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Wednesday, October 5, 2022

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FHUSD Board hopefuls announce opposition to bond, override

By George Zelff
Times Reporter

Last Tuesday, Sept. 27, two of the five candidates for Fountain Hills Unified School District said at a forum that they do not support the District Additional Assistance Override and Bond proposal that would give over \$25 million in funds to FHUSD. The Fountain Hills Education Association hosted the forum and took a vote on candidates to publicly recommend on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Based on Libby Settle and Madilyn Reid's opposition to the two proposals, the FHEA recommends Jennifer Amstutz-Guerrette, Lillian Acker and Tara Lamar for FHUSD Governing Board. The five attending candidates mostly agreed with each other on the other questions of retention, enrollment, social emotional learning, consolidation, and a working relationship with the FHEA. The FHEA was looking for differentiating factors in the candidates to make a public

recommendation after the forum, and the question "will you be supporting the Bond and Override, yes or no, and why or why not," ended up being the definitive issue. Reid and Settle each said they would not be voting yes on both the Bond and Override election. Reid said she would like to take a closer look at the budget to see if there is any duplicate spending, and Settle claimed she was concerned with the idea that the Board would likely ask for another continuation of the Bond and Override in the future. Acker, Amstutz-Guerrette and Lamar all pledged their support for the Bond and Override elections. Lamar and Amstutz-Guerrette have been on Override committees for FHUSD in the past, and all three agree that the funding from the Bond and Override would only go towards helping all students and staff in FHUSD.

"I was shocked to hear two no's," FHEA president T.J. Buckley said. "Really the way it goes down, is the Board and the superintendents recommended it, so for me, to hear a no, it also made me think for future years, 'are you guys not going to go for stuff if we need?' Because it's going to be hard to make the improvements in the district without the money." According to a report published by the Arizona Education Association on April 4, 2022, when comparing Arizona education funding to the size of Arizona's overall economy, Arizona ranks 49th in the nation for public school funding. Arizona also ranks worst among all states for teacher pay in 2022, earning 5.5% less than the national average per business.org. Fountain Hills teachers can't change the budget handed down to them by

(cont. on page 10A)

Voting information update

It is just over six weeks out from the November General Election and the mid-term for federal offices. Election Day falls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, but it is just three weeks before early ballots will be mailed to voters on the Permanent Early Voters List. Those ballots go in the mail on Wednesday, Oct. 12. The last day to register to vote in the November election is Tuesday, Oct. 11. Voter registration information may be found at the Secretary of State's website, azsos.gov/elections or the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, elections.maricopa.gov. Polling locations will also open for early voting beginning Wednesday, Oct. 12. The vote center for Fountain Hills will be the Community Center as it was for the August primary. The site will open as of Friday, Oct. 28. It will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 5 (except for Sunday, Oct. 30). It will be open on Monday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Election Day, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A ballot drop box will be placed at Town Hall in the second-floor lobby area. The drop box will be in

place beginning Wednesday, Aug. 12 and will be accessible during Town Hall business hours, Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday, Nov. 3. For Fountain Hills the School District will be the focus for the election with board members on the ballot as well as a bond proposal and budget override question. Those issues will be covered in detail with other stories in *The Times*. The Town Council races in Fountain Hills were decided in the August primary election. Other races local residents will keep a close eye on includes the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives for AZ D1, where local resident and incumbent Congressman David Schweikert is seeking re-election. He is being opposed by Tempe Democrat Jevin Hodge. Fountain Hills resident John Kavanagh is seeking to return to the Arizona State Senate in District 3. Democrat Thomas Dugger is challenging for that seat. The race for the U.S. Senate in Arizona has incumbent Democrat Mark

(cont. on page 2A)

FHUSD incumbent Judith Rutkowski passes away

Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board member Judith Rutkowski passed away unexpectedly last Thursday, Sept. 29, as confirmed by her husband. She was running for her third term on the Board this November. Ballots for the Governing Board election have been printed and Rutkowski's name will still be on the ballot. Early voting begins next Wednesday, Oct. 12.



Judith Rutkowski



Times photo by Bob Burns

Lunar look

Hannah Harmon takes a peek at the surface of the moon through a telescope set up at Centennial Plaza Saturday, Oct. 1, for International Observe the Moon Day. The event included up to a dozen telescopes and showcased displays by ASU Lunar Reconnaissance Orbital Camera team and live interviews with locals that went world-wide through the NASA website.

Planning and Zoning wants public input on detox

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Planning and Zoning Commission will be taking comment from the public on proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance related to drug and alcohol treatment centers and detoxification facilities. The Zoning Ordinance does not currently address regulations to allow such businesses to operate in Fountain Hills. What staff is proposing at this time is preliminary. The public input will be evaluated and adjustments to the ordinance may be made

prior to P&Z hearing on a recommendation to the Town Council. In his staff report Development Services Director John Wesley said with no guidance from the ordinance it would be up to staff to determine the most appropriate location and existing regulations to apply to any request that may come forward. "By acting proactively and taking the time to specifically consider these uses and their potential impacts, the Town can place them in the appropriate zoning district(s) and also place any neces-

sary processes and requirements on them to help ensure their compatibility," Wesley said. The proposed draft ordinance to start public discussion includes the following: *Definitions for detoxification facility, outpatient; detoxification facility, inpatient; substance abuse treatment center; and, substance abuse treatment center, lodging. *Lists substance abuse treatment center as a use by right in C-2 and C-3. *Lists detoxification

(cont. on page 10A)

Community Center passes preliminary micro testing

A forensic hygienist has issued a preliminary report that determined there is no elevated concentration of microbial contamination related to the air quality of the Fountain Hills Community Center. At the Sept. 20 Town Council meeting, a report was presented by Gene Buick with the firm of Allana Buick and Bers regarding its evaluation, findings, and recommendations relating to water intrusion at the Community Center. The Town hired the firm to evaluate the Community Center building

after discovering water infiltration into the building and related damage during renovations to the facility last year. During the meeting, members of the Town Council voiced concerns about possible mold and mildew and impact on the air quality of the building during the discussion and potential health effects for employees and users of the facility. The Town commissioned a forensic hygienist firm, Arizona Indoor Air Quality & Environmental Testing, LLC (AZIAQ), to perform an initial analysis of the

air quality for potential airborne microbial contamination within the center. Tracy Herbert, a senior hygienist with AZIAQ Testing, performed a visual inspection and obtained 25 indoor air quality samples and one outside baseline comparison sample on Friday, Sept. 23. Herbert's findings based on follow-up lab testing of the samples indicate the air is safe. "Laboratory analysis of the microbial samples obtained at the time of the

(cont. on page 10A)



Seasonal irrigation

Irrigation systems in Fountain Park and along Avenue of the Fountains will be going full force over the next few weeks as the annual overseed project is underway. Park visitors are urged to use caution due to possible slippery walkways and avoid being splashed. The irrigation water is reclaimed wastewater. See story on page 10A.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

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Board candidates discuss leadership.
See Page 8A
- Phantom:**
Ron Will discusses his life's work.
See Page 1B
- Sports:**
Falcon football wins big in road game.
See Page 2B

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Sept. 27	97	78	--
Wed., Sept. 28	98	73	--
Thurs., Sept. 29	96	69	--
Fri., Sept. 30	95	69	--
Sat., Oct. 1	94	71	--
Sun., Oct. 2	97	74	--
Mon., Oct. 3	96	68	--

Monday wind gusts hit 55 mph



Law enforcement report

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 7 substation in Fountain Hills reported deputies responded to the following calls during the week from Thursday, Sept. 22, through Wednesday, Sept. 28.

◆ On Thursday, Sept. 22, deputies responded to El Pueblo Boulevard and Calico Drive. A vehicle was involved in a collision with a bicyclist. It was reported the bicyclist was bleeding from the head but fled the scene prior to law enforcement arrival. The bicyclist allegedly apologized for

causing the collision.

◆ On Thursday, Sept. 22, deputies made a traffic stop at Shea Boulevard and Arista Lane. A driver was criminally cited for driving 45 miles-per-hour over the posted speed limit.

◆ On Thursday, Sept. 22, deputies made a traffic stop on Shea Boulevard and Arista Lane. A driver's vehicle was impounded for 20-days after it was discovered they were driving without ever being issued a driver's license.

◆ On Thursday, Sept. 22, deputies made a traffic

stop on Shea Boulevard at Arista Lane. A driver was criminally cited for driving 34 miles-per-hour over the posted speed limit.

◆ On Thursday, Sept. 22, deputies responded to the 13000 block of Sunridge Drive where a hiker requested immediate assistance because they were dehydrated, nauseated and did not have any water while hiking. Helicopter personnel found and extricated the subject to waiting medical personnel. The hiker refused further medical assistance after being given some water.

◆ On Thursday, Sept. 22, deputies responded to

the 16000 block of Palisades Blvd. A town resident reported that the front bumper was stolen from their parked vehicle.

◆ On Thursday, Sept. 22, a resident of the 14000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. reported being emotionally abused at a care facility. No physical abuse was alleged.

◆ On Friday, Sept. 23, deputies responded to the 16000 block of Shea Blvd. where it was reported that two unidentified female subjects stole an Asus Chromebook, which was valued at \$299 dollars.

◆ On Friday, Sept. 23, deputies responded to the 13000 block of La Montana Dr. It was reported that a known suspect allegedly tried to cash a fraudulent check at a bank near this location. This case is under investigation.

◆ On Friday, Sept. 23, deputies responded to the 16000 block of Avenue of the Fountains where a male subject was arrested for several outstanding misdemeanor warrants after it was reported he was violating a court order.

◆ On Saturday, Sept. 24, deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Eagle Mountain Parkway where two vehicles were involved in non-injury collision when one vehicle conducted a U-turn without fully checking for oncoming vehicles.

◆ On Saturday, Sept. 24, a resident of the 14000 block of Oakwood Lane reported that they were sexually assaulted when they were seven years old. The suspect and the location of the alleged assault are unknown.

◆ On Saturday, Sept. 24, a resident of the 16000 block of Lone Mountain Road reported that their home was fraudulently listed for sale without their knowledge or permission.

◆ On Saturday, Sept. 24, deputies responded to the 13000 block of Fountain

Hills Blvd. where it was reported that two unknown male subjects entered a gas station and stole two cases of Budweiser beer, valued at approximately \$43 dollars.

◆ On Saturday, Sept. 24, deputies responded to the 13000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. where a gas station employee reported that a known suspect stole a fountain drink, valued at \$1 dollar.

◆ On Sunday, Sept. 25, a resident in the area of Glenbrook and Fountain Hills boulevards reported an unknown driver struck a pillar at the entrance of their driveway, then left the scene without providing their insurance or contact information.

◆ On Sunday, Sept. 25, deputies responded to the intersection of Keith McMahan Drive and Avenue of the Fountains where a driver was involved in a single vehicle, non-injury collision. She was distracted while attempting to grab her phone from the floorboard of her vehicle.

◆ On Monday, Sept. 26, deputies made a traffic stop on Shea Boulevard at Arista Lane. A driver was criminally cited for driving

26 miles-per-hour over the posted speed limit.

◆ On Monday, Sept. 26, deputies made a traffic stop on Shea Boulevard and Arista Lane. A driver was criminally cited for driving 28 miles-per-hour over the posted speed limit.

◆ On Monday, Sept. 26, deputies made a traffic stop on Shea Boulevard at Arista Lane. A driver was criminally cited for driving 29 miles-per-hour over the posted speed limit.

◆ On Monday, Sept. 26, a resident of the 15000 block of Vera Cruz Plaza turned over several firearms to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and requested they be destroyed.

◆ On Monday, Sept. 26, a resident of the 13000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. reported their wallet was stolen while they were shopping at a nearby convenience store.

◆ On Tuesday, Sept. 27, a North Carolina resident reported that their 34-year-old daughter was missing. The daughter was last known to have been staying at an Airbnb in the 16000 block of Paradox Dr. in Fountain Hills.

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Election

(cont. from page 1A)

Kelly facing a challenge from Republican Blake Masters. Libertarian Marc Victor is on the ballot for the Senate seat.

In statewide races the office of governor is open this election with Republican Kari Lake running against Secretary of State, Democrat Katie Hobbs. Mikaela Lutes-Burton is the Libertarian candidate for governor.

For Arizona Secretary of State Democrat Adrian Fontes faces Republican Mark Finchem.

For Arizona Attorney General it is Republican Abraham Hamadeh and Democrat Kris Mayes. Lib-

ertarian Samantha Severson is also on the ballot.

The race for State Treasurer is between Republican incumbent Kimberly Yee and Democrat Martin Quezada.

Incumbent Superintendent of Public Instruction, Democrat Kathy Hoffman is being challenged by Republican Tom Horne.

Seeking two available seats on the Arizona Corporation Commission are Republicans Nick Myers and Kevin Thompson and Democrats Sandra Kennedy (incumbent) and Lauren Kuby.

There are also 10 ballot measures for voters to decide. *The Times* will provide more detailed information regarding the ballot measures in the coming weeks.

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Melinda Stanton | 480-688-9191

LAND FOR SALE

FOUR PEAKS VIEW LOT!
Gentle grade lot. Views of Four Peaks and more! Virtual tour: www.FountainHillsLots.com. MLS# 6422861. \$225,000.
Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

EAGLE RIDGE
Over 3/4 acre lot located in gated community of Eagle Ridge. MLS# 6391282. \$420,000.
Gary Glunz | 480-216-4170

AMAZING VIEWS FROM THIS LOT!
Best views of any lot under 300K! Views of Four Peaks, McDowell, Mt. Ord & more! Virtual tour: www.FountainHillsLots.com. MLS# 6404540. \$290,000. Owner/Agent.
Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

GOLF COURSE VIEWS- FIREROCK
.67 acre. Perched above holes 5 and 6 with spectacular Mountain Views. MLS# 6408266. \$375,000.
Gary Glunz | 480-216-4170

FLAT CORNER LOT W/VIEWS!
Flat lot with Red Mountain and city lights views!! Virtual tour: www.FountainHillsLots.com. MLS# 6412446. \$235,000.
Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

EAGLE RIDGE WITH VIEWS
.9 acre lot in the gated community of Eagle Ridge with mountain views. MLS# 6409342. \$325,000.
Gary Glunz | 480-216-4170

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Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

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Carol Goyena | 480-825-1084

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Answer to this week's puzzle

C	A	E	N	A	C	H	E	D	E	D	D	A
E	D	D	O	T	R	O	P	E	N	A	I	L
T	W	E	E	M	A	R	I	N	N	U	K	E
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H	A	S	H	R	E	N	E	E	I	A	S	I

Yavapai tours return

The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center, after a COVID-19 hiatus, is bringing back the popular Fort McDowell Yavapai Tours.

The first tour is set for Tuesday, Oct. 11. The guided, interpreted tour focuses on the history and culture of the Yavapai people. The experience includes visits to the Yavapai Cultural Center, Cemetery, Wassaja preschool, the Farm at Fort McDowell and the Presbyterian Church.

Participants will meet at the River of Time at 8 a.m. for coffee, pastries and a briefing on the day's activities. They will board the bus and begin the tour with FMYN Cultural Co-

ordinator Clissene Lewis. She will share stories and insights into the history and enterprises of the nation.

Visitors will hear about life on the reservation and learn about traditions, experiences and history while visiting the Cultural Center. A stop at the preschool lets visitors view the outstanding education provided to the Nation's people from birth. The Wassaja School supports infants through five-year-old.

Information about the church will be provided by one of the nation's elders. Following an interpreted drive through the cemetery and the farm, the tour wraps up with a

tasty lunch at Ahnala at We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort. The bus then returns to the River of Time where visitors are welcome to tour the museum and shop in the Riverbanks Gift Shop.

The cost for the complete experience is \$75 for nonmembers or \$70 for center members. The cost includes lunch. Reservations may be made online at www.riveroftime.center or by calling 480-837-2612. Space is limited.

Unique to Fountain Hills, The River of Time has been exhibiting the culture and heritage of Fountain Hills, the Verdes and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation since 2003.

MADD Oct. 22

Volunteer teams still needed

The Town of Fountain Hills is gearing up for the 14th Annual Make a Difference Day to be held in the Community on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Hundreds of Volunteers will come together with a common mission – to improve the lives of others in the community.

The Make a Difference Day event will need town volunteers to unite to serve Fountain Hills residents who could use assistance with a variety of exterior and outdoor projects.

Work projects include raking and cleaning up landscaping debris, building exterior wheelchair ramps, small minor interior and exterior home repairs, interior home cleaning, weed control and more.

Volunteers range from Cub and Daisy scouts to active seniors who are able to provide their help. All interested individuals are encouraged to participate and register. Those who would like to volunteer for Make a Difference can do so at the town website, fountainhills.az.gov/madd. Registration deadline for volunteers is Wednesday, October 12. This is a great opportunity

to strengthen ties in the community as well as address existing needs. We all can "Make a Difference." For more information,

please contact Kim Wickland, Town Volunteer Coordinator, 480-816-5108 or kwickland@fountainhills.az.gov.



Groups of volunteers will be teaming up to help neighbors for the 14th annual Make a Difference Day Oct. 22.

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by Jenny Willigrod

Flutter at the Fountain is made possible by our generous sponsors, including: RE/MAX Sun Properties, SteelCrest Corporation, Impact Collision, Mark Trembley Photography, Sami Fine Jewelry, Mathnasium, Sipps Eatery, Cheryl's at the Fountain Clothing Boutique, Chill Boutique, Conti Family Foundation, Siobhan Doherty, Shawn White and Associates, Silvertree Wealth Partners/Michael Maroon.

Visit Flutter22.Givesmart.com or text Flutter22 to 76278 to register for the auction, buy your Gala in the Garden tickets, and to purchase raffle tickets.

