

PINEWOOD NEWS

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & MOUNTAIN LIVING SINCE '93

VOL. 31 NO. 17 NOVEMBER 8, 2024

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A SEASON OF GRATITUDE



 **PINEWOOD
NEWS
KIDS!**

PAGE 23

COVER by Sandra Cavness & Sid Journey

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PINEWOOD NEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & STORY TIPS!

The Pinewood News is always interested in feedback and/or story tips from our readers and welcome comments on any subject or article published.

The Pinewood News will attempt to publish letters received, except for those that are an invasion of privacy or libelous. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Letters: PO Box 18977, Munds Park, AZ 86017
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Genna & Sandee Caviness, Editors & Publishers
928.286.9827 • Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com
OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 4 pm
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COLDWELL BANKER NORTHLAND



\$1,495,000 • 17612 E FAIRWAY DR

Closed Restaurant with HUGE potential. Was an Italian restaurant opened during COVID and closed 11/9/2021. Sale price includes the land, building, all contents. The community really wants a good restaurant and this could be the one! Owner is a licensed real estate broker in the state of Arizona. Call Bill Spain, owner, 602-622-1196 for details. Owner may carry with a significant down-payment/scenario.



SOLD

**\$400,000
95 E FOXBORO ROAD, 11**

In serene Coconino National Forest, this 1.73-acre lot in Foxboro Ranch Estates offers a blend of tranquility and luxury with exclusive clubhouse access and all utilities ready.



SOLD

**\$350,000
259 E FOXBORO ROAD, 7**

Nestled in Coconino National Forest, this 2.24-acre lot in Foxboro Ranch Estates offers luxury with no build time, exclusive clubhouse access, and proximity to Sedona.



**\$445,500
17305 BIG SKY DR**

Turn-key 3-bed, 2-bath manufactured home in Munds Park. Fenced yard, carport, pellet stove, A/C, shed, apple trees, perennial flowers, and flagstone patio. All appliances included.



SALE PENDING

**\$299,500
125 E OAK DR**

Updated home with new flooring, granite countertops, wood-burning stove, vaulted ceiling, split bedrooms, covered deck, storage shed, carport, and more..



SALE PENDING

**\$391,900
17220 MESCALERO DR**

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REDUCED!

**\$549,000
260 SANDIA CIR**

Enchanting cabin nestled among pines, fully furnished with new TV, light fixtures, Trex deck, Ring cameras, and WiFi locks. Enjoy al fresco dining under the stars. A cozy, modern retreat.



REDUCED!

**\$649,000
635 E OAK DR**

2017 Cavco home with 2,234 sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 4-car garage. Situated on 2 lots, a redwood deck, and a natural stream, this move-in ready home offers privacy and outdoor space.



SOLD

**\$350,000
307 E Foxboro Road, 4**

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Regina Bailey
Associate Broker
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Sonia Draper
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928.699.8621

Sonia@Draper-Realtor.com



Deavin Sedillo
REALTOR®

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To our incredible readers,

Thanksgiving isn't just a day on the calendar—it's a moment to stop, breathe, and recognize the things that make life meaningful. It's about sitting around a table, sharing a laugh, making memories, and finding the extraordinary in the everyday.

This Thanksgiving, we're grateful for you. For your trust, your loyalty, and the shared moments that make what we do worthwhile. You're more than readers; you're part of our story.

So here's to the simple moments that fill our hearts and the people who remind us why we're here. May your day be filled with joy, warmth, and the company of those who matter most.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Sandee & Genna

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



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
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Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!
Tuesday, November 12
6:30 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Tuesday, November 19
3 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Thursday, December 12
3 pm • 18075 Fairway Dr

Munds Park Town Hall

All residents are encouraged to attend. Stay informed about what's happening in our community—your presence and participation are essential!

Next Meeting May 15, 2025
Pinewood Country Club

CORRECTION: MUNDS PARK EV CHARGING STATIONS NOT YET FINALIZED

In a previous article published September 20, 2024, about the installation of new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in Munds Park, we reported that the project was approved for construction. However, we need to clarify that while the EV stations are under consideration, the project has not yet gone through the necessary permitting or zoning approval processes through Coconino County.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has announced plans to expand EV infrastructure across the state, including a potential location in Munds Park. This project, supported by the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program (NEVI), aims to place charging stations at strategic intervals along major interstate routes. However, while Munds Park has been mentioned as a possible site for future development, the project is still in the preliminary stages.

The Shuster family, known for their commercial holdings in the area, including Kota's Coffee and Chevron, is involved in discussions. Red E Charge remains the prospective developer for these stations, but formal approvals are required before the project can proceed.

We regret any confusion caused by our earlier report and will continue to provide updates as the project moves through the appropriate channels.



PINEWOOD SANITARY UPDATE

The Pinewood Sanitary District (PSD) has been hard at work this year, ensuring our community stays in compliance with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) standards. The team has tackled 21 issues so far, addressing key violations and preventing new ones from arising.

To maintain compliance, PSD has invested \$55,000 in essential chemicals for sewage treatment. Additionally, we're collaborating closely with our engineering firm to resolve concerns with aging infrastructure and are committed to keeping the system running smoothly.

PSD field staff have inspected an impressive 94,042 feet of main lines across Munds Park and are actively assessing easements throughout the area. We'd like to thank our PSD customers for their cooperation and for providing property access when needed.



NEW WIND FARM APPROVED NORTH OF FLAGSTAFF

Coconino County's planning commission has given the green light for a new wind farm to be built 25 miles north of Flagstaff, marking a step forward in renewable energy development for the region. The commission voted 4-2 in favor of the project, which will see up to 100 turbines reaching 640 feet into the air. Managed by RWE, a Texas-based independent power producer, the project aims to address growing energy demands in Arizona, especially as traditional power stations continue to close. The wind farm is expected to complement solar energy by generating power in the evenings and nights, times when solar energy is unavailable. Construction could begin as early as next year.

This information was originally reported by KJZZ.

Continued on page 8



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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

MUNDS PARK SEES SPIKE IN 911 CALLS

During September's Munds Park Town Hall meeting, the Coconino County Sheriff's Office shared the latest crime statistics for Munds Park, spanning June 16 to September 16, which was reported in our October issue. The numbers pointed to an uptick in reported incidents, prompting the Pinewood News to follow up on the data. Chief Deputy Bret Axlund offered insights into the underlying factors contributing to the apparent surge in emergency calls.

Several factors were identified as driving the increase in 911 calls. Firstly, the report covered a broader area, extending beyond Munds Park to surrounding neighborhoods, which inflated the numbers. The Sheriff's Office also supported other agencies, such as the Department of Public Safety and the Forest Service, adding to the count.

Recreational activities, which surged during the pandemic, continue to draw crowds, leading to a higher incidence of disturbances and injuries related to Off-Highway Vehicles. Additionally, the community has seen a rise in mental health-related calls, aggravated assault, and domestic violence incidents.

Munds Park's growth, with more rental and vacation properties, is another factor contributing to the elevated numbers. This combination of factors underscores the need for continued public safety efforts as the area continues to develop.

SEDONA SETS ARIZONA'S FIRST OHV SPEED LIMIT

In a groundbreaking decision, the Sedona City Council unanimously approved Arizona's first ordinance to set speed limits specifically for off-highway vehicles (OHVs) within city limits. This ordinance, designed to address noise concerns, was adopted following a request from Sedona residents, who petitioned the council with a plea to reduce OHV traffic speed along Morgan Road. Spearheaded by local resident Carl Jackson, the petition gathered 43 signatures in support of the initiative.

The ordinance, which was initially discussed on September 10 and finalized on October 8, will take effect in November. Under the new rule, OHVs will face a reduced speed limit of 15 mph on Morgan Road, a decrease from the standard 25 mph for all other vehicles. The ordinance reflects council's response to residents' calls for quieter streets, focusing first on Morgan Road and potentially expanding later if the measure proves effective.

To prepare for enforcement, the Sedona Police Department plans to boost patrols along Morgan Road, while the public works team will install signs prohibiting loud music from OHVs, further supporting the noise reduction goal. Council has agreed to monitor the impact of these changes through spring break next year before considering any expansions, such as extending the speed limit to Dry Creek Road, another area under discussion for OHV restrictions.

While some council members expressed differing views on the ordinance's procedural approach, all were aligned on the need to address noise complaints from residents. In a swift nine-minute session, the council voted unanimously, with no public opposition voiced. The first test of this new speed limit begins in November, with a potential council review slated for April.

Original reporting by Tim Perry, Sedona Red Rock News

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

WILLARD SPRINGS CLOSED FOR WINTER

Willard Springs will be closed during the upcoming winter season, which runs from November 1 through March 31. Coconino County will reopen the site on Friday, April 4, for the 2025 summer season. Willard Springs will then be open for green waste-only disposal on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. until Friday, October 31, 2025.

Willard Springs, which does not accept bulk or household waste, is located approximately 15 miles south of Flagstaff and just west of Interstate 17 at the Willard Springs Road exit (Exit 326). The last load of green waste is accepted through the gate at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.coconino.az.gov/WillardSprings.



MUTS WRAP UP 2024 SEASON

During the October 12th Munds Park Trail Stewards (MUTS) Volunteer Event, the trail crew exchanged their picks and shovels for garbage bags and trash grabbers. The Coconino National Forest Service personnel and MUTS volunteers removed trash along Forest Roads 240 and 700. After gathering the trash and discarded “treasures,” the crew celebrated the final MUTS event of 2024 with a delicious lunch served by the MUTS volunteer lunch team.

For those of you who use the trails north of Munds Park, you may have noticed some changes since last year. The Coconino National Forest Service has started their timber thinning projects. Unfortunately, the loggers have unintentionally damaged some trails. The MUTS volunteers and the Coconino National Forest trail crews have already reestablished certain sections of the damaged trails. The MUTS and C.N.F.S. will continue to monitor and restore the remaining sections once the thinning process is completed.

I would like to thank everyone who supported MUTS this year. Our supporters include, but are not limited to, those who made financial donations, the lunch team, the marquee caretakers, the Pinewood News staff, Cyndi Striegler (MUTS webmaster), the trail crew volunteers, the MUTS officers, the MUTS board of directors, and the Coconino National Forest Service trail crew. To all the MUTS supporters and volunteers, thank you for your hard work and dedication!

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS BEGIN NOV 1

Starting November 1, Coconino County will enforce its Winter Parking Ordinance through April 1, 2025, prohibiting parking of vehicles, trailers, and storage containers on County-maintained roads during the snow season. This ordinance supports effective snow removal and ensures road safety by minimizing congestion from winter recreation activities. Violators risk fines starting at \$200 and potential towing at their expense. For more details, visit the County’s official website.

