

PINEWOOD NEWS

THE GOOD LIFE, COMMUNITY & DESERT MOUNTAIN LIVING

VOL. 32 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 7, 2025

FREE!

ARIZONA

The Valentine State

URNS 113

 **PINEWOOD
NEWS
KIDS!**

PAGE 23

COVER by Sandee Caviness & Midjourney

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PINEWOOD NEWS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & STORY TIPS!

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

Send your letters to: PO Box 18977, Munds Park, AZ 86017, or email us at [Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com](mailto>Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com).

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For advertising or content contributions, contact us at 928.286.9827 or [Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com](mailto>Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com).

The Pinewood News can be found in Munds Park, Rimrock, and Camp Verde.

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PO Box 18977, Munds Park, AZ 86017

www.ThePinewoodNews.com





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.



SOLD

**\$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.



SOLD

**\$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..



SOLD

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

Updated 2-bedroom, 2-bath home, fully furnished with modern appliances, jacuzzi, RV parking, UTV storage, deck, and automatic drip system.



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.



SOLD

**\$575,000
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.



\$288,000

1200 S Riordan Ranch St #125, Flagstaff
Perfect for an NAU student, or second home. Conveniently located across NAU and downtown Flagstaff. Newly painted interior. Stack unit Washer & Dryer. HOA covers water, trash, sewer and hot water.



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Fine Properties



\$687,900

555 E HILLSIDE DR

This energy-efficient home features top-tier insulation and a paved driveway with premium brick pavers. It includes a newer roof, three heating sources—pellet stove, split systems, and radiant floor heating—and a tankless propane water heater. The property boasts a private, fenced yard, a spacious garage for two cars plus a golf cart, and motorhome parking with hookups. Visit this immaculate single-level, 3-bedroom home today.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$560,000

17425 S SHADOW ROCK PL

This fully remodeled, single-level home spans nearly 1100 square feet with three bedrooms and two baths. It sits on a large 7700 sq. ft lot and includes an oversized shed. The home features a propane fireplace, new vinyl windows, fresh interior and exterior paint, new cabinets, countertops, appliances, water heater, and flooring. Highlights include pine tongue-and-groove ceilings and new doors. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, viewings are limited due to tenant occupancy. Please respect their privacy.

CALL DEBI BRIGHT



\$464,900

405 E CEDAR WOOD DR

Brand new, right off the show room floor. Four bedroom, two baths, open floor plan. High vaulted ceilings, large windows. All electric Cavco unit over 1600 square foot livable with an extra large deep covered front porch that spans the width of the unit. Lots of natural light thru out. Ceilings fans in all four bedrooms and living room. Home is on track to be completed by the end of February.

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\$674,900



\$375,500



\$199,900

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Realtor[®]
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EHausmanAZ@gmail.com





AA Meetings - Feel Better!

Munds Park Community Church
Every Monday, 6 pm
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Munds Park Community Church Services

Services Sunday, 10:45 am
17670 S Munds Ranch Rd

Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary meeting

The Community is Welcome!
Tuesday, March 4
6:30 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Fire District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Tuesday, March 18
3 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

Pinewood Sanitary District Board Meeting

Public Welcome
Thursday, March 13
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

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Pinewood News reshapes selected stories to bring our audience the most relevant news. All original reporting sources are credited.

PINEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ENGINE 41 RETURNS & STATION DEMOLITION SET

In a recent update from Chief Tope, it's been confirmed that the refurbishment of Engine 41 is now complete, and it's already back at the station. As for developments concerning the new fire station, demolition is set to begin on March 24th. During this phase, firefighters will be temporarily housed in a duplex behind Woody's, and their equipment will be stored at the same location. In additional fire safety news, the Forest Service has conducted controlled burns of the green waste at Willard from last Spring's Bear Jaw cleanup and at Newman Park. These efforts are crucial as we prepare for what is expected to be a very busy fire season. The fire danger level has been raised to HIGH, and residents are urged to remain cautious and adhere to all fire safety guidelines to help keep our community safe.

ARIZONA PROPOSES \$500 FINE FOR LEFT LANE CAMPERS

Arizona's roads may soon become a no-go zone for "left lane campers," if Rep. Teresa Martinez has her way. Her proposed bill, sparked by a personal traffic jam experience, aims to slap a hefty \$500 fine on drivers who hog the left lane without actively passing other vehicles. This move targets those who slow down traffic flow by sticking to the passing lane, a common frustration for many drivers.

The bill, known as HB 2235, is designed to amend state Statute 28-721, mandating that vehicles primarily travel on the right side of the road, with the left lane reserved for overtaking. While Martinez acknowledges the potential pushback regarding the steep fine, she believes it will deter drivers from lingering in the left lane, much like fines discourage misuse of HOV lanes during restricted hours.

The discussion has stirred a variety of opinions among Arizonans and visitors alike, with some dubbing it the "snowbird fine." Social media comments reflect a divide, with supporters arguing that lane discipline is a matter of courtesy, irrelevant of the vehicle's speed. Critics, however, question the fairness, especially when speed limits are already being exceeded.

To bolster awareness, Martinez proposes additional signage along two-lane highways (excluding I-17), clearly instructing slower traffic to keep right. While the bill has already progressed out of committee and heads to the House, Martinez remains open to discussing the fine's amount with the public to strike a reasonable balance.

Source: Kristen Brown with MotorBiscuit

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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 5



Before



From right to left: Genna Caviness's head :), Diane Deam, Wes Deam, Wes Deam Jr., Jim and Cheri Schultz, Heather Spencer, Skeet Deam, and Sandee Caviness



After. 1,100 pounds of illegal pine needles removed and a truck filled with trash.

LOCAL COMPANY STEPS UP TO PROTECT OUR FORESTS

Every year, our forest services work tirelessly to clear the forest floors, spending hours and taxpayer dollars to reduce wildfire risks. It's a vital task that keeps our community safe. But some aren't pulling their weight.

THE PROBLEM

Careless actions are threatening our forests:

- Landscapers have been caught illegally dumping piles of pine needles—a wildfire waiting to happen.
- Visitors leave behind trash, bullet shells, and shooting clays, turning our beautiful forests into dumping grounds.

The consequences could be catastrophic. We've all seen the heartbreaking images from California—homes reduced to ash, families displaced, and wildlife habitats destroyed. After a dry winter, our community could face the same devastating reality.

A SUNDAY TO REMEMBER

On a beautiful Sunday morning, a group of volunteers, led by Wes Deam and Wes Jr., owner of The Cabin Man, rolled up their sleeves to make a difference. Their dedication paid off:

- They cleaned up 1,100 pounds of illegally dumped pine needles.
- They removed a truckload of trash, left behind by careless campers and visitors.

Their efforts restored a piece of the forest, but it's clear this can't fall on volunteers alone.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our forests need all of us to step up and protect them. Here's how you can get involved:

Spot and Report Illegal Dumping:

If you see trailers heading into the forest to dump debris, take action:

- Snap a photo or video (if safe).
- Call (928) 679-8886 and press 1 to report it. You can remain anonymous.

Expose Irresponsible Actions:

- Capture footage or a license plate number.
- Contact the Coconino County Sheriff's Non-Emergency Line at 928-774-4523 (extension 1).
- Email The Pinewood News at Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Pinewood News has pledged to publicly expose companies caught dumping in our forests. This includes banning them from advertising on our platforms. Together, we can protect our cherished forests and keep our community safe.

THE CABIN MAN

Husband Can't Do it? The Cabin Man Can!

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EVERY SATURDAY

BEACH YOGA & WINE

Join us for Yoga on the Beach by Down Dog Sedona. Come join us for a one-hour all-levels yoga class at the confluence of the Verde River and Oak Creek on the beautiful grounds of the Alcantara Winery. \$30 per person (includes yoga mat rental and \$10 tasting credit at the winery) Saturdays 11AM-12PM t · 3445 S. Grapevine Way · Cottonwood, Arizona www.downdogsedona.com/sedonabeachyoga t · Questions? Call/text (928) 554-5888



MARCH 15 & 16

CAMP VERDE PECAN & WINE FESTIVAL

Get ready for a flavor-packed weekend at the Camp Verde Pecan and Wine Festival! This annual extravaganza celebrates the best of local pecan growers and wineries, offering a delightful blend of nut and wine tastings that will tantalize your taste buds. Browse through an array of over 80 food and craft vendors, both indoors and outdoors, as you groove to lively music. Don't miss this festive fusion of tastes and tunes! Location: 75 E. Hollamon Street, Camp Verde Cost: FREE to attend. Wine tasting tickets can be bought online or at the event.



EVERY SUNDAY

SEDONA COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

Join us every Sunday from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot, 2201 W SR 89A in West Sedona. Enjoy a variety of local, regional, and seasonal products, from fresh harvests to artisan creations. Experience the best of our community's offerings at your doorstep!



SATURDAY, APRIL 12

VINTAGE RUN IN COTTONWOOD

Registration is now open for the 2025 Vintage Run in Cottonwood! This year there will be a timed half-marathon, 10K, and 2-mile courses, plus the untimed Half Corked 5K Fun Run! Don't miss out on the fun of Cottonwood's Vintage Run. Visit runcottonwood.com for more information and to register for your race!