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Flutter at the Fountain is a fundraiser for the Fountain Hills Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Since 1995, the Community Foundation has provided over \$1.3 million to the nonprofit groups in Fountain Hills who support the youth, seniors and families of our community.

FYI

OBITUARIES

Catherine P. Culley

A life well lived. Catherine "Cathie" (Patterson) Culley filled her 103 years of life with adventures as she explored hobbies and interests that created memories she shared into her elder years. She was born in West Roxbury, Mass. the daughter of Philip and Helen (Daggett) Patterson and sister to Jeanne. Cathie's maternal grandfather Army Brigadier General Aaron S. Daggett, the last surviving general of the Civil War frequently visited for Sunday dinners and shared stories of his military journey.

Cathie Patterson grew up in Massachusetts and belonged to the Appalachian Mountain Club, enjoyed downhill skiing, ice skating, and spent summers swimming in the cool coastal waters at her aunt's cottage in West Harpswell, Maine. Cathie attended House in the Pines Preparatory School, Norton Mass. where she preferred equestrian sports to physical education class. She eventually enrolled in Pierce Secretarial school. At 19 years old, she traveled by steamship to France where she immersed herself in the French language and culture. A fondness for travel was born.

In 1939, Cathie married Tom Redfern Culley. Over the years, Cathie and Tom moved from Massachusetts to Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Syracuse, and Pittsburgh. As world-wide travelers, she and Tom shared the adventuresome spirit she had established as a young child. In addition, she was an avid flower gardener and stayed physically active.

In their retirement years she and Tom spent winter months in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Tom passed away in 1986. Shortly after Cathie relocated full time to Fountain Hills and in 1995 moved to Westminster Village, Scottsdale. While in Arizona she undertook a new hobby—quilting and needlework where she was formally recognized with grand prize ribbons. Cathie enjoyed a great card game of bridge and loved reading. Over the years Cathie appreciated the kind assistance from the staff at Westminster Village. All of these experiences, mastery of game, love of craft, time with family and friends epitomizes a life well lived.

Cathie will be interred at the Walnut Hills Cemetery in Brookline, Mass. Graveside service to be held on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022. Cards may be sent to Dan Kuchan, CPA at 16921 E. Palisades Blvd, Suite 103, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. Cathie and Tom

Culley's memory continues with philanthropic gifts supporting education, elder care, and Arizona-based cancer research. The Tom and Catherine Culley Circles of Holistic Care with Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) at the University of Arizona Cancer Center has recently been established.

Francis dMarco

Francis "Frank" dMarco, age 83, died peacefully in his sleep on Sept. 11, 2022. Frank was born Dec. 1, 1938, in Budapest, Hungary. Frank leaves behind his wife of 50 years, Miriam "Mim" Markovits.

As a young man, Frank was a professional bicycle racer. At the age of 18, Frank fled Hungary to Vienna, Austria where he worked as a cook at a refugee camp. Eventually Frank made his way to the United States of America via New York City. While learning to speak English, Frank did odd jobs such as washing cars.

Frank moved to Denver, Colo., where he met the love of his life Miriam Diller. They were married on May 25, 1972.

Frank was a military policeman at Fort Huachuca for two years. The majority of Frank's life was spent working for the phone company Western Electric, and eventually Mountain Bell. Frank was an avid golfer and was a PGA Pro.

After retirement, Frank continued to work. He founded Believers Valley Realty where he sold real estate. Miriam and Frank enjoyed golfing together in Vienna, Austria and all over the United States. They raised many four-legged furry friends (Rollie, Muffy, Mitzi and Benji).

Frank will be laid to rest at the Veteran's Cemetery in Cave Creek.

Susan Jo Krauser

Sue died peacefully at home in Fountain Hills on Sept. 27, 2022, at the age of 68 with her husband, daughters, and sister by her side.

Sue is survived by her husband, Rick Krauser; and their two children, Kristi Stone (Ryan) and Kelli Krauser. Her siblings William Swaback, Robert Swaback (Gaye), Brad Swaback (Lisa) and Sheri Klich (Dennis).

She is also survived by her grandchildren, Jaclyn, Brayden, Brooklyn, and Colton Stone and her many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ralph Swaback, her mother, JoAnne Swaback, and her nephew, Mitchell Swaback.

Sue was the daughter of Ralph and JoAnne Swaback. She was born in Chicago, Ill. on July 21, 1954. She married Rick Krauser in 1975 and they were married for 47 years. Rick and Sue met at the Awana Olympics. Awana was Sue's passion, and she ran several Awana clubs for most of her life with Rick serving by her side, introducing kids to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sue loved to shop 'til she dropped. She was always searching for the best deals so she could fill the Awana store with the coolest prizes for the Awana kids, always trying to be the best steward of God's money.

Sue was an incredible mother, who always kept life fun. She loved her kids dearly and gave them an amazing childhood. They always felt celebrated and loved. She gave them a love for travel by taking them on many vacations, making memories along the way.

Her grandkids loved their Grandma Sue Sue dearly. They looked forward to "Grandma's special day" where they got to spend one on one time with her. She supported each of them by watching them dance, sing, and play sports. She loved taking them on trips to Disneyland.

Sue was the glue that kept the whole family together. From her brothers and sisters to her nieces and nephews, and even others who didn't have a family of their own. Sue always welcomed others into her home. She loved inviting people to Thanksgiving and Easter dinner when they didn't have anywhere to go.

The center of Sue's life was always her faith and belief in her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Because of her work in children's ministry through Awana, countless lives have been changed for eternity.

Sue was a faithful servant with a giving heart. She will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered always!

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, at 6 p.m. followed by a service at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Family Church, 10215 N Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

A light dinner reception will follow the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to: Harvest Compassion Center, 4744 E. Thunderbird Road, Ste. 9, Phoenix, AZ 85032.

Judith Rutkowski

Judy Rutkowski passed from this life into the hands of our loving God on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022. Judy was born and raised in the western suburbs of Chicago and a small town in southern Illinois. She attended nursing school and became a registered nurse, spending much of her professional career in pediatrics.

She married her husband, Richard, in 1987 and they had two children, Maggie and Adam. The family moved to Arizona in 2001. She continued in her nursing career, initially in the inpatient hospital setting and then as a school nurse for Fountain Hills

Unified School District.

She volunteered in many ways in Fountain Hills schools, in the classroom, as a band booster, in tobacco/drug use prevention sessions, and as the "Bingo Boss" for many years at Falcon Fiesta following FHHS graduation.

She was also active for many years in ministries at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Scottsdale, singing in the choir and teaching religious education to children at various grade levels. In recent years, she worked as a substitute school nurse for Scottsdale Unified School District. For over 15 years, she was actively involved in local and state political activities. Judy was completing her second term of service on the FHUSD Governing Board.

She had extreme respect for the Constitution and the founding principles of this country. Judy was an avid animal lover, especially horses, cats, dogs, and cockatiels. She loved her family, her many friends, and our God. She will be remembered and missed by many.

A visitation will be held at Messinger Fountain Hills Mortuary on Thursday Oct. 6, 2022, from 6-8 p.m.

Boni Gail Schoenbacher

Boni Gail Schoenbacher, 81, of Waverly, Ill. and Rio Verde passed away peacefully in her home in the early morning on Sept. 17, 2022.

Boni was born April 19, 1941, in Waverly, Ill. the daughter of Ralph Bivin and Berneita (Workman) Bivin, and beloved sister to Colleen Carney Harms Martin (Warren), and the late Connie Lou Bivin. Boni is survived by two children, Rae Anne Schoenbacher of Morrisonville, Ill. and Jeffrey Todd Schoenbacher of Taos, N.M., and an adored granddaughter, Patrisha Schoenbacher. She is also survived by a niece, Taren Carney Stob (John) and nephew Wesley Gail Carney (Cathy) and their families.

Boni Gail graduated from Waverly High School in 1959 where she was active in 4-H as well as other social clubs, such as the Shorthorn Cattle Association Lassies and garnered such prestigious titles as "Waverly High School Homecoming Queen" and "FFA Sweetheart." Having a well-known reputation in the beef cattle show circuit, Boni Gail enjoyed showing the Connieland Farm prize Shorthorn cattle. A highlight of that life experience can be found in the Illinois State Fair Museum archives, where she and her white, 4-H Junior Grand Championship Steer named "Brucey Boy" are pictured with President Dwight D. Eisenhower at



Judith Rutkowski



Boni Schoenbacher

Law enforcement report on Page 2A

the 1954 Illinois State Fair. Her recollection of that day was, "What an honor for a 13-year-old girl to meet and have a photo taken with the President of the United States." That same photo also made the pages of the Chicago Tribune and is part of the 1955-56 Illinois Blue Book. During her cattle showing era, Boni earned coveted "Showmanship" titles that reflected her competitive nature in showing Shorthorn cattle.

Boni later attended Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill., and it was there she met the love of her life, David Roy Schoenbacher. They were married on Sept. 24, 1960, in Waverly, Ill., and afterwards enjoyed the adventures of traveling and meeting many new friends across the country while Dave worked for Mobil Oil Corporation. That part of her life translated into exploring the Rocky Mountains, skiing, snowmobiling, cooking clubs, camping, hunting, fishing, road trips, as well as being active in the Lutheran Church.

After 10 years in the corporate arena, the family moved to Modesto, Ill., to farm, where Boni embraced the challenges of agriculture life and was an active partner in the formation of Apple Creek Farms, Inc. During this time, Boni Gail's agriculture background was reinvigorated. She was David's cornerstone in life, never wavering from her commitment as a loving mother and wife, as well as active partner in the agriculture corporation. She was always flush with positive optimism, ideas, and enthusiasm.

During 58 years of marriage, Boni and Dave complemented each other with their own unique creative nature, forming a wonderful team. Together they garnered many accomplishments in the agriculture sector, including the introduction of Limousine cattle and Arabian horses, as well as real estate and the insurance enrollment industry. Boni and Dave were also co-founders of Apple Creek Water Co-op. Along with her daughter, Rae Anne, Boni also co-founded Apffel Bach Giant Schnauzers. She adored the many canines that she had raised during her lifetime, none more so than her loyal Giant Schnauzer, Cash, who was by her side when she passed away. She was tenacious in caring for her pets, livestock, and the challenging work that comes with the nature of farming. She never wavered from her commitment and always demonstrated versatility and a "can do" attitude, regardless of the circumstances and hardships.

Boni particularly loved her home in Arizona. It was their getaway for the winter months. Boni and Dave remodeled the home to fit their style and personality. She loved to take her dog, Cash, in the golf cart, wearing her big floppy hat and waving big at everyone she passed. Driving into Rio Verde, there is this particular scenic stretch that had the most beautiful view. Every time she passed that view, she would say, "Oh that's so beautiful, it reminds me of Heaven." During the downturn of the agriculture industry in the '70s, Boni went to work for Weber Corporation and attained the title of district manager. During this time, she demonstrated the Weber Grill by providing delicious grilled culinary dishes to countless potential customers, many, who were so impressed, ended up buying the product. Boni

loved to cook and explore new recipes, as well as share her cooking talents with others. Those that benefited from this generous trait included her children and granddaughter, field workers during planting and harvest season, hired hands, her son's collegiate football team - with "game away" cookies, neighbors, family, friends, and those attending holiday festivities. During her life, she compiled a comprehensive recipe book with some of the recipes entering the Fountain Hills Arizona Lutheran Church recipe book.

Boni also loved watching her children's and granddaughter's athletic events, and her distinct "woo hoo!" cheer has been heard in numerous high school gymnasiums and football fields, college and pro football stadiums, livestock shows, as well as in her own home, cheering on her Tom Brady regardless of what football team he was playing on.

She loved to travel and her rule, for the zest of life, was always being the first to say "hello" to anyone. As a result, during trips to Europe and throughout the United States, she would always find new friendships, whom she loved and cherished during her life. In the last few days of her life, she wanted to express how sincerely proud she was, of the loving friendships that she had with so many and wanted to express a heartfelt "Thank You" and appreciation to all of you.

Finally, there are certain times in our lives when God blesses us with angels to help us charter unfamiliar territory or challenges in our lives. The Schoenbacher Family wishes to acknowledge two special angels; Mary Baca (New Mexico) and Jeanetta Lopicola (Illinois), who assisted the family with Boni's medical challenges, while also fostering a loving friendship with her, during the final chapter of her life.

The family believes that Boni and Dave are back together again, smiling and dancing hand in hand, while at peace in the heavens above.

A private memorial was held on Sept. 26, 2022, with a celebration of life being held later for friends and family.

Cremation was provided by Butler Cremation Tribute Center.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may direct memorial contributions to Fisher House Foundation and Rio Verde Cares, 18934 E. Avenida Del Ray, Suite 106, Rio Verde, AZ 85263.

The family is being served by Butler Funeral Home - New Berlin, 714 Gibson St., New Berlin, IL 62670.

Please visit butlerfuneralhomes.com to offer your condolences.

Guilford Wheelock

Guilford "Gil" Wheelock, born Oct. 23, 1937, entered in God's Kingdom on Sept. 14, 2022. He was 84 years old.

Gil was born in Boston proper, Mass. but later moved with his then wife, Ann to Northern California in 1968. He was passionate about music and was quite a singer and percussionist. Gil worked hard his entire life as a blue-collar worker to provide for his family. Gil also served in the National Guard.

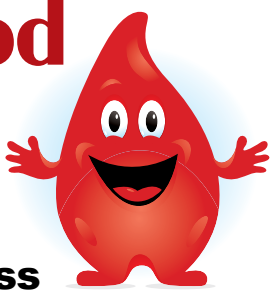
When the majority of his family moved to Arizona, Gil moved as well and fell in love with the sunshine. He would often sit in his backyard, listen to his favorite musicians, and enjoy nature. He was a funny, caring, and giving man.

He is survived by his children, Lisa Santos and Ken Wheelock; four grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Guilford Wheelock

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14850 E GRAND VIEW DR #250,
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14052 N EL PUEBLO BLVD
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\$729,000



16629 E WESTBY DRIVE
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\$369,000



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Opinion



Alan Cruikshank
President

Severing ties with Kasterlee

This week's Fountain Hills History Lesson is just as much about town history as it is about current events.

I was saddened to see that the Sister City relationship with Kasterlee, Belgium has been terminated.

But I guess you have to expect it when there have been no responses to inquiries from the Fountain Hills Sister Cities Corp.

It's too bad, because Kasterlee is a beautiful town about a half hour's drive from the port city of Antwerp, which is often referred to as the diamond capital of Europe.

If you ever get a chance to spend a vacation in Belgium, I would highly recommend a drive trip through the countryside, with stops in the small towns along the way. Most of them have a memorial in the town center dedicated to the United States troops who lost their lives freeing the Belgian people from German rule in World War II.

You can stop for meals in a number of fine restaurants you will find along the way. You will also find some of the best breweries anywhere. And the only thing that may outnumber breweries is chocolate shops. Mmmm good!!

We were treated like royalty wherever we went. Mayor Jerry Miles became an instant celebrity in his western hat, cowboy boots and 6-foot, 4-inch stature. He was referred to in a front-page story in the Brussels newspaper about our visit as "a John Wayne type".

The town of Kasterlee was selected when shortly before Jerry Miles was elected mayor in 1996, I approached him and suggested that it would be good if the community joined the Sister Cities program started by President Eisenhower in 1956. Three days after Miles was installed as Mayor, he called me and asked me to form a Sister Cities Committee on behalf of the town.

I set up a committee under the non-profit Fountain Hills Civic Association umbrella. I ran a story in the *Fountain Hills Times* asking for suggestions on possible cities or towns to be considered. Also, I sought volunteers to serve on the search committee.

One of the respondents was David Jackman, who had traveled on business to a small town close to Antwerp, Belgium called Kasterlee. He said, "It has the feel of Fountain Hills even though we live in a desert setting and Kasterlee is totally green with trees."

The committee, after much discussion and correspondence with cities in Portugal and Australia, decided on Kasterlee as the first match for a Sister City for Fountain Hills. In May 1998, shortly before he left office, Miles, together with myself, Cyril and Marianne Wiggishoff and Phyllis and Bob Horan, flew to Belgium to meet with Kasterlee Mayor, Walter Otten, and sign a letter of intent to form a Sister City relationship. Signing of the letter of intent occurred on May 31 of that year. As I said earlier, we were treated like royalty. Among activities arranged by Mayor Otten was a visit to the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, including an audience with the U.S. ambassador to Belgium.

Two years later, a group headed by then Mayor Sha-

ron Morgan and me, traveled with a group of Fountain Hills high school students to Kasterlee to sign papers officially creating a Sister Cities relationship between the two communities.

I think there are two factors which could have had an influence on the decision to drop the Sister Cities tie between the two towns.

The first is the Pandemic of the past two years. Belgium was one of the hardest-hit countries in Europe with more than 34,000 deaths caused by the disease. The Belgians weren't looking for any more visitors with numbers like that.

The second reason is that all of the main people that had an interest in the success of the program have either passed on, including the three mayors, or they have moved away.

Without the people who were the prime movers behind the selection of Kasterlee as our first Sister City, I can see why interest could wane, and that's unfortunate.

Funding use?

A letter from:
Barbara Smith

It's nice that we have funding for new banners on street posts promoting Fountain Hills. Just maybe, however, we could use the money towards the homelessness problem instead?

Believe it

A letter from:
Rick Dime

The ruling party of authoritarian democrats have fragrantly weaponized the Federal government against flag waving Americans. Feel it, progressive fascism is everywhere.

