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Wednesday, April 12, 2023

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Times photo by Cyrus Guccione

Fellowship at Sunrise Service

Pastor Keith Pavia of Christ's Church embraces a friend before the show got rolling at Easter Sunrise Service, hosted at the Fountain Park amphitheater on Sunday, April 9. For additional photos, see page 17A and the online gallery at fhtimes.com.

Sunridge Preserve plan heard

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council heard what may have been a final version of plans for the proposed Sunridge Preserve at its April 4 regular meeting, but it is almost certainly not the last word on the project.

The Town owns a parcel of approximately five acres at the corner of Desert Canyon and Sunridge drives within the SunRidge Canyon subdivision. The land was originally decided to

the Town by MCO Properties as a potential site for a third fire station. The site was considered large enough to include some park amenities along with the fire station. However, the parcel is no longer needed as a fire station site.

The Town began planning a park development for the site about a year ago but received resistance from the homeowners' association for the subdivision. HOA officials told Town staff in no uncertain terms

they did not want a park on the site. They do not want the traffic and potential disruption related to a public park. It has been noted that Golden Eagle Park is less than one mile from this location just across Golden Eagle Boulevard.

Former Town Manager Grady Miller and Community Services Director Rachael Goodwin, now interim town manager, persisted in gathering information about what

(cont. on page 7A)

Council hears noise issue

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

About half a dozen residents went to the Town Council April 4 to ask the Town for an effort to reduce traffic noise in their neighborhood near Palisades and Grande boulevards.

Gary Clark led off the resident discussion during the call to the public section of the meeting agenda.

Clark said the noise pollution is at times unbearable and asked the Town if noise regulations could be enforced.

Generally the most noise is generated by motorcycles, trucks and the occasional car with a loud muffler, according to Clark.

Melissa Graves added her comments, saying the Town should look at noise the way it treats dark sky regulations.

"It affects our quality of life," Graves said. She cited cars accelerating from the traffic light.

"On the weekends it sounds like bike week at Daytona."

She added that she does not believe it should be a truck route.

Another resident stated he had law enforcement experience handling similar situations. He said there are various traffic calming techniques that can be used to slow traffic. He also said the council should look at reducing the speed limit through the area (currently 35 miles per hour). The area is outside the existing

(cont. on page 7A)

Lock your vehicle MCSO updates council

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Maricopa County Sheriff's Capt. Larry Kratzer reported on a significant armed robbery and a spate of vehicle robberies in Fountain Hills recently.

Kratzer gave the Town Council an update on law enforcement activity in Fountain Hills over the past month at its April 4, regular meeting.

The message from Sheriff's deputies and council members was clear – people need to get into the habit of locking their vehicle and taking any valuables with them when they leave the vehicle,

even for a short time.

Over a two-week period, there were nine break-in incidents involving 11 vehicles reported to MCSO, according to Kratzer. He reported that there was no indication of forced entry in any of the incidents, leading deputies to believe the vehicles were left unlocked. Some of the victims acknowledged that, others said they could not recall.

Kratzer said there was one incident in which a security video showed a suspect attempting to get into an apparently locked vehicle but moving on when

(cont. on page 2A)

Wet winter drying up

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Rotary Splash Pad water park opened for the season this past weekend and the temperatures cracked the 90-degree mark for the first time this year over the weekend, so maybe the long, wet winter has finally passed.

Most people who have been around for a while recognized that this past winter season was a bit unusual, and a look at the numbers bears that out. Overnight low tempera-

tures dipped into the 30s in Fountain Hills as recently as last week, before the quick seasonal change.

Looking back through December local temperatures were found to be overall – no significant records – the entire season, colder than usual.

Between Dec. 1 and March 31 (121 days) there were a total of 22 days in which the overnight low temperatures dipped into the 30s. In January there was a stretch of 10 out of 12 consecutive days when

(cont. on page 2A)

Blood drive this weekend

The Town of Fountain Hills and the Noon Kiwanis community will host a blood drive this Friday and Saturday, April 14-15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily in the Community Center's Pima and Hopi rooms, 13001 N. La Montana Dr.

At the blood drive, there will also be large blue barrels set out for the Extended Hands Food Bank.

Visitors are encouraged to bring items for the food bank and place them in the barrels, even if they do not plan on donating blood.

To schedule an appointment, contact Dr. Liz Smit at 480-837-2600 or 480-206-4785, call Paul Appeldorn at 480-836-8213 or email appeldop@gmail.com or visit donors.vitalant.org (sponsor code: Kiwanis).



Times photo by Bob Burns

Rolling along

A construction crew is making progress with work at the skate park expansion at Desert Vista Park. Portions of the bowl have been poured and shaping for the pump track is ongoing. The work is scheduled to be complete by July. The \$732,000 project was approved by the Town Council last fall with American Ramp Company as the contractor. The skate park was originally built in 2007 with a Phase II slated for, at that time, an undetermined date.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Volunteers:

Town recognizes philanthropic residents.
See Page 10A

Storytellers:

Local activity lets residents share their unique tales.
See Page 9A

Habitat:

Verdes group announces they have hit fundraising goal.
See Page 22A

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., April 4	67	40	--
Wed., April 5	67	46	--
Thurs., April 6	78	51	--
Fri., April 7	82	50	--
Sat., April 8	82	55	--
Sun., April 9	88	58	--
Mon., April 10	96	67	--

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Bulk collection continues through April

Republic Services has scheduled its annual bulk collection service for Fountain Hills continuing through April 26. There are nine designated zones with collections beginning on Wednesday of each

week. According to Michael Roldan, manager of municipal services for Republic, they are finding an extremely heavy load in Fountain Hills this year. He said the amount of

material being put out is more than double that of past years. Therefore, it is taking more than a single day to complete collections. Republic does ask that people have items out on Wednesday for collection that week.

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

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

Typical bulk items include couches, lamps, rugs,

mattresses and large appliances without Freon.

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

Zone Seven scheduled for collection beginning Wednesday, April 12, is south of Trevino Drive, east of Fountain Hills Boulevard and the southern boundary of the Town.

Zone Eight scheduled for collection beginning on April 19, is the Eagle Mountain subdivision.

Zone Nine is the last area to be collected beginning on April 26 includes the Crestview and Adero Canyon subdivisions.

MCSO

(cont. from page 1A)

they couldn't get in. He also said that there was a video showing someone entering a vehicle in the very early morning hours wearing a reflective safety vest.

The vehicle thefts resulted in the taking of two handguns, about \$200 in cash and various credit cards. Some stolen items were recovered, including a wallet discovered discarded along Shea Boulevard.

Councilman Gerry Friedel lamented the situation saying Fountain Hills has always been considered a safe community.

"We need to be more vigilant," Friedel said. "We can't be so trusting anymore."

Kratzer also said it seems likely that there were additional incidents that went unreported. If nothing of value was taken some victims may have decided not to bother with a report to law enforcement.

"At least make a phone call so we can have a record of the information on the incident," Kratzer said.

Kratzer also reported that on Monday, March 27, deputies responded to a reported armed robbery at the Fry's grocery store on Shea Boulevard.

MCSO received the call at about 9:20 p.m., soon after the store had closed for the day. After all customers and employees were gone a manager was the only employee remaining. The suspect came out of a bathroom where they had been hiding and held the manager at gunpoint, making

them open the safe. It was estimated that between \$50,000 and \$80,000 was taken.

Kratzer said the robbery seemed to be well thought out and the suspect familiar with store operations. There is video of the incident inside and outside the store but neither reveals any substantial detail, Kratzer said.

He said the robber was well covered with a hood and face cover as well as gloves. There is nothing identifiable other than the manager's impressions. He believes the suspect was a white male.

There was nothing visible on the exterior video other than a single vehicle some distance out in the parking lot, but the make or model of the vehicle could be determined by the video.

Kratzer said Sheriff's detectives are continuing to investigate the armed robbery and are working with other law enforcement agencies to determine whether there are similar reports that may be related.


Councilman Allen Skillicorn asked Kratzer about raising the profile of law enforcement in an effort to deter incidents related to panhandling, vagrancy or shopping cart theft.

Deputies may make contact with individuals who appear to be homeless, but that is primarily as a welfare check or for assistance if requested.

"We don't typically make contact with someone just because they may have a shopping cart," Kratzer said. "Stores are not always interested in pursuing that as a criminal offense."

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Wet

(cont. from page 1A)

the overnight low hovered in the 30s. The lows never dipped below 30.

Similarly, looking at high temperatures there were 28 days within the December to March timeframe in which the high temperatures never go higher than the 50s. There was a stretch of six consecutive days in December and 12 straight days in January with high temperatures below 60 degrees. The lowest high was 47.

And then there was the rain. Looking back all the way to the end of the summer monsoon on Sept. 30, there were 10.16-inches of rain recorded by the Town at Fountain Park through March 31. December was the wettest month with 3.29-inches received. The

wettest single day was Jan. 2, with 1.20-inches.

Residents woke up on March 2 to see a dusting of snow on the ground in some places. This was mostly in the McDowell Mountains, but SunRidge Canyon Golf Club received about an inch on its practice putting green.

As for the snowfall, the mountains in the north and east in Arizona received record snowfall over the winter. It has begun to melt off resulting in high water running in the Salt and Verde rivers through the Valley. Salt River Project, which manages the storage dams on the rivers, expects the water to flow through the riverbed through April and maybe into May.

On the silver lining side, the wet winter has resulted in a super bloom of spring flowers in the area that has not been seen for several years.



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Check out the latest Fountain Hills news at fhtimes.com

Answer to this week's puzzle

	A	M	U		P	A	N		S	S	B				
	R	E	P		A	G	E		A	L	E				
A	M	E	N	D	R	A	M		D	E	R	M	A		
S	A	T	I	A	T	E			E	N	D	E	M	I	C
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					R	E	T		S	A	E	N	E	E	
					P	S	T		E	R	N	O	D	D	

Concert series continues

The spring series of Concerts on the Avenue of the Fountains continues this Thursday, April 13, with the band, The Black Hole, and solo artist Ritchie Fliegler.

The series is being presented by the Sonoran Lifestyle Team at RE/MAX Sun Properties and Fountain Hills Community Services. Concerts will continue weekly on Thursdays through April.

Enjoy live music along the Avenue of the Fountains with the evening concert series from 6 to 8 p.m.

Organizers say the concerts will showcase some of the Valley's best bands and a variety of music options to suit everyone's taste. Each evening will have an acoustic musician and a band. Yard games will be spread throughout the Avenue and docents available for self-guided art walk tours.

Pack a picnic or enjoy dining at one of the restaurants on the Avenue. Feel free to bring a blanket or lawn chairs. This free entertainment at all the concerts is suitable for the

whole family.

Solo musicians will perform at Nichols Plaza in front of the MCSO parking lot. The bands will perform at the fountains in front of Sofrita.

The schedule is as follows:

*April 20: Band, Lucas Brown and the Nights Watch; Solo, Kailin Kentigian.

*April 27: Band, Chuck Hall Band; Solo, Dave Clark.

Contact Linda Ayres for information at layres@fountainhillsaz.gov.



Musician Chuck Hall held a solo performance on Avenue of the Fountains April 6 to kick off the Town's Concerts on the Avenue series through the month of April. Hall's appearance was a make-up concert for one that was rained out during the fall concert series last November. On Thursday, April 13, the band The Black Hole will perform with a solo concert by Ritchie Fliegler. Hall will return with his band on April 27.



People brought out their chairs and gathered on the Avenue of the Fountains Plaza April 6, to hear Chuck Hall open the spring 2023 Concerts on the Avenue series for the Town of Fountain Hills.

Times photos by Bob Burns

Dickey joins executive committee

Fountain Hills Mayor Ginny Dickey was recently appointed to serve a two-year term on the League of AZ Cities and Towns Executive Committee.

League activities are

directed by the Committee consisting of 25 mayors and council members from across the state. Officers are elected to two-year terms and members are elected to one- or two-year

overlapping terms.

"It's an honor to represent the Town of Fountain Hills in this important statewide organization advocating for Arizona's municipalities," Dickey said.

Town Briefs

Council approves block grant pact

The Town Council voted 5-2 to continue its participation in an agreement with Maricopa County for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Councilman Allen Skillicorn asked that the item be removed from the council consent agenda April 4, to allow for discussion.

Skillicorn said the housing situation in Maricopa County is getting worse.

"We see what is happening...it is not working," Skillicorn said. "We need to have real solutions."

The Town joined the CDBG program in 2017. The federal block grants are not directly available to communities with a population less than 50,000. The Maricopa County program is intended to serve those communities allowing them to have access to approximately \$2.5 million annually the county receives from HUD.

The current agreement ends June 30, and this action will renew the program for an additional three years.

Mayor Ginny Dickey

said the membership is no cost to the Town and allows residents who qualify an opportunity to access assistance.

Skillicorn and Councilwoman Brenda Kalivianakis voted against the renewal.

Traffic system contract okayed

The Town Council unanimously approved a professional services agreement with Power Tech Contracting, LLC to provide the Town with traffic signal and street-light repair and maintenance services.

Public Works Director Justin Weldy told the council the agreement covers 13 traffic signals, six electronic speed radar signs, three pedestrian crosswalk flashing signals and 58 streetlights.

"The Town does not have in-house staffing or equipment necessary to maintain these electrical infrastructure systems," Weldy said.

Council asked about bringing staff on for the work in-house.

Weldy said personnel with expertise are well

paid and since there is little maintenance work on a regular basis, qualified staff would likely not be interested in a job doing regular street maintenance activities.

The annual amount for the agreement is not to exceed \$71,450 with a four-year aggregate of \$357,250.

HVAC contract gets approval

The Town Council has approved a cooperative services agreement through the State of Arizona for a contractor to provide heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) services to the Town.

Through its competitive bidding process, the state awarded Mesa Energy Systems a contract. The cooperative agreement allows the Town to take advantage of the pricing the contractor gave the state.

The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$100,000 for the remainder of the current fiscal year through June 30 and the next fiscal year through June 30, 2024.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

PELEGRINI & DEGEORGE

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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 30, through Wednesday, April 5.

Thursday, March 30

◆ The driver of a Kia Soul vehicle was involved in a non-injury vehicle collision when they failed to maneuver a curve and overturned their vehicle in a resident's yard. The driver then fled the scene without leaving their information. Deputies later located the driver and arrested them for driving without the influence and for leaving the scene of an accident. The summary provided did not include the location of the incident.

Friday, March 31

◆ Deputies responded to a business in the 16800 block of Shea Blvd. and made contact with a transient female who was reported trespassing. During the contact, it was discovered that the female had an outstanding warrant for her arrest. They were arrested for the outstanding warrant.

◆ A resident of the 17000 block of Salida Dr. reported that two unidentified males used a U-Haul truck to dump trash onto a residential property, then fled the scene.

◆ Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Monterey Drive where two vehicles were involved in a non-injury collision. One vehicle failed to yield from a private drive, drove across Shea Boulevard and collided with the second vehicle, which was properly driving westbound on Shea.

Saturday, April 1

◆ A resident of the 33200 block of 140th St. reported they put their home up for sale. Sometime overnight, an unknown suspect broke into the home, but did not steal anything. There was no damage done to the home either.

◆ A business owner in the 16900 block of Colony Dr. reported that an unknown suspect cut the padlock securing the back gate to his business. Although security cameras were available, no persons were captured on video committing the act. The business owner did not wish to prosecute the matter.

Sunday, April 2

◆ Deputies responded to the 14600 block of El Pueblo Blvd. A driver was involved in a non-injury vehicle collision when they fell asleep while driving and struck a parked car.

Monday, April 3

◆ Deputies responded to the 13000 block of Saguaro Blvd. It was reported that an unknown suspect criminally damaged the bathroom of a local doctor's office by throwing décor and soiled paper towels on the walls, floors and sinks.

◆ A resident of the 16600 block of Gunsight Dr. reported that the screen on their bedroom window was

removed and placed on the ground. It is believed that someone might have entered the home and stolen an old cell phone.

◆ Deputies responded to the 17100 block of Shea Blvd. where the manager of a local business reported that a male subject stole food items and left without paying. The suspect was later found, arrested and booked for shoplifting.

◆ Deputies responded to 136th St. and Westland Drive where two drivers were involved in a low-speed head-on vehicle collision when each driver failed to see the other vehicle as they were driving up a hill. Neither driver sustained any injuries.

◆ Deputies responded to the 16700 block of Shea Blvd. It was reported that an unknown suspect forcefully entered and burglarized an abandoned business. The complainant reported that several wires containing copper metal were stolen from the interior of the business.

