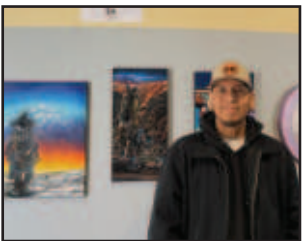


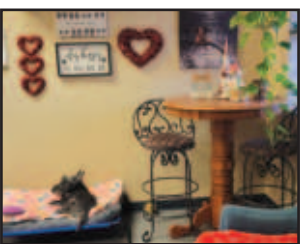
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Are more apartments needed in Fountain Hills?



And if so, how many?

By Bob Burns
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The discussion surrounding the proposed Sandor Village at Four Peaks apartment project in recent weeks has

raised the question as to how many apartment dwelling units, or rental properties, are in Fountain Hills, and how many are necessary.

Based on figures related to occupancy provided by Economic Development Di-

rector Amanda Jacobs, occupancy rates for apartments in the community range well above 90%, which by most industry standards indicates no vacancy.

Comments during discussions before the Town

Council and Planning and Zoning Commission by Sandor representatives and even other apartment developers indicate that Fountain Hills could use some additional

• See **Housing** on page 2

PLANNING & ZONING

Fountain Hills seeks broadband rules

Communications infrastructure

By Bob Burns
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

When the Fountain Hills Planning and Zoning Commission met earlier in January, it took the first tentative steps in discussing potential regulation for broad-

band communications infrastructure within the town.

This discussion began after concerned citizens raised issues in 2022. They believe

regulation is needed to stem the proliferation of potential harmful effects of telecommunications technology. This ranges from possible radiation from

antennas in residential locations throughout the community, to other safety concerns associated with the antenna

• See **P&Z** on page 2

Housing

• From page 1

apartment units.

Currently, in the course of her work, Jacobs monitors the occupancy of six apartment complexes in the community. These communities total 681 units with an overall average occupancy of 91%. Jacobs also cited what she described as “pipeline” plans.

There are 10 projects that have been presented to town development staff that sit at various stages of review. There are a total of 324 units in the pipeline. That includes 84 proposed units

in three projects that are proposed but have no current plan submittal for review. There are 25 units proposed for two projects that staff is awaiting resubmittal of plans following updates and corrections. There are another five projects where staff has building permits ready to be issued. This group totals 215 units including 184 for Park Place phases two and three in the downtown area.

If the 316 proposed for Sandor’s Village at Four Peaks are added, the total is 1,321. This is estimated to be roughly 10% of the housing units in Fountain Hills.

These totals do not

“While I cannot say what percentage we should have for apartments ... our percentages are very low compared to other communities, which indicates there is a need for more to have a better balance and more options for residents to choose from.”

John Wesley
TOFH Development Services Director

include numerous other multi-family complexes that are condominiums with many that include rental units, duplex housing that provides additional rental space, as well as other multi-family buildings that may include short-term rental or ownership. There are

also single-family dwellings in Fountain Hills that are rented.

According to Town Development Services Director John Wesley, the existing apartments in Fountain Hills occupy approximately 81 acres of land. This is about .06% of the de-

veloped land. These are multi-family non-condominium complexes of mostly four units or less. Fifteen percent of the dwellings in town are renter occupied compared to more than 30% in other communities. Current multi-family zoning is significantly reduced from the original planning for Fountain Hills, which was originally planned with an estimated build-out population of twice what is currently projected.

Wesley said there is no standard formula or method of determining what an appropriate amount of multi-family housing is for a commu-

nity.

“I wish there were a simple formula for determining the appropriate amount of any type of land use needed for a balanced community,” Wesley said. “While I cannot say what percentage we should have for apartments, or any other use, our percentages are very low compared to other communities, which indicates there is a need for more to have a better balance and more options for residents to choose from.”

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Bob Burns can be reached at bburns@iniusa.org.

P&Z

• From page 1

structures.

At a November 2023 council meeting, the citizens asked for regulation requiring broadband infrastructure be placed underground in Fountain Hills. They stated cellular communications was not a concern.

Residents have also asked for a moratorium on permitting new communications infrastructure. Such a moratorium would be prohibited by federal and state law. Town Development Services Director John Wesley also notes that it has been several years since the town has received an application for new equipment.

Most of those participating in the January P&Z discussion came away with a clear un-



Communication infrastructure, and the regulations guiding it, has been a prominent topic in recent years for Fountain Hills. (Metro Creative)

derstanding they faced a daunting task. Most communications regulations are based on the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TCA). That law was designed to enhance the then-incipient telecommunication industry. In his report to the commission, Wesley noted the stated goals of that act were to “improve competition, remove regulatory barriers and

encourage rapid development of new technologies.”

The TCA regulations remain favorable to the industry and limit the ability of local jurisdictions to implement rules.

The federal government has determined there are no negative health impacts from deployment of antennas for wireless communications and local jurisdictions

cannot base regulations based on health concerns.

The TCA, as well as state statutes, limit the time in which a local jurisdiction has to review applications for infrastructure facilities. The law allows for automatic approval if the time limits are exceeded. State law also limits the authority of local jurisdictions related to placement of

facilities in the rights-of-way with the exception of excessive height (40 or more feet).

Local authorities may also impose “reasonable” restrictions related to appearance or concealment of facilities and adopt a “fall zone” similar to other zoning regulations for flagpoles or towers.

The town does have rules related to placing utility infrastructure underground including electrical except for transmission lines capable of carrying 69kv or more. New subdivision development requires a common trench for electric, telephone, communications and television cable. This includes fiberoptic which is becoming the standard for high-speed communications equipment.

Larry Meyers, a Fountain Hills resident with

years of background in the television industry, particularly related to transmission, told the commission that broadband should be regulated. He said he does not expect staff to have expertise in the highly technical aspects of cellular and broadband infrastructure. Meyers suggested staff seek advice from an expert in the field, who is not associated with the telecommunications industry. The commission concurred and asked Wesley to investigate retaining expert help.

As of this writing Wesley said he has not yet reached out for independent help.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Bob Burns can be reached at bburns@iniusa.org.

REFERENDUM

Effort underway to refer apartment plan

ROT files to circulate petitions

By Bob Burns
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills political committee known as Reclaim Our Town (ROT) has filed paperwork to circulate petitions to refer a council zoning action to voters during an upcoming election.

On Jan. 17, the council approved a request for a PAD zoning at Four Peaks Plaza (Target shopping center) to convert a portion of the plaza into apartment, along with another PAD request that will allow changes to signage for the plaza.

On Jan. 23, ROT Chairman Crystal Cavanaugh and group Treasurer Larry Meyers filed with the Town Clerk's Office to circulate the petitions to refer both actions. To get the question on the ballot, ROT needs to collect 1,084 valid signatures. The deadline to turn in the petitions is Friday, Feb. 16, (30 days from the council action).

The Times Independent received a statement from Cavanaugh and Meyers:

"This is a major rezone for the highest density rental project



An effort is underway to get a council-approved apartment project to the ballot. (Metro Creative)

in Fountain Hills and well beyond our current zoning," the statement said. "A rezone of this magnitude could significantly change the intended character of the Town. We believe a decision that will affect so many residents should not be made by only four votes on our Town Council, especially after Planning and Zoning did not vote to approve this project due to unanswered questions.

"We will be collecting signatures over the next two weeks in order to get this issue on the August 2024 ballot so that the Fountain Hills voters can decide."

Mayor Ginny Dickey said the proposed plan is consistent with town economic development objectives.

"Redevelopment of the Shea corridor/Target center area has been

specifically planned, called for and approved by councils, commissioners and by a public vote," Dickey said. "The town implemented a very thorough and responsive process years in the making; one with careful, experienced staff recommendations, and again, council, Strategic Plan, Economic Development Plan and voter-approved public support through the General Plan.

"Deciding to move ahead with this school and business-friendly large investment in Fountain Hills – a recognized economic development success strategy regionally, statewide and nationally – is a clear benefit to the community as a whole."

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Bob Burns can be reached at bburns@iniusa.org.

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16243 E. Links Dr \$950,000

3bd 3.5ba +den 2942 sq.ft 2CG
Golf course. Designer upgrades



12211 N Fountain Hills Blvd \$534,000

3bd, 2ba, pool, 2CG, 1596sq.ft



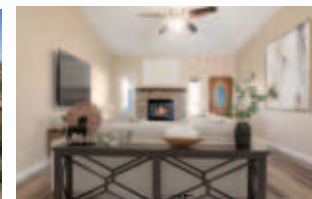
15254 N Pelican Dr. \$1,355,000

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3bd, 3.5ba, pool, 2cg, 2736sq.ft



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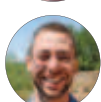


Food bank seeks support

Extended Hands Food Bank in Fountain Hills has seen a drop in donations. If you missed our reporting, read about it online at fhtimes.com/stories/extended-hands-food-bank-in-fountain-hills-has-declining-donations,472364.

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CAR SHOW

Concours in the Hills rescheduled

Rain delay moves car show to Feb. 18

Due to the forecasted rain and the current park conditions at Fountain Park, Concours in the Hills organizers have decided to reschedule the event.

The new date for Concours in the Hills is

Sunday, Feb. 18.

"We understand the inconvenience this may cause, and we sincerely apologize for any disruption to your plans," Alissa Parten said, corporate development officer of Phoenix Chil-

dren's. "The safety and enjoyment of all participants, including our valued vendors and sponsors, are our top priorities and with the park being flooded due to the most current rain-storm, as well as next

week's forecasted conditions, the park's grass will be less than ideal for sponsors and car exhibitors."

For more information, visit phoenixchildrensfoundation.org/signature/concours/.



The current conditions of Fountain Park have caused the organizers of the Concours in the Hills to be rescheduled to Feb. 18. (Submitted photo)



The recent rain in Fountain Hills has caused disruption for the upcoming car show. (Submitted photo)

FREE SERVICE

Fountain Hills Community Center offers tax preparation

Service available to low- to moderate-income individuals and families

Appointments are now being taken for tax preparation services provided by Masters of Coin and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program at the Fountain Hills Community Center located at 13001 N. La Montana Drive.

The service is for low-to-moderate income individuals and families which is generally considered as an income less than \$64,000, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return prepa-

ration with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

The service is available at the Community Center Mondays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 5 through April 15. Participants must make an appointment by calling 480-816-5200.

What to bring to tax appointment

Participants should bring their Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number documents for all individuals included on the tax return (taxpayer, spouse and dependents).

They should also provide photo identification



Masters of Coin and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. For more information, visit mastersofcoin.org. (Metro Creative)

for the taxpayer (and spouse if married), all relevant 2023 tax documents and information for any additional income, information for all potential deductions and credits including charitable contributions, bank-

ing routing number and account number for direct deposit or debit and a copy of the 2022 tax returns (federal and state).

For information about the non-profit Masters of Coin and this free service, go to mastersofcoin.org.



Robert Kenna

Robert "Bob" was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, he attended Admiral Farragut Academy in New Jersey and graduated from the American University in Washington DC. He was a human resources professional working mostly for the U.S. Army in installation management for 25 years and later in the manufacturing industry in New Jersey as a

Personnel Director for approximately 13 years. He served in the armed forces during the Korean War Conflict from 1950-1955 and was an Air Force and Army Infantry veteran. Bob was also an amateur Sports Car Club racer in the 1950's & 1960's. Bob and his family were once residents of the Sierra Vista-Fort Huachuca Community where he also served as the US Army as Civilian Personnel Director from 1976 thru 1981. Bob was also an adjunct instructor of Human Resource Management at Upsala College, New Jersey and Columbus College, Georgia. Once retired in Phoenix, AZ he volunteered with Hospice of the Valley and Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation Foundation. Bob was an avid animal lover and a best friend to many. Bob's kind heart and calming demeanor left an

impression on everyone he came in contact with, he was a genuine and incredible human being, and he will be greatly missed as both a father and best friend. His wife of 53 years, the former Kathleen Lawton of Washington D.C. preceded him in death in 2017. He is now survived by his son, Robb Kenna of Scottsdale, AZ; two daughters, Carolyn Karkhoff of Litchfield Park, AZ and Cecilia Shelton of Fountain Inn, SC; and five grandchildren. A celebration of life and military services will be announced at a future date to give loved ones the needed time to make arrangements. Contributions may be made to any animal rescue or your choice, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT or Hospice of the Valley and would have been much appreciated by Bob.

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Weekly Market Update for 85268

Data Source: Altos Research, Inc. - January 24 2024

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SHERIFF'S CALL LOG

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 7 substation in Fountain Hills is reporting that deputies responded to the following calls during the week from Thursday, Jan. 18, through Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Thursday, Jan. 18

*Deputies stopped a driver on Shea Boulevard and Arista Lane for criminal speed, traveling 77 miles per hour where the speed limit is 50. The motorist was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies made a traffic stop at Palisades and Fountain Hills boulevards for an expired registration. After conducting a records check, the deputy determined the driver was driving on a suspended license. The driver was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies responded to Shea and Palisades boulevards where a rear end collision was reported. The crash resulted in minor injury (no one was

transported to the hospital). The vehicle responsible for the collision fled the scene without exchanging information. Deputies were unable to locate the vehicle that fled.

*A resident of the 16000 block of Segundo Drive reported a violation of a court order.

*Deputies responded to the 11000 block of Saguaro Blvd. where a subject who was previously trespassed from a business entered the business and refused several requests by the management to leave. The subject was arrested and booked into jail for trespassing.

*A resident of the 11000 block of Woodpecker Bay reported that an unknown subject accessed money from their pre-paid debit card resulting in monetary loss.

*Deputies responded to the 12000 block of Saguaro Blvd. where a domestic violence assault

was reported. Charges were submitted to the Fountain Hills town court for prosecution.

Friday, Jan. 19

*A resident of the 16000 block of Segundo Drive reported a violation of a court order.

*Deputies responded to Trevino and Burkemo drives where an illegal dumping incident was reported.

*Deputies responded to the 11000 block of Saguaro Blvd. where it was reported that a customer at a business became disorderly. The subject fled prior to deputies arriving without paying for consumed products. The business was unwilling to aid in prosecution.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of Avenue of the Fountains. It was reported that an unknown suspect opened an APS account in the victim's name without their knowledge or permission.

*A resident reported that an unknown suspect broke into a vehicle and took multiple items while it was parked in the 11000 block of Desert Vista at Desert Vista Park.

*Deputies responded to the 15000 block of Mustang Drive where they served an order of protection to a subject.

*A resident of the 14000 block of El Pueblo Blvd. reported that an unknown subject entered their property without permission and cut down a Palo Verde tree resulting in monetary loss.

Saturday, Jan. 20

*Deputies responded to the 11000 block of Saguaro Blvd. where it was reported that an unknown vehicle struck the victim's vehicle while it was parked on private property.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of Parkview Ave. where it was reported a customer assaulted an employee of

a business. The employee was unwilling to aid in prosecution.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of Palisades Blvd. It was reported that an unknown suspect verbally accosted the caller in the parking lot of a business.

*Deputies responded to the 14000 block of Kings Way where a domestic violence incident was reported. The suspect was booked into jail.

Monday, Jan. 22

*A resident of the 17000 block of Oro Grande Drive reported that their phone account was accessed without permission.

*Deputies received a report that an unknown subject took the victim's wallet while they were shopping at a business in the 16000 block of Avenue of the Fountains.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

*Deputies made a traffic stop on Shea Boulevard at Arista Lane. The

driver was stopped for speeding 68 miles per hour where the speed limit is 50. A records check determined that the driver was driving on a suspended license. The driver was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies responded to the 13000 block of Fountain Hills Blvd. It was reported that an unknown suspect stole the victim's purse from a shopping cart while she was loading items into a vehicle.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

*Deputies responded to the 12000 block of Panorama Drive where it was reported that an unknown suspect took a package from a business resulting in monetary loss.

*Deputies booked a suspect into jail after they were found defacing by spraying graffiti at a private business and on public property in the 16000 block of Avenue of the Fountains.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Check out upcoming activities

Week of Jan. 31 – Feb. 6

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, Jan. 31

*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; cultural astronomy.

*1:30 p.m., Euchre.

*2 p.m., Open jam session.

*3 p.m., Spanish for beginners.

*6 p.m., Bunco.

Thursday, Feb. 1

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

*9 a.m., Canasta; video gentle yoga; Tech Time with Mark.

*9:30 a.m., Beginner

line dancing.

*10 a.m., Spanish Club; open paint studio.

*11:15 a.m., Improv line dancing.

*1 p.m., Dementia Part I; Golden Age of Radio; Table Talk for Women; Hand & Foot Cards; Advanced Mah Jongg.

*4 p.m., Poker.

*5 p.m., Open paint studio; movie.

Friday, Feb. 2

*8 a.m., Back Fit with pilates.

*9 a.m., Aerobic Chair Exer.; intermedi-

ate bridge; pinocle; golf cards; Fitness Fridays.

*1 p.m., Table tennis; Mexican Train dominoes; Woodcarvers/table-top art; chess; traditional Mah Jongg.

*2 p.m., Matter of Balance; legal consultations.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Closed

Sunday, Feb. 4

Closed

Monday, Feb. 5

*8 a.m., Back fit with pilates.

*9 a.m., Geri Fit/fall

prevention; open table tennis; diabetes self management.

*10 a.m., Men's Discussion Group.

*10:30 a.m., Conversational Spanish.

*11:45 a.m., Duplicate bridge.

*12 p.m., Poker.

*12:30 p.m., American Sign Language.

*1 p.m., Pinocle; cribbage; beginning Mah Jongg.

*5 p.m., Aerobic chair exercise.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 6

*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; 10 weeks younger you.

*11 a.m., American Sign Language.

*1 p.m., Finding Meaning and Hope; Mah Jongg; movie; bingo.

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

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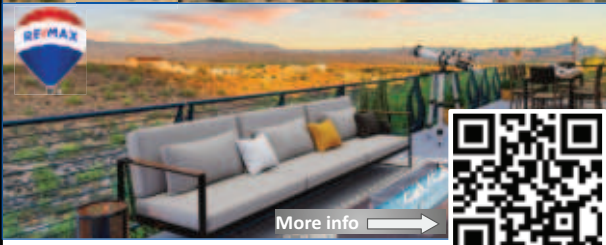
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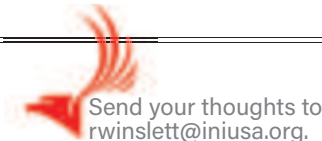
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OPINIONS

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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: rwinslett@iniusa.org.

Maintaining our roads should be a top priority of the council

By Jeff Dover

I fail to understand any confusion on the part of the Town Council on how to manage the town's funds.

There is a single purpose for a town, state or federal government: to provide the infrastructure necessary for the citizenry to pursue their lives and their enterprises in an orderly and safe environment. To that end, it's necessary for the town to provide and maintain fire, police, sewer, courts, water, schools, manage placement of new construction projects and keeping roads in good working order. Those things are the town's first responsibility.

Its responsibilities do not include festivals, attracting new population, supporting businesses, spending thousands to bring tourists, or handing one citizen's money to another chosen citizen by any means directly or indirectly. When those direct responsibilities are met, then there's time for other considerations.

