



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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Sock hop March 3rd

The Fountain Hills Community Center is sponsoring a fun-filled evening for all ages to "rock around the clock" at a Sock Hop Dance Friday, March 3, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Pull out a poodle skirt and rock a pompadour. Have a blast with friends old and new while dancing the night away.

The ever popular Come Back Buddy Band will be playing all the dance

favorites. Prizes will be awarded for the best '50s outfit and Twist contests. Light refreshments will be served including root beer floats.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Call the Community Center at 480-816-5200 to register. Admission fee is \$5 per adult. Teens and youths are free but must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

\$1.50

Volume 50, No. 8 • 22 pages • 1 section

Parking

Zoning amendments proposed

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

the objective of the update is to remove errors and inconsistencies, improve readability and flow, update standards and add new provisions if needed.

Section 7.02, related to applicability, has a subsection (B) to address changes related to existing development.

"Given the built nature of the Town, this section will be used a lot (to) address reuse, expansion or redevelopment situations," Wesley said.

The new draft has added some flexibility for the Town engineer to consider alternative paving materials.

This is a proposal supported by Commission Chairman Peter Gray. He said he favors reducing pavement that contributes to a heat island. Gray said he does not want to see oversized parking lots

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a discussion related to proposed amendments to parking and loading requirements in the Town Zoning Ordinance when it met on Monday, Feb. 13.

In his report to the commission, Development Services Director John Wesley noted that commission members had been providing comments and suggestions over the past year. The proposal presented at the February commission meeting is a draft of the new regulations.

Wesley was seeking further comment from the commissioners at the public meeting with a goal to prepare the draft for a public hearing and possible adoption.

The parking and loading requirements are chapter seven of the ordinance and

(cont. on page 2A)



Snowy Four Peaks

The low temperatures, wind and wet weather last week dusted the Four Peaks with a layer of snow that could be admired from around town. This photo was taken from the Beeline, near the turn-off heading out to the mountains.

Times photo by Duke Kirkendoll

P&Z considering revisions to site plan regulations

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Development Services Director John Wesley has presented the Planning and Zoning Commission with an overview of proposed amendments to site plan review regulations in the Zoning Ordinance.

The commission heard Wesley's presentation at its Feb. 13 regular meeting.

The Site Plan Regulations are the second phase of the staff update of Chapter 2 of the Zoning Ordinance. A section related to special use permits has

been previously updated and approved by the Town Council.

Wesley said staff has identified changes to improve the function and usability of the site plan regulations. Staff is proposing to combine sections A and B into a single section with parts one and two called Purpose and Applicability.

"The first change in this section is to add the clarifying statement that a purpose of site plan review is to review for compliance with the architectural guidelines

in...the Zoning ordinance," Wesley said.

Regarding applicability, there would be a change to the requirement that site plans need to be approved prior to submission of construction plans and that it applies to redevelop or expansion of existing development.

"Staff has been operating on the premise that site plans need to be approved prior to submission of the building permit plans for many years," Wesley said. "The purpose of the site

(cont. on page 2A)

Food Pack seeks support

The organizers of the Fountain Hills community meal packing event, "Food for Kidz," are planning to restore the campaign this year after a hiatus through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The churches and volunteers will gather at the Fountain Hills Community Center at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, and prepare packages of dehydrated food for distribution to the hungry in Arizona and elsewhere. Past recipients have also included sites of disaster both at home and abroad.

The Food Pack program began in Fountain Hills in 2011, and until 2019,

(cont. on page 5A)



Volunteers pack food for those in need at a past "Food for Kidz" meal packing event. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming event held on Thursday, March 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

Arts and crafts show this weekend

The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce will host the 48th year of the Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts this weekend, Feb. 24-26, in downtown Fountain Hills.

The festival is one of the largest arts and crafts events in the Southwest and, according to organizers, it "has gained status as one of the most important and prestigious shows for artists in this region." The Fountain Festival takes place over three days and features hundreds of global artists and artisans exhibiting work in every medium. Over 200,000 people attend each year.

"You'll find exhibiting artists displaying original fine works of art in every

(cont. on page 2A)



The Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts returns to downtown Fountain Hills this weekend, Feb. 24-26, with the balloon launch returning Sunday morning at 8 a.m.

Council retreat has busy agenda

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council will hold its annual planning retreat on Tuesday, Feb. 28, in council chambers at Town Hall. The session is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The tentative agenda includes several discussion items requested by council members. Those include Stellar Teacher Program (Kalivianakis), a "streets first initiative" (Skillicorn) and Town efforts to address homelessness (Skillicorn).

There are also planned updates on several ongoing programs or initiatives including implementation of the short-term rental ordinance, Citizen Streets

Committee, fire department transition plan, MCSO IGA contract renewal and water intrusion and damage at Community Center.

A discussion related to proposed sign ordinance amendments is also on the agenda.

The retreat is normally an opportunity to address planning for the upcoming fiscal year. This session includes a preview of the FY23-24 operating budget as well as a review of the tentative five-year capital improvement program projects.

There will be a discussion related to the Council Rules of Procedure to

(cont. on page 2A)

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Mental health:

Series concludes with input from Native American community members.
See Page 7A

YABOY:

Special show, 'Mumblety Peg,' at theater this weekend.
See Page 12A

Hall of Fame:

Meet this year's group of inductees.
See Page 8A

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Feb. 14	53	38	.59
Wed., Feb. 15	50	34	--
Thurs., Feb. 16	54	40	--
Fri., Feb. 17	61	50	--
Sat., Feb. 18	72	52	--
Sun., Feb. 19	71	48	--
Mon., Feb. 20	71	52	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to fhtimes.com



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Daily News Updates fhtimes.com

Arts

(cont. from page 1A)

price range, in every medium," the press release continues. "From sculptures to paintings, hand-made clothing, jewelry and crafts, you'll be amazed at the diversity of the art forms. You'll certainly see pieces that appeal to your taste...some you might just decide to take home."

Even the fine art of food, with various restaurants and culinary artists, will be on display. The local VFW post hosts the annual beer garden fundraiser, dating all the way back to the early days of the festival. The VFW beer garden will also be surrounded by dozens of food options.

The Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts is a juried art show, attracting

hundreds of artists and craft-people featuring their trade.

"Since competition brings out the best in artists, it benefits all attending and features unique, one-of-a-kind works of art," the press release continued. "After reviewing over 500 applications, the festival jury has selected 457 artists to join us for the show."

As an added bonus, hot air balloons will return to the festivities the morning of Sunday, Feb. 26. Takeoff is at 8 a.m.

The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce has announced the Town of Fountain Hills and the Arizona Office of Tourism are Presenting Sponsors of the Spring Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts. For more information, contact the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce at 480-837-1654 or visit fhchamber.com.

P&Z

(cont. from page 1A)

plan is to ensure conformance with design guidelines and to uncover any significant roadblocks to development.

"This is better and easier to do prior to the applicant making significant investment in construction drawings. Reviewing construction drawings and site plans at the same time also leads to confusion regarding changes to one application that might not get reflected in the other set."

Other items in the proposed ordinance include updated application requirements to include a project narrative, clarification that site plans need to be prepared by a registered professional and includes a list of information to be included on the site plan.

The amended approval process would provide for administrative approval.

The proposed language also simplifies the process when the application includes a special use permit or temporary use permit. It allows the applicant to process a conceptual plan with the special or tempo-

rary use permit and then follow up with a full site plan.

"This recognizes the idea that a developer may not want to go to the expense of preparing a full site plan submittal if they may not get approval of the special or temporary permit," Wesley said. "They can, however, submit the full site plan at the same time of the other application if they choose."

The amendment proposal will come back to the commission for a public hearing and discussion of a recommendation to the Town Council.

Parking

(cont. from page 1A)

and would like to leverage public space to allow a tradeoff between hard and soft parking.

According to Gray, technology has created materials that can provide the durability needed for parking, but permeable to allow for reduced heat and storm runoff.

A new section has been added to the ordinance to require maintenance of parking areas.

Illustrations and tables used in the ordinance have been updated to provide greater clarity.

Design standards for residential uses would require a minimum of two covered parking spaces. Wesley said this requirement may have the effect of limiting conversion of garages to living space.

Covered parking requirements have also been added for multi-residence and commercial development. For multi-residence the requirement is for one per unit. For business and office uses, with 10 or more parking spaces there would be one covered space per office suite.

In the design standards for multi-residential and non-residential a provision has been added to require a setback to reduce ingress and egress conflicts.

Off-street parking re-

quirements for mixed use zoning were amended to allow for shared parking. A provision was added to clarify that providing parking for businesses does not count toward required spaces. A provision was added to set a maximum number of paved parking spaces.

Staff proposed a requirement for golf courses to include two spaces per tee plus required spaces for restaurant and golf shop. Commission members felt that two spaces per tee was not enough and possibly four should be considered. For private golf clubs there is an existing requirement of one space per every five member families or individuals.

The ordinance would add requirements related to bicycle parking. Electric vehicle parking requirements are being considered with staff still working on language related to that.

Staff was asked to consider overnight parking as part of the ordinance. Wesley said Town Code addresses that by prohibiting overnight parking in areas authorized and signed properly restricting it. "Overnight" is defined as 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Wesley said he recommends the ordinance with additional commission modifications. It will be noticed for a public hearing and brought back at a later date for consideration of a recommendation to Town Council.

Council

(cont. from page 1A)

address scheduled public appearances, streamlining process for council requests for future council agenda items and call to the public/comment cards.

The agenda also includes a columbarium discussion.

The retreat session is open to the public. However, no council action is to be taken and there is no opportunity for public comment.

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Eckankararizona.org

Coffee, donuts at balloon launch

For an early morning treat on the morning of the balloon launch on Sunday, Feb. 26, the Fountain Hills Noon Kiwanis Club are selling coffee and donuts at their booth at the corner of Saguaro Boulevard and Avenue of the Fountains starting at 7 a.m. A cup of coffee and a donut is \$4 and each additional donut is \$2 apiece.

After a long furlough, Phyllis Kern of Noon Kiwanis helped the Cham-

ber of Commerce reunite the balloons at Fountain Park. Kern is also helping raise funds for the Balloon Glow event this upcoming winter.

There will be 13 to 20 balloons taking off starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26.

Courtesy of Noon Kiwanis Club, the community is invited to come to Fountain Park and enjoy a cup of Joe and a donut while watching the balloons fly on Sunday morning.

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Answer to this week's puzzle

S	A	L	P					E	P	H	A				
E	N	D	E	A	R			S	A	L	A	D	S		
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Check out the latest Fountain Hills news at **fhtimes.com**

NPOA approves six plans

The Neighborhood Property Owners' Association's Committee of Architecture reviewed and approved six permit applications at the meeting held on Feb. 14, with no applications in need of further review.

Approvals were as follows:
 *16052 Pincushion – Owner, RG_KS Trust; repaint.

*15815 Cholla – Owner, Fleischman; repaint.
 *11630 Sycamore – Owner, English; window replacement.
 *15135 Mazatzal – Owner, Grotzky; repaint.
 *15537 Palisades – Owner, Anderson & Oliver; driveway.
 *17406 Caliente – Owner, Burnett; repaint.

The NPOA welcomes member homeowners who are interested in serving the NPOA Board of Directors or the Neighborhood Committee of Architecture.

All interested members should contact the NPOA

office at 480-837-5317 or visit the NPOA/NCOA website at npoafh.org for more information.

The Neighborhood Committee of Architecture (NCOA) meets Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to review plans submitted during the previous week. Deadlines for permit submittal is Fridays at 2 p.m. to be reviewed on the following Tuesday.

The NPOA Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m.

Any questions may be directed to the NPOA office at 480-837-5317, or

visit the NPOA website at npoafh.org for more information.

Annual meeting

The NPOA of Fountain Hills will hold its annual general meeting on Monday, March 20, beginning at 6 p.m. This meeting will be held in the Fountain Hills Community Center Yavapai Room, with delegate check-in to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Member property owners are welcome to attend. For more information, call 480-837-5317 or email info@npoafh.org.

This week at the Community Center

Fountain Hills Community Center is maintaining its schedule of weekday events at the Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive at the Cutillo Civic Center.

Activities are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 22

*8 a.m., Geri-Fit.
 *8:30 a.m., Geri-Fit.
 *9 a.m., video gentle yoga; intermediate bridge.
 *10 a.m., open paint studio.
 *12 p.m., poker.
 *1 p.m., Scrabble; Hand & Foot Cards.
 *2 p.m., Open jam session.
 *5:30 p.m., Euchre.

Thursday, Feb. 23

*8 a.m., Peer led exercise/aerobic chair exercise.
 *9 a.m., open paint studio; canasta; video gentle yoga.
 *9:30 a.m., Basic beginner line dancing.
 *10 a.m., Alzheimer's support Group; Spanish Club.
 *1 p.m., Table Talk for Women; Improver Line Dancing; Hand & Foot Cards.
 *5 p.m., Open paint studio; movie.

Friday, Feb. 24

Closed for art fair

Saturday, Feb. 25

No activities

Sunday, Feb. 26

No activities

Monday, Feb. 27

*8 a.m., Geri-Fit

*8:30 a.m., Geri-Fit

*9 a.m., Diabetes work-

shop; table tennis; Geri-Fit/

fall prevention.

*10 a.m., Men's Discussion

Group.

*10:30 a.m., advanced Con-

versational Spanish.

*12 p.m., duplicate bridge;

poker.

*12:30 p.m., American Sign

Language meetup

*1 p.m., cribbage, pinochle,

Mah Jongg for beginners.

*5 p.m., aerobic chair ex-

ercise.

*5:30 p.m., Hand & Foot

Cards.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

*8 a.m., Peer-led exercise;

Aerobic chair exercise.

*9 a.m., video gentle Yoga.

*9:30, Intermediate line

dancing.

*10 a.m., Hooks & Needles;

open paint studio.

*11 a.m., Advanced Ameri-

can Sign Language.

*1 p.m., Mah Jongg; movie;

Bingo.

*5:30 p.m., Table tennis.

Correction

In the Feb. 15 edition of *The Times*, Vice Mayor Peggy McMahon was identified as an "attorney." McMahon has a Juris Doctorate degree, however, she is not licensed to practice law.

To further clarify, Councilwoman Brenda Kalivianakis was also identified as an attorney for the story. Kalivianakis is retired from the Illinois Bar and never took the bar in Arizona, so she is not licensed in this state.

The Times apologizes for the error and confusion.

Chabad hosts pop-up deli

On Sunday, Feb. 26, a Kosher New York deli pop-up will roll into town to fundraise ongoing activities at the Chabad of Fountain Hills.

What's on the menu? Deli sandwiches packed with one-quarter pound of either pastrami, corned beef or turkey, all imported from New York.

Each deli sandwich is served on rye bread with a dill pickle slice and a choice of salad. The plates range from \$15.99-\$18.99.

New menu items include potato knishes, chicken soup, apple turn-

overs and chocolate rugelach. Water bottles and soda are available for sale as well. All prices are listed on the online menu at JewishFountainHills.com/deli.

Sandwiches will be available on Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. for pickup or dine-in at the Chabad Center's spacious Social Hall, which will have plenty of tables for seating. Attendees can take their chances the day of the event but are urged to pre-order meals by Friday by noon to guarantee availability.

The Kosher New

York Deli fundraising sale has been popping-up for four years in a row with responses for the event growing each year. The event is held at the Chabad of Fountain Hills, 16830 E. Avenue of the Fountains.

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

Contact us at one of the email addresses below

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Working as a social worker for United Hospice, Phil is honored to provide care and comfort to those experiencing anticipatory grief. An army veteran who served two combat tours in Afghanistan, he has worked at behavioral hospitals throughout the Valley offering higher education to those who are suffering. With a Bachelor's in psychology, Phil is finishing his Master's in clinical mental health counseling, specializing in grief, the aging process, anxiety, depression and trauma.



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FYI

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, Feb. 9, through Wednesday, Feb. 15.

◆ On Thursday, Feb. 9, deputies responded to the 12000 block of Saguario Blvd. While cleaning trash from the front of a business, a town resident found a clear plastic bag with a brown liquid substance, believed to be heroin. The item was impounded for destruction.

◆ On Thursday, Feb. 9, deputies responded with the Fountain Hills Fire Department to Palisades Boulevard and Mustang Drive. A work truck spontaneously caught fire while it was delivering a Bobcat to a job site. The fire was put out by the fire department, and no one was injured.

◆ On Thursday, Feb. 9, deputies made a traffic stop on Saguario Boulevard at Indian Wells Drive. A driver was pulled over for speeding. It was discovered that the driver was never issued a license and was cited, and the vehicle was impounded.

◆ On Thursday, Feb. 9, deputies responded to the 16000 block of Palisades Blvd. where two students at Fountain Hills High School engaged in mutual combat when they met in the bathroom to fight. There were no significant injuries and neither of the students' parents wished to seek the matter criminally.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, deputies responded to Shea and Palisades boulevards where two vehicles were involved in a non-injury collision when one driver failed to stop for a red light and collided with the other vehicle.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, a resident of the 16000 block of Avenue of the Fountains reported that his ex-wife, who lives in a

different apartment in the same building, attempted to force her way into his apartment. The ex-wife claimed the ex-husband assaulted her. There was insufficient evidence to prove an assault occurred.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, deputies responded to Shea and Fountain Hills boulevards where a male suspect was criminally cited after he allegedly confronted, punched, and spit at another driver following a road rage incident.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, deputies responded to the 11000 block of Desert Vista where an abandoned vehicle was removed from the roadway after it was discovered the steering column was cracked, indicating the vehicle was stolen.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, deputies responded to the 11000 block of Saguario Blvd. A transient female was arrested after she returned to a location where she had been formally trespassed.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, deputies responded to the 13000 block of Crystal Hills Dr. A resident was arrested after it was reported that he allegedly assaulted his girlfriend. The victim sustained a laceration to her lip that required stitches.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, a resident of the 13000 block of Vista Del Lago reported that her ex-boyfriend, who lives with her, assaulted her earlier in the day. Due to a lack of evidence and witnesses, no arrests were made.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, deputies responded with Fountain Hills Fire Department to Sierra Madre Boulevard and Dove Drive. The engine compartment of a yellow DHL cargo van spontaneously caught fire. No one was injured during this incident.

◆ On Friday, Feb. 10, a resident of the 16000 block of Arrow Dr. reported that his ex-girlfriend was violating

his protection order by continuously showing up to his residence against his wishes.

◆ On Saturday, Feb. 11, a resident of the 15000 block of Sunburst Dr. reported that an unknown vehicle struck and damaged a stone pillar in front of his residence. The vehicle left without the driver providing insurance information.

◆ On Sunday, Feb. 12, deputies responded to the 9600 block of Saguario Blvd. where a town resident was criminally cited for stealing a hot dog, valued at approximately \$2, from a local business.

◆ On Sunday, Feb. 12, a resident of the 17000 block of Calle Del Oro reported that her sister assaulted her after a verbal altercation. The reporting party received only minor injuries and the sister left before law enforcement was contacted.

◆ On Sunday, Feb. 12, deputies responded to the 13000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. where it was reported that an unknown suspect(s) drove through and leaked oil on a newly paved parking lot belonging to a church.

◆ On Sunday, Feb. 12, deputies responded to the 15000 block of Peachtree Ln. where a town resident was criminally cited after they allegedly assaulted an old friend with a metal water bottle following a night of drinking.

◆ On Monday, Feb. 13, deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Crestview Drive. Two vehicles were involved in a non-injury collision when one driver made an unsafe lane change from a private drive and collided with the other.

◆ On Monday, Feb. 13, a resident of the 14000 block of Century Dr. reported an unknown suspect used the resident's identity to open a line of credit without their permission.

◆ On Monday, Feb. 13, a resident of the 16000 block of Segundo Dr. reported an

unknown subject damaged a window and a screen door at the side of the resident's home. The resident believed the culprits were teenagers.

◆ On Monday, Feb. 13, a resident of the 16700 block of Avenue of the Fountains reported that an unknown subject stole their wallet and discarded the tracking device that was located within.

◆ On Monday, Feb. 13, a resident of the 16000 block of Jacklin Dr. reported an unknown suspect committed fraud. The suspect called the resident, identified themselves as law enforcement, and ordered the resident to pay them using gift cards. The resident lost a total of \$2,000.

◆ On Monday, Feb. 13, a resident of the 16000 block of Ocotillo Dr. reported an unknown suspect used their personal information to gain access to their checking accounts without the resident's consent.

