites, rock art, geology, flora and fauna that make Wupatki a unique place. Allow one hour and ten minutes to drive from Munds Park to the Wupatki Visitor Center. Temperatures at Wupatki are usually 10 degrees higher than in Flagstaff.

For more information on Crack-In-Rock Hikes, call Wupatki National Monument at 928-679-2365 or visit www.nps.gov/wupa.

Enjoy this article? Then head over to UNSTOPPABLE Stacey Wittig’s travel blog for more travel inspiration and free tips: unstoppablestaceytravel.com



Crack-in-Rock Mesa with archaeological site on top
Photo by Stacey Wittig



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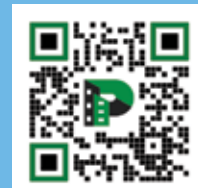
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MOUNTAIN STREAM IN A HIGHBALL

Fjellbekk

Meaning “mountain stream” in Norwegian, pronounced roughly “fyell-bekk.”



You get back from the trail dusty, hungry, and just tired enough to feel good about it. The boots come off by the door. The cooler opens. Someone asks, “What are we drinking?”

You want a cold cocktail to celebrate, but nothing complicated. Fjellbekk is that drink.

The name means “mountain stream,” which tells you most of what you need to know. It’s clean, quick, and bracing. You build it in the glass: aquavit, vodka, fresh lime juice, ice, and a splash of lemon-lime soda. Stir. Enjoy.

Aquavit is the only ingredient that might raise an eyebrow. It’s a Scandinavian spirit, usually flavored with caraway and other herbs. Think of it as gin’s quieter, more outdoorsy cousin. It adds a faint savory note, making the drink feel grounded rather than sweet.

After miles on the trail, that balance matters. You don’t want syrup. You want something that tastes cold and finishes clean. Fjellbekk is refreshing and perfect after a day on the trail or out in your garden.

Two rules. Use fresh lime. And don’t skimp on the ice. This drink lives and dies by temperature. The colder it is, the better it tastes.

Fjellbekk isn’t flashy. It’s the kind of drink that fits naturally into the space between taking off your boots and lighting the grill.

As always, pour something worth your time.



Ingredients

- ¾ ounce (2.25 cl) aquavit
- ¾ ounce (2.25 cl) vodka
- ¾ ounce (2.25 cl) lime juice
- Lemon-lime carbonated soda

The Method

Fill a tall glass (highball) with ice cubes. Add the aquavit, vodka and lime juice. Top with soda and stir.

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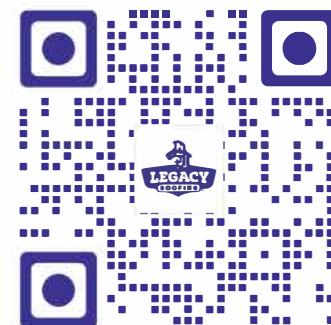
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THE ARIZONA ROC PROTECTION MIRAGE

A Summer Series on Protecting Your Home Before, During, & After the Job

BY SANDEE CAVINESS

Instead of using this page as another cheerful reminder to clean your gutters or check your roof, we're using it for something more useful.

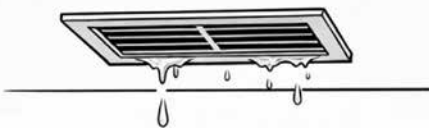
Seasonal maintenance matters, of course, and most homeowners, especially in mountain towns, already know the drill.

This new summer series is for homeowners who want to choose contractors and home services more carefully. It was not dreamed up over coffee and good intentions. It was earned the hard way, through more than a year of expensive, stressful, firsthand experience.

Genna and I bought a fixer-upper in Rimrock. Like many homeowners, we believed that by asking the right questions, staying involved, and doing our homework, we could protect ourselves. We vetted contractors, paid attention, and tried to do it right.

It still went wrong.

That experience shaped this series. In the first installment, we looked at online reviews and why glowing ratings can create a false sense of security. In the second, we examined the permitting process and the uncomfortable truth that a permit and final sign-off do not always mean the work was



"How do I know you didn't just pour that water in the bowl yourself?"

Actual quote from our ROC inspector.

carefully inspected. Both articles can be found online at ThePinewoodNews.com.

Now we come to the Arizona Registrar of Contractors, better known as the ROC.

On its website, the agency states that its mission is to "Protect the health, safety and welfare of the public through a regulatory system designed to promote quality construction by Arizona contractors."

That sounds lovely.

It also bears little resemblance to what we experienced.

