



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

VAL Art Show set

The Verdes Art League Spring Art Show & Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 18, in the Rio Verde Community Center.

The Show will feature the work of 25 Verde artists, many of whom have won awards locally and nationally for their creativity. A variety of media will be presented, includ-

ing jewelry, paintings, textiles, photography, greeting cards, decorative gourds, wood carving, ceramics, leatherwork and glass.

In addition, there will be a silent auction of works donated by many of the participating artists. Come and enjoy a fun day. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

\$1.50

Volume 50, No. 11 • 26 pages • 2 sections

\$33 million Projected budget presented

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council got its first look at the projected budget numbers for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year when it held its annual retreat on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Finance Director David Pock presented a plan that totals \$33,033,100 in base expenditures over all funds. This includes \$19.2 million in General Fund expenditures.

Pock had revenue forecasts totaling \$42.3 million

for the next fiscal year. All of these numbers are reductions over the current fiscal year. Pock said he is taking an especially conservative approach in his budget forecasts for the coming year due to economic uncertainties.

Contract services account for nearly \$10.4 million of the General Fund budget. This includes the public safety agreements with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement and Rural/Metro Corp. for fire and emer-

gency medical.

Although a transfer of the Rural/Metro agreement to an in-house fire department is expected at the middle of the upcoming fiscal year, it is not expected to have an impact on the balance of the numbers.

Payroll and benefits are in the budget for \$5,756,100, which is unchanged from the budget for the current fiscal year.

The projected Streets Fund expenses total \$5.9

(cont. on page 7A)

Update on MCSO contract

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town of Fountain Hills' law enforcement contract with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) expires at the end of the current fiscal year (June 30), so officials have been working toward a new intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for services. Town Council received an update on the progress of discussions at its Feb. 28 planning retreat.

Some council members believe the Town has over-

paid the county for services that were not received primarily due to personnel shortages. They want that issue resolved with compensation before going forward with a new agreement. This was an issue that former Councilman David Spelich raised concerns about numerous times during his council term. Spelich is a former Chicago Police officer and still works in law enforcement.

Town Manager Grady Miller told the council that the county disagrees

with the assessment that services covered under the existing contract were not provided. He said the Town might consider being more specific in personnel and services expected in a new agreement where annual review could result in some reimbursement.

Councilman Gerry Friedel said he respects the judgement of Spelich and asked for a legal consultation during a closed executive session to discuss

(cont. on page 7A)

Kite Festival Saturday

The Pakistan Information and Cultural Organization (PICO) will hold its annual kite festival in Fountain Park this Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kite Flying is celebrated in many Asian countries to celebrate arrival of springtime. Kites are sold at the festival for \$5 to \$7. Peo-

ple are welcome to bring their own kites. Many of the kites flown in previous years were large custom-made kites.

Organizers said Fountain Park provides the right wind conditions for an amazing kite flying experience.

In addition, there will be live music, food, henna

tattoos and the star of the festival – hundreds of flying kites. There will also be live demonstrations of kite fights at 12 and 2 p.m.

Nearly 2,000 people have attended the festival in Fountain Park in previous years.

Visit pakistaninformation.org for additional details.



Shamrocks and smiles

Times photo by Ryan Winslett

Kylee Sweisberger was all smiles after having her face painted at Irish Fountain Fest, hosted out of Fountain Park on Saturday, March 11. Sweisberger and her family were visiting the early Saint Patrick's Day celebration from Kansas, joining an ocean of emerald-clad visitors to enjoy food, drink, music and, of course, the greening of the Fountain. For additional photos, see page 10A and the online gallery at fhtimes.com.

FHHS

Field project authorized

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board authorized Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski to move forward with the plan to replace the high school field at the last Board meeting on Wednesday, March 8.

Jagodzinski recom-

mended AstroTurf for the project, and he provided the Board pricing from three other companies: Hellas Construction, FieldTurf and Shaw Sports Turf. All three companies would have charged over \$600,000 for the project while AstroTurf will honor a past warranty agreement and charge \$525,000.

At the last Board meeting, members authorized Jagodzinski to finalize a potential agreement with AstroTurf. Jagodzinski negotiated a new 10-year warranty agreement, as well as a 10-year annual Rhino maintenance package, and he brought the agreements back to the

(cont. on page 9A)

Time for Fountain Hills Day

The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce is bringing Fountain Hills Day, presented by The Linkous Group, Ltd., to the Avenue of the Fountains to celebrate and bring together all that is Fountain Hills with local businesses,

clubs and organizations to showcase what the community has to offer.

Fountain Hills Day is this Saturday, March 18, along Avenue of the Fountain from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be multiple expos and events with-

in this event including a Health and Wellness Expo, Home and Garden Expo, Wild About Pets Expo, Have Faith Expo, Philanthropy in the Hills, and the Kids' Zone. Another

(cont. on page 9A)



The Pakistan Information and Cultural Organization (PICO) holds its annual Kite Festival in Fountain Park.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Repairs:

Community Center work yields positive results.
See Page 3A

Essays:

Contest winners named, top entry shared.
See Page 12A

Oktoberfest:

Chamber announces new schedule for local event.
See Page 11A

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., March 7	70	45	--
Wed., March 8	72	47	--
Thurs., March 9	69	48	--
Fri., March 10	76	57	--
Sat., March 11	73	50	--
Sun., March 12	76	51	--
Mon., March 13	75	50	--

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Melinda Stanton | 480-688-9191

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Susan Dawson | 602-550-1330
Michael Gant | 480-263-3606

DESIRABLE VILLA

Quiet ground level unit in private/gated community. Enjoy city light & sunset sky views from this 3 BD/3 BA unit. 2 car garage. MLS# 6523968. \$850,000.

Patricia Kenney | 480-216-4948

LAND FOR SALE

2 ACRE LOT W/VIEWS

Mountain views, privacy and open space make this lot in Eagles Nest the best kept secret in town. Don't miss out. MLS# 6473295 \$350,000.

Steven Vargo, Jr | 480-390-7250

ELEVATED WITH PRIVACY

Spectacular mountain views, elevation and privacy. What's not to love? Get it while it's hot, or you'll miss out. MLS# 6380257. \$400,000.

Steven Vargo, Jr | 480-390-7250

EAGLE RIDGE WITH VIEWS

.9 acre lot in the gated community of Eagle Ridge with mountain views. MLS# 6409342. \$299,000.

Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

2.43 ACRES IN EAGLE NEST

Views of Town City Lights and Superstition Mtns! Large lot to build your dream home on! www.EaglesNestLots.com. MLS #6501250. \$315,000

Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

SHADOW CANYON HILLTOP GEM!

Gated community lot w/360° views of 4 Peaks, Superstitions, Ftn & McDowell Mtns. Virtual tour: www.FountainHillsLots.com. MLS# 6405111. \$409,000.

Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

IDYLLIC LOT W/VIEWS

Elevated lot w/mountain views and privacy. Located in close proximity to Dixie Mine Trailhead. Ideal for hiking. MLS# 6345472 \$235,000.

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Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

GORGEIOUS VIEWS

1.26 acre lot w/ mountain views in Eagle's Nest guard-gated community. MLS# 5709359. \$365,000.

Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

TOP OF THE WORLD

1.7 acre lot in Eagles Nest backs to McDowell Mt park. Gorgeous Views! Building plans included. MLS# 6478231. \$749,000.

Kelly Smith | 602-628-1032

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Vandalism reported at Desert Vista Park

Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies were notified by Town Park staff of damage to the underground wiring to the lighting at Desert Vista Park on Tuesday, March 7.

It was determined that an unknown suspect(s) removed hundreds of feet of wiring by accessing the inground electrical boxes. It is believed the intent was to steal the internal copper found in the wiring.

The incident occurred during daylight hours between 6:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. The damage caused by the suspect impacted the lighting to the park's soccer fields and town staff is working to determine the extent of the damage and the cost to repair the damage with contractors.

The damage is believed to be extensive due to the mechanism required to replace the wiring and the cost of repair is estimated to be as much as \$30,000.

A crew was working on the wiring last week and expected to have repairs completed by the end of the week, according to Parks Superintendent Kevin Snipes.

"Not sure yet on total cost of the damages but I am pretty sure they planned on taking a lot more wire than they originally took," Snipes said.

"The incident occurred between 6:30 a.m. and noon so they were pretty bold, especially with the skate park builders being nearby."

The Town will be filing an insurance claim on the repair but will still have to cover the deductible, according to Snipes.



Four generations

Jack Will of Fountain Hills celebrated his 92nd birthday on March 7 with family in town from Aurora, Ill. Four generations of Will men include, from left, Jack Will (92), John Will (62), Michael Will (32) and Brayden Caliz (2).

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Answer to this week's puzzle

T	R	A	N	C	E	S			E	E	R	I	E			
R	E	M	O	R	S	E			K	N	A	V	E			
A	P	P	R	O	P	R	I	A	T	E	D		O	R		
C	E	E					E	B	B	E	D		F	R	I	
E	A	R					N	I	L	E			E	R	I	E
S	T	E	R	I	L	I	Z	E			C	R	E	E	S	
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A	C	C	E	N	T				M	A	N	E	T			
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M	O	N	A	D						S	I	N	C	E	R	E
E	D	U	C	E						S	L	E	D	D	E	D

Signs of success from Community Center repairs

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The initial mitigation measures taken to address water intrusion issues at the Fountain Hills Community Center have shown to be successful and potentially will result in significant savings in repairs.

The Town Council received an update on repairs at its annual retreat on Feb. 28.

During a renovation project in 2021 it was determined there were several water infiltration issues that needed to be addressed. Some of those were known issues that had been addressed in various ways previously.

One of the major concerns discovered during testing by a consulting firm in 2022 was widespread infiltration of water through doors and windows. This testing indicated the possibility of having to replace all the custom doors and windows in the building, a

project that could cost millions.

However, as a first step the consultant recommended a process of wet sealing of all the window and door assemblies. That work was completed and after several windblown rain storms the past few months the sealing has been effective. The consultant has reported he believes this will push out any need to replace windows and doors more than a decade. The near-term water intrusion measures will be retested by the consulting firm this summer.

Reversing concrete adjacent to windowsills to correct sloping is projected along with work to install trench drains to move water away from the building. This work is expected to be completed by the end of next fiscal year, June 30, 2024.

A number of the near-term recommendations from the consulting firm have been completed including an evaluation

of under slab water and drain lines for leaks. It was determined there are no leaks under the floor slab. Most roof drain pipe couplings have been addressed to prevent leaking. Biologic growth from moisture has been tested for and removed. A roofing repair material has been tested on an 850-square-foot section and has been successful. Door thresholds have been sealed. A concrete patio slab on the west side of the building sloped inward resulting in seepage into the building has been removed. The HVAC system was tested and audited. Additional testing will be needed when temperatures are warmer.

The Town and M. Arthur Gensler JR & Associates entered into a contract late last year for architectural consulting services related to the Community Center and will take the lead in design estimates for storefront windows and doors related to potential future replacement.



The columbarium and wall of remembrance at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills is open to the community.

Town Columbarium unlikely

By Bob Burns
& Cyrus Guccione
Times Reporters

Due to several inquiries from citizens in Fountain Hills the Town Council took up a discussion at its Feb. 28 retreat session related to a columbarium for the Town.

According to a report prepared for the discussion, staff and several council members have received constituent requests related to the "creation of a Fountain Hills memorial park (columbarium) on Town property. Columbarium are above ground structures built with niches to receive cremation urns with human remains.

Doing research on the subject, Town staff found that of the 91 municipalities within the state of Arizona and only three operate a cemetery, Flagstaff, Glendale and Mesa.

Town staff research, as well as inquiries by *The Times*, found there are five churches in Fountain Hills that have a columbaria. Those include Christ's Church of Fountain Hills,

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church and The Fountains United Methodist Church.

Community Church of the Verdes also has a memorial garden which is open to current or former residents of Rio Verde and Tonto Verde.

Christ's Church is currently filled with no plans to add additional space.

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church is open to church members and non-members. They have one garden that is full and a second has 24 openings. There is also a wall of remembrance. The church is currently considering the feasibility of a third columbarium.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is open to all residents of Fountain Hills.

Trinity Lutheran Church is available to church members and families. The church has room to expand, but currently does not have a need.

The Anglican Church of Atonement in Fountain

Hills refers columbarium requests to Christ's Anglican Church of Cave Creek.

Heather Everett, Assistant Manager for Messinger Mortuary Scottsdale Indian School location said Messinger does not have columbarium niches associated with any of its mortuaries, including Fountain Hills.

Everett said funeral directors discuss arrangements with family members and advise according to family needs and requests.

The Messinger family does own Paradise Memorial Garden on Shea Boulevard, which does include a Mausoleum for cremains, as well as a columbarium, according to Everett.

Town staff is recommending the Town does not have further consideration of a columbarium.

"With the number of columbarium opportunities within the Fountain Hills community as well as unanticipated costs of operating a columbarium, staff does not recommend moving forward with the request," the report states.

Guardrail contract amended

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council has approved an amendment to a professional services agreement with Elite Civil Construction for guardrail repair and maintenance in Fountain Hills.

Public Works Director Justin Weldy told the council the original agreement allows for expenditures of \$50,000 per year through a five-year term to a maximum of \$250,000. The amendment removes the annual limit but keeps the maximum in place for the five-year term.

The agreement was challenged by Council Members Brenda Kalivianakis and Allen Skillicorn. They felt the amount was in excess of what is needed and wanted a bid process.

Weldy explained that

some professional services agreements the Town has are "piggy-backed" with agreements reached by larger cities, in this case the City of Tucson. Weldy said the city opened a competitive bid process and awarded the bid to Elite Civil Construction based on that process. The contractor has agreed to extend the pricing Tucson received to the Town of Fountain Hills.

Weldy said as a small town that does not have a lot of this type of work, it is difficult to get even a single contractor to respond to a bid request, let alone several to create a competitive process.

Kalivianakis said she questions the need to upgrade guardrails within the Town, citing research she had done with a Minnesota consultant. She said cosmetic damage does not need repair and there is

no requirement to upgrade guardrails to meet updated standards.

Kalivianakis was referring to a capital item in the Town budget to upgrade guardrails in the community.

Weldy said the contract being considered by the council was unrelated to the capital program. The capital funds are attached to grant funding and most of the guardrails in town have been in place for 30 to 50 years.

The Elite contract is for repairs needed when the guardrails are struck and damaged. In most cases insurance will reimburse for that damage when the motorist can be identified, according to Weldy. He said the history of the past few years indicates expenditures are considerably less than \$50,000 a year.

The council voted 6-1 to approve the amendment with Skillicorn dissenting.

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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, March 2, through Wednesday, March 8.

◆ On Thursday, March 2, deputies made a traffic stop on Saguaro Boulevard at Malta Drive. The driver was arrested when it was discovered they had an active misdemeanor warrant for their arrest.

◆ On Thursday, March 2, deputies made a traffic stop on Shea Boulevard at Palatia Drive. The driver was cited when it was discovered their license plate was suspended. The license plate was seized and destroyed.

◆ On Thursday, March 2, a resident of the 26000 block of Avenida Del Ray in Rio Verde reported that an unidentified suspect hacked into their phone, scammed them out of \$100 and gained access to their personal identifying information.

◆ On Thursday, March 2, deputies responded to the 13000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. after MCSO received an anonymous tip alleging that dogs were being mistreated. The allegations proved to be unsubstantiated after further investigation.

◆ On Friday, March 3, deputies responded to the 16000 block of Gloria Ln. where it was reported a daughter assaulted their mother and caused minor injuries by biting her during a mental health episode. The daughter was transported to a hospital for a mental health evaluation.

◆ On Friday, March 3, deputies made a traffic stop on Fountain Hills Boulevard at Palomino Boulevard. The driver was arrested when it was discovered they had an active misdemeanor warrant for their arrest.

◆ On Friday, March 3, deputies responded to the 16000 block of De Anza Dr. A town resident was arrested when they violated a previously served court order by calling their ex-boyfriend several times.

◆ On Saturday, March 4, deputies responded to the 13000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. where it was reported that a husband and wife were involved in a physical altercation at their home. The wife sustained minor injuries.

◆ On Saturday, March 4, a resident of the 14000 block of Love Ct. reported that several cameras, valued at approximately \$2,000, were stolen from his residence.

◆ On Sunday, March 5, deputies made a traffic stop at Avenue of the Fountains and Verde River Drive. The driver was cited when it was discovered that their license plate was suspended. The license plate was seized and destroyed.

◆ On Sunday, March 5, deputies responded to the 11000 block of Saguaro Blvd. where a patron obtained services from a local restaurant and left without paying for the services.

◆ On Sunday, March 5, deputies responded to Palisades Boulevard and Westridge Drive. A driver was involved in a single-vehicle, non-injury vehicle collision, when they failed to pay attention to the roadway and struck the median. The driver reported that they were texting at the time of the collision.

◆ On Sunday, March 5, deputies made a traffic stop on Fountain Hills Boulevard and Crystal Ridge Drive. The driver was cited when it was discovered their license plate was suspended. The license plate was seized and destroyed.

◆ On Sunday, March 5, deputies made a traffic stop at Golden Eagle Boulevard and Princess Court. The driver was criminally cited when it was discovered they were driving with a cancelled driver license.

◆ On Monday, March 6, a resident of the 13000 block of El Pueblo Blvd. reported that an unidentified suspect used their identity to apply for several credit cards.

◆ On Monday, March 6, a resident of the 17000 block of Vallecito Dr. reported that an out-of-state online gamer was harassing them by filing fraudulent police reports against them.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, deputies responded to Saguaro Boulevard and Colony Drive. A driver was involved in a non-injury vehicle collision with a police patrol vehicle when the driver failed to yield from a stop sign.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, a resident of the 14000 block of Ashbrook Dr. reported that an unknown suspect used their personal identifying information to apply for several credit cards. The bank was made aware of the fraudulent activity, and the applications were cancelled.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, a resident of the 16000 Block of Cholla Dr. reported that an unknown suspect used their identifying information to apply for a small business loan in the amount of approximately \$76,000.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, deputies made a traffic

stop on Saguaro Boulevard at Ledferd Lane. The driver was criminally cited when they were observed driving more than 27 miles-per-hour over the posted speed limit.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, deputies responded to the 11000 Block of Desert Vista where Town staff reported that an unknown suspect(s) caused approximately \$30,000 in damage to underground wiring at the Desert Vista Park.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, a resident reported that their prescription medication bottle was empty when they picked it up from a local business.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, deputies made a traffic stop on Saguaro Boulevard and Hawk Drive. The driver was arrested when it was discovered they were driving with a suspended driver license and that they had an active warrant for their arrest.

◆ On Tuesday, March 7, a resident of the 16000 block of Ashbrook Dr. reported that an unidentified female burglarized a residence when they entered the garage to steal a bicycle. The bicycle was later recovered.

◆ On Wednesday, March 8, deputies responded to Saguaro and Fountain Hills boulevards for a reported two-vehicle non-injury collision. One driver conducted an unsafe lane change and collided with the other.

◆ On Wednesday, March 8, deputies responded along with Fountain Hills Fire Department to the 14000 block of Deerskin Dr. A garbage truck caught fire after it picked up a patio heater. No persons were injured, and the fire was extinguished by fire

(cont. on page 7A)

OBITUARIES

Mary C. Cassar

Mary C. Cassar of Fountain Hills passed away peacefully in her home on March 8, 2023, at the age of 92. Born on March 18, 1930, in Marsa, Malta., Mary was one of eight children and daughter of Carmel (Benjamina) Gatt, a Navy signal man in the British Navy who preceded her in death.

She is survived by her loving husband of 71 years, Emanuel (Manny). She was blessed and survived by her sons, Dennis (Mia), Steven (Connie), and daughter, Charlene, and son, Patrick who preceded her in death. Also survived by Mary are her six dear grandchildren, Erin (Ben), Shannon (Casey), Caitlin (Justin), Kevin (Amanda), Garrick, and McKenna (Ben), as well as her precious great-grandchildren, Sabella, Lillyanna, Delaney, Kayden, and Easton.

