

Coalition

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drawings at selected sports venues to promote the Safe Homes Network.

The network asks parents and other residents to pledge to not serve alcohol to minors and to be willing to be contacted by fellow network members to check on a teen gathering, for example.

Monetary prizes are given out at these sports promotions as the coalition recruits more members for Safe Homes Network.

This school year's final

drawing was held Jan. 22 at a boys' soccer game.

A total of \$1,000 was given out at sports promotions dating back to last fall.

The Johnson grant will allow the foundation to continue those promotions as well as help fund some other contests, such as the high school essay contest and the middle school poster contest.

A speaker series also is conducted by the coalition. Retired NBA and Phoenix Suns player Steven Hunter spoke last month at the high school, providing an uplifting and motivating speech to hundreds of FHHS students.

Text-A-Tip, etc.

It was also reported at the coalition sector meeting that its Text-A-Tip program continues to be used by local students and residents.

"We were busy in December," said Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jill Ochsner, who also serves as the school resource officer.

"We got tips about five underage drinking parties. Two proved to be not valid, while the other three we couldn't get into the homes or establish probable cause."

"But we are still getting valid tips and people are using it."

The texting program allows tips to go to MCSO on an anonymous basis, and the coalition promotes TAT both in the schools and in the community.

Coalition volunteers also conducted "alcohol scans" the past few months at local establishments that sell alcohol.

The surveys were designed to examine signage, ease of access to alcohol for youths and other factors at retail establishments that sell alcohol such as grocery



Fountain Hills Coalition Program Manager Maria Perreault, right, presents a \$100 drawing reward to Karen Mogler at a January boys' soccer game. The promotions emphasize Safe Homes Network.

stores, convenience marts, drug stores, etc.

Coalition leaders and MCSO will work together to notify some businesses where concerns were noted.

Shoplifting of alcohol remains a concern with the coalition, and Ochsner said she has been in contact with a few stores with some suggestions to curb such crime.

Conservancy hikes continue

The Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills is continuing its seasonal hiking series with a trip on the Hieroglyphic Trail in the Superstition Mountains on Saturday, Feb. 6.

Pam Cissik will lead this four-mile hike that features an 800-foot elevation gain over two miles.

This is a steep, but well-traveled trail. It is very popular with pools of water and rocks covered with rock art.

Bring snacks and plenty of water to drink. Sturdy shoes and a hiking pole are required.

Meet at the Fountain Hills Library parking lot at 8 a.m. to carpool.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Steve Fleming will lead a hike over the Fountain Hills favorite to the Dixie Mine.

Meet at the Golden Eagle Trailhead outside the Eagles Nest guardhouse at 8 a.m.

This is a 5.2-mile hike with a 700-foot elevation gain. There are sections

with steep up and down hills.

Bring snacks, two liters of water, sturdy shoes and hiking poles are recommended.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, the hiking destination is the Box and Indian Ruins along Tonto Creek near Gisela (north along 87 toward Payson).

Pam Cissik and Steve Fleming are scheduled to lead this hike, leaving the Fountain Hills Library parking lot with a carpool and 8 a.m.

This is not a long hike but includes a short off-trail scramble to hidden settlement ruins on top of a bluff.

Wear long pants and long sleeves, gloves and sturdy shoes are necessary. Bring a snack and water. Wet feet are possible.

Weather and water conditions may change plans for this hike. Check the website, scfh.org for updates on conditions and status of the hike.

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