You know what you're paying for groceries, goods, and gasoline. Rising inflation has pushed America into a recession. The progressive bureaucrat's attempts to substitute words like equity and transition to explain their disastrous global policies doesn't ease the pain. Arrogant globalists relish their autocratic rule that punishes mainstream Americans and eliminates democracy. Americans are peacefully revolting against Biden's green energy mandates, open borders, and releasing violent criminals to harm society.

The current federal bureaucracy, elected to serve and protect all Americans, operates like a network of insurgent cells conspiring against the will of the people. They conspire in secrecy and claim ignorance when they are called out for poor reaction and poorer results. The supposed "experts" repeatedly claim "I don't know" to critical questions. Their ignorance and/or incompetence is unacceptable, but they keep failing upward in a ruling class of arrogant equity. Trust, achievement, merit, all replaced by incompetent faux experts redefining words that misinform the electorate. Sound judgment is a core competency for job performance. Repeated

unsatisfactory judgment is grounds for dismissal.

The political ruling class' fear is palpable as they rule by edict and tyranny. Every action that they take is lowering the quality of life for Americans. It appears the single purpose to their programs and policies is to make Americans suffer under inflation and recession.

A competent politician would ramp up fossil fuel production and start making solar and wind energy products here in America. Instead, Biden is allowing Putin to control the flow and cost of energy across Europe and Asia and gives China the ability to dictate energy policy in America.

Biden's goal, to institutionalize fascism. See it, feel it, believe it!

Vote Republican

A letter from:
Nancy Plencner

A simple message to all Arizonans, Democrat, Independent or Republican, If you think things are going well or will improve, I suggest you take a look at your 401K, at your brokerage statement, the value of your home, the price of groceries, and the wave of 85,000 IRS agents coming your way.

And this all has taken place in a mere two years under the policies of the far-left Democrats. I won't even go into social matters, our schools, an out-of-control FBI and Justice Department, a depleted military, the border and on and on it goes.

You must vote change at all levels of government from School Board to Senator. Did you know Arizona's Senator, Democrat Mark Kelly stands with Pocahontas Senator Warren and AOC, among other radicals? Not only did he support Abortion up until just before birth (I call that murder) he was a Sponsor of the bill! He must not be allowed back in the Senate. Are you going to vote for the evil policies the Democrats and Mark Kelly promote or vote for Blake Masters who stands for all the things we hold dear. Do not let Arizona down, vote straight Republican up and down the ticket.

Libby qualified

A letter from:
Mary and Bob Reitz

We fully support Libby Settle for FHUSD board in the November 8 election. Her motivation for this position is based on her passion and commitment to achieve academic success in our school. She wants the best for our children, our community, and our future.

Libby and her husband have always had a heart for children. In 2010 they opened their home to foster and currently are parents to 13 children. Some of these children have special needs so she is an advocate for supporting all children. The same commitment and dedication she has to her family will be seen in her role on the FHUSD.

Libby had a teaching

career after her elementary education degree. Upon moving to Arizona she pursued a career in accounting and has been working in this capacity for the past 17 years.

Libby's experience as a mother, teacher, and owner of an accounting practice qualifies her for this position.

She will demonstrate outstanding communication skills, leadership, fairness, be a good listener, and work well with others.

I encourage you to vote for Libby Settle.

No doubt

A letter from:
Toni Ribail

Tara Lamar will be getting my vote on Nov. 8, 2022, for Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board member!

When I heard she was running, I knew, without a shadow of doubt, that she would be a perfect candidate for this position. I have known Tara for many years and had the privilege of working side-by-side with her while on the PTO. She is an amazing person and her commitment and passion for our schools and the community has been apparent over the years. Her compassion for our kids, her dedication, her determination, and overall support she provides to our kids and this school district is evident.

I feel she would be a great asset to the FHUSD School Board and the entire community and that is why she will be getting my vote on November 8.

Choices

A letter from:
James Theiring

Choices after only two years ...

1. High inflation. Currently 8% plus, as energy, housing, mortgages, and food costs constantly rise.

2. Open borders. Over two million illegal aliens this year alone, and our Vice President claims that the border is secure. That's not funny. Liberals only got serious when 50 were sent to Sanctuary Martha's Vineyard, where they claimed to welcome everyone, the National Guard deported them off the Island within 48 hours. Hypocrites maybe? That's only 12 minutes worth of illegals invading our country 24/7. Yet, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee just last week voted unanimously to allow illegals to vote in Federal elections. See where this is going? Instead of more border agents we get 87,000 IRS agents.

3. Drugs. Huge increase in deadly drugs coming across the border. Thanks, China.

4. Increased crime. Liberal prosecutors, district attorneys and judges plus no cash bail all contribute to an epidemic of crime in many cities.

5. School. Children are taught how to change their gender, use only correct pronouns, watch drag queens and allow boys

Our viewpoint Lunar observations

Saturday was one of those designated days that no one pays much attention to – it was International Observe the Moon Day – and it turned out to be a pretty big deal for Fountain Hills. The local Dark Sky Association (FHDSA) and the International Dark Sky Discovery Center (IDSDC) teamed up with Arizona State University to create an interesting and educational event.

ASU had a display hosted by its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) team and the ASU School of Earth and Space Sciences was there to provide world-wide outreach for the Fountain Hills event. The school's Public Outreach Manager Rick Alling was on hand and conducted live interviews from Fountain Hills that went world-wide through the NASA website. Alling interviewed two locals, Joe Bill, president of the IDSDC about the proposed discovery center, and Scott Adams, who is with the DSA, but talked about his astrophotography hobby.

The turnout was great on the Centennial Circle Plaza with nearly a dozen telescopes set up for people to view the not-quite waxing to first quarter moon in the clear sky. Ted Blank also did one of his laser tours of the galaxy.

This may be the type of event that will help the IDSDC with the contributions it needs to fund the facility.

to use girl's bathrooms, without their parents' knowledge. Also, boys/men compete in women's sports. Parents at school board meetings are being investigated as terrorists by the FBI.

6. Student loan forgiveness. Smile when you have to start paying off someone else's Gender Studies Degree.

Conclusion: Every single one of these issues have been dumped on the US by Democrats. In only two years Democrat policies have made us poorer and less safe. If you are OK with this situation, so be it. Millions of people are not and want to fight back, hard.

What can you do? It's easy. Be sure to vote, but not for any democrat, for anything--nothing at all. Possibly then they might realize their policies are not wanted.

(Editor's note: The Associated Press did an assessment of the claim that Democrats in Congress voted to allow noncitizens to vote in elections. The AP conclusion, "House lawmakers are weighing a proposal to provide federal grants to help states and other jurisdictions translate election materials into other languages. The bill, an amendment to the Voting Rights Act, doesn't expand voting rights to noncitizens.")

Border plan?

A letter from:
Ray McGinley

Hobbs Border Plan: Let's Bring More.

A thirty-second commercial depicts gubernatorial candidate Katie Hobbs, law enforcement in tow, proudly proclaiming her plan for the border.

Her website plan has two parts, state and federal. First, Arizona will send more taxpayer money to law enforcement and community centers. In other words let's make the process workable for the long haul. The state plan does not address the flow of fentanyl across the border, forced prostitution, gang

members, or other byproducts of the unrestricted migrant surge. A justification she offers for endorsing illegal immigration is the unfilled job openings in Arizona. How many positions might possibly be filled by people who can neither read nor write English was not addressed.

Second, Hobbs wishes the federal government would spend more taxpayer money to increase staff at ports of entry and at the immigration courts. She also calls for the federal government to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation (but wait - haven't we all been waiting for decades?).

Chief among her wish list is a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. How many unvetted immigrants are enough, Katie?

Time for change

A letter from:
Jennifer Kriwer

What I see happening in our country is so very disturbing. High inflation, illegal immigration flooding our borders, crime rapidly increasing, homelessness rampant, the weaponizing of our justice system and our dependence on foreign energy.

If you are discouraged and also unhappy with what our current politicians are supporting, I encourage you to vote for conservative candidates. Kari Lake, Abe Hamadeh, Mark Finchem, and Blake Masters will all have my support. It is time for change.

Vote for Lillian

A letter from:
Harold Zeidman

I have known Lillian Acker for more than 25 years. She is a retired teacher; when she was teaching, I knew her as an outstanding teacher who was tough, but fair with her students.

As a school board member, I am confident that she will serve our fine district

(cont. on page 7A)

THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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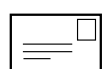
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Letters

(cont. from page 6A)

the only way she knows how – in an outstanding manner where she evaluates all issues in a tough, but fair manner.

Vote for Lillian Aker for Fountain Hills School Board in November.

Support Libby

A letter from:
Phyllis Straka

Libby Settle is running for a seat on the FH school board. Here's why she will get my vote. As an RN, I had the privilege of attending one of her sons to FH elementary school. That meant that I was in and out of her home twice per day for three years. I got to know Libby and her family pretty well.

She is hard-working, principled, committed to the welfare and education of all children and she holds traditional American values. If you want better schools in Fountain Hills and accountable leadership, please vote for Libby Settle.

Vote Masters

A letter from:
Sally Gibbs

Blake Masters can win the Arizona Senate seat! Blake graduated from Stanford and Stanford Law School, and then the overachiever founded a multi-million-dollar high tech business. He was born in Arizona and lives here with his wife and three small boys.

This is what I know of Blake Masters. He won his Republican Primary on Aug. 2, by 12%, that's a landslide by any measure. He carried 14 of 15 Arizona Counties. Blake is well positioned to beat Mark Kelly who votes in lock step with

the far-left D.C. liberals and Biden.

Sixty-eight percent of Arizonans believe America is on the wrong track, that the border is wide open pouring in illegals and drugs, inflation is rampant, and that Mark Kelly embraces and votes almost 100% with Joe Biden's agenda. The pathway to control of the US Senate runs right through Arizona and Blake Masters, that's why the far left is going crazy with George Soros money dumping millions and millions into keeping Mark Kelly in office. Kelly who lives in Tucson, a short distance to the border cannot even utter the word border. As a critical border senator, Kelly alone could have made a difference, but he didn't. All he needed to do was take a stand.

He was the critical vote on Biden's inflation bill! He just needed to grow a spine and say I'm not voting for the inflation bill until you put 25,000 more agents on the border. He caved, did not do anything, got nothing for Arizona. Blake is the only one who is smart enough, tough enough, fired up enough and will fight like a cornered cat for Arizona. This young entrepreneur, lawyer, father and husband is worthy of your vote, I know he's getting mine.

Support Lillian

A letter from:
Peggy Yeargain

If you want a top-notch candidate for our Fountain Hills School Board, vote for Lillian Aker. She is immensely qualified for that important role, and she cares deeply about our students and our teachers.

Her impressive qualifications include a Master of Science degree in Elementary Education and

Bachelor of Science degrees in Elementary Education and Spanish Education.

Additionally, she has Administrative Certifications in Illinois and Ohio.

She enjoyed a 25-year teaching career, with experience at the elementary and high school levels.

Lillian was a member of the Advisory Council to the Ohio Department of Education, a founding member of the Central Ohio English as a Second Language consortium, and she served on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Foreign Language Association.

She also served on the Board of Directors of her local Teachers Association. She is an expert on public schools and national standards, and she has been endorsed by the Arizona Education Association.

This wealth of experience as an education professional, along with her state and community involvement, makes Lillian a great addition to our School Board.

Vote for Lillian Aker!

Vote Lillian

A letter from:
Alice Brovan

Lillian Aker will be a remarkable addition to the Fountain Hills School Board. With her outstanding background in education, both undergraduate and graduate degrees, and her previous Board positions for educational departments in Ohio and Arizona, she is deeply aware of the operation and administration of public schools.

Her respect for teachers derives from personal knowledge of what it takes to become an educator, and that certifies why she thinks our teachers are professionals who deserve our respect.

Lillian Aker for F.H. School Board.

Rutkowski praise

A letter from:
Carol Rogala, D.O.

In response to Carla Tredway's comments about Judy Rutkowski.

Speaking of how actions speak louder than words, I spent many a Saturday with Judy and her husband at Medical Freedom rallies in Scottsdale. So that refutes your theory she was for masking or any other unproven approach to COVID 19.

As to people being "shushed" in a meeting, I certainly wasn't there but I sincerely doubt she was doing it. She died this past week and we have certainly lost one of our best citizens and best role models who consistently stood up for her religious and personal beliefs.

Union leader

A letter from:
Edith Stock

In their August 31 edition of the *Fountain Hills Times* six candidates running for the Fountain Hills Unified School District Board were introduced to us. Since then, the paper has published the candidates' responses to questions so the public can get to know them and their outlook about the duties and obligations of being a Board Member.

One candidate, Lillian Aker, listed as an accomplishment her long-term role as a union representative. Remember, the National Educators Association (NEA) Union bosses in Washington have pressed the current administration to follow and instructed union representatives across the country to enact terrible policies. A father in Virginia protested the lack of action by the school district and school board when his daughter was raped by another student in a bathroom. The response of Biden's Attorney General was to characterize parents who spoke up against policies of the sitting School Boards as terrorists. The source for the AG's letter was the NEA. As one national union leader stated too clearly, "when kids start paying dues, we'll represent them."

It was the NEA un-

ion that played a large part in keeping our schools shut down during COVID. Teachers drew full pay while our children suffered from no school or inadequate, on-line classes, shorting them on much needed aspects of the classroom. Students without computers were hurt beyond measure. We even had reports of teachers basking on beaches in Mexico. When these images were viewed on teachers' Facebook pages all the union could say was don't display the images on social media. This leads one to the conclusion that Lillian Aker, being a union leader, is not necessarily going to be an asset as a candidate for the school board.

'Sign police'

A letter from:
Sharon Felker

Greetings – I had an interesting day Saturday. I had a yard sale and at 8:15 a.m. I placed four signs out with arrows pointing in the correct directions. We had a lot of visitors for the first couple of hours, then nothing. I placed one on Palisades, and one on FH Blvd, and two in the neighborhood. At 2 p.m. I went to pick them up and discovered two were missing, Palisades and FH Blvd. The other two were still in place. Seems like the "sign police" had struck again.

Yard signs are allowed in all zoning districts at one sign per lot. In residential areas these can be a maximum of six sq. ft. in area and three feet tall. In non-residential areas they can be up to eight sq. ft. in area and five feet tall. They are required to be on private property (not in the right-of-way) except when used as provided in Sec. 6.08D. See Section 6.08 A 17 of the Zoning Ordinance for further details.

Section 6.08 D: A-frame and yard signs may be used to direct traffic to events in residential neighborhoods. Each activity may have up to four signs, one on the property and three leading to the property where the event occurs. These signs must be located on private property (not in the street right-of-way) except on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays from sunup to sundown. Such signs are never permitted along Shea Boulevard. See Section 6.08 D of the Zoning Ordinance

for further details.

According to town regulations, my signs were legal. "Sign police" keep your hands off.

Short & sweet

A letter from:
Joanne Meehan

This is an appeal to involved parents, FHUSD staff, and concerned citizens as well as FH taxpayers. Elect Libby Settle and support the bond override!

Vote for Lamar

A letter from:
Valerie Reichler

I met Tara Lamar 11 years ago when our daughters attended kindergarten together at McDowell Mountain Elementary School. I remember Tara volunteering her time in the schools to assist teachers and students in the classrooms. Her fun, outgoing personality and contagious laugh drew me to her to become friends.

As time went on, her determination to be a champion for students and teachers really shined when she was president of the PTO. I recall Tara exemplifying this with her PTO Board initiative that merged McDowell Mountain Elementary School into Falcons unifying our district into one mascot. Tara has a way of bringing people together to create a connected community.

Later, I was honored to work with her on the FH Athletic Booster Board where she once again proved her commitment to our district and our athletes. During this time, she assisted our Booster Club to raise thousands of dollars to give back to all of our sports programs. You can always count on Tara to attend our sporting events and see her cheering on our Falcons.

Please join me and vote for Tara as I know she will continue to be a champion for our Falcon students, staff, and parent community. I am confident that she will be an asset to our School Board and make fair decisions on the topics that face our district today.

Prop #308

A letter from:
Alfred Southall

There are ten propositions on the statewide bal-

(cont. on page 9A)

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On the Ave

School Board candidates discuss leadership

This is the fifth and final entry in the question and answer series with the candidates for Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board.

The question posed by staff at *The Times* this week is: *What are your three defining characteristics as an educational leader, and how will you apply them to the betterment of FHUSD?*

Libby Settle

Accountant, teacher, and advocate. Three significant roles in my life that work together into being an educational leader. As long as I can remember, I wanted to be a mom. This defined my career choice. Despite working 30-40 hours weekly at a local bank while attending college and being offered an auditor position within the FDIC, I chose to pursue a family and teaching career. As a public-school teacher, it was pure joy to watch students learn to read, discover new things, and encounter opportunities. This experience gives me firsthand knowledge of what teachers face daily.

Upon moving to Arizona, I decided to return to my roots in the financial industry and began working as a full-time accountant where I completed routine bookkeeping duties, prepared financial statements, audited accounts, processed payrolls, and completed tax returns. This experience provides me with immediate budgetary understanding and allows me to be a champion for fiscal responsibility.

I have been blessed to be called momma by many children from various backgrounds. As a foster and adoptive parent, I successfully navigated the special education system (thanks to some amazing FHUSD staff) and advocated tirelessly for the families and children in our care. Accessing services and parenting

someone else's child has given me the ability and understanding to find common ground even in the toughest times. Having the skills to advocate for needs and providing mutual understanding is a much-needed asset for a board member.

Ronald Reagan said it well, "The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." I will use my professional skills as an accountant, teacher, and advocate to work with the stakeholders and make FHUSD the shining star that our community can proudly support.

