

Wednesday,  
August 30,  
2023

Vol. 50 No. 35



# FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES INDEPENDENT

Your Nonpartisan Hometown Newspaper • fhtimes.com

\$2.00



## FIRE DEPT.: Equipment

Council approves funding; **19**



## TOWN: Turf

Areas converting to desert landscaping; **22**

## COUNCIL: ROADWAYS

Split vote passes new ordinance; **11**

### WEATHER

	H	L	P
Fri. Aug. 18	102	83	---
Sat. Aug. 19	89	81	---
Sun. Aug. 20	100	77	.12
Mon. Aug. 21	91	74	.21
Tues. Aug. 22	102	81	---
Wed. Aug. 23	100	83	---
Thurs. Aug. 24	102	84	---

For weather updates and forecasts go to [fhtimes.com](http://fhtimes.com)



## Community Garden set to grow again

### Reconfiguration project complete

**By Bob Burns**  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA  
Six years ago, the Community Garden was established in Fountain Hills and, with it, an enthusiastic group of green thumbs wanting to create a personal

garden when they can't at home due to lack of space or difficult desert soil. Residents jumped on board and quickly filled the roughly 120 beds being leased. There also quickly grew a waiting list to get a plot.

In 2022 the Town Council decided that the garden location, adjacent to the Centennial Circle in the civic center, would be better used for a planned International Dark Sky Discovery Center (IDSDC). As

a result, the garden would have to go. Garden Manager Rita Applegate quickly went to work with representatives of the Town, Discovery Center and Echelon

• See **Garden** on page 2

Mary and Bob Dill work on preparing their new garden bed for the season. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

### TOWN HALL

## Council rejects ordinance on soliciting

### Constitutional questions

**By Bob Burns**  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Town Council voted during its Aug. 22 regular meeting to reject a proposed ordinance aimed at regulating solicitation within the Town

of Fountain Hills. The ordinance was one of three related to issues raised at a June council session. In his staff report to the council, Town Attorney

Aaron Arnson noted that in June the council had discussed "a variety of options to alleviate the negative secondary effects of homelessness,

both for those individuals who experience unsheltered homelessness and for business owners and

• See **Council** on page 3



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**FROM THE COVER**

**Garden**

• From page 1

Construction to come up with a plan to simply relocate the garden farther south, out of the way of the Discovery Center footprint. The Discovery Center officials willingly agreed to foot the bill for the move, and Applegate wanted Dennis Brown and his Echelon Construction to do the work. Applegate had praise for the IDSDC and Brown for their willingness to cooperate and support the effort.

Early in 2023 there was a brief ceremony at the site to begin the reconstruction of the Community Garden and, earlier this month, Brown and his crew returned the garden to Applegate, her volunteers and gardeners so they could get back to planting.

Applegate has a long list of projects and work to be done to make the garden even better than it has been.

"I think we have gone from garden 1.0 to 4.5,"

she said. "There is less physical space, but that is good to make the space more efficient."

She said she has an "army" of volunteer help to get work done, train new gardeners on low-flow drip irrigation techniques, which will be a hallmark of the new garden.

**"Without our army of volunteers we wouldn't be where we are today."**

**Rita Applegate**  
Community Garden manager

"Without my army of volunteers, we wouldn't be where we are today," Applegate said.

The reconfiguration project increased the number of 4'x10' planting beds to 130. Three are set aside to grow produce for the Extended Hands Food Bank in Fountain Hills and there is a shared herb garden. They have also con-

structed six raised beds to be ADA compliant and accommodate hand-capped gardeners. They have also been able to bring in some new gardeners who have been on the waiting list for two or three years.

"I want our donors to know that we have been able to reuse everything that has been donated over the years," Applegate said.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the Community Garden will celebrate its sixth anniversary as well as hold a grand opening for the new facility. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will feature a cooking class with Debbie Romano, music by the Sand Pigeons and displays and information from local vendors. The garden hosts a healing food series and cooking classes monthly beginning in October and continuing through the middle of next year. Visit fountainhillscommunitygarden.com for more information about the garden and its special activities and events.



Joanne Lowe-Pelzek does the hard work of turning over soil in her garden bed. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



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## FROM THE COVER

### Council

• From page 1

residents.”

Councilman Allen Skillicorn had asked staff to bring back a soliciting ordinance that mirrored one passed in the City of Glendale. Arnsen said his proposed language was the same as one approved by Glendale in 2022 except for changing the name of the municipality. It was noted in previous discussions that Arnsen had advised the council in closed session that there were legal issues with the Glendale law. The proposed ordinance before the council prohibited “any person from soliciting money or other items of value, or from soliciting the sale of goods or services in an aggressive manner in any public area.”

Councilwoman Peggy McMahon noted Arnsen’s advice not to pass this ordinance.

“This is still very broad and sweeping and a legal threat to Glendale,” she said. “I don’t think this stands up to the Constitution.”

**“In its current state this is clearly unconstitutional. It can be fixed (but) this is clearly directed at panhandling.”**

**Brenda Kalivianakis**  
Town Councilwoman/retired attorney

Councilwoman Brenda Kalivianakis, a retired attorney, agreed with McMahon. “In its current state this is clearly unconstitutional. It can be fixed, but it is clearly directed at panhandling.

“I don’t see solicitation as an issue that is that compelling. We have time to fix and reconsider. Why risk it knowing we don’t have a chance in court?”

“This is to protect citizens and visitors,” Skillicorn said. “To protect them from fear and intimidation from aggressive solicitation.”

“Aggressive behavior is never okay,” Mayor Ginny Dickey said. She suggested changes could be made.

Vice Mayor Sharron Grzybowski wondered how legal solicitation is handled through permitting, etc. Arnsen said that is a concern when considering holiday bell ringers or even Girl Scout cookie sales and how to accommodate those activities.

Skillicorn and council members Gerry Friedel and Hannah Toth supported the ordinance. Kalivianakis joined Dickey, Grzybowski and McMahon in opposing approval. At the close of the session, there was enough support to direct staff to consider changes and bring back the ordinance at a later time.



**STORAGE BUILD GOING VERTICAL**

Construction is underway on a new public storage facility in the 16800 block of Saguaro Boulevard in Fountain Hills, behind the Target shopping center. The facility will have both climate-controlled and non-climate-controlled units in six buildings being constructed on the site on Saguaro at Technology Drive. RKAA Architects is the designer and LaCosta Construction is the contractor on the \$9.7 million project. There is not a specified timetable for completion of the project. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

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Data Source: Altos Research, Inc. - August 23, 2023

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 <h2 style="color: red;">\$402</h2> <p style="color: blue;">PRICE PER SQFT</p>	 <p style="color: red;">65</p> <p style="color: blue;">INVENTORY</p>

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**ORDINANCE**

# Urban camping ban approved

**Council votes 5-2**

**By Bob Burns**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

The Town Council voted to ban urban camping in Fountain Hills when it met on Tuesday, Aug. 22. This is one of three ordinances considered related to addressing issues surrounding homelessness concerns.

The ordinance prohibits the “using of a public street, alley, lane parkway or other right-of-way whether such a right-of-way has been dedicated to the public, in fee or by easement, for lying, sleeping, remaining in a sitting position thereon, or camping, except in the case of a physical emergency or the administration of medical assistance.” It also prohibits camping in any public park or place, except where specifically authorized by the Town.

Town Attorney Aaron Arnson told the council he could recommend approval of this ordinance in spite of a ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court

of Appeals related to two cases stating the Eighth Amendment prohibits the imposition of criminal penalties for camping on outdoor public property for homeless individuals who do not have an alternative.

Providing the Town can do an assessment of the situation and provide an alternative shelter option to the individual, the ordinance is constitutional, according to Arnson.

“The court never said the ordinances (it ruled on) were unconstitutional, but they can be unconstitutional as applied,” he said. “It can be enforced when you provide them an option for shelter.”

“Consistent with federal law (this ordinance) may be enforced where an involuntarily homeless person has access to a shelter space or an alternative location to go to upon being ordered to vacate the area,” he added in his staff report to the council.

Councilman Allen Skillicorn supported the ordinance and was pleased staff was able to

return quickly with proposed regulation. “We are letting certain people allow our town to be-

to homeless individuals in Fountain Hills. Staff is preparing to follow up on that arrangement. Inter-

**“Consistent with federal law (this ordinance) may be enforced where an involuntarily homeless person has access to a shelter space or an alternative location to go to upon being ordered to vacate the area.”**

**Aaron Arnson**

Fountain Hills Town attorney

come blighted,” he said. Councilwoman Peggy McMahon opposed the regulation. “We just can’t arrest our way out of a problem,” she said. “This is not a solution, it makes it worse.”

The Town has for some time allocated in its annual budget funding to the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to support shelter services in the region. However, it was noted that rather than a general contribution, the Town should work with a specific shelter with a contract arrangement to provide alternative shelter

im Town Manager Ra- chael Goodwin said the funding in the budget for the current year has not yet been spent and staff would work on a shelter arrangement.

Mayor Ginny Dickey said that with staff seeking dedicated shelter services she could support the ordinance. She did move for an amendment to remove language specific to individuals in the “sitting position.” The motion did not pass.

The final vote on the urban camping ordinance was 5-2 with McMahon and Vice Mayor Sharron Grzybowski opposing.

**HOLIDAY**

# Labor Day impacts business hours

**Monday, Sept. 4**

Monday, Sept. 4, is the federal Labor Day holiday, with many people getting the day off.

In Fountain Hills the Town offices will be closed, as are the offic-

es of the Fountain Hills Sanitary District and EPCOR Water company. The Community Center and Library will also be closed.

The Fountain Hills Unified School District will not have classes on Monday, and the offices

will be closed.

Branches for the various banks in Fountain Hills are closed Monday for the holiday.

Labor Day is not a holiday for Republic Services and trash collection in Fountain Hills. Trash collection for

Monday, as well as the remainder of the week, will take place as normally scheduled.

The Times Independent will not have deadline changes and wishes everyone an enjoyable and restful Labor Day holiday.

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**SHERIFF'S CALL LOG**

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 7 substation based in Fountain Hills reported responding to the following calls during the week from Thursday, Aug. 17, through Wednesday, Aug. 23.

**Thursday, Aug. 17**

\*A resident of the 17000 block of Kingstree Blvd. reported a burglary, stating an unknown subject entered their residence and took food from the refrigerator.

\*A resident of the 16000 block of Glenbrook Blvd. reported an unknown subject misrepresenting themselves as a law enforcement officer attempted to defraud them.

\*Deputies responded to the 13000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. where a subject was trespassed from a business.

**Friday, Aug. 18**

\*Deputies responded to the 12000 block of Saguaro Blvd. where it was reported an unknown subject burglarized items from a locker at a business.

**Saturday, Aug. 19**

\*Deputies responded to Saguaro Boulevard and Desert Vista for a reported hit and run collision between a vehicle driven by an unknown subject and a street sign.

\*Deputies responded to the 17000 block of Shea Blvd. where it was reported an unknown subject made a fraudulent purchase at a business.

\*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of Palisades Blvd. where a domestic violence assault was reported.

**Sunday, Aug. 20**

\*Deputies responded to the 15000 block of Thistle Dr. where an assault by two unknown subjects was reported.

**Monday, Aug. 21**

\*Deputies responded to the 15000 block of Tepic Lane where a domestic violence fight was reported.

\*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of Paul Nordin Parkway where a fraud incident was reported.

**Tuesday, Aug. 22**

\*A resident of the 9000 block of Horizon Trail reported a fraud incident.

\*Deputies responded to the 12000 block of Tower Dr. where a theft was reported from a community common area.

\*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of Shea Blvd. where a business reported several shoplifting incidents. A suspect was identified and booked into jail.

\*Deputies responded to the 13000 block of Eagle Ridge Dr. where it was reported a vehicle was damaged by a valet service at a business.

**Wednesday, Aug. 23**

\*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of Shea Blvd. where a theft by an unknown subject was reported.

**OBITUARIES**

**George Chelovitz**

George Chelovitz passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 21, 2023, at the age of 101. A resident of Fountain Hills, Ariz., George was born in the family home, 1284 Grant Street, Akron, Ohio, on May 29, 1922, the son of Milos and Josephine (Fihn) Chelovitz. During his youth he played the accordion, sang in the St. Demetrius Serbian Orthodox Church Choir and played football at Copley High School. He graduated from Copley High School in 1940. After graduation he attended the Goodyear Aviation Mechanics Apprentice school.



George Chelovitz

George enlisted in the Navy, July 1942. He served as an aviation mechanic at the Natal, Brazil Naval Air Base until his discharge in 1945. He attended Bradley University, studying Landscape Architecture until he joined the Ohio Edison Engineering Department.

He married Phyllis Mae Sondles Jan. 20, 1962. Shortly thereafter, he suffered a heart attack that led to a lifelong com-

mitment to physical fitness which kept him going to the gym regularly until just a few months ago.

While at Ohio Edison, he enrolled at The University of Akron and became a first-generation college graduate in 1974, earning his associate degree in applied science while majoring in real estate.

After retirement, he and Phyllis left Akron for Arizona and never looked back. They did visit annually, until 2013. In Rio Verde, they developed a core group of friends and maintained contact with them even as many moved to Fountain View Village in their later years.

They loved being a host family to students who came to Rio Verde to play in the annual women's intercollegiate golf tournament. They also spent many years helping, financially and physically, to build homes with Habitat for Humanity. Their generosity knew no bounds; when it came to supporting family, friends, charities or the scholarship programs they established at many schools.

George was a "dyed in the wool" Cleveland Browns fan since 1946, beginning by going to their annual games in the Akron Rubber Bowl. Many years lat-

er, he didn't miss many Sundays in the Rio Verde pub watching the Browns on TV. He truly loved all Cleveland and Ohio sports teams. Even a month ago, he was making sure he'd have access to watch the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Browns this fall.

