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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 email: Hello@ThePinewoodNews.com

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COLDWELL BANKER NORTHLAND



\$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.



\$449,500 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.



\$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.



\$375,000 259 E FOXBORO ROAD, 7

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



\$1,249,500 17810 S HIGHLAND PLACE

Custom-built log home on Highland Place with mountain views, gourmet kitchen, two decks, oak floors, stone fireplace, and unique lighting. Most furnishings convey.



\$575,000 260 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.



\$350,000 307 E Foxboro Road, 4

Experience luxury at Foxboro Ranch Estates! 1.99 acre lot in Northern AZ with access to catch-and-release lakes, trails, and a log clubhouse near Schnebly Hill and Pinewood Golf Course..



\$425,000 17295 S ZIA PLACE

Remodeled, metal roof, paver driveway, and 2 sheds. Split floor plan: primary bedroom suite, new kitchen, family room, laundry, and 2 beds. New bathrooms, flooring, windows, & paint.



\$729,000 635 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.



\$349,900 18005 S DIXIE LANE, 48

Magnificent 1.8-acre lot in Foxboro Ranch Estates blends luxury with nature, offering access to private lakes, a clubhouse, and trails. Near Flagstaff and Sedona, utilities ready.



\$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..



733,5001120 E LAKE MEADOW CIR

Nestled among ponderosa pines, this renovated home offers a fireplace, forest views, and access to Pinewood Country Club and O'Dell Lake. Ideal for outdoor enthusiasts.



928.606.1385

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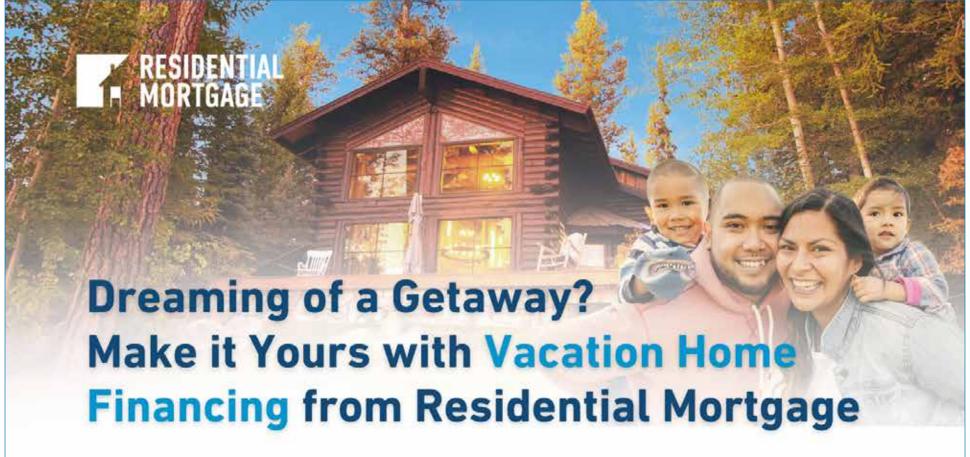


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AA MEETINGS - FEEL BETTER!

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, October 1

6:30 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

PINEWOOD FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Public Welcome Tuesday, October 15

3 pm • 475 E Pinewood Blvd

PINEWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Public Welcome Thursday, October 10

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 participationare essential!

Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 pm 475 E Pinewood Blvd

MUTS VOLUNTEER EVENT!

Help us maintain Lower Crystal Point Trail. After the work is done, enjoy a complimentary lunch with fellow volunteers.

Saturday, September 14 at 8:15 a.m. 1250 E. Raintree driveway

RSVP by September 7 to mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

SCAMMERS TARGET PET OWNERS WHO'VE LOST THEIR PETS

A disturbing scam is targeting pet owners who have lost their pets and posted signs or shared details online, with recent incidents reported in Sedona. The Humane Society of Sedona (HSS) revealed that scammers are contacting individuals, falsely claiming their missing pets are severely injured and need immediate surgery. The fraudsters demand large sums of money upfront, refusing to let the owners see their pets or provide proof.

HSS stressed that they would never request payment over the phone without first verifying the pet in person. They reassured the public that their main focus is reuniting lost pets with their families, and any fees or medical costs are always handled face-to-face.

This scam could affect pet owners anywhere, so everyone should be cautious. Be wary of anyone refusing to provide photos, making threats, or demanding money before allowing you to see your pet. If you encounter this scam, report it to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov or contact Ron Norfleet at the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Fraud Unit at (928) 771-3299.

Local Highlights Continued on page 7A

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HALLOWEEN Trunk or Treat

BRING THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

Volunteer for Trunk or Treat!

The Pinewood Fire Department Auxiliary is excited to host a Halloween Trunk or Treat, and we need your help to make it an unforgettable event! We're looking for spirited folks to decorate their cars with fun and creative themes and hand out candy (we'll provide the treats).

We also need volunteers to help run games, lead crafts, and assist with other activities. It's a great way to give back and spread some joy to our community's children.

Candy donations are welcome, too! You can drop off any contributions at the fire station, Post Office, or Gail's place at 17255 Kay Place.

If you'd like to decorate a car, volunteer, or donate candy, please contact Gail VanDeurzen at 623-670-0255.

Let's come together to create a safe and fun Halloween for everyone!

When: Saturday, October 26th, 1 – 3 pm

Where: Pinewood Country Club

• Event may be postponed or canceled due to inclement weather. •

NEED TO KNOW

MUNDS PARK TOWN HALL

Stay Informed & Engaged!

If you've ever found yourself wondering what's happening in our community, or feeling out of the loop, now's your chance to stay informed. Attending the Munds Park Community Watch meetings is a great way to get all the latest updates directly from the people who make things happen. Don't miss out on important information—join us at the next meeting!

The upcoming Munds Park Community Watch Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 pm at the Pinewood Fire Station. Here's what's on the agenda:

Pinewood Fire Department: Captain Caleb Garcia from A Shift will provide valuable community services information.

Coconino County Sheriff's Office: Chief Deputy Bret Axlund will offer an update on recent law enforcement activities.

Coconino National Forest: Cody Myers, Timber Specialist, will share an update on current forest conditions and activities.

National Weather Service: Meteorologist Brian Klimowski will present the fall and winter weather forecast, helping us prepare for the seasons ahead.

Arizona Public Service (APS): Community Affairs Manager Janet Dean will provide an update on APS services and activities in our area.

Coconino County Emergency Management: Director Wes Dison will give an update on emergency management efforts and preparations.

Coconino County Public Works: Community Relations Manager Marc Della Rocca and the Public Works team will share the latest news and information on county public works projects.

Coconino County Flood Control District: Director Lucinda Andreani will provide an update on flood control efforts and planning.

Our motto is "people helping people," and by attending these meetings, you're playing a vital role in our community's safety and well-being. See you there!

Local Highlights Continued on page 9A





17165 S. Mustang Rd

This adorable cabin located in the 'Animal Hill' section of Munds Park has it all! Two bedrooms, two baths AND a spacious two-car garage. Attractive and open great room is light and bright, has vaulted T&G ceilings, a toasty and very efficient wood burning stove, and a slider that opens to the wraparound deck. More upgrades include a newer high efficiency gas furnace, new premium flooring, new doors, new ceiling fans and CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING!



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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!

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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



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



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



190 BISON DRIVE

Under contract in less than 24 hours. Sold for full price. Contract to close in just 18 days. I can sell yours too.

CALL ELIZABETH HAUSMAN



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



17149 IRON SPRINGS RD

Under contract for full price, first day on the market, contract to close in just 9 days. I can sell yours too!

CALL ELIZABETH HAUSMAN



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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LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from page 7A

REGISTER TO VOTE!

If you haven't registered to vote for the upcoming general election, now's your chance! There will be a voter registration table set up in front of the Pinewood fire station on September 28, 2024, from 10 am to 2 pm. Make sure your voice is heard—stop by and get registered!

MUNDS PARK REPUBLICAN WOMEN

The Munds Park Republican Women's Club is holding its next meeting September 12, 2024 at 11:30, featuring Arizona Free Enterprise, who will be talking about the initiatives that will be on our ballots for this November's election.

If you are interested in joining us for education, candidate support, and friendship with like minded women, please email Terry Giebelhaus at terry@giebs.com for details!



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JOIN THE MUNDS PARK TRAIL STEWARDS for a September Volunteer Event!

DATE: Saturday, September 14

TIME: 8:15 a.m.

PROJECT: We'll be focusing on maintaining the Lower Crystal Point Trail, a beautiful non-motorized path that needs some love.

MEETING POINT: 1250 E. Raintree—look for the MUTS sign with the USA flag! Please park along the street and avoid blocking any driveways. Directions can be found on our website.

