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## DOJ and FBI Release Memo on Jeffrey Epstein Ignites Fury, Fuels Conspiracies

In a shocking plot twist that has set the world ablaze, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI, released a memo that has shattered promises of transparency and accountability, fueling accusations of a deep state cover-up.

The memo, released on July 6th, claims the DOJ and FBI conducted an "exhaustive review" of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's files, uncovering no evidence of a blackmail ring, no "client list" of high-profile predators, and stating Epstein's 2019 death in his Manhattan jail cell was definitely a suicide. Claims that directly contradict earlier statements from President Trump, Attorney General Pam Bondi, FBI Director Kash Patel, and FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino.

Concurrent with the memo, the DOJ also released 11 hours of "full raw" video surveillance overlooking the common area of the Special Housing Unit where Epstein was held, on the night of his "suicide". One minute of the video was curiously missing, but when analyzed by WIRED magazine and independent forensic experts the metadata showed it was likely modified.

The memo's timing raises eyebrows, amid numerous allegations of Epstein's ties to Israeli intelligence, as it was released the day prior to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's third visit to the White House this year.

In February of this year, Bondi told Fox News that an Epstein "client list" was "sitting on my desk right now to review" under Trump's direct orders. She orchestrated an embarrassing White House stunt, handing out "Epstein Files: Phase 1" binders to pro-Trump influencers, only for them to discover those documents were already public.

Kash Patel, before becoming FBI Di-



rector, told podcast host Joe Rogan in 2023 that the FBI needed to "put on their big boy pants" and release the names of Epstein's pedophile associates.

Bongino, a former Secret Service agent turned media star, repeatedly stated on his podcast in 2023 that the Epstein story was "a big deal" and urged his audience to "keep your eye on this."

Even President Trump who pledged to "release the Epstein files" if elected, promised more Epstein file releases as recently as this April, only to dodge questions this week with an annoyed, "Are you still talking about Jeffrey Epstein? This guy's been talked about for years."

Elon Musk, once a Trump ally and donor who campaigned for and with him, reignited tensions by alleging last month that Trump's name appears in sealed Epstein files, a claim he later walked back but doubled down on after the memo, mocking Bondi's flip-flop.

It does make sense that the President's name would actually be in the files, as they moved in the same circles, and Trump told New York magazine in

2002 that he had known Epstein for 15 years and that he was a "terrific guy". After Epstein's 2006 arrest Trump distanced himself and said they hadn't spoken in years.

Taken at Mar A Lago in February of 2000, a photo (above) shows Trump and future wife Melania Knauss next to Prince Andrew with Epstein in the background and Ghislaine Maxwell leaning in from the side. Maxwell is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence for her role in facilitating Epstein's sexual abuse of minors. A woman named Virginia Giuffre claimed in a 2015 lawsuit that she was paid by Epstein, with Maxwell's involvement, to have sex with Prince Andrew when she was underage, at Maxwell's London home, at Epstein's Manhattan townhouse, and at his private island. Giuffre "committed suicide" under questionable circumstances in April of this year.

This memo isn't just a PR disaster, it's a gut punch to Trump's base, who expected their heroes to dismantle the deep state, not join it. The Epstein saga appears like the same establishment cover-up Trump vowed to destroy, and the American people deserve answers.

## “Twelve Day War” Or Temporary Cease Fire?

The so-called “12-day war” last month reveals a troubling mix of overblown claims, fiscal recklessness, and strategic failure. The conflict, sparked by Israeli strikes on June 13th and culminating in US Operation Midnight Hammer on June 22nd, targeted three key Iranian nuclear sites, Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

In retaliation, Iran launched a missile attack on the US’ Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, completely destroying a radome that housed a \$15M Modernized Enterprise Terminal (MET), a secure communications system built in 2016.

The first strike bombing took many by surprise as US-Iran nuclear talks were scheduled to take place in Oman on June 15th, but Iran cancelled after being bombed by Israel. Then, on June 19th Trump announced, through his press secretary, “Based on the fact that there’s a substantial chance of negotiations that may or may not take place with Iran in the near future, I will make my decision whether or not to go within the next two weeks.” This after Israel had asked the US “to join war with Iran”. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 allows a president to use military force for up to 60 days without congressional approval, provided they notify Congress within 48 hours.

The revelation that the US had been secretly designing bombs just to target Iran’s Fordow nuclear facility for 15 years came to light through a Pentagon press briefing on June 26th. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine disclosed that the US began planning to destroy Fordow in 2009, after intelligence analysts identified the facility’s construction in 2006 as a covert uranium enrichment site. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) initiated a classified program to develop the 30,000-pound GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), specifically engineered to penetrate the Fordow complex.

President Trump claimed these strikes “completely obliterated” Iran’s nuclear program, but evidence suggests otherwise, raising concerns about unaccounted enriched uranium and the limits of military intervention.

The whereabouts of Iran’s stockpile of 880 lbs of uranium enriched to 60% purity, enough for roughly nine nuclear weapons if further enriched to 90%, remains a mystery. Satellite imagery showed trucks at Fordow and Isfahan days before the strikes, suggesting Iran moved uranium to undisclosed locations. Iranian officials, including Mehdi Mohammadi, claimed Fordow was evacuated in advance, and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Chief Rafael Grossi noted Iran reported taking “protective measures” for its nuclear material. US intelligence, per a leaked Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report, confirms much of the stockpile was moved pre-strike, contradicting Trump’s assertion that nothing was removed. Social media posts on X from Iranian officials like Major General Mohsen Rezaei reinforce this, claiming nuclear materials were secured in secret locations.

Despite Trump’s boasts, the strikes did not eliminate Iran’s nuclear capabilities. The US used B-2 Spirit bombers with GBU-57 MOPs and Tomahawk missiles. Satellite imagery shows severe damage; craters at Fordow, flattened above-ground structures at Natanz, and debris at Isfahan, but underground facilities and centrifuges largely survived. Experts like Jeffrey Lewis and David Albright argue the strikes set back Iran’s program by only months, as intact centrifuges and expertise remain. IAEA Chief Grossi noted that power disruptions likely damaged Natanz’s centrifuges, but Iran could restart enrichment in months.

Sources reported that Israel sustained substantial damage from Iranian strikes and nearly exhausted its Iron Dome missile defense system, which was nowhere near as impenetrable as had been touted, leading many to speculate the ceasefire was only to buy time to re-arm. Five days after the “12 day war” ended last month the Pentagon signed off on a \$510M deal to re-supply Israel with more weapons.

According to the Costs of War Project at Brown University’s Watson Institute, the US has provided at least \$17.9 billion in military aid to Israel for its operations in Gaza and elsewhere just from October 7, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

Iran’s retention of enriched uranium and covert sites, like those at Turqezabad or Varamin, suggests it could rebuild quickly. With Iran suspending IAEA cooperation and threatening further enrichment, the strikes appear to have only hardened its resolve rather than curbed its ambitions. In hindsight, this unexpected US military intervention, sold as decisive, seems more like an incomplete mission that inflamed tensions while leaving America’s strategic interests vulnerable.

## America Party Solution or Spoiler?

Elon Musk announced the formation of the America Party on July 5th, via his social media platform X, following a public feud and falling out with President Trump over the “Big, Beautiful Bill.” This bill, H.R.1, signed into law on July 4th, is projected to add \$3–5T to the U.S. national debt, prompting Musk’s vocal opposition due to its fiscal irresponsibility. Musk called it “a disgusting abomination”.

Musk, who had been a significant financial supporter of Trump’s 2024 presidential campaign, contributing over \$250 million through his America PAC, broke with Trump after serving as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) until May 2025. His planned departure from the administration and criticism of the bill marked a significant shift, as he accused both major parties of forming a “uni-party” system that fails to represent the American people.

The idea for the America Party was first floated last month, when Musk conducted a poll on X, asking his over 220 million followers if a new political party was needed. The poll, which garnered over 1.2 million votes with 65.4% in favor, prompted Musk to declare, “By a factor of 2 to 1, you want a new political party and you shall have it!”

Musk has outlined the America Party as a centrist alternative to the Republican and Democratic parties, aiming to represent the “80% in the middle” who he believes are underserved by the current two-party system. The party’s stated objectives, based on Musk’s posts and public statements, include: fiscal responsibility, artificial intelligence (AI) and technological innovation to ensure U.S. supremacy, deregulation, free speech, encouraging policies that support population growth, and applying “centrist policies everywhere else” to appeal to a broad, moderate electorate disillusioned with polarized politics.

Musk has proposed concentrating resources on winning 2–3 Senate seats and 8–10 House districts in the 2026 midterm elections. Given the razor-thin legislative margins in Congress, these seats could act as a “deciding vote” on contentious legislation, giving the America Party significant influence despite its small size. The America Party would caucus independently, engaging in legislative discussions with both major parties to ensure laws reflect “the true will of the people.”

Critics fear the America Party could act as a “spoiler,” splitting the Republican vote and benefiting Democrats, but depending on which states and races Musk chooses to target and the appeal and platform put forward by the actual candidates it’s just as likely that it could have the opposite effect.

Despite a phony Federal Election Commission (FEC) filing being created and disseminated online over the Fourth of July weekend, the America Party has not yet been formally registered with the FEC, and Musk’s plans currently remain largely conceptual, with no concrete organizational structure yet reported to implement a 2026 election strategy.





## H.R. 1 Becomes Law One Big Beautiful Bill?

The Senate's amendments to H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, passed on July 1st., with Vice President JD Vance's tie-breaking vote. The House's original bill, while far from ideal, aimed to extend Trump's 2017 tax cuts, boost border security, and curb some federal spending, securing a narrow 215-214 vote. However, the Senate, led by Majority Leader John Thune, tacked on a \$5 trillion debt ceiling hike in a marathon "vote-a-rama" session., \$1 trillion more than the House's \$4 trillion, gnoring warnings from deficit hawks.

