



# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

## Learn about scams, ID theft

The Fountain Hills Activity Center will host a program on consumer scams and identity theft on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Community Center.

Betty Delano, senior outreach coordinator for the Office of Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich will make the presentation. Topics will include an overview of the most recent scams going around, what "red flags" to watch for, what citizens can do to prevent becoming a victim and what to do in the event someone does become a victim of identity theft.

Space is limited so pre-registration is required. The program is free and open to the public. Contact the Fountain Hills Activity Center, 480-816-5226 to register.

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## AzMerit

### FHUSD test scores outpace state

By Joey Postiglione  
Times Reporter

The most recent AzMerit test results were presented to the Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board during the Sept. 12 meeting, with nearly every grade level performing above the state average.

Students in grades three through 12 take the AzMerit test every spring. The test measures student knowledge in the areas of English language arts and mathematics.

There are four scoring levels a student can achieve on the tests including minimally proficient, partially proficient, proficient and highly proficient. The latter two results mean a student is on track to be college/career ready.

In his presentation to the school board, Superintendent Dr. Robert Allen

compared the local district's percentage of students scoring "proficient" or "highly proficient" to the state average.

While eight grade levels exceeded state test averages, local fifth grade test results fell shy. The margin was small for English, with FHUSD's 46 percent compared to the state average of 48. In math, though, local fifth grade students meeting standards was 35 percent compared to the statewide 47 percent.

Of the eight grade levels to surpass the state averages, last year's ninth grade class was the stand-out. The 2018 freshman class performed at 78 percent for math compared to the state average of 39 percent, with 65 percent excelling in English compared to the state's 41 percent.

Taken as a whole, historical results are similar, with the majority of

FHUSD classes outpacing the state average across the past three years in both math and English.

AzMerit results allow administrators in the district to identify their school's strengths and weaknesses.

"We use the AzMerit results as a baseline to identify what areas we are doing well in and what areas we are struggling in," said Fountain Hills Middle School Principal, James Carrick.

This is Carrick's first year as principal and so he will be working with his staff to bolster the positive results and fill the educational gaps for students that are now in the sixth grade.

"For those areas that are good, we can look at them and say what are we doing right here and how can we

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### Get ready for Nov. election

Those wanting to vote in the November General Election Tuesday, Nov. 6, but are not yet registered have until Tuesday, Oct. 9, to complete their registration for that election.

The ballot features races for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by the retirement of Jeff Flake; seats in the U.S. House of Representatives; Arizona Governor and other statewide offices including Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Arizona Corporation Commission.

There are also races for the Arizona State Legislature, both Senate and House seats, judicial retention and there are five ballot propositions. Also on the ballot is the local school board election.

Ballots for early voting will be placed in the mail on Wednesday, Oct. 10, and should be in the mail for return by Wednesday, Oct. 31.

Those not signed up for an early ballot and wish to receive one can go to the Maricopa County Recorder's website, recorder.maricopa.gov/elections to sign up to receive a ballot in the mail.

### Medical equipment collection

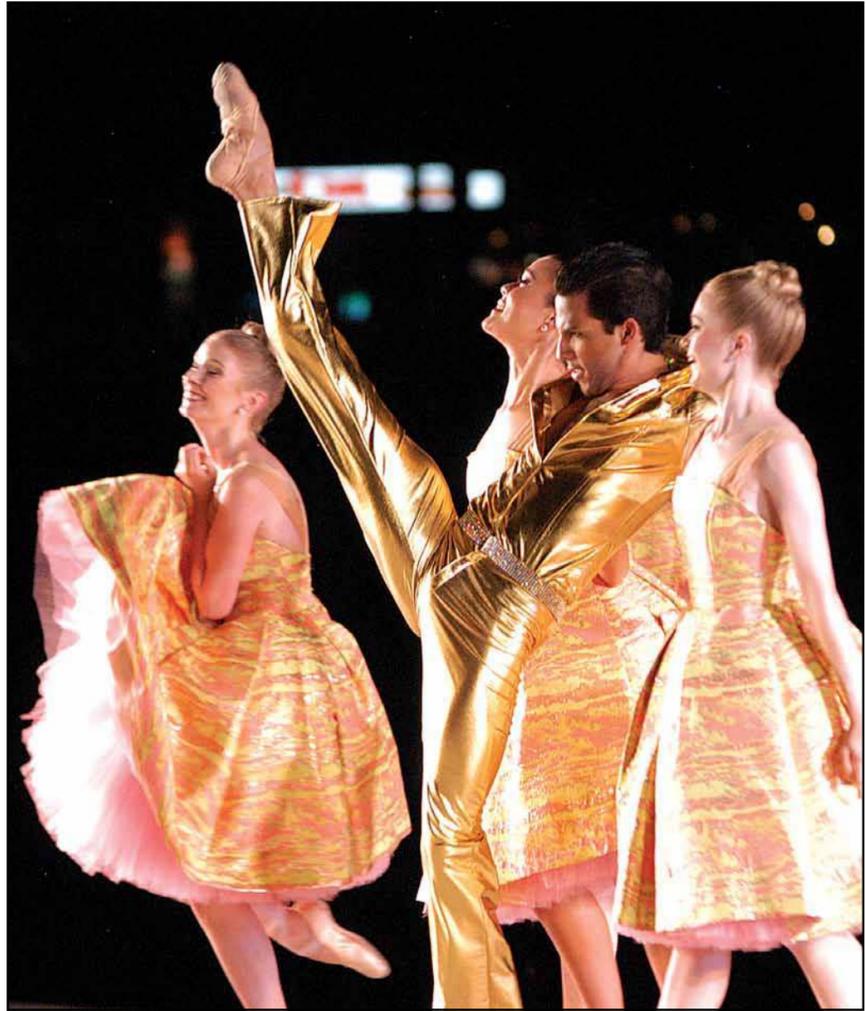
The Fountain Hills Activity Center is developing an ongoing durable medical equipment loan program at the Community Center.

