



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

\$1.00

Volume 38, No. 41 • 32 pages • 2 sections

Member FDIC

Free debit cards.
Period.

You shouldn't have to pay to use your money. That's why debit cards at Meridian Bank are free. Open an account online at MeridianBank.com today.

Meridian Bank
feel better



Leger recall looks likely; Dickey safe

But legal challenge expected

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Maricopa County Recorder's Office has come up with a split decision on the recall of two Fountain Hills Town Council members.

Results of the voter verification process for the recall petitions have Councilman Henry Leger facing a recall in March, but Councilwoman Ginny Dickey will not.

The results would be pending legal challenges in Maricopa County Superior

Court. The parties have until the end of this week to file a challenge.

Media reports indicate that the Committee to Recall Ginny Dickey will be challenging the county's verification of the signatures.

The Times was unable to reach recall officials for comment prior to presstime. Leger was not happy with the results and maintains the petitioners were disingenuous.

"The grounds for recalling me stated on the recall

(cont. on page 16A)

Schweikert to move if FH is excluded

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

A longtime Fountain Hills resident, U.S. Representative David Schweikert says he will take up residence in Scottsdale to run for Congress again if a preliminary map proposed by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission is ultimately adopted.

The proposed map leaves Fountain Hills in a wide-spread district that would stretch west to the Colorado River and include the river cities of Parker, Bullhead City and Fountain Hills' sister development of Lake Havasu City.

It also includes Colorado City on the Utah border, Apache Junction and Flor-

ence.

Other main population centers in the new designated District 4 include Kingman, Prescott and Payson.

A statement issued on Oct. 4 by Schweikert's campaign office quotes the congressman, "Should the proposed Congressional district map passed by the Independent Redistricting Commission become final, I intend to run for reelection in the new Congressional District 6.

"My longtime ties to Scottsdale include being raised there, attending elementary and high school there, along with representing the city in Congress and in the State Legislature.

(cont. on page 10A)

*Text-A-Tip to fight crime

By Michael Scharnow
Times Editor

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has launched a new project in town, making it easier for people to report crime anonymously.

Called "Text-A-Tip," the program is a trial run and being tested in Fountain Hills, thanks to the Drug Coalition, which is sponsoring the project.

MCSO teamed up with CrimeReports, the industry leader in law enforcement

tip management software, to provide the service, which allows citizens and students to send anonymous tips via text message from a mobile phone or online.

"As technology continues to grow, we at the Sheriff's Office will utilize every avenue necessary to deter and fight crime," Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said in a prepared statement.

"This tool will encourage those who are afraid to report crimes for fear of being

(cont. on page 16A)

Homecoming pride



The freshmen class of 2015 had an impressive float during halftime festivities at the football game. For additional Homecoming pictures, please see Page 10A.



Introducing the 2011 homecoming royalty: Freshmen Gabbie Mei and Michael Doka, sophomores Dustin Amick and Rowan Saggau, juniors Will Aker and Marley Bryniarski and seniors Kaitlyn Coveney and Nick DePorzio.

Bonds: FH behind in maintenance

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

This is the third in a series of stories The Times will publish related to the Nov. 8 street bond election. This installment provides readers with information on the long-term pavement management program. Subsequent stories will focus on the finances related to the bond program.

Third in a series

Buy a new sponge and it comes out of the package nice and pliable, but leave that sponge out in the sun for a while and it dries out, becoming brittle, prone to crumbling and cracking.

The sponge is a comparison that Town of Fountain Hills Development Services Director Paul Mood likes

to use when he is talking about asphalt and pavement.

Keeping the town's paved streets smooth and safe requires a program of maintenance to keep the asphalt from drying out, cracking and crumbling.

The flexibility of asphalt allows it to remain adaptable to the temperature swings from extreme heat in the summer to Sonoran Desert cold in winter. As it dries out it becomes less flexible, and dry brittle asphalt crumbles away -- leaving cracks and holes.

The typical lifespan of an asphalt roadway is 20 to 25 years, according to Mood. With proper maintenance the life can be stretched up to 40 years. That is the age most of the streets in Fountain Hills have reached.

Couple that with the fact that Mood says most of the



Routine crack sealing is one piece of the asphalt maintenance program used by the Town of Fountain Hills.

streets were built substandard to begin with, and the town's maintenance has not been an optimum program for longest life.

The town has divided the town into seven zones with

paving maintenance done in a new zone each year starting over when all seven areas have been completed.

Mood said the bond program as proposed would allow the town to reduce the cycle of maintenance to every five years.

There are four components to asphalt maintenance. Those include crack seal, Tire Rubber Modified Surface Sealer (TRMSS), slurry seal and mill and overlay.

Crack seal is an ongoing process for asphalt to keep moisture from seeping underneath the pavement and causing greater damage. Crack sealing is often done prior to slurry seal.

TRMSS is a thin seal of emulsified asphalt with ground tire rubber. It helps preserve the oils in the as-

(cont. on page 16A)

*Text-A-Tip

(cont. from page 1A)

labeled an informant to report crimes without ever being identified.”

This is one more means by which the coalition and MCSO are working together to reduce youth substance abuse in Fountain Hills.

Capt. Joe Rodriguez, local commander of the Sheriff's Office operations, has been in law enforcement for more than 17 years.

“This is by far the most innovative, progressive tool I have ever seen in my career,” he said.

“There is no doubt that this program will dramatically increase our crime-solving capabilities throughout the community.”

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office encourages citizens and students in Fountain Hills to report non-emergency information through this new anonymous reporting system.

In Fountain Hills, citizens can text the keyword MCSOFH, plus their tip, to 274637.

Rodriguez gave a presentation on “Text-A-Tip” to the Town Council last Thursday evening.

The program was launched Sept. 19, and to

date 18 messages had been received, most of them classified as “test” messages.

However, one text received early last week about a fight at school allowed a deputy to intervene and prevent it from occurring.

“This is exactly how we want to use this,” Rodriguez said.

Information from another text was forwarded to MCSO's District One operations, which are in the East Valley.

One resident, Dina Galassini, said during the call to the public that the town was getting on a “Big Brother” bandwagon with the texting program.

“You are encouraging kids to snitch on one another,” she said. “This is just the beginning.”

In North America, this type of anonymous texting program is used by more than 600 law enforcement agencies and by nine of the 10 largest metro areas such as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Toronto, Vancouver, etc.

“It has had a dramatic impact on informing police agencies of a variety of activities including drug houses, underage drinking parties, vandalism and graffiti,” Rodriguez told the council.

“We have established an outstanding relationship with the coalition,

which has financed other important projects to assist in minimizing underage drinking and drug use.

“We see this program increasing in importance and magnitude as awareness builds in Fountain Hills and as more and more people, especially our older residents, feel comfortable in texting messages.”

Rodriguez said the Text-A-Tip program is the next step in keeping Fountain Hills’ “leading edge” in law enforcement and as a safe and protected community.

Councilwoman Ginny Dickey said there have been a variety of conversations over the years about community policing.

She said this was a great opportunity for citizens, young people in particular, to take responsibility.

“The program empowers youth without fear of repercussions,” she added.

The texts are routed through a Canadian company, where the cell phone number is encrypted and assigned an alias, ensuring anonymity.

Canadian laws do not allow police to access this type of anonymous information.

“We cannot get this information, even with a warrant,” Rodriguez said.

However, it is up to the sender to erase the original message from their own cell phone.