



# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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## Recall

### Petitions turned in, validating to start

Organizers of the recall effort against Town Council members Ginny Dickey and Henry Leger say they have turned in petitions with nearly 2,000 valid signatures to Town Clerk Bev Bender.

Bender has confirmed that the committees have turned in the petitions with 1,950 signatures on each.

However, officials have until October to complete the verification process. The petitioners need 1,308 valid signatures to force an election.

William Sprankle, chair-

man of the committee to recall Leger, said the committees had the petition signatures verified independently and unofficially.

"We would very much like to thank all the folks who volunteered their time and energy to this effort," Sprankle said.

"It was far less difficult than we originally thought.

"Aside from the personal attacks and inaccurate information being tossed at the committees and individuals who donated their time to this effort from Dickey and Leger support-

ers, we are very glad this effort never became personal or generated hateful rhetoric from anyone involved with the committees."

Several letter writers in recent weeks complained about circulators accosting people in local shopping areas.

On July 29, a paid petition circulator, a 60-year-old woman from Gilbert, was arrested for trespassing outside the Target store on Shea Boulevard.

The store supervisor re-

(cont. on page 10A)

### School numbers still dropping

#### Class sizes remain OK

By Ryan Winslett  
Times Reporter

Fountain Hills Unified School District enrollment figures continue to decline as first-day figures put the district down another 80 students (not including preschool) for the 2011-12 academic year.

While Superintendent Dr. Bill Myhr reminded that these figures are still very early and will continue to be in flux throughout the school year, it looks like the student body is at about 2,007 individuals this year. Another drop, yes, but not entirely unexpected.

FHUSD had an enrollment study and projection prepared in 2010 and, according to Myhr, the predictions for the current school year were accurate.

"This was anticipated by

trends over the past several years, and the budget was built in anticipation of these figures," Myhr said during the Aug. 10 School Board meeting.

Myhr said that it appears most students leaving the district are leaving the Valley altogether, rather than shifting into a neighboring district. It's a similar situ-

ation when turned around as well, with most new FHUSD students coming from out of state.

Summer School coordinator Dr. Paul McElligott added that, while the program was another success this year, his numbers were also down by about 80 students.

(cont. on page 12A)

### 'Expo' seeks businesses

The Chamber of Commerce has initiated a few changes this year to "spice up" the former Business Showcase, said Sharon Morgan, events producer.

The new name for the 13th annual event is Fountain Hills Business Expo, scheduled from 3 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Community Center.

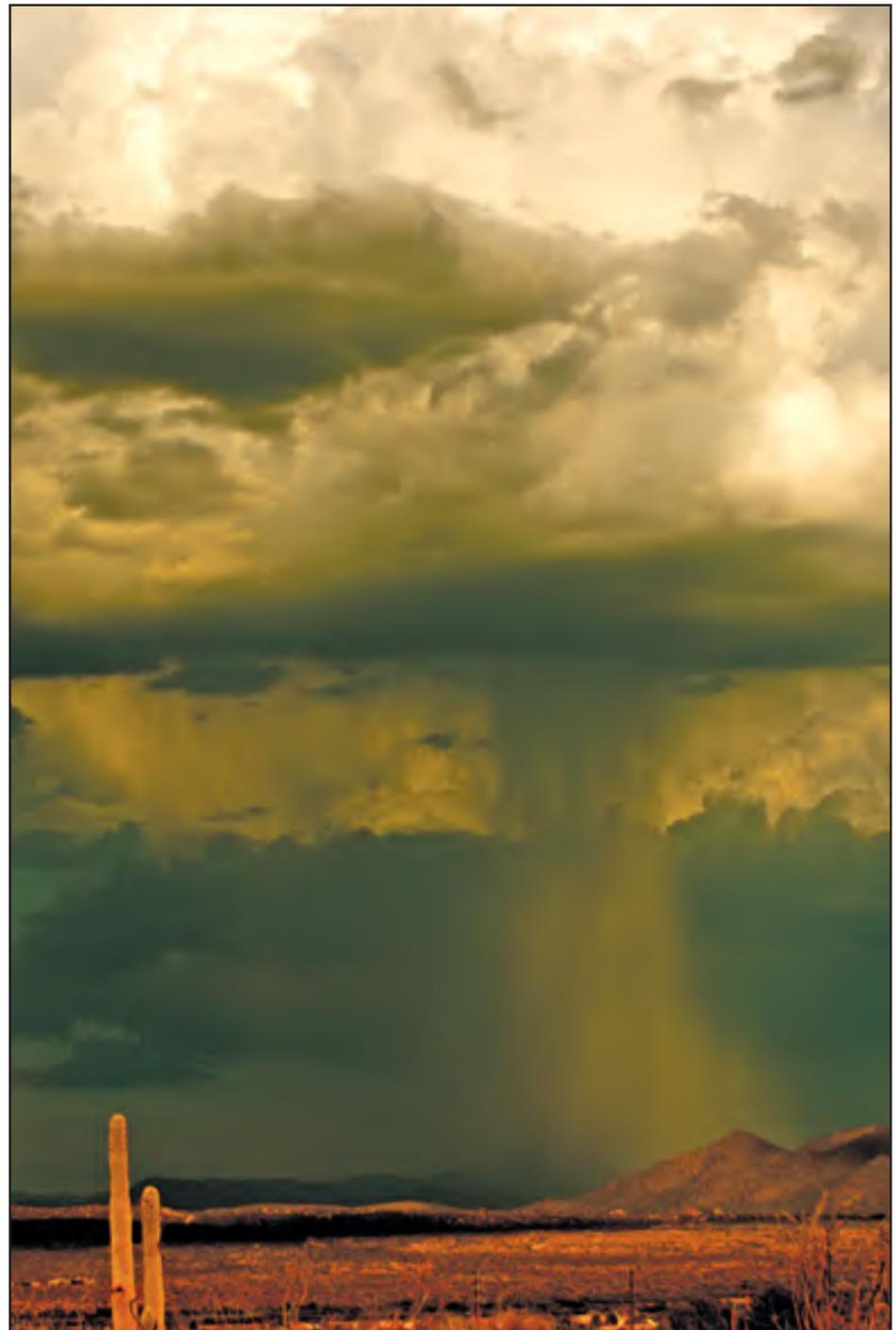
The Business Expo is designed to acquaint the public with Chamber