Tuesday, April 4

◆ Deputies made a traffic stop at El Pueblo Boulevard and Baca Drive. The driver was pulled over for speeding. During the traffic investigation, it was discovered that the driver's license was suspended. The driver was criminally cited for driving with a suspended license.

◆ Deputies responded to the 10400 block of Indian Wells Dr. for an audible burglar alarm. A male subject was observed loitering outside the property on their arrival. There was no forced entry into the home, however, it was discovered that the subject had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. The subject was arrested and booked for the outstanding warrant.

Wednesday, April 5

◆ Deputies made a traffic stop on Saguaro Boulevard and Ledferd Lane. The driver was issued a criminal citation when they were observed driving 28 mph over the posted speed limit.

◆ Deputies made a traffic stop on Grande Boulevard at Arrowweed Drive. The driver was pulled over for speeding. During the traffic investigation, it was discovered that the driver was operating the vehicle without an Interlock Ignition Device, which was required due to a previous DUI. The driver's registration was also found to be expired. The driver was criminally cited for operating a vehicle without the required interlock ignition device.

◆ A resident of the 17100 block of Malta Dr. reported that an unknown suspect used his identity to file for tax returns. The IRS was notified, and the returns were cancelled when the IRS could not verify the identity of the person that filed the returns.

◆ Deputies responded to the 11600 block of Saguaro Blvd. where a mechanic reported that they believed

a vehicle they were working on for a customer was intentionally tampered with. The lug nuts on one tire only were loosened, a safety pin was removed, and several lug nuts on the passenger side mount were missing. It is unknown when or where the vehicle could have been tampered with.

◆ Deputies responded to the 11400 block of Baron Dr. A driver was involved in a single-vehicle non-injury collision when they struck a pillar in the front yard of a residential property. The driver later exchanged information with the homeowner and left the scene.

OBITUARIES

Marian Bowling

Beloved wife, mother and "grandmommy" Marian Louise Bowling resident of Fountain Hills peacefully went to be with our Lord Saturday, March 25, 2023.

Marian, 87, was born in Houston, Texas. Her young, spirited work ethic led her to the Houston Press while in high school, then on to Gulf Oil. Later she spent over 30 years in property management and residential real estate. Her clients became instant and lifelong friends, and she adored finding just the right place for them to call home.

She is survived by her dear, devoted husband of 67 years, Ret. Colonel Melvin Bowling Sr.; loving children, Pat Bowling, Melvin Bowling Jr., and Tracie Goldman; grandchildren, Casey Holcomb, Cary Holcomb, Christopher Bowling, Christina Christensen, Matthew Bowling, Natalie Goldman, Nicole Goldman; great grandchildren, Daniel Holcomb, Khaylee Paderon, Cooper Holcomb; and loving brother, Ross Doane.

Her biggest sources of joy in life were her family, friends, love of Texas, and rooting for the Dallas Cowboys. Her sense of giving especially at Christmas time truly knew no bounds. Above all, celebrating the anniversary of marrying her one true love Melvin was always the most important to her. She was loved dearly by all who knew her and will be deeply missed.

Susan Lee Luzinski

Susan Lee Luzinski, beloved wife, sister, stepmother and friend, passed away unexpectedly on March 30, 2023, at the age of 74 in Fountain Hills, Ariz. She was born on March 21, 1949, to James and Lenore Gunning in Chicago, Ill., and spent her early years living down the street from Wrigley Field until her family moved to Schiller Park, Ill., where she graduated from East Leyden High School.

Susan began her professional career with the

Federal Government, specifically with the Defense Contract Administration Services Region (DCASR) located at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. She started in the clerical field and was later promoted to positions in personnel and training. She eventually became the Commander's Secretary in the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Chicago and dedicated over 38 years of her life to federal service before retiring in March 2006.

In August 1981, Susan married the love of her life, Bill, and the couple lived in Des Plaines, Ill., before settling in Bartlett, Ill., in 1984, where they purchased their home. Susan was an active member of the Bartlett's Women Club (BWC) and served as its president in 1997-1998. She was also the chairperson of the Fashion Show, developing the fashion show booklet, and participated as a crafter in the BWC Craft Fair. Her eloquence as a speaker and her dedication to the community were widely recognized.

In June 2007, Susan and Bill moved to Fountain Hills where Susan continued her active involvement in various organizations. She served as the president of both the Fountain Hills Women's Club (FHWC) and the Friends in the Hills Welcome Club (FITH) simultaneously in 2012-2013, showcasing her leadership skills and commitment to community service. She also maintained the on-line monthly activity bulletin for FITH, developing the fashion show booklet for FHWC and assisted with the power point presentation at her church, Shepherd of the Hills, on Sundays.

Susan was known for her unwavering optimism and kindness. She never got mad or upset and always had a smile on her face. She was quick to help others, never hesitating to lend a hand when someone was in need. Her generosity and graciousness touched the lives of many, and she will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Susan is preceded in death by her parents, James and Lenore Gunning, and her sister, Connie Rutherford. She is survived by her loving husband, William Luzinski of Fountain Hills; stepchildren, Gregory (Roberta) Luzinski of Naperville, Ill., and Michele Luzinski of Fountain Hills; step-grandchildren, Matthew Majnarich, Ariel Cornell, Jordyn Luzinski, and Brooks Luzinski; as well as a host of beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. She is also survived by her best friend and sister, Linda Gunning, of Fountain Hills.

A memorial service to celebrate Susan's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at Shepherd of the Hills, located at 16150 E. El Lago Blvd, Fountain Hills, AZ. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made in Susan's memory to the American Society for the



Susan Luzinski

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), as Susan had a deep love and compassion for animals. Her legacy of kindness, optimism, and selflessness will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. Rest in peace, dear Susan. You will be forever missed, and your love and memory will live on in our hearts.

Philip E. Metzler

Philip Earnest "Two Dollar Phil" Metzler of Fountain Hills passed away on March 16, 2023, at the age of 85. Originally born in Chicago, Ill., on March 22, 1937, Philip was the youngest of three boys. He was always looking for ways to make a mark on this world and the people around him. A preeminent entrepreneur his entire life he promoted, started, ran and conceptualized numerous businesses and ideas. These included a teen night club, "The Better Mouse Trap," which he started and ran in his hometown in Illinois when he was in his 20s.

Other adventures included (not in any particular order): Philip and his second wife, Jacque were members of the

Management team at Cinderella Modeling Schools in Washington DC/Maryland; investing and developing Fotomat's drive up kiosks; acting in commercials for Shell Oil; working for Disney World as a Golf Pro; training race horses at Arlington Park, Ill.; starting and running a thoroughbred transportation service with his brothers, Carry-Horse Vans; Metzler Classic Cars; real-estate broker; sales rep for "Air-Flow Tailgates;" manager of John's Bargain stores; apartment maintenance and manager; and in the early 90s he unsuccessfully attempted to find investors to build a cultural complex in the Phoenix area which was to be composed of an Automobile Museum, Aquarium, and Space Museum.

And these are just a few of the many businesses he involved himself in. But perhaps his greatest achievement was being a father to three children, and a surrogate father to many of his children's friends. His hyperactive and outgoing personality, teamed with his penchant for telling stories (based on facts, but heavily seasoned with poetic license) never failed to captivate the attention of others. He had mastered the ability to tell his entire life story in 15 minutes and barely took a breath in the process.

During his retirement years his energy level surpassed that of those half his age. With his third wife, they traveled the world and the Americas by motorhome. One of his favorite events was an annual classic car race that they participated in on Daytona Beach, Fla. Each year he would take a different classic car from the 1920s or 30s that he had purchased over the years and restored. One year they both had special

matching race suits made for the occasion.

Every holiday was a chance for Phil to extend his loving and giving nature to those he didn't know. It was a common occurrence to attend a family holiday gathering and be introduced to people he had met and invited to his home for the holiday. Common invites were given to people he met at the grocery store, gas station, during a round of golf, or simply walking down the street. A few times he even picked people up and drove them to and from the gathering if they could find a ride themselves. After the death of his third wife, he spent his final years traveling around the U.S. and relishing in meeting people. It was during these years he became known as "two-dollar Phil", due to his compulsion to hand out \$2 bills to those he met and spread his message of faith in Jesus. The relevance of the \$2 bill blessing is it represents the relationship between "you and God" and love. Love, like the \$2 bill is in abundance yet hard to find. People should not hoard love, like so many do with a \$2 bill, but share it freely with one another. His heart was large, and he never ceased to give what he had to others to the point of not having much for himself. He will be remembered by those who knew him, for his larger-than-life personality, his giving nature, his stories, and his striking blue eyes that seemed to glow when he smiled. He is survived by his three adult children and four grandchildren. Services will be held privately.

Metabolic Health group

The Metabolic Health Support Group meets two Wednesdays a month "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

LOST & FOUND

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 - Lady's double strand diamond, tennis bracelet. Last seen Thursday, March 23, in Bashas' or Bashas' parking lot. If found, please call 612-581-7777.

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RIBBON CUTTING

Opinion

Gun violence

 A letter from:
Peggy Yeargain

“The Right to Arms” was a thought-provoking editorial from Bob Burns last week. He expertly expressed the sorrow and frustration that we all feel each time a school shooting occurs.

No one wants to accept the idea that nothing can or should be done to prevent the never-ending gun violence this country is experiencing. I believe that most Americans want much stronger regulations on gun sales and are frustrated by the lack of action. Politicians fear the loss of big campaign donations if stronger gun regulations are enacted. They have really let us down, but informed voters have the power to change that.

I liked that Bob included some interesting historical facts about our gun culture. American history can be disturbing, but when put in context, it is very informative. When history is erased for the sake of shielding us from reality or changing the narrative, the opportunity to learn from the past is also erased. That is why our schools need social studies curriculums that are truthful. I think that Americans need to know the facts so that we make better decisions going forward.

Last week I listened as our School Board received information about some impressive new products designed to protect our students from possible school invasions: gun shot alarms, defensive fencing, bulletproof window film, auto lockdown devices and “safe rooms” within each classroom. I realized that our Fountain Hills schools, already underfunded and lacking in basic educational facilities and equipment, need to also create a budget for protecting kids from crazed shooters. It is an absolute necessity for school safety.

Finally, that interesting budget discussion brought to mind the recent school bond election. Voters were persuaded to vote it down, a big mistake we can avoid making again, now that we know the facts.

Enormous price

 A letter from:
AI Southall

I’m responding to a past letter titled “Enough.” It was regarding the massive shootings that continue to occur in our country.

I’m convinced this is slowly becoming a national movement, as I watch students walk out of classrooms as a protest. Children are going to solve the issue of guns in this country. Every child deserves to be free from violence. Our nation’s children pay an enormous price for weak gun laws.

View your state’s annual gun law score card and see what grade your state gets. The state of Arizona is failing. Vote for politicians who want to do more than offer thoughts and prayers. Better yet, vote Democrat.

Unlocked

 A letter from:
Larry Mynars

The April 5, 2023, edition of *The Fountain Hills Times* listed 32 Law Enforcement Report incidents. Of these 32 incidents, the reports of nine were concluded with, “The vehicle was unlocked at the time of the theft.”

I suspect that our law enforcement deputies were making the subtle suggestion that pressing a button or turning a key to lock a vehicle might be a good idea (Thank you). In addition, two of these vehicles had handguns that were reported stolen. The word “negligence” comes to mind, which I hope our law enforcement deputies made abundantly clear to the owners. (Thanks again).

Regardless, if people

were a bit more prudent a great deal of the senseless police calls would be avoided and they could devote their time and energy to more important things.

A difference

 A letter from:
Michael Scharnow

Just the other week I was fortunate enough to attend a celebratory event hosted by the Fountain Hills Community Foundation.

Us old-timers might remember the Sunridge Foundation, which has since been rebranded and revitalized as the Community Foundation (fountain-hillsgives.com).

The recent event held at DC Grill was buzzing with teenagers and adults as dozens of non-profit leaders gathered to receive grants courtesy of the foundation, which itself is a non-profit run by hard-working volunteers.

Much like Make a Difference Day, events such as this remind one how fortunate Fountain Hills is to have literally hundreds and hundreds of people willing to pitch in and help our community in so many ways.

Everyone is trying in their own manner to make a difference, to make Fountain Hills a better place to live, work and play.

On behalf of the Protect Our Youth Coalition, I want to thank the Community Foundation for its \$5,000 grant, which will help us make a positive difference in the lives of our high school students.

The monies will go toward what is being billed as the Falcon PROMise, a multi-pronged effort to help raise some money for student government at our high school and to urge teens to take pledges to make healthy and smart choices around such iconic events as prom and graduation (and the rest of their lives, really).

Our teenagers face many tough decisions in their vulnerable years, and the world has changed quite a bit from when I was attending junior prom in the late 1970s.

Harmful decisions involving illicit drugs, alcohol, vaping and the like can have life-altering negative effects.

There are many other positive ways to celebrate life without turning to dangerous substances that can turn disastrous in a moment’s notice.

Environmental Plan

 A letter from:
Allen Skillicorn,
TOFH councilmember

I often hear from residents about their concerns about the condition of roads and some of the regulations impacting their businesses and they are often confused as to why it can take so much time for the Town to address these problems.

One reason is because we have to debate issues we simply should not have to deal with. One such contest was the 11-page Environmental Plan that was recently defeated. Among other things, this initiative sought to remove gas and diesel cars from town

roads; force ridership on public transportation; ban gas-powered leaf blowers and implement a host of new building codes and regulations.

It is not the role of local government to control the lives of our citizens. We are public servants – not overlords. Our role is to address the concerns and needs of our community. We have real problems to solve such as building and maintaining roads and protecting the citizens of our community.

This discussion goes beyond the Green New Deal proposal. Our rights and freedoms are at stake in this important issue. If town officials can in the name of ideology ban gas-powered cars from local roads and ban gas-powered leaf blowers, then there is virtually no end to the ways Town officials can control our lives. It is our job to lead and to address the real challenges facing our community, and that is exactly what I intend to do. I will not waver in standing up for our freedom and liberty and I will never stop opposing the radical agenda of the statists who want to control all aspects of our lives.

Now, I have some leaves to blow with my gas-powered leaf blower.

The bloc

 A letter from:
Albert Ronca

Now that the newest members of Town Council and Councilman Friedel are exercising what they call their “voting bloc” mentality on Town business, they’ve decided they should oversee FHUSD efforts, too.

They all showed up at a special meeting of the School Board on Monday, April 3, (which appeared to be a violation of Town open meeting law), assumedly to influence decision making of that government body, too. But for what reasons?

It’s simple, but multi-fold. First, they seem to delight in hearing and support (unfounded) assertions like “CRT” and “SEL” being taught in our schools; all untrue, simply scare tactics using buzzwords.

And then there’s that pesky need for our school district to pass a bond to fix our aging school buildings; a high school at 30 and a middle school at 20 years old. Were the Town councilpersons there to support two of the newest School Board members who actively campaigned for defeat of the recent school bond and override, and to influence others to follow? We can’t “GoFundMe” out of our financial needs, schools or town.

Let’s not sit idly aside while these four councilpersons run a show that will sink our Town and our schools. Their ideology isn’t what’s best for our community. They are actively embracing the term “bloc!”

Logo

 A letter from:
Gary Hoger

To the mayor and Town Council, \$20,000-plus has

been spent on a logo which is certainly not well received. That’s water under the bridge. A bigger mistake would be to spend more money on it or to use something that is sub-par and not well received.

The Town seal is excellent. A suggestion would be to tweak the town seal and use that as a logo. A quick and easy solution to a growing issue.

Too much time, energy, effort and money has already been wasted. There are a lot more pressing, major issues than a logo.

Choose

 A letter from:
Nancy Plencner

Independents are a mystery to me. Exactly what do they believe? The unaffiliated non-partisans speak in holier than thou tones that really turn me off. Apparently, they did not take their civics or government classes seriously.

America is a Constitutional Republic with two distinct parties, which in my lifetime have become further and further apart, thus making it easier to choose.

Either you are for a massive, centralized government that restricts and bans or you embrace the rights guaranteed under the Constitution. As a Republican I choose personal responsibility, believe in work there is honor and having choices, about how to live free to make my own decisions. I do not want, nor need, the government “protecting” me, or “making investments for me,” or parenting my children. So, how could I ever be supportive of a party that advocates for things I don’t believe in or would ever tolerate?