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SALE PENDING

\$409,000

265 E FAIRLANE ROAD

Charming 3-bed, 2-bath 1991 Cavco home on two lots. Upgrades include a renovated kitchen with new cabinets, countertops, and appliances, along with upgraded baths, new windows, and fresh paint. Exterior features a pergola, fenced yard, sheds, and covered porches on both sides. The yard is beautifully landscaped with artificial grass, trees, and pavers. Additional improvements include a new hot water heater, updated plumbing, and an A/C unit in one shed. Ready to move in!

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



SALE PENDING

\$229,000

405 E OAK DRIVE

This is a two bedroom, 1.5 bath with brand new carpet, newer dishwasher and garbage disposal. Also a newer roof. All electric split floor plan, open kitchen. Property is ready for your occupancy. Covered and exposed front deck for those cool summer days. Carport with an entrance right into the utility room. A couple of sheds off the backside..

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



SALE PENDING

\$419,000

17060 S PENGUIN

Meticulously cared for 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with a large front porch, extended by 3 feet, and a walkway porch leading to a covered back porch. Features include a large shed, fenced backyard, new flooring in the kitchen, hall, dining, and living rooms, and an extra-large lot. The airy primary bedroom has two closets, and the spacious bath offers dual sinks, a soaking tub, and a separate shower. Plenty of space for additional sheds or a garage.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$615,000

475 E HILLSIDE DRIVE

Beautiful flat corner lot over 10,000 sq. ft. with a gazebo and concrete circular driveway. This cozy cottage-style cabin features a white tongue and groove ceiling and a large covered front porch. The main floor includes a welcoming living room with a fireplace, dining area, open kitchen, bath with new shower, and a primary bedroom. A large utility room leads to a 2-car garage. Upstairs, two spacious bedrooms. Central propane heat and portable A/C complete the home.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$224,500

17375 CRYSTAL BROOK PL

This lot is a hidden gem secluded from the road. A long driveway that opens to an extra large lot with beautiful oak trees surrounding the perimeter. Lot is fairly flat.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$699,900

1385 BIG BEAR TRAIL

Fully furnished and tastefully decorated, this turn-key chalet in the desirable "Animal Hill" area offers 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a large bonus room. The cozy living space features a stone fireplace, rustic wood banisters, and knotty pine doors, adding mountain charm. The kitchen boasts wood cabinets, stainless appliances, and ample space for cooking. The large upstairs bonus room is perfect for a bunk room, office, or game room. Just bring your essentials and enjoy your mountain retreat!

CALL ELIZABETH HAUSMAN



\$525,000

660 TROUT CREEK RD

Escape to this cozy two-bedroom, two-bathroom cabin in Munds Park. With a rustic brick fireplace in the open living area, it's perfect for relaxing nights in. Outside, a spacious deck surrounded by pine trees offers a peaceful retreat. A large shed provides storage, and the lot has room to add a garage. Recent upgrades include a new roof and updated windows, ensuring durability and energy efficiency. Fully furnished and move-in ready, it's an ideal retreat.

CALL ELIZABETH HAUSMAN



\$769,000

1325 E JAGUAR LANE

Large concrete drive leads to an oversized single-car garage. Sit on the covered deck and enjoy the grass. Open the front door to a huge living room, dining room, and kitchen. Woodburning stove. Kitchen is all electric with an extra-large island. Back door leads to the shed. Down the hall to the primary bedroom with its own bath. Another primary bedroom with its own bath and a bedroom with walk-in closet. Upstairs addition with its own balcony. Family room is large enough for a pool table and seating. Up two steps to the sleeping area and a half bath. Plenty of parking. Oversized lot with trees.

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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

SWEETS & HANDWRITTEN HEIRLOOMS

By Sandee Caviness

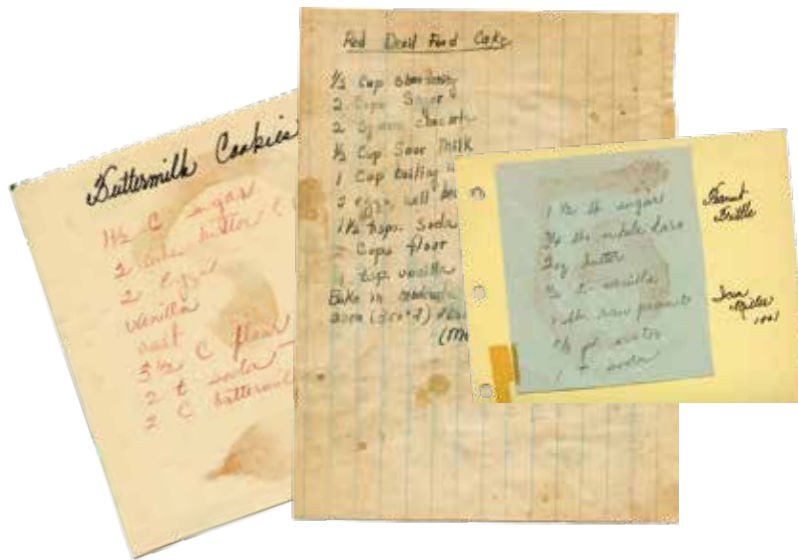
In the spirit of our article in this issue, *The Touch of the Hand: The Timeless Legacy of Handwritten Letters* (page 29), I want to highlight how handwritten recipes also carry a deep sense of nostalgia, much like letters.

There is something uniquely special about recipes passed down from our mothers and relatives. As I stand in my kitchen, reading the worn scrap of paper that once belonged to my mother, I'm filled with gratitude. Each recipe she penned serves as a tangible connection to her and the delicious meals she lovingly prepared.

I treasure handwritten recipes not only from my mother but also from my grandmother and Aunt Elenor—all remarkable cooks. Like the strong, nurturing women of their era, they prepared meals from scratch, weaving care and love into each dish and bringing family and friends together around the table. My mother often told me that her home-cooked meals and desserts were acts of love for her family, and she took great pride in every meal she prepared.

Because of the nostalgia and profound connection these torn and stained handwritten recipes give me, I make it a point to handwrite my own, leaving similar treasures for my children. I hope they, too, will find their way back home when they read my notes.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, I thought it would be fun to share some simple, made-from-scratch baked goods from my mother's collection. These recipes do more than satisfy a sweet tooth—they enrich our holiday with flavors steeped in tradition.



BUTTERMILK COOKIES

by Sue Caviness, 1965

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 sticks butter (1 cup)
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- A pinch of salt
- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 cups buttermilk

Directions:

1. Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl.
2. Add the eggs and vanilla and mix well.
3. Add 2 cups of the flour, the baking soda, and salt; mix until just combined.
4. Add about half of the buttermilk and stir.
5. Add the remaining flour; mix, then scrape down the sides of the bowl.
6. Stir in the remaining buttermilk.
7. Cover the dough with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour and up to 24 hours. Do not skip the chill time!
8. Preheat oven to 350°F and line baking sheets with parchment paper.
9. Scoop dough onto cookie sheets in tablespoon-sized balls. Generously sprinkle the tops with cinnamon sugar. The cookies will spread, so don't make them larger.



Continued on page 12

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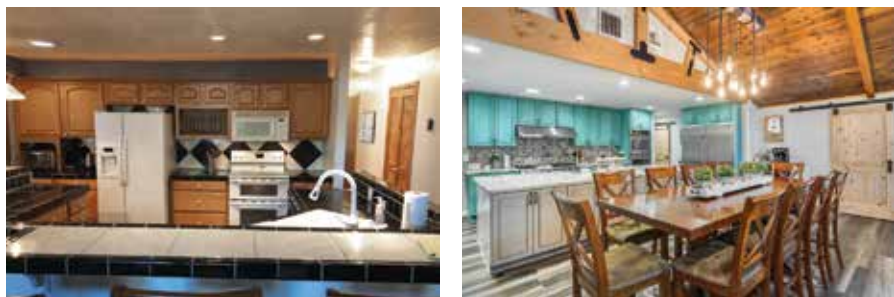
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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL

Continued from page 11

10. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until the edges are very lightly golden.
11. Let the cookies sit for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire cooling rack.

PEANUT BRITTLE

by Icia Miller, 1961

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb. sugar
- 3/4 lb. White Karo Syrup (1.5 cups)
- 2 oz butter (1/4 cup or half a stick)
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 1 lb. raw peanuts
- 2/3 pt. water
- 1 tsp baking soda



Directions

1. Combine sugar, corn syrup, and water, bringing them to a boil.
2. Add raw peanuts and cook until the mixture reaches around 300°F (hard-crack stage).
3. Stir in butter and vanilla, then quickly add baking soda, which will make the mixture foam.
4. Pour onto a greased baking sheet to cool before breaking into pieces.

RED DEVIL FOOD CAKE

by Grandma Ivey, 1950s

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 squares chocolate
- 1/2 cup sour milk (buttermilk)
- 1 cup boiling water (or hot strong coffee)
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp vanilla



Directions

1. Cream the shortening and sugar: Mix until smooth.
2. Add the chocolate and milk: Melt the chocolate squares and blend into the creamed mixture along with the sour milk.
3. Combine the dry ingredients: Sift together the flour and baking soda, then add to the wet mixture.
4. Mix in the eggs, water, and vanilla: Add the eggs (well beaten), followed by the boiling water and vanilla, stirring just until incorporated.
5. Bake: Pour the batter into a greased baking pan and bake at 350°F until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, usually around 20-35 minutes, depending on the pan size.
6. Top with powdered sugar and raspberries if you are feeling fancy.

5

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THE GOVERNMENT WON'T ALWAYS BE THERE— DON'T LET THAT SURPRISE YOU

By Sandee Caviness

Look, I get it—the government plays a crucial role during disasters. But if you're counting on them to rescue you when things spiral out of control, you're setting yourself up for disappointment. We've seen it before—during Hurricane Katrina, when thousands were stranded in New Orleans, and more recently, when flash floods overwhelmed Vermont. The truth is, the government can't be everywhere all the time, especially in the thick of a crisis. It's a reality check that hits even harder for those of us in rural areas. I know, because even after years in Munds Park and now the high desert, I can slip into complacency. But one person who keeps me grounded is Lucinda Andreani, Coconino County's Deputy County Manager & Flood Control Administrator. Her frank approach is a reminder that we simply can't afford to depend solely on government resources. When I've asked about floodplain maps or emergency exits in Munds Park, she tells it like it is—no sugarcoating.

