

The

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Updates From the Water District

By Stu Shacter

Last month, Harper Cochran wrote a story for the Echoes describing the status of the water shortage we endured during this past winter. There is an article on the Water District website that describes the various reasons that led to this shortage. Thanks to the recent snowstorms and your conservation efforts I am pleased to report our tanks are now filled to capacity. As Harper reported, one factor slowing down the replenishment of our tanks after the snow came was leaks in our system and leaks on the customer side of our water meters.

One of the projects we are working on to mitigate these leaks is an upgrade to our Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. This upgraded system will allow us to monitor in real time where water is flowing and detect potential leaks much faster to reduce water loss. Last November, thanks to the efforts of our grant writer, Christina Grossman, the District was awarded a grant of \$100,000 from the Arizona Water Infrastructure Finance Administration (WIFA) to fund this project. The project requirements have been determined and documented and a Request for Proposal has been published. We hope to start implementing this project by the end of this month.

Last year at this time the District conducted a public hearing regarding rate increases. These rate increases were put into effect last July and affected only our residential customers. This year we are having another public hearing regarding rate increases for our commercial customers. This hearing will be held at the Community Center on April 20, 2024 at 3:00PM. Notices will be posted around the village with more details. Everyone is welcome to attend.

I'm sure everyone is aware that there will be an election in November and it is no different for the Water District. Three of our Board members will have their four-year terms expire at the end of this year. If three people (or less) choose to run for these seats, they will be appointed to the Board by Pima County. If more than three people apply to run for these seats an election will be held to determine who will serve. If you have thought about serving our mountain community by being a Water Board member this is your chance. Information regarding this upcoming election can be found on the Pima County website, www.pima.gov. Look for Elections under the listing of Departments and Offices.

Spring is here! See you on the mountain.



The Mount Lemmon Kids' Club visits the water tanks off Turkey Run Road in 2019. (photo courtesy of Susan Miller-Cochran)

Prepare for Yet Another Fire Season -- NOW!!

by Sally Crum

We've all enjoyed the much-needed rain and snow this winter. Everything is growing and "greening." As we enjoy all the greenery, it's hard to imagine that in just a few months, without all the spring moisture, much of the growth will be drying out and becoming fuel for the next wildfire.

The AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management/DFFM is predicting an "above average" wildfire season for central and southern Arizona. **Now** is the time to begin preparing for the wildfire season, which is getting longer every year.

More than 25 of your neighbors attended the Firewise Assessment course on March 30 at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center. AZ DFFM provided instructors for the class and field work training. Many who completed the course are our very own Neighborhood Captains, as well as your neighbors who wanted to learn more about how to protect their homes.

Names for your **neighborhood captains** are located on the **MLFDAZ.ORG** website under the **Firewise link**. The **Firewise Assessment** provides an opportunity for you to learn what you should do to protect your cabin and its surroundings from the risk of wildfire. The assessment is provided free of charge and provides ideas and suggestions of things you can do, from removing debris close to the cabin, to trimming up tree limbs, or changing roofing materials. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

May 4 is National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day. The Mt. Lemmon Firewise

Community celebrates by using this as a kick-off to our Firewise preparation. Please use the time leading up to this weekend to begin trimming tree limbs, raking pine needles that are within the Home Ignition Zone of your cabin and clean your gutters. As in past years, slash may be piled in the Summerhaven neighborhoods. Our chipper will go through in the following weeks to chip the slash. There will be no chipping in Forest Service neighborhoods until after Sept. 1, but owners are encouraged to do their part to Firewise their areas. Ask your Neighborhood Captain what you can do to help.

SAVE THE DATE for our annual **Firewise Block Party** at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center on **May 25**. Watch for more details in the May *Echoes* and on NextDoor.



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Annual Cleanup with Dennis Cozzetti and Jenni Zimmerman

Details:

- ◆ Date: April 20, 2024
- ◆ 9 AM Meet in front of the Community Center
- ◆ Dress in layers
- ◆ Bring a friend
- ◆ Gloves and trash bags will be donated by the Sawmill Run restaurant, but if you have pickers, bring a pair for yourself

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MLHOA Tradition Lives On with the Annual Dinner on Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Your Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association by-laws require us to have an annual meeting to be held on the Tuesday the week after the US Tax Day, and it is the first big opportunity of the season to gather and visit with "old" friends and meet the many new to the mountain. This happy event will be held again at the popular Doubletree by Hilton in Tucson – Reid Park, centrally located at 443 South Alvernon Way.