FEBRUARY 13-15

I HEART PLUTO FESTIVAL

Is it a planet, or isn't it? Regardless of Pluto's status in our solar system, the annual I Heart Pluto Festival celebrates Pluto's discovery with science presentations, observatory tours, pub crawls, and solar viewings. So grab your notebook and pocket protectors, and give into that inner nerd—it is a (inter)stellar time to explore outer space through the eyes of a scientist. Location: Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff Cost: \$30



FRIDAY, APRIL 18

OPENING DAY PINWOOD COUNTRY CLUB!

Join us on Friday, April 18th for the first weekend of the 2025 season! We can't wait to welcome you all back for another fun-filled summer!



FEBRUARY 22-23

RUBY'S SPRING OPEN AIR MARKET

Treasure hunters and vintage lovers, gear up for Ruby Road Vintage's Open-Air Market! This spring, indulge in four weekends of eclectic shopping from handcrafted goods to unique gifts and tasty treats. Voted #1 Consignment Store by The Verde Independent, Ruby Road Vintage offers a nostalgic journey through retro fashion and rustic home décor. Celebrate community and craftsmanship at this outdoor shopping extravaganza. Time: Saturday & Sunday, 10AM-4PM Location: 851 E Howards Rd, Camp Verde,



CELEBRATE ARIZONA'S BIRTHDAY AT THE COWBOY CLUB!

Celebrate Arizona's heritage at The Cowboy Club in Sedona, a family-owned gem since 1946. This historic spot, once frequented by Hollywood legends like John Wayne and Elvis, offers a unique taste of the Wild West with dishes like the Trail Boss Sampler and rattlesnake sausage. Enjoy a Famous Cowboy cocktail or a local brew in an ambiance that's been charming visitors for over 75 years. A perfect destination for those seeking a slice of history and vibrant high-desert vibes. 241 North Highway 89A · Sedona Complimentary Parking Available Around Back



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Buy tickets here: pepsiamp.com



Catch Never Come Down at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Flagstaff, AZ on Thu, March 6th, 2025. Doors open at 7 PM and the show starts at 8 PM. Suitable for all ages. Originating from Portland's eclectic music scene in 2017, Never Come Down blends tradition with innovation. Known for their dynamic performances, they've captivated audiences globally—from Reykjavik's Iceland Airwaves to San Francisco's Hardly Strictly Bluegrass.



PROMOTE YOUR LOCAL EVENT WITH PINWOOD!

Let us help you reach our readers in Munds Park, Rimrock & Camp Verde. Email your event details to Hello@ThePinwoodNews.com

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 7

HORROR-COMEDY ‘FOREVER HOME’ BRINGS LOCAL FILMMAKING TO THE SPOTLIGHT

Get ready to laugh, scream, and maybe double-check your own home’s history—Forever Home, a locally made horror-comedy filmed entirely in Flagstaff, is now streaming on Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video, and other major platforms.

Directed by Sean Oliver and co-written by Oliver and Drew Leatham, this indie gem follows Jules and Ryan, a young couple who sink their savings into a dream house—only to uncover a chilling secret that threatens not just their lives, but their afterlives.



The film debuted to packed screenings at the Phoenix Film Festival and went on to rack up awards at various festivals, including Best Picture at GenreBlast and acting honors for Sammie Lideen, Alison Campbell, and Drew Leatham. Editor Valerie Son also snagged recognition for her sharp work.

With over a decade of filmmaking experience in Arizona, Oliver calls Forever Home a labor of love for the state’s vibrant creative community. Now, audiences everywhere can enjoy its unique mix of scares and laughs.

Check out the trailer and learn more at ForeverHomeMovie.com.

Source: *Arizona Daily Sun*

COCONINO COUNTY WIPES YOUR WEED RECORD CLEAN—ONLINE & ON US!

In a move that marks a significant shift towards legal reform, the Coconino County Attorney’s Office has rolled out a groundbreaking online service aimed at helping individuals clear their records of eligible marijuana convictions. This initiative follows Arizona’s Proposition 207, which not only legalized recreational marijuana but also introduced measures for expunging past marijuana offenses that are now decriminalized.

Coconino County Attorney Ammon Barker highlighted the program’s commitment to community support, stating, “This initiative offers a chance for a new beginning to many, removing barriers that a criminal record might pose in securing employment, housing, and more.” The service is user-friendly, free, and completely digital, allowing applicants to submit requests through the County Attorney’s website without the hassle of fees or complex legal procedures.

This progressive step is not just about legalities—it’s about restoring opportunities and continuing to build a supportive community in Coconino County. The program is actively accepting applications, providing a streamlined path for many to reclaim their futures. For more details or to apply, residents can visit the County Attorney’s official webpage.

Source: *Coconino County Attorney’s Office*

FLAGSTAFF’S DRY SPELL RAISES FIRE SAFETY ALARM

Flagstaff is experiencing one of its driest winters on record. With only 5.9 inches of snowfall since October 1st, this season ranks as the fourth driest in the city’s documented history, which dates back to 1898. The record low for the same period was set in the winter of 2005-06 with just 1.6 inches. Comparatively, during the 1999-2000 winter season, Flagstaff had accumulated 6.3 inches by now, finishing with a total of 74.4 inches. Normally, Flagstaff receives an average of 90.1 inches of snow each year. With no snow expected in the near-term forecast, it’s vital for all community members in Northern Arizona to be diligent about fire safety. Owners of short-term rentals must take particular care to educate their guests on how to prevent wildfires in these vulnerable conditions.

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NEED TO KNOW

LIVING IN A WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

By Brit Elders

If you heard or watched any type of news on any media platform, you know about the devastation caused by the wildfires in California. The destruction that thousands of people experienced is unimaginable. Beyond the physical loss, the anxiety and emotional pain felt in the wake of the infernos has left many living with a debilitating sense of grief and sorrow.

Many of us know people in the southern California areas that were affected. I have several friends that lost everything—homes, businesses, cars—everything but their lives. I've done what I can from a distance, arranging hotels and transportation, alerting their friends and family that they are physically safe, but mostly listening, as a friend, and being as supportive and compassionate as is possible under the circumstances.

Hearing their words raised red flags in my mind. Even though it's not considered fire season here, the dry conditions we have experienced in the Munds Park area this winter need to be a wake-up call for our community. Fire season could come early.

Our beautiful region, surrounded by towering pines and mighty oaks, is vulnerable to the ravages of fire and, although we have an outstanding fire department, we cannot fall into complacency. A fire like the 2023 blaze in Lāhainā or the more recent Palisades and Eaton Fires, could decimate our picturesque community in a matter of hours.

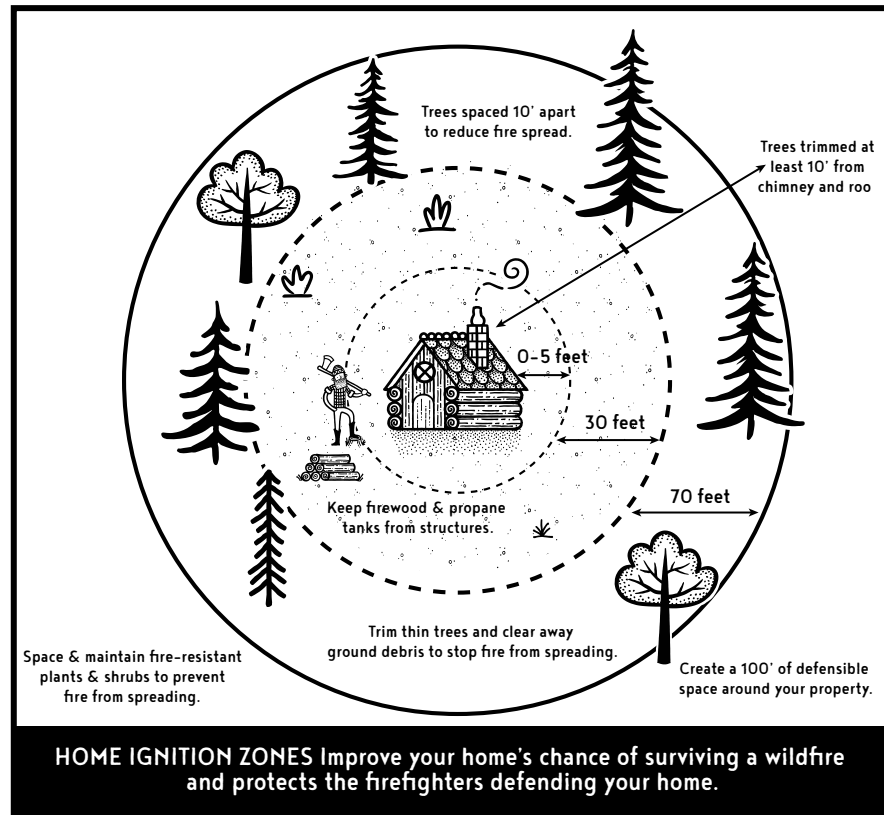
A strategy to reduce the risk of fire to personal properties and communities is called a fire mitigation plan. Undertaking wildfire mitigation in a wildland urban interface (WUI) can reduce or eliminate the risk of damage caused by wildfire to homes and communities as well as to wildlife and watersheds.

We choose to live in an area surrounded by nature and all of her magnificent gifts. We love the trees, the wildlife and birds that frequent the region, the sense of freedom, serenity and openness it brings. If we didn't love this life we would be living in the concrete jungles of a city. But loving this area comes with responsibility.

