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Wednesday, March 25, 2009

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Volume 36/No. 12 • 40 Pages, 3 Sections

Hall of Fame inductees



The Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame 2008 inductees are, from left, front row, Michael Scharnow, Linda Kavanagh and Dan Foster; rear, former Mayor Wally Nichols, Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Jim Urban of Rio Verde. The late Harry Jones of Fort McDowell also was honored. His son, Tom Jones, not present for the photo, accepted the award.

Seven more join organization; museum room named for Pattea

The sixth annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony was a joyous occasion yet bittersweet with the news of Keith McMahan's passing.

The Lower Verde River Valley Hall of Fame grew to a membership of 92 on March 18, yet one of its own had been found passed away the day before.

Town Councilman Keith McMahan was in the inaugural 2004 Hall of Fame class and has often been referred to as "Mr. Fountain Hills."

Lower Verde Valley Historical Society President Debbie Skehen told the 235-plus in attendance that McMahan was scheduled to be at the banquet.

A moment of silence was held in his honor and then a toast was given.

Jerry Miles, president of the River of Time Museum Foundation Board of Directors, said an empty seat was being kept at

his table where McMahan would have been seated.

He then congratulated the 2009 class of inductees - Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Dan Foster, the late Harry Jones of Fort McDowell, Linda Kavanagh, Wally Nichols, Mike Scharnow and Jim Urban of Rio Verde (for a complete biography of all the inductees, see separate story elsewhere in this issue).

The other big news of the evening was the announcement that the traveling exhibit room at the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum was being named to honor Dr. Clinton Pattea.

Pattea, current Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation tribal president, Historical Society board member and member of the River of Time

Foundation's board, has done much to foster better relations between Fort McDowell and Fountain Hills.

In addition, Cruikshank, one of the museum and Historical Society's founders, told the crowd that Pattea has raised considerable funds for the museum, which concentrates on the entire Verde Valley region, not just Fountain Hills.

Rotating exhibits of various media are displayed on a temporary basis in the traveling exhibit room at the museum.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Sahmas Brothers, while comedians Bob Howard and Ken Kaz performed as well.

Miles announced that by his own records that the March 18 banquet was the largest attended fundraising event held to date at the Community Center.

Candidates considered for se-

(cont. on Page 9A)

Bashas' center grand opening is on Tuesday

Plaza gets multi-million dollar facelift

By Barb Charzuk Times Reporter

When The Pederson Group, a Phoenix-based developer, purchased the Fountain Hills Plaza, the intention was to create a premiere shopping destination.

Company chairman Jim Pederson toured the center last week to give his stamp of approval on extensive renovations and construction of an expanded Bashas' supermarket.

The grand reopening of the retail center on the southwest corner of Palisades Boulevard and La Montana Drive will be Tuesday, March 31.

Bashas' invites the public to attend festivities beginning at 4 p.m. Customers can sample food, enter drawings to win gift cards drawn every 30 minutes and receive take home giveaways, including a reusable bag, Cookies and balloons will be distributed to children.

The revitalized retail center also features an expansion of the existing Paul's ACE Hardware Store, a new exterior Spanish ranch architecture design, new signage and parking lot shade structures. The total cost of the acquisition and redevelopment of the shopping center exceeded \$23 million.

Originally constructed in 1986, Fountain Hills Plaza has

provided a diverse mix of retail tenants for more than 20 years. The center is also home to LeBaron Cleaners, Radio Shack, Pony Express, Fountain Hills Dental Care, American Family Insurance, Instant Imprints, Cheryl's of Fountain Hills, Fountain Hills Medical Clinic, Kay Kinder's Fountain Fashions, Touche Hair Design, R&R Nails and Flapjacks, a breakfast and lunch restaurant.