Mary was always very active with her church, either by participating as one of the Ladies of the Altar known as "The Dirty Dozen," a Eucharistic Minister, member of the Divine Mercy Core Prayer Group, as well as a member of the Christian Mothers.

Mary came to the United States with her family from Malta in 1950 and resided in Dearborn, Mich., until Emanuel followed her to the States and they were married at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in 1951. Mary raised their family from 1955 to 1980 in Allen Park, Mich., at which time they moved to Fountain Hills, where she remained.

Mary was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother (Nanna) and great-grandmother (Nanna Mary). Keeping a clean home, cooking, baking and making the life of her family special and "just so" meant everything to Mary and defined her life. More importantly, her devotion to our Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother was always at the core of her existence.

Mary was instrumental in passing on her values and faith, as well as her and Emanuel's love stories and childhood experiences on to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mary was the matriarch of her family, proof that family is everything and comes first. Her constant and un-failing devotion to her faith proved instrumental in her peaceful passing from this world to the next. Mary's un-failing dedication to God is reflected in the beautiful life she lived.

Mary will be remembered most for her caring, patient and loving manner in which she treated each person she encountered, but most importantly her complete devotion expressed toward her husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mary will be greatly missed by all who knew her, but her love and legacy will live on through all those whose life she touched.

A memorial/celebration of life service will be held at Messinger Mortuary in Fountain Hills on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, from 5-8 p.m., Rosary beginning at 6 p.m. A Requiem Mass will be held at St. Bernard of Clarvaux on Thursday, March 16, at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Francis Catholic Cemetery, 2033 N. 48th St. Phoenix, Ariz. Reception for all family and friends will commence after interment at St. Bernard of Clarvaux Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable donation to Fr. Simon's Maria Africa Foundation (mariaafrica.org), which provides children and families with much-needed food, shelter, running water and education they need to break the cycle of poverty and live better lives.

Gayle L. Harvey

Gayle L. Harvey 1931-2023. On Friday, March 3, 2023, Gayle Louise Harvey, at the age of 91, went home to be with the Lord, after a brief illness. Gayle, who loved the Arizona foothills, had lived in the Fountain Hills and Rio Verde area for over 20 years, after having lived in other suburban areas of Phoenix.

Gayle was born at Fair-

view Park Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, on Sept. 11, 1931. Her early years were spent in Berea, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her father, William S. (Jack) Gillaspy; her mother, Violet L. Gillaspy (Schelkopf); and her brother, Charles W. Gillaspy (Bill). She is survived by her three daughters and two grandchildren, all of whom were her source of pride, Susan Harvey, Fountain Hills, Kathleen Samp (Harvey), Cape Coral, Fla., and Teri Bowers (Harvey) and husband, Tom, Cape Coral, Fla. Gayle is also survived by two grandchildren, Ryan D. Samp, San Francisco, Calif., and John P. Glancy, Baltimore, Md.



Gayle Harvey

Gayle graduated from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. She began her education at OSU 1949-1951, then "life got in the way" with the birth of her three daughters. While raising three young children, she returned to college in 1962 proudly accepting her bachelor's degree in education from OSU in June 1964. Gayle was a lifelong educator, retiring from the teaching profession after 36 years in the classroom. She began her career in Ohio, and subsequently continued her career after her move to Arizona. During her career she taught all ages in Wapakoneta, Lima, and Columbus, Ohio, plus Avondale, and Fountain Hills.

Not only an educator, she was also a lifelong learner as well. She began her post-graduate work in Ohio and continued her studies in Arizona. She was certified to teach elementary (grades 1-8), reading (grades 1-12), special education (1-12), emotionally handicapped (grade 1-12), learning disabled (grade 1-12), and English as a second language.

She was also the family's "go to" person on matters related to proper writing and punctuation, and grammar, as well as etiquette. Additionally, Gayle's innate talent for design and her artistic eye was often sought by friends and family. We will miss her passion, her vision and her loving light. There are no services planned at this time. A celebration of Gayle's life well lived in service to others will be held at a future date.

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Elliot Harvey Morris

A man passed away this Feb. 22, 2023.

His name is Elliot Harvey Morris and he resided in Courtside Villas on Sterling Drive.

My wife and I knew him and a little about his troubled and painful history.

He was born on June 26, 1940. His early years growing up in his parents' home set the tone for his adult life, which was full

of anger and frustration. He was a very intelligent person with a university education and degree.

His business ventures were not always successful, but his mind was always actively chasing bigger and better dreams. He developed and successfully ran a vending business.

He had a small dog named Ziri which was his alternate world. He daily walked the Fountain Park with Ziri.

Elliot was a very troubled man which reflected in his day to day contact with people in our community. I saw a very different person than he projected.

Loneliness was a key to who he was and how he reacted. I am saddened by his passing but relieved that his pain has ceased.

We should all step back before passing judgment on anyone based only on their visible actions. There is always a story behind everyone's behavior.

Rest in peace, Elliot.

Charles L. Ofsthun

Charles Lynn Ofsthun, 91, of Fountain Hills passed away on March 3, 2023. He was born to Eugene and Verdell Ofsthun of Crystal, Minn., on Jan. 11, 1932.

He was a champion wrestler for Robbinsdale High School and the University of Minnesota. He was inducted into the High School Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, also named to the Minnesota "All Time High School Dream Team (1937-1997)." He was picked from 60 years' worth of wrestlers to represent his weight class. At the University of Minnesota, he won a national championship. Following graduation he served in the U.S. Army in Verdun, France for two years.

He dedicated his life to helping children and his chosen career was in education as a math teacher and counselor at Columbia Heights School District in Minnesota. Following his retirement to Arizona he continued to be an active golfer. His sense of humor and calm presence brought joy to everyone who knew him. He is predeceased by his parents and brother, Neil. He is survived by his wife, Carol; his sons, Pierre, Guy Jayme, Todd, daughter, Carly and their spouses; eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

His celebration of life will be held at Eagle Mountain Golf Course on Saturday, March 25, from 3 to 5 p.m. Please wear bright clothes, which he loved. Donations, if desired, can be made to Columbia Heights High School College Scholarship Program. RSVP Carol if you can join us.



Charles Ofsthun

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Also admitted in California

Jackie Miles honored with Discovery Center naming

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The International Dark Sky Discovery Center (IDS-DC) has announced a naming sponsor for the outdoor viewing terrace at the facility proposed for Fountain Hills.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, friends and family of longtime resident and civic leader Jackie Miles gathered to celebrate her 85th birthday. As her birthday surprise, Miles was presented with a certificate awarding her naming rights to the private viewing terrace at the IDS-DC.

Miles' friends and family donated \$25,000 to the center for her naming rights. She and her late husband, Jerry, have been a strong supporter of the IDS-DC and were founding members of the Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association, which helped obtain the International Dark Sky Community designation for Fountain Hills.

The Jackie Miles Private Viewing Terrace will be located just outside the observatory and will be used



Jackie Miles, right, receives her naming rights certificate joined by her daughter, Judy, at the 85th birthday celebration for Jackie. Photo courtesy of International Dark Sky Discovery Center

for a variety of functions including Discovery Center guests viewing a solar telescope during daylight hours, star parties at night and various events such as small weddings and other celebrations.

Thus far naming rights

are pledged for the Hyper-space Planetarium and the Pluto Snack Shop. IDS-DC President Joe Bill said those donors are anonymous. The donation for the snack shop is \$75,000 and the amount for the plan-

etarium was not disclosed.

The IDS-DC is an estimated \$25 million, privately funded project that is to be built along the Centennial Circle along with the Fountain Hills Community Center, Library/Museum and Community Garden.



Honoring women

Mayor Ginny Dickey, left, welcomes KEZ radio personality Beth McDonald at the Adero Scottsdale Resort in Fountain Hills on Wednesday, March 1, where McDonald presented her Woman of the Year Award. Valley school principal Susie Smith was the recipient of the award for 2023. Shea Homes is the title sponsor of the event and Adero Resort provided monthly prizes as well as the banquet site. Photo courtesy of Mayor Ginny Dickey.

Tree services approved

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council has approved a professional services agreement with Top Leaf Tree Services for tree services on Town property in Fountain Hills.

The agreement is for professional tree pruning

services up to \$100,000 annually, not to exceed \$500,000 over a five-year contract.

Top Leaf was selected through a bid process, according to Public Works Director Justin Weldy.

Weldy noted that in Fountain Hills there are trees maintained by different departments including

Public Works, Streets and Community Services. Public Works is responsible for roadway medians while Streets is responsible for 38-acres of medians as well as approximately 330 palm trees and 10,000 other trees of various species and sizes.

The council approved the agreement on a unanimous 7-0 vote.



11th Annual 2023 Essay Contest Winners

First Place

Olivia Sopeland

Second Place

Sophia Boyce

Third Place

Maggie Lucas & Jayden Harned

Honorable Mentions

Elle Young	Skyler Pond	Brooke Lyons
Jaysonn Thompson	Judd Krusheski	Emerson Uphoff
Allison Guerrette	Ryan Miller	Leah Newsham
Delilah Hudoba	Lucas Williams	Mason Taylor
	Christopher Towne	

Thank you to our title sponsor! 

We would like to acknowledge the FHHS English Department for its support of this contest:

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Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 58

Friday, March 17th 4pm - 7pm

Open to the public

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Corned beef and cabbage dinners - \$15
Corned beef sandwiches - \$10

Entertainment by: World's Smallest Quartet

Opinion

Market

 A letter from:
Judy Yates

The Fountain Hills Farmers Market has been a big success thanks to Betsy Hess, the new manager. One of the best calls I ever made was the day I called Betsy to see if she was interested in managing the Farmers Market. She obviously took on the task and hit a home run. Folks have enjoyed having both Art on the Avenue and the Farmers Market on the same day and adjacent to each other.


Hard to believe, over 14 years ago I brought this vision to the Town and they have helped and supported me to continue to have this event. Working with Linda Ayers at the Town has been a pure pleasure. My vision was to create an event that would bring foot traffic into the downtown area during the week. Based on feedback I have received from businesses on the Avenue, they say it is their best day of the week. I feel we have accomplished our goal.

We enjoy hearing from visitors on how they love bringing their guests to our event and spending their day in our beautiful town. It is a perfect opportunity to show off our Fountain, our park amenities, retail stores and enjoy one of our many restaurants.

I want to also thank the retail stores and restaurants on the Avenue for their support. Also, a huge thank you to all my artists that have participated in the past years and make this the event it is!

In closing, I just ask the Town to please consider having a public bathroom on the Avenue of the Fountains. This is a huge problem. Yes, I know funds are the problem, but all these events bring revenue to our town and making it more customer friendly should be a goal to help our downtown.

Dogs at fair

 A letter from:
Robert Albanese

The Chamber of Commerce organizes many events in our town, the largest ones being the fall and spring art fairs. When they announce events in the paper they always close with, "Please leave your dogs at home."

Unfortunately, too many people don't heed that sage advice and bring their four-legged creatures to the fairs. I was part of a food vendor in the fair, and we saw a lot of dogs. Big ones who stick their snout where it should not be, to the little ones who hamper the ability of seniors (and others) to get about. At the spring fair our booth witnessed many such events. There are two that stand out.

One of our volunteers was asked for water for his dog. He took the water to a nearby eating area and slowly poured the water on the back of the dog. Within seconds of being cooled off the dog began to shake the water off its back, throwing droplets of dirty water onto many people eating their lunch. The man and the dog walked away.

Another one took place on Sunday afternoon. A lady walked to our order table, which had food items on display, picked up her small dog and put all four paws on the table. I walked up and said to the lady, "Please remove your dog from the table." She replied while returning her money to her purse, "I will take my business elsewhere." I replied, "Please do so, thank you."

I realize the chamber can't really enforce a "no dog" policy, unless the entire perimeter is fenced off. Only trained service animals should be allowed. The arrogance and entitlement of some animal owners is overwhelming.

Massive effort

 A letter from:
Boe James

At the fold of the March

1 edition was the headline, "Sparks fly as Town Council alters Environmental Plan." I was most pleased to see Council member Brenda Kalivianakis propose the changes that made the plan significantly better.

I was happy that the proposed changes were enacted. To me, it made no sense that Council members Grzybowski and McMahon and Mayor Dickey opposed the very sensible changes.

The action with respect to the Environmental Plan is just one example of the reasons that the citizens of this great town elected Brenda Kalivianakis, Allen Skillicorn and Hanna Toth to Town Council. Cancelling consideration of the expensive study for a roundabout at Avenue of the Fountain and Saguaro that would never be built is but another example of why the voters chose Kalivianakis, Skillicorn and Toth to sit on Town Council.

Our three newest Council members ran on a commitment to listen to the citizens, to fiscal responsibility and to introduce change where/when good for the town. They have lived up to those pledges, carefully scrutinizing the budget and tracking where our local tax and grant (our federal and state tax dollars returned to the Town) dollars go. They have saved thousands of dollars so far, cancelled contracts that are no longer necessary and have authorized an audit of the Sheriff's contract.

We all should be applauding Council Members Friedel, Kalivianakis, Skillicorn and Toth for their massive effort despite repeated criticism from the mayor and other Council members. These Council members follow the Strategic Plan to "continue to improve the public health, well-being and safety of our Town" and the signature strategy under that priority "to promote the natural and built environment of Fountain Hills to improve the public health, well-being and safety of the community."

Disrespect

 A letter from:
Gene Slechta

"R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Find out what it means to me." Council member Skillicorn, let me tell you what I know it does not mean. When a team of expert citizens spends 18 months and thousands of hours trying to solve the town's issue of the decade, roads, and you can't wait for their findings. That is disrespect.

When you have a working process in place to begin official meetings, and your religious bias ushers in a waste of time that only serves to embarrass others, that is disrespect.

When your political Facebook page does not allow for comments from citizens, that shows disrespects your constituents.

When you insult our mayor on your Twitter account, that shows disrespect.

When you run a poll

on Twitter asking who is smarter between President Biden, Sen. Fetterman and Governor Hobbs, choosing Fetterman makes light of stroke victims. Disrespect!

When you photobomb the celebration of our students, you disrespect those kids.

When you spew conspiracies on Twitter regarding the 2020 election, you disrespect the courts of our great nation, the many audits debunking the conspiracy and our town.

When you were the only councilmember that failed to volunteer for any Town committees, you disrespected our citizens and the other council members.

When a classroom had a rainbow pennant tacked to the wall, you tweeted that the kids should be home schooled, disrespecting our LGBTQ community.

When you voted to remove the sign ordinance without allowing public hearings, you disrespected the citizens of our town.

When you walked away from your elected position in Illinois before your term was up, you showed disrespect, and why won't you do it to our town?

And when you show your linkage to Fountain Hills on Twitter, you disrespect our town and its citizens.

Please stop embarrassing us.

Representatives

 A letter from:
Cecil Yates

As we all know, in a representative republic (democracy), the majority of voters vote for representatives to make decisions on our behalf that represent the goals and ideas wanted. Whether the representatives win by 5, 50, 500 or 5,000 votes, the result is the same; the majority of voters wanted these representatives to represent us in making decisions.

Here locally, Hannah Toth, Brenda Kalivianakis and Allen Skillicorn won the majority of votes for council. This means the majority of voters wanted them as their councilmembers to make decisions on their behalf based on the ideas and goals presented by these same representatives. It just so happens that these representatives' ideas and goals align with councilmember Gerry Friedel's ideas and goals. These four representatives now make up the majority vote of the council.

The remaining two council members and mayor should be working with the majority to move Fountain Hills forward in achieving a better quality of life for everyone. We all love Fountain Hills and surely the entire council can focus on what we all agree on instead of what we disagree on. There is too much bickering, finger pointing, name calling and blame; even rumors of another recall.

Please pull out the Strategic and Economic Development Plan, re-read the Fountain Hills Mission - "To enrich and provide an active quality of life for all residents and visitors

through proactive community engagement, resolute stewardship of amenities and open spaces, while enhancing the health and over well-being of our town - and start working with the each other instead of against one another.

You don't have to agree on everything except that we want Fountain Hills to be better for everyone!

Moral authority

 A letter from:
J.P. Ward

Um, guys? Can you knock it off with the Russian flag? You may think you're sticking it to the libs, but who you're really sticking it to are Ukrainian-Americans and refugees.

You're handing Fountain Hills' moral authority to the Democrats on a plate by the mere virtue of them not waving Chinese flags or Swastikas back at you.

Do some soul searching and beg forgiveness from the descendants of John McCain, Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan. Democrats treat these Republicans better than your lot have.

Refreshing

 A letter from:
Jennifer Kriwer

It is really refreshing to have our newly elected council members carrying through with their campaign promises.

As a homeowner, if I need a new roof I will not contract for a pool, I will get a new roof. Made perfect sense for Town Council Members Friedel, Skillicorn, Toth and Kalivianakis not to move forward with a roundabout study at Saguaro and Avenue of the Fountains when our streets that have been neglected for so long need major repairs.

Responses

 A letter from:
Mike Scharnow

It was quite a robust "opinion" section in last week's paper. Being the former ink-stained wretch that I am, it's just too difficult not to respond to the responses.

First, I love Mark Twain! He also said, "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

Sage advice! Should we also start saying "Don't Illinois my Arizona?"

I'm not opposed to change at all. Or protecting our town. Or improving it. But all those things should be done rationally, intelligently and with an open mind to compromise.

As for conspiracies and the status of Town Manager Grady Miller, no one needs to fill my head with legally-protected information from executive sessions. Examining it from a logical and mathematical perspective, two plus two still equals four.

As for "sitting down," maybe those who pen letters much more frequently than me or constantly take three minutes at the public podium for diatribes should

Our viewpoint

We failed our kids

As you'll see in our 1A reporting, the Fountain Hills High School field project seems to be rolling ahead nicely. We don't want to put the cart too far in front of the Falcon, but it looks like local athletes, band members and students in general will have a safe, reliable field on campus next year.

The problem is that this should never have been a concern. It's no secret that Fountain Hills is one of the most affluent towns in the state, but now we're also the town that nearly let its kids go without a football field. And that's not where the problems stop, either, thanks to our collective decision this past fall to vote no on a proposed bond and override meant to benefit Fountain Hills Unified School District.

A lot of volunteer hours and a huge amount of private donations (mostly from a small handful of extremely generous individuals) have potentially made the football field replacement a reality. But what happens when our kids need new computers, uniforms, security upgrades, transportation and the like? Are we going to make our students and teachers fundraise for everything now? The answer is "yes." It's the answer we decided on and the reality they are already facing.

There's a notion floating around that the district must have mismanaged funds in order to need a bond or override. Given the fact that just about every other district in the state relies on similar bond and override packages, that's difficult to accept at face value. It doesn't help matters that nobody seems to be able to pinpoint where, exactly, that gross mismanagement of funds has occurred.

But, regardless of that and despite the wealth and giving spirit our community has become known for, we are now known as one of the only towns unwilling to provide much-needed funding for our schools.

When it comes to state spending on education, Arizona is nearly at the bottom of the pile. Unfortunately, that means bonds and overrides have become a part of the regular budgeting process for Arizona school districts, because there simply isn't enough provided to get past the bare minimum. And if you speak to any school administrator or educator, they'll likely tell you Arizona's funding for education doesn't even clear that very low bar.

"So, figure out a way to live within your budget," some say. We assume those same folks have never taken out a home or business loan. They probably paid for college and their cars out of pocket in one go. Never received a leg up from family or friends, right?

More importantly, do we want the bare minimum for our kids or do we want them to have every opportunity to succeed? The fact of the matter is that we dropped the ball on this one. The people footing this bill are our community's children. They will have less, and sacrifice more, because of our decision.

practice sitting down a little bit more?

I've tried golf. I'm not good at it and I don't like it. The occasional drink cart was always a welcome respite.

Whittling? I would likely slice off a finger or two given my clumsy handyman skills.

