

## THE MOUNT LEMMON ECHOES

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

### Fernandez Family Joins Mt. Lemmon Lodge

Last month we told you the Mt. Lemmon Lodge had some big news to share. Well, the big news is Justin and Juliet Fernandez have joined owners John and Diana Osborne to take the Lodge to the next level of refinement. Justin will oversee the lodging, gift shop, and café operations; Juliet will focus on events and marketing. The couple has deep experience in hospitality, restaurant management, finance, events, and entertainment. Justin spent years in banking before moving into restaurant management at Tavolino, Fox Restaurant Concepts, Blanco, and Wildflower. Juliet has spent a decade in hospitality, with experience ranging from finance, restaurants, and private events. This gives the Lodge something valuable: a team that understands the financial, operational, and creative sides of the hospitality business.

For the Osbornes, this is a team with a "skin-in-the-game" investment in the future of both the Lodge and the mountain. Justin and Juliet aren't simply moving to Summerhaven for work; they are building a life here and raising their family.

For Juliet, the new job represents a homecoming. She spent the first ten years of her life in Summerhaven, riding the school bus down the mountain each day and growing up among the trees and creeks she still remembers. Her family lost their cabin in the Aspen Fire and eventually moved.

Now, more than two decades later, she has returned with Justin and their 18-month-old daughter, Violet. "It's just surreal to be back in this same exact location, but raising my daughter this time," she said. "The same trees, the same stream. It's still Summerhaven."

Justin grew up in Tucson and has a long connection to Mt. Lemmon through family trips and visits. The couple met while working at a restaurant/bar and later married on the mountain at Bear Wallow, making Summerhaven part of their story before the job opportunity at the Lodge came along. "We fell in love working together," Juliet said. A goal was to work side by side again.

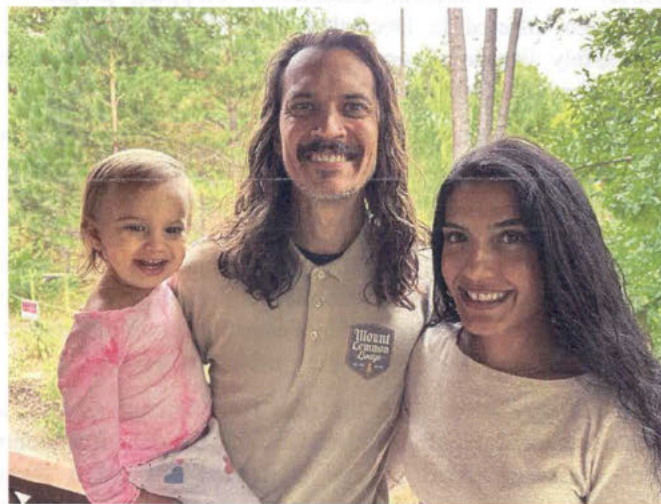
The Osbornes have created a distinctive mountain destination with 16 Lodge rooms, four additional cabins, the café, gift shop and gathering spaces. Justin and Juliet see their job as taking this foundation to the next level. For Juliet, this means increasing wedding bookings, family reunions, private gatherings and special events. She is already planning several holiday activities and events. "It's fun to bring everyone together in such a beautiful place," she said.

Justin sees similar opportunities to make a stay more of a complete mountain experience. The Lodge already offers extras such as picnics, sparkling wine, massages, breakfast in your room, and stargazing

experiences; he sees plenty of opportunity to grow. "Those little things give us a chance to deliver an exceptional side of service to their stay," he said. The mountain itself offers possibilities no Tucson hotel can duplicate changing leaves in the fall, winter snow, cool summer evenings and changing seasons. "You just get hot and not as hot in Tucson," Justin joked.

Perhaps most important, Justin and Juliet view the Lodge an important part of the larger Mt. Lemmon community. Justin wants it to be a place where visitors can learn not only about the Lodge, but about trails, restaurants, other businesses, activities and the mountain itself. "We love all of our visitors and tourists," he said.

For Justin, Juliet, and the Lodge it is an exciting new chapter.



The Fernandez family: Violet, Justin, and Juliet



Come eat pancakes  
and support the Fire  
District

Two of our favorite  
things!





**From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy**  
*Submitted by Beth Borozan*

Pima County Administration recently presented to the Board of Supervisors its first Wildfire Mitigation Plan annual report, a plan developed in response to your expressed concerns, and a summary of the key points affecting our mountain community follows.