Come for Registration and Happy Hour Cash Bar: 5:30-6:30 PM

Delicious dinner buffet served at 6:30 PM

A short business meeting and important speakers, followed by drawings for several exciting door prizes and raffle tickets

The Summit Award will be final highlight of the evening!

Please get your reservations in right away, completing the coupon (below), and sending your remittance to MLHOA, P.O. Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. Deadline for reservations is **Friday, April 19th**. **No reservations or checks taken at the door!!! See you there!!**

Questions? Contact **Linda Currin**
520-247-2582 or
lcurren81@gmail.com

Menu for the Annual Dinner: The Cookout

Iceberg Salad, Cotija, Chopped Bacon, Tomato, Cucumber, Ranch Dressing
Pasta Salad
Chili Spiced Pulled Pork with Ancho Chili Glaze
Grilled chicken, Chipotle BBQ Sauce
Sonoran style Ranch Beans
Fire Roasted Green Chili Macaroni and Cheese
Yogurt Jalapeno Corn bread, Whipped Agave Butter
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
Apple Pie
Coffee, Iced Tea

2024 Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association Annual Dinner

Location: Doubletree, Tucson-Reid Park.

Menu: The Cookout, \$60 per guest

Name _____

Add'l Guest _____

Add'l Guest _____

Add'l Guest _____

Total Paid (\$60 per guest): _____

Please send remittance to: MLHOA, P.O. Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

Checks due by **April 19, 2024**.

Mt Lemmon Homeowners' Association - 2024

Annual Dues \$45.00, payable to MLHOA

(\$40.00 if paid by Annual Dinner)

Mail this form and your check to:

MLHOA

P.O. Box 699

Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mt Lemmon Address _____

Home Phone _____ Mt Lemmon Phone _____

Email Address _____

Check One

____ Property Owner ____ Renter ____ Friend of Mountain

April Calendar

4/20

- **8:30 AM:** ML Water District Board, Zimmerman School
- **9 AM:** Annual Cleanup with Dennis Cozzetti and Jenni Zimmerman (page 2)
- **10 AM:** MLHOA meeting, Community Center
- **1 PM:** ML Woman's Club meeting, Community Center
- **3 PM:** MLWD rate increase hearing, Community Center

4/22

- **4 PM:** ML Fire Board, Fire Station and via Zoom at mldaz.org

4/23

- Annual Dinner at the Doubletree Tucson Reid Park. Details on page 3

Note: April 21 is the deadline for submitting items for the May 2024 issue of the *Echoes*.

How to Stay Up to Date on Mt. Lemmon Information

By Matthew Grossman

Here are online resources to keep Mt. Lemmon residents informed between editions of *The Echoes*:

1. A Google Group has been set up to provide email updates. To join, send an e-mail to mtlemmon-hoa+subscribe@googlegroups.com.
2. The Mount Lemmon Homeowners' Association maintains a website at mtlemmonhoa.org. Get informed and contribute to the community.
3. Sign up at Nextdoor.com, using your cabin street address. If you use Nextdoor for your valley neighborhood, sign up for Mt. Lemmon under a new email address, because only one neighborhood is permitted per email address. This offers general information and important communication, especially with wildfires 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 takes you to important information and forms, including an Action List for Property Owners, a Community Communications form, cheatgrass and bark beetle identification, and more information to help keep your cabin and community safe.

About *The Mt. Lemmon Echoes*

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes is published 10 times a year, February through November, by the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association.

To contribute stories, photos and calendar items, or for additional information about the *Echoes*, email Editor Susan Miller-Cochran at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com.

To get advertising rates and reserve ad space in *The Echoes*, email mjsintuc@gmail.com.

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President's Corner: April 2024

by Sally Crum

It's APRIL – and time for our MLHOA Annual Dinner and meeting (after you send your greetings to the IRS). Please see information in the April *Echoes* on page 3 about how YOU can make your reservation to attend this SUPER event.