They are asking people who have medical equipment they no longer need to donate it to the program.

The center is accepting new and gently used medical mobility equipment to stock this new Medical Equipment Loan Program.

The program will enable residents to borrow equipment such as walkers, crutches, canes and wheelchairs beginning on Oct. 1.

Contact the Activity Center at 480-816-5226 for additional information or to make an appointment for drop off of equipment.



Times photo by Ryan Winslett

### Ballet under the Stars

Alejandro Mendez and fellow members of Ballet Arizona take center stage during Ballet under the Stars on Sept. 13, a free community event highlighting excerpts from shows scheduled for the upcoming season. For more photos, see page 1B.

### Dangerous drugs

#### Community encouraged to 'know your source'

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

This spring, a 17-year-old high school baseball player in the West Valley pitched a save in the playoff semi-finals, sending his team to the state finals. Five days later his dad went into his room and found him dead. The medical examiner attributed his death to a fentanyl overdose.

It is not known where the teenager got the drugs, but it is believed in all likelihood it was a counterfeit opioid laced with the fentanyl.

Doug Hebert calls counterfeit drugs the "elephant in the room" as they relate to the nationwide opioid crisis. Hebert was with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration for 27 years and retired as assistant special agent in charge in Arizona. He lives in Fountain Hills and has been active with the Substance Abuse Coalition in the community for eight years.

Hebert said it is very important that people understand where their prescription drugs come from.



Former DEA member Doug Hebert encourages the community to "know your source" when it comes to prescription drugs.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 70,000 people died of overdose in 2017. Of those, 49,000 were opioid related, a 14 percent increase over the previous year.

A big contributor to that is the counterfeit drug trade. The drugs are substandard and not manufactured by approved and licensed manufacturers, according to Hebert.

Pharmaceuticals are the number one counterfeit products in the world, creating a \$200 billion a year industry.

With Arizona's prox-

imity to the border with Mexico and a large senior population with prescriptions for pharmaceuticals, it is a prime location for those who deal in counterfeit pills.

People are looking for a less expensive source for their prescriptions than the corner drug store and they are turning to the internet or crossing the border to save money. The truth is it could cost them their life, according to Hebert.

"The purchasers think

(cont. on page 2A)



Crews have been working at the Sanitary District waste water recovery wells in Fountain Park this summer.

### Work ending on Fountain Park well project

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

A contractor for the Fountain Hills Sanitary District is wrapping up a project in Fountain Park at this time.

The contractor was performing routine cleaning and maintenance on two of the district's aquifer storage and recovery wells located in the park.

Work began in late June and is being completed right on schedule.

Sanitary District Manager Dana Trompke said the crews will return to the first of the two wells they worked on to repair a technical "glitch," which

will take just a day or two.

Trompke said crews were also working on the third recovery well in the park. They will be excavating to adjust a pipe location.

This maintenance work is not related to the planned construction of new facilities for each of the wells that will allow equipment to be installed above ground to reduce deterioration. That project will also include the construction of two new park restrooms in conjunction with the new well facilities.

Trompke said that project is in the architectural and engineering design stages with a target for construction to begin late spring or early summer 2019.



Times photo by Joey Postiglione

### Big splash

McDowell Mountain Elementary School principal Valerie Dehombreux gets a water cooler dumped on her during the Apex Fun Run event, which raised money for the Fountain Hills PTO. For more photos, see page A9.

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

**Q&A:**  
School board candidates talk spending.  
**See Page 5A**

**Construction:**  
P&Z talks cantilever projects.  
**See Page 8A**

**'Narnia':**  
Allison Avery and Adam Oberg (pictured) are ready for an adventure.  
**See Page 10A**



### WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Sept. 11	102	75	--
Wed., Sept. 12	102	77	--
Thurs., Sept. 13	102	80	--
Fri., Sept. 14	105	83	--
Sat., Sept. 15	105	80	--
Sun., Sept. 16	107	80	--
Mon., Sept. 17	101	79	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to [www.fhtimes.com](http://www.fhtimes.com)