By the time we contacted the ROC, we were worn down by ongoing problems with the HVAC company we hired to install a new central air system. Then condensation started dripping from the vents, and a third-party environmental inspector found black mold in the ductwork. At that point, it was time to call the ROC.

We thought the ROC would conduct a serious inspection, weigh the evidence, and make a fair determination. We thought "state agency" meant someone with the authority, basic know-how, and curiosity to follow the facts where they lead.

... Continued on page 2B



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A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY

... Continued from page 1B

What we got, in our case, was an inspector who did not meaningfully investigate the evidence we provided or examine the areas where the failure appeared to live. Not by any definition of “inspection” that most homeowners would expect.

The ROC may present itself as a guardian of the public, but its complaint process is far narrower and weaker than most homeowners realize.

The ROC is not your advocate. It is not there to make you whole. It is there to determine whether a contractor violated rules the agency can enforce, and whether the law allows a limited remedy.

And if a problem cannot be easily accessed, inspected, or made visible, the burden quickly shifts back to the homeowner.

We were told that the inspector would not get on the roof unless we provided the ladder. The agency does not arrive prepared to perform a full investigation. Much of that burden falls on the homeowner, the layperson, who is expected to gather the facts, preserve the evidence, and present the problem in a way the inspector can quickly confirm.

That is where many complaints begin to break down.

It is not always enough to show visible symptoms: water dripping from vents, damp wood around registers, the smell of mold when the system runs, photos, records, timelines, and outside reports. Homeowners often assume these will speak for themselves.

Why wouldn't they?

In our case, despite everything we provided, we were still asked to prove the HVAC system was causing the condensation and explain why.

Well, let me pull out my HVAC certification and get right on that.

Isn't that the inspector's job? Apparently not.

It is not always enough to show that something is wrong. You may also need to show that the problem was caused by the contractor's work. That is especially true when the problem lies behind walls, inside ductwork, above ceilings, under roofing, or in the hidden interactions between moisture, airflow, insulation, and drainage.

The ROC sends an inspector, but that inspector is generally not there to perform a full forensic investigation. They are not opening walls, pulling back insulation, ordering testing, or spending hours tracing a complicated failure through every system in the home. In many cases, they are looking at what is visible in a limited window of time and deciding whether it violates a standard the ROC can enforce.

That word, visible, is where many homeowner complaints start to die.

If the defect is intermittent, seasonal, or tied to specific weather or operating conditions, it may not even show itself during the inspection. A moisture problem can disappear on a dry day and return the next morning. An airflow issue can seem minor until outside temperatures shift. A drainage failure may only reveal itself under the right conditions.

And if it is not obvious in that moment, the homeowner carries the burden of proof.

People show up with their story, their photographs, their frustration, and their hope that the truth will be obvious. Then the process narrows. And narrows again. The original problem is reduced to whatever can be quickly confirmed in that moment.

That is not necessarily negligence on the agency's part. It is how the system is structured. But for homeowners living with damage, cost, and uncertainty, the difference can be devastating.

There are several things we wish someone had told us before we filed.

1. The ROC is Not a Court

It is not there to award damages for stress, lost time, loss of use of your home, extra living costs, or long-term loss in property value. It may order corrective work. It may impose discipline. But if you are expecting the ROC to restore everything you lost, you are in the wrong room.

2. Inspection vs. Reality

If the issue is intermittent or condition-specific, you may have to work hard to document when and how it appears. That is not an exaggeration. That is the reality of how many building failures behave.

The inspector may not look where the problem actually lives.

This is one of the most frustrating parts of the process. You can point to a vent, a crawlspace, a roofline, or a section of insulation and explain why it matters. You can bring photographs and reports. But if the defect depends on what is happening inside a system or behind a surface, there is no guarantee that area will be meaningfully examined.

In practice, the inspector will not examine the problem unless access is provided. But in our case, the system was still under warranty, and touching it ourselves could have voided that warranty. We were stuck.

4. Documentation is Not Optional

If you file with the ROC, you need to present your case clearly to someone with limited time and no prior knowledge of your home. That means dates, photos, contracts, receipts, permit numbers, names, short notes, and a clear timeline showing what happened, what was attempted, what changed, and what got worse.

None of our documentation ultimately changed the outcome with the ROC, but that does not mean it was unimportant. If the situation escalates, that record may become critical.



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5. Know When to Call in Reinforcements

I wish we had understood that from the start. After already paying a contractor, it is deeply frustrating to then pay someone else to explain what the contractor may have done wrong. But when the problem is hidden, disputed, or highly technical, an independent expert may be the only way to move beyond “we cannot confirm it” and toward a clearer understanding of what is actually happening.