That doesn't mean we cut down all the trees or live in cement bunkers. We need to reinforce our appreciation of community and the magnificent expanse of nature that surrounds us. Doing that requires constant attention and care. Our Pinewood Fire District Chief, Josh Tope, shared this timely advice:

Home Ignition Zones

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones.



The zones include the Immediate Zone: (0 to 5 feet around the house), the Intermediate Zone (5 to 30 feet), and the Extended Zone (30 to 100 feet).

Landscaping & Maintenance

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck and prune branches of large trees up to 6 to 10 feet (depending on their height) from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes. Use crushed stone or gravel instead of flammable mulches in the Immediate Zone (0 to 5 feet around the house). Keep your landscape in good condition.

Roofing & Vents

Class A fire-rated roofing products, such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles, offer the best protection. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box in eaves but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

Decks & Porches

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks and porches and between deck board joints.

Siding & Windows

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster, or stucco, and use dual-pane tempered glass windows.

Continued on page 16

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www.coconino.az.gov/207/Emergency-Management

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GARDENS IN THE PARK



ROOT CAMP 2025: YOUR PATH TO GARDENING SUCCESS BEGINS MARCH 8!

By Warner's Nursery

If you are new to gardening, have run into gardening challenges in the past, or just want to brush up on your skills, Warner's Nursery is excited to announce the return of our annual Root Camp in 2025!

Starting Saturday, March 8, this popular program will feature expert-led classes held on Saturdays, starting at 10 am. Topics range from essential gardening basics to advanced techniques that even seasoned gardeners will find beneficial. Most sessions are led by certified Master Gardeners, who bring extensive education and training from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension program.

Each class costs \$10 (plus taxes and fees), and you'll receive a \$10 certificate redeemable for plants or supplies at Warner's Nursery. It's an investment that pays for itself while equipping you with skills and knowledge for gardening success.

Here's a look at some of the exciting topics being covered this year:

Composting Basics: Learn how to transform organic waste into nutrient-rich soil to benefit your garden.

Pruning: Master the art of trimming your trees to promote healthy growth and structure.

Crop and Garden Planning: Set yourself up for success by selecting the right varieties for Northern Arizona's unique climate.

Seed Starting: Discover how to grow long-season crops in short-season climates economically.

Vermicomposting: Get introduced to composting with worms and how it can supercharge your garden's soil.

Caring for a Ponderosa Pine: Tips for nurturing one of northern Arizona's iconic trees.

Plants and Pollinators: Explore the critical relationship between native plants and the pollinators that depend on them.

Rainwater Harvesting: Learn how to collect and use rainwater to cultivate your garden sustainably.

Although Root Camp was created as a Gardening 101 series of classes, experienced gardeners will also benefit from the sessions. Whether you're looking to refine your techniques, stay updated on best practices, or explore new methods like vermicomposting and waterwise landscaping, these sessions are designed to inspire and enhance gardeners of all skill levels.

Don't miss this opportunity to improve your knowledge and connect with a community of fellow gardening enthusiasts. Visit warnersnursery.com for more information and to register for Root Camp 2025. Spots fill up quickly, so secure your place today!



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SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINewood

The Cocktail Connoisseur's Corner

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE



By Vinita Dee

Let's get straight to the heart of it: love isn't just roses and candlelit dinners. It's a symphony of moments—passionate, tender, and unforgettable. And what better way to celebrate than with a cocktail that's as heartfelt as your love story? Introducing "Love Is All You Need"—a drink that doesn't just capture love; it embodies it.

We begin with strawberry purée, the color of love's first blush. It's tender and sweet, brimming with the

excitement of new beginnings. Add to that a splash of Giffard Strawberry Syrup, like a love letter written in sugar—romantic and irresistible.

Next comes apple juice, crisp and refreshing. It's the unexpected joy of shared laughter, the thrill of discovering something new in someone you thought you already knew. Each sip is a reminder that love is both grounding and exhilarating, like a breath of fresh air on a winter's stroll, hand in hand.

Then, a touch of heat—a few drops of hot chili pepper—to echo the passion that ignites when two souls collide. Balanced with a dash of lemon juice, it reminds us that love is as much about the quiet, honest moments as it is about the grand gestures. That bit of tang is like love's little surprises—refreshing and grounding all at once.

Finally, the foundation: Bombay Sapphire gin. It's smooth, sophisticated, and timeless, much like the enduring kind of love that lingers long after the butterflies have settled. It binds every flavor together, creating a harmony that feels like destiny.

Shake it, pour it, and watch as the light catches the glass like sparks of magic. Garnish with a strawberry or a delicate twist of lemon—because love is in the details. As you take a sip, let the moment envelop you, and listen to the timeless hum of "love, love, love" that fills the air, echoing The Beatles' melody.

This Valentine's Day, toast to the wonder of love with "Love Is All You Need." Here's to the quiet glances, the fiery sparks, and the infinite ways love transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. Cheers, to all the lovers out there.

INGREDIENTS

- 2.5 oz Strawberry purée
- 1/3 oz Giffard Strawberry Syrup
- 2.5 oz Apple juice
- 2 drops of Hot Chilli Pepper Droplets
- 1/6 oz Lemon juice
- 1.5 oz Bombay Sapphire

THE METHOD

Mixed in a Boston Shaker with plei directly into a Collins glass.

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LIVING IN A WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

Continued from page 11

Emergency Responder Access

Ensure your home and neighborhood have legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

- Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for handling pets, large animals, and livestock.
- Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a predesignated meeting place.
- Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay—don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened by the fire.
- Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations.
- Create or update a home inventory to help settle claims faster visit <https://pinewoodfire.org/> to sign up for a Firewise assessment on your property.

These actions offer multiple benefits including:

- Contributing to firefighter and public safety by reducing fuels and lessening the risk of structures igniting.
- Creating communities that are more resilient by reducing loss of life and property damage.
- Allowing individuals and communities to minimize post disaster disruptions and recover more rapidly.
- Lessening the financial impact on individuals, communities, and society.

Living in a Wildland Urban Interface requires year-round attention and following Chief Tope's advice and tips can make a difference as to whether or not your property is defensible.



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MAKE AMERICA HEALTHY AGAIN



ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.'S FIGHT TO BRING NATURE BACK TO AMERICA'S PLATE & HEALTH BACK TO OUR LIVES

By Sandee Caviness

At Pinewood News, we're excited to introduce a new feature that promises to be transformative: "Make America Healthy Again!" In this series, we'll follow Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as he embarks on the ambitious and long-overdue mission of reshaping how Americans eat.

We recognize that the phrase "MAHA" might evoke strong reactions for some readers, but this initiative—focused on health and wellness—transcends politics. Improving the quality of our food is a goal that benefits everyone, so we decided to move forward.

RFK's vision is straightforward: bringing natural, wholesome foods back to our tables while exposing the harmful practices that have become commonplace in the food industry. For decades, Americans have been subjected to a system that prioritizes corporate profit over public health, leaving grocery store shelves packed with ultra-processed, chemical-laden options.

This feature isn't just a news column—it's an invitation to join a movement for healthier living, starting with the food we eat. Together, we'll follow this initiative as it unfolds, offering insights and inspiration for building better habits and creating lasting change.

WHY EATING HAS BECOME A BATTLE

Our grandparents didn't need to decode food labels. They didn't worry about ingredients they couldn't pronounce or whether their bread contained high-fructose corn syrup. But today? Those who strive for real foods, have become food detectives, scrutinizing every package for additives, artificial colors, and shocking amounts of sugar.

Why? Because our food has been fundamentally altered. What should be simple—a bag of chips, a box of crackers, a can of soda—is now a chemical experiment. This complexity is unique to Americans. We should instinctively eat the foods we were meant to consume, whole foods provided by nature, with no need for calorie counts or ingredient checks. Yet here we are, relying on apps, trends, and a maze of guidelines just to make sense of what should be the most basic part of life: eating.

This madness stems from a system hijacked by big business, where health takes a backseat to profit.

TWO FOOD SYSTEMS: U.S. VS. EUROPE

Consider this stark contrast:

- In the USA, the FDA allows nearly 4,000 substances in or around our food, from additives to preservatives. Many of these are "Generally Recognized as Safe," though that "generally" should give anyone pause.

- The European Union permits just 338 food additives. Their approach is cautious and prioritizes health over convenience.

The result? Europeans enjoy good food, good wine, and long lives, while Americans contend with processed diets that contribute to preventable diseases like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Adding insult to injury, we often pay a premium for food that isn't tampered with—labels like "organic" or "non-GMO" highlight what should already be the default, and often are a lie once you thoroughly read the label.

Despite being one of the wealthiest nations, America struggles with life expectancy and preventable health conditions. Other nations prove that investing in healthier lifestyles leads to better outcomes. Why not us?

