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Family fun at Spooky Blast



The Zucarelli family showed up to Fountain Hills' Spooky Blast as the cast from "Despicable Me," ready to play lots of games and collect plenty of candy at booths sponsored by area clubs, businesses, churches and organizations. This year's Spooky Blast drew thousands to Four Peaks Park on Oct. 24, making sure everyone was in frightful spirits just in time for Halloween. For additional photos, see page 10. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Fountain Hills passes final 5G draft

Revised changes from previous meeting

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills Town Council took what is likely the final step in its 5G telecommunications ordinance during its Oct. 20 meeting by amending and approving its final draft.

Ordinances for wire telecommunications and small cell facilities and antennas were passed during the Oct. 6 meeting, but suggestions and additional clarifying points were made.

After discussion with concerns by Councilmembers Peggy McMahon and Brenda Kalivianakis, a motion to table the final draft for further review with

• See **5G** Page **23**

Fountain Hills to continue ALPR camera discussion

Council to seek input from MCSO

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Town of Fountain Hills is moving forward with its discussion on automated license plate reading cameras following the town council's Oct. 20 meeting.

The council gave direction to further talks on the subject with Councilmembers Peggy McMahon, Rick Watts and Brenda Kalivianakis seeking input from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

A proposed ordinance for ALPR cameras, which was brought forth by Councilman Allen Skillicorn in September, was tabled for further discussion during the council's Oct. 6 meeting. There are currently no ALPR cameras in town limits.

"Once again we're creating a solu-

• See **ALPR** Page **25**

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NEWS IN BRIEF

MORE ONLINE
See more news at yourvalley.net

Arizona educator discipline cases surge as state clears backlog

Discipline cases against Arizona educators have risen sharply in recent years, including a more than fourfold increase in cases categorized as assault since 2022.

But state education officials caution that the increase does not necessarily mean misconduct is occurring more frequently in Arizona schools.

Read online at yourvalley.net

Grant expands student-veteran education program

A $100,000 contribution from the Timothy T. Day Foundation will help an Arizona nonprofit expand a program connecting students with military veterans, giving young people opportunities to preserve firsthand accounts of history while developing writing, communication and leadership skills.

Imprints of Honor, a Phoenix-based nonprofit, operates an after-school character and civic education program with 33 school and college chapters, including 31 in Arizona.

Read online at yourvalley.net

Arizona broadcasters back AM frequencies as Congress debates mandate for autos

The technology may be more than a century old, but AM radio waves continue to carry safety alerts, news and entertainment in multiple languages across Arizona.

Now, national lawmakers are working to keep drivers tuned in with a bipartisan bill that would require AM radio in new passenger vehicles, despite pushback from car manufacturers.

Read online at yourvalley.net

Christmas Angel returns to town

Brought record gifts in 2025

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Entering its 11th year of serving the Fountain Hills community, the Salvation Army Christmas Angels program is looking to ensure all enjoy Christmas in 2026.

Put on through the Peter and Theresa Conti Foundation, a record-number of kids received gifts in 2025.

"For me, it's like being Santa Claus to 238 kids, which is almost 100 families in town," Peter Conti said. "... That's almost more kids than are in the middle school here."

As someone who grew up underprivileged in New York City, Conti says he knows what the holiday can be like for some.

The program is for local kids and any Fountain Hills family is eligible, even if the kids are not in the Fountain Hills Unified School District or are home schooled.

Applications were sent out Oct. 26 through the district to kids in grades pre-K through seventh, as well as parents previously in the program. Conti added this is the only Salvation Army branch in the country to do this.

Angel Trees and Angel Tags will be out in the community around the week of Nov. 17, Conti said. Both tags and trees can be found in local businesses, including Sami Fine Jewelry, Russ Salon, Mid-First Bank, UMB Bank, the NPOA office, Mountainview Kitchen, The Noon Kiwanis Club, The Sunset Kiwanis, Four Peaks Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce.

Gift distribution to families will take place 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 19 at McDowell Mountain Elementary.

"...This is the one thing that tends to bring the town together," Conti said.



The Salvation Army Christmas Angels program brought joy to nearly 100 local families in 2025. (Submitted photo/Peter Conti)

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Andrew Lwowski can be reached at alwowski@iniusa.org.

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Traffic violations, collisions lead Sheriff's Office report

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 7 substation based in Fountain Hills reports deputies responded to the following incidents during the time of Oct. 22-28.

Thursday, Oct. 22

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Palatial Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped for criminal speed (75 in a 50). The driver was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of E. Palisades Blvd. where it was reported an unknown subject stole the victim's wallet while at a basketball game.

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Palatial Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped for speed (65 in a 50). A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended. The driver was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of E. Avenue of the Fountains where it was reported an unknown subject made threatening statements online.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of E. Avenue of the Fountains where it was reported a violation of a court order was reported.

Friday, Oct. 23

*Deputies responded to the 10000 block of N. Arista Lane where a private property single-vehicle collision was reported after an unoccupied vehicle rolled down a hill, striking the vehicle operator and a wall. No injuries were reported and no vehicles were towed.

Saturday, Oct. 24

*Deputies responded to Saguaro Boulevard and Trevino Drive where it was reported a vehicle collision occurred after a driver failed to yield from a stop sign and was struck by another vehicle. No injuries were reported, one vehicle was towed.

*Deputies responded to Saguaro and Shea boulevards where a vehicle collision occurred after a vehicle stopped at a traffic light, backed in the travel lane and struck the vehicle stopped in traffic behind that vehicle. No injuries were reported, no vehicles were towed.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of E. Almont Drive where it was reported that an unwanted guest was in a residence and would not leave. The subject was later trespassed from the residence by deputies.

*Deputies responded to the 14000 block of N. Del Cambre Ave. where it was reported an unknown subject assaulted the victim by punching them in the face at a Halloween event.

Sunday, Oct. 25

*Deputies responded to the 13000 block of N. Fountain Hills Blvd. where it was reported a private property vehicle collision occurred after two vehicles attempting to back out of parking spots in a parking lot at the same time struck each other. No injuries were reported, no vehicles were towed.

Monday, Oct. 26

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Eagle Mountain Parkway where it was reported a traffic collision occurred when a driver failed to yield while making a turn and struck a passing vehicle. One person was transported for medical care, both vehicles were towed from the scene.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

*Deputies responded to the 15000 block of E. Palisades Blvd. where it was reported an unknown subject fraudulently used the victim's personal information to open an account with a cellular carrier.

*Deputies responded to the 10000 block of N. Saguaro Blvd. where it was reported an unknown subject

• See **Call Log** on page **13**

Check out upcoming activities in Fountain Hills

Week of Nov. 5-11

Fountain Hills Community Center is maintaining its schedule of weekday events within the Cutillo Civic Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive. Most of these activities are reserved for Community Center members.

Activities are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 5

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

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

*9:30 a.m., Beginning line dance; Tai Chi for Balance.

*10 a.m., Open paint studio; intermediate Spanish.

*11 a.m., Quilts & More.

*1 p.m., Mid/high improv line dance; table talk women; Hand and Foot cards; Golden Age of Radio.

*4 p.m., Poker.

*5 p.m., Open paint studio; movie; evening beginning line dance.

Friday, Nov. 6

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

*8:30 a.m., Intermediate bridge.

*9 a.m., Aerobic chair exercise; Pinochle.

*10 a.m., Medicare consult.

*12:30 p.m., Traditional Mah Jongg; Siamese Mah Jongg.

*1 p.m., Open Table Tennis; Mex Train Dominoes; Woodcarvers/table top art; board games/Rummikub; documentary series.

• See **Calendar** on page **13**

NPOA update for the week of Oct. 28

Meetings held twice monthly

The Neighborhood Property Owners' Association's Committee of Architecture reviewed and approved 13 permit requests at the meeting held Oct. 28.

Approvals were as follows:

*16045 Seminole – Repaint

*16022 Ironwood – Accessory building

*11237 Buffalo – Addition

*16824 Sirocco – Addition

*16214 Balsam – Patio cover

*16009 Tumbleweed – Front door

*16215 Carmel – Repaint

*15728 Sycamore – Repaint

*15928 Brodea – Repaint

*15868 Tumbleweed – Repaint

*15624 Aspen – Reroof

*16060 Trevino – Pool

*16005 Tumbleweed – Repaint

The Neighborhood Committee of Approval (NCOA) holds meetings twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, at 8:30 a.m.to review plans submitted during the previous weeks. Deadlines for permit submittal are Thursdays at 2 p.m. and will be reviewed at the following meeting.

The NPOA Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m.

For questions, contact the NPOA office at 480-837-5317 or visit the NPOA website at npoafh.org for more information.

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YOUR OPINION

We hope to stimulate debate, not control it on our opinions pages. We reserve the right to edit submitted opinions. We insist on civility. Please include your name, physical address and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

Letters 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 submissions in the same issue will not be published. Letter content is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

SPEAK UP

We support the use of pen names. Too many people do not speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

CORRECTIONS

We promptly correct factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people we cover. Readers who disagree with a news story may respond with a letter.

Fountain Hills said no to division, fear-mongering

On Oct. 20, the Fountain Hills Town Council considered Councilmember Allen Skillicorn's request that town staff draft an ordinance targeting Sharia law.

Fountain Hills responded.

More than 100 letters opposing the proposal were submitted (an extraordinary response for any issue in our community). Council chambers were filled with Muslim neighbors and their allies from Fountain Hills and Scottsdale. Muslim and Christian speakers alike stood before the council to say, in their own ways: This is not who we want to be.

CAIR attorney Martin Quezada reminded the council that similar efforts around the country have repeat-edly been found unconstitutional. In the end, common sense prevailed. A majority of Councilmembers, along with Mayor Gerry Friedel, declined to send Skillicorn's proposal to staff for drafting.

That matters. This was never about some imminent threat from "Sharia law." It was about whether our town would lend its name and resources to a political stunt singling out the religious tradition of some of our neighbors as uniquely suspicious and threatening.

Fountain Hills said no.

The real victory, though, was what happened in our community. People wrote. People called. People showed up. Muslims and Christians together. Neighbors spoke up for neighbors. Our community spoke, our elected officials listened, and a bad idea went no further.

As CAIR-Arizona Executive Director Azza Abuseif said afterward, "We don't get a lot of victories, but this is a good one."

I confess, there is something deeply satisfying about watching fear-mongering fail. Those who traffic in division too often bank on ignorance and conspiracy theories making good political theater. This time, it didn't work.