Therefore, where street maintenance is concerned, how can there be any confusion about it? Yet, there certainly seems to be a contingent who buck every attempt to properly maintain them. I'm sure most of us could name various candidates for maintenance right now. The one which sticks out for myself so egregiously

is Palomino Boulevard. Driving that lengthy street will likely require four-wheel drive if it isn't repaved soon.

Looking at the real estate which comprises our town, it's difficult to square those homes with the state of the town's streets. So, whereas this maintenance is one of the town's core responsibilities, just get it done. Don't worry about bonds if the majority who live here prefer dirt roads and won't vote for the maintenance. Simply use whatever money it takes from the town's budget, each year, until it's completed.

Reader reactions, pro or con, are welcomed at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

Skillicorn playing the wrong politics for Fountain Hills

By Faryl Palles

At the Town Council meeting of Jan. 17, during a robust discussion about the proposed apartment complex in the Target center, Councilmember Allen Skillicorn demanded to know if any of his fellow councilmembers had had ex parte meetings with the developer. He also demanded to know if any of his colleagues sitting right there on the dais with him had taken contributions from the developer. He insisted that the people had a right to know and that there was "no process" around the decision.

Does he seriously be-

lieve his colleagues are unethical enough to have secret meetings and sell their votes? If he does, did he really think they'd raise their hands and say, "I know it's a clear-cut violation of the rules, but yeah, I did." Or worse, lie and say they didn't know it was wrong?

There was a lot of process. Over 20 residents addressed the council, both for and against. The attorney for the developer responded to the concerns of the residents. Councilmembers asked questions. Town staff answered questions and presented analyses. The discussion went on for over two hours. How is this not process?

Councilmember Kallivianakis told Skillicorn that he was making slanderous allegations in a public forum. She reminded him that he is the only one who is the subject of an ethics investigation. In yet another preposterous move to derail a decision, Skillicorn insisted that the meeting was "quasi judicial," yet his explanation of why this mattered was confused and confusing.

Skillicorn is playing Chicago-style politics in a small town where it's vital that we get along and work together to help Fountain Hills prosper. We can't play hardball here. Does he understand this? My answer is no.

Reader reactions, pro or con, are welcomed at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

Double standard concerning votes and influences

By Stephen Gay

At the Jan. 17 Town Council meeting, Councilmember Skillicorn insultingly demanded, without evidence, that every Councilmember bare their soul to him, confessing whether they had taken bribes in a criminal scheme to influence their zoning decision.

I'll bet Allen would have been super-duper hopping mad if somebody on the dais said they had received a \$267,230 loan from the developer for a Prevost Le Mirage XL Marathon luxury motor home and instructed to pay only interest for a while.

Gaskets would have been blown when they confessed further the developer then decided they could stop making the interest payments and just forget about repaying the principal on the loan. The town official excuses the kerfuffle proclaiming, "the developer thought I had paid enough in interest. Chillax, my good man, it had no influence on my vote!"

The super-duper indignation (may) have increased when the next person stood up and said, "I took many luxury vacations with the developer. Get this: On one trip I took his private jet to Indonesia and island-hopped on his 162-foot yacht. It was awe-

some!"

This vacation, if paid for by the town official, would have cost over \$500,000. However, the town official blandly excuses the trip saying, "I knew the developer way before I was elected. We are just good friends!"

Allen would have been turbo-dialing the Attorney General's office as the next town official calmly stood up and said the developer paid \$100,000 for their child's private school tuition but, not to worry, this was way before the developer had even thought about this project and in no way affected the zoning variance request.

These exact scenarios apply to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He votes on issues much weightier than zoning variances. Why no boiling public outrage from Skillicorn here?

Reader reactions, pro or con, are welcomed at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

More thoughts on 'lawfare'

By Rick Dime

The Showtime series "Billions" focuses on how prejudiced federal bureaucrats abandon justice and weaponize lawfare to exert punishment against people they hate. The current judicial system, as reported by the media, is following a similar lawfare script to the "Billions" storyline. Lawfare targets are selected to fulfill a political

• See **Opinions** on page 9

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objective, not to serve justice. Lawfare reverses justice.

“That’s witness tampering,” states the judge in his chambers. “No, that’s finesse,” retorts the DA. The DA wordsmiths the judge into recusing himself as payment for a prior debt. The Esquires of Lawfare can’t be successful without the influence of a biased judge that favors the prosecutor’s law-bending hypothesis. When hate and prejudice supersede the law, the rule of law meant to provide justice becomes the political weapon for punishment. Lawfare kills a democracy.

For the Esquires of Lawfare, justice is not their priority. Hateful and prejudicial Esquires of Lawfare circumvent and break laws to, “get their man.” Lawfare has no boundaries. Innocent casualties of lawfare are dismissed as collateral damage. The DA and his minions extol each other’s political gamesmanship in their concerted efforts to ascend to the governor’s mansion.

Lawfare prosecutors fabricate and allege crimes that do not have victims or a precedent in law. Bureaucrats willfully break the law by leaking controversial information to the press that will influence public opinion. If prosecutors can’t get their target to surrender because of public humiliation or to avoid bankruptcy due to legal expenses, the DA will

find an accommodating judge and district to file their case. The bureaucrat’s egos are so large and their motives so apparent they make themselves supervillains that unwittingly fashion their lawfare target into an underdog hero.

Lawfare is a weapon that kills justice and democracy by violating established law and order precedents to apply prejudicial prosecutions.

Reader reactions, pro or con, are welcomed at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

An email I received concerning apartments and politics

By Steve Thomas

Recently I received an email that has the name of a resident at the end of it. The email was sent from an email address that begins with the name of another resident. In the email, the writer discussed the Target plaza rezoning and wrote “people who line up to support the issue...are devoid of real facts surrounding the issue.”

He also wrote, “Who generally lives in apartments? The answer is simple, Democrats. Apologies to anyone on this mailing who may be one but in general, it’s true.” The writer doesn’t cite any credible source of facts to back up his statement. Thus, his statement sounds like nothing more than fearmongering. In that generalization, the writer does not hold himself to the same standard for facts that he criticizes the supporters for.

Renters include our winter visitors, those

who rent single-family homes or rent at Park Place or Pillar, to name a few. If you are concerned about empty storefronts and struggling businesses, imagine what the town would look like if all renters — and maybe all Democrats, too — spent their money outside of Fountain Hills, where perhaps they — and all of their spending — would be more welcome. Then you’d see just how open for business our Town is.

Reader reactions, pro or con, are welcomed at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

Fountain Hills is perfect the way it is

By Barry Wolborsky

How do you improve on perfection?

When I talk to local residents about Fountain Hills, all I hear are strong positives. The views are incredible, the weather is great, neighbors help neighbors, traffic is light and crime is low. We love the lake, running into friends at the supermarket and total strangers offering to help with a heavy package.

I have a friend who says, “If you could live anywhere in the world you wanted to...what part of Fountain Hills would you choose?” We all agree this town is wonderful and we all love it.

So why is the town staff and council continually trying to change it?

Why is it important to bring in industry, bring in more young people (school enrollment is already growing) and build more apartments? Is this just the town gov-

ernment being unable to live within its means and always seeking more revenue? Do we really need more revenue or do we just have to place our priorities first and be judicious in our spending?

Fountain Hills is unique and they are trying to make it commonplace. Do we want to be another Tempe, Scottsdale or Mesa?

You don’t fix perfection; you love it and you protect it.

Reader reactions, pro or con, are welcomed at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

Dickey deserves to be reelected

By Ronald Pies
CHANDLER

I do not live in Fountain Hills, but I have had friends living and working in that great community.

Prior to my retirement, I worked in three local communities as an administrator. I worked with many elected officials for over 50 years. Having observed Fountain Hills government for many years, I have been very impressed with the leadership and passion for good governance that she has practiced.

The citizens of Fountain Hills are fortunate. She deserves to be reelected.

Reader reactions, pro or con, are welcomed at AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

More online

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

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/



Four more announce run for Fountain Hills Town Council

2024 election

Four more candidates have announced their bid for consideration in the upcoming Town Council election. Current Mayor Ginny Dickey will run for re-election, with Clayton Corey, incumbent Peggy McMahon and Robert Wallace joining the race for the three available council seats.

Clayton Corey

Clayton Corey has announced his candidacy for the Fountain Hills Town Council.

According to a press release he plans to bring a vision of collaboration, sustainability and fostering a thriving community for everyone.

Corey, a Fountain Hills resident for over eight years, has dedicated himself to serving the community and now seeks to extend his contribution as a member of the Town Council. His vision includes enhancing the town's infrastructure, promoting economic growth and community vitality and balancing responsible development with preservation. He aims to welcome new residents, thereby enriching the cultural, economic and educational fabric of the community.

New residents will spur business development, diverse housing opportunities, long-term economic stability and bring innovative ideas that can drive sustainability, Corey states in the release.

His involvement with the Fountain Hills Dark

Sky Association and the International Dark Sky Discovery Center has deepened his appreciation for the town's unique dark skies. Serving as secretary of Fountain Hills Sister Cities has broadened his student perspective, while his experience with the Fountain Hills Leadership Academy has provided him with valuable insights into local governance and public services.

Corey has also contributed to the community through non-profit organizations such as Sunset Kiwanis, Vision Fountain Hills and the Fountain Hills Community Foundation. His commitment was recognized in 2018 when he was awarded the Community Volunteer of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.

As a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Directors of the Fountain Hills Sanitary District, he has played a significant role in shaping the future of the town, with a focus on sustainable development and essential services.

Professionally, with over a decade of experience at CVS Health in managing IT Support Operations and Infrastructure Platform Engineering, Corey brings a substantial mix of technology and business expertise to the table, the

release states.

He envisions a Fountain Hills that values its heritage while embracing inclusivity, growth, and community-driven progress. Corey invites the community to engage with him and learn more at ClaytonCorey.com, as he seeks to collaboratively shape the future of Fountain Hills.

Ginny Dickey

Mayor Ginny Dickey filed paperwork to seek another term as mayor of Fountain Hills.

She was first elected mayor in 2018. Added to her eight plus years as a councilwoman, Dickey brings a wealth of experience and knowledge unlike any other, coupled with four decades as a resident and advocate for Fountain Hills, according to a press release.

Dickey is also an eight-year veteran of the Fountain Hills Unified District Board of Education, serving twice as president. First locally elected in 1994, her role as a leader in this town is continuous and documented.

"I welcome the challenge to finalize long-term strategies to reach acceptable standards for our streets, transitioning to municipal fire services, implementing the new MCSO contract, advocating for the International Dark Sky Discovery Center, and tending to infrastructure needs, including Foun-

tain Lake," Dickey said in the press release. "Other important personal goals include civility, unity and predictable, fair governance -- ensuring an equal voice and respect to all our neighbors. We can successfully move forward even with a variety of individual priorities by working together in good faith. The town has important work to do that requires council's full attention.

"I believe I bring a measured, informed and steady leadership style to our community, and I stand by my record as a decision-maker. Unfinished projects remain including completion of Park Place, downtown enhancements, improvements to our publicly-owned assets, strategic consideration of economic growth opportunities, and sustaining our current commercial spaces with creative solutions. I want to engage our community in those conversations."

Dickey serves on Regional Council of the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Arizona League of Cities and Towns Executive Committee. She served professionally as an assistant to an Arizona State Senator, as a legislative representative at ADEQ, and at the Arizona Federal Justice Department as a community liaison.

"I have gained valu-



Peggy McMahon
(Submitted photo)

able experience and established important relationships necessary to effectively represent our Town. I look forward to continuing to serve Fountain Hills," Dickey said.

Find more about Dickey at ginnydickeyformayor.com or [facebook.com/ginnydickeyformayor](https://www.facebook.com/ginnydickeyformayor).

Peggy McMahon

Peggy McMahon announced last week she will seek a second term on the Fountain Hills Town Council.

First elected in 2020, McMahon brings experience and knowledge to the council. She has resided in FH for 23 years and is active in the community—serving on various boards of directors, committees, local clubs, and volunteering positions. McMahon believes her tenure on council has demonstrated she is a voice of reason on the council and is a strong and steady leader who listens to all residents.

McMahon said her priorities will continue to focus on funding, repairing and maintaining the town's infrastructure, supporting the new fire department, working with MCSO to carry out its safety contract, and working closely with officers to make the town a safer place to live, work and play. McMahon supports the Dark Sky Discovery Center, fosters



Robert Wallace
(Submitted photo)

business sustainability and innovative growth and has worked to make the downtown area more welcoming and dynamic.

McMahon will continue to address the town's capital improvement projects. She believes in creating diverse housing, enhancing the downtown area, maintaining the iconic fountain and lake, optimizing economic and business growth opportunities, finding creative ways to improve on commercial areas and refining parks and recreation properties to remain a national award-winning community services town.

McMahon enjoys serving on the Valley Metro Board of Directors, East Valley Partnership Board of Directors, AZ League of Cities and Town Neighborhoods' Sustainability and Quality of Life Committee, and the town's Traffic and Pedestrian and Safety Committee.

She was instrumental in naming Fountain Hills one of 17 statewide recognized Dementia Friendly Towns and co-chairs the town's Dementia Friendly Town Committee. She continually works with the Maricopa Association of Government and other non-profits to address the Town's homeless population. McMahon is also a graduate of FH's Leadership Academy.

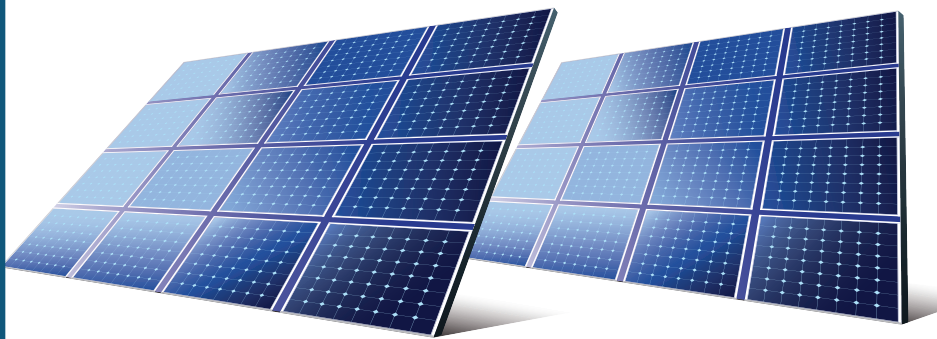
"I look forward to continuing to contribute to Fountain Hills with strong and consistent leadership. I am proud of

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480-390-7250

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- 14539 E Prairie Dog Trl, Lot 11, 1.96 Acres Eagles Nest, \$195,900.

- **NEW** - 13953 E Bighorn Pkwy, Lot 138, 1.84 Acres Eagles Nest, \$340,000.



Erin Young
602-617-9566





FEATURED WORK

Hopi artist brings pigments of home to Fountain Hills

Travis Tubinaghtewa featured at River of Time

By **Cyrus Guccione**
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Bringing to life the traditions of his ancestors, the work of Hopi artist Travis Tubinaghtewa is currently featured at the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum and Exploration Center.

Free to view in the museum's main gallery, Tubinaghtewa's work can be viewed for free through Thursday, March 29.

Depicting Hopi culture

Tubinaghtewa's exhibit is titled, "We Are Still Here - Sharing the Hopi Story."

"I feel that by saying, 'We are still here,' is kind of implying that we're still carrying on our ancient traditions and teachings and passing down the knowledge until now," Tubinaghtewa said, whose father Buddy Tubinaghtewa, a decorated Katsina carver, inspired his son to ex-

plore his creative side.

Tubinaghtewa attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and is a graduate of Fine Arts at Phoenix College.

Despite his formal education, Tubinaghtewa says much of his work is from memories of his childhood.

"My family is heavily involved with our culture," Tubinaghtewa said. "The whole ceremonial calendar, we went through it, including the simpler stuff all the way up to the day's long ceremonies."

Depicting ceremonial dances and symbolism of the Hopi, Tubinaghtewa's work is deeply personal and spiritually significant.

In Hopi, "Tubinaghtewa" means, "Butterflies chasing each other," which Tubinaghtewa manifests in many of his paintings.

Pigments of home

Tubinaghtewa uses a mixture of acrylic and



Travis Tubinaghtewa's art is on display at the River of Time through March 29. (Photo courtesy of the River of Time)

a traditional earth pigment called Tuuma, a powdered clay found in several natural deposits on the Hopi reservation used for Katsina carvings, clothing and decoration.

The mineral is ground into a pigment powder which adds depth and meaning to Tubinaghtewa's work.

"I'm adding a little bit of home into my paintings because that's a powder pigment that comes directly from my reservation that people process with their own hands and

put a lot of work into," Tubinaghtewa said. "It's really smooth and creates a really nice look for the pieces."

Tubinaghtewa says Tuuma can be difficult to come by, especially since the one store he purchased it from on the Hopi reservation has closed.

For his birthday, Tubinaghtewa's parents gifted him a large amount of Tuuma which he uses with care.

"You can keep the same bag of paints for literally years and years and the pigment will re-

main just as fine as the day you got it," Tubinaghtewa said.

The Katsina spirit

Cloaked and masked in ghostly garments, Tubinaghtewa depicts the Katsina as spirits on the move, in prayer or back from the hunt.

The Katsina are often misconstrued as gods, says Tubinaghtewa. In reality, they are spirit messengers that reflect the unbreakable connection between spirituality and the natural environment.

Different Katsinas also represent different things, Tubinaghtewa said: birds, water, cactus, buffalo - Katsinas carry prayers for the Hopi back to their home in the sacred volcanic mountain range in the San Francisco Peaks.

"I try to capture the ethereal sense of the Katsina, almost like a spirit emerging from the darkness," Tubinaghtewa said.

In his paintings, Tubi-

naghtewa hopes his audience can appreciate his depictions of a spiritually rich culture and the beauty of things seen and unseen.

"My paintings capture a lot of my thoughts and prayers, wants and wishes," Tubinaghtewa said. "I want to capture the beauty in life."

To see more of Travis Tubinaghtewa's work, visit his Facebook or Instagram pages @Trav_The Artist. Tubinaghtewa's work is also currently exhibited at the Heard Museum in Phoenix.

The River of Time Museum & Exploration Center is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information can be found at riveroftime.center.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Cyrus Guccione can be reached at cguccione@iniusa.org.

MUSICAL

Paige Productions performs 'High School Musical 2 Jr.'

Young performers take the stage Feb. 10, 17 and 18

Paige Productions Youth Theater (PYT) has announced its 60-minute musical extravaganza, "High School Musical 2 Jr."

This production is set for Feb. 10, 17 and 18, at 7 p.m. in the Performance Hall at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church in Fountain Hills.

Get ready for a night of enchantment as 35 young performers from around

the Valley take the stage to bring the Disney classic to life, a press release said.

"The cast, ranging from ages five to 18, has been diligently rehearsing to deliver a sensational performance that will transport you into the world of

East High," added Paige Beckman, PYT owner and artistic director.

"High School Musical 2 Jr." features tunes from the Disney movie including, "Fabulous" and other familiar songs.

The show follows the

movie series where the gang from East High celebrates the end of the school year and the beginning of summer.