If you honestly think the past two years have been great, that the border is secure, the banks just fine (what inflation?), the economy is great, that we are not on the brink of WW3, then go and make nice-nice with the local Democrats. I’m unabashed about what I stand for. I don’t hate Democrats, I just hate their policies and what they are doing to the country.

While enjoying all the freedoms, Independents won’t join in the process or stand up for some basic ideals. How do they determine who to vote for if not based on some principles? So, if you are an Independent, I invite you to check out the Republican Club. April’s meeting is on April 15 at the Community Center, 8:30 a.m. You would find our values to your liking. Sheriff Mark Lamb is our speaker.

Beliefs

 A letter from:
Victoria Thompson

Do you believe in Capitalism or Socialism? Do you believe that open borders have caused millions of lethal pills and drugs to cross our borders along with trafficking of millions of illegals? Do you realize the cartels have taken over the southern border? Do you believe that illegals should live in plush hotels while

Our viewpoint

Crime deterrent

If you read the weekly Law Enforcement Report, you may have noticed in recent weeks there has been an uptick in vehicle break-ins. The common factor in nearly every instance has been that the vehicles were unlocked, allowing criminals easy access to rummage through the glove box and swipe everything from loose cash to firearms.

As pointed out during a recent report from the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office to the Town Council, these incidents could be easily avoided if more folks would simply hit the lock button when exiting their vehicle. We’d all love to go back to the days when such measures were not necessary but, let’s face it, times have changed.

Furthermore, time spent on these avoidable crimes is time deputies aren’t spending tackling bigger issues, and let’s not gloss over the very serious problem of additional firearms making their way onto the streets.

The folks who commit these crimes are looking for a quick buck with minimum effort. This is highlighted by footage of one suspect trying knobs locally and, when they discover a vehicle is locked, they simply move on to the next car. Locking the door was all it took to avoid being burglarized.

We all want to see less crime in our hometown. In this case, we can contribute to that goal by simply hitting the lock button whether we’re leaving our vehicle in a parking lot or its sitting in the driveway.

hard-working Americans can hardly pay the rent?

Do you believe America’s reserved oil has almost been depleted and we are at risk of not having enough for emergencies? Do you believe we should be oil independent and open up drilling rather than beg other countries who are no longer our friends?

Do you believe we should build up our military? Do you believe that children as young as kindergarten should be taught about gender and sex in school? Do you believe parents should be kept in the dark about what is taught to their children? Do you believe criminals should be released after committing a crime to further commit criminal acts?

If you believe the above and are a Democrat, then why are you a Democrat? Is it because you are more committed to party rather than to freedom and our country? Think carefully about what you believe and if you do not subscribe to the above you should join with the Conservatives who are dedicated to saving America.

Support

 A letter from:
Dawn Burstyn-Meyers

I teach in the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community at Salt River Elementary School and live here in Fountain Hills. Owen Cooper, a second grader, recently won a statewide art contest. On March 28, Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee honored Owen and 13 other Arizona students in grades K-6 at the state capitol. They each received \$529 towards an AZ529 account (an education savings plan).

For the contest, Yee’s office invited K-6 graders across Arizona to draw, paint or otherwise find a creative way to make an art piece representing their dream job. Owen won the award for creating a stunning piece that featured Red Mountain; he said he wants to be an artist when he’s older. I took Owen’s picture to Hang Ups Custom Framing to see about framing it.

The owners of Hang Ups were so kind and will be helping to support Owen by framing his picture, something he will always be able to look at and remember his achievement.

Fountain Hills neighbors, if you ever need any framing done, please support this wonderful local business.

NPOA approves several plans

The Neighborhood Property Owners’ Association’s Committee of Architecture reviewed and approved 10 permit applications and two change requests at the meeting held on April 4, with no applications in need of further review.

Approvals were as follows:

- *16006 Venetian – Owner, Davis; driveway.
- *16803 Stoneridge – Owner, Grote; repaint.
- *11609 Dawn Ridge – Owner, Garvey; repaint.
- *15030 Greene Valley – Owner, Mohr; repaint.
- *10228 Nicklaus – Owner, Pacult; repaint.
- *16670 Hawk – Owner, Higgins; repaint.
- *16959 Malta – Owner, Righello; driveway.
- *15049 Calle del Prado – Owner, Feller; wall.
- *16319 Jacklin – Owner, McLean & Penner; remodel.

*16425 Aspen – Owner, Haughey; remodel.

Changes approved were as follows:

*16236 Ironwood – Owner, Bogнар; remodel.

*11028 Aspen – Owner, Clair; single-family home.

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.

Any questions may be directed to the NPOA office at 480-837-5317, or visit the NPOA website at npoafh.org for more information.

THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

(USPS 060-750)

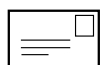
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LETTERS POLICY

The Times wants to hear from its readers and encourages letters to the editor. All letters must be no more than 300 words. It is preferred that they be typewritten and submitted by email. They must include a name, address and telephone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other letter writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two letters or guest cartoons for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a letter is the responsibility of the person who submits it.

Letters deadline noon Monday

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

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Sunridge

(cont. from page 1A)

residents might want as amenities for a park. There were surveys and public meetings to discuss the plan. The Town had originally planned for limited on-site parking, shade ramadas, restrooms and hiking trails.

A key complaint from the HOA was that the Town never specifically asked if the park was wanted.

At a recent council meeting HOA representatives had requested the Town consider selling the land to the HOA. Staff at that time stated there were issues that needed to be researched regarding a possible sale, including whether the land donation contained deed restrictions that would prohibit sale. Goodwin said at the April 4 meeting that the Town has obtained the services of an appraiser to determine the value of the land. Once that has been determined, bids would be requested for the property. Town Attorney Aaron Arnsen said that if the parcel is appraised at a value greater than \$1.5 million it would need voter authorization for the sale. Goodwin said the Town would have limited authority regarding how the buyer might use the land. It appears the property lies within an OSR (Open Space Recreation) zoning district adjacent to the golf course. A developer may need to request rezoning, which would give the Town some control.

Barry Wolborsky, his wife, Kim, and several other SunRidge residents repeated their desire to have the property remain untouched at the April 4 meeting. However, Barry Wolborsky, who heads the HOA, said the HOA may be willing to accept the "Preserve" concept with a trail only, if a number of things were stipulated related to development and future use of the property. They would accept nothing except hiking trail development on the property. The stipulations include (but not the complete list) no parking, no ramadas or shelters, no lights, no benches or tables, no connections to off-site trails, no restrooms and no motor vehicle access (maintenance accepted).

"We (HOA) have made it clear that we do not want or need a park," Wolborsky said.

The residents were also concerned about the possibility of the land being sold to a developer and seemed more willing to accept the Town's trail-only proposal.

Goodwin said that if the Town went forward with the trail the site could be designated as Sunridge Preserve and the Town could post and enforce code restrictions on the land.

The Town has set aside in its Capital Improvement Plan \$100,000 to improve the site. The money would come from park development fees. Parks Superintendent/Interim Community Services Director Kevin Snipes said they do not expect to spend anywhere near that. The

Town has already discussed trail development with the Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills Trail Blazers, who do their work on a volunteer basis at no cost. However, there may be some costs related to accessing and posting the land.

If developed as a preserve area, it appears likely it would be primarily a neighborhood amenity. There is no street parking available on Sunridge or Desert Canyon drives next to the site.

The council took no action April 4, and will wait until an appraisal of the property is complete before considering any action.

Noise

(cont. from page 1A)

special enforcement area on Saguaro, which ends between Palisades Boulevard and La Montaña.

Another resident said he has measured and the noise level does exceed 65 decibels inside his condo, which is considered noise pollution.

The Town Council is limited by what it can comment on during call to the public due to open meeting laws. However, at the end of the meeting the council directed staff to investigate the issue. Councilman Gerry Friedel asked that the council also have a discussion about expanding the role of the existing Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee to consider other traffic and streets-related issues.

Pavement improvement project on El Lago begins

The Town of Fountain Hills has hired Cactus Asphalt for a pavement improvement project on El Lago Boulevard between Fountain Hills and Palisades boulevards.

Work was to begin Monday, April 10, and continue through Friday, April 21. There will be no work on the weekend. Contractors will be working between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays. One lane of access will be provided at

all times. Residents are asked not to park on the street during this slurry seal project.

Motorists and residents will find the following in place during the work:

- *Cones and/or barricades will be used to direct motorists away from work areas. Stay off the treated areas of the street until the barricades are removed.
- *To avoid any possibility of getting material on cars or driveways, plan to not enter or exit driveways

while the application process is occurring, which can last one to two hours.

*During the road work on the street avoid activities that may create water runoff into the streets (i.e., washing cars, overwatering landscape, etc.).

*Put containers out early, before 5 a.m.

In case of inclement weather, work will be postponed until the weather permits. Questions may be directed to a project hotline at 623-344-0365.

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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, April 12
 *8 a.m., Geri-Fit.
 *8:30 a.m., Geri-Fit.
 *9 a.m., video gentle yoga; intermediate bridge.
 *10 a.m., open paint studio.
 *12 p.m., poker.
 *1 p.m., AZ Speaks presentation; Scrabble; Hand &

Foot Cards.
 *2 p.m., Open jam session.
 *5:30, Euchre.

Thursday, April 13
 *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, April 14
 *8 a.m., Geri-Fit

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

Saturday, April 15
 9 a.m., blood drive.

Sunday, April 16
 4 p.m., Community Band concert.

Monday, April 17
 *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, April 18
 *8 a.m., Peer-led exercise; Aerobic chair exercise.
 *9 a.m., video gentle Yoga.
 *9:30 a.m., Intermediate line dancing.
 *10 a.m., Hooks & Needles; open paint studio.
 *11 a.m., American Sign Language meet-up.
 *1 p.m., Swing Time Music; Mah Jongg; movie; Bingo.
 *5:30 p.m., Table tennis.

Earth Day April 22

Fountain Hills Community Services Department and Republic Services invite the public to join the fun for the Town's annual ReCycle ReCreate Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Community Center.

The event is open to all ages and will feature a variety of craft projects using recycled products.

Families can compete against one another in the cardboard fort contest. The goal is to create the most amazing cardboard fort. The competition is limited to 10 families with each registered family having up to five members. At least one parent must participate. Preregistration is required, visit fountainhillsaz.gov/rec.

Craft activities include milk jug face, water bottle mobile, paper airplane contest, dog toys to donate to the Humane Society (adjacent to Fountain Hills library), garden planting using a recycled cup and a bird feeder.

EPCOR Water and Republic Services will have



Craft projects, such as decorating plastic jugs for novelty use, will be part of the Earth Day activities the Town's Community Services Department is hosting on Saturday, April 22.

boots for fun activities, prizes and education.

There will also be a food truck at the party.

Winners for the recycled art contest will be announced and winning entries will be on display. Republic Services will have cash prizes for first and second place in each of four age groups.

Conservancy events set

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, April 19: Easy Pace Hike at Sunrise, Art Walk in Fountain Hills. Cathy Pepper will lead a 2.5-mile walk exploring the 150 pieces of outdoor artwork in the downtown area.

Saturday, April 22: Celebrate Earth Day; Explore

the Sonoran Desert. Celebrate Earth Day in the Sonoran Desert. Learn hands-on about what's in the McDowell Mountain Preserve and become part of the worldwide effort of Biophilics to identify and document plants and animals in our unique Sonoran Desert. Jeny Davis, Project Director of Biophilic Fountain Hills, will be the Naturalist Guide in exploring plants, flowers and wildlife in the Preserve. Learn more about them using the free app, iNaturalist, an online repository of flora and fauna around the world. Jeny will also talk about the Biophilic Fountain Hills project and how the town is working to become a more nature-focused community.

Thursday, April 27: Stargazing and 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 possibly catch a glimpse of a planet or identify constellations and stars while Vicky recounts some myths and stories held by ancient cultures about the sky. After the hike the Star Dudes will point their telescopes at the moon, star cluster and other deep-space objects.

Saturday, April 29: Birds in Early Evening. During this walk through the Botanical Garden with Birder Peter Herstein, look for birds before they roost for the evening. Specifically look and listen for Lesser Nighthawks and Ash-throated Flycatchers. Birds will be identified both by sight and song. Peter will also demonstrate the use of ebird, Merlin and birdNET apps.

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.

Community Band performs Sunday

The Fountain Hills Community Band will hold its final concert of the 2022-2023 season on Sunday, April 16, at 4 p.m. in the Fountain Hills Community Center.

"Pops on Parade!" is the title of the upcoming featured concert, which will boast a variety of marches, Broadway tunes and other pops favorites, including music by John Phillip Sousa, Henry Fillmore and Queen.

Admission is free but donations are welcome to the 501(c)(3) organization. Community Band Director Scott Burgener and the musicians look forward to seeing the public at this concert along with their Holiday Concert scheduled at the end of the year on Sunday, Dec. 10.



Fountain Hills Community Band Conductor Scott Burgener addresses the musicians who are preparing for their final concert for the 2022-23 season this Sunday, April 16, at 4 p.m. in the Community Center.

E-recycle April 22

The always popular Town of Fountain Hills Residential Electronics Recycling Event is on Saturday, April 22, in the Fountain Hills Public Library parking lot, located at 12901 N. La Montana Dr., from 8 a.m. to noon. Vehicles will enter the drop-off event from El Lago Boulevard.

Recyclable materials include a wide range of e-

waste such as computers, computer monitors, copiers, faxes, telecommunication equipment, medical equipment (no bio-waste), video recorders, cameras, cable TV boxes and a variety of other electronic equipment. No lightbulbs or batteries accepted.

For a complete list of accepted items go to fountainhillsaz.gov/Electronics-Recycling-Events.



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Stories in the Hills is a community-centered experience

By Cyrus Guccione
Times Reporter

“Inside each of us is a natural-born storyteller, waiting to be released.” – Robin Moore

In the second in a series of storytelling events, Fountain Hills Friends of the Library (FHFL) has produced what looks to be a brand-new tradition for the Fountain Hills community.

Sponsored by FHFL, Stories in the Hills is a storytelling experience featuring local speakers telling five- to 10-minute authentic accounts of a pre-selected theme in an intimate experience.

Fountain Hills local Carol Kubota is the creative force behind Stories in the Hills, who approached FHFL with an idea to promote local storytellers and give community members a stage to share their untold tales.

Kubota said Stories in the Hills is meant to mirror the storytelling experience that NPR’s “The Moth” facilitates, which curates storytelling events across the Nation.

“The Moth” is more professional than what we are, but we’re trying to follow the same program,” Kubota said, noting that unlike “The Moth,” there are no judges who score the storytellers.

A storied town

Stories in the Hills kicked off in November, featuring four presenters

speaking on the theme, “My Arizona Story.” A successful foray into this new undertaking, the storytelling event brought out nearly 60 attendees.

“Family Matters,” was the theme of last month’s event, which featured five local speakers at the Community Center who spoke on the importance of family in their lives.

Joyce Stehlik was the first speaker in the line-up, who told a story entitled, “Camping with Kids,” a moving account about her young daughter who shared a gentle, fleeting moment with a nameless child in the forest on the Mogollon Rim.

Barb Hansen shared an emotional chronology of love, loss, Kroger flowers, Hide-A-Beds and an Alabama rendezvous with her late husband, entitled, “Who Would Have Guessed?” which had the audience laughing through the tears.

Husband and wife of 58 years, Norma and Patrick Klein, shared a unique singalong set to accordion music using original, handwritten odes passed down through generations.

Donna Yordy spoke about the precociousness of her childhood and the patience of her father in, “Daddy’s Bad, Horrible Day” and last but not least, Author Marlene Jaxson shared a chapter of her book, “Jinxed! Laughing in the face of Alzheimer’s,” who found laughter and creativity to be her most

powerful tools in dealing with her mother’s struggle with Alzheimer’s.

“We tell stories because we are human. But we are also made more human because we tell stories,” Carol Kubota said, addressing those in attendance and quoting the American Poet, Amanda Gorman. “When we do this, we tap into an ancient power that makes us, and the world, more of who we are: a single race looking for reasons, searching for purpose, seeking to find ourselves.”

Full steam ahead

FHFL President Barb Esposito said the tremendous feedback she has received from Stories in the Hills has been uplifting and is eager for what the future holds.

“One individual mentioned how it gave them a human connection and I just liked that. They felt good hearing what other people had to say,” Esposito said.

Free and open to the public, FHFL is already planning its next storytelling event in the fall. While the date and time are yet to be determined, the theme will be, “The Most Memorable Event in your Life.” Those who are interested in telling their story can contact Kubota at carolkubota@cox.net.