DETAILS: We expect to wrap up our work around noon, and afterward, we'll enjoy a free lunch together.

WHAT TO BRING: Work gloves, long pants, sturdy shoes, sunblock, and dress appropriately for the weather. Don't forget to bring a great attitude and a sense of humor! We'll provide water and all necessary trail tools.

RSVP: Please let us know if you can make it by emailing us at mundstrailstewards@hotmail.com.

For more information or updates, check out the MUTS website at mundsparktrailstewards.com or the Pinewood News.

We hope to see you there!



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370 E Navajo Rd - \$2,650,000

This extremely well built ICF Energy Efficient Custom Home backs the Pinewood Golf Course, has 2,486 sqft of Covered Decks surrounding the home providing Spectacular Golf Course & Panoramic Views. The 2,948 sqft drive-through 6+ car Garage is amazing with a Spa & Sauna and a Elevator that take you to the 2,948 SqFt main living quarters with 3 Bd, 3.5 Ba, Vaulted Ceilings and Fireplace. The .87 acre lot has RV Parking with Electric & Dump Station. Call Pat Moore - (928)853-4529



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ARIZONA WATER COMPANY PROPOSES 48% RATE INCREASE FOR NORTHERN GROUP; PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT

Arizona Water Company has officially requested a significant rate increase for its Northern Group from the Arizona Corporation Commission, affecting the water systems in Forrest Towne, Lakeside, Overgaard, Pinetop Lakes, Sedona, Pinewood, Rimrock, and Valley Vista. This proposed 48% increase is aimed at generating an additional \$7.46 million in revenue, which the company states is necessary to enhance financial returns and support crucial infrastructure improvements, along with ensuring compliance with federal environmental standards.

Key Components of the Rate Application Include:

- Federal Compliance Cost Recovery Mechanism: This mechanism is set to cover costs related to adhering to federal water quality standards, including the removal of harmful contaminants such as arsenic, PFOA, and PFAS. Known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment, PFOA and PFAS are extensively used in various industrial and consumer products for their resistance to water and grease. These substances have been linked to significant health and environmental risks.
- Sustainable Water Adjustor Mechanism: Designed to secure financial resources for acquiring and maintaining sustainable water supplies.
- Wildfire Protection and Public Safety Surcharge: This surcharge will fund the upgrading of outdated infrastructure to improve water flow for firefighting and enhance public safety.
- Tax Expense Adjustment Mechanism: Intended to modify water rates in response to changes in income tax rates that occur between the company's regular rate reviews.

Impact on Consumers: For the typical residential customer using about 4,250 gallons per month, the monthly bill would rise from \$39.84 to \$59.21, marking a \$19.37 or 48.61% increase. Commercial customers will face a similar rate increase of 47.22%, while the highest jump will be for private fire services at 50.46%. Notably, industrial customers will not see any rate increase.

It's particularly significant that residential consumers will experience a slightly higher rate increase compared to commercial entities, raising fairness concerns. Much of the pollution from PFOA and PFAS originates from commercial and industrial activities, yet the financial burden for cleaning up these pollutants is being distributed across all consumer classes.

Next Steps: The Arizona Corporation Commission has yet to approve or reject this application. No formal recommendations have been made by either the Commission's Utilities Division or any intervening parties. A public hearing is scheduled for March 17, 2025, to discuss the proposal, with additional opportunities for public comments on January 29, 2025.

Residents and businesses impacted by these proposed rate changes can access detailed information through the Arizona Water Company's office, the Commission's office, and the Commission's website using the e-Docket function.

This proposal is a critical adjustment to the water utility rates in Northern Arizona, poised to bring considerable public and regulatory scrutiny as communities evaluate the potential impacts on their monthly expenses and overall utility services. Consumers are strongly advised to carefully review their utility bills and the notes often included on the back, which can provide essential insights into rate changes and other relevant issues.

MEET THE ANDERSONS The New Heart Behind Kota's Coffee

By Sandee Caviness

Stephanie and Phil didn't set out to shake things up when they moved from Seattle to Munds Park. They were simply looking for a fresh start—a place where they could use their skills, work for themselves, and be closer to family. After fifteen years of marriage and successful careers in the bustling city, they decided it was time to trade in the city lights for the pines and quieter pace of Northern Arizona.

Stephanie has been in the restaurant business since she was just 19 years old, starting as a singing hostess at Max's Opera Café in Walnut Creek, California. "It was a crazy good time," she remembers fondly. Her talent and dedication didn't go unnoticed. Soon, she was scooped up by McCormick & Schmick's, a casual yet fine-dining restaurant. Over the next 12 years, she climbed the ranks, managing various locations before becoming a regional manager for the Sound Restaurant Family, overseeing ten locations across three counties.

Phil's path to Kota's was just as winding. Straight out of high school, he joined the army, coming from a long line of military service. After his time in the army, Phil turned to the streets of Seattle as a bike messenger. His passion for cycling led him to own his own messenger service and later, a bike shop. But after years of dodging traffic and taking hits from cars, he decided it was time for a change. "I needed something a little less hard on the body," Phil laughs.

He found a body-friendly job at a large law firm in Seattle, where he worked his way up to managing the hospitality department. "It was a huge firm—17 floors, 36 separate kitchens. Very high-end," Phil explains. "We even used lasers to line up the chairs for formal affairs. It was a whole different world."

Stephanie and Phil moved to Tacoma, Washington, to be closer to Stephanie's restaurants. While Stephanie continued to manage her locations, Phil went back to his roots as a bike mechanic.

But after years of managing other people's restaurants, Stephanie felt it was time to do something for herself. "I started hating my job. I wasn't happy anymore," she confesses. "But we always dreamed of doing our own thing, working for ourselves. We've got a good set of skills between us." It was time to go after their dream, but finding the right fit took time. "We started looking everywhere from Northern Idaho to Utah," Stephanie says. "We knew we didn't want to start from scratch—there are just too many points of failure when you're building something brand new."

When they discovered Kota's Coffee Shop was for sale last November, they saw it as the perfect opportunity. "We took a trip down to Munds Park to check it out, and we loved it," Stephanie recalls. But when they returned to Seattle and called the broker, they learned the listing had been pulled. "We thought it had sold, and we were pretty disappointed. We thought it was the perfect spot."

They considered another opportunity in Northern Arizona but had to pass. Then, in a twist of fate, they learned that Kota's was back on the market. "It was like a sign," Stephanie says with a smile. They didn't hesitate this time and quickly

moved to purchase the coffee shop.

For Stephanie and Phil, taking over Kota's wasn't about making big changes; it was about honoring the spirit and warmth that Deanna and Ren, the previous owners, had infused into the place. They knew how much heart had gone into building Kota's, but they also understood why Deanna and Ren decided it was time to move on. "The restaurant business isn't for everyone," Stephanie reflects. "Even when you pour your heart into it, like Deanna and Ren did, it can be demanding and unpredictable. It takes a certain kind of person who



Stephanie & Phil Anderson, the new owners of Kota's Coffee Shop

Photo by Barbara Sherman

really desires to be in the hospitality industry. There are a lot of punches to be thrown, and you have to adapt and overcome. That's why we're focusing on building a strong team—because having a dedicated, resilient crew makes all the difference."

Phil echoes her sentiment. "We have a really good crew. A few folks left because school and careers were calling them, but Deanna had a good bench set up for us, and we're doing well with our staff." They've focused on making small improvements, investing in tools to make the job easier, and creating a safe, enjoyable work environment. "We're all about making the job more enjoyable," Phil adds.

Their efforts haven't gone unnoticed. One afternoon, Genna noticed Jillian, one of the main cooks and a longtime employee, sitting down and enjoying her lunch—a rare sight at Kota's. "Jillian was actually sitting down, having lunch," Genna shared. "It was nice to see her taking a break." When Genna commented on it, Jillian replied, "Yes, we not only get time for lunch, but Stephanie and Phil provide our lunches." You could tell she was pleased with this new perk.

They've kept features like the "Dog Wall," where customers can hang framed photos of their dogs, a nod to their own love of pets. "That wall really spoke to us," Stephanie says. "We live for pets. We have two dogs, Chet and Charlie, and we've already added a photo of our first dog, Bailey, to the wall. It's part of what makes Kota's feel like home."

They've made a few additions to the menu, like avocado toast and a Caprese Panini loaded with cucumber, pesto, balsamic, mozzarella, and tomato. "It's a personal favorite of mine," Stephanie shares. They also introduced a classic

scrambled egg breakfast with toast and a choice of breakfast meats, a dish that had been frequently requested by customers. "We're holding off on more menu changes for now," Phil says. "We want to get a sense of what our customers enjoy before making big decisions.

