

Schools

Local schools celebrate Red Ribbon Day

By Ryan Winslett
Times Editor

Four Peaks Elementary School and Fountain Hills Middle School took part in Red Ribbon Day last Thursday, Oct. 6, a celebration and dedication to living drug-free lives.

However, the festivities aren't over yet, as Mayor Linda Kavanagh has invited the whole town to get in on the activities.

During a Town Council meeting held that same night, Mayor Kavanagh

joined the nation in recognizing Oct. 23-31 as Red Ribbon Week in Fountain Hills.

Kavanagh read a proclamation for the event, explaining that the upcoming week will be a time when "business, government, parents, law enforcement, media, medical institutions, religious institutions, schools, senior citizens, service organizations and youth will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons."

The mayor went on to encourage residents to "participate in drug prevention education activities, not only during Red Ribbon Week, but all year long, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free Fountain Hills."

As for the recent Red Ribbon Day hosted on the middle school campus, several branches of law enforcement took part in the event, along with members of the Town, service organizations, health professions and more. Older students even chipped in to help host many of the stations.

During the event, students learned about the health risks of substance abuse, and were encouraged to live healthier lives by taking part in activities that kept them active in the gym.



Students play "activity bingo," encouraging them to get out and stay active.



Fountain Hills Community Services was on hand to host the Straw Challenge, which taught students the effects of smoking on their stamina and healthy lungs by having them jump in place while breathing through a straw.

School Briefs

Schools closed for fall break

All sites within the Fountain Hills Unified School District and the Fountain Hills Charter School are closed this week for fall break.

All sites will return to their regular schedule next Monday, Oct. 17.

Special needs event planned

Parents and community members are invited to an event being hosted by the Fountain Hills Unified School District and the Special Needs Project to learn how to protect and provide for those with special needs.

The presentation is

called "The ABC's of Special Needs Planning Made Easy," and should be informative and educational for parents and family members of students of all ages and all types of special needs.

This session will go over the topics of guardianship, special needs trusts, wills, budget planning, government benefits, ABLE Act 2014 and letters of intent.

The workshop will be held Thursday, Nov. 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fountain Hills Unified School District's District Office.

Interested parties are asked to RSVP to 480-664-5018 or email Eloyse Jones at ejones@fhUSD.org.



Book fair

Marylou Ronca, Shawn Uphoff and Linda Ferington work a shift during the book fair hosted out of the Fountain Hills Middle School campus last week. Another book fair ran at McDowell Mountain Elementary School during the same timeframe. The book fair, sponsored by the local PTO, raises funds to support local students. Having met their fundraising goals during this year's book fair, the PTO will be awarding \$100 to local teachers (or \$200 to new teachers) to help build their classroom libraries. Additional funds will be donated to the school libraries to purchase additional books for local students. This year, \$7,000 in books have already been gifted to local classrooms with around \$4,000 going to libraries. Shopping can continue online through Oct. 16 at scholastic.com/fair to support local schools.



Isaiah Pattea and Matthew Schafer show off one of their prizes from Red Ribbon Day.

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'Madness' visits the Coyotes

The Town of Fountain Hills, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the

Fountain Hills Coalition have teamed up to organize another Middle School Madness event, this time taking local youngsters to an Arizona Coyotes game.

This event is for middle school students in grades six through eighth and will be hosted on Saturday, Nov. 19. The field trip is expected to run from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. and it's free of charge.

The bus will leave the Middle School at 4:30 p.m., so participants might want

to plan to be there a bit earlier. Kids will also be treated to dinner at In & Out Burger as part of the event.

While dinner and the game are free, participants are told to bring any extra funds for outside expenses they might want.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited to 40 kids.

For more information, call 480-816-5170 or email cpovar@fh.az.gov. Reference course #2502.

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