Bicyclists head down Alboa Drive during Wednesday’s 12th annual Ride of Silence, honoring those who lost their lives in bicycling accidents.

By Kitty Bottemiller

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Can Green Valley save Arctic treasure? A7

Sahuarita Police Officer Timothy Gundy, center, salutes with veteran Ken Carter, community leader, police officer Al- rone Davis, left, after Arizona Adult Protective Services re- moved all 17 of the 13 residents of the last person to be removed. The scene at one of the homes in the Nola Ver- de so North neighborhood was near chaos Thurs- day as illustrated relative rushed to pack up belongings. Some were in tears as they wheeled their loved ones out of the home. A couple said they were un- sure and confused about the situation and had no plans to speak with a reporter. (See interview at Rancho Verde Duval on Friday, but exactly why they were evacuated remains unclear. (See ROAD A.)

By Kim Smith

The proposals calls for the money generated to go to rare present protection and to overhead costs, all projects must be competitively bid to private contractors, and all projects will be funded by the

COUNTY TAX HIKE WOULD GO TO ROADS

By David Rosby

Clocking in at 5:16 this past Monday, the Pima County Board of Supervisors will decide whether to approve a new plan that would increase property tax rates by 25 cents per $100 of asses- sed value — or roughly $3 on average per homeowner an- average per homeowner and $3 on average per homeowner annually — with the extra money designated for pavement pres- 

The increase would be partially offset next fiscal year by lowering other tax rates by a cumulative 1.5 cents. The cuts, 25 cents not be offset in this budget due to “uninsurable” costs in the Sheriff Department’s budget, including mandated payments to the public safety retirement pension fund. Harkell writes in a memo to supervisors dated Wednesday.

The rest of the increase can be offset in future budgets and an expected growth in assess- ment and the tax base in the future should make the proposal tax neutral, the memo says.

The proposal was unveiled a day after Tuscon voters OK’d a half-cent sales tax increase to raise $250 million over five years for fire, police and street maintenance.

The increased county tax budget would bring in an estimated $9.5 million in fiscal 2015. The owner of a median-priced home of about $200,000 in Pima County would pay an extra $25.17, according to Harkel- lly’s memo. The supervisors will consider whether to meet the proposal in the fiscal 2014 budget at its meeting Thursday.

To get Out! Getting creative later in life, Page B1

Getting creative — one woman at a time.

See more of today’s classifieds C1-6

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2 care homes in Sahuarita abruptly close; 13 displaced.

By Kitty Bottemiller

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Get Out! Getting creative later in life, Page B1

Weather

Fancy sunny skies for first half of the week; the weather may cool off at night.

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from those agencies. Numerous complaints were filed against Kovacs’ operations, according to Care Communities. Over 53, told a reporter, “I hope they give me the opportunity to explain my side of what transpired.” While police were at Rancho Verde Duval on Friday to take a report, Davis arrived and spoke with the officers and an APS representative. “I want to thank the families out,” Davis said, “for sending their loved ones and to say I’m sorry.” Davis explained, “I told a reporter, ‘I hope they give me the opportunity to explain my side of what transpired.”

Over the past three years, Duval has hired an outside agency to assist in providing care services in Tancahua and Yuma counties under the umbrella of Rancho Verde Care. For the past two months, he said, some former employees complained to the state Attorney General’s Office, because APS investigation was 17 visits monthly.

“A lot of the families were very upset and decided to contact me,” Davis said, “because I was the key to the homes.”

Davis said he was contacted by three Tancahua nurses. “They had variable needs, but some pertinent to a lack of food and employees not getting paid,” Davis said. He suggested most of the complaints were filed by his operations manager, although he couldn’t explain why she wouldn’t file charges against him.

Davis said he first learned something was amiss when he received a call Thurs- day from APS. He was told his homes had moved four residents from Rancho Verde Canalito to Las Arcayas to Rancho Verde Duval. Davis said many caregivers to take care of the patients.

He also told the operations manager resources had been depleted and he had to replace her and she was leaving. Davis instruct was instructed to find a certified manager, he was tasked with the position.

Davis also had to replace his caregivers and had difficulty finding new ones, and he had to watch the patients as their caregivers were being replaced.

LATEST OUT MAN

Thomas Fankhauser, his son who owns these homes and will work to push for quality care at all the facilities, and like a sucker,” Fankhauser said. The new facility.

Anstey found a comfort- able place nearby and con- tinued to get the best care she could. She decided to go to a sister facility in Green Valley. Davis used all her savings to move him to Rancho Verde Duval.

On Friday morning, Joe ran a report on a month-to-month contract Davis on a month-to-month contract with APS, Davis said. He sus- pected it was because he was no longer paying and she knew someone.

Anstey responded by saying that she had 24 hours to find him a new home. “It was a very good at first and then it went downhill,” she said.

Laterly, the caregivers were running on empty and said to put Davis six months in advance and she had to come up with $2,500 to alleviate the stress.

“I feel ripped off,” Davis said. “I want to get my money back.”

Anstey said it wasn’t a fake problem, she added. She called him The owner of another facility who was taking patients left a voicemail for her on the morning that she didn’t receive until later that day.

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