In our case, we did try to bring in a local HVAC company. But they could not touch the system without risking the warranty. And they told us upfront that if the dispute ended up in court, they wanted no part of it. They could see where this was headed.

We began to understand that we were on our own.

Even then, experts come with no guarantees. We paid for a third-party water damage and environmental report, and in our case, the ROC gave it little weight. That did not make the report meaningless. It reinforced a larger truth: the ROC may create a record, but it may not give you the resolution you need.

The Hard Truth & How to Handle it

For many homeowners, the ROC process can feel as though it favors the contractor, and honestly, it often does.

Contractors know the language, standards, process, and its limits. Homeowners show up stressed and worried, facing an inspection they do not fully understand. That imbalance matters.

The ROC website explains how to file a complaint. What it does not fully convey is how narrow and incomplete the process can be.

Once you understand that, one thing becomes clear: do not assume the inspector will connect every dot for you. You have to do that work yourself.

And that is fine, as long as you know what the process actually demands.

When you file a complaint with the Arizona ROC, the goal is not to tell your whole story. The goal is to make the key failure so obvious that the inspector cannot ignore it.

Many homeowners make the mistake of listing every problem they have with the contractor. We did. That usually backfires, and in our case, it did.

Instead, lead with the clearest, strongest issue, the one the inspector can see and understand fastest. If it is a leaking roof vent, stay on that vent. If it is a bad roof penetration, stay on that penetration. Use the other problems only to support your main point.

Before the inspector comes, handle the practical details. Make sure the problem area is accessible. If the attic matters, clear a path and have a ladder ready. If the issue is hidden behind something sealed, first find out whether opening it would void the warranty. In some cases, it can.

When the inspector arrives, walk them straight to the exact spot. Point it out. Briefly explain what is wrong, when it happens, and what the contractor did or failed to do after you raised the issue. Keep it short, then let the inspector work.

After the inspection, write down what was examined and what was not.

That is the ROC process in practice. Being right is not enough. You have to make the problem visible, accessible, and hard to sidestep. A focused, well-prepared presentation gives your complaint the best chance of getting traction.

The ROC can create a record. In some cases, it can force corrective work or discipline a licensee. But it is not the safety net many people assume it is. And if you enter that process believing the state is about to take over and sort everything out for you, the reality can be a painful surprise.

Genna and I believed that licensing, permits, inspections, and a state agency would add up to real protection. We were wrong.

Unfortunately, our story can only be handled in court.

Companies That Sale Out

Along this miserable path, we learned something else homeowners should understand. The company we hired was no longer operating like the truly local business we believed we were dealing with. What looked like a local business relationship had become something else: a larger corporate operation with different priorities and less reason to care about local reputation than a genuinely owner-operated company would.

That is where this series goes next.

Across the country, investors have been buying established small businesses and folding them into larger, more profit-driven operations. HVAC is one example, but it is not the only one. The same pattern is showing up in veterinary practices, dental groups, plumbing companies, roofing companies, and more.

In our next issue, we will name names. We will show which companies sold and were absorbed into larger conglomerates, and which ones remain locally owned and operated.

PULL THE RECORDS, NOT JUST THE LICENSE

If a contractor’s work could affect your home’s safety, structure, or value, do not rely solely on the public ROC license lookup. That is the first step, and you can do that here: www.azroc.my.site.com/AZRoc/s/contractor-search.

In addition to a basic license lookup, we strongly recommend submitting a Public Records Request to the Arizona ROC before hiring for major work such as roofing, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, structural repairs, or any project that could impact your home’s safety or value of your home.

Why? Because the public profile may not give you the full picture. The ROC does make complaint files available through a Public Records Request, though the process can take roughly 7 to 30 days.

A good rule for homeowners is simple: if the job could hurt your home’s safety or equity, pull the records.

Ask for the contractor’s complaint history. Include the contractor’s name and license number. The ROC’s records office can be reached through its public records process, including at publicrecords@roc.az.gov.

The process will take extra time, but it is much easier than discovering the hard way that a public profile didn’t tell you everything you may need to know.





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FROM DADDY-O TO DELULU

Slang shows up in every generation because plain old language can start to feel a little square. People like words with swagger. Once upon a time, a sharp cat might ask if you dig his style, borrow some bread, and call you Daddy-o like it was the most natural thing in the world. Now somebody with real rizz can slay at dinner, a friend answers bet instead of “sure,” and no cap, everybody still knows exactly what they mean. A shy kid can glow up, a student can get locked in, and an overly hopeful dreamer can stay just delulu enough to make life interesting. When somebody says a singer ate, or admits lowkey that they loved the show, or laughs and says it’s giving drama, charm, or chaos, they’re doing what people have always done. They’re making language feel current, personal, and alive.



