

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Water Use Up 19%; Big Users Will Pay Higher Rates

By Doug Mance

When my daughters were teens, I often tediously repeated that air, water and food were needs, and everything else was a want.

They would roll their eyes but understood the point.

I get to make that point now to you from your Mt. Lemmon

Water Board.

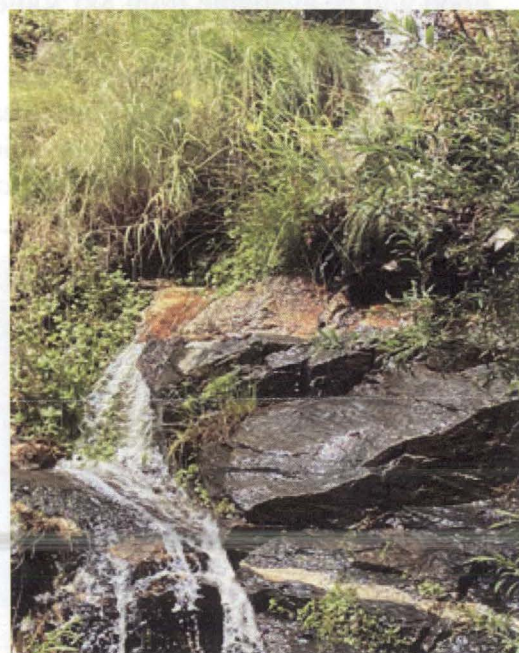
Lake Powell and Lake Mead are primary storage reservoirs for Arizona water. Those lakes are now at 28% capacity, and Southern Arizona is one of the regions facing restrictions on Central Arizona Project Water.

The good news is that our mountain water supply is not derived from the CAP. The bad news is that we are wholly dependent on mountain spring water and constrained by approximately 2 million gallons of water tank storage.

May, June and July MLWD water use was approximately 1.35 million gallons. In the same period last year, use was 1.13 million gallons. That is a year-over-year increase of 19.67%, a trend that is not our friend.

Over the next few months, the water district will redesign tiered water usage rates to plan for an uncertain water future. If you are a conscientious water user, residential or commercial, your rates will most likely be unchanged. For others, this is not a punitive move; it is preventative, and we want to reward good water behavior.

Continued on Page 4



Near Marshall Gulch, one of many summer waterfalls.

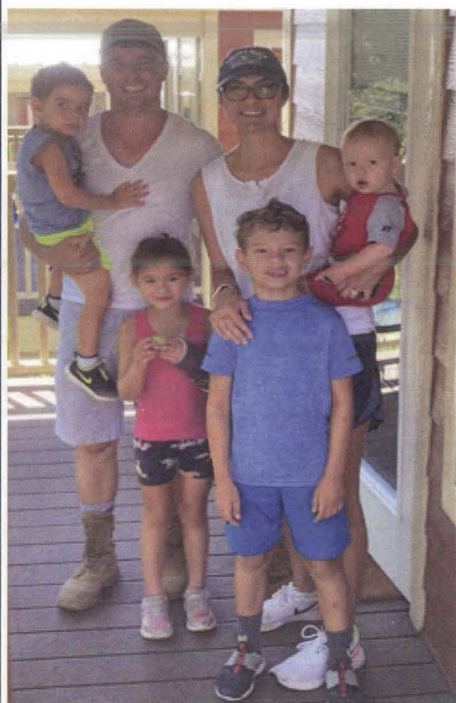
Summer Rain Nearly Matches Last Year

Summer rainfall on Mt. Lemmon started late but came on strong in August. Rainfall totals for the summer are near 2021 totals.

The Mt. Lemmon Water District rain gauge showed 26.69 inches from June 1 through Aug. 24. Last year, 28.52 inches fell.

At the Mt. Lemmon Fire District, the gauge showed 19.94 inches of rain from June 1 through Aug. 24. That compares with 19.98 inches last year.

Why Are the Hafners Happy?



Because their Mt. Lemmon Hotel is now fully open for business. Story, Page 3.

Oktoberfest Is Here Get Out Your Beer Stein, Dirndl and Lederhosen

Oktoberfest, the two-century-old Bavarian tradition of food, fun and, of course, beer, is back at Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley for the 45th year.

Starting Sept. 17 and running every Saturday and Sunday through Oct. 9, you can join the festivities at Ski Valley, up the road from Summerhaven.

This year's festival will include dancing and authentic German music by the John Prokop Band, playing each day of Oktoberfest from noon until 4:30 p.m.

Food will be available from Ski Valley, and there will be games for the children each day.

Oktoberfest is an annual festival that originated in Munich, Germany, and is held over two weeks ending in early October. It started in 1810 to celebrate the marriage of the crown prince of Bavaria, who later became King Louis I, according to brittanica.com.



Popular Wildflower Walks Extended Two More Months

Wildflower Walks sponsored by the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club have proven so popular this summer that they have been extended to fall.

David Dean, a volunteer with the Coronado National Forest, has led the walks at various spots on the mountain once a month on Wednesday mornings, from May through August.

Two more walks have been added to the schedule. The next will be Sept. 7, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Marshall Gulch.

The final walk of the season, which should include seeing the mountain's brilliant fall colors, is scheduled for Oct. 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Bear Wallow. Parking will be available in the Sunset Trail Parking Lot.



Wildflower Walk guide David Dean identifies a species on Aug. 10 atop Mt. Lemmon.