◆ On Tuesday, Feb. 14, deputies responded to the 16000 block of Arrow Dr. A female suspect was arrested and charged with felony harassment for continuously violating her ex-boyfriend's protection order.

◆ On Tuesday, Feb. 14, deputies made a traffic stop in the 14000 block of Fayette Dr. A driver was criminally cited after it was discovered that they were driving with a suspended driver's license.

◆ On Wednesday, Feb. 15, a resident of the 15000 block of Golden Eagle Blvd. reported they were scammed out of approximately \$50,000 via the internet, by a person claiming to be with PayPal security.

◆ On Wednesday, Feb. 15, deputies responded to the 16000 block of Shea Blvd. where a Scottsdale resident was arrested when they allegedly hit and kicked at an occupied vehicle and screamed at a mother and child walking nearby.

◆ On Wednesday, Feb.

15, deputies responded to the 16000 block of Alamosa Ave. where a 22-year-old woman was reported missing by her mother. The last known whereabouts of the daughter was in Sun City, Ariz. The daughter has been known to avoid law enforcement due to prior criminal conduct.

OBITUARIES

Roberta Kahl

A celebration of life service will be held for Roberta Grace Kahl on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 13770 N. Fountain Hills Blvd.

Family will greet visitors from 12 to 1 p.m. prior to the service.

Warren M. Kenyon Jr.

Warren M. Kenyon Jr., a beloved father, passed away Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at age 83.

An avid lover of driving, he drove a semi-truck cross-country for most of his adult life. He enjoyed meeting new people on his travels and getting together with friends when he was home in Illinois or at his second home in Arizona. He never turned down a dance and anyone who knew Warren said they loved his smile.

Warren was predeceased by his wife, Sandra, and parents, Warren and Rose. He is survived by his daughter, Natalee Kenyon-Lodge, husband, Michael; his daughter Stephanie (Kenyon) Sullivan; and his son, John Kenyon, wife, Patricia and daughters, Kristina, Kayleigh and Danielle.

Visitation was held Friday, Feb. 17, at Country-side Funeral Home, 950 S. Bartlett Road, Bartlett, Ill. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that those who are able to instead make a donation to American Diabetes Association. Information at country-sidefuneralhomes.com or 630-289-7575.

Bobbi Matt

Bobbi Matt, 88, formerly of Franklin Park, Ill., passed away Feb. 16, 2023, at her home in Fountain Hills.

Beloved wife of the late Bill Matt. Loving mother of Dan (Sherry) Glueckert and Mike (Darla) Glueckert.

Cherished grandmother of Matthew Glueckert, Joseph Glueckert, the late Michael Glueckert Jr, Shawna (Dominick) Paisano, Sherise Glueckert. Dear great-grandmother of Sienna and Dominick Paisano. She is also survived by her beloved sister, Jean (Pat) O'Malley and nephew, Patrick (Katie) O'Malley and niece, Beth (Paul) Majer and her dear friend and neighbor, Marianne Fenn.

Visitation and prayer service Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Messinger Mortuary Fountain Hills. Visitation and prayer service on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Grove Memorial Chapel on Arlington Heights Rd., Elk Grove Village, Ill., from 3 to 7 p.m. Funeral and interment on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m. to St. Joseph

Cemetery, River Grove, Ill. For information call 847-640-0566.

Jerry Vincentini

Jerry Vincentini, age 82, passed away in Phoenix, Ariz. Jerry is survived by sons, Chris (Diane), grandsons, Dominic and Giovanni; Curt, grandsons, Nicholas, Jacob, and Kyle. Also survived by his brother, Ernie (Kay); numerous Nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Albina; wife, Connie (Francis); first wife, Kathleen (Shaffer) and mother of his children.

Jerry graduated from Central High School in 1958, then attended Omaha University (graduating in 1964).

He served in the National Guard and Army Reserves from 1955-1964. He worked for Willies Company for 42 years becoming sales manager. He also started numerous other businesses.

He was an avid antique car collector and member of various car clubs/organizations over the years, oftentimes serving on their board of directors.

Donations can be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

A memorial gathering will be held Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, from 6 to 7 p.m. with a Memorial Service to follow at 7 p.m. at Messinger Fountain Hills Mortuary, 12065 N. Saguario Blvd., Fountain Hills, AZ.

A Service will be held in Omaha, Neb. at a later date.

Tax help

Tax preparation services for seniors and low to moderate income families will be available at the Community Center.

The Town of Fountain Hills is partnering with AZ Masters of Coin to offer free income tax preparation for low-income, disabled and elderly taxpayers. AZ Masters of Coin is a non-profit organization located in Phoenix. Tax preparation is done by volunteers through IRS's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program.

This service is offered by appointment only at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Dr. continuing through April 17. Appointments can be made by calling the Community Center at 480-816-5200.

For more information regarding this program visit the Masters of Coin website at mastersofcoin.org/.

Metabolic support

The Metabolic Health Support Group resumes this month so make a New Year's resolution "To improve overall health," knowing safe weight loss will naturally follow.

Group leader Diane Weissman is a Fountain Hills-based Nutrition Network trained coach. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Dr. Open to the public. No fee or membership is required.

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Fantastic Foragers Hike for the Homeless set Food event is March 1

The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center, in partnership with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, will help answer questions about how ancient people were able to eat, live and thrive in the Sonoran Desert during a newly scheduled Fantastic Foragers experience Wednesday, March 1.

Led by Conservancy stewards, this half-mile walk will illustrate ways early Yavapai were able to survive in the harsh Sonoran Desert. The experience includes activities such as gathering edible plants, seeking good hunting spots

and much more.

The short walk along the accessible Kovach Family Nature Trail in Scottsdale is an introduction to the River of Time's Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation tours.

Participants will gather at the River of Time at 8:30 a.m. for a brief tour and a light breakfast. Then off to Scottsdale's Lost Dog Wash Trailhead, a 15-minute drive from Fountain Hills.

Tickets are \$45 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. Visit riveroftimecenter.com, call 480-837-2612 or drop by the River of Time at 12901 N. La Montana Drive to purchase tickets.

On Saturday, March 4, from 7:30 to 11 a.m., St. Joseph the Worker (SJW) will host its 25th annual Hike for the Homeless fundraiser at McDowell Mountain Regional Park Pemberton Trailhead in Fountain Hills. Funds raised directly support the nonprofit's mission to help individuals experiencing poverty, homelessness, or who are in crisis, to find quality employment and regain stability in their lives.

The hike is a significant fundraiser for SJW, and the goal this year is to raise \$85,000. In 2022, the Hike for the Homeless

helped hundreds of people experiencing homelessness and economic hardship get a second chance through employment.

"This is an extra special year, and event for us, as we're celebrating the 35th anniversary of St. Joseph the Worker and the 25th anniversary of the Hike," said Jarrett Ransom, interim CEO. "We invite people at all levels to join us on March 4. And what better way to spend a Saturday morning in Arizona with your family, friends - furry ones, too - than out on the hiking trail while helping those struggling with unemployment or financial hardship get a new start?"

In its FY 2022, SJW provided its services to more than 7,300 individuals and connected 5,399 individuals with employment. The organization serves

clients from more than 50 zip codes across the Valley through its five locations and 90-plus nonprofit, government and private partners. SJW has helped transform the lives of more than 35,000 individuals since its establishment in 1988 and continues to dispense the resources needed to remove employment barriers and create success.

Register for the Hike for the Homeless by visiting sjwjobs.org/2023hike/. Sponsorships are also available. For more information, contact Deb Bicorn at dbicorn@sjwjobs.org.

Registered hikers will have the option between a 1.5-mile or 4.5-mile hike. They will also receive a free t-shirt and be treated to a free breakfast burrito from San Tan Brewing Company.

(cont. from page 1A)

it packed nearly 600,000 nutritious meals used to feed those in need. In 2020, however, the campaign was interrupted by the rise of COVID.

"We're delighted that we now can resume these much-needed meals for the hungry," Pastor Elizabeth Gallen of New Journey Lutheran Church (ELCA), Fountain Hills, said.

200 volunteers are needed to successfully complete the food pack. Individuals, civic and church groups, school teams and service clubs are all welcome. To volunteer, send an email to FHfoodpack@njlc-fh.org or leave a message at 480-383-9193. Donations to support the purchase of the food product can be made online at njlc-fh.org.

Discover Dark Skies Feb. 25

The community is invited to the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church (FHPC) on Feb. 25 to learn about the International Dark Sky Discovery Center.

Fountain Hills is recognized as the 17th Dark Sky Community in the world, and the planned discovery center will be a welcomed attraction for both residents and visitors. The program at FHPC will feature a multi-media presentation by President and Co-Founder of the International Dark Sky Discovery Center, Joe Bill.

Joe has been a Fountain Hills resident for over

35 years and helped the Town become incorporated, serving on the first Town Council in 1990. Although his degrees are in physics and math, his professional career was in marketing and health care administration.

Joe and his wife, Nancy, formed and led the Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association in its successful goal to help Fountain Hills receive its prestigious designation as an International Dark Sky Community in 2018. He was recognized as a Dark Sky Defender by the International Dark Sky Association.

The Women's Fellowship

of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church is hosting the presentation to help the community imagine the 22,000-square-foot new International Dark Sky Discovery Center being built in Fountain Hills.

The public is invited to attend this presentation in the FHPC fellowship hall on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m.

"The International Dark Sky Discovery Center won't be a Fountain Hills attraction," the press release said. "It will be an international attraction in Fountain Hills that will benefit the entire state of Arizona."

Bulk pick-up planned

Republic Services has scheduled its annual bulk collection service for Fountain Hills beginning on March 1, and continuing through April 26. There are nine zones to cover with collections being done on Wednesdays.

Bulk collection waste includes items that are typically too large to be disposed of in the regular curbside trash container.

To help dispose of these items Republic Services offers the once-a-year service so residents do not have to transport items to the

landfill.

Typical bulk items include couches, lamps, rugs, mattresses and large appliances without Freon.

Additional information is available by contacting republicservices.com/customer-support.

The collection schedule begins with Zone 1 on Wednesday, March 1. This is the area in the northwest section of Town. It is bounded by Boulder Drive and Golden Eagle on the east, Desert Canyon and Sundown Drive on the south, and north and west from

those boundaries. It includes Sundown Drive and its side streets as well as the Shadow Canyon neighborhood and Eagles Nest.

Zone 2, to be collected on Wednesday, March 8, is the northeast section of Town. It is bounded by Boulder and Golden Eagle on the west, Bainbridge Avenue to Fountain Hills Boulevard, east of Fountain Hills Boulevard between Bainbridge and Palisades boulevard, west of Saguaro between Palisades and Grande and north of Grande to the Town limits.



Health Fair

Dr. Christopher R. Condon of Ally Spine Center talks to residents at the first Community Health Fair on Feb. 11 at the FHUSD Learning Center. Ally Spine Center was the event sponsor for the health fair. Residents attended other presentations on red light therapy, critical emergencies and healthy eating.



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2/24, 2/25 & 2/26 Music by D.J. Ed 1-4 p.m.
2/24 Music by World's Smallest Quartet 6-9 p.m.
2/25 Music by Cheap Lunch 6-9 p.m.

Opinion

Best interest

 A letter from:
Peggy Yeargain

The residents of this community have to live with whatever decisions the new Town Council enacts. We need them to get serious and actually learn about town management. The past council did that, and the new council needs to get better at it. They certainly are learning lessons the hard way!

After several hasty votes, they were forced to reconsider their actions. Fortunately, they were able to repair the damage; that might not be possible in future actions. They must be willing to listen to staff presentations and be well informed before voting. Obviously, there is value in working through established procedures rather than arrogantly rushing ahead as if it's not worth their time.

It is essential that the new council comprehends the voter-approved General Plan, the Council-approved Strategic Plan and the capital budgeting process. For example, items in the budget may depend on getting money from certain types of grants. It benefits us to keep these projects on the books in case the grant money becomes available. To believe otherwise is a big mistake. Fountain Hills could lose out on much-needed funds if the new council gets this wrong. That is not in the best interest of the community.

Prayer

 A letter from:
Mathew Corrigan

I attended the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and was pleased to hear a prayer as an invocation. This is a refreshing return to a traditional Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.

One public comment was a litany of attacks on the three new Town Council members orchestrated from members of a left-leaning club and printed in the liberal *Arizona Republic*. On a positive note, at least three public comments were focused on encouraging the mayor to add so-called "sober housing" to the agenda for discussion and public comment. There are many nonprofit organizations that offer a proven path of success in support to those persons who are addicted to alcohol and drugs which do not have the negative impact of increased crime and property devaluation sometimes brought on by sober housing programs.

Sadly, the mayor replied that this has already been discussed and decided and that only four such homes exist in Fountain Hills. I would suggest the next sober housing unit be located on the mayor's block in her neighborhood. Someone was fond of calling such a bold decision "skin in the game," although I much prefer the term "put your money where your mouth is." After all, someone who has such a strong opinion about a matter that is "already decided" should probably decide if they have the courage to live by their decision.

I would respectfully encourage the mayor to add sober housing to the next Town Council agenda. This is an important issue for all the residents and homeowners alike. More monitoring and strict control of such facilities will only ensure that Fountain Hills homeowners are protected by the Town and not negatively impacted.

Divisiveness

 A letter from:
Beth Culp

During his brief but fraught foray into Arizona politics Councilmember Allen Skillicorn has, through his incendiary and often defamatory rhetoric, added fuel to the fire of vitriolic

divisiveness that threatens to engulf our town.

Skillicorn has compared the members of a long-standing Fountain Hills organization to satanists, described our Attorney General as a murderer and repeatedly referred to the Town's trusted advisor as a "hired gun" who must be "fired" as if he were a contestant on "The Apprentice."

Following his ignominious retreat from Illinois politics Skillicorn has attempted to recast himself as a "rugged individualist" and "agent of geopolitical chaos" ready, willing and able to command Arizona's political stage. Skillicorn's aspirations appear unrealistic considering his recklessness and lack of political acumen. It would be easy to dismiss Skillicorn, but dangerous to do so. In the process of attempting to elevate himself to Arizona's regional and national platform Skillicorn has and will continue to do damage to our town.

The hateful rhetoric, thoughtless termination of a trusted adviser and reckless rescission of a necessary ordinance are just the beginning. Skillicorn is on record as supporting HB 2061, which would deprive Fountain Hills of approximately \$3 million in revenue it obtains from levying a 2.9% sales tax on food. Skillicorn has made no effort to determine how his current constituents feel about the loss of desperately needed revenue. Skillicorn has yet to offer any meaningful suggestions as to how the Town's expenditures could be reduced or revenues increased to offset the loss of the sales tax revenue.

Skillicorn has placed his interest in political advancement over the interests of the town he selected to serve as his launching pad. Let Skillicorn know that you see the conflict even if he pretends not to.

Scrutiny

 A letter from:
Karren Bogle

The new majority on the Town Council is doing exactly what they were elected to do.

They have begun a careful scrutiny of the budget and expenditures, as they promised when running for office. They are stopping the irresponsible spending, putting the brakes on unwanted practices, be they inappropriate development schemes that are not recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission or wasting money on studies that never come to fruition.

I for one appreciate what the new councilmembers are doing and look forward to more of the same.

Peculiar

 A letter from:
Richard Gohl

I witnessed something very peculiar when the Fountain Hills Town Council addressed the final regular agenda item during its Feb. 7 meeting.

Several councilmembers addressed one or more

bills currently before the State Legislature that the League of Arizona Cities and Towns has taken a position on because if they became law, they would substantially impact the League's member cities and towns revenue, or freedom to make decisions or to act in the best interest of their residents. Most of the member towns and cities have agreed with the League and taken the same public position on many of these bills.

The action that the Fountain Hills Town Council took on this was to direct the Town staff to write letters to the Legislature stating our Town's position for or against some of these bills, but the direction given during the public meeting was not specific regarding which bills or whether the Town was for or against each one. There was no motion, or vote. It was all very informal.

It was, however, clear that the Town would not take a position on some of the bills because one of the seven councilmembers disagreed with the League and the other six councilmembers. In other words, because one member of the council, just one, personally believes that the state should prohibit our Town from charging sales tax on food or residential rent, thus reducing the town's revenue by nearly \$3 million per year, the Town is not going to take a position on these bills.

Mr. Skillicorn was not elected to represent his own interests. Nor do I believe the Town should shy from taking a public position in its residents' and businesses' best interest due to lack of unanimity.

Promises

 A letter from:
Jennifer Kriwer

A recent *Arizona Republic* article (Feb. 1, 2023) by Sam Kmack criticizes newly elected Town Council members for firing a lobby consultant who was held on retainer. Prior to proposing the elimination of the retained consultant, it was clarified that the consultant could be hired on an "as needed" basis.

The newly elected Council members ran on scrutinizing our Town budget line by line to save taxpayer dollars. Council members are fulfilling their campaign promises. Thank you.

Signs

 A letter from:
Allen Hunt

On the front page of last week's *Fountain Hills Times*, one of our Town Council people seemed to suggest that the signs ordinances were primarily for our town businesses and real estate open houses. While partially true, I would suggest they are mostly for the benefit of the public.

I have lived in this town since 1996 and while I know where many local businesses are, rarely do I know when a new business opens in our town or where they are located. As I drive

around our town, it helps me to understand where businesses are located, whether new or already established and that I rarely visit.

What I personally would ask the Town Council members to do is to always consider the public whenever you discuss and prepare to make a decision on any topic. After all, you were elected to represent us, the people of our fabulous town.

Schools

 A letter from:
Linda Somo

In her letter to the editor, Sandra Marquette extols the virtues of the many school choice options offered to parents for their children, and denigrates the "government schools," a.k.a. public schools.

While it is true that Arizona is a leader in school choice, we are also ranked at the bottom of the 50 states when it comes to per pupil funding of our public schools.

After two years of COVID and school closures, it is indeed a fact that our students are scoring below grade level in reading and math, but only marginally below the national average. Is that a problem? Absolutely. But public schools, which are attended by 85% of our students, faced unusually difficult circumstances for two years, while being significantly underfunded. Meanwhile, what was happening in those private schools? We don't know, because unlike the public schools, they don't have to test students or report results annually, disclose finances or budgets, or answer to the public in any way.

Even now that our public tax dollars, \$7,000 per child, can be used to send any student to a private school, or even home school, there is absolutely no accountability for the use of our money, nor any obligation to disclose curriculum or testing requirements. Traditional public schools, however, are totally accountable to the public via a publicly elected Board of community members and public disclosure of curriculum, test scores, budget, etc.

Until private schools, home schooling and charter schools are held to the same standards as our traditional public schools, we should all object to our public tax dollars being used to educate students with no accountability. There's a definite correlation between the lack of adequate funding for public schools and the over \$300 million already spent for questionable, no accountability, vouchers this year.

Together

 A letter from:
Cecil Yates

I hope we all can agree that there is a national toxic political environment. No matter who on either side of the political isle gives an idea, the other side will personally attack them, condemn the idea

Our viewpoint

Fountain Festival

Thousands of visitors are expected in Fountain Hills this weekend as the Chamber of Commerce plays host to the spring 2023 Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts.

This big event will take up the entire downtown area, with traffic restrictions expected to go into effect sometime Thursday and continue throughout the weekend. All of Avenue of the Fountains, as well as the connecting section of Saguaro Boulevard alongside Fountain Park, will be closed to all traffic for this event. Plan your weekend travels accordingly and remember to be on the lookout for extra vehicles and pedestrians in and around downtown.

The art show runs from Friday, Feb. 24, through Sunday, Feb. 26. All the action kicks off at 10 a.m. each morning and runs until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 4 p.m. on Sunday. This is a rain or shine event, but hopefully Mother Nature will play nice this weekend.

As you'll see in our 1A reporting, the famous balloon launch is returning after a long hiatus, with takeoff set for 8 a.m. Sunday morning. It's been many years since the last balloon launch, so we encourage everyone to drop by Fountain Park Sunday morning to enjoy the show.

and try to make political points. Shouldn't we be working together to make life a little bit better for everyone?

Well, let's start here in Fountain Hills! Whether you were for or against the recently adopted invocation before council meetings, the item passed. There is precedence on how it was done, and who would be allowed to give it. Let's please follow that and move on. A positive prayer before any meeting is a good thing.


Now let's really start working together on creating an environment where more folks would like to move to Fountain Hills to support our local businesses, attend our schools, churches, events, etc., and add to our tax base. If you pull out our economic development plan, blow the dust off, you will see there are some great ideas on how to accomplish this.