Match each word on the left with the correct definition on the right. Answers on page 18B.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| ___ Rizz | A. A casual way of saying yes, certainly, or sounds good |
| ___ Slay | B. Natural charm or charisma |
| ___ Bet | C. Cheerfully unrealistic, but in an entertaining way |
| ___ No Cap | D. A cool or stylish person |
| ___ Glow Up | E. So focused they forgot the rest of the world exists |
| ___ Lowkey | F. A clear and positive change in appearance, confidence, or circumstance |
| ___ Locked In | G. The honest truth, no fooling |
| ___ It’s Giving | H. Exceptionally good, stylish, or impressively done |
| ___ Ate | I. A person who is old-fashioned and not very cool |
| ___ Delulu | J. Carries a certain mood, feeling, or style |
| ___ Dig | K. To understand, enjoy, or appreciate |
| ___ Square | L. Performed so well it earned high praise |
| ___ Cat | M. Quietly, privately, or without much fuss |
| ___ Bread | N. A breezy, old-school way to address someone |
| ___ Daddy-o | O. Money, cash, the stuff that disappears too fast |

SUDOKU

CREATED BY PAUL MASON • SOLUTION PAGE 18B

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

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HOW TO WASTE AN EVENING PROPERLY

These days, people have a habit of ending the evening badly. The television chatters on, the phone keeps calling for attention, and the mind gets pulled into one more headline, one more message, one more scroll before bed. By the time the house grows quiet and the screens are put down, peace has already been chased off.

But there is another way to greet the closing of the day.

In Munds Park, evening has a way of arriving with good manners. The air cools. The pines begin their soft conversation with the wind. The last of the daylight slips away, and what follows is not emptiness, but a kind of peace the daytime rarely provides. It is the sort of hour that asks very little of a person, only that they step outside, settle down, and stay still long enough to notice what has been waiting for them all along.

A porch is enough. A deck is enough. A blanket pulled over the knees, a drink warming the hands, a chair that knows how to hold a body at rest. None of it has to be grand. In fact, it is better when it is not. The evening does not care about polished plans or perfect arrangements. It only asks for a little room to unfold.

And unfold it does.

If the lights are kept low and the phone is left inside, the night begins to reveal its better nature. The pines sway. The sky deepens. The first stars appear, and then more follow, quietly and faithfully, until the heavens seem to gather themselves overhead. What looked like darkness a moment ago becomes something rich and alive, something ancient and familiar.



That is one of the blessings of a place like Munds Park. Here, the night has not been swallowed whole by glare, noise, and hurry. It still carries a softness that allows a person to breathe a little deeper and think a little less. Out on a porch after dark, there is no prize for being busy and no need to keep up. There is only the small and holy relief of being allowed to rest.

That may be why porch sitting after dark feels less like doing nothing and more like returning to something worth knowing. The night has its own quiet companionship. It reminds us that some hours are meant for being still, letting the mind loosen, and allowing the day to fall away.

There is wisdom in that kind of stillness. It simply waits, patient as the stars, for a person to set aside the day's noise and receive what the evening has to offer. A great many things in this world ask us to rush. Very few ask us to sit down and be restored. A dark porch in Munds Park, under a sky full of stars, is one of those rare places.

So let the phone stay inside. Let the television have the room to itself. Step out where the air is cool and the sky is wide, and take your place in the quiet. Bring a friend, or not. Silence can be companion enough. Then sit long enough to relax and enjoy the night sky, and before long, a person may find that the evening has given them something finer than entertainment.

It has given them peace.

That is the fine art of porch sitting after dark, and in a place like Munds Park, it remains one of the best ways to spend an evening. We are blessed.



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STARRY-EYED LOCALS LOVE OUR NIGHT SKY

International Dark Sky Week returns April 13 through 20, 2026. For places like Munds Park, it's more than just a nice note on the calendar. It's a reminder that one of the best things about living here shows up after the sun has properly tucked itself away.

On a clear night, when the porch lights are dim and a cool breeze sways the pines, the sky opens up. It fills us with wonder and offers this community a gift that many people in cities have almost forgotten exists. The heavens fill with stars, and the constellations begin to reveal themselves.

Those who call Munds Park home have a front-row seat to one of nature's finest displays. Northern Arizona has a long history of protecting dark skies, with Flagstaff helping lead the way and Coconino County continuing that work through sensible lighting standards. Munds Park is part of that tradition, and it shows every time the stars come out.

