

# The Foothills Focus

• ANTHEM • BLACK CANYON CITY • CAREFREE • CAVE CREEK • DESERT HILLS • NEW RIVER • NORTH PHOENIX • TRAMONTO

## Anthem eyes New River gate policy

ERIC QUADE  
EDITOR

In Anthem, a community with relatively few entry and exit points, concerns were voiced at a Sept. 10 meeting that the gate separating Anthem from New River might be detrimental to public safety and may warrant further review by policymakers.

The issue arose during Anthem's quarterly public safety meeting where law enforcement, fire department, school and other local officials gather to address common areas of concern. Mark Nichols, fire chief at Daisy Mountain Fire, said that public access to the gate on Anthem's southeast corner is currently restricted, which would hamper evacuation efforts in the event of an emergency.

"Is that something that has ever been entertained about removing?" he asked at the round table meeting.

Neal Shearer, community operations officer at Anthem, said that Nichols' question isn't new, and there's no easy answer, either.

"There's a hardwired—no pun intended—agreement that

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## Cave Creek, Scottsdale spar over 'Western' title

TARA ALATORRE  
SPECIAL FOR  
THE FOOTHILLS FOCUS

Cave Creek's town council meeting looked like the stage of an old Western film on Monday night, packing a full house of citizens wearing cowboy hats and spurs showing their support of the town council's challenge to the city of Scottsdale over the title of the West's most Western town.

The resolution was unanimously passed by the town council after hours of listening to Cave Creek citizens' public comments about why the town deserves to take the title from Scottsdale, which has claimed to be the most Western town since 1947.

"In Scottsdale, it's Porsches; in Cave Creek, it is horses," said Bob Fox from Wild at Heart, a local wildlife rehabilitation center, while holding on his arm a western screech owl wearing a bandanna.

Cave Creek plans on settling the score of who deserves the title with a series of challenges Nov. 1-3 during the town's Wild

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Ross Mason photo

**Buffaloed** — Mounted police from Scottsdale and T.C. Thorstenson, assisted by Harley Wallbanger the buffalo squared off Monday evening in front of Cave Creek Town Hall.

## Carefree court consolidation idea moves forward



TARA ALATORRE  
SPECIAL FOR  
THE FOOTHILLS FOCUS

Carefree's Town Council looked towards the future during its regular meeting Sept. 10, discussing a consolidation of Carefree and Cave Creek's courts, the possibility of constructing new town council

chambers, and approving a \$250,000 contract for naming rights to its amphitheatre for the next 10 years.

The town administrator, Gary Neiss, received the approval to continue negotiations for a proposed intergovernmental agreement to consolidate Carefree and Cave Creek's municipal courts for the next

10 years. He said the proposal would have Carefree take over operations and management of both towns' court systems once approved by the town councils and a Superior Court judge.

"What we are trying to strive for is an equitable solution for both communities," said Neiss when discussing the potential savings for both towns.

Using Gilbert and Queen Creek as a model, which recently approved a similar agreement, the plan would consolidate the courts for both towns into Cave Creek's courthouse. Carefree would pay for all contractual services, staffing and fees to operate the court for both towns, while Cave Creek would pay a fixed monthly fee for the services provided. If approved, then the consolidation and relocation could happen as early as November.

Councilman Mike Farrar said that the air of cooperation between Carefree and Cave Creek was encouraging.

"It's exciting to see the two communities work together in so many different ways," said Farrar at the meeting.

The council also discussed building new town council chambers at the 8 Sundial Circle building, which the town

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# MTA auditions set for Saturday

Musical Theatre of Anthem has announced auditions for its upcoming play, "Broken Paths," a new original youth drama written and directed by Jim Gradillas, an AriZoni award-winning playwright and director. All who audition will be cast.

