



# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

\$1.00

Volume 46, No. 8 • 26 pages • 2 sections

## Mayor's Town Talk set for Feb. 26

Vice Mayor Art Tolis and Councilman Mike Scharnow will join Mayor Ginny Dickey at her next Town Talk event on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Community Center.

The evening will start with welcoming remarks by the mayor and guest council members at 6:30 p.m., followed by comments

and Q&A by attendees. One of the topics they would like to address is the town budget. Other council members are invited and may be in attendance. They will be featured in future Town Talk events tentatively scheduled for April and June. As always, there will be coffee, water and cookies.



Times photo by Barb Charzuk

## The tiny details

Chief technical officer Manuel J. Yazjian sets the hands of a watch movement at FTS USA, the new watch manufacturing facility established on the local East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) campus. FTS officially opened its doors on Feb. 8 and is in the market for employees. For story and more photos, see page 1B.

## Shooting Additional details emerge

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

Before confronting Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Brandon Wells the evening of Monday, Jan. 7, Ismail Hamed told an MCSO dispatcher that he "had allegiance" to the Islamic state and was eager to talk to a deputy about his concerns for "suffering" people.

Last week the Sheriff's Office released audio tapes for two 911 calls Hamed made before the confrontation, the video from the deputy's body camera and heavily redacted charging documents. Initially sealed by a judge, the documents were ordered released after a legal challenge by Valley media outlets.

Sheriff Paul Penzone and the Phoenix FBI office are still refusing to talk about details of the investigation but, using the material released along with previously



Ismail Hamed

known information, there is emerging a picture of what happened that evening.

Sometime around 5 p.m. the 18-year-old Hamed walked to Town Hall at Avenue of the Fountains and La Montana Drive. The Sheriff's District 7 substation is located in the

(cont. on page 10A)

## Casino

# New structure taking form

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

Construction crews are making substantial progress on the new Fort McDowell Casino at the Yavapai Nation reservation adjacent to Fountain Hills.

Steel is rising out of the ground and roof girders are being put into place on the 166,341 square-foot gaming facility.

The Yavapai Nation has had bingo and gaming op-

erations at Fort McDowell for four decades. They survived a challenge in 1992 when federal agents shut down the casino and confiscated slot machines. A gaming compact was eventually signed with the state and was supported by a statewide public vote.

Native American communities across Arizona have grown and expanded their own gaming operations, and Fort McDowell has chosen to update and expand its facility to com-

pete. "After many years of hard work and study our little tribe is now at the dawn of a new era," Tribal Council President Bernadine Burnette said at the groundbreaking ceremony in June 2018. "We are grateful to the many, many people who have supported us over the years. That support has made this day possible."

Recalling the standoff

(cont. on page 10A)

# Caution advised following trio of car break-ins

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is investigating three reports of vehicles being broken into on Sunday, Feb. 10, at a parking lot in Fountain Park.

Deputies responded when three vehicles were broken into while the owners were in the park and the vehicles parked in the adjoining lot.

The three break-ins occurred around the same time, between 5 and 5:15 or 5:20 p.m., according to MCSO Capt. Larry Kratzer.

"After parking in the parking lot and returning to their vehicles, three victims reported the back window of their vehicle smashed and purses removed from all three vehicles," Kratzer said. "It appears that with the short amount of time that transpired from the time that the vehicle owners parked

their cars and returned, that the suspect may have been watching for folks to leave property in their vehicles and for an opportunity to make entry into the vehicles."

Kratzer said there are a few things people can do to avoid being the victim of such a crime.

First and foremost, do not leave personal property inside a vehicle in plain view. If there is no way to

(cont. on page 10A)



Steel framework is rising from the site of the new building for Fort McDowell Casino.



This aerial shot shows the land that was cleared as construction began on the new casino. Image courtesy of Larry Arbanas.

# Weekend traffic to ramp up for Great Fair on Avenue

Traffic will be heavier this weekend as visitors and 480 artists flock to town for The Great Fair along the Avenue of the Fountains and a segment of Saguaro Boulevard.

Attendance for The Great Fair runs close to 200,000 over the three days.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, to Sunday, Feb. 24.

Admission is free. The event takes place rain or shine.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7507, long-time organizers of a beer garden at the festival, will again provide live music at their beer gardens.

Borderline, a band of retired police and military members, will play classic rock from noon to 4:30 p.m.,

Friday and Sunday.

The band, Hooked on a Feeling, will play from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday including music from the '50s such as The Beatles, Elvis and country selections.

Jim Doeden will play in the mini-garden on N. Verde River Drive from noon to 5 p.m. daily.

Food concessionaires will be grouped in a food court extending along Verde River Drive and Paul Nordin Parkway, as well as at Saguaro and the Avenue overlooking Fountain Park.

Several local non-profit organizations sell food and drinks to raise funds for community programs in addition to commercial vendors.

Scooter rentals are available. The festival is not considered pet-friendly.



Times photo by Barb Charzuk

"Little Duffer," a bronze sculpture by Marianne Caroselli, greeted visitors last year to The Great Fair. The arts and crafts festival, sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce, will return from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday through Sunday, Feb. 22-24.

## INSIDE THIS WEEK

### Sports:

Madison George (pictured) moves the ball as FHHS girls soccer ends season in state quarterfinals.

See Page 2B

### Watchmakers:

A new international company find home in Fountain Hills.

See Page 1B

### EVIT:

Probe raises concerns about employment practices.

See Page 10A



## WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Feb. 12	66	49	--
Wed., Feb. 13	67	53	--
Thurs., Feb. 14	59	51	.45
Fri., Feb. 15	64	39	--
Sat., Feb. 16	59	37	--
Sun., Feb. 17	55	42	.18
Mon., Feb. 18	48	32	.18

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