Dark skies are about more than the beauty of a star-filled sky. Darker nights do more than preserve a beautiful view. Darkness helps the natural world function as it should, providing wildlife with the conditions many species need to hunt, migrate, rest, and survive. It matters for people, too, because too much artificial light at night can interfere with sleep, create glare, waste energy, and chip away at the quiet connection we still have to the stars above us. In a place like Munds Park, protecting the night is one small way to safeguard both the character of the community and the natural world around it.

In short, good lighting choices don't just protect the view of the Milky Way. They protect the lives unfolding beneath it, too.

One of the quiet gifts of life in Munds Park begins after dark, when the sky fills with stars and the constellations come into view. It is one

of the simple reasons so many people love calling this place home, and one more reason it is worth protecting.

The good news is that protecting that darkness is surprisingly simple. A few thoughtful choices around your cabin can make a real difference while keeping things convenient and comfortable:

Use light only when you truly need it, such as to spot raccoons trying to raid your bird feeder.

Aim the light downward and only where it's needed, so it doesn't spill into your neighbor's yard or up toward the stars.

Make life easier with timers or motion sensors that turn lights on only when they're needed.

Choose warmer-colored bulbs; they feel cozier and are gentler on the night sky.

Don't forget to add simple light covers or shields, often called "full cutoff" fixtures. These keep the light from shining sideways or upward, so you get the illumination you want without the glare or wasted glow.

All it takes is one look at the night sky in Munds Park to understand why this matters, and how easy it is to protect the sky we all love.

To learn more, visit: darksky.org, and idsw.darksky.org



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— Drew & Casee C, Munds Park Residents



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NEST BOXES & BIRDING TRAILS

BY MARGARET DYEKMAN

We have a bluebird nest box trail in Munds Park on Pinewood Country Club's golf course, and there already is robust nesting activity. Thanks to full-time resident Sabra Tonn, who is monitoring the boxes this spring, we know that five boxes have Western Bluebird nests, with some eggs laid already. By the time you read this article, some boxes most likely will have hatchlings. There is also a one box with a Mountain Chickadee nest.

We expect that throughout the summer we'll find other species, such as Pygmy Nuthatches and House Wrens, also using the boxes. Once we determine that the baby birds have fledged, we will clean the inside of the boxes in the hope that some species will use the box again this season.

Golf courses can be good spots to place nest boxes, but in the Valley of the Sun the opportunities are limited because non-native House Sparrows and European Starlings compete for cavities and often drive out woodpeckers and flickers. However, Desert Rivers Audubon Society, a nonprofit whose mission includes protecting birds and their habitats, collaborated with Marriott Corporation's Camelback Golf Club and placed Lucy's Warbler nest boxes on one of their courses. Lucy's Warblers are one of two warbler species in North America that nest in cavities. They prefer mesquite trees with peeling bark or old woodpecker holes. Tucson Bird Alliance experimented over a



Western Bluebird on Nest, courtesy of Sabra Tonn



Western Bluebird Eggs, courtesy of Sabra Tonn

four-year period with nest box designs for Lucy's Warblers and determined there was one prototype that was preferred by the species, a triangular box with openings on both sides. When overseeding takes place this fall, golf course staff will check the boxes – they are numbered and geo-mapped – and see if they've been used. Sometimes it takes more than a year for birds to use a nest box, just as it might be for a nest box you've placed on your property.

The other trail I would like readers to be aware of is the Arizona Birding Trail, the result of a collaborative effort between conservation groups throughout the state. This online resource shows a network of more than 300 birding and watchable wildlife sites across the state. You can find it at <https://arizonabirdingtrail.com>. If you are a birder or want to become one, you can find all types of locations with tips on where and when to visit and what species you may see. It's a great resource for residents and visitors alike in our great state of Arizona.

You can reach me at margaretdyekman@cox.net or by text at 602-620-3210. You can read all about *Backyard Birding in Northern Arizona* at www.backyardbirdingaz.com and order the book online or get one directly from me. I welcome your questions, reports of sightings, and your suggestions for future articles.