The Senate's version introduced gimmicks like "Trump accounts" for newborns and a \$40,000 SALT deduction cap (reverting to \$10,000 in 2030), which mostly benefits high earners in blue states. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the bill would add \$3.3 trillion to deficits over a decade, a figure Senate Republicans dubiously disputed with "magic math."

Back in the House, the battle to pass this Senate-altered bill was a chaotic mess. Speaker Mike Johnson faced a revolt from fiscal conservatives such as Thomas Massie, Chip Roy, and Andy Biggs, who saw the Senate's changes as a betrayal of their campaign promises to shrink government.

On July 2nd, a procedural vote to advance the bill teetered on collapse, with ten Republicans initially opposing it. Trump's arm-twisting and late-night negotiations flipped most holdouts, including Lauren Boebert, but Massie stood firm with Brian Fitzpatrick, voting against the final 218-214 passage on July 3. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries' record-breaking 8-hour-44-minute speech couldn't stop the steamroller.

Ultimately, the Senate's meddling transformed a bill with some conservative merits into a bloated, debt-fueled compromise that critics say prioritized Trump's agenda and July 4th deadline over principle. And Trump signed the Bill into law on Independence day as planned.

See page 7 for a detailed analysis. Read the text of the Biill at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1/text>

## Tariff Wars, the Sequel Trump Raises the Stakes

President Donald Trump has intensified his trade policy, threatening significant tariffs on over 20 countries to address a \$1 trillion U.S. trade deficit and bolster domestic manufacturing. Trump recently announced via Truth Social that letters were sent to leaders, such as the European Union's Ursula von der Leyen and Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum, stating that 30% tariffs would be imposed unless trade deals are secured, effective August 1, 2025,

Other tariffs currently on the table include: 35% tariffs on Canada (escalating from a prior 25% on non-USMCA goods), 25% tariffs on Japan and South Korea, and 50% on Brazil, 50% tariffs on copper imports and 200% on foreign pharmaceuticals, 145% tariffs on Chinese goods (with some reductions after May 2025 talks). Other nations such as Iraq, Libya (30%), and Bangladesh (35%) face similar threats, with rates varying from April's "reciprocal" tariffs.

These tariffs, enacted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), face legal challenges, with the U.S. Court of International Trade ruling them illegal in May 2025. Trump claims they address non-reciprocal trade practices, like foreign value-added taxes and currency manipulation, but critics argue they could raise consumer costs by \$1,200-\$1,442 per household annually and trigger a global recession. Retaliatory tariffs from China, Canada, and the EU, affecting \$330 billion in U.S. exports, further complicate the outlook.

Trump's April tariffs, with a 10% baseline on all imports (higher for some nations), was paused for 90 days until July 9th, now extended to August 1st, yielded only limited success. The UK lowered tariffs on cars, steel, aluminum, and aerospace equipment. A "loose" agreement with Vietnam reduced tariffs from 46% to 20%, and a there's a promising pending deal with India .

Despite Trump's claim of "90 deals in 90 days," only these three materialized. While these deals show some progress, many nations remain skeptical of Trump's shifting deadlines, which could lead to further delays.

## The Persecution of Walter Spawr Should Citizens Have Grand Jury Access?

Considering that Mohave County has the highest crime rate in the state, according to a recent study, many people assume that County Attorney Matt Smith is allocating the limited resources of the judicial system to prosecuting the most dangerous criminals to the fullest extent of the law. Many people would be incorrect in that assumption.

While even violent crimes are routinely offered plea bargains to avoid a costly trial, the County has aggressively prosecuted an elderly man named Walter Spawr for two non violent misdemeanors over a simple misunderstanding of law.

Walter Spawr believes that there is no law prohibiting a citizen from bringing evidence of a crime directly to a grand jury, and last year he brought a proposal to the Board of Supervisors to codify that process in Mohave County. Over strenuous objection by legal counsel the Board eventually rejected Spawr's proposal, asserting that the County Attorney is the gatekeeper for who does and does not get prosecuted. But what if the County Attorney, one of his staff, his friends or relatives, or his employees are the one being accused of a crime? What if Smith declines to prosecute?

Undaunted, Walter Spawr showed up to the Kingman City Courthouse in June of 2024, before a grand jury was convened, and walked in when the door was unlocked for potential jurors. He attempted to hand out manila envelopes containing evidence and leave well before the official proceeding began. Court officials had been warned to be on the lookout for the elderly Mr. Spawr, but were not told that for all intents and puropes Walter is deaf.

Spawr was asked to leave the premises but had difficulty understanding what was being said to him. Ultimately Spawr left before law enforcement arrived and returned to his vehicle in the parking lot before the official 9:30 Grand Jury start time.

Spawr was subsequently charged with "Criminal Trespass In The Third Degree" and "Interfering With Judicial Proceedings" that hadn't technically started yet. The legal standard for trespassing is that the defendant must both know he's not supposed to be somewhere and refuse to leave when asked.

Spawr was arraigned earlier this year and pleaded "not guilty" to the misdemeanor counts. It seems that County Attorney Smith had convinced the City to prosecute the case, as the Courthouse is located in Kingman.

Spawr tried to find an attorney but none would agree to take the case. As his income exceeds the amount to have legal counsel provided for him, Spawr was forced to represent himself at the bench trial on June 24th. The judge stating at the trial that he didn't believe that Spawr couldn't secure defense counsel.

During pre-trial, when Spawr wanted to subpoena the potential jurors as witnesses to what had occured the court refused to provide their names, referring to them only as Jane and John Does.

Ultimately Spawr was his only defense witness in an all day proceeding that was drawn out due to his inability to hear Judge Vederman, Prosecutor Jeffrey Haws, and the witnesses against him (Elizabeth Meins - MCAO Victim Advocate, Amanda Claerhaute - MCAO Deputy County Attorney, Frank Walter Mueller - MCAO Investigator, and KPD Officer Mejia). Spawr had to use a voice to text program on his laptop to try and read what had been said, and hope that the transcription was correct.

A verdict was not handed down in the courtroom after closing arguments but was issued after the fact, in writing by mail. Walter Spawr was found guilty on both counts. He intends to appeal. Hopefully he can find an attorney willing to represent him through that process.

The total cost to the taxpayers to adjudicate this case through the appeal process is unknown, and it is assumed that the witnesses were on the clock for the day, given that they were all government employees.

So while dangerous criminals roam the streets of Mohave County, will you sleep better at night knowing that your tax dollars are being used to make an example of an elderly man with no prior criminal history, whose only real crime was trying to present what he believed to be evidence of an actual crime that the County wasn't interested in prosecuting? Does this example give you confidence in the local judicial system?



# The Snake Handlers

## Arizona Fish and Game Reveals No Oversight



While relocation of deadly vipers is public endangerment, not everyone is eager to grab a flat shovel and do battle with a rattlesnake. The faint of heart prefer to call someone to remove the “nope rope” while they watch from a safe distance, but AZ Fish and Game requires a Wildlife Services License to perform that task and some random guy on Facebook is probably not licensed.

Per a recent public records request, only the following are legally allowed to relocate rattlesnakes in Mohave County: Bryan Colby - Bryan’s Wildlife Services, Brian and Summer Walker - Cowboy Critter Control, Jarrett Herman and Steve Martin - Critter Control of Northern Arizona, Cody Dalton Molzan - First Defense Wildlife Control, Frankie White - Sunshine Trappers.

The inquiry also revealed a disturbing lack of oversight. Fish and Game requires no record keeping or reporting of animals captured and released, only deceased animals must be reported, and there are no regulations concerning where they can be released other than “Live release with permission from landowner. Captured wildlife should not be released in urban areas or where public recreation use is high.” So theoretically that venomous snake can be released right around the corner from where it was captured and slither it’s way home. And while the statute says they shouldn’t be released in “urban areas” it doesn’t actually say they can’t.

While the cost of having that menace humanely removed may vary, a shovel or a pistol is the only real guarantee that it won’t come back, as snakes can be territorial and will travel a fair distance. Consumers beware, There have been unconfirmed reports of people offering to relocate rattlesnakes only to demand a hefty payment once the critter is safely contained. It is not illegal to kill a rattlesnake in Arizona if it poses a threat to your safety, your family’s safety, or your pets. However, it is a crime to discharge a firearm within city limits. The western diamondback and Mohave rattlesnakes are not on the endangered species list.



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# The Legislative Scorecard

## Turning Point Action Rates LD30




**Andy Biggs**  
Congressman

Lifetime Score: **97.72**    Session Score: **97.12**  
Patriot



**Hildy Angius**  
State Senator

Lifetime Score: **66.67**    Session Score: **66.67**  
Erratic



**Leo Biasiucci**  
State Representative

Lifetime Score: **81.58**    Session Score: **70.27**  
Losing Patriotism



**John Gillette**  
State Representative

Lifetime Score: **78.95**    Session Score: **64.86**  
Becoming Erratic

The Turning Point Action Legislative Scorecard, launched by Turning Point Action (TPAction), a 501(c)(4) conservative advocacy group, is described as the “most transparent and comprehensive” scorecard in the conservative movement, aimed at evaluating elected officials based on their voting records and alignment with TPAction’s priorities.

Congressman Andy Biggs, who is running for Arizona governor in 2026, knocked it out of the park. Mohave County Legislative District 30 state legislators did not fare as well.

Freshman Senator Hildy Angius, who is running for the State House in 2026, had a rather dismal debut. Not surprising if you followed her as a supervisor.