We've enjoyed a lot of snow and rain this winter, which in turn has led to a reduction in the water restrictions, but PLEASE don't forget how important this resource is to all of us and to our lives and enjoyment of the mountain, but PLEASE DO your part to reduce your water usage.

Our Mt. Lemmon Community lost a dear friend, entrepreneur, Vietnam veteran, and leader, with the passing of Bob Zimmerman on March 9th. He was truly what and who made Mt. Lemmon what it is today. Our prayers and condolences go out to Fran, Jenni, and the entire Zimmerman family.

Deep Thoughts...

from Linda Currin

Do you ever wonder:

- ◆ Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- ◆ If flying is so safe, why is the airport called a terminal?

Cheese Squares Olé

a recipe from Linda Currin

Ingredients:

- 8 eggs, beaten
- 3 cups Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- 2 cups small curd cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 4 oz can chopped green chiles
- 3 cups bite-sized, cooked chicken or ham
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 avocado, peeled and sliced thinly

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9x13 casserole dish. Mix together eggs, Jack cheese, and cottage cheese. Add flour, baking soda, and salt. Stir, then add chiles and chicken or ham.

Pour into casserole dish and top with parmesan cheese. Bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees, and then top with avocado to serve.

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Creating Defensible Space

by Dan Leade, MLFD

As Wildfire Awareness Month fast approaches, it is important to discuss some ways to protect your house from wildfire threats. The communities atop Mount Lemmon exist in the wildland-urban interface, an area where homes are located within wildfire prone areas. Because wildfire will always exist to some extent in this environment, it is imperative that homeowners make a concerted effort to make their homes as survivable as possible.

Creating defensible space refers to "hardening" a structure while also treating or removing vegetation that can serve as fuel to an approaching wildfire. Steps to harden a structure are numerous, but many can be completed on a regular basis to keep the task manageable. Keeping roofs, gutters and decks free from pine needles and leaf litter makes it less likely that embers from an approaching wildfire can spark an ignition. Sealing gaps in a structure also help to resist ember intrusion. Clearing to mineral soil an area of at least 5 feet around the structure will reduce radiant heat from a ground fire. Combustibles, such as firewood, should be kept away from the structure, and flammable fuels should be stored in safety cans far from occupied structures. Spacing vegetation to reduce continuity and eliminating ladder fuels may reduce the wildfire's growth potential, thereby reducing the intensity of heat transfer to a structure.

While this all may sound overwhelming, our Firewise website identifies numerous resources to assist you. Most notably, Firewise neighborhood captains have trained specifically to help assess your property and to make recommendations to help you create a more survivable home. We urge you to take advantage of this service. Please visit mlfdaz.org, click on the Firewise box and "Request a Firewise Assessment."

Remember, it is never too early to get prepared for a wildfire.

MT LEMMON FIREWISE WEBSITE

For Guidance and Resources:

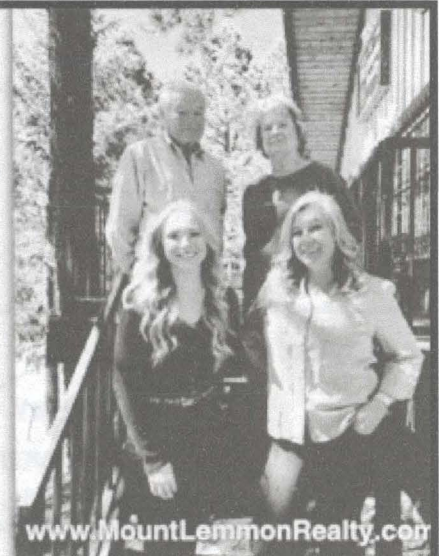
- ◆ Go to mlfdaz.org
- ◆ Click on "Firewise"



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Preserving Climbing Safety and the Environment Are Not at Odds on Mount Lemmon (Opinion)

by Steven Davis and Erin Whittig

The story of rock-climbing on Mount Lemmon is one of both adventure and environmental stewardship. Climbers like ourselves have been active on Mount Lemmon since at least 1960. Climbers have partnered with the National Forest Service (NFS) throughout that time, helping to maintain existing trails, organizing clean-up days at Windy Point, and providing input on Forest Service plans.

The newest proposal from the NFS threatens to undo sixty years of peaceful co-existence and quiet stewardship.