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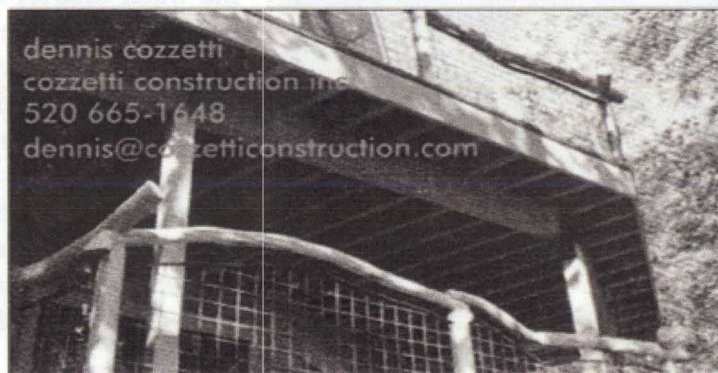
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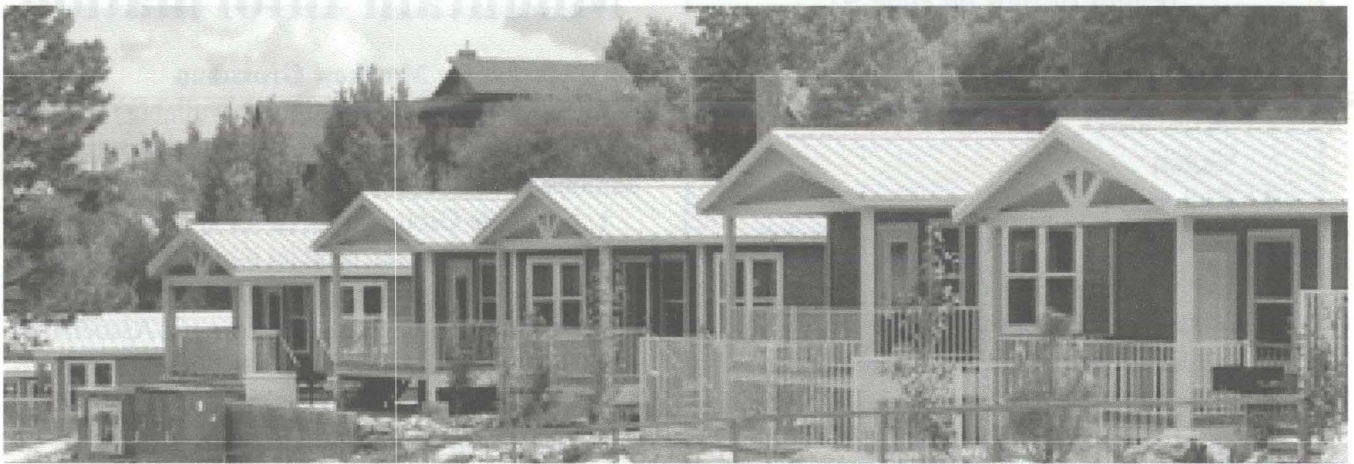
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Hotel to 'Make Memories' for Guests, Owners



By Michael A. Chihak

Justin and Andrea Hafner were on Mt. Lemmon four years ago for Thanksgiving, eating at the Sawmill Run Restaurant when they heard someone ask a waiter about overnight accommodations nearby.

A short time later, they heard another patron ask the same question. Then a third.

"Hey, I think there's a business here," Justin Hafner recalled saying to his wife.

Thus was conceived the idea for the Mt. Lemmon Hotel, which became fully operational in Summerhaven this year, with the opening of six more guest cabins. That brings the total number of units to 15.

Delays Stack Up

"We bought the land (in 2020), and the modular units started arriving in April 2021," Justin Hafner said. Then a series of delays not in the Hafners' control came into play.

In summer 2020, the Bighorn Fire led to a six-week evacuation and down time on the construction project. COVID shut down work crews for various stretches of time.

Finally, the company that made the modular cabins, which were trucked to Summerhaven and nestled into place, fell two years' behind in orders.

So the Hafners hired an architect who drew up plans to "stick-build" the remaining six units from the ground up. They were finished in time for this summer's season.

A Legacy for Offspring

"It's definitely been a learning process," Justin Hafner said one sunny day in August as he pushed a wheelbarrow along the sidewalk behind the hotel's cabins, his version of hands-on management. Nearby, Andrea Hafner painted curb signs for guest parking. Three of the couple's four children played in the vicinity.

Business has been "up and down," Justin Hafner said, adding that he doesn't expect profitability until "after we pay off our SBA loan."

Eventually, the hotel "will be something we can hand down to our kids," he said. "We're young enough that we can screw up and then get it right to hand off to our kids."

The cabins, which can sleep four to five, rent from \$150 to \$250 a night, depending on the season and day of week. Half are pet friendly, and most guests come from Tucson, looking to get away for a night or two, Justin Hafner said.

Summer business has been good, with most rooms full most of the time, while last winter had 60-70% occupancy.

Adjacent Businesses Open

The Hafners announced on Facebook Aug. 13 that by the end of August Mt. Lemmon Coffee Bean, Mt. Lemmon Scooters, Ugo's Interiors, Lemmon 8 Cycling and Mt. Lemmon Weddings were to be open for business at the hotel.

A personal philosophy that existed long before that prescient meal at the Sawmill Run four years ago appears to govern the Hafners' vision for the Mt. Lemmon Hotel.

"I don't like to get or give material things," Justin Hafner said. "I like to go places, to make memories."

Giving others that opportunity in Summerhaven is what Justin and Andrea Hafner are doing.

September Calendar

(Event details on Page 9)

- 2 - Movie night, 6:30pm at MLCC
- 4 - Pancake Breakfast, 9-11am at MLFD
- 7 - Wildflower Walk, 9:30am, Marshall Gulch
- 9 - Full moon
- 15 - MLBEA lecture series, 1pm, MLCC
- 16 - Bunko, 6:30pm at MLCC
- 17 - Mountain meetings:
 - 8:30am - MLWD Board, Zimmerman School
 - 10am - MLHOA Board, MLCC
 - 1pm - ML Woman's Club, MLCC
- 17 - ML Woman's Club Speakers Program, 2:15pm, MLCC
- 17-18, 24-25 - Oktoberfest, noon-5pm, Ski Valley

Water Rates Going Up

Continued from Page 1

We are all facing a confluence, a water-based term describing a juncture of two rivers. Our Mt. Lemmon population confluence is comprised of a home ownership expansion joining with our water supply constraints and capacities.

Many of the new property owners on the mountain are landlords with tenants who need to be educated that water on Mt. Lemmon is a need, not a want.

Whether owners are absentee landlords or permanent residents, they pay the water bill.

If you have tenants who are not given guidance on water usage and conservation, then owners may be impacted by some of the yet-to-be established new water usage tiers.

Our district water board meetings are always open to the public and are held at the Zimmerman School, 12501 N. Sabino Canyon Park Road, on the third Saturday of each month, starting at 8:30 a.m. There is always a call to the audience, or you can submit comments to me at the email address below.

Doug Mance is chairman of the Mt. Lemmon Water District Board. Reach him at dmancemtlemon@comcast.net.

Stay Up to Date on Mountain Information

By Matthew Grossman

There are four online resources available to keep Mount Lemmon residents up to date between editions of *The Echoes*:

1. A Google Group has been set up to provide email updates. To join, send an e-mail to mtlemmonhoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowner's Association maintains a website at <https://mtlemmonhoa.org/>. Check it out, get informed, and contribute.