He was an avid golfer and member of Westfield Country Club in Ohio for many years and, later, Rio Verde Country Club in Arizona. He finally hung up his spikes eight years ago, when he couldn't "hit the ball out of his shadow" and donated his clubs to Rio Verde so an up-and-coming golfer had an opportunity to develop a love for the game.

George will always be remembered for his chivalrous nature and how he catered to Phyllis' every need, his sense of humor, his infectious laugh, and how he always had a smile on his face. He was a true inspiration to others in so many ways.

George was preceded in death by his aforementioned parents, his wife, Phyllis, who passed in 2021 just three weeks shy of their 60th anniversary; sister, Catherine Vance; and nephew, George Vance. He is survived by his brother, Milo

(Mary Lou) Chelovitz; nephews, Stephan (Kate) Vance, Eric (Sheryl) Chelovitz, Christopher (Annie Laurie) Chelovitz, and George (Christine Covell) Rodway; and nieces, Yana (Bradley) Dumbauld, Jane (Bob-deceased) Webb, Karen (Bob) Moore, Cyndie Wright, Jeannette (Buzz) Patterson; other nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends, especially Tom and Kathy Idczak, who have been helping day-to-day with all his and Phyllis's needs over recent years.

The family will be honoring George's final wishes and there will be no memorial service. May his memory be eternal!

Those wishing to honor his memory may make a donation in his name to the scholarship that he and Phyllis established at The University of Akron to support students with financial need. To give online, visit [uakron.edu/give](http://uakron.edu/give) and choose the George and Phyllis Chelovitz Scholarship from the drop-down menu. Checks made payable to the UA Foundation with Chelovitz written on the memo line may be mailed to: Dept of Development, University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-2603.

**NPOA update for the week of Aug. 20**

**Meetings held every Tuesday**

The Neighborhood Property Owners' Association's Committee of Architecture reviewed

and approved eight permit applications at the meeting held on Aug. 22, with no applications in need of further review.

Approvals were as follows:

- \*16040 Venetian - Owner, Osborn; remodel.
- \*16309 Trevino - Owner, Anderson; pool.
- \*10461 Nicklaus - Owner, Mitchell; pergola, remodel and addition.

- \*15128 Marathon - Owner, Wolf; reroof.
- \*15622 Audubon - Owner, Prynne; reroof.
- \*10409 Indian Wells - Owner, Ginsberg; garage

- door replacement.
- \*15556 Cholla - Owner, Rupert; remodel.
- \*15814 Tepee - Owner, Carter; remodel.

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

• See NPOA on page 7

**FYI**

**NPOA**

• From page 6

tee of Architecture.

All interested members should contact the NPOA office at 480-837-5317 or visit the NPOA/NCOA website at npoafh.org for more information.

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

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

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**FH Library provides free vaccines**

**COVID and flu vaccines offered on Sept. 8**

As part of its regularly scheduled events throughout the month of September, the Fountain Hills Library is hosting the Maricopa County Public Health depart-

ment to provide COVID and flu vaccinations for ages 3 and over in its conference room. The vaccines are administered by a nurse on-site at the library between 12 noon and 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8.

The event is first come first serve.

For more information, call the Public Health CARES line at 602-506-6767.

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

**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Check out upcoming activities**

**Week of Aug. 30 – Sept. 5**

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, Aug. 30**

- \*8 a.m., Back fit with Pilates
- \*9 a.m., video gentle yoga; intermediate bridge.
- \*10 a.m., open paint studio.
- \*12 p.m., poker.
- \*1 p.m., Scrabble.
- \*1:30 p.m., Euchre
- \*2 p.m., Open jam session.
- \*6 p.m., Bunco

**Thursday, Aug. 31**

- \*8 a.m., Peer-led exercise; aerobic chair exercise.
  - \*9 a.m., canasta; video gentle yoga.
  - \*9:30 a.m., Beginner line dancing.
  - \*10 a.m., Spanish Club; open paint studio.
  - \*1 p.m., Table Talk for Women; Improver Line Dancing; Hand & Foot Cards.
  - \*4 p.m., Poker
  - \*5 p.m., Open paint studio; movie.
- Friday, Sept. 1**
- \*8 a.m., Back fit with Pilates.
  - \*9 a.m., Pinochle, Aerobic Chair Exercise; intermediate bridge; Golf Cards.
  - \*1 p.m., Woodcarvers & Open Table Art; Mexican Train Dominoes;

Chess; traditional Mah Jongg.

\*2 p.m., a matter of balance.

**Saturday, Sept. 2**

No events scheduled.

**Sunday, Sept. 3**

No events scheduled.

**Monday, Sept. 4**

Closed for Labor Day

**Tuesday, Sept. 5**

\*8 a.m., Peer-led exercise; Aerobic chair exercise.

\*9 a.m., video gentle Yoga.

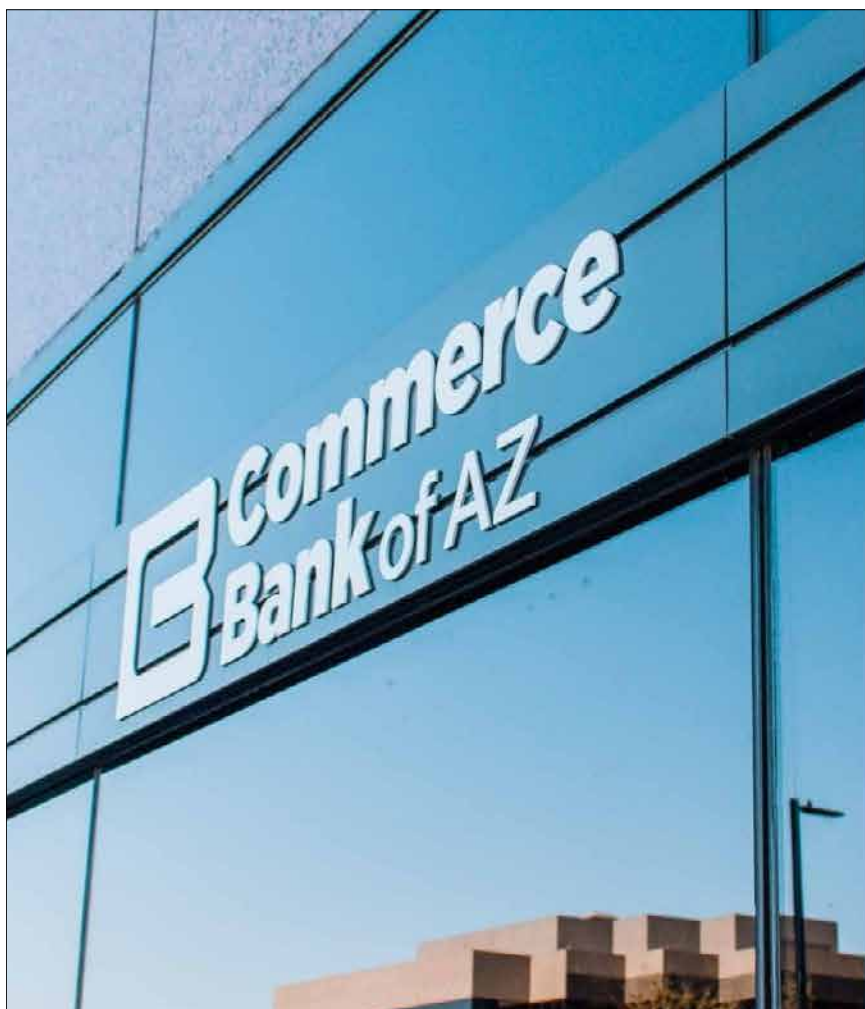
\*9:30 a.m., Intermediate line dancing.

\*10 a.m., Hooks & Needles; open paint studio.

\*12 p.m., blood pressure checks.

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

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



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# OPINIONS



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## Take the Civility Pledge

Yes, I want to become a Civility Advocate. I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for citizens to engage in civil discourse about public issues.

Visit our sister newspaper website [yourvalley.net/civility-pledge/](http://yourvalley.net/civility-pledge/) to take the pledge.

## Your Opinion

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our submissions. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

For consideration, opinion submissions are due noon Thursday the week before publication. Please include your name and phone number so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We also welcome your photo. Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submittals in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submits it.

## Corrections

Independent strives for accuracy and pledges to bring errors that have appeared in our newspaper to the attention of our readers. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story or the way it was handled or edited are welcome to respond with an opinion to:

[rtwinslett@iniusa.org](mailto:rtwinslett@iniusa.org).

## OPINIONS

### Freshmen councilpersons not listening to citizens

Dianne Price

By recent accounts, about 1,000 Fountain Hills residents have volunteered precious time to help make our town the best it can be. Citizens serve on committees, commissions, advisory boards and assist with all kinds of town-related activities.

Yet, it seems our freshmen councilpersons either are unaware of citizen involvement, or plain just don't care.

Witness the Feb. 21 Town Council discussion about an improved entry to Fountain Park. My concern is not whether the project proceeds, but how decisions are made and how people are being treated.

Despite weak preambles like "no slight to Jerry," four councilpersons did slight Jerry Butler – and his fellow 11 members of the citizen Streets Committee. Scheduled to present their findings in just six days at the Council's Strategic Planning retreat, Councilpersons Hannah Toth, Allen Skillicorn, Brenda Kalivianakis and Gerry Friedel hijacked that opportunity, declaring the project terminated right then and there.

"Please give us the courtesy of finishing our assignment as a committee, then later make a decision based on facts," asked Butler, a Fountain Hills resident for 24 years and a retired engineer with decades of experience planning highways

and roads. Seems like a reasonable request.

In their discussion about the project, the lack of knowledge among the new councilpersons was astonishing, yet they were disinterested in learning more. Kalivianakis declared she knew that more people supported terminating than not. I don't remember being asked. Do you?

Trampling all over the work of dedicated citizens didn't stop there. At the next Council meeting, the group of four declared a citizen-created, voter-approved Environmental Plan was unacceptable, spouting partisan trigger terms like "virtue signaling," "Green New Deal" and "becoming California" in order to further their own agenda – not the peoples' vision.

As a new Commissioner, I ask, "Am I just wasting my time?"

### Take an interest in FHUSD

Libby Settle  
FHUSD School Board member

As FHUSD staff and students have returned to school, I wanted to thank all the hardworking staff and community members who worked tirelessly to prepare our sites for the first day of school. The excitement that filled the beautiful hallways at Falcon Fest was a wonderful sight to see. A quality educational experience is a foundation to an amazing school district.

Whether you have a student in Fountain Hills Unified School District

this year or not, it's essential to know what is happening in your local school district. Community members are welcome and encouraged to attend Fountain Hills Unified School District board meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month, volunteer in classrooms or become a mentor.

Parents, I encourage you to take an interest in what your child is learning and how they spend their time no matter what grade level. Learn the curriculum, programs and clubs in which your child is participating. Don't hesitate to ask anyone in the district any questions you may have. Join a committee, the PTO, Boosters or volunteer in your child's classroom or at school sporting events. It's important to build rapport and relationships with your child's teachers and school staff. We have some of the best staff in Arizona.

As one individual of a five-member board, I will continue to work toward transparency, strong academics and fiscal responsibility within our allocated funding. I am thankful for the ongoing support and look forward to working with everyone to ensure we provide our students the best education possible.

### Councilwoman Kalivianakis' call for civility

Alan Magazine

Plaudits to Councilmember Brenda Kalivianakis for her outstanding

opinion [printed in the Aug. 23 issue of Fountain Hills Times Independent].

She says, in part, "We need to appeal to our better angels and treat each other with dignity and respect." She is basically asking all citizens to do our best to adopt the Civility Checklist in the Times Independent. I couldn't agree more!

### Skillicorn's recent videos on paving

Pam Cap

Road conditions have been a problem in Fountain Hills for a very long time now. Recently, Councilmember Skillicorn posted two videos on his Allen Skillicorn for Fountain Hills social media page. One was on Golden Eagle. He went into detail about why the street deteriorates and what is used to patch them. Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to understand how our streets actually get chosen to be fixed. We have a citizens' street committee that works directly with a firm that assesses which streets go first. Like Glenbrook. That was just done and it looks fabulous.

The second video is Skillicorn complaining about parking lots being re-paved instead of Golden Eagle. Since he didn't bother to do his job and ask the park, I did. The parking lot re-paving program was planned and approved in 2016. As his video points out, it's in need of repair. That's called planning ahead. Being proactive.

The Skillicorn Roads

First program failed horrifically. Not even a second. So, his response is to attack staff. As a councilmember, working with Town staff is imperative. So implying wrongdoing or a failure to complete required tasks because of political allegiance is just another way of saying he didn't get his way. Skillicorn accused staff of delaying copies of the Town's check register when he could have requested the same information from the Department of Revenue on his own. Considering the reduced workweek, he could have eliminated some of the work by doing it himself instead of putting more work on the staff.

Skillicorn needs to understand that he isn't in Illinois anymore. This isn't Washington, D.C. and we are not at the border. This is Fountain Hills and we need councilmembers who focus on making Fountain Hills better for every resident and business owner that is here.

### Don't be fooled by propaganda

Michael Scharnow

Just so everyone knows, those yellow and red signs you see randomly posted about the upcoming school bond election are not factual. I hesitate to call them lies, but...

A "massive tax hike" and "bond interest is as much as the bond itself" are both not grounded in truth, seemingly perpetuated in part by Councilman Allen Skillicorn (see

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## OPINIONS

### Opinions

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his Aug. 23 printed opinion, which includes an “Editor’s Note” detailing the truth).

Who is behind this false propaganda?

When searching the elections websites of the Town, Maricopa County and state of Arizona records, the signs ascribing “Paid for by Arizona Taxpayers United,” that too, appears to be untrue. There appears to be no such campaign committee. No campaign chairman or treasurer. If that’s the case, those signs are illegal. Completely fake. There is no accountability.

I’m tired of false narratives that thrive on anonymity. It paints a very narrow picture of our community.