During the recently completed Fiscal Year 2026, the County helped to broaden community outreach, expanded invasive species treatment, started to refine mapping tools, and enhanced multi-agency coordination. These achievements illustrate growing capacity, stronger partnerships, and a more unified approach to wildfire preparedness.

Department of Transportation crews contributed to mitigation by managing vegetation along roadway corridors completing 134 miles of roadside invasive species treatment, including along General Hitchcock Highway. This work reduced ignition risks and supported critical road infrastructure.

The County piloted two community-oriented mitigation programs focused on reducing hazardous fuels around homes in high-risk areas in District 4. The inaugural Community Chipping program in Summerhaven, offered in December and again in May, helped residents safely dispose of vegetation removed from the immediate five-foot defensible space zone around homes.

Pima County is also helping with response readiness by supporting access to shared tools and equipment for fire agencies through the Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Intergovernmental agreements are being drafted for a wild-land equipment cache trailer that supplies critical tools, and the opportunity to pilot regional drone capabilities, and personal protective equipment to smaller rural districts with limited resources. This will expand operational capacity across jurisdictions to respond safely and effectively during wildfire incidents.

Financial investment mirrored the plan's operational growth, as expenditures totaled approximately \$425,000. Funding distribution remained balanced across priority goals and has set a strong foundation for continued wildfire resilience efforts in the year ahead.

The County is positioned to deepen its efforts, scale effective programs, and continue building long-term resilience across all areas of wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response. Our mountain community is a direct beneficiary of these efforts, and we welcome your comments as your District 4 team looks to continuously improve the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.



**Moving forward with  
Kim & Joey**

We can't believe it's September already! Summer seems to have flown by and we LOVE all the wonderful rain we've received on the mountain this year. Everything is green; temperatures have been beautiful, and we're hoping Mother Nature keeps the rain coming well into Fall.

This month, we have two very important things on our minds: pancakes and ice cream!

The annual MLHOA Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, September 6, and it promises to be a great one. This year we'll have an expanded menu, along with plenty of terrific raffle prizes and silent auction items. It's always one of our favorite community gatherings, and we hope to see everyone there.

Then, the following Saturday, September 12, it's time for the famous Mt. Lemmon Ice Cream Freeze-Off! We need both ice cream makers and, just as importantly, plenty of ice cream tasters. Come down to the Community Center, bring your best homemade creation or simply bring your appetite (spoons provided!) and join the fun.

Behind the scenes, your MLHOA Board has also been busy. We are putting the finishing touches on a new Welcome Book for new residents, designed to help newcomers learn about the community, important mountain services and resources, and some of the things that make living in Summerhaven unique.

We're also looking at some new ideas for the HOA itself. One is replacing traditional display advertising in *The Echoes* with a community sponsorship program. Another is making it easier to pay for things at HOA events by accepting credit cards and tap-to-pay. Imagine buying Pancake Breakfast tickets, raffle tickets, or paying for other HOA activities without digging through your wallet for cash or remembering to bring a check!

And finally, a reminder: all MLHOA Board meetings are open to the public. We would love to see you there, hear what you have to say, and learn what's on your mind.

September may be here, but summer isn't over yet. Squeeze every last drop out of it. Get outside, enjoy the mountain, eat some pancakes, taste some ice cream, and have fun!

*Kim & Joey*





# **MLFD News** *Dan Leade*

This month we offer up a special interest column written by Karina Hilliard who is a firefighter/EMT herpetologist and keeper at Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. I think you'll find this interesting, I know I did!

Arizona is home to many diverse species of animals, including the most rattlesnake species in the country. Depending on genetic changes, there are 13 to 18 species of rattlesnake, and Mount Lemmon is home to one of the most unique species, the Arizona Black Rattlesnake.

The Arizona Black specializes in living in higher elevations and will change color from a brown/gray when it is warm to almost pure black with gold flecking around the diamonds when it is colder outside. They even change pattern from when they are born to adults, with the babies being very patterned. This is the first species where studies showed complex social interactions and parental care, including cooperative parental care.

As the weather warms, these snakes are moving around more while looking for mates and good places to have their babies. Sometimes this means showing up around your home. The best thing to do when you encounter a rattlesnake is to give it space and let it move on. During the hottest days, the snakes move more in the early mornings and evenings. Consider installing outdoor lights on your property to help you see them.