When the new floodplain maps came out, many in our community were worried. We didn't like that Coconino County had designated more areas as flood-prone without a clear plan. Lucinda didn't dance around it. She said, "We must identify the problem before developing a solution." When I asked about the timeline for mitigation plans to be released and acted on for Munds Park, her honest response was, "Munds Park is far down the list of priorities." There are areas in Northern Arizona with more pressing needs, and there just isn't enough manpower or funding to cover every issue as quickly as we'd like. We have to work with what we've got, we need to prioritize, and the community needs to be responsible and prepare for floods or other natural disasters on a personal level.

The Price of Complacency Could Be Your Life

At a recent town hall, I raised the issue of essentially only having one exit out of Munds Park, especially with RVs clogging up the route during tourist season. Lucinda's response? "These areas were developed before we knew better, and now we're left to work with the limitations. It's not ideal, but that's the reality." And in that reality, the most crucial thing you can do is be prepared. Sign up for emergency alerts. Check your Go Bag every season. Fire season needs one set of supplies, snow season another.

Being a "prepper" is something our ancestors did naturally. COVID should've taught us all the importance of having essentials on hand. Are you ready to sustain yourself for at least three weeks? Personally, I aim for three months.

It's Not Just Natural Disasters— Our World Is More Dangerous Than Ever

Our country is teetering on the brink. The threat of World War III isn't an exaggeration. National security threats are real, and you should be prepared for that, too. This isn't about politics; it's about reality. So, ask yourself: are you ready to rely on yourself in a world where convenience has dulled our survival instincts?

Bet on Yourself

Our government is far from perfect, and it won't always be there to save you. Preparedness isn't a choice; it's a necessity. Your safest bet is to be ready to help yourself, then help your neighbor. Because when disaster strikes, the person you can count on first and foremost is you.

A Few Tips on Preparedness

I used to publish lists of items needed for Go Bags or emergency kits for your home and vehicle. But now, there are so many online tools that you can simply search for a preparedness list and customize one to fit your

and your family's specific needs. However, there are a few essentials worth mentioning.

First, keep your gas tank full—don't let it fall below half. Not only is this good for your engine, but when crises hit and gas stations run dry, you won't be left stranded.

Medications are critical. For the first time in my life, I rely on daily medications to stay alive. COVID taught us that supply chains are fragile—many medications aren't made in the U.S., so a disruption could have serious consequences. Here's my suggestion: have your doctor write you a 90-day prescription, then consider privately paying for another 90-day supply. That way, you maintain a 180-day buffer. It's worth it for the peace of mind.

Also, set up a communication plan with your loved ones, and establish a designated meeting point if necessary.

Don't wait until stress levels are at their peak to scramble for supplies. Go online, research preparedness tips, and put a solid plan into action now.

Essential! Sign up for alerts with Ready-Set-Go at smart911.com and make sure you understand each stage. The Coconino County website offers plenty of information at coconino.az.gov/1908/Ready---Set---Go. Get familiar with it. Also, check your smart911.com account every six months to ensure your details are current.

Finally, my advice for surviving a wildfire in Munds Park: the moment you get an alert that says "Set," hit the road. With only one real exit, it's best to leave as soon as possible. And always, always, be on READY.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 38

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ACROSS

- 1. Leveling wedge
- 5. Thomas Jefferson, religiously
- 10. Arouse
- 14. Do, for example
- 15. To whom a Muslim prays
- 16. Dalai ____
- 17. ____ podrida
- 18. "This Old House" contractor Tom
- 19. Battery contents
- 20. Carefully selected, as in words
- 22. Sacred Hindu writings
- 23. Chart topper
- 24. BBQ annoyance
- 26. Hungarian's neighbor
- 30. "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner
- 31. Eightieth, ..., hundredth
- 35. "Yum!"
- 39. Baker's need
- 40. Siesta
- 42. Half of a Pacific island
- 43. Outdoes
- 45. It landed at Plymouth
- 47. Density symbol
- 49. Deserved
- 50. Hard to miss

54. Atlanta-based station

- 55. Ear-related
- 56. Pay for services
- 62. Autumn
- 63. Savory quality
- 64. Indian tourist site
- 65. Wheel connector
- 66. Bit of parsley
- 67. Approach
- 68. Cereal grasses
- 69. Grasps
- 70. Tranquil scene

DOWN

- 1. Falling flakes
- 2. Burrow
- 3. "____ be a cold day..."
- 4. Breakfast, lunch or dinner
- 5. Colorful shirts for men
- 6. Ness of "The Untouchables"
- 7. Misfortunes
- 8. Stat for a reliever
- 9. Word of gratitude
- 10. Chain gang chores, e.g.
- 11. Be silent, in music
- 12. Ammonia derivative
- 13. "M*A*S*H" role
- 21. ____ room
- 25. "Dig in!"

26. Nose-in-the-air type

- 27. In person
- 28. Change for a five
- 29. Heart chambers
- 32. "A Nightmare on ____ Street"
- 33. Oolong, for one
- 34. "Listen up!"
- 36. Scattered, as seeds
- 37. Arborist's concern
- 38. Measure of length
- 41. Divisions of a mark
- 44. "____ Loves You"
- 46. After curfew
- 48. Charge
- 50. To date
- 51. Lack of muscular coordination
- 52. Charles de Gaulle's birthplace
- 53. Pace
- 54. Swollen
- 57. Rich soil
- 58. Hindu princess
- 59. Elderly
- 60. Highchair feature
- 61. ____ of Sandwich

GARDENS IN THE PARK

GET YOUR SPRING GARDEN STARTED NOW

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As the days grow colder and frost begins to settle in, you might think your gardening tasks are done for the year. But fall is actually the ideal time to prepare for a vibrant garden next spring! Spending some time now on maintenance and planning will make things much easier when the gardening season returns.

Here's your end-of-year gardening checklist to give your garden a smooth

winter rest and set it up for success next spring.

Clean Up Your Yard

Early autumn is the time to clear out garden debris. This year especially, it's essential to rake and remove fallen leaves from around the base of plants, trees, and shrubs.

- Why? Heavy summer rains often lead to fungal growth and diseases that linger in fallen leaves.
- What to do? Skip using these leaves as mulch. Instead, opt for bark mulch to prevent spreading pests or plant diseases.

Feed with a Winter Fertilizer (Winterizer).

Plant roots continue growing until the ground is frozen solid. A winter fertilizer (aka winterizer) provides essential nutrients to trees, shrubs, perennials, and your lawn to give them a healthy start in spring.

Winterize Your Irrigation System.

If you have an irrigation system, arrange to have it winterized by a professional to avoid pipe damage. You can contact Warner's Landscape Company for this service at 928-774-5911.

Prepare Water Features & Ponds.

If you have water features—especially ponds with fish—there are a few things to take care of:

- Give fish vitamins to help them through winter hibernation.
- Remove pumps and filters, store them indoors, and drain the lines.
- Clean out debris from water features like birdbaths and fountains. If they are delicate, drain, clean, and store them safely for winter.

Protect Container Gardens.

For plants in containers, bring weather-sensitive pots inside. If pots will stay outdoors, insulate them to protect them from freezing temperatures. Be sure they remain accessible for watering—plants still need water during the winter, even though they grow more slowly.

Compost and Prep Vegetable Beds.

After harvesting the last of your cool-season veggies, clear out dead plants and roots. Apply a layer of compost over the soil to enrich it over winter, making spring planting easier.

Remove Spent Annuals and Maintain Flower Beds.

Pull out annual plants and any leftover debris from your flower beds. For perennials, leave seed heads and spent flowers intact—this provides

food for birds and allows the plant's roots to absorb more energy for next year's growth. However:

- Trim back plants prone to powdery mildew, fungal diseases, or pest eggs (like phlox, peonies, and hostas).
- Cut back infected plants immediately to prevent the spread of disease.

Mulch Around Trees, Shrubs, and Roses.

Spread 2 to 3 inches of mulch around trees, shrubs, and perennials, but leave space around tree trunks to prevent rot.

- For roses and sensitive shrubs, mulch up to the cane for extra winter protection.
- Continue to water your plants occasionally during winter to prevent root damage and splitting.

Clean and Store Your Tools.

Before winter sets in, clean and oil any metal and wooden tools to prevent rust and damage. Store them indoors to keep them in good condition for next season.

If you have questions about the best way to winterize your garden or need products like mulch or winterizer, visit us at Warner's Nursery. We're happy to assist with everything you need to make your garden thrive next year.

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The Cocktail Connoisseur's Corner

PECAN PIE MARTINI

The Perfect End to a Night of Thanksgiving

By Dick Trudeau

The end of Thanksgiving dinner is always a special time. The candles flicker lower, the plates are cleared, and the room is filled with the soft sounds of conversation and the comforting crackle of the fire. You glance around the room, taking in the sight of your guests, relaxed and content, and decide that now is the perfect moment to offer something a little unexpected—something to sip, something indulgent. For special times like these, we suggest serving Pecan Pie Martini—the perfect after-dinner cocktail. But before we get to that, let's indulge in a bit of history of the Martini itself.

Like many great things, the Martini has a story—or, rather, a few stories—about how it came to be. And like any story that passes through time, we have several versions to entertain.

One story begins in the unlikeliest of places—a small, dusty town in Martinez, California, during the height of the Gold Rush. The year was 1860, and gold miners filled the saloons, eager to toast their fortunes or drown their losses. One day, a miner who had just struck gold—quite literally—walked into a bar with a pocket full of dust and a head full of dreams. He ordered champagne, but the bartender, lacking anything so refined, made do with what he had. He grabbed a bottle of gin, added a splash of vermouth, a dash of bitters, and, for good measure, a hint of maraschino liqueur. The miner took a sip, raised his glass, and grinned. A toast was made, and the Martinez cocktail was born.

But it wasn't until the drink found its way east that it started to take on a bit more polish. Jerry Thomas the legendary bartender who could be called the godfather of American mixology, worked in San Francisco in the late 1800s. As the story goes, he was the first to write down the recipe for what he called the Martini. He combined gin, sweet vermouth, and a few dashes of bitters, shaking it over ice and straining it into a glass. His version, with just the right balance of gin's botanical sharpness and vermouth's smoothness, elevated the drink from a miner's rough celebration to something more sophisticated. In Jerry's hands, the Martini started to find its identity—still bold, still strong, but with a touch of refinement.