"The local golf club becomes an exciting backdrop where rockin' songs and action-packed

dance numbers light up the stage," Beckman said.

To make the evening more magical, attendees are invited to dress up and immerse themselves in the enchanting atmosphere.

• See **Musical** on page 13

Musical

• From page 12

sphere of the show.

"People are going to love this production of High School Musical 2 Jr.," Beckman said. "You are going to want to see this show more than once."

Performers include Aiden Di Raffaele, Alex Di Raffaele, Aliya Holzkoepf, Amelia Rogalski, Anya Holzkoepf, Beckett Becerra, Bryce Andrews, Caleb Aberle, Camille Schroeder and Claire Robinson.

Also, Emerson Slade, Emma Ferris, Faith Andrews, Harlequin Kohler, Hayden Wheatman, Hudson Becerra, Jacob Aberle, Jordan Abrams and Zane Maatta.

Others are Kayla Rotholt, Kinley Clark, Lexi Laukaitis, Gigi Michaels, Liv Consiglio, Lydia Hill, Malayna McCune, Matthew Schmidt, Melody Beckman and Myles Perreault.

And Remy Roberts, Sierra McCune, Sinclair Galakatos, Slade Becerra, Stefan Shaeffer, Stella Buck, Topanga Kohler, Violet Wilson and Whitney Carponelli.

Tickets for are \$5 per person and available at paigeproductionsAZ.com.

The Performance Hall at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church is located



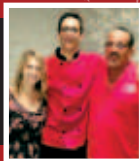
The gang from East High is back. Local performers are from left, Claire Robinson, Matthew Schmidt, Topanga Kohler, Zane Matta, Bryce Andrews, Slade Becerra, Harlequin Kohler, Emerson Slade and Lexi Laukaitis. (Submitted photo)

at 13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd. call 480-375-8058 or send an email to paigeproductions123@gmail.com.

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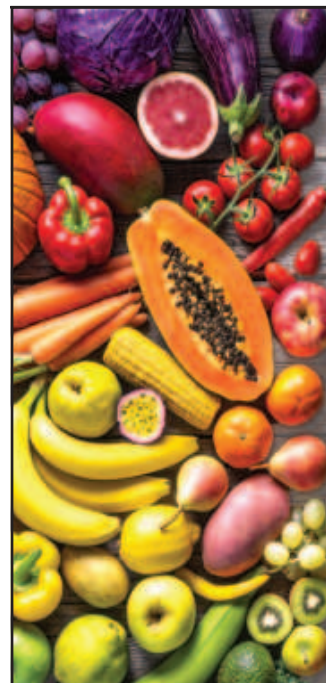
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VISUAL ART

Carrie Godwin featured at Fountain Hills Art League

Watercolor artist presents Feb. 5

The Fountain Hills Art League will host Carrie Godwin as the speaker and demonstration artist at the league's monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 5.

Godwin is a Fountain Hills-based watercolor media artist.

With degrees in photography and graphic design, Godwin blended her knowledge to the beauty and mystery of watercolor, according to a press release written by Nancy Grahlmann, president of the Fountain Hills Art League. "It brings the perfect marriage of the three art mediums," Grahlmann said.

Godwin's time in the photo labs and press dates back to the



Carrie Godwin is a watercolor artist who will present at the Fountain Hills Art League's monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 5. (Submitted photo)

1990s through the early 2000s when she worked in magazines and advertising, allowing her to master the layering processes of watercolor painting that is needed to make a transparent painting, Grahlmann added.

"Color theory is her passion and teaching others how to see color

and subjects differently is something she is eager to share with others," Grahlmann said.

Godwin's work is found in the Fountain Hills Artists Gallery, 16858 E. Avenue of the Fountains.

For more information, call 480- 836-9919 or visit fountainhillsartists-gallery.com.

DEMONSTRATION

Artists' Gallery hosts Julie Gilbert

Jewelry artist presents Tuesday, Feb. 6

The community is invited to the next Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery weekly demonstration Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The featured artist for this event is Julie Gilbert, a jewelry artist who creates custom chains.

"I developed an interest in creating distinctive

custom jewelry when I made a set for my daughter to wear to prom and a necklace for my son," Gilbert said. "Relocation to Arizona in 2009 brought the opportunity to enhance my design capabilities through the tutelage of local, national and international jewelry artists.

"I am impressed with the healing properties of natural stones. I always feel especially gratified when clients

are excited about wearing and gifting what I have had the passion to create."

The gallery is located at 16858 E. Avenue of the Fountains and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about exhibitions, events, workshops and upcoming demos, visit fountainhillsartistsgallery.com.



The community is invited to watch Julie Gilbert create handmade wearable art at the Artists' Gallery weekly demonstration on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Submitted photo)



A Kingman statement pendant with handmade chain made by Julie Gilbert. (Submitted photo)

Candidates

• From page 10

my accomplishments and want to continue to build a better and stronger town," McMahon said.

Robert Wallace

According to a press release announcing his candidacy for Town Council, Robert Wallace is driven by a deep commitment to safeguard Fountain Hills' dignity and independence as he vies for the position of

town councilman.

His passion is evident in his declaration that the challenges facing Fountain Hills and the nation demand a comprehensive strategy to combat threats to liberty, justice and security. Saying he is undeterred by the failures of current federal border policies, Wallace is particularly concerned about illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

In opposing the World Economic Forum's vision of a New World Order, implemented by

compromised actors in the federal government, his release states, Wallace emphasizes the need to protect the Constitutional Republic. America and thereby Fountain Hills, he asserts, is not a mere democracy but a Constitutional Republic, and he pledges to resist and defeat any attempts to undermine it at the town council level.

Wallace brings advocacy experience to the table, serving as the Arizona State Chapter Lead for Gays Against

Groomers and as Secretary for the Log Cabin Republicans of Phoenix, the nation's largest chapter.

He said he fully intends to unite the town council, prioritizing residents, small businesses, and community concerns, fostering bipartisan collaboration as an apolitical advocate for all.

While a Trump supporter, Wallace aims to restore balance and fairness to Fountain Hills' fractured council that

has become polarized for some. He envisions a government that represents all individuals, regardless of their positions or political affiliations, with a focus on the apolitical considerations of individuals' liberties. Wallace believes that respect for freedom and American values should be the guiding principles of local government.

Consulting with Sheriff Joe Arpaio on safety concerns, drug trafficking, and illegal immi-

gration, Wallace underscores the urgency of addressing these issues to ensure the community's security and long-term sustainability. Committed to practical solutions, he advocates for collaborative efforts to tackle challenges ranging from deteriorating roadways to the influx of dangerous drugs like fentanyl. Wallace emphasizes the necessity of working together across the political spectrum to curtail trends compromising safety and security.

SERIES

Health talks at Community Center

**Presented by
Spooner PT**

The Fountain Hills Community Center is hosting a series of informational presentations by Spooner Physical Therapy on the fourth Tuesday of each month through April.

The programs are scheduled as follows:

*Feb. 27 -How to manage carpal tunnel and hand/wrist arthritis.

*March 26 -Breast cancer rehabilitation.

*April 23 -Dizziness

and vertigo.

Each presentation will take place from 9:15 to 10 a.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 La Montana Drive.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Presentations are free for Community Center members and \$5 for non-members. Call the Community Center at 480-816-5200 to register.

These programs are sponsored by the Town of Fountain Hills Community Center.

TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Sheriff's Office reports collisions in Fountain Hills

Minor injuries reported

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is reporting it investigated four traffic collisions in recent days.

On Friday, Jan. 19, a pedestrian sustained minor injuries when they were struck by a vehicle in the intersection of El Lago Boulevard and La Montana Drive.

The vehicle clipped the pedestrian's leg as they passed. The man was taken to the hospital where he was treated for minor injuries.

Also, Friday, Jan. 19, an elderly motorist experienced an apparent medical episode resulting in a single vehicle crash.

The driver was taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure for evaluation. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

On Sunday, Jan. 21, two vehicles traveling in the same direction on Shea Boulevard near Technology Drive collided when one driver attempted to change lanes. The vehicle struck a trailer being towed by the first vehicle.

No injuries were reported. One vehicle was towed from the scene.

A minor collision was reported at Shea and Fountain Hills boulevards on Sunday, Jan. 21. There were no injuries, and both vehicles could be driven from the scene.

PRESENTATION

Program brings Arizona ghost towns to life

At Fountain Hills Community Center

Arizona is home to one of the country's largest collections of ghost towns.

These hidden bits of history provide the opportunity to explore locations that take visitors back in time while learning about the past.

The public is invited to join David and Diane Reesor as they present a video program of action shots that bring the ghost towns of Arizona

to life.

This presentation will take place on Wednesday, Feb 21, at 2 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The event is free for Community Center members and \$5 for non-members. Call the Community Center at 480-816-5200 to register.

This program is sponsored by the Town of Fountain Hills Community Center.

C'est L'amour



Wine & Walk

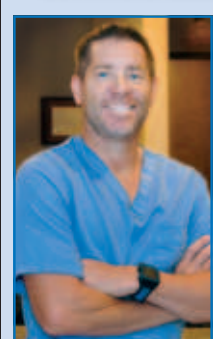
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VOLUNTEER

Judges sought for speech and debate tournament

No experience necessary to take part

Organizers of a national Christian speech and debate tournament are looking for judges in the Fountain Hills area to take part in the Mars Hill Speech and Debate Camelback Classic.

Participants can sign

up for one or more speech and debate rounds, each lasting about three hours, according to a press release. This includes check in, training, judging and writing a ballot. No experience is necessary.

"You do not need to be an expert in speech or debate to judge our competitors," reads a

press release announcing the upcoming tournament. "To judge, you just need to be at least 18 years old, a high school graduate and in good physical and mental health."

Those interested in judging should email mhsdazcj@gmail.com.

The tournament will be held Feb. 1-3

at Cornerstone Family Church (formerly First Baptist of Fountain Hills), 10215 N. Saguardo Blvd.

To register to be a judge, participants may also visit camelbackclassic2024.homeschool-debate.net/judges/. This event is sponsored by Mars Hill Speech and Debate Club.



Students take part in a recent speech and debate tournament. (Submitted photo)

EDUCATION

Exchange student opportunities this fall

Bring the world to your home

International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), a non-profit, public benefit organization, is inviting local families to host a foreign exchange student this coming fall.

ASSE students come from more than 50 different countries and are between the ages of 15 and 18 years old.

The exchange students are excited to experience American culture and share their own culture and language with their host families, according to a press release, and ASSE wants hosts to "welcome the students as a family member, not as a guest, and hopes all parties are involved in a rich cultural experience."

Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons. The exchange students bring their own money for personal ex-



Host families and exchange students build strong bonds during their stay in another country. (Submitted photo/ASSE)

penses and have full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected by academics and personalities, and host families can choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds and personal interests.

Each student will list their interests and hobbies online at asse.com/meet_our_students for prospective hosts to find a suitable match. The students also list their spoken languages and their parents' professions.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the

opportunity to spend time abroad for a school year, semester or summer with a host family in another country. To learn more about becoming an exchange student, visit asse.com/become_an_asse_exchange_student/student_exchange_program.

Those interested in hosting or becoming an exchange student can also call Elena Lannotti, ASSE Western Regional Director, at 1-800-733-2773 or send an email to asseusawest@asse.com to start the application process.

PRE-K



The students and teachers at Little Falcons Preschool pose in front of all their donations. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

Fountain Hills pre-k food drive a success

Little Falcons Preschoolers doubles their goal

By George Zeliff
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Little Falcons Preschool celebrated the 100th day of the school year on Friday, Jan. 19.

This year, the pre-k class donated 216 food items to the nonprofit St. Vincent de Paul.

The teachers always make the 100th day festive for preschool students, but this was their first service

project in relation to the day. Denise Matus and her colleagues contacted the Church of the Ascension and got in touch with local St. Vincent de Paul representatives to bring it all together.

"Our goal was 100 cans for 100 days," Matus said. "We were counting as we go, but when we got to 90, we thought, 'we're going to beat this goal,' so we held off until today so we could surprise the kids with how many they really brought in. We wanted to keep it local, so

we called St. Vincent de Paul, and they were nice enough to send people over so the kids could put a face to where these cans were going and why."

The little Falcons donated 216 canned and boxed food items to the charity to help the poor and needy. There are currently 43 students in the preschool, but the students have been collecting and donating food since the year began.

Preschool teacher Lorrie

• See Pre-K on page 18

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Pre-K

• From page 16

Gonzalez previously did a service project with St. Vincent De Paul and brought it up as a suggestion for all the teachers. The teachers had support from administration and were excited to begin a new tradition.

The teachers laid out all 216 donations on a table for the preschoolers to count in bunches of 10. They colored in a donation thermometer to show just how much they donated, and the local St. Vincent De Paul representatives thanked the kids before telling them where the donations were going.

Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski came to congratulate the students



FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski asks the preschoolers about their service project and congratulates their effort. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zelif)

and asked them if they liked their new playground that was installed over winter break. His question was met with excited cheers, and the students celebrated the rest of the day outside on

the playground.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. George Zelif can be reached at gzelif@iniusa.org.



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH PROCLAMATION

At the Jan. 17, Fountain Hills Town Council meeting, Mayor Ginny Dickey read a proclamation designating January 2024 as Anti-Human Trafficking Month in Fountain Hills. In photo from left are Mayor Dickey, City of Chandler Vice Mayor O.D. Harris, former Gilbert Town Council Member Scott September, Chandler Council Member Christine Ellis and Neece Jackson, assistant director for Not in Our City. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER EXPO DRAWS A CROWD



Debbie Skehen and Cathay Fischer explain the activities and events offered through Encore for More at the Community Center's annual Expo event. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



Jim Hecker with the woodcarvers group talks with Jackie Miles about the creations made by the group. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



Bill Jaeger with the SAWS organization was available to discuss his organization's efforts to provide access ramps for the disabled and impaired. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



The Hooks & Needles table is piled high with handmade creations from its members. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Ted Blank, with the Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association discusses the Town of Fountain Hills' dark sky lighting regulations to visitors. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



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	NAME & RANK	BRANCH OF SERVICE	CURRENT DEPLOYMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
1st Lt. Tyson Alexander	Marines	Camp Pendleton, Ca.	3	Major Mike Mansell	Army	Germany	8
Col. Kevin J. Anderson	Marines	Afghanistan	25	Lt. Nick Massie	Army	Walter Reed Hospital, DC	6
Pfc. Nicholas M. D'Andia*	Army	Fort Rucker, Al	1	Capt. Eric L. Metzger	Air Force	Keesler AFB, Miss,	8
MGYSgt Chad Antes	Marines	Retired	30	Capt. Robert C. Meyersohn	Air Force	Iraq	6
Col Gabriel Avilla	Air Force	Langley AFB, Virginia	22	2nd Lt Garrett A Miller	Army	Korea	1
Gy Sgt Jeremy Baker*	Marines	29 Palms. Ca	17	Sgt Alexander Mynars*	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	5
Capt. Shon S. Belcher	Marines	Afghanistan	8	Sgt. BayLee Mynars	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	4
1st Lt. Jonathan Bonde*	Air Force	Cannon AFB, NM	3	Spc Justin Nelson*	Army	Korea	1
Sgt Beau J R Boyd	Marines	Iraq	5	Capt. Ronald L. Olson	Navy	Balboa Hosp. San Diego	26
PO2 Travis Burke*	Coast Guard	Coos Bay, Oregon	3	LCMR Matthew S. Paul*	Navy	Norfolk, VA	14
E5 IT3 John Burton*	Navy	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii	3	PO3Max Tyler Pelot*	Navy (Corpsman)	Camp Pendleton, Ca	31
CDR Michael Christoph	Navy	NAS Lemoore, CA	16	Lt. Col Blaine Peterson	Air Force	Iraq	20
P.O, First Class Correy A Bushman	Navy	Medical Readiness Tr Bremerton	14	Lan Cpl Jacob Pittsenbarger	Marines	Camp Pendleton, Ca	2
Gy Sgt. Shane W. Butler	Marines	NSA Hampton Roads, VA	17	Lt. Col. Brian Polk	Army	Fort Houston, Tx	27
Capt. David Byrne	Air Force	Travis AFB, Calif.	2	Capt. Bryan J. Pranski	Army	Chicago, Ill.	10
1st Lt. Michael Byrne	Air Force	Phoenix, AZ	1	Ad E2 Andrew Prins*	Navy	NAS, Fl	1
CMSgt RichardT. Cain	Air Force (Ret)	Mt Home AFB, Idaho	30	2nd Lt Matt Rindel*	Air Force	North Carolina	3
2nd Lt. Marie Carillo	Army	Del Rio, Tx	3	Major Lars Rockholm	Marines	Alexandria, Va.	12
1st Lt. Christopher D. Carillo*	Air Force	Hill AFB, Utah	5	M.Sgt. Nathan C. Rohn*	Marines	Camp Lejeune NC	20
2nd Lt. Anthony J. Carillo*	Air Force	Deployed	3	Pfc Zach C. Rollings*	Army	Afghanistan	8
2nd Lt. Michael F. Carillo*	Air Force	North Carolina	3	Pv2 Nick Rollings*	National Guard	Prescott, Az	8
Peter Carollo*	AF Academy	Colorado	2	Pfc Robert A. Rossfeld*	Army	Afghanistan	2
Sgt Case Collins*	Marines	MCAS Cherry Point, NC	3	ET1 Michael L. Schluter	Navy	USS Carl Vinson CVN 70	12
Pfc Michael E. Craig	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	1	OSI (EXW) Arthur Schofield	Navy	Afghanistan	14
Sgt. E6 Mark A. Crosby	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	6	Bm3. Jonathan J. Shine	Coast Guard	Newport, Rhode Island 6	6
SPC Blake M. Dargavel	Army	Afghanistan	1	E4 Andrew Schumacher	Navy	Naval Station Norfolk	3
STS1 John DeMeyer	Navy	NSF Groton, Conn.	16	Pfc. Ryan T. Simmons	Air Force	Abu Dhabi	1
Lt Raymond J. Fahrenbach	Navy	Okinawa, Japan	2	Pvt. Dennis Sitton*	Army	San Antonio,Tx	1
1st Lt. Matthew P. Fierro*	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	2	Airman E3 Michael J Smith*	Navy	San Diego, Ca.	1
Lt. Kyle Frazer	Army	Germany	6	Spc. Robert Steele	Army	Afghanistan	5
SPC Russell Gilligan	Army	Fort Bragg, NC	1	Lt. Aaron Stehlik	Army	Korea	2
Brian Gratz*	Air Force	Baltimore, Md	1	Cmdr Dan R. Stock	Navy	Carrier Strike Group 12 Va	21
SSG Ryan P. Guilfoil	Army	Phoenix, AZ	2	Sgt. Cory Stockman*	Marines	Honduras Embassy	5
1st Lt. Todd Hadley	Air Force	Goodfellow AFB, Tx	7	MC3 Grant Stoltz*	Navy	Sasebo, Japan	3
Major Jeff Hanson	Marines	San Antonio, Tx	14	2nd Lt Andrew J. Tilden	Marines	Quantico, VA	1
Major Joseph F. Hockmuth	Army	Ft. Lewis, Wa.	22	E2 Michael Alan Tilden	Army	Ft Leanard Wood	1
IT3 Tyler Hodge	Navy	USS Makin Island	3	SSGT Airman Derrick Underwood*	Air Force	Hill AFB, Utah	5
Lt. Col Eric Hoversten	Air Force	Elmendorf AFB, Ak	20	Spc Bill Urbelis	Army	Camp Taji, Iraq	2
Capt. Michael J. Howard*	Army	Fort Drum, NY	7	Major Jason K. Vaught*	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	12
MSgt. James M. Hyland	Air Force	Afghanistan	5	Major Megan Vaught	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	11
Major Alex James	Marines	Pentagon	12	Capt. Anthony Vitellaro*	Air Force	Anchorage, AK	10
Spc. Charles P. Jones II*	Army	Fort Bliss, Tx	7	Cpl Shane Waldo	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	3
P.O. Kristofer Jones*	Navy	USS Nimitz (CVN68)	8	Pvt. Tyler Welch	Army	Afghanistan	25
Sgt.Michael Jones*	Marines	Goodfellow AFB, Tx	4	CWO Daniel White*	Army	Germany	10
1st Lt. Joshua Kandybowicz	Army	Afghanistan	3	2nd Lt Peyton Willigrod	Air Force	Columbus AFB, Miss.	1
E3 Kaylie Kantor*	Navy	Pensacola NAS	1	Sgt. Gabriel D. Williams*	Army	Iraq	5
LtCol. Adam Keith*	Air Force	Langley AFB, Virginia	17	SSgt Benjamin Wilson	Air Force	Korea	6
Ssgt Nicholas Larson	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	7	Pfc. Merle Yazzie	Army	Ft Stewart, Ga.	1
Cpl. Jonathan Lawson	Marines	Pendleton, Ca.	3	TSgt. Ryan Young*	Air Force	Hickham AFB, Hawaii	12
Capt. Tom Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenhealth, England	20	Col Tyler Zagurski	Marines	The Pentagon	24
Capt. Kelly(Scribner) Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenhealth, England	5	Lt Cmdr Bo Zierden	Navy	Joint Base Andrews, Md	16
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				
2nd Lt. PavanManhas*	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	1				

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

*** Denotes: (43) FHHS Graduates**

Total on Honor Roll: 107

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 or 480-215-3899. You may also contact the VFW Post at vfw7507@yahoo.com



ANNIVERSARY

Fountain Hills Spanish Club celebrates 30 years

Requesting former members to reach out and attend

By **Cyrus Guccione**
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Looking through cupboards in the Fountain Hills Community Center, Janet Maceyko came across a dusty photo album with pictures of local club gatherings from yesteryear.

