

Former city manager's farewell postponed

A going-away luncheon for Randy Oliver has a new location, although the date is pending. Oliver was fired March 25 by a 4-3 vote of the Surprise City Council.

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Council to pick interim city manager

Surprise City Council meets Thursday to decide on long-term replacement.

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Western museum celebrates 50th

Desert Caballeros, Wickenburg's award-winning art and history museum, plans ice cream social Saturday.

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PACEMAKER FOR THE BRAIN



Banner Boswell Medical Center in Sun City will host talks this month on Parkinson's disease. One treatment involves implanting a pacemaker for the brain. **PAGE 3**

NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Dr. Ralph Pagano, a neurologist, checks on Martha Buckalew after her surgery to lessen the effects of Parkinson's disease.

2 fired police officers regain jobs, back pay

Surprise Personnel Appeals Board overturns January terminations after 8-hour hearing. The two were accused of disobeying a sergeant's orders, but board cites a lack of departmental consistency in discipline and orders restatements.

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Firefighters hold Dysart fundraiser

Third annual Fight to Fight: Desert Challenge Event will benefit Valley Vista and Willow Canyon high schools through college scholarships. It is planned for Valley Vista High School on Saturday.

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Great Arizona Dog Show

More than 1,500 dogs are scheduled to compete in agility, obedience, rally and conformation trials during the four-day Great Arizona Dog Show, which starts Friday at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale. Find more about the show inside, plus other things to do this week.

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Deep brain stimulation aids Parkinson's patients

By Cecilia Chan

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Since 2004, Banner Boswell Medical Center has offered a last-resort surgical measure for people suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Deep brain stimulation therapy, or DBS, is where electrical impulses zap an area of the brain to ease the disease's symptoms such as tremors and stiffness. For patients whose medications no longer work or have debilitating side-effects, the pacemaker for the brain is an option.

Parkinson's disease affects nearly 1.5 million Americans, a number that is expected to increase as the nation's largest

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See an online video of deep-brain stimulation surgery at news.azcentral.com.

generation of 78 million Baby Boomers age. The average age of developing the progressive neurological disorder is early 60s.

In 2010, the oldest of the Boomers, the generation born between 1946 and 1964, turns 64. There is no cure for Parkinson's, which causes tremors, limb stiffness, slow movements and impaired balance.

David Postrakul is the only doctor at Banner Boswell Medical Center performing deep

brain stimulation therapy, having completed more than 70 such operations. His oldest patient was 82.

"It's common for patients to have this procedure especially when they've failed other medical treatments," said Postrakul, who averages 12 operations a year. As the population ages, he expects the number of operations to increase to about four cases as month.

Parkinson's disease affects approximately 20,000 Arizona residents and is the second leading neurodegenerative disease in the country, according to Banner Boswell.

The hospital, in the retirement community of Sun City, is offering talks this month on Parkinson's.

For Martha Buckalew of Sun City, the therapy was her last option after an increase in her medications caused complications, including dropping her blood pressure to the point she passed out twice.

Neurologist Ralph Pagano with Banner Arizona Medical Clinic in Peoria, said Buckalew would initially respond to a medication and later develop an intolerance. Since her diagnosis, she has tried half a dozen medications and experienced side-effects, including gastrointestinal upset, low-blood pressure and numbness, Pagano said.

"Her options were just about gone," Pagano said. "Martha's got no other choice. There are no other pills. There was no cavalry coming over the hill here." Pagano pitched the therapy as an option to Buckalew. At first, she was not enamored about the idea of brain surgery.

The day of her surgery in December, Buckalew, 75, was in good spirits.

"I'm just thinking about the

Learn more about Parkinson's disease

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. There is currently no cure for the progressive, neurological disorder.

Medications are used to control the disease's symptoms and for patients whose medications no longer work, deep brain stimulation is a last-resort alternative.

— Cecilia Chan, *The Republic/azcentral.com*

SYMPTOMS	RISK FACTORS	FACTS
Tremors	Risk continues with age. Disease onset is usually around early 60s.	Second most prevalent chronic neurological disorder (after Alzheimer's).
Impaired posture and balance	Having one or more close relatives with Parkinson's increases the chances of developing the disease.	More than 1.5 million Americans have the disease.
Rigid muscles and slowed motion	Men are more likely to develop Parkinson's than women.	20,000 Arizona residents have Parkinson's.
Speech problems	Ongoing exposure to herbicides and pesticides result in a slightly increased risk of Parkinson's.	Parkinson's is usually diagnosed after other diseases have been ruled out because there is no test to confirm it.

Source: Mayo Clinic and Banner Health



NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Dr. David Postrakul performs deep brain stimulation therapy on Martha Buckalew at Banner Boswell Medical Center.

Free seminars offered

» Free seminar on "Living with Parkinson's" from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday in Memorial Hall at Banner Boswell Medical Center, 13180 N. 103rd Drive, Sun City.

Dr. Holly Shill will discuss the symptoms, diagnosis, risk factors and causes of Parkinson's disease, as well as how Parkinson's medications work.

Call 602-230-2273 to reserve a seat. Light refreshments will be served.

» Free symposium on deep brain stimulation: 8:30 to 11 a.m. April 23 in the Smoot Hall Conference Center at Lakeview United Methodist Church, 10298 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City.

Dr. Maria Cristina Ospina will give a presentation on "Deep Brain Stimulation: How Do You Know When It's Time?"

Dr. David Postrakul also will present "Deep Brain Stimulation as a Surgical Treatment for Parkinson's Disease." A panel discussion and question-and-answer session will follow.

Reservations are encouraged by calling 602-230-2273. A continental breakfast will be served.