Thank you to everyone who wrote, called, showed up, and stood with our Muslim neighbors, refusing to let manufactured fear and suspicion turn neighbor against neighbor.

That's what genuine community (and true American values) look like.

Rev. David Felten
FOUNTAIN HILLS

ATTENTION PLEASE!

We are committed to publishing a variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines

Please send comments to azopinions@iniusa.org. More letters are on **yourvalley.net**.

A call for refugee support

In this fraught time when so many freedoms are endangered, this letter calls for support for vetted refugee immigrants.

This October, the Department of Homeland Security cut the 30-day refugee termination notice to a mere 10 days – endangering previously granted work authorization, ability to support children and applications for green cards.

Historically, termination of thoroughly vetted refugees has been rare because refugees are identified overseas and go through years of security vetting, medical screenings and in-person DHS interviews. Now, DHS has begun systematically revisiting previously settled cases. A 10-day deadline makes it nearly impossible for individuals and families to get legal help or gather evidence needed to avoid being detained or deported.

Meanwhile, redesignation of Temporary Protected Status for Ukrainian refugees is on hold, endangering families who cannot safely return to an active war zone. Also, the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program remains paused while the latest travel ban removed the Afghan SIV exemption. Thus, Afghan allies who supported our troops and have been vetted and deemed eligible for visas, are barred from entering the U.S.

All these people have trusted our country with their safety. Neighbors throughout the Valley of the Sun have helped to house, resettle and support vetted refugees who are contributing to our communities. Please contact our elected officials to restore the 30-day refugee termination notice period, release the hold for Ukrainian refugees and support Afghan SIVs.

Kristine Bartanen
FOUNTAIN HILLS

Politics, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Those political bureaucrats governing under the influence of globalist-socialism, having forsaken their primary responsibility for protecting domestic tranquility, are not necessarily evil people, although the strange sideshows embedded in their ideology can make it appear so.

Inviting millions of unvetted migrants to enter America illegally to reap American citizen's benefits, without legally pledging their allegiance to America, is an inexcusable transgression.

Some politicians must think they are oracles ("if I believe it, you must too") or supremacists that say "don't question, just do as I say," or Disney wizards, "join my vision of a socialist fantasyland." Politicians are not spiritual deities that can strike down a person's belief in God by substituting lifestyle idols.

Voters elect politicians, first and foremost, to enforce the official rule of law to equally protect all American citizens. Politicians are not elected to be revisionist to apply somebody's unauthorized interpretation of the law to accommodate their ideological narrative. The function of governing is being upstaged by the spectacle of special interest groups like

✦ See **Opinions** on page **9**



The 2026 waste disposal event in November is being hosted at Fountain Hills High School. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Hazardous waste collection set

With Republic Services

The Town of Fountain Hills and Republic Services are holding a household hazardous waste collection 8 a.m. – noon on Nov. 14 at the Fountain Hills High School parking lot, 16100 E. Palisades Blvd.

This event allows residents to safely dispose of various chemicals and items from around the house that should not be thrown out with regular trash.

Clean Harbors, who disposes the items, holds thousands of hazardous waste events every year, according to a press release.

Items that are accepted include drain cleaners, metal polish, pesticides, fertilizer, batteries and arts and crafts supplies.

For the full list of acceptable items or additional information, visit fountainhillsaz.gov.

OPINIONS WITH CIVILITY

• From page 8

those promoting immature children to alter and sterilize their biological sex parts. Everyone deserves to express themselves, but they aren't entitled to preferential treatment at another's detriment.

Have politicians'/bureaucrats' egos become so enamored hearing their rhetorical utterances they feel empowered to bend the rule of law thereby altering the inalienable rights of those citizens they took an oath to serve and protect?

Remember Dr. Jekyll, who convinced himself he was serving humanity by inventing and taking a mind-altering drug. Dr. Jekyll drugged himself into becoming Mr. Hyde, his alter ego. Hyde, the evil specter, relished in manipulating and intimidating people for the pure pleasure of exerting fear and control. Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde, and his unfortunate victims all suffered in the aftermath.

Rick Dime
FOUNTAIN HILLS

Be a Civility Advocate!

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 & 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've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at ***yourvalley.net/civility-pledge.***

A screaming good time at Spooky Blast 2026



Thousands of visitors dropped by Four Peaks Park in Fountain Hills Oct. 24 for Spooky Blast 2026, presented by Arizona Propane and organized by Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



If you play "Foot Loose" at Spooky Blast, there's a chance the gang from Paige Productions might break out in spontaneous dance, as that also happens to be one of the theater program's upcoming shows.



The mad scientists from Arizona Propane were happy to hand out Halloween treats at Spooky Blast, as well as welcome visitors to try their hand at the dunk tank.



Sierra Roudebush visits the Coldwell Banker Realty booth to make a ghost of her own.



Members of the Espinoza family show off their love for Final Fantasy VII at Spooky Blast in Fountain Hills.



Juan Martinez with the Fountain Hills Fire Department joins the Laplante family for a photo as the youngsters explore a firetruck at Spooky Blast.



Stevie Smith and Aurelia Anne Cohen, from QT entertainment, gave everyone attending Spooky Blast 2026 in Fountain Hills someone to look up to.



Visitors to Spooky Blast always don their most fantastic attire.

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

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Col. Kevin J. Anderson	Marines	Afghanistan	25
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Col Gabriel Avilla	Air Force	Langley AFB, Virginia	22
Gy Sgt Jeremy Baker*	Marines	29 Palms, CA	17
Capt. Shon S. Belcher	Marines	Afghanistan	8
1st Lt. Jonathan Bonde*	Air Force	Cannon AFB, NM	3
LMN2 Eric Brookhouser	Navy	San Diego, CA	1
Sgt Beau J R Boyd	Marines	Iraq	5
PO2 Travis Burke*	Coast Guard	Coos Bay, Oregon	3
E5 IT3 John Burton*	Navy	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii	3
PO3 Jaxon Butcher*	Coast Guard	Golden Gate San Francisco CA	2
CDR Michael Christoph	Navy	NAS Lemoore, CA	18
P.O, First Class Correy A Bushman	Navy	Medical Readiness Tr Bremerton	14
Master Sgt. Shane W. Butler	Marines	Beaufort, SC	19
Capt. David Byrne	Air Force	Travis AFB, Calif.	6
Capt. Michael Byrne	Air Force	Phoenix, AZ	4
Major Marie Carillo	Air Force	Osan AB S Korea	3
Major Anthony J. Carillo*	Air Force	Quantico, Virginia	3
Capt Peter Carollo*	Air Force	JBLM	2
LCPL Adam Clements	Marines	Camp Pendleton	3
Sgt Case Collins*	Marines	MCAS Cherry Point, NC	3
Pfc Michael E. Craig	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	1
Sgt. E6 Mark A. Crosby	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	6
L.Cpl Aaron Davis	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	2
SPC Blake M. Dargavel	Army	Afghanistan	1
STS1 John DeMeyer	Navy	NSF Groton, Conn.	16
1st Lt. Matthew P. Fierro*	Army	Ft Bliss, Texas	2
Lt. Kyle Frazer	Army	Germany	6
SPC Russell Gilligan	Army	Fort Bragg, NC	1
Brian Gratz*	Air Force	Baltimore, MD	1
SSG Ryan P. Guilfoil	Army	Phoenix, AZ	2
1st Lt. Todd Hadley	Air Force	Goodfellow AFB, TX	7
Major Jeff Hanson	Marines	San Antonio, TX	14
Major Joseph F. Hockmuth	Army	Ft. Lewis, WA	22
IT3 Tyler Hodge	Navy	USS Makin Island	3
Lt. Col Eric Hoversten	Air Force	Elmendorf AFB, AK	20
Capt. Michael J. Howard*	Army	Fort Drum, NY	7
MSgt. James M. Hyland	Air Force	Afghanistan	5
Major Alex James	Marines	Pentagon	12
Spc. Charles P. Jones II*	Army	Fort Bliss, TX	7
P.O. Kristofer Jones*	Navy	USS Nimitz (CVN68)	8
Sgt.Michael Jones*	Marines	Goodfellow AFB, TX	4
1st Lt. Joshua Kandybowicz	Army	Afghanistan	3
E3 Kaylie Kantor*	Navy	Pensacola NAS	1
Col Adam Keith*	Air Force	Langley AFB, Virginia	23
Tsgt Nicholas Larson*	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	9
Cpl. Jonathan Lawson	Marines	Pendleton, CA	3
Capt. Tom Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenheath, England	20
Capt. Kelly(Scribner) Lesnick	Air Force	Lakenheath, England	5
Gm2 Maxwell T. Link*	Navy	USS Pinckney	1
Pfc. Joseph Luca*	Marines	Afghanistan	2
Major Kyle Lund	Air Force	Albuquuerke, NM	7
Sgt. William J. MacDonald	Army	National Guard (IP)	6
2nd Lt. PavanManhas*	Air Force	Kirtland AFB, NM	1
Major Mike Mansell	Army	Germany	8
Lt. Nick Massie	Army	Walter Reed Hospital, DC	6
Capt. Eric L. Metzger	Air Force	Keesler AFB, MS	8
Capt. Robert C. Meyersohn	Air Force	Iraq	6
2nd Lt Garrett A Miller	Army	Korea	1
Staff Sgt Alexander Mynars*	Marines	Fort Worth, TX	7
Sgt. BayLee Mynars	Marines	Fort Worth, TX	6
pc Justin Nelson*	Army	Korea	1
Capt. Ronald L. Olson	Navy	Balboa Hosp. San Diego	26
LCMR Matthew S. Paul*	Navy	Norfolk, VA	14
PO3Max Tyler Pelot*	Navy (Corpsman)	Camp Pendleton, CA	31
PFC Carson Perkins	Army	Fort Gordon, GA	1
PFC Casey Perkins	Army	Fort Bliss, TX	2
Lt. Col Blaine Peterson	Air Force	Iraq	20
MA1(AW) Tyler Piechota	Navy	Tinker AFB, OK	10
Lan Cpl Jacob Pittsenbarger	Marines	Camp Pendleton, CA	2
Lt. Col. Brian Polk	Army	Fort Houston, TX	27
Capt. Bryan J. Pranski	Army	Chicago, IL	10
Ad E2 Andrew Prins*	Navy	NAS, FL	1
AMT3 Aaron Reger	US Coast Guard	Kodiak Alaska	1
2nd Lt Matt Rindel*	Air Force	North Carolina	3
Major Lars Rockholm	Marines	Alexandria, VA	12
M.Sgt. Nathan C. Rohn*	Marines	Camp Lejeune NC	20
Pfc Zach C. Rollings*	Army	Afghanistan	8
Pv2 Nick Rollings*	National Guard	Prescott, AZ	8
Ensign Robert A.L. Rosenthal	Navy	Omaha, NE	12
Pfc Robert A. Rossfeld*	Army	Afghanistan	2
ET1 Michael L. Schluter	Navy	USS Carl Vinson CVN 70	12
OSI (EXW) Arthur Schofield	Navy	Afghanistan	14
Bm3. Jonathan J. Shine	Coast Guard	Newport, Rhode Island 6	6
E4 Andrew Schumacher	Navy	Naval Station Norfolk	3
Pfc. Ryan T. Simmons	Air Force	Abu Dhabi	1
Pvt. Dennis Sitton*	Army	San Antonio,TX	1
Airman E3 Michael J Smith*	Navy	San Diego, CA	1
Spc. Robert Steele	Army	Afghanistan	5
Maj Olivia Stehlik	Army	Fort Campbell, KY	16
Cmdr Dan R. Stock	Navy	Carrier Strike Group 12 VA	21
Sgt. Cory Stockman*	Marines	Honduras Embassy	5
MC3 Grant Stoltz*	Navy	Sasebo, Japan	3
1st Lt Davied Noble Taylor	Air Force	Bolling AFB, Washington DC	4
MMN3 Jessica Thiel	Navy	Goose Creek, SC	1
2nd Lt Andrew J. Tilden	Marines	Quantico, VA	1
E2 Michael Alan Tilden	Army	Ft Leanard Wood	1
SSGT Airman Derrick Underwood*	Air Force	Hilll AFB, Utah	5
Spc Bill Urbelis	Army	Camp Taji, Iraq	2
Major Jason K. Vaught*	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	12
Major Megan Vaught	Air Force	Hurlburt AFB, FL	11
Capt. Anthony Vitellaro*	Air Force	Anchorage, AK	10
Cpl Shane Waldo	Marines	Okinawa, Japan	3
Pvt. Tyler Welch	Army	Afghanistan	25
CWO Daniel White*	Army	Germany	10
2nd Lt Peyton Willigrod	Air Force	Columbus AFB, MS	1
Sgt. Gabriel D. Williams*	Army	Iraq	5
2nd Lt Isaac Wilson	Marines	29 Palms. CA	2
Pfc. Merle Yazzie	Army	Ft Stewart, GA	1
MSgt. Ryan Young*	Air Force	Travis AFB, CA	17
Col Tyler Zagurski	Marines	The Pentagon	24

