

AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

Celebrating 30 years of service

Friday, April 23, 2010 Vol. 34, No. 32

WHAT'S INSIDE



Outstanding teacher:

DV's Elaine Padilla received this month's Excellence in Education award. Community Focus, pg. 7

OPINION

C.W. Griffin: "Individual tax cheats have diverted an estimated \$1 trillion in offshore accounts avoiding \$70 billion in annual taxes." Opinion, pg. 6

SPORTS



Runs in the family: Something makes the Trotter family fast sprinters on the Mountain Pointe track and field team this season. Sports, pg. 11

CLASSIFIEDS

Freshen your home: Hire a professional painter from the Classifieds.

ONLINE

Featured video: Watch high school dancers audition to perform at the Arizona Grand Resort as part of the dance team Arizona Grand Jam.



AHWATUKEE.COM

ALEX decision set for Tuesday

By DOUG MURPHY
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS



The Phoenix City Council meets Tuesday to decide how to cut a quick \$9 million out of the public transit budget, with ALEX and the four other free neighborhood circulator bus systems at the top of the list of

Brian Johnson/AFN
Reed Caldwell, deputy public transit director and Foothills resident, rode the city's local circulator bus – ALEX – April 9 to talk to riders and hand out surveys. On Tuesday, the Phoenix City Council will consider making cuts to ALEX and other city circulators at a 2 p.m. work session open to the public.

services to be eliminated.

The last-minute shortfall was caused after state lawmakers in March retroactively swept up Local Transportation Assistant

Funds to balance the state's budget, creating a sudden hole in the Phoenix budget that

MORE ALEX • PAGE 17

Unscrupulous movers can turn relocation into nightmare

By DOUG MURPHY
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

Shawn Marquez has seen it time and time again: A moving company promises one price, then once all the possessions are on the truck they demand more money, essentially holding the load hostage.

That's what happened to Bob and Susan Shaw when they moved from Florida to Ahwatukee Foothills. They were told it would cost under \$4,000, then midway through the move they were told that because the weight was more than expected, they would need to pay an additional \$2,000.

"It's a big shakedown, and we have seen it time and time again," said Marquez, director of compliance programs with the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures.

"Weights and Measure has been investigating moving scams, not because we want to, but because no one else would do it," Marquez said.

Fortunately for the Shaws, when the van arrived in Ahwatukee Foothills last weekend, waiting for it was J.J. Stroh, an inspector with the department, plus several Phoenix police officers, even though the issue was a civil, not a criminal matter.

Because the issue revolved around excess weight, the state essentially called the bluff



Mountain Pointe wins prestigious A+ honor

By AMANDA KEIM
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

Mountain Pointe High School has made the grade: The Ahwatukee Foothills campus has received A+ School of Excellence recognition, a prestigious statewide honor that recognizes overall merit.

Mountain Pointe is one of 20 schools around the

state to receive the honor this year, and one of only three high schools. It is the first Tempe Union High School District campus to get the A+ designation in the award's 27-year history. A total of 337 schools around Arizona have received the award since 1983.

Principal Bruce Kipper said the honor validates the

hard work that goes into giving Mountain Pointe students the best education possible.

"This is by far the greatest achievement we've ever received here," Kipper said. "We have so many programs that we offer and you have to be excellent in all of them (to be named an A+ school), which is hard, especially at a large high school."

The award looks at every aspect of the school, including academic

Brian Johnson/AFN
MPHS physics students Destiny Ackerman (left) and Chelsea Huddleston look through a used plastic television screen that was used in a science experiment to demonstrate the properties of a lens.

MORE HONOR • PAGE 16

AHWATUKEE.COM

MORE MOVERS • PAGE 16