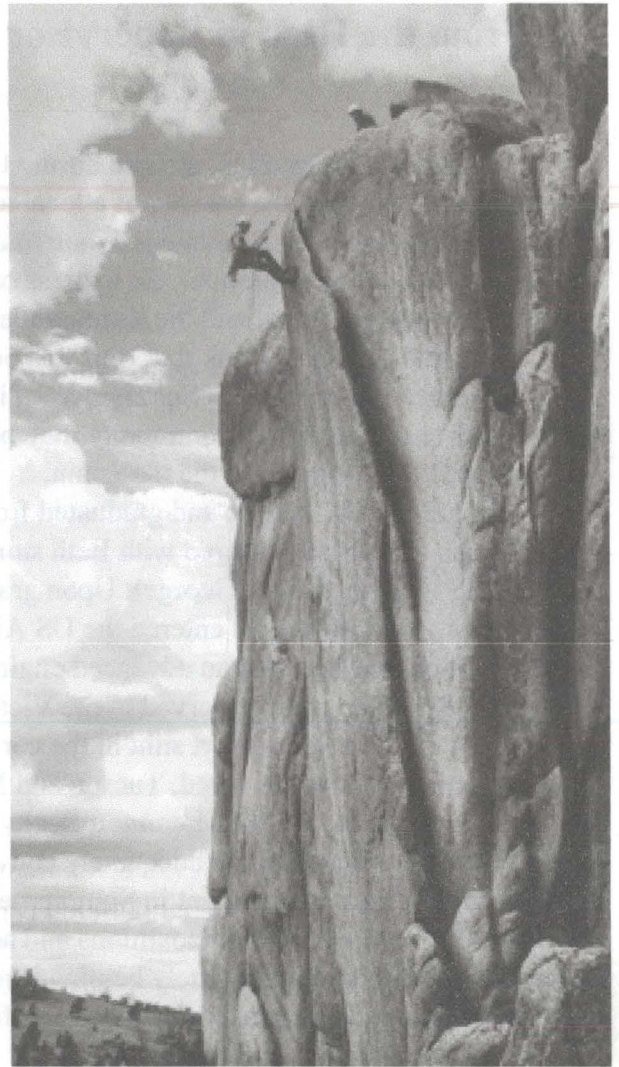
The NFS proposes that every fixed anchor now be considered an “installation,” in the same category as a road or a mine. Fixed anchors allow climbers to lower safely from the top of a climb without using trees or other features at the top of a cliff. They also allow climbers to climb a steep unprotected face by clipping the rope to a series of bolted hangers. You’ve probably never seen a fixed anchor at the top of a climb, or a bolted hanger; they are invisible from any distance. They serve to keep climbers safe, and to protect fragile cliff-top environments.

Under their new proposal, the NFS would now require that each fixed anchor pass a “Minimum Requirements Analysis” (MRA) conducted by the NFS. This MRA would be conducted according to a “Climbing Management Plan” that does not currently exist, by NFS staff that also do not currently exist and are unfunded.

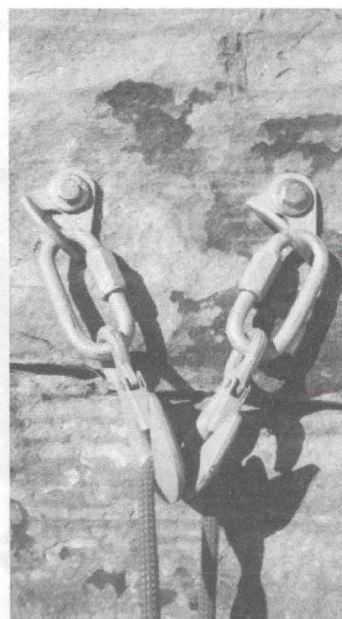
Under this proposal, climbing management and safety would be in the hands of an agency that lacks both funding and experience in this area. Existing fixed anchors may be simply chopped. The long history of climbing on Mount Lemmon may come to an end, and with it 60 years of cooperative stewardship.

Climbing, much like the family cabin, shouldn’t be erased from the history of Mount Lemmon.

Avid climbers, Steven Davis and Erin Whittig are volunteers with the Southern Arizona Rescue Association (SARA). Steven also volunteers with the Arivaca Fire District.