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CROSSWORD

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49	50	51							52			53	54	55
56					57	58	59	60				61		
62					63							64		
65					66							67		

ACROSS

- 1. Thin nail
- 5. Take a cleaver to
- 9. Plum's center
- 12. Handed-down history
- 13. Fleece
- 14. Car until 1957
- 15. Actor Baldwin
- 16. Bay of Naples isle
- 17. Vogue competitor
- 18. Mediator, at times
- 20. Southern legume
- 22. "Holy Moses!"
- 24. Copper collectible
- 25. Scottish "wind" instrument
- 28. Stunning
- 32. ___ Island National Monument
- 33. Greek salad ingredient
- 35. USMC rank
- 36. Thin strip
- 37. Writing assignment
- 38. Pantyhose color
- 39. Serving of corn
- 40. Identifying mark
- 41. Sound of exertion
- 42. What conductors keep
- 45. Declare one's support of
- 47. Norway's capital

- 48. Highway
- 49. Insignia
- 52. Afterlife
- 56. Whopper
- 57. Way too weighty
- 61. Recipe direction
- 62. Some are pale
- 63. Broad valleys
- 64. Danish toy company
- 65. Just out
- 66. Harvard rival
- 67. Otherwise

DOWN

- 1. Uninspired
- 2. Play part
- 3. Vicinity
- 4. Falling apart
- 5. Half a dance
- 6. With it
- 7. Sculler's need
- 8. Bargain hunter's Dream
- 9. Bug's sensory appendage
- 10. Emerald ___
- 11. "___-Team"
- 13. Get rid of
- 14. Salamanders
- 19. Shield of ancient Greece
- 21. Small bill

- 23. Actual
- 24. Reception hire
- 25. Under siege
- 26. God prayed to on a prayer rug
- 27. Driving hazard
- 29. Happen
- 30. Times to crow
- 31. Wash out with a solvent
- 34. Superfund administrator: Abbr.
- 37. Some church music
- 38. Susceptible to losing ground
- 41. Oz greeting
- 43. Large pill used by veterinarians
- 44. WNW's opposite
- 46. Bumps
- 49. Zest
- 50. Stubborn beast
- 51. Moved like the wind
- 53. Wassailer's song
- 54. Band's schedule TOUR
- 55. ___ gin fizz
- 58. Sheep's cry
- 59. Wing
- 60. Observe

EARTH DAY HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT

Earth Day has been through a lot.

So have we.

For decades now, every generation has had its own special disaster propaganda dropped right on its head. One generation was told acid rain was coming to eat the lakes. Another was told the world was cooling and everybody better get ready to shiver. Then along came the ozone layer burning off, which sounded very bad and very hot. After that came global warming, melting ice, rising seas, boiling summers, dying forests, and enough warnings to make a child afraid of both weather and plastic sandwich bags.

At some point, a person begins to feel less inspired and more tired.

That is not because people do not care. It is because being threatened with the end of days all the time is exhausting. A green sermon can wear out its welcome. A threat repeated too often begins to sound like the boy who cried wolf, except now the wolf has a government grant.

The funny thing is, some of the best messages were the simplest. In the 1970s, the crying Indian ad did not need scare tactics. It just showed a man looking heartbroken because people had made a mess of a beautiful land. Then it asked something very reasonable: stop doing that.

That was a message a person could actually do something about.



Good manners work outdoors too. Pick up the trash.

Don't litter. Care for the land. If God made it, maybe don't stomp all over it.

There is something good and honest in that. It simply asks for responsibility.

To be fair, the movement did some real good too, besides scaring the hell out of people. It helped clean up air and water, pushed litter and pollution into the public conscience, and reminded people that the land is not just scenery. It is something we are meant to care for. That part mattered then, and it still matters now.

Earth Day is a gentle reminder that the land, the water, and the trees all matter. Your town matters too. And no, you do not have the impossible task of saving the whole planet. But you can do a few decent things today.

You can pick up some litter. You can leave a place cleaner than you found it. You can

teach your kids to love the outdoors without filling their heads with dread. More than that, you can teach your kids not to litter and even, dare I say it, pick up litter left behind from others.

Earth Day ought to be less about fear and more about manners. Good old-fashioned manners, only outdoors. Leave things better than you found them.

So simple. Have a beautiful Earth Day, every day!

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WORD SEARCH

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| Bbq | Eggs | June | Rainbow |
| Birds | Fawn | Kite | Sap |
| Breeze | Field | Lamb | Seed |
| Buds | Foal | Life | Soil |
| Bulb | Frog | Light | Sprout |
| Calf | Fun | Loam | Sun |
| Cheer | Glade | March | Tree |
| Cloudless Skies | Heat | May | Vale |
| Dale | Hoe | Mud | Worm |
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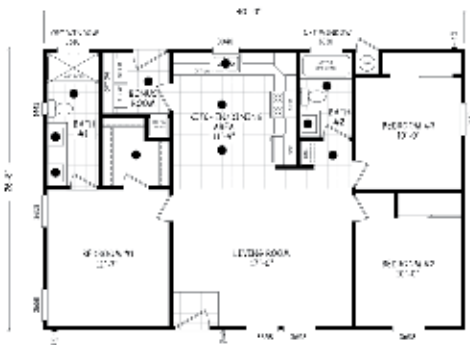