3. A neighborhood group has been set up on Nextdoor.com. Sign up using your cabin street address to be connected to the Mt. Lemmon group. If you already use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, you need to sign up for Mt. Lemmon under a different email address, because only one neighborhood is permitted per email address. This venue provides general information, worthwhile educational benefits and timely communication, especially during critical times, such as fire danger and road closures.

4. MLFDAZ.org is the web address for our Fire Department. On the home page, under the Resources tab, is Firewise. This tab takes you to the compilation of the important Firewise information and forms. This includes an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and even more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.

Contribute to *The Echoes*

The Echoes is published by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association monthly, except December and January.

Deadline for stories, photos and announcements for *The Echoes* is the 15th of each month. If you have a story or an idea for a story and need help writing it, send an email to Michael Chihak at chihak.echoes@gmail.com.

Send stories and announcements in Word documents emailed to chihak.echoes@gmail.com. Send photos and other artwork in jpeg files.

We cannot guarantee that items submitted after the monthly deadline will appear in the next issue of *The Echoes*.

Time to Take to the Trails, With These Precautions

By Dan Leade

As the summer comes to an end, and the weather begins to cool, one of the best times to enjoy hiking on Mt. Lemmon arrives.

Bird watching, viewing the changing fall colors, exercising or simply exploring are all enjoyable activities that many people take advantage of.

That said, it is important to remember that there are hazards associated with hiking our trails. These dangers can result in a host of different types of injuries, and some can even be life-threatening.

Getting lost is an all-too common occurrence on the mountain. Adverse weather conditions can occur at a moment's notice. Many trails have been affected by wildfire and pose unique hazards that are not found in other areas, such as falling trees or branches and loose soil and rocks. There are also quite a few dangerous animals and plants that hikers may encounter.

The Mt. Lemmon Fire District responds to a multitude of calls on hiking trails within our service area. Rescues often require extensive manpower from many different agencies. These calls demand working in difficult conditions and unfavorable terrain, and there are times when more than one type of specific need occurs on the same call.

General types of trail calls include rescue and trail extrication, fall injuries, dehydration, environmental emergencies, lost hikers and animal encounters.

To help hikers enjoy the outdoors and mitigate risk, the National Park Service lists 10 health and safety items to consider when planning a hike.

The suggestions are navigation, sun protection,

insulation, illumination, first aid supplies, a way to start a fire, a repair kit or tools, nutrition, hydration and an emergency shelter.

No list will be all inclusive, and it is impossible to prepare for every possible emergency, but this is a great place to start.

In addition, tips include telling someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. Hike with at least one other person. Research the trail and stay on it. Wear proper hiking gear and research the anticipated weather for your hike.

So whether you are out to photograph the autumn foliage, get in some exercise before the cold of winter strikes or simply take a stroll after enjoying Oktoberfest with the family, consider taking extra time to be as prepared as possible for your journey.

Dan Leade is a Mt. Lemmon Fire Department captain.



Beneath this foliage is the beautiful Mint Spring Trail. The popular path also has its hazards, including tree fall from wildfires.



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Never-Ending Story: Road Maintenance on the Mountain

From the desk of

Supervisor Steve Christy

We are still digging into the road maintenance mystery. Recently, our office received a spreadsheet from the county Transportation Department that raises more questions than it provides answers.

The transportation team's report features descriptions such as "Summerhaven Subdivision," "Agreement with Forest Service" and "Loma Sabino Pines" as the rationale for acceptance into the road maintenance inventory.

It also notes the year the road was accepted. And while the road repair list issued last year provided a detailed description of the road, even specifying length in feet of the scheduled maintenance, the report says, "Within Summerhaven," "Within Loma Sabino Pines" and for Carter Canyon, "Miami Street to end."

Further, according to this report, prior to 1979, no road in Summerhaven was county maintained.

Obviously, we have questions and a hunch that you might, too.

We are contacting various village leaders to gather their feedback, and we encourage you to contact our office, at 520-724-8094 or district4@pima.gov, if you would like to review the report and tell us what you make of it.

At our quarterly meeting with the Transportation Department team this month, we will ask your questions and ours. We expect to have more to report next month.

An update on the snow removal contract is also on our list.

Mt. Lemmon HOA Board Meeting Highlights for August

Forest Service: C.J. Woodard, Santa Catalina District ranger, is departing Sept. 11 for a Forest Service position in Mississippi. Big thanks to C.J.

Shooting range: Woodard advised that the MP4 shooting range is a legal activity and that firearms use on federal lands is generally legal.

Water: Diana Osborne replaces Jim Rollins on the Mt. Lemmon Water District board. Thanks to Jim for his service.

Pancake breakfast: Sunday, Sept. 4, ML Fire Station, 9-11 a.m., \$5 donation; kids eat free. Get COVID shots and flu shots from Walgreens.

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Want to Get Connected on the Mountain? New Internet Options for Cabin Owners

By Matthew Grossman

Two new Internet options have become available on Mt. Lemmon in the past year, providing high-speed service to previously unserviceable cabins.

T-Mobile, the nationwide mobile phone carrier, launched T-Mobile Home Internet (website: [t-mobile.com/home-internet](https://www.t-mobile.com/home-internet)) earlier this year. Tests on the mountain have demonstrated a consistent 80 megabits of download speed and seven megabits of upload speed. Service is provided using a small all-in-one indoor device that acts as both radio link and a WiFi router that is about the size of a small loaf of bread standing on end. The rate is \$50 a month.

T-Mobile Has Limits

Unfortunately, T-Mobile's mapping has difficulty finding individual cabins. Using the post office's address as the service address and a Tucson shipping address should bypass this issue. A mobile phone app guides the user through installation. For best performance, the unit should be placed in a window facing Radio Ridge (west of Summerhaven) on the highest floor of a cabin. A less suitable location still works, but with reduced performance.

SpaceX, the Elon Musk-helmed company intent on

landing humans on Mars, has a space-based offering cleverly named StarLink (website: [starlink.com](https://www.starlink.com)). Unlike the slow and pricey satellite systems of the past (HughesNet, ViaSat), StarLink offers flat-rate plans, faster speeds and latency, which is the time it takes for traffic to go from your computer to the Internet, comparable to terrestrial systems.