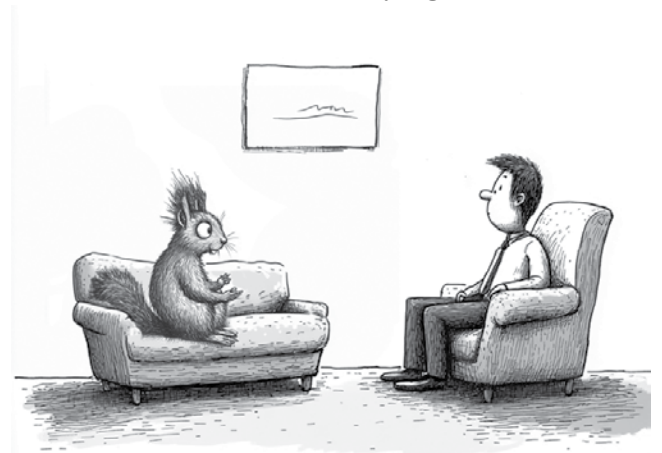
REAL FOOD, REAL CHANGE

RFK's vision for healthier eating is not just about personal choice—it's about systemic change. By addressing the chemicals, additives, and excess sugar that dominate our food, he's tackling an issue that impacts both physical and mental health.

As someone who has made the shift to eating more whole foods, I can say firsthand that the difference is remarkable. Energy levels, mental clarity, and overall well-being improve when you move away from processed products and embrace nature's offerings.

Throughout 2025, Pinewood News will track RFK's progress in this crucial endeavor, bringing you updates, insights, and practical advice for making your own changes. Let's support this mission to reclaim our food, our health, and ultimately, our lives.

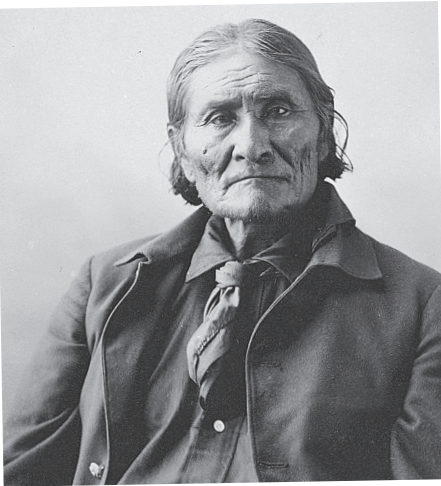
Here's to a future of real, simple, nourishing food—no labels, no apps, no compromises. Let's Make America Healthy Again!



When I learned 'You are what you eat'
I realized I was nuts!

TAMING THE WILD WEST

HOW ARIZONA BECAME THE VALENTINE STATE



Geronimo, the indomitable leader of the Chiricahua Apache, famously defied U.S. military efforts to confine his tribe to reservations. Renowned as a fearless warrior, he fought tenaciously to preserve the freedom and traditional way of life of his people.

Photograph by Frank Rinehart, 1898



Thomas Edward "Black Jack" Ketchum was an American cowboy who later became an outlaw. He was executed in 1901 for attempted train robbery. The execution by hanging was botched; he was decapitated because the executioner used a rope that was too long.

Photograph from Wikipedia



The Arizona Rangers, organized in 1901 on Governor Murphy's recommendation, initially consisted of 12 men led by Captain Burton C. Mossman, a Northern Arizona cattleman

Photograph from the Jeremy Rowe Collection

By Sandee Caviness

The Arizona Territory in the mid-1800s was a land of contradictions—both breathtaking and brutal. Its endless deserts stretched under an unforgiving sun, framed by craggy mountains and dotted with jagged canyons that seemed to defy taming. This was the Wild West, a lawless frontier where survival meant courage, resourcefulness, and a willingness to confront danger head-on. By February 14, 1912, Arizona had transformed from this untamed wilderness into the 48th state of the United States. How did this evolution happen? The story of Arizona's journey from chaos to statehood is as captivating as the land itself, filled with legendary outlaws, resilient pioneers, and the relentless push for order.

LAWLESS LAND

In the mid-19th century, Arizona was among the most untamed regions of the American frontier. After being acquired through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 and the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, it remained a vast and sparsely populated territory. Much of the land was dominated by Native American tribes, most notably the Apache, who fiercely resisted settlers' encroachment.

Among the most iconic figures of this time was Geronimo, the Apache leader whose name became synonymous with resistance. For decades, Geronimo and his followers waged war against U.S. forces, defending their homeland from encroachment. Alongside him was Cochise, another legendary Apache leader whose cunning strategies frustrated military campaigns. Their defiance made Arizona one of the most dangerous territories for settlers, soldiers, and travelers alike.

Adding to the chaos were outlaws who found refuge in Arizona's remote deserts and canyons. Figures like Black Jack Ketchum and the Clanton Gang carved their infamy into the annals of history, robbing trains and staging daring heists. The lack of strong law enforcement turned Arizona into a haven for criminals, solidifying its reputation as a lawless land.

THE MINING BOOM

The discovery of rich mineral deposits in the 1860s and 1870s began to lure settlers to Arizona. Silver and copper mines sprang up across the territory, giving rise to boomtowns like Tombstone, Bisbee, and Jerome. These towns were as chaotic as they were prosperous, filled with saloons, gambling halls, and violent disputes over mining claims.

Tombstone, in particular, became legendary for its wild reputation. By 1881, it was home to the infamous Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, a deadly 30-second shootout between lawmen Wyatt Earp, his brothers, Doc Holliday, and the Clanton-McLaury gang. The battle epitomized the tensions of the Wild West, where disputes were often settled with bullets rather than words. Tombstone's reputation as the quintessential Wild West town endures to this day, a reminder of the lawlessness and larger-than-life characters that once roamed Arizona's frontiers.

Yet, the mining boom also brought infrastructure and the seeds of civilization. Railroads began connecting Arizona's remote towns to the rest of the country, while growing populations demanded schools, churches, and governance. Despite these advancements, Arizona remained a land of stark contrasts—its burgeoning economy overshadowed by violence and lawlessness.

TAMING THE LAWLESS

By the early 1900s, efforts to impose law and order began to take hold. The Arizona Rangers, established in 1901, played a pivotal role in restoring peace to the territory. Modeled after the Texas Rangers, this elite group of lawmen was tasked with capturing outlaws, stopping cattle rustlers, and suppressing violent feuds. Their exploits became the stuff of legend, as they faced gunfights and manhunts in some of the harshest terrain in the country.

One of the most famous Rangers was Burton C. Mossman, who led daring missions to track down notorious bandits. Under his leadership, the Rangers apprehended gang leaders like Augustine Chacón, whose reign of terror had plagued southern Arizona. The Rangers' efforts not only curbed crime but also instilled a sense of security that encouraged further settlement.

At the same time, negotiations and military campaigns were bringing an end to the Apache resistance. Geronimo's final surrender in 1886 marked the close of an era, signaling the United States' firm control over the territory. While this was a turning point in Arizona's history, it also came at the cost of displacing Native American communities from their ancestral lands.



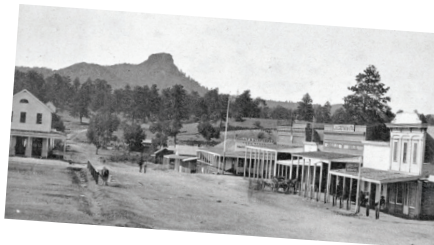
The first localmotive to enter Arizona was the Southern Pacific No. 31, Yuma 1877.

Photo courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society Tucson.



Clifton-Morenci area copper mine, located at Clifton-Morenci area copper mine.

Photo courtesy of Western Mining History



Early settlers Prescott, Arizona 1866.

Photo from Britannica



President William Howard Taft signing the Arizona Statehood act in Washington (D.C.)

From Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

THE WHISTLE OF PROGRESS

The arrival of the railroads in the late 19th century was a game-changer for Arizona, not just for its economy but also for its path to statehood. The construction of major rail lines, such as the Southern Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroads, connected Arizona to the rest of the nation. These railroads became lifelines, enabling the transport of copper, silver, cattle, and other goods that drove Arizona's economy.

The railroads also played a key role in opening up Northern Arizona, a region rich in natural beauty and resources. Towns like Flagstaff, Williams, and Winslow flourished as rail hubs, with industries like lumber and ranching taking root. The Grand Canyon, long revered by Native tribes, became accessible to tourists thanks to the Santa Fe Railroad, which built the El Tovar Hotel on the South Rim in 1905. This development marked the beginning of Arizona's rise as a tourist destination.

THE FIGHT FOR CIVILIZATION

As law and order took root, so too did the push for infrastructure and governance. Railroads became lifelines for Arizona, connecting it to California and New Mexico and allowing goods, people, and ideas to flow into the territory. Settlers began to establish permanent communities, building schools, newspapers, and local governments.

However, life in Arizona was not without its challenges. Settlers faced relentless heat, droughts, and isolation, often relying on their own ingenuity to survive. Conflicts with Native tribes, while less frequent, still flared up in remote areas. Despite these hardships, Arizona's population steadily grew, bolstered by the arrival of Mexican laborers and Anglo-American settlers. The blending of cultures created a unique identity for the territory, one that celebrated both its Mexican heritage and frontier spirit.

THE PUSH FOR STATEHOOD

By the early 20th century, Arizona was ready to shed its reputation as a wild frontier and join the Union as a state. Yet, the road to statehood was fraught with obstacles. The U.S. Congress viewed Arizona as too unruly and sparsely populated to merit admission. Moreover, its progressive stance on issues like judicial recalls—allowing voters to remove judges—clashed with the more conservative values of the federal government.