And then, there's the New York connection. By the early 20th century, the Martini had made its way to the upscale bars of the city, where it was polished into the classic we know today. One of the most famous versions of the story credits a bartender at the Knickerbocker Hotel, Martini di Arma di Taggia, with creating the modern Martini for none other than John D. Rockefeller. Gone was the maraschino, and the gin became dry, the vermouth lighter, the whole drink more streamlined. It was clean, elegant, and—importantly—sophisticated enough for New York's elite. The Martini, it seemed, had finally grown up.

The Martini may have started as a makeshift cocktail for a rough-and-tumble miner, but it evolved into something that could hold its own in



any room, whether a smoky San Francisco saloon or a New York cocktail lounge. And yet, no matter how it's been refined, it still carries with it the essence of tradition—adaptable, enduring, and always with a touch of class.

As you bring this time-honored cocktail into your home, it takes on a new role. No longer a relic of the past, it becomes part of your own celebration. After all, what better way to celebrate the season than with the Pecan Pie Martini? It is the perfect way to end the evening—sweet, comforting, and just a little indulgent. A toast to tradition, to the stories we share, and to the small moments that make this season so special.

Ingredients

- 1 ounce pecan flavored vodka
- 1 ounce Bailey's Irish Cream Liqueur
- ½ ounce vanilla flavored vodka
- 2 ounces heavy cream
- ¼ cup pecans
- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- Pure maple syrup

The Method

Prepare the Garnish

1. First, in a food chopper or food processor, combine the pecans and brown sugar. Pulse the ingredients and put them in a bowl.
2. Next, pour the maple on to a saucer and dip the top of the martini glass in the syrup.
3. Gently dip the top of the martini glass into the brown sugar mixture. Give it a small twist.

Pecan Pie Martini

1. Add a handful of ice to a shaker.
2. Measure out your ingredients and pour them into the shaker.
3. Then, gently shake and mix the drink.
4. Pour the pecan pie martini into a large martini glass and enjoy.

Recipe adapted from Beverly's Kitchen

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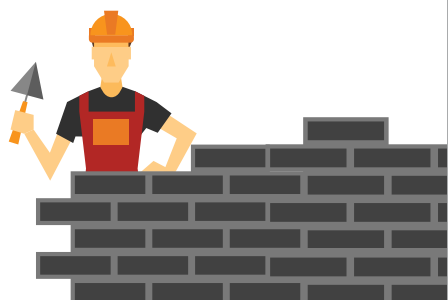
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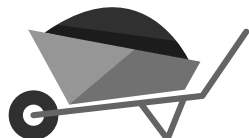
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WORD OF THE DAY

By Rocky Gallo

Have you ever walked outside, and before you've even had a chance to glance up at the clouds, you can tell just by the smell that it's going to rain? I have distinct memories of this smell as a little girl growing up in Yuma, AZ. I couldn't get enough of it—especially since it would only happen, on average, 15 times a year. I would walk outside and it would stop me in my tracks. I would breathe in through my nose as deeply as my little body would let me—ridiculously reminiscent of a cartoon character inhaling the aroma of a fresh made pie. I never wanted the smell to end. It was my “favorite smell in the whole wide world” and it still is to this day. If only it could be bottled up. Sigh.

It wasn't until I was much older that I discovered that this smell actually had a name. Some of you may know it, but for those of you that don't, that name is petrichor.

pet·ri·chor

noun

1. a pleasant smell that frequently accompanies the first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather.

Simply put, petrichor is the smell of rain. The word comes from the Greek words ‘petra’, meaning stone, and ‘ichor’, which in Greek mythology refers to the golden fluid that flows in the veins of the immortals.

I lived in Louisiana for 10 years throughout my 20's, where it rains more than it doesn't. And I can tell you from firsthand experience that if I was lucky enough to smell petrichor there, it was teasingly faint and didn't bother to linger long. That may seem subjective, but it just so happens to be objectively true. The reason: dirt! It boils down to the dirt — and we've got more than our fair share of it here.

The smell of petrichor is strongest after light to moderate rain falls on sandy or clay soils, especially after a dry period (which we also have a lot of!). It's a deep, earthy scent that's caused by the release of oils and other compounds into the air.

Petrichor is also less likely to be present if the rain is heavy or if it falls after another rainstorm. Heavy rain can wash away the compounds that create petrichor, while light drizzles and misty rains may not be enough to aerosolize them.

The enticing scent is caused by a combination of factors and a product of various organic compounds, including:

- Soil and rocks: When it's humid before rain, moisture gets trapped in the pores of soil and rocks, forcing oils to be released into the air.
- Plants: Rain can damage leaf hairs and break dry plant material, releasing chemicals that create petrichor.
- Volatile Plant Oils: Plants secrete oils during dry periods to prevent seed germination and root growth. These oils accumulate in the soil and rocks, and when it rains, the oils are released.
- Geosmin: A chemical compound produced by soil bacteria such as Streptomyces. When raindrops hit the ground, these bacteria become more active and release geosmin into the air, creating the characteristic scent we associate with fresh rain.

So the next time you're in the company of someone alluding to the pleasant smell of a desert rain storm, use it as an opportunity to pass along this oft-unknown and seldom used word of the day.



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FIRST THANKSGIVING IN ST AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, NOT PLYMOUTH? SERIOUSLY!

By “UNSTOPPABLE Stacey” Wittig

During my visit to St. Augustine, Florida, I was surprised to learn that America’s first Thanksgiving feast was not celebrated at Plymouth Rock, as we learned in grade school. In fact, Spanish colonists celebrated the first Thanksgiving in St. Augustine 55 years before the English pilgrims landed.

Sure, I’d researched before traveling to the beachy city rich with 16th-century Spanish history. I knew St. Augustine was the first successful European settlement in North America (established in 1565, even before the Plymouth or Jamestown colonies.) So, I was eager to explore its iconic stone fort at the water’s edge. But the “First Thanksgiving” thing caught me off-guard.

“Is that true?” questioned one of my travel companions, lifting an eyebrow. “Is this actually documented?” We were walking the lush grounds at Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park right in the city limits and on the Intracoastal Waterway. We’d just sipped the sacred water from Ponce de Leon’s fountain of youth. Ponce was the first European to come ashore onto North America in 1513—he thought he’d found an island, but it was a continent. The Fountain of Youth legend sprang up when Europeans, whose average height was then 5’5.75”, met the indigenous people of Florida. The Timucuan’s high-protein diets of local seafood and healthful plants were more likely the cause of their tall stature and long lives than spring waters. Nevertheless, I drank deeply from the fabled fountain.

Archeological records uncovered at the park show that people lived around this spring for thousands of years. We talked with a reenactor, a tall man from the Cheyenne tribe, who showed us how to throw an atlatl and spoke with us about the Timucuan people. “They probably weren’t seven feet tall, like some say, but they were taller than the Spanish,” he smiled.

Later, during our sunset sail, I hesitated to bring up the “true Thanksgiving” topic. So, instead, we sipped bubbly and feasted on Instagramable charcuterie boards prepared by St. Augustine Sailing for our customized experience. We also talked about the dolphins, osprey and the lighthouse we sailed by. With the salty wind in my hair, the last rays of the sun on my cheeks and local shrimp in my belly, I felt entirely pampered and content. I highly recommend the sailing splurge during your next visit to St. Augustine.

More Must-Dos in St. Augustine

Eat shrimp, and whatever fish is the catch of the day. St. Augustine’s official seafood is wild-caught shrimp. It was here that the US shrimp industry started. Troops stationed here in WWII were fed fried shrimp, and after the war, they brought home recipes for their new favorite dish. Soon, fried shrimp became an American classic.

Discover St. Augustine’s Colonial District with St. Augustine Experiences. We did the Perfect Pairing: St. Augustine’s Wine, Cocktail, and Food Experience, and we loved the walking tour so much that we want to return for the Ale Trail and chocolate tasting tours. Our licensed guide took us to the best places for local food pairings as we tasted and learned about the local food heritage.

Immerse yourself in America’s Gilded Age at the Lightner Museum. Imagine life in one of America’s first semi-tropical resort towns when you wander this fine and decorative art museum. The over-the-top



Alcazar Hotel, home of the Lightner Museum

museum is housed in the historic Alcazar Hotel, built in 1888 by railroad magnate Henry Flagler. Sit in the hotel’s spa rooms, overlook collections curated in the resort’s indoor pool area or wander the grounds: it’s all a feast for the eyes.

Explore the fortress at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. The Spanish built the oldest masonry fort in the US to defend the Atlantic trade route and Florida. Although COVID has suspended cannon and musket firing demonstrations, you can still explore the inner sanctums of this incredible structure. Climb stone stairs to overlook the river

Continued on page 22



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Rick Van Deurzen on the front lines in Vietnam



Mark Piasecki & Rick Van Deurzen

Photo by Barbara Sheramn



Representative Eli Crane, from Arizona's 2nd Congressional District, presented Rick with the the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" device.

Photo by Barbara Sheramn



Rick's family: from left to right, Rick and Gail Van Deurzen, Stacey Van Deurzen, Raya, Rochell VanDeurzen, Jordan DeBacco, Jesse Holzer and the little one, Raya.

Photo by Barbara Sheramn

By Sandee Caviness

Each November, the Pinewood News proudly dedicates its pages to honoring Munds Park veterans, paying tribute to those who have served with courage and commitment. This year, we're especially honored to feature Rick Van Deurzen, who recently received the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" device—an award bestowed for extraordinary valor in combat—right here in Munds Park. Representative Eli Crane, from Arizona's 2nd Congressional District, presented Rick with this prestigious medal, making the ceremony a memorable and heartfelt moment for our community. Before the event, I had the privilege of sitting down with Rick and his dog Alice, where he shared the story of his service and the courageous acts that led to this significant recognition.

Knowing Rick was a Vietnam veteran, I asked him whether he had been drafted or enlisted. "I had just turned 18," he replied. "I was getting into trouble, up to no good. It was either keep on that path or go into the Army to learn discipline and a skill. So, I enlisted."

Rick served as the squad leader for 1st Platoon, Company C, 8th Engineer Battalion. He trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he first learned the fundamentals of explosives. After completing Basic and Advanced Infantry training, he went straight to Vietnam as a combat engineer specializing in demolitions. "I got to blow things up," he said with a slight grin. "I disposed of traps and anything else they needed destroyed. If a plane went down or any strategic American equipment was at risk of capture, I'd demolish it to prevent the enemy from reverse-engineering it and learning our secrets. I'd even clear landing zones for helicopters to come in. Blowing things up was a great way to blow off steam—something I had plenty of as a young man."