A member of the Spanish Conversation Group, also known as the Spanish Club, Maceyko saw pictures of former club members and thought, "Wouldn't that be fun to try and get current and previous members together?"

Maceyko said the club began in 1994, making this year its 30th year gathering and talking in Spanish about anything and everything under the sun.

Hoping to bring members old and new under one roof for the first time in decades, Maceyko and Spanish Club Facilitator Linda Eelkema are inviting all current and former club members to a pri-

vate gathering on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 3 p.m.

The event will include refreshments and live music. To obtain an invitation, send an email to Maceyko at MACEX4@msn.com.

'Use it or lose it'

Spanish Club members gather every Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Community Center to practice their conversational Spanish.

Maceyko says what attracted her to the club was its informal structure; no grammar lessons, no vocabulary lectures - just simple conversations in Spanish.

Like many non-native Spanish speakers, Maceyko took Spanish in school. Now, she just wants the opportunity to converse with others.

"This is the perfect group for me because while there are other classes at the Community Center where you learn the language, I am not interested in that



The Spanish Conversational Group of Fountain Hills at its 2022 holiday party. (Submitted photo)

anymore," she said. "I just don't want to lose the skills I have."

One of the longest-serving members of the club is Gertrud Roberts, a German-born Fountain Hills resident who has been attending club meetings for 25 of the last 30 years.

When she first started attending, Roberts said very little Spanish was spoken. It took some time for conversations to take off and many members left because not enough Spanish was spoken, she said. What helped tremendously was the addition of many native Spanish speakers to the club who encouraged the non-native speakers in their Spanish-speaking journey.

"Many who are fluent like Kim (Mandel) are needed to push you along and help you out when you get stuck," Roberts said.

Despite growing up on the East Coast, Spanish

Club member Kim Mandel spent several decades living and working in Argentina.

After studying abroad during her junior year of college in Spain, Mandel took a job in journalism in Argentina's capital of Buenos Aires.

"When I first arrived in Buenos Aires, I was the 'gringa with a Spanish accent' because the Spanish in Spain is different in Argentina," Mandel said. "I love that country very much and it was a great way to be immersed and learn the culture and the language."

Mandel, along with other native Spanish-speaking club members, help bring conversations to a higher level by offering guidance all while having fun along the way.

Linda Eelkema is the current club facilitator who organizes the Monday morning meetings, moderates discussions and brings "Temas" or

themes to discuss like Spanish customs, world cultures and more.

Spanish group members also enjoy gathering for social events for the holidays or for Dia De Los Reyes, a religious holiday that is celebrated in many Spanish-speaking cultures.

New members welcome

The Spanish Club accepts new members year-round. Those interested in joining should have a basic knowledge of Spanish and come ready to engage in a fun, engaging environment.

Gertrud Roberts said when she first started attending the club, she was eager to start conversing with her Spanish-speaking cleaners.

"I got a little better at it and now I speak very well. You need to practice it or else you lose it," Roberts said, who also speaks German, English and French.

The Spanish Club's mission statement is to improve its Spanish, to learn more about Hispanic and world cultures and to enjoy social activities together.

"We are always open to new people because it is good for the whole group," Roberts said. "They bring new perspectives, which is a good thing."

To learn more about the Spanish Conversational Group, visit fountainhillsaz.gov/193/Discussion-Groups. Community Center Membership is required to participate.

Former members who wish to attend the upcoming 30th-anniversary event should send an email to Janet Maceyko at MACEX4@msn.com.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Cyrus Guccione can be reached at cguccione@iniusa.org.



The Spanish Club participated in the Holiday Wreath event at the Community Center in 2018. (Submitted photo)

LOCAL GATHERING

Fountain Hills Republican Club hosted panel discussion

State representatives present

The Fountain Hills Republican Club (FHRC) held its monthly meeting Saturday, Jan. 20.

The club hosted State Senator John Kavanagh and state representatives Joseph Chaplik and Alex Kolodin.

"With the 2024 session (barely) a week old, Senator John Kavanagh is busily developing, shepherding and promoting key legislation through the Arizona Senate," FHRC Spokesperson Nancy Plencner said in a press release. "Kavanagh is a veteran of the legislative wars, and his skills and expertise are greatly needed in order to get bills through in this split government."

At the club event, Kavanagh reported the Republican House and Senate is held by a slim one vote in the House and the Senate, with Democrat Katie Hobbs as governor, who tends to veto many Republican measures, according to Plencner.

Plencner said despite Hobbs' actions, Kavanagh continues to send bills to her.

"(Kavanagh) is working hard to increase the percentage of Land Trust

dollars that can be utilized. Going from 4.9% to 6.9%, Kavanagh wants those additional funds targeted for teacher's salary increases," Plencner said. "Currently the Trust Fund money goes to all areas of 'education' and not enough finds its way into pay raises for classroom teachers.

"Not to be outdone, the governor is now proposing the percentage be upped to 8.9% which Kavanagh says would bankrupt the Trust Fund."

Representatives Joseph Chaplik and Alex Kolodin are making an impact as they hold key positions on important committees, Plencner added.

"(Chaplik) is a dynamic speaker, a Conservative who really has the ability to get things done, which is a rare element in government," Plencner said, adding that the legislature and the governor must agree on and pass a budget by law.

Chaplik told the Republican audience that a one-seat margin makes governing difficult and that the goal in 2024 must be to win at least two more seats in both the House and Senate.

Chaplik also recognizes that the border is the top issue in this coming

election, and he is working with Arizona's sheriffs to craft a border bill similar to what Texas has, Plencner said.

Plencner also said Chaplik is pushing legislation dealing with panhandling or congregating in non-sidewalk areas.

According to Plencner, Alex Kolodin is "laser-focused" on the topic of water.

"He held the audience spellbound with his account of how water is controlled, regulated and the danger the current system brings to the suburbs," she said.

Kolodin has worked on water issues for eight months and is expected to have a bill establishing a "free market in water," according to Plencner.

Kolodin is also introducing a bill that allows only U.S. citizens to vote in the primary.

"President Biden is all in on taking water and giving it to California. Water needs to be a pocketbook issue for voters, he said. Kolodin, like former Senator Jon Kyl is quickly becoming an expert on water, a critical topic for Arizona, Plencner said.

Members were reminded that in the last election, over 350,000 Republican ballots were not voted/turned in, according to Plencner. The importance of voting the entire ballot was also discussed.

The next meeting of the Fountain Hills Republican Club is Feb. 17, with an 8:30 a.m. registration at the Community Center.

The program is a candidate forum of Town Council and Mayoral race candidates. Members and guests are welcome.



From left, Senator John Kavanagh, Representative Joseph Chaplik, Town Councilman Gerry Friedel and Fountain Hills Republican Club President Cecil Yates. (Submitted photo)

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CELEBRATION

Channel 10's Cory McCloskey to headline 'Gold in Them Hills'

Fountain Hills Women's Club Gala Luncheon welcomes TV personality

The Fountain Hills Women's Club announced TV news personality, meteorologist, actor and comedian Cory McCloskey will headline the club's upcoming 50th anniversary celebration.

McCloskey will serve as the guest emcee and provide a standup comedy routine.

The event will also feature a cocktail hour with a cash bar along with a hot-plated luncheon, a

unique fashion show presented by Classy-Jazzy boutique, silent and live auctions, a 50/50 cash raffle and a retrospective of the club's 50 golden years of community service and social programs.

The "Gold in Them Hills" Gala Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort at 10438 We-Ko-Pa Way in Fort McDowell.

The event will celebrate the club's five decades of service to the community and help to fund scholarships for women who live or work



TV personality Cory McCloskey to headline the Fountain Hills Women's Club 50th Anniversary. (Photo courtesy of Fountain Hills Women's Club)

in Fountain Hills and for graduating Fountain Hills High School seniors.

The Fountain Hills Women's Club's annual luncheon fundraiser traditionally draws attend-

ees of all ages not only from the local community but throughout the Valley area, according to a press release prepared by the event chair, Joanne Colella.

"And yes, men are welcome to come, show their support and enjoy a great afternoon of fun, food and fundraising for a worthy cause," Colella added.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are available exclusively online at 50gala.givesmart.com.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various price points ranging from \$150 to \$2,500.

Event program ads are

also available for businesses, organizations and individuals who will be recognized for their support in this milestone year.

Auction item donations are also needed. All proceeds will go to this year's scholarships to be awarded in May.

For tickets or information on sponsorships or ads, send an email to FHWCFundraiser@gmail.com.

For updates, follow the Fountain Hills Women's Club on Facebook at Facebook.com/fountainhillswomensclub or at fountainhillswomensclub.com.

LOCAL EVENT

Noon Kiwanis hosts 'Super' Pancake Breakfast

Fundraiser is Feb. 11 at 9 a.m.

Noon Kiwanis Club is holding its annual fundraiser breakfast Sunday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Kiwanis Activity Center, 16957 E. Kiwanis Dr.

"Get your family ready for the big game by fueling up on the club's iconic 'Big K' breakfast of delicious pancakes, sausage, eggs and applesauce for the low price of \$10," said a press release sent by Noon Kiwanis President Phyliss Kern.

All proceeds support local youth programs.

Noon Kiwanis meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month



Noon Kiwanis is set to host its annual 'Super' Pancake Breakfast Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. (Metro Creative)

at the Fountain Hills High School Learning Center.

Guests are invited to drop in for a free lunch and learn more about Kiwanis and its mission of "Serving the children of the world."

The club has been in Fountain Hills for over

four decades and performs a variety of service projects and fundraisers that benefit youth programs.

For more information on the club and volunteer opportunities, visit fhkiwanis.org or the club's Facebook page at Facebook.com/fhkiwanis/.

PERSONAL HEALTH

Caregivers Support Group meets Feb. 5

Attendees invited to bring caregiving material

The next meeting of the Fountain Hills Caregivers Support Group is Monday, Feb. 5.

The meeting starts at 11 a.m. in the Fountain Hills Community Center.

The meeting will feature open discussion groups in which attendees can talk about any of a broad range of caregiving issues such as "how to manage the effects of caregiving on the caregiver's personal health," and other issues like "contending with the emotional

strain and drain of caring for a family member."

In addition, attendees are invited to bring their own caregiving materials to the meeting.

These include resources they may have collected such as books, articles, pamphlets and websites.

This sharing of information may allow for the exchange of ideas about possible solutions to particular caregiving concerns, according to a press release written by Bill Whittaker.

For more information, contact Jim Judge at 480-209-8755, Bill Whittaker at 480-837-7961 or Kathleen Blair at

480-588-8200.

Open to all caregivers regardless of age, affliction, disease, or place of residence, the Fountain Hills Caregivers Support Group offers a responsive environment where caregivers may discover they are neither unique in their situation nor alone in their feelings and experiences.

It allows caregivers to exchange ideas and information, find solutions to similar problems and suggest discussion topics for future meetings, Whittaker said.

It is also an opportunity for caregivers to develop informal networks and peer groups for extended support.



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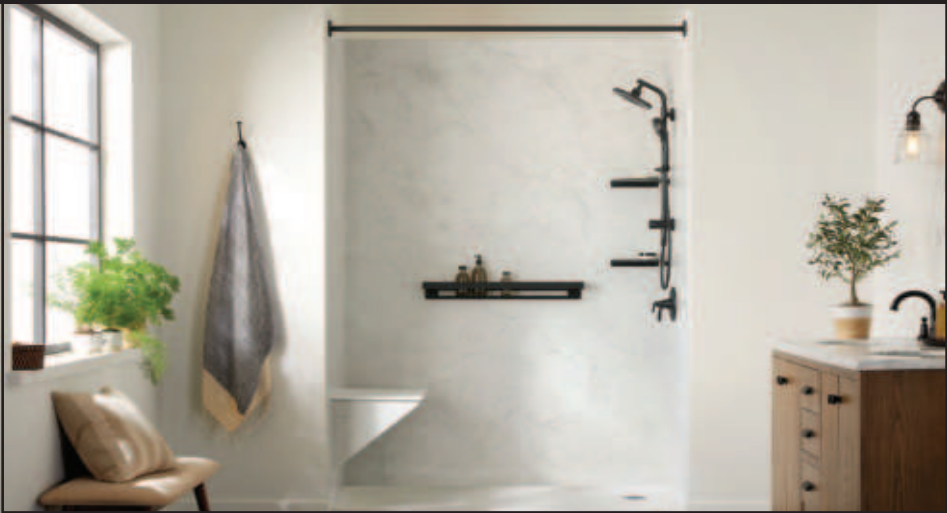
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SOUNDS OF HISTORY

Golden Age of Radio welcomes 'The Life of Riley'

Circa 1940s-'50s American radio situation comedy series directed by Irving Brecher

The Golden Age of Radio presents "The Life of Riley" program at its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m. in the Fountain Hills Community Center.

"The Life of Riley" radio program originally aired on the NBC Blue Network (which later became ABC) from Jan. 16, 1944, to July 8, 1945, according to a press release written by Bill Whittaker.

Afterward, the program was heard on the regular NBC network where it was broadcast from Sept. 8, 1945, to June 29, 1951.

Irving Brecher originally pitched the radio series for his friend Groucho Marx, Whittaker said.

Radio historian Gerald Nachman quotes

Brecher as stating, "He was a Brooklyn guy and there was something about him. I thought, 'This guy could play it.'"

"He'd made a few films, like 'Lifeboat,' but he was not a name. So, I took, 'The Flotsam Family' script, revised it, made it a Brooklyn family, took out the flippancies and made it more meat-and-potatoes, and thought of a new title, 'The Life of Riley.'"

"(William) Bendix's delivery and the spin he put on his lines made it work."

In the reworked script, Brecher cast Bendix in the title role of the blundering Chester A. Riley, a wing riveter at the fictional Cunningham Aircraft plant in California.

Bendix's delivery and the spin he put on his lines made it work, Whittaker reiterated. His frequent exclamation of indignation, "What a revoltin' devel-

opment this is," became one of the most famous catchphrases of the 1940s, Whittaker said.

Many classic radio programs such as these are contained in the Golden Age of Radio's Bruce Florence Library, an extensive collection of timeless broadcasts on records, cassette tapes and CDs.

Membership in the Community Center is required to attend Golden Age of Radio meetings.

For more information, contact Bill Whittaker at 480-837-7961 or the Community Center at 480-816-5200.

From the twilight of the Jazz Age to the dawn of the Space Age, The Golden Age of Radio celebrates the reign of the first electronic medium, the then-modern miracle that brought news, entertainment and information into homes throughout a significant period of history.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly welcomes newcomers

Anyone looking for weight-loss support and to start or continue their journey of weight-loss 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.

The Spanish Conversation Group celebrates 30 years

The Spanish Conversation Group of Fountain Hills is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Its members invite any former members to join in the celebration. For details, email Janet at macex4@msn.com.

Community Center Contract Bridge winners posted

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 Jan. 19 include Don Butler in first place, Sharon Harvey in second place and Luverne Parrish in third place.

Winners from Jan. 24 include Bharati Paranjape in first place, Joanne Arneson in second place and Peter Mack in third place.

Rotary Club of Fountain Hills hosts speakers

The Fountain Hills Rotary Club will host Fountain Hills Fire Chief Dave Ott on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

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

Botanical Garden seeks volunteers

The Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden is looking for volunteers to join its cause to keep the trail in good condition for all to use.

The garden requires stewardship from the community to keep the trail accessible to all.

For more information, reach out to Judy Dragiewicz at 480-837-2800.

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 experiences, strength and hope.

Shepherd of the Hills is located at 16150 E. El Lago Blvd.

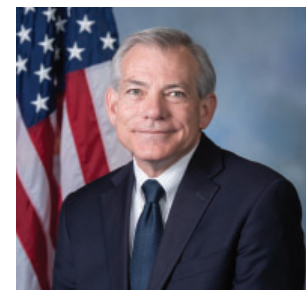
ASSISTANCE

VFW Post 7507 hosts Schweikert's mobile office hours

Congressman David Schweikert's staff to address community concerns

Congressman David Schweikert's constituents are invited to come speak with the congressional staff and address concerns on casework matters at VFW Post 7507 Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"If you or a family member are having issues with the VA, Social Security, Medicare or other federal agency, come visit with the congressional casework



Congressman David Schweikert will host mobile office hours for VFW Post 7507 Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. (Times Independent file photo)

team for one-on-one assistance," a press release read,

prepared by VFW Adjutant Boe James.

VFW Post 7507 is located at 9624 N. Monterey Drive (across from Tractor Supply).