Is that what we want as a community? Think those statements are true? Check the sources. Call these things out, and the people behind the statements, for what and who they are. And ask yourself why they want to remain anonymous. What are they afraid of, except the truth?

Don’t be fooled by political propaganda. Support our school system at the ballot box this fall.

### My take on Bidenomics

Linda Somo

I prefer to consider legitimate facts.

According to government statistics, inflation at this time last year was just under 9%, but latest government figures set it at 3.2% and heading downward. Our GDP (economic growth rate) for the first two quarters this year was 2% and 2.4% respectively, indicating a strong upward

trend, and no sign of a recession. Compared to the rest of the richest countries in the world, America is without a doubt the best economy anywhere. Germany, for instance, had a -1% GDP.

Unemployment remains steady at 3.5%, the lowest in over 50 years. Real wages are growing. While the previous president had “Infrastructure Week” about once a month, President Biden actually passed the bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill, creating thousands of good-paying jobs throughout the country. Additionally, many new manufacturing jobs have been created by the CHIPS and Science Acts, passed without a single Republican vote. More than 13.2 million jobs have been added since Biden took office.

On the world stage, President Biden strengthened relations with NATO, and world leaders again demonstrate respect for the U.S. Rick Dike, in his response to my previous letter, may disagree with the U.S. and NATO support for Ukraine in their fight against the Russian invasion, but supporting Ukraine helps to safeguard the rest of Europe and America. Moreover, Biden recently cemented relations with Japan and South Korea to support a united front against an aggressive China.

It’s true that gas prices are again on the rise, but a major cause has been the increased demand by Americans (who are traveling more) and the inability of oil refineries to function in this summer’s extreme heat.

Anecdotally, I observe many Americans eating

at restaurants, traveling nationwide, shopping profusely and spending everywhere. Evidently, many are enjoying Bidenomics.

### The role of the FHUSD Governing Board

Jennifer Kriwer

I attended the School Board meeting Aug. 16. I appreciated the valid questions that were being asked by board members regarding our school district’s finances. Even more important since, according to [Azauditor.gov](http://Azauditor.gov), Fountain Hills Unified School District has 54 deficiencies for noncompliance with the Uniform of Financial Records as of June 2022. The letter sent to the district is dated May 24, 2023, available at [Az auditor.gov](http://Az auditor.gov).

I was tolerating several people around me making underhanded comments when questions were being raised. They were loud enough for me and others to hear. Several seemed to be in a group and were feeding off of each other.

I was totally shocked when the one gentleman expressing the most comments got up to address the board and was actually a school employee. He could not have been nicer when he personally addressed the board but that was not the case when he was in the back of the room making underhanded comments when valid questions were being asked.

At one point one of the board members reminded them she had been elected by the residents of Fountain Hills and she is doing her job.

Taken directly from the school districts web page: The governing board sets all district pol-

icies and has final authority over all school district business.

The board of directors’ job is to ask the difficult questions and to hold employees accountable. It looks and feels like bullying is being tolerated.

### Surround our school district with support

Scott Sommer

Is the School District really that bad? I suppose that depends on who you ask. It’s an opinion, for sure. We’ve heard quite a bit of opinions on how bad the schools are; but what is believable, and what is fabricated, embellished, or otherwise to make an attempt at advancing one’s own political agenda?

At the end of my daughter’s eighth grade, she was looking for a fresh start. She spent a number of years outside of the FHUSD. We toured a number of area schools, including Fountain Hills High School. Once the announcement was made of Dr. Jagodzinski’s return, we knew we found our school.

In a little over a year, Dr. Jagodzinski has turned our School District around. It was a monumental effort, one that I thought would take years to achieve. Is there still work to be done? There certainly is; a significant amount. However, after a little over a year on the job, Jagodzinski has improved morale among students and staff, completed a consolidation, established a preschool, modified instructional schedules at the high school and grown overall enrollment.

So why are some in our community out to

• See **Opinions** on page 10

# Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues.

**Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.

**Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment and threats directed at another person — or that person’s race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone’s character or motives.

**Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

**Don’t misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

**Listen and learn.** It’s both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don’t agree with your own.

**Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

**Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.

**Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it’s OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.

Now that you have read this, take our Civility Pledge: [yourvalley.net/civility-pledge/](http://yourvalley.net/civility-pledge/)

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NEWS MEDIA  
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## OPINIONS

### Opinions

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destroy this progress? Where were they when a previous superintendent was sitting idle as the exodus of staff and students occurred? What is the benefit of a stagnant School District? Who wins? How do we attract families to Fountain Hills with a lackluster school system? How do we keep our community moving forward?

My opinion is that we surround our schools, staff and students with support and demonstrate what we can create.

We are adults. We set an example. Our kids are watching our behavior. It's time to start providing what is deserved. We're tearing our community down or we're building it up. There simply is no in-between.

#### Republicans need to move on from Trump

John Aldrich

Donald J. Trump is ineligible to be President of the United States. I say that as a Republican voter for 30 years who served in the military under Reagan.

How he is ineligible depends on your point of view. If you are a Liberal, he's ineligible under the 14th Amendment for leading an insurrection against the country, as he is charged with in multiple courts. If you are a Republican, then he is ineligible under the 22nd Amendment since a person can only be elected president twice and, by his own accounts, Trump won in 2016 and 2020.

Unless we really want another Biden term, the Republicans need to move on from Trump,

as a vote for Trump in the primaries is a vote for Biden in the General Election next year. With all his legal issues, he cannot get enough Independents to vote for him to win. Just look at the past few elections as proof.

As Republicans, we need to go back to being the party of Reagan and move on from Trump. None of the current candidates even come close to that, as they try to out-"Trump" each other.

#### Reliance on studies

Barry Wolborsky

Most government insiders agree that the bureaucracy runs the government. Politicians make noises and pass laws, but the bureaucracy always wins.

In Fountain Hills the bureaucracy is called "staff" and the tool they use to govern is called the "study." Want to build a half million-dollar roundabout that nobody wants, a \$1 million stop light that's not needed or a \$15 million parking garage, just buy a study that says you need it. With study in hand, we can all ignore common sense and what we know to be true and defer to the "experts."

But let's take a company that does studies. Out of 100 studies, how many times do you think the results say, "no, you don't need the roundabout, light or garage?" My guess, pretty close to zero. If the study finds you do need "it," you get follow-up studies and happy clients. If the study says you don't need it, well, no more business from that client.

So, let's get a study, and when you're paying

to park in an ugly downtown parking garage, you will have the joy of knowing the study said you needed it.

#### Easy to see what you get with Friedel

Albert Ronca

One can only surmise that some councilmembers are more important than others, according to Councilman Friedel, who disparaged the mayor and other councilpersons with his outburst at the Aug. 22 Council meeting. He appears to feel slighted!

Apparently, his decision to be a mayoral candidate a year from now has elevated him in his mind as to his importance compared to others. Expect him to demand his presence at any meeting that he deems important – or requiring his "expertise," whatever that is – as he did about a summer meeting with MCSO that he did not attend.

And expect him to continue to berate, belittle or demean those around him. After all, he seems to think he's more important than the rest, he all but said it. Watch the video online. For sure, he's already campaigning. It's easy to see what you get with him, and it's early!

If you want a thoughtful, collected, compassionate, collaborative and courteous leader, he's clearly not it. Let's hope voters realize his mansplaining has no place in Town government.

#### The Jan. 6 trial should be televised

Larry Mynars

Sooner or later the "Rule of Law" will be applied to Donald Trump regarding the events of

Jan. 6.

Normally, federal trials are not televised, but Congress can authorize these important national events be made available to you and me – you know, taxpayers. With that in mind, I encourage all citizens to contact our representative members of Congress – Sinema, Kelly and Schweikert – to provide this service. This has got to be better than the bland stuff on regular TV. Will 45 sweat like Rudy? What a storyline!

#### Let's treat each other with respect

Robyn Heimbuch

I would like to applaud Brenda Kaliviankis for her opinion in the Aug. 23 edition of The Fountain Hills Times Independent. She is right, we all "deserve to be treated with love, dignity and respect".

In my lifetime many of the racial epithets and slurs have fallen out of common usage. The use of many demeaning terms for folks with disabilities or mental illness have also fallen away from our conversations. That is progress, but we have to do more; there are many among us who are still suffering indignity.

As the Bible and every other holy book maintains, we are admonished to "Do unto others whatever you would have them do unto you." So, keyboard warriors, before you make that social media post that is going to live on forever, think, is this how I would want to be treated? Am I practicing inclusiveness and treating those who may not believe as I do with love, dignity and respect?

The Trump era has given permission to be angry, punch down and slur everyone that doesn't agree with you at a very loud volume. If you aren't for us, you are against us, family against family, neighbor against neighbor. Fly a pride flag, get shot in the face! Again, in the Bible, my favorite, Matthew 7:5, "First take the beam out of your own eye, so that you may see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Let's work together to bring honor and respect to our community. As

Brenda says, "working together builds camaraderie, fellowship, brotherhood." Maybe then we can support our schools, grow our community and accept that our difference is an asset. Our community comes with many colors, our inclusiveness is what makes the beautiful rainbow.

### More online

Approved letters are published at fhtimes.com throughout the week. They will be published in the paper, space permitting.

### HEALTH

## Community Center hosting dementia care and education series

### First session is Sept. 7

The Town of Fountain Hills, a designated Dementia Friendly Community, will host a four-part educational series for caregivers and healthcare providers at the Community Center.

The first session (course #1963) will be held on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The first session will cover "Assessment and Diagnosis of Dementia." It will describe cognitive screening tools to achieve early recognition and diagnosis of dementia in primary care, describe how to evaluate the behavioral, safety and functional needs of patients, describe the typical workup for diagnosing dementia, help participants understand how to differentiate delirium

from dementia and know when to refer to a memory specialist for further evaluation of dementia.

Additional sessions will be held on Thursday, Oct. 5, "Language of Distress" (#2127); Thursday, Nov. 3, "Vitamin M (music) for Dementia: How Music Strikes a Chord" (#2128); and on Thursday, Dec. 7, "Sometimes Superheroes Need to Rest Too: Caregiver Support Strategies" (#2129).

This series is free and open to the public. Advanced registration is preferred; use the course number indicated for each session when registering. Visit fountainhillsaz.gov to register.

Dementia Care and Education Campus is an innovation of Hospice of the Valley. The program is sponsored by the Fountain Hills Community Center.

**PEDESTRIANS**

# Town Council approves new roadway ordinance

**Split 4-3 vote**

**By Bob Burns**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

The Town Council has approved a new ordinance to address an issue related to people in the roadway as a safety concern. This was one of three ordinances the council considered at its meeting on Aug. 22, which came out of an earlier discussion related to homelessness concerns.

"I thought this one was fairly simple...a no brainer," said Councilwoman Brenda Kalivianakis. "It does not single out any group, it is about safety for all."

As presented in the staff report from Town Attorney Aaron Arnson, the ordinance prohibits individuals from standing or stopping in the roadway, medians or areas adjacent to roadways where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or greater. It is subject to limited exceptions such as emergency response and maintenance or con-

struction activities. Staff prepared the ordinance over the summer in response to a council discussion in June that had an overall tone of addressing concerns related to homelessness. Kalivianakis supported the measure along with councilmembers Gerry Friedel, Allen Skillicorn and Hannah Toth. The votes opposing the ordinance included Mayor Ginny Dickey, Vice Mayor Sharron Grzybowski and Councilwoman Peggy McMahon.

"I have a hard time trying to separate this from targeting something like panhandling, a vulnerable, protected class of people," McMahon said.

She added that she believes the penalties and fines are excessive and unconstitutional. The penalties are criminal and up to a \$2,500 fine or up to six months in jail, or both.

Dickey agreed, saying she would rather see civil penalties related to the ordinance as well as language more focused on safety.

"I do have a problem

with the discussion as it relates to homelessness," Dickey said.

Grzybowski said she does not believe there is enough data or evidence to support the ordinance as a safety issue and asked for additional time for research.

Skillicorn thanked staff for addressing the issue as quickly as they did, saying he did not expect it the first meeting back from summer break.

Resident Matthew Corrigan addressed the item and applauded the effort, noting a nationwide trend in pedestrian/vehicle collisions and fatalities. Fountain Hills' history of pedestrian fatalities includes the spring of 2018 when five people died in two accidents. In one instance, four victims were walking on the sidewalk approaching an intersection. The fifth individual was crossing the street in a crosswalk. Those incidents prompted Mayor Dickey to establish the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.



**SEVERAL MORNING VISITORS**

Michael Maggio managed to snap this shot the morning of Aug. 20 and wanted to share it with his fellow readers of the local paper.

## Fountain Hills Resident

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## THEATER AWARDS

# FHT earns 26 ariZoni nominations

## Winners to be announced on Oct. 2

The Fountain Hills Theater (FHT) has received 26 nominations from the ariZoni Awards of Theatre Excellence. The nominations are for various categories such as Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Overall Production, Best Properties Design, best Director, Best Costume and Set Design.

The list of nominations is included here, most prominently being FHT's production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time," which garnered five total nominations including Best Director (Ben Tyler), Best Actress in a Major Role in a Play (Cindy Pruett), Best Actor in a Major Role in a Play (Elias Matthews), Best Properties Design

(Alisa and Bob Feugate) and Best Media Design (Ben Tyler and Ross Collins).

Other nominations were Best Overall Production/Play ("Misery"), Best Overall Production/Musical ("Little Shop of Horrors"), Best Actor in a Major Role in a Play (Ben Tyler for "Solitary Confinement"), Best Actor in Major Role in a Youth Musical (Tristan Foushee for "Newsies"), Best Supporting Actress in a Play (Cindy Pruett for "Angels in America"), Best Supporting Actresses in a Musical (Gracie Schitkovitz and Kathleen Berger for "Beauty and the Beast"), Best Supporting Actors in a Musical (Matthew Dodaro for Beauty and the Beast and Alex Gonzalez for Little Shop of Horrors), Best

Director of a Play (Chris R. Chávez for "Angels in America"), Best Scenic Design (Peter J. Hill for "Misery"), Costume Design (Mickey Courtney for "Beauty and the Beast"), Best Sound Design Youth Theater (Ross Collins for "Disney's Newsies"), Property Design (Allison Hacker and Patty Torrilhon for "Misery" and "Gaslight" and Patty Torrilhon for "Solitary Confinement"), Best Media Design (Chris R. Chávez for "Angels in America" and Ross Collins and Ben Tyler for "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time") Media Design Youth Theater (Ross Collins for "Mumblety Peg") and Artistic Specialization (Seikai Ishizuka for live piano in "Scapin").

