



A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

MLHOA.org

Mission Accomplished! New Station Grand Opening this Month

After more than four decades of faithful service to the mountain community, Mt. Lemmon's aging fire station has been rebuilt. On July 12, the community will celebrate the grand opening of a brand-new, modern fire station—designed with safety, efficiency, and the future in mind.

The original station, built 40 years ago for a volunteer department, had long outlived its functionality. Firefighters lived upstairs, with only a downstairs bathroom accessible through the engine bay—exposing them to diesel fumes and contamination. The chief's "office" doubled as a hallway. "It was really untenable," said one longtime board member. "It just wasn't safe anymore."

The push for a new facility began in earnest after the Aspen Fire, which highlighted the need for a strategic plan—part of which included replacing the old station. John Perchorowicz, Fred Knapp, Diana Osborne, Fire Chief Joe Gunia, and Captain Dan Leade came together to serve as the catalyst for the effort. They developed a comprehensive plan to secure funding and determine infrastructure priorities. Their plan—along with a groundswell of community support—became the foundation for the station's transformation.

The journey wasn't easy. The team worked tirelessly, navigating county concerns about consolidating the Mt. Lemmon Fire District with a larger district, submitting funding requests to county, state, and federal representatives, and filling out a mountain of paperwork. But persistence—and a little luck—paid off. The State of Arizona appropriated \$2 million for the project, and with help from Senator Mark Kelly's office, an additional \$1.9 million in USDA Rural Development funds followed. With that, the \$3.9 million goal was met.

In total, 81 individuals—residents, non-residents, elected officials, architects, contractors, and agency partners—played a direct role in bringing the new station to life.

The finished facility is a major upgrade. It includes four bunk rooms, a proper office for the chief (complete with a Murphy bed), an airlock separating the bays from the living quarters, a kitchen, a day room, study space, a public restroom, and a dedicated fitness area. While still staffed by two firefighters at a time, the station now has room to grow to accommodate future needs.

The original planning group hoped to include a community room and a dedicated medical treatment area, but space and budget constraints required focusing on the essentials. "We had a big wish list," a former MLFD board member noted, "but we got the station we needed."

During construction, the fire department relocated to a home on Bisbee Street owned by the Osbornes—allowing fire and medical services to continue uninterrupted.

The new Mt. Lemmon Fire Department stands as a testament to grassroots determination and the power of collaboration. Staffed by dedicated firefighters and volunteers, it serves a village of fewer than 50 full-time residents—and more than a million annual visitors—with professionalism, pride, and now, the facility it deserves.





MT. LEMMON FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE

It's been a long time coming (40+ years since the original station was built!)

Please save the date and join the Mt. Lemmon Fire District Chief and Board for the dedication of the newly remodeled and expanded station!

When: Saturday, July 12, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM. The Open House will follow till 2:00 PM
Address: 13170 N Control Rd, Mt. Lemmon, AZ

Mt. Lemmon Fire District Board Members

Todd Canale, Chairman
 Teri Carpenter, Treasurer
 Tom McNurlin, Clerk
 Mitch Cusolito, Member
 Brenda Schupbach, Member

Joe Gunia, Chief



From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan



President's Corner
Sally Crum

**Supervisor Steve Christy
and his entire staff
wish their Mt. Lemmon friends
a safe and happy
4th of July!**

The Tucson heat has settled in for the season, and once again, the cooler climes of Mt. Lemmon remind us why we're here—and why so many others flock to the mountain each weekend. July is always a special month up here: the forest is alive with activity, the air feels just a little lighter, and the sense of community is on full display, and hopefully our monsoon arrives and brings us much needed moisture!

This July, we have much to celebrate.

I hope you'll join us July 12th as we mark the grand opening of our brand-new fire station—a much-needed upgrade after more than 40 years. With help from many in the community, and under the steady leadership of Chief Joe Gunia and the Mt Lemmon Fire District board, this project has gone from dream to reality. It's a beautiful, functional, and forward-looking space that reflects just how much we value the people who protect us. MLFD is hosting a "gift shower" for the new station to stock up on necessities. A worthy cause for sure!