Do NOT interact with wildlife when encountered. The best way to get a bite is to interact with the snake. While they prefer to be left alone, they will defend themselves and can deliver a potent hemotoxic bite. Most bites are considered provoked because people interact with the snake. If you happen to be bitten, call 911 and do your best to remain calm. Remove jewelry from the appendage that was bitten. Do NOT try to capture the snake, use suction devices or tourniquets, apply ice, attempt to use electricity, or take any medications or alcohol. The species of snake that bites someone does not matter for what treatment they get. The United States uses a polyvalent antivenom, so no matter what species bites, you get the same antivenom. While there are between 200 and 350 rattlesnake bites each year in Arizona, the last fatality was in 2007. Stay alert, stay safe, and seek medical attention if you are bitten.

If you would like an AZ poison center magnet or pamphlet, stop by the fire station and ask for one. Keep it handy to remind you of the do's and don'ts of snake bites

## **Annual Meeting of the Loma Sabino HOA**

**Sunday, September 27 , 2026**

**Social starts at 11:45 AM**

**Meeting starts at 12:45 PM**

**Mount Lemmon Community Center**

## **September Calendar of Events**

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4  | 5:30 - 7:30 Live music - Sawmill Run<br>7:30 pm Movies on the Mtn - MLL                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5  | 1- 4 Music on the Mountain - MLL<br>5:30-7:30- Music at Sawmill Run                                                                                                                                                             |
| 6  | 9 - 11 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST - MLFD<br>1- 4 Music on the Mountain - MLL                                                                                                                                                          |
| 7  | <b>LABOR DAY</b><br>1- 4 Music on the Mountain - MLL                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12 | Rosh Hashanah<br>12 - 2 pm Paint n' Sip - MLL<br>2 - 4 pm ICE CREAM FREEZE OFF - CC<br>5:30-7:30- Music at Sawmill Run                                                                                                          |
| 13 | 1-4 pm Music on the Mountain - MLL                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 15 | 11-3 pm Meet the Artist Monsoon Monkey                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 19 | 8:30 am Water Board meeting<br>10:00 am MLHOA Board meeting<br>12 - 2 pm Paint & Sip - MLL<br>1 pm MLWC meeting<br>2 pm MLWC Speaker Series - Comm. Ctr.<br>3-6 Oktoberfest Music on the Mtn. - MLL<br>6:30 pm BINGO! - Sawmill |
| 20 | 1-4 pm Music on the Mountain - MLL                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 21 | <b>Yom Kippur</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 26 | 12 - 2 pm Paint n' Sip - MLL<br>5:30-7:30- Music at Sawmill Run                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 27 | 11:45 Loma Sabino HOA Mtg.<br>1 - 4 pm Music on the Mountain - MLL                                                                                                                                                              |



## MLHOA Report

The August meeting of the MLHOA was largely devoted to planning for a busy lineup of upcoming community events.

First up is the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 6 at 9 a.m. Get ready for a real feast, along with plenty of prizes and auction items. Proceeds from this popular fundraiser will support the Mt. Lemmon Fire District, with a portion also going to the Fire Hydrant Fund.

Next comes the Freeze Off on Saturday, September 12 from 2-4 p.m. Ice cream makers who would like to participate should contact Jenni at [jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com](mailto:jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com). Ice cream tasters should mark this on their calendars. The date for this year's Chili Challenge will be announced soon.

The Board also discussed making it easier to pay at HOA events. Treasurer Tim Wright is exploring the use of Square, a point-of-sale system that would allow people to simply tap a credit or debit card rather than having to bring cash or a check. He will report back to the Board after looking further into costs and logistics.

Another new idea involved the future funding of The Mt. Lemmon Echoes. Editor Ade Anast proposed replacing traditional display advertising and the current HOA subsidy with a sponsorship program. The change could provide more room for articles and photographs while potentially making *The Echoes* self-supporting and saving the HOA approximately \$5,000 a year. President Joey Medina and others at the meeting expressed support for exploring the idea further.

Both proposals will return to the Board for additional consideration at future meetings.

The next HOA meeting is Saturday, September 19 at 10 am. Please come join us and share your ideas and opinions!

### ATTENTION FOREST SERVICE CABIN OWNERS

### CHIPPING WILL BE SCHEDULED IN OCTOBER

DATES AND TIMES TBD!