As for future plans, Stephanie and Phil are thinking about getting a beer and wine license. "We're not looking to turn Kota's into a nightclub," Stephanie clarifies. "But it would be nice to offer an Irish Coffee or a Bloody Mary with breakfast. Maybe even some grab-andgo beer and wine

for folks looking for lunch and a cocktail heading out for a picnic or a get-together."

They're also planning to expand the seating area by adding an enclosure to the patio, making it more inviting for guests. "We think people will enjoy having a drink and relaxing," Stephanie says. "Maybe even extending hours on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for a late afternoon happy hour." She adds, "There's a lot of unused space here, and we want to make the most of it to create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere for everyone to enjoy."

Stephanie and Phil are hands-on owners, which will help them in their efforts to keep Kota's open as much as possible during the winter. "We understand the ups and downs of the season," Stephanie notes. "But we know our customers appreciate having a warm, welcoming place to go on those brisk days, and we want to be there to meet their needs."

From the moment they arrived, Stephanie and Phil have been pleasantly surprised by the warm welcome they've received from the Munds Park community. "We were taken aback by the friendliness," Phil says. "From the moment we opened the doors, to attending the Munds Park Business Alliance, to volunteering for the 4th of July Parade, everyone has been so supportive and encouraging. Coming from the Northwest, we were worried if we would be accepted. But the response has been amazing."

They've also found joy in the little things, like the monsoon storms. "We really enjoy the monsoons here," Phil laughs. "The dogs hate it, but we love the rain, the lightning and, the thunder. It's exciting."

And they've had a few laughs along the way, too. "We joke about the lakes here in Arizona," Stephanie says. "Like Lake Odell—that's a puddle from when someone left the hose on! We're used to glacier-fed lakes, lakes so big that submarines were tested in them during WWII."

But beyond the jokes and the storms, Stephanie and Phil have found something special in Munds Park—a sense of community and belonging they hadn't anticipated. "Hospitality isn't dead here in Northern Arizona," Phil reflects. "Everywhere we go, whether it's a restaurant, grocery store, or shop, people are engaged and welcoming. It's a refreshing change from what we're used to."

As they look to the future, Stephanie and Phil are excited to be a part of Munds Park, grateful for the support they've received, and eager to give back. "We want to be here for the long haul," Stephanie says. "This isn't just about owning a coffee shop; it's about being part of a community. We're here to stay, and we couldn't be happier."



I ONLY FETCH AFTER A CUP FROM KOTA'S COFFEE HOUSE.

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TRAVEL

BENEATH THE EARTH

The Best Mine Tour for Adventurous Souls

By Unstoppable Stacey Wittig

Adventurous mine tours are fun for kids and the kid in you. Strap on a hard hat and dive into the depths of the best mine tour for your underground explorations. Whether you are a history enthusiast, geology geek or wanna-be spelunker, this list has the perfect mine tour waiting just for you!

Bisbee, Arizona Underground Queen Mine Tour

Escape the heat of the Arizona desert when you climb aboard an authentic miner's railcar and descend into the dark, underground copper mine. The Queen Mine Tour will take you back in history to a time when this mining area produced some of the world's largest production valuations. Riding atop the open cars of the mine train as it clickclacks through the first tight tunnel might kick in the claustrophobia. But don't worry – the mine starts to open up the further down you go. Our guide, a retired Phelps-Dodge miner, talked the lingo and painted a colorful picture of life in the mines for us.

Soudan, Minnesota Underground Iron Ore Mine Tour

Enter the "cage" and drop almost half a mile on a journey to the deepest part of the excavation at Soudan Underground Mine State Park. After the



Riding miner's railcars for Queen Mine Tour | Photo via Wikimedia Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic



UNSTOPPABLE Stacey and husband Dan Wittig at Minnesota's Soudan Mine

quick, three-minute descent, get out of the metal elevator cage and onto an underground mining train. See the cars once loaded with iron ore and the state-of-the-art high-energy physics lab that now inhabits the depths. Professional interpreters bring the stories of the National Historic Landmark to life. After your underground mine tour, experience the surrounding open-pit iron mines on five miles of hiking trails.



Delaware mine tour is one of three on Keweenaw Peninsula Photo courtesy of Visit Keweenaw

Keweenaw Peninsula, MI - 3 Copper Mine Tours

When you visit the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan, you'll be stepping into the heart of America's copper mining history. Your journey should begin at the Delaware Mine, where you'll explore a prehistoric mine site that predates even Native American mining activities. This mine tour includes an ancient site that offers a unique glimpse into the earliest copper extraction methods, connecting you with the region's geological past. Next, make your way to the Quincy Mine, aptly nicknamed "Old Reliable," which provides the most comprehensive mine tour experience. Here, you'll ride a cog-rail tram down to the mine entrance, immersing yourself in the daily life of miners from the area's boom years.

Continued on page 20A



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SHAKEN & STIRRED IN PINEWOOD

The Cocktail Connoisseur's Corner

SEPTEMBER MORN: A COCKTAIL OF CONTROVERSY & CRAFT

By Dick Trudeau

When we talk about cocktails, most of us think about glamour, the art of mixology, and a dash of devil-may-care. But sometimes, the story behind a drink is murkier, more provocative, even scandalous. Take the September Morn cocktail, for instance—a concoction that drips with the essence of defiance and the scent of the forbidden.

A Scandal in Pigment and Paint

To understand the September Morn cocktail, we have to step back in time to the early 20th century, into the clutches of a controversy that shocked America's delicate sensibilities.

Imagine, if you will, a painting of a nude woman standing in the water, covering just enough to stir curiosity but not enough to satisfy it. Her name was "September Morn," painted by the French artist Paul Émile Chabas in 1911.

Chabas never intended for his work to become a lightning rod for scandal. It was simply a depiction of a woman enjoying a quiet, misty morning by the water, delicate yet uninhibited. But when the painting arrived in America in 1913, it caused an uproar. A moral crusader by the name of Anthony Comstock, who was hell-bent on purging society of all things indecent, took one look at "September Morn" in a New York City shop window and lost his damn mind.

Comstock was part of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, a group that believed any display of nudity, even in art, was a ticket straight to Hell. He demanded the painting be removed, but the ensuing public scandal only made it more popular. Copies of "September Morn" flew off the shelves, turning the painting into a symbol of the fight against censorship, a cheeky middle finger to those who sought to control what could and couldn't be seen.

Fast forward a few decades to the heart of the Harlem Renaissance, where jazz was king and prohibition was but a memory. It was a time when New



September Morn by Paul Émile Chabas | Image from Wikipedia

York City's Cotton Club was the epicenter of nightlife, and bartenders were as celebrated as the musicians who graced its stage. One of these bartenders, a man named Charlie Conolly, knew the power of a good story. And he knew the tale of "September Morn."

Inspired by the painting's defiant spirit, Conolly decided to pay homage to it in liquid form. His creation, the September Morn cocktail, became a staple at the Cotton Club—a drink that looked as delicate as the painting but packed a punch that could only come from the lively streets of Harlem.

September Morn Cocktail Recipe

Ingredients:

- 2 ounces rum
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 1 tsp grenadine syrup
- 1 egg white
- Cracked ice

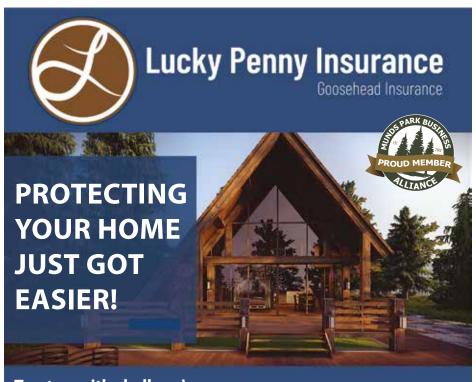
Method:

- 1. Combine the rum, lime juice, grenadine syrup, and egg white in a cocktail shaker.
- Add cracked ice to the shaker.
- Shake well until the mixture is frothy and well-chilled.
- 4. Strain into a cocktail glass and serve immediately.

Today, the September Morn is more of a forgotten relic, a whisper of a time when a drink could be a subversive act. The next time you're feeling a bit cheeky and want to raise a glass to freedom, to art, and to the delicious thrill of a little controversy, shake up a September Morn at home and enjoy!







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Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B

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HOMEMADE & WONDERFUL







SOUTHWESTERN POSOLE

This recipe, originally published in 2022, is just too perfect for fall not to share again!

I was raised and lived in border towns most of my life until I moved to Phoenix in 1994. Mexican food has always been a favorite of mine. One of my all time favorite recipes is Posole. It serves well as a soup for large gatherings of friends and family or just a nice dinner for two. I've adapted it to my family's likes, and you can too. Depending on your taste, you can make it hot and spicy or mild. Same with the fixings, you can top this southwestern favorite with any toppings you like!