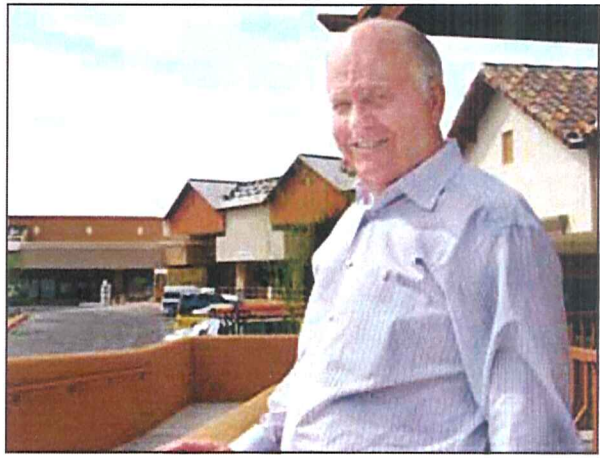
Fore Peaks Realty is a new real estate group to move into the center. Another new tenant signing a lease is Great Clips, a hair salon.

The renovation of the center began last April after conversations with Bashas' officials expressed the need to provide a modern, supermarket and shopping center to serve residents of Fountain Hills and the Verdes.

Pederson said deterioration is an issue facing older shopping centers.

"When existing shopping cen-

(cont. on Page 10A)



Jim Pederson, chairman of The Pederson Group, inspects Fountain Hills Plaza after extensive renovations, including a rebuilt Bashas' supermarket. His firm invested more than \$23 million in purchasing and upgrading the shopping center at the southwest corner of Palisades Blvd. and La Montana Drive.

Medical Campus open house

See special section inside

Health care professionals at Fountain Hills Medical Campus invite the public to view the transformation of the former seat of town government at festivities next Wednesday, April 1.

The celebration at 16838 Palisades Boulevard gets under way at 5 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, music and refreshments and lasts until 7 p.m.

An advertising insert in today's edition previews tenants and the medical services they provide to area residents. Visitors will be able to tour facilities and meet the health care providers during the open house festivities.

The medical providers are:

- Building A: Laboratory Corporation of America, (LabCorp), a full-service medical laboratory that provides a range of genomic and esoteric tests.

- Building B: Spooner and Shaft Physical Therapy, a physical therapy practice; North Scottsdale Dermatology and Scottsdale Center for Sight, providing ophthalmologist services.

- Building C: Fountain Hills Family Practice and Scottsdale Medical Imaging Ltd. SML services include digital mammography, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging.

'Preparedness' fair Saturday

There will be a Community, Family and Personal Preparedness Fair held at Fountain Hills High School on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Local professionals along with the fire department and law enforcement will be present to go over areas of preparedness on a community, family and

personal level.

Information will be available on a variety of topics including personal and family budgeting, food storage, community emergency plan, how-to-do CPR, resume building, gardening, neighborhood safety, personal fitness, water and power conservation and more.

The public is welcome and the event is free of charge.

Accolades pour in for Keith

Memorial service is set for Thursday, April 23

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Charlie Vascellaro first met Keith McMahan when Vascellaro was 14 years old and bussing tables at the old Applewick's restaurant in Fountain Hills.

"Keith used to come in and always take the same seat to eat," Vascellaro said.

Now a baseball writer, Vascellaro was in town for Spring Training when he heard the news that Keith had passed away.

Vascellaro said he knew he needed to do something to remember Keith, so he bought a single rose and went to the median on the Avenue of the Fountains where there is a plaque recognizing Keith for his volunteer service.

Taking a beer from a cooler in the trunk of his car, Vascellaro went and placed the rose next to the marker and sat down and drank half the beer. He poured the other half on the ground to honor his friend.

"I knew I needed to have one

last beer with Keith," Vascellaro said.

Vascellaro also left a note next to the marker - "Fountain Hills without Keith McMahan is like Fountain Hills without the Fountain."

Memories of Keith are pouring out from everyone this past week as he was found dead in his home

Hills," Morgan said. "He was a fixture with the Chamber events."

He was a tireless volunteer over the years, Morgan said, and he only recently has shown a willingness to work with someone else to eventually replace him.

"That's going to make the transition easier," Morgan said. "I'm going to miss him. I really loved working with him and came to respect him."