The annual ariZoni Awards ceremony will



Standing are, from left, Elias Matthews and Dan Marburger performing in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time," which garnered five total nominations from this year's ariZoni Awards, including Matthews for Best Actor in a Major Role in a Play. Winners will be announced Oct. 2. (Submitted photo by Fountain Hills Theater)

be held at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 2, where winners will be announced.

The ariZoni Awards is a non-profit organization created to promote the visibility and support

the growth of theatre in the Valley of the Sun and Maricopa County. Over the past 30 years, the main focus of the organization has been on an annual awards ceremony during which awards are given annually to artists

after a rigorous adjudication process whereby nearly 100 trained adjudicators attend and adjudicate more than 200 productions each season.

To learn more about the ariZoni Awards, visit [arizoniawards.net](http://arizoniawards.net).



## TOMFOOLERY CONTINUES AT FOUNTAIN HILLS THEATER

Fountain Hills Theater presents the musical comedy revue, "Tomfoolery," through Sept. 3. Actors are, from left, Roy Hunt, Megan Farinella and Wayne Peck. "Nothing is sacred," is how a press release described the show. "A hilarious, irreverent, satirical take on everyone and everything." Rated PG-14+ for adult themes. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. (Submitted photo)

## MUSEUM

## River of Time Summer Market continues

Runs through  
Sept. 30

The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center is hosting its Summer Market through the end of September.

"Come in and discover some wonderful, economical finds at its

ongoing summer fundraiser," a press release said. "Use time indoors this summer to redecorate with some new and gently used household items like fine crystal, southwest art, and practical dishware."

For those who are cleaning out closets, the museum is accepting donations through Tuesday, Sept. 5. Drop

by during the museum's summer hours, Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Summer Market admission is free.

The River of Time Museum & Exploration Center is located at 12901 N. La Montana Dr. For more information, call 480-837-2612 or visit [riveroftime.center](http://riveroftime.center).



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## FOOTBALL

# Falcons win season opener 37-13

**Team wants to be 'fun to watch' this year**

**By George Zelif**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

Junior Sam Barnard and the rest of the Fountain Hills High School football team was ready to attack as soon as the game started, and the first play from scrimmage this season was a trick play that went over 40 yards to senior Gannon Young and led to a touchdown catch by senior Canon Lipps.

The Falcons schemed the flea flicker from the first day head coach Pete Schermerhorn started working with them on the field. Barnard threw three touchdowns in his first ever start at quarterback, and the Falcons beat Kofa 37-13 to start the season 1-0.

"We wanted to do something kind of special, and they were excited about it," Schermerhorn said. "We started running it early on and working on it, and it was just a little bit of a gimmick play that hopefully is a hint to, you know, we want to be a fun team to watch. The kids enjoyed doing it and executed really, really well."

The Falcons led 14-7 at halftime and held the Kings scoreless until the final play of the half. The local squad marched down the field to the redzone on all four of their first-half possessions, but they turned the ball over twice in scoring position. Barnard fumbled the ball on an outside run, and the Falcons turned the ball over on downs once.

"We moved the ball well," Schermerhorn



Senior Canon Lipps scored the first two touchdowns this season for the Falcons. Lipps also blocked a punt for a safety. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zelif)

said. "We felt like we left some points on the board [and] weren't able to capitalize on some of our opportunities that we had in the first half. We cleaned that up in the second half and then made some big plays as well."

Lipps scored the first

two touchdowns for the Falcons, and he blocked a punt out the back of the endzone for a safety in the second half. Senior Gabe Haynes had two rushing touchdowns and senior Jaxson Butcher hauled in a 35 yard touchdown.

Butcher is one of several wide receivers that stands to carve out a large role on the field. Young led the team with 711 yards last season, and Lipps and Haynes combined for 73 yards receiving last year.

Barnard is the only other returner with receiving totals, 263 last year, but he's the signal caller throwing passes this year. Seniors Jayden Harned, Dylan Romans and Julian Sepulveda are also in a position to turn some heads on offense this year.

Barnard is building chemistry with his new receiving core, and his offensive line gave him all the time he needed in the season opener. Schermerhorn complimented seniors Leland Pena and Nate Barnard for their work leading the line, and he also said sophomore Connor

Davies did well in the trenches.

"The offense was really flowing," Sam Barnard said. "My protection, I thought I would be a lot more under pressure, but the [offensive] line honestly really stepped up in the passing game and gave me the space I needed."

The Falcons hosted Bourgade Catholic on Aug. 25 and will hit the road to play Camp Verde Friday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m.

"We just want to be more consistent and continue to improve on what we're doing," Schermerhorn said. "Getting to our assignments, finishing blocks and those kinds of things, but I thought the growth we made offensively from the scrimmage to week one was really good. The challenge is to make that same kind of growth going into week two."

## SCHOLARSHIP

## Alumni to continue athletic career in Nebraska

**Dom Flynn earns wrestling scholarship**

**By George Zelif**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

After a few years off, Dominick Flynn is returning to the wrestling mat. The 2021 Fountain Hills High School graduate is moving to Nebraska to continue his wrestling career with the

Concordia University Bulldogs.

Flynn placed fifth in the wrestling state tournament his senior year at Fountain Hills and was a three-year captain for the Falcons. Flynn attended Scottsdale Community College (SCC) after graduating from Fountain Hills but couldn't wrestle since SCC doesn't have a wres-

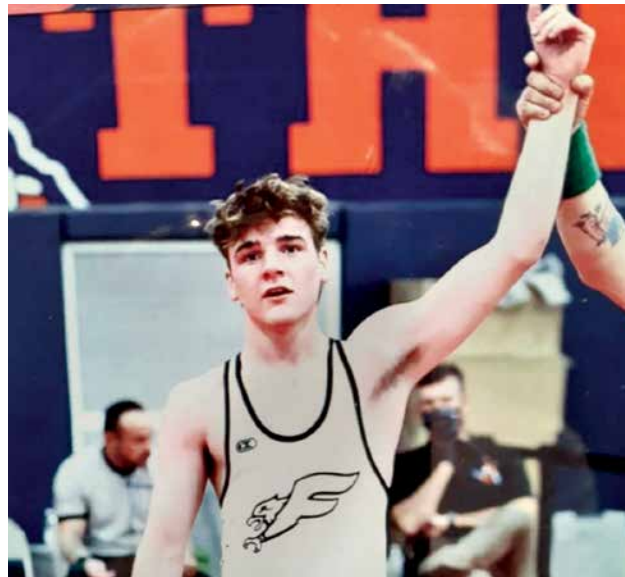
tling team.

"Watching my younger brother, Tyler, wrestle made me miss it so much," Flynn said. "I really can't describe how excited I am to have a chance to get back on the mat."

Concordia is a private Lutheran University and is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Flynn plans to

pursue a bachelor's degree in project management.

"Dom graduated three years ago," Fountain Hills wrestling coach Luke Salzman said. "He has been going to community college and decided that he wanted to wrestle in college. Got a scholarship to attend Concordia University in Nebraska, so that's pretty awesome."



Dominick Flynn is recognized as the winner of a high school match. (Submitted photo by Luke Salzman)

# Punt, Pass and Kick at Boys & Girls Club



Boys & Girls Club members escape the sun in the dugout during the Punt, Pass and Kick event, hosted in preparation for the upcoming flag football season. From left are Sterling W., Wesley O., Syssio P. and Josh P. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)



Keaten B. loads up for a big throw. The Boys & Girls Club staff measured each punt, pass and kick ahead of the 2023 flag football season. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)



Jaxis C. lets a punt fly down the field. The Boys & Girls Pee Wee and Junior football leagues start in early September. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

## GOLF

# Bogey Boys keep swinging

### Weekly results

The Bogey Boys played their weekly round at Orange Tree Golf Club on Monday, Aug. 21. The winning team at -13 was Dan

Watson, David Knerr, Earl Kulson and Corky Miller. Individual prize winners were Lyman Schliep, David Murphy, Bob Nemec, Monyou Tong and David Knerr. The travel group

played the South course at the Boulders on Wednesday, Aug 23. The winning team at -9 was Lyman Schliep, Mike Murry, David Hatting and Rod Eaton. Low round was Brad Strehlow at 80.



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## ART

# Four Peaks Rotary donates architectural panels to TOFH

**Will serve as artwork and banner display**

Four Peaks Rotary Club recently donated two architectural panels to the Town of Fountain Hills. According to a press release, the decorative panels, located at the Fountain Hills Community Center and the corner of Saguaro and Avenue of the Fountains, will serve as artwork when not being utilized to display event banners.

Four Peaks Rotary Club President, Julie Ewald, said the idea for the panels began after the club started meeting at the Community Center.

“We felt it would be

beneficial to all who walk through the entrance for activities or events,” she said, regarding the board’s approval of the concept. “We are delighted we could support the Community Center and our town.”

Upon securing approval from interim Town Manager Rachel Goodwin and Parks Supervisor Kevin Snipes, Ewald enlisted the help of Four Peaks Rotarian Gary Shuey, sales director for Archer Douglas Architectural Panels, to bring the idea to life.

Shuey said the 10’x4’ panels are mounted on 6-foot posts buried 18 inches deep and secured by concrete. The panels have an urban design

desert-scape layout with the Rotary wheel strategically placed in the lower left-hand corner. They are constructed of 11-gauge aluminum with aluminum posts and painted with copper texture powder coating to help protect them from the harsh Arizona elements.

“We think these panels are an attractive addition to the town and hold a dual purpose,” Shuey said. “Archer Douglas Architectural Panels was honored to partner with Four Peaks Rotary on the donation to the Town of Fountain Hills.”

Four Peaks Rotary Club has a history of giving back to the Fountain Hills community. Since



Four Peaks Rotary has donated two metal decorative panels to the Town of Fountain Hills. (Submitted photo)

the club’s inception 25 years ago, members have been involved with a variety of local efforts including the Rotary

Splash Pad and, most recently, the FHUSD Middle School painting project.

For more information

about Four Peaks Rotary Club, its Foundation and its membership opportunities, visit [fourpeaksrotary.org](http://fourpeaksrotary.org).

## MAUI

# Four Peaks Rotary, TOFH support Lahaina, Hawaii

**Community Fundraiser includes dinner buffet and presentation**

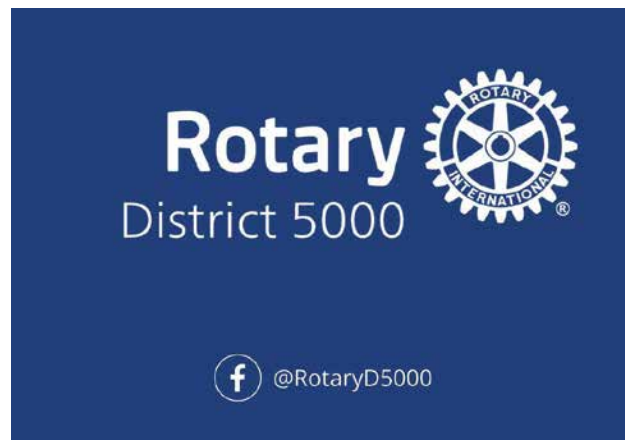
By **Cyrus Guccione**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

Nearing one month after flames tore through Lahaina, Hawaii, the wildfire’s aftermath becomes clearer as each day passes with the death toll surpassing 100 and more than 1,000 people still missing, according to numerous reports.

“This is just an enormous concern,” Todd Harris said, past president of Four Peaks Rotary in Fountain Hills, who visited Lahaina numerous times, recalling

the mom-and-pop shops and restaurants that lined the town’s streets. “They’ll never be able to replicate what they had.”

The Hawaii Rotary District 5000 set up a Maui Fires Relief Fund for anyone interested in helping those affected by the fire. In response, Harris created a Community Fundraiser in Fountain Hills in which proceeds will go directly to the district’s emergency fund. Four Peaks Rotary and the Town of Fountain Hills will co-sponsor the



The Four Peaks Rotary Foundation and the Town of Fountain Hills are sponsoring a Community Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 5 p.m. The Fundraiser includes a catered Hawaiian dinner, music and a presentation. (Submitted image)

event.

“The Town of Foun-

tain Hills is honored to be able to help out even

a little to ease the devastation and heartbreak from the fires in Lahaina,” Fountain Hills Mayor Ginny Dickey said. “Thank you to Four Peaks Rotary for bringing this important idea forward so our generous community can contribute to the relief effort assisting Maui on their road to recovery.”

**Community Fundraiser details**

The Community Fundraiser is on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. where the commu-

nity can enjoy a catered Hawaiian buffet, non-alcoholic beverages and music. A presentation is prepared for those in attendance. The event is held at the Community Center and pre-registration can be made online at [fourpeaksrotary.org](http://fourpeaksrotary.org).

Tickets are \$85 and the proceeds will reach those most affected and provide “much-needed aid in various capacities,” a press release said.