Ingredients

- Hominy 2 large cans (110 oz ea) of Juanita's Mexican Style Hominy or regular hominy will do if unable to find Juanita's
- Chicken 15 to 20 boneless, skinless thighs (I use dark meat because white meat tends to crumble when cooking)
- Olive oil enough to sauté the onion, garlic and chicken
- 1 White onion
- 6 8 Cloves of garlic
- 1-tsp Lawry's Season Salt
- 1-tsp Black pepper
- 1-tsp Garlic powder
- 3 Bay leaves
- Red chili sauce 1 ½ cans (28 oz ea) of Las Palmas Red Chili Sauce

- Menudo Mix 1 bag of Tampico Menudo Mix
- Chicken Bouillon 4 to 5 cups of homemade chicken bouillon is the best, but you can also use Knorr chicken bouillon
- 2 cups water

Garnish ingredients

Green onion, Cabbage, Cilantro, Radishes, Lemon wedges, and Jalapenos

Directions

- 1. Heat olive oil in a large soup pan, add chopped onion and garlic cloves, and then add your cut-up chicken. Add Lawry's season salt, black pepper and garlic powder. Cook on medium heat, occasionally stirring, until the pink in the chicken is almost gone.
- 2. Add bay leaves, hominy, red chili sauce, a packet of Menudo mix, chicken bouillon and water.
- 3. Cook until boiling, then turn down to med-low for 45 minutes with the lid on, stirring occasionally.
- 4. While soup is cooking, cut up your green onions, cabbage, cilantro, jalapenos, radishes and lemon to garnish your cooked Posole when served.

While my batch of Posole always ends up with leftovers, it is perfect for freezing to eat at a later date. Enjoy!



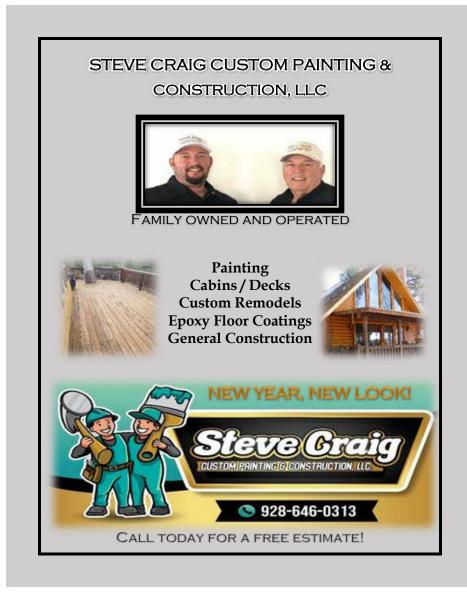
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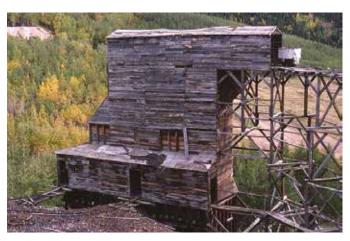




TRAVEL

Continued from page 15A

To complete your copper mining adventure, head to the Painesdale Mine tour. This site is remarkable for its well-preserved state, appearing as if the miners just left for the day. You'll see original coats still hanging on racks, creating an eerie yet fascinating atmosphere that brings history to life. As you explore these three mines, remember that during the US copper boom, the Keweenaw Peninsula produced up to 50% of the nation's copper, making it a crucial center of industry.



Mollie Kathleen Mine tour | Photo by Plazak at English Wikipedia

Cripple Creek, Colorado - Gold Mine Tour

You won't get the shaft when you choose the historic Mollie Kathleen Mine tour. The only 1000-foot vertical shaft gold mine tour in North America lets you watch underground mining equipment demonstrations, ride an air-powered tram and take home a free gold ore specimen. In 1891, Mollie Kathleen Gortner was the first woman to strike a gold claim at the famous Gold Camp outside Colorado Springs.

Staffordshire, UK - Coal Mine Tour

Go underground to encounter a coalmine that was the workshop for hundreds of mineworkers. At Apedale Coal Mine, you'll walk down a steep incline wearing pit gear and a hard hat with a Davy lamp that does not ignite deadly methane gases found in coal mines. Many of the tour guides are ex-miners, and so deliver a daring experience.

Scranton, PA - Coal Mine Tours

Visiting the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour offers you a glimpse into Pennsylvania's rich history of coal mining. As you descend 300 feet / 91 meters into the earth aboard a mine car, you'll explore the winding tunnels that miners navigated daily, immersing yourself in the stories of the resilient men and women who powered the Industrial Revolution. Your guide—often a former miner or descendant of miners—will share fascinating insights about the mining techniques and the challenging conditions faced underground. This experience is not just an adventure; it's a chance to connect with the heritage of Northeastern Pennsylvania, where the coal industry shaped countless lives and communities.

Cullinan, South Africa - Diamond Mine Tour

Only 25 miles east of Pretoria is the Cullinan Diamond Underground Mine Tour of a working diamond mine. Deck yourself out in the commercial safety gear provided and descend half a mile below the surface. Licensed tour guides have the know-how to help you fully experience the mine, which produced some British crown jewels. After the mine tour, stop at the gift shop and buy your diamond to commemorate your adventure.

"UNSTOPPABLE Stacey" Wittig invites you to visit her website, where this article is archived, complete with links and resources for the recommended tours. She encourages questions and comments at UnstoppableStaceyTravel.com/contact.

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THE PINEWOOD NEWS CARVE & CREATE:

The Great Pumpkin Challenge!

Calling all pumpkin carvers and fall enthusiasts! Whether you're here to carve your masterpiece, pick up some seasonal blooms from Warner's Nursery, or savor delicious treats from Kota's Coffee, there's something for everyone!

Pumpkin Carving Contest Details:

- 'Lil' Pumpkins (11 and under): Get creative with paint, stickers, and crafts! Fun prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place!
- Jack-O-Lantern Juniors (12-17): Show off your carving skills in a friendly competition! Cash prizes — \$100 for 1st, \$75 for 2nd, \$25 for 3rd!
- Master Carvers (18 & up): Compete for glory and great prizes! Cash Prizes — \$150 for 1st, \$100 for 2nd, \$75 for 3rd.

And that's not all...

Autumn Essentials: Discover the best pumpkins and fall plants and flowers for sale from Warner's Nursery right here in Munds Park!

Delicious Treats: Enjoy freshly brewed coffee and pastries from Kota's Coffee. Warm up with a cup and savor a tasty treat while you carve!

Get ready to carve, create, and celebrate the season! Mark your calendar and join us for a fun-filled day of autumn festivities!





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FALL & WINTER 2024-2025 FORECAST

To keep up-to-date on weather reports, you can check the Old Farmer's Almanac and Weather Atlas websites.

MUNDS PARK

As we transition from the warmth of summer to the crisp air of fall, Munds Park, is gearing up for a season marked by warmer-than-usual temperatures and drier conditions.

Warm, Dry Fall Ahead

This fall, Munds Park will experience warmer temperatures than usual, continuing the trend of a hot summer. September's temperatures will hover around an average high of 77.5°F and a low of 55.2°F, providing a mild and comfortable climate for outdoor activities. October will bring a slight drop in temperatures, with highs averaging 67.1°F and lows around 44.6°F, making it perfect for those who enjoy the briskness of fall mornings and evenings.

Rainfall for the fall months is expected to be below average, contributing to a drier season overall. This means fewer rainy days and more opportunities for outdoor adventures. The likelihood of isolated thunderstorms decreases as the season progresses, and the clear skies will provide a great backdrop for enjoying the fall foliage and local scenery.

Chilly, Snowy Winter Ahead

As fall gives way to winter, residents of Munds Park should prepare for a colder season than usual. According to long-range forecasts, winter will be particularly chilly, with the coldest periods expected in late November, early and late December, and late January. These months will bring a sharp drop in temperatures, often reaching below freezing, especially at night.

Snowfall is projected to be above normal for the season. Those who enjoy winter sports and activities will be pleased to hear that December is likely to be the snowiest month, with significant snowfall accumulating on several days. Snowfall will continue into January and mid-February, ensuring a white winter for much of the season.

The fall and winter in Munds Park, will offer a mix of warm, dry days and cold, snowy nights. Whether you're looking to enjoy the last warm rays of fall or ready to embrace a snowy winter, there's much to anticipate in the coming months. Keep an eye on local weather updates to stay informed and prepared for whatever the season brings.

THE VERDE VALLEY

For residents and visitors of the Verde Valley, Arizona, the upcoming fall and winter seasons are expected to bring a variety of weather conditions.

Unusually Warm, Dry Fall

As fall approaches, the Verde Valley can expect warmer-than-average temperatures. September is likely to see highs around 81.5°F and lows around 59.7°F, while October will cool down slightly to highs of 71.8°F and lows of 48.6°F. The area is anticipated to have below-average rainfall, with September forecasted to receive only about 0.3 inches of rain, which is significantly lower than normal for the region.