As for tap dancing, I took my beautiful wife to a Fred Astaire dance studio one time for an introductory lesson.

Let's just say I enjoy eating salsa, but dancing a salsa is way beyond my coordination abilities.

Luckily my Latina bride overlooks my clumsiness on the dance floor.

As for being "coached," wrong again. I've never been very coachable. I typically just describe things how I see them. I don't need to "simply divide and just smear the current council."

Seems the present council majority is already doing a fine job of that.

Bathroom Bill

 A letter from:
Larry Mynars

The March 7 issue of *The Arizona Republic* ran an article that detailed our State Senator John Kavanagh's introduction of Senate Bill 1040. This was another attempt at passing the so-called "Bathroom

Bill": Public schools; restrooms; reasonable accommodations. 1040 "Requires public schools to provide students who are unwilling or unable to use a group bathroom access to a private bathroom."

Providing a rationale for the bill Senator Kavanagh stated, "Modesty is a basic universal and historic human instinct." No reference source for this statement was given, and I'm pretty sure that the Senator is not an anthropologist. So, what was he thinking when he made the statement?

Seems he made the claim on the basics of religious history (remember the First Amendment here) where he is quoted later in the article: "It goes back to Adam and Eve hiding behind the bush after the apple was eaten." Multiple questions came to mind, including: How does injecting religion into school policy work? What about people who don't believe the Adam and Eve story? What were Adam and Eve wearing before the apple was eaten, if anything, because just hiding behind a bush doesn't sound like wearing clothing? What store did they shop at? This man is an elected official.

Perhaps the concerns of the "Bathroom Bill" would

(cont. on page 7A)

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Tangie Prieskorn and Amy Sanders

Letters

(cont. from page 6A)

be best dealt with on the local school and/or government level across the state. Each school district could collect input from local sources: Mayor and town council, community, school board, school administrators, teachers and of course the students who are most directly involved in the matter. Evaluate it and make the best rational decision, live with it for a while, and see what happens. In the meantime, we should direct Senator Kavanagh to issues that go beyond the scope of school bathroom etiquette. Really!

Tight rope

A letter from:
Chris Brant

You don't have to be glued to CNN or Fox to know that there is a chasm separating the two sides in Washington as wide as the Grand Canyon.

In Tara Kavalier's, of *The Arizona Republic*, recent interview of Congressman David Schweikert, who is the fourth-highest ranking member of the all-powerful Ways and Means Committee, he expressed determination to walk the tight rope to reach out across that void, for he believes there is room for bipartisanship. He's Chair of the oversight committee and he shared his optimistic vision.

The congressman doesn't believe it has to be partisan to investigate and speak up about the scale of fraud in the pandemic relief and enhanced unemployment. He added, there are other items in the tax code that aren't working and certainly Medicare fraud needs to be curtailed. He cited the issue of flooding the nation with 87,000 extra IRS agents may not be the most practical solution, but using technology, research, holding hearings and bringing in the experts to see if the parties can find agreement is much wiser.

The blatant scaremongering by the President doesn't help relations, as David Schweikert stated, "I've been the senior Republican over Social Security for the past year, I haven't heard a single person ever talk to me about cutting Social Security." However, he continued, solutions must be found, for in 10 years the program will be insolvent. Quick fixes are not the answer, nor are just increasing the age limit or the tax. Possible solutions may include voluntary options for workers, rewarding them through incentive plans, to work longer and tweaking the tax code to perhaps reduce checks for higher earners.

Positive brainstorming by both party members and run every idea through actuaries could work. Sounds like a plan to me!

Transparency

A letter from:
Rich Rutkowski

While people may have their own perspective about the proper role and limits of government, hopefully all would agree that our government should be transparent in and accountable for its actions.

Recently, we have learned that the federal government's narrative on some major issues which affect all of us have lacked full transparency. As for accountability, past history gives us good reason to be skeptical about whether public officials and federal agency leaders who failed to fulfill our expectations of transparency and integrity will be held accountable for their failure to meet those expectations.

Judicial Watch is a national organization whose mission is to promote the above expectations and demand accountability. The organization's very fitting motto is "Because no one is above the law!" To learn more about Judicial Watch and its work, the Thursday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. meeting of Fountain Hills AZ Tea Party at the Fountain Hills Community Center will have Mark Spencer, the southwest regional director of Judicial Watch as our special guest. Mark is also a retired Phoenix

police officer, so he has that valuable experience to share.

Anyone interested in this important subject is invited to attend the meeting. Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted. Please take advantage of this opportunity to listen, learn and participate.

Picnic

A letter from:
Dr. Cain Jagodzinski,
FHUSD Superintendent

I want to thank our sponsors for their donations toward the first annual FHUSD staff picnic on Friday, March 10. It was a fun, relaxing experience for our staff, and they truly enjoyed the food, music and activities.

The picnic would not have been possible without the generosity of our local sponsors. The event was free to all staff, and there was no cost to the district thanks to the support of our community sponsors. Noon Kiwanis provided hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks, Four Peaks Rotary provided their famous pretzels and Pop Daddy Kettle Corn provided both kettle corn and Italian ice. The organizations also worked the event, cooking and serving delicious food.

Through events like this, our staff experiences how special our town is.

Special thanks to Noon Kiwanis, Four Peaks Rotary, Safeway, Red Mountain Adventure Gear, Coast 2 Coast Crawlers, Pop Daddy Kettle Corn, American Legion and Bashas'.

Prayer

A letter from:
Don Scott

At 24 square miles, our little town has approximately one church per square mile. Now we seem to have another: The Fountain Hills Town Hall Council Chambers and Chapel.

I am not opposed to churches. I am opposed to turning Town government into a place of worship. With so many local churches in which to bow our heads, prayer and religion do not belong in government nor schools. (Nor do guns and silencers, but I'll leave that to another letter to the editor.) I do not want your prayer forced upon me any more than my prayer should be forced upon you. Yet here we are.

"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." - Matthew 7:5.

Manage your own faults, then help others manage their weaknesses.

Sheriff

(cont. from page 4A)

personnel.

◆ On Wednesday, March 8, deputies responded to the 17000 block of Shea Blvd. where a resident reported their purse was stolen from a nearby convenience store. The credit cards in that purse were then used at the We Ko Pa casino, located in Fort McDowell.

◆ On Wednesday, March 8, deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Arista Lane where two drivers were involved in a non-injury vehicle collision when one driver rear ended the other. Both drivers said they were distracted by the bigger collision that happened on the opposite side of the road.

Budget

(cont. from page 1A)

million. This includes \$4 million for maintenance and repair and \$653,400 for payroll and benefits.

General Fund revenue forecasts include \$13 million in local Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) or sales taxes and about \$9 million in state shared revenues. Total income for the General Fund is projected at \$23.6 million.

Since FY 21 the Town has received \$11.3 million in federal funds related to COVID relief, or

CARES Act in '21 (\$11.3 million); and two distributions from the American Rescue Plan ACT (ARPA) in '22 and '23 (\$4.2 million each year). Pock said he does not expect any "broad brush" federal programs to benefit the Town in FY '24.

However, \$2 million of CARES Act funding and \$8.4 million of ARPA funding, \$10.4 million total, has been allocated to the Streets Fund for paving projects expected to get underway later this fiscal year.

"All of the federal funds received were used to pay for public safety contracts with Rural/Metro and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office," Pock said. "Using federal funds to pay those contracts, which would have normally been paid by the General Fund, resulted in savings for the General Fund."

The Town Council held a workshop to go through the capital projects plan at a special workshop on Tuesday, March 14. A work session to go through the overall proposed budget plan is set for Tuesday, April 11. The council will consider adoption of the tentative budget plan at its regular session on Tuesday, May 2. Adoption of the tentative budget will have the effect of establishing the maximum budget proposal. Final budget adoption, along with an implementation memo, is scheduled for council consideration on Tuesday, June 6. The new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2023.

MCSO

(cont. from page 1A)

the issue.

Councilman Allen Skillicorn said if this could be millions of dollars it would be worth pursuing.

"I haven't seen details, but based on Councilman Spelich's experience it raises some concern," Skillicorn said.

Last year the Town hired the firm of Matrix Consulting to evaluate services the Town is receiving from MCSO and make recommendations for updates. The independent auditing firm of Heinfeld, Meech & Co. was also hired to review the contract. Based on information in these reports the Town has a list of items for discussion related to a new contract.

Other items being considered in the process include establishing staffing levels early in the process. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors needs to approve any agreement so it needs to be complete in enough time to process approvals before the new year.

As incentives, MCSO has approved pay increases as well as bonuses and incentives to improve recruiting and retention. The current fiscal year contract costs increased by 6% over the previous year. Considering the increase in staffing costs, the Town is anticipating a double digit increase in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Town is asking for an annual credit/offset mechanism in the agreement to reconcile annual charges. Since annual charges are "forecast" using prior year data, this option would reconcile differences to actuals at the end of the year.

The Town also wants the patrol District 7 to be dedicated to Fountain Hills. Currently the office includes personnel that patrol Rio Verde. The Town believes this would increase transparency in staffing and billing.

Town staff also wants a provision to implement monthly reports to increase visibility and allow comparisons of staffing, calls for service and investigation clearance rates.

With response time as the only existing performance measure in the IGA, the Town would like to develop additional performance standards.

Possible staffing changes could include an additional School Resource Officer, officially adding Deputy Service Aides (DSA) as a possible offset against the number of patrol deputies.

Councilwoman Brenda Kalivianakis said she has concerns that DSAs might be used in lieu of sworn deputies, reducing the ability for efficient use of law enforcement resources.

MCSO Capt. Larry Kratzer said he was an initial skeptic of the DSA program, but has now seen its advantages in freeing up sworn offic-

ers for additional duties. DSAs are used for follow-up paperwork on non-emergency complaints, assist deputies at emergency scenes with traffic control as well as freeing them from accident scenes more quickly.

Current MCSO staffing includes 19 patrol deputies, three sergeants, 2.55 detectives, 1.25 lieutenants, one school resource officer, one civilian clerical/office assistant and .75 captain. This is the equivalent of 3.8 beats. A single beat is a 24-hour, seven-day/week, 52 week posting.

There are currently no detectives based in Fountain Hills. MCSO has moved all detectives to a central posting location and dispatching them when needed in an area. This creates a situation where detectives are not familiar with the community, but also allows for more specialized investigators on each case. The Town would like to have detectives reassigned to the community.

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Mayor Dickey

Potential threat assessed

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

A “veiled threat” against Fountain Hills Mayor Ginny Dickey was brought up by a citizen during the Call to the Public session of the March 7 Town Council meeting by a citizen.

Stephen Gay said the social media threat appeared on the Facebook page of Councilman Allen Skillicorn. It was attached to the comment portion of an unrelated item posted by Skillicorn. Gay said it was not removed, but it appears to have been taken down.

The comment was under the name “Pedro Perez.”

There is some indication during the conversation that Perez lives in Hawaii, but also has a residence in Fountain Hills.

“Ginny Dickey lives VERY near me and isn’t worth the powder to blow her tp (sic) hell.”

Gay read the post as part of his public presentation to the council.

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) was contacted about the potential threat on Feb. 27, according to MCSO Capt. Larry Kratzer.

“(We) contacted Mayor Dickey and reviewed the post,” Kratzer said. “The incident involved an exchange of comments between several people on

an event post which was posted by another council member for an upcoming event in town.

“In the comment section, a person made a statement that could be construed as threatening in nature. It was determined by MCSO that the comment was not a threat as outlined in Arizona Revised Statute.

“(Statute) states that a person commits threatening or intimidating if the person threatens or intimidates by word or conduct to cause physical injury to another person or serious damage to the property of another. MCSO documented the incident by taking an incident report.”



Trail opens

Members of the Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills Trailblazers group welcome hikers to enjoy the newly opened North Leg Trail in the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve. The trail extends along a ridge from the Promenade Trail for .85-mile. There is a 345-foot elevation change from east to west, so the hike back will be a challenge. The hike is a 2.5-mile round trip from the Adero Canyon Trailhead. The Trailblazers have built all the McDowell Mountain Preserve trails by hand except for the Promenade, which is an old road grade. Photo courtesy of Trailblazers lead Bill Craig

Injury collision March 8

Wednesday, March 8, about 4:30 p.m. Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office responded along with Fountain Hills Rural/Metro Fire to a reported four-vehicle injury collision on Shea Boulevard near Arista Lane.

According to MCSO Capt. Larry Kratzer, investigators determined the driver of one vehicle suffered a medical event, which caused their vehicle to cross from westbound Shea, over into the eastbound lanes. That vehicle

then struck another eastbound vehicle head-on.

This collision also caused two other vehicles to be impacted. Additionally, two other vehicles sustained damage from the debris that was thrown by the impact of the other vehicles.

Three total patients suffered non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to local hospitals.

MCSO reported a secondary two-vehicle collision occurred in the westbound

lanes while the major accident was being investigated.

Traffic on Shea in both directions was severely impacted as all three lanes of eastbound Shea were closed until the investigation was completed and two lanes of westbound traffic were closed. Town of Fountain Hills Public Works staff assisted MCSO in cleaning up the debris to open up all lanes of traffic.

Health group to meet

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.

Sponsored by the Town of Fountain Hills Community Center

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, March 15

- *8 a.m., Geri-Fit.
- *8:30 a.m., Geri-Fit.
- *9 a.m., video gentle yoga; intermediate bridge; Time 4-U computer.
- *10 a.m., open paint studio.
- *11 a.m., Homewatch

Neighbor presentation.

- *12 p.m., poker.
- *1 p.m., Scrabble; Hand & Foot Cards.
- *2 p.m., Open jam session.
- *6 p.m., Bunco.
- *6:30 p.m., Metabolic support group; Ukulele for beginners.

Thursday, March 16

- *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., Spanish Club.
- *1 p.m., Table Talk for Women; Improver Line Dancing; Hand & Foot Cards.
- *5 p.m., Open paint studio; movie.

Friday, March 17

- *8 a.m., Geri-Fit

- *8:30 a.m., Geri-Fit
- *9 a.m., Pinochle, Aerobic Chair Exercise, intermediate bridge.
- *10:30 a.m., Golf Cards.
- *1 p.m., Woodcarvers & Open Table Art; Mexican Train Dominoes; Table tennis; Chess; Hong Kong Mah Jongg.

Saturday, March 18

No activities

Sunday, March 19

No activities

Monday, March 20

- *8 a.m., Geri-Fit
- *8:30 a.m., Geri-Fit
- *9 a.m., Table Tennis; Geri-Fit/Fall Prevention; free tax preparation.
- *10 a.m., Men’s Discussion Group.
- *10:30 a.m., advanced Conversational 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 exercise.
- *5:30 p.m., Hand & Foot Cards.

Tuesday, March 21

- *8 a.m., Peer-led exercise; Aerobic chair exercise.
- *9 a.m., video gentle Yoga.
- *9:15 a.m., health talks by Spooner.
- *9:30, Intermediate line dancing.
- *10 a.m., Hooks & Needles; open paint studio.
- *11 a.m., Advanced American Sign Language.
- *12 p.m., Blood pressure checks.
- *1 p.m., Mah Jongg; movie; Bingo.
- *5:30 p.m., Table tennis.

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As a public service, *The Times* publishes a list of items that have been reported lost or found in the community.

To report a lost or found pet or other item, call *The Times* at 480-837-1925.

Lost – Wallet lost at Irish Fest on Saturday. If found, please call 860-707-3322.

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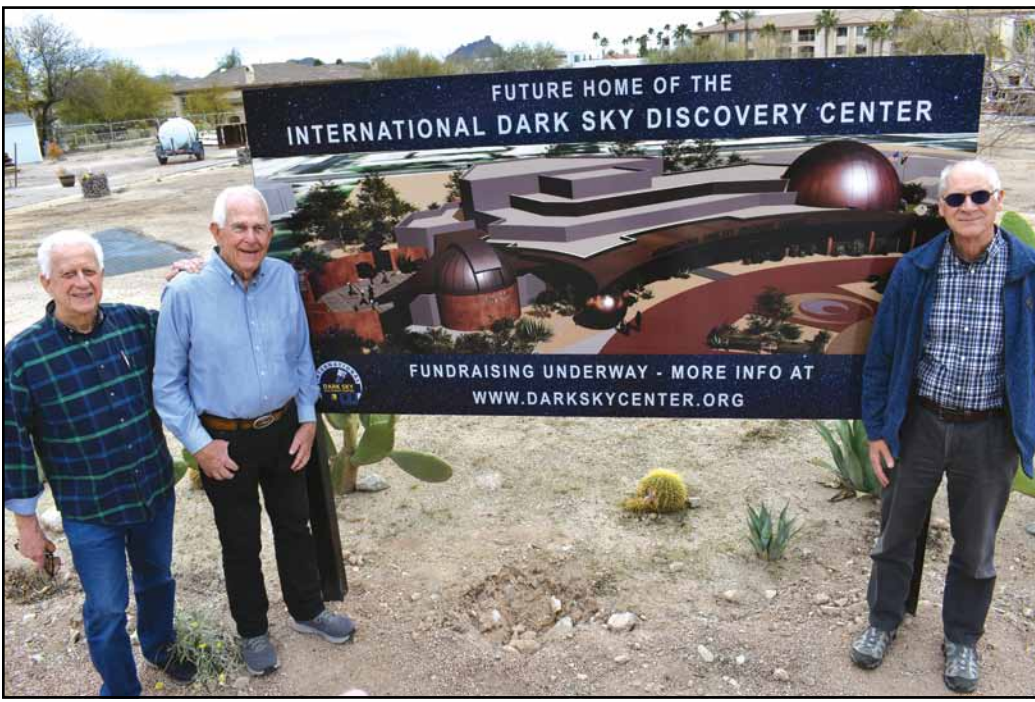
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Sign of the future

Two 8x4-foot signs with renderings of the future International Dark Sky Discovery Center were installed near Centennial Circle next to the library last week. Views from the front and west sides are shown. On hand to unveil the signs were IDSDC Board Members. From left are Walt Franklin, Jerry Butler and Scott Adams, who directed the project.

Sister Cities appoints Byron Roman

Fountain Hills resident Byron Roman has filled the Ataco board chair for Fountain Hills Sister Cities. This position became vacant with the recent retirement announced by Enrique Melendez, who managed the relationship between Fountain Hills and Concepción de Ataco, El Salvador, for many years.

Roman was born in Gua-

temala and has been a Fountain Hills resident since 1995. Byron spent 20 years as a soccer coach and mentor with the Fountain Hills Soccer Club and managed the student referee program.

Roman is the founder of "Planet A Challenge," and is involved with community service in environmental awareness. Roman also serves as an

advocate for the Hispanic community and lives in Fountain Hills with his wife, Jennifer.

He has accepted the appointment to the Board of Directors with Fountain Hills Sister Cities – Ataco Chair. Board leadership said it welcomes Byron Roman to the team and looks forward to continuing the relationship with their Ataco friends.



From left, President of Fountain Hills Sister Cities Christine Colley, new Sister Cities – Ataco Chair, Byron Roman and Sister Cities Treasurer Chandra Merica.

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Field

(cont. from page 1A)

Board for approval.

There was confusion and a discrepancy over the warranty agreement when the field was installed in 2014. AstroTurf bought out Nationwide Turf, the installer in 2014, and Board President Jill Reed said she had to find documentation of the 10-year warranty herself.

According to Reed, she is the only Board member still active from 2014, and she has worked with four financial directors and six superintendents in the nine years since then.

"Just like any business, [a] change in staff is no excuse for not having your paperwork in order," Reed said.

"But I appreciate the perseverance of this community and the staff and making sure our kids are going to have a field next year."

There were many hours put in behind the scenes by staff and volunteers to get the new field ready for next year, and students at Fountain Hills High School will benefit from their work.