The first aid distribution included gas cards

• See **Maui** on page 18



# Military Active Duty Honor Roll

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7507 and the *Fountain Hills Times Independent* wishes to honor residents, or close relatives of residents, of Fountain Hills, Verde communities and Fort McDowell who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

NAME & RANK	BRANCH OF SERVICE	CURRENT DEPLOYMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
1st Lt. Tyson Alexander	Marines	Camp Pendleton, Ca.	3
Col. Kevin J. Anderson	Marines	Afghanistan	25
Pfc. Nicholas M. D'Andia*	Army	Fort Rucker, Al	1
MGYSgt Chad Antes	Marines	Retired	30
Major Gabriel Avilla	Air Force	Afghanistan	12
Cpl Jeremy Baker*	Marines	29 Palms. Ca	3
Capt. Shon S. Belcher	Marines	Afghanistan	8
1st Lt. Jonathan Bonde*	Air Force	Cannon AFB, NM	3
Sgt Beau J R Boyd	Marines	Iraq	5
PO2 Travis Burke*	Coast Guard	Coos Bay, Oregon	3
E5 IT3 John Burton*	Navy	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii	3
CDR Michael Christoph	Navy	NAS Lemoore, CA	16
P.O, First Class Correy A Bushman	Navy	Medi. Readiness Tr Bremerton	14
Gy Sgt. Shane W. Butler	Marines	NSA Hampton Roads, VA	13
1st Lt. David Byrne	Air Force	Travis AFB, Calif.	2
2nd Lt. Michael Byrne	Air Force	Del Rio, TX	1
CMSgt Richard T. Cain	Air Force (Ret)	Mt Home AFB, Idaho	30
2nd Lt. Marie Carillo	Army	Del Rio, Tx	3
1st Lt. Christopher D. Carillo*	Air Force	Hill AFB, Utah	5
2nd Lt. Anthony J. Carillo*	Air Force	Deployed	3
2nd Lt. Michael F. Carillo*	Air Force	North Carolina	3
Peter Carollo*	AF Academy	Colorado	2
Sgt Case Collins*	Marines	MCAS Cherry Point, NC	3
Pfc Michael E. Craig	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	1
Sgt. E6 Mark A. Crosby	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	6
SPC Blake M. Dargavel	Army	Afghanistan	1
Pfc. Jeffrey DeMeyer	Army	Fort Lee, Va.	1
STS2 John DeMeyer	Navy	NSF Groton, Conn.	5
Lt Raymond J. Fahrenbach	Navy	Okinawa, Japan	2
1st Lt. Matthew P. Fierro*	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	2
Lt. Kyle Frazer	Army	Germany	6
SPC Russell Gilligan	Army	Fort Bragg, NC	1
Brian Gratz*	Air Force	Baltimore, Md	1
SSG Ryan P. Guilfoil	Army	Phoenix, AZ	2
1st Lt. Todd Hadley	Air Force	Goodfellow AFB, Tx	7
Major Jeff Hanson	Marines	San Antonio, Tx	14
Major Joseph F. Hockmuth	Army	Ft. Lewis, Wa.	22
IT3 Tyler Hodge	Navy	USS Makin Island	3
Lt. Col Eric Hoversten	Air Force	Elmendorf AFB, Ak	20
Capt. Michael J. Howard*	Army	Fort Drum, NY	7
MSgt. James M. Hyland	Air Force	Afghanistan	5
Major Alex James	Marines	Pentagon	12
Spc. Charles P. Jones II*	Army	Fort Bliss, Tx	7
P.O. Kristofer Jones*	Navy	USS Nimitz (CVN68)	8
Sgt. Michael Jones*	Marines	Goodfellow AFB, Tx	4
1st Lt. Joshua Kandybowicz	Army	Afghanistan	3
E3 Kaylie Kantor*	Navy	Pensacola NAS	1
LtCol. Adam Keith*	Air Force	Langley AFB, Virginia	17
Ssgt Nicholas Larson	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	7
Cpl. Jonathan Lawson	Marines	Pendleton, Ca.	3
Capt. Tom Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenhealth, England	20
Capt. Kelly (Scribner) Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenhealth, England	5
Gm2 Maxwell T. Link*	Navy	USS Pinckney	1
Pfc. Joseph Luca*	Marines	Afghanistan	2
Major Kyle Lund	Air Force	Albuquerque, NM	7
Sgt. William J. MacDonald	Army	National Guard (IP)	6

NAME & RANK	BRANCH OF SERVICE	CURRENT DEPLOYMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
2nd Lt. Pavan Manhas*	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	1
Major Mike Mansell	Army	Germany	8
Lt. Nick Massie	Army	Walter Reed Hospital, DC	6
Capt. Eric L. Metzger	Air Force	Keesler AFB, Miss,	8
Capt. Robert C. Meyersohn	Air Force	Iraq	6
Sgt Alexander Mynars*	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	5
Sgt. BayLee Mynars	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	4
Spc Justin Nelson*	Army	Korea	1
Capt. Ronald L. Olson	Navy	Balboa Hosp. San Diego	26
LCMR Matthew S. Paul*	Navy	Norfolk, VA	14
PO3Max Tyler Pelot*	Navy (Corpsman)	Camp Pendleton, Ca	31
Lt. Col Blaine Peterson	Air Force	Iraq	20
Lan Cpl Jacob Pittsenbarger	Marines	Camp Pendleton, Ca	2
Lt. Col. Brian Polk	Army	Fort Houston, Tx	27
Capt. Bryan J. Pranski	Army	Chicago, Ill.	10
Ad E2 Andrew Prins*	Navy	NAS, Fl	1
2nd Lt Matt Rindel*	Air Force	North Carolina	3
Major Lars Rockholm	Marines	Alexandria, Va.	12
M.Sgt. Nathan C. Rohn*	Marines	Camp Lejeune NC	20
Pfc Zach C. Rollings*	Army	Afghanistan	2
Pv2 Nick Rollings*	National Guard	Prescott, Az	2
Pfc Robert A. Rossfeld*	Army	Afghanistan	2
ET1 Michael L. Schluter	Navy	USS Carl Vinson CVN 70	12
OSI (EXW) Arthur Schofield	Navy	Afghanistan	14
Bm3. Jonathan J. Shine	Coast Guard	Newport, Rhode Island	6
E4 Andrew Schumacher	Navy	Naval Station Norfolk	3
Pfc. Ryan T. Simmons	Air Force	Abu Dhabi	1
Pvt. Dennis Sitton*	Army	San Antonio, Tx	1
Airman E3 Michael J Smith*	Navy	San Diego, Ca.	1
Spc. Robert Steele	Army	Afghanistan	5
Lt. Aaron Stehlik	Army	Korea	2
Cmdr Dan R. Stock	Navy	Carrier Strike Group 12 Va	21
Sgt. Cory Stockman*	Marines	Honduras Embassy	5
MC3 Grant Stoltz*	Navy	Sasebo, Japan	3
2nd Lt Andrew J. Tilden	Marines	Quantico, VA	1
E2 Michael Alan Tilden	Army	Ft Leonard Wood	1
SSGT Airman Derrick Underwood*	Air Force	Hill AFB, Utah	5
Spc Bill Urbelis	Army	Camp Taji, Iraq	2
Major Jason K. Vaught*	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	12
Major Megan Vaught	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	11
Capt. Anthony Vitellaro*	Air Force	Anchorage, AK	10
Cpl Shane Waldo	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	3
Pvt. Tyler Welch	Army	Afghanistan	25
CWO Daniel White*	Army	Germany	10
2nd Lt Peyton Willigrod	Air Force	Columbus AFB, Miss.	1
Sgt. Gabriel D. Williams*	Army	Iraq	5
SSgt Benjamin Wilson	Air Force	Korea	6
Pfc. Merle Yazzie	Army	Ft Stewart, Ga.	1
TSgt. Ryan Young*	Air Force	Hickham AFB, Hawaii	12
Col Tyler Zagurski	Marines	The Pentagon	24
Lt Cmdr Bo Zierden	Navy	Joint Base Andrews, Md	14

(Special Mention: Jason Kukkola\* Army Wounded in Action in Iraq)

\* Denotes: (43) FHHS Graduates

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

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

## CLUBS

## Maui

• From page 16

and other emergency supplies, according to a report from Rotary District 5000.

“School supplies are an issue for the kids who are being displaced to different schools,” the report read, adding that school supply drives are being held on the island. “As we come together to recover and rebuild, we need to support each other. We need to create hope for Maui.”

Along with creating the emergency fund, the Hawaii Rotary District 5000 also established an advisory group to help prioritize the use of the funds.

According to Harris,

those who are not able to attend the fundrais-

**“We feel like everybody has a stake in this.”**

**Todd Harris**

Four Peaks Rotary past president

ing dinner are invited to donate directly online at [fourpeaksrotary.org/page/lahaina-hawaii-wildfire-fundraiser](http://fourpeaksrotary.org/page/lahaina-hawaii-wildfire-fundraiser).

“We feel like everybody has a stake in this,” Harris said. “This is part of our duty as citizens and if we could all help a little bit, I think this goes a long way.”

Those who plan to attend the communi-

ty fundraiser or donate to the emergency relief fund will receive a donation receipt for tax purposes.

The Community Center is located at 13001 N. La Montana Dr. For more information about the Community Fundraiser, visit [fourpeaksrotary.org](http://fourpeaksrotary.org) or send an email to Todd Harris at [toddh1716@gmail.com](mailto:toddh1716@gmail.com).

### Want to get involved?

Register for the Community Fundraising event online at [fourpeaksrotary.org](http://fourpeaksrotary.org) or donate online at [fourpeaksrotary.org/page/lahaina-hawaii-wildfire-fundraiser](http://fourpeaksrotary.org/page/lahaina-hawaii-wildfire-fundraiser).

### CLUB BRIEFS

#### Post 58 holds weekly events

American Legion Post 58 hosts weekly events that are open to the public, including Bingo every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. DJ Ed performs every Friday in September at 6 p.m. and on Saturday, Sept. 2, a potluck will be held at 6 p.m. at the Post. Karaoke with Kim and Deb will perform at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16. The community is invited to attend.

Events are held at American Legion Post 58, 16837 E. Parkview Ave.

#### Contract bridge winners told

Contract bridge is played every Wednesday and Friday from 9

a.m. to noon at the Community Center. Membership in the Community Center is required to participate. Winners from Aug. 18 include Don Butler in first place, Sharon Harvey in second place and Luverne Parrish in third place. Winners from Aug. 23 include Luverne Parrish in first place, Anand Paranjape in second place and Gerd Brinkman in third place.

#### TOPS welcomes newcomers

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

Chapter meetings are held at Joy Church, 13430 N. Saguaro Blvd. Use the front entrance of the church and follow the signs.

#### Al-anon holds regular meetings

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

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

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

### HOLIDAY

## Legion hosts Labor Day weekend event

**Community invited to enjoy live music and dancing on Sunday, Sept. 3**

American Legion Post #58 hosts a Labor Day weekend community event on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 2 p.m. The event

will include live music from the Jack Radavich Jazz Orchestra, who will play songs from Frank Sinatra, Irving Berlin, Woody Herman, Benny Goodman and many others. According to a

press release, dancing is encouraged.

The event is free to attend and the public is welcome.

The Legion is located at 16837 E. Parkview Ave.

### BEHIND THE LENS

## Photo Club meets Sept. 13

#### To discuss ‘Insights and Tips’

The next meeting of the Fountain Hills Photography Club is Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Fountain Hills Community Center starting at 6 p.m.

Photographers wishing to learn the basics of photography are welcome at a new study

group at 5:15 p.m. which is entitled, “Insights and Tips,” while a pre-meeting social gathering starts at 5:30 p.m.

The main program will begin at 6 p.m. and is open to photographers of all levels of experience, with a slideshow featuring photos from members who will explain what they were trying to achieve with the

photograph and whether they achieved it. The slideshow is followed by a demonstration of photos from smartphones to Lightroom Classic which, according to a press release, has more powerful editing capabilities.

For further information about the Fountain Hills Photography Club, visit [fhphotoclub.org](http://fhphotoclub.org).

### BILL PAYMENT

## Sanitary District updates online payment

#### New options available

The Fountain Hills Sanitary District has updated its online payment system to offer new options. District officials are calling the online improvements “convenient, easy and more secure than ever.”

New features in-

clude no registration requirement for one-time payment; make a secure payment 24/7 by phone; sign up for billing reminders by text with the option to pay via text; a “remind me” feature adds an alert to the customer’s calendar; bills can be paid with credit/debit cards, e-check, PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay or Goo-

gle Pay. To use the systems, customers can go to the payment portal to locate their bill, enter payment information, review and submit payment. An email confirmation for the amount and date of the payment will be sent to the customer. Visit [az-fhsd.gov/pay-my-bill/](http://az-fhsd.gov/pay-my-bill/) for additional information.

**FUNDING**

# Council approves equipment for Fire Department

**\$315,000 to replace Rural/Metro items**

**By Bob Burns**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

Moving toward a year-end transition of fire and emergency medical services in Fountain Hills, the Town Council approved separate contracts totaling \$315,000 to replace equipment currently owned and supplied by Rural/Metro Corp., which is currently the contractor for those services in Town.

One contact is a cooperative purchase agreement with L.N. Curtis and Sons and is through the Sourcewell Group Purchasing Cooperative in the amount of \$250,000. That agreement will provide for the personal protection equipment for firefighters. This includes turnout gear and wildland firefighting equipment.

In his report to the Town Council Fire Chief Dave Ott said Sourcewell is a competitive contract

with about 20 vendors submitting for inclusion.

“This equipment is necessary to help provide for health and safety of the Town residents, visitors and firefighters,” Ott said.

The average serviceable life of the PPE is seven to 10 years, according to Ott.

**“This equipment is necessary to help provide for health and safety of the Town residents, visitors and firefighters.”**

**Dave Ott**  
Fountain Hills Fire Chief

The second contract is also a cooperative purchase agreement, this one through SHI International Corp. for the purchase of new computers and associated equipment for mounting into the fire apparatus. This contract is for \$65,000. Ott said SHI Interna-

tional is also a member of the Sourcewell cooperative. The pricing includes warranty and extended warranty for the computers.

“Non-computerized systems within fire vehicles greatly impacts response times and the safety of residents,” Ott said.

Both agreement totals are “not to exceed” with the possibility actual costs would be less.