One item that we can start with together is the 1,200 acres on the north side that can be master planned and developed in a way that creates huge opportunity to bring residents of all ages and backgrounds while accomplishing our goals.

Likewise, simple zoning updates in our commercial and certain areas of our mixed use areas can be enhanced to create additional opportunity to help Fountain Hills on all economic levels.

We can do this, and we can do this together. I'll see you around town!

Shortsighted

 A letter from:
Cindy Couture

I just arrived home. Once again, our roads presented a whack-a-mole game as I swerved back and forth, attempting to protect my tires and axles from pothole harm. I'm fuming.

In 2018, town voters were presented with an opportunity to save our roads. We could've voted yes on a property tax. It might have added \$100 a year to the average home's taxes. We all hate taxes, but we all need roads.


But as usual, in 2018, a small group of poisonous

residents roiled up the waters against progress. They said, "Once we allow a property tax, it has nowhere to go but up!" That's not true, but they succeeded with this false narrative. We've seen it happen again and again in our town. The poisoners use misinformation and fear to rip on new ideas or anything having to do with taxes.

In the past, it's been single garbage haulers and the property tax vote. Recently it was the school bond. Now, Town leaders are faced with finding a way to fix crumbling streets despite the lack of tax money. So once again, the town is left with the shortsighted mess caused by our naysayers.

We have a council member who thinks he can find street funding by going line by line in our already tight budget. I've even heard rumors about closing the Community Center to pay for road repairs. Shortsighted. People, it's time to provide the additional money to pay for our aging infrastructure. Encourage the Council to call for a road bond (more expensive) or a property tax. The longer we wait, the more expensive it will be. The longer we wait, the more costly tire repairs we will have to make. We have to do this sooner rather than later.

Bridge

 A letter from:
George Chi

From *The Fountain Hills Times* of Feb. 15, I was happy to know the bridge on Gilbert Road has been undergoing improvement.

The cost of its construction is about \$114 million. The completion date is expected in 2025. It will take about three years of construction. I read the information about the Beipanjiang Bridge of China from Google. The construction took three years and was completed in 2016. Its length is 4,396 feet. Its height is 1,854 feet and it is called the world's tallest bridge. Its cost was \$144 million.

With knowing the cost of living in the U.S. is much

(cont. on page 11A)

THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

(USPS 060-750)

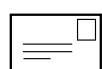
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Letters deadline noon Monday

All letters must be submitted by noon on Monday to be considered for publication in that week's edition. It is preferred they be emailed to ryan@fhtimes.com. They also can be dropped off at The Times office, 16508 E. Laser Dr., mailed to P.O. Box 17869, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-7869 or faxed to 480-837-1951.

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Fourth in series

Native Americans discuss mental health, suicide

By Cyrus Guccione
Times Reporter

This is the last in a series that uncovers the stories of underserved groups and their struggles with suicide.

Donald “2 Dogs” Beckman (68) chops wood on Oohula Road by the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort. The Fort McDowell Yavapai Tribe purchased a wood splitter for him, an essential piece of equipment that has replaced the brawn and anger of his youth.

“You have to get mad to [split wood],” Beckman said.

As a wood splitter, Beckman said he recalls seeing people hang themselves from the trees around his place of work.

“They shoot themselves, they hang themselves, overdose,” Beckman said. “Drugs make them do that. There’s a devil in them. I learned that growing up. If you let the demon come in, he could play God, too.”

Beckman has lived at Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (FMYN) all his life. In January, he lost his son, Eli Beckman, to diabetes, but it’s not what the police told him.

On the night of Monday, Jan. 30, Eli walked into the cold night with a cut-off shirt.

“His friends found him on the side of the road,” Donald said. “It was cold... he froze. He had other problems in his mind, but he won’t share it with nobody. He didn’t wanna talk about it.”

According to a new report published in February by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Native Americans experienced the highest rate of suicide deaths in the nation in 2021 (28.1 per 100,000).

Non-Hispanic American Indians or Alaska Natives (AI/AN) aged 25-44 experienced the highest increase in suicides of any group (33.7%) from 2018 to 2021, leaving tribal leaders with a number of unanswered questions.

As of the printing of this story, Eli’s case status is still pending on the Maricopa County Medical Examiner’s website.

Basic necessities

Loran Jacobs has lived in Fountain Hills for 23 years and makes the nearly four-hour trek to Tuba City, Ariz., to his job as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Working in six-day shifts, Jacobs sees his fair share of suicides and suicide attempts at the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation, a hospital that predominantly serves the Hopi Tribe and the largest and most populous Indian reservation in the U.S., the Navajo Nation.

“People will drive for like six, seven hours just to get healthcare at Tuba,” Jacobs said. “Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

We service about 200,000 people across that span.”

Jacobs says many patients come into the ER after an attempted hanging, overdosing or self-inflicted gunshot wound.

“Somebody finds them and then EMS is called and then they’re brought to the hospital,” Jacobs said. “We’re called to the ER in case we have to intubate.”

As a third-generation Chippewa Native American, Jacobs says lack of food access, running water and electricity are all issues he says contribute to mental health concerns on the reservation. He explains that while behavioral help may be available for natives, for those who live without electricity, “how do you access that, or do people know it even exists?”

Back at the Fort, Anthony Grey (29) cuts wood outside his home. In school, he dealt with bullying and struggled with thoughts of suicide, but says having a good job and his family around him helps him realize that, “I got a bunch going for me now.”

“I learned that growing up. If you let the demon come in, he could play God, too.”
Donald “2 Dogs” Beckman

Grey is Yavapai, Tohono O’odham, Apache and Mexican, and is from the Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community. He is concerned for his 6-year-old daughter who is getting bullied at school.

“She doesn’t talk about it, which is a problem,” Grey said. “She doesn’t really talk to me about it and that’s a big issue I have because she just thinks like, ‘Oh it’s accidental,’ or ‘they’re playing,’ or it’s this and that, and it’s like, no it’s not.”

“That’s not what’s happening. I know what’s happening because I went to those schools [in Fountain Hills]. I got kicked out of those schools because I was fighting back.”

United community

Kevin Quackenbush is the recreation manager at the Fort McDowell Recreation Center who oversees all the after-school programs for students.

“A lot of [students] will get off the school bus right out here, come in and hang out, get a snack, interact with the staff on a day-to-day basis, [which] gives them a positive outlet to come to after school,” Quackenbush said. “It’s just a place for them to come and hang out for a few hours after school and be a kid.”

Quackenbush has been working in Fort McDowell for seven years and counting, and says the tight-knit



Dale Donovan works at the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort in Fort McDowell.

community on the Yavapai reservation is what he enjoys most about working there. It’s also why, when an unexpected death occurs, the entire community is affected.

“Any time that there’s a death in the community, especially with the younger ones, it sends some shock waves,” he said. “Because everybody knows everybody pretty well and to no longer have that person be part of the community, it impacts it for sure.”

Learned behavior

Despite his non-behavioral role at the hospital in Tuba City, Jacobs is acutely aware of the anxiety his patients have.

“There’s a lot of abuse that happens on the res and it’s probably a learned behavior,” he said. “It just kind of continues and spirals.”

The Wassaja Memorial Health Center in Fort McDowell and the River People Health Center in Scottsdale were unable to comment on the behavioral health concerns on the reservation.

While generational trauma is not specific to Native American communities, centuries of injustice have been recorded against Native Americans resulting in poor health outcomes, says a 2019 study by the Health Services Research journal.

The study finds discrimination toward Native Americans has led to major disparities compared to whites in fair treatment by institutions, particularly with health care and police/courts.

Mindful practice

Dale Donovan is from the Navajo Nation and works at the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort. For a year and a half, he worked on the golf course, but most recently, he’s been assigned to other tasks, including cleaning the windows at the casino.

While Donovan has never experienced suicidal thoughts, he opened up about his struggle with anxiety and uses an ancient technique to calm his mind.

“A lot of people think meditation is supposed to, you know, be one with the universe and all that. But it’s just mainly focusing on your breathing,” Donovan said. “Fill your lungs with air and just feel that warmth in your body. That’s where all the energy comes from.”

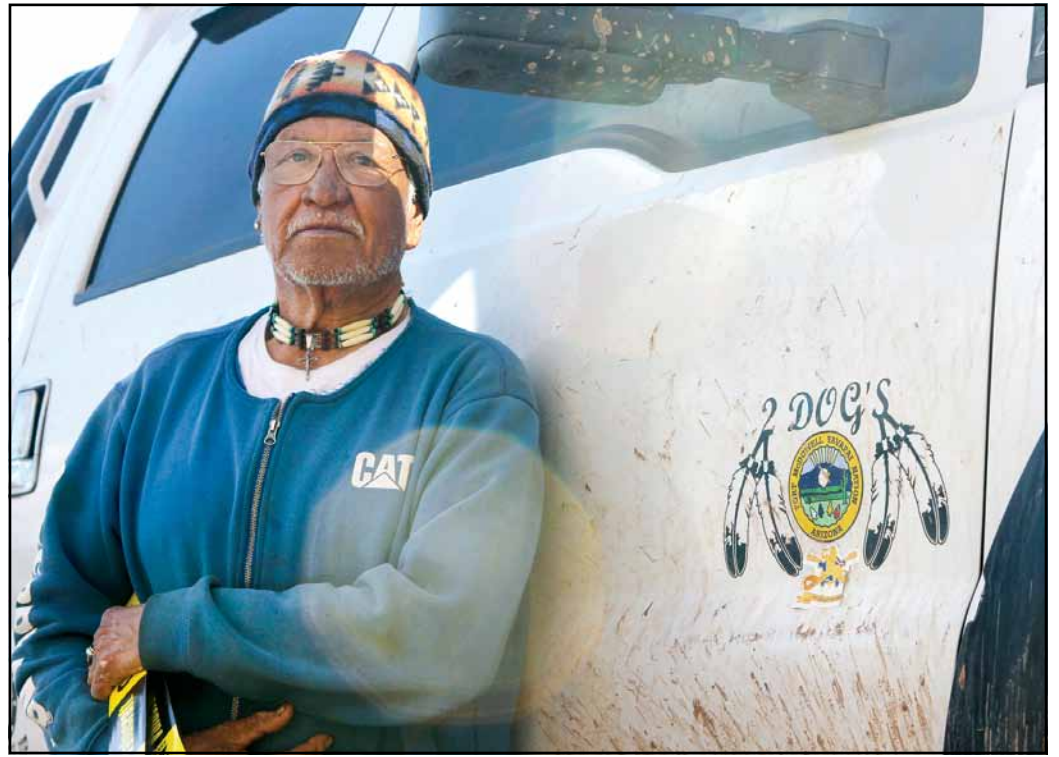
According to a 2021 study by the Archives of Suicide Research, brief mindful meditation (BMM) may help reduce suicidal ideation and stress and act as an effective suicide prevention strategy.

An additional study by Frontiers in Neuroscience (2019) found that BMM may also be an effective way to improve emotion processing as a form of “self-regulatory exercise for the mind and body.”

“You want to be the best version of yourself, for your family and your kids,” Donovan said.

Strength of youth

“With mental health and the elderly and the trauma that they have been through, it’s very hard for them to speak for it and sometimes it can get brought down to



Times photos by Cyrus Guccione

Donald “Two Dogs” Beckman has lived on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation all his life.

us through the trauma,” FHHS junior and FMYN Youth Council President, Aysha Rasool said.

Rasool is Hopi, Mohave and Pakistani, and has lived in Fort McDowell with her family for 11 years. When it comes to mental health support, Rasool said it shouldn’t be embarrassing to reach out for help, but being open about one’s emotions is hard, especially when trauma comes from the parents.

In the end, Rasool said “breaking the cycle” and promoting love in the home starts with a conversation.

“Parents would always like to be updated on what their child is doing in their life,” Rasool said, whose mother calls their frequent chats, “pillow talk.”

“She’s like, ‘What’s the tea for today? what are you telling me?’” Rasool said.

If she were to ever need professional help, Rasool said that it would need to come from someone indigenous, “Because they would relate to me,” she said. “It’s just like one big family group.”

For natives in crisis

or concerned about one, contact Arizona’s Solari Crisis Response Network at 844-534-4673 or call the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988.

To reach the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation emotional support warm-

line, call 602-347-1100 or the Fort McDowell Crisis Hotline at 480-461-8888. For Native Americans and Alaska Natives fleeing domestic and dating violence, call StrongHearts Native Helpline at 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483).

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Loran Jacobs, CRNA, works on reservation at the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation.

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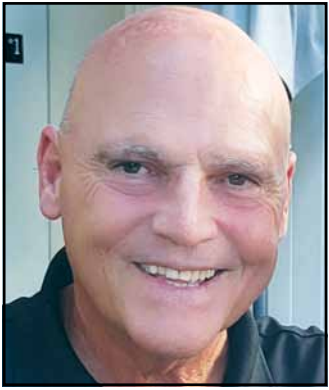
Introducing the 2023 Hall of Fame inductees

The Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame committee is busy finalizing details for its upcoming banquet to honor class of 2023 inductees. The class includes Fountain Hills residents Tom Aiello, Carol Carroll, Mark Dalton, Jim Dickey, Tait Elkie, Phil Yin and Margaret Ziefert. Diane Newcomb of Tonto Verde will be inducted as well, and the individual from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation has yet to be announced. The banquet is set for Wednesday, March 29, at the Rio Verde Country Club.

Dinner tickets are now available online at riveroftime.center/calendar_event/lower-verde-valley-hall-of-fame-dinner.

The event is serving as a fundraiser for the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum and Exploration Center.

Following are biographies of the individuals being inducted into the Hall of Fame next month:



Aiello has lived in in Fountain Hills since 2011 and quickly became a member of a tennis group, and he currently still plays three times a week.

He then joined the McDowell Mountain Preserve Commission, helping advise in the creation of Adero Canyon. He also helps build trails in the local preserve and is a

long-time active member of Sunset Kiwanis.

In 2015 he became a member and lead of the Fountain Hills Crisis Response Team, which seems like a good fit since he was a New York City police officer and detective in the Bronx for 22 years.

Out of all his endeavors, the Crisis Team is "number one."

Tom Aiello

Aiello's tireless service extends to folks who find disaster knocking on their door during a family crisis that may involve a tragic traffic accident, family dispute, cardiac arrest, suicide, overdoses, fires or other issues.

He also sees youths who are struggling with anxiety, PTSD, trauma, etc.

Back in 2017 he became

aware of Reigning Grace Ranch in the Rio Verde Foothills and created a program that helps troubled teens from these situations to connect with the tender loving care of an equine partner at Reigning Grace Ranch so they can take advantage of the wonderful equine therapy programs the ranch offers.

The Crisis Response

Team is on-call 24-hours, and as their coordinator, Tom's job is pretty much also a 24-hour job.

Aiello has spent time recruiting sponsors to help pay for the equine therapy for youths and works closely with Fountain Hills School District counselors, having sent more than 30 troubled local teens to the ranch for therapy.



Carroll has brought much passion and talent to several Fountain Hills organizations.

She is currently on the Board of the Sister Cities group, an organization

she's been involved with since 2015, and is responsible for raising the awareness of that organization during her time as president.

Still a member of the

Carol Carroll

board, she serves as director of international and state relationships for Fountain Hills Sister Cities and Arizona Sister Cities statewide.

She was also a member

of the Board of Directors for the Fountain Hills Theater for a number of years and was responsible for fundraising for the theater's Broadway in the Hills several years in a row.

Most recently, she helped to raise the funds for the Fountain of Light statue, a tribute on the Avenue of the Fountains to Fountain Hills' first 50 years.



Dalton is a second-generation Arizonan, born and raised in Tucson. He attended the University of Arizona, where he earned his bachelor degree in business, and the University of Phoenix, where he received his MBA.

He previously worked in the healthcare industry for over 30 years in multiple

subspecialties including emergency medicine, orthopedics, cardiology, ophthalmology and urology.

Since 1997, his focus has been medical ophthalmology/optometry. He retired in 2016 and has sought to pursue his passions of traveling, fishing, gardening, animal rescue and volunteer work.

Mark Dalton

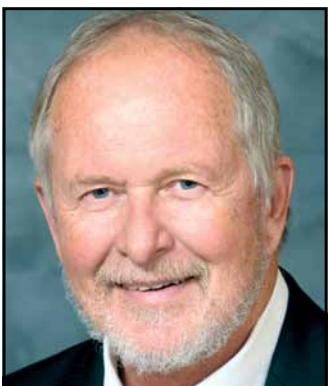
Dalton has resided in Fountain Hills for 18 years with his wife, Debra. He loves the small-town environment and the community appeal. He spends many hours down at the Community Center participating in multiple activities.

Dalton has volunteered thousands of hours since

he moved to Fountain Hills including Meals on Wheels deliveries, various town events, assisted in establishing the Community Garden, building sets for Fountain Hills Theater and serving on multiple non-profit boards including Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association, Fountain Hills Community

Foundation, Fountain Hills Community Tax Credit Foundation and Fountain Hills Community Garden.

Most recently, he assisted in revamping bingo at the Community Center. And, most noteworthy, he is one of their official bingo callers.



Much of Jim Dickey's energy has been geared toward public service. With a degree in American history and a master's in curriculum and instruction from the University of Central Missouri, education has been a focus throughout his professional and volunteer life.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., Dickey taught middle and high school, was a class sponsor, and coached both girls' and boys' sports. A part-time job as a school

bus driver eventually led him to a career in transportation with Mayflower, leading him to Fountain Hills in 1992.

He was employed as deputy executive director of operations and planning at RPTA/Valley Metro, as public transportation division director at ADOT, and upon retirement as the Arizona Transit Association executive director.

He served as adjunct professor at the University

Jim Dickey

of the Pacific, Pepperdine, and Willamette University from 1998-2016, providing training for public transportation managers. Dickey was also a member of the Board of Trustees at the University of the Rockies in Denver.

Locally, Dickey was elected a FHUSD Board Member, 1995-2000, serving twice as president. He was elected and served as chair of EVIT, 2002-2006, and was a member of

Golden Eagle Foundation and the Fountain Hills Community Foundation.

He chaired or worked on several successful FHUSD bond and override efforts beginning in 2000 and has been campaign manager for many local candidate elections.

Dickey worked on 30th anniversary of incorporation activities and the "Fountain at 50" committee and helped collect and fill the 25-year time capsule.

Dickey co-initiated an

effort to establish the new Historic and Cultural Advisory Commission. He supported the town by creating 13 transportation infrastructure project submissions to qualify for regional grant funding. He is a member of the citizen street committee.

Dickey is married to Mayor Ginny Dickey and their blended family includes five grown children, spouses and nine grandchildren.



Elkie has lived in Fountain Hills since July of 2007 and married his wife, Michele, in July of 2008. They had their first date at Fountain Park. They have one daughter Emilie, who is 7.

Elkie has been a licensed attorney in Arizona for more than 20 years and has maintained a law practice in Fountain Hills since July of 2008.

During his time in the Hills, he was a Town Councilman from 2010 to 2014,

served as an attorney mentor for the Teen Court diversion program through the Fountain Hills Municipal Court, is a member and former Commandant of Marine Corps League Detachment #1439 and is a member and former Color Guard Rifleman and Judge Advocate for VFW Post No. 7507.

He also is a member and former Color Guard Rifleman for American Legion Post No. 58, and a 2018 American Legion National Color Guard Cham-

Tait Elkie

panion in the Military Class; he's past president of the Fountain Hills Republican Club and the club's 2015 Republican of the Year; he is a former Chamber of Commerce board member, is past president of the Sunset Kiwanis Club and a former director of the Fountain Hills Community Foundation.

A long-time supporter of the Fountain Hills Drug Prevention Coalition, Elkie also on November 11, 2011, organized a Veterans Ap-

preciation Day at Fountain Park, which was attended by hundreds in honor and memory of our veterans.

In 2012 and 2013 he organized Fourth of July celebrations at Fountain Park, which brought back an Independence Day celebration to Fountain Hills after being absent in town for many years.

He currently serves as the judge for the East Valley Regional Veterans Court, which serves the needs of veterans charged with mis-

demeanor offenses in seven different East Valley courts, including the Fountain Hills Municipal Court.

He served in the Marine Corps from 1989 to 1993 and participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, 1990-1991, and Operation Restore Hope, Somalia, 1992-1993.

In 2008 and 2012 he was honored as one of Arizona's Top 50 Pro Bono Attorneys by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education.



Whenever local veterans gather for a ceremony or participate in a commemorative service for departed veterans, you'll find Philip C. S. Yin in the center of activities.