Representative Leo Biasiucci, who is running for the AZ Senate in 2026, turned in an unimpressive score, sliding over 11 points in the wrong direction.

Representative John Gillette, who is not running for anything in 2026, unexpectedly did even worse. Gillette will be working on bringing a Hillsdale K-12 charter school to Kingman, and returning to work in the national security field.

Turning Point Action, an affiliate of Turning Point USA, founded by Charlie Kirk in 2012, uses the scorecard to inform voters about how legislators align with conservative values, emphasizing issues like election integrity, medical freedom, 2nd Amendment rights, and opposition to “woke” ideologies such as Critical Race Theory.

The scorecard ranks sitting legislators and candidates based on their voting records, sponsorships, and public statements, serving as an educational tool for voter decision-making.

The scorecard, including a detailed breakdown of how they voted on key bills, is accessible on the TPAction website at: [www.tpaction.com](http://www.tpaction.com).



## MAHA

### Make Arizona Healthy Again!

Last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implemented sweeping reforms to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), restricting benefits for purchasing sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. also secured voluntary commitments from major food corporations to remove harmful dyes like Red No. 40 and Green No. 3 from products by year-end.

Kennedy announced a significant reduction in bureaucratic overhead at HHS, claiming doctors and nurses were spending excessive time on paperwork. By streamlining forms, his initiative aims to save healthcare costs and improve patient care efficiency, described as “one of the most important changes” for saving lives.

Under Kennedy’s appointee Marty Makary, the FDA has begun aligning research with a focus on ultra-processed foods and environmental toxins. Makary announced plans for new nutrition guidelines by August 2025, replacing the 1992 food pyramid with a simplified version emphasizing whole foods.

As we previously reported last month, Kennedy retired the entire CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and appointed new members. This new panel swiftly voted to remove thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative, from flu shots, a decision celebrated as a step toward safer vaccines. Mercury is a proven neurotoxin.

In a recent interview with Tucker Carlson available on Rumble, Kennedy referenced Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) data to support his assertion that the FDA acknowledged significant COVID-19 vaccine-related injuries, citing a potential rate of 1 in 37 recipients affected. He suggested VAERS’ flaws were ignored when evidence of harm surfaced, pointing to a 2010 study claiming only 1% of adverse events are reported.

In that same interview, Kennedy stated the CDC buried a 1999 non peer reviewed internal study by epidemiologist Thomas Verstraeten showing a 1135% increased autism risk from the Hepatitis B vaccine, alleging a cover-up by researchers who manipulated data to obscure the link. He cited the 2000 Simpsonwood Conference, where CDC officials discussed this evidence, the transcript of which is available on archive.org

A 2007 study by David A. Geier, and his father Mark R. Geier, titled “A Case Series of Children with Apparent Mercury Toxicosis Presenting with Autism,” published in the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, was later retracted due to pushback over methodology, as it relied on VAERS data which cannot establish causality. In an apparent act of vindication, Kennedy has appointed Geier to review autism data. The inquiry leverages a new “real-world data platform” announced earlier in 2025, integrating Medicare and Medicaid records, insurance claims, pharmacy data, and smartwatch health metrics, covering roughly 36% of Americans. This platform, developed through a partnership between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), aims to provide comprehensive patient data for autism research.

But Kennedy has faced growing criticism from some of his supporters for not outright banning mRNA vaccines, particularly those for COVID-19, and for perceived inaction on restricting additional mRNA technologies. Former cardiologist and informal Kennedy adviser Dr. Peter McCullough stated in a recent interview that “the big threat is that we still have COVID-19 vaccines on the market”.

McCullough’s remarks reflect a growing sentiment that Kennedy’s actions, such as halting COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for healthy children and pregnant women in May, don’t go far enough, and ironically still leave sick children at risk.

However, in May, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), led by Kennedy ally Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, did redirect \$500 million from mRNA vaccine studies to non-mRNA universal vaccine research, a move described as a “paradigm shift.”



## The DOGE Report

### Musk’s New Path by Mark Fargo

Elon Musk has once again managed to reshape the national conversation, not with rockets or electric cars but with a full-frontal assault on federal inefficiency and a bold step into America’s political arena.

Musk’s role at the head of DOGE has evolved into a movement, cutting through bureaucracy, challenging the way Washington works, and laying the groundwork for something new, The America Party. And while the rise of this new party has drawn comparisons to Donald Trump’s populist revolution, this isn’t a battle between figures. It’s a divergence in focus, style, and strategy.

Since its launch, DOGE has operated with a mission most Americans applaud: reduce waste, cut red tape, and bring measurable efficiency to government. Entire federal procurement systems have been audited. Redundant positions and programs have been flagged for consolidation or closure. And a push for “zero-based budgeting”, a favorite among fiscal hawks including Mohave County Supervisors Ron Gould and Rich Lettman, is gaining steam.

Musk’s approach? Treat government like an underperforming company; identify inefficiencies, remove emotional barriers to change, and optimize for outcomes, not optics. The results have stirred both praise and panic. Critics call it cold and overly corporate. Supporters see it as the first meaningful attempt to rein in government sprawl in decades.

Headlines framed Musk’s new party as a challenge to Donald Trump’s influence. But such narratives oversimplify what’s really happening: a split not in values, but in application. Both men champion free markets, limited government, American innovation, and a deep skepticism of entrenched bureaucracies. But Musk’s focus has turned increasingly toward data-driven policy, technocratic solutions, and a break from traditional political machinery, including that of both major parties.

In a recent X post, Musk clarified: “I have enormous respect for what President Trump achieved - especially his ability to shake the system. The America Party builds on that spirit with a focus on systems, structure, and long-term resilience.” Trump continues to rally the base through charisma and cultural engagement. Musk, ever the engineer, is attacking the code of government itself.

Formally announced on Independence Day, the America Party promises to be a non-partisan coalition focused on results over rhetoric. Its founding principles are straightforward: Fiscal responsibility by design, not negotiation. Elimination of bureaucratic waste through transparent tech-based audits. Restoration of U.S. competitiveness via deregulation and innovation incentives. Focus on outcome-based programs, not symbolic spending. It’s not trying to compete with the Republican or Democrat platforms in a traditional sense, it’s trying to refactor governance entirely - the same way Musk rebuilt the auto and space industries from the ground up.

The America Party is already drawing attention from independents, libertarians, and a surprising number of disillusioned Republicans who feel alienated by internal infighting and legislative gridlock. So far, no major endorsements have been announced, but sources suggest Musk is building an advisory team of economists, technologists, and military strategists, not career politicians. It’s still early, but there’s no denying the tectonic shift happening. With 2026 elections looming, even a few America Party candidates in key races could force realignment in the Senate or House by simply refusing to play the old game.

Opinions vary among conservative circles but many express cautious optimism; “It’s refreshing to see someone push ideas instead of ideology.”, “If this forces the GOP to get lean and serious again, I’m all for it.”, “I love Trump, but I want Musk running the numbers.” This isn’t a revolution against anyone, it’s a recalibration toward what works.

America is at a crossroads, both politically and structurally. With ballooning debt, regulatory overload, and an aging bureaucratic infrastructure, many voters aren’t looking for louder voices they’re looking for smarter solutions. Musk’s DOGE mission and the America Party aren’t rejecting the MAGA movement they’re evolving it, and applying the same innovation mindset that put Tesla on the map to the most broken machine of all: federal governance. And whether you vote red, blue, or something new, one thing is clear: Government has never faced an opponent quite like Elon Musk. And that might be exactly what it needs.





## Critical Thinking

by Jennifer Esposito  
Editor's Opinion

### Trump Train Derailment?

*"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final most essential command."* - George Orwell, 1984

Call 911...the once mighty Trump train suddenly appears to be going off the rails and looks like it might crash. Not because of the "fake news", or because of "the swamp", or even because of another administration full of questionable cabinet picks, but surprisingly it's because of Trump himself.

Despite numerous apparent wins in the first 100 days, many MAGA supporters are now starting to say that Trump's most recent actions are not at all what they voted for. In a June 14th interview Trump arrogantly quipped "I'm the one that developed America First and considering that term wasn't used until I came along, I think I'm the one that decides that" in response to critics questioning his foreign policy decisions. Silly me, here I was thinking that Americans should decide what "America First" was.

Things started to unravel with bombing of Iran at the behest of Israel. Estimated cost to US taxpayers? Over \$4M. Trump was talking about regime change and literally saying "MIGA" when voters expected MAGA. Iran retaliated by bombing our base in Qatar. Then Tom Barrack, America's top diplomat in Turkey and envoy for Syria said "Let's make Lebanon great again." No joke. Now reports indicate Trump is considering a military aid package worth \$3.85B to Ukraine, utilizing the remaining Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) from Biden-era allocations. This would draw directly from U.S. stockpiles and include our costly Patriot air defense missiles, potentially endangering our own defense capabilities.

Trump attacked mega donor and supporter Elon Musk for criticizing the omnibus spending bill, resulting in an ugly childish social media spat. Then, after popular KY constitutional conservative Thomas Massie said "we shouldn't get into another war" Trump posted "we will have a wonderful American Patriot running against him in the Republican Primary" and called Massie "a very bad guy". A Trump super PAC started running attack ads on the one year anniversary of Massie's wife's death. Now Trump has endorsed deranged war monger Lindsey Graham for reelection in South Carolina. Wake me from this nightmare.

Conversely, Trump recently praised Syria's new leader, former Al Qaeda terrorist Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, saying "he is a good guy", even though the US had a \$10M bounty on him as recently as earlier this year.