Last year the Town Council voted to discontinue the Town’s long relationship with Rural/Metro and move fire and emergency medical services to an in-house, Town-managed system. The target date to complete the transition is the end of this calendar year, although Rural/Metro has allowed for an additional six months to assure a complete and smooth transition.

These contracts were included on the council’s consent agenda and were approved without discussion.



Gary Norton, left, with L.N. Curtis helps Andy Monize and Alex Castaneda with sizing their turnout gear. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

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## LUTHERANS

# New Journey hosted LAMA kick-off

## Director discussed justice, collaboration and speaking up

On Sunday, July 24, New Journey Lutheran Church hosted as guest preacher and fellowship discussant, Solveig Muus, director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA), the advocacy arm of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

According to New Journey church member and leader of the Church Social Ministry Team, Kristine Bartanen, LAMA's purpose is to speak up for justice in the areas of hunger, poverty and the environment and par-

ticularly for those whose voices often go unheard.

In her first visit to New Journey, Muus explained LAMA's role in connecting people and organizations across faith affiliations who are working for common goals. Local organizations include Arizona Hunger Leaders Network, Arizona Food Systems Network, Arizona Food Banks Network and Arizona Faith Network. Muus also explained Arizona's distinctive "Request to Speak" option for input on bills before the state legislature and encouraged participation in the annual Lutheran Day at the legislature.

Subsequently, as part of New Journey's third heat respite lunch pack

this summer, 22 members completed an "offering of letters" as part of Bread for the World's ongoing campaign in support of the fall 2023 reauthorization of the U.S. Farm Bill.

"Letters were sent to Senators Kelly and Sinema, and to Representative Schweikert to encourage their support of key components of this important, five-year legislation that supports such key programs as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations," Bartanen said.

For more information about the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizo-



Solveig Muus, director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA), spoke to members of New Journey Lutheran Church last month. (Submitted photo)

na, visit LAMAz.org.

Join New Journey for worship every Sunday

at 10 a.m. in their sanctuary, For more information about New Journey

Lutheran Church, visit njlc-fh.org or call 480-383-9193.



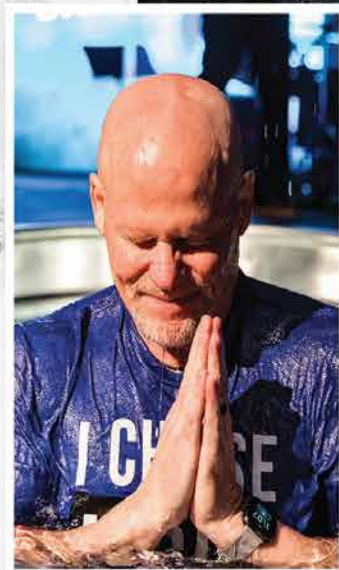
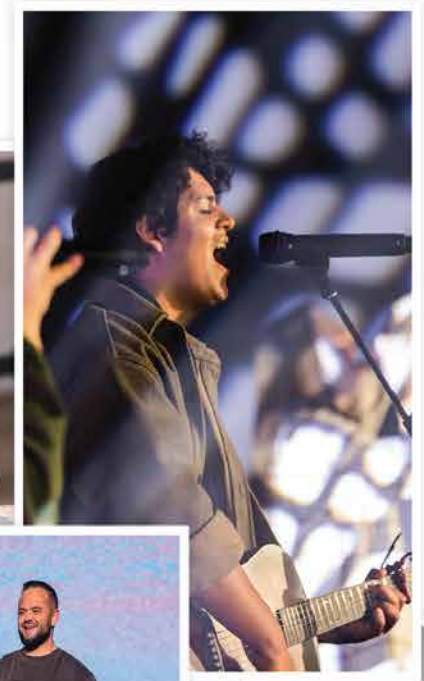
## SUMMER STORM MOVING IN

Resident Patrick Benkowski took this panoramic shot from his back patio of the monsoon storm rolling into Fountain Hills Monday evening, Aug. 21.

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LANDSCAPE

# Town seeking grant to remove turf areas

## Conversion to desert landscape

By Bob Burns  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

The Town Council has approved a staff request for a grant application to help fund the conversion of turf areas to desert landscaping. The application is to the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona and would help cover the estimated \$173,709 cost of re-landscaping two areas. The grant would cover all but \$43,427 of the cost, which would be the Town's responsibility.

The first project is a turf conversion at the intersection of Foun-

tain Hills and Shea boulevards. The area has approximately 30,000 square feet of irrigated grass as well as non-drought tolerant trees and shrubs. The funding would be used to remove the existing landscaping and replace the turf with granite and add drought-tolerant desert xeriscape. The estimated total cost of this project is \$135,200.

The second project is located in Fountain Park adjacent to the Splash Pad near Plaza Fountainside. This work would consist of removing 8,100 square feet of turf in an area that has been difficult to grow grass. It would be replaced with granite

and desert landscaping. This work would offset a portion of the cost of a proposed capital improvement project to convert this area to a picnic site near the water play area. The total estimated cost of this phase is \$36,675.

These proposed projects fall in line with several goals and policies presented in the 2020 adopted Town of Fountain Hills General Plan, Fountain Hills Environmental Plan 2022 and the Arizona Department of Water Resources 4th Management Plan for the Phoenix Active Management Area for water conservation, according to Public Works Director Justin Weldy. He add-



The Town stopped irrigating the turf area along the northeast corner of Fountain Hills and Shea boulevards in anticipation of converting to low-water landscaping. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

ed that the conversion projects would save an estimated 7.33 acre-feet (about 2.4 million gallons) of water annually.

Staff was made aware

of this grant opportunity during the council's summer recess and proceeded to prepare and submit the application prior to the July 31

deadline. The item was placed on the council consent agenda for retroactive approval without discussion at the Aug. 22 council meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Identifying residents who can benefit from MADD

## Annual volunteer day Oct. 21

On the morning of Saturday, Oct. 21, more than 400 Fountain Hills volunteers will provide landscape debris removal, weed control, minor interior and

exterior home repairs, build exterior wheelchair ramps and interior cleaning assistance at the homes of some of the most vulnerable local residents.

Serving residents who need special care and support because of age or disabilities, financial

hardship or other issues that leave them susceptible to harm is what the 15th Annual Make a Difference Day is all about.

Town of Fountain Hills Volunteer Coordinator Kim Wickland is seeking help to reach out and identify those residents in need

who will want assistance on Make a Difference Day.

There may be someone at church, school or in the neighborhood who would benefit from the time and services given by the volunteers. Invite them to participate. There are no fees involved.

Anyone who would like to be a recipient on Make a Difference Day efforts, contact Wickland at 480-516-5108 or kwickland@fountainhillsaz.gov. Residential work project requests are due no later than Thursday, Aug. 31.

Residential work project registration forms are available at the Community Center and Town Hall.

Volunteer registration to lend a hand on Make a Difference Day is available at fountainhillsaz.gov/madd.

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Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
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# Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills hosts stargazing

Registration now open

By **Bob Burns**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

The Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills (SCFH) will open its fall 2023 schedule of events with stargazing activities. People can enjoy the night sky with the Milky Way and Summer Triangle on Friday, Sept. 8. Meet at the Adero Canyon Trailhead, 14800 Eagle Ridge Dr., at 8:30 p.m. for this astronomy presentation from Vicky Derksen and Janice Holden.

It is noted that 80% of the people on earth can no longer see the Milky Way from where they live. If conditions are right, a portion may be visible from the McDowell Mountain Preserve on

this night. The Summer Triangle is a grouping of three bright stars that can be used to locate the Milky Way in the sky.

Preregistration is required (Course #2150). Children eight and older are welcome. No pets.

Derksen is host of the Night Sky Tourist podcast, president of the Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association and a board member for the International Dark Sky Discovery Center.

Exploring the heavens continues with an event on Saturday, Oct. 21, with a First Quarter Moon Stargazing Hike from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Adero Canyon Trailhead. Derksen and Holden are again the hosts.

The first quarter al-

lows good viewing of the moon, but the reduced moonlight may allow for observing planets and constellations in the night sky. Preregister for Course #2151.

Additional details on other events and a link to registration is at scfh.org/events.



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Shepherd of the Hills

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**9:30 am**

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
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480-837-9532 | [sothaz.com](http://sothaz.com)



## THE SEA

I have always loved the ocean. For quite some time in my life, however, I was disappointed to read the verse in Revelation that, in the end, the sea will be no more. *Revelation 21:1* says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more."

I wondered why this was so. I learned that the sea in the Bible often represents chaos, and in the end, there will only be order. The sea in the Bible also represents a raw power, and a place from which evil, such as the beasts in Revelation, come.

Not satisfied with the simple idea that the sea will be no more, whether this language is metaphorical or not, years ago, I looked in the Bible for what good can be found about the sea. I saw that in creation, God intended it for good. In *Genesis 1:9-10*, "God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good."

But God's creation and our relationship with creation was affected by sin. While God retains power over chaos, and the sea, we still suf-

fer the effects of the sea's uncontrolled power, through hurricanes, tsunamis, typhoons, and flooding. That will not be the case in the end. God's creation and his intentions for it will be fully restored.

Further, the sea is filled with living things that fascinate us. Psalm 104:25 notes, "Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great."

Because I know--like "the winds and waves still know," from the beautiful hymn *Be Still My Soul*--because I know who rules the sea, I can enjoy it now as well as look forward to heaven. It gives

me peace and relief from stress. Its blue color makes me calm, as does the sound of the waves from the changing tides as they follow the moon.

And even though I love the ocean, and being near it on vacations, ultimately it is God whom I love, the one who created this earth and all that is in it for us.



**Cathy Northrup, Pastor**

### Wisdom from the Bible by Ken Vos

1. What is the name of the sea whose waters were divided to allow the Israelites to cross on dry land?  
a) Sea of Galilee b) Black Sea c) Red Sea d) Dead Sea

2. In Jonah 1:15 what did the sailors do to quiet down the great storm?  
a) Threw Jonah into the sea. b) Tied Jonah to the rudder of the boat. c) Gave Jonah an extra oar. d) Put Jonah into a lifeboat.

3. How long was Jonah in the belly of the large fish?

a) Four days and four nights. b) Three days and three nights. c) Two days and two nights. d) One day and one night.

4. Where did Peter get out of the boat and start walking on the water toward Jesus?  
a) Dead Sea b) Jordan River c) Red Sea d) Sea of Galilee

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

Cathy Northrup is the pastor of Community Church of the Verdes  
[www.verdefaith.org](http://www.verdefaith.org)

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FHUSD

# School Board approves elementary school library renovations

## Planetarium theme tied in with Dark Skies

By George Zeliff  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills Unified School District (FHUSD) Governing Board approved the job order contracting for the McDowell Mountain Elementary School media center renovation project on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

The measure passed 3-2, with members Libby Settle and Madicyn Reid dissenting. It is estimated to start in October and take around three months to complete.

The project logistics were provided in the Board packet ahead of the business meeting, and representatives from CORE Construction, Orcutt Winslow and the FHUSD financial team presented details related to the project before the members voted. Orcutt Winslow is the architectural firm behind the designs, CORE Construction is the project manager and Tyler Moore of True Professionals LLC provided insight into FHUSD's budget.

The district budgeted \$2.5 million for consolidation projects last year, and according to Moore, FHUSD has over \$1 million in capital reserves that was carried forward this year. The reserves can cover unforeseen emergencies on campuses, such as the water main break at the high school last year, and they are independent from the

results of the bond election this fall.

The library renovation project will turn the McDowell Mountain library into a planetarium-themed room in hopes of making reading more fun and engaging for students. Since the elementary school moved to the former middle school campus during consolidation, the library will be the first room in sight after walking through the front doors, and the immersive dome will be the focal point of the room.

Most virtual reality (VR) headsets are not made for children under the age of 13, but the dome projection system will provide the same kind of virtual reality content safely to a whole class. The dome will be set to look like a moon on the outside most of the time, but teachers can change the inside and outside projections to teach kids lessons on other subjects, like U.S. history or dinosaurs.

"We looked at ocean, we looked at space, we looked at sky, and we landed on this really because of the connection with the town and the Dark Skies community," Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski said. "I thought it was a good connection back to Fountain Hills. I sat on the original planning committee of the [International] Dark Sky [Discovery Center] with Joe

Bill, and it was something we felt really connected us back to our community. I've always said, I think the schools need to be the centerpiece of the community, and this is a great opportunity to do that."

Member Reid questioned if the project was wise at this time and worried it was redundant with the Dark Sky discovery center planned for construction in the Town's civic center. She asked what other themes were considered, and her concerns of redundancy were echoed in public comments by Nancy Ordowski and Crystal Cavanaugh.

"Although it's a nice design, the expense and financial commitment for the completed planetarium library project seems to be excessive at this time," Cavanaugh said. "We're getting a Dark Sky Discovery Center. It's in the works, and it's expected to be built right here for all age levels to be enjoyed."

Reid implied the Discovery Center would be built next year, but the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization is still fundraising and has not announced a construction start date. The multi-year fundraising campaign did receive a significant boost in May 2023, when the Arizona state budget provided \$10 million to the project, bringing the total fundraising to \$18.5 million of the roughly \$25



Following a vote from the Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board, the McDowell Mountain Elementary School library will soon house a planetarium, creating a new tool to educate and engage students. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

million estimated costs.

The project is described on the Dark Sky Discovery Center website, darkskycenter.org, as "an international attraction in Fountain Hills that will benefit the entire state of Arizona." Part of the nonprofit's goal is to create an observatory with the largest telescope in the Greater Phoenix area and build a state-of-the-art hyperspace planetarium.

The projected costs of the elementary school planetarium renovations are \$594,393. There are contingency and allowances built into the price, but CORE Construction needs written consent from the Board to use those funds and will return all unused contingency funds.

Member Settle said

she would vote no because there are significant repairs that need to be done elsewhere and a discrepancy between the last two quotes from CORE Construction made her hesitant.