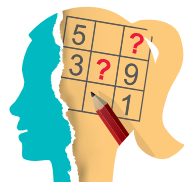
Congressman Schweikert's Scottsdale District Office is located at 14500 N. Northsight Blvd., Ste. 221.

For additional information, visit schweikert.house.gov or call 480-946-2411.

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RECOVERY

Hiding, Hurting & Healing meets Feb. 8

Rev. JoAnne Crosby to present at Desert Creek Fellowship

By **Cyrus Guccione**
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

A program created for women who want to learn a Biblical perspective on inner distress, Rev. JoAnne Crosby is hosting her weekly program, Hiding, Hurting & Healing Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 8 through April.

Hiding, Hurting & Healing is for any woman who desires to find healing in Jesus Christ, says Crosby, a retired minister for a church of 5,000 members in the Twin Cities area. Her women-focused ministry began in 1999, at one point meeting five times a week to help women in crisis.

Personal testimony

“Going through de-



Rev. JoAnne Crosby hosts Hiding, Hurting & Healing Feb. 8 at Desert Creek Fellowship. (Metro Creative)

pression was a very difficult period for me and many people deal with it,” Crosby said, who remembers a time when she would lay in bed all day, feeling stuck in the mire of depression.

Crosby was in a troubled marriage with a husband who suffered from alcoholism.

“Through the ministry of Billy Graham and Alcoholics Anonymous, we

said a prayer and asked the Lord to take control of our life,” Crosby said. “Little by little, God began working in our life in a powerful way.”

Crosby’s husband beat his addiction and the two have been married for 67 years this September.

After addressing the issues in their marriage, Crosby hopes to offer support to women in similar situations.

Crosby has worked with women who have deep trauma from sexual assault, marital issues and more. Her ministry was first a program for women in controlling relationships. Now, Hiding, Hurting & Healing covers topics on abuse, betrayal, trauma, shame and forgiveness.

The power of prayer

Crosby says finding

peace starts with a simple conversation with God.

“I said to God, ‘If you don’t help me, I’m done for,’” Crosby recalled. “The Lord said, ‘If you listen to me, I’ll help you out.’”

Crosby said the Lord led her through baby steps like making a cup of tea, moving her body and finding joy in the little things in life.

“He is a very mighty God and knows things I don’t,” Crosby said.

All women welcome

“If you want help or you want to help somebody, this program is for any woman who wants to come regardless of religion or no religion,” Crosby said, who is eager to share her testimony and help women be brave enough to share their own testimonies. The group meets in small confidential groups

which Crosby says promotes honesty and intimacy.

“If you feel like you want to help somebody or you want to benefit by knowing what the bible has to say about your difficult situations, especially in relationships, then this program is for you,” she said.

Hiding, Hurting & Healing begins Thursday, Feb. 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Desert Creek Fellowship, 15024 N. Ivory Drive.

For further information, contact Rev. JoAnne Crosby at 763-242-9181, by email at joannecrosby40@yahoo.com or by visiting hidinghurtinghealing.com.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Cyrus Guccione can be reached at cguccione@iniusa.org.



SBC FOUNTAIN HILLS DONATES TO EXTENDED HANDS

Members of SBC Fountain Hills donated \$50,000 to Extended Hands Food Bank for a new forklift and new plastic pallets. Above, Allyson Rahn, Shannon Mitchell, Randee Dee, Pastor David Iverson and Pastor Rich Griffith, gather for a photo. (Photo courtesy of Extended Hands Food Bank)



FOUNTAIN HILLS TOWN COUNCIL CONDEMNS ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM IN ISRAEL

Councilman Gerry Friedel read a proclamation in support of Israel, condemning all acts of terrorism. The proclamation was read and passed by the Fountain Hills Town Council Jan. 17. Rabbi Mendy Lipskier of the Chabad in Fountain Hills accepted the proclamation Jan. 23. (Submitted photo)

Death notice

Elizabeth Rice of Fountain Hills passed Dec. 19. A mass will be held Feb. 10 at Church of the Ascension. For additional details, see the Messinger Mortuaries website at messagingmortality.com/our-locations/fountain-hills-mortuary.

CORRECTION

The Jan. 24 edition of The Times Independent reported that the Town Council decision related to rezoning for Four Peaks Plaza monument sign changes was approved with a 5-2 vote. That is incorrect. The vote to approve the change, including an amendment to reduce the height of the main sign from 20 feet to 18 feet, was unanimous, 7-0. The Times Independent apologizes for the error.

HEALTHCARE

Challenges of living with dementia

Community Center presentation

Those caring for a person living with dementia can learn how to successfully navigate the financial, legal, emotional and physical challenges of this disease.

This course consists of two workshops. Each workshop takes place at the Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive. The program is free and open to the public. Call the Community Center at 480-816-5200 to register.

Workshop One: Legal Aspects of Estate Planning takes place on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Course

#2533. Speakers are Stephanie A. Bivens, Esq., CELA with Bivens & Associates, PLLC and Stephanie Russell, BSN with Concierge Senior Care Management.

Workshop Two: Planning and Paying for Long-term Care takes place on Thursday, March 7, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Course # 2534. Speakers are Attorney Megan Selvey, Esq. with Bevins & Associates, PLLC, Scott Charles, AIF, CDP with Pelletton Capital Management and Stephanie Russell, BSN with Concierge Senior Care Management.

This program is sponsored by the Town of Fountain Hills Community Center.

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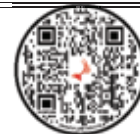


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SPORTS



GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fountain Hills girls basketball celebrate senior night with 70-42 win

Baca recognized for 200th win

By George Zeliff
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Amanda Baca and Alicia Ibarra were each celebrated at the last home Fountain Hills High School girls basketball game on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Athletic Director Evelyn Wynn surprised Baca with a plaque recognizing her 200th career win, and Ibarra was greeted with a roar from the crowd on senior night.

"It's awesome," Baca said. "I didn't expect that at all. Wynn does a real good job going above and beyond recognizing coaches and making us feel important. 200 wins is a lot under your belt for my career, and I think the special thing, and the thing that maybe some coaches don't recognize, is it was all done here."

Baca has been with Fountain Hills since 2008 and coached every year except for one when she served as the high school's athletic director. Her 200th win was at Camp Verde on Jan. 9, and she takes pride in her consistency and the bonds she's grown with her players.

Ibarra first played for Baca in the sixth grade and is the only senior on the team this year. She scored 16 points in the 70-42 win over Chino Valley (2-10) on senior night and has led the No. 6 Falcons (12-1) to a 12-game win streak.

"I feel like our 12-



Junior Seesee Smith and senior Alicia Ibarra hug head coach Amanda Baca after she received a plaque recognizing her 200th win. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)



Senior Alicia Ibarra was recognized on senior night. She led all Falcons with 16.4 points per game. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

game winning streak is pretty good," Ibarra said. "I mean, that's what we expected, to go undefeated the whole season. I feel like that's possible if we all stay on the same page, and we just keep working hard like we are."

Junior Seesee Smith led the Falcons with 21 points in the win, and sophomore Taleigha Bonnah scored 10 points. Junior Kaylee Lewis scored five and junior Shania Rivera chipped in four points in the win.

Smith scored 14 and Ibarra added 14 points in the Falcons' 60-39 win over No. 24 Bourgade Catholic (6-7) on Jan. 20. Bonnah also scored 10 points in that game, which was only her sec-

ond game after returning from an ACL injury.

The Falcons hosted No. 20 Camp Verde (7-6) at the Fort McDowell Rec Center on Jan. 27. Their last four games of the regular season will be on the road.

They played at Wickensburg Jan. 30, and play at Scottsdale Christian (3-9) at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2. They play No. 13 Northwest Christian (8-3) at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, before closing out the season at No. 24 Bourgade Catholic at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. George Zeliff can be reached at gzeliff@iniusa.org.

WRESTLING

Fountain Hills nearing end of wrestling season

Langer crowned tournament champ for first time

By George Zeliff
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills High School wrestling team went to San Tan Foothills for a two-day tournament over Jan. 19 and Jan. 20.

The Falcons placed fifth out of 19 teams in the Third Annual Desert Challenge Invitational, and two Falcons walked away as champions.

"We had a really good two-day tournament. It was fun, and the kids wrestled well," head coach Luke Salzman said. "Ty Langer won his first tournament ever. It is the best feeling to be the champion."

Langer went undefeated over the weekend in the 175-weight class, and fellow senior Tyler Flynn was the champion in the 132-weight class. Sophomore Tyler Trapani placed second at 126 lbs., and junior Yahshua Harris placed third in 138 lbs.

Two first year wrestlers placed for the first



Senior Nate Barnard plants his leg behind his opponent's leg to trip and take him down to the mat. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

time over the weekend. Senior Nate Barnard placed fourth and freshman Chase Johnson placed fifth.

"Flynn is very dialed in and focused," Salzman said. "He doesn't take any match lightly, goes out and gets the job done. With the new guys, we are just trying to clean up bad habits, which turns into wins. They are getting more confidence and learning the sport more and more each time we wrestle."

The wrestlers got more match experience in a dual meet against Phoenix Christian, Tempe Prep and Benjamin Franklin on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The Falcons also traveled to Odyssey Institute for a dual meet against Kingman, Yuma

and Odyssey Institute on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

The Falcons' last tournament of the regular season was the 2024 Knight Invitational at Arizona College Prep on Friday, Jan. 26. The Falcons wrap up the season with two final dual meets at Northwest Christian on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and at Hayden High School on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Sectionals are approaching fast, and the wrestlers will stay later at practice to be fully prepared. They travel to Mogollon in Heber on Saturday, Feb. 10, and the top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the state championship.

The state championship begins Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. Championship matches start at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. George Zeliff can be reached at gzeliff@iniusa.org.



Sophomore Tyler Trapani works to bring down his opponent at a recent home match. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

GIRLS SOCCER



Junior Kit Garman pushes the offense toward the goal at a recent home game. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

Fountain Hills girls soccer nears end of season

Hopeful to get a win in final games

By George Zeliff
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills High School girls soccer team will close out the season against two teams of similar rankings and hope to end the season on a high note.

The No. 41 Falcons (0-8) started the season against the reigning state champions and have faced several tough teams throughout the year. On Jan. 19, they fell 8-0 to No. 21 Phoenix Country Day (5-6), and the Falcons also lost 8-0 to No. 6 Northwest Christian (10-1) on Jan. 22.

The Falcons traveled to No. 36 Chandler Prep on Friday, Jan. 26. This game was originally scheduled in December but had to get moved toward the end of the season. The Falcons' fi-

nal game is also being rescheduled.

Fountain Hills was scheduled to travel to No. 43 Highland Prep (2-7) on Wednesday, Jan. 24, but the game was delayed due to weather concerns. At the time of this writing, it was not known when the game will be rescheduled.

"My main goal toward the end of the season is focusing on positive attitude and kind of team interconnectedness," head coach Ari Horvath said. "I've been having practices, and it warms my heart to see them laughing it up because I'm hopeful that will bring them next year and also bring their friends and new players. Especially since this period the team is in, I think is kind of a rebuilding phase."

The Falcons beat Highland Prep 4-2 last season and hope they can repeat that success

for their first win of the season this year.

As the Falcons wrap up the season, Horvath has been giving her freshmen more playing time. Horvath thinks freshman Savannah Simonson can be her lead striker on top of her formations for the next few years, and she likes what she's seen from freshman Mia Espinoza as a goal-keeper.

With seven seniors graduating, Horvath is focused on recruiting and bringing in more players for next year. The Falcons have some important pieces able to return, including junior captain Sara Dethlefs and two-year defensive starter, sophomore Paula Graber.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. George Zeliff can be reached at gzeliff@iniusa.org.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Fountain Hills boys basketball seniors continue winning culture

Ort joins elite company; Bonner reaches 100 wins

By George Zeliff
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills High School boys basketball team is on a roll and outsourced its opponents 131-60 in the last two games.

Keaton Ort reached 1,000 career points in the 61-18 win over Bourgade Catholic (2-10) on Jan. 20, and he and four other seniors played their last home game on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The No. 11 Falcons (10-3) defended their home court by beating Chino Valley (4-9) 70-42.

Tanner Barnhart, Gavin Hicks, Brayden Hardison, Liam Jagodzinski and Ort were all recognized before the game and played the entire first quarter. Hicks scored eight of his 12 points in the first quarter, helping the Falcons lead 16-8.

"It was really meaningful. We spent the whole year working together and haven't real-

ly had the opportunity to play, [just] us five," Barnhart said. "A lot of them have been in the program and haven't got a lot of minutes. I'm new here and had some great connections with some of these guys. It was a lot of fun to get to play all together."

Ort has played in all but two games over the past three seasons and Barnhart, a transfer from Horizon High School, has played in 19 of the 21 total games this season. Hardison was also a new addition this year, but Jagodzinski and Hicks have been with the program for years.

The seniors combined for 43 of the Falcons' points and helped head coach Jeff Bonner win his 103rd career game. Bonner received a plaque recognizing his 100th career win during the pregame senior night festivities.

"Honestly, I knew nothing about it," Bonner said. "Every single time I coach a game, it's just to win that game. I'm not necessarily following the stats of them or see-



Seniors Liam Jagodzinski, Tanner Barnhart, Keaton Ort, Brayden Hardison and Gavin Hicks were recognized on senior night. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

ing where I am as far as wins and losses."

Bonner graduated from Fountain Hills and returned to begin his coaching career in 2018. The Falcons graduated 10 seniors last year, and Bonner said this group of seniors has done everything he's asked of them.

"I'm very impressed. I think since the start of the season we've improved and that's kind of what my big ask is," Bonner said. "I don't ask anyone to kind of fill shoes of players that they aren't. The expectations are that we run our offense, we run our defense."

Ort is now at 1,021 career points and is fourth



Senior Keaton Ort and junior Michael Fitzherbert presented head coach Jeff Bonner with a plaque recognizing his 100th win. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

all-time in school history. His father, Martin Ort, scored 1,894 points for the Falcons from 2002-2006, and Bonner scored 1,421 during his time from 2008-2012.

"It's pretty cool," Keaton said. "I do have to thank two of the people on that list for even getting me there. My dad

and Bonner. They made it a reality."

Martin remembers chasing Jon Kavanagh's records and is sure Kavanagh scored more than 1,000 points. Online records don't go back far enough, but Kavanagh led the Falcons to their first regional title and final four appearance in

2000.

Bonner and Keaton were both more focused on winning than their personal achievements. The Falcons, 7-0 in region play, are in position to win the school's seventh regional title and be region champions in back-to-back years for the first time in school history.

The Falcons hosted Camp Verde (7-6) at the Fort McDowell Recreation Center on Jan. 27. They traveled to Wickenburg (2-12) on Jan. 30 and then play at Scottsdale Christian Academy (5-5) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2.

Next, the Falcons play at No. 10 Northwest Christian (9-3) on Wednesday, Feb. 7, and then close out the regular season at Bourgade Catholic on Thursday, Feb. 8. Both games start at 7 p.m.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. George Zeliff can be reached at gzeliff@iniusa.org.

BOYS SOCCER

Fountain Hills' final boys soccer game rescheduled

Falcons giving it their all until the end

By George Zeliff
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills High School boys soccer team had the tall task of facing two top-five teams in back-to-back games.

They also have more games to close out the season, thanks to scheduling changes.

The No. 46 Falcons (1-8) lost 6-0 to No. 3 Phoenix Country Day (9-1) on Jan. 19, and then fell 10-0 against No. 4 Northwest Christian (10-1) on Jan. 22. They were supposed to play No. 48 Highland Prep

(0-9) on Wednesday, Jan. 24, but that game will be rescheduled due to weather concerns.

According to head coach Jon Davies, athletic director Evelyn Wynn is working with Highland Prep and the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) to reschedule the match when referees are available.

Wynn already rescheduled an away game with No. 33 Chandler Prep (3-6-2) for Jan. 26. The Falcons hope to close out the season on a positive note in their final two games.

"Obviously, we'd like to see a win come out of one of these games, but



Senior Jayden Harned races down the pitch in a recent home game. (Independent Newsmedia/George Zeliff)

• See **Soccer** on page 31

Soccer

• From page 30

I think it's just the positive progression," Davies said. "I felt like there was a lot of hesitation during the Northwest Christian game. That might have been because of the weather, and other factors could've played into it."

Davies has played more of his underclassmen in the last few games to give them more vari-

ty exposure. Different players as sophomores Jaysonn Thompson and Mason Meyers have also played goalie since senior Jaxson Butcher injured his hand, giving Davies an idea for his goalie for the future.

The Falcons are happy to continue their season for a little while longer, especially with seven seniors on the team. According to Davies, the players have only become more dedicated as

the season went on.

"We're getting hard work, hard effort from start to finish," Davies said. "They are not quitting. Doesn't matter what the score is, doesn't matter what the time is. They start hard, they finish hard, and I'm just super proud of the guys."

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. George Zeff can be reached at gzelliff@iniusa.org.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bogey Boys weekly results

On Monday, Jan. 22, the Bogey Boys played its regular round at Orange Tree, but it was anything but regular as Cliff Romme aced both holes, four and seven. The feat has only been accomplished three times on the PGA Tour.

The winning team at -11 was Mike Hoops, John Tewksbury and Rich Leibundgut. Second place at -9 was Cliff

Romme, Brian Shore and David Olson. Skins winners were Rich Piathek (4), Cliff Romme (3), John Tewksbury, Brad Strehlow, Jack Cranmer and Wayne Bumgardner. Low net winner in A/B flight was Mike Petty (70). C/D flight winner was Paul Heintz (66)

The Wednesday travel group did not play on January 24. They will return to action on January 31 at the Arizona Biltmore.

VOTS swings again

The Valley of the Sun (VOTS) golf group played at Painted Mountain Golf Resort Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Winners of this week's scramble were Tony Leslie, Steve Duganz, Jack Murray and Richard Crane. Coming in second place was the team of James Sandow, Brent Morrison, Bruce Frobes and Dean Neumeyer.

Anyone interested in more info about joining the VOTS, contact Ray Yusko, 216-272-4173.



CLIFF ROMME CELEBRATES TWO ACES

Cliff Romme hit a hole-in-one on two different holes on Jan. 22. Romme is flanked by partners Brian Shore (left) and Davis Olson (right). (Submitted photo courtesy of Mike Hoops)



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RECYCLING

Republic Services rededicates recycling facility

Over four years after destroyed by fire

By Bob Burns
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Republic Services, Inc., an environmental services company that provides residential collection and disposal services for communities in the Valley including Fountain Hills celebrated with local community leaders by opening Republic's new state-of-the-art Salt River Recycling Center.

The new facility will play a role in helping improve recycling rates in the Valley with higher capacity and more modern technology than its predecessor.

The original facility was destroyed by a fire in October 2019, and Republic redirected its recycling operations to other facilities until the site was rebuilt.

According to a press release from Republic

Services, the new 51,000-square-foot recycling center, located in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, will manage recyclables from approximately 1.4 million residents and more than 2,000 businesses throughout the Valley. The high-capacity facility will process up to 40 tons, or eight truckloads, of recyclables per hour, including paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and jugs, metal food and beverage cans, and glass bottles and jars.