businesses and services in town.

The Chamber has lowered the vendor registration fee to attract participants.

"In a conscious effort to help the local businesses in these trying economic times, the Chamber has reduced the entry fee this year to \$150 for a six-foot table without electricity or \$160 with electricity,"

(cont. on page 12A)



### Distant storm

Dennis Wilson, a 15-year Fountain Hills resident, captured this photograph north of the middle school just before sunset Sunday, Aug. 14. That storm brought some wind and dust to town but no measurable precipitation.

### Coupon Contest is winding down

Fountain Hills resident Angie McNatt was the winner in this week's \$100 Fountain Hills Times Summer Coupon Contest.

The winning coupon was drawn at Hair Hut, 16714 E. Avenue of the Fountains.

Coupons are printed on Page 5A. Each Wednesday, a name is drawn from the coupons from the previous week's edition.

The promotion runs through Aug. 24. The final weekly winner will be drawn on Aug. 31.

The eight weekly winners will be eligible for the grand prize drawing of \$500 on Aug. 31. All winners must use their dollars by Sept. 16, 2011.

All a person has to do to enter is print his or her name and phone number on each coupon, cut the coupons out of the newspaper



Hair Hut owner Jerry Kirkendoll, left, congratulates Angie McNatt on winning \$100 in 'Times' dollars as part of its Summer Coupon Contest.

and deposit them in the appropriate contest box located in each participating store, restaurant or office.

### Medical marijuana in FHUSD? Coalition questions the need for a policy

By Ryan Winslett  
Times Reporter

Recent changes in Arizona law concerning medicinal marijuana has put Fountain Hills Unified School District in an interesting position.

The district's governing board considered several policy "first reads" concerning medicinal marijuana during its Aug. 10 meeting and, while the bulk of discussion will take place in September, resident Doug Hebert said he had a hard time understanding why the policies would be considered in the first place.

While some policies simply add "medicinal marijuana" to the no-go list for school sites and events, others -- like proposed policy GBAB-Medical marijuana standards and conditions

for employees -- have Hebert apprehensive.

"I'm puzzled why the Fountain Hills School Board would be entertaining medical marijuana on its agenda," Hebert said during the open call to the public.

"I can't understand why anyone would consider adopting a policy on a matter that's still in litigation."

Herbert is a member of the Fountain Hills Drug Coalition and was part of a statewide effort opposing the medical marijuana proposition that narrowly passed at the polls last year.

Hebert went on to highlight his qualms, focusing on the potential loss of federal grant funding were FHUSD to allow medicinal marijuana use, sketchy policy language (such as what determines the level

of "impairment") and the fact that, if approved, certain policies could allow district employees with medicinal marijuana cards to continue their jobs with marijuana still in their systems.

In addition, state lawsuits are still pending that point out discrepancies between the voter-approved bill and federal laws and regulations.

Presented to the local board by the Arizona School Board Association, it is not uncommon for proposed policies to cover controversial topics or those irrelevant to the district.

As is customary, though, the board did conduct a first reading of the policies, though no action may be carried out until a second reading.

(cont. on page 12A)

## \* Marijuana

These items will appear once again during the scheduled September meeting, which is when School Board President Melanie Anderelli said discussion and a decision on whether or not any of the medicinal marijuana policies are suitable for FHUSD will occur.

Superintendent Dr. Bill

Myhr said he will be gathering further resources for the board to consider on each item, as well as consulting with the district attorney before the board reconvenes in September.

For the time being, however, Anderelli expressed similar concerns to Herbert's, specifically about some of the policies' vague language and any action that could put district funding in jeopardy.