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Wednesday, June 5, 2013

\$1.00

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You can win \$100 weekly by shopping and dining locally

The Times kicks off a new contest for readers and sales promotion campaign for local businesses this week.

There are 15 businesses participating in the promotion. "It pays to shop or dine local this summer" is the theme of the promotion.

The promotion gives readers 15 reasons to shop and dine locally this summer. There are 15 advertisers, each offering a weekly special.

The coupon-format ads also are to be used as entry forms for a contest whereby customers can win a weekly prize of \$100 in Fountain Hills Times dollars. Drawings will be held each Thursday from June 13 through Sept. 5.

The specials are good for one week, and each business will have a different special each week.

The promotion with additional details about the contest is on Page 5A.

Preserving the Preserve

Commission seeks maintenance, safety funding

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

In a joint meeting with the Town Council on May 29, McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission Chairman Bill Myers made a pitch for the town to budget \$33,200 for Preserve operation and maintenance.

Myers was citing a letter he wrote to the mayor and council that was approved by the MMPC at its April 23 meeting.

"We believe it is important for the town to address the safety, health, enjoyment and maintenance of the town's largest and most expensive single asset," the letter states.

However, as of late April the budget work for the 2013/2014 fiscal year was completed and ready for council approval of a preliminary budget May 2.

Community Services Director Mark Mayer said the commission members were informed the budget for the upcoming fiscal year was set and the request would need to be delayed for consideration in the 2014/2015 fiscal year budget.

Myers makes the point that there has been a significant increase in usage of the preserve trails since unrestricted access became available on the Sonoran Trail from the Dixie Mine Trail in McDowell Mountain Park.



Times file photo

How best to maintain safety and other standards in the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve will be a long-term issue for town government.

With that access, along with efforts to attain even better, easier access, the commission is focusing efforts on educating the public on this community asset.

The land for the preserve had a price tag of about \$17 million in taxpayer dollars.

At 940 acres the Preserve is 16 times larger than Fountain Park, often considered the town's crown jewel.

"Usage of the Preserve has increased by hikers, bicyclists, runners, school children and others of all ages and abilities," the commission letter states. "Along with greater usage, the Preserve trails require increased maintenance."

The commission is suggesting the funds be spent specifically on four items; people counters to help determine usage of trails, trail maintenance tools, vehicle for transport of

supplies and people and a part-time employee (ranger) dedicated to the safety, maintenance and other requirements of the Preserve.

Myers said the commission members recognize the severe budget constraints the town is experiencing.

"The intent of this letter is to help recognize the importance of the Preserve and assist in the budgeting process for the appropriate allocation of the scarce funds," the letter states.

MCSO substation

New second in command

Lt. Todd Bates, with nearly 30 years as a deputy with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office was recently assigned as second in command with the sheriff's District 7 based in Fountain Hills.

Bates replaces Lt. Dave Munley who was reassigned to the Sheriff's internal affairs division.

With his longevity, Bates has served under four elected sheriffs in Maricopa County, beginning in 1984.

Bates previously worked in Fountain Hills as the detective sergeant in the mid 1990's.

A Chandler resident, Bates was most recently assigned to the Sheriff's



Lt. Todd Bates

Queen Creek office.

Bates said he will continue with the work Munley was doing with the Text-A-Tip program and with the Fountain Hills Coalition.

Found at park

Cruelty investigated over dead Dachshund

Maricopa County Sheriff's animal cruelty detectives are investigating an incident where a small dog was found dead in Golden Eagle Park on Tuesday, May 28.

The dog was found by a park employee who called the Sheriff's Office.

The dog is described as a male Dachshund brown in color. The animal was discovered lying next to a garbage can. The dog

was not micro-chipped and there was no visible identification. Possible foul play is suspected in the death of the animal.

Anyone with information regarding the death and/or identification of this dog is asked to contact the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

As of press time there was no additional information available regarding this case.

Was it a puppet or a real reptile?

Local children actually got to see both as the Fountain Hills Branch Library kicked off the annual summer reading program Monday.

Through the "Maricopa County Reads" summer reading program, kids, teens and adults can dig into reading by participating in a variety of events and activities as well by checking out material from their public library.

The program continues through July 27.

At the Fountain Hills facility, Sharon Swanik did some storytelling with ven-



The summer reading season at the Fountain Hills branch of Maricopa County Library District opened Monday with live reptiles and puppets. Tyler Schultz, 9, volunteered to get up close and personal with Jessie, a python snake native to Australia. He assured handler Rich Ihle of Reptile Adventures that he was not afraid of snakes....that was until Jessie began traveling up and encircling his arms.

triloquism and puppetry on Monday morning as part of activities surrounding the reading program.

She was followed by Rich Ihle, who presented "Reptile Adventures," showing off several animals and discussing their lives and habitats.

Individuals can sign up for Maricopa County Reads by visiting www.mcladaz.org/ summer.

"Maricopa County Reads is an especially big deal this year as all the public libraries in the county are involved," said Cindy Kolaczynski, Maricopa County Library District director and county librarian.

"With this collaboration we have a chance to impact more than 80,000 children and teens. It's a huge undertaking, with incredible potential and one that we wholeheartedly embrace."

In addition to the 17 libraries operated by the Maricopa County Library District, which includes Fountain Hills, "Maricopa County Reads" includes public libraries from Avondale, Buckeye, Cave Creek,

(cont. on page 14A)

FHUSD staff honored



Fountain Hills Unified School District recently hosted its annual teachers and staff thank you breakfast. Along with recognizing the men and women who make educating local youth possible on a daily basis, the event included breakfast, special awards presented by the Golden Eagle Education Foundation and longevity awards for district service. See additional pictures on Page 10A.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Sheriff:

Recall effort short on signatures.
See Page 7A

Schools:

It's promotion time for FHMS and FHCS.
See Page 11A

Feature:

Elizabeth Phillips (pictured) and her fellow Girl Scouts love cookies.
See Page 1B



WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., May 28	94	61	--
Wed., May 29	94	67	--
Thurs., May 30	97	71	--
Fri., May 31	99	71	--
Sat., June 1	106	71	--
Sun., June 2	106	72	--
Mon., June 3	102	69	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to www.fhtimes.com