*** Denotes: FHHS Graduates**

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

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

Artists' Gallery to show off jewelry at Wine Walk

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Local jewelry artists in Fountain Hills are getting ready to show off some of their best work to the public.

Their art will be displayed at the Nov. 6 Wine Walk in downtown. Following the Wine Walk from 3-6 p.m. on Avenue of the Fountains, the gallery will showcase its jewelry at 16858 E. Avenue of the Fountains Suite 103 until 7:30 p.m., according to a post by the Fountain Hills Chamber.

"I was here last year when we had this event, and it was very interesting because pretty much all of the jewelers from last year will be here," said local artist Janine Carter. "They will be displaying and demonstrating, even modeling a little bit. So it's a good idea, especially for ladies that absolutely love to stop by and see our new artists."

Carter mentioned that it doesn't hurt to have champagne there, too.

"When any woman starts drinking that bubbly champagne, she will go straight for the bubbly jewelry. Jewelry and champagne go perfectly together," Carter said. "We sell a lot during those events, because a lot of the women really come for the champagne and the jewelry."

One such jeweler that will have their work at the event is Terry Evans.

"I do metal plate jewelry, which starts off with a plate that's 99% metal. What happens is there's a binder of it," Evans said. "You work it, you dry it, and you work it in the...stage and when it's ready, you kiln fire it. And then when it comes out, it's 99.9% metal, whether it's on silver, bronze, copper or working all three."

There's a great variety of jewelry to witness at the event too, according to Evans.

Examples include copper jewelry, jewelery fashioned after crosses, knitting wooden jewelry, designer beads, enamel, glass work, and more.

"There's a lot of variety in jewelery because there's a lot of different women, and they pick what they like," Evans said. "As far as what we have here, we try to really make sure everyone has their own individual style, and there's not a whole lot of overlap, so we can give a lot of variety to customers."

Overall, Carter hopes that those who visit for the jewelry also get to experience all of the art that the gallery has on that day as well.

"The jewelry will be our main focus, but the gallery will be open. We'll probably have at least 10 artists, including those who are visiting or just volunteering," Carter said. "So people will have lots of opportunities to ask all kinds of questions and get a feel for something on the wall that maybe appeals to them and get an idea of how it was done. Our hope is that they will be coming back. Somebody will be enjoying the jewelry, but someone else might be enjoying the pastels."



Terry Evans will show off her jewelry at the Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery during the Nov. 6 Wine Walk. (Independent Newsmedia/Connor Van Ligten)

For more information, visit fountainhillsartistsgallery.com/.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

Meteor watch party planned for next month



The upcoming meteor watch party is free and available for all ages. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

At Four Peaks Park

Stargazers are invited to the free Geriminids Meteor Shower watch party at Four Peaks Park.

The event is 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 13 and is presented by Night Sky Tourist with Experience Fountain Hills.

Attendees will have the opportunity to witness the peak of the meteor shower, which is regarded as the most reliable meteor shower of the year, according to a press release.

Vicky Derksen, founder and owner of Night Sky Tourist, will share a cultural perspective and insight into the science behind the event.

"This is a unique opportunity for community members of all ages to connect with the night sky and experience one of nature's most impressive annual events," Derksen said. "Whether you're a longtime astronomy enthusiast or simply looking for a new experience, witnessing a meteor shower firsthand is both educational and awe-inspiring.

"Events like this help foster a deeper appreciation for our night skies and the incredible celestial events happening above us."

The Geminids meteor shower is expected to produce dozens of bright meteors per hour at its peak.

Attendees will also be able to touch real meteorites and observe Jupiter and Saturn through a telescope, the release continued. Blankets and chairs are encouraged for the event and white lights such as flashlights are discouraged for better viewing opportunities.

For more information, visit nightskytourist.com.

Call Log

• From page 6

damaged the windows of a residence by scratching them with an unknown object.

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Palatial Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped for criminal speed (78 in a 50). The driver was issued a criminal citation.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

*Deputies responded to Shea and Palisades boulevards where it was reported a driver was stopped for failing to obey a traffic control device. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended. The driver was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Palatial Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped for criminal speed (76 in a 50). The driver was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Palatial Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped for criminal speed (75 in a 50). The driver was issued a criminal citation.

Calendar

• From page 6

*2 p.m., Legal Consultations.

Saturday, Nov. 7

*Available for private booking.

Sunday, Nov. 8

*Available for private booking.

Monday, Nov. 9

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

*9 a.m., Geri-fit fall prevention; open table tennis.

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

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

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

*12 p.m., Sign Language meet up.

*12:30 p.m., Poker.

*1 p.m., Hi Beg/Low Improv line dance; Cribbage; Pinochle; Mah Jongg (all levels).

*4:30 p.m., Chess Club

*5 p.m., Aerobic chair exercise; Hand & Foot Cards.

*6:30 p.m., Mystery Book Club.

Tuesday, Nov. 10

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

*9 a.m., Video gentle yoga; women's poker.

*9:30 a.m., Intermediate line dance; Tai Chi for Balance.

*10 a.m., Hooks & Needles; open paint studio; Medicare Consult; Memoir's Writers Group.

*11 a.m., Sign Language meet up.

*11:30 a.m., Advanced line dancing.

*12 p.m., Social Duplicate Bridge; Blood Pressure Check.

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

*5:30 p.m., Open table tennis.

Wednesday, Nov. 11

*Community Center closed in observance of Veterans Day





School board explores partnership to boost enrollment

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board discussed potentially working with Caissa K12 during its Oct. 21 meeting.

Caissa K12 works exclusively with public schools to help recruit new students, retain enrolled families and bring absent students back to class.

The company launched in 2018, building on the political and crisis communications work of its parent firm, Caissa Public Strategy. It began offering performance-based enrollment campaigns in 2019, according to its website.

"Their job is basically to work with school districts to help increase enrollment," Board President Dr. Richard Rutkowski said.

The district has been in contact with the company about potentially working together, but Caissa K12 is unsure whether Fountain Hills Unified is large enough for its typical payment model, which charges schools for students successfully recruited who enroll and attend.

The company may instead require upfront payment, Rutkowski said.



The Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board members during their Sept. 16 meeting. (Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

"They're questioning whether or not they are able to expend the resources to do that marketing, the door-to-door and all that because we are such a small district," he said. "They requested a report of the number of students that have transferred, left the district and to some extent why, did they move out of state or whatever."

Rutkowski said the district understands that students who leave for legitimate reasons, such as moving out of state, may not return.

However, he said students who transfer to the Scottsdale Unified School District or charter schools could represent an opportunity to increase enrollment.

"I think Scottsdale is the biggest thing," he said.

During the board's Oct. 14 meeting, Rutkowski also said that if the district enters into a contract with Caissa K12, the company would not be able to work with neighboring districts during the contract period.

"They understand they can't be involved in a conflict of interest and represent two competing entities," he said.

Caissa K12 also requested that the district submit a parent engagement survey, although district staff is still clarifying what questions the survey would include.

Board member Fran Murray said she was interested in learning some additional details as well.

"What's not included in these numbers are the number of students who could have started in kindergarten in Fountain Hills, as Fountain Hills residents, but did not," she said.

Board member Kim Duckworth asked during the Oct. 14 meeting whether the information being shared with Caissa K12 includes personal identifiers.

Rutkowski and Superintendent Val Reichler said the information currently being shared to determine whether the partnership is feasible does not include personal identifiers. However, if the district moves forward, personal information would eventually need to be shared.

"We would eventually have to share the names of the families," Reichler said.

Rutkowski said Caissa K12 already has measures in place to address those concerns.

"They have agreements about privacy and not sharing that information beyond their purpose," he said.

Board member Lillian Acker expressed concerns about sharing family information and said she wanted to examine the privacy implications more closely before moving forward.

