



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

Graduation Friday

This Friday, May 27, the Fountain Hills High School 2011 senior class will embark on its last journey as classmates and prepare for life beyond high school at the graduation commencement ceremony held at Fountain Park.

Friends and family members will converge

on Fountain Park to take part in the graduation ceremony beginning at 7:30 p.m.

To find out more about this year's graduation ceremony, as well as information on all other ceremonies this week and senior profiles, check out the graduation insert in this week's issue.

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Town, Sanitary outline plans for the lake

Goal: Improve water quality

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council has endorsed a recommendation regarding options to address the water quality in Fountain Lake and asked staff to work with the Sanitary District towards implementation.

The council voted Thursday, May 19, after reviewing a memo prepared by the Sanitary District.

The district made a two-part recommendation that includes: development of a comprehensive lake maintenance management plan, which should be done by a lake management consultant; and design and construction of a piping system in the lake capable of mixing vertically to eliminate thermal stratification and circulate horizontally to eliminate dead zones.

The memo states that "district staff recognizes that every aspect of improvement to the appearance of the lake will not be accomplished by this project.

"However, staff believes that by following the recommended course of action, the greatest improvement to the overall water quality in the lake will be achieved for the least amount of money."

The memo also states that provisions would be made in the design to accommodate future ad-

ditions with little or no rework of the system. Such additions could include a water feature.

With the approval of both the council and Sanitary District directors, staff will begin working on an inter-governmental agreement to implement the recommendations.

The IGA would be presented to both bodies at future sessions for their approval.

The council had a number of questions for Bruce Hansen, vice chairman of the Sanitary District Board of Directors.

Councilwoman Ginny Dickey asked about budget needs as the council is in the process of wrapping up the budget for next fiscal year.

Hansen said there would be no budget issues for the coming year. It is recommended that the town not spend \$100,000 it had planned to budget to upgrade the aeration system in the lake. Such an improvement may need to be removed within a couple of years in implementing a new plan.

Councilman Henry Leger asked about oversight of the lake and Fountain and whether it would fall to the Sanitary District or the town.

Hansen said that has yet to be determined, although

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Contino berates Allied exec at council meet

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

In the latest discussion regarding a single hauler trash service, Vice Mayor Dennis Contino berated Chris Coyle, general manager for Allied Waste Services, at a May 19 Town Council meeting.

Coyle was giving an update on the transition to a single hauler when Contino started grilling him about why Allied is only picking up residential customers Monday through Thursday and not on Fridays.

Coyle noted that to meet the contract bid requirements set by the town there could be no residential pickups Fridays.

Contino said Allied trucks are in town Friday for commercial customers.

"If we requested you to

pick up on Fridays, what changes that?" Contino asked.

"The town manager (told us) it was possible to pick up on Fridays and that's what you're supposed to work on."

Coyle explained Allied trucks could only pickup commercial accounts on Fridays and not residential after July 1.

"So, in other words, you're just screwing us," Contino said, interrupting Coyle's response.

This prompted a remark by Mayor Jay Schlum, asking Contino to be more respectful.

"I understand that, but there's a lot of citizens who are really upset with not having two pickups a week (further apart)," Contino said.

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Colorful shower



The community had a summer respite last week as a storm blew through the state, cooling us off and bringing some rain showers. Lloyd Tarr took this colorful rainbow photograph from his yard on Trevino Drive during the shower on Wednesday, May 18.

* Coalition

Kavanagh works to shut down medical pot

By Ryan Winslett
Times Reporter

"Nothing new to report."

At least that was the update from Town Manager Rick Davis concerning the possibility of a medical marijuana dispensary in Fountain Hills during the May 17 meeting of the Fountain Hills Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention.

"If asked what the chances are of a dispensary coming to Fountain Hills, the answer is that we don't know," Davis said.

Of the five applications filed, two have received zoning verification. This got a dull murmur from

the crowd, the majority of which seemed to feel the existence of such a facility would be bad news for the town.

"Really, there's so much ambiguity here, it's difficult to say what may or may not happen," Davis continued.

