

# Schools

## Boys & Girls Club's got talent



Layleh Wishiewski (left) and Avery Berg (right) dressed as lost boys sing a song from "Peter Pan."



Ethan Gazzo serenades the members of the Boys & Girls Club McKee Branch with a song during the end of the summer talent show.



Times photos by Joey Postiglione

Ellavive Hewett brought the house down with her performance at the local Boys & Girls Club talent show.



Trinity Robertson (left) and her friend, Savannah Wagner (right), break it down with a rap at the Boys & Girls Club McKee Branch talent show.



"Party" was the theme of the show that Aiden Larson put on at the Boys & Girls Club McKee Branch talent show.

## Board talks vaping

After taking a summer break during the month of July, the Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing board returned for the first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year on Aug. 14.

### Vaping prevention

The main item discussed at the meeting, during the information portion was a vaping education and prevention curriculum for FHUSD students, provided by the Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

The Coalition is using money from the Parents Commission Grant they were awarded in July to fund a curriculum for FHUSD that was developed by Stanford Medicine, called Tobacco Prevention Toolkit.

The material, covered in P.E. classes, would specifically come from the E-cigs/Vapes Pod of the Toolkit.

At the meeting Coalition member, Shelly Mowrey, showed the Board numbers from Coalition surveys that showed cigarette use has gone down since 2010 among students, but there has been a 108 percent increase in the use of e-cigarettes just from the year 2016.

The Board was receptive to Mowrey's presentation and agreed that there was an urgent need for students to see this information.

The Board did, however, ask Mowrey if the program addressed the root issue of vaping, stress.

As part of the money from the grant, the Coalition has also provided an additional counselor to FHMS who will help students deal with toxic stress.

The board will vote on approval of the curriculum for FHHS and FHMS at its next regular meeting on Sept. 11.

## EVIT offerings grow Sign up for Youth Council

By Joey Postiglione  
Times Reporter

The East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) Fountain Hills Campus is open and ready for the new school year, complete with new programs for students and adults in the community alike.

EVIT is under the guidance of new Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson, whose focus is on making sure that EVIT is doing the best that it can for the people it serves.

"One of the things we believe very strongly at EVIT is that we have the power to change lives and we do that by loving our students and serving the community," said Dr. Wilson.

One of ways EVIT seeks to change lives is by adding courses for emerging CTE fields that students can take.

"This year we added cybersecurity," Dr. Wilson said. "We know that is an emerging field and we want to grow that program to include



Fountain Hills EVIT staff (from left) Jose Carillo (cybersecurity), James Brady (recruiter), Linda Nordin (receptionist), Karla Primosch (digital media), Mary Trimble (Sports Medicine, nursing assistant, anatomy) and Bruce Haseley (Digital Media, Business, Computer Science).

coding and other components to either jump into secondary education or to go right into to the work force."

Along with offering classes to students in and outside of Fountain Hills, EVIT - located in the former Four Peaks campus - also rents space to small businesses.

The chance for businesses and students to interact is a mutually beneficial relationship, says Dr. Wilson.

"Businesses here have the ability to either directly or indirectly support our students," Dr. Wilson said. "In some cases our graphic design students work with businesses to layout and design some of their publications. We also believe there is real value for our students to just talk with business owners about their experience and what it takes to start a business."

EVIT will hold an open house in September for those in the community interested in learning more about the school.

The Fountain Hills Mayor's Youth Council is a group of teens dedicated to learning how government works as well as representing the concerns of their peers to the Mayor and Town Council members.

More than a community service organization, the Mayor's Youth Council encourages leadership skills that students in grades 9-12 will use for their en-

## Attorney General warns about e-cigarettes

Attorney General Mark Brnovich warns that illegal tobacco sales are on the rise and state officials blame the uptick on e-cigarettes to minors.

Brnovich's office is sponsoring an informational session to inform parents about the myths and facts that students have surrounding e-cigarettes at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 17, at Church of the Ascension, 12615 N. Fountain Hills Blvd.

The presentation will

tire lives.

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6 p.m., starting August 27. Mayor Ginny Dickey invites all youth in these grades to complete an application that can be found on the town website, fh.az.gov/myc, or at the Fountain Hills High School Office, kiosks in the Library, Community Center, or Town Hall.

include information on the evolution of e-cigarettes and the dangers associated with the device and the chemicals that are inhaled when using them.

Recent data indicates that 51 percent of high school-aged youngsters have tried vaping.

Arizona law bans sales of tobacco products, including devices that vaporize nicotine, to those under age 18. Potential fines range from \$300 for an individual to \$1,000 for a business.

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