

## Adaptive cyclists prepare for a sea-to-sea ride

By Barb Charzuk  
Times Reporter

Former Fountain Hills woodworker Dan Zimmerman and his riding partner Catherine (Cat) Brubaker will head cross country in June to raise awareness of stroke and brain injury survivors.

Their recumbent tricycle journey will begin in Anacortes, WA, and conclude Sept. 10 in Boston, MA.

Zimmerman, 51, owned and operated Woodworks by Dan Inc. for 20 years on Colony Drive before his stroke in 2005 caused by Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT). The disease prevents the lungs from filtering clots efficiently.

Brubaker was a criminal sexual assault victim in which an excessive loss of blood caused an anoxic brain injury. She later suffered a second traumatic brain injury in a head-on automobile crash.

Both credit cycling for saving their lives. Their goal is to promote adaptive cycling by teaching stroke or brain-injured individuals to ride safely, overcome obstacles of isolation and gain freedom and independence.

Zimmerman founded Spokes Fighting Strokes. Brubaker created Hope for Trauma. Both are 501 (3 C) tax-deductible organizations.

This will be their third long-distance cycling trip together. They plan to ride between 50 and 60 miles a day, less some days when the route takes them over mountain passes.

Both non-profits will collaborate with the Brain Injury Alliance and cycling clubs on their route.

A 37-foot bumper-pulled RV trailer will accompany the duo and four participating cyclists. The cost to lease the trailer for three months is \$3,000. They hope to raise enough donations for a second trailer for



Dan Zimmerman and Catherine (Cat) Brubaker are planning their third cross-country cycling journey this summer. They will ride recumbent trikes from Washington to Massachusetts to bring attention to stroke and brain-damaged survivors.

other cyclists interested in joining them.

Tax-deductible and in-kind donations are being accepted to assist with expenses. Cycling clubs are encouraged to contribute a minimum for \$10 for

cyclists joining them on the ride.

Zimmerman can be contacted at Dan@SpokesFightingStrokes.org. Brubaker's contact information is Catherine@hopefortrauma.org.

## Dance classes offered by Community Services

Fountain Hills residents 16 years and older are invited to sign up for dance lessons presented by the Community Services Department.

The classes will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with the times to vary.

Professional dance instructor Roger Homyak will lead these classes. Participants may choose between an introductory class, intermediate, swing or salsa. No partner is needed to participate since the instructor is on hand to teach students the dance steps. Come learn how to dance like the stars.

The sessions will be held at Love 2 Dance Studio, 11883 N. Saguardo Blvd., Fountain Hills, 85268.

The cost is \$60 and pre-registration is required. The deadline to register is Monday, May 2. Space is limited to the first 10

people who sign up.

To register, visit Fountain Hills Community Services, located in Town Hall at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., or at the Community Center on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to fill out a registration form. To register online, go to [fh.az.gov/recreation](http://fh.az.gov/recreation).

For more information, contact Anjelica Gardino at 480-816-5132 or [agardino@fh.az.gov](mailto:agardino@fh.az.gov), or visit Town of Fountain Hills Community Services-Senior Services, 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Call 480-816-5226 or fax 480-816-0280. Information on the town website is at [fh.az.gov](http://fh.az.gov).



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## Election

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allowed to stick it out to vote.

In Fountain Hills the longest wait was reported to be about 90 minutes. The line extended through the lobby of the Community Center, but never far out-

side the main door.

Town Clerk Bev Bender, the town's primary election official, said she made several trips to the polling site during the day and, at one point, the wait was no more than 10 to 15 minutes.

Bender, who had no role in overseeing this election, believes there is an array of reasons things went wrong. That seems to be the theme countywide with the number of people pointing fingers in different directions.

The biggest reason seems to be the decision to reduce the number of polling sites from 200 for the same election four years ago, to just 60 this time around. By comparison, Pinal County had more than 80 voting sites.

Maricopa County Recorder Helen Purcell is taking a lot of the heat for reducing the number of polling sites. She said the move was primarily a cost cutting measure. The decision was approved by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

A number of officials appear ready to hold investigations into the situation, so reasons for the delay are undetermined but appear numerous.

Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan held a press conference Monday morning to announce a series of public meetings to be scheduled around the county to hear from voters.

"We want to get the best information we can about what happened," Reagan said.

She said they would also hold meetings outside Maricopa County to see what other counties did right.

Voters can also go directly to the Secretary of State's web site to tell "My election story," Reagan said. The web address is [az.sos.gov/my\\_election\\_story](http://az.sos.gov/my_election_story).

When pressed by reporters Reagan said she wished she had spoken up about the potential for too few polling sites in Maricopa County.

"I take full responsibility for not speaking up," Reagan said. She added however that the county has no obligation to listen to her advice.

"The Secretary of State has no statutory authority to direct county officials," Reagan said.

The Arizona Legislature's election committee was also meeting Monday to hold hearings and consider possible legislation to avoid such a situation in the future.

It appears that a significant number of people who were unfamiliar with one of the parties, or independent, got in line to cast a ballot. Those individuals had to be given a provisional ballot, which takes longer to process at the polling site.

Provisional ballots are verified after the fact to determine the eligibility of the voter before being counted.

Reagan stated Wednesday her office would look

into the long lines at the polls.

"The issues that arose with the amount of time voters had to stand in line, confusion surrounding eligibility and other issues are completely unacceptable," Reagan said in a press release.

"My office will launch a full-scale statewide review of county election policies and procedures."

Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton has sent a letter to the Justice Department asking for a federal investigation.

Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich is calling for reforms after the election.

"...People should not have to wait four hours or stand in lines around a city block in order to cast their ballots," Brnovich said in a press release.

He also said, "I want to ensure that all voters who are following the rules have a chance to cast their ballots in a fair and neutral environment."

That statement is a call to the Legislature to block the release of election results while people are still waiting to vote.

Bender also believes there needs to be an effort to better communicate with voters related to any upcoming elections and special rules or conditions that might apply.

There are three more elections for Fountain Hills residents this year including the November General Election that includes the presidential race.

In May, there is a special statewide election with two ballot questions. In August, Fountain Hills voters will be selecting candidates for Town Council and mayor. Any of those not elected outright in August will appear on the November ballot in a runoff.

The November election also has county, state and federal offices on the ballot.

## Coalition

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being used, disposed of and stored in the home."

Efforts like these, according to Mowrey, are the entire purpose of an organization like the Fountain Hills Coalition.

"I think Fountain Hills has the very best coalition in the state of Arizona," she added.

"What sets it apart from the other groups are the people involved who are totally committed to providing a healthy environment for our kids."

Mowrey pointed out that the March 3 meeting played host to 30 members who were not just talking, "but doing things to help prevent underage drinking and drug use in Fountain Hills."

"I feel humbled, honored and privileged to be able to work with and for the Fountain Hills Coalition and its board of directors."

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