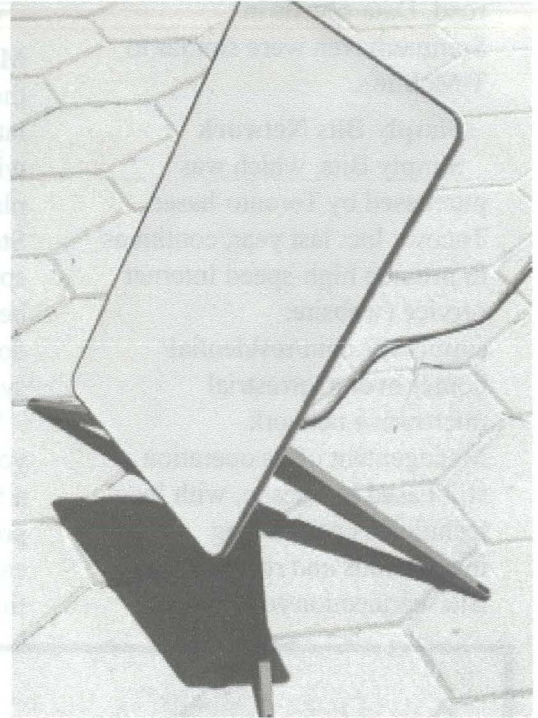
StarLink Satellites

Older systems rely on a single satellite in a fixed position 22,500 miles high, with the speed of light dramatically limiting available speed. StarLink uses a constellation of satellites 350 miles above Earth. The antenna, nearly two feet tall and one foot wide, tracks satellites as they move across the sky and switches between them as needed. The result is a connection that works for latency-sensitive uses, such as Zoom video calls.

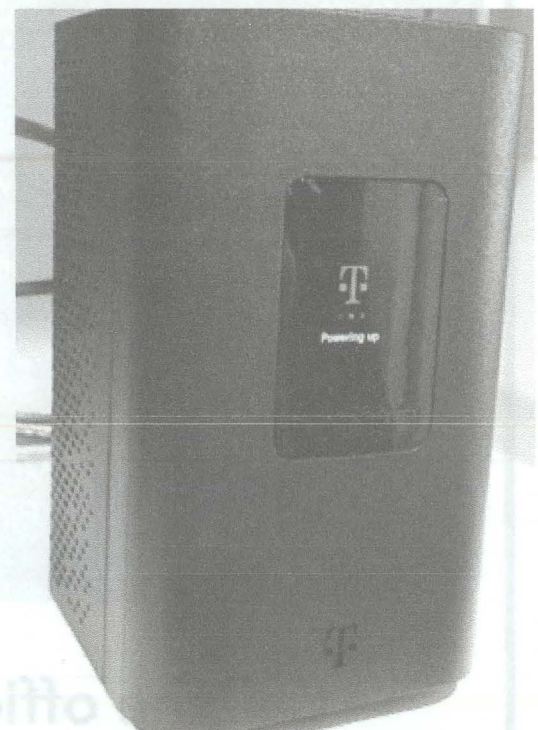
This method does require a clear view of the sky. The more obstructions in your view, the more frequent connection loss.

Another downside is cost: \$599 for the equipment and \$110 a month for the service. For an extra \$25 a month, StarLink will allow use of the equipment away from your cabin, a boon for

Continued on Page 8



The Starlink antenna, above, is 20.25 inches tall and 12 inches wide. The T-Mobile router, below, is 7.5 inches high, 4.7 inches wide, 4.5 inches deep.



Two New Internet Options Come to Mt. Lemmon

Continued from Page 7

recreational vehicle owners who want to take Internet on the road. Data speeds in Summerhaven were similar to T-Mobile's.

Simply Bits Network

Simply Bits, which was purchased by Toronto-based Tucows Inc. last year, continues to provide high-speed Internet service (website:

simplybits.com/residential/home) over a terrestrial microwave network.

Management of its operation is still based in Tucson, with local technicians performing installations and repairs. Simply Bits' connection requires an

unobstructed view of one of its distribution sites and offers residential speeds.

While the published speeds on Mt. Lemmon are not as high as those of T-Mobile and StarLink, latency is lower and experience with the 25 megabit download plan is similar to T-Mobile and StarLink. Generally, higher speeds provide a noticeable benefit only during large file downloads, such as operating system updates.

Which connection is best for you? If you have a clear line to a Simply Bits site, its professional installation is the easiest choice. If a technician finds installation is not possible

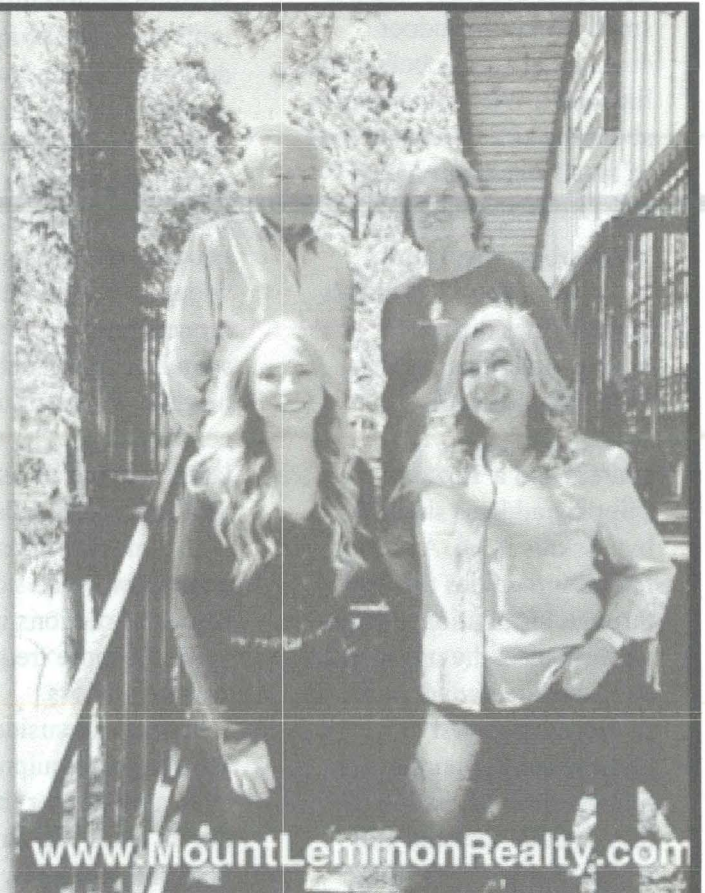
-- usually due to foliage or terrain obstructions -- the order is canceled without cost.

If your cabin is surrounded by dense foliage, try T-Mobile. Using the 15-day trial period, test the service. If it doesn't work, ship the equipment back with no financial obligation.

