



# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

**SAVE \$40**  
ON NO ENTRY SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

• Regularly \$129, now only \$89

• Work performed by NATE-certified techs



Service Experts Advantage PROGRAM

Upgrade to Worry-Free Comfort

Low Monthly Payment And never a penny more\*



**Water Heater About to Tank?**

We have an Advantage Program for that!

Worry-Free Hot Water as low as \$28.99/Month

And no additional charges—EVER!





**Bob Brown**  
HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & PLUMBING | A Service Experts Company

623.432.9437  
BobBrownServiceExperts.com



WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS, 24/7  
© 2020 Service Experts, Service Experts Heating & Air Conditioning, and the Service Experts logo and design are registered trademarks of Service Experts LLC and used under license by SE Canada Inc. Offer not valid on prior purchases and cannot be combined with any other offers. Some restrictions apply. \*See your signed Advantage Program Agreement for full details and exclusions. Lease with approved credit, visit ServiceExperts.com for details. Service Experts has made a \$250,000 commitment in 2020 to Make-A-Wish® to help create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses in the U.S. and Canada. To learn more, visit wish.org. License #: ROC 277059 PROMO CODE: 33136-82

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

\$1.00

Volume 47, No. 22 • 18 pages • 1 sections

## Honoring sacrifice



The annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Fountain Hills Veterans Memorial in Fountain Park drew a smaller than usual crowd due to COVID-19 restrictions, but there were still a fair amount of people gathering for the event. Sam Coffee representing the AMVETS Post 7 in Fountain Hills salutes after setting a wreath at the memorial. Representatives of all four veterans organizations in Fountain Hills set a wreath at the memorial, American Legion, VFW and Marine Corps League.



Merritt Miller plays taps to close the Memorial Day ceremony.

Times photos by Bob Burns

## Wildfires:

# ADOT urges caution

On a recent weekend, State Route 87 (Beeline Highway) was closed for a couple of hours between Fountain Hills and Payson when a brush fire caused by a person broke out along the roadway.

While the exact cause wasn't immediately determined, the 5.5-acre Oak Fire demonstrates why motorists should secure tow chains, properly inflate tires, check brakes and take other steps to reduce the risk of starting a wildfire. Just one spark can cause all kinds of problems.

In addition to putting lives and property at risk, fires that spread quickly in dry brush can lead to highway closures and inconvenience for motorists.

Dragging chains and other metal, a common



A fire along SR87 kept firefighters busy and caused traffic delays along the busy highway between Fountain Hills and Payson. (Photo courtesy ADOT)

cause of sparks along highways, can spark multiple brush fires along dozens of miles. In 2018, for example,

the 377 Fire burned nearly 5,000 acres and prompted

(cont. on page 7A)

## All 3 props defeated

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

In what Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes described as an “historic turnout” voters in Fountain Hills soundly defeated land use proposals for a 400-unit apartment community near the intersection of Palisades and Shea boulevards.

More than 11,000 ballots were cast resulting in a nearly 64 percent turnout from 17,391 registered vot-

ers in the community.

The election, called by referendum of citizens, sought to overturn Town Council votes related to the zoning for the proposed apartment project.

Proposition 427 challenged an amendment the Fountain Hills Zoning District Map for approximately 59.79 acres that would have changed the designation from L-3 P.U.D. and OSR to Daybreak PAD.

Prop 427 received 7,999 “no” votes to 3,031 “yes”

votes, or a margin of 72.5 percent to 27.5 percent.

Proposition 428 challenged a council resolution to amend the Fountain Hills General Plan 2010 Land Use Plan Map from a lodging designation to multi-family/medium for the property.

Prop 428 received 7,962 “no” votes to 3,073 “yes” votes, a margin of 72 percent to about 28 percent.

Speaking on behalf

(cont. on page 10A)

## Proposed General Plan approved

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

The Town Council approved the proposed General Plan on Tuesday, May 19, and voted to send it to the voters for ratification with the November General Election.

The council offered a few tweaks to the 150-page document, and included in the motion that staff address those items in the final document. Staff indicated they had those requests on the record and a motion to include them would be appropriate rather than bringing the document back due to time constraints outlined by the process.

Several council members expressed their desire to make a clear statement in the plan stating the General Plan is a flexible

document with a design to be amended to adjust to current conditions.

Vice Mayor Mike Scharnow said the council has been severely taken to task over the past several months for approving an amendment to the existing document.

In an email to *The Times*, Scharnow said he was not specifically asking that the document be changed.

“I felt it was important to note that state law mandates that general plans include a process for amendments and that as proposals come forward, certain factors may warrant a council to actually amend such a plan,” Scharnow said. “Of course they are meant to be general guidelines and, yes, they do help with re-zoning considerations, but a General Plan in and of itself is not meant to be written in

stone. I believe it is more of a fluid document that sets the tone for 10 years, but not all future projects can be anticipated in such a plan. It comes down to a case-by-case basis.”