"I'm just concerned about the privacy," she said.

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines

October is Community Planning Month in Fountain Hills



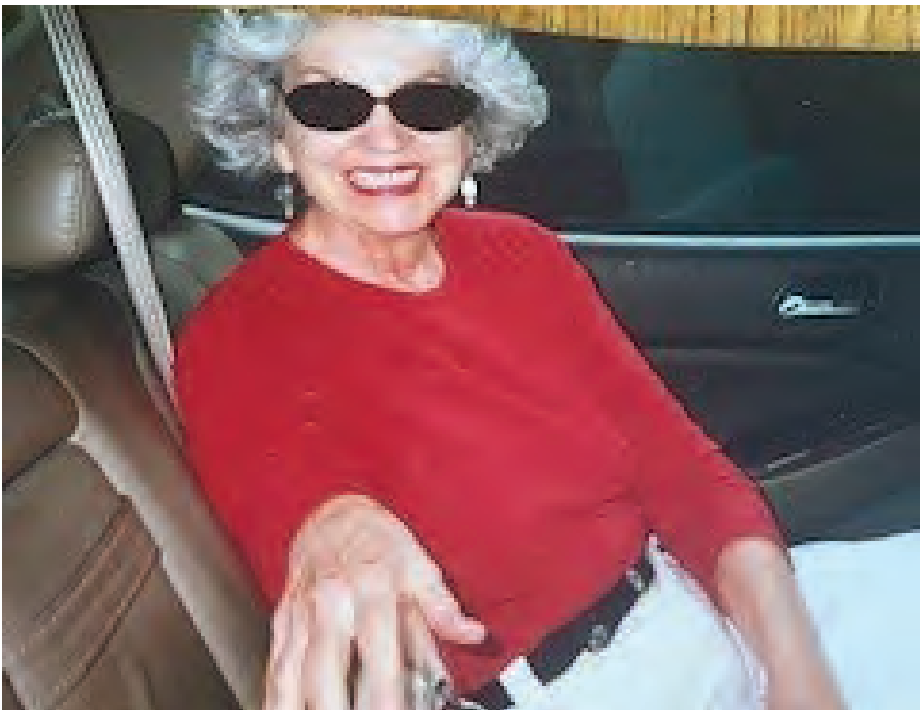
Fountain Hills Mayor Gerry Friedel, right, during the town council's Oct. 6 meeting proclaimed October as Community Planning Month. He presented the proclamation to Developmental Services Director John Wesley. Wesley said he accepted the recognition on behalf of the Planning and Zoning Commission and other planners in town who work toward making Fountain Hills great. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

Fountain Hills veteran honored



Stephen Messel was honored as Fountain Hills Veteran of the Month by Mayor Gerry Friedel during the town council's Oct. 20 meeting. Messel was transferred to Vietnam in 1971 where he was assigned to the 196th Infantry Troop, 17th Cavarly and was in combat from Aug. 1971 through Jan. 1972. He relocated to Fountain Hills in 2014 where he has since been an active member of the community and with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7507. There, he was a quartermaster for seven years, earning All-State and All-American designations. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

Death notice



Mary Leininger

Memorial service for Mary Leininger.
Friday, Nov. 13, Noon.
Franciscan Renewal Center, 5802 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale, Ariz.

Answers:

■	R	A	B	B	I	S	■	S	A	L	I	N	E	■
M	A	D	E	I	R	A	■	A	B	A	L	O	N	E
A	B	■	A	N	A	L	O	G	I	Z	E	■	D	A
H	I	N	D	S	■	A	U	G	■	E	A	G	E	R
D	E	U	S	■	S	A	T	E	S	■	C	R	A	N
I	S	M	■	R	A	M	■	D	K	G	■	O	R	E
■	■	E	X	E	C	■	■	■	R	O	G	U	E	S
A	C	R	I	S	■	■	■	■	■	W	U	N	D	T
B	R	A	V	E	D	■	■	■	M	A	I	D	■	■
R	U	T	■	T	A	R	■	P	O	N	■	H	U	S
E	S	O	P	■	B	A	S	A	L	■	T	O	N	E
A	A	R	O	N	■	P	I	P	■	S	A	G	E	R
S	D	■	S	A	T	I	R	I	C	A	L	■	A	U
T	E	H	E	R	A	N	■	S	A	R	C	A	S	M
■	S	E	R	A	P	E	■	T	R	I	A	G	E	■



October named Italian Heritage Month



The Town of Fountain Hills named October Italian-American Heritage Month during the town council's Oct. 20 meeting. Mayor Gerry Friedel awarded the proclamation to the town's Italian Club President Steve Baggio, left. Baggio says he started the club five years ago in honor of his parents, who came to the country from Italy. "They instilled in me one, I'm an American. Two, I'm an Italian. And three, to remember and honor all those who made it possible," Baggio said. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski).

Club briefs for the week of Nov. 2

Local groups convene

Community Center contract bridge winners posted

Contract bridge is played every Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Community Center. Membership in the Community Center is required to participate.

Winners from Oct. 24 include Merry Hill Klein in first place, Richard Rasmussen in second place and Mary Ann Shaun in third place.

Winners from Oct. 28 include Richard Rasmussen in first place, Merry Hill Klein in second place and Suellen Russell in third place.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly welcomes newcomers

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



Fountain Hills Sister Cities wrapped up a busy third quarter in September. (Submitted photo/FHSC)

Sister Cities wraps eventful third quarter

Fountain Hills Sister Cities' third quarter is in the books, and it was a busy one for the local club.

In July, student ambassador Reece Beers attended the national Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., hosted by Sister Cities International, according to a press release.

The month of July also saw FHSC president Christine Colley travel to sister city Dierdorf, Germany, to meet with newly elected town officials and strengthen city-to-city bonds.

August was a relatively quiet month for the club, but the group did see a visit from Marilena Hernandez, Ataco's first female county supervisor. The official from the club's sister city in El Salvador was an integral part of its 2024-2025 fundraising campaign to buy meals for elders in the flooded city.

September saw the club make preparations to host Oktoberfest in Fountain Hills to kick off their fourth quarter. The club also hosted a wine tasting event showcasing the wines of Germany. During that month, members of the club's board also attended the Sister Cities State Conference and set up a booth for the Fountain Hills Farmers Market.

For more information, visit fountainhillssistercities.org.

Retirement Next Steps workshops help residents prep for future

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

DeGeorge Partners Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty is holding monthly workshops in Fountain Hills to teach local residents about retirement.

Called Retirement Next Stop Workshop, the free monthly, one-hour sessions feature different local business leaders going over topics such as medicare, social security, reverse mortgages and more.

"I previously had a career in senior living communities, and I had so many wonderful resources from my years working there, and I wanted to continue to share insight with retirees," host and Real Estate Partner Jill Templeton said. "A lot of times when folks get older they don't know what things they need to be doing to have a successful and profitable retirement. That was the purpose behind having the series here at our office."

Sessions are typically an hour long, with the first 45 minutes being an intimate classroom instruction period led by a business leader, and the remaining 15 dedicated to topics such as real estate market updates by Templeton or more.

Templeton said that it was important the sessions be in person so that attendees would feel comfortable, and also be able to interact with the speaker instead of watching a pre-recorded video.

"Fountain Hills has a lot of retirees here, a lot of folks would really benefit from this information. We want to be a resource for them that they know they can walk through our doors any time and ask for help," Templeton said. "We want to be that source. We want to be able to connect them with trusted professionals that we have vetted...I think it being in person is so important because it gives them the opportunity to ask questions, interact and really get to know who that expert is, whereas online it's very impersonal."

Templeton said it was also important that the workshops remain free so attendees get advice and don't feel like they are being sold a product.

So far, she says that attendees have appreciated that sentiment.

"They've been very appreciative to learn something new and feel that it is not a sales environment, it is an educational environment," Templeton said. "They don't feel like they are being sold a product in a 45 minute commercial."

Overall, Templeton hopes that those who attend her workshops feel more confident going into retirement.

"I hope they can live a better, happier, healthier retirement, and they feel more prepared going into it, and learn something that can make retirement more enjoyable for them."

The next workshop is at 4 p.m. on Oct. 22 at 16872 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Suite 103. For more information, visitjilltempletonhaislip.com/retirements-next-steps/.

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Faith & Values

Ascension Church concludes 50th Jubilee celebrations

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Church of the Ascension in Fountain Hills recently concluded celebrations of its 50th Jubilee.

The church, first established in 1976, wrapped up almost a year of celebrations that began on Nov. 9, 2025, with a special Jubilee Mass and luncheon on Oct. 25, according to a press release.

Lead pastor Jilson Panakkal said that the special Jubilee Mass was a great way to conclude the celebrations.

"It was a fantastic celebration with the choir singing at the Mass and Bishop John Dolan giving a fantastic homily on the occasion," Panakkal said. "...Everybody was so happy representing the parish. Some of our kids brought flowers to the altar during the Mass. One family representing the entire parish brought gifts. It was well attended and paced at the church with singing and prayers."

Panakkal said that the 50th Jubilee was a reflection of the familial bonds that the community at the church share with each other.

"Everybody feels that we belong to not just a church or a parish but a family. They support each other, help each other, spend their time together," Panakkal said. "We are a retirement community, so most of them are up in age, but they still come together to share their faith, their joys, and sorrows."

Over the course of almost a year, the church held multiple events and sermons as part of the celebration.



Ascension Church in Fountain Hills recently concluded its 50th Jubilee celebrations. (Submitted Photo/Julie Cruz)

One such event was a Mass in Fountain Park on Palm Sunday.

"The auxiliary bishop for the event was Eduardo Navares, who celebrated mass at the fountain with nearly 600 to 700 people participating," Panakkal said. "That was the main event of our Jubilee celebrations, because we wanted to throw something for the general public to give the parish more visibility in our town."

While the Palm Sunday Mass may have been the big highlight, there were plenty of other events during the 50th Jubilee as well, Panakkal said.

"We had a 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration during lent that started on a Saturday evening at 6 p.m. and then ended Sunday at 6 p.m.," Panakkal said. "We had a parish festival in April we where had so many games and a food court...on Oct. 3 we had a Our Lady of the Rosary procession that was a combination of the 9 days of Rosary Novena that we had outside in the church in the garden."

Panakkal said that the main takeaway for church members from these events should revolve around three concepts.

Those concepts are reflect, rejoice and renew.