Please also join me in congratulating Aaron Lindflott, who was recently named EMS Provider of the Year by UA/Banner. His compassion and skill remind us what real community service looks like.

And of course, don't miss the 4th of July parade, always one of the most joyful and quirky events of the year. Whether you're walking, waving, or just watching, it's a great way to celebrate the spirit of Summerhaven.

Don't forget the Woman's Club annual luncheon on the 28th. This is a great event for women new to the mountain who would like to meet other women and join this terrific service-oriented organization.

This month also marks a more solemn milestone: the 22nd anniversary of the Aspen Fire. Nearly 85,000 acres burned and 340 homes and businesses were lost. It was devastating—but what followed was nothing short of a miracle. We regrouped. We rebuilt. We expanded. And more importantly, we pulled together. That's what our little community does best....and that's one more thing to celebrate!

So grab a hot dog, sit on the deck, pitch a tent, go for a hike, and celebrate all the blessings we have! Here's to progress, remembrance, and to the people who make Mt. Lemmon such a special place.

GIFT SHOWER FOR NEW MLFD STATION

Let's get our heroes off to a great start by ensuring they have what they need to make the new station "home."

Visit the MFLD Station Shower Registry link on the home page of MLFDAZ.org to purchase items from Amazon.



MLFD News
Dan Leade

This month we recognize one of our own, Firefighter/EMT Aaron Lindflott, the 2025 recipient of the prestigious EMS Provider of the Year by Banner University South Campus!

According to the UAEMS webpage, this award is given to one EMT each year for their selflessness, commitment to continuously improving their provider knowledge, and for their contributions to the agency growth.

Individuals who receive this award have documented outstanding leadership to the organization either through assuming a leadership position, planning and carrying out significant projects for the benefit of the campus, selflessness committed to any and significantly contributing to the success of the organization. Leadership in and service to other campus and community organizations can be considered but are secondary to service to UAEMS. Service should be exemplary and well beyond the scope of routine duty.

Aaron started with MLFD in 2016 as a reserve firefighter/EMT and then served with the Sonoita-Elgin Fire District as a full-time firefighter/EMT. Aaron came back to MLFD as a full-time firefighter/EMT in 2022 and has served with us ever since.

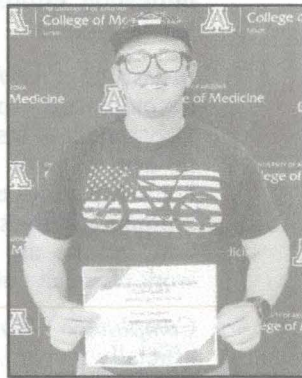
His nomination read:

“Please consider the nomination of Aaron Lindflott for the EMS Provider of the Year Award. Aaron is an EMT-B with the Mount Lemmon Fire District, and anyone that has worked alongside him knows how much heart, professionalism and dedication he brings to the job every single shift.

Aaron consistently goes above and beyond for his patients and his crew. He is the kind of provider who stays calm in the most intense situations, makes people feel safe just by being there and never hesitates to jump in and help – no matter how challenging the situation is. He is also a team player through and through, always showing up with a great attitude and a willingness to help everyone in the community.

What makes this nomination especially meaningful is that Aaron would be the first provider from the Mount Lemmon Fire District to receive this award. He represents the best of what rural EMS can offer; skill, compassion and a deep commitment to the community he serves.”

I can personally attest this letter fully captures Aaron’s character and reflects why he is so deserving of recognition. So, if you see Aaron out and about, please congratulate him on his remarkable accomplishment!



Help the MLFD get new tables for all our events!
The old ones are pretty sad and we’re upgrading to new 8’ heavy duty tables.

We need 15 and they cost about \$100/each.