CORE quoted the district \$718,337 in the rough order of magnitude budget submitted to FHUSD on July 25, but quoted \$594,393 during the presentation on Aug. 16. Jagodzinski explained they were different because the dome is paid for by donations and he asked CORE to reflect that in a new quote.

During the vote, Reid motioned to table the renovations and "go back to the drawing board." No member seconded her motion, and then member Dana Saar

moved to approve the project as presented.

The motion passed 3-2, but the Board did vote 5-0 to table the discussion on the indoor playground for a later meeting.

The next School Board meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m. in the FHUSD Learning Center. All Board meetings are recorded and livestreamed on the FHUSD YouTube channel.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your position on the issue? Send comments to gzeliff@iniusa.org

## DISTRICT CELEBRATION

## Staff pulled double duty this summer for a successful consolidation



The "Consolidation Super Stars" include (back row, from left) Cecilio Dominguez, Heather Atkins, John Flynn, Randy Jensen, Becky Kayser, Jerome Kayser, Mike McElroy, Juan Ramos, Luis Pena and Jared Andrae. Kryssie Beard and Jane Irwin stand in front, and not pictured are Tanice Stefanich and Gary Grover. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

### Helped save FHUSD an estimated \$1 million

By George Zeliff  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

District Celebrations were introduced last school year to Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board meetings as a way to honor students and staff once a month for excelling in their duties. The first celebration of the 2023-24 school year honored the staff and volunteers that helped consolidation stay on track and ensure school opened on the first day without issue.

John Flynn, FHUSD's director of Transportation and Facilities, presented certificates and thanked the "Consolidation Super Stars" at the Board meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

When former Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sweeney approached Flynn over a year ago about consolidation, Flynn was concerned about the timeliness and the cost of the project. Flynn said his initial determination was consolidation would take two full years, and the first quote he re-

ceived for the project was \$2.8 million.

According to Flynn, the "Consolidation Super Stars" were responsible for saving the district approximately \$1 million in total costs.

Transportation and landscaping staff was flexible, adaptable and did many jobs that weren't in their job description. They moved furniture, boxes, desks, picked up mail and painted the buildings. Several landscapers also had skills in plumbing, electrical and dry wall, which Flynn said was a blessing to the district.

Flynn also pointed out that the transportation staff went another year without accidents or incidents, and thanked Todd Harris for his volunteer work and help from the rest of the Four Peaks Rotary Club.

Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski revealed that Flynn planned to retire at the end of last year, but he delayed his plans by a year to see consolidation through. Jagodzinski thanked him for his work and dedication to the district.

Outside of Flynn's

staff, Heather Atkins was honored for her volunteer work painting several walls in the new middle school. Middle school teacher Kryssie Beard and elementary school teacher Jane Irwin were both thanked for going above and beyond by staying late and coming in on weekends over the summer to help prepare the buildings.

Jared Andrae is the only IT staff on site, and he set up new technology across the district this summer. According to Jagodzinski, the district's technology would not be up and running without Andrae, and Andrae is now offering tech support to staff every Wednesday afternoon so staff can get issues fixed quicker.

The next District Celebration will honor staff and student Falcons of the Month for August. The next Governing Board meetings are currently scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m., and Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 5 p.m. in the FHUSD Learning Center. All Board meetings are livestreamed and recorded on the FHUSD YouTube channel.

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30

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SEPT

7

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7 • 11:00 AM-1:30 PM  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE

Join us for a tasty lunch and a viewing of the movie Queen Bee.

SEPT.

11

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11 • 1:30-2:30 PM  
LET'S TALK ABOUT DIABETES

Join us for a discussion on the risks and treatments of Diabetes with field expert, Lacey Lyons.

SEPT.

11

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11 • 3:00-4:00 PM  
MARGARITA MONDAY WITH CHRIS DAROCZY

Join Executive Director, Chris Daroczy, as he whips up a batch of his specialty margaritas to share!

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## DEALERSHIP

# Arizona Sunsports takes over Sears building

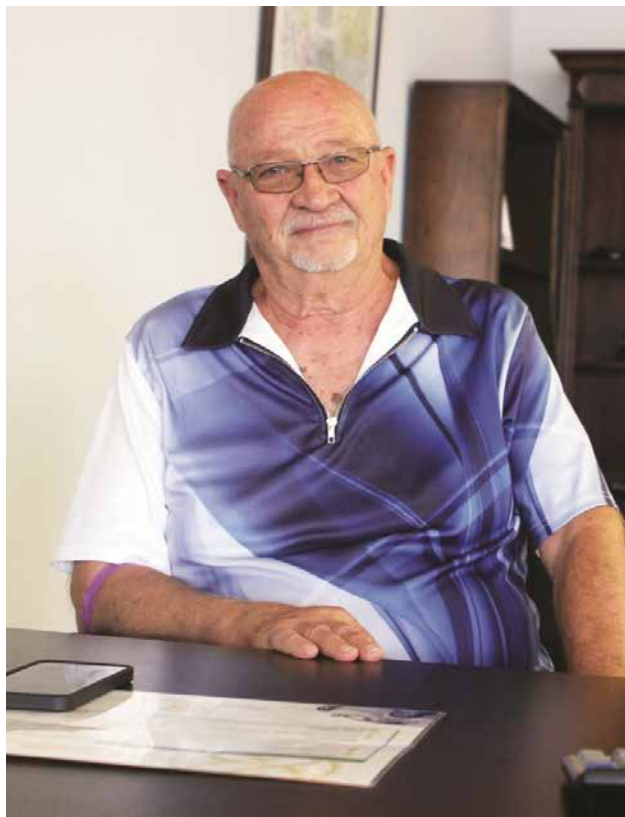
**Used luxury car seller has big plans in new space**

By **Cyrus Guccione**  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

After one year of business at the Dominion Plaza in Fountain Hills, Arizona Sunsports, a used luxury car dealership, has moved just down the road into the old Sears building at the corner of Saguaro and Palisades boulevards.

Arizona Sunsports owners, Bill Rackette and his son, Christopher Rackette, could fit a total of nine cars on their previous lot; five in the front and four in the back. Now, at the spacious 5,500-square-foot location, Bill and Christopher can fit roughly 30 cars indoors. Twenty cars will be plenty, Bill admits, ensuring enough space for clients to browse, chat and take a load off in the new lounge area that's taking shape in the back of the building.

At Arizona Sunsports, Bill and Christopher find used, luxury and sport utility vehicles at auction for their customers. Their vehicles typically have anywhere from 40,000 to 70,000 miles on them and come with a 4,000-mile or four-month warranty on the engine and drive-train.



Bill Rackette owns Arizona Sunsports with his son, Christopher (not pictured). (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

"We can sell cheaper than most dealerships because our overhead is going to be a lot less," Bill said, who offers financing to all of his customers. "If I don't have something that they like, I can get them anything that they want."

In addition to purchasing vehicles at auction, Arizona Sunsports has a special consignment contract with a 10% fee for anyone needing assistance selling their vehicles.

### Father and son duo

Rackette was in the car business for 45 years

before retiring and moving west. He and his son visited Fountain Hills regularly to golf and enjoy the off-summer weather, so finally, the pair decided in 2013 to purchase a home in Fountain Hills. During retirement, Bill took a job as a front desk manager at Comfort Inn on Shea Blvd.

"No stress, no problems, no headaches, I get to meet all kinds of people, I love to talk," Bill said. "It's my retirement job...I love it."

After a few years in "retirement," Bill decided he wanted to get

back into selling cars, so, the father and son duo began selling Corvettes and Jeep Wranglers, two highly popular cars across the Valley. But as their popularity grew, Bill and Christopher's profit margins began to shrink, so they shifted into offering more luxury cars.

Now Jaguars, Lincolns, Cadillacs, Corvettes and other high-end used vehicles are parked neatly inside the new Arizona Sunsports showroom.

"Whatever we do, we do it together," Bill said of his relationship with Christopher. "He is my son, but I think of him more as my best friend."

As the two grow their business in Fountain Hills, Bill wants the community to know how thankful he is to be in Fountain Hills.

"Best move I ever made," he said. "Fountain Hills is the best place ever."

As Bill and Christopher start building up their inventory of vehicles, they welcome visitors to check out their new showroom at 13212 N. Saguaro Blvd., open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information, call Bill Rackette at 480-616-3530, send an email to sales@arizonasunsports.com or visit arizonasunsports.com.

## FUNDRAISER

# Fearless Kitty hosts Wet Your Whiskers 'Catsino' Night

**Tickets now available for Oct. 14 event**

Fearless Kitty Rescue is hosting a Wet Your Whiskers "Catsino" Night and Silent Auction on Saturday, Oct. 14, at its location at 16832 Avenue of the Fountains.

Wet Your Whiskers is Fearless Kitty's main fundraising event of the year. The event will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 each or \$140 for two and may be purchased online at fearlesskittyrescue.org/wet-your-whiskers2023/.

"It will be an exciting event on the comfortable, outdoor patio; a purr-fect setting for helping their feline friends," a press release said.

The event will feature a silent auction, casino-style games with raffle prizes, a wine pull, wine to "Wet Your Whiskers," hors d'oeuvres and a dessert bar, music and most importantly, kittens

and cats galore.

"We would be remiss if we didn't thank our current sponsors for their support," Christine Fixico-Silver, Fearless Kitty Rescue's executive director, said.

The presenting sponsor is Safeway Albertsons Foundation, which is joined by Gold Sponsors El Dorado Animal Hospital, The AZ CFO LLC and the Paul's Ace Hardware Stores.

More sponsorship opportunities are available at three levels and can be found at fearlesskittyrescue.org/wyw-2023-sponsorship/.

For more information, send an email to info@fearlesskittyrescue.org or visit fearlesskittyrescue.org.

## Want to attend?

Tickets are \$75 each or \$140 for two and may be purchased online at fearlesskittyrescue.org/wet-your-whiskers2023/.



From left, Fearless Kitty Rescue volunteers Jeanne Randall and Christy Satter stand behind a large glass inscribed with the words, "The best things in life are cats and wine," at a previous Wet Your Whiskers 'Catsino' Night and Silent Auction. The next event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14.

**DINING**

# More recognition for We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort

## Restaurant Guru 2023 Recommendation Badge

The We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort, a AAA Four Diamond Property with an array of eating establishments, has announced that Ember, its flagship fine dining restaurant, has been awarded a 2023 Recommendation Badge by Restaurant Guru.

A popular foodie website with more than 30 million monthly users, Restaurant Guru's Recommendation Badge is granted based

on customer reviews across Google, Yelp, Foursquare, TripAdvisor and other popular platforms.

"This has been a banner year for Ember, thanks to the hard work of Property Executive Chef Richard Pelz, Sous Chef Austin Irvan, Fine Dining General Manager Brent Rumph, and their exceptional team of culinary and service professionals," said Zac Gallo, executive director of Food and Beverage for the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort. "Just last month, we were given the pres-

tigious Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence for the third year in a row, and earlier this year, we received our second annual OpenTable Diners' Choice Award.

"We're honored to have received so many industry acknowledgements since Ember opened in October 2020, and pledge to continue creating memorable, delicious dining experiences for our guests."

For more information on Ember, visit [weko-pacasinoresort.com/dining/ember](http://weko-pacasinoresort.com/dining/ember).



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## Area home sales

August 7, 2023 - August 11, 2023

### The Verdes

18219 E Coronado Cave Ct \$561,605	18218 E Massai Point Dr \$1,017,486
28719 N Marshall Gulch Ct \$1,380,582	18134 E Parker Creek Rd \$1,036,576

Homes sold this period: 4 Median Price: \$1,027,031 Average price: \$999,062  
Same period last year: 4 Median Price: \$758,719 Average price: \$779,334

### Fountain Hills

15532 E Acacia Way \$940,000	16434 E Leo Dr \$810,000
15919 E Brodiea Dr \$688,750	16336 E Palisades Blvd #10 \$245,000
12315 N Chama Dr #104 \$505,000	15731 E Palomino Blvd \$710,000

Homes sold this period: 6 Median Price: \$699,375 Average price: \$649,792  
Same period last year: 9 Median Price: \$600,000 Average price: \$720,234

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



# THE VERDE COMMUNITIES



**EV CHARGING SITE COMING TO RV**

A vehicle charging station is in the process of being installed at the east end of the Community Center parking lot near the Tennis Courts in Rio Verde. It should be operational in a couple of weeks. (Photo courtesy of Rio Verde Roadrunner)

## LANDSCAPING

### Iconic saguaros are losing their arms in the Verdes

#### Heat, drought blamed

The intense summer heat and lack of rain is taking a severe toll on plants throughout Rio Verde. Even the saguaros which are native to the Sonoran Desert are struggling. The RVCA Property Enhancement & Appearance Committee has reports that at least seven saguaros have lost arms or fallen in the last month.

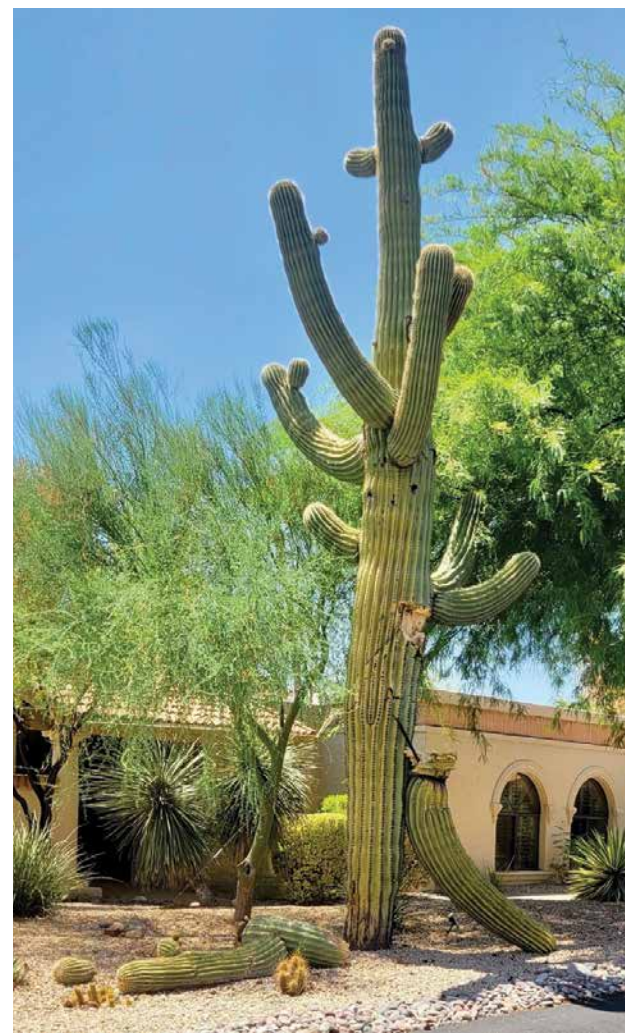
James Roth, a Rio Verde resident and Maricopa County Master Gardener, writes in a column that the situation is not unique to the Verdes.