President William Howard Taft initially vetoed Arizona's proposed state constitution, citing concerns over its progressive provisions. Determined to gain statehood, Arizona made a strategic compromise by amending its constitution to remove the controversial judicial recall clause. Once admitted to the Union, the state promptly reinstated the clause, demonstrating the bold independence that defined Arizona's character.

On February 14, 1912, President Taft signed the proclamation making Arizona the 48th state of the United States. Its admission completed the Union's contiguous states, marking the end of an era of expansion and settlement.

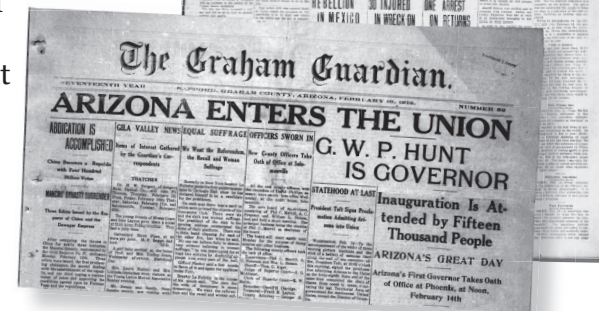
STATEHOOD: FEBRUARY 14, 1912

The day Arizona achieved statehood was a moment of celebration and reflection. Known as the "Valentine State" due to its admission on Valentine's Day, Arizona's journey to statehood was a testament to the resilience of its people. From the Apache Wars to the mining boom, from lawless towns to thriving communities, Arizona's history encapsulated the spirit of the Wild West.

Statehood brought new opportunities and challenges. Arizona's vast mineral wealth continued to fuel its economy, while agriculture and tourism emerged as key industries. The state's natural beauty—from the Grand Canyon to the Painted Desert—became a symbol of its rugged allure, drawing visitors from across the world.

Today, Arizona remains proud of its Wild West heritage. Towns like Tombstone preserve the stories of outlaws and lawmen, while festivals and reenactments keep the spirit of the frontier alive. The state's nickname, "The Valentine State," serves as a reminder of the day it joined the Union and the journey it took to get there.

As we reflect on its journey, we are reminded that the Wild West may have been tamed, but its spirit endures in the rugged landscapes and enduring legacy of the Valentine State. Arizona's story is not just its own—it is a testament to the broader American experience of growth, conflict, and transformation.



SUDOKU

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 34

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TRAVEL

IN THE NICK OF TIME



The library at El Escorial is reminiscent of the Sistine Chapel.

Photo by Unstoppable Stacey Wittig



More Spanish royals are buried at El Escorial than elsewhere

Photo by Unstoppable Stacey Wittig



The Atocha train station in Madrid
Photo by Unstoppable Stacey Wittig

By Unstoppable Stacey Wittig

Happy Valentine's Day from Spain! The morning after I landed in Madrid, I got up before the 7 am alarm on my phone. Using the hostel's Wi-Fi the night before, I meticulously planned my 33-minute walk to the 8:55 am train, the hour ride to El Escorial, to arrive for my 11 am tour at El Escorial one hour ahead of time. Fortunately, I walked fast enough to get coffee at the station. I thought about using the extra time to find a SIM card for my phone so I don't need to depend on Wi-Fi.

"I'll have plenty of time to do that tomorrow," I told myself. "One thing at a time; stay focused. Just keep your phone on airplane mode today so as not to accrue a big Verizon charge."

"Hables espanol?" I asked the guy in the coffee line ahead of me. When he responded in the affirmative, I questioned, "Do we have to stand in that long line to get to the tracks?" "I think so," he said. "My train is at three, so I don't have much time. I'll ask the barista to make sure." He obviously was not local and was as clueless as I was.

His English was darn good, but I forgave him for getting his numbers mixed up—I do it all the time. He must mean 9. "I'll stand in line after I get my coffee; you come meet me there." "Gracias," I smiled.

He was on a business call when I squeezed in line with him, holding my first cafe con leche of the trip. I still had 15 minutes to my 8:55 train but this line snaking to the luggage control sign could be a killer.

What?! Luggage control? That's when I noticed everyone in line except my new friend, and I had luggage. A woman smartly dressed in a Renfe uniform walked by, keeping the herd in order. I waved her down and hurried over. "Hables espanol?" After less than 24 hours in country, I was getting pretty good at this tourist Spanish.

"A little," she said. "Is this the line for El Escorial?" "No, no!" She wagged her index finger at me. "You want the Cercanias, local trains abajo. Down there," she pointed over the mezzanine railing to the crowd scurrying like ants to the entries of a multitude of local tracks one floor below."

I looked back at mi amigo, his back to me, still talking in a staccato fashion on his phone. So, not wanting to interrupt, without an adios, I turned on my heel and fled towards the escalator. Halfway down, I was filled with regret. What kind of travel companion am I? I should have given him the cutthroat signal of I'm outta here, or something! I just bolted off in my unstoppable way. I whispered a prayer of confession and hit the ground at a half-run.

I'd bought my train ticket before coffee, but I couldn't make it open the turnstile. A young millennial said, "It's the red reader..." I searched below but couldn't find it. "Look at what others are doing," he shouted as the crowd pushed him forward past the turnstile and away from me."

I was still looking for something red when a young student noticed my distress. She couldn't find the red scanner either. Come with me, she motioned and like two fish swimming upstream, she pushed us past the descending crowd to an attendant wearing a neon vest."

She asked and then translated the rapid-fire Spanish answer for me. My ticket, a one-time ticket, was different from the local folks' multiuse tickets. They each took different scanning devices.

The pretty student escorted me back to the turnstile and showed me the red reader underneath the other card reader. Aha! Only minutes left for my 8:55 am train to El Escorial!

Before the next set of stairs downward, a tall man stood in the neon Renfe vest. "El Escorial?" I asked. "Via dos," he said confidently. TRACK 2, but the map had said track 1. Same platform for either track, so I preceeded, just in the nick of time.

I'd been walking or standing in line for the past hour, so I was happy to find a bench on the platform. I looked at my wristwatch: 2:55. Wierd, I must have screwed up setting my watch to Madrid time last night. And here I'd been patting myself on the back for a job well done!

I checked my phone, and sure enough, it said 8:55 am, just in time for my train to El Escorial.

The signage at Via 1 and 2 is not so good, but the clock showed the time loud and clear: the big hand at 12 and the small hand at 3. I felt like I was on an episode of Twilight Zone. I had to ask a Spanish guy, "Hoy tres?" pointing to the clock. Now, is it three? "Yes," he said.

I started laughing. I was sitting on the platform waiting for a train that had left six hours before! I'd slept through 1/2 the day and still believed it was 9 am because my phone was showing Miami time (set when I put it on airplane mode.) Now THAT's some jetlag!

Despite my finely tuned trip orchestration, I missed my 11 am tour

"UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig is a travel writer based in Munds Park. Follow her adventures at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com

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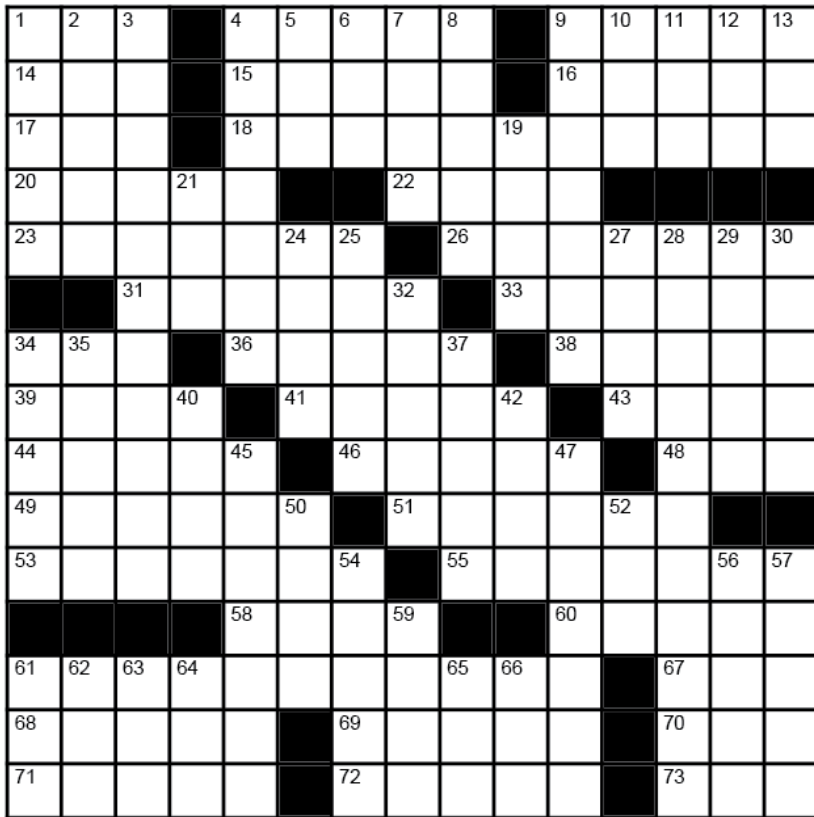
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 34



ACROSS

1. Cry of disgust
4. Central position
9. Right hands
14. Take advantage of
15. Urgent
16. Kind of fund
17. Tax prep. expert
18. Symbolize good luck and prosperity in Chinese culture
20. Wispy clouds
22. Shed tears
23. Art of representing characters on stage
26. Iotas
31. Refines, as ore
33. Psychic energy
34. Stadium sound
36. Underground network
38. Quibble
39. October's birthstone
41. Tree with smooth bark