As I began to interview Rick, my thoughts were shadowed by my own family's past. My brother was drafted into the Vietnam War, and even though I was young at the time, the war's mental toll on my brother was painfully evident and stays with me to this day. In desperation, he shot himself in the leg, hoping for a way out, but they simply patched him up and sent him back to the front lines. To cope, he turned to heroin and returned home with mental scars that never healed. With this personal history in mind and aware that Rick had mentally survived the war, I asked him how he managed to stay grounded and maintain hope throughout such a harrowing time.

Rick described the stark reality of their missions: staying focused was a matter of life and death—a relentless intensity that was difficult to sustain but essential to master. Back at base camp, the pressure eased. "We'd go straight to the bar," he recounted. "We'd down a few beers and smoke some doobies—that was our only way out." Others did more, but I refrained from the hard stuff.

"Nights were tough and hard to cope with," Rick remembers. "Our camp was right in the middle of a rubber tree plantation, and the Viet Cong frequently attacked from the cover of those trees. "When rockets or mortars hit, they'd explode above us, raining metal down all night. Whenever possible, I'd volunteer for night missions. It was safer out there, and I didn't have to deal with the brass. Oddly, I felt free and safe—it was another way of coping with the relentless reality of war.

Curious if he held onto any good memories from his time in Vietnam, I watched as his expression soften. "One Christmas, they brought in a jeep trailer packed with iced beer—the first time in a year we'd had anything cold. We all gathered around that trailer, the frost on the bottles reminding us of home. We downed those cold brews, laughing, swapping stories, just chewing the fat. For a little while, the war faded away. It was a good time."

When I asked how Vietnam had shaped his life, he reflected. "It was when I grew up," he said. "You're fighting to stay alive, and none of us thought we'd make it out of there. I was wild before I joined—one of eight kids, a latchkey kid. We beat each other up all the time. I did what I wanted, when I wanted. In the service, I learned to listen, to be part of a team, to have my brothers' backs, not just my own. When I finally put the bottle down and built my life with Gail, I was able to put those skills to work."

Rick served for three years, but when he came home, he faced a new battle. "We were hated. Called baby killers. Some soldiers were even spit on. The moment we stepped off the plane in California, protesters were there, waiting to tear us down, to make us feel even smaller than we already did. When I flew home to Wisconsin, they told us to hide our uniforms to avoid the backlash and the scorn."

After all he'd been through, I asked him how it felt to come home to that kind of reception. His answer was another heartbreak. "When I got to my hometown, I sat at the airport for three hours, waiting for

someone to come get me. I have eight brothers and sisters, but none of my family came," he said softly. "Finally, my sister showed up. No welcome home. Nothing."

He went on to tell me about how his own family treated him. Each story revealed a new layer of hurt, the kind that stays with you, heavy and raw. I asked him how he managed to get through that kind of rejection, carrying everything he endured alone.

"I drank," he said. "I drank to get drunk, to fight. That went on for over ten years, drinking and tearing things up until I moved to Arizona and met the love of my life and turned things around."

I asked him how he met his wife, Gail. "I was living in Wisconsin, knowing I had to change or I'd die. So I moved to Arizona to be with my older brother, and we opened a small repair business. I went to drop off a bill at a realtor's office, our client, and that's when Gail saw me. She turned to her mother and said, "I'm going to marry that man! She had never met me, but she knew I belonged to her." Forty-two years later, we're still together.

When I asked if he'd ever considered putting his experiences on paper, he paused. "Sometimes I think about it," he admitted, "but I'm not sure anyone could handle reading it—not even me. Some things are better left where they are."

Yet, even after all he endured, he looked back with a surprising sense of gratitude. "Even with all that, it was the best thing that happened to me. It made me who I am. It was a long journey, but I'm happy with who I've become, my life with my wife, my kids. I'd do it all again."

At last, I asked what he'd want today's generation to understand about the Vietnam era. He didn't hesitate. "They need to know it was a war," he said, his voice unwavering. "Not a conflict. A war." He let that sink in, then continued, "Every young person should serve two years after high school. Go to boot camp, get trained. It would teach them discipline, honor, and what it truly means to be an American."

When I turned the conversation to the battle that earned him his medal, he shifted a bit, the humility in his eyes unmistakable. Soft-spoken and reserved, Rick seemed almost reluctant to take any credit for the heroic actions that had set him apart.

"Well, a Cobra Helicopter had gone down—a gunship. My job was to head out during the night, gather up all the ammunition and equipment, and blow it up so the enemy couldn't get anything useful," he began, his tone matter-of-fact but soft. After finishing the job, he returned to Bù Đốp Camp, about three miles from the Cambodian border. "I joined my buddies in trenches just down from the line of rubber trees," he said. "Those trees were owned by the French, so they were off-limits. If the Americans damaged the trees in battle, we'd have to pay the French. The Viet Cong knew it and used them for cover, shooting at us from the safety of that tree line."

Life in the trenches was intense. "Whenever anyone lifted their head, a sniper was waiting," he continued, his words plain but heavy with meaning. That morning, on September 10, 1969, the situation turned critical. Mortars, rockets, and gunfire came down from a much larger Viet Cong force. Rick paused, taking a moment before going on. A soldier further down the trench had raised his head, trying to spot movement. A mortar exploded just in front of him, hitting him with shrapnel. "I saw him go down," Rick said quietly. The soldier's screams cut through everything else. Without a second thought, Rick rushed over, grabbed him, and pulled him toward the medical bunker. Mortars kept pounding around them, bullets slicing through the air. He got his comrade to safety and returned to the front line to battle the enemy.

Through Rick's swift and selfless actions under fire, the wounded soldier received the critical medical attention he needed—saving his life. "I don't see that I did anything heroic," Rick said. "I just did what any brother would do. Out there, we had each other's backs."

Rick had assumed the soldier he saved hadn't survived. But about 20 years later, Mark Piasecki—the man Rick had saved—managed to find him. The unit distributed a newsletter to keep the troops in touch and announce upcoming reunions. Mark saw Rick's name in one issue and decided to give him a call. As fate would have it, Rick was in town, and they reconnected. The bond they forged on the battlefield turned into a lifelong friendship, proving that some ties, once made, are unbreakable.

Mark firmly believed Rick deserved recognition and wanted him to receive the Bronze Star. Rick had been in line for a Purple Heart, but

TRAVEL

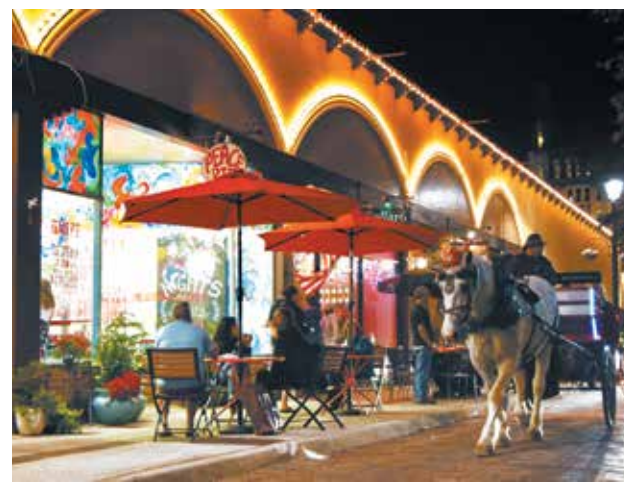
Continued from page 19



St. Augustine's iconic Castillo de San Marcos



Aviles Street in Historic-St-Augustine



Aviles Street
Photo by Floridashistoriccoast.com

and ocean. Check out the 16th-century cannons. Get a close-up look at coquina stone, made of thousands of small clamshells glued together by limestone deposits.

And what about that first Thanksgiving dinner? It's actually documented on the national monument's website: www.nps.gov/casa/learn/historyculture/the-first-thanksgiving.htm

Thanksgiving Timeline

September 8, 1565: Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and 800 Spanish settlers establish the city of St. Augustine. Once ashore, the landing party celebrates a Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by a feast of European food with indigenous people invited as guests.

December 18, 1620: Mayflower lands at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The pilgrims celebrate Thanksgiving sometime between late September and mid-November the following year in thanks for a successful harvest.

November 25, 2021: Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving with family gatherings, football and Black Friday shopping sprees.

"UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig, a travel writer based here in Munds Park, is currently preparing for a Princess Cruise to Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Follow her adventure to discover more food history at unstoppablestaceytravel.com.

This story originally ran in Pinewood News in the November 2021 edition.

WOODLAND RENOVATIONS

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PINEWOOD NEWS KIDS!



A LITTLE THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

Oh, let's give thanks for pumpkin pie,
And fluffy clouds up in the sky,
For cozy scarves and winter's chill,
And grandpa's laugh—oh, what a thrill!

For mashed potatoes piled so high,
And Auntie's jokes that make us cry,
For friendly hands and voices kind,
And all those tiny gifts we find.

Thanks for squishy socks and woolly hats,
For cozy fires and lazy cats,
For every hand that holds us tight,
And stories told by candlelight.

We're grateful for the little things—
Like silly songs that Grandma sings,
For freckles, hugs, and muddy shoes,
For all the colors, reds and blues.

So when we sit and pass the peas,
And laugh till we fall on our knees,
Remember it's not just the food—
It's love that feeds our thankful mood.

For each small joy, both bright and dear,
For family close and friends right here,
A heart full of thanks, a smile, no doubt—
That's what Thanksgiving's all about!

— George Dee

Sponsor Of The Pinewood Kids News

Steve D. Valentine

Real Estate Strategist Serving From Phoenix to Flagstaff

Steve@valentingroupaz.com

(602) 854-8475 text/call

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Real Estate, Wealth, Life & Legacy



SCAN ME!