Time

(cont. from page 1A)

event within the event will be Taste of Fountain Hills, which will feature "tastes" from local restaurants, \$5 samples of what each restaurant offers. In addition to all of those areas, be sure to stop by the beer garden,

check out the classic cars at the auto show and enjoy live music all day with Tommy Fontaine. A Ferris wheel will also be available, so guests will be able to enjoy a birds' eye look at Fountain Hills.

"Don't miss this exciting opportunity to sample some of Fountain Hills' favorite restaurants, explore and find out what our local businesses, clubs and organizations have to offer, take a ride on the Ferris wheel, check out classic cars at the auto show, listen to some great music and have a great time with your family and friends," reads a press release from the Chamber.

For more information about Fountain Hills Day, check out the insert in this week's newspaper of visit fchchamber.com.

VERDES Art League

Spring Art Show

2023

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9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Rio Verde Community Center
18816 Four Peaks Boulevard, Rio Verde

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So much to discover during Tour d' Artistes



Artists Veronique Benoit (left) and Judith Rothenstein-Putzer pose for a picture in Benoit's Studio during the 2023 Tour d' Artistes.



Lloyd Tarr's photography was on display at the Desert Vista Fiber Arts Studio #2. (Photo Courtesy of Lloyd Tarr)



Jackie Kahn wearing a hand-painted silk by Artist Sudha Achar at Sudha's Art Gallery & Books. (Photo Courtesy of Sudha Achar)



Patrons studying the jewelry at Sudha's Art Gallery & Books, 17005, E. Colony Drive. (Photo Courtesy of Sudha Achar)



Elaine Tarr showed off her fiber art and embroidery during the Tour d' Artistes. (Photo Courtesy of Lloyd Tarr)



Artist Bonnie Schweis stands near her commissioned pet portraits. Find more at Facebook/doggiefaces.com. (Photo Courtesy of Lloyd Tarr)

NPOA approves several plans Community invited to take part in county health survey

The Neighborhood Property Owners' Association's Committee of Architecture reviewed and approved 10 permit applications and one change request at the meeting held on March 7, with no applications in need of further review.

Approvals were as follows:

- *16540 Seminole – Owner, Oest; window replacement.
- *10406 Demaret – Owner, CM Realty; repaint.
- *16432 Skyridge – Owner, Finlay; reroof.
- *16804 Monterey – Owner, Quackenbush; repaint.
- *15911 Cholla – Owner, Krehbiel; repaint.
- *15711 Golden Eagle – Owner, Hauver; mailbox.
- *16246 Emerald – Owner, Mueller; repaint.
- *10461 Nicklaus – Owner, Mitchell; wall.
- *15635 Greystone – Owner, Wong; remodel.
- *17046 Parlin – Owner,

Broestsky; remodel.

Approved changes to existing permits:

- *15135 Mazatzal – Owner, Grotzky; 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.

Maricopa County Public Health (MCPH) is conducting a survey to better understand the health of the community and its needs moving forward.

"The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Survey, also referred to as the Community Health Assessment (CHA) Survey, is a comprehensive data collection effort to identify the strengths, challenges and opportunities to address and improve public health," according to the MCPH website. "Every three years, Maricopa County Public Health, in collaboration

with community organizations, municipalities and healthcare partners, conducts a survey to develop a deeper understanding from residents about issues related to quality of life, availability of essential services, physical and mental health, and more.

"The information gathered from the survey facilitates planning and guides the work toward making Maricopa County a healthier place for all."

The survey is open to anyone in Maricopa County

ages 12 and up and is available in 14 different languages. Responses are anonymous and kept confidential, and the survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

To take the survey or to learn more, visit maricopa-healthmatters.org. MCPH does not typically get a sizeable number of responses from Fountain Hills, Fort McDowell or the Verdes, and organizers are hoping to get a better view of these communities with the 2023 survey.

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Cool cats turn out for sock hop



Over 150 people attended the Sock Hop held at the Community Center on Friday, March 3, where sock hoppers danced to music of the Come Back Buddy Band.



Photos by Community Center staff

The Community Center staff dressed up in Sock Hop attire. From left, Jennifer Lyons, Joann Sabath, Kathleen Kruty, Mike Ciccarone, Renee Stephenson and Cheryl Ponzo playing bass guitar.

Oktoberfest moves to even years

The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce has announced that, going forward, Oktoberfest will take place every other year on even years, with the next celebration scheduled for 2024.

Chamber President and CEO Betsy LaVoie said guests can expect all the traditional elements that make Oktoberfest so special, including an imported German band, authentic German beer, pretzels, strudel, schnitzel and sauerkraut, as well as a parade and keg tapping ceremony.

“What makes this Oktoberfest truly unique is its charming location in the town of Fountain Hills,” reads a press release from the Chamber. “Against the stunning backdrop

of the famous Fountain Hills Fountain and views of Four Peaks and Red Rock, guests can enjoy an unparalleled experience of authentic German culture.”

LaVoie said the decision to hold the event every other year was inspired by the success of a similar arts and cultural event in Tucson. The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce Board and staff believe the event will become even more sought after if it occurs every other year.

“When Oktoberfest at the Fountain began almost two decades ago, Fountain Hills was one of the only Oktoberfest celebrations,” the press release continues. “Today, with 15 other Oktoberfest-themed parties happening

throughout the Valley, the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce is confident that their traditional and authentic event will continue to stand out from the rest.”

The Chamber has announced that Oktoberfest at the Fountain 2024 will take place on September 28-29 from 5-10 p.m. each day.

“I support the Chamber’s decision to hold Oktoberfest biannually,” added Mayor Ginny Dickey. “This special event takes a tremendous amount of planning and resources, and we look forward to working together to make it a spectacular and much-anticipated activity for our residents and visitors to enjoy for many years to come.”

Conservancy plans hikes

The Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills (SCFH) has a full slate of hikes and learning opportunities planned for the season. These are also educational events for those wanting to learn more about the desert and the surrounding area. With temperatures on the rise and spring flowers in bloom there are lots of reasons to get out and enjoy

All of the SCFH programs require pre-registration at scfh.org/events.

*Wednesday, March 15: Easy Pace Hike at Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden. Take a 1.5-mile hike at the Garden, a natural desert oasis. Learn more about indigenous plants and see the dam built in 1941 as a watering hole for cattle.

*Saturday, March 18: Medicinal Plants. Bernie Finkel will introduce and explain how certain plants found in the Garden and

elsewhere in the Sonoran Desert have been used for medicinal purposes by Native Americans. He will also touch on the history of medicinal plants and what makes a plant medicinal.

*Wednesday, March 22: Camp Creek Falls and Maricopa Trail. A scenic five-mile moderate hike from Blue Wash Trailhead down to Camp Creek and returning.

*Monday, March 27: Taking Great Photos at Dusk. Join Paul Stark to learn to work with light to capture what you’re seeing and get better pictures with your Android or iPhone.

*Wednesday, March 29: Stargazing & Sky Viewing. Vickey Derksen and the Star Dudes team up with SCFH during the first quarter moon in the Preserve – an amazing place to be when the Preserve is closed, and the sky is dark. On the short hike you might catch a glimpse

of a planet or identify constellations and stars while Vicky recounts some myths and stories held by ancient cultures about our sky. After the hike the Star Dudes will point their telescopes at the moon, star cluster and other deep-space objects.

*Wednesday, April 5: Exploring PATS in Payson. Payson has developed a network of interconnected in town trails that are fun to explore when it gets too warm in Fountain Hills. On this moderate hike we will explore about seven miles of mostly wooded forest with interesting rock formations.

When registering for activities pay particular attention to additional requirements for each, such as the amount of water recommended to bring and any other suggested equipment. Do not bring four-legged pets to these events.



From left, sock hop winners Nicole and Brett won the costume contest.

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WEEKENDER



Times photos by George Zelliff

Winners of the 11th annual Coalition Essay Contest.

2023 Coalition Essay Contest winners announced

Winners of the 11th annual Fountain Hills Coalition Essay Contest were honored during a ceremony hosted out of the District Learning Center on March 9.

In total, 13 students were awarded honorable mention recognition with a tie for third place, as well as a second and first place winner.

First place went to Olivia Sopeland (see related story), with Sophia Boyce tak-

ing second. Maggie Lucas and Jayden Harned tied for third place. Honorable mention recognition went to Elle Young, Jaysonn Thompson, Allison Guerrette, Delilah Hudoba, Skyler Pond, Judd Krushefski, Ryan Miller, Lucas Williams, Christopher Towne, Brooke Lyons, Emerson Uphoff, Leah Newsham and Mason Taylor.

Students chose one of the following prompts as the focus for their essays.

1. Think about your generation and the future. What concerns you most about your generation, and what do you believe can be done about those concerns? Or conversely, what stands out positively about your generation? Are you excited or nervous about the future? You can only choose one side to write about.

2. When you think about social media, and its impact on your generation, what do you think your

generation may be in the process of losing? Or what is it gaining? Pick a position and discuss if the benefits outweigh the costs or vice versa.

3. Identify a fictional character from a book, movie, anime or online show/series with whom you can connect and write about that connection and how that character has affected your life or the way you think.

Cash prizes included

\$1,000 for first place, \$300 for second place, \$100 for third place and \$50 for honorable mention. Title sponsor was the Verne C. Johnson Family Foundation.

Additional sponsors included Stephanie – Sami Fine Jewelry, Tait D. Elkie with Fountain Hills Law Firm, Stop & Go Driving School, Dan Kuchan, CPA; The Martinson Team with Homeowners Financial Group, Dori Wittgrig with

Sonoran Lifestyle Team at RE/MAX Sun Properties, and *The Fountain Hills Times*.

Organizers also wish to thank Fountain Hills High School English teachers for facilitating the essay contest, including Siiri Julian, Jamie Sunshine, Brent Olsen and Kimberly Flowers.

For additional information about the Fountain Hills Coalition, visit fccoalition.org.

Olivia Sopeland's essay

'Social media was hurting me mentally and physically'

There is so much negativity in our generation, and social media is one of the largest feeding grounds for it. When I think of social media influencers, rarely do I begin to think about how they have positively impacted young minds with their good morals and generosity. They set rigid beauty standards for young adults, making teens feel inferior.

May 29, 2020, was the day that social media broke me. The COVID-19 lockdown had recently started. The weather was starting to get warmer, the kind of heat where it feels like someone's blowing a hair-dryer on your face.

This signaled the beginning of swimming season in Arizona. But this year felt different; I didn't feel the usual excitement to breathe the fresh sum-

mer air and take a dip in the pool to escape the heat. I had recently been diagnosed with PCOS, a thyroid and hormonal condition. PCOS has many symptoms, but there was only one I was concerned about – my weight.

In a span of six months, I had gained nearly 50 pounds. I would stand staring at myself in a swimsuit, debating if I wanted to walk out to the pool to swim with even just my family. My stretch marks and skin rolls had nowhere to hide. My cute summery bikinis and tank tops that I had once loved now made me feel insecure and ashamed.

I spent most of my spare time mindlessly scrolling through social media, seeing gorgeous thin girls wearing itty-bitty bikinis on their personal yachts; it made my heart ache. I read

articles about their lifestyles, diets and workout routines. I scrolled through their comments upon comments, worshipping them for physical qualities that I didn't possess.

I researched dieting tips to help me look more like them. Unfortunately, the fastest dieting tip wasn't the healthiest one, because there wasn't much food involved at all. This rapidly unfolded into an uncontrollable habit. That day I decided to go for a run with only a protein shake in my system. I often did this when I felt my lowest. After a large, heaping serving of insecurity from looking at social media stars, I was fueled up for my run. About 30 minutes into my jog I ended up on the hot asphalt crying – contemplating the choices that brought me to this street corner.

Social media was hurting me mentally and physically.

We are in a time of ever-changing beauty standards, from the body types of runway models with slim figures and long legs, to hourglass figures with implants, liposuction, large busts and basically any plastic surgery you can imagine.

We live in a world where women's body types are trends. Where one day a body figure is "in" and the next they are considered out of style. Body types shouldn't be something that goes in and out of fashion. Social media is a driving force for our internal self-loathing monologues. We have lost sight of what is truly important.

Internal beauty far outweighs our fleeting external beauty. Social media

and its addictive, drug-like effects blind us from what's important. We aren't defined by our looks, and our worth doesn't lie in our facial features or how our body looks from a certain angle.

We've let others determine beauty's definition. Who decided small noses and waists are beautiful but not stretch marks and acne scarring? Not only do the effects of social media harm our minds, it can affect the way we take care of our bodies.

According to Eating Disorder Hope, "Exclusive statistics have revealed that in the past three years the number of children and teenagers searching for help for an eating disorder has risen by 110 percent." What causes this sudden surge? According to another study done by Polaris

Teen Center, 69 percent of females (ages 10 to 18) state that photographs of models and celebrities in the media motivated their "ideal" body shape.

Social media is leaving a significantly negative impact on our generation.

The effects of social media can't easily be fixed, but I believe we can all work to support our generation in the fight regarding mental health. Everyone struggles with their appearance, and we are all broken people.

But positivity on social media can impact someone and patch up the holes within their soul. I hope that my story can one day speak in someone else's heart and give them hope and comfort, knowing that you can grow past your insecurities and live in the truth that social media doesn't define you.

Fountain Hills Community Foundation awarding 30 grants

Thirty local organizations will receive grants totaling slightly more than \$60,000 from the Fountain Hills Community Foundation at a gifting ceremony on Thursday, March 30, at DC Bar & Grill.

Full and partial grant requests were scored and assessed by a six-member FHCF committee from qualified applicants who completed the Foundation's application process. This year's total award amount is up from the 2022 total of \$49,125,

thanks to a very successful 2022 Flutter at the Fountain fundraiser.

"These grants cover very diverse needs in our community," Dr. Bill Myhr, chairman of the gifting committee, said. "They support a number of student, adult and senior age group activities which make Fountain Hills a special place to live."

Recipients for the 2023 grant awards include Fountain Hills Sunset Kiwanis Club, Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Preven-

tion Coalition, Reigning Grace Ranch, 4-H Empowered to Make A Difference, Arizona Junior Achievement, Fountain Hills Little League, Fountain Hills Athletic Booster Club, Fountain Hills Golden Eagle Foundation, Fountain Hills Boys & Girls Club, Fountain Hills Women's Club, New Journey Lutheran Church, Falcon Fiesta, Rescue Pals, FHUSD Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), Fountain Hills Theater, Fountain Hills In-Home Concerts, Foun-

tain Hills Soccer Club, Fountain Hills Community Chorus, Encore for More, Fountain Hills Poinsettia Tree Project, Tender Little Hearts, Fountain Hills Munch and Music, River of Time Museum, Fearless Kitty Rescue, HARTT Animal Rescue, Foster Your Future, Fountain Hills Community Band, Fountain Hills Lions Club, Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association and Extended Hands Food Bank.

Members of the recipient groups are asked to attend

the gifting ceremony from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 30. The casual event will be held on the patio of the DC Bar and Grill and is a networking opportunity for the recipients and the FHCF board members.

Later in the evening, foundation members are encouraged to attend the FHCF's annual meeting which convenes at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact the FHCF at info@FountainHillsGives.com.

The Fountain Hills Community Foundation assists

with additional funding for educational, cultural and humanitarian nonprofit organizations operating within Fountain Hills and the surrounding community. The organization, originally known as the Sunridge Foundation, was formed in 1995. To date, it has provided more than \$1.5 million in financial support for local nonprofits.

For more information on the grant process and how to become a donor, visit FountainHillsGives.com.

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Schools

Board approves contracts, disagrees on vaping prevention program

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board met last Wednesday, March 8, for an executive session and a business meeting. The executive session was for discussions on employee salary and benefits negotiations, and the Board approved eight action items related to meet and confer staff agreements.

After informational reports from each Board member, the Board honored Falcons of the month. The students honored from each school were Jillian Henry, Jordan Ruiz and JP Cahill, and the staff who received honors were Talia Houseal, Chris Peterson, Austin Keating and Valerie Fernandez.

The Board then heard reports from Student Government and middle school administrators. The high school STUGO is planning prom and fundraising opportunities through the

Fountain Hills Coalition's Falcon Promise Pledge to avoid vaping, drinking and other drugs.

The middle school principal, Dr. Kimberly Weeldreyer, and Dean of Students, Valerie Reichler, were both new to their positions this year. They delivered a presentation on their goals and progress, like building a PBIS store and bringing Red Ribbon Week back, and the Board was satisfied with their ongoing work.

After public comments and a 5-0 decision to authorize Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski to move forward with replacing the high school field, the Board moved on to more action items. Many items, such as policy advisories, new course proposals and details about the before and after school programs, had been discussed before. The Board quickly approved these items upon second readings.

Jagodzinski clarified that even though all 11 new

course proposals at the high school were approved, they may not get implemented right away. With the move to a trimester schedule, there will be several logistical matters to work out before they can be taught.

The high school football team needs a new head coach, but the Board did approve the team trip to the Cal Lutheran Football Camp in Thousand Oaks, California this July. Jagodzinski believes the school will hire a new coach by the time of the trip, but the language was changed so the team can still attend with assistant coaches and district staff attending as chaperones.

The Board approved the name "Club Falcon" for before and after school programs. They also approved the pricing at \$5 daily for before-school care, and \$10 daily for after-school care.

The Board approved the new salary schedule for certified staff and administration. They also approved the issuance of

new contracts to go out to certified staff so they can sign and return for next year. The vote to approve the school and work calendars for 2023-2024 passed 4-1. Board member Dana Saar voted against the calendars because he wants a balanced yearlong school calendar instead.

"For 30 years, I've voted against this," Saar said. "I'll vote against this tonight."

That wasn't the only point of disagreement in the meeting. The Board approved the Fountain Hills Coalition's CATCH My Breath program 3-2, and they approved the job description of a childcare specialist 4-1.

Board members Madilyn Reid and Libby Settle voted against teaching the CATCH My Breath E-Cigarette prevention program in Fountain Hills classes. The Coalition will acquire the curriculum to teach the program from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, and "for that reason, my vote will be dif-

ferent," Settle said.

Settle and Reid each said they opposed the anti-tobacco program because the Coalition would have to share anonymous data with the county. The county asks for survey data before and after the program to determine how successful it was in getting children to understand E-cigarettes are addictive and unhealthy.

This was the second Board discussion on CATCH My Breath. After the first discussion, the district changed the language to make surveys on an opt-in form, but that was still not enough to convince Reid or Settle.

"I do still have a little bit of concern with the surveying of students," Reid said. "I know that it's anonymous, I'm just one of those people that shy away from data collection."

The childcare specialist position was discussed and tabled at the Feb. 22 work study session. The language of the position was

changed from supporting "with specific responsibility for implementing programs for the personal and emotional growth of the referred students," to "with specific responsibility of supporting teachers in the personal and emotional growth of the referred students."

The childcare specialist position is in line with the Arizona early learning social emotional standard per state law, and the change in language means they can only assist teachers in personal and emotional growth. Reid had concerns over "personal and emotional," and voted against the position description.

The Board will meet next for a work study session on Wednesday, March 22, at 5 p.m. All meetings are held in the FHUSD Learning Center and are livestreamed and recorded on the FHUSD YouTube channel. To find old meetings, click on the "Live" section on the FHUSD YouTube home page.

PTO hosts another successful book fair



Times photos by George Zeliff

Alene Phillips helps her daughters, Lianna, Shaylin and Reid, as they shop at the PTO's Scholastic Book Fair.



Sports fan Aiden Smith added more memorabilia to his collection with this Diamondbacks poster.



Students like Braxton Spears, pictured above, were able to visit the Book Fair before school and all PTO proceeds will be put back into the district.



Ivy Butler, left, and Riley Jacobi, right, shop for pens and pencils to add to their collection.

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The Arts & Entertainment

'Angels in America' has final run this weekend

Fountain Hills Theater (FHT) is showing the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Angels in America: Part One, Millennium Approaches."

"Angels in America: Part One, Millennium Approaches" is a metaphorical and symbolic vision of America during the mid-1980s. In the midst of the AIDS crisis and a conservative Reagan administration, New Yorkers grapple with life and death, love and sex, heaven and hell.