43. Nerve network
44. Bunk option
46. Chocolate substitute
48. What Leary tripped on
49. Football complement
51. Yellowstone sight
53. Settles
55. Resistance in the millions?
58. It's on the house
60. Turn sour
61. Overtime period
67. Wood sorrel
68. Indic language
69. E'en if
70. Arid
71. Not fulfilled
72. Winter hazard
73. Shipwreck signal

DOWN

1. New Mexico's state flower

2. Savory jelly
3. Like some Valentine's Day candies
4. Seafarer
5. Rink surface
6. Flop
7. This-and-that dish
8. Doctrine
9. Germ-free
10. Under the weather
11. Twosome
12. Sixth sense
13. That girl
19. Wedding wear
21. Pacific _____
24. Dollop
25. Stiff-upper-lip type
27. Skier's transport
28. A means of securing the necessities of life.
29. Blue-pencils
30. Like a shoe
32. Scarecrow stuffing
34. Rakes
35. Waldorf salad ingredient
37. Vamoose
40. Bulgarian moola
42. Desire
45. Withdraw
47. Top dog
50. Sign gas
52. Summit
54. Fountain orders
56. Very small
57. Does in
59. Tumbled
61. Symbol of worthlessness
62. Tea server
63. Not brilliant
64. Stain
65. Supped
66. "What's ____ word?"



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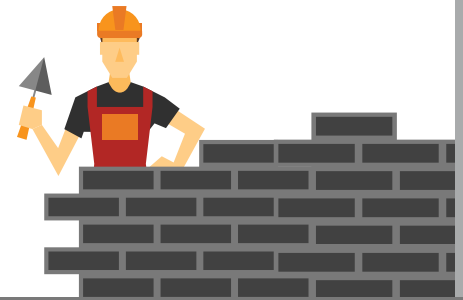
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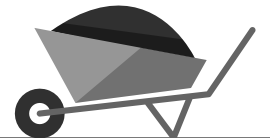
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THE MOST LOVABLE ANIMALS!

A VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION OF NATURE'S SWEETHEARTS

By George Dee

Valentine's Day isn't just for chocolates and flowers. The animal kingdom is brimming with love, devotion, and downright adorable behaviors that make our hearts melt. From snuggling lovebirds to belly-sliding penguins, these creatures are nature's sweethearts—and they have plenty to teach us about love. So, grab a cozy spot and let's meet five of the most lovable animals perfect for this Valentine's season.

PENGUINS: PEBBLE PROPOSALS & GREAT PARENTS

When it comes to romance, penguins are total pros. Male penguins woo their mates by presenting them with a perfect pebble, almost like a wedding ring. If the female accepts, she places it in her nest, sealing their partnership. But it's not just about romance—these birds are incredible parents. Emperor penguin dads take on the chilly task of balancing eggs on their feet for two whole months, keeping them warm while mom hunts for food. Talk about teamwork!



Fun Fact: Penguins' tuxedo-like feathers serve as camouflage in the water. Their white bellies blend in with the bright surface when viewed from below, while their black backs make them harder to spot from above against the dark ocean depths. This helps protect them from predators like leopard seals and orcas in the sea.

DOLPHINS: SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES WITH BIG HEARTS

Dolphins are the ocean's charmers. Known for their playful leaps and friendly whistles, they're also great at forming bonds. Dolphins travel in pods and often work together to hunt, protect one another, and even care for injured



friends. Scientists have discovered that dolphins even have names for each other, using unique whistles to say, "Hey, it's me!"

Fun Fact: Dolphins show affection by swimming close, touching fins, and even playing games like underwater tag. Who needs Cupid when you've got fins?

OTTERS: HOLDING HANDS & STAYING AFLOAT

Sea otters are basically the poster animals for cuteness. These playful creatures hold hands while they float on their backs to avoid drifting apart. They're also clever tool users, cracking open clams and crabs with rocks. But their love doesn't stop with each other—mother otters wrap their babies in kelp to keep them safe and cozy while they search for food.



Fun Fact: Otters have the densest fur of any animal, with up to a million hairs per square inch, which helps keep them warm in chilly waters. Fluffy and functional!

WOLVES: HOWLING HEARTS & LOYAL PACKS

In the wild, wolves are the ultimate family animals. They form close-knit packs, and the alpha pair—often lifelong mates—lead the group with love and loyalty. Wolves show affection through playful nuzzles, licks, and tail wags, just like our furry friends at home. And their famous howls? It's a way to communicate, often



Continued on page 18

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SCAN ME!

THE MOST LOVABLE ANIMALS

Continued from page 17

calling their packmates home. Beyond this, wolves also care for their elderly members, bringing them food and protecting them within the pack. Elderly wolves contribute wisdom and guidance, teaching younger members vital survival skills.

Fun Fact: Wolves can cover more than 30 miles a day, but no matter how far they roam, their bonds remain strong.

LOVEBIRDS: TINY BIRDS WITH BIG HEARTS

As their name suggests, lovebirds are the symbol of devotion. These colorful parrots form incredibly strong bonds with their partners, often cuddling and preening each other for hours. If that wasn't sweet enough, lovebirds are also super playful and enjoy chirping away to brighten anyone's day.



Fun Fact: Lovebirds got their name because they often sit so close together it's hard to tell where one ends and the other begins. That's true love!

This Valentine's Day, let's take a page from these amazing animals. Whether it's the penguin's teamwork, the otter's hand-holding, or the dolphin's playful spirit, love comes in many shapes, sizes, and species. So, share a hug, hold a hand, or give a pebble to someone you care about. After all, love is the wildest adventure of all.



A SQUIRRELY VALENTINE

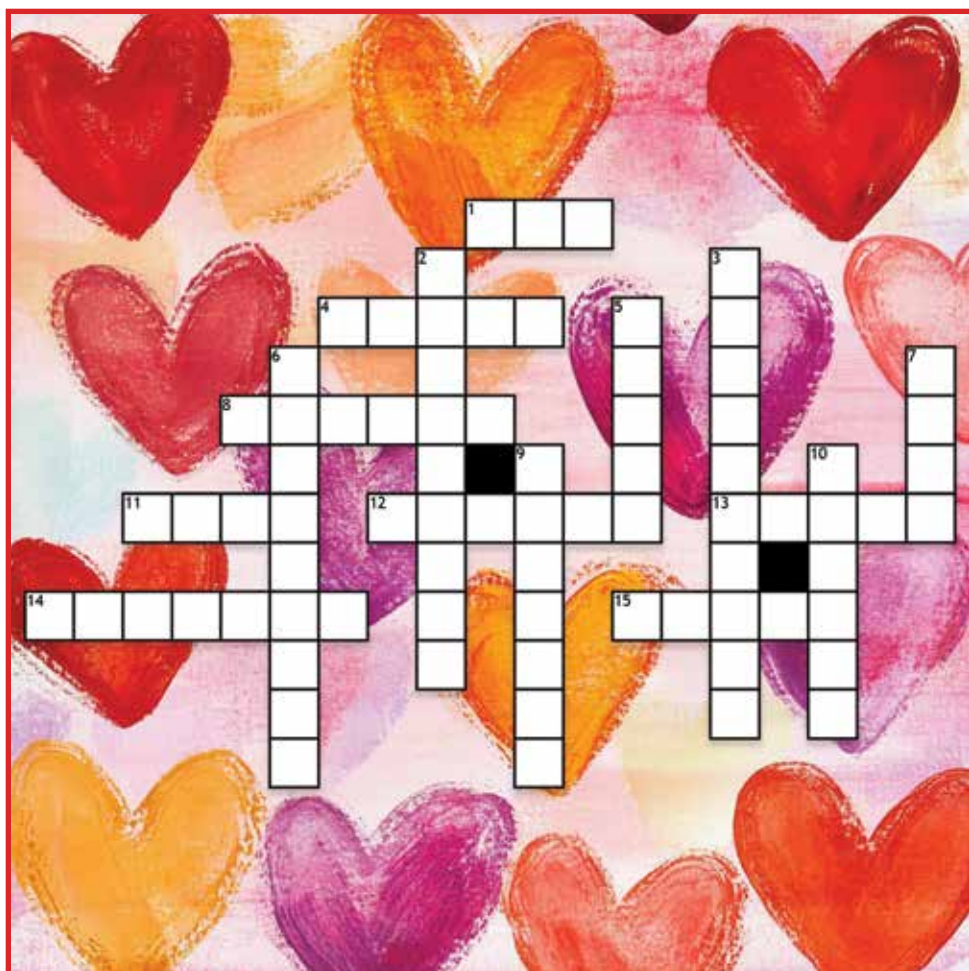
If you'll be my Valentine,
I'll give you half my snack.
A cookie with a bite, you see—
I took a little snack.

I'll draw a heart upon your hand,
With markers red and blue.
And in this heart, I'll write my name,
So you'll know that I like you.

I'll even let you use my glue,
My scissors, and my pen,
And if you lose them, that's okay—
I'll just find them again.

So if you'll be my Valentine,
I'll be so glad and proud—
But please say yes, or else my heart
Might just float off, like a cloud!