Yin co-founded Marine Corps League Detachment 1439 in 2016. He was honored as the 2020 Legionnaire of the Year by the Department of Arizona, American Legion. He earned the distinction as Department of Arizona Marine Corps League Marine of the Year 2019 at the state convention.

After graduating Villanova University with a degree in physics, Yin was drafted in 1965 and joined the Marine Corps. He was a machine gunner in Vietnam and during a search and destroy mission he was wounded by mortar fire.

A Purple Heart recipient, Yin's other military honors include the USN/USMC Presidential Unit Citation with Bronze Star, USMC Good Conduct, National Defense, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, RVN Wound Medal, RVN Gallantry Cross Unit

Phil Yin

Citation with Palm, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Action and Expert Rifle and Pistol Badges.

Upon moving to Fountain Hills, he joined the American Legion in 1999. He would become All-State/All-American Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7507, Commandant and Co-Founder of the Marine Corps League Detachment 1439, executive committee board member of American Legion Post 58 and Color Guard Director.

As director of the Color Guard American Legion

Post 58, he and his team won one national and two state color guard competitions.

He also worked with former Mayor Linda Kavanagh and current Mayor Ginny Dickey to proclaim Fountain Hills a Purple Heart Town, with signs indicating this at four entrances into our town.

Yin received his undergraduate degree in Physics from Villanova University and his Ph.D. in materials science from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute-New York University.

Yin's professional career in the semi-conductor and compound semiconductor industries spans more than 50 years. He holds three U.S. patents.

Yin moved to Fountain Hills from Ohio in 1999 when ATMI Epitaxial Services in Mesa recruited him to become president of two divisions.

Yin met his wife, Debbie, in 1992 and together they have two sons and two daughters by previous marriages, along with four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



She is a native New Yorker who moved to Fountain Hills in 1995.

Ziefert has two daughters, a stepson and stepdaughter, is a grandmother to nine and her first great-granddaughter was born in October 2022.

In 1998 she became an independent travel consultant and still operates

CruizZee's Travel.

For many years Ziefert supported Fountain Hills Unified School District students, first as a substitute special needs teacher and then as a teacher of the homebound who needed lessons due to their long-term illnesses.

She has also served as a foster owner for rescue

Margaret Ziefert

dogs to prepare them for adoption, working with cast-off cockers and continuing still with the Arizona Humane Society.

Many consider Ziefert as the "soul" of the Sunset Kiwanis Club in terms of policy, bookkeeping, finances and Kiwanis District and International regulations.

Without Ziefert, the club would not be able to continue its annual support for activities that support Key Club, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, FH Youth Theater, Sunshine Acres Orphanage and the newly-opened Inspiration Academy.

She also is a long-time member of the Four Peaks Women's Club, which co-

ordinates many hands-on projects that benefit women and children.

Ziefert represents all the dedicated "silent" volunteers who serve communities without fanfare, rather knowing their efforts have made a difference for many with their service.



Newcomb was born and raised in New Jersey, in an area where farming was a primary occupation for many residents and where she was introduced to hard work.

After college, she worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 35-plus years, focusing on analytical chemistry, quality man-

agement and regulatory affairs, developing new oncology drugs for worldwide approval and distribution.

The warm weather, mountains and golf (before their introduction to pickleball) brought her husband, Walt, and herself to Tonto Verde, where they built their home in 2011.

Newcomb enjoys be-

Diane Newcomb

ing outdoors and leading volunteer groups within multiple organizations. She served as president on the Friends of McDowell Mountain Park board as her first volunteer activity in Arizona.

Things blossomed shortly thereafter and she has led and/or participated in many different activi-

ties including chair of the Verdes Community Christmas Project, vice president of Fountain Hills Pickleball Club, community leader and volunteer coordinator for Firewise in the Verdes.

She has been a volunteer with Tonto National Forest for pipe-rail fence installation and reforestation, co-organizer of a Verdes ladies

hiking group, member and secretary of the TV HOA Nomination and House & Grounds committees, VerdeCares volunteer for data entry, TVGC volunteer, and working with the Adopt-A-Highway program trying to keep McDowell Mountain Road between Fountain Hills and the Verdes trash free.

Train enthusiast

John Gibson using hobby to recreate history

By Cyrus Guccione
Times Reporter

For John Gibson, being a model railroader isn't simply putting track sections together, slapping on a transformer and running a locomotive in a circle; it's a pastime that brings like-minded members of the community together in celebration and recreation of history.

Gibson is a Fountain Hills resident who, with his wife's consent, built a 7x13 ft. enclosed room in his garage bay, just enough space to fit his lifelong hobby of building a model railroad.

As a boy, Gibson's interest in trains came in part from his father, Billy Ray Gibson, an avid train chaser who would follow trains for miles along long stretches of highway with his Super 8mm video camera. Billy and his late brother, Steve, grew up in Itmann, W.Va., a coal mining town with a population of roughly 200 before they later moved East to Norfolk, Va.

"My uncle's the one that motivated me because he had a model railroad when I was growing up," Gibson said. "My uncle had actually worked for the Virginian [railroad] back East... and I said, 'Well, this is going to be a model of the Virginian railroad in honor of my uncle who passed away many years ago and my dad.'"

In his Fountain Hills garage, Gibson methodically chooses only pre-1957 replicas of the Virginian to honor the time when his



John Gibson is three years into the process of building a model railroad in his garage in honor of his father and late uncle.

uncle worked on the rail. A familiar coal mine will sit near the trains with tracks running between West Virginia and Virginia to depict the various chapters in the lives of his dad and uncle. After three years working on this "extremely part-time" activity, Gibson says there's still quite a bit more work to be done.

"There'll be a pier over here and this will look like water eventually," Gibson said, holding a clipboard detailing every plan that will soon materialize in his garage. "If I can find a model, there'll be a ship parked here because they would bring coal down

to this ship, put it on the ship and it'd be shipped all over the world out of little Itmann, West Virginia."

Gibson uses cork bed for the base of the railroad and sprinkles grains of sand and rock to make it come to life. Railroad-crossing signs and Virginian logos hang on the walls of the train room, a pair of heavy, cast-iron rail tongs hang from the rafters and a window peering into the dreamy Americana landscape opens to the street.

"I built the end of this with a window and some stairs so the neighborhood kids can come check it out," Gibson said. "I want to edu-

cate people about what I've got here."

As his project grows, Gibson looks forward to hearing from other local train enthusiasts who are interested in meeting occasionally to discuss model railroading, sharing new ideas and maybe helping each other on their model railroads.

"Maybe there are people that don't know as much as me, I can help them. The ones that know more, I can learn from them," Gibson said. "I'm hoping that there are some other guys in town like me, and that's what I'm hoping this story draws out."



John Gibson hard at work with his grandson, Lennox. Photo courtesy of John Gibson

As an ode to the past and a hope for the future, Gibson has been hard at work with his grandson, Lennox, a fifth grader at McDowell Mountain Middle School, building miniature model railroad structures and bench work.

Gibson hopes to instill in Lennox the joy of working with one's own hands, honoring those who have passed and spending quality time with loved ones who are still among us.

Together, Gibson and Lennox built an old, dilapi-

dated house that is meant to serve as the neighborhood haunted house.

"I told him that I would have a section (even though it's not realistic) where there's a couple dinosaurs coming at the train as they go by," he said. "So, part of it is real, based on my dad and my uncle's life, and then there'll be this fantasy section, too."

For local train enthusiasts looking to connect with like-minded folks, give Gibson a ring at 480-231-3896.

New book dives further into the van Gogh mystery

Fountain Hills resident and author, Irv Arenberg MD, has released his second book in his "Killing Vincent" trilogy.

"Love and Murder, the Final Days of Vincent van Gogh" was released last week on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

"Love and Murder" tells

the sad story of why Vincent was honor killed, how he was murdered, and what was the trigger or catalyst for killing him. It follows the first book, "Killing Vincent, the Man the Myth and the Murder," which proved forensically that it was not possible for Vincent to shoot himself in the

belly, of all places, and die a miserable death 30 hours later.

Videos are on YouTube Channel and KillingVincent.com.

Also, book three of the trilogy is in progress and expected to be released at the end of this year to complete the Killing Vincent Trilogy, "The Day van Gogh Was Shot Changed Art History Forever and Led to the Greatest Art Heist Ever."

On July 30, 1890, a hot and muggy afternoon, shortly after Vincent van Gogh was laid to rest after his honor killing for "compromising" his doctor's 21-year-old daughter, 26 of his unknown paintings and other art material were taken from the hotel where his final viewing occurred by his doctor and his son. This was the largest art heist of a single artist ever and led to the Gachet

art forgery ring and many fakes, forgeries and altered provenance for years.

This is the story in book three of the Killing Vincent Trilogy of what happened to all of that art and to Marguerite and her sad, long life without her Vincent. This book is the finale of the trilogy.

Book one was "Killing Vincent" and proved forensically that it was not possible for Vincent to inflict his mortal wound. If Vincent did not shoot himself in the belly, then whoever put that penetrating wound in his abdomen murdered him.

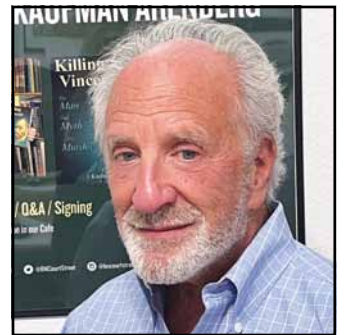
Book two, "Love and Murder," answers the questions of how, why and where Vincent van Gogh was murdered and how a brilliant cover-up of the murder was accomplished by the persons of interest using the false narrative

of a suicide as a martyr for his art.

There is also a sneak preview of chapter one from book three.

Dr. Irv Arenberg, the director of the Killing Vincent Project (KVP) and author of the Killing Vincent Trilogy, is a retired ear surgeon, a peer reviewed and widely published medical expert and the author/editor of more than 100 medical books, articles, and an internationally recognized expert in Meniere's disease and other related inner ear disorders. Also, he has devoted more than 40 years to pursuing truths related to the medical aspects of Vincent's life, loves and his death. He also hosted several major international inner ear meetings. He has received multiple international awards and several gold medals.

This non-fiction art his-



Dr. Irv Arenberg

tory Killing Vincent Trilogy focused on Vincent and Marguerite sheds new light on their love affair and how their blossoming "finally love" contributed to his mysterious death. The Killing Vincent Project has made several notable groundbreaking contributions to the art history world focused on Vincent. For more information, visit KillingVincent.com.

Irish Fountain Fest goes green March 11

Put on the green and join the Town of Fountain Hills as they shamrock the hills with Irish Fountain Fest on Saturday, March 11.

Food, fun and music will be a part of this family-friendly event, and the world-famous Fountain will be transformed into a bright emerald green geyser at 12 p.m. and again at 4 p.m.

Irish Fountain Fest will feature a kid's zone, traditional Irish folk dancing performances, a Celtic rock band, food trucks, the Crescent Crown Beer Garden

and more. This event is open to families of all ages and is free to attend. It will be hosted out of Fountain Park.

Activities scheduled for the event are as follows:

- *11 a.m., festival opens; Trotter's Wake Band.
- *12 p.m., Greening of the Fountain.
- *1 to 2 p.m., Kilted Spirit Band.
- *2 to 3 p.m., Phoenix Pipe & Drum Band.
- *3 to 5 p.m., Traveler - Celtic Rock Band.
- *4 p.m., Greening of the Fountain.

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Concours car show breaks records once again

Racing to a record-breaking good time at Fountain Park on Feb. 4 was the Gila River Resorts and Casinos Concours in the Hills, presented by Matson Money, a Phoenix Children's event. From drivers to pilots, parachutes to puppy paws, this event had a little something for everyone and smashed its previous record by raising \$485,898 and counting through sponsorships, registration, food vendors, donations and donated services.

Some of the cars on display included a LaFerrari, Aston Martin One-77, Cord 812 SC Convertible Coupe, and one of the most famous racecars in the world, a Ford GT Le Mans racecar, and many more. In total, there were over 70 Ferraris, 35 race cars and seven military helicopters on display.

When the event began in 2014, there were 220 cars and 3,000 spectators. This year, there were approximately 50,000 spectators, featuring 1,200 vehicles and more than 100 vendor

and sponsor booths. Concours creator Peter Volny said growth has surpassed all expectations and it continues to excel.

This year, as the cars were rolling into the park, four members of the U.S. Navy parachute team, The Leap Frogs, parachuted out of the sky. They flew into the event trailing an American flag surrounded by red, white and blue smoke. Concours in the Hills' opening presentation included a missing man air performance by the Mesa-based pilot group, The Falcon Warbirds. The official opening of the event wrapped up with a check presentation to Phoenix Children's for \$470,000. With donations gained through the day, the total was brought up to \$485,898 and counting, which will go directly to children in need of life-saving medical services.

There were five award categories at Concours in the Hills: Best Domestic, Import, Race Car, Car Club Display and Best of Show. A 1970 Plymouth Superbird

won Best Domestic and a 1973 Mazda Rx2 won Best Import. A 1967 Watson Indy Roadster won Best Race Car, an MG Car Club won Best Car Club and a 1966 Ferrari 275GTB won Best of Show.

"The support for this show from the community and sponsors is overwhelming," Volny said. "We in the car community are honored to be able to make this donation to Phoenix Children's, where we can make a true positive impact on the lives of children."

This marks the last year that Volny led the event, which is one of the largest car shows in the world. He gifted the auto show to Phoenix Children's, and from now on, the hospital will be planning this annual, strictly for charity event with the help of its auxiliary group, PCH50. The group, also known as "The Fifty," has a mission "to harness the energy, enthusiasm and experience of 50 driven community leaders as the next generation of supporters of Phoenix



Times photo by Bob Burns

Concours in the Hills broke records once again this year en route to raising more than \$485,000 for Phoenix Children's.

Children's."

"This year will be hard to beat," said Dr. Kris Birke-land, a member of PCH50. "But I know that Phoenix Children's and the PCH50 will continue to grow the impressive legacy that Peter has created with this

event. We look forward to the community seeing what we can do at Concours in the Hills 2024."

Volny said the Concours would not be possible without the generosity of sponsors, such as Gila River Resorts and Casi-

nos, Valley Buick GMC, Matson Money, CuraFin Advisors, Discount Tires, Lucid Motors and Penske Automall.

For more information, visit phoenixchildrens-foundation.org/signature/concours.

ADOG held snake training

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the Fountain Hills Association of Dog Owners Group (ADOG) held the fifth Annual Rattlesnake Aversion Training.

"Rattlesnake Ready is the most highly respected company for this kind of training and provides this service once a year at a group rate for the Fountain Hills Community," a press release said. "It is strongly recommended that all dogs receive Rattlesnake Aversion Training."

Fountain Hills Fire Chief Dave Ott states the Fire Department receives up to 400 calls each year for snake removal, the press release continued, most of which are rattlesnakes.

Rattlesnakes are prevalent in the area, along with the rest of the native wildlife, "so learning about them and how to protect yourself and your pets is imperative," the press release said.

"We do a service of removing rattlesnakes on people's property and I always tell people to get



As the season turns, rattlesnakes become MORE prevalent in the area. Fountain Hills Association of Dog Owners Group (ADOG) held its fifth Annual Rattlesnake Aversion Training at Desert Vista Park.

their dogs trained," Fountain Hills Fire Department (FHF) Captain Don Deasy said. He's been with FHF for 34 years and has had his fair share of diamondback encounters. "Dogs are closer to [snakes] so they get bit in the face and the neck," Deasy said, who has put his two dogs through rattlesnake training. "[rattle-

snake training] is a great idea and it's a very important thing for dogs."

Whether on the streets, hiking trails or in less desirable locations, rattlesnakes exist in this environment. ADOG Instructor Cody Will has his B.A. in herpetology from U.C. Davis and has years of experience with most varieties of Arizona native venomous and non-venomous snakes. Most importantly, Will is knowledgeable and good with dogs.

Through ADOG, dogs learn through sight, smell and hearing so they are prepared on any occasion when they might encounter a rattlesnake. For those interested, the complete training program can be viewed at rattlesnakeready.com.



Excavation work has begun to prepare the site for new garden beds and relocation of the outdoor garden kitchen.

Garden remodel underway

The Community Garden was turned over to the contractor, Echelon, last week for the major reconfiguration project taking place.

Garden manager Rita Applegate said garden members were on site over the weekend and cleaned up plant material and removed personal items. The garden is giving away much of the planting box material for others to use, which was being removed later in the week.

The approximately five-month Community Garden

Reconfiguration project will enhance the existing site by taking advantage of space recently made available at the south end of the garden area. The project will include 124 garden rental beds, several new sheds, a restroom and improved access for delivery vehicles. After the Garden is completed, the site of the future Discovery Center will become more visible for everyone to see.

The Fountain Hills Community Garden will celebrate its sixth year in existence. It is a gathering place where residents can learn to garden, grow healthy produce, connect with nature, stay physically active and build social interactions. The Garden is in the heart of Fountain Hills, adjacent to the library, Community Center and Town Hall.

The reconfiguration is to allow for future development of the planned International Dark Sky Discovery Center at a site

adjacent to the Centennial Circle.

The 22,000-square-foot Discovery Center is being billed as a world-class destination for STEM education, featuring a planetarium, a 150-seat theater/auditorium and an observatory. It will also feature an Immersion Zone where patrons will learn about dark sky protection and the effects of excessive artificial light at night on humans, animals and plants. Additionally, the Einstein Exploration Station will offer students hands-on opportunities to experiment with the properties of light and serve as a classroom for other educational and research activities.

The Discovery Center is a \$25 million project that is being privately funded. A contribution from recent state budgets has allowed for design and engineering to proceed. However, construction will not begin until there is adequate funding.



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Schools

Board to vote on field

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board will have a business meeting and work study session tonight. The Board will vote on meet and confer items and an authorization to spend over \$100,000 to replace the football field, as well as discuss course proposals at the high school.

Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski has been in discussion with AstroTurf regarding the athletic field warranty. In order to proceed with procurement, FHUSD needs to finalize an agreement regarding warranty and AstroTurf's coverage. All procurements over \$100,000 must have Board approval.

FHUSD staff has also come to agreements through meet and confer moving forward. There were updates to change pay for substitutes, supplementary pay, stipends and more, as well as dates in order to coincide with the proposed 2023-24 district calendar. Support staff received similar updates to coincide with professional staff compensation.

Jagodzinski also recommends the Board approve a new job description for the childcare specialist and Structured English Immersion/English Language Development (SEI/ELD) teaching positions.

The Board will discuss potential changes to the regulation of Policy GCQC, regarding staff resignations. They will consider doubling the fines for liquidated damages if a staff member resigns prior to the end of a contract term, from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The liquidated damages are supposed to offset the costs of looking for a replacement staff member, and the five possible reasons to request a waiver are unchanged.

The Board will discuss the school calendar and work calendar for next year, which will include a new early release day before Spring break. The discussion may also include information on the new trimester schedule that Jagodzinski has been researching and thinking of implementing at the high school.

Work study

The Board will shift to a work study session to discuss course proposals, before/after school programs and vacant building options. The Town Manager, Grady Miller, is on the agenda to speak on vacant building options, and True Professionals, the third-party financial consulting service, will also give a presentation on building options. These conversations apply most directly to Four Peaks Elementary school.

The Board will discuss naming a new before/after school program and the fees for that program. Jagodzinski recommends "Club Falcon," and the programs would be available to purchase on a daily basis, as well as a monthly payment.

There are 11 high school course proposals up for discussion. The math department would like to create a senior level course called financial algebra and statistics, and the English department would like to add creative writing I and creative writing II. The social studies department would like to add AP Human Geography and Art History.

There are athletic course proposals that would offer more elective variety to students and allow coaches to teach in smaller classes and give students more attention and time to learn the sport. Prerequisites vary for the proposed athletic classes, but they are consistent that the students be registered on "Register my athlete," and have at least an interest in trying out if not already on the team.

There are proposals for wrestling, girls athletics, basketball, volleyball, football, and yoga/movement and mindfulness. The yoga class will have no prerequisites but would only be open to grades 10-12.

The Board will have another business meeting on Wednesday, March 8, at 6 p.m. in the FHUSD Learning Center. The next work study session will be Wednesday, March 22, at 5 p.m. All Board meetings are recorded and live-streamed on the FHUSD YouTube channel.

Junior Achievement

Volunteers sought for spring

Junior Achievement of Arizona (JA) saw its best year in its 65-year history in Arizona during the 2021-22 school year.