In Tony Kushner's play set in New York City, a gay man is abandoned by his lover when he contracts the AIDS virus, and a closeted Mormon lawyer's marriage to his pill-popping wife stalls.

Other characters include the infamous McCarthy-ite lawyer Roy Cohn, the former drag queen who works as a nurse Ethel Rosenberg and an angel.

"Angels in America" is an epic drama that has deservedly earned awards for its portrayal of contemporary America - its mixture of brutal reality and miraculous fantasy, its tragedy and comedy, cruelties and compassion," a press release reads.

"Angels in America: Part One, Millennium Approaches" is directed by Chris R. Chávez and stars Rob Allocca, Keith Chandler, Raheem D'Angelo, Debra Lyman, Katie Marburger, Cindy Pruett, Van Rockwell and Pat Russel. Presented through Special Arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

This presentation is rated R for sexual situations, language and adult content. For Mature audiences 18 and older.

"Angels in America: Part One, Millennium Approaches" plays at FHT

through March 19. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 and seniors receive a \$5 discount on all Thursday performances. Group, Active Duty and Veteran discounts are available.

All performances are at Fountain Hills Theater on its Mainstage at 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd. Tickets are available through the Theater Box Office by calling 480-837-9661 x3 or by visiting fhtaz.org. Box Office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For additional information, call Fountain Hills Theater Artistic Director Peter J. Hill at 480-837-9661 x7.



From left, Rob Allocca, Keith Chandler and Cindy Pruett cast in "Angels in America: Part One, Millennium Approaches," finishes its run at Fountain Hills Theater this weekend. Tickets can be purchased at fhtaz.org.

Spring Choir dates are set

Tickets for the 2023 Fountain Hills Community Chorus Spring Concerts are now available for purchase. The concerts are on Saturday, April 1, at 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 2, at 4 p.m.

The theme for the Spring Concerts is "Movie Music," featuring songs from popular movies. Tickets can be

purchased online at fhcc-az.org or at eventbrite.com/fountain-hills-community-chorus-spring-concerts-tickets-492045841357. They can also be purchased from any choir member or at Cards of Fountain Hills, 12645 N Saguaro Blvd., Suite 6. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door.

Swingtime plays WWII favorites

Take a musical journey down memory lane as Swingtime remembers the favorite songs of World War II on Tuesday, March 21, at 1 p.m. in the Town of Fountain Hills Community Center.

Music has played an important role in many major conflicts, yet no other war offered a wider range of music than World War II. From swing to sentimental ballads to stirring service

songs, Swingtime takes a nostalgic tour of unforgettable war-time tunes.

The afternoon's program includes such memorable pop hits as the Andrews Sisters', "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," Doris Day's signature song, "Sentimental Journey" and the haunting acapella of "Comin' In on a Wing and a Prayer," by The Song Spinners.

All attending this special

Swingtime session are invited to contribute their own thoughts and feelings about the music, the music makers and to share their own special memories.

Membership in the Community Center is required to attend Swingtime meetings. For more information, contact Bill Whittaker at 480-837-7961 or the Community Center at 480-816-5200.

A spin-off of the Golden

Age of Radio, Swingtime plays vintage recordings from that magical era when swing was king. Listen to the big bands and small ensembles, the crooners and singing groups. Remember the grand ballrooms, the dance crazes and dance contests. While not all the music of the time was swing, the term itself defines that period from the depression years through World War II.

'Scapin' to open at theater

Fountain Hills Theater announces the opening of the comedy, "Scapin."

In this wild physical comedy, the crafty servant, Scapin, jumps into the story as he first promises to help in the affairs of his neighbor's son, Octave, then to aid in those of his own charge, Leander.

Both young men have fallen in love with unlikely and penniless beauties and both need money to help solve their dilemmas. Scapin knows a good ruse will always win the day and he drafts Sylvestre, Octave's servant, into his schemes.

"Brimming with zany characters and improvisation, this play is an uproarious romp of hugely theatrical proportions," a press release reads. "Adapting and updating Moliere's 1671 original with topically fresh dialogue, dance hall music and the occasional soft shoe routine, the cast takes great joy in blowing

the fourth wall to pieces as they portray servants, ruthless employers and the two sets of young lovers - complete with tall boots and appropriately heaving bosoms - all with a penchant for mayhem."

"Scapin" is directed by Peter J. Hill and is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC servicing the Dramatists Play Service Collection.

"Scapin" will play

March 24 through April 9 with performances on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Individual tickets are \$35 for adults and \$18 for youth

17 and under. Seniors receive a \$5 discount on all Thursday performances. Group, active duty and veteran discounts are available.

All performances are at Fountain Hills Theater on its Mainstage at 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd. (The Corner of Saguaro and Rand). Tickets are available through the theater box office at 480-837-9661 x3 or by visiting fhtaz.org. Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

For additional information, call Fountain Hills Theater Artistic Director, Peter J. Hill at 480-837-9661 x7.

Summer market planned

The River of Time Museum & Exploration Center is now accepting gently used household items which can be dropped off at the museum Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., to help raise funds for the museum.

The Summer Market will be held each week, Wednesday to Saturday, May 6-31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again June 1 to Aug. 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Merchandise will change frequently, so visitors are encouraged to shop early and shop often. Donations are appreciated and receipts are available upon request.



Below is a list of current advertisers with live music between March 15 and March 21.

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- Saguaro Lake Marina ~ 480-984-2425
- Wednesday - 4 pm - Scott Hallock
- Friday - 4 pm - Ian Eric
- Saturday - 4 pm - Moon Dog
- Sunday - 4 pm - Eric Miller

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 - Jeremy Marsh
- Saturday - 6-9 pm - Ageing Hipsters

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

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'Razzle Dazzle' opens April 14

Fountain Hills Theater announces the opening of "Razzle Dazzle: A Review Preview Revue," a musical trip down the Great White Way featuring classic tunes and modern hits.

Talented regulars and special guests take the stage in a celebration of Broadway and Fountain Hills Theater. There are prizes to be won, songs to be sung and the announcement of the Theater's 37th season.

"Razzle Dazzle" is directed by Peter J. Hill, musically directed by Kathleen Berger, choreographed by Noel Irick and hosted by Patrick Russo.

"Razzle Dazzle" will

play April 14 - 23 with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Ticket price \$25 for adults and \$18 for youth under 17 and students. All performances are at Fountain Hills Theater on its Mainstage at 11445 N. Saguardo Blvd. (The Corner of Saguardo and Rand).

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

March 22 is World Water Day

Tickets for "Grand Canyon: Sculpted and Sustained by Water," are online now at riveroftime.com. The talk by Mike Buchheit celebrates World Water Day Wednesday, March 22. The talk starts at 4:30 p.m. at Fountain Hills Community Center.

The \$10 admission fee for members and \$12 for non-members support the important mission of the River of Time to share the rich natural and cultural history of the lower Verde River Valley.

Buchheit is currently exhibiting his photographs in the Art Gallery at the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center. His talk on March 22 will offer a deep dive into the world's most famous chasm.

As a landscape photographer, outdoor educator and 30-year park resident, Buchheit will share photographs from his extensive portfolio and stories from his many excursions and experiences atop and between the Canyon's ancient walls.

Buchheit's fine art photographs will be on display through Friday, March 24, in the Museum Art Gallery. Prints are available for sale.

The River of Time continues its mission to educate the public about water conservation and Buchheit provides a partnership that brings awareness to how people can help in that mission.



Art demonstrations continue

Kelly Bowman is the next artist to be featured at Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery. Bowman's acrylic paintings will be on display at the Gallery for two weeks, on Tuesdays, March 21 and March 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"I live, think, play and am inspired by color," Bowman said. "I cherish the colors of things in nature and surround myself with color. Along with color, I have always had a connection with animals, in particular, dogs and horses. It only made sense combining them to create happy, energetic, touching and telling portraits of animals."

Bowman's inspiration for paintings come from her love of animals, the desert and her experience of the Southwestern lifestyle.

The Gallery is located



Acrylic Painter Kelly Bowman will feature her art at the Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery on Tuesday, March 21 and 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 fountainhill-artistsgallery.com.

Munch and Music set

The next Munch and Music event is set for this Friday, March 17.

Attendees are encouraged to come and see the Big Band Grandstand playing at the Community Center from noon until 1 p.m.

Munch and Music is a series of four springtime concerts that bring in high-quality performers from around the Valley. Every concert is free to the public and is hosted at the Fountain Hills Community Center.

Museum changes hours

Effective March 1, 2023, the River of Time Museum will be closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday for the rest of the year.

The Museum's new hours will change to Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the month of May.

In the summertime, from June through August, the hours will change to Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Following summer, from September through December, the Museum hours will revert to Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On occasion, the Museum may have a special tour on a Tuesday which will be marketed in advance. For more information, visit riveroftime.center, call 480-837-2612 or send an email to admin@riveroftime.center.

New Storytellers event planned

Fountain Hills Friends of the Library (FHFL) is sponsoring the second in a series of storyteller events.

Having produced the last well-attended storyteller event in November, FHFL presents "Family Matters," held on Thursday, March 23, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center. This event is free and no registration is required.

This second in the storyteller series will offer true stories from five to seven Fountain Hills residents about the importance of family in their lives.

"We invite the public to attend what promises to be another exciting program," a press release said of the event.

Donations will be accepted to Friends of the Library to support the

many programs offered by the library including those for children and teens, an annual scholarship for a graduating senior and the

annual paper shredding event being held on Saturday, April 1, in the Library parking lot.

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 mcladaz.org/locations/fountain-hills/ by clicking "Browse Events." As always, this week's schedule is subject to change.

Activities are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, March 16
*10 a.m., Time for Toddlers.

*1 p.m., Inside the Lines-Adult Coloring.

Monday, March 20
*10 a.m., Time for Preschoolers.

Tuesday, March 21
*6 p.m., Family Book Club.

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.

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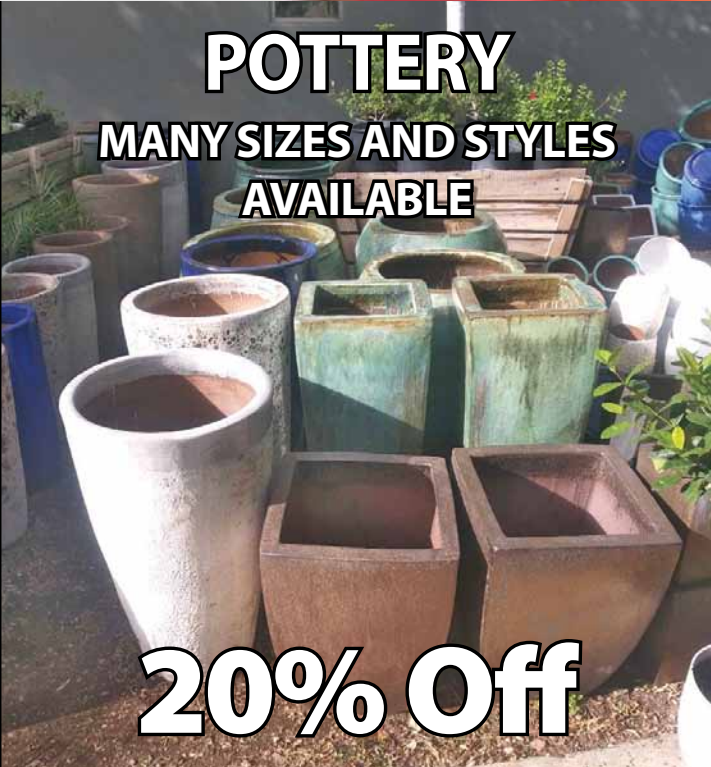
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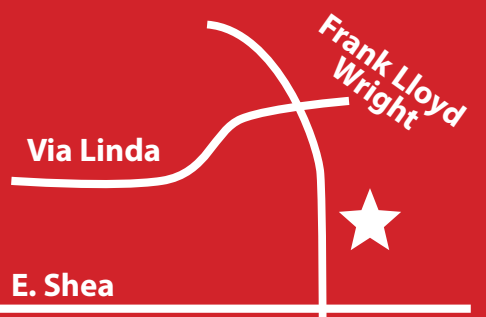
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Fountain Irish Fest goes green



Times photos by Ryan Winslett

Hundreds of visitors gathered around Fountain Park on March 11 to witness the greening of the Fountain at noon and 4 p.m. at Irish Fountain Fest.



Elaine Morrissey stayed plenty busy passing out frosty beverages during Fountain Irish Fest.



Stacy Anderson, David Bossart and Bette Bossart, visiting from Fargo, N.D., enjoy some music while waiting for the Fountain to turn green.



Trotter's Wake was the first band to take the stage at Irish Fountain Fest. Other musical entertainment included Kilted Spirit, Phoenix Pipe and Drum Band and Traveler.



Raenette and Gary Hamann play a friendly game of cornhole.



Silas Arola, visiting with his family from Minnesota, enjoys one of the inflatable attractions.



Green event shirts and beads flew off the shelves as visitors arrived.



The festive Mayerniks and Friels gather for a group shot.



Times photo by Bob Burns

A shot of the 4 p.m. greening of the Fountain, as seen from a trail in the nearby Preserve.

Sports

Falcons overcome challenges, move to 5-1

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School beach volleyball team won twice and improved to 5-1 last week. The Falcons held their second round of challenge matches in between the two games, and there was some shake up at the top of the line up.

Head coach Peter McGloin's goal is to get his players to play matches like they play in practice. The challenge matches between two Falcon pairs help because they imitate the high stakes of winning and losing by having players move up or down the line up, and the players have to dig deeper into their bag of tricks to defeat their teammates.

"I think it's more of a competitive game because you've been seeing them play for so long, and all of your shots are instantly more predictable to them," junior Bella Garman said. "A team doesn't know I'm

going to do this every time, but Sophie and Elle know I'm going to do it every time, so you have to push harder and unleash your arsenal."

Garman and her partner, junior Sydney Boeshans, are 5-1 so far this season. They played at the two pair for two matches before besting juniors Sophie Wickland and Elle Schulze on Tuesday, March 7, and reclaiming the one pair.

The competition between the top four Falcons was fierce. The first set was decided 23-21, and then it went to a third set after Garman and Boeshans lost 17-21. They were losing 3-8 in the tiebreaker, but they turned on the jets and won 15-13.

The Falcons didn't lose a set in either of their matches against Veritas Prep on Monday, March 6, or North Valley Christian on Wednesday, March 8, last week. North Valley Christian is a new school with only freshmen and sophomores on their roster, but McGloin said the Fal-

cons did what they needed to do to win.

"We controlled the controllables well," McGloin said. "We were able to play to our potential, and even when the ball was moving slow, we were able to move fast and play with purpose."

In the fifth pair, juniors Bree March and Savannah Peterson won 21-14, 21-19 on Monday, and 21-0, 21-0 on Wednesday. The pair is 5-1 so far this season, and last year, they combined to play in only seven varsity games.

Senior Liv Sopeland went 2-2 on varsity last year, and she's already 4-2 paired with sophomore Lucia Kalmbach this year. They beat Veritas Prep 21-7, 22-20 on Monday, and then beat North Valley 21-6, 21-14.

"It takes off a lot of pressure," Garman said. "We're confident that our teammates are going to win their games, and then there's so much less pressure on us. All of our teams this year are very good. Everyone's very skilled."

Sophomores Kitrick Garman and Jocelyn Bloedel have played the three pair spot all year and remained perfect this week. They improved to 5-0 with a 21-13, 21-15 win over Veritas Prep, and a 21-7, 21-9 win over North Valley Christian.

Boeshans and Bella Garman played in the two pair on Monday and were back at one for North Valley Christian. They beat Veritas Prep 21-12, 21-13, and won 21-13, 21-5 on Wednesday.

Schulze and Wickland



Times photos by George Zeliff

Junior Savannah Peterson has played every varsity match so far this season and has a 5-1 record. Last year, her record was 2-2 in varsity matches.

beat Veritas Prep's top pair 21-14, 21-6, and then they beat the second pair from North Valley 21-4, 21-8.

"...Even when the ball was moving slow, we were able to move fast and play with purpose."

Peter McGloin
Head coach

McGloin said the Falcons put a lot of the things they've talked about at practice into action last week. They stayed in the moment out in the sand, and they didn't let mistakes or freak bounces

they couldn't control weigh them down.

The Falcons are currently on spring break, and the second half of the season will be challenging. On the first day back, Monday, March 20, they will travel to last year's state champion runner up, Flagstaff (2-1). Between higher elevations and taking a week off, the Falcons will have their hands full.

"We've never really embraced being underdogs because we've had such success as a program before," McGloin said. "I've always wanted us to get that underdog mentality. I would love for us to do that, with our backs against the wall. Being ok with getting on the verge of recklessness. We got to

be so aggressive that we're getting to that point where we're really pushing the boundaries."

Official AIA rankings will be available starting on Thursday, March 23, at noon. The Falcons were 3-2 by spring break last year, and 5-1 at that point this year. They lost 3-2 to Flagstaff last year, but eight of the 10 Falcons who played that match have returned with more resolve and a different mentality this year.

"I think we like to cover behind the fact that teams are going to be good, and then we're like 'oh no, we can never win,'" Boeshans said. "Just play them like they're a regular team, like our own team. You can only do what you can control, so just do what you can."



Junior Sydney Boeshans is forced to be creative and uses her elbow to keep the ball alive.

Softball gains lessons from rapid-fire tournament

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School softball team lost both their games to Crismon and Show Low last week. They will play in their second tournament of the regular season up in Payson this Friday and Saturday, March 17-18. The young team has shown signs of progress so far and the four games this weekend will help more lessons sink in.

The Falcons have more new players than returners, and they utilized their first tournament as a way to grow and get on the same page as one another. They hope to take more steps forward over spring break and return ready for the second half of the season.

The Falcons lost 22-11 at home to Crismon (2-6) on Wednesday, March 8, and then lost 23-2 at Show Low (4-2) on Thursday, March 9. The rookies played better at home and put up three

runs, one RBI and two hits, but most of the load was carried by the four veterans.

Against Crismon, senior Mia Duda hit two triples and had five RBIs on .667% batting. Sophomore Sammantha Hughes had three RBIs on three hits, including a double and a triple. Hughes continues to lead the team with .833% batting through six games so far.

Junior Hailey Chandler currently leads region 3A North Central in stolen bases with 12, and she stole two in each game last week. She also batted .500% in both games.

Sophomore pitcher Shania Rivera has stepped up her game after only pitching two innings as a freshman. She's the only pitcher now, and she threw six strikeouts against Crismon and three against Show Low. She also batted .584% last week and had one RBI.

"I feel like, as of right now, the best thing I can do for myself is just be there for my team and make sure

we have playable balls," Rivera said. "For us, I think it's just, go our pace, and we'll be okay. If we let the other teams...dictate our pace, we're going to get overrun."

Rivera said she worked a lot on her pitching and batting with Michaela Quintana after she graduated over the summer. Quintana was an all-region honorable mention last year and returned as an assistant coach this season. With Quintana readily available in her corner, Rivera is more confident on the pitcher's mound.

Confidence can do a lot for a player. Some of the new players have prior experience, but the game moves much faster at the varsity level than their previous middle school or club leagues. Sophomore Caroline Hales played softball growing up in Alabama, and then played on the Fountain Hills middle school team in her eighth grade year.

Hales didn't play as a freshman at Fountain Hills



Times photo by George Zeliff

Sophomore Sammantha Hughes is leading the Falcons with 10 hits on .833% batting six games into the season.

because she wanted to get accustomed to the high school workload first. She's had to find her footing on the diamond again, but the team has been supportive to her and every other

rookie.

"They really all picked me up and made me join their family," Hales said. "It's a really great place, everyone's so kind. It's loving."

The Falcons are gelling and building team chemistry, and each game is a learning experience for the new players. The Falcons are 1-6 currently, but their lone win came in the Phoenix Country Day School tournament.