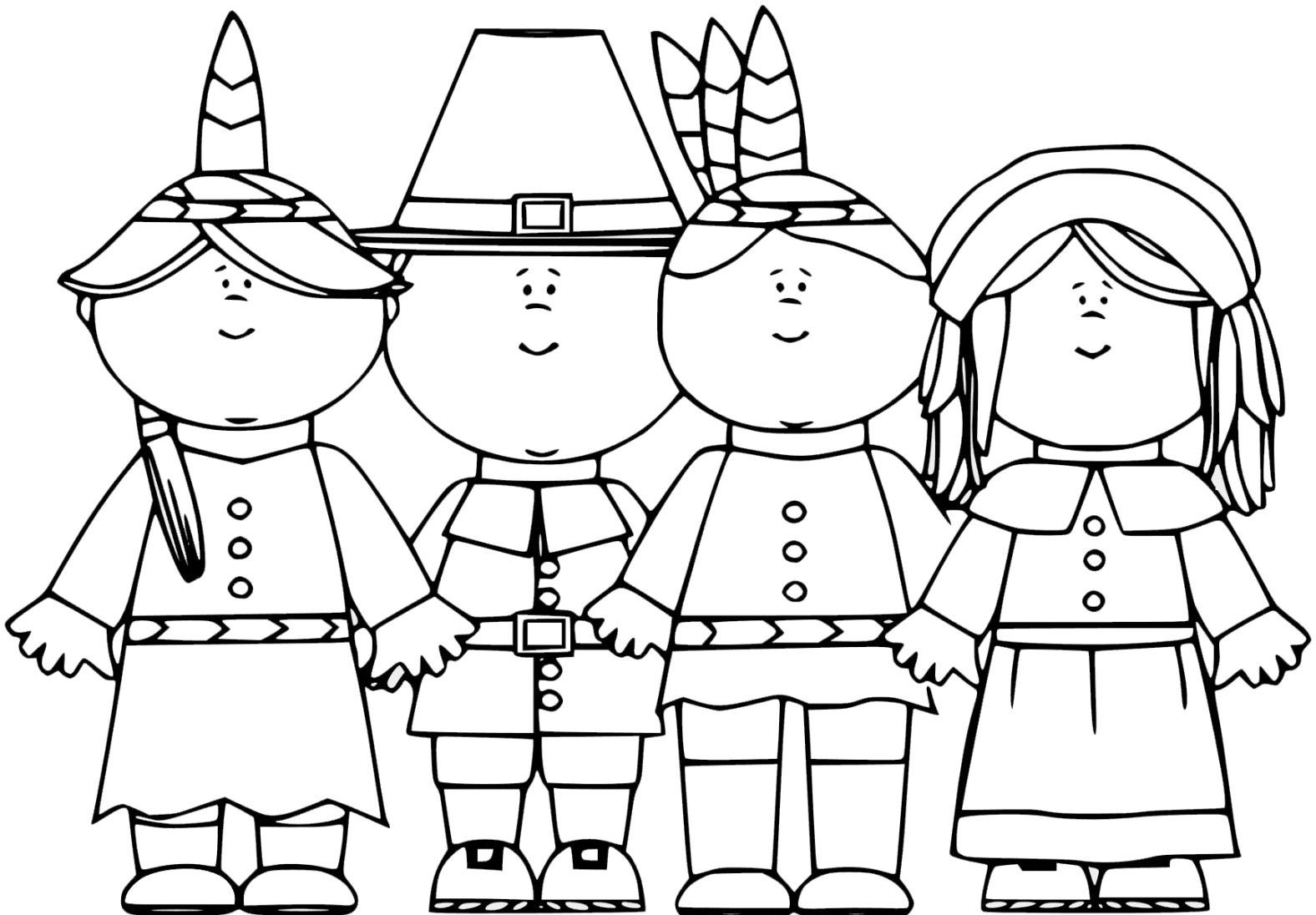
Across

- 2. Some people break this part of the turkey for good luck
- 6. This red berry is often made into a sauce for Thanksgiving
- 8. People often say this word before eating to show thanks
- 10. Many families watch this sport on Thanksgiving Day
- 12. A sweet pie made from a big orange vegetable.
- 13. Cornucopia is also known as the Horn of _____
- 15. The name of the Thanksgiving parade in New York City
- 16. The season when Thanksgiving is celebrated

Down

- 1. Thanksgiving Day falls on this day of the week _____
- 3. Pilgrims sailed to America on this ship
- 4. People often travel to visit _____ for Thanksgiving
- 5. Pilgrims left their homeland to seek this
- 7. The color of leaves in fall
- 9. What turkeys say
- 11. Thanksgiving is a time to give
- 14. The state where the first Thanksgiving was held

COLLORING FUN!





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

GIVING THANKS WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, forward, backward, diagonal to find the hidden words.
 Answers page 38.

- Share
- Holiday
- Acorn
- Feast
- Thankful
- Friends
- Bounty
- Gobble
- November
- Family
- Blessing
- Tradition
- Gratitude
- Pilgrim
- Harvest
- Plenty
- Gather
- Football
- Cornucopia
- Turkey



Steve D. Valentine

Real Estate Strategist Serving From Phoenix to Flagstaff

Steve@valentinegroupaz.com

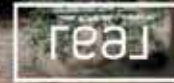
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SCAN ME!

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THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG VENDOR RELATIONSHIPS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS

In business, relationships are everything. Whether you're a small startup or a well-established company, the partnerships you cultivate with your vendors can significantly impact your success. At Valentine Group and Wende's company, Boss Lady Red, we understand the value of strong vendor relationships and how they can contribute to your business's growth and sustainability.

Vendor relationships go beyond mere transactions; they are strategic partnerships that can provide your business with a competitive edge. Here's why fostering strong vendor relationships is crucial:

1. **Reliability and Consistency** - A solid relationship with your vendors ensures they deliver quality products and services consistently. This reliability helps your business operations run smoothly, reducing the risk of disruptions and delays that can affect your bottom line.
2. **Better Pricing and Terms** - Strong vendor relationships often lead to better pricing and more favorable terms. Vendors are more likely to offer discounts, flexible payment options, and other incentives to businesses they trust. This can result in significant cost savings and improved cash flow for your business.
3. **Access to Innovation** - Vendors who see you as a valued partner are more likely to share new products, services, and technologies with you before they become widely available. This early access can give your business a competitive advantage and help you stay ahead of industry trends.
4. **Enhanced Support and Service** - A strong vendor relationship means you can expect exceptional customer service and support. Vendors who value your partnership will go the extra mile to address your needs and provide personalized solutions.

5. **Collaborative Problem Solving** - When challenges arise, having a trusted vendor partner makes a difference. Strong relationships foster open communication and collaboration, allowing you to work together to find effective solutions.

At Valentine Group & BLR, we prioritize building and maintaining strong relationships with our vendors. We believe these partnerships are essential to delivering the best possible service to our clients and achieving long-term success. Here are a few tips for cultivating strong vendor relationships:

- **Communicate Regularly:** Keep the lines of communication open with your vendors. Regular check-ins help build trust and ensure both parties are aligned on expectations and goals.
- **Be Transparent:** Honesty and transparency are key to any successful partnership. Share your business needs, challenges, and feedback openly with your vendors.
- **Show Appreciation:** Recognize and appreciate your vendors' efforts. A simple thank you or acknowledgment can go a long way in strengthening your relationship.
- **Pay on Time:** Timely payments demonstrate your reliability and respect for your vendors' business, setting the foundation for negotiating better terms in the future.

By prioritizing strong vendor relationships, your business can enjoy the benefits of reliability, cost savings, innovation, and exceptional support. For reliable vendor recommendations, visit our website at www.valentinegroupaz.com/vendors. Let's work together to create a thriving business community built on trust and collaboration.

FEATURED PROPERTIES



\$575,000

620 Turkey Trail

Munds Park, AZ 86017

3 Bed, 1.5 Bath 2 car garage, wrap around deck, vaulted ceilings, massive corner lot. Fully functioning vacation rental.



\$1,550,000

17445 Sequoia

Munds Park, AZ 86017

Canyon Lot with incredible views, near 3100 sq ft, 4 bdrms, 3 baths, nearly 800 sq ft of decks, 2 car garage. New construction plans complete.



\$75k Below Market

1650 W Willow

Phoenix

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Munds Park, AZ 86017

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COURAGE IN COMBAT

Continued from page 21

his medical documents were lost when the helicopter carrying them was shot down, taking his chance for the medals with it. In the days before digital records, once documents were destroyed, they were gone for good. Mark, John Burnie another brother in arms, Rick's wife Gail, and their daughters were determined to ensure Rick's bravery would not go unrecognized. Following years of persistent letters and phone calls, Rick was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" device right here in Munds Park, in our hometown church packed with family, friends, and neighbors—a true testament to his character and his love of country and community.

As the ceremony concluded and the crowd's applause faded into a respectful celebration, the Bronze Star pinned to his chest was not just a medal; it was a symbol of courage and sacrifice—a late acknowledgment of a young soldier's valor in the face of unimaginable challenges. The gravity of this moment served as a profound reminder of the harsh realities Rick had faced during his service.

Mark Piasecki—the man Rick had saved—stood right here in Munds Park, side by side with Rick, to celebrate this day. I had the honor of meeting him, and I asked what he did after leaving the hospital. Mark's answer was simple, yet profound. "I went back to the war," he said, "to be with my brothers."

In that moment, it was clear that the ties forged in battle run deep. They're bonds that last a lifetime, bringing two men together again—one who saved a life and one whose life was given back to him. And today, in the peace of Munds Park, they stood together, a testament to courage, sacrifice, and brotherhood that not even time could diminish.

As we celebrate Rick's story, we are reminded of all those who have served with honor and bravery. This Veterans Day, we offer our deepest gratitude to every veteran—those who have worn the uniform, stood watch, and sacrificed in ways most of us can only imagine. We honor your courage, your dedication, and the freedoms you've safeguarded for us all. Today and always, we thank you.

dle

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SUDOKU

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 38

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TOUCH OF THE HAND

The Timeless Legacy of Handwritten Letters



By Sandee Caviness

In this era, marked by fleeting digital interactions, there emerges a profound truth about handwritten notes—they embody a lasting human touch that no screen can replicate. Each stroke of the pen carries the weight of our thoughts and the warmth of our presence. These pieces of paper transcend mere communication; they serve as reminders of who we are, preserved in handwriting.

Handwritten notes have an irreplaceable charm and historical importance that text messages, emails, and social posts simply cannot match.

Whether it's a scribbled recipe, a heartfelt thank you, or a tender love note, these written mementos carry a timeless emotional feel. Handwriting from loved ones, particularly those who have passed, becomes a tangible connection to our past. The feel of the paper, the script—distinct as a fingerprint—creates an intimate keepsake that digital shadows cannot achieve. It is as if, in holding a letter from a loved one, we close the distance of time and space, feeling their presence palpably in our hands.

In the symphony of our daily exchanges, the written word holds a special kind of magic, especially when penned by hand. A recent study by the Pew Research Center unveils a concerning truth: our digital legacies are not as lasting as we might believe. A notable 25% of digital content fades into oblivion within just a decade, revealing the fragile nature of our online footprints.