*The authors climbing in Wyoming in 2022
(photo courtesy of Steven Davis)*



*Image of fixed anchor for rock climbing.
(Photo courtesy of Cascadia Daily News)*

From the Desk of Supervisor Steve Christy

I want to acknowledge, as I did during the last Board of Supervisors meeting, the passing of a local icon, Bob Zimmerman, the man whose name is synonymous with Summerhaven and Mt. Lemmon. We express our condolences to Fran, Jenni, and the Zimmerman family.

It is remarkable to think that Bob was born just four years before his father founded Summerhaven in 1939. Newcomers to our mountain community may be surprised to learn of Bob's life away from the mountain.

He grew up in Tucson and graduated from Tucson High School. (Bob kindly shared with Beth stories of his time at THS with her father, George). Upon graduation from the University of Arizona, he entered the US Air Force as an instructor pilot, and received an advanced engineering degree at ASU. Post-grad, he served in the Vietnam War as an F-4 pilot. He then had a short stint in the corporate world before returning to what he loved, Tucson and Mt. Lemmon.

The simple words "Mt. Lemmon Realty" on the sign as one enters the village do not adequately convey the depth of Bob's history and involvement in Summerhaven through the years. For decades, he built coalitions and advocated for the community he loved, ultimately helping it rebuild after the Aspen Fire. He is responsible in large part for the success that we see in Summerhaven today.

Bob's legacy is his family who will carry on his love of the mountain, a building that reflects his vision in the Sawmill Run, and of course, Mt. Lemmon Realty.

We will miss Bob and he will always be remembered.

Cheese Grits

a recipe from Linda Currin

Ingredients:

- 1 cup quick cooking grits
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 roll Kraft garlic cheese (or use 1 jar Old English Cheddar and add garlic salt to taste)
- 2 whole eggs (not beaten) in a measuring cup with milk added to make 1 cup
- Sharp cheddar cheese, shredded

Instructions:

- ◆ Cook grits according to package directions until stiff.
- ◆ Mix all ingredients into grits until blended.
- ◆ Pour into greased 9x13 casserole dish.
- ◆ Add sharp cheddar cheese to cover.
- ◆ Bake one hour at 400 degrees until firm.

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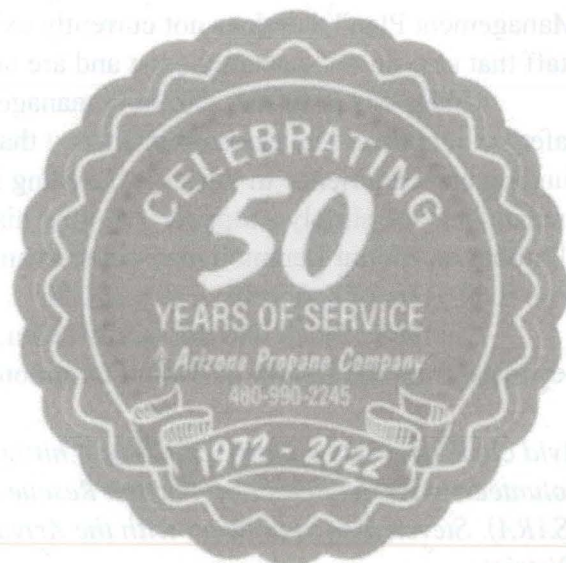
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Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club Swings into Spring!

by Sandi Triplett, president

The first meeting of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club of 2024 was held on Saturday, March 16, at the Wilmot Library. It was well-attended and a great way to start the year. Beginning in April, our meetings will take place at the Mt Lemmon Community Center on the third Saturday of the month at 1:00pm.