Thanks to the support of educators, donors, volunteers and community members, JA served over 108,000 primarily low-income students in Arizona, 660 of which were youth in

the foster care system.

"[Our] innovative programs are reaching the students who need them most, and with the launch of content in Spanish and adapted for the deaf community, JA is leveling the playing field," reads a press release from JA. "Now, thanks to these major strides, JA is being viewed

as a key strategic partner in the field of education and career readiness."

According to Fountain Hills resident Dwight Johnson, longtime supporter of JA, it's no secret that their programs are effective.

"Through longitudinal studies, we know that JA alumni demonstrate, on average, 34% higher critical thinking skills, earn 20% more throughout their careers and are 143% more likely to start a business, as compared to non-Junior Achievement students," Johnson said in the release. "JA alumni are also 6% more likely to graduate high school, 30% more likely to graduate college, and 67% more likely to earn an advanced degree than the general population."

All of this is made possible by JA's many partners in the community, and JA counts Fountain Hills among them. For 17 years the JA/Fountain Hills partnership has impacted thousands of students and provided them with tools for success. During the 2021-22 school year, JA brought in-person programs back to Fountain Hills schools. In May of 2022, they served 417 students across 18 classes, fourth through eighth grade, at Fountain Hills Middle school. Val

Reichler led the effort in providing these students with financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship education.

Similarly, JA reached 312 students at McDowell Mountain Elementary School, kindergarten through third grade, made possible by the many dedicated Fountain Hills educators at the school. JA leadership said they are excited to partner with these schools again during the 2022-23 spring semester.

"We are proud to serve the students of Fountain Hills and will continue to do so," said Katherine Kemmeries Cecala, JA president. "But it takes community support - we need over 4,000 volunteer mentors to run our programs each year."

Interested volunteers can visit the JA website to sign up to teach programs at local schools.

"It also takes donor support," Cecala added. "The Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program allows individuals to donate up to \$400 and couples up to \$800, and to get it back as a dollar-for-dollar credit on their taxes. It's a win for the donor and a win for JA students."

For more information or to learn more about volunteering/donating to Junior Achievement, visit jaaz.org.

Terrific Kids



Fourth grader Promise Garcia was named a Terrific Kid by Kiwanis for the month of February.



Fourth grader Dante Cachucha was named a Terrific Kid by Kiwanis for the month of February. Photos courtesy of Steffnie Beck.



The Terrific Kids at Fountain Hills Middle School for the month of January are fifth graders Jaxon LaGiglia, left, and Johnnie Lynn Coffman, right. Photo courtesy of Steffnie Beck.

Letters

(cont. from page 6A)

higher than in China it is still difficult for me to accept the comparison. Now President Biden is allocating billions of dollars for infrastructure. Should we look into ways to lower our construction costs so it won't be unimaginably higher than the cost in China?

'So what?'

A letter from:
Rick Dime

"So what?" is exactly the indifferent attitude the federal bureaucracy wants you to have so they can continue to break laws and institutionalize costly programs that nobody voted on. The unjustified and often illegal ESG mandates are unpopular and need to be stopped. The cult of ESG influencers is aimed at bankrupting the financial and spiritual stability of this nation.

Emphatically repeating untruthful words doesn't make them truthful. Propaganda is intended to convince the subconscious mind to accept and eventually normalize an indifference to disinformation. The "So what?" attitude to what's really going on encourages the ESG cult to continue its onslaught.

What's missing in our hearts and souls that cre-

ates the indifference to stand by and do nothing? Are we being misinformed, tricked, confused, or are we so desensitized and numb that we just shrug our shoulders at evil and watch it multiply? Governor DeSantis and others need support to halt the spread of evil and corruption.

"The invasion of the southern border" is the usage of words to illustrate the mass increase of immigration in progress. "The border is closed" are the words used to misrepresent the true enormity of illegal immigration. The impact of words is intensified by the number of times they are spoken or printed regardless of the falsehoods embedded in those words. Intentional word manipulation reinforces disinformation, corrupts the facts and spreads misinformation.

Is the daily parade of political scandals in the media a ploy of misdirection? Are government bureaucrats intentionally perpetuating a public state of arrested development by advancing a permanent spell of compliance via mass formation?

Continuing to say "So what?" to ESG mandates is causing America's elder generation's financial and spiritual bankruptcy and younger generations will begin penniless, homeless and godless. Please pray and act for change, and don't say "so what."

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The Arts & Entertainment

FHAL to host Hendrickson

The Fountain Hills Art League's (FHAL) monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at a different venue, The Shepherd of Hills Lutheran Church, 16150 E. El Lago Blvd.

The meeting will feature a competition for Artist of the Month, which attendees are encouraged to enter.

Additionally, a presentation by Lee Hendrickson will take place about his crystal photography. Hendrickson refers to his work as a combination of art and science, which include crystals from wine, chocolate and caffeine to name a few. Hendrickson's photography is exhibited throughout Arizona and the Western U.S.



Crystal Photographer Lee Hendrickson will present at the upcoming Fountain Hills Art League's monthly meeting on March 6, at Shepherd of Hills Lutheran Church.

Hendrickson was recently named Phoenix Magazine's Best Artist and Best Artist of the year (2022), and he will attend the Arizona Fine Arts Expo which runs until March 26.

The public is cordially invited to attend the upcoming FHAL monthly meeting on Monday, March 6, at Shepherd of Hills Lutheran Church.

For more information, contact Nancy O'Neal at nloNeal22@gmail.com or visit the FHAL website at fountainhillsartleague.com/.

YABOY Production

'Mumblety Peg' offers thought-provoking performance

By **Cyrus Guccione**
Times Reporter

"Going into junior high was a pretty low point in my life, because you know, your dad has to work and your mom is going into the hospital," Ross Collins said who, at the age of 12, lost his mother from breast cancer which metastasized throughout her body.

Getting pushed around and bullied was a common occurrence for young Collins, along with a slurry of internal demons he fought throughout childhood. He found help through a school guidance counselor.

"She took me under her wing in some way. She would talk to me and listen to me," Collins said.

As the Fountain Hills Youth Theater Artistic Director, Collins has funneled his and many other's experiences with depression, suicide, bullying and loss into an original Young Actors Benefiting Other Youth (YABOY) production, "Mumblety Peg," with music by Miciah Dodge.

A parable to the centuries-old childhood game,

"Mumblety Peg" involves the practice of children flicking a pocketknife into the dirt. The victor pounds a peg into the ground while the loser roots the peg out of the dirt with their teeth (mumbling the peg).

"Sometimes we get driven down so far, the only way out is by the skin of our teeth," Collins said. "Sometimes, we just have to dig real hard, and so that's where Mumblety Peg came in to be the cornerstone to the whole thing."

Set in the 1970s, "Mumblety Peg" touches on disturbing societal issues that have remained through present day, which opens to its main character, Colin Russell (Brody Willette-Zebell), preparing to end it all inside his high school in the presence of no one, or so he thinks.

Distracted at the eleventh hour by the sarcastic janitor (Tom Mangum), Kaufman's life flashes before his eyes.

"No more sickness, no more strife. No more pain. No more shame. No more life," Willette-Zebell sings at the precipice of life and death and, broken by societal and familial pressures, is forced to make the ultimate decision as he reckons with the faces of his past.

"There's a lot of really nasty people and they're dealing with their insecurities and if you seem secure, their job is to, in their mind, make you be like them. Break you down," Collins said. "I tell the kids here, too, 'Why do people insult you? Why do people make fun of you? because they're jealous of what you got. They don't have what you got, and they've gotta bring you down so they feel superior to you.'"

According to a new report by the CDC, young people – especially girls and those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning – are "engulfed" in anxiety and sadness. It's why Collins encourages his cast members to seek the help they need.

"It turns out that almost everybody in the cast has a story," Collins said. "I'm constantly saying, 'You guys, this can be trigger-



Ross Collins wrote and directed the Youth Theater's YABOY original production, "Mumblety Peg."

ing...here's all these numbers and names. These are the people that you need to call if you have questions, if there's anything that's causing trouble for you."

Each year, YABOY joins arms with a partnering organization to put on its annual production. This year, YABOY is proud to partner with The UBU Project, a performing arts education outreach organization specializing in social-emotional performing arts integration residencies in K-12 schools, youth centers, group homes and juvenile detention facilities.

"Mumblety Peg" is an original musical drama and very quickly became a 2004 arizoni award recipient. In 2005, Collins took the show to the Suicide Prevention Conference, taking the stage as the event finale.

"We got a lot of positive feedback from a lot of people," Collins said.

It took all of one year for Collins to write the production, and after coming in contact with the "brilliant genius" of Miciah Dodge, the play quickly took shape.

Through a thought-pro-

voking script and musical score, theatergoers will learn about awareness, hope, resilience and the power of self-worth and kindness.

A portion of each full-price ticket to "Mumblety Peg" will be donated to The UBU Project. Additionally, FHYT will be distributing information about The UBU Project at each production and representatives from The UBU Project will be at the theater for select productions and talkbacks.

"There's a lot of personal things that go into the show, from my youth and from my youth and things that compelled me in certain directions," Collins said. "But luckily, I found some answers."

"Mumblety Peg" will play Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. from Feb. 24 to 26 at FHT, 11445 N. Saguro Blvd. Ticket price is \$18 and group discounts are available.

For additional information, call Fountain Hills Community Theater Youth Artistic Director Ross Collins at 480-837-9661 x112.

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Mike Buchheit, right, and his cousin John installed Mike's exhibition at the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center. The show runs through March.

River of Time hosts Mike Buchheit

The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center is featuring world-renowned landscape photographer Mike Buchheit in its art gallery.

Buchheit's photographs are hanging in the gallery now. With the opening reception set for Saturday, March 4.

Buchheit not only is a landscape photographer, he also is a veteran travel writer and outdoor educator. His unique images of Grand Canyon and the American Southwest enjoy popularity worldwide.

He spent 30 years as a year-round resident of Grand Canyon National Park and director of the Grand Canyon Field Institute. In his spare time, he built one of the most comprehensive portfolios of Grand Canyon photographic images.

His images have appeared in numerous books, periodicals and sales items featuring the world's most famous chasm. He teaches landscape and wildlife photography and was juried into the prestigious ex-

hibit Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography, which toured the country as part of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Series.

Arizona fine art galleries that have showcased his work in recent years include Tanglewood Fine Arts in Flagstaff, Kinion Fine Art in Sedona and Es Possible and Tilt Galleries in Scottsdale. Tilt was also the venue for a two-artist exhibition entitled, Grand Views and Intimate Spaces, along with fellow photographer Rachel Brace-Stillie.

Buchheit now calls Phoenix home and is involved as a consultant and volunteer for a number of nonprofits that support disadvantaged youth and champion the environment. He is also one of 30 artists featured in the Fountain Hills Artists Gallery.

"Through his art and professional endeavors, [Buchheit] has always strived to inspire in others a deep appreciation for the majestic Grand Canyon and foster a sense

of stewardship for public lands everywhere," a press release read.

Buchheit's work is available for sale at the River of Time Museum, 12901 N. La Montana Drive, during winter hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

2023 Time Exhibition held March 10-11

Discover the world of novelty and steampunk timepieces at the 2023 Sunshine Regional Exhibit, held at the Fountain Hills Community Center on Friday and Saturday, March 10-11.

This exhibit is entirely composed of personal collected items from members of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC).

Explore unique clocks and watches that combine functionality with original designs from antique gold-plated pot metal pieces to character watches featuring movie stars and cartoon figures.

Demo Artist

Gloria Sanchez featured at Gallery

Gloria Sanchez is the next artist to be featured at Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery. Sanchez's mixed media will be on display at the Gallery on Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Since childhood Sanchez has been involved in many forms of art.

"My great grandmother taught me to make doll clothing," Sanchez said. "I enjoyed this so much that when I ran out of dolls my cousin (David) would help me catch lizards and mice so I could dress them."

Learning from her grandmother, Sanchez designed and sewed for others and herself, a skill that came in handy when she worked at a boutique that catered to celebrities and socialites, designing and custom-making costume jewelry, masks, evening-wear, wedding dresses, Kentucky Derby hats and much more.

"Anything that glitters and sparkles has always caught my eye," Sanchez said. "In 1980, I discovered Swarovski crystals and have used them on everything from inlaying them in wood to the artwork I create now."



The public is invited to attend the upcoming artist demonstration at the FH Artists' Gallery on Tuesday, Feb. 28, where Gloria Sanchez will dazzle with her mixed media creations.

"I love the idea of creating art with dimension. Mix media and fantasy give me the opportunity to do that."

The Gallery is located at 16858 E. Avenue of the Fountains and is open

Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about exhibitions, events, workshops and upcoming demos, visit fountainhillsartistsgallery.com.

will begin at 3 p.m. on Friday.

On Saturday, March 11, Pat Fitzgerald will host a program about fabricating parts for clock restoration beginning at 10 a.m., followed by an interactive presentation from Sherry Kitts entitled "Meet your NAWCC National Board Member and Representative" at 11:30 a.m. A third presentation will be held at 1:30 p.m. whose speaker is yet to be announced.

Attendees who have a watch or clock that they would like included in the live auction on Friday can bring items to table 123 between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to be included in the live auction beginning at 3 p.m. Silent auctions will be held throughout both Friday and Saturday.

"Our exhibit features

items from our members' personal collections and is sure to provide a fascinating and entertaining experience," a press release said. "Come and be a part of the journey through time!"

Packet pickup and setup will begin on Friday, March 10, at 7 a.m. Doors open at 9 a.m. on both days.

Coffee, water and snacks are located at the hospitality table outside the ballroom which are no charge but donations are welcome. Yolo's Authentic Mexican Food Truck will be on-site for meals, including breakfast items.

The 2023 Sunshine Regional Exhibit is held at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Dr. For questions, send an email to frankwagnerrealtor@gmail.com or call 602-622-7687.

This week at the library

The Library is holding a regular schedule of events throughout this week. An up-to-date list of events can be found on their website at mcl.daz.org/locations/fountain-hills/ by clicking "Browse Events." As always, this week's schedule is subject to change.

Activities are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 23
*10 a.m., Time for Toddlers.

Monday, Feb. 27
*10 a.m., Time for Preschoolers.

Tuesday, Feb. 28
*4 p.m., Manga Mania.
*5 p.m., Guided Meditation.

The Fountain Hills Library is located at 12901 N. La Montana Dr. They are open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Sunday.



Below is a list of current advertisers with live music between February 22 and February 28.

Desert Belle on Saguaro Lake
Saguaro Lake Marina ~ 480-984-2425
• Wednesday - 4 pm - Eric Miller
• Friday - 4 pm - Pete Pancrazi
• Saturday - 4 pm - Moondog
• Sunday - 4 pm - Ian Eric

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

Saddle Bronc Grill
11056 N. Saguaro Blvd. ~ 480-816-5900
• Friday - 6-9 pm - Suzie & Michael
• 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.

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Sports

Horns down: Falcons beat biggest school rival

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School boys basketball team didn't give Payson any hope in the second half, and they sent the Longhorns home after beating them 53-36. Senior Luke Bloedel scored 10 of his team-high 14 points in the second half, and he dunked the basketball in the final seconds to put more emphasis on the win over his school's biggest rival in the playoffs.

"So much excitement, so much energy," Bloedel said. "The stands were packed. It's the last home game of the season. When I dunked it, just feeling the eruption and feeling everything shake around me was just the most surreal feeling. I hope I can recreate this feeling one day."

The win extends Fountain Hills' dominating win streak over Payson in boys basketball. The Falcons are 3-0 against Payson in the playoffs since 2004, including the 2006-07 state championship, and 27-2 against Payson overall since '04.

The Falcons defended home court in the second round of the state tournament, and they played No. 7 American Leadership Academy - Ironwood after press time yesterday, Tuesday, Feb. 21. If they win, they'll play in the semi-finals and potentially

the finals this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24 and 25, at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum.

The Falcons got out to an early 11-3 lead over Payson, even without starting senior Aiden Logan in the game. The Falcons adjusted their game plan for his absence, and then foul trouble made them pivot game plans again.

Bloedel had two fouls in the first quarter, and at one point, the Falcons only had one starter on the court in the second quarter. Payson made it 13-9 after the first quarter, and they took a 16-15 lead with 4:40 to play until halftime.

Head coach Jeff Bonner had senior Napherious Doka-Johnson, who started in place of Logan, and junior Keaton Ort on the court at the same time, as well as seniors Casey Osborne, Jack Ervin and sophomore Sam Barnard. The combination didn't score for several minutes, but they scored seven points and regained the lead in the last 80 seconds.

Barnard got things going with 1:12 left. He drove to the basket for two points, then Doka found Ervin for another two points. Payson hit one of two free throws with 15 seconds left, and then Barnard passed it to Ort in a corner, who nailed a three-pointer to take a 23-21 lead with one second left in the first half.

"Everybody has the potential to play up and be

the next man, and it's all mentality," Ervin said. "We all put the work in and we're ready whenever we get in. We go all out in the minutes that we get, and we try our hardest."

The Falcons came out of the locker room hyped up, and they outscored Payson 20-6 in the third quarter. Payson hit a three pointer on their first possession, but Fountain Hills tightened up their defense quickly. By the end of the third quarter, Ervin and Barnard were back in the game, and senior Ty Cosman stole the ball on an inbounds pass and scored in the final seconds.

"We already had different starting lineup because Aiden couldn't play this one, so what happened in the first half is we got into foul trouble," Bonner said. "Guys that don't normally have to step up and play minutes had to step up today and play. I think they did a great job."

Bonner kept his starting five in the game for the fourth quarter, and Payson was too far behind to catch up. The Falcons were in control and Bloedel put the finishing touches on the score with his slam dunk in the last seconds.

"It's always been a complete, giant rivalry in any sport against Payson," Ervin said. "Everybody shows up, everybody shows out. Everybody on the team gives their all."

Ort had the second most



Times photo by George Zeliff

Junior Keaton Ort was named 3A North Central Region Player of the Year before last Saturday's playoff game. Six Falcons received recognition, and Jeffrey Bonner was named Region Coach of the Year.

points with 13, and Doka-Johnson scored 10 as a starter that night. Cosman added seven points, and fellow senior Deisel Giger scored four points. Ervin and Barnard added two each.

The Falcons practiced at the same time of day on Monday as their game on Tuesday to better prepare for ALA - Ironwood. Bonner said the Falcon's still

haven't had a perfect game this season, and they can always find small improvements to make.

"At this time of year, it's just making sure our guys are comfortable with everything we've been running," Bonner said. "It's not adding a whole bunch of stuff, it's adding little wrinkles to the things that we've already done well."

The winner of Tues-

day's match will face the winner of No. 3 Coolidge and No. 6 Monument Valley in the semi-finals on Friday, Feb. 24. Tickets can be bought through the Arizona Interscholastic Association website. Go to azprep365.com and find boys basketball in the sports tab at the top. Then click on brackets to find the 3A state tournament tickets.

Girls basketball playoff dreams end in Chinle

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

After an eventful season full of ups and downs, the Fountain Hills High School girls basketball team fell in the first round of playoffs on the road. The girls faced all sorts of challenges just to get to the playoffs last Wednesday, Feb. 15, and No. 10 Chinle ended their dream of a Cinderella season.

The No. 23 Falcons left Fountain Hills at 8 a.m. to several hours up to Chinle, and they arrived back home around 1 a.m. the next day after losing 68-35

on the road. The Falcons played a close first quarter and were only down 12-16 afterwards, but they couldn't keep up with the Wildcats.

The Falcons faced more than the No. 10 team. They were on the road for more than five hours each way in cold weather and saw lots of snow up in Chinle.

"You know, no excuses, because you should be ready to play," head coach Amanda Baca said. "It's the state tournament and especially in Arizona, you have to travel and sometimes it's far. The bus ride definitely took a toll on us, especially with the weather."

No Falcon had played in a playoff game before, and they had to play their playoff game in an arena nearly six times larger than their home stadium. The Falcon's gymnasium has a capacity of less than 1,300, whereas the "Wildcat Den" can hold 6,000 people.

"Little bit of wide eyes, little bit overwhelmed," head coach Amanda Baca said. "It's not a typical gym, and although it wasn't full, being in an arena like that, little bit nerve racking I think for them. We came out definitely a little bit tight."

According to senior Alexis Ibarra, the Falcons started to lose energy in the second quarter. They fell behind 24-36 at half-

ime, and then the Falcons only scored four points in the third quarter.