Send checks to:

**MLFFF
PO BOX 562
Mt.Lemmon, AZ 85619**

July Calendar of Events

4	INDEPENDENCE DAY! Parade!! BBQ at the ML Lodge
5	Music on the Mountain - ML Lodge Tesoro
6	Music on the Mountain - ML Lodge John Hughes
11	Movie on the Mountain - ML Lodge
13	Music on the Mountain - ML Lodge Tanner & the Tarachoolas
19	8 am Water Improvement District meeting 10 am MLHOA meeting 1:00 MLWC meeting
20	Music on the Mountain - ML Lodge Damon McLaughlin
27	Music on the Mountain - ML Lodge Nancy McCallion
28	MLWC Annual Luncheon 10:30 Thrasher home

Recent MLHOA Updates
submitted by Susan Miller-Cochran

The June meeting of the Mt. Lemmon HOA board was held on June 21, 2025, in the Mt. Lemmon Community Center.

- The new station is almost complete! Dedication and Open House will be held Saturday, July 12, 10am-2pm. Community members are asked to bring baked goods to contribute to the celebration!
- Nearly all items have been purchased from the MLFD Shower Registry on Amazon, but they could still use contributions (which can be made through their Amazon registry)
- The MLHOA has purchased a new grill for the MLFD from their shower registry

Upcoming events:

- The 4th of July parade will start at noon and include a flyover. This is the 50th anniversary of the parade on Mt. Lemmon!
- The annual Pancake Breakfast will be held August 31, starting at 9am at the newly opened fire station.
- Watch for information about the Freeze Off later this summer.

A Call to Action:

According to the *Arizona Daily Star*, 15 million acres of public lands are potentially going to be sold in Arizona, including Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land. Now is the time to speak out to oppose this part of the bill (the Big Beautiful Bill) by contacting Arizona Senators and Representatives. Please call Senators Ruben Gallego (202-224-4521) and Mark Kelly (202-224-2235 along with Representatives Juan Ciscomani (202-225-2542) and Andy Biggs (202-225-2635).



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

At the recent Firewise Steering Committee meeting, conversation focused on how to better align our local mitigation efforts with broader insurance and public safety systems.

Insurance and Mitigation: Some promising developments may be coming from the Arizona Department of Insurance. New fire risk models—already in use in parts of California—could one day help homeowners access better insurance rates if community mitigation efforts can be documented and verified. For now, results are mixed: some insurers take Firewise work seriously; others don't.

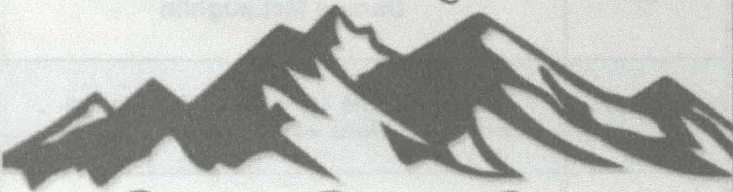
Compliance Matters: While our communities are officially recognized as Firewise, actual participation is still too low. We estimate Loma Sabino, for example, may have under 50% active compliance. Continued outreach, inspections, and peer-to-peer encouragement are key to improving that.

Sprinkler Systems: Residents asked whether private sprinkler setups could be used in a wildfire. The short answer: maybe, but it would require close coordination with the fire department and the water company to avoid reducing water pressure where it's needed most.

Assessments Continue: Inspections are underway, and property owners who've been assessed will receive either a courtesy notice or a letter indicating needed improvements. If you're not sure whether you've been assessed, reach out to your Firewise Captain.

Save the Date: Our annual Firewise Celebration is tentatively set for August—after monsoon season and fire restrictions ease. Details to come!