During these months, residents should anticipate sunny and dry conditions, making it an excellent time for outdoor activities and enjoying the natural beauty of the area. The warmth and reduced rainfall mean less likelihood of wet weather disrupting plans, so it's a good season for exploring local trails and scenic drives.

Mild Winter, Some Snow

As the season transitions to winter, temperatures in the Verde Valley will cool further. November and December will bring average highs of around 61.2°F and 50.9°F, respectively, with lows dropping to 39°F and 32.2°F. These months mark the beginning of the snowy season in the Verde Valley, particularly at higher elevations, with snowfall typically occurring from November through April.

The winter season is expected to be colder than usual, with the coldest months being December and January. February is forecasted to have the most snowfall, with about 2.05 inches of snow, making it the snowiest month of the season. Residents and visitors should be prepared for cooler temperatures and occasional snow, especially in areas at higher altitudes.

This winter, while it will be cooler, is not expected to be severely harsh. Those in the Verde Valley should still plan for potential cold snaps and the occasional snow day, particularly if traveling to or from areas with higher elevations where snow might be more frequent.

The Verde Valley will experience a warmer and drier fall, followed by a relatively mild winter with occasional snow. As always, it's a good idea to stay updated with local weather forecasts to make the most of these seasonal changes.





205 Bison Drive

This chalet is perched above and back from the street allowing views, privacy and lots of deck space. Soaring T&G ceilings, an open great room centered around a wall of windows and a wood burning stove. Two bedrooms, two baths and an oversized loft area. Fenced and landscaped yard. Central HEAT and AIR CONDITIONING too!













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NEED TO KNOW

4 Essential Tips for Snow Removal Services

Winter in the Park brings a picturesque blanket of snow, but it also comes with the challenge of keeping driveways and walkways clear. As snow begins to pile up, choosing the right snow removal service becomes crucial. This guide provides an overview of the various snowplowing services available, tips on how to select the right contractor for your needs, and why it's essential to plan ahead. With independent contractors offering a range of options—from heavy-duty plowing to shoveling—understanding your requirements and booking early can make all the difference when the snow starts falling.

Tip No. 1: Know Your Contractors

Independent contractors provide snowplowing services, each with their own specialty:

- Large Plows: Some contractors have heavy-duty plows capable of breaking through tall, hardened snow berms with ease. These are ideal for moving large amounts of snow off both long and short driveways.
- Mid-Sized Plows: Other snowplowers operate mid-sized plows, perfect for tackling moderately sized berms. These plows can effectively handle both short and long drives.
- Shoveling Services: Some services focus solely on plowing, while others offer both plowing and shoveling, or just shoveling pathways and decks.

When choosing a snow removal service, it's crucial to understand your specific needs and ask the right questions. Remember, snowplowers are independent contractors. Typically, they work in small teams of one or two people. When a storm hits, they are often overwhelmed, managing treacherous conditions and a high volume of requests. They might not be able to answer calls or texts right away, so patience and understanding go a long way.

Tip No. 2: Assess Your Snow Situation

Evaluate your snow conditions. Is there a thick, cement-like berm blocking your driveway, or is it just a light dusting of fluffy snow? If you've driven on it, creating ice ruts, be clear about that. Understand that driving on the snow before getting it plowed can incur additional fees, as it turns the snow into ice, making it more difficult to plow or

shovel. Determine if you need just your driveway plowed or if you also require pathways and decks shoveled.

Remember too, that propane companies need clear

access to your tanks. Besure to have a path way cleared and ready for delivery. Clearly communicating your needs will help manage expectations and ensure you receive the appropriate service.

Tip No. 3: Book Early!!

Booking after a snowstorm has hit is not ideal. With full-time residents and short-term rental owners competing for these services, slots fill up quickly. If you know a storm is approaching and you need to ensure access to your property, don't wait—reserve your snowplowing service ahead of time.

Tip No. 4: Find Reputable Services

As winter approaches, it's more important than ever to plan ahead for snow removal. Pinewood News proudly features a list of local snow removal contractors, each with their own expertise and equipment to meet your needs. Whether you require heavy-duty plowing for large driveways or shoveling for walkways and decks, our advertisers are ready to help you navigate the snowy season. Remember, booking early is key to ensuring prompt and reliable service. Check out our list of trusted snowplowing services below and support your local contractors!

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Get ready to rock the fall with Sedona's Red Dirt Concert Series!

Every Friday evening in September, from 5 to 8 p.m., join us at the Posse Grounds Pavilion, 505 Posse Ground Rd., for an amazing lineup of musical acts that you won't want to miss!

Here's the lineup:

Sept. 6: Sophia Rankin & The Sound (headliner) with S T E E N (opener)

Sept. 13: Reverend Jon (headliner) with Jonathan Cady (opener)

Sept. 20: Charlie McNeal (headliner) with Austin B. Sweeney (opener)

Sept. 27: The Originals (headliner) with Rick Cucuzza (opener)

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STARLIGHT STORIES

SEPTEMBER'S HARVEST MOON

A Spectacle in Our Unspoiled Night Skies

By George Dee

This September, as shadows lengthen and the air cools, the Harvest Moon will illuminate the night sky. Mark your calendars for the evenings of September 16th to 18th. During these dates, the Harvest Moon rises shortly after sunset, casting an extended twilight that is nothing short of magical. This is not just another full moon; it's an extended play of light that has long captivated onlookers with its brilliant, awe-inspiring glow.

The legacy of the Harvest Moon is as rich as its color. Historically closest to the autumn equinox, it served as a beacon for farmers before the advent of electric lights, providing them with extra twilight hours to gather their crops during the peak harvest season.

Originating in Europe, the term "Harvest Moon" gained popularity through its romantic inclusion in songs and poems in England, symbolizing the transition from summer and celebrating the harvest's yield.

Globally, different cultures have their unique interpretations and names for the Harvest Moon. In Native American cultures, it's known as the "Corn Moon" or "Barley Moon," significant for crop gathering. In Korea, the Harvest Moon underscores Chuseok, a time of thanksgiving and festivity.

The Harvest Moon is more than a celestial event; it inspires numerous legends and folk tales passed down through generations. These stories often highlight the moon's mystical presence and its subtle, mysterious influence of life on Earth.

One legend from Japan tells of a rabbit that lives on the moon. According to the story, the rabbit can be seen pounding mochi, a traditional rice cake, during the full moon nights. This "Moon Rabbit" tale is celebrated during Tsukimi, or "moon-viewing" festivals, where families gather under the night sky to enjoy the moon's beauty, often with mochi in hand, honoring the rabbit's work.

In Ireland, there's a tale of the "Harvest Moon Fairy," a magical being said to dance under the light of the Harvest Moon. According to legend, those who spot the fairy will be blessed with good fortune and a bountiful harvest. The fairy's dance is believed to be so mesmerizing that it can enchant anyone who watches, drawing them into a trance until the moon sets.

Another intriguing story comes from Native American folklore, which tells of a giant bear in the sky, chasing the moon each night. The bear, seen as a constellation in some tribal stories, symbolizes the pursuit of dreams and the cycle of life, reflecting the endless chase of time as the seasons change.

Today, the Harvest Moon remains a symbol of nature's unending beauty and the rhythmic flow of life. It's a time for reflection, connection, and celebration, bridging the gap between the past and the present. In popular culture, it evokes feelings of nostalgia and the relentless passage of time, often serving as a poignant backdrop for tales of romance and mystery.

For those in Munds Park and Verde Valley, your communities hold the privileged status of "Dark Sky" locales. The moon's golden glow is yours to enjoy, free of light pollution—a gift from your neighbors who honor the Dark Sky principles. Whether from the simplicity of your backyard or a quiet spot in the forest, allow the moon's light to envelop you in its mystical twilight.

On the nights the Harvest Moon graces our skies, consider turning off your porch lights to let nature's warm glow permeate our town, enhancing the experience for everyone.



LUNAR CALENDAR

What's Next in the Night Sky?

As you enjoy the stunning glow of the Harvest Moon, don't miss out on other exciting celestial events coming up soon! Here's a quick look at what's happening next in the night sky:

October 8th - Draconid Meteor Shower

Look up to witness a display of shooting stars! The Draconid Meteor Shower peaks this evening, best viewed in the early evening after sunset. Though not as prolific as some meteor showers, it can surprise stargazers with occasional bursts of activity.

October 14th – New Moon

A night of pure darkness, perfect for stargazing. With no moonlight to brighten the sky, it's an excellent time to observe planets, stars, and galaxies. Head out to a dark sky area for the best experience.