## Mount Lemmon Woman's Club

*Submitted by Christina Grossman, President*

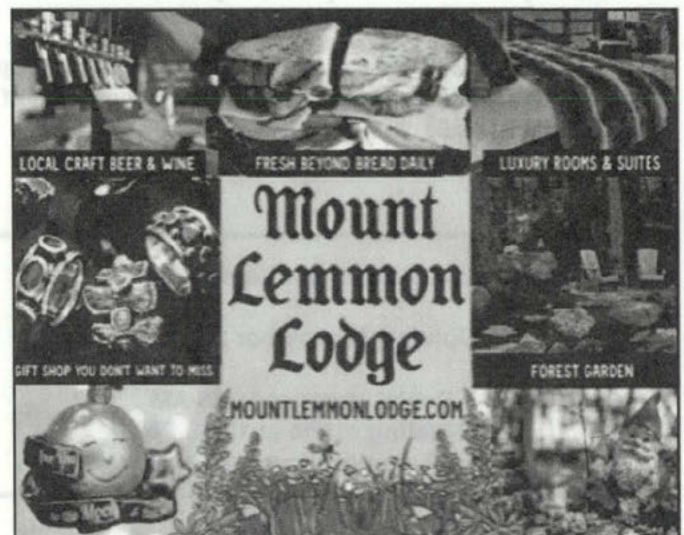
MLWC focuses on helping our community. Our *Done in the Day* focus was Youth on Their Own (YOTO). Donations support their Back-to-School focus of school supplies and food for high school students who are unhoused.

Donna Schotter and Sally Crum are spearheading the Dress a Girl sewing days at the MLCC. The last session is September 3<sup>rd</sup>. To learn more about the community service project, attend our meeting, or reach out to Donna and Sally. Dress a Girl aligns with our mission to protect and support those of domestic and sexual abuse, as well as, supporting projects that prevent sex trafficking of females. It is a global effort.

For our mountain community, we are finding ways to support volunteers, Al and Paul, and Pima County Parks and Rec employee, Lisa, at the MLCC Visitor's Center. They have done a great deal of welcoming and informing visitors every weekend and keeping the community center clean. We are sprucing the visitor's center with new tablecloths and finding donors for a new computer for the volunteers.

Our August speaker, Dr. Leigh Combrink, from UofA's School of Natural Resources and the Environment, shared her research from her time in South Africa and beautifully connected her current research of Mount Lemmon. She will also continue the Cordilleran Flycatcher research of the late Dr. Charles van Riper III. MLWC will send out information to the community this month on how we can do our part to help Dr. Combrink with the research. It is our way of protecting wildlife and the environment.

One last note, the Holiday Brunch is fast approaching. Members, look for an invite early November and RSVP, so we can celebrate together with good food, great company, and fun! We love our members!





## Water Improvement District Updates

Recent rains have increased spring flows, but not enough yet to ease water restrictions. After a long period of very low flow, the increased runoff is stirring sediment and creating turbidity, so some incoming spring water must temporarily be bypassed until it clears. District tanks remain relatively full, although the system is currently sending out about twice as much water as it is taking in.

A leak on Lower Phoenix Avenue has been isolated to one cabin and will require excavation beneath asphalt and concrete. The District also continues to address smaller customer-side leaks.

Residents raised concerns about aging galvanized water lines and discolored water. The Board said there is not yet a systemwide replacement schedule; current priorities are the Guthrie waterline project, a new water tank, and development of additional water sources. Replacing the Guthrie main is expected to eliminate much of the aging galvanized pipe contributing to the problem.

The Board also approved new Stage 3 rules for businesses. Businesses choosing a curtailment plan will be expected to reduce water use by 10% from a 2024 baseline, with usage monitored by the District.

## Public Safety Report

MLFD calls for the month: 20

EMS: 12

Fire: 5 (3 smoke, 1 power line, 1 hazmat)

Public Assist: 3



PCSD calls for the month: 21

Accidents: 1

Suspicious persons/activity: 15

SAR: 3

Trespassing: 2



**FIREWISE USA**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

There's new leadership at the Firewise Steering Committee. **Stephen and Lindy Brigham** have stepped up to co-chair the Firewise Steering Committee, with an important goal: continuing the work already underway and identifying the next generation of Firewise leaders in our community.

Thank you Stephen and Lindy for taking on this important job!

The Steering Committee is also making a change designed to improve communication and outreach. **Monthly Firewise Zoom meetings are now open to the public**, and the committee wants to hear directly from you.