Mount Lemmon



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520-878-6156

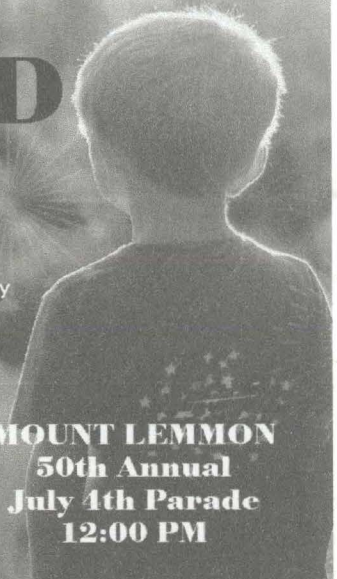
Shannon and Mitch, long time Mt. Lemmon residents are ready to install, fix, or troubleshoot your garage door!



YOU'RE INVITED

Step back to simpler times and celebrate the Fourth of July the old-fashioned way - with laughter, community, and the great outdoors!

Join our Mount Lemmon Lodge family for an afternoon where the BBQ is hot, the parade is full of pride, and every moment on the mountain is made to be remembered.



MOUNT LEMMON
50th Annual
July 4th Parade
12:00 PM

Public Safety Report

For the month of June the MLFD reported 15 calls; 8 were medical calls.



Water Improvement District

submitted by Stu Schacter

The springs we rely on to provide water to customers are producing less water and we are unable to keep storage tanks full with the diminished spring flow and seasonal increase in water usage. By the time you read this, the Water Improvement District will have announced implementation of our Stage 3 Curtailment Plan.

In Stage 3 curtailment we expect residential customers to have a *maximum* monthly water usage of 2,400 gallons or less. Customers who exceed 2,400 gallons per month are at risk of having water service shut off. If your water is disconnected due to failure to comply with Stage 3 restrictions there is a fee to reconnect service.

Water usage data from last year indicates about 95% of our customers use less than 2,400 gallons per month during this time of year. Many customers use much less. Please conserve as much water as possible so there is enough water for everybody until the monsoon comes and the springs flow again.

GSCA Holds Annual Meeting

The Great Soldier Camp Association (GSCA) had its annual meeting and potluck on June 14th. About 20 residents attended. After listening to updates from the U.S. Forest Services, the MLFD, and Reuben Herrarra, the GSCA water operator, the group solicited members to serve as directors. A Board of Directors comprised of Chris Nesbit, Doug Biggers, Chuck Martin, and Ade Anast was selected. Lori Woods and Mike Johnson volunteered to serve members-at-large.

Most of the meeting was devoted to explaining the current condition of the water system, necessary improvements, and what cabin owners need to do to support the efforts of the Water Committee. Residents were encouraged to report leaks immediately, consider installing back flow valves, and ensuring the water is turned off at the main line whenever leaving a cabin after visiting.



MLWC Updates

The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club held its monthly meeting on Saturday, June 21. The club celebrated another successful Cabin Tour. This annual well-attended event is always one of the highlights of the Summer season. Congratulations to Sally Crawford on another successful Cabin Tour. Also thank you to T Partridge, Todd and Faith Canale and Brad and Anita Feder for allowing us to tour their beautiful cabins and a special thank you to Diana Osborne for again volunteering to be the host cabin.

The next big club event is the 50th Annual 4th of July Parade! All members of the community are encouraged to participate in the parade. Groups will compete for first place in one of the three parade categories: patriotic, creative, or humorous.

The club held its annual salad luncheon on June 28th at the home of Leigh Anne Thrasher. As always, this a delightful event and gave us chance to connect with members of our community.

After the meeting, club members and the public were treated to a Speaker Series presentation by Will Clodfelder, the community outreach coordinator for the Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter and Richard F. Caris Mirror Lab. Clodfelder's presentation focused on the work being done at the mirror lab.



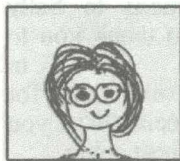
Will Clodfelder presents as part of this year's Speaker's Series

July Dress a Girl Dates

The July dates for the MLWC Dress A Girl sewing project are the 10th & 24th from 10 am - 2 pm the Mt. Lemmon Community Center 10:00-2:00 in the Community Center.