Then Trump called his supporters "serious radical right people" if they didn't support his unexpected amnesty proposal for illegal alien hospitality industry and farm workers, but said "they'll understand". No, Mr. President, they were expecting you to deport them all.

Then MAGA was sucker punched when the DOJ's Pam Bondi announced that there wasn't an Epstein client list on her desk being reviewed after all and no pedophile island clients would ever be investigated, in conjunction with the FBI announcing they had no evidence that Epstein ever blackmailed anyone and he definitely for sure committed suicide. Case closed, move on, forget about everything Trump, Bondi, Patel and Bongino said previously. Don't believe your eyes and ears. And Trumps dismissive and callous reaction to the blowback have likely made a bad situation unsalvageable. The trust in this administration evaporated.

Even long time high profile Trump loyalists such as Steve Bannon, Tucker Carlson, and Benny Johnson, have been brutal in their criticism of the dispensation of the Epstein investigation. MAGA media influencers everywhere have taken up a cry of "we will not forget!", even FOX News has turned on this issue.

Somebody might want to call Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, because I think we have a train wreck to investigate.

## "FREE" SPEECH

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### Honor Past Agreements

Ask any newcomer why they chose Golden Valley, and you'll likely hear about the open space, rural charm, and peaceful environment. People don't move here for dense housing, traffic, or noise—they come to escape all that.

The most highly held value is protecting and preserving agricultural zones with acre or larger lots. Knowing this, the largest landholder in Mohave County, Angle Homes, continues to submit a land use proposal that would wipe out over 1400 acres of A/R zoning and create a subdivision of 3,000-4,000+ new homes. Currently, the land is zoned for 36 acre lots and surrounded by an established neighborhood of acre or larger lots. Since 1996, Angle Homes has built over 2,000 homes in the Kingman area. This proposal is their largest project to date.

Prior to 2006, the land was designated for acre or larger development. In 2006, a major plan amendment was approved by the Mohave County Board of Supervisors for a project called "The Dorado." This amendment would have allowed for over 4,700 homes. In the resolution passed by the board, one of the stipulations was that if the project

had not moved forward by the next general plan update, then the land would revert to the previous use. The project never broke ground, the property was defaulted on, and the land never reverted.

This oversight by planning and zoning has caused a major conflict between the current developers and surrounding property owners. Had this land reverted, the developers would have been required to go through a major plan amendment process. Instead, the county is allowing them to submit their gigantic proposal free of charge during the general plan update, typically a cost of \$1540, and at the expense of the surrounding property owners who do not support a development of this size.

Residents were even more frustrated when they learned that this proposal was quietly slipped back into the plan after they were told it was not going to be considered. This happened at a public meeting with no agenda notice, sparking multiple Open Meeting Law complaints. This is a clear breakdown in the public process. Residents are being ignored, and developers are being given special treatment. The county must act transparently, honor past agreements, and protect the values that make Golden Valley worth living in.

Danielle Ohle-Keck  
Golden Valley



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***"If we dont believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all."*** - Noam Chomsky, American linguist and US Media and Foreign Policy critic

**Meet the New Tax Code: Same as the Old Tax Code**

H.R.1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, has been promoted as delivering the "largest tax cut in history" (H.R.1, 119th Congress). However, a close examination reveals it primarily extends the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017 (Pub. L. 115-97) by removing its expiration date, rather than introducing transformative reform (H.R.1, Sec. 70101). The TCJA, passed via budget reconciliation, included an eight-year sunset clause, which H.R.1 eliminates, making the TCJA's tax brackets and policies permanent. While the TCJA's adjustments to tax brackets were generally beneficial, they did not fundamentally overhaul the tax system. The original inclusion of an expiration date, followed by its removal in H.R.1, suggests a politically engineered "crisis" used to campaign on warnings of a looming "tax bomb" unless voters re-elected Republican lawmakers. This framing positioned H.R.1 as urgent legislation to avert disaster, but it merely removes a sunset clause the Republicans and previous Trump administration created. Claiming this as the "largest tax cut in history" is a huge exaggeration, as it preserves the status quo rather than reducing taxes further. It should further be noted that both TCJA and H.R.1 were passed through budget reconciliation, therefore that process cannot be blamed for the original sunsets. It is a curious that budget reconciliation typically operates on 10-year time frames, yet TCJA was set to expire in 8 years, conveniently coinciding with an election cycle.

The notion that taxpayers are "saving money" hinges on the unlikely assumption that Congress would have allowed the TCJA to expire, reverting to pre-2017 tax rates. Taxpayers are only "saving" relative to a hypothetical increase, not compared to the tax policy in place since 2017. H.R.1 does little to reduce taxes beyond maintaining existing rates.

H.R.1 introduces several temporary provisions, which have limited impact:

**No Tax on Tips (Less Tax on Tips)**  
This provision allows a deduction of up to \$25,000 for qualified tips, phasing out for incomes above \$150,000 (\$300,000 for joint filers), but tips remain subject to Social Security and

Medicare taxes ([H.R.1, Sec. 70201]; 26 U.S.C. § 3101). With only about 2% of taxpayers being tipped workers, this measure is narrowly targeted and unlikely to benefit most taxpayers.

**No Tax on Overtime (Less Tax on Overtime)**

A deduction of up to \$12,500 (\$25,000 for joint filers) is available for overtime pay, defined as compensation exceeding the regular rate under the Fair Labor Standards Act, also subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes ([H.R.1, Sec. 70202]; 29 U.S.C. § 207). Since approximately 8% of taxpayers receive overtime pay, this provision offers limited relief and does not constitute a broad tax cut.

**Vehicle Loan Interest Deduction**  
This provision permits deductions of up to \$10,000 for interest on loans for new vehicles with "final assembly" in the United States, excluding loans before 2025 and used vehicles, with phase-outs for higher incomes ([H.R.1, Sec. 70203]). Given high vehicle costs, this benefits a small group, with wealthier taxpayers potentially facing phase-out thresholds.

**"TRUMP" Accounts for Children**  
These tax-advantaged accounts, like IRAs or 529 plans, include a one-time \$1,000 government grant, with contributions limited to \$5,000 annually and distributions restricted until age 18 ([H.R.1, Sec. 70204]). This is not direct tax relief but a government incentive to encourage having children, offering limited immediate tax benefits.

**SALT Deduction Increase**  
The State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction cap is raised from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for five years, phasing out for incomes above \$500,000 ([H.R.1, Sec.

70120]; 26 U.S.C. § 164). This primarily benefits taxpayers in high-tax states, often Democratic-leaning, and wealthier individuals with significant local tax liabilities. This may be the most substantial tax benefit, despite its limited reach.

These provisions are temporary, set to expire in 2028 and 2029 for SALT. Their expiration dates likely obscure the bill's deficit impact, though bipartisan support for the tips and overtime deductions as well as SALT suggests they are likely to be extended by either party. Estimates suggest tip and overtime based taxpayers could save up to \$1,800 annually, but these figures likely assume optimal scenarios where deductions are fully utilized. This falls far short of the "largest tax cut ever."

A notable permanent change is the small business deduction, increased from 20% to 23% for qualified business income and made permanent ([H.R.1, Sec. 70105]; 26 U.S.C. § 199A). This modest increase may save small business owners a few hundred dollars annually, which is helpful but not transformative.

Proposals to "tax the rich" were debated but largely abandoned due to harsh rebuke by conservatives and MAGA. However, Sen Crapo cleverly found a group of likely wealthy taxpayers to target with a tax increase unlikely to garner any sympathy. His Senate amendment limits gambling loss deductions to 90% of winnings, down from 100% ([H.R.1, Sec. 70114]; 26 U.S.C. § 165(d)). Under current law, a gambler with \$100,000 in winnings offset by \$100,000 in losses owes no tax. The new rule would tax \$10,000 of fictional income. Given the negative perception

of gamblers, this is unlikely to face significant opposition but could affect state gaming tax revenues from casinos and sportsbooks, as professional gamblers operate on tight margins. Be warned, if this idea holds there may be potential to target small businesses with similar limitations on deducting operating expenses, the concept is not unheard of, but as of yet has not gained traction. Consider this a potential "trial balloon".

In summary, most taxpayers will see no significant change in their tax liabilities under H.R.1, as its primary effect is extending the TCJA. The temporary provisions (tips, overtime, vehicle loans, "TRUMP" accounts, SALT) and the permanent small business deduction offer modest benefits to specific groups but are far from transformative. Earlier discussions of abolishing the income tax were abandoned, replaced by maintaining the TCJA with targeted provisions. The absence of promised deep, transformative spending cuts, initially tied to efforts like DOGE, further undermines the bill's ambition. Preserving the status quo is not a tax cut. If this is the "largest tax cut in history," it occurred in 2017, not 2025. Claiming savings by preventing a theoretical tax increase is akin to claiming you saved money by not buying an item you never intended to purchase. Taxpayers expected bold reform but are left with minimal change, much like Charlie Brown, perpetually misled by Lucy as she pulls the football away. We expect more and should demand more from both this congress and this presidency. Maybe it will come "later" as is always promised, give another run at that football, what could go wrong?

Ethan Benson, Kingman

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## Picture This!



Apparently some genius in the Mohave County Water Department thought it would be a good idea to spend Golden Valley Improvement District ratepayer money on a brand new chain link fence around the water fill stand pipe station on Estrella and Bolsa, ostensibly to keep out the open range cattle that come there for a cool drink on a hot summer day.

However, as the self-serve facility is available around the clock it has to be open to allow private and commercial vehicles access to the water, so the County painted stripes on the ground at the entrance and exit in an attempt to fool the thirsty cows into thinking it was a cattle guard.