"The first thing was to reflect back on our past and we thanked everybody who has gone before us, such as the priests and many people who served here to build this church," Panakkal said. "...Then we rejoiced in our community together as we share our faith in Jesus. We rejoiced in the grace and blessings that was receive as a family and as a parish. The last takeaway would be to renew our commitment to love God and love one another...not only just to the parishioners around us but to continue to commit ourselves to the community."

In the near future, Panakkal hopes that the church can gain more visibility not only as a community but also physically via remodeling.

Regardless, for the long-term future of the Ascension Church, Panakkal hopes that the church continues to spread its faith to others through not only worship, but love, via charity, kindness and more.

"That our faith reaches others in not just worshiping, but also sharing that faith in the form of love around us," Panakkal said. "That's our goal."

For more information, visit ascension-fh.org.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

9:00 AM Sunday Worship
Weekly Bible Studies
FOUNTAIN HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd.
480.837.1763 | www.fhpresbyterian.info

Desert Creek Fellowship
FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA
SUNDAY SERVICE 10am
Would you like someone to pray with you?
The Healing Room is open Saturdays
between 9am and 11am
15024 N. Ivory Dr. Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
Pastor Rod Warembourg
DesertCreekFellowship.com

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FOUNTAIN HILLS
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15202 N Fountain Hills Blvd, scottsdalebible.com
SBC

Q&A with Pastor Keith Pavia of Christ Church

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Name: Keith Pavia
Occupation: Lead Pastor
Hometown: Rochester, New York

What I do: I teach and equip this congregation to know the truth (God's word) and follow Jesus fully. I meet regularly with members through pastoral care, coaching, men's events, Bible studies, etc. I also enjoy volunteering throughout our community, helping those in need, (to include prayer) and also abroad (out of country), with mission work.

When and why I moved here: I moved here in 2017 after being asked to join the CCFH team as executive pastor. My wife and I prayed about it, and believed God directed us to move to Fountain Hills, and nine years later, we are loving it.

What I like most about living here: I love the people, both at Christ's Church and within this community. And how this town has its own special feel. You can't help but see God's hand in the beauty of this place.



Pastor Keith Pavia of Christ Church of Fountain Hills. (Submitted photo/Dee Pavia)

What is something most people don't know about you? I taught high school for 15 years and coached college and high school football, varsity baseball, wrestling, tennis and JV baseball and volleyball as well as junior high basketball.

Who is your inspiration and why? Jesus, 100%. I was lost and didn't know Him for 37 Years and He waited for me. When I asked Him in, God moved me to serve in four different churches (and pastoral roles) in the Valley, without ever applying for a position. If we follow, He will lead us and equip us for where we are meant to be.

At the end of the day, what brings you the most joy? Seeing people who believe in Jesus, belong to Jesus. What a difference, and I get to do this alongside my wife, who loves the Lord as much as I do. And I can't forget our seven sons, their wives and our three grandchildren. They are the greatest blessing to us for sure.

What are the opportunities you see in your community and in your church? There are many more people to be reached, and our church wants to help this town have a positive, healthy culture. We can be lights on the hill and show love by sharing His truth and being His hands and feet.

What is your favorite thing about Christ's Church of Fountain Hills? Serving alongside my family and having a group of people that want truth and want to live their new lives in Christ. It is a place filled with real people who simply love God and strive to do His will. And we do it together. It's truly a place to call home.

What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind once you step down from your position or retire? I really want people to say that I loved the Lord and was real - that I showed others how important knowing and following Jesus is and always shared the importance of reading the Bible.

What does the town of Fountain Hills mean to you? The town of Fountain Hills means a great deal to me because of the connections I have made and the people that are here. I pray that this town is a place God is pleased with.

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Cross country gearing up for sectionals

Football season has come to a close

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA



The Fountain Hills cross country team put up a strong showing with seven runners recording personal bests. (Submitted photo/Andrea Hall)

Cross country

All five boys and both freshman girls ran personal bests for the Falcons cross country team during the Talon Invitational at Cactus Shadows.

Nate Schlossberg began his day in the top 10 and raced his way to third for what head coach Andrea Hall called "possibly his best cross country race so far."

"He ran consistently with splits of 5:21, 5:31, 5:31... Nate's time of 16:55 is just 11 seconds off the school record," Hall said. "I know he will break the record but, right now, our priority is going for the win at sectionals and turning in a great performance at state. If he gets the record, that's just a fantastic bonus."

Schlossberg said he feels confident in taking the school record by the end of the season, despite three meets left and two being sectionals and state.

Maddox Bryan and Levi Lara both ran under 20 minutes for the first time.

"(Bryan) and (Lara) are training partners for workouts and they have consistently trained at sub-20 pace. It was so exciting and rewarding to see that hard work pay off," Hall said.

Julian Baggenstos and Logan Harrison also ran bests with times of 21:48 and 22:22, respectively.

Ellie Prescott led the girls despite being sick, with Hall saying she carried cough drops in her pockets.

"She's such a tough competitor and gutted it out to run close to her season best," Hall said.

Lexi Hall worked alongside Prescott, leading to her 23:43 time, over two minutes faster than her previous best. Allison Cruz also shaved two minutes off her best, running 24:24.

The Falcons hosted a Halloween meet for a two-mile tuneup race before sectionals on Nov. 5 at Crossroads Park. The girls will race at 10 a.m. while the boys will race at 10:35 a.m.

Football

The Falcons closed their season with a 30-19 loss to Heritage Academy Mesa, but the game was closer than the scoreboard could indicate.

Head coach Nick Rock and his staff shared their pleasure in the boys' effort, trailing 22-6 in the third quarter.

Senior Kainoa Brilhante orchestrated a scoring drive capped by a 21-yard Gage Shroyer touchdown before Christian Theisen nabbed an interception on the Heroes, ensuring offensive possession. That turnover resulted in another touchdown, courtesy of Robert Mason.

The Falcons trailed 22-19 late in the third, but the Heroes managed to respond with a touchdown of their own and two-point conversion in what would be the game's last points.

"To be able to put our foot on the pedal and just keep going, we played so dang tough, and just to see the toughness from week one to this year as a whole was huge for us," Rock said.

"I wouldn't have wanted to fight with anybody else," Brilhante said. "These guys mean the world to me."

The Falcons ended their season 3-7 and missed the playoffs, though the program holds a strong class of rising sophomores and juniors to build on.

Volleyball

Fountain Hills closed its regular season with a 3-0 (25-14, 25-6, 25-9) loss at home to North Valley Christian Academy on Oct. 28. The Falcons ended their season 10-20-2 in head coach Misty McCall's first season, but she says the team will likely make the play-in round.

The Falcons matched the Lions point for point early in the opening set, though NVCA pulled away with consistent hitting and defense.

Fountain Hills found itself in a 7-2 hole to open the second set, which grew to 11-3 and then 20-4. Trailing 2-0, the Falcons pushed back in the third set and trailed 13-6, but it was not enough as the Lions pulled away for the win.



Senior quarterback and linebacker Kainoa Brilhante stiff-arms a Heritage Academy Mesa defender during the Falcons' season finale loss. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)



Senior Saedee Smith, 5, goes for the kill during the Falcons' regular-season finale against NVCA. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

McCall said it was a disappointing end to the regular season after the girls strong showing in their five-set loss to the ALA Mesa North Mavericks on Oct. 27.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Andrew Lwowski can be reached at alwowski@iniusa.org.

What to know for new Fountain Hills waste service

Universal Waste Systems taking over

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Town of Fountain Hills, with Universal Waste Systems, held a public meeting allowing residents to learn more about the new waste service provider as well as ask questions on the transition.

UWS Vice President Matt Blackburn says the collection days Republic Services, the current waste provider, operates on will remain. When UWS takes over, however, Blackburn says residents are to leave their cans out 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. on their listed collection day for six weeks for crews to swap bins. If for some reason not all bins are switched, Blackburn says residents are to keep leaving their old bins out until crews are able to fully transition.

Once residents receive their new bins they can resume their normal schedule. There is no additional fee for bin pickup and drop off, he added.

UWS will have tan bins for trash and blue bins for recycling, with 96-gallon and 65-gallon bin options.

Both trash and recycling pickup will remain on the same day, with recycling getting collected first. Blackburn assured residents crews can work for special pickup to deal with wildlife that may cause havoc.

Rates are the same for either size, and those looking to upgrade or downgrade their bin size can contact UWS for a free swap.

Blackburn says UWS will offer four bulk pickups a year, differing from Republic Services in that residents can call or email their provider to schedule pickup on their preferred collection day rather than wait for community-wide pickup. Bulk pickup is limited to 10 items or six cubic yards, Blackburn said.



Universal Waste Systems will keep a large part of Fountain Hills' current waste collections intact when it takes over in February 2027. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

There will be one chemical and household material collection per year, as well.

For those enrolled in ADA pickup, those benefits will transfer over. While accounts are currently being transferred, Blackburn says payment methods cannot for legal reasons. For those who have automatic payments set up, they will need to reset it.

With a couple of months until UWS takes over, Blackburn added that the company app is undergoing work and may be available by then for better access to control and payments.

The town council voted 5-2 in February to switch providers from Republic Services to UWS, who will start Feb 1, 2027, with a monthly rate of $19.98 for the first two years. That includes once-a-week pickup of trash and recyclables.

For additional information, contact UWS at 480-697-4580 or uwsconpany.com.

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Fountain Hills Farmers Market returns for fifth season

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills Farmers market is returning for its 5th season soon.

The 2026-27 market runs 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. every Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026, - April 28, 2027, on the Avenue of the Fountains, according to a press release.

Approximately 50 vendors are returning from the last year.

"Expect a good variety of food and health and wellness vendors. Many of the food vendors are gonna be favorites. We didn't lose any of the big ones that have been here for years and years," said Betsy Hess, who runs the market. "I'm excited about the new vendors that are coming in. Some of them I've never experienced before, but I've seen many of them at different markets that I recruited them out of. I've tasted their product and it's very good."

One of the new additions to the upcoming market is a new food truck that will bring Asian food such as bao buns, potstickers, bento boxes and more to the market.

"We have a new food truck which is really exciting. I've never had Asian food on the market," Hess said. "They're called Bonzai Boyz and they have an excellent menu. I've tried several of their dishes and they're very good."

Hess said that the market lost around 11 vendors from last year due to various reasons such as driving distance, cost of gas or moving out of the Valley.

To fill the void, 12 new vendors are coming into the market including a new seafood vendor, according to Hess.