Because of its high cost, clear sky requirement and more complicated self-installation, I consider StarLink to be the provider of last resort, unless you plan to use it on camping trips. Rumors of a professional installation option haven't materialized, so unless you are comfortable climbing on your roof, avoid this option for now.

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Busy Time for Woman's Club, With Much More to Come



From left: Sally Crum, Beth Borozan, Sandi Triplett, Tami Arthur and Carol Niehoff at the Summerhaven primary polling place on Aug. 2.

By Sandi Triplett

Election: Sally Crum, Sandi Triplett, Tami Arthur and Carol Niehoff, Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club members, worked at the Summerhaven primary polling location on Aug. 2.

Done in a Day: The August project was donating school supplies for underprivileged children. September's project will be donating personal items for Youth on Their Own.

Donate for seniors: Pam Winsten is collecting games and puzzles for Catalina Village residents.

For better vision: We are collecting eyeglasses for the Lion's Club. Donate at the General Store, Living Rainbow or monthly club meeting.

Next meeting: Sept. 17, 1 p.m., MLCC.

September Activities on Mountain: Movie, Pancakes, Speakers, More

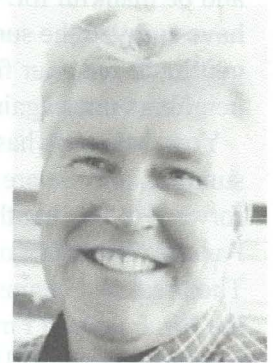
Movie night, Sept. 2: "3:10 to Yuma," a 2007 western starring Russell Crowe and Christian Bale. Rated R for violence. Free. 6:30 p.m. at MLCC.

Pancake breakfast, Sept. 4: The annual event this year will include carnival games for kids. \$5 donation; kids eat free. 9-11 a.m. at ML Fire Station.

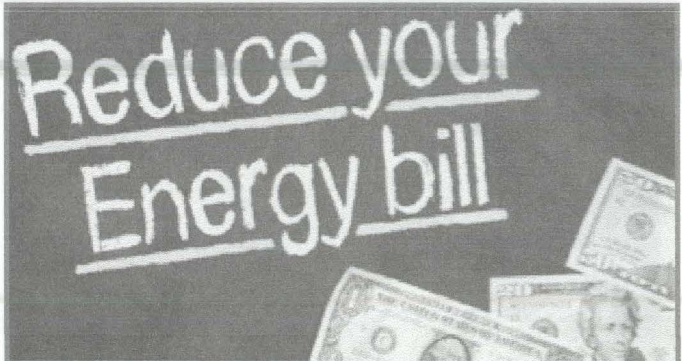
MLBEA Lecture Series, Sept. 15: Alan Strauss of UA Sky Island Center. Free. 1 p.m. at MLCC.

Bunko, Sept. 16: This is an easy game and a chance to meet people. Bring your own drink and a snack to share. 6:30 p.m. at MLCC.

ML Woman's Club Speaker Series, Sept. 17: Willem J.D. van Leeuwen, director of University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Environment, will discuss the UA's Faul Preservation Area. Free. 2:15 p.m. at MLCC.



Dr. Willem J.D.
van Leeuwen



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Mt. Lemmon HOA Monthly Report from the President

**By Sally Crum
HOA Board President**

How about all this rain? The mountain is looking absolutely gorgeous, isn't it?

There is so much to celebrate and be thankful for. I hope you have enjoyed the summer and getting to see your friends and neighbors once again.

Your MLHOA has had a busy summer, and we are looking forward to hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast on Sept. 4. The breakfast begins at 9 a.m. at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station. Flu shots and COVID boosters will be provided by Walgreens.

This year, thanks to John

Korhonen of Soldiers Camp, we will have a children's carnival, with games and prizes, so bring your kids and grandkids and let's have some fun. There is a \$5 donation for the breakfast. Raffle prizes, including quilts donated by the Tucson Quilt Guild will also be part of the festivities. We hope to see you there.

MLHOA is sponsoring another free Friday night movie on Sept. 16. See details in this edition of the Echoes.

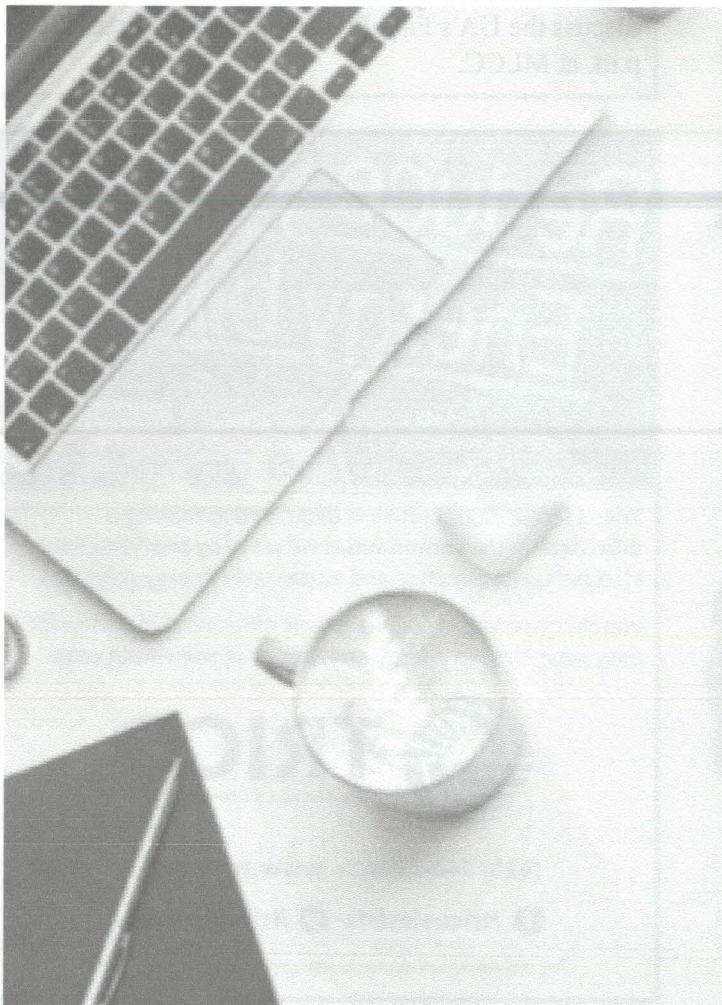
And don't forget, Sept. 17 is the return of the Mt. Lemmon Ice Cream Freeze Off and Social. One of the contenders has been practicing for months,

so it's time to start taste testing your best frozen concoction.