"The new Salt River Recycling Center reinforces Republic Services' commitment to circularity, sustainability and the community," said Area President Javara Perrilliat. "This facility will help meet growing demand for recycling throughout the Valley and help our customers achieve their



Members of the Fountain Hills Town Council attended the reopening of the Salt River recycling facility operated by Republic Services. From left are council members Brenda Kalivianakis, Gerry Friedel, Mayor Ginny Dickey, Vice Mayor Sharron Grzybowski and Councilmember Peggy McMahon. (Submitted photo/TOFH Bo Larsen)

sustainability goals."

The facility leverages the latest recycling technology, including five optical sorters that use digital recognition to identify and separate paper or plastic in milliseconds and artificial intelligence to help reduce contamination, according to Republic. AI system data also enables operators to make real-time adjustments to maximize the volume of materials recycled.

Plastics from the Salt River Recycling Center will be transported to Republic's new Polymer Center in Las Vegas, the first facility of its kind in North America. The Polymer Center's innovative processes will grind, sort and wash the plastics so they can become new bottles, jugs and containers, enabling true bottle-to-bottle circularity.

Republic Services says that as one of the

nation's largest recyclers, it processes five million tons of recyclable materials annually through 75 facilities across the country.

Fountain Hills Mayor Ginny Dickey attended the dedication ceremony along with four other council members. Dickey recalled the rocky transition from multiple trash and recycling operations to an agreement with Republic Services to provide curbside recycling collection in conjunction with other trash services.

She added that for more than a decade the program has served Fountain Hills residents very well and provides additional services including an annual household hazardous waste collection event, assists with the town's Make a Difference Day and offers free bulk

and green waste collection on request.

Republic is also the sponsor of an annual recycling art competition in Fountain Hills, and the company provides annual grants for service and non-profit organizations.

"Building this relationship with open and responsive communication and customer service has been prioritized. We strive to successfully meet the needs of our residents," Dickey said. "Republic is not only a reliable utility and resource for our common constituency, but a valuable corporate partner, available for us to be informed about trends or the latest technology."

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Bob Burns can be reached at bburns@iniusa.org.

VOTE

Presidential Preference Election coming soon

Registration
deadline Feb. 20
for March ballot

The Maricopa County Recorder's Office is reminding people that the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming March Presidential Preference Election (PPE) is just weeks.

In order to be eligible to participate in the March 19, 2024, PPE,

individuals must be registered to vote by Feb. 20.

Per state law, voters must be registered as either a Republican or Democrat in order to participate in the March PPE.

Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer reminded voters of the upcoming PPE in a recent social media post showing his personal voter dashboard view at Be-BallotReady.Vote.

People can check their registration, find important election dates and learn more about the elections process at Be-BallotReady.Vote.



Registration deadline Feb. 20.
(Metro Creative)



FOUNTAIN HILLS LIONS CLUB SUPPORTS EXTENDED HANDS FOOD BANK

The Fountain Hills Community Lions Club stopped by the Extended Hands Food Bank to give a donation on Jan. 16. Hunger awareness is a major project for Lions Clubs worldwide. Pictured from left, Ross Jarrett, David Iverson, Allyson Rahn, Rich Durrer and Don Wendel. For additional information on the Fountain Hills Community Lions Club, email FHLions@gmail.com. (Submitted photo)

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COLLABORATION

Local businesses make use of space in Fountain Hills

Three businesses team up on Enterprise Drive

By Cyrus Guccione
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Tucked away in the corner at 16913 E. Enterprise Drive, Suite 103, Sheila Bartnik and Donna Godwin share a single suite to run their businesses.

From the outside, Suite 103 looks pretty ordinary; two entrances, a garage and an outdoor playpen.

Inside, however, Godwin and Bartnik have transformed a single suite into a working space for three thriving businesses.

The Dog House, No Butts About It and Phantom Detailing offer Bartnik and Godwin the versatility to scale their businesses together and oftentimes share clientele.

Godwin and Bartnik have worked together for the last few years before Suite 103 opened up to provide more space and a garage for Bartnik's detailing business.

The larger suite was

previously used as a storage space for the former Nature's Medicine Dispensary before it closed, according to Bartnik.

"When this opened up, Donna was like, 'Oh my gosh, they're moving. You gotta come see this suite,'" Bartnik said, who took over the new space with Godwin last summer.

No Butts About It

Offering pet grooming, in-home pet sitting and dog walking, Bartnik keeps a calm, stress-free environment for her furry friends. It's why Suite 103 has lounge chairs in place of kennels and noise is kept to a minimum to appeal to dogs with high anxiety.

Bartnik started her grooming business after the passing of her dog, Killian, a highly anxious dog who lived to the age of 12. Killian saw Bartnik through challenging periods of her life, including



Keeping a small, inviting and quiet space for pets is what Godwin wants, ensuring dogs feel at home and treated like members of the family. (Submitted photo)

her mother's death.

"When (Killian) passed, it opened up a different opportunity for me because I was thinking, 'How can I help not only older residents but senior citizens in this town with senior dogs and high anxiety dogs?'" Bartnik said.

Killian's face greets every customer when they enter the doors at Suite 103 and reminds Bartnik of her passion for animals.

"I'm not going to give up on your dog, that's the big

thing with me," she said.

Bartnik said she uses hypoallergenic products for her grooming service as many dogs have sensitive skin.

Through her grooming business, Bartnik holds donation drives for local rescues. With a former career in law enforcement, Bartnik also enjoys donating to local veterans service organizations and their support of training service dogs for veterans.

Throughout the week, dogs come and go, but on the weekends, the garage door opens, dog toys are cleared and Suite 103 is converted into a vehicle detailing business.

Phantom Detailing

Phantom Detailing is Bartnik's second business that offers services in ceramic coating, paint corrections and more to cars, trucks and recreational vehicles.

"I don't put all my eggs in one basket," Bartnik says, who wanted to diversify her life to

provide multiple streams of income.

Bartnik offers a monthly maintenance plan and power washing specials and is proud to offer a 20% discount to first responders and retired and active-duty military members.

The Dog House

Bartnik shares Suite 103 with Donna Godwin, the owner and operator of The Dog House, a doggy daycare business.

Keeping a small, inviting and quiet space for pets is what Godwin wants, ensuring dogs feel at home and treated like members of the family. Dogs can relax in the TV room or enjoy the outdoor courtyard to play.

"Our goal is a calm, relaxed, yet playful place to hang," Godwin said in a recent social media post. "We have strived to make it a place they enjoy coming to. Many of them know when they are close to here and get excited knowing where they're



Willow came in to spend the day with Donna Godwin, the owner of The Dog House. (Submitted photo)

going. That is the biggest compliment we can get."

On Tuesday morning, Willow came in to spend the day with Godwin who has become much less anxious since her first day when she nearly jumped out of the window with fear.

"Now, she's a whole new dog," Godwin said.

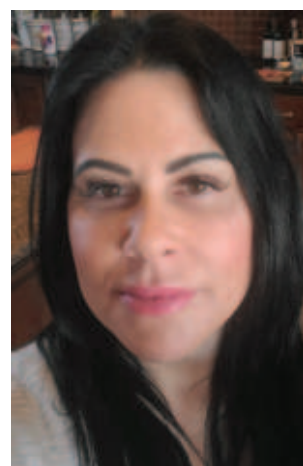
For more information on No Butts About It or Phantom Detailing, contact Sheila Bartnik at 602-821-0033, by email at sbartnik1970@hotmail.com or visit her Instagram page @NoButtsAboutIt-PetSittingFH.

For information about The Dog House, contact Donna Godwin at 918-855-9183, by email at donnasdogparty@gmail.com or online at Facebook.com/DGFurbabycare.

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Cyrus Guccione can be reached at cguccione@iniusa.org.



On the weekends, Suite 103 is converted into a vehicle detailing business. (Submitted photo)



Sheila Bartnik owns No Butts About It and Phantom Detailing. (Submitted photo)

UPDATE

Fountain Hills Community Foundation changes timing for grant applications

Flutter at the Fountain held April 12-14

The Fountain Hills Community Foundation (FHCF) will now accept grant applications in the late summer this year due to a change in fundraising schedules, according to FHCF president, Dori Wittrig.

The FHCF's grant funding season typically takes place in January, however, FHCF board members made the decision to move the dates for Flutter at the Fountain from November to April to give the planning committee time to expand the Flutter at the Fountain event to three days, according to a press release by Debbie Clason of Clason Communications.

Flutter at the Fountain is the FHCF's main fundraiser and accounts for the bulk of grants awarded to nonprofit organizations each year, Clason added. Since its



The Fountain Hills Community Foundation will accept grant applications in the late summer due to a change in fundraising schedules. (Times Independent file photo)

inception in 2020, Flutter at the Fountain has raised nearly \$150,000, all of which was granted to nonprofit organizations in Fountain Hills and the surrounding communities, Clason said.

"Because of the change in our fundraising efforts, we will be reaching out to our nonprofit partners in late summer to make their grant requests," Wittrig said. "We will then be disbursing funds in the last part of September.

"As always, we'll be hosting our 'Giving Day' which is always a heart-warming event for everyone involved."

Flutter '24 is scheduled for April 12-14 at Fountain Park.

The theme for the three-day event is "Celebrating Our Hometown Heroes," and includes plans to honor individuals who help keep Fountain Hills' nonprofit organizations running smoothly, Clason added.

In addition to the tra-

ditional butterfly auction and gala, activities will include a family day, Foodie Fest, Four Peaks Rotary chili cook-off on Friday, and Sami Fine Jewelry's Love in the Hills vow renewal ceremony on Sunday, Clason said.

Proceeds from the ticket sales and auction are awarded to nonprofit organizations that serve youth, seniors and families.

The 2024 butterfly collection and ticketing information including three-day package discounts are available at Flutter24.givesmart.com.

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January 8, 2024 - January 12, 2024

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17204 E Estancia Way	\$529,000	18248 E Spring Valley Ct	\$785,053

Homes sold this period: 4	Median Price: \$762,431	Average price: \$813,754
Same period last year: 7	Median Price: \$765,460	Average price: \$906,427

Fountain Hills

14519 N Adero Canyon Dr	\$1,039,995	16615 E Gunsight Dr, #210	\$325,000
15633 E Cholla Dr	\$720,000	14153 E Highland Ave	\$1,350,000
16351 E Emerald Dr	\$875,000	16065 E Ponderosa Dr	\$1,050,000
15905 E Firerock CC Dr	\$2,450,000	13609 N Prospect Trl	\$1,450,000

Homes sold this period: 8	Median Price: \$1,044,998	Average price: \$1,157,499
Same period last year: 10	Median Price: \$657,250	Average price: \$1,101,680

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



CHE RENEE LIVING CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Reiki Master Practitioner Che Renee of Che Renee Living in Fountain Hills celebrated her new Chamber membership with a ribbon cutting ceremony among friends and members of the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce. For more information about Che Renee Living, visit chereneeliving.com. (Photo courtesy of Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce)



THE VERDE COMMUNITIES



FIREWISE

Verdes volunteers help prevent wildfire

Annual border clearing underway

Residents of the Verdes volunteering to keep the communities safe from wildfire have had a cool environment to work with since clearing efforts began earlier this month.

With a dry summer this past year vegetation has not grown as much as some previous years. However, an increased fire risk may be the result as many plants have died. The dead vegetation needs to be cleared from the community borders to help reduce the risk of wildfire.

Border clearing began earlier this month with volunteer workdays being Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting around 7:30 a.m. and



Volunteer work crews are clearing heavy vegetation that grows into a fire hazard along the boundaries within the Verde Communities. (Submitted photo/Diane Newcomb)

working for a few hours each day.

Crews began the cleanup at the Verde Trailhead into McDowell Mountain Regional Park off Palo Fiero Drive and are working south toward McDowell Mountain Road along the western Rio Verde border.

Those interested in helping with the project can contact vol-

unteer coordinator, Diane Newcomb at dnewcomb1957@cox.net or 856-498-4160 to be included in the volunteer emails, where information on start times and locations is provided. Volunteers participating should be aware that gloves, loppers and shovels are in high demand, and they should bring their own if they have them.

ART LEAGUE

Verdes artists host series

Lectures continue to April

The Verdes Art League will host its 2024 Lecture Series on designated Fridays in the Rio Verde Community Center Multi-Purpose Room at 2 p.m.

As in past seasons, all presenters are senior docents at the Phoenix Art Museum.

Scheduled on Feb. 16, is American Abstract

Expressionism - Women of Influence with Sue Robisch.

March 22 the program is Masters of Light - The Baroque Art of Vermeer and Caravaggio with Grant Colwell.

The series concludes April 19 with Beyond Artworks - Artist Stories of Opportunity and Inspiration with Liz Smith.



Art series begins soon. (Metro Creative)

LECTURES

ASU series at the Verdes

Through Feb. 27

The annual ASU Lecture Series at the Verde Communities continues each week through Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Community Church of the Verdes. Each program begins at 4 p.m.

The lecturers scheduled for the remaining series include the following.

*Feb. 6: normally saved for the final presentation of the season, the performance with Musical Storytelling,

from Vivaldi to Vaughan Williams will be performed with Professors Katherine McLin, violin, and Andrew Campbell, piano, School of Music, Dance and Theatre, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

*Feb. 13: Fixing American College Sports: An Opportunity for Higher Education with Professor Victoria Jackson, Sports Historian, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies.

*Feb. 20: Two Decades of NASA Satellite

Observations of Changing Water Availability, and Implications for Arizona with Professor Jay Famigliatti, Chief Scientist, Arizona Water Innovation Initiative, School of Environment and Sustainability.

*Feb. 27: Landscapes of Extraction: The Art of Mining in the American West with Professor Betsy Fahlman, Art Historian, School of Art.

All Verdes residents and their guests are invited to attend the lectures. Lecture series is organized by Frank Haggard.

COMMUNITY

PROPERTIES

NPOA update for the week of Jan. 21

Meetings held every Tuesday

The Neighborhood Property Owners' Association's Committee of Architecture reviewed and approved two permit applications at the meetings held on Jan. 23, with no applications in need of further review.

Approvals were as follows:

*15513 Cavern - wall and fencing.

*15211 Catalpa - accessory building.

The NPOA Annual General Meeting will be Saturday, March 16, at

10 a.m. in the Fountain Hills Community Center.

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

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

The Neighborhood Committee of Architecture (NCOA) meets Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to review

plans submitted during the previous week. Deadlines for permit submittal is Fridays at 2 p.m. to be reviewed on the following Tuesday.

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

Anyone interested in volunteering on the 2024-25 NPOA Board of Directors should contact the office.

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

GOLF

Senior Golf Association seeing a resurgence

Membership back in full swing

The Arizona Seniors Golf Association (ASGA) experienced a recent resurgence in membership, back to pre-COVID levels.

At the end of last year's tournament schedule, several members of the Valleywide golf group put a plan together to resurrect the ASGA, according to a press release. The group had 35 members during the pandemic but is now above 100 with 101 members.

The non-profit organization has existed since 1959 for senior golfers to play at clubs with friends and new acquaintances around the Valley. Members have the opportunity to win team prizes and individual awards for skins and closest to the pin, and play in the finest private and public clubs in the Phoenix area.

Fountain Hills resident Gary Ray and his friends Scott Thompson and Ron Helle helped breathe life into the resurgence effort last year. Ray is now the ASGA president, and he received help from former board members Ken Welch, Steve Davidson, Don Sathern, Tom Rhoades and Scott Voyles.

Ray made rounds to courses around the Val-



The Arizona Senior Golf Association has more than 100 members for the first time since COVID-19. (Metro Creative)

ley to enlist support, and Helle, a certified public accountant, developed the new financial structure of the ASGA. Thompson created a website to provide information and allow people to join the organization and register for upcoming tournaments.

Members must be over 50 years of age and have a United State Golf Association (USGA) Handicap Index to join. The ASGA hosts several events from November to May each year, and members can pick and choose which events to play in.

The ASGA averaged 68 golfers at its first two events in the 2024 season, the press release continued. The organization will next hold tournaments at Arrowhead Country Club in Glendale on Monday, Feb. 5, and at Oranage Tree Resort in Scottsdale on Monday, Feb.

19. The association has eight more scheduled events in March, April and May.

Annual membership dues are \$100, and each event has its own additional costs. Some events will have a lunch and/or dinner afterward, and all events will have 18 holes of golf. Excess funds are donated to charities such as the Arizona Junior Golf Association and various disabled veteran groups.

The goal of the ASGA is to make the best experience for senior golfers. They hope to continue to bring in new members and are seeking sponsors willing to help rebuild the organization, including contributions of prizes for future tournaments.

Visit azsga.golfgenius.com to learn more and register for the ASGA. Interested golfers can also view the calendar of events for the rest of the 2024 season.

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FEBRUARY 3	9:00-10:00 AM The Health Benefits of Eating Natural Foods <i>Fountain Hills Healthy Heartbeats with Debbie Romano</i>	
	10:00-11:00 AM Get to the Core of It - Find Inner Balance and Strengthen Your Core <i>Fountain Hills Post Acute Physical Therapist</i>	
FEBRUARY 10	9:00-10:00 AM Prioritizing Your Mental Health <i>Desert Family Home Health</i>	
	10:00-11:00 AM New Day Lifestyles - Focus on Independence but Know Your Options <i>Julia Moon</i>	
FEBRUARY 17	9:00 AM-2:00 PM Fountain Hills Community Health Fair <i>Visit Fountain View Village's Booth</i>	
FEBRUARY 24	9:00-10:00 AM The Importance of Taking Prescribed Medications Correctly <i>Encompass Health</i>	
	10:00-11:00 AM Nurturing Your Body and Mind <i>Mayo Clinic Trained Wellness Coach Meichelle Roberge</i>	
	11:00-11:30 AM Closing Speech and Raffle Drawing	

SPACE IS LIMITED, SO RSVP NOW! (480) 485-2950

Fort McDowell has new leadership

Sandra Pattea has been elected Fort McDowell's new president. Read about that, and other election results, online at fhtimes.com/stories/pattea-elected-fort-mcdowell-tribal-president,472707.



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BUSINESS

Fountain Hills man launches Fight for a Living Wage

Effort to close wealth gap

By Bob Burns
Independent
Newsmedia

Fountain Hills resident Bill Meade says he has had a good life, enough so to retire early, but since the pandemic his eyes have been opened to an ever-increasing wealth gap in this country that finds his own millennial children struggling to make ends meet.

Meade said he made a decision to devote this time of his life in an effort to make things better for the middle class being left behind. He started doing research about a year ago and in seeking advice he recalls being told his effort would be like “climbing Mount Everest with no legs.”

“An attitude like that is the reason nothing ever gets changed,” Meade said.

With the goal to make an impact Meade has launched Fight for a Living Wage (FFLW) as a small grass roots effort using social media. He launched, with the help of

David Baxter, a small businessman in Mesa operating Beanchain coffeeshop.

Meade describes his meeting of Baxter as serendipitous. He was assisting a friend with transportation to an eye doctor in Mesa. When there was a delay in the appointment, they went looking for a place to kill some time. Meade said when he walked up to the Beanchain coffee cart, the first thing Baxter said to him was that his business model is to provide a living wage for his employees. Meade used the Beanchain site to officially launch his effort earlier this month.

