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Newspaper contest continues

First drawing set Friday

The first drawing will be held on Friday in this year's Holidays Cash in the Hills contest.

The Times is once again sponsoring the promotion to assist local businesses with getting new customers in their doors for the holiday season.

People can sign up in any of the 30 participating businesses for the contest.

There are five weekly prizes of \$25 each. Those drawings are held on Nov. 29th, and Dec. 5th, 12th and 19th. People must sign up by noon of the day of each week's drawing.

Each of the \$25 winners will be automatically entered in the grand prize drawing that will be held on Dec. 19th. Those prizes will be \$500 for first, \$300 for second and \$200 for third.

All prizes will be awarded in Fountain Hills Times dollars to be spent in any of the participating businesses.

The participating businesses have ads on pages 13A through 17A. Check them out for this week's specials.

Photo spots highlighted by town

Those looking for just the right spot to take a photo in Fountain Hills will soon be getting some help.

The Town Council has approved a request from the Public Art Committee to designate and post a number of locations throughout the community as "photo opportunities."

In a letter to Community Services Director Mark Mayer, Public Art Committee Chair Sandi Thompson suggested that up to 20 signs 18 inches by 12 inches be placed around the community identifying the location as a good place for a photo.

The sites would likely include parks, the Community Center and trails.

The Public Art Committee would purchase the signs and is asking the town to install them.

Former Mayor Jerry Miles, an advocate for the project, said he is not above using someone else's good idea, and he thought of this when visiting Disneyland and seeing similar signs.

"There are many marvelous places to take

(cont. on page 3A)

Highly-visible peaks purchased



The peaks that dominate the western horizon of Fountain Hills are now part of the Scottsdale desert preserve.

Scottsdale expands preserve

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Nearly two decades ago desert preserve advocates in both Fountain Hills and Scottsdale envisioned that preserve areas in both communities would be contiguous.

That vision became a reality last week when the City of Scottsdale was the lone bidder for 2,365 acres of State Trust Land that had

been a gap between the two desert preserve areas in both communities.

The land is all within the Scottsdale city limits and encompasses an area that includes the "twin peaks" or "pyramid peaks" that dominate the western horizon of Fountain Hills.

Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve Commission Chairman Bill Meyers had raised concerns that this property could be developed.

Scottsdale now has 30,000 acres of Sonoran

Desert Preserve within its city limits.

The new land abuts the Fountain Hills boundary on the west and clears the way for efforts to build a connecting trail between the Sunrise Trail in Scottsdale and the Western Loop Trail on the Fountain Hills side. Construction on this link trail is expected to start soon, according to Steve Fleming of the Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills.

"Our borders are unbroken," Fleming said. "This

is the best news we have had in a long time.

"Roy Kinsey (a founder of the Fountain Hills conservancy and former McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission member) and Scottsdale's Chet Andrews envisioned this in 1995, now it is reality."

Scottsdale bid \$21.3 million for the property, which will be partially offset by an \$8 million Growing Smarter grant from the State of Arizona.

Hall of Fame nominations sought

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2013 class of inductees into the Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame.

Nomination forms are available at a number of area locations.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize those individuals, living or deceased, whose history of involvement has contributed in some positive way to the betterment of the communities of the lower Verde Valley including Fountain Hills, the Verde Communities, Fort McDowell and Goldfield Ranch.

Nominations are being accepted from anyone in these communities.

Candidates to be considered for election to the Hall of Fame in 2013 must have resided or been active in the Lower Verde Valley area on or before Dec. 31, 2003.

Consideration for elec-

tion will be based on the individual's contributions in one or more of the following categories: Arts and Culture, Business and Professions, Community Service, Education, Governmental Activities and Religious and Spiritual Activities.

Forms available

There is a nomination

form on Page 3A of this week's edition.

Nomination forms are also available at the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum, Fountain Hills Branch Library, Chamber of Commerce office, Community Center, Rio Verde Post Office and the Fort McDowell Tribal Office.

Completed forms are

to be submitted to The Times office (16508 E. Lasser Drive) or mailed to Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame c/o Barb Hansen, 16929 E. Salida Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 by Dec. 17.

Hansen is chairman of the selection committee.

A member of the Hall
(cont. on page 3A)

Text-A-Tip stays successful

The Text-A-Tip program has seen a lot of success here in Fountain Hills, according to Deputy Jill Ochsner, resulting in around a dozen "tips" per month and eight arrests between January and October of 2013.

"Text-A-Tip is still chugging along," Ochsner said, speaking to the Fountain Hills Coalition during the group's final meeting of

2013 on Thursday, Nov. 7. "The town has been very active about using the service."

As the local school resource officer, Ochsner has become quite familiar with the Text-A-Tip program. If residents happen to see something suspicious or illegal around town, they can use the anonymous service to report directly to the authorities.

Used as a method to help keep local school campuses safe, Ochsner has been especially active with Text-A-Tip on campuses, encouraging students to keep the number stored in their cellphones and, if they see something, say something.

"If someone saw something questionable was up, they let us know and we

(cont. on page 4A)

Parade rolls on Thursday

Stuff the turkey and pop it in the oven before heading tomorrow to the only Thanksgiving Day parade in the state.

The Chamber of Commerce and town-sponsored "Parada de Los Cerros" (Parade of the Hills) starts at 9 a.m. at the corner of Saguaro and El Lago boulevards. The theme is "Joy to the World."

The parade route is north on Saguaro Boulevard, west on Palisades Boulevard, and ending on La Montana Drive.

For the first time in the parade's 29-year history, programs will be available at each of the announcers' booths, said Bill Beamish, Four Peaks Rotary Club president.

The programs will contain the sequential order of each of the parade entries and a few interesting parade facts.

He credited the Rotary Club, Chamber and The Fountain Hills Times for providing the programs.

The anticipated 75 units include the Fountain Hills High School Band, Community Band, civic/business floats, church or children affiliations, marching/walking groups and motorized and equestrian entries, and of course, Santa Claus at the rear. Prizes are awarded for the best entry in each category.

Parade marshal will be former Mayor Jerry Miles, who will be joined by numerous federal, state and local politicians.

The lineup includes Congressman David Schweikert; state Representatives John Kavanagh and Michelle Ugenti; state Sen. Michele Reagan; Secretary of State Ken Bennett; Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio; and Mayor Linda Kavanagh along with members of the Fountain Hills Town Council.

Turkey Trot has 5K, walk

As has become tradition, Thanksgiving will kick off in Fountain Hills with the Turkey Trot.

The 23rd annual 5K run and one-mile fitness walk will be held on Thursday morning, Nov. 28.

Community Services will be working with RacePlace Events to process results of the 5K run this year using B-Tags on racing bibs.

On-site registration for the run will only be available from 5:45-6:45 a.m. on Thanksgiving.

Check-in for pre-registered participants and
(cont. on page 3A)



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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Cars:

Silver Auctions to hold weekend event.
See Page 2A

Verdes:

Big clean-up down by the river.
See Page 12A

Features:

Ron Smith (pictured) is inducted into Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.
See Page 1B



WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Nov. 19	76	57	--
Wed., Nov. 20	70	56	TR
Thurs., Nov. 21	58	54	--
Fri., Nov. 22	63	33	.65
Sat., Nov. 23	53	47	.30
Sun., Nov. 24	56	47	.15
Mon., Nov. 25	61	42	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to
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