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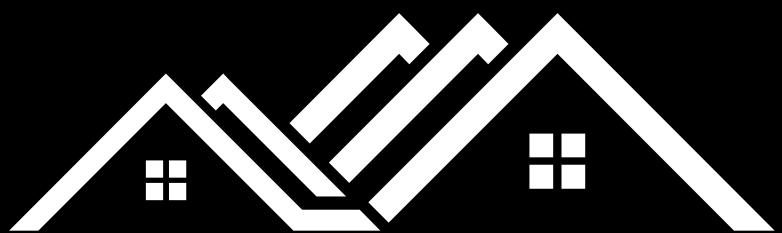
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8 SMART APPS FOR FIRE SEASON & FOREST TRAVEL

In Munds Park, the best apps on your phone are the ones that help you stay aware, find the right trail for the day, and enjoy the forest with a little more confidence.

With fire danger, changing conditions, and patchy cell service, a few good apps can go a long way. Here are the ones most worth having, in order of priority.

1. Coconino County Emergency Notifications

This comes first for a reason. If there is an evacuation, emergency alert, or urgent public safety message, this is one of the most important systems to be signed up for.

Coconino County uses the Smart911 for official emergency notifications. It is free, and it is for residents and visitors alike.

2. Watch Duty

For wildfire awareness, this is one of the strongest tools available. Watch Duty provides real-time wildfire alerts, maps, and updates pulled from public sources. When smoke appears and everyone starts asking the same question, this app can help answer it quickly.

3. Arizona DFFM App

The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management app is worth having because it comes straight from the agency. It includes fire information, restrictions, prevention resources, and reporting tools. For Arizona residents, that makes it especially useful during fire season.

4. AZ511

If you travel to or from Munds Park often, this one belongs on your phone. AZ511 is ADOT's official road app and shows highway conditions, traffic cameras, closures, incidents, and construction. When I-17 goes sideways, and it does, this app can save you time and frustration.

5. Avenza Maps

For trails and forest roads, this may be the most practical app of the bunch. Avenza lets users download official maps, including Coconino National Forest motor vehicle use maps, and use them offline with GPS. That matters when cell service drops and the forest starts looking a little too confident in its ability to confuse you.

6. Frontline Wildfire

This app is especially appealing for homeowners because it offers location-based alerts tied to your address. It can send notices about nearby fires, red flag warnings, lightning, and evacuation activity. Think of it as extra peace of mind for those living in a fire-prone area.

7. onX Offroad

For ATV and OHV users, onX Offroad is a strong pick. It offers trail maps, route details, land ownership information, and offline use. It is not the official government map, but it is a handy tool for people exploring the area by side-by-side or ATV.

8. AllTrails

For hikers and casual explorers, AllTrails is still a good one to have. It includes trail maps, reviews, photos, and route details for the Munds Park area. It is especially helpful for finding new walks or checking what others have said before heading out.

One last note. If you want National Weather Service forecasts, use weather.gov on your phone. The National Weather Service does not have its own official app.

The best setup is simple: official alerts first, then wildfire awareness, then road and trail tools. Download maps before you leave home, turn on notifications.

Be safe and have fun!



In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks.

— John Muir



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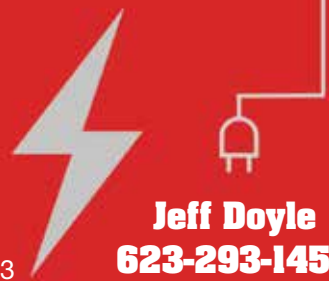
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EVERYDAY LIFE DESERVES BEAUTY

BY SUENET



And part of making it is learning to be present enough to receive it. That may be the hardest thing now, because the world has grown so skilled at scattering our attention. A person can pour a good cup of coffee and never taste it, can step into a freshly cleaned room and hardly notice it, can listen to a favorite song while thinking of three other things. The hours fill quickly, and if we are not careful, they pass without ever quite touching us.

Simple pleasures ask something gentle of us. They ask us to relax and stay awhile.

Beauty is generous that way. It offers itself freely, but it cannot do much for us if we never stop long enough to notice it.

Perhaps that is why these small acts matter so much. They return us to our own lives. They remind us that this day, this room, this meal, this season is not just the backdrop to life. It is life, and we are blessed.