Lillian Acker

I taught for over 25 years in the public school systems in Illinois and Ohio. I taught elementary, middle and high school. Most of my career was at the high school level where I taught Spanish and English as a Second Language and I also hold Administrative Certifications from both states. I have worked with the Ohio Department of Education by advocating for our students, writing testing material, administering Federal and State requirements, and advising School Districts. I was instrumental in forming the Central Ohio ESL Consortium. I also taught at the University level and, after retiring, was an advisor to student teachers.

I was also on the Board of Directors and in 2006 became President of Ohio's TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Association. I have chaired the 2007 and 2008 Conferences. I have spoken at various OFLA (Ohio Foreign Language Association) and TESOL conferences on many topics such as Proficiency examinations, research projects, and also starting English classes for parents of ESL students in our district.

I know education, have always been in the forefront of advocating for our students and am a firm believer in public schools. In my former school district, I was on the ground level at the start of our Education Foundation which has raised money to help fund programs in the schools. At FHUSD, I will easily take charge of anything that is needed on the Board. I am very confident in my ability to speak in public, tell the truth, and advocate for our school system whether it is in our community or at a state level when Fountain Hills is asked to publicly showcase our district.

Jenny Amstutz-Guerrette

A good leader is someone who listens, encourages feedback and collaboration, solves problems, makes decisions, empowers people, and communicates well. As an engineer working on a satellite communication system, solving difficult problems, communicating with various stakeholders, and making decisions are daily occurrences. I strive to solve issues using critical thinking skills, finding a balance between the best technical solution and the best economic solution. I work diligently to weigh tradeoffs when making tough decisions and communicate that information to everyone involved for their understanding, feedback, and support. I work with people at all levels, some to teach, some to empower, others to ask for guidance. I am constantly learning and trying to improve myself and my capabilities; I have a growth mindset. These are the skills I can bring to the Fountain Hills School District.

While skills are important, so is passion. I am passionate about our district and the success of every student. To achieve a "district of excellence" in-

volves listening to parents. It also involves listening to teachers and staff. It involves working together to make sure everyone within the district can become the best version of themselves. I have the passion, the drive, and the skills to help ensure an environment of support and accountability. I offer my skills as a critical thinker, a communicator, a diligent worker, as well as my passion for the district, to this volunteer position, to increase the atmosphere of collaboration, to push for higher academics, to foster better accountability, and to have more communication with the public.

Everyone has an important role in our school system. Let's all work together to make FHUSD the best school district in the state!

Tara Lamar

Over the last 15 years I've volunteered thousands of hours in various capacities within FHUSD and its' partnering non-profits. Throughout those years I've taken great pride to listen, work diligently, to lead by example and always represent both myself and organizations with honesty and positivity. If elected to FHUSD Governing Board in November; I promise to serve all children, staff and the community with integrity, collaboration and to inspire enthusiasm within our district and community at large.

I believe integrity is the foundation for success. I've been a licensed Realtor since 2000, committed to the Code of Ethics and the high moral turpitude required to honestly and faithfully represent individuals in one of the most impactful purchases they'll make in their lifetime. I have a stringent practice of always being prepared, knowledgeable and ready to listen objectively and responsibly.

I'm committed to collaboration with all FHUSD Governing Board members and stake holders for the direct success of the district. During my tenure as PTO President, I worked tirelessly to create a culture where innovation was welcome and promoted. We worked cohesively and accomplished tasks without micromanagement. As the PTO president it was also vital that I had strong rapport with all stakeholders. I always did my best to encourage others to voice their opinions and ideas, was open to those divergent from mine and listened carefully and respectfully.

Finally, I'll bring a fresh and inspiring enthusiasm to our board. I've always brought a positive but grounded outlook to tasks and obstacles faced by the boards I've sat on. I'll continue to pour my passion into our district, students and teachers. I'm fully committed to supporting Dr. J reimagining our district into the exceptional schools we truly are. The time is now for our district and I'm ready to serve.

Madicyn Reid

While school board plays an essential role in the educational system, we are not direct educators, that is left to our skilled teachers. School board members are to ensure our teachers have the support needed to provide exemplary education. As school board members, we must recruit only top teachers who align with the values of our community, and then provide them with the support, tools, and facilities to be successful.

To accomplish these goals, our recruiting process for teachers must be thorough and thoughtful. We need fiscal responsibility within our budgets, guaranteeing funds are spent efficiently, with the bulk of funds going directly to educating students,

keeping them safe, and maintaining quality facilities. A school board seat is intense, requiring considerable time to review budgets and curriculum, meet with parents, attend meetings, and to create a bridge between our schools and the district. Knowing this, it is essential school board members have a strong grasp of budgets, high-level interpersonal skills, passion for children, and strong work ethic.

I have been running my own business since graduating high school. I have been responsible for the finances of my business, recruiting and managing staff, overseeing marketing, promotions, and events. I am the mother of two beautiful school-aged children and sister to 7-children. I am passionate about children and family and fiercely dedicated to making certain our children have quality education. I have dedicated tremendous time to reviewing school budgets, meeting with teachers, school board members, and district staff.

My experience as a business owner, mother, sister, and active school board community member, provides me with the insights and tenacity of an entrepreneur, and the compassion and focus of a single mother. My interactions with the school district inform me of the time and specific skills needed to be effective in this role.

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Letters

(cont. from page 7A)

lot this November.

Proposition #308 would grant dreamer graduates from Arizona High Schools in state tuition at public Universities.

To find out more about prop. #308, visit yeson308.org.

So far, 20 states have passed in-state tuition for dreamers.

There is zero impact on the state budget. It has unanimous Democratic support in the legislature, along with a number of Republican votes.

Please research and discover who is endorsing this measure.

Teachers' advocate

 A letter from:
Lisa Miller

What's the most important qualification of a School Board member? The desire to provide a great education to every student. That includes knowledge of curriculum, student learning styles, teacher qualifications, accountability to parents and community, knowledge of state laws, and personal intelligence.

Candidate Lillian Acker possesses all the needed traits. Who better to help run our school than a retired teacher? Her 25 years of teaching, administration, and work with education in the States of Ohio and Illinois will bring to our town a wealth of ideas from other sections of the country. All her life, Lillian has worked tirelessly for students and their education. She is not an extremist and will ensure our children are protected from some of the radical ideas now assaulting education.

Our community needs a well-educated population with a rigorous curriculum designed by professional educators who know their students and their subjects. Lillian is a teachers' choice candidate, endorsed by the members of the state and local education association. For the past few years, teachers have left our district in droves. Our district and our community must heed the needs of teachers in order to maintain strong staffs. Lillian knows how to do this. An old saying goes, "If Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." This applies to schools, also. Happy teachers create happy students. Let's keep our teachers happy.

Vote Acker for Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board.

Blind

 A letter from:
David Adler

Notice the old adage: "There are none so blind as those who refuse to see what is before them."

John Maynard Keynes, 1930's British economist advocated for "Deficit Spending." That is to "prime the pumps" in the vernacular, which seemingly worked for awhile. It is now understood as "Voodoo Accounting."

Now we are not priming pumps any longer. We are now building thousands of unnecessary pumps that are not used (metaphor). And that with expensive borrowed money, which is inflationary.

Recognize; that there is a difference between what our financial system, our "golden goose" once created, real gold real wealth. Now our "golden goose" creates a more complicated form of wealth known as sovereign debt. Yes we are very rich in Debt! A portion of which is real wealth and its other portion known as interest, a burden.

Our sovereign debt is acknowledged as 24 trillion dollars with its interest burden of 756 billion dollars about 3.06% interest rate. (Some think sovereign debt as high as 31 trillion dollars and interest burden of 904 billion dollars) in either case about 3.06% interest rates fall between 3.06% economic growth and fall into a viscous cycle.

Fountain Hills Unified School District's proposed school bond issue of 20 million dollars and its interest burden of over 9

million dollars is inflationary. And exactly the wrong thing to do at this time, since the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Federal Reserve Bank are trying to quash inflation. Vote no Nov. 8, 2022, on the 20 million dollar school bond issue. With its interest burden of over 9 million dollars, and by so doing help quash inflation. This bond issue is not so important that it cannot be addressed again in the future, if necessary.

Otherwise vote yes and get much more inflation which is at odds with U.S. Treasury and U.S. Federal Reserve trying to quash inflation.

Collapse?

 A letter from:
Allen Day

Mr. Damkroger's recent letter addressing "collapse," presented an election of a new president as "triggering a constitutional crisis." Did the election of a president trigger the crisis, or was it the actions associated with a complete reluctance to accept the election results, that lead to the crisis (re: 6 January, 2021)?

Later in the letter we read of Obama "tottering, a three - legged stool," very close to falling over. Let us not forget that the stool was backed in a box and taken to Florida on 20 January 2021.

It is suggested that we "vote for every Republican on the ballot, then go home and pray hard for America." How did that work out in 2016? Do we really want to go through all of that followed again?

Vote Finchem

 A letter from:
Chris Brant

I hope voters have longer memory than the press. *Time*, *NPA* and the *Republican* last week anointed candidate for Secretary of State, Fontes; not mentioning his rogue behavior and actions while Maricopa County Recorder. For 18 years Helen Purcell followed the law as Maricopa County Recorder, as the administrator doesn't create laws, their task is to follow the laws passed by the legislators and Governor "And to keep our honor clean."

That's not what Fontes did before being fired by the voters in 2020. When voting in November remember Fontes, the activist, partisan Recorder who decided without authority to mail out absentee ballots

for all Democrats, whether ballots had been requested or not. This was significant because two weeks ago I visited a home in my precinct and from the up-to-date voters roll I asking to speak with the voter from the rolls. The occupant said that she had moved sixteen years ago. He said that he was still receiving ballots for her for each election. The occupant told me that if he was a criminal he could have mailed in her ballots each time.

Imagine the possible disaster if the Secretary of State, a Democrat, had not ordered the rogue Recorder Fontes not to mail the ballots. There were many other occasions when the County Supervisors had to curtail the devious actions of Fontes. Heaven help us if he is elected Secretary of State!

On PBS's Arizona Horizon last week, the host was his usual Democrat-bias-self but was stumped when he again went after the Republican Finchem for hypothetical actions post the next election. Finchem reminded him and the audience that the Secretary of State doesn't create laws but implements them (unlike Fontes's previous record).

That's why we should all vote for Democracy and vote for Finchem in November.

Override support

 A letter from:
Theresa Conti

We encourage you to vote yes in the November election for the Fountain Hills School District "District Additional Assistance" override (DAA) and the 2022 bond program.

The DAA override provides funding each year for the ongoing capital needs for the FHUSD that cannot be paid for otherwise. It gives the district the ability to purchase things like technology upgrades, textbooks, transportation needs and many other items. This is the replacement of an existing tax, and all of the funds go to our schools. This is an investment in our community that residents should continue to make to ensure that our schools maintain their high level of achievement.

The bond will ensure that the district can make sorely needed updates and improvements to our facilities. Those improvements cover everything from building renovations

(cont. on page 10A)

October is National Audiology Awareness Month

To celebrate Audiology Awareness Month, Priority Hearing & Tinnitus is going to embark on a 4-week campaign to inform our community on how to be informed hearing and hearing aid consumers. Over the next month, we will dive into types of hearing providers, categories of hearing loss, and hearing aids (both prescription and over the counter).

With the rise of information found online, we have found our patients more confused than ever. Its difficult to sort out if information is educational, informational, advertising, or simply opinion. Even within the field of audiology, different providers have different perspectives and opinions on care and outcomes for our patients.

When it comes down to the facts, hearing loss is the third most common chronic health condition for adults (National Center for Health Statistics, 2012). 25% of adults from ages 65-74 have a hearing loss which could be treated with hearing aids, and that number jumps to 50% for those above age 75. Of those individuals who need hearing aids, less than 30% have ever tried them

(National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, 2021).

You may be wondering why so many people with hearing loss don't do anything about it. For some people, they don't notice they have a problem. Some people are unwilling to admit they have a problem. Others may have numerous health conditions, and hearing is not a priority when they have issues that are more pressing. And then there is the elephant in the room, once you do choose to do something, there is often a hefty price tag associated with getting hearing aids. There might be someone in your life you are thinking of right now that could use help with their hearing.

Over the next month, we are hoping this series will help answer some questions you have about hearing and hearing aids. If you still have more questions or would like to discuss issues you have noticed in your own hearing, Priority Hearing & Tinnitus is accepting new patients, and we are happy to dive deeper on an individual level to help you hear and communicate better with the people around you.



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Park overseed begins

The Town of Fountain Hills currently has its annual overseeding routine in Fountain Park underway with the process continuing through Nov. 1.

Those who enjoy a walk through the park and along the Avenue Plaza should be aware that irrigation for the new grass is ongoing at any time to sufficiently water to allow the ryegrass to germinate and become established. With more than 32 acres of turf, this process takes several weeks to complete. By over seeding with ryegrass, it allows for green grass within Fountain Park all winter long. However, ryegrass requires different maintenance.

During overseeding, the seed must remain moist during the day to germinate in the warm sunshine. Thus, the overseeding watering schedule operates throughout the day, beginning just after sunrise at 7 a.m. and continuing through the afternoon until 7 p.m. To adequately

cover more than 32 acres of turf, the park's irrigation system operates over 150 zones and nearly 900 sprinklers, taking several hours. As a result, irrigation will be on during peak visitor usage times and may impact the walking path. This schedule is only temporary and staff hopes to resume standard irrigation cycles by mid-November.

The Town encourages park users to walk carefully, remembering that wet sidewalks can be slick. It is also essential that park users remain only on pathways and non-turf areas to allow the over-seeding process to be effective.

Letters

(cont. from page 10A)

to additions and updates to existing school buildings. A significant portion will go to upgrades to the safety and security systems that protect our children. In our

current environment this is extremely important.

The children of Fountain Hills are an integral part in the success of this town as a community and our schools are not only the largest employer in the town, they are an important piece in the fabric of our town.

Mold

(cont. from page 1A)

inspection did not indicate elevations or concentrations of microbial contamination at the time and the location that the samples were obtained," the report stated.

The report from AZIAQ addressed the Community Center air quality, typically the first step to determining if a building has mold. A more detailed inspection and testing of the facility are planned within the next few weeks. This will involve taking samples after the removal and examination of drywall in areas of the building where

water has permeated the exterior walls from rain events. This will help provide a clearer picture of the effects of water intrusion damage and the presence of mold and mildew in the building or previous signs of mold and mildew. Following the completion of the next phase, the Town will report the findings and conclusions from the hygienist.

The council had told staff to take immediate action on the testing of the air quality for health safety assurances.

P&Z

(cont. from page 1A)

center, outpatient as a use in the C-2 district with approval of a SUP and subject to several conditions.

*Lists detoxification center, outpatient and detoxification center, inpatient as uses in the C-3 district with approval of a SUP and subject to several conditions.

*Lists substance abuse

treatment center, lodging as a use in the C-3 district with approval of a SUP and subject to several conditions.

*The ordinance also makes the change in language changing group homes to community residences that was overlooked in the advertisement for the previous change.

Earlier discussions related to this zoning has included discussion on spacing from residential, parks, schools and other areas. Wesley has prepared maps based on certain distance restrictions and finds only a couple of locations in Town that might be appropriate. One is in the C-3 zoning district off Saguaro Boulevard in the area of Colony and Enterprise drives. The second would be a portion of the Four Peaks Plaza on Shea and Saguaro. This siting would be confined to an area near Technology Drive.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Monday, Oct. 12, at 6 p.m. in council chambers at Town Hall. This is a session for public comment.

Forum

(cont. from page 1A)

the Arizona state legislature, but they can ask local residents to continue paying taxes to supply FHUSD with additional funds. FHUSD has relied on Overrides and Bonds for decades like all Arizona public schools, so many FHUSD teachers were surprised at Reid and Settle's answer.

The current bond proposal is for \$20 million and is a continuation of the current bond tax rate. It will not cost Fountain Hills residents any additional tax. The money is structured only to go to capital funds, such as building upgrades and maintenance. This includes installing and improving security measures on campuses, and basic needs like transportation, roofing, HVAC systems and window and door replacements.

The DAA Override would provide \$750,000 per year over seven years for FHUSD. These funds can go towards classroom technology, curriculum material and building maintenance.

Neither the bond nor override fund can go directly into staff's paychecks. Former FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sweeney spoke to teachers before the forum began and said that if FHUSD could cut down on utility costs through upgrades, there would be more money to spare for other items, including pay raises.

There are three seats up for election this November on the Governing Board, and the Override and Bond proposals will be on the same general election ballot. The deadline to register to vote is at 11:59 p.m. next Tuesday, Oct. 11. Early voting begins Wednesday, Oct. 12, and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.



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Schools

FHUSD discusses range of topics

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board met last Wednesday, Sept. 28, for a work study session, and they will meet again tonight, Wednesday, Oct. 5, for a business meeting at 6 p.m. The shortened time between the meetings is due to fall break next week from Oct. 10-14.

Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski was busy around homecoming week, participating in events and also going to the ASBA Principal law conference and an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) meeting. Jagodzinski plans to implement AVID programs at the middle school next year and has been continuing his community reach out programs with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and other organizations, as well as monthly coffee meetings with local stakeholders.

Fountain Hills Education Association President TJ Buckley gave an update to the Board on several topics. The FHEA sent out a new survey to teachers to gauge their standing during the first quarter

this past Monday, Oct. 3. Buckley will share those results at a later meeting after data collection, and Buckley also said meet and confer meetings between him and Jagodzinski would begin the week following fall break.

Buckley made the Board aware that staff around the district have noticed a rise in mental health concerns among students, and he said that he'll bring a proposal to hire a behavior specialist in the future. The FHEA is also creating a committee to review new laws this year and ensure compliance with FHUSD staff.