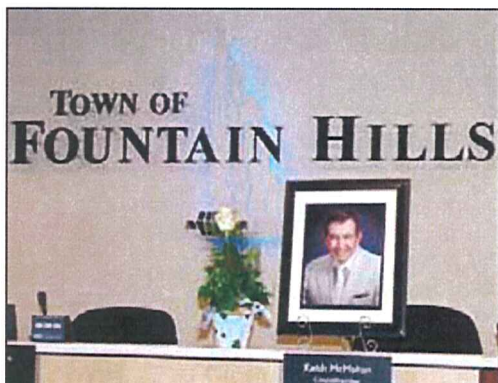
Keith's willingness to give whatever he had to the community stands out for many.

"Keith gave a great deal of his energies as a volunteer for our community and our town was a big part of his life," said Mayor Jay Schlum. "Keith left a great personal impression on our community and was a very important part of

Fountain Hills.

"When remembering Keith my first thought is a sound - Keith's laugh is one that instantly brought a smile to everyone's face. What a great

(cont. on Page 12A)



At its regular meeting on Thursday, March 19, the Town Council remembered Councilman Keith McMahan who passed away earlier in the week.

on St. Patrick's Day last week.

Keith was suffering from a heart condition, and according to some, like Chamber of Commerce Events Producer Sharon Morgan, his refusal to slow down finally caught up with him.

"He was a fixture in Fountain

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

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THE VERDES

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FEATURE

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SPORTS

Baseball Falcons 2-0 in region
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MEETINGS

Planning & Zoning will meet Thursday, March 26, at 5 p.m. subcommittee, 6:30 p.m. regular meeting at Town Council Chambers

EVENT

Chamber Mixer
Thursday, March 26
5 - 7 p.m.

American Legion, VFW Post
16837 E. Parkview Ave

Nova Desert Classic bike race
McDowell Mtn. Park
Friday - Sunday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., March 17	85	53	--
Wed., March 18	87	55	--
Thurs., March 19	87	52	--
Fri., March 20	88	60	--
Sat., March 21	87	53	--
Sun., March 22	80	57	--
Mon., March 23	68	44	--



Bashas'

(cont. from page 1A)

ters located in older parts of a community become antiquated and are allowed to deteriorate, the entire trade area is impacted," said Pederson.

"We made the decision to completely demolish the existing store (Bashas') and start from scratch so there would be no impediment to building a state-of-the-art facility," said Pederson.

"We feel that Fountain Hills

Plaza will once again become a major community asset that residents can point to with great pride and serve the needs of the community for many years to come."

"We're very pleased with the outcome," added Pederson.

The Pederson Group has redeveloped numerous shopping centers in the past 25 years in Scottsdale and other Valley communities. Two of its most significant redevelopments were the renovation of a Bashas'-anchored center at the southeast corner of Hayden and Indian School roads, and Chap-

arral Plaza, northwest corner of Hayden and Chaparral roads, both in Scottsdale.

Both centers, originally constructed 50 and 30 years ago, respectively, underwent major renovations that transformed them from aging, out-of-date projects into vibrant, competitive retail centers that continue to thrive, said Pederson.

"While we receive a lot of attention for our newer and larger centers, I am very proud of our renovated properties because they continue to serve people who have lived in these neighborhoods for many years and



Bashas' store manager Ken Fett leads a tour of the rebuilt supermarket.

have been regular customers to our retailers dating back to the 1960s and 1970s," said Pederson.

"Fountain Hills Plaza most certainly falls into this category, and we would like to thank the center's many loyal shoppers who have continued to support our merchants at the center during the construction progress."

Pederson said his firm worked closely with town officials and residents who provided input on what they wanted to see incorporated into the center's new design.

The marketing campaign to promote the refurbished plaza is using the slogan: "See Us in a Whole New Light." Brochures featuring discounts at tenant stores have been mailed to area households.

Bigger, improved Bashas'

Ken Fett started as a courtesy clerk at the first Bashas' and advanced through the company to become store manager. During the reconstruction of the Fountain Hills store, he worked at the Bashas' location on Bell Road and Thompson Peak and returns to the new store.

