



# The Fountain Hills TIMES

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Wednesday, July 1, 2009

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## Outlook grim for school revenue

By Ryan Winslett  
 Times Reporter

Fountain Hills Unified School District looks to suffer a \$1.2 million shortfall in funding compared to 2008-09, according to the recently adopted budget.

The School Board June 24 considered a budget that will, according to Superintendent Dr. Bill Myhr, see revisions in the coming months.

"We have to adopt a budget by July 15," Myhr said. "The legislature has not provided us with formal figures yet, so there will be changes to the proposed budget."

Assistant Superintendent Tim Leedy agreed.

"The current budget, at best, is a draft," Leedy said. "Once legislators finish, we'll incorporate any changes and bring it back to the board."

What has been proposed, though, looks pretty grim.

The current maintenance and operations budget is set at \$13,075,926, down \$628,277 from 2008-09's \$13,758,203.

The district is also expected to take a \$206,000 reduction in the Classroom Site Fund, as well as a loss of \$262,000 in soft capital and \$65,000 in capital outlay. Combined, this adds up to a \$1.2 million difference from the last academic year.

Facing such a big loss, Myhr (cont. on Page 8A)

## Teen party in park Thursday

The next Party in the Park for students is this Thursday, July 2, at Golden Eagle Park.

The Party in the Park events sponsored by the Town of Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation Department are popular summertime activities and are scheduled through July for middle school and high school teens.

The fun runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with a DJ, activities, games and prizes, all for the low, low price of nothing.

The Party in the Park events are also scheduled for July 16 and July 30.



Straight as an arrow

Times photo by Ryan Winslett

Nicholas Digeno, Skyler Houseal and Anthony Bonomolo take aim during archery at Cactus Day Camp. The camp, hosted out of the Fountain Hills Charter School campus, is running all summer long, giving local children a place to get outside and get active. For the full story and more photos, see Page 14A.

## Fireworks on Friday at The Fort

No celebration slated July 4

The full July 4 extravaganza for the public that has become a trademark at the Fort McDowell Casino will be missing this year. Fireworks for a private party will be viewable Friday, July 3, but there are no fireworks scheduled for Saturday, July 4, at The Fort.

There are no public fireworks displays planned for Fountain Hills.

To take advantage of the event July 3, however, Fort McDowell Adventures is holding its weekly Friday Night Frank event at La Puesta del Sol. Visitors can enjoy barbecue, hot dogs and side dishes and watch the fireworks. Gates open at 5 p.m.

"We decided to have the Friday Night Franks at La Puesta because it is a little higher than the ranch site," said Rick Cibik, general manager of Fort McDowell Adventures. "This way people can see the fireworks over at the casino and enjoy great food and company."

The Friday Night Franks features El Paso Barbecue catering with chicken sandwiches, hamburgers and other barbecue offerings. Hot dogs, brats and s'mores also are available. Soft drinks, beer, wine and cocktails also can be purchased.

The name of the weekly activity recognizes the work of Frank Harris, a Fort McDowell tribal member who in 1948 successfully fought the government to secure the right to vote for Arizona Native Americans.

Admission and parking for the event are free. The cost for meals depends on the selection.

Reservations are recommended (cont. on Page 8A)

## CCWC rate case delayed

California investigation holds up review

By Bob Burns Times Reporter

According to documents filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission, ACC staff received a call from the CPUC in December about that agency's investigation into Golden State Water.

A statement filed with the ACC on June 19 updated an administrative law judge on the status of the CCWC rate request.

"The CPUC discovered information regarding (CCWC) during the course of its investigation into certain procurement practices of Golden State Water, the sister company of (CCWC)," the statement says.

It goes on to state that ACC staffers sought to receive information from the CPUC and CCWC in an effort "to determine if any alleged improprieties affect this pending (CCWC) case."

In March ACC staff received 15,000 pages of documents from CCWC.

As of June 23 ACC staff was

still sorting through the documentation and had asked for a delay in proceeding with the CCWC rate case.

The administrative law judge granted a one-week delay in hearing the case.

An attorney for CCWC filed a response with the ACC stating that staff has had three months to go over the documents and they also believe the situation requires no action by the judge.

The state's Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO) agreed there has been insufficient time to review the documentation, however, it did not object to allowing the case to proceed.

"RUCO acknowledges (CCWC's) desire to have the com-

mission render a decision in this matter as soon as possible," the RUCO filing states.

"Therefore, RUCO does not object to the (CCWC) suggestion that this matter proceed, but remains open subject to reconsideration in the event that the investigation by staff, RUCO and/or the CPUC reflects impropriety by (CCWC) and/or its parent, officers or employees."

In February 2007 CPUC began looking at whether Golden State Water Company (GSWC) was overcharged by a specific contractor for numerous construction projects, according to CCWC District Manager Rob Hanford.

"The work was primarily related to water treatment and pumping plants which are in service," Hanford said.

"The CPUC then began an audit of the company's practices for awarding construction contracts for a period from 1994 to present."

"GSWC has been cooperating and responding to the data requests submitted by the CPUC."

(cont. on Page 3A)

## Early deadline

There is an early deadline for submitting all display advertising for the July 8 edition of *The Fountain Hills Times*.

The newspaper office is closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday, and that means the regular display advertising deadline is being moved up 24 hours to Thursday at 3 p.m.

All other deadlines remain the same.

## Eighth in a series

# Food Bank helps bridge economic gap

By Michael Scharnow  
 Times Editor

To establish an effective network for the procurement and distribution of food in a caring and efficient manner to serve hungry people through a variety of programs in Fountain Hills and the surrounding communities.

Extended Hands Food Bank Director David Iverson said the current recession has definitely impacted operations at the local facility and its ability to meet the above mission statement.

"Some people who used to come in regularly have seemed to move on," he said.

"They probably have moved out of the area."

"And I've seen new people come in who never had to do this before."

As layoffs, forced furloughs

and foreclosures continue to pile up in Maricopa County and beyond, those "on the edge" tend to seek help at the last minute.

"A lot of people might be in a temporary situation," Iverson said. "They might have lost their job, but they'll find something else."

"We are seeing a lot more unemployed people."

The Fountain Hills-based food bank on Laser Drive in late spring was forced to limit its service area so that nearby residents in need could have their needs met.

"We basically limited it to the five local area codes, which includes north Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Fort McDowell and The Verdes," said Iverson, who is also pastor of the Fountain Hills Christian Center.

"We still help some people

(cont. on Page 8A)



Times photo by Mike Scharnow

Volunteers from Extended Hands Food Bank and officials with the Fountain Hills Post Office celebrate the recent food collection by letter carriers. More than 12 tons of food was collected locally, which will help the food bank carry on through the difficult summer months.

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### THE VERDES

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### FEATURE

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### SPORTS

Desert Canyon renovation PAGE 3B

### MEETINGS

Town Council will meet Thursday, July 2, at 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers

### EVENT

Meet Your Congressman: Rep. Harry Mitchell

Thursday 9:30 - 11 a.m.

FH Community Center

### WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., June 23	103	75	--
Wed., June 24	106	78	--
Thurs., June 25	94	79	--
Fri., June 26	102	78	--
Sat., June 27	107	80	--
Sun., June 28	109	79	--
Mon., June 29	106	83	--



## Fountain Hills and the Economy:



## Surviving the Financial Fallout

A series presented by the Fountain Hills Times