All are welcome! Come sew, iron, or just watch!

Introducing Kermie Wohlenhaus!



Self-portrait

This month we are especially pleased to introduce Kermie Wohlenhaus, Ph.D., the *Echoes* cartoonist! Kermie is a mountain resident who is also an award-winning author, angelologist, zinester, and TV producer. Kermie has authored 9 books, over a dozen zines, and cartoons for whatever publications will accept them! Her zine *Welcome to Mt Lemmon* is widely available throughout our community. Kermie is now somewhat retired and spends her summers here on the mountain piddling around with art, writing, and enjoying the forest.

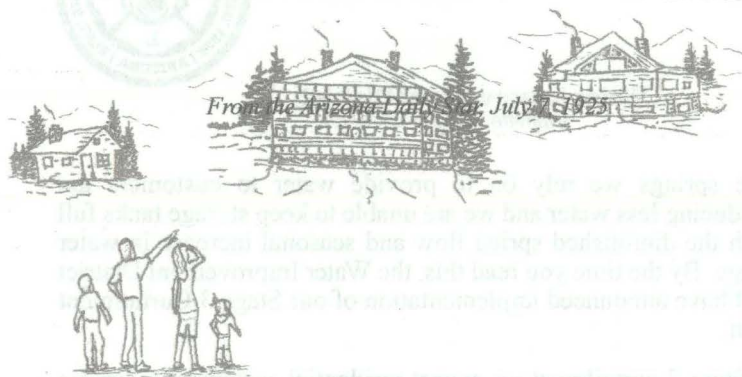
Kermie explains her first cartoon: Mt Lemmon has no Housing Authority and we call our homes "cabins". After going to the wonderful MLWC Cabin Tour last month and because I am from the mountains of Colorado, it seems to me there are 3 styles of "cabins" on this mountain. For example: Cabins are defined as a small, cozy 1-story house (with maybe a loft) situated in a mountainous area.

Chalets are 2 or more storied homes with sloping roofs and large steeply front looking windows overlooking great views. They have become icons for modern luxury in the mountains, typically around ski villages. (like ours).

Lodges, on the other hand, are usually large log homes in the mountains with smaller windows and entrances to large decks or balconies on multiple floors. They comfortably accommodate large gatherings, families, and guests.

So, in this cartoon, I featured our "Housing Authority" as a friendly family tourist teaching their young ones the difference between a cabin, chalet and lodge. We are so happy to have all three styles here on the mountain as defined by our mountain loving guests!

Mt Lemmon Housing Authority



"Yes, kids, people live in these mountain homes—the one on the left is a Cabin, the one on the right is a Chalet and the one in the middle is a Lodge"

A Gentle Reminder: Turn it Off!

The weekend's done, time to head back down,
It's been nice but you're leaving for town.

But wait a sec as you drive away,
There's one last rule you must obey

You must shut off your water line
No leak, no waste, so all is fine

Author unknown
and it's better that way.

Don't you think it's time for a piece of pie from
the Iron Door?

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Hey Kids!!

Become a Junior Ranger!

Hey Kids!!

Time for some Summer fun now that school is out!! Use the QR Code to go to the Junior Ranger page on the Forest Service website.

Do the activities in the booklet (you might need a grown-up's help) or print out all the activity sheets...and when you're done, just sign the booklet and have someone else sign and you're in!!

The 12 activities cover forests, plants, ecology, how to pack for a hike or camping trip...lots of fun stuff!



News from the U.S. Forest Service

On June 12th, the U.S. Forest Service signed the Arizona National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan. The plan establishes a long-term framework to guide the coordinated management of the 807-mile trail that spans Arizona from the U.S. - Mexico border to Utah.