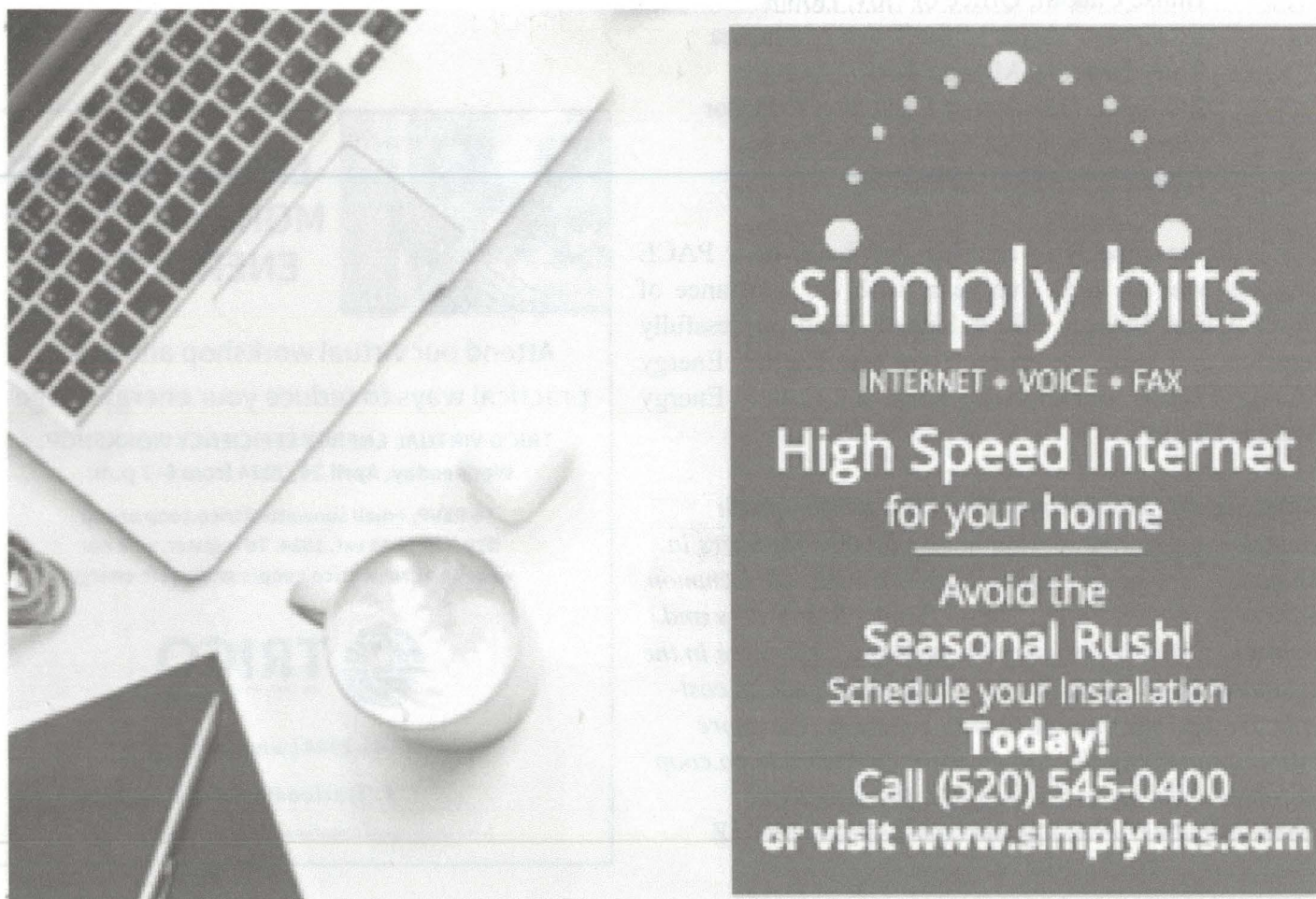
We had two new members at our March meeting: Betty Ishikawa and Ann Hirz, and we happily welcomed them to the mountain and the Woman's Club.

Nominating Committee rep Leigh Anne Thrasher reported the slate of officers for the upcoming election. Others interested may contact members of the current board, a member of the nominating committee, or announce your interest at the April meeting.

The General Federation of Woman's Club's Southern District Convention was held in Tucson on Saturday, March 23. Luann Waldron, Linda Mulay, Leigh Anne Thrasher, Cyndy Wilson, Mickie Gelsinger and Sandi Triplett represented the Mt Lemmon Woman's Club.