Your Executive Board continues to look in to ways to improve life in our community. Two of our high priority items are trash collection and road maintenance/snow removal.

We are working on scheduling a "town hall" meeting on road maintenance and snow removal. Please watch NextDoor for information for date and time.

Enjoy these last days of summer, take a walk in the forest, look up at the clouds and stars and be ever thankful for this wonderful place called Mt. Lemmon.



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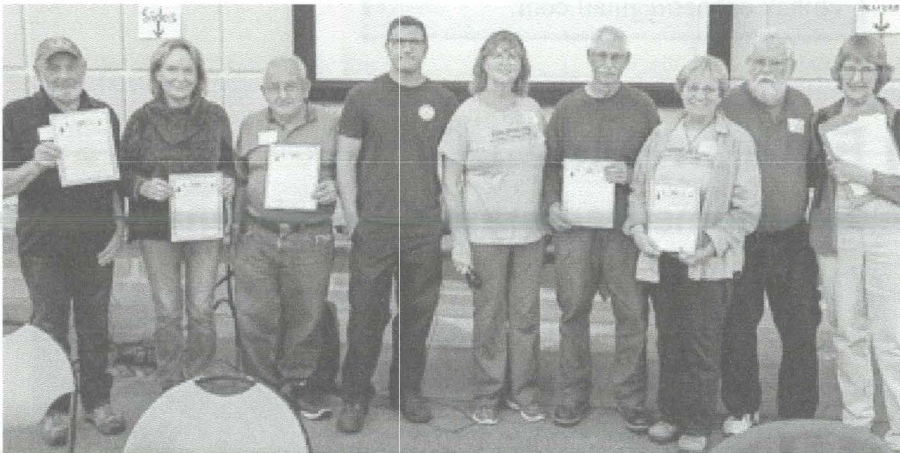
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Honoring Firewise and Fire District Volunteers



Firewise neighborhood captains. Front Row: Arthur Torrance, Vonnie Hickman, Sally Crum (behind Vonnie), Sandi Triplett, Jenni Zimmerman. Back Row: Patsy Riley, Ken Block, Don Hickman, Linda Block, Marty Herde, Brenda Shupbach, Louise Lynch, Dorothy Johnson, Joyce Anderson, Bridget Werchan, John Lynch. Not shown, Henry Werchan.



MLFD volunteers. From left: Pete Krauss, Diana Osborne (accepting for John Osborne), John Mulay, Capt. Peter Norton, Sally Crum, Lou Crum, Sandi Triplett, Merle Triplett, Dorothy Johnson.



The crowd at MLCC for Firewise and MLFD honors.

**By Sally Crum
Firewise Chair**

Even while the rain fell, more than 80 members of the Mt. Lemmon community gathered Aug. 20 to celebrate our Firewise and Fire District volunteers.

Following a brief video on how to prevent embers from entering our cabins using specifically designed vents or 1/16-inch mesh screen, Dorothy Johnson presented beautiful certificates to our Firewise neighborhood captains and Mt. Lemmon Fire District volunteers.

Capt. Peter Norton, MLFD volunteer coordinator, assisted.

Rosemary Hinsch and several of her "elves," made a surprise presentation of their own, dressed in fire helmets and yellow slickers, to the delight of the cheering audience.

After the video and presentations, the crowd enjoyed a taco bar, provided by the Firewise Committee, and a potluck.

This was one of the largest get-togethers in recent memory, despite the bad weather.

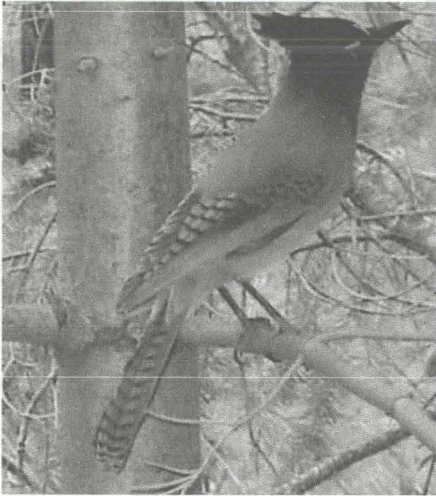
Thank you to all of our volunteers, as well as individual cabin owners who work so hard to protect our little piece of paradise.

Want to be in on next year's awards celebration? Volunteer with Firewise via Dorothy Johnson, 520 444-9918, or spiritdancertrl@gmail.com. To volunteer with the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department, contact Chief Joe Gunia, 520 576-1201, or jgunia@mlfdaz.org.

Critter Pictures: What's in Your Backyard?

Photos by Pamela Winsten, taken in a backyard on Turkey Run

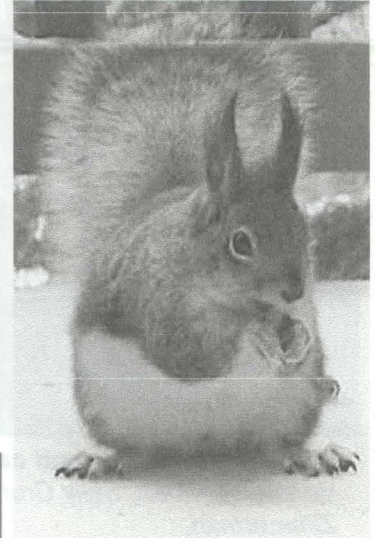
More Critter Pictures on Page 16



Steller's jay



Common raccoon



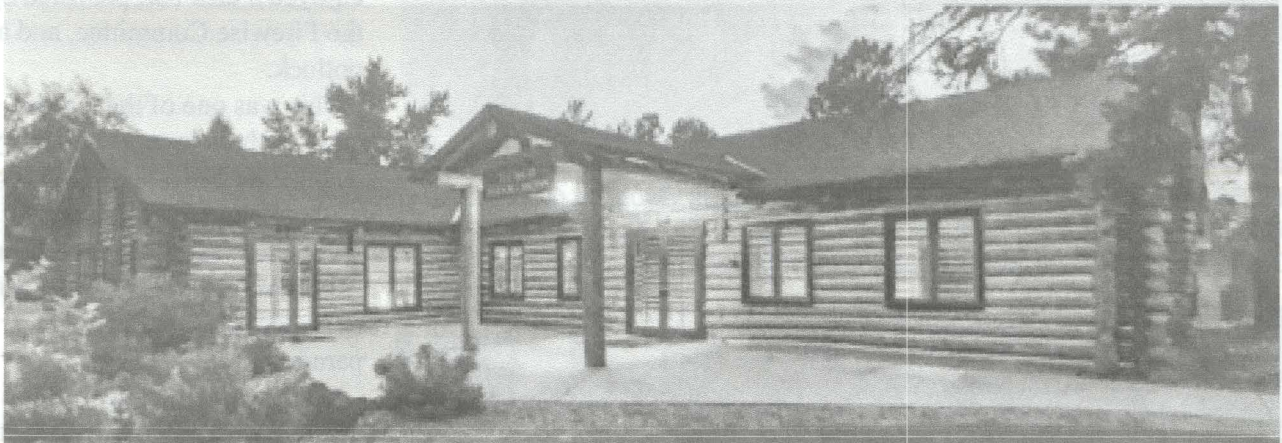
Abert's squirrel

Submit Wildlife Photos

The Echoes wants your photos of Mt. Lemmon wildlife. Submit photos, along with names of species and where photos were taken, to chihak.echoes@gmail.com.

