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Publisher

Inside Fountain Hills

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The Fountain Hills
TIMES

April 25, 2007

A little of this and a little of that

For those of you who have seniors at the high school this year, I want to remind you that one of your gift options is to buy an ad to congratulate your young person for successfully completing their diploma requirements.

The ad will appear in our annual Graduation edition on Wednesday, May 23. Your kids could keep these editions, which could become collectors items or they make great additions to your refrigerator doors by adding one of those magnets you may have bought at the Great Fair.

Call our office, 837-1925, for rate information.

A golf clinic conducted by famed PGA veteran Tom Lehman, defending U.S. Open champ Geoff Ogilvey, FBR (Phoenix) Open winner Aaron Baddeley and long-drive champion Brian Pavlet kicked off the activities at the annual McKenzie Monks Foundation fundraiser last Friday at FireRock Country Club.

Among those who played in the golf tournament was former rock star and now Valley resident Alice Cooper.

Pavlet, who formerly lived in Fountain Hills, has won the World Long Drive Championship several times.

He put on a very comical presentation to the gathering of golfers who were about to go out and challenge the local course. No one can hit a golf ball farther than this powerhouse. He even knocked the ball some 300 yards with a short driver that only measured 29 inches long.

After he ended his demonstration, I talked with him briefly to see what he has been doing the past year. He made 87 appearances at tournaments and clinics.

"And one of those was to Iraq," he said. He put on a demonstration for the troops with several other PGA tour players.

"We were flown around Baghdad in Blackhawk helicopters," he said. "We wore helmets and vests the whole time we were there. It made me think twice about being there after I returned home and heard about the Blackhawks being shot down after we left."

Before we left Iraq, I had a couple of soldiers, who looked like kids, come up and thank me for coming.

"I said no, I want to thank you for all you are doing for us," he said.

The McKenzie Monks fundraiser also included a fashion show and reception for the ladies and the Dinner Under the Stars with both a live and silent auction and a country band for dancing. The dinner is always an unbelievable spread of culinary delights.

Pink (McKenzie's favorite) was the color of the day. There were plenty of tears that evening as those of us who knew little McKenzie watched a film about her life being shortened by a brain tumor when she was not quite five.

But there were also many smiles as the film showed the good things this foundation is accomplishing for children cancer patients. McKenzie's mother, Denise, said, "Her beautiful name and spirit is at work bringing happiness to kids that are facing the same challenges she did. She is bringing them smiles just like she did for us for nearly five years."

We'll have a full story on this event in next week's edition.

Saturday afternoon I stopped to pick up a few things at the Walgreen's store near our office. As I was paying for them the cashier asked me if I was doing anything fun that weekend.

I told him I was going to a birthday party a couple of hours later for 10 people that are all turning 70. The teenaged clerk looked at me with a raised eyebrow as if to say, "Fun?"

The picnic party was at Golden Eagle Park under a ramada. Those attending were friends or family members of the 10 birthday people who were all born in 1937.

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What should I do when I grow up?

Boomers, not teens, asking that question; author helps those in career transition

By Barb Charzuk
Times Reporter

Motivational speaker and author Patricia Noel Drain poses a question that many readers have asked themselves: What should I be when I grow up?

Her latest book attempts to help anyone, at any age, discover necessary components to enrich their lives.

For years Drain interviewed job-hunters at her Phoenix employment recruiting firm. On a daily basis, clients would ask for her guidance in determining a career path.

"They thought this was a unique, clever question. But in reality, hundreds of people have asked that question over the years," said Drain.

"I finally realized that I am not the person (nor is there any other person) who can tell you (or anyone else) that you should be a truck driver, a secretary, a teacher, and so on. Your answer can only come from the hard work of getting to know yourself, your personal skills, and your lifelong patterns," said Drain.

As time went on, she noticed individuals who asked the question kept getting older and their inquiries became more frequent. She decided to focus on her generation, the Baby Boomers, who may be reaching a point in their life where they want to do something for enjoyment instead of a paycheck.

The seeds for an introspective guide, "What Should I Be When I Grow Up," were sown.

"This is not a retirement book. This is about staying alive and healthy," said Drain. She lives in Fountain Hills with her husband Tom, a FireRock home contractor.

Her guide contains stories about people who discovered their passion early in life and kept the passion alive.

"It took me more than 20 years to write this book. Why so long? Because I didn't want to end the book with anyone

not knowing what to do with his or her career after reading it through," said Drain.

She asks questions such as "what are you passionate about, what excites you, energizes, connects you."

"They are questions that only you can answer," she said.

An individual's personality will shine through the answers as the person identifies his or her special ingredients.

"You will get to know and understand yourself, your needs, your skills, your patterns, and maybe even your purpose," she said.

Copies sell on her web site --www.whatshouldibewhenigrowup.com -- for \$24.95.

"This is not a retirement book. This is about staying alive and healthy."

Patricia Drain

The guide has triggered ideas for her to write self-help sequels under the titles of "What Should I Do Next Now That I Graduated? Now That I'm Married? Now That I'm Divorced?"

"What Should I Be When I Grow Up?" is Drain's seventh and hottest book.

Her "Hire Me! Secrets of Job Interviewing" is an international best seller and has been published in nine languages.

She also has written "I Love Myself," a children's book and tape on self esteem.

The Working Woman magazine presented Drain with the "Most Innovative Business Practice Award." The Phoenix Business Journal voted her one of the "100 Most Influential People in Arizona."

