



# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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## Congressman at Tea Party

The Fountain Hills Tea Party is holding its next general meeting Tuesday, May 17, at the Fountain Hills Learning Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This month the special guest is U.S. Rep. David Schweikert. He will be discussing and taking questions on the federal budget, deficit and the national debt.

Also on the agenda for discussion is the question of raising the debt ceiling.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. with the Fountain Hills Middle School Jazz Band providing pre-meeting entertainment beginning at 6:20 p.m.

Attendance is always free and donations are always appreciated.

## Top Cop (No. 2)

From deputy to MCSO chief, Sheridan is low key guy

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

By spending just a few minutes in Jerry Sheridan's office it's not hard to understand why he is a cop.

It's in his blood.

There on the wall is a framed photo from a 1963 edition of the *New York Daily News*. It is of a beaming five- or six-year-old Sheridan pointing proudly at his dad standing among a long line of New York City police officers receiving commendations.

Sheridan's dad retired as a lieutenant with NYPD, and the only thing the junior Sheridan ever aspired to become was a police officer, to achieve what his father had.

"If anyone had asked if I ever expected to be chief deputy, the answer would be no," Sheridan



Times photo by Bob Burns

With the interim tag removed, Fountain Hills resident Jerry Sheridan is the permanent chief deputy for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. The new job is keeping him busy working on the communications between MCSO and county officials.

said.

Today, Sheridan sits behind a large desk in a spacious office just having been appointed as the number two man in the third largest sheriff's office in the country.

Sheridan patrolled isolated and sparse Fountain

Hills back in the 1970s, but today the resident has a much different perspective of law enforcement.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio permanently named Sheridan his chief deputy last week, after the man who previously held the job, Dave Hendershott,

fell to a "resign or be fired" ultimatum.

Ironically, Sheridan says that day was probably the worst day of his 33-year law enforcement career.

He was named to the post under extremely

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## MEDICAL MARIJUANA

### \*Coalition exploring conflicts between federal, state laws

By Michael Scharnow  
Times Editor

Do federal laws trump a voter-approved Arizona law paving the way for the distribution of medical marijuana?

The Fountain Hills Coalition will explore that topic at a meeting Tuesday, May 17.

The 9 a.m. meeting, open to the public, will be held at the FHUSD Learning Center.

State Rep. John Kavanaugh will address the state's

perspective of the current situation, while Town Manager Rick Davis will do the same from Fountain Hills' perspective and update the possibility of a dispensary opening here.

In addition, a recent FHHS graduate who is a recovering addict, will discuss his experiences here as a teenager.

The topic of medical marijuana has heated up in recent weeks as potential dispensaries seek zoning

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## Davis is finalist for Oregon job

The *Oregonian* newspaper in Portland, Ore. reported Monday that Fountain Hills Town Manager Rick Davis is one of three finalists for the job of city manager in Wilsonville, Ore., a suburb of Portland.

The candidates are scheduled to participate in a public forum later today, May 11.

The other two job candidates include the current development director for Wilsonville and the city manager of Silverton, Ore.

Davis said word came fast as he was not told until Monday that the names of the finalists would be made public and was not able to

talk with council members before the news got out.

Davis said he has made no decisions about a move and was not making any plans for a change.

"There have been no offers and no decisions," Davis said. "This is way ahead of the curve."

He said he considers it a "long shot" at best that he would be offered the job.

Davis said it can be difficult to explore options even if you have no real intentions of making any kind of move.

"You can't find out whether a job might be good

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## Future development

# New fee system coming

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

The Town of Fountain Hills will need to put a new development fee system in place by August of 2013 if it wants to continue to continue collecting the fees.

A conflict over community authority and legislative control was one of the more hard-fought issues during the recently concluded session of the Arizona Legislature.

That conflict was highlighted by the drive to change the laws that allow municipalities to collect development fees.

Municipalities argued that development fees have allowed them to meet the infrastructure needs of new development without placing undue burden on current residents, who presumably have had a hand in paying the cost of existing

facilities.

Fountain Hills Town Attorney Andrew McGuire, acting mostly in his capacity as the city attorney for Avondale, was at the forefront of those negotiations.

McGuire said a change in the law will have limited impact on the Town of Fountain Hills, but it will be a challenge for the town to meet the 2013 deadline to have the new system in place.

If the new program has not been established by that time, the town will not be able to collect development fees in the future.

"It is going to be hard work to implement what has passed," McGuire said.

He noted that Fountain Hills will be competing with larger cities for the

services of a limited number of consultants capable of preparing the required fee studies.

"It is going to be a challenge to get a consultant on board," McGuire said.

The new legislation has eliminated the category for "general government," which has often been used by communities to expand or update facilities.

Fountain Hills used general government development fees to partially fund construction of the Town Hall.

McGuire also said that the new law means that the town will need to spend more than \$1 million in an "open space fund" by 2020 or be forced to refund the money.

That money is slated

**"It is going to be hard to implement what has passed."**

Town Attorney Andrew McGuire

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## Senior Center gets John O'Flynn touch

The late John O'Flynn will be remembered in Fountain Hills with his name forever attached to the Senior Activity Center that he was instrumental in starting.

At its May 5 session, the Town Council approved a resolution naming the senior facility as the John O'Flynn Senior Activity Center.

Senior Services Supervisor Kelley Fonville told the council that the honor is consistent with the town's naming policy.

O'Flynn provided vision and guidance for the senior programs in Fountain Hills from 1984 until his death in 2008, and the naming is in recognition of his exceptional service to the community, Fonville said.

"We are not renaming



John O'Flynn

the Community Center," Fonville said.

O'Flynn will be recognized with a plaque placed on the wall outside the Senior Services center inside the Community Center.

Fonville said the recognition is similar to the

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## \* Coalition

(cont. from page 1A)

clearances and federal officials weigh in.

Those who opposed Proposition 203 last fall, which narrowly passed in Arizona, are saying any dispensary set up in Arizona will not be tolerated by the Department of Justice or Drug Enforcement Administration.

Federal officials in the state of Washington sent out notices to landlords of medical marijuana businesses saying they will be prosecuted for participating in federal drug crimes and their property can be seized by the DOJ.

Earlier this month, Dennis Burke, U.S. Attorney for Arizona, sent a letter to the Arizona Department of Health Services concerning the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act.