The Board already did their first reading of 20 new policies handed down by the state at their last business meeting, and at the work study session, they selected a few of them to review in closer detail at a later meeting. The Board will address the wording in the regulations and exhibits of the policies to be more applicable to Fountain Hills' students and families, while still in compliance with the law.

Jagodzinski went over his goals and objectives for the 2022-23 year, touching on an engaging learning environment, maximizing potential, school safety,

positivity, excellence and more. The Board asked that Jagodzinski have specific measurables in future years, whether it be a target percent increase in test scores, or something else, but they liked his goals for this year.

Arizona has changed the state standardized test each of the past three years, and that inconsistency combined with a pandemic left FHUSD without many benchmarks to compare their standing to. Moving forward, Jagodzinski will use the ACT and other metrics to track success and areas of need.

Jagodzinski also introduced the idea to include an incomplete grade on FHUSD's grading scale. The idea is that students who fail a class by a few points would be able to make up enough work to bring their grade up to 60% in a short time period. Jagodzinski said he wants to flesh out this idea by next school year.

The Board discussed a new bullying reporting form that is written clearer and is "more parent-friendly." The new reporting form explains all types of bullying and is included with student materials they receive at the beginning of

the year.

Former McDowell Mountain Elementary School principal Valerie Dehombreux will be doing a research study for her doctorate through ASU on fourth grade teachers at Fountain Hills Middle School. The Board said that this research study would not impact class time instruction.

The Board discussed having someone from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation sit in as a non-voting member. Someone has recently reached out to the Board for this position, but the Board wants to ensure that expectations are clearly set for what their role will be before implementing a new position.

Milica Bulj was honored in the Board's new monthly employee spotlight. Bulj has been a janitor and more for FHUSD for 17 years, and the Fountain Hills Booster Club also presented her with flowers to show their appreciation.

Governing Board candidate Madicyn Reid said in a public comment that she was verbally assaulted and accused of lying by a sitting Board member. Reid did not mention who assaulted her or what was said.

The next Board meeting is tonight, Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 6 p.m. The next work study session will be Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 5 p.m. All meetings are held in the District Learning Center and are livestreamed and recorded on YouTube.

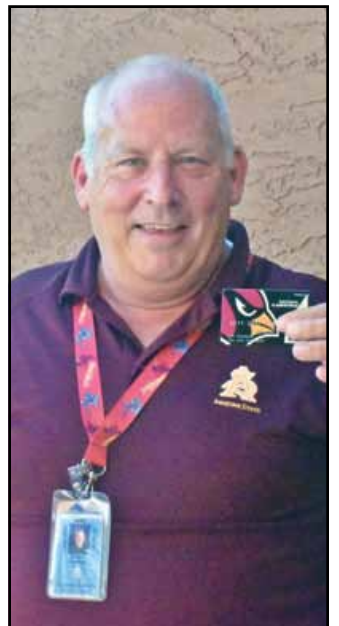


Recognition

FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski continued his new monthly district celebrations with Milica Bulj earning recognition at the last Board meeting. Bulj has worked at FHUSD for 17 years, and she also received flowers and a gift from the Falcons football team for her many years helping to host and clean up after weekly football dinners in the cafeteria.

Touchdown winner

Bruce Gjerstad, third-year STEM and Career teacher at Fountain Hills Middle School, received \$500 from Salt River Project's Touchdown for Teachers program following the Arizona Cardinals' loss to the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday, Sept. 11. Gjerstad used the \$500 debit card to purchase school supplies like calculators, bulletin boards and motivational posters. For every touchdown the Cardinals score, SRP donates \$500 to two random Arizona educators, and teachers can sign up to enter the drawing anytime before Jan. 7, 2023.



GEEF gift

The Four Peaks Rotary Foundation presented the Golden Eagle Education Foundation (GEEF) with a \$25,000 grant at the Four Peaks Rotary Club's Sept. 22 meeting. The money will be used to fund two \$10,000 Four Peaks Rotary scholarships to graduating seniors, and GEEF will use the remaining \$5,000 for the Mentor Program. From left are Four Peaks Rotary Foundation Treasurer Tim Taylor, Four Peaks Rotary Club Champion Sandy Davis, Golden Eagle Education Foundation Volunteer Marcia Hoenle and Four Peaks Rotary president Todd Harris.



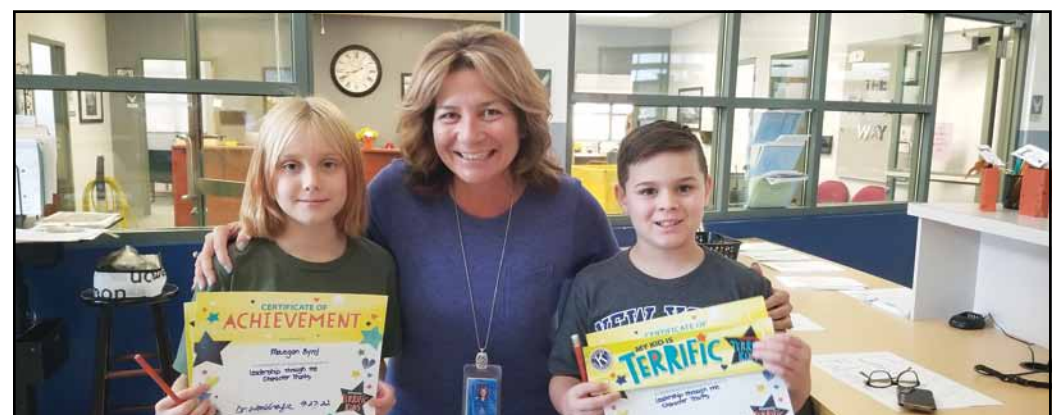
Sunset readers

Sunset Kiwanis members Linda Ness and Connie Barczak read to all the Pre-K students at McDowell Elementary School. The children were very excited to hear the story and each child received a book. Sunset Kiwanis meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served. Those interested in joining can contact Connie Barczak 480-837-9484.



4H donation

Fountain Hills Sunset Kiwanis Club President Dr. Bill Myhr presents a \$500 check to the new FH 4-H Club Advisor, Lisa Ristuccia, at a recent club meeting. The newly formed 4-H Club has begun the new school year with 25 members.



Terrific Kids

Fountain Hills Middle School principal Dr. Kimberly Weeldreyer congratulates Terrific Kids for the month of September, Maegan Byrd, left, and Alex Hrisho, right. Photo courtesy of Steffie Beck.

What should Alzheimer's caregivers know?

If you have a family member who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or is starting to show symptoms, you will face some emotional and financial challenges. Here are a few suggestions that can help:

First, plan for the medical costs involved and make sure you understand what health insurance your loved one has, including any coverage for long-term care.

Also, identify all your loved one's financial assets and debts.

You may need to work with your legal and tax professionals to create appropriate documents, such as durable powers of attorney for health care and finances. And you'll want to take care of these while your loved one still has the capacity to give consent.

Here's another tip: Look for tax deductions and credits available to caregivers. These vary by state, so check with your tax advisor.

You may also want to work with a financial professional who can look at your family's situation and make suit-

able recommendations.

An Alzheimer's diagnosis will unquestionably change the lives of everyone in your family. But as a caregiver, you can take steps to help ease the burden.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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The Arts & Entertainment

'Gaslight' opens at FHT Golden Age of Radio shines

Fountain Hills Theater announces the opening of the mystery thriller "Gaslight" on Friday, Oct. 14.

Gaslight (verb): A form of psychological manipulation where a person seeks to make a targeted individual or group question their own memory, perception and sanity.

Bella Manningham thinks she might be going crazy. In the evenings, she hears strange sounds, and the gas lights dim for no apparent reason. Is she losing her grip on reason, or is it being loosened for her? Patrick Hamilton's 1938 play gave a word that is now used for an insidious form of mental abuse. "Gaslight" is a gripping thriller: will the gaslight have its intended, murderous, effect?

"Gaslight," made into the classic movie starring Ingrid Bergman, tells the story of a suavely handsome man who is slowly driving his wife to the brink of insanity by sowing seeds of doubt, memory loss and misperceptions.

"The playwright has built and sustained some of the most brilliant, suspenseful sequences in modern theatre," a press release reads. "A surprisingly timely play for 2022. Who could have ever foreseen that the title of a crime thriller from the 1930s would become a buzzword in our conversations today?"



Tom Koebel and Lisa Barnes star in "Gaslight," a mystery thriller coming to Fountain Hills Theater on Friday, Oct. 14.

"Gaslight" is directed by Ben Tyler and stars Tom Koebel, Lisa Barnes, Mark Hackmann, Lauren Miller and Isabelle Bandt. "Gaslight" is presented through Special Arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

ern theatre," a press release reads. "A surprisingly timely play for 2022. Who could have ever foreseen that the title of a crime thriller from the 1930s would become a buzzword in our conversations today?"

"Gaslight" will play Oct. 14 through 30 with performances on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 for Adults and \$18 for Youth 17 and under. Seniors receive a \$5 discount on all Thursday performances.

Group, active duty and veteran discounts are available. All performances are at Fountain Hills Theater on its Mainstage at 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd. (The Corner of Saguaro and Rand).

Tickets are available through the Theater Box Office at 480-837-9661 x3 or by visiting fhtaz.org. Box Office Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For additional information call Fountain Hills Theater Artistic Director, Peter J. Hill at 480-837-9661 x7.

By Cyrus Guccione
Times Reporter

Bill Whittaker was enjoying his morning coffee over a riveting early-2000s edition of *The Times*. He came across a story submitted by a Fountain Hills resident named Bruce Florence, promoting a radio-listening session, open to the public called Old Time Radio.

Whittaker, along with his now long-time friend Allan Goldberg attended the event. From that day on, the two were hooked and have since taken over to become the face of what is now Golden Age of Radio.

Whittaker, Goldberg and a few other folks were tasked with running the show in 2008 after Florence began focusing his efforts to establish a Parkinson's Support Group after being diagnosed with the disease.

When Florence passed, his library of stories, radio shows and recorded historical segments were donated by his wife to Golden Age of Radio.

Beginning Thursday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m., the group will resume meeting on the first Thursday of every month through June in the Community Center. Before each meeting, a brief prologue is given at the top of the hour. Radio lovers can then sit back and enjoy the Golden Age of Radio.

Commemoratively named the Bruce Florence Library, it houses tales of drama, comedy, science fiction, non-fiction and recordings of historical events in



Bill Whittaker is the co-leader of Golden Age of Radio held at the Fountain Hills Community Center.

American history.

"He had a lifelong interest in radio," Whittaker said of his predecessor who would play bits and pieces of old radio shows for anyone who would come and listen.

Whittaker studied history at Wayne State University in Detroit. In his first year, he signed up for a speech course held in the acclaimed Macca-bees Building, which, unbeknownst to Whittaker, produced timeless shows like "The Lone Ranger" and "The Green Hornet" out of its WXYZ Radio studio, and later, WXYZ-TV.

"I just wanted to be an announcer, you know? Everybody else wanted to be a rock 'n' roll disc jockey," Whittaker said, who, for a brief time, was a news radio host for WXYZ Radio.

Sincere, well-spoken and a loveable self-deprecating sense of humor, Whittaker has absorbed an ocean of knowledge from his time in front of the radio.

Every year, Golden Age of Radio commemorates the Pearl Harbor anniversary with a special presentation of the news broadcasts during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

For Memorial Day, Whittaker is planning to broadcast a D-Day program to honor servicemen and women who served in WWII.

"I was born in the forties right in the middle of WWII," Whittaker said. "As boys growing up, that was all we had was radio."

Before moving to Fountain Hills in 1989, Whittaker grew up in Detroit, Mich. where he would tune in to the Detroit Tigers baseball team play at Briggs Stadium just down the road in the Corktown neighborhood of Detroit.

"I would listen to the Tigers just about wherever I was if there was a radio available," said Whittaker. "They were still bad back then too."

Whittaker remembers his parents tuning into "The Jack Benny Program" and on Saturday evenings Whittaker would catch the half-hour-long prime-time detective radio drama, "Dick Tracy."

One vivid memory for Whittaker was on April 12, 1945, witnessing his grandmother crying when the news broke of Franklin D. Roosevelt's death.

"[Radio] is part of the history of our country," Whittaker said. "It was the first time that people could just stay at home and know what's going on across the world."

Living in Fountain Hills in what he aptly calls his ramshackle Goodwill store, Whittaker gladly accepts donations of all mediums, many of which make their way into the Bruce Florence Library.

Readers may be surprised to know that the entire Bruce Florence Library is available for check-out. Such items include cassette tapes, CDs, records and even a few books.

Tomorrow is opening day for Golden Age of Radio, which begins with a special Halloween treat. "Donovan's Brain," will play at 1 p.m. in the Community Center.

In an eerie premise, Orson Welles plays Dr. Patrick Cory, a semi-mad scientist experimenting with monkey brains. When a plane crashes and kills its only passenger, Dr. Cory takes this opportunity to use a human brain in his experiments.

Community Center membership is required to attend. To check out items from the Bruce Florence Library, call Bill Whittaker at 480-837-7961.

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Halloween workshop

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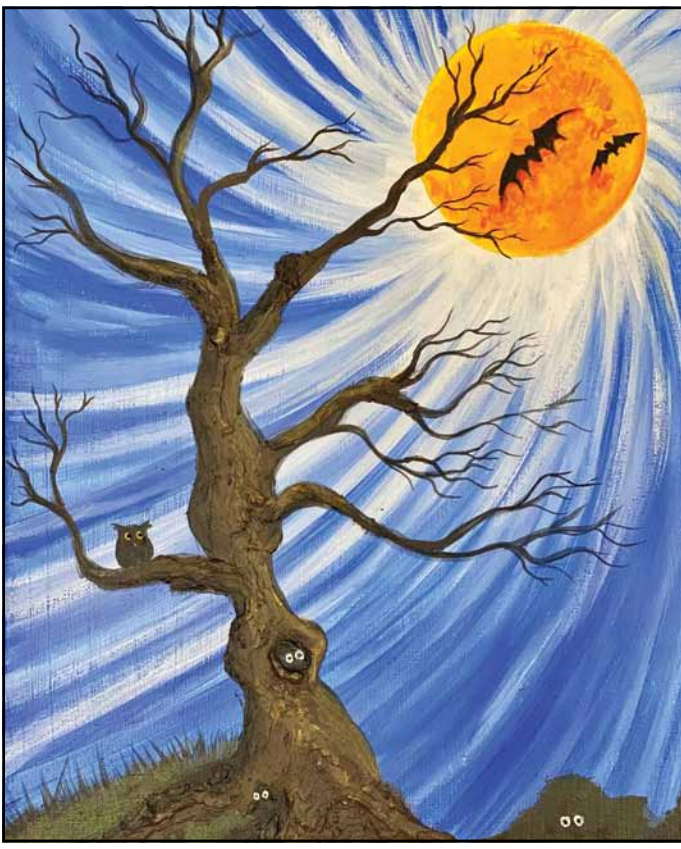
The Fountain Hills Artists Gallery is offering a workshop just in time for Halloween.

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, from 5 to 8 p.m., acrylic artist Gloria Sanchez will guide students in painting "Peek-a-boo," an eerie textured three-dimensional tree under a bright full moon. Participants will also be painting all the critters and creatures that come out on Halloween night. Participants will be using acrylics on a 12"x16" canvas. The workshop fee is \$55. Sanchez accepts cash, check or Zelle.

The workshop is limited to 6 students and the workshop fee includes all necessary supplies and no experience is needed. Registration must be completed at the Fountain Hills Artists Gallery before the workshop. Make checks payable to Gloria Sanchez. For Zelle, call the gallery at 480-836-9919 for the instructor's contact information.

The Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery is a premier gallery showcasing jewelry, ceramics, glass, fine art, metal, gift items and more. It is located at 16858 E. Avenue of the Fountains, within easy walking distance from the Fountain.

The gallery is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about exhibitions, events, and workshops, call the Fountain Hills Artists Gallery at 480-836-9919 or visit fountainhillsartistsgallery.com.



'Peak-a-boo' by Gloria Sanchez is an acrylic paint workshop offered at the Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery on Tuesday, Oct. 11. Call the Gallery at 480-836-9919 for more information.



Below is a list of current advertisers with live music between October 5 and October 11

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• Saturday - 4 pm - Dave Clark
• Sunday - 4 pm - Eric Miller

Phil's Filling Station Grill
16852 E. Parkview Ave ~ 480-816-8200
• Thursday - 6-9 pm - Jim Doden & Miss Erin
• Friday - 6-9 pm - Ageing Hipsters
• Thursday - 6-9 pm - Aaron Church

Saddle Bronc Grill
11056 N. Saguro Blvd. ~ 480-816-5900
• Friday - 6-9 pm - Fred Rutledge
• Saturday - 6-9 pm - Harry McGraw

Information is accurate to the best of our knowledge, but dates and times are subject to change without notice.

Do you have a story, or idea, to submit?

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Bob Burns
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Business, Clubs, Religion and Entertainment:
Cyrus Guccione
cyrus@fhtimes.com

Schools and Sports:
George Zeliff
george@fhtimes.com

A&E Briefs

Register for the Tour d'Artistes

The Fountain Hills Art League is gearing up for the 2023 Tour d' Artistes studio tour. The tour will be held from March 3 through March 6, 2023, and the deadline for register is Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Participants can access the registration form by visiting fountainhillartleague.com and clicking on the Tour d' Artistes button. Those interested can also contact Elaine Tarr at elaine@tarrs.com or Lloyd Tarr at lloyd@tarrs.com for more information.

Desert Valley Winds seek musicians

Desert Valley Winds is in search of musicians

who enjoy playing and performing music. Admission is open to adults, amateurs, professionals, and college and high school students.