Despite falling behind and taking a hard loss, the playoff experience was good for the Falcons. The Falcons have six underclassmen and one junior that can return next year with post season experience. Also, since seven of the Falcons come from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, they were well received by the Navajo nation crowd in Chinle.

"It was really different," Alexis Ibarra said. "First, they were so welcoming, and it was so different playing in the big arena. It's such a big place, so many people were there, and they were so supportive. They were even cheering for us. They were just really nice people, and it was just really fun."

Alexis led with 11 points, and sophomore CC Smith scored 10 points. Behind them, senior Titleist Patrick scored six points and freshman Kynzi Schaunaman added four more. Junior Alicia Ibarra scored three points, and sophomore Kaylee Lewis added one point.

The Falcons will lose Alexis, Patrick and senior LJ Holland to graduation. Patrick has played for Fountain Hills every year since sixth grade, while Holland has played every year since ninth

grade. Alexis returned to Fountain Hills for her final year after playing here in middle school.

"We're losing three really core individuals who know the systems and have become really good leaders for our program," Baca said. "So there's big shoes to fill and we're going to miss them, but the underclassmen we have coming up are very solid."

The Falcons improved to 13-9 this year after going 5-14 last year and 1-9 the year before. The Falcons made the playoffs this year after winning seven of their last nine games, and they enjoyed a nice five game win streak during that time.

"We always leave the locker room on a pretty positive note, try and build off of that, but I think they hadn't tasted victory like that in a long time," Baca said. "The last two seasons had been rough, so I was really happy that, especially those seniors, LJ and Titleist, that were here when we had five players on the floor and were here when there was one sub, I was just really happy to have them have some success. It was very positive in the locker room and practice."

The Falcons are regaining their strength as a program and are on the rise. The Ibarra sisters jump



Times photo by George Zeliff

Senior Titleist Patrick has been with the Fountain Hills basketball program for seven years. She made her first high school playoff appearance last week.

started the team halfway through this year, and Alicia will be able to return as a senior next year. The Falcons had less than 10 players each of the past two seasons, but the Ibarra sisters gave them extra depth this year.

"Having a little bit bigger team, makes all the

difference in the world," Baca said.

Baca will now move on to the middle school basketball season, and the older Falcons will move on to club or other sports this spring. *The Times* will do print a full season review article for the girls basketball team next week.

Sports Briefs

Football car wash fundraiser

The Fountain Hills High School football team is hosting a car wash fundraiser.

Come down to the FHHS football field on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8 to 11 a.m. Any donation amount is welcomed, and all funds raised will be put toward the cost of the 2023 five-day summer training camp at Cal Lutheran in California. These funds will help all players attend the camp without incurring a personal cost to their families.

VOTS plays regular round

The Valley of the Sun golf group played at Painted Mountain Golf Course on Wednesday, Feb. 15. The winners of this week's three-man best ball were Brent Morrison, Jim Kelly, Pete Tramonte and Donald Butler.

Closest to the pin on hole #5 was Brent Morrison, and Jack Cranmer was closest to the pin on hole #10. Donald Hrdlicka had the longest putt on hole #11.

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Cahill and Flynn place fourth at state

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School wrestling team sent six Falcons to the state tournament this past weekend. The Falcons finished 17th out of 47 teams, and junior Tyler Flynn and senior JP Cahill each placed fourth in their respective weight classes.

Flynn won his first two matches in the 132 weight

class before his first loss. Flynn won his fourth match on his second day to make it into the placement matches, and the lost his fifth match to place fourth.

Cahill wrestled six matches on his way to a fourth-place finish in the 120 weight class. He won his first match but lost his second, and he won three more just to get to the placement match for third and fourth place.

"That was crazy, I was

losing by one with 12 seconds left, and I took him down and won by one with eight seconds left," Cahill said about his second to last match. "My match to make it to the second day of state went to overtime. That's another minute, and I got a takedown within 25 seconds into overtime."

Cahill appeared at state as a sophomore but didn't place, and he didn't qualify for state last year. He set his sights on state late last season, and overcame several challenging opponents to reach where he did.

"Sophomore year, I was still learning and figuring out if this sport was for me," Cahill said. "I wouldn't say getting my butt handed to me, but I was still figuring things out and trying to find my own technique. This year I felt a lot more confident. I mean, I won tournaments, I was in the finals I think every tournament this season. It was a big difference."

Placing was Cahill's ultimate goal at state, but he said he took things one match at a time. He only scouted his opponents in the last two matches, but he was cautious with what moves he used in earlier matches and how many tricks he pulled out from underneath his sleeve.

Cahill still used his fa-

vorite takedown, the cross ankle pick, several times, but said he had to change things up. He and Flynn both stayed late at practices leading up to state so they could build up their stamina and practice their techniques as much as possible.

Flynn placed fourth last year and repeated his placing. Two of the four other Falcons that went to state were in similar weight classes to Flynn and Cahill and spent many practices competing with them.

Senior Ty Jablonsky went 1-2 in the 126 weight class, and sophomore Yahshua Harris went 2-2 in 144. Junior Ty Langer went 2-2 in 175, and senior Wyatt Mowers went 0-2 in 285.

"Yahshua's great. He's just very calm and cool and always has his mind under control," Cahill said. "He did great, he won a couple of matches. Obviously, he didn't place, but for him to make it as far as he did, we were all very proud of him."

Cahill liked being an example for younger wrestlers and would like to come back and support the program in the future. He recently received his first collegiate wrestling scholarship offer, and he's excited about the possibility of continuing his athletic career.



Senior JP Cahill, left, and junior Ty Flynn celebrate after both placing fourth at the state tournament. Photo courtesy of Luke Salzman.

The Falcons had a great year with several seniors having their best seasons yet, and they also saw encouraging signs from their younger wrestlers. The Falcons' wrestling program is in good hands moving forward.

"The whole team was very impressive," Cahill

said. "If I was to look back on my freshman year, we were all brand new for the most part and still learning. I feel like the freshman now are picking it up more because we are teaching them and there's a lot more upperclassmen now than when I was a freshman. That's a big part of it."

Softball begins next Monday

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

Mia Duda is the only student at Fountain Hills High School in the last two years who verbally committed to playing college athletics prior to her senior season in that sport starting. Duda announced her decision to play softball for Golden West College in Huntington Beach, Calif., last October, and the high school season begins next Monday, Feb. 27.

Duda has to make it through her last season as a Falcon before she can play for the Rustlers. She'll look to lead the team in batting average and big hits again. She had the most hits with 43, including four home runs, and her average was 0.581 last season.

"Just make sure she stays healthy honestly," head coach Lawrence Hughes said. "Staying healthy and making sure she still keeps her GPA...It's always good to see them future their career. Their education first of all, and then obviously a bonus to go play something they love to do."

Duda was an all-region first team selection last year and is one of four returning players. She's also the only senior at the moment. There are nine positions, and the Falcons only have nine players, but they are still trying to recruit ahead of the season opener.

The Falcons lost four seniors to graduation, including a twin sister pitcher and catcher combo. Returning sophomore Shania Rivera will step into Nicolette Barker's shoes to pitch, and fellow sopho-



Times photo by George Zeliff

Senior Mia Duda installed first base at the first practice after the field flooded last week.

more Sammantha Hughes has high goals for herself filling in for Gianna Barker at catcher.

"This is going to be huge, but my personal goal is to get player of the region for catching, not short [stop]," Sammantha said. "Shania's our only pitcher as of right now. Jaden's doing it for practice and because she wants to pitch. It's going to be mainly Shania until Jaden [Dunkeson] gets used to it."

Sammantha set a high bar for herself by making the all-region second team as a freshman. She was second behind Duda in batting average, 0.465, and second in on base percentage, 0.512. She also said she plays catcher on her club team.

Rivera pitched a few in-

nings last year, but Nicolette earned all-region second team honors and pitched a vast majority of innings for the Falcons. Dunkeson is one of two incoming freshmen, and she's had extra time to practice pitching in the batting cages.

The Falcons had their first full practice this past Monday. The field's first base area flooded after the storm on Tuesday, Feb. 14, and Hughes had to relevel it before they could practice. They've also had a handful of optional batting cage practices while winter sports came to an end.

"It's been basically starting all over again," Lawrence said. "I haven't had a full practice yet because winter sports just ended on the girls side. It's just going to be interesting. I think it'll be a fun year, different moral so I think it'll be fun."

Junior Hailey Chandler returns and is speedy quick and a slapper hitter. Chandler led the region in stolen bases, and she was 13th in the conference with 24 steals. She was also third on the team in batting average, 0.458, and second in total hits with 38.

The Falcons will have

more new players than returning players, which means things will likely change as players find the position they feel best in. There is optimism in the air, because the Falcons had a slow start last year but still made the play-in tournament with a 9-16 record.

The Falcons didn't make it out of the first round, but the four returning players know what to expect the next time they make the post season.

"It was pretty exciting. It wasn't our best game, but we definitely had a lot of fun," Sammantha said. "They were huge. Everyone was at least taller than Hailey and huge. They were massive. It wasn't like the teams that we were playing, it was like two levels up from what were normally used to playing."

The Falcons have a long season ahead of them. They will travel to Globe next Monday, Feb. 27, and will start their season at 3:30 p.m. Then, they have back-to-back home games next Wednesday, March 1, against Valley Christian at 4 p.m. and Thursday, March 2, against Payson at 3:45 p.m.

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2nd Lt. Michael F. Carillo*	Air Force	North Carolina	3
Peter Carollo*	AF Academy	Colorado	2
Sgt Case Collins*	Marines	MCAS Cherry Point, NC	3
Pfc Michael E. Craig	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	1
Sgt. E6 Mark A. Crosby	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	6
SPC Blake M. Dargavel	Army	Afghanistan	1
Pfc. Jeffrey DeMeyer	Army	Fort Lee, Va.	1
STS2 John DeMeyer	Navy	NSF Groton, Conn.	5
1st Lt. Matthew P. Fierro*	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	2
Lt. Kyle Frazer	Army	Germany	6
Brian Gratz*	Air Force	Baltimore, Md	1
Spc Ryan P. Guilfoil	Army	Iraq	2
1st Lt. Todd Hadley	Air Force	Goodfellow AFB, Tx	7
Major Jeff Hanson	Marines	San Antonio, Tx	14
Major Joseph F. Hockmuth	Army	Ft. Lewis, Wa.	22
IT3 Tyler Hodge	Navy	USS Makin Island	3
Lt. Col Eric Hoversten	Air Force	Elmendorf AFB, Ak	20
Capt. Michael J. Howard*	Army	Fort Drum, NY	7
MSgt. James M. Hyland	Air Force	Afghanistan	5
Major Alex James	Marines	Pentagon	12
Spc. Charles P. Jones II*	Army	Fort Bliss, Tx	7
P.O. Kristofer Jones*	Navy	USS Nimitz (CVN68)	8
Sgt. Michael Jones*	Marines	Goodfellow AFB, Tx	4
1st Lt. Joshua Kandybowicz	Army	Afghanistan	3
E3 Kaylie Kantor*	Navy	Pensacola NAS	1
LtCol. Adam Keith*	Air Force	Langley AFB, Virginia	17
Ssgt Nicholas Larson	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	6
Cpl. Jonathan Lawson	Marines	Pendleton, Ca.	3
Capt. Tom Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenhealth, England	20
Capt. Kelly (Scribner) Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenhealth, England	5
Gm2 Maxwell T. Link*	Navy	USS Pinckney	1
Pfc. Joseph Luca*	Marines	Afghanistan	2
Major Kyle Lund	Air Force	England	7
Sgt. William J. MacDonald	Army	National Guard (IP)	6
2nd Lt. PavanManhas*	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	1
Major Mike Mansell	Army	Germany	8
Lt. Nick Massie	Army	Walter Reed Hospital, DC	6
Capt. Eric L. Metzger	Air Force	Keesler AFB, Miss.	8
Capt. Robert C. Meyersohn	Air Force	Iraq	6
Sgt Alexander Mynars*	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	4
Cpl. BayLee Mynars	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	3
Spc Justin Nelson*	Army	Korea	1
Capt. Ronald L. Olson	Navy	Balboa Hosp. San Diego	26
LCMR Matthew S. Paul*	Navy	Norfolk, VA	14
PO3Max Tyler Pelot*	Navy (Corpsman)	Camp Pendleton, Ca	31
Lt. Col Blaine Peterson	Air Force	Iraq	20
Lan Cpl Jacob Pittsenbarger	Marines	Camp Pendleton, Ca	2
Lt. Col. Brian Polk	Army	Fort Houston, Tx	27
Capt. Bryan J. Pranski	Army	Chicago, Ill.	10
Ad E2 Andrew Prins*	Navy	NAS, Fl	1
2nd Lt Matt Rindel*	Air Force	North Carolina	3
Major Lars Rockholm	Marines	Alexandria, Va.	12
M.Sgt. Nathan C. Rohn*	Marines	Camp Lejeune NC	20
Pfc Zach C. Rollings*	Army	Afghanistan	2
Pv2 Nick Rollings*	National Guard	Prescott, Az	2
Pfc Robert A. Rossfeld*	Army	Afghanistan	2
ET1 Michael L. Schluter	Navy	USS Carl Vinson CVN 70	12
OSI (EXW) Arthur Schofield	Navy	Afghanistan	14
Bm3. Jonathan J. Shine	Coast Guard	Newport, Rhode Island	6
E4 Andrew Schumacher	Navy	Naval Station Norfolk	3
Pfc. Ryan T. Simmons	Air Force	Abu Dhabi	1
Pvt. Dennis Sitton*	Army	San Antonio, Tx	1
Airman E3 Michael J Smith*	Navy	San Diego, Ca.	1
Spc. Robert Steele	Army	Afghanistan	5
Lt. Aaron Stehlik	Army	Korea	2
Cmdr Dan R. Stock	Navy	Carrier Strike Group 12 Va	21
Sgt. Cory Stockman*	Marines	Honduras Embassy	5
MC3 Grant Stoltz*	Navy	Sasebo, Japan	3
2nd Lt Andrew J. Tilden	Marines	Quantico, VA	1
E2 Michael Alan Tilden	Army	Ft Leonard Wood	1
MASN Angelisa R. Tucker	Navy	Guam	2
Sr Airman Derrick Underwood*	Air Force	Nellis AFB, NV	4
Spc Bill Urbelis	Army	Camp Taji, Iraq	2
Major Jason K. Vaught*	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	12
Major Megan Vaught	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	11
Capt. Anthony Vitellaro*	Air Force	Anchorage, AK	10
Cpl Shane Waldo	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	3
Pvt. Tyler Welch	Army	Afghanistan	25
CWO Daniel White*	Army	Germany	10
2nd Lt Peyton Willigrod	Air Force	Columbus AFB, Miss.	1
Sgt. Gabriel D. Williams*	Army	Iraq	5
SSgt Benjamin Wilson	Air Force	Maxwell Gunter AF Base, AL	4
Pfc. Merle Yazzie	Army	Ft Stewart, Ga.	1
TSgt. Ryan Young*	Air Force	Hickham AFB, Hawaii	12
Col Tyler Zagurski	Marines	The Pentagon	24
Lt Cmdr Bo Zierden	Navy	Joint Base Andrews, Md	14

(Special Mention: Jason Kukkola* Army Wounded in Action in Iraq)
* Denotes: (43) FHHS Graduates

Note: Many of those on this list who are currently deployed in the United States have completed one or more tours of duty overseas.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7507 wishes to honor residents or close relatives of residents of Fountain Hills, the Verde Communities, North Scottsdale and Fort McDowell who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. This Honor Roll will be published in the *Times* once each month until further notice. Please help to keep this Honor Roll up to date by reporting additions and deletions as they occur to Carl Krawczyk at c.krawczyk@hotmail.com or 480-215-3899. You may also contact the VFW Post at vfw7507@yahoo.com




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Beach volleyball hosts home opener Friday

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

One of Fountain Hills High School's strongest sports programs kicks off its season this week. The beach volleyball team has 68 wins and 12 losses over the past six years, and head coach Peter McGloin thinks this year's team is off to a better start than some of his other teams in that stretch.

"The exciting part is, we've got 10 returning players, seven of whom have been in the program now three years, and the other three, it's their second year," McGloin said. "So, we're just at a much better starting point, even than previous teams. We're able to do some more advanced drills and hoping to add more to their arsenal as the year progresses."

The Falcons travel to Scottsdale Prep tomorrow, Thursday, Feb. 23, for their season opener at 4 p.m. They play their first home match against Eastmark on Friday, Feb. 24, at 4 p.m. All home matches are held at Golden Eagle Park.

The Falcons got their first taste of action last Wednesday, Feb. 15, in a scrimmage match with Gilbert Christian. McGloin tested out some pair combinations and two new assistants got to coach something more than practice.

Kailey McMahon followed up on a promise she made to McGloin in high school and joined his staff this year. McMahon, a 2018 graduate from Fountain Hills, holds the FHHS record for single season kills (654) and career kills (1,784).

McMahon was a five-year starter for the Univer-

sity of Wyoming women's indoor volleyball team, and she was seventh in all-time kills for the university when she graduated, according to McGloin. McMahon also won two indoor and one beach championships for the Falcons and she played with the older sisters of three current Falcons.

"It's great to have her back home. She's a natural at coaching," McGloin said. "She understands the program so well. She's been a part of Falcon volleyball for so long and she always said she would come back... It's just awesome. Like it's kind of rejuvenating and kind of why I do this. I just love having the kids come back to the nest."

Another alumnus, Trevor Sandvig, is also helping McGloin. Sandvig was a team manager when he attended Fountain Hills, and he'll work in a part-time capacity. Longtime assistant coach Kelly Itano continues to help McGloin with the program.

The team size did shrink a little from last year, but with all the returning players and additional coaching, the Falcons are a deeper team. McGloin liked what he saw from his pairs during the scrimmage, but he's always prepared to shake things up if he needs too.

"We have a lot of players who can play at a high level right now," McGloin said. "There's a lot of interchangeable parts, and there's so many good combinations, it makes it hard to choose where we're going to start."

Liv Sopeland is the only senior and she is joined by six returning juniors. The Falcons only had three up-



Times photo by George Zeliff

The Falcons beach volleyball season begins tomorrow, and the first home game is this Friday, Feb. 24, at 4 p.m. Junior Bella Garman, pictured, and five other juniors look to lead the team.

perclassmen last year, but they still earned a playoff berth with the No. 13 ranking and an 8-5 record. They lost in the first round of playoffs and had a lot of progress to build on top of last year.

"The ball control is so much better. We've come a long way over these seasons," McGloin said. "They've put a lot of hard work in, especially with the offseason which could be a whole additional season."

Every returning player

looks improved to McGloin. The players are refining their skills, and he said certain defensive tricks take more experience to master. McGloin wants the players to be more unpredictable to their opponents on the sand, and he said everyone's offseason work will be evident.

McGloin didn't want to leave anyone out, but he did say junior Bella Garman made the biggest jump in skill since last year. He also said that juniors So-

phie Wickland and Sydney Boeshans have looked really good and are practicing regularly.

"We've always known she has so much potential, but now [Garman] is doing the little things right," McGloin said. "She is doing all the little things that makes her so much better at beach volleyball. She's making better decisions, she sees the court better, she communicates better, her spacing is better."

McGloin's goal is to con-

tinue growing the skills of his returning players and get his new players up to speed. The Falcons will have a JV team again this year, and they have high hopes for the varsity squad this year.

The Falcons play matches this Thursday and Friday, and their next game is Monday, Feb. 27. They will host Deer Valley at 4 p.m., and they will then travel to Mountainside on Wednesday, March 1, to play at 4 p.m.

Baseball has more experience, optimism this season

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School baseball season starts today, Wednesday, Feb. 22, with the Cougar Classic tournament. The Falcons will play four games over four days, and they start by traveling to Scottsdale Christian Academy to play today at 3:30 p.m.

"I think we should be strong this year," head coach Bob Langer said. "We try to win every game we play. That's what we try to do."

The Falcons have around 25 players in total, and Langer will use a flex roster to alternate players between JV and varsity. He used a flex roster last year, and it paid dividends for some freshmen, like Lucas Grieco and Cooper Loyet, who worked their way up and earned all-region honorable mentions at the end of the season.

The Falcons didn't have many holes to fill on the roster because they only lost two seniors to graduation, Zack Langer and Andrew Lloyd. They have seven seniors this year, and they each come with different levels of experience.

"They can't play JV so they're fighting for sports amongst each other, and it's been a good battle," Langer said. "We had a really good week of practice last week. It was fun. They played hard and they looked good."