Required by the National Trails System Act, the comprehensive plan outlines administrative objectives, policies, and management guidance for the Arizona National Scenic Trail. The plan supports future stewardship actions by the Forest Service and partners, including landowners, and managers, and volunteer organizations, while preserving the trail's unique ecological, historical, and recreational values. The plan's approval is a significant step in continued coordination across multiple jurisdictions and landscapes.

"This plan reflects years of collaboration and a shared commitment to protect one of the country's most iconic, non-motorized long-distance trails," said Michiko Martin, Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region. "The Arizona National Scenic Trail not only showcases the natural and cultural diversity of the state, but it also connects communities, supports local economies, and inspires environmental stewardship."

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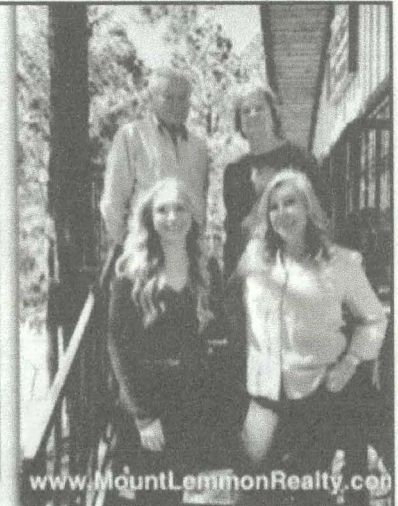
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BACK IN THE DAY.....

100 Years Ago This Week!
From the Arizona Daily Star, July 7, 1925

SOLDIER CAMP

The Fourth of July at Soldier Camp was quite a day. Early in the morning the rangers shot off fire crackers and this was followed by target and quoit pitching contests and a ball game.

At two o'clock the barbecue was held and attended by more than 60 people. Several parties went for hikes and picnics and practically the entire camp went to Summer-haven for the dance at the Mariposa hotel. For those who remained in camp there were displays of fire works.

Sounds like it was a perfect day!!



Monsoon season is here!

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Cody the Curious Coatimundi Part 3

Cody was on a mission. He had a big task to complete for his secret test—something only he and the wise old owl knew about. As he crept into Summerhaven, the air suddenly exploded with music, laughter, and people clapping.



The 4th of July parade had started!

Cody darted between folding chairs and coolers, zigzagging past feet and avoiding dogs. Just as he thought he'd made it through, he came nose-to-hoof with Jasmine, Leigh Anne's burro!

Cody froze.

Jasmine blinked. Then, with a snort and a shake of her head, she paused. Cody took his chance. He darted forward, slipping through Jasmine's legs in a flash of fur and fluff. Leigh Anne jumped a little and said "Shoo!" Someone in the crowd let out a cheer.

As Cody bolted around the corner of Elevated Espresso, a little girl whispered, "Did you see that raccoon?"

Her grandmother laughed. "That wasn't a raccoon!"

Cody didn't stop. His test was still to come—and what happened next might be his biggest challenge yet.

To be continued next month...

Understanding Drought

Submitted by Michael Stanley

Winter and spring brought record low rains to the desert; plants are stressed, animals are thirsty, creeks are drying, and the desert is parched and at risk of fire. Data shows we are living through one of the worst short-term droughts on record. Understanding the impacts and risks of drought – to human communities and the local ecosystem alike – can help inform how we respond. Fortunately, there is much we can do to support all life through particularly dry and hot periods.

Water trees thoroughly, as they help keep landscapes cool and provide essential shelter, tread carefully when near waterways, stay updated on fire restrictions, provide fresh water for wildlife, utilize rain barrel storage, install water-efficient fixtures, and conserve water where you can.

Together, we can practice stewardship of this special landscape and all who live here to protect it for future generations.

Source: Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative

Did you know?