This revelation invites us to hold even dearer the enduring art of handwriting. In a realm where tweets and texts vanish and even heartfelt posts dissipate as quickly as they are born, the significance of a handwritten note becomes ever more profound. These notes are more than words; they are enduring testimonies of our existence, filled with the emotions and connections that screens cannot convey.

We encourage you to take time to pick up a pen and rediscover the powerful simplicity of the handwritten word. When we write, we leave seeds for our loved ones to not merely remember, but to re-live and re-love with the handwritten words we leave behind. And in this act of remembering and reliving, we ensure that the essence of who we are and who we have loved reverberates long into the future. As the holiday season approaches, there's no better time to start this tradition of writing by hand. It's a perfect opportunity to express your feelings and create lasting memories with a personal touch that can be cherished year after year.

The Pinewood News—A Living Archive of Munds Park History

For over three decades, the Pinewood News has diligently recorded the ongoing history of Munds Park, establishing itself as a foundational element of our community's legacy. As we continue to document the diverse experiences that shape this our community, we invite each one of you to help us in this important endeavor.

Your personal stories are what make our community dynamic and rich with history. From announcing the joyful unions of marriage to

celebrating the arrival of new family members with birth notices, every contribution enriches our shared narrative. We also welcome stories of local events, community achievements, and holiday celebrations that highlight the spirit of Munds Park.

We encourage you to share not only your stories but also any photographs, letters, or recipes that illustrate the unique moments of life here. These submissions are more than contributions; they are lasting mementos that weave into the fabric of our shared history, ensuring that future generations can appreciate

and understand the life in Munds Park through your experiences.

Together, let's ensure that the Pinewood News continues to be a repository of our community's history. Submit your stories, photos, and artifacts for consideration, and take part in preserving the rich history of Munds Park for generations to come.

Submit your story or ideas at [Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com](mailto>Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com).

We look forward to hearing from you!

An advertisement for TNT Land Services. At the top, there are two circular logos, each featuring a pine tree and the letters 'TNT'. Below the logos, the text reads 'TNT LAND SERVICES' in large, bold, dark letters, followed by 'FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED!' in smaller, bold, dark letters. Underneath, it says 'Featured Services:' followed by a list: '-Pine Needle Removal', '-Snow Removal', and 'And More'. To the right of this list, the words 'WE SHOW UP! CALL NOW!' are written in large, bold, yellow, block letters. At the bottom, there is a line of text: 'For a complete list of services, visit our website at www.tntlandservices.com. You may also call us at (602) 339-4689 or email tnt.landservicesaz@gmail.com'. The background of the advertisement is a dark, textured grey with silhouettes of pine trees at the bottom.

THINGS TO DO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

3RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FESTIVAL



The Munds Park Business Alliance will host the 3rd Annual Lighting Festival to kick off the Christmas season with song, friendship, and the lighting ceremony.

Dress warm and bring a lawn chair! We will have fire pits, kids crafts, cookies, popcorn, hot cocoa, coffee & lots of singing! Come Gather, Eat & Socialize!

See ad on page 19

Munds Park Community Church, 5 - 7 pm
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd, Munds Park

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

SANTA IS COMING!



Get ready for some holiday cheer! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making their grand arrival at the Pinewood Fire Department!

Snap a picture with Santa and his reindeer, and receive a stocking full of holiday goodies!

Don't miss out—sign up today!

Contact: Linda Burnett: Phone or text 619-954-6901

Pinewood Fire Department, 9:45 am to Noon
475 E Pinewood Blvd, Munds Park

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITES IN CAMPE VERDE



Christmas Craft Bazaar

Step into the magic of the season at the Christmas Craft Bazaar! Discover one-of-a-kind treasures, from handmade decorations to unique gifts crafted by artisans from the Verde Valley and beyond. With up to 45 vendors filling the Community Center Gym and spilling outside, you're bound to find something special for everyone on your list.

FREE admission, Community Center Gym
51 E. Hollamon Street, Camp Verde
10 am to 4 pm

Christmas Parade of Lights

Gather round, folks—it's the Christmas Parade of Lights! Watch Main Street light up as floats from local clubs, businesses, and friendly neighbors roll by, each one decked out and glowing with holiday spirit. And when the lights dim, keep your eyes peeled for the big moment: Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving in his sleigh. After the parade, meet them in the Community Center Gym for a cozy holiday hello!

Main Street Downtown, Camp Verde

6 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS



The Holiday Parade of Lights will light up Historic Downtown Flagstaff! Bring your hat, mittens and plenty of hot chocolate and enjoy the beautiful sights as dozens of twinkling floats pass by. The parade begins at the corner of Beaver and Elm, proceeds south of Aspen, east past a reviewing stand at Heritage Square to San Francisco and then back up to Elm. Prizes are awarded in several categories including "Best in Show."

Make a day of shopping local businesses during the day and then enjoying the parade that night.

Flagstaff, 6 - 8 pm

CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS AVAILABLE SOON!



There's magic in picking out the perfect Christmas tree as a family, feeling the crisp air and pine needles beneath your hands, and making a memory that's as lasting as it is special. The holiday season is about traditions—and nothing says "home for the holidays" quite like cutting down your own tree.

Starting November 14 at 8 a.m., Coconino National Forest will release a limited number of Christmas tree permits online. Cutting is allowed from Nov. 15 through Dec. 31. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)—search "Christmas Tree Permits" for full details.

GOOD FOOD



Liquor to go!

Breakfast, lunch & dinner!

OPEN

Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7am - 8pm

Wednesday CLOSED, Friday & Saturday 7am - 9pm

65 Pinewood Boulevard • Munds Park, AZ • (928) 286-0332

Join Our Family for Thanksgiving!

If you are far from family or live alone, Munds Park Community Church would like to invite you to join us for a family style Thanksgiving meal on us!

Saturday, November 16, 1 pm

Please RSVP

office@mpcc.church or 928-286-2022



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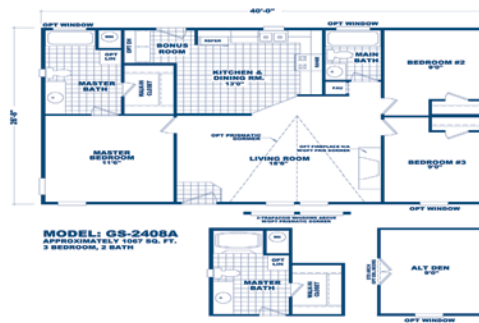


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Presented by
Munds Park Business Alliance

Friday, November 29, 2024

Arrive @ 5pm
Program @ 6pm

Munds Park Community Church parking lot

17670 S Munds Ranch Rd
Munds Park, 86017

The Munds Park Business Alliance will host the 3rd Annual Lighting Festival to kick off the Christmas season with song, friendship, and the lighting ceremony.

Dress warm and bring a lawn chair!

We will have fire pits, kids crafts, cookies, popcorn, hot cocoa, coffee & lots of singing! Come Gather, Eat & Socialize!

The Munds Park Community Church will MC the event and have music for all to enjoy. After the lighting ceremony, guests can travel Pinewood Boulevard to see light displays throughout our little business district.

PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT

Chairs Letter to the Community

By Kass Kral

Hello Munds Park friends and neighbors! For those of you I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, my name is Kass Kral and I am the new Chair of the Pinewood Sanitary District Board. I've been a full time Munds Park resident since 2018, and I was a Phoenician weekender for years prior since my in-laws have had a place in Munds since the early 2000s. I moved here to be a handyman initially and, after doing that for a short time, I spent time helping manage the crew at Agee's BBQ. In the past few years, I have helped with fundraising for the fire department, assisted in coordinating different community events, and had an opportunity to meet many of you great folks. I got to listen to your families' histories with Munds and why so many of you love Munds. I chose to join the Board because I knew there were some serious challenges, but I also love Munds and don't want to see it suffer. I think I have a pretty level head and balanced approach to issues, and I hope to use those skills to guide the Board through our remaining challenges during my time as Chair. I contribute frequently to local social media groups and help admin one of the larger Munds Park Facebook communities. With that experience I plan to exhaust all options to improve District-community communications. I hope we can begin to broadcast District meetings and keep everyone current on the issues we're all facing together. We will also continue our articles in partnership with the Pinewood News as well as through improvements to the District's social media presence.

We held our monthly meeting for the Sanitary District on Thursday, October 10, 2024. Our meetings are generally on the second Thursday of the month unless we have a calendar conflict or a circumstance outside of our control. I'm happy to say that we had five wonderful members of our community join us, which is five more than I'd say we've seen on average throughout my tenure on the Board. First, I'd like to thank those folks for showing up. Second, I'd like to apologize to those folks because I think each of them were upset based on a believed shortfall in communication from the District.

For those of you who haven't attended one of our meetings, which is likely 90% of the folks holding this paper or reading this update online, please know that there are state-mandated rules that we are required to follow to keep the District out of trouble with the regulatory agencies. Part of those rules are that we have to follow a pre-published agenda of topics and we can't stray from those topics except for discussions that directly relate back to a published agenda item. We do have a "call to the public" agenda item at the close of the meeting and that time allows those in attendance up to 5 minutes to share a concern or opinion or to ask that something important to them or the town be considered for a future agenda item. After attendees have spoken, we aren't allowed to respond directly in the moment to these requests, but we absolutely make note of them and we can consider them for a future agenda or direct district staff to follow up or share information as necessary. I greatly value the sacrifice of time and the consideration for the community that it takes for someone to take time off work or time away from your day to attend a District Board meeting, so I know these concerns are meaningful.

The primary thing I can suggest outside of attending meetings would be to review the monthly minutes and District financials online. All of our meetings result in minutes that are published on the District website. Everyone associated with the District does our best to operate with transparency and make our decisions and the rationale for those decisions open and available to the public. We openly address our monthly and annual budgets in our public meetings. Our Board members do our best to address our issues head on with our rate payers' finances and home stability in mind, as each Board member is also a full time resident and pays the same rates as each of our neighbors.

We also have Board members coming up on the end of their terms and we will be again asking to get more of this community involved. We need the concerned members of our community to exchange a few hours on one day per month, and possibly a few hours in the evening or on a weekend, if you're willing to take part in a side committee to address specific needs. If helping to decide on the issues that will impact the future of Munds is of interest to you, please do more than post online or get caught up in rumors and conjecture - come to meetings or apply to join the Board to represent your community.

So... back to this month's guests...almost all who attended this meeting shared a concern tied back to questions around what's going on with the District since we last posted an update in the Pinewood News. Our previous board Chair, Bill Spain, went to great efforts to share thorough and honest updates with Munds leading up to our vote to approve a WIFA (Water Infrastructure Finance Authority) loan election last year as well as articles related to our challenges within the community. Bill will be ending his term at the end of the year and the Board has elected me to take his place as Chair. One of my goals as the new Chair is to continue on with these articles and to improve communication with the community and get ahead of the inevitable "small town" rumors and conjecture.