Drain frequently counsels business owners on management techniques to make their business more valuable and generate more income.

She has presented keynote addresses to corporations such as 20th Century Fox, Univer-

sal Studios, HR Search and Del Webb Corporation. She is available as a keynote speaker as well as a seminar presenter. Material often comes from her book, "7 Secrets for Building a Business."

Drain recently was asked at a seminar what she would have changed in her career.

"I would handle employees differently. Believing that retention of the 'team' was one of the most important assets in business, I continued retaining employees that no longer served the company's needs," explained Drain.

She now sings "You've got to know when to hire and know when to fire," explaining that she builds her talk around the concept. Her advice is an employee should go if the individual is not working for the greater advantage of the company.

Like her readers, Drain said her biggest challenge is to "feel a need to continue to contribute as we age."



Patricia Noel Drain has written a career guide for Baby Boomers, "What Should I Be When I Grow Up". She interviewed individuals from 40 to older than 70 years old about what energizes them and connects them to society.

Here's one man who inspires people

The career transition of Bill Bumbalo, former Long Island, New York bank officer to safety coordinator at Fountain Hills' Safeway supermarket, is told in "What Should I Be When I Grow Up?"

Bumbalo started working in the banking industry at the age of 16. He advanced from customer service representative to teller to vice president and retired after 50 years in 1993. His last position was with the Long Island Savings Bank of New York.

He moved to Fountain Hills in 1997. Although he became involved with a church choir and volunteered at Mayo Clinic, he wanted something more to feel productive.



Bill Bumbalo

Bumbalo applied to become a courtesy clerk at Safeway. The position provided part-time flexible hours, interaction with customers, an enjoyable atmosphere close to home, and spending money for travel.

In return, Safeway appreciated a mature, experienced employee. Safeway has recognized Bill for several service awards in the last five years.

The author of the guide, Patricia Drain, said the moral of Bumbalo's story is:

"Move your body, keep your mind active, and discover all of the necessary ingredients to enjoy your life as you have the privilege to live it."

Teen Driver

No slowing Jake down in his race for career

By Barb Charzuk
Times Reporter

Teen Jacob (Jake) Johnson compares competitive auto racing to a "high speed game of chess."

"Whoever makes the best moves is going to win," said the 17-year-old from Fountain Hills.

Johnson, the youngest son of Ron and Judith Johnson, has been learning to make the right moves since he began racing go-karts at the age of 11.

Jake dreams of becoming a professional auto racer. To demonstrate his commitment and perseverance, he moved to North Carolina, the heart of NASCAR country, to attend school and build racing contacts.

He will graduate May 11 from NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, N.C., known as Race City, USA. More than 75 percent of the NASCAR Winston Cup Series, Busch Series and Craftsman



Jacob (Jake) Johnson

Truck Series teams live in the vicinity.

The automotive-technology program teaches students about engine construction, body and chassis fabrication and racing theory principles.

Jake owns a Legends racing car, which presently awaits a new chassis and reassembly so

he can race this season. He is recruiting sponsors to subsidize his expensive racing fever.

"He is 100 percent focused on racing," said his father, Ron Johnson.

Wrestling was Jake's first choice of athletic competition when he attended Fountain Hills High School. Jake won 50 percent of his matches, said his father.

A spark was missing compared to his love for racing. When Jake raced at indoor and outdoor kart tracks, he excelled and broke records. He didn't achieve that level of accomplishment in wrestling so he focused on what he did best.

He earned a GED diploma and enrolled in the NASCAR vocational school. He competed with drivers from 10 regions to advance to the semi-finals at Andretti Indoor Karting, outside Atlanta. In two days, the field of 100 was narrowed to 24 in a series of road-course races.

Next, three oval-track events and tough judging whittled the group down to 10. Jake was among the finalists competing

in the All-American Driver Challenge (AADC) this past March at Hickory Motor Speedway in Denver, N.C.

The competition was geared toward fostering the best up-and-coming talent for a future career in a professional American racing series.

The competitors drove a U.S. Auto Club midget, a short-wheel base, single-seater weighing 1,100 pounds with the driver and powered by a 200 horsepower, 2.0-liter Ford Focus engine.

Judges evaluated the drivers on their ability behind the wheel of a midget AADC car and their effective communication about the car's performance.

Brian Moates, executive director of All-American Driver Challenge, said although Jake did not win the Challenge, he did very well.

"I have had the chance to get to know Jacob well over the last year since he moved here and I can tell this will not stop him," said Moates.

"His performance only proved that he does have talent,"

said Moates. He said Jake's participation in the All-American Driver Challenge "lit a fire in him to keep pursuing it."

The winner, Tanner Swanson, 16, of Kingsburg, Calif., won a contract to drive in the Calico Coatings USAC Ford Focus Midget for the 2007 season.

Ron Johnson said the family bought a house and moved to North Carolina in June. They have been commuting between North Carolina and Fountain Hills since Judith started a new job here. Jake is living with his aunt. He has an older brother and sister.

"We couldn't ask for a better kid," his father said, explaining the family's support in assisting Jake to reach his goal.

There's no doubt in Jake's mind. He wants to become a NASCAR Nextel Cup driver on the level of Denny Hamlin.

"I'm impressed with the way he handles himself on the race track," said Johnson. "He get's the job done."

The same comments apply to Jake Johnson.