“The University of Arizona Maricopa County Cooperative Extension has been contacted many times this summer about arms falling off saguaro cacti,” Roth said. “The horticulturalists at the university do not know why saguaro arms are falling this year, or why 2023 is different from 2020. In 2020,

Phoenix experienced a similar heat wave, but the saguaro arms did not fall off but were dying with bacterial necrosis, a bacterial rot which is characterized by brown oozing fluid and rotting of the saguaro tissue.

The University Cooperative Extension is unsure if watering saguaro cacti more will help the cacti or might add more weight to the arms and make them more likely to fall. The Assistant Horticulture Agent in Maricopa County is studying the impact of extreme heat on saguaros and analyzing samples from fallen saguaros to determine if there is another cause for the falling arms.”

Falling saguaros are quite heavy and can cause significant damage. It is recommended that one not park or sit under large saguaros because a healthy-looking cactus can lose its arms, Roth said.



Heat stress appears to be causing saguaro cacti to lose arms this summer. (Photo courtesy of Rio Verde Roadrunner)

## VERDES NEWS BRIEFS

#### Water volleyball returns to Rio Verde for September

After a three-week August break, weekly water volleyball play will resume at the Rio Verde community pool in September. Play is Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Set-up will start at 4:45 p.m. with play from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Note this is a later set-up and start time. Call Dwaine Abbe at 513-225-7059 for information or with questions.

#### Let the Good Times Roll ready to kick off second event

The popular “Let the Good Times Roll” is set for its second event of the summer at Rio Verde.

Hosted by Rio Verde Friends and the Club, all Rio Verde residents are invited to join in the fun on Saturday, Sept. 16, in the Club Sundance Room.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Enjoy entertainment with DJ Ed from 7 to 10

p.m. Food and drinks are available for purchase. Cover Charge is \$10. Make the evening extra special by having dinner in the Pub or Box Bar Grille before the event. Register for the event or make a dinner reservation on the internet.

#### Spooner PT offers injury screenings Aug. 31

The next free 15-minute Injury Screening is set for Thursday, Aug. 31.

The monthly screenings with Spooner Clinic Director John Kline are held from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the Rio Verde Community Center Small Conference Room on the last Thursday of the month. Dates for the remainder of 2023 are Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 30. Sign up on the counter next to the RVCA Office. This is an opportunity to check out aches and pains before they become big

problems.

#### Diamondback, Cubs watch party planned for Sept. 7

Verde residents are invited to watch the Arizona D-Backs play the Chicago Cubs from 4:40 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, on the big video screen in the Rio Verde Community Center Multi-Purpose Room.

There will be a concession stand featuring \$2 hot dogs, \$3 nachos and \$2 ice cream.

Drinks are BYOB.

#### Lifelong learning at Rio Verde

The RVCA Communications Committee and the staff of ASU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) are discussing plans to offer two classes in Rio Verde in 2023-2024, one in the fall and one in the spring.

To learn more about

• See **Briefs** on page 29

## VERDES

### Briefs

• From page 28

OLLI and its offering of non-credit short classes on a wide variety of topics visit lifelonglearning.asu.edu.

OLLI classes are open to seniors age 50 and older.

### Community Church of the Verdes outreach programs

Verde residents can support agencies through the Community Church of the Verdes during the summer months. Residents may donate canned and unopened packaged goods to the Extended Hand Food Bank in Fountain Hills. Also, non-perishable food items are being accepted for the Ministerial Association food closet.

Collection bins will

be in the Rio Verde Post Office and Church lobby.

Members of the church are also making and delivering lunches to the Justa Center on the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in Founders Hall at the church.

### 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.

### Summer tennis membership

Residents interested in playing organized men's or women's tennis this summer may contact Rio Verde Tennis Pro Mike Davey at 480-471-7178 and sign up for a special \$50 Tennis Club summer membership.

This program is good through September.

Men play Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Women play Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Balls are provided by the Tennis Club and play is organized by Davey.

## GIVING

# Donations now accepted for women's shelter

### Local businesses collecting hygiene baskets for A New Leaf women's shelter

P39 Pure Growth CBD and Aesthetic Elegance and Wellness are planning the second annual hygiene basket party, where all donations go towards A New Leaf women's shelter in Mesa.

A New Leaf is a women's shelter with 60 beds in which many of the women are victims of domestic violence, a press release said.

"Last year our Fountain Hills community came together and we made 66 baskets," the

release read. "Let's shoot for 100 baskets this year! We can do this."

All businesses and communities are invited to participate by dropping off donations at P39 CBD, 16810 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Suite 103, through Friday, Dec. 1.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m., a "basket party" will be held to assemble the donations in the parking lot of the Avenue of the Fountains Executive Suites. Light snacks, drinks and music will be provided. Those interested in participating are welcome to bring business signs and banners to show their business' support for the event.

The donations sought (full-sized and new only) are shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, brush comb, hair ties, bar or liquid body soap, razors, tampons, socks and gum. The women's shelter is not currently accepting clothes or used items.

"This will be the same evening as Stroll in The Glow," the press release said. "Let's bring some love and hope to these ladies together as a community."

For questions or more information, send an email to estheticaleleganceandwellness@gmail.com or christina@p39enterprise.com.

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FHUSD

# School Board changing meeting format

## Will no longer host work study sessions

By George Zeliff  
INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board will no longer hold work study sessions in an effort to avoid meeting backlog. Board President Jill Reed proposed the change during the work study session that started just before 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

The work study session started after the Board adjourned the business meeting on

Aug. 16. The Board has met multiple times this year for a business meeting and work study session back-to-back, which was an uncommon practice before consolidation began.

For the past several years, the Board's meeting schedule included one business meeting and one work study session per month for most months. The Board doesn't vote during work study sessions, and several consolidation-related purchase orders were added to business meeting agendas at late notice this year so the projects wouldn't wait

another month for approval to begin.

"The current structure of how the meetings are scheduled is not working for this Board," Reed said. "Obviously, we're having long meetings, and things are getting put on at the last minute, and [Board Member] Madicyn [Reid] has brought up that she doesn't appreciate that. So, I went back into 2018, and prior to Superintendent Kelly Glass, we never had work study sessions."

According to Reed, before work study sessions, new business was brought up for discus-

sion and then voted on at the next meeting two weeks later. Reed said the work study sessions are basically big information/discussion meetings, which is already a part of the business meeting format.

The Aug. 16 meeting was the first time the Board agenda included future agenda items for Board members and the public to see. Member Reid said she was appreciative of that change, which gives members notice and time to research, and the meeting format change furthers members' ability to pre-

"I really appreciate

you listening to what I had to say," Reid said. "We also have that in-between time before an action is brought before us and I think that's going to be huge."

President Reed said the Board will have two weeks to consider each action item "90% of the time." There could always be things that pop up, but Reed thinks getting rid of work study sessions will prevent large purchases from coming in at the last minute for approval.

Business meetings start at 6 p.m., and work study sessions were held at 5 p.m. in the old format. The Board will

vote to make the time of all meetings uniform at the next meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 6 p.m.

All FHUSD Governing Board meetings are held in the district learning center and are livestreamed and recorded on the FHUSD YouTube channel.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is your position on these changes to meeting format? Send comments to gzeliff@iniusa.org.



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2					4			9
5			6		3			
	9				1			4
		7				2		
		4	9	3		5		
	2			7			6	
		8					2	
	3	9	5			7		

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works: See Below

### Guess Who?

I am a comedic actress born in Massachusetts on August 28, 1961. I was a member of an improv group before becoming a star of TV and film. I'm known for roles in "Legally Blonde" and "The White Lotus."

Answer: Jennifer Coolidge

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to camping.

HITPC

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Answer: Pitch

### Answers:

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

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	8	6	7	5	4	1	3	9
5	4	1	6	9	3	8	7	2
7	9	3	2	8	1	6	5	4
3	1	7	4	6	5	2	9	8
8	6	4	9	3	2	5	1	7
9	2	5	1	7	8	4	6	3
6	7	2	8	1	9	3	4	5
1	5	8	3	4	7	9	2	6
4	3	9	5	2	6	7	8	1



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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21					22						
23					24	25						26	27	
		28			29					30				
31	32				33		34	35	36			37		
38				39	40							41		
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48				49			50				
51				52	53	54				55			56	57
		58							59					
60	61						62	63				64		
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Midway between east and southeast
- At right angles to a ship's length
- William Penn's business partner
- \_\_\_ de plume
- Accomplished soccer coach
- Bone cavities
- \_\_\_ juris: independent
- Popular Philly sandwich
- Northern Ireland county
- Performing artist
- S S S
- Lacks flavor
- Commercials
- Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- Qatar's capital
- Indigenous peoples of Alberta
- Popular footwear

### CLUES DOWN

- Indicates position
- Anglican cathedral
- Aircraft part
- Before
- Blood group
- Secretary organ
- Fencing swords
- The small projection of a mammary gland
- Technological advancement
- Male parent
- Dissociable
- More cold
- Cape Verde Islands capital
- Blood disorder
- Creative
- Sun up in New York
- Made angry
- Relieves
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Seasonings
- Movable barriers
- Attempt

### CLUES DOWN

- Occur as a result of
- Spiritual essences
- Representative
- Entering
- Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- Midway between northeast and east
- Consumed
- Tablelands
- Kids' craft accessory
- Not known
- Sound directed through two or more speakers
- A major division of geological time
- Wild ox
- Shock treatment
- Turner and Lasso are two
- Genus of flowering plants
- Relating to ductless glands
- Stock certificate

- Satisfies
- Places to enjoy a rest
- Edward \_\_\_, author and writer
- '\_\_\_ but goodie'
- One hundredth of a liter
- Shabbiness
- TV personality Roker
- Triangular upper part of a building
- Speed at which you move
- Offend
- A reference point to shoot at
- Forays
- Biblical city
- Blatted
- Northern sea duck
- Shabby (slang)
- Allege
- Tax collector
- Whereabouts unknown
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Indicates equal

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The Path of Spiritual Freedom

**Welcome to a Free Spiritual Event**

Fountain Hills Community Center  
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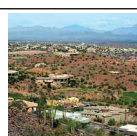
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To place your ad call: 480.837.1925 • fhtimes.com • Deadlines: Thursday at 2 pm

**Employment**

**Employment - Caregivers**



**Cardinal Home Care**  
Caregivers needed  
Immediate opening  
Day & night shifts available  
Competitive wages  
Work in Fountain Hills!  
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**Community Church of the Verdes in Rio Verde**

Is seeking a part-time financial administrator 2 days a week to support our team.  
In this role you will perform a variety of tasks including: Paying invoices, making deposits, payroll, reconciling check books and monthly financials, must have knowledge of Quickbooks.  
Will train. Good starting pay including vacation and sick time.  
Call 480-471-7239.  
Interviews scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday only.

**Merchandise**

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**Elegant**  
48" diameter, counter height table (37-1/2"), parquet top, 3/8" thick glass top, and chairs. \$430 obo. Email lou-campy@yahoo.com, or 480-254-5960.



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**CAVILER KING CHARLES SPANIELS**



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Please call.  
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12 feet by 24 feet folding extension ladders.  
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**Condos/Townhouses - Rent**

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2 bd/2bth luxury condo with mountain and fountain views.  
Newer carpet, paint, remodeled kitchen and baths  
Bright, clean and comfortable. Heated pool and community room, covered parking, 2 blocks from world famous Fountain and Fountain Park.  
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**307-259-6084 307-554-0892**

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**Adobe Storage**  
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**\$2,000/month**

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**480-837-5226**  
michellek@fhpropertymanagement.com

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**Handyman Services**

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Not a licensed contractor

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**No wonder newspaper readers have more fun!**

**Public Notice**

**Town of FOUNTAIN HILLS**  
**Development Services Department**  
**Planning & Zoning Division**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, September 19, 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 hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to receive comments on **ORDINANCE 23-05**, repealing and replacing **Zoning Ordinance Chapter 7, Parking and Loading Requirements.**  
Case #TAM22-000003

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

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, August 30, September 6, 2023/612404

**Fountain Hills Town Council Meeting**

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the Regular Meeting of the Fountain Hills Town Council scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2023, will now be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.  
Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, August 23, 30, 2023/611824

**Please Recycle**

**Public Notice**

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Leah Eve Jackson is now the acting Trustee of The MDJ Trust, dated December 7, 2021. Michael D. Jackson died on July 17, 2023. All persons having claims against Michael D. Jackson and/or The MDJ Trust are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim to Leah Eve Jackson, Successor Trustee, 17033 E De Anza Drive, Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268. DATED this 12th day of August, 2023.  
Holmes Law, PLLC P.O. Box 18587 Fountain Hills, AZ 85269  
Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, August 30, September 6, 13, 2023/611756



**Announcements**

**NOTICE**  
**Independent Newspapers** will never knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 877-291-6222 for any previous complaints.

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## MARIJUANA AFFECTS YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

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[www.fhcoalition.org](http://www.fhcoalition.org)