Be part of community performances playing a wide variety of musical styles including the classics, marches, popular selections and patriotic music. Rehearsals and performances will begin this fall. Instruments in need are flute/piccolo, clarinet (any size), oboe, bassoon, saxophone (any size), trumpet, French horn, baritone/euphonium, trombone, tuba and percussion.

This call is for both active musicians and those who haven't played in years. Consider joining and playing with a like-minded

group of music-lovers.

For more information, contact Steve Bouchier at 480-652-3911 or Frank Grace at 602-689-3315.

Storytelling event planned Nov. 17

Fountain Hills Friends of the Library (FHFL) has announced a new program, Stories in the Hills, a community storytelling experience.

This series will kick off on Thursday, Nov. 17, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Community Center. This is a free event that is open to the public. No RSVP is required.

The first theme featured at Stories in the Hills is entitled "My Arizona Story," consisting of 5- to 10-minute authentic accounts that will be shared by five to six pre-selected members of the Fountain Hills community.

Fountain Hills Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that supports the local Fountain Hills Library and its programs. Annual memberships are welcome.

Summer Nights finale

The season grand finale of the Fountain Hills Summer Nights Car Shows presented by Breton's Automotive and co-sponsored by Precision Mobile Detail will be held Saturday, Oct. 8 starting at 5 p.m.

This is a free event for both participants and spectators, and there is no need to pre-register, just cruise on in. Vehicles of all ages are welcome, from vintage to modern customs. Since it gets dark in the evening, attendees are encouraged to light up their vehicles if equipped with LED lights or bring a small portable light.

The show will include a Trunk-or-Treat area, with a \$200 cash prize for the best display, raffle drawings, a visit from the AZ Autobots and free swag bags for the first fifty vehicles to arrive.

Halloween costumes encouraged for adults and kids. 100% of the funds collected from the raffles and shirts go directly to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, the show's beneficiary.

The shows are held in the back parking lot of Phil's Filling Station, 16852 E. Parkview Ave. For more information and up-to-date details, call Carole at

Breton's Automotive at 480-421-9048 or follow their Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/fountainhillsummer-nights/.



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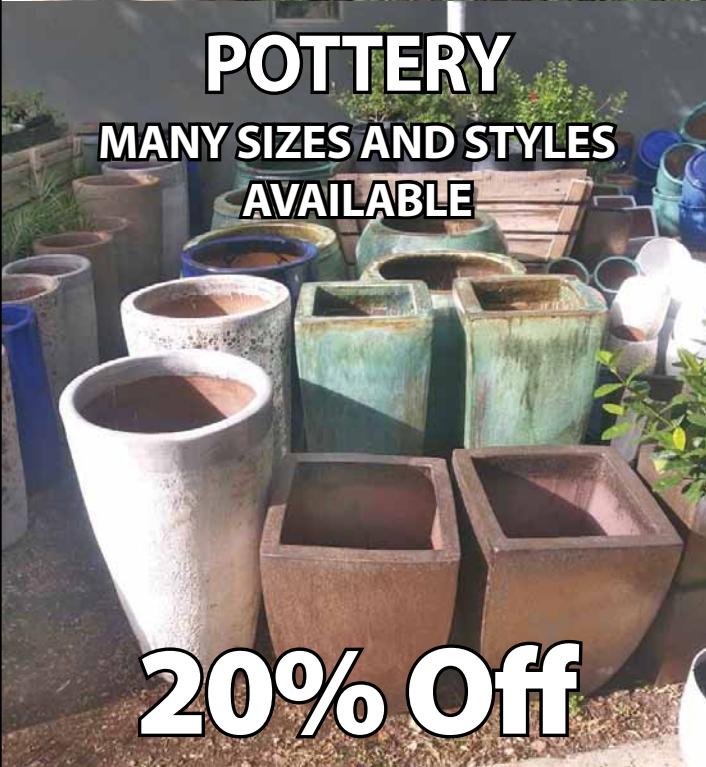
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Ron Will's life's work

Turbo Phantom finds home in Fountain Hills

By **Cyrus Guccione**
Times Reporter

Built out of one man's desire to create a vehicle entirely of his own imagination, Ron Will's Turbo Phantom is a vehicle dedicated to form and superior design.

This three-wheeled, motorcycle-powered car was intended to be manufactured and sold to gearheads who already own a motorcycle. After insurmountable setbacks, what is left of the Phantom Vehicle Company sits here on a quiet driveway in Fountain Hills, but its history and that of its owner still live on.

The Phantom is a three-wheeled luxury sports vehicle, powered by one of the first ever produced Honda Gold Wing motorcycles, capable of 50 mpg and a top speed of 130 mph. It is equipped with the Gold Wing's 5-speed transmission and a canopy door that lifts the steering wheel, digital instruments and stereo upwards towards the sky.

Part sting ray and part futuristic sports car, the Phantom was built with fibre-reinforced plastic filled with six lbs. of urethane foam for rigidity, speed and lightweight construction.

For Will, building the Phantom was a lifelong achievement, but how he came to conceive of its design began when he was just a kid.

At a young age, Will cultivated a love for design and aesthetics from his mother and uncle who were both artists. He was introduced to the use of vellum, a parchment used to trace layers of design, which his uncle employed to perfection.

Will's love for cars came from his father who would often take him to car shows. At the age of 10, Will's father took him to the Chicago Auto Show, the largest auto show in the nation.

Among the vehicles and festivities in Chicago sat a large, enclosed display case with small holes to peek inside with words that read, "Look into the Future."

"I thought it was a time machine," Will said. "I'm 10 years old, what do I know? So, I looked into the future. I was just dazzled."

Enclosed was a 1952 Nash Healy, a vehicle that hit Hollywood with a force, spotted in classic films like 1954's crime drama "The Fast and the Furious," 1955's film noir "The Desperate Hours" and the hit 1950's TV series "Adventures of Superman" driven by Clark Kent himself (George Reeves).

At the time, Will would have never dreamed that his Phantom would be shown at the Chicago Auto Show decades later, and even star in a Hollywood commercial with Bob Hope.

As a teenager, Will built soap box derby racecars, winning the 1958 Soap

box Derby amateur racing event in Michigan City, Ind. Following that year, from the ages of 16 to 18, Will spent his days and nights in the garage, building model car designs for the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild, racking up blue ribbons, which ultimately landed him his dream job on the design team at General Motors.

Working as a GM designer, Will still found the time to enter contests, winning a custom division with his three-wheel, 1/8 scale Phantom design.

Hard at work in the design studio, Will was assigned to a project with Chevrolet engineering to experiment with a car whose entire body/chassis was made of plastic. Will's lightbulb went on and thought his Phantom design could benefit from the same fiberglass concept. The Phantom began to take shape and Will was eager to cover ground.

"The car has a wing-like shape and I was worried that it was going to fly," Will explained. His roommate at the time hap-

pened to work at the GM wind tunnel, offering Will after-hours access to test his design in a controlled simulation.

Using a model Phantom at 3/8 scale, Will was able to test for proper radiator cooling and wind resistance at high speeds.

The wind tunnel model was made from clay so that if problems arose at high speeds, changes could be incorporated instantly by shaping the clay to precise dimensions. The tunnel test produced favorable results at windspeeds of 120 mph. Most importantly, the Phantom did not fly away.

"The lure of possibly starting my own little car company became bigger than staying at GM Styling," wrote Will in an archived online blog post.

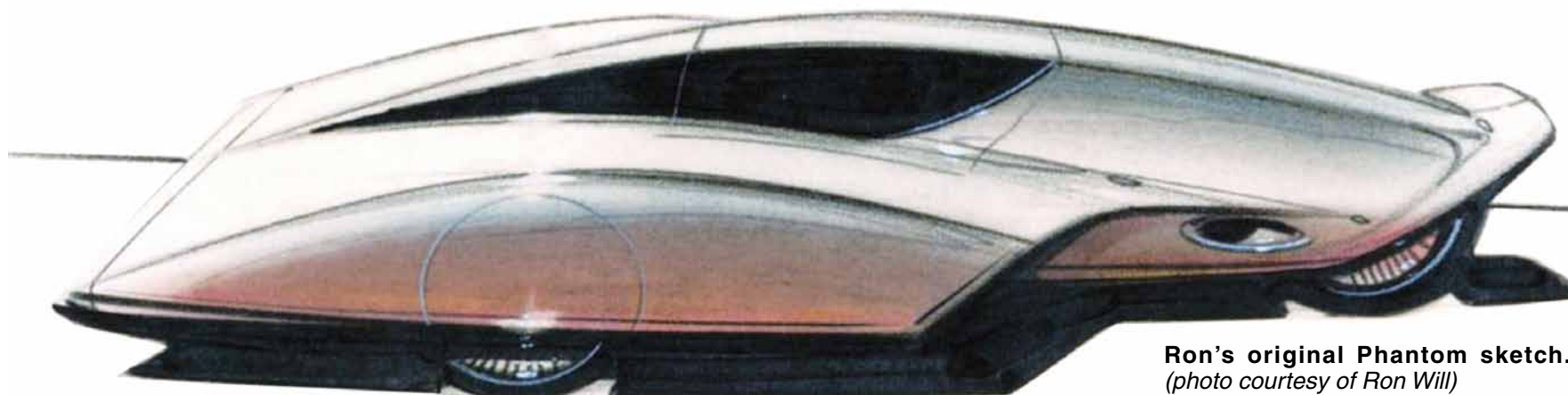
After sharing their vision for the Phantom, Will and his brother Lee, who had been helping his brother since conception, decided to quit their jobs to pursue their joint venture.

"I quit my job, sold everything, got married all at the same time," Will said, who also bought a duplex in California with his wife, Pat, where he devoted all his time developing the



Ron Will holding a 1/8 scale Phantom model in his Fountain Hills home.

Times photo by Cyrus Guccione



Ron's original Phantom sketch. (photo courtesy of Ron Will)

Phantom.

Supported by their wives, the two brothers along with other early partners tinkered with design, evolving from the Phantom's side-by-side seater to a Jet Fighter for the Street design, incorporating a tube frame construction with a front and back seat.

"We realized that we had bitten off more than we could chew," Will wrote. "At this point, we were all out of money and I had to find a real job. Subaru."

Will was introduced to Subaru serendipitously at a time when he was sorely in need of work. The U.S. Government was testing the road safety of three-wheeled vehicles, and Will along with his three-wheeled creation was asked to participate.

On the space shuttle landing strip at Edwards Air Force Base in Kern County, Calif., the Phantom passed with flying colors, generating more cornering G-forces than many four-wheel cars. Impressed with its results, Subaru asked Will to come work for them.

Will joined Subaru, first working on acces-

sories, then product planning and finally made his way back onto the design team, where he was tasked with designing the original Subaru Outback.

"That was my five-minute claim to fame," Will said.

Back at GM, the plastic car concept that Will first got the idea to imitate was the Chevrolet XP-898, a car that was never produced in mass, packed away somewhere inside Chevrolet engineering.

Call it a coincidence or a harbinger of things to come, the XP-898 and the

Turbo Phantom are linked by design as plastic conceptions that never found their potential.

For years, the Phantom sat idle, collecting dust and finally making its way to Fountain Hills where Will and his wife have lived since 2006. It has received international acclaim through car publications from California to Japan and car shows across the nation.

After placing in the top five in the Hot Wheels Legends Tour in Phoenix last month, Will plans to enter the Phantom into the

upcoming Concourse in the Hills car show in Fountain Hills.

"I'd do it again, but I wouldn't do that car," Will reflects. "Cause you gotta do something that's within your range of what you can really do."

Nearing 50 years since its original design, the Phantom is a tangible memory of a life spent chasing a dream at full speed into the desert.

"We could have been in business with a simpler model," Will said, "But it's fun having this one."



Ron Will standing next to a wooden mock-up of the Phantom in his California home at the start of his journey in 1976. (photo courtesy of Ron Will)



The Phantom's cockpit with the canopy door open.

Times photo by Cyrus Guccione



Side view of the Turbo Phantom. (photo courtesy of Ron Will)

Sports

Falcon football head into bye week with big win

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School football (4-3) team won in convincing fashion on the road last Friday, Sept. 30. The Falcons defense grabbed seven interceptions, returned three for touchdowns, and beat Phoenix Christian 62-13. Senior running back Gavin Furi added four offensive touchdowns in the region matchup as well.

The Falcons didn't start the night strong on the ground, and only had one positive yardage play on the first drive. After two runs by Furi were stuffed in the backfield, senior quarterback Spencer Nelson found junior Gannon Young for a 61 yard touchdown strike.

The Falcon's defense was ready to go from the start. They allowed zero yards on the Cougar's first drive, and senior Ty Cosman intercepted a pass and returned it 25 yards for a touchdown to put the Falcons up 14-0 early.

Senior Ryan Dyhrkopp sacked the Cougar quarterback on the next drive and helped set up a punt. Sophomore Sam Barnard returned the punt to the Phoenix Christian 42 yard line, Dyhrkopp caught a pass for 17 yards, and then Furi took it the rest of the way on two carries. Furi scored his first touchdown from 14 yards out to lead 21-0.

The Cougars started to move the ball, getting at least two first downs on their third offensive drive,

until junior Cannon Lips intercepted the ball for the Falcons. The Falcons handed the ball off to Furi on first down and he ripped through a hole and several tackles on his way to a 44 yard touchdown run.

"[Gavin] played well. He ran with a purpose, and he read the cuts," Falcons head coach Sean Moran said. "I thought on the ground he was really explosive. When he saw a hole, he just exploded through it. We're happy with it. He's picking up the scheme really well, and me and him work a lot with different reads and things like that."

Barnard got a sack on the next drive which helped the Falcons defense get another three and out. The Falcons offense stalled out once they were in field goal range, and senior Nico Cini missed his first try from 44 yards out. That would be the only miss from Cini on the night, as he made two of his three field goals and all five of his extra point attempts.

Cini missed three and a half games with injury since week three against Scottsdale Christian Academy. Junior Jaxson Butcher filled in the last two weeks, and remained the place kicker for kickoffs. After Cini's injury, the Falcons allowed two kickoff returns for touchdowns to Scottsdale Christian but have worked more on special teams since.

"It's coming along," Moran said. "I think the boys needed to learn that hard lesson of how important special teams is at SCA, and since then, they really

have embraced it. There's a lot of starters on special teams, they love it, and they understand it. They build each other up for it."

Two plays after the field goal miss, senior Diesel Giger grabbed his first interception and returned it 40 yards to the four yard line. Furi scored on his first run attempt, and the Falcons led 35-0.

The Cougars got themselves into Falcon territory but made another mistake. Giger caught a second interception, but the Falcons didn't keep it for long. Nelson threw his first and only interception on the night, and then senior Casey Osborne caught a tipped pass and returned it 67 yards for another pick six.

"Playmakers make plays, and these guys understand that," Moran said. "You can't just get your hands on it; you have to bring it in and take it. Our players are becoming opportunistic with things."

The Falcons led 42-0 but allowed the first of two Cougar touchdowns on the next drive. Phoenix Christian completed a big 45 yard touchdown pass to make it 42-7. They tried to kick an onside kick, but the Falcons recovered and were able to kick a field goal before halftime. Cini made it from 22 yards out to lead 45-7 at halftime.

The Cougars never used a running back in the backfield and only ran the ball twice with the quarterback. The Falcons forced a turnover on downs on defense to start the second half, and then Cini made another field goal from 38 yards



Times photo by George Zeliff

Sophomore Sam Barnard, No. 3, knocks a pass out of the way on defense while senior Tory Johnson, No. 25, is in coverage on the Tempe receiver at the last home game.

out. The next two Cougar possessions would end in interceptions, including Giger's third interception on the night, this time returning it 45 yards for a touchdown to lead 55-7.

"[Diesel] did a great job," Moran said. "There was no run threat there, so we were able to drop back a little bit. Obviously, he's been playing inside linebacker most of the year, so to be able to get back at safety, what he played last year, I'm sure was fun for him."

The Falcons were chewing clock on their last two possessions but still found the endzone one more time.

On third and long, Furi ran a wheel route and Nelson found him wide open for a 44 yard touchdown reception. The Falcons allowed one big pass play near the end of the game, and the Cougar's quarterback snuck in from two yards out to score the last touchdown of the night. The Falcons prevented the two point attempt and won 62-13.

The Falcons offensive line allowed zero sacks on the night and helped the Falcons advance to 3-0 in region play. Fountain Hills has now won three games in a row for the first time since the 2018-19 season,

and they have their bye this weekend.

Moran said there is still plenty to work on and improve with Payson and Valley Christian still on the horizon in region play. The Falcons will rest up and use pads less this week, but they'll be right back to work next week over fall break.

The Falcons next host non-region opponent Bourgade Catholic on Friday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. The Falcons will travel to Payson on Friday, Oct. 21, and then end the regular season by hosting Valley Christian on Thursday, Oct. 27.

Falcons shine in Desert Twilight XC Festival Sept. 30

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

Last Friday night, Sept. 30, the Fountain Hills High School cross country team competed in the largest cross country meet in Arizona, the Desert Twilight XC Festival. The runners raced at night, and head coach Kevin Clancy said almost everyone set a season best and most Falcons set a new personal record for themselves.

The girls team came in 31st place out of 51 teams in the small school varsity race, and juniors Erin Hookey and Skye Alker both finished in the top 75. Hookey finished 27th (21:08.5), and Alker finished 73rd (22:26.2).

Sophomore Racine Homyak was next, placing 276th (26:04.1). Freshman Ali Guerrette came in 309th (27:05.6), and junior Eliana Bartman finished 364th (29:00.0).

