

Dr. Chris Tobe

FH Veterinary has new owner

Ownership of Fountain Hills Veterinary Hospital, 11407 N. Saguaro Blvd., the oldest-established veterinary practice in town, has changed hands.

Dr. Christopher (Chris) Tobe, doctor of veterinary medicine, acquired the business this spring.

The full-service animal hospital and boarding facility has provided veterinary care and pet services since 1984.

Tobe, originally from New Jersey, graduated from Louisiana State University veterinary school in 2006. He acquired additional specialty medical and surgical training in Rhode Island. He previously worked in a veterinarian hospital in Mesa.

Dr. Patrick Kupanoff, a board certified veterinary surgeon, is on staff to perform complicated orthopedic and soft tissue surgeries.

Other available services include ultrasound, laser surgery, digital x-rays, advanced dentistry and in-house blood work.

Tobe limits his practice to dogs and cats but he will treat small pocket pets such as ferrets.

All canine boarders are walked three times daily. Cats receive playtime in a separate cat boarding room. Boarders receive a free bath before going home.

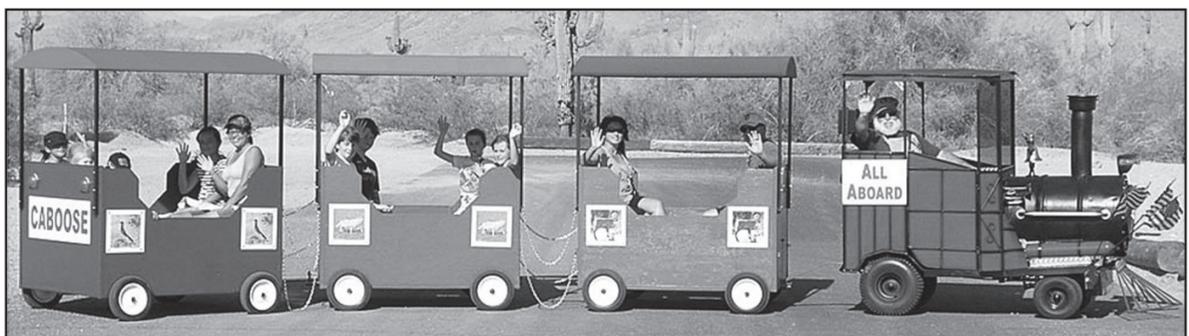
Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Appointments are preferred but emergency calls and walk-ins will be accepted.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling 837-9261 or online at www.fountainhillsvet.com.



Dr. Christopher (Chris) Tobe is the new owner of Fountain Hills Veterinary Hospital, 11407 N. Saguaro Blvd.



The Desert Dwellers Express, a 50-foot trackless train owned and operated by Tom Henrickson, provides rides to children and adults at community events and parties.

All aboard for July 4 train ride

Tom Henrickson's fascination for trains dates back to his boyhood when he played with scale models.

He now shares his affection with passengers on his Desert Dwellers Express, a 50-foot trackless train.

"I always tell people, 'You are never too old to ride a train,'" said Henrickson.

He recently moved to Fountain Hills from the base of the Superstition Mountains in Apache Junction where he still houses the train. He transports the train on a 24-foot trailer to events across the Greater Phoenix area.

Henrickson started marketing his business locally for birthday parties, community functions and school events. The train often is used to shuttle people from parking lots to

the entrance of an event.

The Desert Dwellers Express will provide free rides at the Fourth at the Fountain festivities in Fountain Park.

He first spotted a trackless train while attending the graduation of his son-in-law in Houston. He recalls thinking "that looks pretty easy to build." His background in manufacturing metal components provided experience and know-how to go from concept to operating in four months.

The business began providing rides to children and adults in the spring of 2012. The first year brought 35 bookings. Last year the train appeared at 98 events, including several parades.

Henrickson captained the Dolly Steamboat on

Canyon Lake for nine and a half years, experience that he gained in entertaining customers.

Desert Dwellers Express consists of an engine, two cars and a caboose. A car typically holds four or five adults, plus two children.

Each car is named for a desert animal: coyote, bighorn sheep and road-runner. Music, horns, bells and whistles accompany the ride. After dark, LED lights under each car are illuminated.

"Our cars feature padded seats, seat belts, doors on each car, non-slip flooring and our engine is equipped with a rear view mirror so all cars can be monitored," said Henrickson.

He gears his commentary to entertain adults along with youngsters.

"I like to tell the adults

that this is one time that they can text while they are traveling," said Henrickson.

He hands out toy whistles and a boarding pass with a photo of the train to birthday party guests.

Watching the reaction of children is extremely rewarding.

"When they see the train coming and I see how excited everyone is, it is well worth all of the effort it took to get everything going," he said.