“It seems storytelling is catching on around the country, as people find this interesting way to share ideas and stories about all sorts of subjects,”



From left, Norma and Patrick Klein shared a unique singalong using original, handwritten odes passed down through generations.

said FHFL Vice President Cynthia Magazine. “This is an experiment! If well-received by the community, we look forward to continuing this format as a way to offer a different form of communication for our residents.”

Support local art

Fountain Hills Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization that supports the Fountain Hills Library and its programs, including those for children and teens, an annual scholarship for a graduating senior and the annual paper shredding event held last week in the Library parking lot.

“People put themselves in a vacuum sometimes. It’s nice to hear other people’s joys and struggles in life,” Esposito said. “That’s what ends up happening; they’re not always happy endings, but they give you a nice perspective on life.”

Annual memberships and donations are welcome. Find out more at fhfl.org.



Joyce Stehlik was the first to speak at the second Stories in the Hills event at the Community Center. The event is sponsored by Fountain Hills Friends of the Library.

Swingtime

Battle of the Big Bands

Hear all the great Big Bands of the swing era as they “battle” against each other when Swingtime meets on Tuesday, April 18, at 1 p.m. in the Town of Fountain Hills Community Center.

The program highlights the sounds of such giants of swing as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw and Glenn Miller. Also on the playlist are the bands that were somewhat less popular but still made significant contributions to the swing-era songbook.

The “battle” will be held in a fun-filled, interactive

jukebox format in which the performances that are now considered swing standards will be presented randomly.

At the end of the presentation, Swingtime will conduct an informal poll to determine the one Big Band that stands as this season’s favorite with meeting participants.

All in attendance are encouraged to contribute their own thoughts and feelings about the music, the music makers and to share their own special memories of the swing era.

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 480-816-5226.

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.

FHRC meets Saturday

Sheriff Mark Lamb is bringing his Freedom Talk to Fountain Hills Republican Club’s (FHRC) April 15 meeting. Lamb is Pinal County sheriff, a swath of Arizona land between Phoenix and Tucson where Lamb is charged with protecting 500,000 citizens.

Lamb is a frequent contributor on Fox News and has written a book entitled, “American Sheriff: Traditional Values in a Modern World.”

At 49 years of age, Lamb has many years left to pursue a political career, perhaps even higher office. “You can’t miss Sheriff

Lamb, he wears a huge black cowboy hat and most days is garbed in a tactical vest,” FHRC Spokesperson Nancy Plencner said.

This Saturday’s presentation begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. with the program beginning promptly at 9 a.m. Guests are welcome.

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Meet the Volunteer Reception honorees



Bill Craig, left, was named Town of Fountain Hills Volunteer of the Year for 2022 at the annual Volunteer Reception March 30. Craig was recognized for his efforts in managing trail-building activities in the Preserve. Bill Myers presented the award. Larry Hesse, recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer for the Give-A-Lift program, was absent from the reception.



Viree Byrne receives recognition as Outstanding Volunteer for the Crisis Response Team. Tom Aiello presents the award.



Rory Wilson, right, is presented the award for Outstanding Community Involvement by Community Services Executive Assistant Patti Lopuszanski.



Judy Dragiewicz, left, receives the Outstanding Volunteer Award for the Sonoran Conservancy. Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills Co-chair Pam Cisski presents the award.



Patti Heaston is presented the award for Outstanding Community Services Volunteer by Recreation Coordinator Ryan Preston.



Cathy de Faria, left, is presented the award for Outstanding Development Services Volunteer. Development Services Executive Assistant Paula Woodward presents the award.



Gary and Bonnie Spedl were presented with the award for Outstanding Home Delivered Meals Volunteers. HDM Coordinator Nita Blose presents the award to Gary Spedl, Bonnie was absent.

Voting open for Chamber Gala

Voting is open for the 2023 Chamber Gala Awards, presented by We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort.

Organizers say this is the lead-up to the local business community's biggest night of the year, a celebration scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. on May 19.

Voting for the Chamber Gala Awards will run through April 21 and is open to everyone in the community. To vote, visit fountainhillschamber.com/gala-awards-vote/. You'll find a link at the top of the page leading to more information on all nominees.

For Business Person of the Year, nominees include Rich Barker of The Barker Team, Joe Calo of Mason Pro Services, Martin Dawson of AZ Propane and Bart Shea of Shea Connelly Development.

New Entrepreneur of the Year nominees include Michael Bennett of Hot Diggity Dog, Danny Cafaro of Atticus Books & Music, Jill and Jeremy Keefe of Good Living Greens and Veeta Rose of Veeta's Vegan.

Young Professional of the Year nominees are Michael Bennett, Travis Brown, Tommy Maffei and Jason O'Neal.

Non-Profit of the Year nominees include Encore for More, Fountain Hills Elks Lodge #2846, Fountain Hills Sister Cities and Tender Little Hearts; Mini Tales and Assisted Equine Services.

Community Volunteer of the Year nominees are Tana Boersma, Jon Davies, Jelaine Goldapper and Kim Kamins.

Teacher of the Year nominees are Christine Barsema, Kryssie Beard, Jeffrey Bonner and Tamara Helm.

Restaurant of the Year nominees include Batchelor's Pad BBQ, Euro Pizza Café, Mountain View Kitchen and Saddle Bronc Bar & Grill.

Retailer of the Year nominees are Beauty Box, Classy Jazzy, Chill Boutique and Good Living Greens.

In the category of Finance & Insurance Services of the Year, nominees include Susan Linkous of The Linkous Group Ltd., Mark and Shawna Daniels of Accurate Tax and Accounting Services, Terry Cox of TDC Financial and Mark Biermann of GOALL Program.

Health Services of the Year nominees are Carolyn Berry of Clean Colonic, Dr. Chris Condon of Ally Spine Center, Dana Rowe of Jazzercise and Ken Greenstreet of Fountain Hills Physical Therapy.

Finally, Customer Service Professional of the Year nominees are Brenda McCarthy of Mary Kay Cosmetics, PJ Cardona of Lights & Health/In Light Medical, Kathy Cook of Fountain Hills High School and Mike Molloy of U.S. Bank.

Tax preparation help offered

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

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

unteer Income Tax Assistance) program.

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

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

Time-4-U offers tech help

The Technology Learning Center (TLC) offers "Time-4-U," a monthly drop-in session offered to answer tech questions.

The third Wednesday of each month, from 9 a.m. to

12 noon at the Fountain Hills Community Center, the TLC volunteers are available to assist residents with smartphones, iPads, laptops or software issues.

There is no charge for

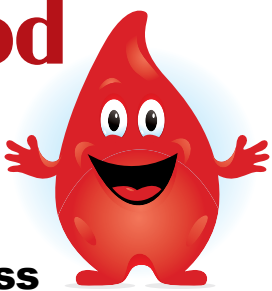
this technical assistance and pre-registration is not required.

Residents should bring their mobile devices, fully charged, along with current passwords. "Time-

4-U" is a great source of technology information.

The next "Time-4-U" session is Wednesday, April 19. Call 480-816-9645 with any questions. A TLC volunteer will return your call.

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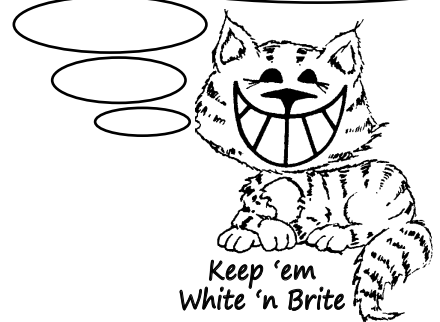
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Schools

Jagodzinski recommends bond, not override or selling land

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills Unified School District (FHUSD) Governing Board held a special meeting on Monday, April 3, where members discussed options regarding parcels of land and school buildings, and Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski reflected on what happened around the bond and override vote in 2022.

Land

Jagodzinski and the Board expressed no interest in pursuing selling parcels of land owned by the district in the immediate future. In conversations about the land, the Board looked at land appraisals and their expected costs to maintain district buildings, and they didn't even out.

"Selling all our properties wouldn't even cover the projection," Board member Libby Settle said.

School buildings

The Board was more inclined to do something with the Four Peaks Elementary School building. Jagodzinski said he initially wanted to save the building when he was hired last year, but he and others have started to realize that something needs to be done.

Built in 1974, Four Peaks is the oldest school building in town and has not been used as an active school since 2018. It is currently being used as a "Biz Hub" for local businesses, but the cost of operating Four Peaks overshadows the revenue brought in from rent by tens of thousands of dollars.

There has not been any

decision made yet, but FHUSD has not renewed any contracts with the businesses that use Four Peaks past December 2023. Board members asked how much the rent was, and if any renters expressed interest in staying if their rent was raised. Jagodzinski said there was one business he knew of that wanted to stay.

FHUSD has previously received a code violation notice from the Town because of the renters at Four Peaks. The Board would like to make a decision regarding the Four Peaks property by May in case they choose to put it on the November ballot. The Board will have more discussions on the property at future meetings.

Bart Shae of Shae Connelly Development will be at the school board meeting tonight, Wednesday, April 12, to talk about what he would like to do if FHUSD decided to sell, lease, or exchange the Four Peaks property. FHUSD only owns the school building and parking lot, and the town owns Four Peaks Park behind the school.

The current McDowell Mountain Elementary School, which will be Little Falcons Preschool next year, was originally built in 1986. Jagodzinski said the district should at least entertain options regarding the property, but he doesn't have any immediate plans besides consolidation.

The Board can decide to put one or both properties up for election, and town residents will vote whether or not to give the Board approval to either sell, lease or exchange the properties. If the Board receives town approval, they have a 20-year time window to act.

Bond and override

Jagodzinski was not the Superintendent when the Board decided last time to put a bond and override up for election. Jagodzinski spent time before and after the previous election speaking with stakeholders about concerns they had, and he addressed several complaints that he heard from multiple groups.

Enrollment was on the decline each year from 2013 to 2022. Jagodzinski was an educator and principle at Fountain Hills High School during that downward trend, and he was aware of several issues related to decreasing enrollment. Since Jagodzinski started as Superintendent, he's used his knowledge to address many of those issues, and enrollment is up by 90 more kids in 2023 than 2022.

Jagodzinski has been conservative with spending this year and has already cut several items from the budget, or at least did not renew certain contracts so they will be cut from next year's budget. His first cuts were for online curriculum programs for elementary school children, like PLP and other software programs.

The biggest expenses that Jagodzinski has signed off on are in regard to consolidation. Dr. Robert Allen worked as the district's assistant superintendent of business operations from 2015-2018, and his good budget practices allow for Jagodzinski to pay for consolidation with district savings.

Jagodzinski recommends putting a bond up for election, but not an override. He said he would like both, but the district needs at least one source of revenue, and the bond is more important. The bond would pay for building renovations and safety and security upgrades, as well as provide funds for emergency repairs, such as the water main break that caused students to lose a week of in-person instruction last fall.

Overrides would pay for free full-day kindergarten, staff salary raises and professional development, textbooks and online programs for children.

"It'd be nice to go for the override, but the priority and what I'm trying to show the community is, we're not asking for everything," Jagodzinski said. "We're asking for, 'let's get these buildings up to date.'"

The Board made no official decisions and will continue discussions moving forward. They will have a regular business meeting tonight, Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m., and they will have another work study session to discuss options on Wednesday, April 26, at 5 p.m.

All FHUSD School Board meetings are held in the District Learning Center and are livestreamed and recorded on the FHUSD YouTube channel.

School Briefs

Bake sale for pregnancy center

Two local groups are working together for a bake sale to support the New Life Pregnancy Center in Phoenix. The Inspiration Academy, a local private school, and the Gifted Hands Homeschool Interact Club, a Rotary Club for kids ages 12-18, will be outside Euro Pizza this Saturday, April 15, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The pregnancy center is part of the Arizona Baptist Children's services, and the center supports low-income families through free ultrasounds, baby clothes, diapers and family support. The bake sale will raise money for diapers, bottles, and baby socks.

You can support the bake sale by purchasing home-baked goods or by donating a package of diapers.

Painting project seeks volunteers

At least 11 local service and religious organizations will be painting classrooms for Fountain Hills Unified School District on Saturday, April 29. Four Peaks Rotary Club and Noon Kiwanis Club organized the event, and Rotary Club President Todd Harris said they will need approximately 190 volunteers to paint 21 rooms in a timely manner.

FHUSD is consolidating buildings and moving sixth, seventh and eighth grade to a separated area of the current high school campus. The service project consists of 21 class-

rooms that these middle school students will use next year.

Some of the clubs participating include American Legion, Kiwanis, Lions Club, Dark Sky Association, Car Club, PTO and FHUSD Athletic Boosters. Local businesses like Shae Connelly Development, Starbucks, Paul's ACE Hardware and Sherman Williams are providing discounted services and supplies.

Coffee and donuts will be available at 7:30 a.m., and volunteers will paint from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Harris asks that volunteers bring brushes, rollers, handles, poles and paint pans, but all other materials will be provided.

Harris is available for questions at toddh1716@gmail.com, and there is a sign up sheet at airtable.com/shrUkPURSOUgwYL1y.

"This reminds me of what happens on Make A Difference Day with the community banding together for the greater good," Noon Kiwanis member Mike Scharnow said. "The school district is undertaking a major change, and our students, Teachers and administrators deserve our full support."

Inspiration holds open house

The Inspiration Academy will host an open house event at their location at Shepard of the Hills, 16150 E. El Lago Blvd. on Tuesday, April 25, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Guests will be able to talk with staff, students and parents to learn more

about Inspiration Academy. Current students will give guests a personalized tour and will share their experiences with various aspects, academics, activities and community modules at the k-12 private school.

Speech camp this summer

Registration is now open for a public speaking camp this summer. Students will practice presentation skills and learn techniques to increase confidence while speaking.

Students will learn all the basics of public speaking, from crafting clever speeches to dynamic delivery techniques. Instruction will include how to create captivating introductions, strong points to keep the audience engaged and unique conclusions.

After analyzing different types of speeches, students will write a speech about a topic they find interesting. At the end of the last class, students will present to friends and family, and they will also receive a notebook filled with ideas for continued practice at home.

Julie Fritz is a former professional speaker and will be leading the class at Cornerstone Family Church. The class is for ages 12 and up, and the camp will be from July 17-20, 10 a.m. to noon.

The camp is sponsored by Mars Hill Speech & Debate, and Fritz is available to answer questions at neighborhoodhomeschoolaz@gmail.com. To register, visit marshillspeechanddebate.com.

Terrific Kids



The Kiwanis Club named Fountain Hills Middle School fourth grade student Natalie Percic a Terrific Kid for the month of March. Photo courtesy of Steffnie Beck.



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The Arts & Entertainment

Mother/daughter team 'Razzle Dazzle' at FH Theater

Paige Productions Youth Theater (PYT) presents the premiere of "All Dolled Up: A New Musical," a doll-inspired musical summer camp featuring third grade mean girls, Maddison, Ivy and Piper, who are no match for Darbie Doll and her sisters.

This 60-minute musical is written by mother/daughter playwrights, Shannon Underwood and Laguna Elementary student, Paige Underwood.

"All Dolled Up: A New Musical" will be featured as the first 2023 Summer Camp at PYT, which runs for two weeks, May 30 to June 9, with final performances at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 9. The performances are held at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, 13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd.

Owner of PYT, Paige Beckman, said she is thrilled to produce shows from young playwrights like Paige, which started as an award-winning monologue that she and her mother, Shannon, wrote together. Paige performed the monologue at East Valley's Got Talent and won first place in the junior division. Beckman loved the monologue so much that she had Paige perform it again at PYT's recent Fall Break Camp show, which is now a full-length musical, written and expanded by the mother/daughter duo.

"They even incorporated talented grandpa and grandma, Will and Patti Hegarty, into the game, writing exciting new songs for the musical," Beckman said.

"The process has been so much fun," Shannon said. "Each family member has brought a particular character to life. For example, Paige wrote the character Ben and he's silly, dense and lovable. My mom, Patti, inspired the retro doll, Midge, from the 1960s. We are even giving Midge a song that my mom wrote for a talent show when she was a kid."

Paige said she is overjoyed to be working with her mom and grandparents in this fun-filled play.

"My grandpa and I are



From left, mother/daughter duo Shannon and Paige Underwood are authors of "All Dolled Up: A New Musical," the first 2023 Summer Camp performance at Paige Productions Youth Theater.

having fun writing the music, we are figuring out how to add the story into the songs and finding backing tracks. We work pretty well together," Paige said.