Development Services Director John Wesley said that state law requires that the town have a General Plan to be updated at least every 10 years. He said the law only specifies that the town must set the standard for what is a minor amendment and what is a major amendment.

Scharnow also pointed out that the proposed General Plan calls for higher density and mixed use in the downtown area and the Shea Blvd. corridor.

Council Members Dennis Brown and Alan Maga-

zine agreed with Scharnow

(cont. on page 8A)

## Local gyms open with enhanced safety measures

By Linda McThral  
Times Reporter

When the governor lifted restrictions on gyms and salons, it was a bit of a game changer for operators.

COVID-19 effectively stopped people in their tracks, figuratively and literally. When Ross Suozzi closed Peaks Athletic Club, he had already been isolating himself.

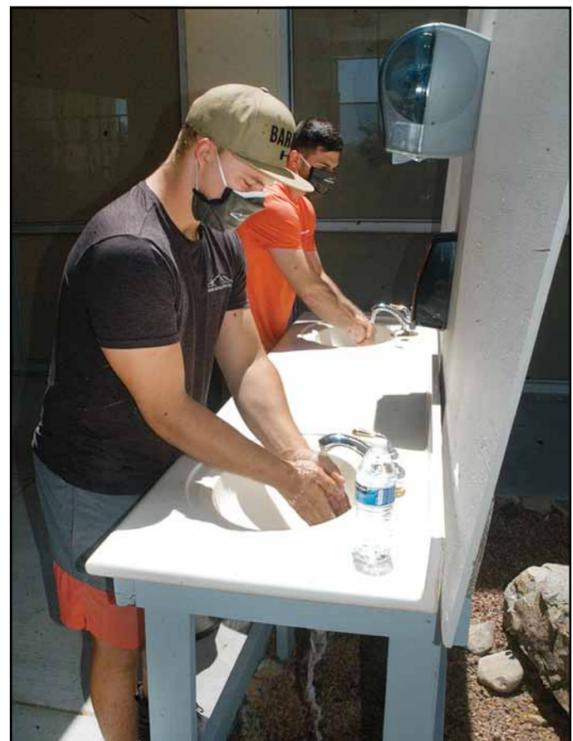
With a second round of cancer, Suozzi has self-quarantined since last September. And as a result of his illness, he said he has gone “above and beyond” the requirements put in place by the governor when reopening the local gym.

Two other fitness facilities in Fountain Hills have also stepped up their game in reopening their clubs.

Mari DeGroote, owner of Snap Fitness, a 24-hour facility, took advantage of the time away to do some upgrades to the gym.

“I had the carpets

(cont. on page 2A)



Peaks' Dominic Suozzi and Matt Van Boeckel utilize the new handwashing station set up outside of the gym.

**SAVE \$40**  
ON NO ENTRY SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

• Regularly \$129, now only \$89

• Work performed by NATE-certified techs



Service Experts Advantage PROGRAM

Upgrade to Worry-Free Comfort for one

Low Monthly Payment And never a penny more\*



**Water Heater About to Tank?**

We have an Advantage Program for that!

Worry-Free Hot Water as low as \$28.99/Month

And no additional charges—EVER!





**Bob Brown**  
HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & PLUMBING | A Service Experts Company

623.432.9437  
BobBrownServiceExperts.com



TOGETHER WE'RE TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF WISH KIDS. SEE HOW @ ServiceExperts.com/TrueWishes

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS, 24/7  
© 2020 Service Experts, Service Experts Heating & Air Conditioning, and the Service Experts logo and design are registered trademarks of Service Experts LLC and used under license by SE Canada Inc. Offer not valid on prior purchases and cannot be combined with any other offers. Some restrictions apply. \*See your signed Advantage Program Agreement for full details and exclusions. Lease with approved credit, visit ServiceExperts.com for details. Service Experts has made a \$250,000 commitment in 2019 to Make-A-Wish® to help create life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses in the U.S. and Canada. To learn more, visit wish.org. License #: ROC 277059 PROMO CODE: 33136-81

## INSIDE THIS WEEK

**Promotion:**  
Eighth grade students recognized.  
**See Page 9A-10A**

**Funnel cakes:**  
Unique business pops up.  
**See Page 12A**

**Scholarships:**  
Sophia Boeshans (pictured) and classmates receive honors.  
**See Page 11A**

## WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., May 19	89	56	--
Wed., May 20	84	58	--
Thurs., May 21	90	64	--
Fri., May 22	93	64	--
Sat., May 23	91	63	--
Sun., May 24	92	64	--
Mon., May 25	95	66	--

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





Daily News Updates [www.fhtimes.com](http://www.fhtimes.com)