In his statement, Meade said, “With the help of a small team and the talents and example of Beanchain’s founder David Baxter, we are officially launching a non-profit organization called Fight for a Living Wage – a living wage; not a minimum wage; not a fair wage, but the kind of income that allows American families to live



Bill Meade addresses a group of interested small business owners in Mesa recently at the launch of his Fight for a Living Wage effort. (Submitted photo/Dianne Price)

with comfort, dignity and opportunity.”

With that, the effort to develop a pilot program in Arizona began, largely with volunteers, and they hope the effort spreads nationwide.

Too many Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, according to Meade. He notes that roughly 52% of young adults are living with their parents today.



Bill Meade, far left, discusses plans for Fight for a Living Wage with a small group in Mesa recently. (Submitted photo/Dianne Price)

“Arizona’s minimum wage of \$14.35 doesn’t even come close to providing families with a basic standard of living.”

Bill Meade

Founder Fight for a Living Wage

“That’s higher than the 48% of young people who lived with their parents at the end of the Great Depression,” Meade said.

Starting out as a card-carrying union member Meade eventually rose to become the CEO of a publicly traded company.

“I’m not against peo-

ple making money,” Meade said.

But he notes there needs to be a way to find a balance. Food, shelter and healthcare are the components of an acceptable standard of living, and without the wages to meet these needs, everyone suffers.

Baxter and his wife, Shannon, are small busi-

ness owners who are taking action, according to Meade. They opened their worker-directed business last summer with the goal of engaging employees in decision making and paying them a living wage.

Beanchain expects to provide dedicated employees with profit-sharing and equity in the company, Baxter said. They have also created a shared workspace open to the community to allow businesses and jobseekers to learn from one another.

“Arizona’s minimum wage of \$14.35 (an increase as of Jan. 1) doesn’t even come close to providing families with a basic standard of living,” Meade said. His plan is to try new strategies in Arizona with the intention of sharing a living wage toolbox with people and organizations in other states.

We invite readers to submit their civil comments on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org. Bob Burns can be reached at bburns@iniusa.org.

LOCAL CLUB

RWOTH to meet Feb. 8

To host JoAnn Gerardo

JoAnn Gerardo from Beauty and Heart with Jo will speak at the Feb. 8 Republican Women of the Hills (RWOTH) meeting.

RWOTH meets every second Thursday of each month.

The Feb. 8 meeting

will cover updates for state and local issues along with the Gerardo’s featured presentation.

The topic of her presentation is “Taking Charge of Your Heart Health,” where attendees will receive goodie bags relating to heart health.

“We encourage all to wear red to support healthy heart aware-



JoAnn Gerardo will speak at the upcoming Republican Women of the Hills meeting Feb. 8. (Times Independent file photo)

ness,” said RWOTH Spokesperson Crystal Cavanaugh.

Gerardo will soon travel to Washington, D.C., prior to the meeting to present to Congress on heart health.

Club updates

As of Feb. 8, RWOTH meetings will be held in Christ Church’s Multipurpose Room at 15555

E. Bainbridge Ave. In addition to the new location, RWOTH’s new meeting time is 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Both men and women are invited to attend Republican Women of the Hills, Cavanaugh said. Yearly membership is \$25, but guests are welcome with a \$5 contribution per meeting, Cavanaugh added.

“We met many new faces at the recent Expo held at the Fountain Hills Community Center and we hope to see you on February 8,” said Cavanaugh.

RSVP to the meeting at rwoth.com. Guests should sign in at the door.

For additional information send an email to rwoth@gmail.com.

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works: See Below

Guess Who?

I am a singer born on January 29, 1982, in Indiana. I performed in theater groups, and moved to Los Angeles to pursue a musical career. I appeared on "American Idol" and went on to release an album that reached the top ten. I now tour with the rock band "Queen."

Answer: Adam Lambert

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to organization.

T S M Y E S

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: System

Answers:

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

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!

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



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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				

CLUES ACROSS

- Become less intense
- Variety of pear
- Religion native to China
- Type of tooth
- Fitted out
- Make every effort
- Autonomic nervous system
- Complete
- Alternate name
- River in France and Belgium
- Miami's mascot is one
- Turfs
- Most cognizant of reality
- Broad volcanic crater
- Canadian surname
- Satisfaction
- Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- Collide
- Immune response
- Feline
- High opinion of one's own appearance

CLUES DOWN

- Thin strip to align parts
- Containers
- Convicted American spy
- Breathe noisily
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- I.M., architect
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Dutch and German surname
- Square measures
- 2,000 lbs.
- Degrade someone
- A place ships dock (abbr.)
- Evergreen tropical tree
- Reality TV star Richards
- Nonflowering aquatic plant
- Stakes
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Make warm again
- Light beams
- Lethal dose
- Terrorist group
- Kids love him
- Naturally occurring solid
- German surname meaning 'man from Saxony'
- Popular cuisine
- Partner to cheese
- Type of horse
- ___ Diego
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Most shrewd
- It may be for shopping
- Midway between south and southeast
- A stock of foods
- The bindings of books
- Swiss river
- Megabyte
- Sammy ___, songwriter
- Dutch colonist
- Clare Booth ___, American writer
- Sun or solar disk
- Popular type of bread
- Transfers of money (abbr.)
- Association of engineering professionals
- Young women's association
- City
- Niger-Congo branch of languages
- Pointed end of a pen

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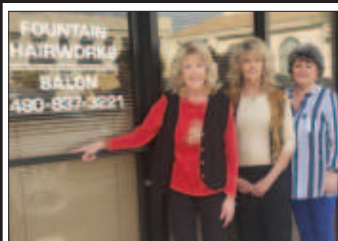
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Town of FOUNTAIN HILLS

Development

Services Department

Planning & Zoning Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.** in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the **Fountain Hills Planning and Zoning Commission** will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 24-05, amending Zoning Ordinance Chapter 5, General Provision, Section 5.13, Community Residences regarding inspection and re-inspection of properties for compliance with ordinance requirements.

Case #TAM24-000002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.** in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the **Town Council** will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 24-05, amending Zoning Ordinance Chapter 5, General Provision, Section 5.13, Community Residences regarding inspection and re-inspection of properties for compliance with ordinance requirements.

Case #TAM24-000002

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, January 24, 31, 2024/634951



Town of FOUNTAIN HILLS

Development

Services Department

Planning & Zoning Division

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.** in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the **Fountain Hills Planning and Zoning Commission** will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 24-06, amending Zoning Ordinance Chapter 1, Introduction, Section 1.12 Definitions,, Chapter 5, General Provision, Section 5.14, Home Occupations, Chapter 10, Single-Family Zoning Districts, Section 10.02, Permitted Uses, and Chapter 11, Multi-Family Zoning Districts, Section 11.02 Permitted Uses regarding home occupations.

Case #TAM24-000001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.** in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the **Town Council** will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 24-06, amending Zoning Ordinance Chapter 1, Introduction, Section 1.12 Definitions,, Chapter 5, General Provision, Section 5.14, Home Occupations, Chapter 10, Single-Family Zoning Districts, Section 10.02, Permitted Uses, and Chapter 11, Multi-Family Zoning Districts, Section 11.02 Permitted Uses regarding home occupations.

Case #TAM24-000001

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, January 24, 31, 2024/634950

PROPERTY FILE A PROTEST IN WRITING AGAINST A PROPOSED AMENDMENT, THE CHANGE SHALL NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE EXCEPT BY THE FAVORABLE VOTE OF THREE-FOURTHS (3/4) OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL. IF ANY MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ARE UNABLE TO VOTE ON SUCH A QUESTION BECAUSE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, THEN THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF VOTES FOR PASSAGE OF THE QUESTION SHALL BE THREE-FOURTHS (3/4) OF THE REMAINING MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL, PROVIDED THAT SUCH REQUIRED NUMBER OF VOTES SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN A MAJORITY OF THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGALLY ESTABLISHED COUNCIL. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE VOTE SHALL BE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER. A PROTEST FILED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE SIGNED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OPPOSING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK NOT LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OR ON AN EARLIER TIME AND DATE ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL.

2. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, “ZONING AREA” MEANS BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE AREA WITHIN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) FEET, INCLUDING ALL RIGHTS-OF-WAY, OF THE AFFECTED PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OR CHANGE; AND,

B. THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OR CHANGE.

G. ACTIONS.

1. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION. THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION:

A. MAY RECOMMEND APPROVAL, APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS, OR DENIAL, OR MAY CONTINUE A PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

B. The Commission may for any reason, when it deems such action necessary or desirable, continue such hearing to a time and certain place. Within sixty (60) days after the date of the original hearing, the Commission shall render its decision in the form of a written recommendation to the Council. The recommendation shall include the rationale for the recommendation. However, if the Commission is not able to make a recommendation to the Council at the continued meeting and the applicant does not consent to a further continuance, the matter shall be automatically forwarded to the Council with a recommendation for denial.

C. SHALL, UNLESS WAIVED BY THE APPLICANT, WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE ORIGINAL HEARING, RENDER ITS DECISION IN THE FORM OF A WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL.

D. SHALL INCLUDE THE RATIONALE FOR ITS RECOMMENDATION.

2. Prior to publishing a petitioned zoning map change, the Commission may, on its own motion, delimit or extend the boundaries of such area, so as to constitute a more reasonable zone district boundary.

3. In the case of proposed amendments which are initiated by the Commission, the Commission shall hold a public hearing as required by this section and shall either:

a. Transmit such proposal to the Council which shall thereupon proceed as set forth herein for any other amendment; or

b. Vote to quash the Commission initiated proposal, in which case no further action need be taken by the Commission or Council.

4. The Commission may recommend to the Council that a time limit be established for the development of the proposal for which a rezoning is conditionally approved:

2E. TOWN Council. Action: THE TOWN COUNCIL:

a. MAY APPROVE, APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS, DENY, CONTINUE, OR REMAND BACK TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR FURTHER STUDY OF BOUNDARY CHANGES AND/OR A PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

B1. MAY, EOnce the Commission has held a public hearing, the Council may adopt the recommendations of the Commission without holding a public hearing if there is no objection, request for public hearing, or other protest. **FOLLOWING PROPER NOTICE AS REQUIRED IN SECTION 2.01 D, F**the Council shall hold a public hearing if requested by the party aggrieved or any member of the public or of the Council. Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given in the time and manner provided for the giving of notice of the hearing by the Commission as specified in Subsection **D E**. In addition, the Town may give notice of the hearing in such other manner, as it may

deem necessary or desirable.

2. If the owners of twenty (20) percent or more either of the area of the lots included in a proposed change, or of those immediately adjacent in the rear or any side thereof extending one hundred and fifty (150) feet therefrom, or of those directly opposite thereto extending one hundred and fifty (150) feet from the street frontage of the opposite lots, file a protest in writing against a proposed amendment, it shall not become effective except by the favorable vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all members of the Council. If any members of the Council are unable to vote on such a question because of a conflict of interest, then the required number of votes for passage of the question shall be three-fourths (3/4) of the remaining membership of the Council, providing that such required number of votes shall in no event be less than a majority of the full membership of the Town Council.

3. If the Council's recommendation is to overrule the recommendation of the Commission, such decision shall only require the vote of the majority of the members of the Council voting on the question.

C4. The Council shall not make any changes in any proposed zoning district boundaries or zoning district classification recommended by the Commission until such proposed changes have been referred back to the Commission for a report. Failure of the Commission to file a report back to the Council within a specified time response period shall be deemed to be approval of the proposed changes. The specified time period for a Commission response shall be SIXTY (60) fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the recommended change(s), unless the Commission requests and the Council grants an extension of an additional SIXTY (60)fifteen (15) days.

D5. MAY AAt the time of rezoning, establish a schedule for development of the specific use or uses for which rezoning is requested. **IF, AT THE EXPIRATION OF THIS PERIOD, THE PROPERTY HAS NOT BEEN IMPROVED FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS CONDITIONALLY APPROVED, THE TOWN, AFTER NOTIFICATION BY CERTIFIED MAIL TO THE OWNER AND APPLICANT WHO REQUESTED THE REZONING, MAY SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO EXTEND, REMOVE OR DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT OR TAKE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO CAUSE THE PROPERTY TO REVERT TO ITS FORMER ZONING CLASSIFICATION.**

HF. Reconsideration of Denied Amendments: In the event that **an APPLICATION** petition for an amendment is denied by the Council, or is withdrawn after the Commission hearing, the Commission shall not consider the **APPLICATION** petition or any other **APPLICATION** petition for the same amendment of this ordinance as it applies to the same property described in the original **APPLICATION** petition, or any part thereof, within a period of one (1) year from the date of such denial action, or withdrawal unless the conditions, upon which the original denial or withdrawal was based, have changed.

G. Exceptions: In the event that a request for amendment concerns only the amendment of general requirements of this ordinance, no signature of affected property owners or posting of property shall be required; however, there shall be compliance with all other provisions of this section:

IH. REZONE TO OPEN SPACE. Exceptional Procedures for Rezoning Land to the Open Space Recreational (OSR) or Open Space Conservation (OSC) or Open Space Preservation OSP Zoning Districts: In addition to the procedural regulations contained in this Chapter, all of the following procedures are required to be met prior to rezoning land to the OSR or OSC or OSP Zoning Districts:

1. The property owner(s) and any lienholders of record shall specifically request, in writing, that the zoning district designation be applied to their property.

2. The property owner(s) and any lienholders of record shall sign a forbearance agreement that would be recorded in the office of the Maricopa County Recorder, stating that:

a. If the property is to be rezoned to the Open Space Recreational Zoning District, that the owner has voluntarily requested a zoning district designation that provides for little economic use of the property and that the owner is fully informed and aware of this fact.

b. If the property is to be rezoned to the Open Space Conservation Zoning District, that the owner has voluntarily requested a zoning district designation that provides for no viable economic use of the property and that the owner is fully informed and aware of this fact.

c. If the property is to be rezoned to the Open Space Preservation Zoning District, that the owner has either voluntarily requested, or has agreed to, a zoning district designation that provides for little economic use of the property and that the owner is fully informed and aware of this fact.

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, January 31, February 7, 2024/636114 (pg3 of 3)

1. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATION FROM THE APPLICANT AS NECESSARY TO PREPARE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**
2. **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND TOWN COUNCIL REVIEW AFTER STAFF REVIEW AND PROPER NOTICING, THE REZONING OR ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND TOWN COUNCIL. FOR REZONE CHANGES, UNLESS THE APPLICANT REQUESTS A DELAY IN WRITING, STAFF SHALL PLACE THE REQUESTS ON A PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS OF RECEIVING A COMPLETE APPLICATION. AFTER PUBLIC HEARING, THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION WILL MAKE A WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL. THE REQUEST WILL BE PLACED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE COUNCIL AGENDA AT LEAST TWENTY-EIGHT (28) DAYS AFTER THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ACTION.**

D. NOTICE. Hearings: **NOTICE OF HEARINGS BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND THE TOWN COUNCIL UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE PROVIDED SEPARATELY OR CONCURRENTLY IN THE SAME NOTICE.** When the Planning and Zoning Commission holds a public hearing concerning the zoning ordinance, notice of the time and place of the hearing including a general explanation of the matter to be considered and including a general description of the area affected **HEARING NOTICES** shall be given at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing in the following manner:

1. **FOR CHANGES TO ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES:**

A. The nNotice OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE HEARING(S) INCLUDING A GENERAL EXPLANATION OF THE MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED AND A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AFFECTED shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published or circulated in Fountain Hills.

B. ONE OR MORE NOTICES, AS REQUIRED BY THE DIRECTOR, SHALL BE A posted ON THE PROPERTY REQUESTING THE ZONING AMENDMENT. THE SIGN notice shall be A MINIMUM TWO (2) FEET WIDE BY THREE (3) FEET TALL and printed so that the following are visible from a distance of one hundred (100) feet with the word "ZONING" IN A MINIMUM THREE AND ONE-HALF (3 ½) INCH LETTERS AT THE TOP; THE NOTICE SHALL ALSO INCLUDE: the present zoning district classification, the proposed zoning district classification, **THE PROPOSED USE OF THE PROPERTY**, and the **LOCATION**, date and time of the hearing(S). **IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ERECT AND MAINTAIN THE POSTING.**

C. NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE HEARING(S) INCLUDING A GENERAL EXPLANATION OF THE MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED AND A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA AFFECTED SHALL BE SENT BY FIRST CLASS MAIL TO EACH REAL PROPERTY OWNER, AS SHOWN ON THE CURRENT RECORDS OF THE COUNTY ASSESSOR, WITHIN THREE HUNDRED (300) FEET OF THE PROPERTY REQUESTING THE ZONING AMENDMENT.

2. **FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE:**

A. NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE HEARING(S) AND THE CHANGES TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AT LEAST ONCE IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION PUBLISHED OR CIRCULATED IN FOUNTAIN HILLS. THE CHANGES SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN A "DISPLAY AD" COVERING NOT LESS THAN ONE-EIGHTH OF A FULL PAGE. THE TOWN SHALL ALSO SEND NOTICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL TO PERSONS WHO REGISTER THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES WITH THE TOWN AS BEING INTERESTED IN RECEIVING SUCH NOTICE. THE TOWN MAY CHARGE A FEE NOT TO EXCEED FIVE DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR PROVIDING THIS SERVICE. In proceedings involving rezoning of land, which abuts other municipalities or unincorporated areas of the county or a combination thereof, copies of the notice of public hearing shall be transmitted to the planning agency of such governmental unit abutting such land. In addition to notice by publication, a municipality may give notice of the hearing in such other manner, as it may deem necessary or desirable.

3. In proceedings that are not initiated by the property owner involving rezoning of land which may change the zoning classification, notice by first class mail shall be sent to each real property owner, as shown on the last assessment of the property, of the area to be rezoned and all property owners, as shown on the last assessment of the property, within three hundred feet of the property, to be rezoned:

4. In proceedings involving one or more of the following proposed changes or related series of changes in the standards governing land uses, notice shall be provided in the manner prescribed by Subsection (C)(5) of this Section:

- a. A ten percent or more increase or decrease in the number of square feet or units that may be developed;
- b. A ten percent or more increase or reduction in the allowable

height of buildings:

c. An increase or reduction in the allowable number of stories of buildings:

d. A ten percent or more increase or decrease in setback or open space requirements:

e. An increase or reduction in permitted uses:

5. In proceedings governed by Subsection (C)(4) of this Section, the municipality shall provide notice to real property owners pursuant to at least one of the following notification procedures:

a. Notice shall be sent by first class mail to each real property owner, as shown on the last assessment, whose real property is directly governed by changes:

b. If the Town issues utility bills or other mass mailings that periodically include notices or other informational or advertising materials, the municipality shall include notice of such changes with such utility bills or other mailings:

c. The Town shall publish such changes prior to the first hearing on such changes in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town. The changes shall be published in a "display ad" covering not less than one-eighth of a full page:

6. If notice is provided pursuant to Subdivisions (b) or (c) of Paragraph (5), the municipality shall also send notice by first class mail to persons who register their names and addresses with the municipality as being interested in receiving such notice. The municipality may charge a fee not to exceed five dollars per year for providing this service and may adopt procedures to implement this provision:

37. IF A PROPERLY NOTICED HEARING IS HELD AND CONTINUED TO A DATE CERTAIN, THE NOTICE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY TO THE CONTINUED HEARING OR ANY FUTURE CONTINUATIONS OF THE SAME HEARING THAT ARE CONTINUED IN THE SAME FASHION.