Beckman is hoping the show gets picked up by a theatrical licensing company, adding that she is "excited that kids get to say they originated the roles in this show before it becomes big."

Kids who want to participate can sign up for the camp and come each day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. where they will work on singing, dancing, acting and rehearse the show. The summer camp will culminate in two performances for the community on the final day of summer camp on Friday, June 9.

Additional camp details and enrollment can be found at paigeproduction-sAZ.com. For more information, call 480-375-8058 or send an email to paige-productions123@gmail.com.



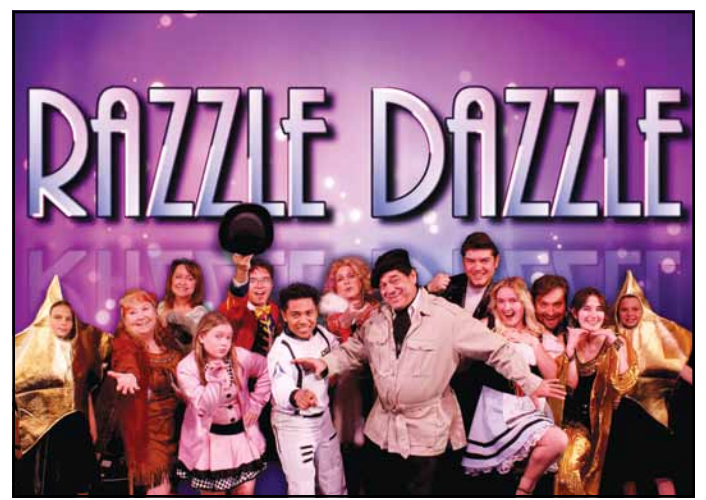
Fountain Hills Theater announces the opening of "Razzle Dazzle: A Review Preview Revue," a musical trip down the Great White Way featuring classic tunes and modern hits.

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 is \$25 for adults and \$18 for youth under 17 and students. All performances are at Fountain Hills Theater on its Mainstage at 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd.

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.



The cast of "Razzle Dazzle" is ready for their performance at Fountain Hills Theater, April 14-23. For tickets, visit vhtaz.org.

Workshop offered at Artists' Gallery

The Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery is offering two workshops this month. On Tuesday, April 18, from 5 to 8 p.m., Acrylic Artist Gloria Sanchez will guide participants to paint Fountain Park in acrylics on a 12"x16" canvas.

Participants will be provided glitter to add texture and sparkle to their fountains. The class is limited to six students and the \$50 fee includes all supplies. No experience is necessary.

On Thursday, April 20, from 5 to 9 p.m., Kelly Bowman will be teaching her "Paint Your Pet" workshop. Bowman will guide

participants step-by-step to paint a pet or favorite animal in acrylics on a 12"x9" canvas.

Participants must email Bowman a picture of their pet and Bowman will then sketch it onto the canvas which will be ready when participants arrive. The class is limited to six students and the \$70 fee includes all supplies and no experience is necessary.

Registration for these workshops must be completed at the Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery prior to the workshop. If paying by check, make the check payable to the artist teach-

ing the workshop. Sanchez accepts Zelle and Bowman accepts PayPal. Phone the gallery at 480-836-9919 to inquire about instructors' contact information.

The Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery is a premier gallery showcasing jewelry, ceramics, glass, fine art, metal, gift items and much more. It is located at 16858 Avenue of the Fountains, open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit fountainhillsartistsgallery.com for more information about exhibits, events and workshops.



On Tuesday, April 18, Acrylic Artist Gloria Sanchez leads a "Fountain Park" painting workshop at the Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery.

Jim Turner leads today's Speaker Program

Encore for More Speakers Program will host Jim Turner for a presentation covering five Arizona novelists: Zane Grey, Harold Bell Wright, Richard Summers, Eva Antonia Wilbur Cruz and Susan Lowell.

Turner's presentation, entitled "Writers of the Purple Sage," is a play-on-words of Grey's novel, "Riders of the Purple Sage," which Turner will cover, along with an overview of the written works of the other aforementioned authors.

The novelists
Grey spent his honey-

moon at the Grand Canyon and, according to a press release, went on to be one of the first and most famous Western writers of all time.

Wright came to Tucson with lung problems and became a bestselling author from 1900 to 1930. The University of Arizona Writing Professor, Richard Summers, wrote "Dark Madonna," in 1937.

Capturing Hispanic culture and folklore, Cruz describes ranch life and the blending of Tohono O'odham, Hispanic and Anglo folkways in, "Beautiful Cruel Country."

Lowell wrote an award-winning young adult novel about a young Arizona ranch girl entitled, "My Name is Lavina Cumming," based closely on the life of her grandmother.

Before retiring from the Arizona Historical Society, Turner worked with more than 70 museums across Arizona. He co-authored the fourth-grade textbook, "The Arizona Story." Turner's pictorial history book, "Arizona: Celebration of the Grand Canyon State," was a 2012 Southwest Books of the Year selection.

Turner moved to Tucson in 1951 and earned an M.A. in U.S. history from the University of Arizona in 1999. He taught Arizona history for more than 40 years. Turner is the author of "The Mighty Colorado from the Glaciers to the Gulf," "Four Corners USA: Wonders of the American Southwest" and "Arizona: A History of the Grand Canyon State."

"Writers of the Purple Sage" will be held today, Wednesday, April 12, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

This event is free for Community Center members and \$5 for non-members. Pre-registration is required on the Town of Fountain Hills website, fountainhillsaz.gov/230/Special-Presentations. The course number is 1492.

Encore for More Speakers Program is supported by a grant from the Phoenix-based non-profit organization, Arizona Humanities.

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Museum

Celebrate Earth Day

Earth is about 4.543 billion years old. Earth Day is 53 years old and was started to call attention to the issue of environmental responsibility and to help change the public's attitude toward the planet's stewardship.

The first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, was geared toward young people and was scheduled to fall between spring break and finals so students could participate. The movement went international in 1990 and continues today.

Fountain Hills, including the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center, is celebrating the 53rd annual Earth Day Saturday, April 22. The Town is hosting its Recycle and Reuse Earth Day event from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Center.

The River of Time will

feature a Family Free Day to celebrate the Earth. Water conservation activities and crafts will take place on the patio from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free admission all day.

Families are invited to explore the unique history and culture of the Lower Verde River Valley and discover how the Lower Verde River is responsible for settling and sustaining the diverse populations in the Greater Phoenix area.

At the Center, kids can create a mini water cycle to take home and participate in the Earth Day 2023 "Make a Splash" pledge. The River of Time also will have a booth at the Community Center and will feature activities for children there.

Earth Day observance is part of the River of Time's philosophy.

"The power to make the necessary changes to create the transformation needed to advance sustainability is with each individual," Executive Director Cherie Koss said. "The real power for change lies with each person's influence as a consumer, a voter and a community member."

"When each voice and actions are united with millions of others around the world, we can create an inclusive and impactful movement that is impossible to ignore. United together, we'll drive a year of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to a sustainable and equitable future for our planet."

More information can be found on the River of Time website, riveroftime.center and on the official Earth Day website at earthday.org or by calling 480-837-2612.



Pump House Pilot Project

The Pump House Pilot Project is complete and ready for viewing. The Fountain Hills Public Art Committee invites the community to a dedication ceremony on Tuesday, April 18, at 5 p.m. at the pump house near the Veterans' Memorial in Fountain Park. Pictured from left are Volunteer Tammy Chauncey and Public Art Committee members Teri Bernhard, Cheryl Gollon, Jenny Willigrod and David Willigrod.

Bonny Puckett speaks at museum

The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center has a new artist exhibiting her work in the Art Gallery.

Bonny Puckett, a Fountain Hills-based photographer, presents "Botanical Legacies: Life-Sustaining Plants of the Southwest," through May 6. There is no charge to view Puckett's work, but visitors are invited to tour the River of Time when they are there.

Puckett is an award-winning artist and photographer who had an early fascination with photography. Her grandfather owned a large collection of vintage cameras which she loved playing with.

She subscribed to National Geographic and Arizona Highways getting lost not only in the articles, but the stunning images.

When she was about seven, she started taking photos of friends, family and her pets. She developed an intense love of the natural world and spent much of her free time outdoors traveling, camping, hiking and kayaking. Her camera would travel along with her on her many adventures and she would capture not only the people with whom she traveled but also the many things that fascinated her along the way.

Puckett noticed that

other people around her were often moving too fast to see the wonderful parts of nature that she truly enjoyed. She would stop along her hikes to observe flowers, plants, rock formations and wildlife.

As Puckett's passion for photography grew, she began to experiment with different techniques and styles, often incorporating elements of abstract and fine art into her work. She has gone on to win several awards and has received much recognition for her images and creative composite work. Her work has been featured in many publications throughout the Southwest, including Arizona Highways Magazine.

Puckett has participated in several exhibitions and currently has work at Camelback Gallery in its Artist Choice X International Juried Art Exhibition and the Abstracts with Red International Juried Art Exhibition. She also has displayed her work at the Community Center during the recent Fountain Hills Photography Club's 2023 Exhibition. She is also a member of the Phoenix chapter of Women Networking in Photography.

"Botanical Legacies" is Puckett's first solo exhibition and is designed to help viewers reconnect with the natural world, while increasing awareness of the significant role plants have played culturally and spiritually for indigenous people, both past and present.

Her background as a nurse has also led her to explore ancient uses of plants for their medicinal value, as well as their contributions to the modern pharmaceutical industry.

The River of Time is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located at 12901 N. La Montana Drive. Admission is free to members, and \$12 for non-members. Other discounts apply. For more information, visit riveroftime.center or call 480-837-2612.

River of Time hosts birder Peter Herstein

The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center continues its speaker series with a presentation by Fountain Hills birder Peter Herstein.

The talk is set for Thursday, April 20, in the conference room between the River of Time and Fountain Hills Library. Herstein's presentation gets underway at 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 for River of Time members and \$12 for non-members.

Herstein has been an avid bird watcher for more than 30 years. After a 40-year career as a physicist at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, R.I., he and his wife Beverly purchased a condominium in Fountain Hills. He has been actively birding throughout Arizona and to date has sighted 312 bird species in the Grand Canyon state.

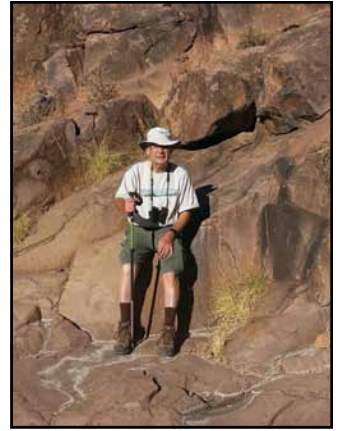
He is a member of the Sonoran Audubon Association, the Maricopa Audubon Association and the Arizona Field Ornithologists. He is the naturalist for the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden

where he observes and documents the flora and fauna of the garden throughout the seasons.

Peter serves as a steward for Sonoran Conservancy in the capacity of leading and supporting bird walks. He is a volunteer at the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden, where he has assisted in their bird walks. He has led the Audubon Important Bird Area Survey at the Tres Rios Base and Meridian Wildlife area in Phoenix for the past several years. He is a member of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLO) and is a frequent contributor to ebird, which is COL's online bird sighting website.

As an avid photographer, his wildlife pictures have appeared in the Weatherpix section of the *Arizona Republic* and in the *Fountain Hills Times*. He was a photographic contributor to the White Tank Mountains Field Guide. Peter said his philosophy on nature is that every day, one can learn something new.

The River of Time has hosted a number of speak-



Peter Herstein will be the next presenter at the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center's speaker series on Thursday, April 20, at 4:30 p.m.

ers over the past year, each offering a different perspective on life in the Lower Verde River Valley. To register for Peter's talk, go to riveroftime.center or visit the center, 12901 N. La Montana Drive.

The River of Time is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 480-837-2612 for more information.



Art League

Nancy Eisenberg (left) is the 2023 Tour d' Artistes' gift certificate winner. During the Tour, Eisenberg visited all 10 studios/galleries and her name was drawn for the prize. Eisenberg won \$150 towards any artists' work on the Tour. Eisenberg chose two mixed media pieces by Tour Artist Judith Rothenstein-Putzer entitled, "A Pocket Full of Posies" (right) and "Eucalyptus" from Rothenstein-Putzer's "Central Market" series. Photo courtesy of Ed Putzer.



Below is a list of current advertisers with live music between April 12 and April 18.

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• Tuesday - 4 pm - Grateful Dead Tribute

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 - Sunset Ride
• Saturday - 6-9 pm - Ageing Hipsters Solo by Bobbo

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



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Sports

Nine-game win streak

Fifth-ranked Falcons set for reigning state champions

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School varsity baseball team improved to 11-5 this week and extended their win streak to nine in a row. The No. 5 Falcons beat Wickenburg twice, 14-8 and 14-3, and they finished the season series with Chino Valley with a 7-4 win.

Monday's game was very windy, and the Falcons took a few innings to gain the lead. According to Willy Weather, there were 35.7 mph gusts of wind that kicked up dust and caused problems early for the Falcons. The Falcons sealed the 14-8 win with two home runs in the sixth inning from juniors Nathan Hughes and Tyler Langer.

"We hit the same one, literally the same exact hit," Langer said. "I'm going to be honest; I don't think either of them would've gone out without the wind, but [Hughes] barreled that ball. He crushed it, that was the hardest ball he's hit this season."

It was Hughes' first home run, and Langer's second of the season. The Falcons were up 9-4 after four runs scored in the fourth inning, and the two home runs silenced Wickenburg's three run inning in the top of the fifth.

Sophomore Zion Sidhu led the team with three hits, and he tied freshman Jack Irwin and senior Zach Mendello with three runs

scored. Five other Falcons had multiple hits, Mendello had a single and a triple, and senior Devyn Hernandez had a single, a double and an RBI.

Langer led with four RBIs, and sophomore Eli Johnson and junior Tyler Flynn had two RBIs each. Juniors Kyan Taylor and David Goldapper each threw two strikeouts, and sophomore Aidan Cronican threw four strikeouts in four innings.

The Falcons were on alert and avoided falling into a trap against the Wranglers. Wickenburg has one win this season, and the Falcons took care of business on the road on Thursday, April 6. The Falcons didn't get ahead of themselves, and they took care of the little things on route to winning 14-3 in five innings.

"Thursday was mainly the trap game, because we had already beaten them and they had nothing to lose going into that game," sophomore Cooper Loyet said. "They had a terrible record, so they're going into that game, just going crazy, and that was the game where we really took advantage of it and hit really well."

Wickenburg led 3-2 after the third inning, but the Falcons scored three runs in the fourth and nine runs in the fifth inning to end the game. The Falcons didn't have any big hits, but they had four singles and four walks in the fifth. They also had two other players

walk because they were hit by the pitch, and Mendello hit a two run double at the end to secure the victory.

"I feel like the coaches always say our approach is just jump on them when they're vulnerable," Langer said. "That's exactly what we did that inning."

Goldapper, junior Lucas Williams and senior Cy Dethlefs allowed only one hit in five innings. They combined for five walks, three strikeouts and zero errors. Loyet and Irwin played good defense, and each had a double play.

Loyet and junior Isaiah Challman were the only Falcons with two hits, and both had two RBIs along with Mendello. The Falcons took their time on the plate and earned seven walks compared to only three strikeouts.

The Falcons edged out a 4-3 victory over No. 26 Chino Valley (5-8) earlier this season on the Monday they returned from spring break. The Falcons had a 1-3 record against the Cougars over the past two years, and Langer said the Falcons never play well over there, but the Falcons won on the road this past weekend, 7-4.

The Falcons went up 4-0 in the second inning thanks to a two run double from Loyet and another double from Challman. Loyet scored on a wild pitch when Challman was up to bat, and the Cougars only scored one run to retaliate in the next inning.

Langer put the Falcons

up 5-1 with his second home run of the week, and then Chino Valley responded with a triple and their own home run on the next at bat. The Falcons were only up 5-4, but they answered back and added another run in the fifth and sixth innings each to win.

The Falcons say that having a short memory is key for big momentum swings. Earlier in the season, the Falcons were up 5-2 on No. 1 Valley Christian after three innings, but they were outscored 10-2 in the last four innings because they couldn't keep

their minds off what they thought was a bad call.

The Falcons have grown as a team since the Valley Christian game on March 3. They hope to continue their win streak and take the lessons from that game and apply them against No. 2 Northwest Christian this week.