Many customers also will welcome the return of Mike Hoke, manager of the meat department, said Fett. In addition to pre-packaged meats, the new store has a custom meat section where a butcher is available for advice or selection. A fresh fish counter is adjacent.

Fett led a preview tour to point out new store features. A customer lounge area with a

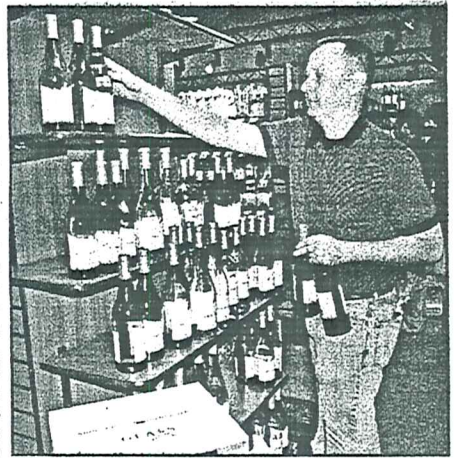
42-inch flat-screen television, cable TV service and free Wi-Fi access has been provided at the front of the store. At the rear is a small self-contained room available free for small group meetings.

A secure, glass-enclosed Cub House, a free supervised play area equipped with a Sony PlayStation, arts and crafts and board games, is a place at the front of the store where as many as 10 children between the ages of 2 and 10 years old can play while parents shop. Video screens throughout the store keep the adults in touch with the youngsters.

A bakery and eat-in lunch area with tables and chairs indoors and outdoor patio is certain to be a popular meeting spot, said Fett. The bakery makes all products from scratch and bakes fresh donuts daily. Two cake decorators have been hired.

An Italian kitchen serving fresh hot pizza is next to a gelato bar. Four self-checkouts have been installed for convenience. A floral department, also at the front of the store, has a designer to create floral arrangements. An United Drug Pharmacy operates within the store.

Shelving heights have a lower profile, said Fett. He described



Chris Francis of Alliance Beverages arranges a display of wine bottles for opening specials.

the arrangement as "senior friendly," another touch in catering to Bashas' clientele.

Organic produce are integrated with regularly grown vegetables and fruits.

Redone Paul's Hardware

South of Bashas' store is the redesigned Paul's ACE Hardware, which remained open during reconstruction of the center.

The store has been expanded from 16,800 square feet to 22,800 square feet. Owner is Julie Buchkowski, whose grandfather, Paul Dauwalder, originally opened the Fountain Hills store in 1973 where it remained until 1986 when it moved to a second location. It relocated to its present location in June 1998.

"Fountain Hills has been very good to us and our expansion is the direct result of trying to provide our customers with additional products and services," said Buchowski.

The expanded hardware store has added a new service department devoted to rental building equipment such as ladders, jackhammers, paint sprayers and similar construction tools.

"Our new and expanded store will help us deliver on my grandfather's promise of 'if we don't have it, we will get it for you,'" said Buchowski.

Bashas' historic presence

"During the last 77 years, we've opened a lot of stores," said Johnny Basha, vice chairman of Bashas' Family of Stores. "We've closed a few, too. But it's rare for us to close a store and rebuild a completely new store in the same spot. When this new store opens, we believe that the Fountain Hills community will agree that it was worth the wait."

Bashas' has had a presence in town for more than 30 years. The Chandler-based firm was the first grocer to serve the community when it opened a supermarket in 1974. As the population ballooned, Bashas' closed its first location in town in April 1986, and opened a larger store in Fountain Hills Plaza. The supermarket operated until it closed in April 2008 for demolition.

The rebuilt store spotlights the grocer's prototype design that is more than three times the size or the original Fountain Hills store opened in 1974.

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- It Might as Well be Spring
- Unchained Melody

Sunday, April 5, 4 pm • Monday, April 6, 7 pm

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Tickets are available from chorus members and will be for sale at the door starting 45 minutes before each concert.

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