October 28th – Hunter's Moon

Following the Harvest Moon, the Hunter's Moon rises, traditionally named for the time when hunting for winter provisions took place. It's another full moon to enjoy as it lights up the autumn sky.

November 17th – Leonid Meteor Shower

Known for producing bright meteors with persistent trains, the Leonid Meteor Shower will be visible in the pre-dawn hours. Under a dark sky, you could see up to 15 meteors per hour at its peak!

December 13-14th – Geminid Meteor Shower

One of the most spectacular meteor showers of the year, the Geminids are known for their bright, multicolored meteors. This shower is active throughout the night and peaks in the early morning hours, offering an impressive display for those willing to brave the cold.

December 26th – Cold Moon

The final full moon of the year, also known as the Long Night Moon, will shine brightly on this chilly December night. It's a perfect way to end the year with a peaceful night of moon gazing.

Stay Tuned for More Celestial Wonders!

Keep an eye on the night sky and continue to explore the beauty of the universe. Whether it's a meteor shower or the quiet glow of a full moon, there's always something magical happening above us.

WORD SEARCH

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B



Asduous	Foreman	Pride	Summer
Benefits	Growth	Quality	Time
Boss	Job	Retiree	Toil
Celebration	Labor	Rights	Union
Cookout	Loyalty	Safety	Unite
Diligence	Merit	Salary	Value
Efficient	Parade	Secure	Wage
Equity	Picnic	Slog	Workers
Family	Pledae	Strike	



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BIRDS OF MUNDS PARK

THE AMERICAN KESTREL

By Margaret Dyekman

American Kestrels are one of 13 kestrel species found throughout the world and the only one in the Americas. Formerly known as the "Sparrow Hawk", the American Kestrel is a small, dainty, but ferocious falcon that is found year-round in most of the Western Hemisphere. Occasionally I see one in Munds Park, generally around the golf course, but more regularly in the Valley, perched on a wire or post around an open area. This past month I had two encounters with this species in northern Arizona.

Volunteers from Liberty Wildlife released two rehabilitated kestrels, a male and a female, at Kachina Wetlands, and I was invited to observe. That was the first encounter. The second encounter was when three of us Munds Park residents went to Kachina Wetlands (near Exit 333 on the west side of I-17), where we cleaned out three kestrel boxes that had been placed there several years ago. An extension ladder, gloves, and special permission from the wetlands' management were needed to do this, as we had to drive a pickup truck into the area. Each box was mounted 10 to 14



American Kestrel courtesy of Muriel Neddermeyer



Margaret Dyekman, and kestrel nest box.

feet high on a Ponderosa Pine. None of the boxes exhibited proof of kestrel's nests, but we are hoping that with the birds' release they may stay in the area and use one of the boxes. Kestrels are secondary cavity nesters, so they will look for a hollow in a tree made by a woodpecker, for example, or a man-made structure like a box. While we were there we did hear at least one kestrel calling.

The kestrel is a beautiful bird, with strong facial markings, and in the field on a perch it is often seen bobbing its tail, which helps it balance as it faces the wind. Its prey are grasshoppers and other insects, lizards, amphibians, and small birds.

American Kestrels are declining in population. Degradation of habitat, human disturbance, and possibly even the increasing population of Cooper's Hawks, which prey solely on smaller birds, are some of the suspected reasons. If only the Cooper's Hawks would spend more time pursuing the Brown-headed Cowbirds, the bird life around

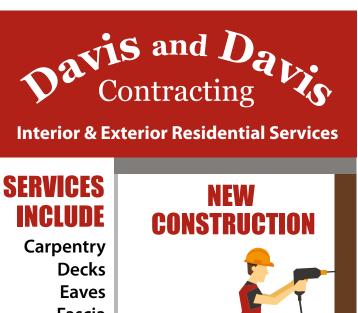
here would be more balanced! But that's a story for

another time.

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



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CLUB LIFE



The Pinewood Country Club WGA Pinecone Cup Tournament was held on August 15th and 16th, with the Pink/Blue team against the Clash team. Even though on the second day the Clash team changed colors to black, red, and white, the Pink/Blue team prevailed with a decisive win.

The Pinewood Mens Golf Association

Individual Low Net Score Tournament on August 17th

Flight Winners

Elk Flight: Gary Dion and Dave Ekbom

Pine Cone Flight: Ken Edlebeck

Coyote Flight: Scott Fyffe



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REAL ESTATE: THE CHANGES ARE HERE

By Jay Otlewsk

Three weeks into the new real estate rules on compensation and client relations, we're navigating a challenging transition. Before diving in, let's quickly review the history.

In 1908, a group of real estate professionals in Chicago founded the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) to bring fairness to real estate transactions, which had previously been governed by "caveat emptor" (Buyer Beware). NAR established a code of ethics, requiring agents to adhere to it or risk losing their REALTOR® status.

For nearly 80 years, NAR expanded this code, always with consumer protection in mind, think about where your mortgage deduction came from. During this time, all agents represented the seller, and part of the listing agent's fee was shared with the agent who brought an offer.

In the mid-90s, "Buyer Agency" was introduced, allowing buyers to have their own representation. Despite this, sellers still covered the cost, sharing the fee with the buyer's agent.

Now, in 2024, changes have been made to the home-buying process that many find unhelpful. But what led to these changes? Depending on your perspective, you might think, "It's about time!" or "This isn't fair."

During the Obama administration, the Department of Justice (DOJ) began scrutinizing the real estate industry, planning to regulate it. NAR managed to delay this until the Trump administration, which slowed down the process. However, the current administration has revived these efforts.

Two years ago, the DOJ resumed its actions against NAR, while a group of lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against NAR and large brokerages, arguing that sellers were overpaying under the existing rules. A Missouri jury agreed, leading to a settlement—though it's not fully resolved yet.

There's another twist. The DOJ recently expressed dissatisfaction with the settlement, filing a statement in February 2024 that called for a "Complete Ban on Cooperative Compensation," suggesting they might intervene in the NAR's settlement agreement before it can executed.

In conclusion, in my 30 years of helping people buy and sell homes, I've learned a lot about how this process works and sometimes doesn't work but I just can't see a silver lining to this change.

So when a REALTOR® asks you to sign a Buyer Broker Agreement before viewing a home, remember this wasn't the agent's idea—it's a

function of the government mandate. We no longer have a choice and there are heavy fines if an agent is caught not doing this. In our MLS, it starts at \$1,000 and goes up for future infractions.

When selling your home, your first thought may be, great I no longer have to pay the full fee. Well, that's always been true, in fact, in Arizona the only requirement was \$1.

But consider a couple of things, offering compensation to a buyer's agent can help someone (First-time Buyers, Veterans, etc) who may be striving to achieve the American Dream. Someone who may not even be able to consider buying a home without it.

A past Seller paid your agent's fee which helped you obtain a home and ultimately, we still don't know the effect it could have on home sales and prices but fewer Buyers able to purchase a home can mean less competition for your home, which could lead to less money for you in your pocket.

Lastly, remember that elections have consequences that aren't always clear when promises are made about protecting the public.





CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Created by Paul Mason • Solution Page 18B

1	2	3	4	5	6				7	8	9	10	11	12
13						14		15						
16								17						
18						19	20							
21				22	23							24	25	26
				27							28			
29	30	31		32					33	34				
35			36			37		38		39				
40					41		42		43			44		
45					46	47								
48				49								50	51	52
			53								54			
55	56	57						58	59	60				
61								62						
63									64					

ACROSS

- 1. Takes up weapons again
- 7. Frame of mind
- 13. Showing great care and perseverance
- 15. Desert nomad
- 16. Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
- 17. Put on paper
- 18. Blackens
- 19. Meat preservation method
- 21. Reply to a captain
- 22. On the payroll
- 24. Amigo
- 27. Solemn promise
- 28. ___ Major
- (constellation)
- 29. ___ publica
- 32. Puerto
- 33. Blue moon, e.g.
- 35. Even if, briefly
- 37. Informal affirmative
- 39. Low-budget film, often
- 40. Garden display
- 42. Big cheese
- 44. "To ____ is human ..."
- 45. Wren or hen
- 46. Soldier's assignment
- 48. Belief system
- 49. Baby shower gift
- 50. Grazing land
- 53. Event with floats
- 54. Stag
- 55. Nose-and-throat
- problem
- 58. It used to be South West Africa
- 61. Vitamin C sources
- 62. Warp-knit fabrics
- 63. Damaged, as a fender

- 64. Bordeaux product
- 61. Vitamin C sources
- 62. Warp-knit fabrics
- 63. Damaged, as a fender
- 64. Bordeaux product

DOWN

- 1. Indian yogurt dip
- 2. English exam finale, often
- 3. Be gaga over
- 4. Road grooves
- 5. Bossy remark?
- 6. Banquet
- 7. Seattle athlete
- 8. Gasket
- 9. "You ____?"
- 10. Be in a cast
- 11. Linda ____, Supergirl's alias
- 12. Boundary
- 14. Spy's byword
- 15. Bit of parsley
- 20. Not questioned or doubted by anvone.
- 22. Flash memory forerunner
- 23. Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
- 24. Self-esteem

- 25. Buzzing
 - 26. Cake part
 - 28. Big coffee holder
 - 29. Synagogue leader

 - 30. ___ Island National Monument
 - 31. Violent weather
 - 34. Grocery section
 - 36. Coal carrier
 - 38. Omen
 - 41. Fought
 - 43. Bowery bum
 - 47. Asian nannies
 - 49. The "L" of XXL

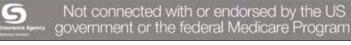
 - 50. Hard work
 - 51. A-list
 - 52. Bakery supply
 - 53. Breathe hard
 - 54. Flexible mineral
 - 55. Atlantic catch
 - 56. "___ we having fun yet?"
 - 57. Beachgoer's goal
 - 59. ___ welder
 - 60. "Cool" amount



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MEET THE HUMMINGBIRD HAWK-MOTH NATURE'S TINY SUPERHERO!