There is also a kindness in it, and not only toward ourselves. A home that has been gently tended offers something to everyone who enters. It says, rest here. Eat here. Be at ease here. It tells a child that home is a place of warmth. It tells a weary spouse that someone thought ahead for comfort. It tells a friend dropping by that we welcome you here. None of that requires extravagance. It requires attention, and attention is one of the purest forms of care.

So much of what makes life feel rich cannot be bought at all. It is the scent of fresh air moving through the house after a good cleaning. It is dinner with music playing softly and a room rearranged just enough to feel new again. It is taking the good dish down from the shelf on a plain Tuesday and using it because Tuesday, too, is part of a life well lived.

That may be the loveliest truth of all. Beauty need not wait. It does not have to stand in line behind work, worry, or some imagined future when everything is finally finished. The day in front of us is worthy now. The home in its present form is worthy now. The people gathered around the table, or the person standing alone, are worthy now.

Some of the sweetest parts of life are wonderfully ordinary. A breezy window stirring the curtains, a table set with care, clean sheets turned down at the end of the day, music playing, wildflowers gathered and placed in a jar for the pleasure of seeing them there. These things are simple, but they are not small. They have a way of making a home feel comfortable and new again.

We are often encouraged to save beauty for later, for company, for holidays, for the days that seem important enough to deserve the extra effort. But daily life is where our living is done. It is where we wake, eat, rest, gather, and begin again. Why should it not be graced by a little loveliness? Why should our ordinary days not be met with the same tenderness we reserve for special occasions?

A home does not need new things to feel renewed. To the contrary, few pleasures are as satisfying as seeing a treasured keepsake or a piece of furniture passed down through the family come alive with a little polish. Open the windows and let the fresh air move through. Put clean sheets on the bed. If you want to make bedtime feel downright luxurious, sun-dry your sheets. That is almost pure heaven. Deep clean the kitchen until it sparkles in the afternoon sun. Rearrange the furniture for spring and let the room surprise you. Pick a few wildflowers. Put on music. Let the day feel touched by love instead of merely passed through.

There is a quiet happiness that settles into a room that has been cared for and asks you to stay awhile. A chair pulled toward the light, with good books stacked neatly nearby, can change the whole temper of the room. A meal served on real plates can turn a routine dinner into an enjoyable pause. A porch swept and made ready for the evening, your best cocktail glasses sparkeling in the light, can draw a person outside with joy. And in such simple ways, a home begins to offer comfort back to the people who live there.

WORD OF THE DY

- Rizz — B
- Slay — H
- Bet — A
- No Cap — G
- Glow Up — F
- Lowkey — M
- Locked In — E
- It's Giving — J
- Ate — L
- Delulu — C
- Dig — K
- Square — I
- Cat — D
- Bread — O
- Daddy-o — N

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

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WORD SEARCH

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L	O	N	H	L	P	I	C	N	I	C	U	F	H	J
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BECAUSE GOOGLE DOESN'T ALWAYS KNOW THE MOUNTAIN WAY.

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

Dark Sky Compliance

Coconino County offers Support for Keeping Our Sky's Dark

Lighting Inspection

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

Code Violation Report

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

Fixture Review

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

Still Have Questions?

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

Domestic Animal & Wildlife Services

Loose Dogs, Nuisance Complaints, or Dog Bites

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-8756
For serious attacks or issues, call the Sheriff's Office (928) 774-4523

Rabies Concerns (Pets or Wildlife)

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

Coconino County Animal Management (928) 679-8756

Found a Stray?

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

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

High Country Humane (928) 526-0742

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

Injured or Dangerous Wildlife

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

Weekends & after hours call 911

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

Loose Livestock

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

Environmental & Emergency Services

Illegal Dumping in Forests or Waterways

Environmental Quality Reporting Line (928) 679-8886
(press 1 to leave a message) Reports can be made anonymously.

Flooding Concerns

Coconino County Call Center: (928) 679-8525

Emergency Planning and Real-Time Updates

Coconino County Emergency Management (928) 679-8311

Email: emergencymanagement@coconino.az.gov

Fire-Related Concerns

Illegal Campfires on National Forest Land

Coconino National Forest Dispatch Center (928) 527-3552

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

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

Illegal Campfires (private property) during Fire Restrictions

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

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

Fire Restrictions Information

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

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

Reckless Driving, Trespassing, or Noise Complaints

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

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

Short-Term Rental Questions & Complaints

Loud Parties, Parking Issues, Trash or Other Nuisances

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

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

Ongoing STR Violations or Registration Questions

Coconino County Short-Term Rentals Compliance Officer,

Tristan Dowse (928) 853-5340

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

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