My hope is that you'll visit the District website and look through the minutes to see what we are up to if you are not at one of our meetings in person. If you can't come to a meeting, you can send correspondence to the District, which will be discussed at a meeting or addressed by staff directly if possible. Please get involved and help us be a part of the solutions.

Need to Know

Quick additional info from the District. We have recently learned of the potential hazard to our collection and plant system that is caused by an influx of chemicals in the RV Anti-freeze/winterizing process. We fully understand anti-freeze is what's been commonly used for decades to winterize homes in Munds, but this is also something that's contributed to the increased costs to balance our plant coming out of the winter. Staff are working to share alternative solutions, and we'll keep you posted. We understand it may be too late for many folks this season, but hopefully we can get a plan in place for next year.



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A photograph of a golf course green. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained green lawn. In the middle ground, a red and white flag is mounted on a tall pole. Behind the flag is a dense line of tall, green trees. The background shows a clear blue sky. The entire photograph is framed by a white border.

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NOVEMBER HOROSCOPE BY CAKE

Astrology has been a part of human history for millennia. Ancient Babylonians first mapped the stars to predict seasonal changes and celestial events. Egyptians aligned their pyramids with the stars, seeing them as gateways to the divine. The Greeks, including philosophers like Plato and Ptolemy, further developed astrological theories, integrating them into their understanding of the universe. During the Middle Ages, astrology thrived in Europe, influencing everything from medicine to politics. Today, astrology continues to be a tool for self-reflection, connecting us to the ancient wisdom of the stars and the cycles of life.



ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

November is the perfect time to reconnect, Aries. Take a moment to show gratitude for all the small wins you've achieved this year. You're always chasing the next big thing, but right now, it's important to appreciate where you are and

what you've accomplished. Gratitude will fuel your motivation and remind you of the support around you. Whether in work or relationships, focusing on what you have rather than what's missing will bring you greater fulfillment this month. Take a pause, reflect, and give thanks for the journey.



TAURUS, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

Slow and steady is your rhythm, Taurus, and November asks you to lean into that even more. Be mindful of where your energy is going, both mentally and physically. Take time to savor each moment, from a quiet cup of coffee

to meaningful conversations with loved ones. When you're fully present, life becomes richer. This month, mindfulness will help you feel more grounded, even when the world around you speeds up. Focus on the here and now—it's where you'll find your greatest peace.



GEMINI, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

This November, Gemini, it's time to focus on the people who truly matter in your life. Your social nature is often pulled in many directions, but this month, prioritize quality time with family and close friends. Whether it's a

long-overdue visit or a heartfelt phone call, you'll find joy in the connections you nurture. Your loved ones are your foundation, and spending time with them will recharge your spirit and remind you of what truly matters. Make those moments count.



CANCER, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

Cancer, this month is all about perspective. November brings a reminder to differentiate between real struggles and first-world problems. Take a moment to reflect on the things that may feel overwhelming and ask yourself:

are they as serious as they seem? Shifting your perspective will bring emotional clarity and help you focus on what's truly important. By letting go of unnecessary stress, you'll create more space for joy, gratitude, and the things that truly nurture your soul.



LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Your generous spirit shines brightest this November, Leo, especially when you reach out to others. This month, take time to connect with someone who may be feeling isolated or lonely. Your warmth and enthusiasm

can make a world of difference. Whether it's a quick message, a heartfelt conversation, or an invitation to spend time together, your efforts will uplift others and remind you of the power of connection. You're a natural at spreading joy, so share that light with those who need it most.



VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Virgo, November invites you to reconnect with your spiritual side. Whether through meditation, journaling, or simply spending time in quiet reflection, it's time to explore the deeper part of yourself. You're usually focused

on the practical, but this month, balance it with some soul-nourishing practices. Grounding yourself spiritually will give you the clarity and calm you need to approach your everyday life with more peace. Trust that this inner connection will provide answers that no amount of logic can offer.



LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Libra, you thrive on connection, and November asks you to step out and get even more social. Whether it's attending events, hosting gatherings, or simply catching up with friends, your social side will shine this month. Don't hesitate

to say yes to opportunities to meet new people or deepen existing bonds. By expanding your circle, you'll bring balance and joy into your life. This is a time to enjoy the richness of relationships and to share your natural warmth with the world.



SCORPIO, OCT 23 - NOV 22

November shifts your focus outward, Scorpio, and encourages you to volunteer or give back in some way. Your transformative energy can make a real impact when directed toward helping others. Whether it's lending a

hand to a cause you care about or offering your time to those in need, your efforts will create ripples of change. Not only will it bring fulfillment, but it will also remind you of the power you have to uplift your community. The world needs your intensity for a good cause.



SAGITTARIUS, NOV 23 - DEC 21

This month, Sagittarius, your adventurous spirit is fueled by something more subtle—kindness. November is the perfect time to spread good vibes wherever you go. Whether it's a random act of kindness for a stranger or a

thoughtful gesture for someone you love, your actions will have a positive ripple effect. By leading with compassion and generosity, you'll create a sense of fulfillment that goes beyond the usual thrills. Let kindness be your adventure this month—it will take you places your heart has never been.



CAPRICORN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Capricorn, this November, make it a point to let the people you love know it. You're known for your dedication and loyalty, but sometimes the ones closest to you don't hear it enough. Take time to express your feelings, whether

through words or actions, and make sure your loved ones know they're appreciated. You'll find that these small gestures deepen your relationships and bring even more stability to the foundation you've worked so hard to build.



AQUARIUS, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Aquarius, your friendships mean the world to you, but in the busy flow of life, some of them might have drifted into the background. This November, spend time with friends you don't see often. Reconnecting with people who've

been part of your journey will reignite bonds and bring a sense of joy and nostalgia. Whether it's a spontaneous coffee date or a long-overdue catch-up, these moments will remind you of the richness that comes from genuine connection.



PISCES, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, take time to honor your roots—whether that means spending time with your parents or reflecting on where you come from. If your parents are no longer with you, or the relationship is complicated, focus on connecting

with the people who have nurtured and supported you throughout your life. Reach out to those who feel like family, or take time to reflect on the wisdom and love that's shaped you. Deepening these connections will bring you a renewed sense of gratitude and fulfillment.



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MUNDS PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

PAIN RELIEF

By Pastor Steve Bowyer

It is that time of year. It is time to make sure our snow blowers start, bobcats fire up, and shovels are ready to move snow. And it is time to make sure we are well stocked with pain relievers.

In my case, it has been because of throwing so many baseballs and too many headfirst slides. My wrists, elbows, shoulders all have a little arthritis. So, throwing snow reminds me that I am still alive. That is what they say. If it did not hurt, then I would probably be dead.

We make sure the medicine cabinet is well-stocked with ibuprofen and acetaminophen. And I make sure the garage is stocked with WD40. Something that mechanics learned long ago was WD40 not only lubricates your machinery but relieves the arthritic pain in your hands and fingers at the same time.

One of the ingredients of WD40 is an anti-inflammatory. Apparently, in large quantities produced cancer in lab rats so it never got marketed as pain relief. But it works.

Of course, here is the thing with pain relievers. They only mask the pain and treat a symptom, not the cause. The cause of my pain is arthritis. And there is very little a doctor can do fix that. So, we settle for fixing the pain.

So many things in life happen to us that cause us pain. Not just physical pain, but emotional and mental pain, too. Too often the main cause is too hard to deal with, if not impossible, so we settle for pain relief or symptom relief.

Self-medicating is never a good idea. But the money made on these addictive remedies would seem to indicate, good idea or not, people are quick to try them. Masking the pain makes us feel better for a time, but the problem is the pain comes back. The longer we mask it, the greater it is when it comes back.

There is a solution to our deepest pain that does more than just mask it. We may not even realize what the cause may be. But if we give Jesus the chance, He will fix our biggest problem whether we are aware of it or not. Too often we are preoccupied with a lesser problem, a more obvious problem, that we cannot fix anyway. But, if we will let Jesus fix our biggest pain producing problem, all the others become manageable.

One day when Jesus came to Jerusalem, He walked the Pool of Bethesda. There was a man there who had been paralyzed, a quadriplegic for

38 years. There were many sick and injured around the pool. It was a natural mineral spring. Occasionally, bubbles from the deep would rise and stir the surface of the water. The belief was, the first in the pool after the bubbles stirred the water would be healed.

It did not work. Still, this guy had no hope even if it did. He was a quadriplegic, and no one would carry him into the water in time to be first in. His life was miserable. He had no social life. He could only beg. He was as good as dead. And Jesus chose him specifically from among the many around the pool.

Jesus asked him, "Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6)

Seems a little insulting. Duh! Yes! But he had no help nor hope.

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk! (John 5:8)

The religious leadership was not happy. They were not happy for the man who had been paralyzed but now could walk because they were not happy that he was walking and carrying his mat on the Sabbath. So, they questioned him about who told him to do this.

The man did not even know Jesus' name. You would think he would have taken the time to find out. But Jesus fixed his most obvious problem, his paralysis. Yet, he still had a greater problem that needed to be addressed.

Later, Jesus searched the man out and told him he had a bigger problem. He said, "Stop sinning or something worse than paralysis will happen to you." The man could not fix either problem himself. But Jesus could fix both. He fixed his paralysis problem to prove to the man he could fix his sin problem. And if he would let Jesus fix his sin problem, then every other problem he had would become manageable.

Do not mask your pain. Do not become preoccupied with the obvious. There is a bigger, deeper problem we all need fixed. Our sin problem. Let Jesus fix that one, then every other issue you face and deal with will become manageable.

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WORD SEARCH

Solutions

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SUDOKU

Solutions

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KIDS WORD SEARCH

Solutions

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JUST ONE MORE

Scenes from the Pinewood News Great Pumpkin Challenge—where laughter echoed, friendships grew, and pumpkins found new personalities. From carving masters to first-time carvers, everyone brought their creativity, making it a day worth remembering.

Photos by Christine Orantes



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1st Place
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Master Carver
2nd Place
Amy Stephenson

Master Carver
3rd Place
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\$649,000

FOR SALE



535 BARNWOOD TRAIL 3 BED 2 BATH
\$629,000

FOR RENT



MUNDS PARK 4 BED 2 BATH
\$2500/ MONTH COMPLETELY REMODELED