"I feel like the rest of the game, we blamed the entire game on a bad call instead of just playing," Langer said. "If we put up five or six runs in the first two innings, then we need to keep doing that. One bad call shouldn't change

that, so I think we need to just, like we said short memory, if something happens, go out there and score again. Just keep being better."

The Falcons went on the road to face the reigning champs, Northwest Christian (10-0) yesterday, Tuesday, April 11, and they host the Crusaders tomorrow, Thursday, April 13, at 3:45 p.m. The Falcons also host No. 22 Show Low this Saturday, April 15, at 4 p.m. and No. 11 Scottsdale Christian next Monday, April 17, at 3:45 p.m.



Times photo by George Zeliff

Senior Zach Mendello hit a triple and single at home last Monday, and then he had a two run double late to seal the season sweep over Wickenburg last week.

Wrap up regular season this week

Falcons beach volleyball aims for playoffs

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School beach volleyball team is in the final leg of the regular season. They went on the road the past two days for road games, and they end their regular season with a doubleheader against Payson today, Wednesday, April 12.

The first match with the Longhorns will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Golden Eagle Park, and the second match will begin at 4 p.m. The Falcons will celebrate senior night and honor their only senior and former Payson student, Liv Sopeland.

"I'm excited because a lot of people I know from Payson will be here, so they'll be a part of my senior night," Sopeland said. "That'll be cool."

According to head coach Peter McGloin, Sopeland never played volleyball until she moved to Fountain Hills as a sophomore. Sopeland has grown as a

player over the years, and McGloin thinks she'll surprise her old classmates with how much she's grown in the past year alone.

This year, Sopeland has played more than twice the amount of varsity matches she played as a junior. At the time of writing, Sopeland and the Falcons have lost their two most recent games to top ranked teams by slim margins, but Sopeland still has a winning record at 5-4.

"I think confidence is key for us, because when we're confident we play so much better and we're talking and that's when we're at our best," Sopeland said. "So, if we keep our confidence, win or lose, we're good."

The Falcons lost 3-2 to Northwest Christian on Friday, March 31, and they lost 3-2 to No. 3 Arcadia last Wednesday, April 5. Northwest Christian has moved up from No. 8 to No. 4 since they played the Falcons, and Fountain Hills stayed at No. 11 after both losses.

"We want that competition," McGloin said. "It makes us better and we need one of those signature wins. For us to beat a team like that automatically gets us into the playoffs. It was great, we didn't have anything to lose today. We had everything to gain, but we had to play the game the right way to compete."

The Falcons pushed both teams to their limits, and McGloin said they could've won if the ball had bounced their way a few more times. The Falcons only played one team ranked in the top 15 in their first seven games, but their recent tough matches are helping prepare the girls for playoffs.

Juniors Bree March and Savannah Peterson pushed their match in the five pair to a tiebreaker set, their fourth of the season. They lost a close first set, 21-18, and then took over the second set to win 21-12. The pair dealt with red cards and miscommunication from the referees in the third set and lost 15-10.

Sopeland and junior Elle Schulze kept pace with the Titans but fell short at four. They lost 21-19, 21-17, and sophomore Lucia Kalmbach and junior Sophie Wickland lost 21-10, 21-19



Times photo by George Zeliff

Sophomore Kitrick Garman improved to 8-0 with her partner sophomore Jocelyn Bloedel last week. They are the only undefeated pair left.

in the third pair.

Sophomores Jocelyn Bloedel and Kitrick Garman improved to 8-0 as a pair and beat Arcadia 24-

22, 21-17. McGloin said the pair plays hard all the time and the don't turn into individuals on the sand when they face adversity. He also said the pair has grown by leaps and bounds this year.

Juniors Sydney Boeshans and Bella Garman won the top pair through medical forfeiture. An Arcadia player appeared concussed after she hit her head on the sand and was slow to get up, but she was treated and walked off the court under her own power.

Boeshans and Garman lost the first set 21-15, and there were only a few points into the second set when the forfeiture happened. The pair lost their first set to Northwest Christian before coming back to win in a tiebreaker set last week.

The Falcons lost two in a row, but McGloin thinks those losses actually built momentum for the team. The players have realized they can keep up with anybody, no matter their rank-

ing, and they can gather even more momentum this week ahead of the playoffs.

Earlier this week, the Falcons traveled to No. 31 Odyssey Institute on Monday, April 10, and they traveled to No. 8 Saguro on Tuesday, April 11. Today, Wednesday, April 12, the Falcons host No. 22 Payson twice.

The top 16 teams make the playoffs, and the top eight teams host the first round of the playoffs next Monday, April 17. The Falcons have an opportunity to pad their ranking with four games this week and enter the playoffs on a win streak.

"We're starting to show it when the stress is on in the big games," McGloin said. "It's just really exciting, but we still have a lot of work to do. We're going to have to win those four games next week to guarantee ourselves the playoffs. We know we can, and [if] we do that, we're a dangerous team."

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Decathlon

Top track, field athletes meet challenge

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

Zion Atwood was one of two boys from Fountain Hills to go to the cross country state meet last fall and he's no stranger to feeling his muscles ache after a long run. The decathlon he participated in last week was a little different, and Atwood said he was sore and slept for nearly 12 hours after it ended.

Atwood, fellow senior Gunnar Wise and sophomore Sara Dethlefs represented the Falcons in the Brophy decathlon last Wednesday and Thursday, and all three placed in the top 20. Dethlefs competed in a heptathlon since she only did seven events, not 10.

"Usually, you go to a meet and you're sitting around all day to do two or three events," Wise said. "It was two very action-packed days, and it was fun getting to do a little bit of everything."

None of the Falcons had ever done anything like the decathlon, and there were several events they had little experience with beforehand. The Falcons said there was a lot of camara-

derie and sportsmanship between the competitors, and someone was always willing to give helpful tips before a new event.

The Falcons excelled at events they knew they were prepared for, and they were surprised by how well they did in other events. Atwood placed second out of 20 in the 1500m (4:39.0), Dethlefs set personal records in five new events, and Wise improved on his 110m hurdle time despite feeling like he messed up on the event.

Atwood and Wise finished 17th (12.31) and 18th (12.38) in the 100m, and 12th (18.75) and 10th (18.61) in the 110m hurdles. Dethlefs took 19th in the 100m hurdles (20.59), and Wise beat his previous record by 23 seconds, even though his steps were thrown off by a crooked hurdle.

Atwood finished 10th in the 400m (55.44), and Wise finished 17th (56.28). Atwood had his best outing in the 1500m, and Wise came in 11th (5:09.95). Dethlefs finished 21st in the 200m (30.61) and placed 10th in her first 800m race (2:49.51).
"The 800m kind of sur-

prised me," Dethlefs said. "I was not thinking it was going to be one of my better events, but I started off pretty conservative and I ended up finishing top 10 in it."

Neither Atwood nor Wise placed for pole vault, but they were mere inches away from clearing the bar. Senior Brandon Despain went with the three others and ended up coaching and videotaping them to point out what they needed to work on.

Despain and head coach Kevin Clancy were the only ones there to support the three Falcon competitors. Despain was able to help the most with throwing events, and Dethlefs came in eighth place in javelin (72') and 20th in shot put (20'.25").

Wise took 11th in shot put (31'4.75"), 14th in discus (75'8") and 15th in javelin (87'11"). Atwood placed 17th in shot put (28'5.5"), 12th in discus (77'5"), and 14th in javelin (89'11").

Wise had a top-10 finish in the high jump, coming in eighth place (5'4.25"). Atwood and Dethlefs each finished 13th in the high jump (5'1") and (4'0.75"), respectively. Atwood finished 10th in the long jump

(17'3"), Wise took 14th (16'9.5") and Dethlefs took 21st (12'7.35").

The three Falcons volunteered for the decathlon and talked about how unique the experience was. They competed in new events, but they also traveled from event to event with the same group of 20-30 people.

Dethlefs plays soccer and runs for Fountain Hills, and Wise and Atwood are also two sport athletes that have competed in the cross country and swimming state meets before. All three are in peak shape and enjoyed the competition, but they were exhausted from it.

The Falcons practiced on Good Friday morning last week because they had no school, and Clancy gathered the team together to share the results from the decathlon. Atwood finished 16th, Wise finished 17th and Dethlefs finished 19th overall.

The Falcons traveled to Sedona over the weekend to participate in the Red Rock Invitational on Saturday, April 8, but the results were not available by press time.

The Falcons travel to Notre Dame Prep tonight, Wednesday April 12, and



Times photo by George Zeliff

Sophomore Sara Dethlefs was one inch off from her record in the long jump in her heptathlon last week.

they will start the competition at 2:45 p.m. The Falcons will be at Bradshaw Mountain this Saturday, April 15, for the BMHS Bears Invitational. Field events start at 7 a.m., and track events begin at 10 a.m.

Falcons continue great play on the links

By George Zeliff
Times Reporter

The Fountain Hills High School golf team continued its streak and placed second in its sixth and seventh matches of the season last week. Halfway through the season, the Falcons are ranked 16th out of 60 teams.

The Falcons traveled to Scottsdale Silverado Golf Course on Tuesday, March 4. They lost to Rancho Solando Prep but beat Cicero Prep and Veritas Prep and moved from No. 17 to No. 16.

Junior Ethan Schafer went two over par (37) and took second place overall on a windy and cold afternoon. Junior Tom Tiebert finished second on the team at 41, and the other three Falcons finished within three strokes of each other.

Junior Jaxson Butcher came in third on the team at 44. Freshmen Adam Oberg and Riley Murdock rounded out the team scores at 45 and 46, respectively.

Head coach Bob Buczek

posted online that the Falcons had a great qualifying round on Wednesday, April 5, but they kept the same starting five for their seventh match of the season on Thursday, April 6. Only Tiebert and Schafer have played in every match so far, and the golfers use their seven best scores to qualify for the state tournament.

"It's great to watch the competition to qualify for the next match from the team but one of the best parts is how the team supports each other and cheers each other on," Buczek said in his post.

The Falcons took second place last Thursday and beat Gilbert Christian and Horizon Honors at the Ahwatukee Country Club. They lost to Northwest Christian, but Tiebert clutched up at the end to secure the second place finish.

Schafer led the Falcons and took second place overall again. Schafer eagled the par five at the ninth hole and went two over par, 38, overall. Tiebert pared the par five at the end to finish second on the team at 45.

Murdock, Butcher and Oberg had similar results and finished within a stroke of each other again. Murdock finished third at 46, Butcher was next at 47, and Oberg came in fifth on the team at 48.

With less than a month until the state tournament, the Falcons are keeping tabs on their best seven scores and their standings to get into state. If they qualify as a team, they are allowed to bring two alternates, and sophomores Shannon Breen and Savannah Miller are only a few matches away from meeting the necessary seven played.

The Falcons' next match will be at home at 4 p.m. today, Wednesday, April 12, at Desert Canyon Golf Course. It will be their second to last home match of the season, and they face Arete Prep, Benjamin Franklin and Tempe Prep.

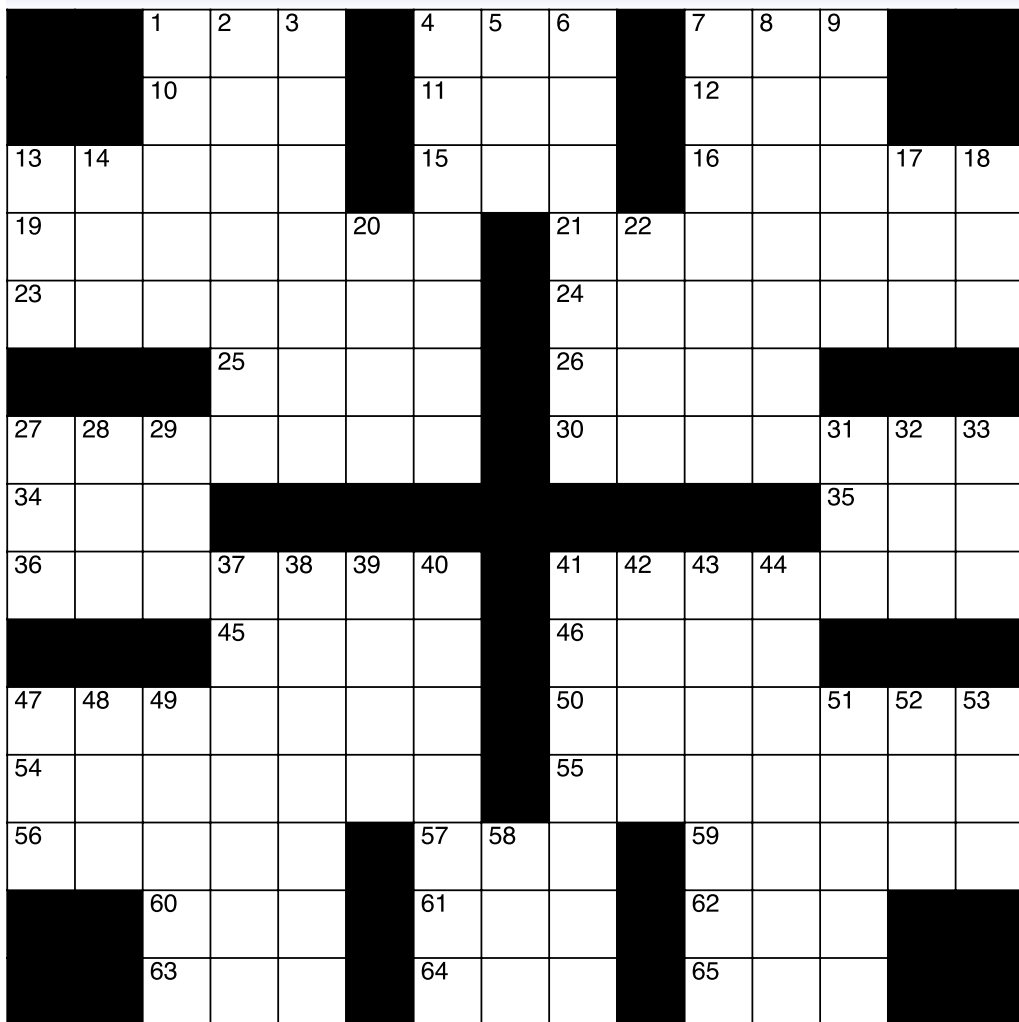
Next week, the Falcons travel to Trilogy Golf at Power Ranch on Thursday, April 20. They will face American Leadership Academy - Queen Creek, Arizona Lutheran and Gilbert Christian at 3:20 p.m.



Times photo by George Zeliff

Junior Tom Tiebert is one of two Falcons to play in all seven matches so far this season. He played well at the end of the last match and secured second place for the Falcons.

FH Times Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Atomic mass unit
- 4. Criticize mightily
- 7. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 10. Stand in for
- 11. Everyone has one
- 12. Brew
- 13. Rectify
- 15. Popular Dodge truck model

CLUES DOWN

- 16. Beef or chicken intestine
- 19. Satisfy
- 21. Of a particular people or localized region
- 23. Movements in quick tempos
- 24. Able to pay one's debts
- 25. Fleshy bird beak covering
- 26. Dueling sword
- 27. Helps
- 30. Court is in it
- 34. Touch lightly
- 35. Airborne (abbr.)
- 36. Of one
- 41. Baked good
- 45. Jai __, sport

- 46. About aviation
- 47. Low oval mound
- 50. Rugged mountain ranges
- 54. Compel to do something
- 55. A way to carve
- 56. Sao __, city in Brazil
- 57. Mustachioed actor Elliott
- 59. American Idol runner-up Clay
- 60. A way to soak
- 61. Car mechanics group
- 62. Born of
- 63. Time zone
- 64. Sea eagle
- 65. Even's opposite
- 17. Variety of Chinese language
- 18. Portray in a show
- 20. Wrongful act
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. State of agitation
- 28. __ Diego
- 29. One point east of due south
- 31. 007's creator
- 32. The NBA's Toppin
- 33. Midway between north and northeast
- 37. Examples
- 38. __ Gould, actor
- 39. The habitat of wild animals
- 40. Artful subtlety
- 41. Infielders
- 42. Keep under control
- 43. Herb
- 44. Distressed
- 47. A way to go down
- 48. Type of acid
- 49. Take by force
- 51. Collected fallen leaves
- 52. Shout of welcome or farewell
- 53. Monetary unit
- 58. Swiss river

Answers on page 2

This week's crossword puzzle sponsored by



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Sports Briefs

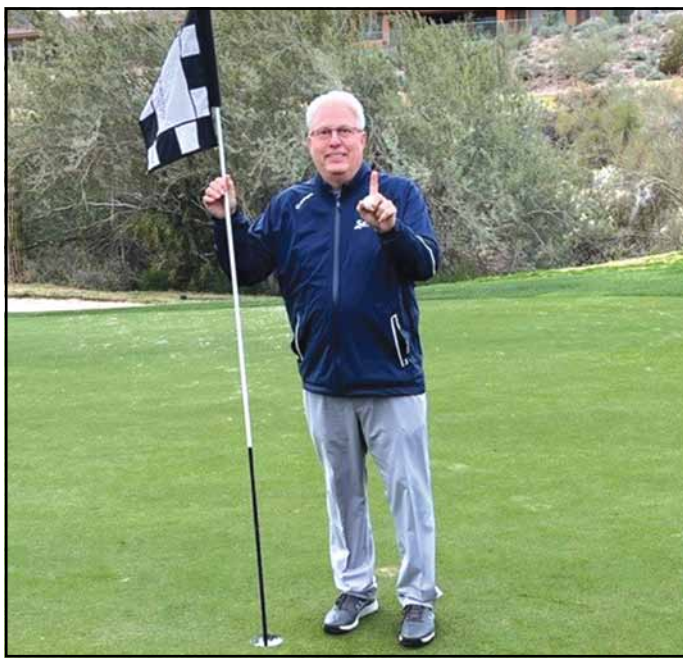
VOTS plays regular round

The Valley of the Sun golf group played its regular round of three-man best ball at Painted Mountain Golf Course on Wednesday, April 5. The winners this week were Brent Morrison, Jack Cranmer, George Vogelgesang and Don Butler.