"I think, the first tournament, we learned a lot from it, and we've been doing a lot of it in practice," Hales said. "We've just got to work more, be confident and just stay with each other. We know the plays,

we know what players can do, and we're just going to learn from it and do it in our next tournament."

The Falcons play in the Gracie Haught Classic at Rumsey Park in Payson this weekend. The Falcons start this Friday, March 17, against the Benson Bobcats (5-2) at 10 a.m. Then at 1:45 p.m., the Falcons will play the Blue Ridge Yellowjackets (1-1).

The Falcons will play the Safford Bulldogs (4-4) at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, and then play Sahuarita (4-5) in their final match at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 18. After the tournament, the Falcons will start their region schedule against Chino Valley (2-0) on Monday, March 20, at 3:45 p.m. They will play their last freedom schedule game at Crismon on Thursday, March 23, at 3:45 p.m.

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Baseball wins four of last five games

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School baseball team beat Payson (2-5) 19-1 on Monday, March 6, and then won 2-0 in a pitcher's duel on Wednesday, March 8. The Falcons are 4-1 in nontournament games, and they start the region schedule after spring break.

Anytime they beat Payson, it's a good day for the Falcons. The Falcons scored five runs in the first and four in the second, and they exploded with 10 runs in the third inning.

"As a team, I think we were really connected," senior Tim Lamar said. "Our heads were in the game. We put the ball in play. Good defense, good offense, it was just good overall."

Lamar had one RBI and a stolen base against Payson. He spent the last three years on the Fountain Hills track team and is the first base runner to get substituted for junior catcher Ty Flynn this year. Lamar currently is tied for the team lead in stolen bases, and he gets to bat

himself when the Falcons take a huge lead.

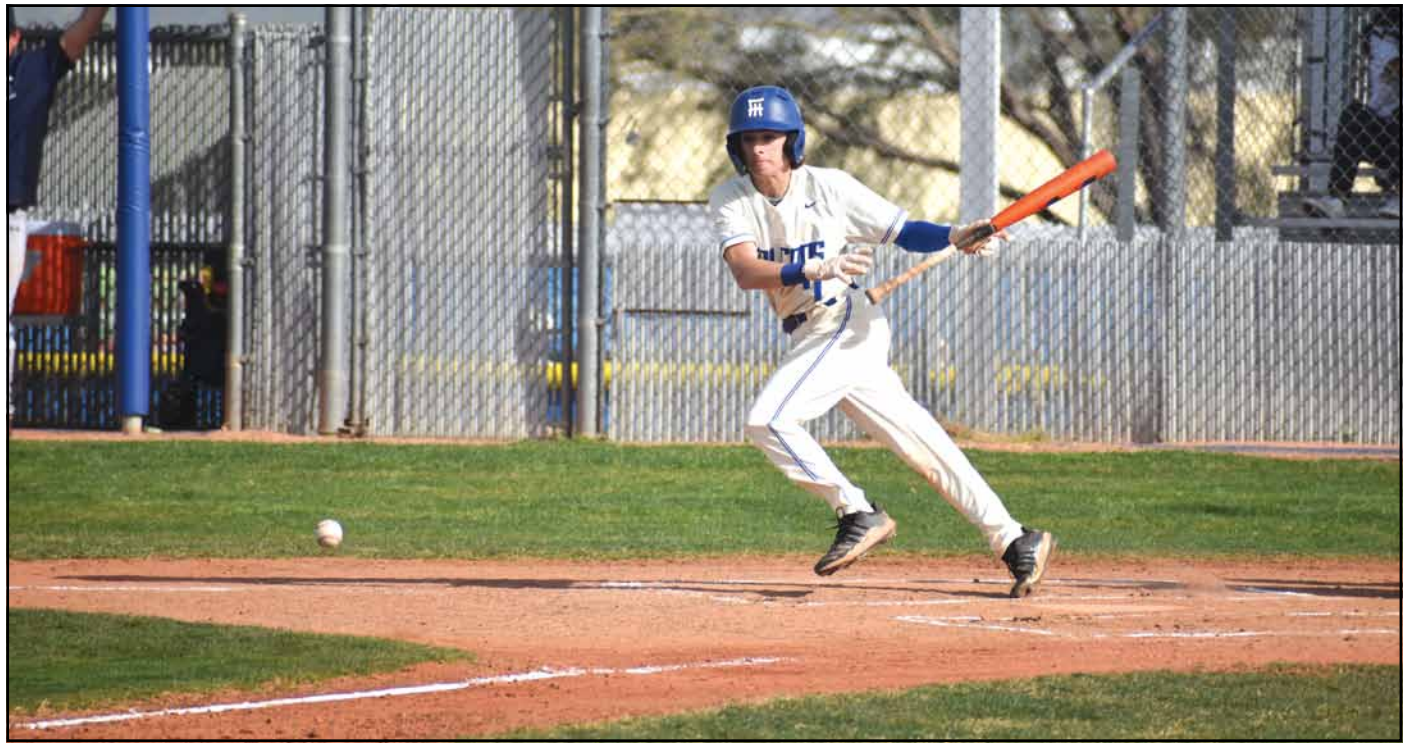
Flynn had three RBIs against Payson, as did two other Falcons. Sophomore Aiden Cronican had three RBIs, and junior Ty Langer was walked three times but got three RBIs on his triple hit. Sophomore Cooper Loyet had two RBIs, and so did freshmen Jack Irwin.

Junior Lucas Williams pitched three innings as the starting pitcher, and only allowed two hits. He pitched three strikeouts, and senior Cy Dethlefs pitched two strikeouts in relief.

The Falcons had 10 hits total and the Longhorns tried a new pitcher each inning because they had no answers for the Falcon's hitting.

"It builds confidence, but we can't get overconfident," Lamar said. "We have to stay focused and just get ready for each game and prepare like it's a big deal, because it's a big deal."

The Falcons came ready for their final game before spring break, but the win came in a more stressful fashion. After scoring 12 or more runs in three of



Times photos by George Zeliff

Junior Nathan Hughes is one of two left-handed hitters on the Falcons team. He is the Falcons' leadoff hitter and is tied for third on the team in hits.

their past four games, the Falcons beat Scottsdale Prep (1-1) 2-0.

Junior Nathan Hughes scored off a Cronican single in the first inning, and sophomore Eli Johnson

scored on a walk right afterwards. Senior Devyn Hernandez started the second inning off with a triple, but that would be the last hit from either team.

"They came ready to

play. We did, too, we just couldn't get our bats going," senior Zach Mendello-Gratton said. "It was just a really good pitcher dual. Our pitchers played amazing, didn't really allow any hits. Their pitcher did great after the first inning. It really wasn't anything new that we hadn't seen before, we just had our off day."

Junior Kyan Taylor started for the Falcons, throwing five strikeouts in three innings. He allowed one hit, and Cronican didn't allow a hit in his four innings pitching. Cronican also threw seven strikeouts in relief.

The Falcons allowed three walks total and showed control on the mound. The pitchers answered the call when the team needed them, but it also gave the team motivation to work over spring break.

"It was good, but it could've been better," Lamar said. "We put the ball in play kind of, but we should've had more hits and more runners on base

because we are definitely better than we showed."

The Falcons scored 59 runs in the four games before Scottsdale Prep. Flynn and Langer are leading the team in several categories

"As a team, I think we were really connected."

Tim Lamar
Senior

like they did last year as sophomores, and Irwin continues to make noise as a freshman. Irwin is currently leading the team with nine hits and nine RBIs, and he's only struck out once in eight games played.

The Falcons will have some practices over the break for athletes that stayed in town, and they return to action next Monday, March 20. The Falcons hosted region opponent Chino Valley (1-2) on Monday and then traveled to American Leadership Academy - Ironwood (2-4) on Tuesday, March 21.



Sophomore Aiden Cronican hit three RBIs against Payson, pictured above, and he also pitched seven strikeouts in the Falcons' 2-0 win over Scottsdale Prep.

A wealth of talent on Falcon golf team

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School golf team started its season last week and took second place in both matches played. The team has high ambitions, and the new additions to the team have pushed everyone to do better this year.

The Falcons beat Veritas Prep and Gilbert Classical in their first match on Monday, March 6. Junior Jaxson Butcher and freshman Riley Murdock played their first golf matches in the fourth and fifth spots respectively, and Murdock finished third on the team with 47.

Junior Tom Tiebert led the team at 41, and junior Ethan Schafer came in second on the team with 45. Butcher scored 48, and sophomore Savannah Miller rounded out the scoring at Desert Canyon with 50.

"From last year to this year, we're actually scoring better as a team," head coach Bob Buczek said. "Some of last year's players are playing a little bit better than they were last year, and a couple of the new players that came on are playing really good."

The Falcons all scored close together, but Buczek said Schafer had an off day for what he's capable of. Buczek said that everyone had a rough start, but they all played much better in the back half.

"The number four and five spot actually played really well, which is great to see," Buczek said. "When [Schafer] doesn't have his 'A' game going on, a couple of the other kids on the team have that ability to

pick us up."

Butcher and Murdock both played in the second match at Sun City Country Club on Thursday, March 9. Schafer led the Falcons with 42, and Murdock came in second at 43.

"[Murdock's] a highlight on the team," Buczek said. "It's like someone we didn't really expect to come out and play as well as he did. It's really impressive, coming from an injury and then shooting some really low scores."

Murdock broke his collarbone during the wrestling season, but he's been swinging his clubs well in golf. He's carving out a role on the team with his play, and he's a big part of team culture even as a freshman.

Last Saturday, March

"You got to make a spot for yourself on the team, you've got to earn it."

Bob Buczek
Head coach

11, Buczek gave Murdock a private lesson in the morning. Murdock planned with his teammates, and after his private lesson, he played a round with Butcher, Schafer and Tiebert in their free time.

Another freshman standout has been Adam Oberg, who tied with Tiebert at 48 in his first match last Thursday. Oberg played on the middle school team and had his first chance to prove he can play at the high school level too.

"We could use any of

their scores," Buczek said. "You got to make a spot for yourself on the team, you've got to earn it. With that, I love the idea that it's become even more of a challenge for even some of last year's team. It's not a given anymore. We have a lot of talent on the team."

The new players, young and old, have brought energy and excitement to the team. Buczek said he's seen the benefits of that, as well as additional support from Desert Canyon Golf Club this year.

All the players have to do is show their student I.D.'s at Desert Canyon and they can get a bucket of balls and putt and chip for free. Buczek commented that since his players have been taking full advantage, the Desert Canyon staff recognize them after a few weeks into the season.

Buczek said he has yet to see anything from his players but support for their teammates when he calls the roster for the next match. The players all want to make the state tournament at the end of the season, and they are having fun with each other while pushing each other to qualify.

The golf team will continue to practice over the break. Buczek normally doesn't get much one-on-one time with players in practice, but he'll have more time to work individually with the players that stay in town this week.

The Falcons' next match will be Friday, March 24, at Chaparral Pines Golf Club in Payson. They will face Holbrook, Show Low and Payson after they return from spring break.



Times photo by George Zeliff

Junior Jaxson Butcher, left, watches junior Tom Tiebert, right, work on his putt at Desert Mountain Golf Club.

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THE 4:30 NEWS

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Falcon Relays a huge success for track

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

No one on the Fountain Hills High School track and field team had ever had a home meet to start the season. The seniors spoke of comfort and excitement racing in their own backyard, and both the boys and girls teams won second place in the home Falcon Relays last Thursday, March 9.

"It's nice to do it early on so we can kind of get that out of the way," head coach Kevin Clancy said. "It was a fun meet for everyone. Marks don't matter a ton at this point. People are still getting good and into their fitness. We can just focus

on coaching and developing our athletes after."

There were hundreds of competitors, and it took parent and teacher volunteers, as well as a full coaching staff, to make it all happen. Clancy was thankful for all the support, and he said the meet was well-liked by the five other teams present.

The Falcons won several events, like the 100m hurdle relay and girls long jump. The Falcons have only practiced for a few weeks, but the impact of Ed Tafoya, a new assistant throwing coach, along with former javelin state champion Stephanie Lies, was noticeable right away.

Seven Falcons vaulted up into the school records

in javelin this past week. Senior Jentezen Behnke placed second in the Falcon Relays, and is now fourth in school history with a 126'3" toss. Coming in fourth at the relays, and now ninth in school history, is senior Brandon Despain with a 105'0" toss.

Junior Julian Sepulveda is now 13th in school history (91'10"), freshman Jaysonn Thompson is 16th (75'10"), and senior Dylan Horsfall is 17th (75'7"). Sophomore Tyler Tolis is now 19th (68'7"), and junior Katelyn Smout is now eighth for girls (39'0").

Sophomore Katherine Hampton already held the fifth best record and came in third in the javelin toss last week (63'2"). Junior Skye Alker is also on the leaderboard and set a new season best last week (44'0").

Junior Keian Evans came in third in shot put (34'5.5"). He is still 10th all time in school history with his new personal record, and his younger brother, sophomore Avery Evans, moved up to 20th all time in shot put (31'8.5").

Another new Falcon through recent transfer, sophomore Sara Dethlefs, shined in the long jump. She came in first at the relays (13'5") and also finished fifth in 300m (48.13). She was the first Falcon to finish, and another fellow



Times photos by George Zeliff

The Falcons were excited to start their season at home. From left are senior Brandon Despain, junior Brendan Davies, junior Caleb Lara, senior Space Kingphakorn, junior Ayden Nguyen, and junior Tyler Tolis.

first time Falcon runner, sophomore Aysha Rasool, finished close behind in the 300m (54.75).

Junior Erin Hooley came in third on the long jump (12'8") and senior JP Cahill tied for second place in the long jump (17'10"). Seniors Zion Atwood and Gunnar Wise tied for first in the 100m hurdles at (19.7).

The seniors and juniors have devoted years to running, but they are impressed with how the underclassmen have been performing. The upperclassmen hope to benefit from the large influx of talent by making the state meet this year, and they also have high hopes for the future of their teammates.

"It's really surprising, how into it they already are," senior Franklin Fiola said. "We have a lot of people already coming in every day, and even before practice they stay with Clancy and do their homework so they're all ready and stress free. They're really putting in the work and you can see it already."

The Falcons have eight freshmen on a roster of 45 athletes. Allison Guerrette is the only freshman girl, and she ran cross country with freshmen Tyler Eastman, Mathew Gonzales and Colby Wright last year. They are all experimenting with shorter distances and field events in track and field.

Several of the freshmen only ran relays and do not have specific times to report yet. Gonzales (44.72) and Eastman (54.65) ran the 300m race, and according to senior Tyler Irvine-Violette, Wright is trying to do pole vaulting this year.

"He's always trying so hard at practice, and it's just really awesome to see," Irvine-Violette said of Wright. "I know by the time he's in his senior year, that kid's going to be a lot faster than I am."

The Falcons ran a senior lap at the end of the meet and had fun by using a leaf blower as a relay baton. The seniors did not have home meets as freshmen or sophomores, and they had two home meets last year against one other team.

The home meet kicked off the season with high spirits, but now the Falcons will focus on qualifying for state. Their next chance will be this Friday, March 17, when they travel to Tucson for the Mario Castro Invitational at Sunnyside High School.

Sports Briefs

VOTS plays regular round

The Valley of the Sun golf group played at Painted Mountain Golf Course on Wednesday, March 8. The winners of this week's three-man best ball were Randy Eckerson, Steve Duganz, Pete Tramonte and Donald Hrdlicka.

Coming in second place was the team of James Sandow, Michael Saladino, George Vogelgesang and Ray McGinley. A/B low net winners were Michael Saladino and James Sandow. C/D low net winners were Donald Hrdlicka and Pete Tramonte.

The closest to the pin hole winners were Michael Saladino and Jim Kelly. Longest putt winners were Robert Fancher and Pete Tramonte.

Contact Ray Yusko at 216-272-4173 or at rayray924@yahoo.com for more information.

Bogey Boys weekly results

The Bogey Boys played their regular three-man best ball game at Orange Tree Golf Resort on Monday, March 6. The winning

team at -14 was Gary Bege-man, Dave Olson and Dan Watson with a par shooter.

Second at -12 was the team of Rodney Eaton, Clark Ewing, Mike Hoops and Jim Jackson with Gary Fritcke, Dave Habicht, Bob Nemecek and Moryou Tong third at -10. Gold flight low net winners were Dave Stensrud at 68 and Moryou Tong at 71 with Silver flight going to Dave Olson at 66 and Jack Cranmer at 68.

Ten golfers won skins: Wayne Bumgardner, Jack Cranmer, Clark Ewing, Gary Fritcke, Mike Hoops, Jim Kidwell, Jim Sandow, Dave Stensrud, Dan Watson and Tim Zaspal.

The Wednesday travel group played at The Grand Canyon University golf course with Messrs. Leibundgut, Lindsay, Mendini and Watson winning at -8. Closest to the pin winners were Jim Kidwell, Brian Shore and Dave Stensrud with longest putt going to Gale Mendini.

For membership information, go to azgolf.org; click on join/renew, join a club, and search the club directory for "Bogey Boys of AZ."



Senior Jentezen Behnke came in second in the javelin toss last week and is now fourth in school history with a 126'3" toss.

BRUNCH • EGG HUNT EASTER MESSAGE

Join us this Easter and enjoy brunch with us before service at 9:30am!
Kids (birth-5th grade) will have a special Easter egg hunt during service!

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Religion



Church of the Ascension parishioners gathered last weekend to create 37 recycled plastic mats for people suffering from homelessness.

Mats for the homeless

Parishioners of the Church of the Ascension in cooperation with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Church of the Ascension Conference, have been producing sleeping mats for people suffering from homelessness.

Made of recycled plastic shopping bags, the mats measure three feet by six feet, providing a barrier when sleeping on cold or wet ground.

Each mat takes 35 hours to complete, using over 700 plastic grocery bags. The bags are cut into loops and

then intertwined to produce plastic yarn. The yarn is then crocheted into the finished product, including a carrying strap to contain the rolled mat.

The Conference of the Ascension will be donating the finished mats to the Saint Vincent de Paul Diocesan Council for distribution in Phoenix. Within each rolled mat, socks and toiletries will be provided as well. So far, 37 mats have been produced.

The Conference of the Ascension has been work-

ing with their neighbors in the Fountain Hills, Fort McDowell and the Verdes communities for 34 years, bringing stability to those they serve in any way they can.

For those who are in need of food or other aid, call the Conference of the Ascension Hotline at 480-837-7287.

For those who are interested in joining the effort to produce sleeping mats, call the hotline number as well to leave a message for Carol, the project coordinator.

Easter Sunrise Service April 9

Come celebrate the resurrection of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as hundreds will gather together and proclaim as Christians have done through the centuries, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Each year, the Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association (FHCMA) holds an Easter Sunrise service at the Fountains Hills amphitheater. The service begins at 6 a.m.

Pastor Rod Warembourg from Desert Creek Fellowship will deliver this year's message and music will be led by Reigning Grace Ranch Chapel.

A special offering will be received for the Good Samaritan fund which is used to help Fountain Hills residents who are going through difficult times.

The FHCMA is an as-

sociation of pastors who hold to the essential beliefs and teaching of Christianity which are found in the Holy Scriptures, expressed by Apostle's Creed. The FHCMA stands and works together for the sake of Jesus Christ and His gospel.

FHCMA members include Pastor Rick Ponzo, Calvary Chapel Fountain Hills; Pastor Keith Pavia, Christ's Church of Fountain Hills; Rev. Dr. Cathy Northrop, Community Church of the Verdes; Pastor Rod Warembourg, Desert Creek Fellowship;

Pastor Tony Pierce, Cornerstone Family Church; Pastor Bob Simmons, Presbyterian Church of Fountain Hills; Pastor Clayton Wilfer, JOY Christian Community Church; Pastor Rich Griffith, SBC - Fountain Hills; Pastor Jeff Teeples, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and Pastor John Koczman, Trinity Lutheran Church.