Needless to say, cows are smarter than some County employees as the only thing accomplished at ratepayer expense is that the cows are now crowded in closer to the vehicles trying to get water with less room to move off.

Previously, locals successfully attempted to mitigate the issue by putting an inexpensive kiddie pool full of water several feet away, but County workers kept removing it.

In 2022, the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance making it a class 2 misdemeanor to feed or water open range cattle just because one person complained to former District 4 Supervisor Wilma Jean Bishop that a neighbor was putting out water for the cows and they were causing a problem.



## Charity Spotlight

### With Munchkin the America First Pig

Munchkin said the weather has been a little too hot for a road trip, but she wants to tell you about the Mohave County Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in August 1961.

The Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing the heritage of Northwestern Arizona through its operation of the Mohave Museum of History and Arts and related sites in Kingman.

The Mohave County Historical Society aims to “increase and diffuse the knowledge and appreciation of the history of Mohave County, Arizona, and its early settlers; to maintain a museum in the City of Kingman; to collect and preserve objects of historical and scientific interest; to protect historical and prehistoric sites, works of art, and scenic places from needless destruction; and to provide facilities for research and publication.”

Established by the Daughters of the Pioneers and initially operated as the Mohave Pioneers Historical Society, it began as an archive room in the Kingman Chamber of Commerce. In 1967, a dedicated museum building was constructed, opening in 1968, with artist Roy Purcell as its first director, shaping displays like the Hualapai Indian Room and Mohave History Room, many of which remain today.

The Society operates the Museum at 400 W. Beale Street, which introduces visitors to Northwestern Arizona’s history through dioramas, murals, and artifacts spanning prehistoric times to the present. Exhibits include a Hualapai Native American Room with a full-size wickiup, pottery, and baskets; a mining exhibit added in 2008; a ranching exhibit from 2010; and a special display on local celebrity Andy Devine, a 1930s movie star. Outdoor exhibits feature ranching and mining machinery, a 1923 railroad caboose, and a mine replica. The museum also houses a pipe organ used for concerts and an art gallery with paintings, photographs, sculptures, and carved turquoise from the local area. The museum’s low entry fees (only \$3–\$4, including access to other sites like the Bonelli House) and volunteer-driven operations underscore its nonprofit model.

The Society also maintains a Research Library with thousands of documents, manuscripts, maps, and photos related to Mohave County, Route 66, and Arizona history, accessible by appointment only. The library supports research, housing records like those of the Kingman Daily Miner (1880–2014), available through FamilySearch.

As a private, not-for-profit organization, the Society relies on admissions, memberships, and donations. Membership benefits include free admission to all museums, a 10% gift shop discount, a monthly newsletter, and invitations to special events like the Annual Model Train Show. Annual memberships start at \$30 and are tax deductible.

The Society’s Historic Walking Tour map of downtown features thirty local attractions of historic significance.

Certified by the Arizona Historical Society, the Mohave County Historical Society is a key resource for preserving Northwestern Arizona’s heritage, from Native American history to Route 66 and mining legacies. Visitor reviews praise the museum’s well-crafted exhibits and educational value. The Society’s work enhances Kingman’s appeal as a Route 66 destination, complementing other nearby attractions.

The Mohave County Historical Society plays a vital role in preserving and presenting Northwestern Arizona’s history through the Mohave Museum, its Research Library, its educational outreach, and cultural initiatives.

For more information, check out the website at: <https://mohavemuseum.org/>

And don’t forget to “Like” and “Follow” Munchkin the America First Pig on her Facebook page to see where she has been and where Munchkin will visit next, or read back issues of this column online at: [MohaveFreePress.com](https://mohavefreepress.com)





# Stay Another Day!

## Things to see and do around the greater Kingman area

### Hualapai Mountain Park



Hualapai Mountain Park, located just 15 miles southeast of Kingman, is an ideal destination to visit this time of year for its unique blend of natural beauty, outdoor activities, and refreshing escape from scorching summer temperatures. With elevations ranging from 4,984 to 8,417 feet, the park offers a welcome reprieve, typically 10–15°F cooler than the surrounding desert, making it perfect for comfortable hiking, camping, or picnicking. Pine forests and granite boulders create a refreshing alpine environment, contrasting with the arid desert below.

The park, the oldest in Mohave County, was developed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, giving it a unique historical charm with stone cabins and trails that remain largely unchanged. Its name, meaning “People of the Tall Pines,” honors the Hualapai Tribe, who were forcibly removed in the 1870s. Interpretive signs along trails detail this history. Check out historical sites, like the abandoned storm shelter near Aspen Peak.

The park boasts over 10 miles of trails, suitable for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, with spectacular views of the desert and distant mountain ranges like the Cerbat and Mohave Mountains. Trails like the Aspen Peak Trail via Potato Patch Loop (6.1 miles, 1,689 ft elevation gain) and Hualapai Peak Trail (7.9 miles, 2,260 ft) are highly rated. These trails, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, traverse diverse habitats from chaparral to mixed conifer forests, offering opportunities to spot wildlife and the usually clear skies enhance visibility, making it an excellent time for summit views from Hualapai Peak, the highest point in Mohave County at 8,417 feet. Additionally, the park’s 18-hole disc golf course provides a fun, all-ages activity.

This is a prime time for wildlife watching, as animals are active in the park’s cooler, forested areas. You might even see some up close through the large windows while dining at the Hualapai Mountain Lodge. The park’s biodiversity, including hawks, owls, golden eagles, elk, mule deer, and occasional mountain lions, makes it a haven for nature enthusiasts. Early morning or late afternoon visits increase your chances of spotting critters, especially along trails like the Potato Patch Loop, but use caution as elk attacks have been known to occur.

The park offers diverse accommodations, making it ideal for a summer getaway. With over 70 campsites across three areas, including tent sites, RV spots with full hookups, and rustic cabins, there’s something for everyone. Cabins, equipped with bathrooms, kitchens, and fireplaces, are particularly popular in summer. The RV park, featuring 35 spaces with water, sewer, and electricity, is mostly open year-round, though booking early is advised due to high demand and likely sell-outs. Tent camping in areas like Pine Basin is first-come, first-serve, offering a quiet, dark night sky perfect for stargazing. Fees are reasonable: \$10 for day use, \$20–\$30 for camping, and cabin rates vary (call 928-681-5700 for details).

Seasonal weather provides warmth for daytime activities with cool nights for camping. The park’s lush forests, vibrant wildlife, and amazing views make it a great place to escape from the desert. Whether you’re seeking relaxation, or family-friendly fun, Hualapai Mountain Park delivers a memorable adventure.

Online at: <https://parks.mohave.gov/parks/hualapai-mountain-park/>

### Kingman Railroad Museum



The Kingman Railroad Museum, located downtown at 402 E. Andy Devine Ave, in the historic Santa Fe Depot, is a local gem.

Housed in a beautifully restored Spanish Colonial Revival-style depot built in 1907, the museum offers a dive into Kingman’s pivotal role as a railroad hub since the 1880s, when Lewis Kingman surveyed the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad route.

Exhibits include vintage locomotives, train cars, photographs, and memorabilia that showcase the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway’s impact on the American West. The Depot’s Amtrak waiting room offers a living link to rail travel.

A highlight for all ages is the museum’s three operating model train layouts with intricate miniature landscapes replicating Kingman’s historic scenes, in O, HO, and N gauges, they are regularly updated and expertly run and maintained by volunteers including former rail workers. These interactive setups captivate kids and spark nostalgia for older visitors, making it a perfect family activity.

An economical adventure, admission is budget-friendly at \$2 for ages 13 and up, with children 12 and under free. Donations are appreciated to support the volunteer-run museum. The museum’s air-conditioned interior provides a cool retreat from summer heat. Museum hours are currently 10am - 4pm Friday through Sunday. Call 928-753-7995 for more information.

Located on Historic Route 66, the museum is steps from the Arizona Route 66 Museum and Mohave Museum of History and Arts, and the Powerhouse Visitor Center, creating a cultural hub in downtown Kingman. Its proximity to Hualapai Mountain County Park (30 minutes away) allows you to pair a morning of history with an afternoon of hiking in cooler, forested elevations.

The museum is seeking volunteers. Consider joining their volunteer open house on August 20th at 6 PM to learn about volunteering opportunities.

The Kingman Railroad Museum offers a charming, affordable, and educational experience that captures the heart of America’s rail and road heritage, ideal for escaping the summer heat for an hour or two.

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



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# County Board Report

June 16th meeting:

The Board voted to approve a \$130.85M FY 2025-26 budget that includes a proposed 6.96% primary property tax increase, the actual levy to be voted on at the August 5th meeting. In a three-to-two vote, with Supervisor Ron Gould and District 4 Supervisor Don Martin opposing, the Board approved a modified budget to include a change in date for Sheriff's office employee pay raises to begin at the start of the Fiscal Year. Usually raises occur annually on the anniversary of the employees hiring date. This change will cost the county approximately \$337,000. Additionally, the Mohave County Fair rates will be increasing \$1.00 when purchased digitally to cover an online surcharge fee.

County Recorder Lydia Durst brought forward an item to accept a \$600 scholarship from an extremist organization, U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence. This organization is directly tied to The Center for Tech and Civic Life. Both are sponsored by far-left organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Tides Foundation, and they also received donations from Facebook/Meta's Mark Zuckerberg. When questioned by District 5 Supervisor, Ron Gould, Recorder Durst stated that if she was not awarded the scholarship, she would pay for it out of her budget. The Board denied her request but after increased public pressure Recorder Durst changed her mind and will not be partnering with U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence after all.