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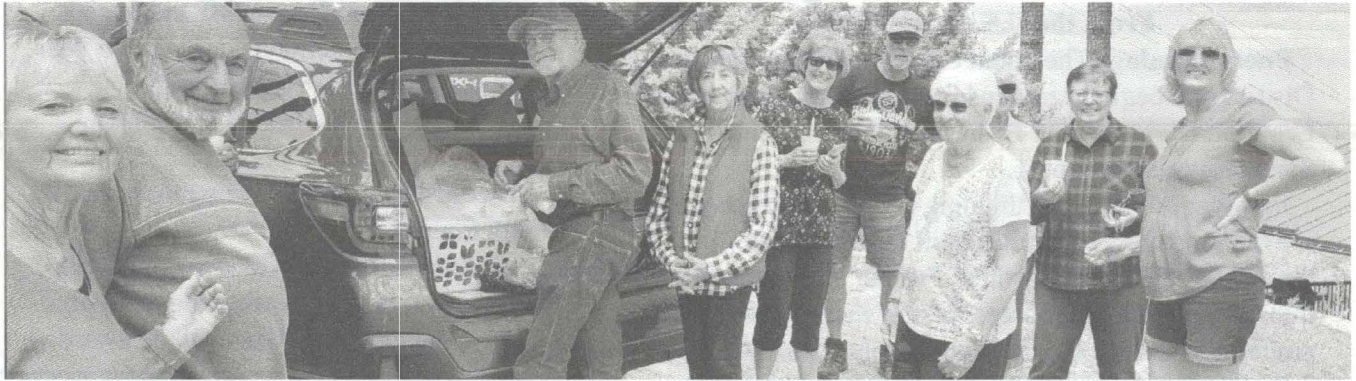
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303.249.9299

Office
303.887.5065

www.coloradologenterprises.com

The Mountain's Very Own 'Good Humor Man'



Michael Stanley, under vehicle hatchback in ballcap, is in good humor as he spreads the joy of his latest ice cream creation. Joining him are, from left, Sandy and Pete Krauss, Linda Currin, Donna Schotter, Randy Livingston, Linda Mulay, Leigh Anne Thrasher, Luann Waldron, Peggy Livingston.

Why Choose Summerhaven? So Many Good Reasons

By Pamela Winsten

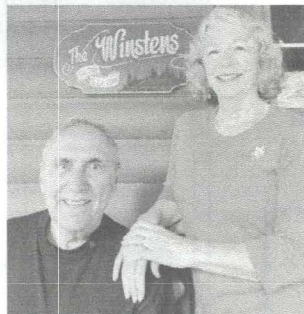
Many friends spend summers in Northern Arizona or out of state. They sometimes question why we chose Mt. Lemmon.

Simply, Summerhaven is a delightful place to spend time.

It's not just the excellent birding, hiking, biking, relaxing opportunities, but the fun and thoughtfulness of the community. An example is this story that Sally Crawford shared with me:

"Bob and I were taking a lovely walk and Michael (Stanley) and Carol (Niehoff) stopped their car and asked if we wanted ice cream. We were not sure what they meant. Then they opened their trunk and offered us delicious homemade ice cream with coconut toppings. They even had paper cups and plastic spoons. Their mission that day was to simply surprise people with love and kindness and yummy ice cream. They represented the wonderful 'mountain family' we all have on Mt. Lemmon."

Two weeks later, my husband and I were returning from a bike ride when we encountered Carol and Michael near the Community Center. We were the happy recipients of orange ice cream sprinkled with chocolate chips and small wedges of orange. Boy, was that a treat!



Dennis, Pamela Winsten

Yum! It's the Ice Cream Man!

By Sally Crum

Ice Cream Connoisseur

When was the last time you heard the happy bells announcing the Good Humor Man arriving in your neighborhood? Seems Summerhaven has its own Good Humor Man making the rounds these days.

If you're lucky and listening carefully, you might hear the Mt. Lemmon Good Humor Man, Michael Stanley, accompanied by wife Carol Niehoff and Ellie Dog, delivering special frozen treats to unsuspecting cabin owners.

Orange ice cream with fresh orange slice and chocolate morsels? Pineapple ice cream topped with toasted coconut? One word: Yum!

Michael is looking forward to taking first prize in the upcoming Ice Cream Freeze Off, sponsored by the MLHOA, on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the MLCC, starting at 5:30 p.m. Details on Page 14, or check Nextdoor.com.

Crank up your ice cream freezer, thaw creative recipes, and get set to have some good humor.

This morning, we awoke to fog hanging outside our cabin window. The only appropriate response to a "Seattle morning" is coffee. So it was out to the new Mt. Lemmon Coffee Bean. Debbie was brewing her magic. Pastries included homemade treats from Summerhaven and Willow Canyon semipros.

Then on to the revolving coffee hour that Jeanne Hartmann founded more than 20 years ago.

Why choose Mt. Lemmon? All of the above.

Forest Service Updates

From the U.S. Forest Service

Fuels thinning: The Santa Catalina-Rincon Ranger District will begin hazardous fuels thinning along the Mt. Lemmon Highway near Bear Wallow, Box Camp and in Summerhaven on Sept. 1.

Just over 300 acres of thinning is planned. Expect to see thinning crews and piles built in these areas throughout the fall and winter. Further hazardous fuel thinning is planned for areas west of Summerhaven and around Mt. Lemmon, which will likely start in October.

Fauna and flora: The Mexican spotted owl season concluded at the end of August. Surveys for yellow-billed cuckoos will go through September. Technicians will begin sensitive plant species surveys this month.