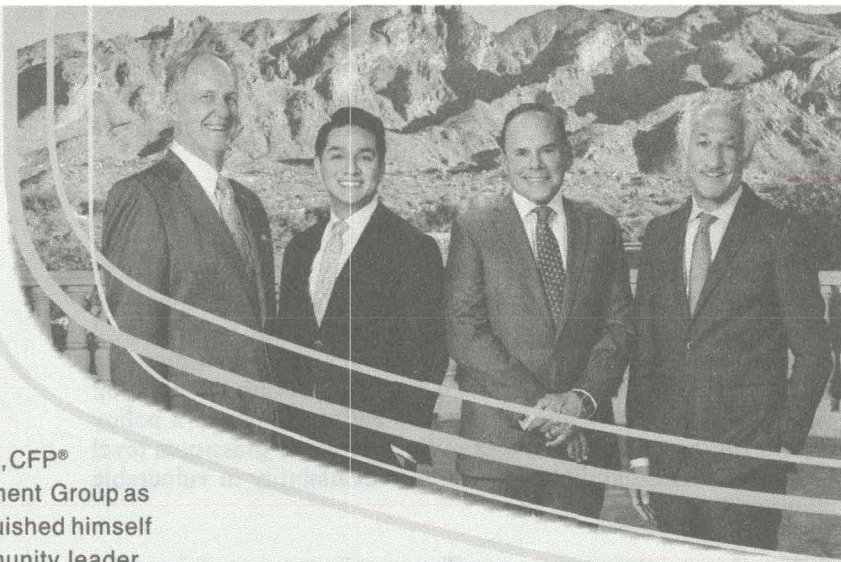
The oldest annual 4th of July celebration is held in Bristol, Rhode Island

Welcome to the team!

We are honored to announce that Doug Mance, AWM, CFP® has joined the Schaefer Present Corte Mance Investment Group as a full partner and financial advisor. Doug has distinguished himself as a top industry wealth advisor for 43 years, a community leader and a friend. Together, we offer diverse talent and perspectives, providing our clients with decades of experience and knowledge. We remain focused on creating lasting relationships built on trust, commitment and integrity.

Join us in welcoming Doug to the team.

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24-TU-02340 (08/24)

Colorado Tackles Fire Insurance and Wants Premiums Reduced for Mitigation Efforts

Colorado's House Bill 25-1182, passed on May 28, 2025, is effective for new or renewed insurance policies beginning July 1, 2026 and requires insurers who rely on wildfire or catastrophe models to be transparent about their methods and how mitigation efforts affect premiums.

Under the law, carriers must file details of their models with the Colorado Division of Insurance—explaining actuarial assumptions, how state and local mitigation programs are incorporated, and justification for rate factors tied to mitigation. Importantly, if an insurer fails to embed mitigation practices in its model, it must still offer discounts to homeowners who demonstrate property-level steps (like defensible space or fire-resistant building) or community-wide actions (like Firewise certifications or vegetation management).

Homeowners must also receive an annual risk score, plain-language explanations, and notification of appeal rights—and insurers must post mitigation incentives and appeal processes publicly.

This framework aligns closely with community-driven wildfire resilience initiatives like those on Mt. Lemmon. The Mt. Lemmon Firewise community—one of Arizona's earliest Firewise USA-designated areas—has been proactively reducing fuels, creating defensible space, hosting block parties, and educating homeowners alongside agencies like the Forest Service and county officials.

Colorado's new law effectively seeks to reward such local efforts by ensuring wildfire mitigation actions directly translate into insurance savings, closing the gap many mountain communities have experienced—where mitigation work did not always lower premiums.

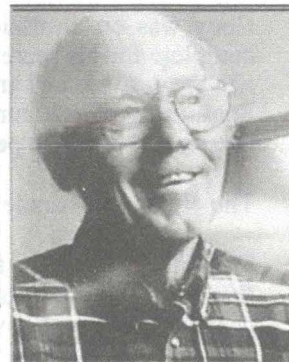
Furthermore, this bill works in concert with Colorado's Wildfire Catastrophe Reinsurance Enterprise (WCRE), established under HB 25-1302. WCRE offers a state-backed reinsurance backstop to stabilize the market so insurers continue covering high-risk wildfire areas. In return, participating companies must extend coverage to homeowners in those zones and contribute to reinsurance funding. Together, the transparency-driven HB 1182 and the market-stabilizing reinsurance enterprise create a policy ecosystem that both encourages mitigation at the grassroots level and ensures affordability and insurance availability in vulnerable communities.