Seniors Zach Mendello-Gratton and Devyn Hernandez played all of last season, and fellow senior

Kyle Biebrich pitched some early last season and is returning. Cy Dethlefs comes with varsity experience from Washington, and he is one of two upperclassmen transfers, along with junior Isiah Challman.

Senior Wyatt Mowers played baseball in middle school and returned to the sport last year. Mowers played on JV as a junior, and the varsity season will be his third sport this year.

Similarly, seniors Alex Fessenden and Tim Lamar joined their classmates on varsity this year. The Falcons also have six juniors who played varsity last year, and two more juniors joined their ranks this year. With more than double the upperclassmen on their roster from last year, Langer has high hopes for his team.

"Most of them came out for the fall. They didn't play the best competition, but they did what they were supposed to do," Langer said. "They won the games they were supposed to win. It's not a ton of innings in the fall, but I think they became a closer team and I think we can carry that forward. I think they already have carried that forward after the first week."

Langer said last year wasn't easy on his players. They lost their first five games and didn't have a home game for over a month, but they still managed to make a playoff appearance with an 11-14 record. Langer said he's noticed differences in his team this preseason, and they're

encouraging signs.

"They're out there busting their butts. I don't have to push them," Langer said. "They're competing, they're trying to get better, they're asking questions. It's just a different feel from last year, where I think a lot of them were young, and a little nervous. Now they're more confident and I think they've just grown."

Loyet and Grieco weren't the only ones recognized last year. Ty Langer made the all-region first team and all-conference honorable mention as a sophomore, and he'll look to lead the team again in hitting. Langer led with a .462 batting average, four home runs and 36 RBIs.

Fellow juniors David Goldapper, Ty Flynn and Nathan Hughes also received honors last year. Flynn was the Falcons' catcher and he and Goldapper earned all-region second team honors, while Hughes earned an honorable mention.

The majority of the pitching bullpen comes from the junior class. Goldapper, Hughes, fellow junior Lucas Williams and sophomore Aidan Cronican all pitched last year, and the Falcons also have two more upperclassmen pitchers.

"We got [junior] Kyan Taylor back, he took a year off, and the other juniors look really good on the mound," Bob Langer said. "Cy is another pitcher that threw a little bit in the fall, so looking forward to seeing what he does."

The Falcons will likely use all of their pitchers in the season-opening tour-



Times photo by George Zeliff

Sophomore Eli Johnson comes sliding into second base during the Falcons' scrimmage last week. The baseball season begins and the first home game is next Wednesday, March 1, at 4 p.m.

name this weekend, but when games start getting spaced out later in the season, they'll likely use fewer pitchers. Langer said no starter was guaranteed their spot from last year, so the players have been pushing themselves and each other every practice.

After starting the season against the reigning 2A state champs Scottsdale Christian Academy, the Falcons play 5A's Desert Edge on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 1 p.m. at Phoenix Christian High School. The Falcons will play their last two games at Thunderbird High School, against 4A's

Sahuarita at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24, and against 5A's Paradise Valley at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Next, the Falcons travel to Globe on Monday, Feb.

27, to play at 3:30 p.m. Their first home game will be next Wednesday, March 1, against Valley Christian at 4 p.m. at the middle school.

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Religion



The stained glass windows are part of the art at Community Church of the Verdes.

Artistic church tours

The Community Church of the Verdes is offering a tour of the artistic amenities of the church in Rio Verde.

Church members with a desire to share the art conduct the tours, much like one would in an art museum. Those taking the tour will find themselves with many questions about the interpretation of the pieces. Details about the artist and intent will be shared if attendees are curious about that.

Some of the artwork is modern, many are open to

interpretation. The items include carvings, stained glass windows, textiles, paintings and figures.

There are three opportunities to attend beginning this Friday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. Meet at the church courtyard to be directed to the start of the tour in the narthex.

Additional tours will be held on Monday, March 13, at 2 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 19, at 1:30 p.m.

The church is located at 25603 N. Danny Lane, Rio Verde, AZ 85263.

SBC holds women's Bible studies

Scottsdale Bible Church (SBC) of Fountain Hills believes women grow spiritually when they spend time studying the Bible together.

For this reason, SBC invites anyone looking for a place to grow their relationship with Jesus and other women to join their weekly Fountain Hills women's bible study groups through April.

There are several bible study options at SBC's Fountain Hills campus and online to choose from. On Monday mornings through March 20, in-person at SBC, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., "Gideon" by Pricilla Shirer is a video Bible study involving more than a wet fleece and a battle won with 300 soldiers.

"His epic victory tells of one man's struggle with his own weakness and the One True God who transformed it into triumph," a press release reads. "This study will challenge you to trust

God to use you beyond your feeling of insecurity, limitations, fear, or inexperience."

On Tuesday mornings through Feb. 28, in-person at SBC, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry" by John Mark Comer will allow women to study the tools for simplicity, the unhurried life, the practice of silence, solitude and sabbath.

On Tuesday afternoons through March 28, in-person at SBC, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., "Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream will discuss transformative women of the bible.

"These extraordinary women rose above because God was their refuge," the press release said. "In 'The Women of the Bible Speak,' Shannon Bream opens the lives of 16 of these biblical women, arranging them into pairs and contrasting their journeys.

"In pairing their stories,

Shannon helps us reflect not only on the meaning of each individual's life but on how they relate to each other and to us."

On Thursday mornings through April 20, in-person at SBC, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn will help attendees discover what the bible says about "the eternal home that God has prepared for his children."

"These teachings will bring peace and hope to those grieving the loss of a loved one or who are curious about what heaven will be like," the press release said.

On Thursday evenings through April 6, in-person at SBC, 6:30 to 8 p.m., "After the Boxes Are Unpacked" by Susan Miller is for women who are new to the area.

"Studies reveal that moving is among the top stressors in life – especially for women," the release said. "The 'After the Boxes

Are Unpacked' class will show you how to adapt, feel connected and thrive after your move.

"Through biblical principles, we will equip and encourage you to let go and trust God, start over with hope and move forward with faith. You'll also make friends with other women who get what you're going through!"

Lastly, SBC offers two online Bible studies via zoom for all women. For class and registration information, visit scottsdalebible.com/events/fountain-hills-womens-bible-study/.

Each Women's Bible Study is led by various SBC leaders, providing a place for women to study the bible together.

Fountain Hills Scottsdale Bible Church is located at 7210 Amhurst Drive. For general information, call 480-824-7200. For immediate pastoral care, call 480-334-4102.

The Fountains hosts musical WildeP'lay

The community is invited to join in a WildeP'lay performance by the current music directors at The Fountains United Methodist Church, Donna Wilde and Richard Palalay, on Thursday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m.

One of the Phoenix area's unique music groups, WildeP'lay, will present a collection of songs that feature their inventive covers of some well-known favorites as well as their own material which has been featured on local, national and internet radio.

WildeP'lay is the musical collaboration of singer/saxophonist Donna Wilde and pianist/ keyboardist Richard Palalay. As songwriters, they have written original theme music for local radio and television

shows and for a number of online businesses.

The video of their song, "It Matters," a collaboration with Phoenix singer Cornelius Bishop, was nominated for Best Music Video in the 2022 Worldwide Women's Film Festival.

WildeP'lay's contribution to the Christmas repertoire, "Deckin' Out The Tree," was featured on an all-Christmas radio station and the song, "Hot Chocolate Midnights" from their album, "Fabric Of Love" has played on KJZZ-FM radio.

Apart from being accomplished songwriters, Wilde and Palalay are performers who have appeared in many different venues across the Valley of the Sun, including two

Valley casino resorts and several retirement communities.

WildeP'lay has been featured on local TV and radio shows and performed in a segment for an HBO special. They have performed shows at the Peoria Center for the Performing Arts, the Fountain Hills Theater, the Sagebrush Ballroom at the Grand of Sun City and the Wickenburg Community Center.

Their most popular productions include "The Magic Of The Movies," "An American Tribute" and "The Best Things In Life Are Free," a tribute to the hall of fame composer, Ray Henderson.

Donna Wilde has played and sung with many of the top jazz and pop performers in Phoenix and Min-

neapolis. She has worked as a cruise ship musician for Carnival Cruise Lines. She is a songwriter, with a CD titled, "Atmosphere."

Richard Palalay works with several shows around the Valley and was a musical director for the Las Vegas show, "Legends in Concert." Palalay was the lead pianist at Nordstrom Fashion Square for many years, garnering the nickname "The Nordstrom Pianist."

Palalay is a composer whose songs have been aired on network TV, PBS, HBO, Direct TV, Muzak, Dish Network and on radio and TV in several countries.

The Fountains UMC is located at 15300 N. Fountain Hills Blvd. The event costs \$20 per person.

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Clubs

'Desert Derby' tickets on sale

Tickets are selling for one of Fountain Hills' longstanding social events as Fountain Hills Women's Club (FHWC) looks ahead to its 2023 Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, the Desert Derby Luncheon & Fashion Show.

The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 2, at the ADERO Scottsdale Resort, where attendees can show off their best "hat-itude" while enjoying a luncheon, silent and live auctions and trending fashions for both women and men from local boutiques Classy-Jazzy, On the Ave, ZOEY'S Boudoir and

Manny's Local 816.

Tickets can be purchased at fountainhillswomensclub.com or in-person at Classy-Jazzy, 16725 Avenue of the Fountains. The deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, March 10.

The FHWC also seeks donations of all kinds, including prize items for the silent and live auctions like gift certificates, gift cards, tickets, merchandise, wine, jewelry, beauty products, home decor and more.

For questions about the event, to take out a program ad or make an auc-

tion item donation, send an email to fhwcfundraiser@gmail.com. The deadline for ads and auction items is March 15.

This is the main fundraiser for FHWC that provides scholarships to women who live or work in Fountain Hills to assist them in furthering their education or career.

Applications for the 2023 FHWC scholarships are now being accepted through April 10. Download the application at fountainhillswomensclub.com or contact LeslieHermansen@msn.com for more information.



Lions raffle

Fountain Hills Resident Glen Wollenberg (left) was the lucky winner of the gift card given by the Lions Club at the Community Expo. Wollenberg is pictured with Lions Club member Don Wendel.

Elks to host golf tourney

The carts at Desert Canyon Golf Course are ready to go for the upcoming Fountain Hills Elks Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 6.

All proceeds go to fund scholarships for continuing education for Fountain Hills High School seniors and also homeless veterans. There will be special participation by the Fountain Hills golf team to help raise funds to support the local youth golf program.

This is a fun and friendly golf tournament for all

levels of golf which includes three flights: men, women and coed. All four par three's will have a hole-in-one prize with one prize being \$10,000. There are many on-course games as well as raffles, a 50/50 and a silent auction. The price is \$100 and includes a cart and lunch.

This golf tournament is a four-person, best-ball scramble where everyone gets a chance. The starting time is 7:30 a.m. and it will be a shotgun start if enough golfers sign up. Desert Canyon Golf Club

is located at 10440 N. Indian Wells Dr. in Fountain Hills.

Golfers are needed but for those who cannot golf, a donation of \$50 to \$250 provides the donor a hole sponsorship with their personal sign.

For any questions call Jody Knapp at 602-363-5239 or stop by the Lodge at 16766 E. Parkview Ave. on Tuesdays and Fridays, opening at 5 p.m. The Fountain Hills Elks Lodge thanks the community for all its support.

Club Briefs

Men's Discussion Group resumes

The Fountain Hills Men's Discussion Group will host a presentation at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 27, from Dr. Vincent Larkin who will introduce the group to the world of vascular surgery.

The group meets at the Community Center each Monday. Attending the discussions are free for Community Center members or \$5 for non-members. Call the Community Center at 480-816-5200 to register.

Post 58 holds weekly events

American Legion Post 58 hosts weekly events that are open to the public, including Bingo every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 24, DJ Ed will perform from 1 to 5 p.m., then, World's Smallest Quartet will perform from 6 to 9 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 25, DJ Ed will again perform from 1 to 5 p.m. before Cheap Lunch takes the stage from 6 to 9 p.m. Events are held at American Legion Post 58, 16837 E. Parkview Ave.

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 Feb. 15 include Joanne Arneson in first place, Jerry Rusert in second and Richard Ras-

mussen in third. Winners from Feb. 17 include Mike Lomonidis in first place, Roger Watton in second and Luverne Parrish in third.

FH Woodworkers meet March 3

Fountain Hills Woodworkers (FHWW) will be meeting Friday, March 3, for a presentation on the creation of a Sam Maloof-style rocking chair and other topics.

Future meetings are held each month September thru May with some meetings supporting local non-profit organizations.

FHWW built the picnic tables at the community garden at no charge and encourages other non-profits to reach out for any woodworking needs.

There is no charge to join Fountain Hills Woodworkers. Those interested in woodworking is encouraged to leave a message at 480-816-3432.



County Supervisor visit

Maricopa County Supervisor Thomas Galvin recently spoke to the Rotary Club of Fountain Hills. From left, Rotary Club Board Member Bob Kane, County Supervisor Thomas Galvin and Rotary Club President Art Ammon.

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Business

Estate Interiors offers boutique consignment experience

By **Cyrus Guccione**
Times Reporter

For the past 10 months, Brian Dillman and his partner, Mark Esparza, have been running Estate Interiors, the town's newest boutique consignment shop, housed in the historic building on N. Verde River Drive.

The newly renovated space has been turning heads as passersby remember the old liquor store that has "Pretty Womaned" itself into the outwardly charming and reimagined establishment.

Inside, however, visitors will find a maze of high-end furniture fresh for the picking, with a purposeful "mess" that allows clients to hunt for great deals on high-quality furniture, of which, there are many.

"We would always be admiring this building and it wasn't even for sale," Mark said who, with his partner of 22 years, purchased the building from longtime Fountain Hills residents, Barbara and Nels Pederson.

After the building purchase, the two went to work on a full-scale renovation, adding new paint, new

roof, new rod-iron fencing, polished concrete floors, a reconstructed carport and Douglas Fir beams floating across the space to complement the expanded rooms filled with high-end consignment items.

"I just said, 'you know, it's now or never that we're going to pursue our dream to open up a brick and mortar,'" Mark said, describing their 20-year passion for collecting, buying and reselling furniture. "We were hoping to bring back the charm of this building to the town because it's such a gem."

After being greeted by the two friendly Shih Tzus, Charlie and Cameron (one-year-old sisters), shoppers will find a variety of styles from different eras of furniture on consignment, including couches, coffee tables, chairs, mirrors, artwork, sculptures, crystal, china and much more.

"Waterford, Cartier, Tiffany, Baccarat, a lot of great brands that people can get really great deals on," Mark said. "Our prices are anywhere between 50% to 70% below what they would pay for it [brand new], so it's a lot of great deals to be found."

Unlike many consignment shops that return items to their owners after 90 days, Estate Interiors continues to market and sell items "because the things that we take in, we believe in," Mark said.

Brian and Mark moved to Fountain Hills in 2017. As a Realtor for Coldwell Banker, Brian splits his time selling real estate and working at Estate Interiors with Mark, who left his 25-year career in the cosmetic industry to commit himself full-time to their new establishment.

While not an advertised service, Mark and Brian provide informal consultation services, offering their seasoned interior design advice for locals craving a family room facelift.

"Within five minutes, [Mark] is like, 'What if we moved this here and we did this and that and that,'" Brian said of one home-visit consultation. "In five minutes, it's like the whole room came together."

When a furniture staple is sold from Estate Interiors, Mark finds himself performing his favorite part of the job: staging new furniture vignettes with pieces from around the

store. "Everything has to shift because I want to make sure that everything looks good together in the vignette," he said.

Brian simply enjoys getting to know the friendly visitors who stop in to say hello, to peruse their collection, or to see Charlie and Cameron.

"We have clients that come in just to see the dogs," Mark said. "The girls greet everyone at the door. They love people."

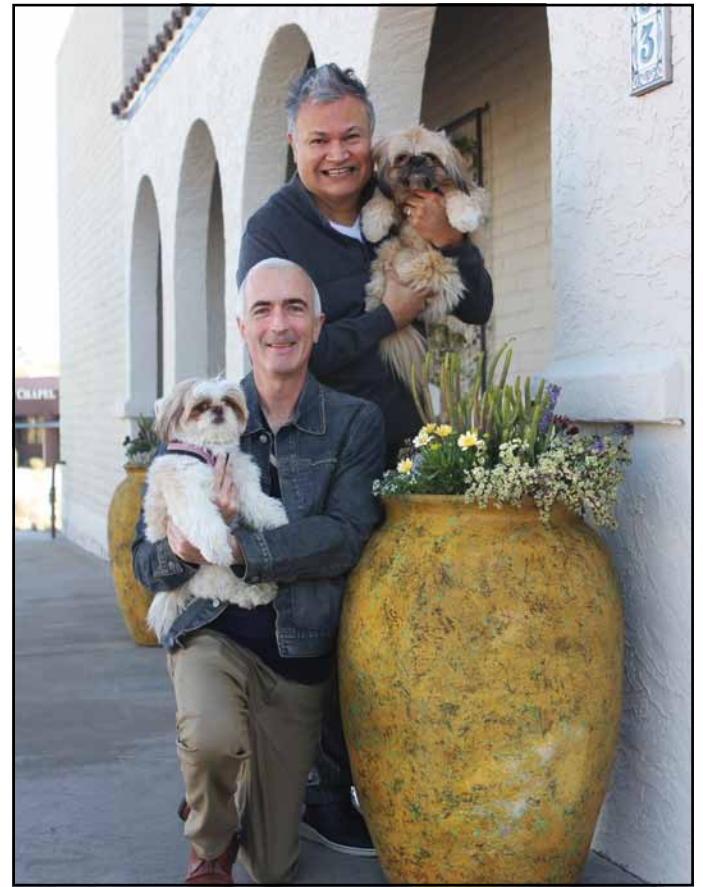
For clients new and returning, Brian and Mark want to create the feeling of welcoming them into their home, inviting them to sit, chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

In parting, Mark offers advice to those wondering when to get rid of their long-cherished furniture.

"Keep what you love, when you're ready to get rid of it or let it go, then that's the time, but don't force it," he said. "Don't try to get rid of something if you're not sure about it. Keep it and love it."

"It's also nice to be able to show people, too, that things don't all have to go together. You can mix it up. You can be eclectic and buy what you love and mix it in."

Estate Interiors is located



Times photo by Cyrus Guccione
Brian Dillman (left) and Mark Esparza own Estate Interiors on Verde River Drive. They are pictured with their two Shih Tzus, Charlie (left) and Cameron.

at 13033 N. Verde River Drive and open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (opens 11 a.m. on Wednesdays through the

Farmer's Market season) and closed Sunday and Monday. For more information, visit estateinteriorsfh.com or call 480-837-4572.



Ribbon cutting

Mike and Coco Pameditis of Edward Jones recently celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony among friends and members of the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce. For more information about Edward Jones, call Mike Pameditis at 480-837-0160 or Coco Pameditis at 480-391-1008.

Cummings earns award

Cummings Termite & Pest has earned the home service industry's Angi Super Service Award (SSA). This award, first presented in 1999, recognizes the best home professionals and businesses in the Angi network for their hard work, dedication and commitment to providing Angi customers a great experience.

"Through changing microeconomic factors like inflation, rising interest rates, material shortages and supply chain issues, Angi Super Service Award Winners delivered best in class customer service,"

said Angi Chief Customer Officer Angi Hicks. "These businesses are putting customers front and center and going above and beyond, providing great value, service and quality work."

"Our homeowners' consistent positive reviews make it clear these are the best pros in our network. Congratulations to all of our Super Service Award Winners."

Angi Super Service Award 2022 winners have met stringent eligibility requirements, across ratings and reviews during the eligibility window of

Nov. 1, 2021, to Oct. 31, 2022. Pros on Angi qualify for the award by obtaining three or more services-performed reviews during the review period, maintaining a current and lifetime rating of at least 4.5 stars. The SSA winners must be in good standing with Angi and have undergone its verification/screening process.

Service company ratings are updated continually on Angi as new, verified consumer reviews are submitted. Companies are rated in multiple fields ranging from price to professionalism to punctuality.