LOVE TALES CROSSWORD READ THE PNK STORIES, FIND THE CLUES! Solutions PG28



Across

- Otters have the densest type of this among animals.
- A symbol of love drawn on Valentine's Day.
- These animals form packs and care for their elderly members.
- A sticky item the squirrel is willing to share.
- These animals hold hands to stay together while floating.
- The squirrel's heart might do this if you say no.
- Ocean charmers known for their whistles and leaps.
- What squirrels might share with a Valentine.

Down

- A special day for celebrating love and friendship.
- Penguins' tuxedo feathers serve this purpose.
- Wolves use this sound to communicate over long distances.
- Small parrots known for their devotion to their partners.
- What male penguins balance to help keep their eggs warm.
- Birds that woo with pebbles.
- A sweet treat mentioned in the poem.





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

VALENTINE WORD SEARCH

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

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Affection | Kindness |
| Cards | Laughter |
| Caring | Love |
| Chocolates | Roses |
| Cupid | Share |
| Forever | Smile |
| Friends | Sweet |
| Friendship | Together |
| Heart | Valentine |
| Hugs | |
| Joy | |



Love Birds illustration by Violet Bendinelli

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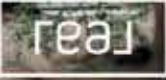
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THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG VENDOR RELATIONSHIPS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS

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.valentingroupaz.com/vendors. Let's work together to create a thriving business community built on trust and collaboration.

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COLD WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Your Ultimate Guide to Staying Safe This Winter

By Jay Otlewski

Munds Park hasn't had as much snow this winter as the last couple of years, but the cold weather has certainly made itself known. With temperatures dropping and super low temperatures overnight, it's clear that winter is here to stay for a while.

And while the snow hasn't piled up yet, we all know it's only a matter of time before it arrives.

That's why it's a great time to prepare and discuss staying safe in cold weather, whether you're dealing with icy conditions or that inevitable blanket of snow.

As the temperature drops and winter weather sets in, preparing for cold weather emergencies becomes essential. Winter poses challenges such as freezing temperatures, snowstorms, and icy roads that require careful planning.

Before we get into the article I would like to remind everyone that the Munds Park Community Church is our only emergency shelter. The Church will open up its fellowship hall based on recommendations from the county.

When appropriate the county will contact the Church to request they open the shelter. You can receive these updates from the county's 911 reverse text system, watch the Church's Facebook page, or give them a call at 928-286-2022.

PLANNING

So let's get into it, whether you're bracing for a blizzard or dealing with a cold snap, having a solid emergency plan can make all the difference.

Cold weather emergency preparedness involves planning and taking steps to stay safe during extreme winter conditions. This includes preparing for power outages, blocked roads, and limited resources.

Being prepared helps you handle winter's unpredictability and potential hazards.

One thing we know is extreme cold can be dangerous for the elderly, our pets, and those with health conditions. Prioritizing preparedness helps prevent health risks, ensures access to warmth and shelter, and builds resilience during snow, ice, or severe weather.

One thing we love about Munds Park is we all look out for each other and it really helps if you're connected with your neighbors. Several ways would be making friends in the community, becoming a member of the Church, or attending the Fire Auxiliary meetings.

Watching out for each other is important so get involved.

PREPARE YOURSELF

Having the right supplies is crucial. Warm clothing is your first defense against the cold. Thermal layers, insulated jackets, hats, gloves, and waterproof boots help you stay dry and warm. Proper clothing reduces the risk of frostbite and hypothermia.

Prepare for power outages with a generator, portable propane heaters (used safely), firewood, and thermal blankets. These items keep you warm if the power goes out.

Stock supplies like non-perishable food, water, blankets, batteries, and first aid kits. Stay informed by checking weather forecasts and having a communication plan. Reducing risks like frostbite and hypothermia is also key.

A well-equipped first aid kit should include gauze, bandages, antiseptic wipes, hand warmers, and thermal blankets. Knowing basic first aid can help treat frostbite or other cold-related injuries.

Emergency communication devices like battery-powered radios charged power banks, and cell phones with emergency contacts ensure you can stay informed and call for help.



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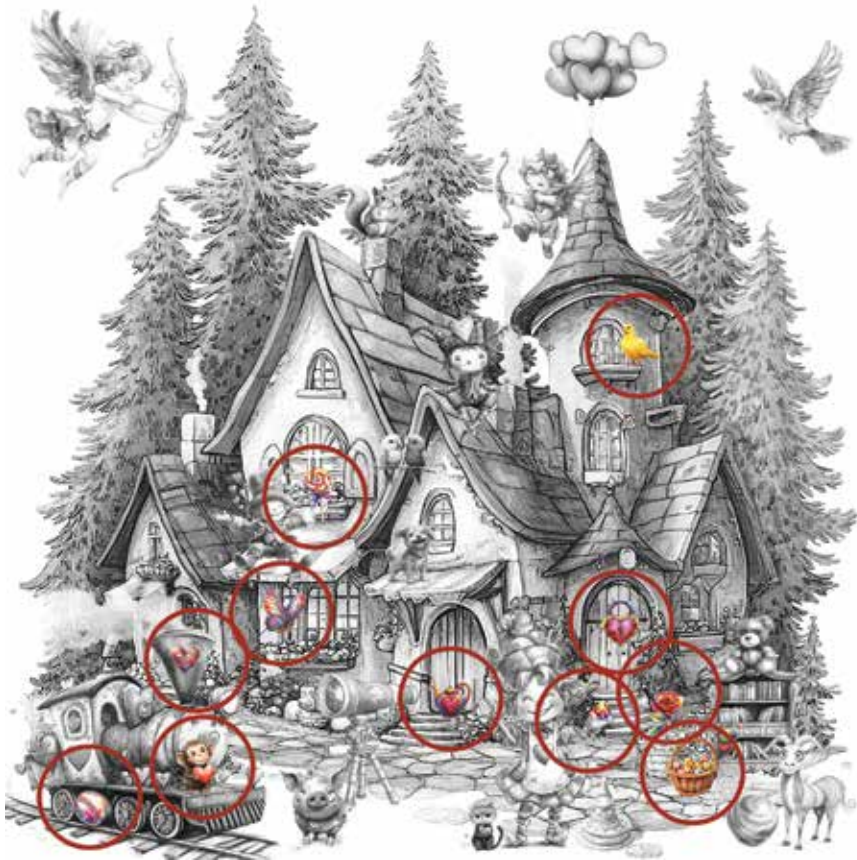
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Continued on page 29

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COLD WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Continued from page 27

PREPARE YOUR HOME

Preparing your home is just as important. Proper insulation keeps your home warm and reduces energy use. Seal drafts around windows and doors, insulate attics and walls and cover exposed pipes to prevent freezing.

A well-insulated home keeps you comfortable and saves money. Store emergency supplies in an easy-to-access spot and check them regularly. Prepare for power outages with generators (used safely), extra blankets, and battery-powered heaters.

Teach your family about safe generator use to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

During a cold weather emergency, staying indoors is crucial. Limit outdoor exposure and conserve heat by closing unused rooms, using heavy curtains, and layering clothing. Stay updated on weather alerts to track changing conditions.

Check on neighbors and loved ones, especially those who are elderly or have limited mobility. Offering help and sharing resources can strengthen your community during tough times.

KNOW THE SIGNS

Learn the signs of frostbite (numbness, pale skin) and hypothermia (shivering, confusion, fatigue) and seek medical help. Drink water and eat nutritious foods to maintain energy. Warm soups and hot drinks can provide hydration and comfort.

Cold weather emergency preparedness is more than just gathering supplies. It's about planning ahead to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

By following these tips, you can handle winter's challenges with confidence. Preparation is the key to safety. Equip your home, car, and family with the tools and knowledge needed to face winter emergencies.

When the next snowstorm or cold snap comes, you'll be ready to stay warm and safe.

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WORD SEARCH

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FEBRUARY HOROSCOPE BY CAKE

Astrology dances with the cosmos, syncing us to the energy of the stars and planets swirling above. This February, the month of love, those celestial rhythms remind us that connection—whether to ourselves or others—is what truly lights our way. Each shift in the sky mirrors a shift within, nudging us toward moments of reflection, joy, and growth. The stars aren't just distant lights; they're gentle guides, whispering that love, in all its forms, is part of the cosmic dance that unites us.



ARIES, MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

February calls on your bold spirit to soften and savor the quiet victories of love. Matters of the heart aren't always about grand gestures or fiery passions—sometimes, they're found in showing up, staying steady, and cherishing the small moments. Whether you're reaching out to a lifelong partner or reconnecting with a friend, love wins when you choose it daily. Remember, a strong heart doesn't always charge ahead; sometimes, it simply listens and loves with intention.



LEO, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Leo, your confidence and passion light up every room, but this February, love calls you to share the spotlight. Whether it's appreciating a long-time partner's quiet support or reaching out to an old friend, love is a dance of give and take. Let your warmth be a gift to others, and don't forget to step back and celebrate the people who brighten your world. True royalty, after all, knows when to stand tall and when to kneel in gratitude.



SAGITTARIUS, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Your love of adventure knows no bounds, Sagittarius, and February reminds you that connection can be its own journey. Whether you're reminiscing with old friends, planning a spontaneous visit, or sending a heartfelt letter, let your restless spirit guide you to love's unexpected places. If grief has touched your heart, honor the journey you've shared with those you miss. Love, like an open road, has no end—only new horizons waiting to be discovered.