"I'm very confident that everybody's gonna find all the fresh seafood that they've always loved here at the market. They'll be able to find them with our new vendor, Wild Alaskan Seafood," Hess said. "Some of the other really exciting new vendors I've got include Sweet Arizona, which is a candy vendor that makes their own toffee and different types of brittles...I've got a flavored tea business called Levi-Tea which makes 100% natural loose leaf white or green teas mixed with pureed real fruit."



The fifth season of the Fountain Hills Farmers Market begins on Nov. 4. (Submitted by Betsy Hess)

According to Hess, the fall market that occurred back in September did not have the same popularity as the usual peach market which was replaced due to frozen crops.

However, she believes that the fall market still generated great momentum heading into the upcoming season.

"The vendors were happy, they had a very difficult summer with it being very hot. I lost some vendors because they had to quit their business and couldn't make it through the summer," Hess said. "But the fall market was a great step forward coming back to the November market. They're all the same vendors that were at the fall market and they're coming back."

With the market being held around lunchtime hours on Wednesdays, Hess said it's a good opportunity for workers in town to stop by and grab something tasty.

"I promote the market as a chance to come and have lunch with us, because it is 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. There are businesses where the employees come down and either take home a lunch or stay at the market and have lunch," Hess said. "I believe that's a benefit to the community that they can come to the market and have different food than what is in town all the time."

Hess also mentioned that the market is a fun opportunity to spend some leisure time during the week as well.

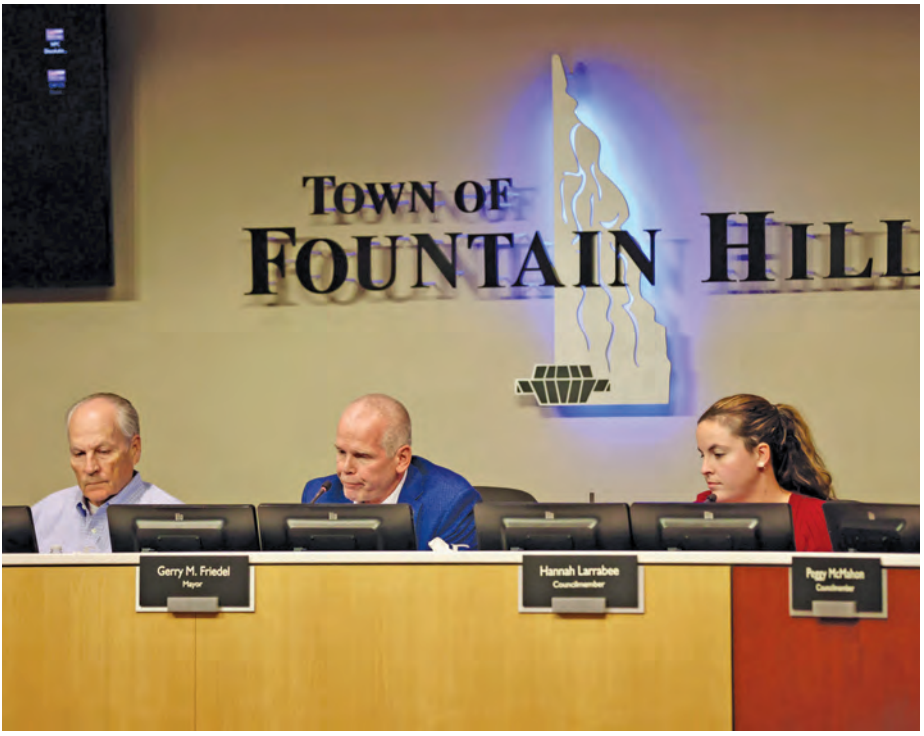
"It's a great opportunity to get out and onto the avenue to a park-like setting. You can bring a blanket, you can bring your kids or bring your dog," Hess. "It's a free park and you can sit down and have lunch. It's very enjoyable."

Overall, Hess said that people who visit the market are able to further appreciate the beauty of Fountain Hills once they head home.

"I hope they take away that Fountain Hills is a small, beautiful community that they could come back to and enjoy the park, watching the fountain, and seeing the ducks in the lake," Hess said. "...It's an opportunity to show off the town."

For more information, visit fountainhillsfarmersmarket.com/.

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The Fountain Hills Town Council revisited changes brought forth during its Oct. 6 meeting for the final wireless telecommunications draft. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

5G

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additional comments from resident Lori Troller failed by 5-2 vote, with a subsequent motion to approve passing by 5-2 vote.

Kalivianakis and McMahon both cited concerns over the FCC's Build America Project and its impact on the ordinance, with McMahon calling this ordinance "premature."

The FCC did make a proposed rule that includes wireless barriers a year ago, Scott McCollough of McCollough Law Firm said.

McCollough Law was hired as outside counsel to draft legislation on the subject.

"...The commission, as a matter of administrative law, is going to have to do a supplemental notice for proposed rule making, receive comments and then take the matter up again sometime in the future," he said. "It is possible it will act. The things it can do in the short term are very limited and would not much, if at all, affect the ordinance here."

McCollough later said he and his firm are "fairly confident" that should the town follow the ordinance, the evidence and make an articulated case, it can defend its ordinance.

Amendments include separation requirements from daycare facilities and schools and defined submittal requirements for temporary wireless facilities.

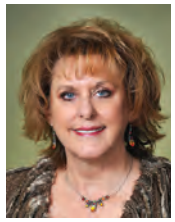
There were six online comment cards, all of which were against the changes. Troller offered nine suggestions pertaining to the balloon test, items to strike out and formatting.

Kalivianakis said Troller is making her case for her by citing errors in the document while she called the ordinance "very sloppy."

Councilman Rick Watts said he preferred to pass the ordinance and revisit Troller's changes, which he called "minor in nature" at a later time. Vanessa Shinmoto of McCollough Law said they felt comfortable doing so.

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IN



Area Home Sales

October 13, 2026 - October 16, 2026

The Verdes

26628 N Avenida Del Ray	$590,000	17964 E Paria Canyon Dr	$1,850,000
29547 N Juventino Way	$1,600,262	17527 E Silver Sage Ln	$550,000
17021 E Lowden Rd	$650,000	17747 E Stocking Trl	$1,303,559

Homes sold this period: 6 Median Price: $976,780 Average price: $1,090,637
Same period last year: 6 Median Price: $770,454 Average price: $817,162

Fountain Hills

15740 E Cholla Dr	$985,000	14729 E Prairie Dog Trl	$2,958,218
14850 E Grandview Dr Unit 110	$719,000	13926 E Sienna Ave	$1,875,843
16819 E Gunsight Dr Unit A31	$190,000	14720 E Summit Dr	$1,400,000
16354 E Palisades Blvd Unit 3103	$251,000	11011 N Zephyr Dr Unit 110	$435,000
15346 E Palomino Blvd	$1,106,000		

Homes sold this period: 9 Median Price: $985,000 Average price: $1,102,229
Same period last year: 6 Median Price: $597,500 Average price: $837,916

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

Fearless Kitty Rescue holds open house for new medical center

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Fearless Kitty Rescue recently held an open house for its new medical center in Fountain Hills.

Located at 11881 N. Saguaro Blvd., the medical center provides more space than the main rescue on 16832 E. Avenue of the Fountains, which makes it easier to isolate sick cats and provide them with important medical care before they are ready for adoption.

"If there's any types of issues like ringworm, we have an isolation area that can totally keep the cats isolated from the population that we're adopting out, so we're not transferring any germs or stuff like that," Fearless Kitty president and CEO Steve Hedden said. "We also have areas so that any cats that are sick, we can treat them. They're here, under care, all day long with people. We're able to keep our general population safer and have better outcomes."

Hedden said that the open house, held on Oct. 18 helps to show the public what the new center has in store. While it's been open for a few months, the open house was the first time the public gets to see it.



Fearless Kitty Rescue recently held an open house for its new medical center in Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/Connor Van Ligten)

"We're giving tours, showing people how everything works, how it's helping us adopt out more cats." Hedden said. "We had a nice stream of people coming by. We have volunteers here giving tours, so it's working out pretty good."

The medical center's increased capacity is not just safer for cats, but potentially life-saving.

"We have an intake room and an actual isolation unit that we can keep more cats in. We have more cages, which means we have more room to bring in more cats," Fearless Kitty Board Member Christine Orbeck said. "We're hoping to help agencies that are needing to euthanize cats for space. We don't euthanize for space, so we can help them bring those cats in and use some space to help them."

Something else offered by the medical center is the catio, a closed-off outdoor space for cats that are being isolated to get some fresh air while still remaining isolated.

Hedden hopes that Fearless Kitty can keep raising money to add another catio to the center.

"They're getting fresh air," Hedden said. "In the future, we'd like to add another catio out front so more cats can have that outdoor availability."

More space does mean more volunteers are needed, according to marketing and events coordinator Holly Henderson.

"We absolutely need more volunteers. Two buildings mean both will need volunteers in two different physical spaces. We have medical caregivers in here every day," Henderson said. "We have morning and night caregiving shifts. We always need more caregivers."

Overall, Hedden hopes that people come away from the open house more educated about their work.

"We want them to see what our operation really is," Hedden said. "...It's really about educating them on what we're doing as a rescue as we grow and adopt out more cats."

For more information on Fearless Kitty Rescue, visit https://fearlesskittyrescue.org/.

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Community Foundation to hold butterfly-themed fundraiser

The Fountain Hills Community Foundation is holding a butterfly-themed fundraiser later this fall.

"Flutter at the Fountain" takes place 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the Fountain Hills Community Center and Centennial Pavilion at 13001 N. La Montana Drive, according to a press release.

Proceeds from the event directly fund FHCF's annual grant awards to support local nonprofit organizations that provide essential services for Fountain Hills.

The event will feature painted artwork of butterflies and bobcats, a live DJ, dancing, food and more.

To purchase a ticket for $50 and for more information, visit app.galabid.com/flutter26/event-tickets.



The Fountain Hills Community Foundation is holding "Flutter at the Fountain" on Nov. 21. (Photo courtesy FHCF)



While there are currently no license plate reading cameras in town, the town council is moving forward with discussion on the topic. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

ALPR

• From page 1

tion, we're not addressing a problem," Kalivianakis said. "Right now it feels like we're debating a hypothetical issue..."

Kalivianakis asked Town Manager Rachael Goodwin if private companies are allowed to encroach onto town rights-of-way and install cameras, to which Goodwin said it would have to be authorized by the council.