Seating is around the amphitheater and attendees are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket to sit on. It is generally 60 degrees at sunrise.

JOY hosts choir

The Free Lutheran Bible College Concert Choir will present a concert of sacred music at JOY Christian Community Church in Fountain Hills on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public, the 34-member College Concert Choir will present a musical concert titled, "My Rock and My Redeemer."

The Concert Choir from the Free Lutheran Bible College (FLBC) in Plymouth, Minn., is on tour, sharing the Gospel message in word and song. The FLBC Concert Choir has traveled throughout the United States, Norway and central Europe.

This year, the Choir is traveling throughout the Western United States, performing concerts in Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington during their 17-day tour.

FLBC offers a two-year, college-level Bible and ministry program that emphasizes, "Scripture without distraction, discipleship without distance, and ministry through the congregation."

FLBC has been training students since 1966 to be spiritual leaders in their homes, churches and workplaces. According to the press release, one of its distinctions is its in-person approach to Christian education.

"In this age of distance online learning, FLBC affirms the centrality of community in the Christian's life and offers a Christian college experience like no other," the release said.

JOY Christian Community Church is at 13430 N. Saguaro Blvd. Visit joychurchaz.com or call 480-837-5744 for more information.

'The Chosen' featured

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church will host live viewings every Wednesday in March of the third season of the award-winning series, "The Chosen."

The community is invited to Shepherd of the Hills to view the series every Wednesday at 1 p.m. and a second showing at 6:30 p.m.

Today, Wednesday, March 15, episode four, "Clean Part One" and episode five, "Clean Part Two," will be shown. The viewing will conclude with a brief discussion of the episode and give the audience the opportunity to ask any questions and share their insights.

The Fountain Hills community is invited to attend any or all showings of "The Chosen" at Shepherd of the Hills, 16150 E. El Lago Blvd.

For more information, visit their website at sothaz.com or call the church at 480-837-9532.

Movie night at JOY

JOY Community Christian Church is hosting a movie night on Saturday, March 25, at 7 p.m.

"The Mulligan" is a story about second chances. Paul McAlister is a success at everything, except what really matters. Separated from his wife and estranged from his son, McAlister

keeps his focus on his next boardroom mega-deal.

Like an errant tee shot on a difficult hole, McAlister's life could use a do-over, a "mulligan." A retired golf pro tries to point this successful businessman who is far from God toward what really matters in life. Through their new

friendship, the old pro helps McAlister discover there is hope for second chances in the one who offers "the ultimate mulligan."

JOY Church is located at 13430 N. Saguaro Blvd. The movie is free to attend along with popcorn and soft drinks. All are welcome.

Accents

I have been blessed to have been to a variety of places, mostly in the United States. Through these experiences, I have come to know many of the accents of people in these areas. Forgive me if these seem stereotypical, or if you find them limited to people like me, white middle class persons, but these are what I know. For the people of Baltimore, Maryland, the city is called "Bal-mer." For the people of Charlotte, North Carolina, nearby "Cherryville" is called "Chur-vul." For those who live in Richmond, Virginia, Virginia is "Vuh-gin-uh."

The southeast has wonderful phrases like "all y'all" and "bless your heart." The Midwest does as well: "Won't you have a little lunch?" Chicagoans and folks from Wisconsin have a bit of a nasal accent, and Minnesotans have a distinctive pronunciation of their "o"s.

There are books out there that have fun with accents. They have titles like "How to Speak Southern" and "A Guide to Minnesota Speak." They can be funny and revealing.

I find that listening to persons I come across, really listening, can give me a clue to their background. My husband is from New York, and he has worked hard to get rid of his New York accent. But when he is tired, he says "ide-r" instead of "idea," and his expressions turn to things like

"food shopping" rather than "going to the grocery store."

Thinking about these things made me ponder what people hear when they listen on other levels. Can we tell not only where a person is from, but can we also tell what they believe? Can we tell if a person is a Christian?

Listening to persons we come across should give a clue to this. Someone who is very overt about the Christian faith and being a Christian sometimes makes me think they "doth protest too much," in a kind of way. Someone who uses God's name in vain as well as vulgar language makes me wonder about the context in which they think it is acceptable.

Wisdom from the Bible by Ken Vos

1. Most Bible scholars recognize James the Just as the author of the book of James. What is the relationship of James the Just and Jesus?

a) Uncle b) Brother c) Cousin d) Nephew

2. In James 3:1 a warning is given to those who become teachers. What is this warning?

a) Judged on the last days. b) Judged by other scholars. c) Judged with greater strictness. d) Judged with no mercy.

Yet there are people who speak with an "accent" of faith. Whether it is Sunday, or Friday night, or they are alert or tired, this cannot be hidden. In this sense, an "accent" is what is emphasized and prioritized in their speech.

James 3:1-12 speaks about the power of the tongue in speech. What "accent" does our speech reveal?

3. In James 3:8 James claims the tongue is a special part of the body. What is true of the tongue?

a) No one can tame the tongue. b) No one can loosen the tongue. c) No one can give up on the tongue. d) No one can do without the tongue.

4. According to James 3:10 what can come from the same mouth?

a) Quiet and loud. b) Love and hate. c) Hope and despair. d) Blessing and cursing.

Answers: 1) b, 2) c, 3) a, 4) d

Cathy Northrup is the pastor of Community Church of the Verdes • www.verdefaith.org
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Cathy Northrup, Pastor

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March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
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A Roman Catholic Community
MASS: Saturday - 5 PM
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Rev. Jilson Panakkal, Pastor
12615 N. Fountain Hills Blvd. (480) 837-1066
www.ascensionfh.org

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Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
13430 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills
JoyChurchAZ.com

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Desert Creek Fellowship
FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA

SUNDAY SERVICE 10am
(In person at 10am or Online anytime after 6pm)
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00pm

A Charismatic Christian Church
15024 N. Ivory Dr. Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
Pastor Rod Warembourg
DesertCreekFellowship.com

Clubs



Photographed from left is Mesa Coin Club President Gary Krueger, ANA President Dr. Ralph Ross, Arizona Territorial Coin Club President Gloria Conner, Four Peaks Coin Club President John Gibson and Phoenix Coin Club President Steve Schklair.

Coin Club recognized

The Four Peaks Coin Club (formerly the Fountain Hills Coin Club) was recognized at the National Money Show on Thursday, March 2. The show, sponsored by the American Numismatic Association (ANA), took place March 2-4 at the Phoenix Convention Center.

The ANA is a national coin organization founded in 1891. The four coin clubs in Metro Phoenix acted as hosts.

For information regarding the Four Peaks Coin Club visit their website at fountainhillscoinclub.com or call John Gibson at 480-231-3896.

Tea Party to meet March 16

Fountain Hills AZ Tea Party will welcome special guest Mark Spencer on Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Fountain Hills Community Center.

Mark is the SW Regional Director of Judicial Watch and a retired Phoenix Police officer. Judicial Watch is a government watchdog organization whose motto is "Because no one is above the law." Mark will share some of what Judicial Watch has been doing to foster government

transparency and accountability.

All interested parties are welcome to join the meeting. Admission is free but donations to cover expenses are welcomed and appreciated. Fountain Hills AZ Tea Party is a local not-for-profit organization established in 2010 to provide education about important issues of government and governing.

For more information, please visit fhteaparty.us.

Welcome HOME

Shepherd of the Hills
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES
Traditional - 8:30 am
Contemporary - 10:30 am

16150 E. El Lago Blvd 480-837-9532 sothaz.com

FHDC meets this Thursday

The Fountain Hills Democratic Club (FHDC) will meet on Thursday, March 16, at the Community Center. Time for socializing and refreshments begins at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be three speakers addressing the club: Rachel Clawson, digital organizing director for Save Our Schools Arizona and Rich and Wendy Barnard will address the state of Fountain Hills public schools.

"Does all the news about the spending cap depriving our schools of money already set aside for them have you wondering how our school district will cope?" Chris Clemens said, vice president of FHDC. "Will the funding for the football field be achieved? What are the plans for progress after the bond

alma mater where she discovered a passion for education advocacy.

Clawson has helped coordinate advocacy efforts in the East Valley while serving as the digital organizing director for Save Our Schools Arizona.

Rich and Wendy Barnard will address the state of Fountain Hills public schools.

issue and override were voted down? How are our schools implementing a plan to bring students back up to grade level and addressing mental health issues as a result of Covid? Please come hear these experts and find out how you can help.

"Remember, good schools result in higher property values," Clemens continued. "So, even if you don't have children or grandchildren in our schools, don't miss being educated about this important topic!"

Join the Fountain Hills Democratic Club for an opportunity to socialize with friends and fellow Fountain Hills residents and hear informative speakers.



Digital Organizing Director for Save Our Schools Arizona, Rachel Clawson, will speak at the upcoming Fountain Hills Democratic Club meeting on Thursday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Desert Derby reservations due today

For those who haven't already gotten their tickets to the Fountain Hills Women's Club's (FHWC) 2023 Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, time is running out.

Today, Wednesday, March 15, is the deadline for reservations to the Desert Derby Luncheon and Fashion Show to be held on Sunday, April 2, at ADERO Scottsdale Resort, 13225 N. Eagle Ridge Drive.

This luncheon is FHWC's only annual signature fundraiser, with proceeds benefitting scholarships for women who live or work in Fountain Hills. Since its founding in 1974, the club has provided more than \$300,000 in scholarships to women in the community.

This year's attendees can show off their best "hat-itude" for the Desert Derby theme while enjoying a luncheon, silent auction baskets, a live auction, a 50-50 cash raffle 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 for the Luncheon and Fashion Show are priced at \$65 per person and can be reserved at fountainhillswomensclub.com. Tickets are also available in person at Classy-Jazzy, 16725 Avenue of the Fountains.

Ad space is also available in the event program to show one's support and promote their business. The FHWC is still welcoming donations of prize items for the silent and live auctions. Contributions of gift certificates, gift cards, tickets, merchandise, wine,

jewelry, beauty products, home decor, and more are gratefully accepted.

The deadline for both ads and auction items is today, Wednesday, March 15. For information about ads and donations, email fhwcfundraiser@gmail.com.

For details about the Fountain Hills Women's Club, including membership, meetings and other events, visit fountainhillswomensclub.com. Be sure to like and follow the Fountain Hills Women's Club page on Facebook for all the latest updates throughout the year.

Garden seeks members

For those interested in getting involved with one of the "most peaceful place in Town," join the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden Club.

The Club's mission is to keep the trail throughout the garden in good condition so everyone can enjoy their time there.

The next Club meeting is at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, at the Chamber of Commerce, 16837 E. Palisades Blvd. Come and meet the people in Fountain Hills who share a love for this special oasis.

Club Briefs

FH Rotary Club hosts speakers

The Rotary Club of Fountain Hills invites the public to its 2023 speaker series. On Tuesday, March 21, Diplomatic Corps of Arizona (DCA) Ambassador at Large Enrique Melendez will speak about his experience with DCA.

Held at American Legion Post 58, 16837 E. Parkview Ave., Rotary Club of Fountain Hills meets at 4 p.m. every first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Men's Discussion Group resumes

The Fountain Hills Men's Discussion Group will host a presentation at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 20, Town Clerk Linda Mendenhall will present on the workings of town government.

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.

Community Center is required to participate.

Winners from March 8 include Anand Paranjape in first place, Mike Lemonidis in second and Alan Max in third. Winners from March 10 include Roger Watton in first place, Joanne Arneson in second and Mike Lemonidis in third.

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Our Sunday worship service is open for all.
10am | Every Sunday of the month | In Person & Live Streaming

16748 E Parkview Ave, Fountain Hills, AZ | (480) 383-9193
Pastor Elizabeth Gallen
www.njlc-fh.org

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 Com-

SCOTTSDALE BIBLE CHURCH
FOUNTAIN HILLS

Service Times
Sundays, 9 & 11am
15202 N Fountain Hills Blvd
SBC

In-Person Celebration 9:30am
Nursery Care Available

Online "Studio" Celebration 9:30am
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Area home sales

February 21, 2023 - February 24, 2023

The Verdes

17910 E Fort Verde Rd	\$863,611	17903 E Oak Creek Canyon Ln	\$787,876
17873 E Oak Creek Canyon Ln	\$959,462	17308 E Pinnacle Vista Dr	\$530,000

Homes sold this period: 4 Median Price: \$825,744 Average price: \$785,237
Same period last year: 7 Median Price: \$718,000 Average price: \$702,658

Fountain Hills

15622 N Audubon Pl	\$1,165,000	16812 E Lamplighter Way Unit 12	\$330,000
15813 E Cactus Wren Ct	\$615,000	13112 N Northstar Dr	\$584,000
15911 E Cholla Dr	\$740,000	12050 N Panorama Dr Unit 108	\$329,900
11225 N Crestview Dr	\$4,200,000	17302 E Quail Ridge Dr	\$450,000
16107 E Emerald Dr Apt 106	\$350,000	10401 N Saguardo Blvd Apt 132	\$299,000
16246 E Emerald Dr	\$815,000	14604 N Saguardo Blvd Apt B	\$460,000
15051 E Greene Valley Dr	\$775,000	14209 N San Carlos Dr	\$735,000
9817 N Gorden Dr	\$470,000	16337 E Trevino Dr	\$1,165,000
15040 N Greenhurst Ave	\$525,000		

Homes sold this period: 17 Median Price \$584,000 Average price: \$823,994
Same period last year: 27 Median Price \$640,000 Average price: \$683,725

Properties listed may have been sold by various Brokers &/or Owners.

Area home sales

February 13, 2023 - February 17, 2023

The Verdes

17703 E Bismark Lake Ct	\$900,000	17329 E Morning Vista Ct	\$1,700,000
17443 E Cindercone Way	\$610,000	24818 N Vado Ct	\$900,000
17876 E Fort Verde Rd	\$820,712		

Homes sold this period: 5 Median Price: \$900,000 Average price: \$986,142
Same period last year: 8 Median Price: \$687,932 Average price: \$823,012

Fountain Hills

15843 N Aspen Dr	\$760,750	16240 E Links Dr	\$654,000
16644 N Aspen Dr	\$524,900	15331 E Palomino Blvd	\$670,000
15740 E El Lago Blvd	\$626,500	13211 N Vista Del Lago	\$515,000
14850 E Grandview Dr Unit 220	\$935,000	16631 E Westby Dr Apt 104	\$319,900
16820 E La Montana Dr Unit 104	\$465,000	14228 N Yerba Buena Way	\$429,000
17240 E La Pasada Dr	\$469,000		

Homes sold this period: 11 Median Price \$524,900 Average price: \$579,005
Same period last year: 17 Median Price \$630,000 Average price: \$868,883

Properties listed may have been sold by various Brokers &/or Owners.

Business

Aline Health MedSpa adds new team, rebrands

By Cyrus Guccione
Times Reporter

Those familiar with Aline Health Med Spa and Wellness Center will notice a facelift to the upscale, integrative center on the Avenue, which is making a grand foray into aesthetics.

Celebrating four years of service, Aline has spent the last two redefining what it means to be a medical spa in Fountain Hills, which includes the addition and certification of new staff members along with new, state-of-the-art equipment for clients looking for a more personalized experience.

"I'm just thrilled with the team that runs Aline Health," CEO Peter Hoffend says. "It's been an absolute pleasure to build and I really do feel like this is a tremendous gift that we give to the community."

As Co-Founder Clair Morley begins to pursue her passion in energy medicine, Aline Health has shifted its focus towards aesthetics by offering an array of new and improved services, including an infrared sauna and salt therapy, micro-needling, laser hair reduction, medical grade facials, body contouring and more.

Peter's daughter, Ava Hoffend, is Aline's certified laser technician who provides a number of aesthetic services, including micro-needling.

"It tightens the skin; that is its main claim to fame. I can do it on any

part of your body from head to toe," Ava said. "It's also great for scar tissue, stretch marks, helps with acne scars, discoloration in the skin; it really can do a whole lot."

According to Ava, collagen, the skin's main component of connective tissue, dwindles in production by the age of 30. Micro-needling allows for the protection, generation and stimulation of new collagen.

Ava also provides facials, and laser hair reduction for all skin types, pigments, body areas and ages.

Evelyn Grace Cutting, BSN, RN, is Aline's nurse injector who provides dermal fillers and neurotoxins including both Botox and Jeuveau.

"I am not an injector that makes people look fake. I just enhance your natural beauty and use your anatomy as our limit," Evelyn says, whose slogan is, "Helping Fountain Hills age gracefully, one injection at a time."

To carry on the family atmosphere at Aline Health, Evelyn is joined by her mother, Crikette Cutting, who runs the sauna and serves as Aline's administrative director.

"We have an infrared sauna that has salt therapy which is really unusual in this area," Crikette said. "It's really beneficial for your respiratory system... aches and pains and sometimes, if you're just feeling sick and you go in there for a half an hour, it's a great detox."

Aline is online

An exciting addition to Aline's capabilities is the integration of their new application which allows customers the ability to shop for its services in the comfort of their homes.

Customers who sign up are automatically entered into Aline's VIP rewards program, which includes a free, 30-minute infrared sauna or \$50 off any service at Aline.

"Clients can gain reward points towards services immediately when they sign up for the app," Peter said, who is offering the opportunity to win a trip for two to Costa Rica for Aline Health app users.

"Costa Rica is one of like seven places in the world that has a special energy," Crikette said.

The drawing for the trip is Friday, April 7, and clients can enter by visiting the website, alinemedspa.repeatmd.com.

In the community

Aline Health Med Spa will have a booth set up along the Avenue on Saturday, March 18, during the Fountain Hills Day event, where newcomers will have the opportunity to add their names to the drawing and put faces to names at Aline.

On Wednesday, March 22, Aline will host an open house for the community to enjoy a tour of their clinic, learn about their new services and enjoy complimentary refreshments and go home with a gift.

The open house will be

held on March 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and in the evening from 5 to 7 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP by calling/texting 480-546-7463.

"I love boosting people's confidence. That makes nursing worth it for me," Evelyn says, who also works as the assistant coach for the FHHS girls' soccer team with her father and head coach, Malcolm Cutting, adding that Aline's infrared sauna is a perfect place for athletes to come and recover from a hard day on the field.

Both Ava and Crikette say their favorite part of working at Aline is making people feel better about themselves and getting to know their clients.

"We started out as just a couple of basic wellness practices if you will and we've grown into aesthetics," Peter said. "That's why the new team is here, and there are more, but this is the core of who we are."

Aline Health Med Spa and Wellness Center is located at 16845 E. Avenue



Times photo by Cyrus Guccione

From left, CEO Peter Hoffend, Aesthetic Registered Nurse Evelyn Grace Cutting, BSN, RN, Certified Laser Technician and Certified Integrative Health Coach Ava Hoffend and Administrative Director Crikette Cutting. Aline Health Med Spa and Wellness Center is holding an open house on March 22, at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. For more information, visit alinearhealthaz.com.

of the Fountains, Suite D-108. It is open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and closed Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, visit alinearhealthaz.com, call 480-546-7463 or send an email to alinearhealthaz@gmail.com.

MCO Realty names top agents

MCO Realty President and Designated Broker Steve Vargo has announced the recipients of his company's sales awards and top agents for listing volume and number of listings, January 2023. January honorees are Melinda Stanton, Pat Kenney and The Gurczak Group for the

Main Visitor Center.

The first sales award went to Melinda Stanton, whose consistent performance as an MCO Realty top producer has earned her the position of Number One Agent in Fountain Hills several years running, according to Vargo.

"In this ever-changing market, Melinda stays ahead of the game by investing in personal development, continuing education and a daily program of customer contact and research," Vargo said. "Her dependability and unwavering attention to client satisfaction has created and sustained her successful business."

Stanton can be found at the MCO Realty Main Visitor Center, 9617 N. Saguaro Blvd., or by calling 480-837-2500. To reach her directly, call 480-688-9191.

Pat Kenney also received a sales award.