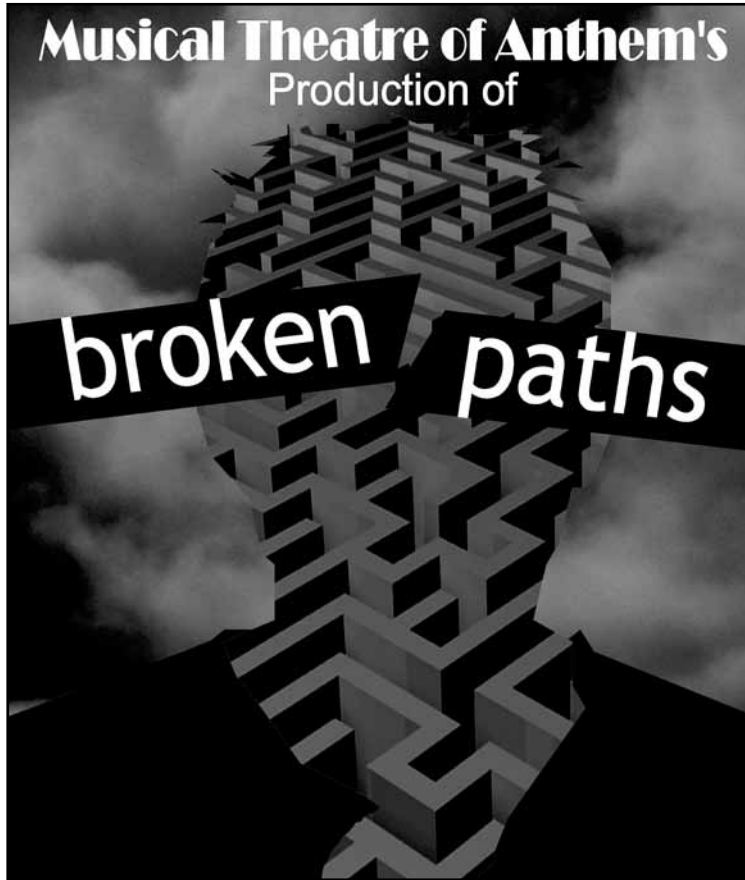
Auditions for "Broken Paths," which follows several lives and the paths they take, are open for ages 13-19 and will be held Sept. 21 at 1 p.m. with callbacks Sept. 22 at noon.

Auditions, callbacks and rehearsals will be held at MTA's performance space at 42323 N. Vision Way in Anthem.

Those auditioning should prepare a 1-2 minute dramatic monologue (original or published). There may also be cold readings from the script and easy improvisation. Have registration materials (available on the website) completed prior to auditioning. If unable to make the scheduled audition time, contact musicaltheatreofanthem@gmail.com for an alternate appointment time.

Rehearsals begin Sept. 26 with performances running Nov. 14-17.

MTA is an award-winning, non-profit theater company located in Anthem. The mission of MTA is to develop youth and adults within the



field of performing arts while enhancing their intrinsic creativity and brokering their vast talents. MTA trains and educates youth so that they can become the artists, patrons and leaders of tomorrow, while providing opportunities to adults that empower them and foster their creativity. MTA's

principles include casting all who audition in select productions, presenting high quality shows that everyone can enjoy and providing a positive environment where performers can practice teamwork and communication skills, while experiencing the pride of accomplishment.

## 'Hot Topic Tuesdays' comes to Scottsdale

An original, free seminar series called "Hot Topic Tuesdays" is coming to Scottsdale starting next week.

Donna V. Cohen, owner and manager of Business Office Suites at Kierland, said that these new seminars are already scheduled as far out as mid-October.

"Hot Topic Tuesdays isn't your typical seminar program" Cohen said. "We don't have a theme, and we aren't trying to appeal to just one type of individual. Our programs will touch on the hot topics of the day. Some Tuesdays they might be business related and some Tuesdays they'll have a personal flair."

The series kicks off Sept. 24 with "Beyond the Business Card: Why Every Business Owner Needs to Write a Book and How to Make it Happen."

Caren Cantrell, CEO of 102nd Place LLC and author of "Small Business Marketing Magic: Hush-Hush Secrets to Amazing Profits," will share tips on how a book puts an author reader light-years ahead of their competition, how everyone can easily write a book, the simple steps to

getting started and the ease of publishing in this digital, print-on-demand age.

Seminars are held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the conference room of Business Office Suites at Kierland, 7010 E Acoma Drive,

Suite 101 in Scottsdale. Seminars are free and open to the public. Registration is required. To reserve a seat, contact Donna V. Cohen at 480-800-4820 or businessofficesuitesatkierland@gmail.com.

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## THE FISHING REPORT

This is a scaled down, North Valley focused, version of the weekly fishing report produced by Arizona Game and Fish. To view the complete listing, go to azgfd.net.

Widespread rains across the state have helped drop lake water temperatures. Look for fish to get active once again, assuming this typical pattern holds true.

**LAKE PLEASANT**— Brian Senick of the Hook-Up Outfitters said the striper bite has been consistent. They key is getting on the water for striper boils at first light. If you have lights, then try to be

on the water just before first light, which has been at about 5:10 a.m. Throw top-water lures, jerkbaits or flies. Zara Spook Juniors and buzzbaits tend to be successful this time of the year.

Anglers had been catching dinks, but now are getting into some decent 14- to 18-inch stripers. Once the sun comes up, fish cut anchovies in 40-60 feet of water for stripers and, for a hit-and-miss largemouth bass bite, go to dropshots and Texas-rigged plastic worms. The top-water striper bite should continue to improve until the first cold snap.

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