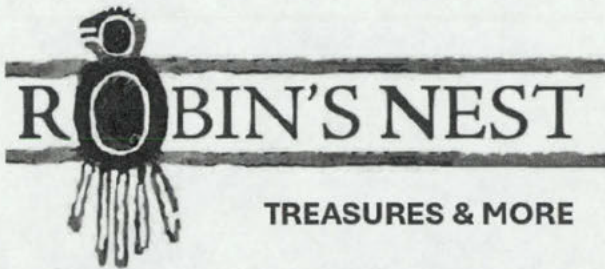
Do you have concerns about an abandoned or deteriorating cabin nearby that may pose a fire risk? Questions about chipping? Need a cabin assessment? Wondering how to report the time and money you spend on Firewise work around your property? Or is there something else involving wildfire mitigation on the mountain that you'd like to discuss? Join a meeting and bring your questions and concerns directly to the committee.

Meetings begin at 4 p.m. and generally last about 45 minutes. The Zoom link will be posted on the Firewise tab of the Mt. Lemmon Fire District website and will also be shared through Google Groups and Nextdoor.

At press time, the September meeting date had not yet been scheduled. As soon as a date is selected, the information will be shared through those same community channels.

Firewise works best when the entire community is involved. Whether you have a question, a concern, an idea, or simply want to learn more about what's being done, we hope you'll join us.

VISIT OUR MT LEMMON TREASURE SHOP



UNIQUE HAND CRAFTED GIFTS (BY OVER 20 ARTISTS)

NEW & ESTATE JEWELRY,

CUSTOM KNIVES,

APPAREL & MORE

OPEN EVERY WEEKEND – FRI 12-5/SAT 10-5/SUN 10-4



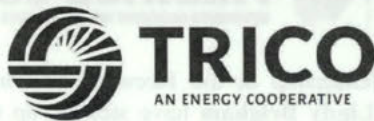
# Trico Energy Efficiency Loan Program

## Low interest, Smart savings

Eligible Members can use the loan to  
make energy-saving home upgrades



For more information, visit [www.trico.coop](http://www.trico.coop)



**TRICO**  
AN ENERGY COOPERATIVE

(520) 744-2944 | [www.trico.coop](http://www.trico.coop) f @ tricoelectricAZ

*Trico is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# DON'T LET WILDFIRE RISK BURN THROUGH YOUR SAVINGS.

Call Nick Smith  
today for a smarter  
insurance review.

AMERICAN FAMILY  
INSURANCE

Insure carefully. Dream fearlessly.

amfam.com (520) 668 1549 nsmith6@amfam.com 3773 E BROADWAY BLVD | TUCSON, AZ 85716-5409



## KLMN-LP 106.9 FM: How to Become a Ham Radio Operator

*Submitted by Christina Grossman*

As part of the Mount Lemmon Radio Club, Matthew and I are both licensed Ham Radio operators. While being a licensed operator is often be seen as just a hobby, many operators view it as a service to their community, especially in times of emergency.

Chances are, you may already know a Ham Radio operator. Whether you are 7 years old, or 100 years old, you can also become licensed. The first step is to check out the Amateur Radio Relay League, our national association, at <https://arrlexamreview.appspot.com>.

On this website, there are instructions on how to sign up for an Exam Review account. That account gives access to question pools for each level of license: technician, general, and extra. From these pools of questions, exams are created with about 30-50 questions, depending the level of license.

For those who like to have the hard copy of the manual, there is information on how to order one. If you prefer to learn with a class, whether online or in-person, go to <https://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class>.

Once you are ready to take an exam, go to <https://www.arrl.org/exam-practice> to find in in-person location, or take it online. There is a fee, but if you passed the technician exam and still have time to take the general license exam, there is no extra charge during that same session.

When you pass the exam, join a local Ham Radio club. The Radio Society of Tucson offers a "New Ham Net" session for operators who want to cover operating procedures, radio etiquette, and various other tasks. They meet every Thursday at 8:00pm. The Eastern Arizona Amateur Radio Society (EAARS) offers a "Gals Night Net" every Monday at 7:30 pm for all females who want to communicate with their Ham Radios, discuss things important to them, or just share what they did that week. It is very casual, yet technical.

Check out our website for the Ham Radio License link at <https://www.klmn-lp.org/index.php/mt-lemmon-community-educational-resources/>. For questions, or comments, email me at [programming@klmn-lp.org](mailto:programming@klmn-lp.org).

Mount Lemmon



Garage Door Service

520-878-6156

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



## M. C. Harmon Construction, LLC General Contractor

ROC 219566-221184-221185

520-576-1546 Voice

520-576-1116 Fax

**\*\*New email\*\***

**SelbyHarmon@aol.com**



### Let us Firewise for you!

McBride Landscaping & Yard Maintenance is on the mountain weekly.