By George Dee

Have you ever seen a bird that's actually a bug? Meet the hummingbird hawk-moth! This incredible insect gets its name because it looks and acts just like a hummingbird. But don't be fooled—this little guy is actually a moth! With its speedy wings and long tongue, it's one of nature's coolest copycats.

SPEEDY FLYERS

The hummingbird hawk-moth is a master of flight. It can flap its wings up to 85 times per second! That's even faster than some birds. This rapid wing-beat helps the moth hover in mid-air, just like a hummingbird, while

it sips nectar from flowers. It even makes a humming sound when it flies, adding to the disguise!



Okay, maybe not a mile, but the hummingbird hawk-moth does have a super long tongue called a proboscis. This tongue is perfect for reaching deep into flowers to drink sweet nectar. When it's not feeding, the moth rolls up its tongue like a party blower. How's that for a fun party trick?

SUPER SENSES

The hummingbird hawk-moth has some pretty amazing superpowers. Its big eyes are great for spotting bright flowers, even from a distance.



Plus, it has a fantastic memory! These moths can remember which flowers they've visited, so they don't waste time revisiting the same ones.

MASTERS OF DISGUISE

The hummingbird hawk-moth's appearance is no accident. Its rusty brown and orange body, along with its swift flight, helps it blend in with hummingbirds. Predators might think twice before chasing what they believe is a speedy bird. This sneaky disguise helps the moth avoid becoming someone's lunch!

WORLD TRAVELERS

Guess what? The hummingbird hawk-moth is found all over the world! From Europe to Asia, Africa, Japan, and right here in Munds Park these little flyers get around. Some of them even migrate like birds, traveling long distances to find warmer climates during the winter months.

FAST FOOD

These moths are always on the go, and they need a lot of energy to keep flying. That's why they love flowers with lots of nectar, like lavender and honeysuckle. Their quick pit stops at flowers for a sip of nectar keep them fueled up and ready for their next adventure!

So, next time you see what looks like a hummingbird darting around your garden, take a closer look—it might just be a hummingbird hawkmoth, nature's tiniest superhero in disguise!





MOO-NLIGHT MAGIC

Late one autumn evening, when the stars were all bright, A little cow named Clover felt something wasn't right. She loved to leap and frolic, she loved to skip and croon, But her biggest dream of all was to jump over the moon!

"You can't jump the moon," said the sheep with a yawn.

"It's far, far away, and it's almost dawn!"

The pigs snorted loud, "It's way too high,

Even a silly cow can't leap to the sky!"

But Clover wasn't worried; she'd made up her mind.

"I'll show them all—I'm one of a kind!"

So she gazed at the sky, with her eyes big and bright,
And saw the Harvest Moon glowing in the night.

The Harvest Moon was special, a great pumpkin in the sky, So close and so round, it seemed like she could fly! "I can do this," she whispered, with a flutter in her heart, She backed up a bit and got ready to start.

With a wiggle and a jiggle, she gave a great run, Her hooves pounded the ground—oh, this would be fun! She launched from the field with a great, mighty bound, Up and up she soared, not making a sound.

Past the cornfields and trees, higher than the barn, Clover flew up like a big shooting star! The moon saw her coming and gave a great cheer, And the stars all twinkled, "She's almost here!" But just as she thought she might touch that big moon, She wobbled and bobbled, oh no, too soon! She started to fall, her heart filled with gloom, Would she ever get over that big Harvest Moon?

Then the moon winked down, with a glimmer so bright,
And stretched out a moonbeam in the shimmering night.
It caught Clover's hooves and gave her a flip,
Right over the moon with a swish and a skip!

Clover spun through the sky with a giggle and glee,
As happy as a cow could possibly be.
She floated back down, her dream now come true,
Landing softly in the hay, all covered in dew.

The animals cheered; they couldn't believe their eyes, "Our Clover jumped over the moon in the sky!"

From then on, each year when the Harvest Moon's bright, Clover leaps and she dances, lit up by moonlight.

So if you see that moon, round and full in the sky, Think of Clover the cow, and give jumping a try! For the Harvest Moon's magic, as big as it seems, Can help anyone, anywhere, leap over their dreams.

Kids! The Harvest Moon is a special full moon you can see every year. This year, you can spot the Harvest Moon from September 16th to the 18th. It's the biggest and brightest full moon near the start of autumn, glowing like a giant orange ball in the sky. Make sure to look up on those nights because it's a magical sight you definitely don't want to miss!

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HARVEST WORD SEARCH

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

Autumn	Jump
Bright	Leap
Cheer	Magical
Clover	Moon
Dream	Moonbeam
Farm	Night
Fun	Shine
Giggle	Sky
Glow	Stars



Harvest

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SCAN ME!



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.
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Last BINGO of the 2024 season! It was a full house, and this picture captures just a fraction of the excitement. Huge thanks to the Pinewood Property Owners' Association for bringing fun to the Park and fostering community spirit! Your dedication shines bright, and we appreciate all you do!



Here are just some of the volunteers who make BINGO happen! From left to right: Marge Welch, Bonnie Mathis, Lynn Kelly, Karen Zintak (manager), Ginney Bugh, Linda Burnett, Carolyn Manley, Kathie Coolidge! Thank you ladies!



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SEPTEMBER 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. FIRE SIGN. MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

August 2024 lights a fire under you, Aries. As you charge forward with passion, remember to carve out quiet moments for yourself. Disconnect from the constant chatter and tune into your inner voice. Your creativity will flourish when you're not distracted by outside

noise. Relationships deepen when you're present. Financially, trust your instincts but avoid impulsive decisions. Seek balance between action and rest. Listen to what your heart truly wants, not what the world tells you to desire. Freedom lies in breaking free from the norms and creating your own path.



TAURUS, EARTH SIGN, APRIL 21 - MAY 20

August is a month of grounding for you, Taurus. Focus on building stability in your finances and home life. It's a great time to reassess what brings you true comfort and joy. Step away from the endless cycle of news and social media to reconnect with what truly matters.

Nature, art, and simple pleasures rejuvenate your spirit. In your career, steady progress comes from patience and persistence. Remember, happiness is found in the small, intentional moments. Find stillness within yourself, and let go of the external noise that clouds your peace.



LEO, FIRE SIGN, JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

It's your season, Leo! August brings you the spotlight and the chance to shine. Use this energy to express your unique creativity and passion. However, remember that true fulfillment comes from within, not from external validation. Step back

from the constant stream of social approval and tune into what your heart desires. Financially, be bold but wise. Relationships flourish when you lead with generosity and authenticity. Let your inner light be the compass that guides you. Happiness comes from creating a life that reflects who you truly are, not what others expect.



VIRGO, EARTH SIGN, AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

August 2024 calls for reflection and recalibration, Virgo. Organize your thoughts and focus on what truly matters. Your analytical mind thrives on clarity, so step away from the noise of media and find peace in the quiet. Financially, now is the time to

plan and save. Health-wise, prioritize routines that nourish your body and soul. Relationships benefit from your thoughtful communication. Remember, your happiness isn't found in what others think but in aligning with your own values. Simplify your life and reconnect with what genuinely brings you joy.



SAGITTARIUS, FIRE SIGN, NOV 23 - DEC 21

Adventure and exploration are calling your name, Sagittarius. August is the perfect time for travel, both literally and metaphorically. Expand your mind by stepping away from conventional wisdom and diving into new philosophies and ideas. Financially,

take risks with eyes wide open. Relationships benefit from your optimism and willingness to explore new perspectives. Remember, true freedom comes from within, not from external circumstances. Let go of what society says you should do and follow your own path. Your happiness is found in the journey of self-discovery and the pursuit of what truly matters to you.



