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Times photo by Bob Burns

MaDD about helping

The Town of Fountain Hills held its annual volunteer Make a Difference Day on Saturday, Oct. 24, with more than 250 volunteers helping with 37 projects. Dozens helped with refreshing the landscaping in the Community Center parking lot with 200 bushes and trees planted. See additional photos on Page 12A.

Roundabout open as work wraps

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The new roundabout intersection at Avenue of the Fountains and La Montana Drive opened to traffic in all directions last week, however, motorists should be aware there is still a week or two of work to be done before the project is complete.

The town is having pavement maintenance done on La Montana Drive between Palisades and El Lago

boulevards, as well as Avenue of the Fountains from La Montana to Palisades Blvd.

Mill and overlay work is currently underway on those streets with the contractor removing old asphalt and replacing it with new.

Motorists who have driven through the new intersection have likely noticed the drop of about two inches between the new

(cont. on page 2A)

General Election next Tuesday

The Voting Center in Fountain Hills is open for those who want to cast their ballot in person and early for the Nov. 3 General Election.

The center will be open through Election Day with

the hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. It will be closed on Sunday, Nov. 1, and Monday, Nov. 2. The center will be open on Election Day, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to

(cont. on page 2A)

Armed robbery Sunday

Two armed suspects surprised three employees of the O'Reilly Auto Parts store on Shea Boulevard in Fountain Hills Sunday evening, Oct. 25.

According to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office the two masked suspects contacted the employees at about 8:20 p.m. as they exited the store after closing.

The employees were restrained inside the store while the suspects took cash from the store.

The victims were left restrained as the suspects left the store in an unknown direction. It is also unknown whether they fled in a vehicle or on foot.

MCSO detectives are continuing the investigation.

We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort opens Thursday

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

In 1984 the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation opened the first tribal gaming operation in Arizona. What began as Baja Bingo has seen a lot of changes and history, as the Yavapai Nation at Fort McDowell was at the point of the spear for Indian gaming rights in the state and nation.

In 1992 an attempt by federal agents to seize slot machines at the Fort McDowell Casino halted operations, but only temporarily as the nation challenged the state for its right under federal law to operate the casino.

Fort McDowell Casino reopened and grew with more slots and table games.

Eventually the time came for the operation to grow even more to keep up with other tribal gaming operations, which Fort McDowell had a big part in establishing their right to open.

The old building where the original bingo hall opened is still part of the Fort McDowell Casino — that is, until today. The casino will close at midnight tonight and Fort McDowell Casino will be no more.

At 6 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, Oct. 29, the new We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort will open for a new age of gaming and entertainment in the Northeast Valley and, according to organizers, raise the bar for Valley gaming venues.

In addition to offering

(cont. on page 3A)

Town finances are weathering pandemic

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

With town staff monitoring finances carefully through the pandemic-induced economic downturn, revenues for the first quarter of the 20/21 fiscal year are headed in the positive direction after an upbeat

finish to last fiscal year.

Town Finance Director David Pock presented his first quarter update at the regular Town Council session Oct. 20. It covers the months of July through September.

The report focused on revenue only with no update on expenditures. Pock said expenditures are not

budgeted month to month.

“Revenue collection for the first quarter is encouraging and exceeded budget expectations by \$825,000,” Pock told the council. “Most TPT (sales tax) categories are outperforming last year (first quarter).”

He added that state

(cont. on page 2A)

General Election

Education funding through Prop 208

By Joey Postiglione
Times Reporter

On the ballot this November for Arizona voters to decide is Proposition 208, or the Invest in Education Act.

Prop 208 is proposing a new 3.5% income tax surcharge on incomes over \$250,000 for a single person and \$500,000 for married couples.

The new 3.5% surcharge

would be added onto the current tax rate of 4.5% for a total of 8%. The new revenue generated by the surcharge would be placed in the Student Support and Safety fund.

The monies in the fund would first be used to pay the administrative cost of implementing, administering and enforcing the measure, and then will be

used for the following:

*50% for grants for teacher and classroom support, personnel hiring and salary increases.

*25% for grants for student support services hiring and salary increases.

*10% for grants that help retain new teachers.

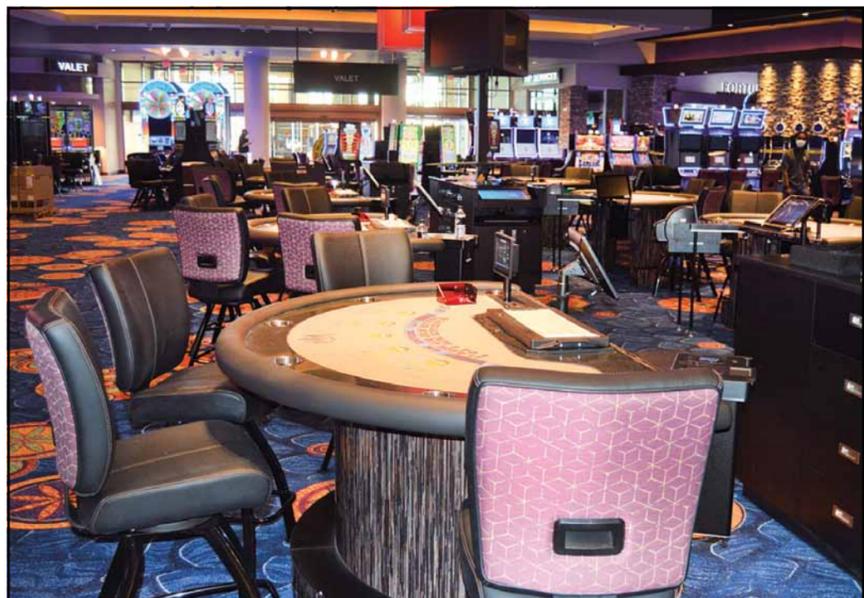
*12% for career training

(cont. on page 2A)



Times photos by Bob Burns

The porte-cochere offers a spectacular entry feature for the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort and Hotel at Fort McDowell.



There are two black-jack pits with several tables on the floor of the casino.

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INSIDE

Turkey Trot:
Sign up for Thanksgiving event.
See Page 11A

Approved:
Council talks holiday lights, auto sales, signs.
See Page 3A

Theater:
“4 on the Floor” hits stage in November.
See Page 17A

COVID-19 update

Reported Cases*
As of Tuesday, Oct. 27

Maricopa County Totals: 155,458

Fountain Hills Totals: 295

*Source: Arizona Department of Health Services

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Oct. 20	93	63	--
Wed., Oct. 21	95	62	--
Thurs., Oct. 22	91	64	--
Fri., Oct. 23	91	66	--
Sat., Oct. 24	85	63	--
Sun., Oct. 25	83	62	--
Mon., Oct. 26	75	47	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to www.fhtimes.com

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