

## Graduation

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some storms — but the sun always sets with the promise of a better tomorrow.”

Each year, students of the graduating class choose a teacher/mentor they would like to hear from during the commencement ceremony. This year's class chose economics/government teacher John Burnett.

“Well, my little pinheads, you made it,” Burnett opened with a loud cheer from his students.

He went on to tell an anecdote about the year 2035. The class of 2015 is having its 20-year reunion and they've invited their old teacher along for the festivities.

Burnett painted a picture of a parking lot full of expensive, sensible and technologically advanced cars, saying he could “smell success” before ever entering the building.

He went on to cherry pick a few of his students, telling stories of the men and women they will be-



Sage Ahmad-Kirkendoll

come, and how all of them rose to their potential.

“Don't let anyone tell you that you can't achieve your dream or passion,” Burnett said.

“Don't be afraid to reach to others for help and don't forget to laugh and laugh often.”

“You only have one life but, if you live it right, once is enough.”

Next on stage was Kate Domin once again, this time representing the class of 2015 as its salutatorian. Having already offered advice to her peers, however, she decided to turn over the microphone to classmate Madison Feyrer-Melk to say a few words.

Feyrer-Melk spoke to her classmates about their driving passions, saying they each had the potential to achieve their goals.

“My dream, like yours, is not ‘meant to be easy,’ she said.

“But if you combine your passion with hard work, nothing is impossible.”

The final speaker of the night was valedictorian Andrew Cooper, who said he and his classmates have become a family over the past four years at Fountain Hills High School.

“We were always the class that lived by its own rules,” Cooper continued.

“We left our mark on FHHS and will soon leave our mark on the world.”

“Where you go from here is up to you, and only you... I know the class of 2015 is going to great places.”

Once Cooper took his seat, the only thing left to do was pass out diplomas. He offered one final round of congratulations and photos galore from visitors in the audience, and let the FHHS class of class of 2015 graduate.



Emmie Lawrence



John Burnett



Andrew Cooper



John Rodakis and the class of 2015 celebrate graduation from Fountain Hills High School.

## Dispensary

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fewer hours than originally requested.

This is what the council accepted.

The major difference is now Sunday hours are permitted, which were not allowed previously.

The approval came with a caveat, however, as all four of those supporting the change told Steinmetz not to come back with another request for an increase while they were serving. They all said they would not support further operating hours.

Steinmetz's side made a 45-minute presentation that included the personal story of attorney Melvin McDonald and how he was converted from a law and order federal prosecutor as the U.S. Attorney for Arizona and a Superior Court judge to a supporter of medical marijuana after his stepson sustained a debilitating brain injury in a car accident.

Dr. Carol Jamison spent significant time talking about the medical advantages of marijuana over conventional chemical drugs.

Magazine even stopped Jamison during her presentation and asked how that pertained to the hours the dispensary operates.

Jamison said her objective was to educate the council on the benefits of marijuana as medicine so they would be able to respect the dispensary on the same level as a pharmacy.

Mayor Linda Kavanagh stopped Steinmetz during a video presentation from

a Scottsdale doctor who was unable to be physically present for the meeting. Kavanagh said they had heard enough.

The council seemed generally unswayed by the lengthy presentation and focused instead on the question of hours of operation.

“I respect your positions and the very civilized dialogue, and I appreciate the information,” Leger said.

“We are not here to litigate the merits of medical marijuana, but simply make a decision whether to expand hours.”

“We have heard a lot of facts and I too appreciate the civility of the discussion,” Brown said. “I don't believe it is government's position to tell a business owner how to run their business.”

“They have been open for two years and in that time I have had virtually no feedback from anyone regarding issues with the business. I'm willing to support the 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. hours, but don't come back.”

Kavanagh said she believes it is a safety factor, particularly with the location.

“I don't want to invite a robbery like there was at a dispensary in Phoenix recently,” Kavanagh said. “I believe this dispensary was meant to serve the people of Fountain Hills and the current hours are adequate.”

Shelly Mowrey, director of the Fountain Hills Coalition Against Substance Abuse, led those opposed to the proposal.

“The applicant has given you a lot of ‘razzle dazzle,’” Mowrey said. “I want to

give you just five important facts to consider.”

She noted that Arizona law requires that dispensaries be allowed to operate only 30 hours per week.

Six pharmacies in Fountain Hills operate on average 72 hours per week.

Voters in other states have had huge “buyers remorse” over approving medical marijuana.