July 7th meeting:

A contentious girls foster care group home with land in Havasu Heights applied for a special use permit. Supervisor Gould, whose district the project is located in, voted against it stating it wasn't located in the right area and that he had offered to help them find a more suitable location. He believes the project is better served in a commercial zone rather than putting it in this isolated agricultural/residential area. The other supervisors sided with the well organized group of public supporters and voted for the project to be approved in Gould's District. Historically, supervisors usually defer to the supervisor of the district a proposal is situated in.

Golden Valley will be seeing some new duplexes built. The Board voted to approve a project off Oatman Hwy near Shinarump, just west of Walnut Creek Estates, that would allow for a maximum of four units per acre.

The Mohave County Airport Authority (MCAA) continues to delay giving the Board of Supervisors a presentation or a financial audit report. District 2 Supervisor Rich Lettman has continued to put pressure on the MCAA Board without getting any real results. It appears the MCAA is unwilling to be transparent and provide full disclosure of their financial status. They continue to lease county property for essentially nothing, and have not placed it on their meeting agenda to discuss giving the County a seat on their Board, as Supervisors formally requested.

District 3 Supervisor Sonny Borrelli attempted to provide two County cars from the retiring fleet to the Recorder and Treasurer. The two elected officials had asked for a car at earlier meetings but were rebuked. Treasurer SueAnn Mello asserted her need to have a vehicle for travel saying, "I had to drive my own car to the 4th of July event in Colorado City." However, this is not a statutorily mandated event and it appears that most of the elected politicians in this county go to campaign and enjoy the celebration. This most recent attempt to secure a taxpayer funded vehicle did not prevail, with the Board voting to table the item.

# Golden Valley Matters

The Planning and Zoning Board approved the Draft General Plan as recently amended by staff at the direction of the Subcommittee, to include a large proposed Angle Homes subdivision in the northeast corner of the Golden Valley Improvement District that the Supervisors had previously rejected a rezone request for.

But, not so fast, there appear to be multiple violations of Arizona's Open Meeting Law relating to the Mohave County Planning and Zoning General Plan Subcommittee meeting held on January 15th, 2025, as well as the 2024 Subcommittee meetings. An Open Meeting Law complaint has been filed, which could potentially nullify all Subcommittee actions and force them to start the process over.

A copy of the January 15th Subcommittee agenda had to be requested by after the fact, because it was nowhere to be found on the County website.

The upper right-hand corner of meeting agendas have a section to list the date and time the agenda was posted as well as by whom, but none of the Subcommittee agendas have this section completed. Some previous Subcommittee meetings are also lacking a posted agenda altogether on the County website.

The website page for the General Plan also shows the wrong dates for the Planning and Zoning and Board of Supervisors meeting, and does not list the Jan 15th Subcommittee meeting under "Subcommittee Meeting Schedule".

By law, the specific items discussed on January 15th should have been listed for discussion and action on the agenda, but the agenda did not list the two specific area land use designation proposals that were in fact discussed during the meeting, although "staff" clearly came prepared with talking points and exhibits for their presentations in support of taking action. The agenda stated specifically "Presentation & Discussion Regarding Community Meeting & General Plan Update to discuss goals and policies." and that "This item is for discussion only. No formal action will be taken." However, substantive changes took place to the draft General Plan before being submitted to the Planning and Zoning Board for a vote at the July 9th meeting, including putting the Angle Homes subdivision back on the Plan with only slight modifications from their previous proposal.

On the Subcommittee meeting YouTube video, a staff member says "We wanted to present this to the subcommittee for any thoughts or conversations on it, if you guys wanted to direct staff to make any changes there. So we'll open that up to for conversation." Members present gave input. Then Development Services Director Scott Holtry says "so, receiving that direction from all three commissioners that are here today I think staff will uh make those changes um in the in the plan and then when the Planning and Zoning Commish, when we bring the entirety of the plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission uh for approval that this portion would be changed from what we were previously showing in the other meeting."

At the July 9th P&Z meeting, the Board was informed that the Subcommittee had violated OML. Cullen Patillo requested an opinion about whether he and other Subcommittee members broke the law. Staff responded with an acknowledgment that there was no "formal vote taken" at any Subcommittee meetings but gave an assurance that "to my knowledge there was no violation of any open meeting laws". Mrs. Keck presented evidence that OML had been violated, and Board Member Rex Ruge requested staff address that evidence and "staff" gave a rambling non-answer about staff recommendations.

This is an ongoing story, and we will keep you updated.

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## Rumor Mill

RUMOR: Did Supervisor Lingenfelter rape some woman in a county vehicle?

TRUTH: According to an April 24th, 2025, email that has recently surfaced, District 1 County Supervisor and former Kingman Vice Mayor Travis Lingenfelter has been accused of "violently" raping a 48 year old St. George, UT, woman. The email, obtained from a public records request, after a Kingman area news reporter mentioned its existence on a June 23rd radio broadcast, was apparently originally submitted via the Mohave County website online contact form with the subject header "New Response Completed for Contact - BOS Lettman" (referencing Dist 2 County Supervisor Rich Lettman) but was forwarded to alleged rapist Lingenfelter with the cryptic message "FYI" by Dist 3 County Supervisor and former AZ legislator Sonny Borrelli. Lingenfelter and Borrelli had previously served together as members of the Mohave County West Basin Water Users Study Committee. Lingenfelter was appointed to the Governor's Water Policy Council 2 years ago.

The email contains a brief one sentence statement from the alleged victim Kari Gillespie; "Travis Lingenfelter raped me, violently, in a Mohave county vehicle at Cedar Pocket.", a location in Lingenfelter's District on the Utah border.

June 23rd, Lingenfelter posted a vague and rambling statement to the Facebook account he uses to communicate to constituents wherein he referred to an un-stated allegation against him as a "*malicious falsehood*" and "*total BS*". He asserted that a reporter had stated an implausible date related to when the incident had allegedly occurred relative to when he had turned in his County vehicle and requested a replacement. Lingenfelter also stated he had retained legal counsel. The post was subsequently deleted but not before we captured screen shots.

The same day, District 4 Mohave County Supervisor Don Martin posted on his Facebook account that "*I WAS NOT THE SUPLEVISOR WHO. WAS CALLED WITH THE COMPLAINT...*" and "*If you want to know who the supervisor was who was called with information on the allegation, suggest you ask Supervisor Lingenfelter!*" This instigated several constituents commenting as to what he was referring to, but Martin did not answer. Instead he also deleted his social media post.

Lingenfelter, who runs a Vitamin C supplement company from his home address, is no stranger to controversy. Most notably involving his ties to a highway interchange project in Kingman associated with Las Vegas based Sunbelt Development. Sunbelt's principal, Bill Lenhart, was convicted for an illegal campaign contribution to former Kingman Mayor Richard Anderson's 2016 campaign, after a 2018 Kingman election probe. While Lingenfelter himself was not implicated, his role in securing \$20 million in state funding for the project raised concerns, given that Lingenfelter had voted in favor of the City going forward with various parts of the project multiple times as a Kingman City Councilman and Vice Mayor.

Critics claimed he used his elected position to enhance his personal finances. Lingenfelter was named as a project manager for the I-40 Rancho Santa Fe Interchange and Parkway project about six months after being elected Supervisor.

Lingenfelter is listed as the Principal for Intermountain West Solutions, LLC, an economic development consulting firm. Established in December of 2020, the address of record listed for the LLC is also his home. The company's now defunct website featured projects, including the Rancho Santa Fe interchange.

Another controversy arose in 2021 during Mohave County Board of Supervisors meetings. After being called a "little boy" and "stupidvisor hubris" by local residents, Lingenfelter proposed new rules for public comments to include permanently banning members of the public who said things that the supervisors found offensive or lacking in decorum. Lingenfelter was subsequently informed by the Board's attorney that the Board was not required by law to have an open "Call to the Public" but if they did then the public then had a free speech right to criticize staff or elected officials and call them names.

In May of 2023, the Kingman Miner accused Lingenfelter of plagiarism following the publication of a letter to the editor on January 14, 2023. The letter was later removed from their website archives after it was revealed that approximately 300 words of its content was plagiarized from a blog by Michael Josephson.

Additionally, in 2023, Lingenfelter received harsh public criticism for his tie breaking vote against hand counting election ballots in Mohave County.

## Kingman Korner

### A Penny For Your Thoughts By Elliot Chalew

A penny for your thoughts" is an idiom used to ask someone indirectly what they are thinking. It is believed the concept originated in 1552, by the famous English Author Sir Thomas Moore.

Incidentally, the US Treasury will stop minting new pennies in early 2026. This decision comes after the Treasury placed its final order for penny blanks. While production will cease, pennies currently in circulation will remain legal tender.

The obvious rhetorical and literal question is how much WILL a "thought" cost now that the penny is being phased out? I'd say the answer depends on where you live. Wherever you live in the U.S. prices will be rounded out to 5-cent increments, but in Kingman, the cost of a "thought" is going up exponentially due to irresponsible, uncontrolled urban growth and density being allowed on Kingman's antiquated and highly questionable infrastructure. You might ask why and how this is being allowed. The answer to the "Million Dollar" question is that our city leaders are operating recklessly under an "Economic Development" illusion and the authority of an illegitimate and possibly illegal General Plan.

It has become readily apparent that the city of Kingman has many problems that need to be addressed. The city's freshwater distribution system has over 2000 leaks, and the Hilltop Wastewater Treatment Plant is estimated to be dumping 22 million gallons of reclaimed effluent water on the desert floor. When asked, no city official admits that the multimillion-dollar well system drilled to transfer that treated water back into the aquifer is not operational. No one knows for sure how much water Kingman has, but we know the uncontrolled growth is an obvious threat to our water supply.