Our Firewising Services include:

|                                            |                       |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pine needle raking                         | General yard clean up |
| Limb trimming                              | Sapling removal       |
| Brush/Bush removal                         | Tree felling          |
| Raking a 5 ft. clean area around the cabin |                       |

*and we haul it all away!*

Services offered one time, monthly, yearly.  
Our crew is fast and efficient. We have great local references!

Call Sandra at 520.721.1429 -  
[www.mcbridelandscapingllc.com](http://www.mcbridelandscapingllc.com)  
email: [mcbridelandscapingllc@gmail.com](mailto:mcbridelandscapingllc@gmail.com)  
ROC 245874  
licensed/bonded/insured

### 5 Reasons to list with Mount Lemmon Realty

- We have specialized in selling Real Estate on Mt. Lemmon since 1940
- We are family owned. We have four licensed agents, two with their Brokers License
- We have the BEST knowledge of Mt. Lemmon
- We are experts on selling vacant lots, cabins, and Forest Service cabins
- We are involved in the Mt. Lemmon Businesses & Pima County



[www.MountLemmonRealty.com](http://www.MountLemmonRealty.com)

**Call the office at 520-576-1333**



We love our advertisers!



**ARIZONA PROPANE**  
Gas Products Sales & Service  
In Business Since 1972



Kyle Johnson  
Regional Account Manager  
kylej@arizonapropane.com

17251 E Shea Blvd #1  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Office 480-990-2245  
Cell 480-487-1384



**George Reitz**  
Realtor®

Cell: 520.444.1439  
Home/Office: 520.722.1265  
Email: greitz@cox.net

**HOME SMART**  
ADVANTAGE GROUP

7481 E. Tanque Verde Rd. Tucson, AZ 85715

P.O. Box # 32683  
Tucson, AZ 85751

Estab. 1984

**DESERT TRUCKING**  
690-0808  
"Your Dependable Truckers of Tucson"

www.deserttrucking.com  
john@deserttrucking.com

John "J.J." Johnson  
Cell (520) 449-8800  
Fax (520) 690-0011

Transfers  
Super 16 & 18  
Semi's & Bellys  
10 & 12 Wheel Dumps



**Radiant Body Therapy**  
Tami Arthur LMT, C-MLD, CLT

LET'S HEAL YOU - TOGETHER

radiantbodytherapy.net  
520-449-3339

## Fun with AI

We were curious exactly how much rain the mountain has gotten lately, so we asked Google's AI bot, Gemini. Gemini informed us that Mt. Lemmon has received 16.59 inches of rain to date (8/14/26), outperforming it's year-to-date average of 14.02 inches! Good news for all of us! Let's hope it keeps up!

Gemini also gave me a tip for finding this information quickly on my own and recommended an app - Raindrop. You just type in the zip code and Raindrop will you an immediately analysis of recent precipitation. We thought that was a pretty cool idea and went and checked it out.

Then, we asked ChatGPT for a one paragraph review of Raindrop:

RainDrop is a remarkably handy app for anyone who wants to know how much rain fell at a particular location without maintaining a physical rain gauge. Rather than relying on a single nearby weather station, RainDrop combines information from high-resolution radar, satellite data and more than 10,000 ground gauges to estimate rainfall for a specific location. It lets users quickly check daily, monthly and year-to-date totals, compare rainfall with local averages, track multiple locations and receive rain alerts. For a place like Mt. Lemmon, where rainfall can vary dramatically over very short distances, that makes it especially useful. There is one important caveat: RainDrop provides an estimate, not a measurement taken by a gauge sitting at your exact location, and mountainous terrain can interfere with radar coverage. So I would consider RainDrop an excellent tool for following rainfall trends and comparing one year with another—but not quite the final word when an exact, official precipitation measurement is required.

Below is a screen shot of the app if you'd like to do some exploring yourself!



**RainDrop - Rain Totals & Ra...**  
Forecasts & Weather Alerts  
★★★★★ 21K  
Get  
In-App Purchases

#10 in Weather | Utilities | Raindrop Limited Liability...

Radars, Snow & Rain Maps  
Hyper-Local 16 Day Forecast  
Alerts When It Rains Too Much

Today Games Apps Arcade Search



### Cody Meets His Nephews

Cody was wandering through the woods one afternoon when he heard something crashing through the leaves ahead of him.

Another crash. A squeak. Then three young coatis tumbled out from behind a log, chasing one another in circles.



Cody stopped. "What in the world?"

"Cody?"