The dispensary is using catchy names for marketing their various marijuana products. “Are we talking about medicine or ‘Joe Camel’ for kids,” Mowrey said.

She also emphasized that a survey of high school students in Fountain Hills indicated that more than one quarter of those who smoked marijuana get it from medical marijuana card holders.

Kavanagh stated that it is also a concern that she has regarding access to marijuana.

Councilman Henry Leger asked for clarification that it is illegal for someone with a medical marijuana card to sell it to someone else and was told it is.

Maricopa County Sheriff's Capt. Dave Letourneau told The Times his office has never been given any information related to card holders selling to anyone else. However, he said if they were presented a situation they could work with they would investigate.

Letourneau said in most instances if a deputy arrests someone in possession of marijuana, it would be near impossible to tell where it came from unless the suspect told them where they got it.

## Seniors

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**Cameron Ribail**- ASU Dean Scholarship and Medallion Scholarship, NAU Dean's Scholarship

**Erica Schumacher**- Azusa Pacific University President's Scholarship, Music Scholarship and Music Talent Scholarship

**Matthew Seiwert**- ASU President Scholarship and William Huzarich Accounting Award, UofA Wildcat Excellence Award

**Brett Smaga**- NAU Lumberjack Scholarship and Honor's College Scholarship

**Alexander Smith**- ASU University Scholarship, NAU New American Scholarship, UofA Excellence Award

**Sam Stoor**- ASU Dean Scholarship

**Rachel Strayer**- ASU Dean Scholarship

**Andrew Zwiece**- ASU President Scholarship

**Jonathan Trautman**- ASU University Scholarship, NAU Merit Scholarship

**Benjamin Troller**- President Scholarship, Cal Poly Outreach Scholarship

**Joshua Vaught**- ASU President Scholarship

**Emily Welch**- Wyoming University Merit Scholarship, Colorado State University Merit Scholarship, UofA Donor Scholarship, NAU Merit Scholarship,

Key Club Scholarship

**Jalin Yoder**- Embury-Riddle Aeronautical University Volleyball Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship and Women of Excellence Award

**Brooke Yost**- Grand Canyon University Dean's Scholarship, Grant and Priority Registration Grant

**FHHS Senior Recognition Awards**

Math- Connor Nelson

Science- William Turner Adams

English- Madeline Feyrer-Melk

Social Studies- Kate Domin

Foreign Language- Aurora Beans

Performing Arts- Alexander Smith

Practical Arts- Samantha Elder

Physical Education- Griffin Peters, Matthew Seiwert

Visual Arts- Pamela Fernando

**Additional Scholarships**

Sons of the American Legion Scholarship- Rachel Brouzes, Reid Sanchez

NSDAR Citizenship Award- Erica Schumacher, Jake McAuliff

Senior Women's Singles Group of Fountain Hills Scholarship- Taylor Johnson

Shepherd of the Hills Charitable Foundation Scholarship- Margaret Berry, Erica Schumacher

Sunset Kiwanis Scholarship- Brandin Lee

American Legion Post No. 58 Scholarship- Jake McAuliff, Madeline Feyrer-Melk, Madison Feyrer-Melk, Carly Montanez

ASU Alumni Association Medallion Scholarship- Madeline Brigaglio, Cameron Ribail

FHEA Scholarship- Samantha Elder

Mayo Clinic Scholarships- Samantha Elder, Roland Hentz, John Kelly

PEO Star Scholarship- Kaylin George

Ralph Pucci Memorial Scholarship- Riley Milligan

Elks Star Spangled Banner Essay Winners- Emelia Lawrence, Nicholas Larson, Reilly Milligan

United States Air Force Academy- Robert Hugo

United States Naval Academy- Griffin Peters

## We remember



American Legion Post 58 organized the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony this past Monday at the Veterans Memorial in Fountain Park. Here, the VFW Color Guard posts the colors to start the event. The AMVETS and VFW posts participated in the event as well.



By-standers sport red-colored shirts to honor fallen veterans on Memorial Day. Several hundred attended the ceremony on Monday morning.



Legion Commander Bob Putnam has opening remarks.



Vietnam veteran Joe Brett was the keynote speaker.



VFW Post 7507 Commander Phil Yin made remarks during the ceremony.



Debbie Fisher, above, led several songs during the Remembrance Ceremony, and she also played Taps to conclude the program. At left, spectators find some seating at the Veterans Memorial prior to the program starting.