"Her knowledge of the area, the business and market nuances make her

a great asset to clients," Vargo said. "The heart of Pat's philosophy is trust and integrity."

Kenney can also be found at the Main Visitor Center or reached directly at 480-216-4948.

Highest volume (\$10,760,900) and most listings went to The Gurczak Group, made up of John, Anna and Irene Gurczak.

"This mother, son, daughter-in-law team has complementary skills and boundless energy," Vargo said. "Irene, John's mother, brings over a decade of local real estate knowledge in residential, commercial and hospitality transactions."

"...John, a Realtor, also owns and runs, Gurczak Luxury Development, a local homebuilding company on Eagles Nest's list of Preferred Builders. The company showcases numerous projects in the area. With a degree in marketing and Realtor experience, Anna, John's wife, lends a clear voice to plan and direct advertising efforts in reaching prospective buyers, as well as shaping The Gurczak Group's dynamic message."

The Gurczak Group can be reached at MCO Realty's Main Visitor. John can be reached directly at 480-272-1308, Anna at 480-206-2427 and Irene at 480-272-1307 to schedule an appointment.

Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 23-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS ZONING ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1, INTRODUCTION, SECTION 1.12, DEFINITIONS, AMENDING THE DEFINITIONS OF TREATMENT CENTER; AMENDING CHAPTER 12, COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 12.02 SECTION 12.03 C, TO ADD SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER; SECTION 12.03 TO UPDATE THE LANGUAGE FROM GROUP HOME TO COMMUNITY RESIDENCE; SECTION 12.05, USES SUBJECT TO SPECIAL USE PERMITS IN C-2 ZONING DISTRICTS BY ADDING NEW SECTIONS O AND P REGARDING DETOXIFICATION FACILITIES AND TREATMENT CENTERS; SECTION 12.06, USES SUBJECT TO SPECIAL USE PERMITS IN C-3 ZONING DISTRICTS ONLY BY ADDING NEW SECTIONS F, G, H, AND I REGARDING DETOXIFICATION FACILITIES AND TREATMENT CENTERS; AND, AMENDING CHAPTER 18, TOWN CENTER COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT, SECTION 18.05 B, TO UPDATE THE LANGUAGE FROM GROUP HOME TO COMMUNITY RESIDENCE

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Fountain Hills (the "Town Council") adopted Ordinance No. 93-22 on November 18, 1993, which adopted the Zoning Ordinance for the Town of Fountain Hills (the "Zoning Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to amend Chapter 1, Introduction, Section 1.12, Definitions, and Chapter 12, Commercial Zoning Districts, Sections 12.05 and 12.06 to provide for detoxification facilities and drug and alcohol treatment centers; and

WHEREAS, the C-2 and C-3 zoning districts have the primary purposes of providing for the sale of commodities, provision of services, and wholesale and distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Town wants to ensure uses in commercial areas are focused on businesses that provide for the sale of goods and services to the community, especially those that provide jobs and generate revenues for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the uses included in this ordinance are appropriate in commercial areas but should be limited to maintain the primary purpose of these districts; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance and pursuant to ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 9-462.04, public hearings regarding this ordinance were advertised in the November 23 and 30, 2022, editions of the Fountain Hills Times; and

WHEREAS, public hearings were held by the Fountain Hills Planning & Zoning Commission on December 12, 2022, and January 9, 2023.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article II, Sections 1 and 2, Constitution of Arizona, and the laws of the State of Arizona, the Town Council has considered the individual property rights and personal liberties of the residents of the Town and the probable impact of the proposed ordinance on the cost to construct housing for sale or rent before adopting this ordinance.

ENACTMENTS:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS as follows:

SECTION 1. The recitals above are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 1, Introduction, Section 1.12, Definitions, is hereby amended as follows:

DETOXIFICATION FACILITY, OUTPATIENT: FACILITIES PROVIDING OUTPATIENT DRUG OR ALCOHOL DETOXIFICATION SERVICES WITH OR WITHOUT TRAINING, EDUCATION, OR TREATMENT SERVICES AT THE SAME LOCATION.

DETOXIFICATION FACILITY, INPATIENT: FACILITIES PROVIDING INPATIENT DRUG OR ALCOHOL DETOXIFICATION SERVICES.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION Treatment Center: Facilities providing lodging and meals and, primarily, treatment, training or education as a part of an alcoholism or drug addiction program WITHOUT ON-SITE DETOXIFICATION, LODGING, OR MEALS.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER, LODGING: FACILITIES PROVIDING TREATMENT, TRAINING, OR EDUCATION AS PART OF AN ALCOHOLISM OR DRUG ADDICTION PROGRAM. MAY INCLUDE PROVIDING DETOXIFICATION SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TREATMENT AND MAY INCLUDE PROVISIONS WHERE CLIENTS CAN LODGE AT THE FACILITY AND RECEIVE MEALS.

SECTION 3. The Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 12, Commercial Zoning Districts, Section 12.02 C, Additional Uses Permitted in C-2 and C-3 Zoning Districts, is hereby amended as follows:

26. SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER, MUST BE LOCATED AT LEAST 2,000 FEET FROM ANY OTHER DETOXIFICATION CENTER, SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER, OR TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENCE.

SECTION 4. The Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 12, Commercial Zoning Districts, Section 12.03, Uses Subject to Special Use Permits in C-1, C-C, C-2, and C-3 Zoning Districts, is hereby amended as follows:

C. Group Homes for the Handicapped and Elderly People COMMUNITY RESIDENCES SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 5.13, Nursing Home, Homes for the Aged, Convalescent Home.

SECTION 5. The Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 12, Commercial Zoning Districts, Section 12.05, Uses Subject to Special Use Permits in C-2 Zoning Districts, is hereby amended as follows:

O. DETOXIFICATION CENTER, OUTPATIENT. IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 2.02 FOR CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT, APPLICANTS SHALL:

1. PROVIDE A COPY OF LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION BY THE STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.
2. PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INDOOR ACTIVITY AND WAITING SPACE.
3. PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION AND PROCESS FOR RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS.
4. COMPLY WITH ARS 36-601.01, THE SMOKE-FREE ARIZONA ACT, AND DESIGNATE SMOKING AREA(S), INCLUDING AREAS FOR VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES, AS FAR FROM ADJACENT USES AS POSSIBLE.

SECTION 5. The Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 12, Commercial Zoning Districts, Section 12.06, Uses Subject to Special Use Permits in C-3 Zoning Districts Only, is hereby amended as follows:

F. DETOXIFICATION CENTER, OUTPATIENT AND INPATIENT. IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 2.02 FOR CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT, APPLICANTS SHALL:

1. PROVIDE A COPY OF LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION BY THE STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.
2. PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INDOOR ACTIVITY AND WAITING SPACE.
3. PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION AND PROCESS FOR RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS.
4. COMPLY WITH ARS 36-601.01, THE SMOKE-FREE ARIZONA ACT, AND DESIGNATE SMOKING AREA(S), INCLUDING AREAS FOR VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES, AS FAR FROM ADJACENT USES AS POSSIBLE.
5. DOCUMENT THROUGH A MARKET ANALYSIS BY A CREDENTIALLED PROFESSIONAL USING THE MOST RECENT, APPLICABLE FOUNTAIN HILLS CENSUS DATA AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION DATA, THE NEED FOR THE SERVICE ON AN ONGOING BASIS FOR RESIDENTS OF FOUNTAIN HILLS. THE ANALYSIS SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY EXISTING SERVICES ALREADY PROVIDED IN THE TOWN.
6. A DISCHARGE POLICY THAT IS GEARED TOWARD REPATRIATING THE CLIENT BACK TO THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN.
7. BE LOCATED AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING DISTANCES FROM THE LISTED USES, MEASURED FROM NEAREST PROPERTY LINE TO NEAREST PROPERTY LINE:
 - A. 2,000 FEET FROM ANY OTHER DETOXIFICATION CENTER, SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER, OR TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENCE.
 - B. 1,000 FEET FROM ANY CHURCH, PUBLIC LIBRARY, PARK, PERSERVE AND TRAIL, OR SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL, OR DAY CARE.
 - C. 500 FEET FROM ANY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT OR USE INCLUDING PLANNED AREA DEVELOPMENTS WITH A RESIDENTIAL PRIMARY USE.

I. SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER, LODGING. IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 2.02 FOR CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT, APPLICANT SHALL:

1. PROVIDE A COPY OF LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION BY THE STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.
2. PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INDOOR ACTIVITY AND WAITING SPACE.
3. PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION AND PROCESS FOR RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS.
4. COMPLY WITH ARS 36-601.01, THE SMOKE-FREE ARIZONA ACT, AND DESIGNATE SMOKING AREA(S), INCLUDING AREAS FOR VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES, AS FAR FROM ADJACENT USES AS POSSIBLE.
5. DOCUMENT THROUGH A MARKET ANALYSIS BY A CREDENTIALLED PROFESSIONAL USING THE MOST RECENT, APPLICABLE FOUNTAIN HILLS CENSUS DATA AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION DATA, THE NEED FOR THE SERVICE ON AN ONGOING BASIS FOR RESIDENTS OF FOUNTAIN HILLS. THE ANALYSIS SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY EXISTING SERVICES ALREADY PROVIDED IN THE TOWN.
6. A DISCHARGE POLICY THAT IS GEARED TOWARD REPATRIATING THE CLIENT BACK TO THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN.
7. BE LOCATED AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING DISTANCES FROM THE LISTED USES, MEASURED FROM NEAREST PROPERTY LINE TO NEAREST PROPERTY LINE:
 - A. 2,000 FEET FROM ANY OTHER DETOXIFICATION CENTER, SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER, OR TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENCE.
 - B. 1,000 FEET FROM ANY CHURCH, PUBLIC LIBRARY, PARK, PERSERVE AND TRAIL, OR SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL, OR DAY CARE.
 - C. 500 FEET FROM ANY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT OR USE INCLUDING PLANNED AREA DEVELOPMENTS WITH A RESIDENTIAL PRIMARY USE.

SECTION 6. The Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 18, Town Center Commercial Zoning Districts, Section 18.05, Uses Subject to Special Use Permits, is hereby amended as follows:

B. Group Homes for the Handicapped and Elderly People COMMUNITY RESIDENCES SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 5.13, Nursing Home, Homes for the Aged, Convalescent Home.

SECTION 7. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is held to be unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, this 21st day of February 2023.

FOR THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS: /s/Ginny Dickey, Mayor

ATTESTED TO: /s/Linda Mendenhall, Town Clerk

REVIEWED BY: /s/Grady E. Miller, Town Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Aaron D. Arnson, Town Attorney

PUBLIC NOTICE

Neighborhood Property Owners' Association, The Neighborhood Property Owners Association of Fountain Hills, Arizona, Inc. will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM to be held at the Fountain Hills Community Center, Yavapai Room. Delegate check in begins at 5:30 PM. Member property owners are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information contact the Association office at (480) 837-5317 or info@npaoh.org.
Published Fountain Hills Times 03/15/2023

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: As-Needed Painting Services
Project ID: RFP-2023-004
Release Date: March 8, 2023
Advertisement: Fountain Hills Times: 3/8/23 & 3/15/23
Advertisement: Arizona Business Gazette: 4/13/23 @ 5:30pm
Final Date and Time for Inquires: March 30, 2023, 5:00pm
Proposal Due Date and Time: April 13, 2023, 5:00pm
Bid Opening: 4/13/23 @ 5:30pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87654985992?pwd=TFh0a0s0djlhRHhta0syWHBV51NzQ0OQ>
Meeting ID: 876 5498 5992
Passcode: eZY2ut

Shortlist Announced for Oral Interviews (if necessary): April 20, 2023
Oral Interviews (if necessary): Last week of April
Anticipated Agreement Start Date: May 1, 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: March 8 and March 15, 2023

Kuhse joins Barker Team

The Barker Team is proud to announce the addition of a new agent to their team, Tatum Kuhse.

Kuhse is an Arizona native, born and raised in East Mesa. She is fresh out of school at Arizona State University (ASU) where she earned her bachelor's degree in business management.

In addition to her studies, Kuhse was a member of the ASU Spirit Squad which kept her busy and involved with the community. After dancing competitively for almost 15 years, she is ready to hang up her ballet shoes and eager to enter a new chapter with The Barker Team and Keller Williams Arizona Realty.

Kuhse is passionate about her faith, family and honesty. Her positivity and lightheartedness radiate to those around her creating a calm and comfortable environment for business.

For more information on The Barker Team, visit thebarkerteam.com



Tatum Kuhse

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Vicki Beseke, Executive Director, VerdeCares Inc.

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Automobiles



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Miscellaneous

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The Verde Communities

Water issues topic

RVCA annual meeting speaker

The Rio Verde Community Association (RVCA) will hold its annual meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, with a guest speaker discussing water issues.

ASU Professor Rhett Larson will discuss a topic important to Verde residents this year. "Drought and Development – Arizona Groundwater Policy and the Rio Verde Foot-hills Controversy." Professor Larson is the Richard Morrison Professor of Water Law in the Sandra Day

O'Connor College of Law.

The five nominated Board candidates are Jill Arnold, Rick Lindenberg, Kathleen Mayer, Paul Rosenkoetter and Nancy Werner. Ballots were mailed to all residents in February. In order for a ballot to be counted it must be in the mail before midnight on March 24, dropped off at the RVCA Office in the Community Center or deliver to the secretary before the start of the annual meeting.

The annual meeting agenda will include remarks by the RVCA President Kevin Waring plus Treasurer Trish Ugorowski's financial report and review of the 2022 Audit.

The March meeting of the RVCA Board will be held immediately following the annual meeting in the Community Church Choir Room. The top agenda item is the election of officers for 2023-2024.

New development plans unveiled

Rio Verde Community Association (RVCA) President Kevin Waring has updated residents on two proposed new developments just west of the Verdes along Rio Verde Drive. The plans include a large master-planned community and a shopping center.

The RVCA Board of Directors recently formed an Ad Hoc Committee to monitor and advise the Board on them.

"In April, the Association will host representatives of Toll Brothers and Park West to make community presentations on their proposed projects, described (here further)," Waring said in a statement. "Meanwhile, email any questions to Doris Findling, RVCA Executive Director at doris@rioverde-hoa.org."

"A Toll Brothers/Shea Homes joint venture is proposing to develop a master planned community on West 36, a 492-acre property bounded by Tonto Verde, McDowell Mt. Park, 176th Street, and Rio Verde Drive. Toll Brothers will apply to rezone the property from Rural-43 (one acre per dwelling unit) to R-6 (minimum 6,000 sq. ft. per dwelling unit)."

The property is in EP-COR's Rio Verde water district and will be required to demonstrate a 100-year assured water supply. The property is not now in EP-COR's wastewater district but may be annexed into it.

According to a recent public statement, "Current plans for the proposed community include single-family residential homes on a variety of lot sizes, and a wide range of lifestyle amenities. In addition to a clubhouse, the community will include swimming pools, sport courts, and trails."

"The project team anticipates the timeline from initiation of the rezoning to final plat approvals and start of construction to be approximately 18 to 24 months."

"Thereafter, the project will be constructed in multiple phases over the course of several years. Models will be open and home sales started approximately 18 months after the initial start of construction and

from there, subsequent phases will be constructed as dictated by demand.

"Generally, the approval process includes obtaining approval from Maricopa County to amend the previously approved Development Master Plan. Thereafter, the County would have to approve a Preliminary Plat for the community and then Final Plats and Final Improvement Plans for each phase of development."

On Dec. 22, 2022, Park West Partners applied to rezone 16.84 acres at the

southeast corner of 174th Street and Rio Verde Drive to C-2 CUPD (Commercial Unit Planned Development) for a shopping center called "Shops at Rio Verde." Per the application, "The proposal includes a variety of commercial uses such as, but not limited to, a grocery store, hardware/tack and feed store, drive-through restaurants, full-service restaurants, bank, automotive uses for tire and battery repair, coffee shop, gas station, convenience store, assorted retail services, and medical and office users."

Verde News Briefs

Tonto speaker series March 16

The Tonto Verde Events and Activities Committee will host The Speaker Series with Jonathan Sebat, professor of psychiatry and cellular molecular medicine and UC San Diego on Thursday, March 16.

Professor Sebat will discuss Autism Spectrum Disorders talking about various genetic factors contributing to the risk for autism, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression.

The program will be at the Clubhouse multi-purpose room from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. There is a cash bar from 3:30 to 3:50 p.m., the lecture is from 4 to 5 p.m. with Q&A session from 5 to 5:30 p.m.

This is a complimentary event, but seating is limited. Register online at the Tonto Verde Lifestyle Activities registration.

VAL Spring Art Show & Sale

The Verdes Art League Spring Art Show & Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 18, in the Rio Verde Community Center.

The Show will feature the work of 25 Verde artists, many of whom have won awards locally and nationally. A variety of media will be presented, including jewelry, paintings, textiles, photography, greeting cards, decorative gourds, wood carving, ceramics, leather-

work and glass.

In addition, there will be a silent auction of works donated by many of the participating artists. Come and enjoy a fun day. Everyone is welcome.

Verdes Church hosts lectures

The Community Church of the Verdes is hosting two upcoming lectures this season.

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.

Tonto to host Mind & Soul

Tonto Verde is hosting a Mind & Soul Yin Stretch Yoga & Charka Healing Workshop on Saturday, March 18, from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Stacey Bristow will present the workshop focusing on a relaxing, healing, gentle Yin stretch class designed for those wanting to investigate combination of depth of movement, awareness and deep breathing.

Bristow is owner of Energy Co., a lifetime volunteer, executive life coach, semi-retired government executive and wellness expert.

The cost of the workshop is \$35 to be paid directly to the instructor. Class is

limited and registration required. Visit the Tonto Verde website to register.

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 March 28

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.

Sign of spring



A flock of over 20 Robins recently descended on Les and Rhoda Haight's bird bath for a drink and a bath. It was a welcome sight to Michiganders Les and Rhoda who note that the robin is their State Bird and a traditional sign of spring just a week away on the calendar. There were 117 Robins counted in the RV bird count Feb. 17-20. (Photo courtesy of RV Roadrunner)

Art League lecture March 24

The final event for The Verdes Art League Lecture Series for this season will be on Friday, March 24, with the subject, "Historia De Un Gran Amor – Story of a Great Love: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo," by Isabel Ballerna.

Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo were two iconic 20th Century Latin American artists, each possessed with boundless talents, unbending wills and a ferocious love for each other.

But beyond their intimate love was a more profound love of the country of their birth – Mexico.

The lecture is presented by Phoenix Art Museum docents. For information about all the Verdes Art League events, activities and meetings visit the Art League website at verdesartleague.org.

The website includes photos and bios of Art League members as well as information on how to join.

FH Times Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13							14				
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CLUES ACROSS

- Half-conscious states
- Unnatural
- Deep regret
- Rogue
- Taken without permission
- An alternative
- After B

CLUES DOWN

- Partner to flowed
- Weekday
- Body part
- World's longest river
- One of the Greats
- Make clean
- C. Canada indigenous peoples
- Japanese seaport

CLUES ACROSS

- Most unclothed
- Small grouper fish
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Distinguishing sound
- French realist painter
- Popular beer brand
- Views

- God depicted as a bull
- Relieve
- Residue after burning
- Habitation
- Poe's middle name
- Japanese title
- TV series installation (abbr.)
- Beloved country singer
- Single unit
- Genuine
- Develop
- Traveled through the snow

- Where golfers begin
- No charge
- Print errors
- Professional drivers
- Kiss box set
- Short, fine fibers
- Administers punishment
- Czech city
- Normal or sound powers of mind
- The academic world
- Crustacean
- Currency
- Pastoral people of

- Tanzania or Kenya
- Cloth spread over a coffin
- Grouped together
- On land
- Glistened
- A type of extension
- One who assists
- College sports conference
- Zero
- Midway between northeast and east
- Type of screen
- The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet

Answers on page 2

This week's crossword puzzle sponsored by



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