He knew that voice! His sister stepped out from behind a pine, looking tired but very pleased with herself. Cody stared at her. Then at the three youngsters. Then back at her.

"These are yours?"

"All three," she said.

Before Cody could answer, one climbed up his tail. Another sniffed his feet. The third demanded to know where he lived, whether he could climb the tallest tree on the mountain, and why his nose was so long.

Cody looked helplessly at his sister. She laughed. "They've been looking forward to meeting Uncle Cody."

Uncle Cody.....he rather liked the sound of that.

They spent the afternoon together. Cody showed the youngsters how to turn over rocks looking for insects and warned them which places were better left unexplored. He told them stories about the mountain, although his sister interrupted several times to correct the more exaggerated parts.

By late afternoon, Cody headed home. Behind him he could still hear the his nephews chattering and his sister calling them back when they wandered too far.

Cody smiled.

He loved roaming the mountain. There were always new places to explore and adventures waiting. But it was good to remember no matter how far you wander, you always have a family at home.

**THANK YOU  
Mt Lemmon  
Rain Dancers!**



**SUPER El Niño  
is Firmly in Place**

Signs of the Times by Kermie



**MT. LEMMON  
SKYCENTER**

The University of Arizona's Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter is gearing up for its fall SkyNights programs, offering visitors an unforgettable evening under some of Arizona's darkest skies.

The five-hour program begins about two hours before sunset and includes an astronomy presentation, a light dinner, sunset viewing, a guided tour of the night sky, and telescope viewing through the SkyCenter's impressive 32-inch Schulman and 24-inch Phillips telescopes.

Depending on the season and conditions, guests may see planets, star clusters, nebulae, distant galaxies and, occasionally, special sights such as comets or supernovae.

Programs are limited to 28 participants and are recommended for ages 7 and older. Current pricing is \$85 for adults and \$60 for youth ages 7-17, although rates may vary.

Remember: evenings on Mt. Lemmon can be downright chilly. Wear layers, sturdy shoes and bring a jacket.

For tickets and more information: [skycenter.arizona.edu](http://skycenter.arizona.edu).



## Sawmill Run Receives City Certification

Here's another reason to celebrate our community! The Sawmill Run Restaurant has been named a 2026-2027 Tucson City of Gastronomy Certified Restaurant, joining a select group of Southern Arizona restaurants recognized for more than simply serving good food.

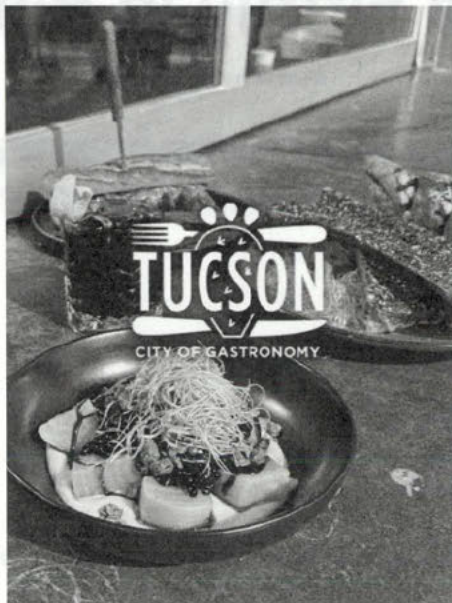
The Certification recognizes restaurants for supporting the local food economy, preserving regional food traditions, responsible and community-minded business practices, and sustainability.

Under Chef-Owner Nick Avram, Sawmill Run has taken mountain dining well beyond the expected. Sure, you can still get a great hamburger or a terrific Reuben, but the menu also ventures into roasted bone marrow with chimichurri, chicken and waffles, beet salad, and a braised beef French dip served on a Barrio Bread baguette. Avram describes his approach as "elevated mountain comfort food," with Arizona and Sonoran influences.

Add Sawmill Run's beautiful patio and cool mountain air, and Summerhaven has yet another reason to be proud of one of its own.



Nick receives his award



Listen to the Lemmon!  
KLMN-LP 106.9 FM



BACK IN THE DAY: Tucson Citizen, March, 1961

## Mt. Lemmon Searched For Crashed Airplane

Twenty members of the Pima County Search and Rescue Unit, hampered by poor visibility and blizzard conditions, probed ridges on Mt. Lemmon yesterday in search of a crashed plane.

The search came after a University of Arizona student reported Wednesday night he heard what might have been a plane crash on the mountain about 1:20 p.m. that same day. The youth said he heard a crackling noise down in a canyon about 10 seconds after a plane passed over the Mt. Lemmon Lodge, according to Captain Ken Sturgeon of the sheriff's department.

