

# Hours

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juana, they were passionate about how it helps sufferers of pain and chronic disease.

Cindy McDonald, wife of former prosecutor, judge and U.S. Attorney for Arizona Melvin McDonald, talked about how their son was the victim of brain damage from an auto accident and uses medical marijuana to control seizures.

McDonald recounted how for a number of years she obtained marijuana illicitly for their son while her husband was serving as a law enforcement official.

"I don't feel (the established hours) are fair for the patients," McDonald said. "I'm asking for your compassion, (patients) deserve to get their medicine when they need it."

Doug Hebert, a Fountain Hills resident and retired Drug Enforcement Agency agent, said gangs are gaining access to marijuana dispensaries.

"Drugs and crime go hand-in-hand," said Hebert, also a board member of the Fountain Hills Coalition.

"In California gangs are gaining access to the dispensaries by becoming cardholders. Security mea-

sures can't stop them."

Kathy Inman is a Gilbert resident and said she is a new employee at the Nature's AZ Medicines in Fountain Hills.

Inman said she has been involved with medical marijuana for a few years and has heard from a number of people that they are using it to get away from chemical pharmaceuticals.

The chemical drugs are hurting people, and kids are getting access to them in the medicine cabinet, Inman said.

"People are getting off pharmaceuticals for a natural substance," Inman said. "Yet pharmacies are open 24 hours a day in some cases."

"Please reexamine your priorities."

Mayor Linda Kavanagh and Steinmetz had an exchange of words regarding statistical information contained in state Department of Health Services reports on the demographics of who holds a medical marijuana card.

Kavanagh, who had the report in hand, said a large majority of cardholders were male between the ages of 18 and 40.

Steinmetz disagreed but did not have supporting information at the meeting. He said most of his clients are age 40 or older, and he believed that to be consistent with the entire state.

The day after the meet-

ing Steinmetz sent an email defending his position with attachments from the DHS report.

"We need to set the record straight. (The) mayor made a personal attack on my credibility over what she cited was erroneous patient count numbers and patient age demographics, when in fact the information she shared last evening was wrong," Steinmetz wrote.

"I cited that more than 50 percent of all patients were over age 40, however, Linda held up a hard copy in her hand while emphatically stating that the 2013 Year End ADHS Report on Medical Marijuana stated otherwise. She claimed that the vast majority of ADHS MMJ Patients were 18-40, but the facts do not support this assertion."

"If we care about testifying publically with honesty and with integrity, it is important to be accurate. If one chooses to use the bully pulpit to attack someone's personal credibility over the facts, they better have their facts straight."

"It is really not that hard to do the simple addition necessary to arrive at this fact. The state-wide mean age of an ADHS MMJ patient is 46.5 for women and 42.7 years of age for men."

In making his motion Brown said, "I feel that if you want to buy marijuana it is easy enough to do. We

are talking about a business request here.

"This is a legal business here in Fountain Hills and we have heard nothing negative about it since it opened."

Kavanagh strongly opposed expanding the hours.

"I honestly believe they have had no problems here because of the restricted hours," Kavanagh said. "I oppose this strictly for safety reasons. I believe (extended hours) will jeopardize the community."

"We have the information about the impact in California, which has had medical marijuana longer than Arizona. Anyone who believes this type of crime will not come to Arizona is being naive."

"I cannot support this. I can't trust the applicant to keep his business safe."

# Does anyone have the time?



Jean Robbins of Paradise Valley displayed kitchen clocks from the early 1900s at the Arizona Sunshine Regional Conference clock and watch show March 21-22 at the Community Center.



David H. Meyer, owner of What Time Is It?, arranged his exhibit of antique clocks and vintage watches at the trade show. The host chapter was the Valley of the Suns 112, assisted by Keywinders of Arizona and Southern Arizona 113.

# Ghetti retirement prompts title changes

The retirement of Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director Julie Ghetti prompted some changes in job classifications at Town Hall.

As a result of Ghetti's departure the job of Deputy Town Manager is being

eliminated. The position of accounting supervisor is also being eliminated.

"With the current configuration, size and shape of the organization there is a need of a position to concentrate on cash management, finances and the

budget for the town," Town Manager Ken Buchanan wrote in a memo to the Town Council.

"The organization has gone from 88 personnel to 39. The Finance Department has four employees dedicated to the finance division."

"The accounting supervisor position does little supervision with the reengineered department and only is required to be an accountant."

The change reclassifies the two Deputy Town Manager/Finance Director and accounting supervisor into a single Finance Director

and Accountant position.

Buchanan noted that the changes will save the town \$17,395 in personnel costs in the current fiscal year budget.

The Town Council approved the changes as part of its consent agenda at its March 20 meeting.

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# Ghetti

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Ghetti. He said Mayor Sharon Morgan called Ghetti the "glue that held things together at Town Hall."

Melendez said he appreciated the fiscal expertise Ghetti brought to monumental discussions such as the purchase of McDowell Mountain Preserve land, the law enforcement issue and the Fire District dissolution.

"Thank you Julie for helping us make logical financial decisions, and your contributions in 24 years of loyal service," Melendez said.

Town Manager Ken Buchanan presented Ghetti with an appreciation plaque and thanked her for the help in making the transition when he first arrived as town manager.

Buchanan also recognized Ghetti in announcing that the town had received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 19th consecutive year.

That award recognizes the town's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The town also received numerous budgeting awards from the GFOA during Ghetti's tenure.

# Hughes

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a new playground and family area with restrooms was constructed, the performance pad and amphitheater was constructed, a number of picnic ramadas and the splash pad in partnership with the Fountain Hills Rotary clubs have all been added.

Hughes said the improvements have made the town's park facilities more attractive to special events.

That has allowed the Community Services Department, which includes Parks and Recreation, to branch out in partnering with businesses, organizations and tourism for the benefit of the town.

Hughes has been active with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association, receiving the organization's Outstanding Professional of the Year Award in 2012 and the President's Award in 2010.

He will complete the National Recreation and Parks Association's directors school this summer.

Hughes said he is ready for new challenges.

"(Florence) is a lot like what we were doing here a number of years ago," he said. "This is a good opportunity, as a professional you strive to be a director."

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