CAPRICORN, EARTH SIGN, DEC 22 - JAN 20

August 2024 is about building and achieving, Capricorn. Focus on your long-term goals and the steps you need to take to get there. Financial stability comes from careful planning and hard work. In your relationships, commitment and honesty are key.

However, it's also a time to step back from the grind and consider what truly makes you happy. Turn off the screens and tune into your inner wisdom. Find your strength not in what you accomplish, but in the peace you cultivate within. True success comes from living authentically.



GEMINI, AIR SIGN, MAY 21 - JUNE 21

Curiosity reigns supreme for you in August, Gemini. This month, feed your mind with knowledge that expands your world. Instead of getting caught up in the usual chatter, dive deep into subjects that truly fascinate you. Conversations spark insights,

but solitude brings clarity. Financial opportunities arise when you think outside the box. This is a time to explore your inner landscape, away from the distractions of the media. Your mental happiness thrives when you tune into your own thoughts rather than everyone else's. Let your inner wisdom be your guide.



LIBRA, AIR SIGN, SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

Harmony and balance are your guiding lights this August, Libra. Focus on creating peace in your relationships and your environment. Instead of getting caught up in what everyone else is doing, tune into your inner voice. Financially, partnerships bring

new opportunities. Embrace your creative side and express yourself fully. Happiness is found when you stop comparing and start appreciating the unique beauty of your own path. Seek out what truly resonates with your soul, and let go of the external noise. Your intuition will lead you to the balance you crave.



AQUARIUS, AIR SIGN, JAN 21 - FEB 18

August brings a wave of innovation and originality for you, Aquarius. Dive into creative projects and embrace unconventional ideas. Social connections thrive, but make sure to carve out time for solitude to recharge. Financially, think outside the box for

solutions. Your visionary thinking will lead to breakthroughs. However, true innovation often comes from within. Disconnect from the media's noise and focus on your unique path. Balance independence with collaboration, and let your intuition guide you. The world needs your unique perspective, but first, you need to find your own clarity.



CANCER, WATER SIGN, JUNE 22 - JULY 22

August invites you to retreat into your sanctuary, Cancer. Focus on home and family, where you find your greatest sense of security. Your intuition will guide you in making wise financial choices. Step away from the noise of the outside world to reconnect with your

inner self. Self-care isn't just a luxury; it's a necessity. Your nurturing nature is your strength—use it to foster deeper connections with loved ones. When you unplug from external influences, you'll discover what truly nourishes your soul. Sometimes, the best way to grow is to turn inward.



SCORPIO, WATER SIGN, OCT 23 - NOV 22

Transformation is the theme for you this August, Scorpio. Embrace change and let go of what no longer serves you. Deep emotional work brings clarity and renewal. Step back from the chaotic energy of the world and dive deep into your own psyche. Financially, trust

your instincts and be strategic. In your career, focus on what drives you rather than what others expect. True power comes from knowing yourself deeply. When you shut out the distractions, you can transform your inner world and emerge stronger. This month, reclaim your energy by focusing inward.



PISCES, WATER SIGN, FEB 19 - MARCH 20

August 2024 invites you to explore your inner world, Pisces. Spiritual growth and self-reflection are key themes this month. Spend time in nature or in quiet spaces where you can connect with your intuition. Financially, trust your instincts and look for creative

solutions. In your career, your imagination is your greatest asset. Relationships deepen when you share your inner world with others. Remember, happiness comes from within, not from the endless scroll of the outside world. Take a step back from the noise and listen to your own inner wisdom.

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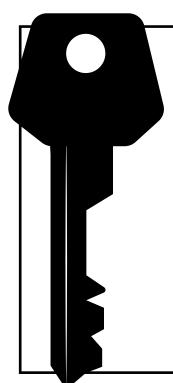


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KNOW WHERE NOT TO GO

By Steve Bowyer

North Dakota winters are brutal. Northern Arizona winters can be tough, but nothing compared to the Dakotas. When our youngest was born in Minot on January 4, the wind chill temp was 92 below. When the day came to take him home, they would not let us because the cold would cause trouble for his young lungs. The next day the air temp warmed up to a toasty 21 below. But the wind was not blowing so they discharged us. Crazy.

During the winter, stay-at-home moms and their pre-school kids could go stir crazy. The McDonald's in town with the play area was very popular. The kids could run off energy and the moms could visit. They would all get lunch and be home for a good nap time.

The other place that was popular for these moms and kids was the mall. Not a lot of shopping happened. But the kids could run, and the moms could walk and talk in terms other than baby talk during the day.

One such cold wintery day Sara took our two kids to the mall with a group of other moms. Jason, our current middle, who was the youngest at the time, was 1. He took off running down the mall. At one point he hit the brakes, came to a screeching halt, made a hard 90-degree turn, and planted his face on the window of a store. Frederick's of Hollywood. It was around Valentine's Day and the mannequins were dressed in lots of bright red lacey things. I am sure it was the red, not the mannequins that got his attention. At least, I think.

This raises a question for us men. When you go shopping with your wife and she goes into one of these stores, where do you go to stay out of trouble? They all have a "husband's chair". There is usually coffee served. But what do you focus your eyes on? Because if you stare at the things being advertised and modeled on the mannequins it can only lead to trouble. Your shoe tops? The ceiling? At least now we have a phone that can occupy our attention.

I do not want to overcook this. Maybe some men have no problem going into places like this and staying out of trouble. But the point is, we all need to know where we should not go to avoid unnecessary trouble. Alcoholics cannot go anywhere where drinks are served. Gamblers cannot go to a casino.

There is only one man in history who faced every temptation, including these, and never got into trouble. In fact, He could go anywhere to meet with anyone and never caused a problem for anyone except those who did not like Him. In fact, Jesus will go anywhere for anybody no matter how much trouble they are in to offer them the opportunity to get out. Then, when we come to faith, He will challenge us to be willing to walk away from the trouble in our old life to experience everything good in His new life.

After Jesus called the tax-collector Levi to follow Him, Levi threw a big dinner party and invited all his friends to come and meet Jesus. Tax collectors were not a popular lot so their only friends were other tax-collectors and often 'working women' who would offer their services to these embezzlers and extortionists employed to collect everyone's taxes. It would have been a pretty seedy group.

Jesus gladly showed up to interact with everyone. He took the time to get to know everyone and give them the chance to get to know Him. He avoided trouble Himself. But there was a group who had trouble with what Jesus was doing.

"Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?'

"Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:29-32)

Those who thought they did not need Jesus did not appreciate that He would go to a party with those who did. They all needed Him. Some just did not realize it. In fact, we all do.

We must know where we cannot go. We cannot take a days-old infant out into frigid weather. Most men should not go into a lingerie store and stare at the mannequins. But, even if we end up someplace where we should not be, Jesus is willing to meet us there and offer Himself to us as a way out.

There is no place we can go and never too much trouble to get in where Jesus will not come and meet us to offer us the opportunity to get out and get everything good from Him. So, if you find yourself in trouble, look for Him. He will be there for you. Let Him lead you out and give you what you were looking for in the first place. Whatever He gives you will be better than anything you give up to get Him.

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For more information about our church go to our website, mpcc.church.

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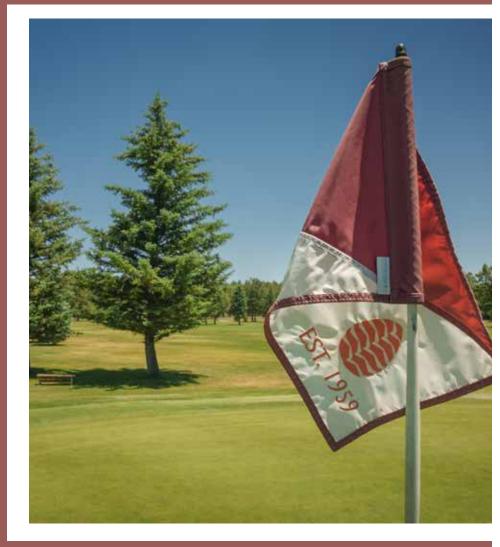
We know our readers love a good adventure, and we've got proof! Rachel and Paul Wills, Mike and Michele Dussault, and Jon and Christy Rhoten didn't just read their Pinewood News—they took it snorkeling in Maui, HI!

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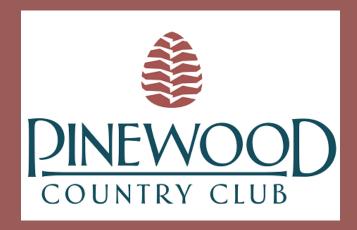
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