Sturgeon, coordinator of the search and rescue unit, said he will wait until the Civil Air Patrol checks out reports of missing planes before calling out the volunteer force again.

There is a possibility a light plane missing on a flight Wednesday from St. Johns to Phoenix may have gone way off course in bad weather and crashed on Mt. Lemmon.

Virgil, 44, and E. Farr Whiting, 54, brothers and members of a widely known lumber and service station family, have not been heard from since they radioed they were heading into bad weather shortly after their take-off early that afternoon.

Maj. Robert Lugar, operations officer of the Arizona CAP, said last night a blue and yellow plane similar to the Whiting craft was sighted above Mammoth about 2 p.m. Wednesday. It was reportedly headed toward Phoenix over

Florence Wash in a rain-storm.

Search for the Whiting plane was started about noon yesterday, Lugar said, and covered the area from Prescott to Mt. Lemmon. It was about 3:30 p.m. before the CAP could get a plane over the Mt. Lemmon area because of weather conditions,

### Deadline for the October issue of *The Echoes* is September 21st.

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.

Submit submissions or comments to:

[mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com](mailto:mtlemmonechoes@gmail.com)



## Seeing is Believing

We have stated many times one of the best defenses against wildfire is keeping 5 ft around a cabin absolutely clear of combustibles. This has been supported by research from the Institute Insurance and Business Home Safety and the National Fire Protection Association.

The picture was provided by Chuck Martin, a long time mountain resident. For many years, the Martin family would gather early every season to clear an area around the cabin as a fire mitigation strategy.

The Aspen fire in 2003 made its way into Lower Soldier camp. Three neighboring cabins burned to the ground; the Martin cabin was spared.

You can see the fire came right to the edge of the cleared ground....and stopped.



### Know the Zones!

**Immediate Zone: 0–5 feet.** The cabin and the first five feet from the furthest attached exterior point. This is the zone NFPA emphasizes most heavily because embers or flames that ignite right next to the house can ignite the structure. The goal is essentially noncombustible space: remove dead vegetation, leaves, needles, firewood, combustible mulch and other materials that burn.

**Intermediate Zone: 5–30 feet.** Here the objective shifts from eliminating almost everything combustible to breaking up fuels. Trees and shrubs are spaced and maintained, grass is kept short, ladder fuels are removed, and vegetation is arranged so fire has difficulty moving continuously toward the house.

**Extended Zone: 30–100 feet.** The purpose isn't to eliminate vegetation but to interrupt fire's path and reduce its intensity by removing dead material, thinning vegetation, separating tree crowns and eliminating accumulations of fuel.



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

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TUCSON, AZ  
APS DIGITAL PRINT  
85713



# Pancake BREAKFAST ★ FUNDRAISER ★



★ Join us for a delicious ★  
BREAKFAST FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

**\$10**  
SUGGESTED  
DONATION  
per person

**SILENT  
AUCTION  
★  
RAFFLE**



★ KIDS UNDER 12  
EAT FREE! ★

**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 6**

**9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**MT. LEMMON  
FIRE STATION**  
12980 N. SABINO CANYON RD.  
MT. LEMMON, AZ 85619

★ HOSTED BY ★  
**MT LEMMON HOA**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT  
**MT. LEMMON FIREFIGHTERS  
AND THE MT. LEMMON FIRE HYDRANT FUND**

★ Thank you for supporting our local heroes! ★

# Michael Stanley Freeze OFF

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & COMPETITION!

WHIP UP A BATCH  
OF YOUR FAVORITE  
*frozen concoction*  
AND SEE HOW YOU  
MATCH UP AGAINST  
THE LEMMONITES!

**MT LEMMON  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**SATURDAY  
SEPT 12, 2026**

**2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**SUGGESTED  
\$5 DONATION**

**SUPPORTS  
MT LEMMON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**SCOOP, SHARE,  
& SUPPORT!**

★ PRIZES FOR ★  
★ TOP 3 FINISHERS! ★

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1ST<br/>PLACE</b><br><br>AWESOME<br>GRAND PRIZE! | <b>2ND<br/>PLACE</b><br><br>GREAT<br>PRIZE! | <b>3RD<br/>PLACE</b><br><br>TASTY<br>PRIZE! |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

⇒ Contact Jenni to enter! ⇒

 [jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com](mailto:jenni@mtlemmonrealty.com)

Great ice cream. Great community. Great cause.