"But if we become too strict with our procedures and basically ban a dispensary, we could lose all regulatory authority."

According to Representative John Kavanagh, if he has it his way, there won't be a need to worry about whether or not a dispensary could wind up in Fountain Hills.

"My concern is not where we're going to put a facility in Fountain Hills," Kava-



Rep. John Kavanagh

nagh said.

"My concern is making sure a facility never gets here."

Kavanagh holds that, despite the recently passed Proposition 203, such facilities still go against federal

law. "It was against the law before Prop 203 and it's against the law now," Kavanagh said.

"Anybody that facilitates this measure is also in violation of federal law. Every lawyer I've spoken with agrees."

While Kavanagh said he does not expect federal officials to swoop in and start arresting town officials involved with zoning, etc., he said he will not sit by and allocate funds to break federal law.

"For now, we're going to wait a couple weeks to see what happens with the DHS and [Governor Jan

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* Teen: Drugs readily available here

Now works with other addicts

By Ryan Winslett
Times Reporter

"My life fell apart because of drugs," said 19-year-old Allen White. He was speaking to a large group of adults Tuesday, May 17, during a meeting for the Fountain Hills Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention.

White broke the ice saying he was an addict in recovery, but that he'd never spoken to a bunch of "older

people" before, getting a round of laughter from the room.

Graduating in 2010, White said he was there to inform the Coalition that drugs are a part of Fountain Hills but, as he himself has proven, they can be overcome.

An avid biker, active athlete and a student with a 3.5 GPA, White said he had awesome friends, great parents and a good life growing up.

"Somewhere in middle

school, I think around the seventh grade, I saw people smoking something out of a tin foil pipe," White said.

"I remember how it looked like it was yesterday."

White said that event led to his first experience with marijuana, something he would grow to partake of more and more frequently.

"I was usually 'good' during sports seasons," White said. "I really enjoy sports and I didn't want to mess that up. I got to high school and got really involved with the school, too."

But, during his sophomore year, White broke his neck in a biking accident, an event that would lead to his eventual talk with the local Coalition.

"That sent me into a tailspin," White said.

"I kept wondering 'what can I do now?' Everyone was really supportive, but I felt like my identity was gone. I was 'Sports Allen,' and now I couldn't play sports."

White switched schools following his accident and eventually made new friends; ones he said liked

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*Pot

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Brewer],” Kavanagh said.

“She is not taking a stance at this point but, depending on that, I’m ready to act.”

In the end, Kavanagh said he sees Prop 203 running up against a brick wall.

“I think we’re going to shut it down,” he said.

“I’ll fight this until congress changes Federal law, but I don’t see that happening.”

*DRUGS: Teen speaks out

(cont. from page 1A)

to party nonstop.

“Somewhere around then I found ecstasy,” he said.

“I did that for a long time and managed to hide it. Or so I thought.”

Back at Fountain Hills High School for his senior year, White said it took a while to be accepted by his old friends.

“I came back and found I could get all the same stuff I was used to getting at my other school,” he added.

“Eventually I fell in with my old friends and we got to partying again.”

Then, graduation came. White said everyone began moving away, going on to college and jobs outside of the community, yet he remained.

“I didn’t want to grow up,” White said.

“I got kicked out of my house for being an idiot and eventually found heroin, which I liked because, no matter what was on my mind, it would make everything go away.”

White said he discovered drugs were readily available in Fountain Hills, and finding them was just a matter of knowing when and where to be.

“Eventually I went to rehab and life is back to good now,” he said.

“My life was in chaos when I was using. I thought I was the only one

with those problems and was terrified of telling my parents for fear that I’d be in even more trouble.”

White said he felt like he was running from everyone when he was using, something he doesn’t do anymore. He’s 90 days sober and counting.

He said anyone struggling with similar issues is welcome to join him at the Presbyterian Church located at 13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd. at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evening to talk about their issues and find new ways to have “sober fun.”

“I work with other addicts now,” he said.

“Life is awesome. I can talk to people. My family loves me.

“I don’t feel like I’m running anymore.”