Rates are provided on the company's website at www.desertdwellersexpress.com. Henrickson said he will negotiate prices for charity events.

Customers are responsible for securing permits for the train to be driven in municipal parks.

Henrickson can be contacted at (480) 694-7697.

Realtors can reduce ID theft

Financial fraud investigator Wayne Warrington warned Realtors against allowing their clients or themselves to become victims of identity theft.

Warrington's presentation at the May 2 meeting of Fountain Hills Realtor Marketing Session focused on theft of personal data.

Twelve million individuals have their identity stolen annually, an increasing statistic, said Warrington. He has investigated employee theft for the last 25 years.

"Employee theft has

changed dramatically in our current environment. You may not think that it applies to you, but it applies to you more than most people because of who you are."

Home sellers entrust real estate agents with a wide variety of personal information in their homes, said Warrington.

"You need to know who your vendors are," said Warrington. "You may be hiring someone who purposely will do harm to your business."

Hiring house cleaners, appraisers, landscapers and

home inspectors without background checks opens agents up to liability.

If it falls into the wrong person's hands, the damage to the customer's life and the agent's reputation could be extreme, said Warrington.

The most prevalent scam involves employees of cleaning service companies who are trained to look through drawers, cabinets and recyclable containers to access bank and mortgage accounts, Social Security numbers and other

personal information.

"That's employee theft, not from your company, but your clients," said Warrington.

Referrals and asking companies for background checks on employees are the best safeguards.

"Tell your clients to put away information," he said. "Shred everything. If they don't find what they're looking for in your house, they'll check the trash or recyclable bins."

Average cost of identity theft is more than \$5,000 and "that doesn't include the frustration," Warrington said.

His ID was stolen without his knowledge in 2003 in Arizona. He did not learn about the ID theft until 2005 when his name appeared on a tax lien during a real estate transaction in Las Vegas.

Employee theft represents \$50 billion annually, said Warrington. While the common belief is shoplifting would constitute the majority, shoplifting only represents 35 percent.

Seventy-five percent of all employees and vendors steal at least once from their employer, said Warrington. Thirty-three percent account for two or more times.

Billing your employer for more hours worked than actually on the job is a frequent form of employee theft, according to the investigator.

"Theft comes in a lot of different forms but it still is theft," he concluded.

Names and Faces

Top MCO Realty agents for April

MCO Realty sales award honorees for April are Gary Glunz, FireRock Country Club Sales Center; Gwen Wallace, Main Visitor Center; Melinda Stanton, Target Sales Center; and Dzintars Grauds, Commercial; according to Steve Vargo, vice president and designated broker.

Glunz is a consistent top producer and frequent recipient of its sales awards. Glunz sold \$4,232,000 in real estate sales in April.

He has a degree in marketing and more than 25 years of experience at MCO Realty. Glunz is a trusted resource for clients seeking a solid investment or indi-

viduals seeking the chance to own the home of their dream, Vargo said.

You can meet Glunz at MCO Realty's FireRock Country Club Sales Center, 15925 E. Shea Blvd., or contact him at (480) 216-4170.

Wallace is a first-time honoree as sales winner at MCO Realty. This month her success includes \$5 million of real estate sales.

She and her husband Jim relocated to Fountain Hills from Wisconsin. She brings a wealth of business and real estate experience

to assist buyers and sellers in achieving their lifestyle goals.

Wallace is a licensed associate broker in Arizona and has expertise to direct her clients in these challenging times.

To meet Wallace, visit MCO's Main Visitor Center, 9617 N. Saguaro Blvd., or contact her at (480) 837-2500 or her cell, (608) 201-0938.

Stanton is one of MCO Realty's consistent top producers, selling \$3,258,400 in real estate sales in April. She has more than 34 years

of experience in residential real estate.

Her parents were one of the first 200 families settling in Fountain Hills, moving from Ohio in 1973.

Stanton attributes her success to commitment to continuing education and personal development to respond to clients' needs in an evolving market.

Stanton invites prospective clients to stop in the MCO Realty Target Center, office, 16835 E. Shea Blvd., suite 117. You can reach her at (480) 688-9191.

Grauds, an associate

broker at MCO Realty, has more than 30 years of real estate experience behind him. He has lived in town for 21 years.

Grauds is considered the most knowledgeable commercial real estate professional in Fountain Hills, servicing up to 90 percent of local listings, Vargo said.

Grauds can be found in the MCO Realty Target Center Office, 16835 E. Shea Blvd., suite 117. Call him at (480) 836-8788 or on his cell phone at (602) 430-1176.



Gary Glunz



Gwen Wallace



Melinda Stanton



Dzintars Grauds

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