We are always interested in any effort to reduce insurance rates for those who live in high-risk areas. These two Colorado laws seem to move policy in the right direction. While we don't claim to know all the intricacies, we do hope the Arizona Department of Insurance Mitigation & Resiliency Council is aware of these efforts and how they might work in our State.

In Loving Memory of John Henson

September 14, 1935 – May 14, 2025

John Henson first came to Mt. Lemmon in the early 1970s and quickly fell in love with the mountain. In 1971, he purchased two lots on Yuma and built the family cabin by hand. Over the years, he acquired two more lots, including the one known locally as the "U of A cabin," thanks to its distinctive red, blue, and white paint job.



When the 2003 Aspen Fire destroyed both cabins, John rebuilt. His enduring love for the mountain and dedication to preserving its spirit left a lasting mark. John was an active member of the Mt. Lemmon community and could often be found among the pines, visiting with neighbors, lending a hand, or simply enjoying the quiet beauty of the forest.

Today, his legacy lives on in the laughter of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who continue to gather at the cabins he built.

John Henson is survived by his son David, daughter Shannon, seven grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.



Deadline for submission to the August issue of *The Echoes* is July 21

The *Mt. Lemmon Echoes* is a publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association. *The Echoes* is published monthly February through November.

Reader submitted stories, letters, photos, ideas, and comments are always welcome.

You may submit submissions or comments to:

mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

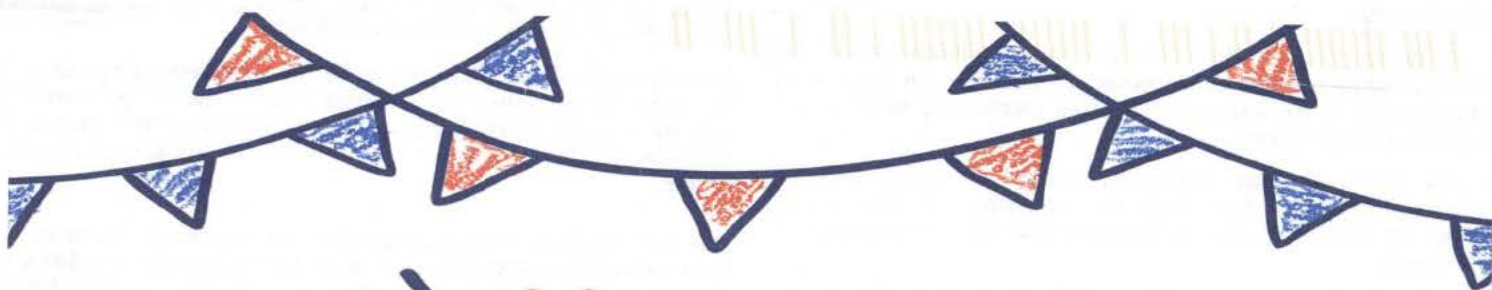
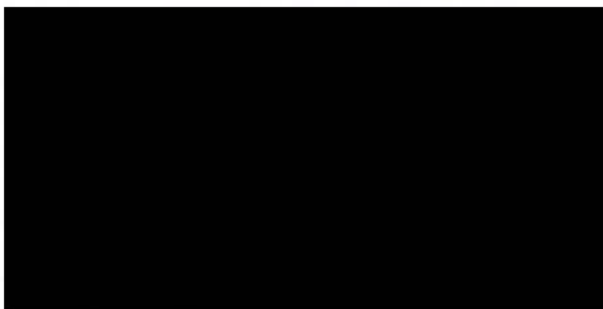
In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

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