Be sure to attend the April 20th meeting at the MLCC at 1:00. The election of officers will occur, and our Done in a Day project will collect items for More Than a Bed, an organization that helps families with foster children. Their greatest needs include sizes 4 & 5 diapers, pullups, and baby wipes. Robin Kirk will provide an update on the speaker program, and Sally Crawford will provide cabin tour info. Other upcoming events include membership luncheon report by Luann Waldron, the 4th of July Parade from Hazel Rugg, and our GFWC Signature Project and Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking prevention from Terri Wilson. Please plan to attend.

The summer of 2024 will be awesome. Be part of it!!



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Trico Electric Cooperative Hosts USDA Under Secretary, Local and Statewide Representatives in Support of Trico's Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) Award of \$83.5 Million

by Roberta Lopez-Suter

Trico was one of five cooperatives across the country selected by the USDA to move forward in the award process for the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) program. In support of Trico's \$83.5 million PACE award, Trico Staff and Board welcomed USDA Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden to Trico's headquarters in Marana on March 14, 2024. Trico provided a tour of their Avion Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility to Under Secretary Gooden, USDA officials, and local and statewide representatives. Following the tour, Trico hosted a roundtable discussion regarding Trico's four clean energy PACE projects.

The following representatives were in attendance to demonstrate their support of Trico's vision to provide sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions to Trico Members for decades to come:

- Under Secretary Dr. Basil Gooden, USDA
- Jimmy Dahman, Senior Advisor Rural Development, USDA
- Charlene R. Fernandez, State Director Arizona State Office | Rural Development USDA
- Alesia Stanley, USDA AZ State Deputy Director
- CJ Karamargin, Senior Advisor to Rep. Juan Ciscomani
- Blaise Caudill, Office of Gov. Hobbs
- Ed Honea, Mayor of the Town of Marana
- Terry Rozema, Marana Town Manager
- Joe Snell, President & CEO, Sun Corridor
- Scott Leach, CCO, Torch Clean Energy
- Dave Lock, CEO, GCSECA

Trico expects to develop and build their PACE projects over the next five years with the assistance of Torch Clean Energy, which helped Trico successfully develop and build its Avion Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility and Chirreon Solar and Battery Energy Storage Facility.

Trico Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving nearly 50,000 Members in Marana, Corona de Tucson, Saddlebrooke, Mt. Lemmon, Sahuarita, Green Valley, Three Points, Star Valley and Arivaca. Trico is dedicated to making a difference in the communities we serve by providing our Members cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions. For more information about the cooperative, visit www.trico.coop or follow them on social media at facebook.com/TricoelectricAZ or instagram.com/TricoElectricAZ.



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Favorite Image of Mt. Lemmon in Spring

April's winning photo came from Leigh Anne Thrasher! She writes that "this picture was taken at Diana Osborne's home when she invited the Mt. Lemmon children and their parents to a Kids' Club meeting. Christina Grossman organized the club meeting and invited Jasmine to attend. Jasmine brought books to the kids at the meeting."

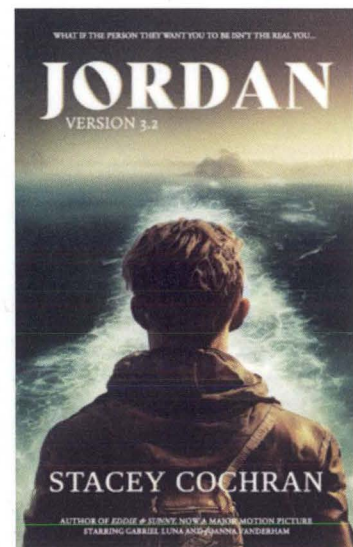
Share Your Photos...Win a Book!

We would love to publish your photos of the mountain! For the May 2024 issue, **share an image that makes you think of Mt. Lemmon at the beginning of summer.** We'll select a few to be published in the *Echoes*, and those photographers will receive a signed copy of the newly-released (Feb. 2024) novel *Jordan Version 3.2* by Summerhaven author, Stacey Cochran (Blank Slate Press).

For May: What images makes you think of the beginning of summer on Mt. Lemmon?

To participate, follow these simple steps:

- ◆ Send your photo as a .jpg or .png file to the editor at mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com
- ◆ Photos must be emailed by April 21, 2024
- ◆ Please indicate who should be credited for the photo
- ◆ Include a brief description of the photo



Win a copy of *Jordan Version 3.2* by Stacey Cochran! (image courtesy of the author)

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