Skillicorn said he believes the sheriff's office would oppose this while reiterating his stance against private companies collecting data.

"I think that the concerns of protecting privacy will outweigh their lack of support for this," he said.

"I don't see the need right now," McMahon added. "They are very, very expensive systems to put in and maintain and we don't have the budget for it now and I don't anticipate having the budget for it in the future."

Mayor Gerry Friedel concurred about the lack of budgetary funds, but said the ordinance would do no harm. Watts also said he couldn't stand on the ordinance as it was currently without a financial breakdown.

However, Vice Mayor Gayle Earle and Councilmember Hannah Larrabee said they wanted the item agendized for possible action during the council's next meeting on Nov. 17.

Skillicorn called out members on the council for what he called a "delay tactic," saying, "justice delayed is justice denied."

"Trying to get information from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and their staff on something that's going to be agendized and turned into an ordinance is a delay tactic?"Kalivianakis asked. "Just because we don't blindly sign up to the ordinance that you wrote?"

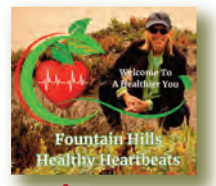
Fountain Hills Community Garden

9th Anniversary Celebration

to support the Community Garden and The Extended Hands Food Bank







Saturday, November 7th

10am-2pm at the Garden

(Located adjacent to the library)

This event is free and is open to the public but please bring non perishable items to donate to the Food Bank from 10-2.

Event Schedule

10am-1pm: Silent Auction to benefit The FH Community Garden and the Extended Hands Food Bank

1pm: Healing Foods Series Class with Debbie Romano

10am-1pm Rescue Pals Dog Adoption

10am-1pm: Visit the Vendor Booths

Access Coffee
Arizona Farm Grown Raw Honey
Artistic Expressions
Blue Zone Inspired Fountain Hills
Earth and GrAZe Charcuterie
Extended Hands Food Bank Truck
FH Community Garden Plant Seedlings
Kolibri Aesthetics
Lori's Lunchbox Whole Foods
NuSkin/Donna Beers
Revive Medical Massage
Soapinessence
Social Sips
SaporOlio and Vinegar
Twice Baked Sourdough
Wellness Compounding Pharmacy & Clinic
Yvonella Nuts & Dried Fruits

www.fountainhillscommunitygarden.com

Boosting enrollment discussed in Fountain Hills

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills Unified School District Community Advisory Committee met Oct. 28 to discuss ways to increase enrollment through improved marketing, social media and outreach to families moving into the area.

Committee members agreed to bring a proposal to the governing board outlining a job description and potential payment structures for someone to manage the district's social media, along with a plan to establish a marketing subgroup.

Ideas included improving the district's Facebook presence, creating Instagram and TikTok accounts, promoting athletics and clubs, highlighting unique facilities such as the planetarium, developing promotional materials for real estate agents and improving website navigation.

Superintendent Val Reichler said the district is already working with an outside company to rebuild its website with improved search engine optimization and a more user-friendly design. She also agreed that the district needs to strengthen its social media presence.



Cecil Yates speaks to the Community Advisory Committee and board members at their meeting Oct. 28, in Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

Committee member Cecil Yates volunteered to develop structures for a social media position. He said the district's current online presence does not adequately answer the questions prospective students and parents often have about school life.

"Am I going to start on the football team? Am I going to have friends? And is there enough for me to do and then am I not going to get bullied?" Yates said.

He said the district should better communicate its school culture while highlighting features that distinguish it from neighboring districts.

"Your competitive and strategic advantages, the dark sky, the planetarium, the facility. I mean, there's some things that we blow all of our competitors out of the water, but we don't share that," he said.

Committee member Jack Wigley said a lack of volunteers, time and money makes it difficult for the district to take on additional projects. He suggested beginning with marketing efforts aimed at attracting younger students that could potentially stay in the district the longest.

"The real critical problem today is we don't have the resources to do this stuff," Wigley said.

Board President Dr. Richard Rutkowski, who also serves on the committee, said the district would need to find a way to fund the effort, whether through outside help, a teacher stipend or another arrangement.

"If this committee says we need to pursue more social media, then it's our job to figure out a way to do it," he said.

The committee also agreed district staff should attend Arizona Department of Real Estate meetings in Fountain Hills at least quarterly to build relationships with real estate professionals and provide informational they can share with families considering moving to the area.

Reichler said the district has recently received increased interest in school tours amid Scottsdale closures.

She plans to attend the tours personally and is also planning an elementary school open house before Thanksgiving to give community members a low-pressure opportunity to visit and learn more about the school.

Ascension blesses local pets

The Ascension Church in Fountain Hills blessed the animals on Oct. 5 to honor the Saint Francis, the Catholic patron saint of ecology and animals.

Rather than the usual congregation of followers, Father Jilson Panakkal, the church pastor, was greeted by the barks, tail wags, and meows of dogs and cats, according to a press release.

Panakkal blessed canine and cat visitors, but an expected animal guest came in the form of a turtle owned by parishioners John and Donna Biczo.

The church considered the event a acknowledgment of the spiritual weight animals hold in people's daily lives, as well as carrying on the legacy of Saint Francis, who viewed all elements of nature as his spiritual siblings.

For information on Ascension Church, visit ascensionfh.org/.



A turtle is blessed by Father Jilson Panakkal of the Ascension Church. (Submitted photo/Linda Kavanagh)



The adopted 5G ordinance requires land developers of 50 or more acres to pre-plat for cell towers, though they are not obligatory. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

Town passes 5G subdivision ordinance

For land development with cell towers

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Following the approval of the final 5G wireless telecommunications draft earlier in the night during its Oct. 20 meeting, the Fountain Hills Town Council subsequently passed its subdivision ordinance by 5-2 vote.

Councilwomen Brenda Kalivianakis and Peggy McMahon voted against.

As the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the ordinance, future land development was considered when pertaining to wireless cell towers.

For plats of 50 acres or more, developers are required to have a designated area for a tower, though Development Services Director John Wesley said it does not obligate them to install them.

"Rather than have towers determined sometime in the future after homes are already built and people establish their homes without the thought that a cell tower may come in by identifying those locations upfront," Wesley said.

Councilman Allen Skillicorn called the provision "proactive" and "forward-looking."

However, McMahon said it's like "waving a red flag."

"I have concerns that it's expensive, the topography might not be there," she said while also questioning why it's up to the developer when a tower may or may not occur.

Six submitted online comment cards against the measure.

The preliminary plats expire after one year if they are not followed with a final plat.

Councilman Rick Watts compared the measure to real estate disclosures.

"All we're saying is it needs to be disclosed for future buyers," he said.

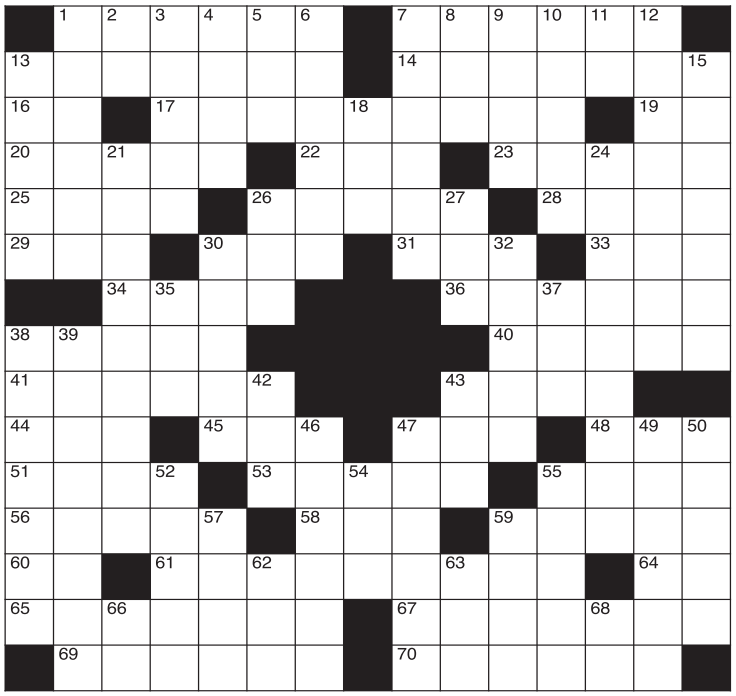
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PUZZLES FROM METRO CREATIVE SERVICES



Answers on page 15

INTERACTIVE PUZZLES ON YOURVALLEY.NET

CLUES ACROSS
1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. ÒGame of ThronesÓ actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. ÒThe Mount Rushmore StateÓ
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN
1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. ÒBoardwalk EmpireÓ actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in New York on November 2, 1966. However, I was raised in Los Angeles. I studied theater at Northwestern University. I became a household name in the mid-1990s while starring on a very popular TV show about a group of young people living in New York City.

Answer: David Schwimmer

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to men's health.

DBGANLI

Answer: Balding

MEN'S HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AGING
ANDROGENS
ARTHRITIS
CANCER
CHECKUP
DEPRESSION
DOCTOR
EXERCISE
FITNESS
HAIR LOSS
HEALTH
INFERTILITY
LIVER
MOVEMBER
MUSCLE
MUSTACHE
PHYSICAL
PROSTATE
TESTOSTERONE
THERAPY
UROLOGICAL
WELL-BEING



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INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 26-16

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.03, SUBDIVISION SITE DESIGN STANDARDS, SUBSECTION B, IN THE FOUNTAIN HILLS SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE TO ADD A NEW ITEM 10 ESTABLISHING A REQUIREMENT IN SUBDIVISIONS OF 50 ACRES OR MORE TO INCLUDE A LOCATION SUITABLE FOR INSTALLATION OF A FUTURE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Council of the Town of Fountain Hills (the "Town Council") adopted Ordinance No. 96-29, which established the Subdivision Ordinance for the Town of Fountain Hills (the "Subdivision Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to amend Article 3, Subdivision Design Principles and Standards, Section 3.03, Subdivision Site Design Standards, of the Subdivision Ordinance to address issues related to provision of wireless telecommunication towers and equipment; and

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

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

SECTION 2. The Subdivision Ordinance, Article 3, Subdivision Design Principles and Standards, Section 3.03, Subdivision Site Design Standards, is hereby amended as contained in Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, such provision or portion hereof shall be deemed separate, distinct and independent of all other provisions and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. 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.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its passage and adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, and its approval by the Mayor and attestation by the Town Clerk.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, this 20th day of October, 2026.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA
/s/Gerry M. Friedel, Mayor

ATTEST:
/s/Angela Padgett-Espiritu, Deputy Town Clerk
On behalf of Bevelyn Bender, Town Clerk

REVIEWED BY:
/s/Rachael Goodwin, Town Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
/s/Tim La Sota, Town Attorney

EXHIBIT A | Available in the Town Clerk's Office

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, October 28, November 4, 2026/50932_1

Public Notice

COPY
JUL 27 2026

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
IN MARICOPA COUNTY

(2) ZACHARY N HULL, Petitioner (or original case)
(3) Case No. FC2012-092176
(4) ATLAS No. ATLAS 001234253400
(5) ARLENE MORANG, Respondent (or original case)

PETITION TO STOP INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER (AND) ALL MARICOPA COUNTY SUPPORT ORDER(S) A.R.S. §25-504

Note: If any current or past due child support or spousal maintenance is still owed under the terms of the current support order(s), STOP! You have the wrong form. Review the forms to MODIFY the Order or Assignment to see if appropriate for your situation.

