



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

FREE SEMINAR ON ENERGY HEALING

Randall & Sindlinger, PLLC are hosting a FREE SEMINAR on energy healing using EFT

January 8, 2011 at 2pm

Fountain Hills Branch Library
12901 N. LaMontana Dr.
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

EFT is a healing technique which helps people to realign their body's energy system for better health. It can work for pain, weight loss, relationship issues, addictions and phobias.

Wednesday, December 29, 2010

\$1.00

Volume 37, No. 52 • 54 pages • 3 sections



Dynamic sunset

Rob Littfin was in town for the holidays visiting his parents, Bob and Evie Littfin, on Via Del Sol when he decided to get creative with his camera and the dynamic view to the west. This is actually a 'high dynamic range' image, which consists of three images, with long exposures, blended together to create this magnificent effect. The spectacular sunset occurred Dec. 10. Rob used to sell real estate here and is now an associate broker in Durango, Colo.

*FH Drug Coalition continues the fight

The Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition has been around for a year now and plans to beef up its strategies and resources into 2011.

Fifteen "sector" leaders within the coalition met earlier this month to brainstorm ideas and projects for the new year.

In addition, coalition representatives Carole Groux and Laura Johnson recently returned from national coalition training in Washington, D.C.

The main message at the training came from Gil Kerlikowske, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, who stated that local problems must be dealt with at a local level.

"Every sector in every community must work together to reduce teen drug and alcohol use," said Groux, coalition director.

(cont. on page 2A)

Top stories for 2010

Happy New Year! That phrase will be reverberating throughout the Hills and elsewhere this New Year's Eve and into early 2011.

With that, however, comes the ubiquitous "looking back" stories on the current year, 2010.

Starting this week, *The Times* will present several review stories detailing the news highlights of the past year, including town-related news and other significant happenings.

We also present in this edition what we feel were the "Top 10" local news stories for the year.

From the continued economic slowdown to mid-term elections, our staff

was busy in 2010 presenting news items to readers.

The "Top 10" news stories are as follows, from the biggest story of the year to No. 10:

Review 2010

1. Economy

While the "Great Recession" was officially declared over by economists, reverberations are still being felt in Fountain Hills.

The continued slump still had a dramatic impact on town government, the School District, local retailers and restaurateurs and

the construction industry.

This marks the third year in a row that the economy was ranked the top story. Some signs of recovery were seen this past year, but despite a statewide sales tax increase, education may still suffer in 2011.

2. Trash

Who knew?

The Town of Fountain Hills' effort to implement a single hauler trash program for residents turned out to be more controversial than anticipated.

The town made a request for proposals and selected Allied Waste as the single hauler.

(cont. on page 2A)

Still time to get school tax credit

The New Year is just a couple days away, meaning there's very little time for last minute contributors to get in their Arizona State Tax Credit donations before the deadline runs out on Dec. 31.

The Fountain Hills Unified School District and Fountain Hills Charter School have a last minute option for those who still wish to support their local schools with tax credit donation.

For those who still wish to make a tax credit donation, both the FHUSD office and Charter School office will be

open during special hours this Friday, Dec. 31.

The district office will be open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. specifically to receive tax credit donations.

At the Charter School, office doors will be open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or donors may call the school at 837-0046 and leave a voice mail with your name and address for the donation to be picked up personally.

Those who wish to contribute may make out a check for \$400 if married and filing jointly or

(cont. on page 3A)

Storm means frost danger

It's been a rather moderate winter so far in the desert, but that's about to change.

A major winter storm is expected to start blowing through the area by today, Dec. 29, bringing with it rain in the Valley and snow in the high country.

Temperatures are expected to drop below freezing at night once the storm passes, however.

Residents should cover their frost-sensitive plants and take other precautions with outdoor pets.

The Maricopa County and University of Arizona

(cont. on page 12A)

Thursday deadline for Phone Book updates

Just a few days remain! Deadline for making changes in residential and business listings in the White Page section of the 2011 *Fountain Hills/Verde Communities Telephone Directory* is Thursday, Dec. 30.

Those who have moved, changed their phone number or converted to cell phone service from a former landline should fill out the coupon and mail it to the address listed at the bottom of the coupon.

The phone book has been published since 1977 by Western States Publishers, Inc. The Fountain Hills-based publishing company also owns the *Fountain Hills Times*, *Let's Go* and other local publications.

"We have taken great pride in giving users the most complete and up-to-date residential and

business listings to reference when someone needs a local address or phone number," said Publisher L. Alan Cruikshank.

"We don't merely subscribe to the Qwest listings. We have developed our own local sources for obtaining updated information to help make our final lists as thorough as possible. We also run coupons in *The Times* throughout the fall months for readers to make changes. We match all of our listing sources to look for duplicate numbers and names.