For every new home built the cost to your budget goes up. You will see it in rising taxes, electric rates, trash, sewer, water, and in other ways not so obvious.

I will give you a "penny for your thoughts" about the road conditions. How about the traffic and congestion, a penny for your thoughts, please? As the average person in Kingman, what do you think about the way the city pretends to be interested in your concerns, but has no sense (CENTS) in putting YOUR money where THEIR mouth is? Instead, they put out expensive and manipulative surveys to pretend they care.

They remain silent except in the controlled arena of the council room and newsprint, so silent you can hear a penny drop.

What do you think about the city having a Golf Commission and approving an expenditure of almost 700 thousand dollars to improve the Golf Course, YET not one penny invested in bringing new doctors and medical services providers to Kingman? No Medical Care Commission? A penny for your thoughts on that also.

What do you think about the fact that the Kingman leaders can hear the voice of "tourism" a thousand times louder than they hear your concerns as tax-paying citizens and residents? Once again, a penny for your thoughts?

As an active citizen of Kingman, I think I know how you feel, and I am more prepared now than ever to up the ante and add my "Two Cents"

Kingman has an election coming up in 2026, and it is time to make some "name changes," and I do not mean to our historic street names and street signs. It is time to change the names of the City Council members. I believe it has become abundantly clear that the City Council intends to only give you a "penny for your thoughts," while at the same time, they have, with shifty, irresponsible manipulation, raised the cost of your thoughts to many of your budget dollars. It is agreed, Kingman is Open Range Cattle Country; however, we, the humble people, are not "cash cows", but we do have a beef.

As a result, I am announcing my candidacy for one of the open council seats in 2026. I may be asking a penny for your thoughts because when it comes to your money, I am a "penny pincher." Please check out my community group, CAUSE (Citizens Against Uncontrolled Social Environment). CAUSE is all about Responsible Balanced Growth. The group is growing, as is the ire of Kingman's people over the direction our City Council is taking us. The people of Kingman are not looking for pennies from heaven but simply want to trust and turn an honest penny.

Being penny-wise is much safer than our "pound-foolish" penny dreadful city leaders. Let's make sure all our pennies are face up and penny-wise because the people of Kingman are worth every penny.

chalew@gmail.com



# Breaking Free From the Trance

by Don Spencer, CCHt

**Rethinking the 4th of July Freedoms**

The 4th of July, a day celebrated with fireworks, barbecues, and patriotic displays, marks the United States' independence from British rule. While it is a time for celebration, it also presents an opportunity to reflect on the deeper meanings of freedom and the cultural narratives that surround this holiday. It is essential to break the cultural trance that often oversimplifies the concept of freedom and overlooks the complexities of our history.

**The Myth of Absolute Freedom**

The narrative surrounding the 4th of July often emphasizes the idea of absolute freedom, suggesting that the Declaration of Independence guarantees liberty for all. However, this perspective can be misleading. The freedoms celebrated on this day were not universally granted; not yet anyhow. The reality is that many groups, including women, enslaved individuals, and Native Americans, were systematically denied these freedoms. By perpetuating the myth of absolute freedom, we risk ignoring the struggles and sacrifices of those who fought for their rights. The fight for freedom and equality is ongoing and the ideals enshrined in the Declaration of Independence have yet to be fully realized for all Americans.

**Acknowledging Historical Injustices**

Breaking the cultural trance requires a willingness to confront uncomfortable truths about our nation's past. The 4th of July should not only be a celebration of independence but also a time for reflection on the injustices that have persisted throughout American history. From the genocide of Native Americans to the enslavement of African people, the United States has a complex legacy that cannot be ignored. The future is yet to be determined, however big tech and others are poised to challenge personal liberties so the struggle continues.

**Redefining Freedom**

To break the cultural trance, we must redefine what freedom means in the context of contemporary America. Freedom should not be viewed solely as the absence of oppression but as the presence of opportunities for all individuals to thrive. This includes access to education, healthcare, and economic resources, as well as the ability to participate fully in the democratic process. By expanding our understanding of freedom, we can move beyond the simplistic notion of independence and embrace a more holistic view that encompasses social justice and equity. This redefinition challenges us to consider how our actions and policies can contribute to a society where everyone has the opportunity to experience true freedom.

**Celebrating Diverse Narratives**

As we celebrate the 4th of July, it is essential to include diverse narratives that reflect the experiences of all Americans. This can be achieved through community events, educational programs, and discussions that highlight the contributions of various cultural groups to the fabric of American society. By amplifying these voices, we can create a more inclusive celebration that honors the complexity of our nation's history. Moreover, engaging in conversations about freedom and justice can help foster a sense of unity among diverse communities while also recognizing that American freedom is enshrined in the United States Constitution and the rule of law.

**Conclusion**

Breaking the cultural trance surrounding the 4th of July freedoms requires a commitment to acknowledging our history, and celebrating diverse legal narratives. As we gather to commemorate our nation's independence, let us also reflect on the ongoing struggles we each endure and how to create a society that works for all.

By doing so, we can honor the true spirit of freedom and work towards a future where all Americans can experience the liberties that the 4th of July represents.

Next month I'll dive further into the human psyche and enter the forbidden zone of who or what is controlling planet Earth.

Keep on trancin!  
Don Spencer  
www.SleepNow.com

# Mark's Musings

by Mark Fargo

**"When Right Became Wrong and Wrong Became Trending"**

There was a time not long ago when a man's handshake meant something. When you didn't need to record a conversation or lawyer up before doing business. When people looked you in the eye, told you the truth — even if it stung — and expected the same in return.

Today, we applaud emotional fragility, demonize discipline, and reward dysfunction with digital likes and plastic trophies. We've inverted reality. The center didn't hold — it got laughed out of the room for being boring.

Once, the moral compass was shared. Not identical, but close enough that people generally agreed on basic principles: work hard, tell the truth, raise your kids right, and don't be a jerk. Now? We can't even define words like "woman" without holding a congressional hearing.

We used to have guardrails — societal ones. They were invisible, but you knew when you bumped into one. That internal voice that said, "Don't do that. You know better." But we dismantled those rails in the name of "authenticity." Now every feeling is sacred, every whim validated, and every poor decision labeled "brave" if you just own it loudly enough.

In this new upside-down world, traditional values aren't just outdated — they're offensive. Suggest that personal responsibility might be better than victimhood, and you're suddenly the problem. Mention the importance of fathers, and you're labeled oppressive. Refuse to celebrate chaos, and you're "phobic" of something.

We've bred a culture where the freak fringe is now front and center — not just tolerated, but elevated, promoted, and protected from criticism by policy and algorithm. Used to be, if you were a little off, society gently nudged you back toward normal. Now we hand you a microphone and a platform and tell kids you're a role model.

And let's be honest — this isn't a left-vs-right thing anymore. This is rot. Cultural septicemia. The body is still upright, but the blood is poisoned. And no, we're not getting back to stasis by electing someone louder or angrier. That's just more noise in a world already drowning in it.

The fix? It starts with individuals. Quiet ones. People who still believe in honor, decency, delayed gratification, and saying no — even when it's hard. People who build instead of destroy, who work instead of whine, and who raise their kids with more than just iPads and moral ambiguity.

I'm not preaching from a pulpit here. I've made mistakes. Plenty. But I owned them. That's the difference. We used to teach our kids that being wrong wasn't the end of the world — it was the start of becoming better. Now we teach them to deflect, defame, and redefine the rules until nothing has meaning.

If you're reading this and nodding, congratulations — you're one of the holdouts. Maybe the last generation that remembers when decency didn't need hashtags.

When ethics weren't political. When men could be strong without apology, and women could be graceful without being accused of betrayal.

We haven't just lost the map. We've lost the will to admit we're lost.

And maybe — just maybe — it's time we stop trying to save the whole world and start with one home, one kid, one truth at a time.

Because if we don't? Well... I hope you're good at fighting over the last loaf of bread. I'll be out in the woods, gold pan in one hand, dignity in the other.

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## The Patriot's Corner

### Deporting Illegals: Promise Made & Broken by Policy Change? By Clair Van Steenwyk



I want to make one thing perfectly clear, in 2016, 2020 & 2024 we campaigned for Pres. Trump, attending dozens of meetings handing out yard signs, posting on my FB pages, blogs etc., and put out over 2,500+ signs in AZ. I also spoke at meetings and put large decal on our rear window, and agreed with his messages on the border, economy, military, trade, education, etc., and his deportation policy as stated in the primary election cycle.

I now see that policy has been modified to exclude farm workers, and the service industry such as hotels, motels, restaurants etc., as that industry is complaining they can't find people to work meaning American born citizens.

To be a citizen you must have parents or at least 1 parent who is a citizen at their time of birth, as stated in the U.S. Constitution, and in fact it clearly states you must be a *Natural Born Citizen* to run for president, and in the day it was written that was meant to mean husband & wife, and if only 1 parent was a citizen you'd be a citizen but not a *Natural Born Citizen*, meaning you couldn't run for president. However that Understanding was Violated with the 2008 Election Cycle in which Obama ran & won, But 3 GOP Candidates who also weren't *Natural Born Citizens* ran in 2016 - Cruz, Rubio, and Jindahl, and the only one of the three that had one parent who was a citizen when born was Cruz and the other two neither parent were citizens, but at least were in the country legally, and unfortunately neither party made a peep about it, While in 2008 said Obama wasn't even a citizen, which wasn't true due to his mom being a citizen.