The boys varsity team finished 49th out of 64 teams. Senior Tyler Irvine Violette finished 144th (19:16.0) and fellow senior Zion Atwood finished in 176th place (19:33.8).

Freshman Colby Wright, junior Dylan Romans and senior Franklin Fiola all finished within 30 seconds of each other. Wright came in 316th (20:54.8), Romans finished 346th (21:16.3), and Fiola finished 359th (21:24.5). Jun-

iors William Breen finished 418th (22:30.5) and Nathan Eastman finished 430th (23:01.3).

Freshmen Matthew Gonzalez (30:47.0) and Tyler Eastman (31:12.9) both competed in the freshman race and finished 88th and 89th, respectively.

Next, the Falcons will race in the Titan Invitational next Thursday, Oct. 13 at 9 a.m. and then in the Valley Lutheran Invitational on Wednesday, Oct. 19.



The Fountain Hills High School Cross Country varsity boys warm up before their late night race. From left to right, William Breen, Colby Wright, Franklin Fiola, Tyler Irvine-Violette, Dylan Romans, Nathan Eastman and Zion Atwood.



Times photos by George Zeliff

Junior Elianna Bartman drinks water at the finish line of the Desert Twilight XC Festival.

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Lose two last week

FHHS volleyball hang tough through season's grind

By George Zelif
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School volleyball team (11-10) lost two games last week against higher ranked teams. The Falcons fell 0-3 to both Scottsdale Christian Academy and Northwest Christian, but they showed they could keep up with the No. 3 team in the state.

Last Thursday, Sept. 29, the Fountain Hills High School volleyball team went head to head with No. 3 Northwest Christian at home. The Falcons lost the first two sets 25-16, but made the third set more competitive, losing 25-23.

The Falcons made few mental mistakes, only serving five missed serves compared to the Crusaders' three misses. Head coach Olivia Long said the lack of missed serves is a big improvement from the beginning of the season, but still, the Crusaders edged out and seemed to have every close call go their way.

Luck was not on the Falcons side. They came back from down 0-6 in the third set and made it 21-22 before Northwest called a timeout. The Falcons were on their toes and ready to cap off their comeback, and after the timeout, junior libero Sydney Boeshans got under a serve and hit it high in the sky. Sophomore Zoe Kohoutek moved behind Boeshans for the ball, but it hit the basketball post at the top of the ceiling and changed direction. The ball bounced backwards and no Falcon was there for the ricochet.

The Falcons also lost several points when they tried to block the Crusaders at the net. The Falcons changed schemes from 5-1 to 6-2 to get both Garman sisters setting, and it also caused more movement up front. The outside hitters

would move up to the front row for a block before moving back to their outside position, but many of the Falcon's block attempts went right into the net or bounced just out of bounds.

"We've been working on blocking in practice," Long said. "One of our [tournament] games over the weekend, our block was almost more of a hindrance to us than it was a help, because we were there but we're blocking it out. When we're losing points off of something that's supposed to slow down their offense and create a better scenario for our defense, that's just a reflection of the work we need to do."

The Falcons have a trend of starting off slow in games this season. The Falcons didn't have much help from their student section, as there were only seven students cheering at the beginning of the Northwest Christian game. Instead, they turned to their youngest starter for a boost of energy.

"Kitrick [Garman] brought a lot of energy tonight," Long said. "She stayed consistently positive. She's a player who's really good at being able to focus on the next point. She's got a good mentality, and she brought that out tonight which was good to see."

The Falcons didn't let the lack of cheering affect them negatively, but they did play better after the student section was in full force and sang "happy birthday" to junior captain Sophie Wickland before the third set.

"I feel like our focus was good tonight, we were focused on the game, and we wanted to win," sophomore Kitrick said. "Usually when people aren't high energy, they're angry. That's when you make sporadic decisions that you normally wouldn't.... Right now, we are trying to find

a balance between being energetic and being able to focus. We were definitely focusing on the court, but we could have been doing better."

The Falcons went on a 10-3 run late in the third set to make go from down 12-20 to down 22-23. Junior Bella Garman served three aces during the run, and the Falcons kept points alive longer than they did at the beginning of the game.

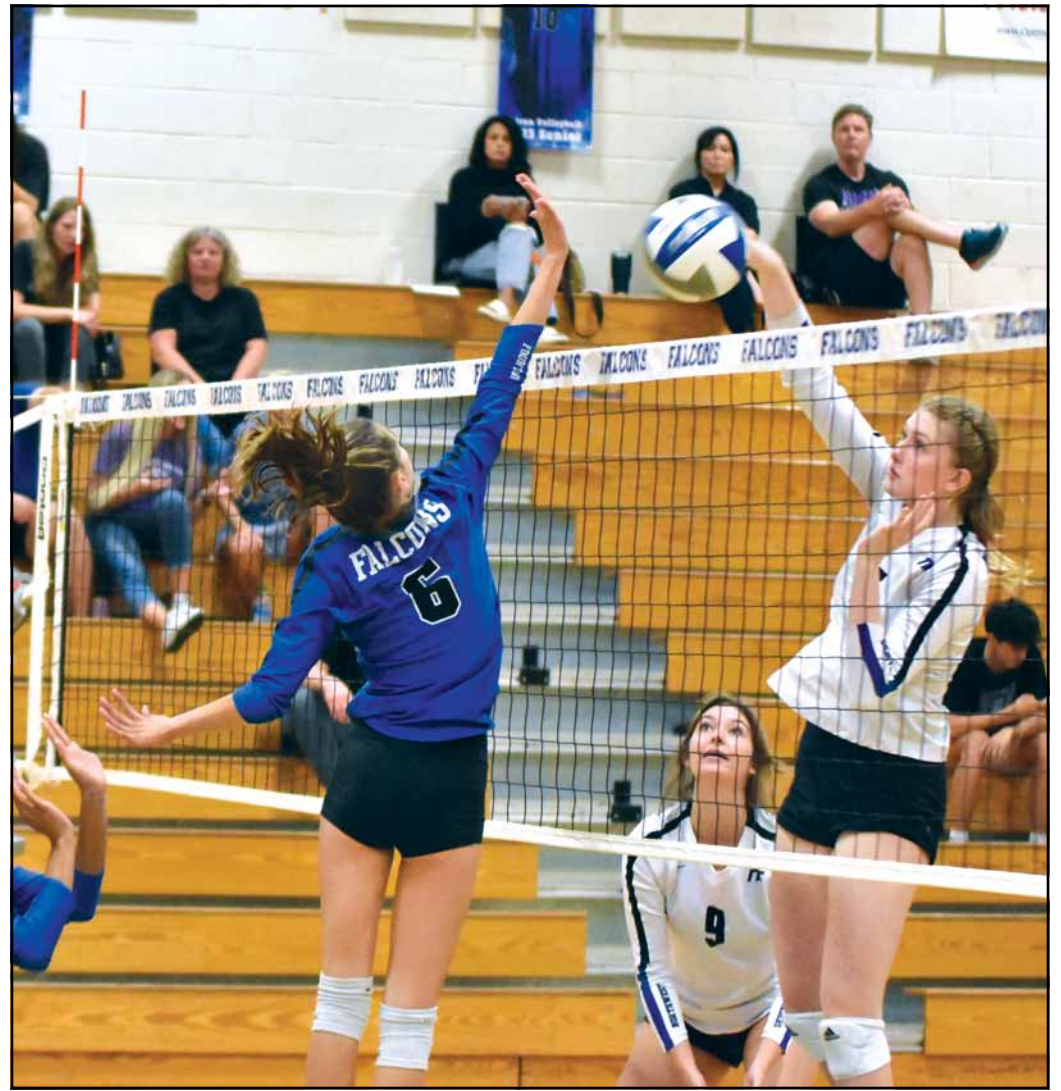
"When we get uptight, we don't move, we don't go for balls, and we just get angry at ourselves and each other," Kitrick said. "I feel like loosening up and trying your best on the court is definitely what's better and helps you win."

The Falcons dropped the last two points and lost 23-25. Lost in the action, Kohoutek made her first start of the season in the loss against Scottsdale Christian on Tuesday, Sept. 27, and played at home for the first time against Northwest Christian. Kohoutek has been practicing with the Falcons since she transferred into Fountain Hills, and last week was her first real game experience in months.

"She's good," Long said. "First week back, not everyone can hold their own, and she did. She's a consistent player."

The Falcons hosted Bourgade Catholic this past Monday, Oct. 3, after press time. The Falcons will host Chino Valley today, Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 6 p.m., and then have an eight day break before they host Camp Verde on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m.

"This week was a very challenging week for us, next week should be a week where we were able to close out games quickly and boost ourselves," Long said. "It's going to come down to our ability to make the changes necessary."



Times photos by George Zelif

Sophomore Kitrick Garman jumps to defend at the net.

Swimmers have eye on state

The Fountain Hills High School swim team competed against Saguaro and Seton high schools last Thursday, Sept. 29. The Falcons have little over four weeks until the state championships, and three more invitational chances to qualify.

So far, the Falcons have provisional and automatic state times for the boys 200 free relay, 200 medley relay and individuals senior Gunnar Wise, junior Keian Evans, and freshman Natalie Owers. The Falcons sharpened themselves and improved their times in the dual meet.

Wise swam the 200 in-

dividual medley (2:07.53) and 100 breaststroke (1:07.78). Evans swam the 200 free (1:56.84) and 100 backstroke (1:02.65). Owers swam the 50 free (27.38) and 100 breaststroke (1:23.03).

Senior Dylan Horsfall swam the 100 butterfly (1:10.90), and junior Elizabeth Franzone swam the 50 free (34.28), 200 individual medley (3:13.08). Fellow junior Brendan Davies swam the 100 back (1:13.77).

Sophomore Jacob Sommerschild swam the 50 free (29.85), and fellow sophomore Landon Beatty swam the 100 breast (2:02.68) and 50 free

(36:00.0).

Freshmen Jacob Jones swam the 50 free (32.47), Ryan Miller swam the 50 free (37.96) and 100 free (1:33.75), and Colby Wright swam the 50 free (26.69).

Next the Falcons will face Independence and Wickenburg in another tri meet, tomorrow, Thursday, Oct. 6. Following that meet, the Falcons will travel to the Florence Aquatic Center on Thursday, Oct. 13, to challenge SanTan Foothills. The following Saturday, Oct. 15, will be a state qualifier invitational at the Mona Plummer Aquatic Center at ASU.



Times photo by George Zelif

The Fountain Hills High School swim team practices in the Peaks Athletic Club pool and will prepare for an upcoming state qualifier meet.



Sophomore Zoe Kohoutek played this week for the Falcons for the first time this season. Here, she gets an outside kill.

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Religion

Blessing of the Animals Oct. 9, at The Fountains

By **Cyrus Guccione**
Times Reporter

To commemorate the Feast of St. Francis, The Fountains, a United Methodist Church, is hosting a Blessing of the Animals celebration Sunday, Oct. 9.

St. Francis of Assisi had a great love for animals and is often portrayed with a bird in the hand

or perched tenderly on his shoulder. As an Interfaith initiative of The Fountains, this ceremony is dedicated to the animals that bring joy to life and unconditional love to their families.

The public is invited to attend this free event and to bring along their pets to join in the fun and be blessed by Reverend David Felten.

Along with an address and sing-alongs from Rev. Felten, the event will include live music, a petting zoo courtesy of Carter's Farm Mobile Petting Zoo and a selection of amphibians and reptiles from Phoenix Herpetological Society. Girl Scouts of the U.S.A will be volunteering by handing out goodie bags for all the animals present.

"It's a great event for kids and just to help bring people back together," Denise Regeski said, The Fountains' office manager who has been a church member for over 15 years.

"Especially in the last few years, more people have animals than ever before," Regeski said. "They're more part of the family than ever and we want to encourage that helpful response and bonding with animals."

The Fountains will be live streaming the event on their YouTube channel @FountainsUMC. Any



Rev. David Felten blessing Howard, a senior golden retriever. Photo by Haily Lynn Photography



Rev. David Felten with an adorable friend at last year's Blessing of the Animals. Photo by Haily Lynn Photography

donations collected will go towards animal rescue. Dogs must be on-leash. For more information, visit the-fountainsumc.org, or call 480-837-7627.



Rev. David Felten blessing Brandy, the poodle. Photo by Haily Lynn Photography



Children enjoying some face time with a llama at last year's Blessing of the Animals. Photo by Haily Lynn Photography

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Prayer, healing service

Everyone needs healing at some time in their life. Those seeking healing physically, spiritually, relationally or mentally should consider this a personal invitation to a Prayer and Healing Service on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 6 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 13770 N Fountain Hills Blvd.

hands, and if requested, a prayer for a personal request. The service lasts 45 minutes and there is no offering collected, nor sermon preached. Those in attendance determine the level of participation at which they find comfort.

At this service, the Biblical practice is used of anointing the forehead with oil and laying on of

Those in need of healing are invited to join in along with a friend for this service led by Pastor John R. Koczman, on the first Thursday of each month.

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Clubs

Hoffman at Ladies meet

With a month before the November election, the Liberal Ladies are meeting at the Community Center tonight, Oct. 5, with a packed agenda. Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP today before check-in at 3 p.m.

The meeting starts promptly at 3:20 p.m. and the cost is \$5 to attend. To RSVP, email libladies@gmail.com.

Several state and local candidates will attend the Liberal Ladies meeting to discuss the final stages of their campaign and plans to win in November. Each candidate will have about 10 minutes to talk.

Candidates that have confirmed their attendance include State Attorney General candidate Kris Mayes, Arizona Corporation Commission candidate Lauren Kuby, Maricopa County Attorney candidate Julie Gunnigle and Arizona Superintendent of Public Education candidate Kathy Hoffman.

Lillian Acker, an FHUSD board candidate, will also be in attendance with about 5 minutes to speak to the group.

FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodinski and former FHUSD Superin-



Arizona Superintendent of Public Education candidate Kathy Hoffman will attend the Liberal Ladies meeting tonight at 3:20 p.m. Photo courtesy of Kathy Hoffman Facebook page.

tendent Patrick Sweeney will educate the club on the district's capital bond and District Additional Assistance Override items on November's ballot.

"We must 'get out the vote' because our fundamental rights and democracy are at stake," a press release said.

There will be no One Minute Announcements at the meeting due to the packed agenda for this month.

Genealogy group meets today

The public is welcome to attend the Fountain Hills Genealogy Group meeting on Monday, Oct. 10, at 9 a.m. at the Community Center.

For the agenda, Katie Gertz will provide a presentation on researching Civil War records. The meeting is both in-person and on Zoom and will meet in the Yavapai Room. No need to bring any computer devices.

Gertz is currently serving as the president of the East Valley Chapter of the Family History Society of Arizona and president of the Family History Society of Arizona. She became her family's historian in 2008 and her genealogy research has taken her back to her

seventh great-grandparents in this country.

Although not Mayflower passengers, her ancestors were some of the earliest pioneers in New York and New Jersey. Gertz also owns and operates Kate's Computer Clinic.

Membership is not required to attend this meeting. Those who cannot make the in-person meeting can attend via Zoom by visiting fhsa.org and clicking on the Fountain Hills Chapter's Zoom meeting link.

The Genealogy Group is the Fountain Hills Chapter of the Family History Society of Arizona. For more information contact Kathleen Maci at kvmaci@hotmail.com.

Club Briefs

Photo Club meets Wednesday, Oct. 12

The October meeting of the Fountain Hills Photography Club will be held at the Community Center on Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The club is open to anyone with a digital or film camera and are from high school age to older. Members range from beginners to highly experienced professions. Meetings are open to nonmembers.

This month's meeting will feature a couple of photography-related videos and an instructional video/discussion on the latest release of Adobe Lightroom.

Watch and Clock Collectors convene

The Valley of the Sun Chapter 112 of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 9 a.m. at the Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy a program presented by Don Couch entitled "One Second of Trouble: Leap Seconds and the Internet." Come learn, share and enjoy the study of horology (the science of timekeeping). For additional information, contact Mike Wilson at 480-816-6483.

Men's Discussion Group resumes

Fountain Hills Men's Discussion Group will start presentations and discussions each Monday in October at the Community Center.

On Oct. 10, Dr. Okky Oei, a pain management physician based in Scottsdale, Ariz., will counsel the group on new pain

treatments. Attending the discussions is free for 2022 Community Center members or \$5 for non-members. Call the Community Center at 480-816-5200 to register.

Contract bridge winners told

Contract bridge is played every Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Community Center. Membership in the Community Center is required to participate.

Winners from Sept. 28 include Charlotte Ashbrook in first place and a tie for second place between Richard Rasmussen and Sharon Harvey. Winners from Sept. 30 include Doug Stewart in first place, Judy Butler in second and Don Butler in third.

TOPS welcomes newcomers

Anyone looking for weight-loss support to start or continue their journey is invited to join TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Fountain Hills chapter every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chapter meetings are held at Joy Church, 13430 N. Saguaro Blvd.

Al-anon

Al-anon family meetings are held each Saturday from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in the classroom building.

The only requirement to attend is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend. Attendees will find hope as members share their experience, strength and hope.

Shepherd of the Hills is located at the corner of El Lago and Fountain Hills boulevards.

GOP women to meet

The Republican Women of The Hills (RWOTH) club has changed their monthly meeting date to the third Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 20, at the VFW Post 7507, 9624 N. Monterey Dr. Suite 1, from 3 to 5 p.m. The format will be a Candidate Rodeo Roundup where candidates are allowed five minutes to speak about their plans once elected to office.

This educational event will feature many of our local conservative candi-

dates running for positions within Legislative District three, as well as candidates at the local, county, state and national levels.

