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Times photo by Bob Burns

Pony Express riders

Members of the Hashknife Pony Express riders with the Navajo County Search and Rescue Posse ride down Avenue of the Fountains carrying mail to the Fountain Hills Post Office on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 28. The posse continued its ride to the Scottsdale Post Office on Friday morning. The posse began its ride in Holbrook on Wednesday. See additional photos on Page 7-A.

First in series

Water quality is good in our Town

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

This is the first in a series of stories The Times is publishing regarding water. Part one will focus on the quality of tap water that comes into the homes of Fountain Hills residents.

Parts two and three will discuss the irrigation water used for parks and golf courses in the town. There are significant challenges that go with using treated waste water for irrigating large areas of turf.

What happened with the drinking water in Flint, Mich. is likely to cost that city and the State of Michigan significantly in health and treasury for some time

to come. Was it preventable? In all probability, yes.

Could it happen here? One is careful not to say never, but John Caulkins, director of Environmental Compliance for EPCOR Water, says probably not.

Caulkins describes differences in the sources of water and delivery systems that make something like lead contamination unlikely for Fountain Hills water customers.

EPCOR Water owns and operates the drinking water system in the community.

Water contamination from lead, copper and other heavy metals comes mostly from infrastructure, the pipes and connections that

make up the system, according to Caulkins.

EPCOR does test for lead and copper. The company's 2014 Water Quality Report for Fountain Hills indicates that 30 samples of tap water were tested for those contaminants.

The report states that the samples came from 30 residences that are representative of the types of houses in the community.

Caulkins said historical data indicates that the 30 samples are adequate to measure such contaminants in the water. EPCOR has 13,700 service connections in the Chaparral District, which is Fountain Hills.

"Initially the number

was much higher," he said. "The standards showed we were able to reduce the frequency. Sometimes we see an amount we monitor."

Caulkins said stability is a key system component

(cont. on page 5A)

Mayor to renew State of Town in new format

The Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Town, will sponsor Mayor Linda Kavanagh's State of the Town address on Thursday, Feb. 18.

The event will be held from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. in the Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive. Doors open at 7 a.m.

The mayor will speak to an expected 100 guests about the town's 2015 accomplishments and future objectives, finances and economic development.

SRP, Republic Services and Sonoran Lifestyle Real Estate are sponsors of the event.

The price is \$20 for Chamber members or \$25 for non-members. A table costs \$275 to sponsor. Registrations are requested by Friday, Feb. 5.

If interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Sharon Morgan, events manager, at 480-837-1654.

FH Coalition gets \$50,000 from foundation

By Mike Scharnow
Special for The Times

Federal grants typically come with a lot of restrictions.

That's certainly true for the Fountain Hills Coalition, which last fall was awarded a \$625,000 grant over a five-year period for operational expenses.

The coalition battles underage drinking and illegal drug use within Fountain Hills, utilizing a variety of prevention strategies to curb harmful activities.

Because of the governmental restrictions, the Verne C. Johnson Family Foundation announced it was donating \$50,000 to the coalition for "creative" prevention uses outside of administrative costs.

The announcement by Coalition Executive Director Shelly Mowry was met with cheers at a Jan. 21 coalition sector meeting.

The late Verne Johnson

was well known in his home state of Minnesota and contributed to a variety of family- and youth-oriented activities and groups over the years.

One of his sons, Dwight Johnson, lives in Fountain Hills and has been quite active in many local causes, including serving on the coalition board at present.

"I am so pleased to announce to the group that the Johnson Family Foundation awarded this grant to the coalition," Mowry said.

"This will allow us to do so much more with our prevention efforts."

Johnson said he was happy to help. The only restriction on the grant money is that it not be used for salaries, but the federal grant covers those costs anyway.

One of the coalition promotions continued this school year was conducting

(cont. on page 2A)

'Super' pancakes Sunday

Even though the Arizona Cardinals didn't make it to the big game, plenty of folks in Fountain Hills will be tuning in to watch on Sunday.

While plenty of evening viewing parties are set, what about breakfast?

The Noon Kiwanis Club has that covered with its annual "Super" Pancake Breakfast Sunday, Feb. 7.

It will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Kiwanis Activity Center, 16957 E. Kiwanis Drive.

The clubhouse is located south of Fountain Park, between Saguaro and El Lago boulevards.

The breakfast, organized by the Noon Kiwanis Club, will go toward a specific fundraiser on behalf of Kiwanis International.

The typical "Big K" breakfast consists of pancakes, sausage, applesauce and scrambled eggs - cost is \$6.

Reduced price kids' meals will be available along with a la carte items and refreshments such as coffee, milk and orange juice.

All proceeds will benefit the Eliminate Project, part of Kiwanis International's efforts to eliminate maternal

(cont. on page 5A)

Parks Supervisor Don Clark is retiring

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Don Clark is wrapping up his career of more than 20 years with Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation as he takes his retirement from the town at the end of this week.

Clark recalls starting as the Parks Lead at Golden Eagle Park in November of 1995. That was the town's signature park at the time and Clark oversaw additional phases of construction before the facility was completed.

Clark is leaving as Supervisor of Parks, the man who oversees the maintenance and operations of the town's outdoor park facilities. He has been managing all local parks for 15 years.

He did an interim stint as co-director during a search to replace the town's first Parks and Recreation director, Robin Goodman.

In addition to his supervision at Golden Eagle Park, Clark has been on hand for construction and expansion at all the park sites, including Fountain



Don Clark

(cont. on page 5A)



Times photo by Bob Burns

What do you see?

Ted Blank with the Fountain Hills Astronomy Club gives Quinton O'Connor a peek through the telescope as Quinton gets a lift from mom, Tara. They were among those attending the Activities and Volunteer Expo on Wednesday afternoon at the Community Center. See additional Photos on Page 12A.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Champs:
Girls' soccer wins section.
See Page 2B

Silver:
Car auction draws a crowd.
See Page 12A

Musical:
'Into the Woods' (pictured) opens Feb. 12.
See Page 14A



WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Jan. 26	65	45	--
Wed., Jan. 27	67	44	--
Thurs., Jan. 28	71	42	--
Fri., Jan. 29	71	42	--
Sat., Jan. 30	67	45	--
Sun., Jan. 31	71	42	.13
Mon., Feb. 1	68	34	0.1

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