I, (6) ZACHARY HULL, ask the court to terminate the Income Withholding Order (Order requiring an employer or other payor of funds to withhold funds for child support or spousal maintenance) in which:

(6a) ZACHARY HULL, Petitioner is the person ordered to make payments, and
(6b) ARLENE MORANG, Respondent is the person entitled to receive payments.

"Income Withholding Order" issued: (a) 04/11/2021 (Month/Day/Year)
The Income Withholding Order was issued by: SUPERIOR COURT (Name of Court)
Located in this County: MARICOPA COUNTY (Name of County)
Located in this State: ARIZONA (Name of State)

I also ask the Court to terminate any underlying Maricopa County child support and/or spousal maintenance (Support Orders).

Child Support Order issued: (7) 04/11/2014 (Month/Day/Year)
The Support Order was issued by: SUPERIOR COURT (Name of Court)
Located in this County: MARICOPA COUNTY (Name of County)
Located in this State: ARIZONA (Name of State)

Spousal Maintenance Order issued: (8) N/A (Month/Day/Year)
The Support Order was issued by: (Name of Court)
Located in this County: (Name of County)
Located in this State: (Name of State)

The Income Withholding Order should be stopped and any Maricopa County Support Order(s) should be terminated because:

(9) Check the appropriate box(es) to explain why the Order(s) should be terminated:

☒ (a) All past due child support (back child support/arrearages/interest) has been paid and the person making payments is no longer obligated to pay current child support because all children named in the Child Support Order:
1. are 18 and not attending high school or a certified equivalency program, and / or
2. are 19, and / or
3. have been adopted, and / or
4. are married, and / or
5. are deceased.

☐ All past due spousal maintenance (alimony arrearages/interest) has been paid or satisfied and this person making payments is no longer required to pay spousal maintenance.

☐ Legal decision making (child custody) has been changed by Order of this Court.

☐ We are remarried to each other. A copy of our marriage license is attached.

☐ The case has been dismissed. Order of Dismissal is attached if not from this Court.

☒ Other condition for ending payments listed in the underlying support order has occurred. Describe:
CHILD SUPPORT HAS BEEN PAID ONE MONTH AHEAD SO CHILD SUPPORT SHOULD STOP
- MINOR CHILD, CHARISH ANN HULL, TURNS 18 ON AUGUST 13, 2026.

(9)(a)(X) ☒ I ask the Court to order the Support Payment Clearinghouse to hold any payments received pursuant to the Income Withholding Order until further order of the Court. I understand that if this request is granted, additional payments may be sent to the other party before the Support Payment Clearinghouse receives the order from the Court.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION AND VERIFICATION
I swear or affirm that the information on this document is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

Signature: 7/24/26 Date

STATE OF Arizona
COUNTY OF Maricopa
Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me this: 7/24/26 (Date) by
Zachary Hull
(notary seal) LORELL WILLIAMS NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA Maricopa County Commission # 579631 My Comm. Exp. Mar. 6, 2030
Deputy Clerk or Notary Public

NOTICE TO OTHER PARTY: If you do not agree with this Petition, you have twenty days (thirty days if you were served outside the state of Arizona) in which to respond by completing a petition for hearing. If requested, a hearing will be set. The forms necessary to request a hearing are available from the Clerk of Superior Court, for purchase from the Law Library Resource Center, or they may be downloaded for free from the Internet.

If you do not request a hearing in writing within the time allowed, the Court will review the Petition to Stop Order of Assignment (and Maricopa County Support Orders), and will grant the request, if appropriate.

CURRENT EMPLOYER* INFORMATION
You may also fill out this form online at the Family Support Center Website.

COPY
JUL 27 2026

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR:
☐ AN INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER
☒ ORDER TO STOP AN INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER
☐ NOTIFICATION OF A CHANGE OF EMPLOYER (or OTHER PAYOR)

CASE NUMBER: FC2013-092176 ATLAS NUMBER: ATLAS 001234253400

NAME OF PERSON ORDERED TO MAKE PAYMENTS:
ZACHARY HULL

LIST THE NAME OF THE EMPLOYER* AND THE ADDRESS OF THE PAYROLL OR FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT (for the person named above) WHERE THE INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER OR STOP ORDER SHOULD BE MAILED.

EMPLOYER* NAME: N/A
PAYROLL ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE: ZIP:
EMPLOYER* TELEPHONE:
EMPLOYER* FAX:
*or other payor or source of funds

FOR COURT USE ONLY. DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE.
WA/FBC
WA/LOG ID:
TYPE OF W/A
DATE
AMOUNT OF ORDER
EMPLOYER STATUS
ENTERED BY
NEW W/A SUE
AG DCSE

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 2026/50410_1

Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 26-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE FOUNTAIN HILLS ZONING ORDINANCE BY REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 17, WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS AND ANTENNAS WITH A NEW CHAPTER 17, WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS AND ANTENNA.

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

WHEREAS, the Town desires to enhance the ability of the providers of telecommunications services to provide such services to the community quickly, effectively, and efficiently while protecting residential areas and land uses from potential adverse impacts of towers and antennas; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to repeal the existing Chapter 17, Wireless Communication Towers and Antennas and replace it with a new and updated Chapter 17, Wireless Communication Towers and Antennas; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance and pursuant to ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 9-462.04, public hearings regarding this ordinance were advertised in the August 26, 2026, and September 1, 2026, editions of the Fountain Hills Times; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 14, 2026, and by the Town Council on October 20, 2026; and

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

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

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

SECTION 2. Chapter 17 of the Fountain Hills Zoning Ordinance is hereby repealed and replaced with the ordinance as provided in Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, such provision or portion hereof shall be deemed separate, distinct and independent of all other provisions and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE - WHEREAS, it is necessary for the preservation of the peace, health, and safety of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance shall become immediately operative and in force from and after the date of adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, this 20th day of October, 2026.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA
/s/Gerry M. Friedel, Mayor

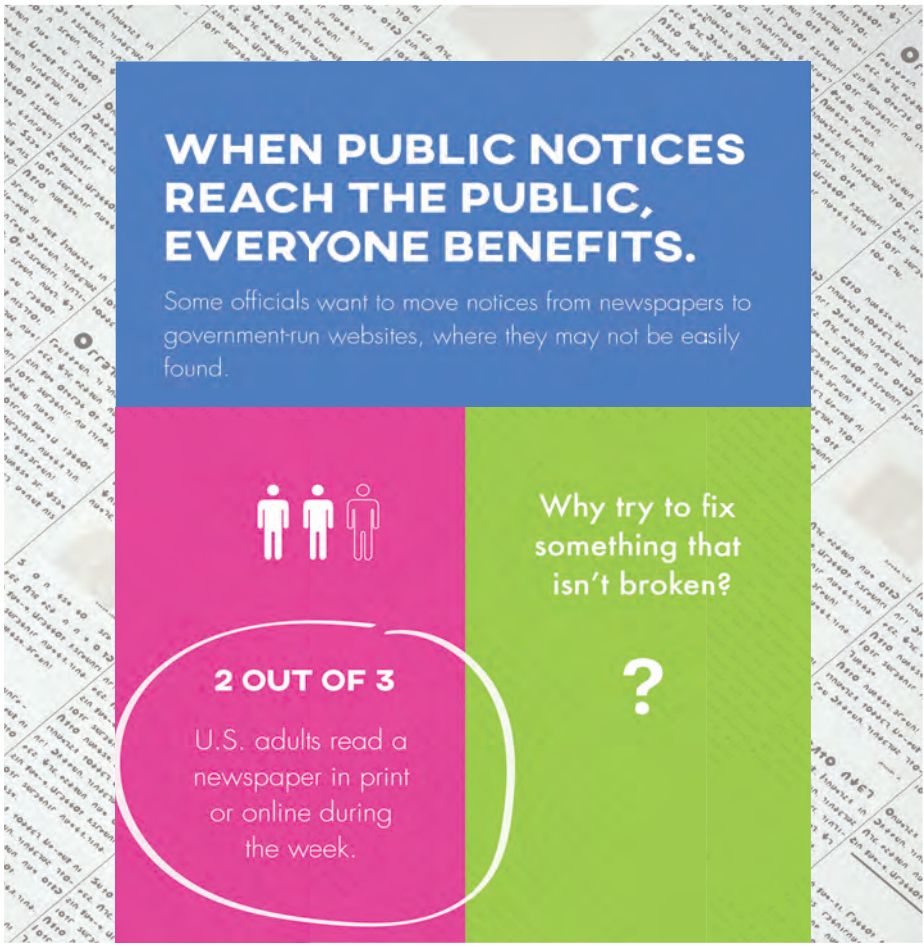
ATTEST:
/s/Angela Padgett-Espiritu, Deputy Town Clerk
On behalf of Bevelyn Bender, Town Clerk

REVIEWED BY:
/s/Rachael Goodwin, Town Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
/s/Tim La Sota, Town Attorney

EXHIBIT A | Available in the Town Clerk's Office

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, October 28, November 4, 2026/50933_1



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- Bob's Free Bikes
- Extended Hands Food Bank
- Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Fountain Hills Coalition
- Fountain Hills HS Football - Gridiron Club
- Fountain Hills Leadership Academy
- Fountain Hills Women's Club
- Four Peaks Rotary
- Rescue Pals
- Salt River Wild Horse Management Group
- Salvation Army of Arizona

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