Coming in second place was the team of Roger Saylor, Pete Tramonte, David Neumeyer and Dean Neumeyer. A/B low net winners were Art Spalding and Ray Yusko. C/D low net winners were Dean Neumeyer and Don Butler.

Closest to the pin hole winners were Clark Ewing and Charlie Long. Longest putt winner was Roger Riggert.

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



John B. Patzwald celebrates his hole-in-one on the 183-yard, par-3 fifth hole at Eagle Mountain Golf Club.

New director of golf at Eagle Mountain

John B. Patzwald is the new director of golf at Eagle Mountain Golf Club, the club announced on Monday, March 27.

Patzwald most recently worked as general manager for a course in Indiana from 2017 to 2023. Under his direction, the course was named "Most Improved Facility" in 2018 by the Indigo Sports Midwest Region.

Patzwald received "General Manager of the Year" accolades in 2020 from the Indigo Sports Midwest Region. He has also served in management roles at Indigo Sports-managed facilities in Illinois and Minnesota.

Patzwald was a golf instructor and the director of golf at a Scottsdale course for eight years his last time in Arizona. A passionate golfer, he actually made a hole-in-one on hole five during his third day working at Eagle Mountain.

Patzwald returns to town with 25 years' experience in golf management. Eagle Mountain has been under the management of the Troon Golf brand since 2020, and the courses underwent renovations focused on turf health in 2021. To learn more information about Eagle Mountain Golf Club or Troon Golf, visit eaglemtn.com.

Bogey Boys weekly results

The Bogey Boys played their regular three-man best ball game at Orange Tree Golf Resort on Monday, April 3. Winning at -7 was the team of Mike Hoops, Mike Saladino and Dan Wochos.

Second place went to Dave Stensrud, Monyou Tong, Jim Parish, and Jim Molloy at -6. Seven golfers won skins: Bob Nemecek (2), Earl Kulson, Scott Kenner, Keith Larson, Carl Naso, Jerry Lynch, and Jerry Allen.

Gold flight low net winners were Rich Leibundgut (70) and Dave Stensrud (71) with Silver flight going to Jack Cranmer (71) and Jim Molloy (71).

On Wednesday, April 5, the Bogey Boys travel group played at the Grand Canyon University course. The winning team at -5 was Mike Hoops, Jerry Lynch, and Rich Leibundgut. Closest to the pin winners were Jim Kidwell (3) and Lyman Schliep. Long putt winner was Wayne Bumgardner.

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



Times photo by George Zeff

Senior showcase

Senior Aiden Logan (#24) was selected to play in the Arizona Small Ball Podcast Senior Showcase senior game this Saturday, April 15, at Florence High School. Logan will compete with some of the best seniors around the Valley in 1A, 2A and 3A basketball at 5:30 p.m. Fountain Hills High School head coach Jeff Bonner will also be a judge in the senior showcase dunk contest at 4 p.m.



Falcon Booster Prize

Jill and Chad Reed, owners of Keepin' It Blue, won the FHUSD Athletic Booster Club reverse raffle grand prize last Saturday, April 1. The Booster Club thanks everyone who helped raise money for Fountain Hills Unified School District student athletes this year.



New Falcon logo

Fountain Hills Unified School District is updating the Falcon logo ahead of next year. Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski gathered input from students, staff and parents, and he believes the logo is "built from our storied past but can carry us into a new era."

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Religion

Community unites for Easter Sunrise Service



A multitude gathered on the hillside to hear Pastor Rod Warembourg's message of Desert Creek Fellowship. The service began at sunrise, 6 a.m. and ended a quarter before 7 a.m.



Eleanor Bryant was bundled up for the early-morning Easter Sunrise Service in Fountain Park.



Fountain Hills resident Salena Davis and her dog Lena dropped the trunk and enjoyed the service on Sunday, April 9.



Parked near the corner of Saguaro and Palisades boulevards, Otto Ringle of the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church had one of the best seats in the house.

Times photos by Cyrus Guccione

Check out the latest Fountain Hills news at fhtimes.com

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EMOJIS

It is a new day when I have an experience like this. When I began "children's sermons," I would sometimes do such a sermon using props hand drawn circle faces on craft sticks, each face emphasizing an emotion. Several children would be given one. I would read a Biblical story, and they would raise their hand with the stick and face to show what emotion was being felt then in the story.

I have the privilege of doing a children's sermon at our church in Rio Verde once a year, on Easter. We are an active senior retirement community, so we don't have many children except on this Sunday, when grandchildren visit for Easter. I was contemplating this year's sermon when the "stick and face" memory came to mind. I realized, however, that what children know now are emojis.

This time, I created "sticks and faces" for my Easter sermon, but not with hand drawn faces. I found emojis expressing the feelings of Jesus' followers on Easter morning when they went to the tomb. I printed them and, by the time you read this column, I will have used them, but I will also read the Biblical story.

Emojis developed from emoticons. They are used in emails and text messages. They can be used for good, to express something deeply. They can be overused,

as with the person who sends a few words in a text followed by several lines of emojis. They can be used for bad, for inappropriate and even illegal messaging. Sometimes it feels to me like we are retreating from written language to hieroglyphics, but apparently this is the wave of the future. In wonder, though, will there come a time when society will look back and try to translate emojis?

We are blessed to have had for 2000 years the Bible, God's Word given through human beings, a book to tell us about the incarnate Word. It was written in Hebrew and Greek; we have it now in our language. Biblical scholars have had the task of translating it. From there, we in-

Wisdom from the Bible by Ken Vos

1. The Old Testament was written in what language?
a) Latin b) Aramaic c) Hebrew d) Greek
2. The New Testament was written in what language?
a) Greek b) Hebrew c) Aramaic d) Latin
3. What warning does Moses tell the Israelites in Deuteronomy 4:2 regarding the commandments of God?
a) Try to keep most of the commandments. b) Do not add to or

terpret it using a variety of methods.

We don't take the Bible lightly as communication, as we may with emojis. We are thankful that we have it as our authority, the rule for faith and life. That cannot be reduced to any emoji or set of emojis. Thanks be to God for the incarnate and written Word!



Cathy Northrup, Pastor

take away from the commandments. c) Try to adjust the commandments to the current culture. d) Do not follow all the commandments.

4. What warning is given in Revelations 22:18 to those who add to the Bible?
a) They will not be resurrected. b) They will suffer grief. c) They will not be saved. d) They will suffer plagues described in Revelations.

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

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

Detachment renamed to honor Phil Yin

In honor of one of the founding members of the Detachment, Phil Yin, who passed away on Saturday, March 25, the Marine Corps League Detachment #1439 has been renamed to the Marine Corps League Phil Yin Detachment #1439.

Regular and associate members of the Detachment will still meet at the American Legion Post #58 on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The next Detachment meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2.

"Since he arrived in Fountain Hills, he has certainly made his presence known," Detachment Adjutant Chris Brant said. "When you see the special parking spots for Purple Heart recipients and the naming of Fountain Hills as a Purple Heart town, this was possible with Phil working with the Town leadership of two May-

ors Kavanaugh and Dickey, the Town Manager Grady Miller and Town Director Justin Weldy.

"When you hear of the success of the VFW Color Guard winning first place nationally, Phil Yin was there as the director of the Guard. Now, when you hear about the Phil Yin Scholarship program for High School students, you will think of Phil Yin. Also, from now on when you hear of the good work, or when you attend a meeting of the Fountain Hills Marine Corps League Phil Yin Detachment #1439, there is no doubt who will be on your mind."

On Wednesday, March 29, Yin was posthumously inducted into the Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame. He will be honored with a Celebration of Life at the Fountain Hills Community Center at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 14.

Photo Club meets today

The April meeting of the Fountain Hills Photography Club will be held at the Fountain Hills Community Center today, Wednesday, April 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. with all photographers, members and visitors welcome to arrive at 5:30 p.m. to meet (on an informal basis) other members of the club and ask any questions they might have to the club's more experienced photographers.

The Club aims to be of interest to all photographers; novices through experts, DLSR to smartphone owners and users of Lightroom, Photoshop and others software applications.

The program generally

consists of three 20-minute segments of interest, including a slide show of members' photographs together with a short narrative of how the shot was taken, processed and whether the objectives in taking the shot were achieved.

The in-house presentations are provided by some of the club's experts, all of whom (plus other members) currently have over 65 exhibits on display at the Club's annual March Exhibition in the Community Center.

For further information about the Fountain Hills Photography Club, visit fhphotoclub.org.

Tribute to veterans concert at FHPC

Four Peaks Chapter DAR is providing a free veteran tribute concert to the public on Friday, May 12, performed by professional pianist Garik Pedersen.

Entitled the Victory Vertical Piano Lecture-Recital, Pedersen will play songs from the 1940s and tell the story of the Steinway Victory Verticals, which were pianos dropped by parachute during WWII to increase the morale of the troops.

Pederson will play mu-

sic by Samuel Barber, Duke Ellington, Roy Harris, Serge Rachmaninoff, Glenn Miller and many others.

The concert will be held at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, 13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd., on Friday, May 12, at 5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend, however, donations are welcome to benefit the Honor Flight of Arizona and DAR Four Peaks Chapter's Veterans Gratitude Breakfast.

Women's Club meets April 19

The Fountain Hills Women's Club (FHWC) has a special speaker at the April 19 luncheon. Stephanie Bjorkman, CEO and president of Sami Fine Jewelry, will share her vision for new ways to keep things unexpected and exciting.

Bjorkman has harbored a love of horses since she could speak in complete sentences, a press release read. She was hawking cowboy boots in 1997, when her acclaimed jewelry-designer mother and store founder, Sami Jack, was di-

agnosed with breast cancer. Sami roped her daughter into joining the family business.

The two made a formidable team and Bjorkman soon discovered a talent for attracting customers' attention. Her promotions and in-store events have earned her the title "Queen of Marketing" from *InDesign*, a magazine covering high-end American designer jewelry retailers. *In-store*, the industry's leading trade publication, named Sami Fine Jewelry one of America's Coolest Stores

in 2008.

In 2012, Bjorkman was one of four nominees for Fountain Hills Businessperson of the Year. In 2013, Sami retired, handing the reins to her daughter. As CEO and president, Bjorkman maintains the standards that have distinguished Sami Fine Jewelry for years.

The FHWC luncheon will be held at the Community Center. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and reservations can be made by contacting Carol Goyena at carolgoyena@gmail.com

by this Friday, April 14. The cost is \$25 to attend the luncheon.

As proud members of the Fountain Hills Cultural & Civic Association, FHWC hopes to reach more people and, with the success of its recent fashion show, the club will soon announce the scholarship recipients. The presentation of these recipients will take place at the May 17 luncheon.

For more information about this event and all things related to the club, visit fountainhillswomensclub.com.

Democratic Club meets tomorrow

The Fountain Hills Democratic Club (FHDC) will gather at the Community Center tomorrow, Thursday, April 13, for its April meeting. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. for socializing and snacks with informative speakers addressing the club at 6:30 p.m.

The Club will hear from two speakers on the topic of homelessness, specifically how it pertains to the community. Fountain Hills resident and Arizona State University Student, Rory Wilson, will discuss a nearby homeless shelter called A New Leaf. She will be joined by Sergeant Philip Asiedu of MCSO. The Club will also honor

its second recipient of the Outstanding Democratic Volunteer Award.

Wilson will begin the evening by speaking about A New Leaf, a homeless shelter located at the corner of Country Club and Highway 202. This shelter provides a new start for men who need homes and jobs.

The New Leaf system assists homeless people throughout Maricopa County. Wilson is a senior at ASU with double majors in Public Service and Public Policy and Sociology. Her passion for her community is demonstrated by her participation in the Community Services Advisory Commission and

the Planning Committee of Fountain Hills Cares.

She also contributes to Biophilic Fountain Hills and helped establish Together We Care, which organized a march in 2020 to show support for minority members in Fountain Hills and throughout the world.

Together We Care continues to spread awareness around social issues and the disproportional impact on BIPOC and LG-BTQ+ communities. While she recognizes room for growth in her community, Wilson feels proud to live in Fountain Hills and hopes to inspire others to accept and admire the diversity and extend compassion to

neighbors from all backgrounds.

The second speaker, Philip Asiedu, is the Administrative Sergeant in Fountain Hills and will present the MCSO's view on the impact of homelessness in the community. Asiedu will discuss the estimated number of homeless people living here, the laws regarding where they can and cannot set up shelters, whether they are bringing crime to Fountain Hills and what their needs are and what can be done to help them.

The community is invited to join FHDC for this interesting, informative meeting and family and friends are welcome.

Republican Women gather April 20

The next meeting of Republican Women of the Hills (RWOTH) will be held Thursday, April 20, at the VFW Post 7507, 9624 N. Monterey Drive, Suite #1, from 3 to 5 p.m. The featured speaker is Randy Miller who will be presenting on the topic of "Constitutional Law & You."

Miller is a retired senior deputy probation officer from California. He is currently the state director for the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Asso-

ciation, working with law enforcement around the country to help officers understand how to preserve their positions and freedoms.

In addition, Miller is a member of Hands for Health and Freedom, which seeks justice for those who were mistreated by government and medical professionals during COVID-19.

"His extensive work experience has provided him with an understanding of

how governments should be operating and how they actually operate," Crystal Cavanaugh said, RWOTH spokesperson.

Miller was a candidate for the Arizona House of Representatives in 2017 and the State Senate in 2019. He continues to consult with legislators and offers feedback on proposed bills.

In addition, the meeting will have a special guest speaker, Jerry Sheri-

dan, previously from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, and an update from a local Town Council member.

Members should RSVP to the RWOTH website at rwoth.com. Guests are welcome and invited to attend. A \$5 donation is suggested from non-members and can be paid upon arrival. For further information or questions, send an email to rwoth@gmail.com.

Elks prepare for May 6 golf tourney

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

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

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

is \$100 and includes a cart and lunch.

This golf tournament is a four-person, best-ball scramble where everyone gets a chance. The starting time is 7:30 a.m. and it will be a shotgun start if enough golfers sign up. Desert Canyon Golf Club is located at 10440 N. Indian Wells Dr. in Fountain Hills.

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

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

Club Briefs

Men's Discussion Group resumes

The Fountain Hills Men's Discussion Group will host a presentation at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 10, by MCSO Deputy Sheriff Ed Philpott who will speak about MSCO Search and Rescue.

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.

Contract bridge winners told

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

Winners from April 5 in-

clude Roger Watton in first place, Anand Paranjape in second and Ron Brede-mann in third. Winners from April 7 include Roger Watton in first place, Richard Rasmussen in second and Doug Stewart in third.

FH Rotary Club hosts speakers

The Rotary Club of Fountain Hills invites the public to its 2023 speaker series. On Tuesday, April 18, Director of Development for Arizona Children's Organization (ACO), Stephanie Walsh, will talk about ACO, their foster care, adoption and education programs.