"We continue to find that an increasing number of people are eliminating their 'land line' phones and are now using cell phones or computer-generated phone systems exclusively.

"In order to continue to give you the most up-to-

date listings, we ask that if you have made this conversion, please notify our office at 837-1925.

"We know there have been many such changes in our residential and business listings.

"We want to continue to provide you with the best list possible. So we ask everyone to cooperate and give us any changes you have made in your listing.

"It's this attention to detail that has given us the reputation of being the most accurate and most used telephone book of all that are distributed in the Fountain Hills market."

Deadline for placing an ad in the 2011 book is Jan. 14, 2011.

"Advertising in the *Fountain Hills & Verde Communities Telephone Directory*

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2011 White Page Listing

New listing - Landline or Cell

Change to existing listing

Delete

(Please Print)

Name: _____ DATE _____
(Last) (First) (SPOUSE - Optional)

Street: _____

P.O. Box: _____

Landline or Cell: _____

The Times office:

16508 E. Laser Dr. Suite 101

FAX:

(480) 837-1951

Email:

kip@fhtimes.com

Or mail to:

P.O. Box 17869 Fountain Hills, AZ 85269

Meridian Bank

We Do.

With over 32 years in the Valley, we continue to actively lend* to businesses in our community.

Find out how we can help.

Fountain Hills Branch
480.837.2786

Meridian Bank.
We Mean Business.

DOES YOUR BANK MEAN BUSINESS?

MeridianBank.com

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Exhibit:

Artist Dr. Jack Meinert's works at St. Anthony Episcopal Church.

See Page 9A

Football:

Ryan Velez (pictured) plays in national all-star game.

See Page 1B

Wrestling:

RJ Hughes crowned wrestling tournament champ.

See Page 4B



WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Dec. 21	62	51	.02
Wed., Dec. 22	74	55	.24
Thurs., Dec. 23	57	46	--
Fri., Dec. 24	65	42	--
Sat., Dec. 25	70	50	--
Sun., Dec. 26	64	44	--
Mon., Dec. 27	66	45	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to www.fhtimes.com



Daily News Updates www.fhtimes.com

* Coalition

(cont. from page 1A)

She noted that most high school students don't drink alcohol, smoke marijuana or even have a desire to do so.

"Not because it's against the law, but because they know it shoots holes in their future plans," she quickly added.

"They have higher standards for themselves than that."

Groux also said that surveys show that most

parents (91 percent) do not want their children drinking underage – and far fewer want their children smoking pot.

"Our goal over the next year is to celebrate those youths are who making great decisions and continue collaborating as a community to address this challenge locally," Groux said.

At the Dec. 6-8 training in Washington, D.C., coalition leaders from across the U.S. gathered to learn effective strategies to address the increase in alcohol, marijuana and prescription drug abuse among teens.

The training was sponsored by the ONDCP in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for coalitions across America who have been designated "Drug Free Community Coalitions."

"We will work as a community to stop drug use before it begins," Groux said. "This is a cost-effective, common-sense way to build a safe and healthy community."

"To change the results, we must work to change the paradigm that 'kids will be kids' and that alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana are the 'least harmful' drugs."

Sector leaders

Besides Groux as director and Johnson as coalition coordinator, local CPA Dan Kuchan serves as its treasurer.

Sector leaders include Gary Krainz, youth; Dwight Johnson, parent; Bob Ditta, business; Mike Scharnow, media; Dr. Bill Myhr, school; Jessica Smith, youth serving organization; and

Capt. Joe Rodriguez, local law enforcement.

Others are Jared Fox, religious or fraternal organization; Tait Elkie, civic or volunteer group; Ken Greenstreet, healthcare professional; Juan Ariztizabal and Denise Lopez, agency with abuse expertise; Joronda Montano, organization involved with reducing substance abuse; Derrick Jones, adjacent coalition; Mark Mayer, town government; and Doug Herbert, state drug enforcement.

The coalition in 2010 launched two programs, "Staying Connected with your Teen" (a parenting program) and Safe Homes Network, designed to aid families who pledge to not allow teen drinking in their homes.

The coalition also staged a Parent and Teen Symposium on Underage Drinking that was well attended and scored high marks from participants.

The coalition also worked with town and School District leaders to form partnerships and seek a reduction in drug use among teens.

Goals for 2011

Goals and activities for 2011 include:

- * Launch website/Facebook page.
- * Implement strategic marketing campaign.
- * Increase youth involvement.
- * Continue parent program.
- * Increase Safe Homes Network and networking.
- * Strengthen collaboration of partners and sectors.
- * Plan for 2012 Community Theater YABOY (Youth Actors Benefiting Other Youth).

Groux said the coalition is committed to this mission statement: "Through community-wide collaboration, Fountain Hills will work together to reduce substance abuse among youth ages 12-18 and, over time, among adults."