Attendees are encouraged to wear western attire. Members and family members or guests are invited to attend. A \$5 donation is appreciated from non-members. Visit the organization's website at rwoth.com to make reservations, and for more information, email republicanwomenofthehills@gmail.com.

Friends in the Hills

The Friends in the Hills Welcome Club is holding its bi-annual fundraiser at the Fountain Hills Community Center on Friday, Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 10 a.m. for bidding on the raffle and silent auction items. Cash or check is accepted (no credit card capability).

Funds raised by this event will be given to local non-profit organizations. Friends in the Hills is a 501(c)7 non-profit that has over 400 members from Fountain Hills and the surrounding area. The Club welcome public attendance at this event, however, nonmembers must come as a guest of a member who can register them online (\$25 via credit card) at friendsinthehillsaz.org.

Attendees must purchase their tickets by Tuesday, Nov. 1, as that is the deadline for lunch reservations.

The club thanks past and present attendees for helping Friends in the Hills provide aid to the community.

For questions on donated items or further information on this event, contact Natalie Hogeboom at 480-363-0370.



Friends in the Hills is a fundraiser that includes a raffle and silent auction. All proceeds from the event are given to local non-profit organizations.

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Skies over Fountain Hills



Those attending the Oktoberfest on Friday evening, Sept. 23, were in for a special treat as the sun set in the western sky it cast a reddish glow on the clouds in the eastern sky beyond Fountain Lake. There was a bonus rainbow in the shot as well.



The waning days of the summer monsoon give way to a misty morning greeting Fountain Hills on the first day of fall, Sept. 22. Paula Eberspacher took this photo of the sunrise over Four Peaks.



Steve Feyrer-Melk captured this photo of a rainbow arcing across his back yard as monsoon weather settled into town the week of Sept. 18.



A lot of Fountain Hills residents took notice of a well-defined rainbow during the week of Sept. 18. Allison Fiorill-Smith took this photo from her backyard.

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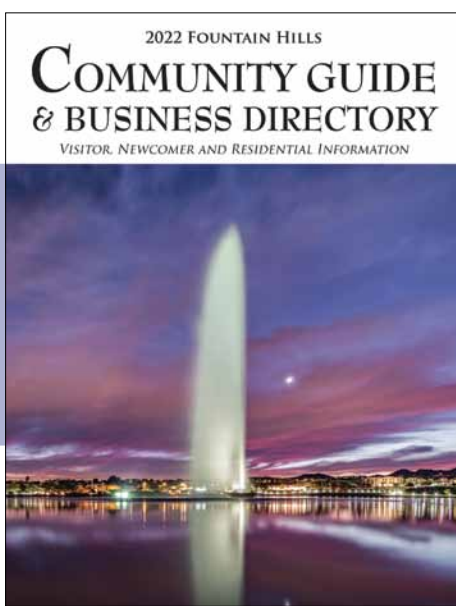


Bugler Pauline Fortier played "Taps" with her husband Tim (left) by her side.



WWII veteran and former VFW Post 7507 Commander Alonzo Shattuck (right) provided a small ceremony commemorating 9/11 in his neighborhood on Sept. 11, 2022. Navy Sailor and current VFW Post 7507 Building Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Cain was there to take photos and a short video clip to support this endeavor. From left, Jeff Cain, Pauline Fortier and Alonzo Shattuck.

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The Fountain Hills Community Guide is published annually and provides information about everything Fountain Hills.

Published in January

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Business

Oct. 9

Grand opening of Veeta's Vegan

By Cyrus Guccione
Times Reporter

Dedicated to freshly sourced produce and ingredients, Veeta's Vegan is the first plant-based cafe ever to open its doors in Fountain Hills.

After a successful soft opening that cleared her shelves within the first four hours, Cafe Owner and Air-force Veteran Veeta Rose is doubling and tripling her recipes for the upcoming grand opening on Sunday, Oct. 9 starting at 7 a.m.

Veeta's Vegan, 16751 E. Parkview Ave., Suite 1, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or until the food runs out.

Veeta's Vegan is a non-GMO, organic, soy-free and gluten-free cafe. It offers a fully vegan menu including soup, curry, chip snacks and fresh juices made daily. Rose sources her ingredients as close to home as possible, ensuring her dishes are without any hidden ingredients or unnatural processing.

Now entering its second month of opening, Veeta's Vegan is in growth mode, strictly a cold kitchen, with complimentary reheating available upon request. They provide comfortable indoor, online ordering and curbside pickup.

Rose believes in a whole-food, plant-rich diet and runs her business with an "if you can't pronounce it, don't eat it" philosophy.

Rose planned to open her cafe in 2020, but with businesses closing and costs rising, she was forced to weather the storm padlocked.

Despite the setbacks, Rose stayed busy renovating her kitchen; knocking down walls, adding underground and above-ground plumbing and building up an inventory to hit the ground running. With skills in woodworking, Rose built butcher block dining tables, shelves, front desk and using reclaimed wood, created the wooden art that covers an entire wall of her cafe.

Veeta's Vegan is a labor of love for Rose and her passion for food began as a little girl in the kitchen at her grandmother's side.



Veeta Rose is celebrating her grand opening of Veeta's Vegan on Sunday, Oct. 9, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

During Thanksgiving, Rose's grandmother would cool her blueberry and apple pies in the window, filling the home with an aroma of comfort and fresh spices. Everything was made from scratch, a custom that Rose has kept to this day.

"We'd be in the kitchen all day," she recalled. "I'd be in there doing the gravy, as I got older, I got more duties, but I just loved being in the kitchen. It's like a passion for me."

Rose obtained her certification in square foot gardening and integrated freshly picked fruits and vegetables into her cooking. She went on to serve 12 years in the Air Force where her love for cooking only grew. After the military, Rose attended the Delaware Technical Culinary Arts program in Stanton, Del. where she elevated her cooking skills.

One day in culinary school, Rose's class was asked to make pancakes. Her head-chef well-knew of her keen interest in making vegan dishes and told her that only if her dishes looked and tasted good could she continue to cook vegan food in class.

Plates of hot, fluffy pancakes were presented before the class for taste testing. Rose watched closely as her pancakes made their way around the room. When it came time to crown the best dish, Rose's cakes came out on top.

Rose cruised through culinary school, graduating at the top of her class, knowing that she wanted to do this for the rest of her life.

"What I found is that when you go to these vegan places, the food is like fake meat, fake this, fake that. I'm like, 'Why would you go vegan and then still eat the fried chicken, but it's a fried piece of fake flour?'" Rose said.

Instead of trying to emulate the taste of meat, Rose experimented with the natural flavors present in a plump mushroom or a ripe tomato, fresh from the garden.

"You could go and pull the stuff out of the ground and bring it into your house and you have the best, precious food," she said. "I'm still fascinated by the process, and that's what I want to do here."

Rose has quickly made friends in Fountain Hills who stop in to offer services from painting, window cleaning and even bringing her fresh herbs from the Community Garden and wheatgrass for juicing.

"There's so many good people in Fountain Hills," she said.

After knocking down a few walls, Veeta's Vegan has an open-kitchen concept, allowing Rose to chat with customers while she cooks.

"I like being able to see people, talk to people, communicate," Rose said. "I'm a people person."

To order online or for more information, visit veetasvegan.com, or visit their Instagram @veetasvegan.

"Sometimes people think healthy food is fast," Rose added. "We're not a fast food [cafe]...It really is a place where you get a healthy meal that's made from scratch."



Chamber welcome

Chamber members and guests welcomed Don Rice, owner of AzMedicareGuy.com into the Chamber family. AzMedicareGuy.com is a non-government agency specializing in Arizona Medicare solutions. For more information, visit azmedicareguy.com or call 480-551-7303.

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Same period last year: 5

Median Price: \$611,412
Average price: \$648,257

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15502 E Bumblebee Ln	\$600,000	14118 E Sonora Crest Dr	\$1,610,663
14504 N Creosote Ct	\$715,000		

Homes sold this period: 7
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The Verde Communities

RVCA monitoring ACC docket on EPCOR cases

The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) recently opened four water and wastewater utility cases that could affect Rio Verde homeowners. The ACC regulates and sets rates for Arizona utilities.

In a statement sent to community members, RVCA President Kevin Waring stated that Jeff Crockett, an attorney specializing in ACC cases who has worked with the RVCA previously and knows the community, and Susan Reeves, an attorney and member of the RVCA Community Utilities Commit-

tee, are the association's spokespersons related to the cases.

Waring provided some detail on each of the four cases and provided the information on how to find the cases on the ACC website online dockets. documents are stored.

The first case relates to EPCOR Water's discussions regarding providing a water standpipe for the Rio Verde Foothills area west of the Verde Communities along Rio Verde Drive. This is a rural area generally north of McDowell Mountain Park between

West 172nd St. and the City of Scottsdale. Many residents living in the area rely on hauled water from Scottsdale that will no longer be available after December 2022.

The ACC invited proposals to supply water to the RVFC. EPCOR sent a letter saying, generally, it could install a water standpipe in 24 to 36 months but might need to locate the standpipe in its existing RVU Water District. EPCOR also requested ACC assurance that it would be permitted to consolidate the additional costs into the next RVU rate case, to be borne by RVU ratepayers. RVCA has filed a letter in opposition to EPCOR's proposal. This proposal has many complications since EPCOR would need to acquire land and water rights and dig a new well, Waring said.

At its Sept. 21, meeting, the ACC asked EPCOR to file a formal application, with more details about its plan, but not before several Commissioners and numerous RVFC residents acknowledged Rio Verde's concerns. EPCOR

said that its application will not rely on RVU wells or water rights or require a subsidy by RVU customers. RVCA will analyze the forthcoming application to verify that EPCOR adheres to that position and expects to intervene on behalf of Rio Verde residents. The ACC docket for the RVFC standpipe can be found at edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-search/item-detail/26440.

Another issue is a proposed merger of Rio Verde Utilities and EPCOR. Rio Verde Utilities (RVU) holds an exclusive right to sell water and treat wastewater within a district that includes Rio Verde, Tonto Verde, and Trilogy. In 2018, EPCOR bought RVU and RVU became a wholly owned subsidiary of EPCOR, USA. Now, EPCOR and RVU have filed joint applications to merge the two companies.

RVCA has intervened in this case and has said that it wants the opportunity to assess the merger's implications for Rio Verde. The ACC will meet to take public comment on this case next week, October

12-13, and may decide it then. For the merger docket visit edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-search/item-detail/26463.

Proposed consolidation of RVU water rates with EPCOR rates is also an issue before the ACC.

RVU has applied to establish new water rates for its Rio Verde Water District. For the water rate docket visit edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-search/item-detail/26500.

EPCOR has applied to consolidate the RVU wastewater division with other EPCOR-owned wastewater districts and to establish a new wastewater rate for their customers. For the wastewater rate docket visit edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-search/item-detail/26499.

After the ACC accepts these two applications, RVCA will analyze them to determine their impacts on Rio Verde residents. RVCA expects to intervene on behalf of Rio Verde residents in both cases.

According to Waring's statement, the ACC proceedings for the water and wastewater rate cases and

any standpipe case will continue over the next year. Updates will be provided for residents.

"We will alert residents when and how to send their own comments to the ACC, to safeguard Rio Verde water rights and minimize water/wastewater rate increases," Waring said.

The RVCA is also reaching out to residents who may have expertise on these issues to contribute.

"These cases could affect our water security and water/wastewater rates, so we need to understand the actions proposed and state our position, clearly. Effective advocacy for Rio Verde in these cases will require expertise and effort," Waring said. "Residents with expertise in utility economics and regulation are invited to apply to serve on the Community Utilities Committee."

Those with an interest are asked to email a short statement of qualifications to Doris Findling, Executive Director at doris@rio-verdehoa.org or drop off at the Community Center Association Office.

Letter outlines RVCA position on EPCOR

The Rio Verde Community Association (RVCA) has sent a letter to the Arizona Corporation Commission expressing its concerns over a proposal by EPCOR Water to provide standpipe water service to residents who live in the Rio Verde Foothills area, west of the Verde Communities and the EPCOR service are for the Verde Communities.

The letter is dated Sept. 19, 2022, and signed by RVCA President Kevin Waring.

The letter outlines the history and background of the Rio Verde Utilities service area (now a wholly owned subsidiary of EPCOR Water).

Waring outlines key concerns in the letter.

"RVCA and the Rio Verde Community does not now and has never had any part in the water supply issues of the Rio Verde Foothills Community (RVFC) or any other developments outside RVU's existing service area," the letter states. "RVFC is its own recognized, distinct, separate community, miles distant from the Rio Verde Community. RVFC is not part of EPCOR's Rio Verde Water District."

Waring went on to state: "Crucially, any consideration about whether to develop a standpipe and expand the service area should follow, not precede, a review of the area-wide

groundwater supply and the development of compelling hydrologic evidence that EPCOR can sustain its 100-year water supply to its existing and future customers in the Rio Verde Water District before it is permitted to drill a well to serve areas outside of the Rio Verde Community.

"Moreover, the Commission must also consider the economic incentives of any action to force existing customers to subsidize water costs to a still developing area that has taken no action to supply its own permanent long-term water supply. Such a policy is likely to perversely accelerate unsustainable, uneconomic growth.

"EPCOR did not consult with or give any notice to RVCA before or after it sent its August 26, 2022, letter to the Commission. We were ambushed. Given the potential impact of this docket item ... on our 1,700 residents, RVCA requests the Commission to allow RVCA a fair opportunity to provide detailed and considered comments, before it takes any action.

"RVCA ratepayers understand the importance of the water resources that were developed for them within the existing service area and that they have already paid for (in rates). "We strongly oppose the appropriation of any of that water for other communities."

Verde News Briefs

Rio Verde traffic study complete

The Rio Verde Community Association recently commissioned a consultant review of traffic conditions in the community. The study is complete, and the consultant has provided a comprehensive report with recommendations. The report is available for review on the Rio Verde website.

A review of the findings will be presented at the RVCA Board meeting set for 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20. The consultant will be in attendance and there will be an opportunity for questions and comments from the Board and residents.

This Traffic Study is separate from the MCDOT Forest Road Study. MCDOT is holding an Open House at the Club Tuesday, Nov. 1, regarding its ongoing Forest Road Corridor Improvement Study.

Interested residents are encouraged to attend both the RVCA Oct. 20 Board Meeting and the Nov. 1, MCDOT Open House.

SRP begins cable upgrade project

Starting in early October SRP will be replacing old and damaged underground power lines in the area surrounding Avenida Del Ray and Paseo Verde. The goal is an upgraded electrical system.

Impacted residents have been notified. The project is expected to take up to eight weeks to complete. Questions May be directed to SRP Rep Eric Goodenough at 602-236-3590.

MCDOT open house planned

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is holding an open house at Rio Verde Country Club from 4 to 6

p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1.

All Verde residents are invited to come learn about the results of the Forest Road Corridor Improvement Study.

MCDOT recently compiled a survey from area residents included in the study. There were more than 1,000 responses with traffic, speeding and safety the key concerns. The survey summary is available at Maricopa.gov/5818/forest-road-corridor-improvement-study.

Preorder for CRC Plant Sale

The Rio Verde Community Relations Committee has opened its presale period for its annual Plant Sale scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Church of the Verdes parking lot.

The annual plant sale is a convenient way to shop to add color and update

landscaping after the long summer. The sale supports the community by funding projects of the CRC.

The deadline for preorders is on Wednesday, Oct. 12. Preorder forms are available on the internet.

Habitat team seeks volunteers

Verde residents who are handy with a hammer or looking for a project that is so impactful that it changes a family's life, the Verdes Habitat team has an offer.

The Verdes Habitat for Humanity team builds one home every year for a family selected by Habitat of Central Arizona. The Verdes organization has funded and built a home annually for more than a quarter of a century.

Those interested in joining the team to build the 2023 home, contact Tom Mulleady, 480-275-7350, tmullead@gmail.com.

FH Times Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Bay Area humorist
5. Hurt
10. Icelandic poems
14. A taro corm
15. Metaphorical use of a word
16. It fears the hammer
17. Excessively quaint (British)
18. Laid-back California county

19. Cook in a microwave oven
20. Not late
22. Go from one place to another
23. Peoples living in the Congo
24. Popular pasta
27. Available engine power (abbr.)
30. Popular musician Charles

31. Angry
32. Spelling is one type
35. One who makes a living
37. Indicates location
38. Imperial Chinese dynasty
39. Small water buffaloes
40. Hungarian city
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

43. Precursor to the EU
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. 'When Harry Met Sally' actress
47. Magnetic tape of high quality
48. Insecticide
49. Apparatus to record and transmit
52. Some is considered 'dog'
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Fencing sword
60. Ottoman military title
61. Wise people
63. Cold wind
64. Popular type of shoe
65. Administrative district
66. A way to reveal
67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

1. Small town in Portugal
2. Site of famed Ethiopian battle
3. German river
4. Christmas carols
5. Cash machine
6. Rough and uneven
7. Rumanian round dance
8. Widespread occurrence of disease
9. A place to relax
10. Feeling of listlessness
11. Coat or smear a substance
12. Wild mango

13. Brews
21. Belgian city
23. Confined condition (abbr.)
25. Swiss river
26. Small amount
27. Part of buildings
28. Vietnamese capital
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter
33. Terminated
34. Discharge
36. Snag
37. Partner to cheese
38. A container for coffee
40. Spend time dully
41. Satisfies
43. Snakelike fish
44. Consume

46. Type of student
47. Erase
49. Instruct
50. Girl's given name
51. Jewish spiritual leader
52. 'To __ his own'
53. North-central Indian city
54. Greek alphabet characters
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. American Nobel physicist vital to MRIs
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

Answers on page 2

This week's crossword puzzle sponsored by



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