TAURUS, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

You crave life's comforts, Taurus—warm meals, soft touches, and spaces that feel like home. February encourages you to deepen your love by sharing those joys. Surprise someone with your favorite home-cooked dish or simply create space for them to feel seen. If love feels distant, don't retreat into your cozy shell; instead, reach out. The love you offer—steady, loyal, and nurturing—brings peace to others, and in return, their presence becomes your softest solace.



VIRGO, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Your practical, perfectionist nature often keeps you busy improving everything around you, Virgo, but February asks you to let love be messy. Whether it's in a relationship, friendship, or even self-love, connection doesn't require perfection. Pause your to-do list, sit in the stillness, and let someone see the real, imperfect you. Love thrives in honesty, not control. This month, your greatest gift will be accepting love as it comes—flaws and all.



CAPRICORN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

Capricorn, your dedication to life's climb is inspiring, but February nudges you to pause and appreciate the view. Love, like all great achievements, requires care and attention. Whether it's a partner, family member, or old friend, let them know how much they mean to you. Time is precious, and love thrives when we choose to spend it meaningfully. A heartfelt "thank you" or "I miss you" can carry more weight than grand gestures ever could.



GEMINI, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Your mind is always buzzing, Gemini, but February invites you to slow down and truly connect. You thrive on spontaneity and variety, and love isn't exempt from that—whether you're reigniting an old friendship or striking up a surprising conversation, let curiosity guide you. Love doesn't always need a plan. Show someone they have your full attention, even if just for a moment. Sometimes, the deepest connections are born from simply being present.



LIBRA, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Balance is your rhythm, Libra, and February asks you to extend that harmony to matters of the heart. You're a natural peacemaker, smoothing out tension and seeking fairness, but love requires vulnerability, too. Be bold enough to share your needs with those you care about, and allow them to share theirs. Whether it's a family member, or friend, true balance is found when hearts meet halfway—honestly, openly, and with mutual care.



AQUARIUS, JAN 21 - FEB 18

Your innovative spirit is always looking forward, Aquarius, but February invites you to reflect on love's quiet blessings. Whether it's the friendships that sustain you, a partner who sees your quirks as gifts, or memories of love that shaped your heart, connection is your grounding force. Use your compassionate nature to lift others this month, but don't forget to let love flow back to you. Even the strongest water bearer needs moments to refill their cup.



CANCER, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

Cancer, your emotional depth is unmatched, and this month, love asks you to trust it. Whether you're caring for a lifelong partner, reaching out to family, or honoring love you've lost, your ability to nurture others is your superpower. Yet, February reminds you to let others care for you, too. True love is a two-way street—let yourself be held, comforted, and cherished. It's in those small moments where your heart feels most at home.



SCORPIO, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Scorpio, your intensity often keeps others guessing, but this month, let your loved ones in. Whether you're rekindling an old bond, exploring a new connection, or simply honoring memories that still linger, February calls on you to trust. Your emotional strength is unmatched, but real love requires surrender—letting someone see your soft side without fear of losing yourself. Remember, vulnerability isn't weakness; it's where true connection takes root and grows strong.



PISCES, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

Pisces, your gentle heart carries the love of lifetimes, and February asks you to honor it. Whether you're holding space for loved ones, reconnecting with friends, or treasuring memories of those you miss, your empathy is a gift. Yet, don't lose yourself in giving. Let others show you love, too—listen to their words, feel their presence, and trust that you are cherished. Love is all around you, steady and eternal, like the tide's gentle return.



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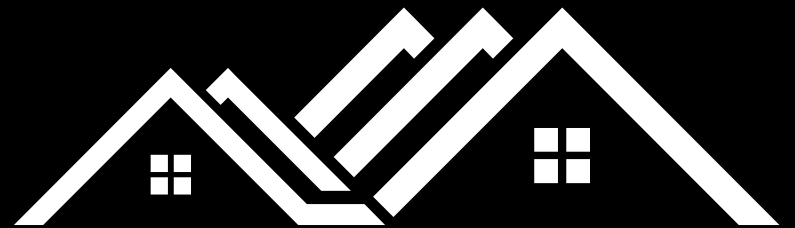
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CONTENTMENT

By Pastor Steve Bowyer

More than just about anything, and maybe even at the top of the list of things we desire, is contentment. A deep satisfaction with who we are and where we are in life.

Contentment is not circumstance driven. We can be content even in difficult situations. Challenges provide opportunities. And success or failure cannot create nor eliminate contentment from our life.

Do you remember back in the 80's, all the self-help books on how to be content? How to have the perfect lawn, landscape, and garden. How to have the perfect golf swing and score low. How to raise perfect children. The perfect marriage in 3 easy steps. How to have the perfect body and be in great shape in 3 short years. "Let's Get Physical" with Olivia Newton John.

And yet, here we are, 40 years later still searching for that elusive goal of contentment. We still have weeds in our garden. We still make bad golf shots. We are still problem children, not to mention the problems our children create for us. Marriage is still a struggle. And many of us are still too heavy and out of shape.

Maybe we have been focusing on the wrong things. We can have weeds in the garden, challenging kids and a challenging marriage, bad golf swing, be a little heavy and still find what we are after.

Jesus was pretty clear how we can find contentment. It has nothing to do with any of these things. It has everything to do with recognizing how dependent we are on God and how we cannot depend on ourselves at all to achieve it.

In Matthew 5 Jesus gave us a list of perspectives to focus on that would result in contentment. It is a famous passage in the bible, the Sermon on the Mount.

He said, "Blessed are those who..." First, blessed means content, deeply satisfied in life. Not stressed. At peace in all circumstances. Jesus said it is possible to find this elusive goal if we focus on the right things.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3)

We tend to think of materialism when we think of the word, poor. But Jesus is referring to the poverty of our own spirituality. If we acknowledge we are dirt poor, broke, bankrupt spiritually and totally dependent on God then we will find contentment.

"Blessed are those who mourn." (Matthew 5:4)

Not that we walk around crying all the time. But, in recognizing our spiritual poverty, we are moved to grieve our lack of ability to help ourselves.

"Blessed are the meek." (Matthew 5:5)

We tend to think of meek as weak. It is far from it. Meekness is best illustrated by a palm tree. What happens to a sturdy oak tree in a tornado or hurricane? It snaps in two or is uprooted. What happens to a palm tree? It flexes with the wind direction. It may lose a few fronds but will survive the storm. When we flex to God's direction in our life we will survive and find contentment.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." (Matthew 5:6)

After the hurricane, when the power is knocked out, no water nor way to keep our food fresh; we are desperate for the basics. That is the sort of desperation God calls us to for Him to provide for our basic spiritual needs.

"Blessed are the merciful." (Matthew 5:7)

Mercy is not being mean to people who deserve it. Those people who find it possible to be kind all the time will affect their own attitude and outlook on life in positive ways.

"Blessed are the pure in heart." (Matthew 5:8)

Those who keep their hearts pure, undefiled, unaffected by the immorality of our society in media and entertainment, not seeking their satisfaction in the activities of the ungodly; will find true satisfaction.

"Blessed are the peacemakers." (Matthew 5:9)

By pursuing peace between people, we will find peace in our own heart. Less stress. Better sleep at night.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness." (Matthew 5:10)

You would think that we would feel less content if we were unfairly, unjustly, undeservedly accused and poorly treated because of our relationship with someone else. But, here, Jesus said that if we are treated unfairly because of Him, then we will actually feel better.

Jesus made it pretty simple. To find the contentment in life you are looking for, focus your energy and attention on what God can do for you, what you cannot do for yourself, and much less on your garden, golf swing, and how you look in the mirror.

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WORD SEARCH

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Solutions

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KIDS WORD SEARCH

Solutions

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR




Walter,

That day we met in the crosswalk was by chance and I will always treasure the beginning of the rest of our lives together... I remember your face and your love for fun and games, especially on that afternoon when we were approaching each other and our eyes met and you got the surprise of your life when I smacked you... I remember the scent of your cologne brut with a hint of shaving cream and how it lingered on me after our hugs.

I loved how we always held hands and our secret I Love You message. Our warm embraces never wanting to depart. The gifts you brought me you knew how much I loved them. Looking forward to our dream vacation quickly approaching. I love how blessed I am with you in my life, you are patient, kind and truthful with never failing love.

I don't just feel loved but understood... if you live to be 100 I want to live to be 100 minus one day. So I never have to live without you. I would be lost you are my soulmate, (You are my Everything) the many poems I wrote to you growing up are forever embedded in my heart. All my Heart and soul .

I Love you, Martha



Happy Valentine's day to my beautiful wife, Sue. The 39 years we have been together have been the happiest of my life. I love you more than I can ever say. Dick.



Happy Valentines to my girls!
Love you



Hello my beautiful wife, it's been nine years since our wedding, thanks for hanging in there with me.



Lucy and Penny,
You two are the sweetest Valentines!
Thank you for being so special!
Love, Mom & Dad



To my sweet Molly, who turns 10 this month! You are my baby, bambino, babykins, babe meister...and I love you to the moon! Can't wait to snuggle up on Valentines Day with my favorite feline, confidant and purr machine.

Love, Momma

Happy Valentines, Marjorie


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