Facilities updates: Under the Great American Outdoor Act, Rose Canyon Lake will get new bathrooms, sometime between 2023 and 2025.

The Marshall Gulch remodeling project remains on hold, awaiting final bridge design; construction is expected to start soon. The Marshall Gulch parking lot project is moving forward, with Federal Highway Project work to complete the environmental review.

Ice Cream Freeze Off

The Ice Cream Freeze Off and Social returns to Summerhaven after a two-year break for the COVID pandemic.

The competition begins at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at MLCC. Donation of \$5; proceeds go to the ML Fire Department and Firewise.

Competitors, arrive by 5:15 p.m. with one gallon of your homemade treat, plus ice to keep it cold. Prizes will be awarded

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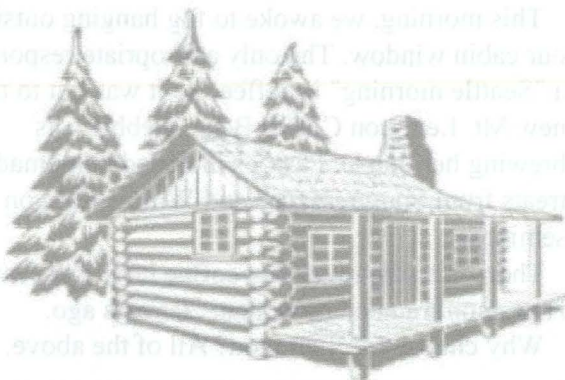
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www.elranchoencanto.com

'Very Successful' Breeding Season for Cordilleran Flycatcher

By Dr. Charles van Riper III

Now that the Cordilleran flycatcher 2022 breeding season has closed on Mt. Lemmon, we reflect on what happened this summer.

I predicted that the 2022 summer might have good Cordilleran flycatcher breeding. We have analyzed all information collected at our nesting locations, including those sites provided by Mt. Lemmon residents, and have found that indeed, 2022 was a successful breeding season.

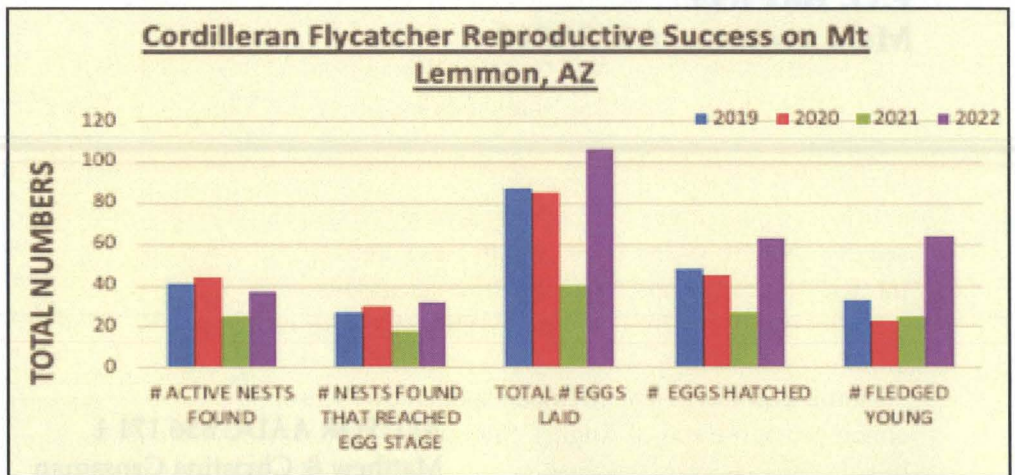
It began with an earlier-than-usual arrival of the migrant flycatcher, and territories were established starting in late April to early May. Successful breeding continued at high levels throughout the summer, with good fledging success (fledging is when a young bird leaves the nest).

Flycatcher reproduction was higher in all phases of the breeding cycle than in any other year we have studied the bird on Mt. Lemmon.

In 2022, more eggs were laid, more hatched and, as a result, more young fledged.

Only 25 fledged in 2021 from nests monitored on Mt. Lemmon, while in 2022 we had 60 fledged by mid-July.

In 2020, an average of 1.5 fledged each nest; in 2021, the average was 1.1 on Turkey



Run, while none fledged from nests at Palisades and 0.5 in Willow and Rose canyons.

This year, the birds averaged 2.3 young per nest along Turkey Run and 2.1 at Palisades.

The two most important factors for the successful season were adequate food resources and lower egg loss to predation.

We operate three insect traps along Turkey Run just past the Guthrie intersection. These traps collect flying insects and provide an index of potential flycatcher food. Insect levels appeared sufficient this year to raise young and complete the breeding cycle.

The reduction in flycatcher egg predation seemed to be the single most important reason for the higher 2022 nesting success.

Our research has found that Stellar's jay predation rates of flycatcher eggs are usually quite high on Mt. Lemmon. When analyzing our mist-net capture data, we found that this year we caught many fewer Stellar's jays.

The decreased numbers of jays



resulted in fewer flycatcher eggs being lost. This left a larger number of eggs that could hatch and eventually fledge young.

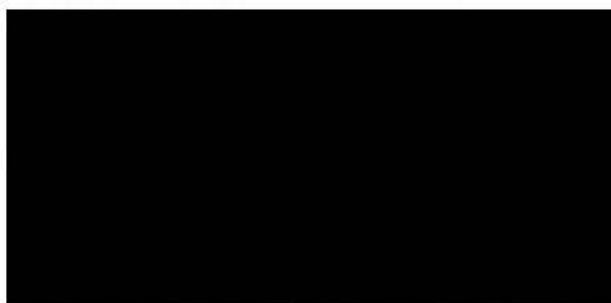
For example, in 2020, more than 50% of the eggs laid were lost to predation, while in 2022, 20% were lost to predation.

This resulted in a greater number of eggs hatching, and thus a greater number of young Cordilleran flycatchers fledging in the 2022 breeding season.

Charles van Riper III, Ph.D., is with the University of Arizona School of Natural Resources and the Environment and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Assoc.
P.O. Box 699
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

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Critter Pictures: Winged Wonders of the Mountain

Photos by Michael Stanley. More Critter Pictures on Page 12



Acorn woodpecker seeks a meal.



A Gould's turkey struts his stuff On Sabino Canyon Parkway.



Hummingbirds swarm a feeder on Upper Loma Linda.

Submit Your Wildlife Photos

The Echoes wants your photos of Mt. Lemmon wildlife. Submit photos, along with names of species and where photos were taken, to chihak.echoes@gmail.com.