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.



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Business

HS3 Roof King protects Fountain Hills homes

By **Cyrus Guccione**
Times Reporter

It's coming up on a year since Hunter Ryan and his wife Samantha stepped up to become the new owners of HS3 Roof King in Fountain Hills, and so far, the role has suited them well as a young family making their mark in the community.

According to Hunter, the transition into ownership was very smooth after serving two years as Senior Project Manager under Larry Webster, HS3 Roof King's previous owner.

"When [Larry] was look-

ing to retire, the conversation of buying the company came up," Hunter said, "It went pretty dang smoothly. No complaints."

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Family values

Hunter and Samantha are parents to their three-year-old boy, William, who is expecting a little sister on July 4 of this year. Her name is Charlie-Sue.

"All-American girl," Hunter laughed.

Moving from a senior project manager position into ownership, Hunter decided to add to his staff to help carry the workload at HS3 Roof King.

"I'm a family man," Hunter said. "I have a young family. I got a three-year-old son and a daughter cooking, so I want to make sure that everybody has time to spend with their family. I don't believe anybody should be worked to death. It's important that you have a good work-life balance. That's important to me."

Hunter has been in the

"I love chatting with the clients and making sure they're happy with the work."

Hunter Ryan

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Grant available for Chamber membership

The Fountain Hills Chamber Foundation and the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce have announced ongoing support from the Wigley Foundation Grant.

"Thanks to the Wigley Foundation Grant, Fountain Hills businesses can now apply for Chamber membership to enhance their visibility and impact in the Fountain Hills community," reads a press release from the Chamber. "In an incredible act of generosity, Fountain Hills resident Jack Wigley has pledged to donate annually to help local businesses join the Chamber of Commerce, even if they're struggling with start-up costs or seasonal downturns."

"The remarkable generosity of the Wigley Family, whose unwavering support for local commerce and community, can be seen throughout Fountain Hills. The Chamber Foundation Wigley Grant is also Fountain Hills Little

League's title and presenting sponsor."

The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce established the Fountain Hills Chamber Foundation in 2021. This fundraising arm aims at maximizing the Chamber's impact on the local business community.

"With the launch of the all-new, cutting-edge 'Visit Fountain Hills' app, every local business can be featured, regardless of Chamber membership," the press release continues. "But, as a Chamber member, your business will enjoy amplified exposure, plus the ability to update and personalize your listing for optimal results."

The press release notes that the Wigley Grant will allow additional businesses to take advantage of these types of opportunities. For more information regarding the Chamber Foundation Wigley Grant, contact Betsy LaVoie at betsy@fhchamber.com.



Hunter Ryan is the new face of HS3 Roof King in Fountain Hills. He owns the company with his wife, Samantha Ryan.

construction industry since his early twenties, flipping houses, working on new-builds and remodeling old homes. While his new role has him working in the

office more often than not, Hunter says that since the beginning, the best part of work is meeting people on the job.

"I love chatting with the

clients and making sure they're happy with the work," he said. "I've always been a social person, so I thoroughly enjoy meeting people."

HS3 Roof King is located at 17225 E. Shea Blvd., A109. For more information on HS3 Roof King, visit azroofking.com or call 480-486-8040.

Times photo by Cyrus Guccione

Elwood receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Fountain Hills resident Mia Elwood, founder and clinical director of Healthy Futures, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Arizona branch of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

NASW presented Elwood with the honor during its annual awards ceremony on Friday, March 31, which capped Social Work Awareness Month.

Healthy Futures, located in Fountain Hills and also with a clinical location in Scottsdale, is an outpatient mental health clinic specializing in the treatment of eating disorders. A few months ago, the company celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Healthy Futures' treatment specialty is an Intensive Outpatient Program which patients attend several times per week, engaging in group and individual therapy, healthy exercise and movement classes, meal experiences and other activities to help them overcome their eating disorders.

Varsha Prasad, a fellow

social worker and team member at Healthy Futures, spearheaded the nomination process.

"As a social worker, I believe it is important to identify leaders who positively impact the community and advance our field," Prasad said. "Mia has dedicated her life to serving others for the past 25 years as an advocate for universal body acceptance, therapist, clinical supervisor and founder and director of Healthy Futures."

"Throughout her career, she has found ways to overcome barriers that have prevented underserved populations from accessing eating disorder treatment. Mia is an exemplary social worker and trailblazer whose accomplishments have and will continue to advance universal body acceptance and eating disorder treatment in Arizona."

During the nomination process, Prasad sought input from others who have worked with Elwood. Glowing accolades were easy to come by from others in the mental health



Clinical Director and Founder of Healthy Futures, Mia Elwood, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Arizona branch of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

field. Those contributing included Jessica McCall and Laurie Geraghty of Healthy Futures, as well as Dr. Lisa Galper, a Valley psychologist in private practice.

Elwood said she is humbled by the honor but credits her team's professionalism and deep care for the success of Healthy Futures.

"I am honored to receive this professional social

work lifetime achievement award. It is an amazing profession, and I am grateful to be surrounded by such caring professionals with great hearts who nominated me," Elwood said. "I only hope to share my excitement for this helping profession with all future social workers and colleagues. Thank you to all of the helpers; the world needs you, especially now."

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Homes sold this period: 2 Median Price: \$828,388 Average price: \$828,388
Same period last year: 9 Median Price: \$672,332 Average price: \$672,936

Fountain Hills

14633 N Armijo Dr \$539,000	14415 N El Pueblo Blvd \$850,000
15851 E Brittlebush Ln \$620,000	15038 N El Sobrante Ave \$615,000
15745 E Cactus Dr \$430,000	15528 E Golden Eagle Blvd \$1,218,000
17406 E Caliente Dr \$456,000	14166 E Highland Ave \$440,000
14015 N Cameo Dr Apt A \$345,000	15770 E Palomino Blvd \$1,300,000
16831 E Eider Ct \$644,000	16209 E Rosetta Dr Unit 41 \$582,000
16631 E El Lago Blvd Unit 314 \$1,361,740	15554 E Tepee Dr \$975,000
16800 E El Lago Blvd Unit 1038 \$730,000	

Homes sold this period: 15 Median Price \$620,000 Average price: \$740,383
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2/8/2020
Name(s) of Minor Child(ren)
Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner: McKayna Guilliam has filed a Petition for Termination of Parent-Child Relationship with the Juvenile Department of the Superior Court in Maricopa County regarding the above-named child or children and: John Doe
Name of parent or parents whose rights are to be terminated, as well as any other known parties' names.
An initial hearing has been set to consider the petition:
Date: May 8
Time: 10:15
Before: Judge Ponce

At the Maricopa County Superior Court (Juvenile Department) located at: Durango Juvenile Court; 3131 W. Durango Street; Phoenix, AZ 85009
Case No.: JS530500
Notice:
You have a right to appear as a party in this proceeding.
Requests for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities must be made to the division assigned to the case by the party needing accommodation or his/her counsel at least three (3) judicial days in advance of a scheduled proceeding.
Requests for an interpreter for persons with limited English proficiency must be made to the division assigned to the case by the party needing the interpreter and/or translator or his/her counsel at least ten (10) judicial days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding.
The failure of a parent to appear at the Initial Hearing, the Pretrial Conference, or the Termination Adjudication Hearing may result in a court order terminating the parent-child relationship of that parent.
Failure to appear at the Initial Hearing, Pretrial Conference, Status Conference or Termination Adjudication Hearing, without good cause, may result in a finding that the parent, guardian, or Indian custodian has waived legal rights and is deemed to have admitted the allegations in the Petition.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

The hearing may go forward in the absence of the parent, guardian or Indian custodian and may result in the termination of parental rights based upon the record and evidence.
Published Fountain Hills Times
3/22/2023, 3/29/2023, 4/5/2023, 4/12/2023

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TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the Fountain Hills Town Council will conduct a public hearing and receive comments on ORD #22-02, amending the official Zoning District Maps of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, by changing the zoning designation for 3.1 acres of a 6.3-acre property from R1-10 to R-3, and remaining 3.2 acres of the same property from R-4 Multifamily Residential to R-3 Multifamily Residential, to allow for a residential project consisting of 80 apartment units, generally located at the southeast corner of Palisades Blvd. and Mountainside Drive.
(Case RZ22-000002)

A complete copy of the proposal is available for viewing in the Fountain Hills Planning & Zoning Office, 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM Monday through Thursday.

For more information, contact Farhad Tavassoli, AICP, CFM, Senior Planner, Town of Fountain Hills, 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268; or by calling 480-816-5139. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.
Published in FH Times: April 12, 2023 & April 19, 2023

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This project was supported in part by grant number 90MPCC0022, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20205. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

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The Verde Communities

Donations reach \$122,860

Verdes Habitat reaches goal

The Verdes Habitat for Humanity team has announced the fundraising goal for the 2023 Habitat for Humanities project has been reached.

Since July 1, 2022, the fundraising drive has received \$122,860 in donations. From this point forward any additional funds raised will go toward the construction of next year's home project.

Many have been waiting to complete Income Tax filing before writing a donation check. Organizers say those funds will give 2024 a healthy jump start.

For those wanting to donate there are notecards with details in front of the Rio Verde Post Office and on the wall baskets above the copy machine at Tonto Verde. Be sure to write "Verdes" in the subject line of the check so the donation may be properly directed.

"Team members have heard that folks like giving to successful projects and Verdes Habitat for Humanity is proud to continue doing the kind of work the community supports. That support is appreciated," reads a press release from organizers.

This year's home is being built for Djbril Cissouma and his young daughter, Farimata. Their rent for a two-bedroom is high and Djbril worries about neighborhood safety. The construction home site is located on Roosevelt St. in Tempe.

The project has experienced some delays this season with weather and workforce issues, according to Verdes Habitat coordinator Tom Mulleady. At this time, they hope to wrap up the project by the end of May with dedication soon after.



Community Church of the Verdes Pastor Rev. Dr. Cathy Northrup offers a blessing to the Habitat for Humanity project in Tempe with homeowner Djbril Cissouma and his daughter, Farimata.

VerdeCares 2022 update

VerdeCares has announced its service accomplishments for the 2022 calendar year. The volunteer organization assisted more than 380 neighbors, including the delivery of more than 1,300 meals and transportation to 170 medical appointments.

VerdeCares provides proactive education on senior healthcare topics (stroke, hydration, medical alert systems, social isolation, etc.).

The Verdes are also Dementia Friendly Communities because of VerdeCares Alzheimer's certified staff, support group education and program services for families impacted by Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

VerdeCares provides support before an emergency call and after an emergency call with its Home Assessment Program, providing fall safety equipment and services to reduce 911 calls. During resident visits, folks are encouraged to complete the Rio Verde Fire District emergency documents for the Lock Box and Lifeline programs. This helps firefighters and medics get to patients quickly with the right treatment, when every minute counts.

Following a call that results in the patient being transported to the hospital, VerdeCares provides follow-through assistance for hospital staff and, if necessary, rehab staff after

the patient returns home. VerdeCares has the services and resources that enable patients to return to self-sufficiency.

Care management program services help reduce repeat hospitalizations.

Those who are new residents to Rio Verde and Tonto Verde, VerdeCares has referral information for primary care physicians, chiropractors, dentists and more.

Call the VerdeCares Office at 480-471-8944 for more information on any of the services, activities and/or resources. Office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Help is available to residents 24/7 by calling executive Director Vicki Beske at 480-540-1312.

Verdes Art League Tour Sunday

Verdes Art League is presenting its Hidden in Rio Patio Tour on Sunday, April 16, from 1 to 4 p.m.

VAL invites residents of Rio Verde and Tonto Verde to bring friends and neighbors to enjoy the self-guided tour of seven Rio Verde home patios where 27 Art League members will be displaying their work and demonstrating their techniques.

Those attending may visit all the patios at leisure and experience art demonstrations, interac-

tive exhibits and samples of a wide variety of work by Verde artists. Several of the sites will offer interactive art opportunities such as painting, clay and jewelry making for children.

A map for the self-guided tour is posted on the Verdes Art League website, verdesartleague.org. Hardcopies are available for pick-up from the literature rack in the Rio Verde Community Center lobby.

Patio hosts are Janet Hulbert, Kari Hogden, Toni

Lowden, Mary Kuhr, Nancy Renaut, Kim Schols and Donna Sniadanko. Visitors may start the tour at any one of the listed patio sites.

From 4 to 5:30 p.m. enjoy the Garden Wine Reception to conclude the Art Tour. This event will be held in the garden of George and Jan Gruel. Come watch artists painting in the garden and enjoy live music by Jim O'Farrell. Entry to the Garden Wine Reception is by purchased ticket only and ticket sales are closed as of this writing.

Toll Brothers hosting presentations

Toll Brothers Homes and Shea Homes are planning to develop the 492-acre property known as West Thirty-Six in the area of the Verde Communities.

Toll Brothers has scheduled public discussions on the project. Informational presentations for small groups at the Rio Verde Community Center are

scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 3 p.m. (limit 16); and Tuesday, April 18, 3 p.m. (limit 16). Reservations are required for these presentations. To reserve a spot email rvcaoffice@cox.net.

A Toll Brothers representative made a presentation at the annual meeting of the Tonto Verde

Association in March. They have scheduled a follow-up community open house at the Tonto Verde Clubhouse on Monday, April 17, between 3 and 5 p.m. Representatives will be on hand to answer questions about various aspects of the project. Residents can come anytime between 3 and 5 p.m.

Verde News Briefs

Tour of artwork at RV church

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

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

Some of the artwork is modern, many are open to interpretation. The items include carvings, stained glass windows, textiles, paintings and figures.

There is one more opportunity to attend, on Wednesday, April 19, at 1:30 p.m.

Meet at the church courtyard to be directed to the start of the tour in the narthex.

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

Recycle, shred event April 20

The annual electronics recycling and document shredding event will be

held on Thursday, April 20, in the Rio Verde Community Center parking lot. Collection will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

There is a long list of items acceptable for the recyclers. The list is available at the RVCA office at the Community Center. No hazardous material will be accepted. The list of items that will not be accepted is also available.

The RV Community Center parking lot will be closed during the event. Those dropping items off will be directed through the lot with their material.

Call the RVCA office, 480-471-2068 for additional information.

Spoooner health programs at RV

Spoooner Physical Therapy is set to begin its series of free health lectures as well as free injury screenings in the Verdes for the season.

The free 15-minute Injury Screenings are being offered from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the Rio Verde Community Center Board Room.

Sign up at the counter next to the RVCA Office for injury screenings scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, and Thursday, May 25, and This is an opportunity to check out aches and pains before they become big problems.

The final free health lecture of the season presented by Spoooner staff is

Thursday, May 4, from 4:15 to 5 p.m. in the Rio Verde Community Center Card Room. The topic is Breast Cancer and Physical Therapy: Learn how physical therapy can enhance treatment and recovery. Presented by Jessica Krehbiel PT, DPT and Abbey Schmidt PTA.

Food Bank collection bins

Verde residents who are leaving for the summer or are cleaning out the pantry may help the hungry by donating canned and unopened packaged goods to the Extended Hand Food Bank in Fountain Hills.

Collection bins will be in the Rio Verde Post Office and Church lobby through Memorial Day. Contact Mary Derby at 303-908-5077 with any questions.

Anniversary team seeks memories

In preparation for the celebration of Rio Verde's 50th Anniversary in Fall 2023, the event planning committee is collecting stories, photos and other memorabilia that help tell our community's story.

Anyone with memorabilia to share, contact Mary Derby at maryderb@gmail.com or 303-908-5077. If you or your family have lived in Rio Verde for a long time, check drawers and closets both here and in summer/family homes.

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- 13** THURSDAY, APRIL 13 • 9:30 A.M.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
Join the supportive discussion, exclusively for family caregivers, led with compassion by Sage Hospice.
- 18** TUESDAY, APRIL 18 • 10:15 A.M.
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Find help and healing from the loss of a loved one in a warm talk, presented by In My Home Hospice Care.
- 19** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 • 3 P.M.
HAPPY HOUR WITH ROSSI ROSS
Come for a toe-tapping good time: a complimentary cocktail with friends, plus live musical entertainment.
- 22** SATURDAY, APRIL 22 • 11:30 A.M.
TOURS & EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
See our new look. Fresh as the great outdoors. Stay for the party: classic cars, BBQ, live music, and more!

RSVP TO (480) 485-2950 TWO DAYS BEFORE EACH EVENT.
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