Let's examine this new policy change which by the way isn't a law as it's still illegal to enter the USA without a visa and therefore a crime. However I believe Pres. Trump is being pressured by special interest groups within the GOP & Chamber of Commerce, hotel chains such as Hilton, Sheraton, Marriott, casinos, chain restaurants and fast food, plus I'm certain corporate farms such as Del Monte, Heinz, etc. I'm sure you get the Picture. And Pres. Trump said the farm workers have been working for farmers for 10 yrs.+ and I'm fairly certain this is also blarney. The message given to all others is if you're in the country illegally self deport and we'll fly you home and give you \$1,000.00 and then come in the legal way. I guess these other groups are above the U.S. law if you are well connected.

I want to see PROOF of residence and employment that they've been here that long, and also that they & their employers have been paying the taxes the rest of us pay out of pay checks and the Employers pay to Social Security, Workmen's Compensation etc., and if they haven't then they're also in violation of the federal, state laws, and the IRS, and states they reside in and need to be investigated and charged for tax evasion, and this must be done. And I'm certain this is also going to include other special groups such as meat packers, food manufactures etc., and so on.

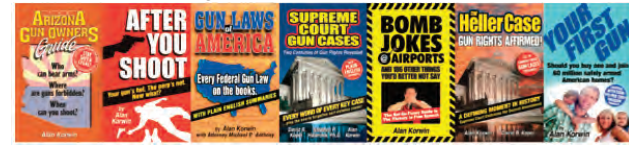
For me to say no American wants any of those jobs isn't and can't be proven true, as a result of new numbers stated on reports that US citizens working has increased by about 1 million and immigrants decreased by about ½ million this year. Maybe it was just what the employer was willing to pay and not the job, and maybe these so called special exemptions need to put Americans 1st like all the commercials and rallies. And remember Biden didn't enforce our immigration laws, so let's not repeat history.

This announcement was also made at the press conference Cabinet Meeting by Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rawlins & Secretary of Labor L. Chavez Dere-mer, and no one spoke out against it in the press or cabinet members.

God Bless You All;  
Clair Van Steenwyk

## Shall Not Be Infringed

By Alan Korwin



### Isn't it Better to Kill the Murderer?

The lamestream media told you: All these crazed permit holders carrying dangerous loaded semi-automatic handguns that spray bullets are nothing but bloody danger waiting to happen on our streets. The whole idea is just a gun-lobby scheme to sell more guns and make the gun manufacturers richer at the cost of our children's lives. If it was legal we would have the whole batch of them lined up against a wall and shot, which would be a good thing, they are just devil's pawns, if the devil was real.

The Uninvited Ombudsman notes however that: As gun owners know, CCW-permit holders are in the smallest demographic group for the commission of crime of virtually any ambulatory group of Americans. Self-educated and supremely conscious of the dire ramifications of using firearms in any situation, they are extremely reluctant to draw a firearm and use it unless it is absolutely necessary and justifiable. So-called news-media experts didn't get the memo.

Firearm trade magazines carry regular columns detailing the common and righteous use of firearms in self defense, and though these typically include stories where the gun-owner was completely in the right and may even end up vindicated at the scene, we all know this is frequently not the case. Long, protracted court cases, expensive lawyering and unknown results hang over any use of firearms in a public setting.

Yes, it's better to be alive, but: "It's always better to avoid a gunfight than to win one." Now there's a bit of wisdom you will never see in mass media, even the fair-and-balanced station, for reasons that were unclear at press time.

It's common for gun owners, after experiencing self defense, to obsess about why they were caught in the grinder in the first place. Coulda should woulda may interfere with sleep, work and play. Avoidance is the ultimate self defense and "PreFence" addresses that in scores of ways most people have never considered.

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**Kingman Area Food Bank** 2930 E. Butler Ave 928-757- 4165  
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**St. John's United Methodist Church - Nana's Pantry** 1730 Kino Ave  
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**Kingdom of God Church - King's Cupboard** 4435 N. Shadow Rd, Kingman  
11:30 - 1 pm Fridays contact Eric Ross (360) 201-0794

**Cornerstone Mission** 3049 Sycamore St 028-757-1535 ext 1001  
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**Kingman Adventist Community Services** 3180 White Cliffs Rd  
928-757-2614  
Tuesday 8 - 11 am and the second and fourth Sunday 9 am - 11 am

**Central Christian Church** 519 Beale St 928-377-0709  
The fourth Wednesday of each month 10 am - noon

**Salvation Army Kingman** 543 A E. Andy Devine Av 928-718-2600  
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**Kingman First Southern Baptist** 3120 Hualapai Mountain Rd 928-753-3238  
Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 am - noon

**Golden Valley Community Center** 3341 Adobe Rd  
Every Friday after the first Wednesday of the month from 9:30 am - 1 pm, then alternating Fridays from 1pm - 4pm, calender for each month available

**Chloride Town Hall** 4990 Pay Roll Ave  
First Thursday of each month from 9 -10:30 am

**Dolan Springs** Community Council, 15195 N. Pierce Ferry Rd  
The third Thursday of each month at 10 am  
St. Vincent De Paul 15385 Pierce Ferry Rd starting at 8am

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## Off The Grid

### How to survive in a modern world

Making homemade all-natural sunscreen from local wild creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) involves infusing its leaves into a carrier oil to extract beneficial compounds, then combining with other natural ingredients for extra sun protection.

Creosote bush has been noted for its antioxidant and UV-protective properties, with some sources suggesting a natural SPF of around 7 when used in oil infusions. Homemade sunscreens may not provide the same level of protection as commercial products, and their SPF is difficult to verify without lab testing. Always test for skin sensitivity and consult a professional before use. You will need:

Dried creosote bush leaves: 1 cup ensure they are clean and free of contaminants). Drying reduces moisture to prevent spoilage in the final product.

8 oz organic olive oil, or coconut oil. Olive oil is commonly used for creosote infusions due to its stability and skin benefits. Coconut oil adds a natural SPF of about 4-5.

Beeswax: 2 oz (for texture and to create a protective barrier on the skin). Adjust for desired consistency (less for softer sunscreen, more for a firmer balm).

Non-nanoparticle zinc oxide: 1-2 tbsp (for added SPF; non-nano ensures it sits on the skin rather than being absorbed). Use cosmetic-grade, lead-free zinc oxide and wear a mask to avoid inhaling particles.

Optional high-SPF oils: 1-2 tsp carrot seed oil (natural SPF ~30-40) or red raspberry seed oil (natural SPF ~25-50) for enhanced sun protection.

Optional: Vitamin E oil (1 tsp) for additional antioxidant properties and skin nourishment.

Glass jar with lid (e.g., mason jar)

Double boiler or a heat-safe bowl over a pot of water

Fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth

Small tins or glass jars for storage

Wooden or metal spoon

Harvest and dry creosote leaves gathered from a clean, pesticide-free area. Avoid plants near roads or polluted sites.

Dry the leaves to remove moisture: Spread them on a baking tray or drying screen in a warm, well-ventilated area away from direct sunlight, turning every 12 hours for 2-3 days. Alternatively, tie stems in bundles and hang upside down for up to 2 weeks. Fresh leaves can be used but should sit out for 1-2 days to reduce moisture.

Place 1 cup of dried creosote leaves in a glass jar. Pour 8 oz of carrier oil (e.g., olive or coconut oil) over the leaves, ensuring they are fully submerged. Choose an infusion method:

Slow Infusion: Seal the jar, cover with a brown paper bag, and place in a sunny spot for 8-12 weeks, shaking occasionally. This method preserves volatile compounds but takes longer. Alternately, Place the jar in a crock pot or a pot with water (2 inches below jar top) and heat on low (or warm setting) for 2-8 hours, or use a double boiler on low for 2-3 hours. Monitor to avoid overheating, which can degrade the oil.

Strain the oil through a fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth into a clean container, discarding the leaves.

In a double boiler, combine the infused creosote oil with 2 oz of beeswax. Heat gently until the beeswax melts completely, stirring to combine. Remove from heat and let cool slightly (2-3 minutes).

Add 1-2 tbsp non-nano zinc oxide, stirring thoroughly to avoid clumps. Wear a mask to avoid inhaling zinc particles. Optionally, add 1-2 tsp carrot seed oil, red raspberry seed oil, or 1 tsp vitamin E oil for extra SPF and skin benefits. Stir until fully incorporated. For a smoother, lotion-like consistency, whip the mixture with a stick blender or hand mixer (optional).

Pour the warm mixture into clean tins or glass jars. Let cool completely (several hours) before sealing with lids to prevent condensation. Store in a cool, dry place. The sunscreen should last up to 2 years if no water or contaminants are introduced.

Apply a generous amount to exposed skin, rubbing in thoroughly. A small amount goes a long way. Reapply every 2 hours or after sweating/swimming.

## It's all fun and games in the end...

### Unscramble the tiles to reveal this James Madison quote

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### Try to fill in the missing numbers.

	+		+		18
+		/		x	
	+		-		-1
x		-		+	
	x		+		11
22		2		62	

Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.  
Each number is only used once.  
Each row is a math equation.  
Each column is a math equation.  
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

				27
				20
		8	3	13
9			4	23
7		7	4	24
26	11	24	19	18

The missing numbers are whole numbers between 0 and 9.  
The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom.  
The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.

## Home Cookin'

### NO BAKE LEMON CHEESECAKE

1 8oz package of cream cheese  
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1/3 cup lemon juice  
1tsp. vanilla  
pre made graham cracker pie crust

Chill the pie crust in the freezer. Using a large bowl, beat cream cheese at room temperature with a hand mixer on medium until fluffy. Add sweetened condensed milk. Stir in lemon juice, vanilla and sour cream. Blend ingrediants well. Evenly spoon the mixture into the pie crust and chill in the refridgerator for about two hours. Top with fresh fruit such as strawberries or blueberries, or zest a lemon peel with a hand grater to use as a garnish.



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