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29308 N Horton Creek Trl	\$474,656	17867 E Oak Creek Canyon Ln	\$843,344

Homes sold this period: 6 Median Price: \$771,672 Average price: \$812,663
Same period last year: 10 Median Price: \$887,500 Average price: \$872,184

Fountain Hills

16615 N Aspen Dr	\$690,000	13013 N Panorama Dr Unit 128	\$617,000
13812 N Cambria Dr Apt 1	\$292,500	16606 N Paradox Dr	\$625,000
13812 N Cambria Dr Apt 2	\$292,500	9650 N Rock Ridge Trl	\$3,400,000
9246 N Flying Butte	\$2,250,000	12012 N Saguaro Blvd Unit 7	\$310,000
12211 N Ftn Hills Blvd Unit B	\$425,000	13612 N Sunset Dr	\$1,480,000
14815 N Ftn Hills Blvd Unit 215	\$340,000	14514 N Valencia Dr	\$1,393,367
15944 E Genoa Way	\$1,045,000	14629 N Winston Ln	\$525,000
16330 E Inca Ave	\$2,341,949		

Homes sold this period: 15 Median Price \$625,000 Average price: \$1,068,488
Same period last year: 11 Median Price \$502,000 Average price: \$589,741

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Contact us at one of the email addresses below

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Public Notices

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
 Development Services Department
 Planning & Zoning Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the Fountain Hills Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 23-04, amending Chapter 6, Sign Regulations. Proposed amendments may include, but are not limited to definitions, regulations for permanent signs, regulations for temporary signs, regulations related to sign locations, and regulations regarding prohibited signs.

Case #TAM23-000002

For more information, contact John Wesley, AICP, Development Services; Development Services, Town of Fountain Hills, 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268; or by calling 480-816-5138. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Published in FH Times: February 22, 2023 & March 1, 2023

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
 Development Services Department
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the Fountain Hills Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 23-05, repealing and replacing Zoning Ordinance Chapter 7, Parking and Loading Requirements.

Case #TAM22-000003

For more information, contact John Wesley, AICP, Development Services; Development Services, Town of Fountain Hills, 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268; or by calling 480-816-5138. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Published in FH Times: February 22, 2023 & March 1, 2023

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the Fountain Hills Town Council will hold a public hearing in the Town Council Chambers to receive comments on a proposed SPECIAL USE PERMIT to install a golf ball fence on the property located at 15816 E. Brittlebush Lane, Fountain Hills, Arizona. Case #SUP22-000002

A complete copy of the proposal is available for viewing in the Fountain Hills Planning & Zoning Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00PM.

Published in FH Times: February 15, 2023 & February 22, 2023

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Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm. Sunday 9:00am-3:00pm. 17215 E. Parlin Dr. Harley Davidson parts and accessories, art work, antiques, tools, jewelry, washer, kitchen, and furniture.

Saturday only. 8:00am-2:00pm. Roomba Vacuum, home accessories, scrap booking, pots for plants, and MUCH MORE. 12232 N. Falcon Dr.

Estate sale (huge) at 15620 E. Telegraph Dr. in Fountain Hills at a 4000sq ft home from Fresh Start Estate Sales. Starts on Thursday February 23rd thru Saturday February 25th From 8:00am-1:00pm each day. Some of the treasures you will find are Viking and depression glass, tons of designer and vintage clothing and handbags, Uggs, patio sets, Soleri bell, hundreds of jewelry pieces, original art, gallery decor, multiple bedroom sets, washer/dryer set, burl dresser and so much more. Please contact Michael at 480-486-0606 with any questions

Moving sale. Great stuff at bargain prices. 16118 E. Glenview Dr. Friday 24th. 8:00am-4:00pm. Saturday if needed.

Al-11 5x5x5, Bedroom. B-20 5x15, Handyman. CI-19 5x10 Household. Auction will be 10:30 am, March 1st 17006 E. Colony Dr.

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Furniture



Excellent condition sofa, \$150 or best offer. re upholstered, 7 feet long. Call Bob at 480-235-2349.

Furniture

Rocker/recliner \$80 and swivel chair with ottoman \$25. Both in great condition. Please call 480-837-4534.

Wanted to Buy

Buying Native American jewelry, local private party. 858-245-7266.

Highlight your classified line ad in yellow. Cost is just \$5 extra.

Real Estate for Sale and Rent

Fountain Hills Property Management and Real Estate

For LEASE

Downstairs 1 BR, 1 BA, All Appliances, Heated Pool & Spa. Close to Downtown & Park

\$1500/month

3 BR, 2 BA, 2 CG, All Appliances, Single Family Home, Fenced Yard

\$2600/month

3 BR, 2 BA, 2 CG, All Appliances, Gated Community, Community Pool & Spa, Fantastic Views

\$3000/month

For SALE

Upstairs 2 BR, 2 BA, split floor plan, detached garage, amazing views, close to shopping

\$349,900

Michelle Kern (Broker)
480-837-5226 • michellek@fhpropertymanagement.com

Condos for Sale

For sale by owner. 1 BR Condo Lakeside Casita, Fountain Hills. Great location near Fountain. Updated windows, appliances, flooring. Call 641-680-3975. No texts.

Homes/Duplexes for Rent

Home for rent, 3BR, 2BA, 2 car garage and pool. June-September. \$2500/month. 480-837-8099.

Condos for Rent

2BR, 2BA 1 car garage, lower level, pool/hot tub, nonsmoking. 1year lease. \$1,800/Month. 602-541-3998.

Our classifieds get results, call 480-837-1925 for rates.



TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Town of Fountain Hills
16705 East Avenue of the Fountains
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268

SOLICITATION INFORMATION AND SELECTION SCHEDULE

Project Name: Event Logistics, Equipment, and Related Services
Project ID: RFP-2023-001
Release Date:
February 22, 2023
Advertisement: Fountain Hills Times:
2/22/23 & 3/1/23
Advertisement: Arizona Business Gazette:
2/23/23 & 3/2/23
Final Date and Time for Inquires:
March 16, 2023, 5:00pm
Proposal Due Date and Time:
March 30, 2023, 5:00pm
Bid Opening:
3/30/23 @ 5:30PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86234968968?pwd=NFZOOVozbDYwXERSkpzVnpqVzF6QT09>

Meeting ID: 862 3496 8968
Passcode: 2MPRUF

Shortlist Announced for Oral Interviews (if necessary):
April 13, 2023
Oral Interviews (if necessary):
Third week of April
Anticipated Agreement Start Date:
May 9, 2023

Or click on the meeting link in our E-portal for the project
<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/fhaz>

Town Representative:
Rob Durham
Procurement Administrator
rdurham@fountainhillsaz.gov
480-816-5128

*The Town of Fountain Hills reserves the right to amend the solicitation schedule as necessary

**In the event that a Vendor cannot be selected based solely on Proposals submitted, Oral Interviews may be conducted at the Town's sole discretion.

Published in FH Times:
February 22 and March 1, 2023

CPL Properties
Real Estate & Property Management
480-837-4663
16858 E Avenue of the Fountains
Suite 106
www.CPLPropertiesOnline.com

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Eleonora Holmes, #036714
Holmes Law, PLLC.
P.O. Box 18587
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269
(480) 837-1421
Ladylawyer4@yahoo.com
Attorney for Personal Representative
SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of
ALMOS B. MCMULLIN,
Deceased.
NO. PB 2023-050099
NOTICE TO CREDITORS (For Publication)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Christopher

P. McCarthy has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim to the Personal Representative c/o Holmes Law, PLLC, P.O. Box 18587, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269. DATED this 25th day of January, 2023.
Signed: Eleonora "Lee" Holmes
P.O. Box 18587
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269
HOLMES LAW, PLLC.
By: Eleonora Holmes
Published Fountain Hills Times
02/08/2023, 02/15/2023, 02/22/2023

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS Development Services Department Planning & Zoning Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the Fountain Hills Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 23-06, repealing and replacing Zoning Ordinance Section 2.04, Site Plan Review Regulations. Case #TAM23-000003

For more information, contact John Wesley, AICP, Development Services; Development Services, Town of Fountain Hills, 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268; or by calling 480-816-5138. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Published in FH Times: February 22, 2023 & March 1, 2023

For legal advertising rates, please contact
The Fountain Hills Times at 480-837-1925 or email
michael@fhtimes.com

View Lot

16324 E. Saguaro Blvd.

1.2 acres. One of last view lots in this area (Fire Rock Ridge) HOA \$15/month.

\$450K

780-779-6979

The Verde Communities

RV Invitational tees off Friday

Rio Verde Community and Country Club will host the 21st Rio Verde Invitational for NCAA women collegiate golfers this week, Feb. 24-26.

The 2023 tournament is being played Thursday, Feb. 23 (practice), through Sunday, Feb. 26 (Friday 1 p.m. shotgun, Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. shotgun).

Western Michigan University is the host team for this annual event with more than a dozen teams from Division I universities.

Since 2001, Rio Verde has been the site of the Western Michigan-hosted tournament on its two 18-hole, par 72 courses – Quail

Run and White Wing.

This year the field of 18 teams competing includes Bowling Green State, Bradley, Butler, California Baptist University, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Illinois State, Kennesaw State University, Loyola of Chicago, Missouri State University, Oakland University, Ohio, University of South Dakota, Wichita State, Western Michigan and Xavier.

In 2022 Kennesaw State University's Caitlyn Campbell led all players with a five-under par 54-hole total of 211 to take the individual title and lead her team to a win the Rio Verde

Invitational title.

In its first appearance in the tournament Kennesaw State placed first as a team with a one-over total of 865 for the three rounds. KSU finished with rounds of 286, 296 and 283 over three days.

Originally known as the "East/West Rio Verde Invitational," the tournament moved from a 36- to a 54-hole format in 2005.

The Rio Verde Invitational is a popular event for the women who come here and become part of the community for the weekend. The more than 100 players and coaches are housed with volunteer residents.

Tour pro now teaches

This story is a new installment of the continuing "Meet Your Neighbor" series written by Rio Verde resident Tonie Lindenberg.

Rio Verde is proud to be the home of professional golfer Mark Wiebe who spent 33 years on the PGA Tour. This is his story...

Mark Wiebe's interest in golf happened around the age of six when he played with his father, whom he describes as a very good golfer. His interest continued, and during his college years at both Palomar College and San Jose State University, he was a member of the golf team. While at Palomar, Mark was the individual medalist at the 1977 California Amateur, won the 1977 Idaho Amateur and holds the school record for low round at 6- under-par (66). He turned pro in 1980 and joined the PGA Tour in 1983.

Mark has nearly four dozen top-10 finishes in PGA Tour events. The first was in 1985 at the Anheuser-Busch Golf Classic when he beat John Mahaffey in a sudden death playoff. The following year, he won the Hardee's Golf Classic, and in 1987, he was co-leader with Tom Watson at the US Open. According to Mark, his best finish in a major event was a T-12 in 1989 at the PGA Championship held at Kemper Lakes in Illinois. In 2007, Mark joined the Champions Tour, winning the first tournament he played in, becoming the youngest player to win this event at the age of 50.

He won his first major tour event in 2013 at the Senior British Open Championship at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club, defeating Bernhard Langer in



Mark Wiebe holds his Senior British Open trophy in 2013.

a sudden-death playoff. Later that year he went on to win his second event at the Pacific Links Hawaii Championship, defeating Corey Pavin in another sudden-death playoff. Mark's career highlights can be viewed at pgatour.com/players/player.02279.mark-wiebe.html. He can be contacted via email at mwiebegolf@gmail.com.

According to Mark, "I've spent many years teaching golf." Today, he is actively engaged in teaching at the Rio Verde Country Club where he welcomes both beginners and seasoned golfers. Individual and group lessons are available. Some of his students include junior golfers, many of whom come from out-of-state to train with him. Previously, he taught lessons at Trilogy, and served as Director of Instruction at the San Jose Country Club.

Giving back is important to Mark. For 12 years he was involved with Adams Camp, raising more than one million dollars to benefit special needs children. He has also worked on the Special Olympics and played in numerous Pro-Am tournaments to raise

money for charity. Had he not entered the world of professional golf, Mark, an avid outdoorsman, claims he would have become a fishing guide. "I love to fly fish," he says. He also enjoys winter sports, especially skiing.

Mark and his wife Cathy have been residents for three years. At the time they met, both were engaged to others. Within six months, they were happily married to each other. They have three children and four grandchildren with another expected in May.

While on tour, Mark's family travelled with him when the children were not in school. During the school year, he would adjust his schedule to have more time at home. Their son, Gunner, recently qualified at the DP World Tour School and played in his first tournament in Australia, finishing in the top 20.

Mark and Cathy are also the proud pet parents of a Bernese Mountain Dog who was named "Birkdale" following Mark's win at the Senior British Open. Rio Verde is fortunate to have such an accomplished athlete call our community home.

Verde News Briefs

Live music at Tonto Feb. 25

Tonto Verde residents are invited to "Say it with Music," featuring a live performance by Scott & Susie on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Chef Aaron's gourmet appetizers, wine or well drink will be served. The cost is \$25 per person (plus tax and service).

Register online at the Tonto Lifestyle Calendar.

ASU lecture series continues

The 2023 Verdes ASU Lecture Series will conclude for the season on Tuesday, Feb. 28, with the traditional musical presentation.

"Voices Silenced: Saxophone, Piano and Soprano" will feature professors Christopher Creviston, Hannah Creviston and Amanda DeMaris, School of Music, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

The lecture series is open to all Verde residents and their guests. All start times are 4 p.m. at the Community Church of the Verdes Thanks again to Frank Haggard, RVCA member, for organizing the lecture series.

Win tickets to Jimmy Buffett

Tonto Verde Golf Club is offering members an opportunity to win tickets

to Jimmy Buffett at Footprint Center in Phoenix on Thursday, March 9.

Purchase the \$20 raffle tickets for a chance to win four tickets at the golf shop. The drawing will be Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Proceeds will be donated by the WGA Hohokam Community to the VerdeCares Charity Roundup.

Tonto plans trip, Spring Training

Tonto Verde is planning an outing for Spring Training baseball to see the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox at Solan Park in Mesa on Tuesday, March 28 (12:05 p.m.).

The package includes seating in the party deck for 30 people, hot dogs, hamburgers, salad and cookies. A full-service bar is also available. The cost is \$115 per person/plus tax and service charge.

Sign up is on the Tonto community website. There must be 30 reservation to order tickets.

Verdes blood drive in March

To meet the continuing high demand for blood the Verdes are teaming up with Vitalant to hold a Spring Blood Drive for Rio and Tonto residents from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, in the Rio Verde Community Center.

To sign up to donate visit bloodhero.com. New donors click "Sign Up" to

register. Returning donors use previous login email or username and password. The location is "Verde Community," on March 28. Select a donation time slot.

Questions may be directed to Rio Verde resident Scott Doerfler at scott754@gmail.com.

Verdes Church hosts lectures

The Community Church of the Verdes is hosting two upcoming lectures this season.

On Monday, Feb. 27, at 4 p.m., Jamie Haas will present "Saving Our Wildlife One Life at a Time."

On Monday, March 20, also at 4 p.m., the speaker will be Shereen Yusuff discussing "Breathing Techniques."

The church's annual spring dinner will follow that presentation at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 20.

Visit verdefaith.org for additional information.

Anniversary team seeks memories

In preparation for the celebration of Rio Verde's 50th Anniversary in Fall 2023, the event planning committee is collecting stories, photos and other memorabilia that help tell our community's story.

Anyone with memorabilia to share, contact Mary Derby at maryderb@gmail.com or 303-908-5077. If you or your family have lived in Rio Verde for a long time, check drawers and closets both here and in summer/family homes.

Spooner presents health series

The Community Center is offering a series of lectures by Spooner Physical Therapy.

The series is scheduled as monthly presentations.

*Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy and What It Can Do For You" will be presented on Tuesday, March 21, by Tarah Mundy PT,

DPT.

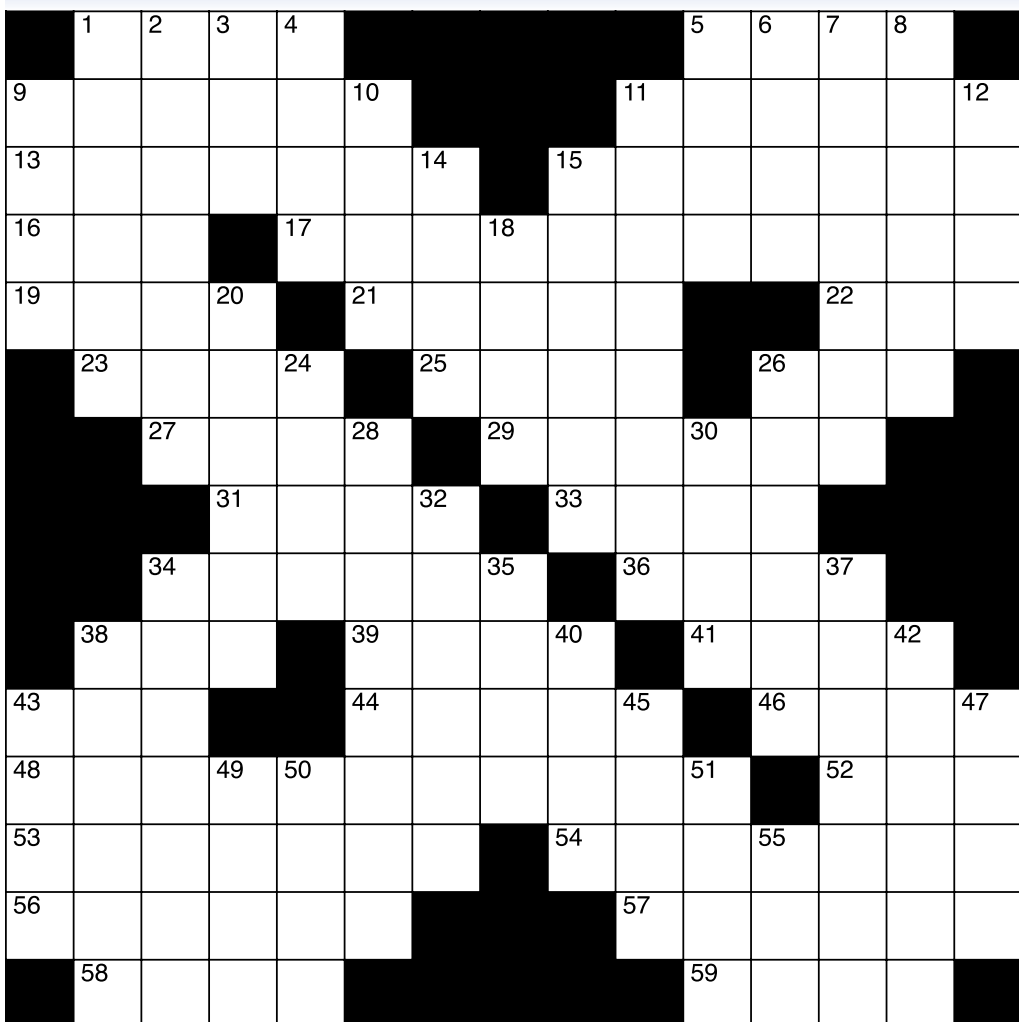
*On Tuesday, April 25, Ashley Schopp PT, DPT and Malia Menon OTD, OTR/L will offer recommendations on how to keep your wrists, elbows and shoulders healthy for golf and pickleball.

Each presentation will take place at 9:15 a.m. at the Fountain Hills Com-

munity Center, 13001 N. La Montana. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Programs are free for Community Center members and \$5 for non-members. Call the Community Center at 480-816-5200 to register.

Sponsored by the Town of Fountain Hills Community Center.

FH Times Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Sea grape
- European public health group (abbr.)
- A way to delight
- Appetizers
- Ancient heralds' wands
- Make a booking

CLUES DOWN

- '__ death do us part
- Pearl Jam front man
- Spider genus
- Fill with high spirits
- A major division of geological time
- Catch

CLUES ACROSS

- An independent ruler or chieftain
- Electronic music style (abbr.)
- Influential Spanish cubist painter
- Illegally persuades
- A way to derive
- British School

- Appear alongside
- Surely (archaic)
- Harsh cry of a crow
- A day in the middle
- Kansas hoops coach Bill
- The longest division of geological time
- The first sign of the zodiac
- Appetizer
- Link together in a chain
- A bacterium
- In a way, forces apart
- Cheese dish
- Combines
- In an inferior way
- Colors clothes
- Dried-up

- Badness
- Protein-rich liquids
- Not moving
- Call it a career
- Poetry term
- Not wide
- Pastries
- Turns away
- Satisfies
- Gift adornments
- San Diego ballplayers
- Manufacturing plant
- Check or guide

- Dogs do it
- Chilled
- Scorch
- Unproductive of success
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Attack with a knife
- Feel bad for
- Enclosure
- Assert
- Geological times
- Midway between east and southeast

Answers on page 2

This week's crossword puzzle sponsored by



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