4. NOTWITHSTANDING Notwithstanding the notice requirements set forth in Subsection (C)(4) of this Section this Subsection, the failure of any person or entity to receive notice shall not constitute grounds for any court to invalidate the actions of a municipality for which the notice was given.

ED. HEARINGS. Commission Actions:

1. Upon receipt of any complete application for amendment, ~~t~~The Community Development Director shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the proposed zone change, amendment, or addition and shall give notice in accordance with the **Public Notice Requirements Deadline NOTICE REQUIREMENTS** in Section 2.01 **D** (C) of this ordinance.

2. ANY PERSON MAY APPEAR AT A PUBLIC HEARING AND SUBMIT ORAL OR WRITTEN EVIDENCE, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A PERSON OR AN ORGANIZATION. EACH PERSON WHO APPEARS AT A PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE IDENTIFIED, STATE THEIR NAME AND TOWN, AND, IF APPEARING ON BEHALF OF A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION, STATE THE NAME AND TOWN OF THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION BEING REPRESENTED. THE PRESIDING OFFICER MAY ESTABLISH TIME LIMITS FOR INDIVIDUAL TESTIMONY AND MAY REQUIRE THAT INDIVIDUALS WITH SHARED CONCERNS SELECT ONE OR MORE SPOKESPERSONS TO PRESENT TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS.

3. THE BODY CONDUCTING THE HEARING MAY CAUSE SUCH INVESTIGATIONS TO BE MADE AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ON ANY MATTER TO BE HEARD BY IT. SUCH INVESTIGATION MAY BE MADE BY A COMMITTEE OF ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE BODY CONDUCTING THE HEARING OR BY MEMBERS OF ITS STAFF OR ITS AGENTS OR EMPLOYEES. THE FACTS ESTABLISHED BY SUCH INVESTIGATION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BODY CONDUCTING THE HEARING EITHER IN WRITING, TO BE FILED WITH THE RECORDS OF THE MATTER, OR IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BODY, AND MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE BODY IN MAKING ITS DECISION.

4. THE BODY CONDUCTING THE HEARING SHALL CAUSE A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF ALL PERTINENT TESTIMONY HEARD AT SUCH PUBLIC HEARING, TOGETHER WITH A RECORD OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL PERSONS TESTIFYING, TO BE PREPARED AND FILED WITH THE PAPERS RELATING TO SUCH MATTER.

F. EFFECT OF WRITTEN PROTEST.

1. IF THE OWNERS OF TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OR MORE OF THE PROPERTY BY AREA AND NUMBER OF LOTS, TRACTS AND CONDOMINIUM UNITS WITHIN THE ZONING AREA OF THE AFFECTED

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, January 31, February 7, 2024/636113 (pg2 of 3)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kathy Jo Oliver is the named Personal Representative under the Last Will & Testament of Stephen V. Lasco, dated March 14, 2023. Stephen V. Lasco died on January 6, 2024. No probate estate will be open. All persons having claims against Stephen V. Lasco, or his estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim to: Eleonora "Lee" Holmes, Esq., Holmes Law, PLLC, PO Box 18587, Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269. DATED this 9th day of January, 2024. Holmes Law, PLLC P.O. Box 18587 Fountain Hills, AZ 85269.
Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, January 24, 31, February 7, 2024/633831

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-15

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE FOUNTAIN HILLS ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 1.12, DEFINITIONS CHANGING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR AND SECTION 2.01, AMENDMENTS OR ZONE CHANGES

ENACTMENTS:

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

SECTION 1. That Section 1.12, Definitions, of the Fountain Hills Zoning Ordinance is amended as follows:

Community Development **SERVICES** Director (**OR DIRECTOR**): The person appointed by the Town Manager to be the Community Development **SERVICES** Director. If there is no such person designated by the Town Manager, the Town Manager is the Community Development **SERVICES** Director.

SECTION 2. That Section 2.01, AMENDMENTS OR ZONE CHANGES, of the Fountain Hills Zoning Ordinance is amended as provided in Exhibit A attached hereto. **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Fountain Hills, Maricopa County, Arizona, this 19th day of December, 2023.

FOR THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS: **ATTESTED TO:**
/s/Ginny Dickey, Mayor /s/Linda Mendenhall, Town Clerk

REVIEWED BY: **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**
/s/Rachael Goodwin, Town Manager /s/Aaron D. Arnson, Town Attorney

Exhibit A

Section 2.01 Amendments or Zone Changes

A. Purpose: The Council may, from time to time as public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and/or good zoning practice requires, change the district boundaries or amend, change, repeal or supplement the regulations herein established. Such change or amendment may be initiated by the Council or the Planning and Zoning Commission. **OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, MAY APPLY TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT DESIGNATION OF THEIR PROPERTY. ALL REQUESTS TO AMEND THESE REGULATIONS OR CHANGE ZONING BOUNDARIES SHALL BE PROCESSED AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.** or by petition of one or more owners of real property within the area proposed to be affected by the change.

B. **APPLICATION.** Petitions for Amendments:

1. **COMPLETE APPLICATION.** **APPLICATIONS** Petition for change of district boundaries or amendments of regulations shall be filed **ELECTRONICALLY ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE BY AN OWNER OF THE REAL PROPERTY PROPOSED TO BE CHANGED USING THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR FOR SUCH APPLICATIONS. ALL SUCH APPLICATIONS SHALL INCLUDE THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION.** with the Community Development Office by an owner of real property within the area proposed to be changed, or by the Council or Planning and Zoning Commission. In the case of the petition filed by a party other than the Council or Commission requesting a zoning district change, which includes other property in addition to that, owned by the petitioner, the petition shall include the signatures of the real property owners representing at least seventy-five (75) percent of the land in the area proposed to be changed. All such petitions shall be filed on a form provided for the purpose and shall include:

2. **PROJECT NARRATIVE. A WRITTEN STATEMENT WHICH INCLUDES:**

a. **A NARRATIVE DESCRIBING THE EXISTING ZONING, PROPOSED ZONING, DESIRED USE OF THE PROPERTY, AND REASONS JUSTIFYING THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN ZONING AND ITS CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN.**

b. A map showing the particular property or properties for which the change of zone is requested and substantially the adjoining properties and the public streets and ways within a radius of three hundred (300) feet of the exterior boundaries thereof.

c. **A TRUE STATEMENT REVEALING ANY CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD (IF ANY) WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE PERMITTED USES OF THE PROPERTY IF REZONED AS REQUESTED AND THE DATE OR DATES (IF ANY) OF EXPIRATION THEREOF.**

d. **SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS, AND OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (IF ANY) AS THE APPLICANT MAY DESIRE TO PRESENT.**

3b. A tentative development plan. **FOR PROJECTS THAT WILL RESULT IN DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT OF A TRACT, PARCEL, OR LOT, THE REZONING REQUEST SHALL INCLUDE A TENTATIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, DRAWN TO SCALE. SUBSEQUENT SITE PLANS MUST SUBSTANTIALLY CONFORM TO THE TENTATIVE PLAN SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CHANGE OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. THE TENTATIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN** which shall show, **AS APPLICABLE,** the following:

A(1). Topographical description showing existing and proposed grades and drainage systems, and natural and manmade features with indication as to which are to be retained and which are to be removed or altered.

B(2). Proposed street system.

C(3). Proposed block layouts.

D(4). Proposed reservation for parks, parkways, playgrounds, recreation areas and other open space.

(5). Off-street parking space:

E(6). Types and uses of structures.

F(7). Location of structures, garages and/or parking spaces.

G(8). A tabulation of the total number of acres in the proposed project and a percentage thereof designated for the proposed structures.

H(9). Preliminary plans and elevations of the structure types. Single-family residential subdivisions are exempt from this requirement.

I. A PRELIMINARY LANDSCAPE PLAN.

c. Reasons justifying the petition:

d. A true statement revealing any conditions or restrictions of record (if any) which would affect the permitted uses of the property if rezoned as requested and the date or dates (if any) of expiration thereof:

e. Such photographs, drawings, and other supporting documents (if any) as the applicant may desire to present.

4. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN. A COPY OF THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 2.08.**

5. **A LIST OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES FOR ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THREE HUNDRED (300) FEET OF THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION IS MADE.**

6f. **FILING FEE.** Payment of a filing fee in an amount established by a schedule adopted by resolution of the Council and filed in the offices of the Town Clerk. No part of the filing fee shall be returnable. Payment of filing fee shall be waived when the change or amendment is initiated by the Council or the Commission or when the applicant is the Town, school district, special purpose district, county, state or federal government.

2. Under certain circumstances where the Community Development Director finds that the nature of the permitted or special use is such that it would be unnecessary or economically unfeasible for the applicant to prepare a plan in accordance with above stated requirements, the Community Development Director may waive certain of the above requirements, but in all cases the applicant will be required to prepare and submit some type of site plan drawn to scale.

3. Upon receipt of a complete application for amendment, the Community Development Director shall forward the application to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

4. Any plan approved by the Community Development Director under the provisions of Section 2.04, which requires a zoning change, must substantially conform to the tentative plan submitted as part of the petition for a change of district boundaries.

C. **REVIEW.**

1. **DETERMINATION OF COMPLETE APPLICATION. BEFORE INITIATING REVIEW, THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE, SHALL REVIEW THE SUBMITTAL TO DETERMINE IF IT IS COMPLETE AND MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF MISSING OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATION ITEMS. ONCE AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE COMPLETE THE APPLICANT WILL BE NOTIFIED TO PAY THE APPLICATION FEE. WHEN THE FEE HAS BEEN RECEIVED, STAFF WILL BEGIN REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION.**

2. **REVIEW. UTILIZING STANDARD REVIEW TIMELINES AND PROCEDURES, STAFF WILL CONDUCT REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED REZONING AND DEVELOPMENT AND WILL SEEK**

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TOWN CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 12-3-3, PARKING ADJACENT TO SCHOOLS AND SECTION 12-3-8, STOPPING, STANDING OR PARKING VEHICLES ON STREETS OR RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PURPOSE OF SALE

ENACTMENTS:

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

SECTION 1. That Chapter 12, Traffic, of the Fountain Hills Town Code, Section 12-3-3, Parking Adjacent to Schools, is hereby amended as follows:
Section 12-3-3 Parking AT OR Adjacent to Schools, **PARKS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

A. **SCHOOLS.** When signs are erected indicating no parking on that side of the street adjacent to any school property, no person shall park a vehicle in any such designated place for one hour before school opens until one hour after school closes on any school day.

B.**PARKS. DUE TO INSUFFICIENCIES IN PARKING CAPACITY AND CONCERNS OVER PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY, MOBILE FOOD UNITS, EXCEPT MOBILE CONVEYANCE UNITS AS PROVIDED IN TOWN CODE SECTION 8-7-6 I 5, SHALL NOT CONDUCT BUSINESS IN ANY TOWN PUBLIC PARK OR FROM THE STREET OR SIDEWALK ADJACENT TO A TOWN PUBLIC PARK UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWN AS PART OF A SPECIAL EVENT.**

C.**SPECIAL EVENTS. DUE TO INSUFFICIENCIES IN PARKING CAPACITY AND CONCERNS OVER PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY, MOBILE FOOD UNITS MAY NOT CONDUCT BUSINESS AT OR WITHIN THREE HUNDRED (300) FEET OF A SPECIAL EVENT OR AN EVENT THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED THROUGH AN ADMINISTRATIVE TEMPORARY USE PERMIT, UNLESS THE MOBILE FOOD UNIT IS REGISTERED AS PART OF THE EVENT.**

SECTION 2. That Chapter 12, Traffic, of the Fountain Hills Town Code, Section 12-3-8, Stopping, Standing or Parking Vehicles on Streets or Right-of-Way for the Purpose of Sale, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 12-3-8 Stopping, Standing or Parking Vehicles on Streets or Right-of-Way for the Purpose of Sale

A. **INOPERABLE OR UNREGISTERED VEHICLE ON RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

1. NO PERSON SHALL STOP, STAND OR PARK ANY VEHICLE THAT IS INOPERABLE ON ANY STREET OR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. IT IS AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE TO A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT THE VEHICLE WAS REMOVED FROM THE STREET OR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS OF BECOMING INOPERABLE.

2. NO PERSON SHALL STOP, STAND OR PARK ANY VEHICLE THAT DOES NOT DISPLAY CURRENT REGISTRATION ON ANY STREET OR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.

3. “ INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES “ ARE DEFINED AS MOTOR VEHICLES, WHICH BY REASON OF DISMANTLING, DISREPAIR, LACK OF LICENSING OR OTHER CAUSE ARE EITHER INCAPABLE OF BEING PROPELLED UNDER THEIR OWN POWER OR ARE PREVENTED BY LAW FROM BEING PROPELLED ON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY.

4. VEHICLES IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BE REMOVED AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 11-1-1 C OF THE TOWN CODE.

B. **FOR THE PURPOSE OF SALE.** No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle, wholly or partly, on any public street or right-of-way within the Town for the purpose of selling the vehicle.

SECTION 3. In accordance with Article II, Sections 1 and 2, Constitution of Arizona, and the laws of the State of Arizona, the City/Town Council has considered the individual property rights and personal liberties of the residents of the City/Town and the probable impact of the proposed ordinance on the cost to construct housing for sale or rent before adopting this ordinance.

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

FOR THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS: ATTESTED TO:
/s/Ginny Dickey, Mayor /s/Linda Mendenhall, Town Clerk

REVIEWED BY: APPROVED AS TO FORM:
/s/Rachael Goodwin, Town Manager /s/Aaron D. Arnson, Town Attorney

News around the Valley

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INDEPENDENT

DEVELOPMENT

Challenges in Valley hillside building varied

Disturbance limits most difficult requirement

By MacKenzie Brower
INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

As the Phoenix metropolitan area is surrounded by mountains, cities are faced with the responsibility of managing development on hillsides.

The challenge of hillside development is balancing the two different priorities of desert living aesthetic views and environmental protection.

The cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Town of Fountain Hills and Town of Paradise Valley each have hillside zoning ordinances that require development plans to meet specific criteria and resolve this challenge. Paradise Valley Hillside Building Committee did not respond to interview requests before this article was published.

Phoenix Hillside Zoning Ordinance

In Phoenix, any topography greater than a 10% slope is considered hillside, including South Mountain, Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak.

The hillside ordinance in Phoenix went into effect in 1972. There are existing homes and vacant lots built on steeper slopes from before it went into effect.

“(The ordinance) was mainly citizen-driven to protect our beautiful landmarks and our natural desert,” said Phoenix Planner Amanda Leon. “We have a lot of constraints to work through, but we know that the rights of the people who own the property need to be acknowledged as

well.”

Therefore, Phoenix must work with owners to “protect the hillside as much as possible while providing a product that suits livability if the area has been plotted to have a single-family home,” Leon said.

In addition, the zoning ordinance has design guidelines to make sure ridge line views are not impeded for other neighbors, as well as requirements for color, materials and texture of buildings and walls to match the surrounding natural desert, Leon explained. A landscape review is also important in ensuring Sonoran Desert plants are utilized in hillside development.

One of the most restrictive aspects of Phoenix’s hillside ordinance is that developers can disturb no more than 35% of the net lot area or 20,000 square feet, whichever is less. Disturbances are anything from the building to driveways to backyard pools, grading and plant removal, according to Leon.

“Sometimes it’s difficult to achieve,” Leon said. “There are constraints such as a natural wash that goes through rock outcroppings, Maricopa County septic system requirements or public easements, which all utility companies have access to at any time. Those have to also be considered permanently disturbed.”

The applicant or designer can appeal disturbance requirements through a hillside grading



This site in the city of Phoenix is required to meet requirements of the Hillside Zoning Ordinance. (Courtesy City of Phoenix)

waiver. Phoenix reviews many of these each year.

“They’re really case by case depending on the conditions of the site,” Leon stated. “Typically, people choosing to live within a mountain hillside area want a product that blends in with that area as well.”

Fountain Hills Subdivision Ordinance

In Fountain Hills, much of the town is on a hillside. The ordinance requirements apply to R18 or larger zoned lots on at least a 20% slope, which has increased over time and used to apply to all single-family homes, according to John Wesley, development services director for the town.

Only 40% of the hillside lot can be disturbed in Fountain Hills. The town also allows for some exceptions, which is where the town primarily faces pressure from applicants, Wesley said.

“We do have a few built-in exceptions in

the code because I realized that many of the lots that are left in town were passed over because of the challenges unique to that lot,” Wesley explained. “So, where someone can demonstrate that given the specific topography, lot configuration, or shape of a lot makes it virtually impossible to meet the code criteria, we can allow them to exceed the limits and disturb more land to be able to build a home.”

One challenge that makes an exception necessary is when there is a significant slope near a street because more land must be disturbed to get to the buildable area, according to Wesley. Another is when the shape of a lot makes it difficult for equipment to get in to build.

Hillside building development also becomes more challenging when people want to build a single-story home; many do because they want the convenience of everything on one level or

don’t want to go up and down stairs.

One development that Fountain Hills is currently reviewing slopes down on both sides from the middle of the lot and the applicant wants to build a single-story home.

“The land slopes very quickly on both sides. Rather than step down the hill, as you would normally want to do, they want to bring in enough fill (and) retaining walls going down the hill to create a level a lot,” Wesley said.

To build a single-story home on hillsides, more land must be cut or filled to level it than what the Town of Fountain Hills allows. It’s easier and less disturbing of land to build homes with multiple stories.

Scottsdale Environmentally Sensitive Lands Overlay

The set of zoning regulations that guides development in 134 square miles of mountain and desert areas in the city of

Scottsdale is called the ESL Overlay. It was first adopted in 1991 and last revised in 2004. Before that, the city established the Hillside District in 1982.

The ESL Overlay identifies and protects environmentally sensitive lands in Scottsdale, according to the city’s website under codes and ordinances. It requires that a percentage of each property be permanently preserved as natural area open space and that specific environmental features (vegetation, washes, mountain ridges and peaks) be protected from inappropriate development.

The amount of natural area open space required to be set aside with each development is based upon two factors: landform area and land slopes. This is an important part of ESL regulations.

Benefits of the ESL Overlay are open space between properties and along roadways, maintenance of wildlife corridors and protection of native vegetation.

A lot of hillside areas in Scottsdale are restricted with conservation or easements created with subdivision platting, according to the town’s planners. Because of those, Scottsdale does not often get these types of developments and aren’t under the same pressures as other communities.

MacKenzie Brower can be reached at mbrower@iniusa.org. We’d like to invite our readers to submit their civil comments, pro or con, on this issue. Email AZOpinions@iniusa.org.