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Wednesday, September 6, 2017

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## The Falcons are back in action

Fall sports are back in action at Fountain Hills High School, with the defending state champion volleyball team earning clean sweeps in their first-week matches against Payson and North Pointe Prep. For coverage of this week's volleyball, football and cross country events, see page 2B.

## Park Place Dispute may go to court

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

It now appears as though a judge may make a determination regarding development fees the town says is owed for the Park Place project on Avenue of the Fountains.

N-Shea Group and its principal, Bart Shea, have filed for a temporary restraining order to prevent the town from shutting down construction for \$453,611 in unpaid development fees.

Town Manager Grady Miller sent a letter to Shea

dated Aug. 23, asking for \$250,000 against what the town says it is owed. In his letter, Miller set Thursday, Sept. 7, as the day the town would stop construction if the funds are not paid immediately. Miller said he would continue to seek compliance up until that date.

Even then it is unclear what will happen as Thursday is the date set by the judge for the parties to be in court to determine whether the order will be issued, and what the next

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## Burglars strike at three FH businesses

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies responded to separate reports of burglary incidents at Fountain Hills businesses on Thursday, Aug. 24.

In the morning, deputies were called to the Subway sandwich shop in the 16000 block of Shea Boulevard when an employee discovered the front door glass was broken.

A short time later a second report came from the nearby Streets of New York restaurant where a side door had been smashed and a trail of coins was found going toward a nearby wash.

Restaurant staff reported a computerized cash register was taken as well as some store gift cards.

Later in the morning a man came by the restaur-

ant with a handful of gift cards he had found along Tombstone Drive. The cash register was found in the desert area along Tombstone Drive.

The damage to the door at the Subway is estimated at \$450, and the damage and equipment stolen at Streets of New York is valued at \$2,700.

Just before 10 p.m. deputies responded to an alarm activation at a bicycle shop in the 15000 block of Fountain Hills Boulevard. They found a rear door open but were not able to immediately clear the building.

Another deputy found the front door smashed out and the shop owner arrived soon after.

They found no one still inside and the owner identified only a single bicycle missing, it has a value of \$6,399.

## Preserve Commission testing cell service

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

Members of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission want to ascertain whether there is adequate cell service within the Fountain Hills Preserve in the event hikers need to contact 911 in case of an emergency.

MMPC Chairman Bill Myers said he has been working with Fountain Hills Asst. Fire Chief Jason Payne to try and test for 911 service. They have

been considering what would be the best method to conduct testing. Officials say it is not appropriate to simply dial 911 without a legitimate emergency.

Myers said Payne told him people can try and call anyone from the preserve, and if the call goes through it will more than likely work for 911.

The four major cellular service providers for the area do have maps showing coverage. Myers said they all identify relatively large areas of the Preserve

as dead space. However he said personally he has pretty good reception within the area. Myers said his carrier is Verizon.

"I've found only a couple of spots where I can't get out," Myers said. "I'd like to get members of the [Sonoran] Conservancy to try making calls while they are out there trail building and report back on results."

There is another key element emergency responders must deal with in making rescues in remote areas, and that is the caller

knowing where they are.

The Fountain Hills Preserve may in fact be one of the better areas for people to identify their location. The MMPC, along with the Sonoran Conservancy, has installed emergency markers along the trails in the Preserve. The markers are almost within sight of one another and have a letter as a trail identifier and a number. If a hiker can provide the information attached to one of these markers rescuers will know exactly where they are.

## Community readies for Oktoberfest

The Fountain Hills Oktoberfest returns to the community Friday and Saturday, Sept. 29 and 30.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the festival runs from 5 to 10 p.m. in Fountain Park.

As is customary in Bavaria, the mayor will perform the official keg-tapping. Mayor Linda Kavanagh will kick off Oktoberfest Friday at 6 p.m.

The original Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, was first organized as a "Volksfest" in celebration of Bavarian King Ludwig I's marriage in 1810. It continues to this day as a popular annual tradition.

Fountain Hills' Oktoberfest is a celebration of German traditions with a band from Germany, mouth-watering brats, schnitzels and apple strudel prepared with secret recipes, and homemade potato pancakes cooked on-site alongside the famous pretzels.

Even the beer is brewed in Germany. Choices include the traditional Oktoberfest Bier, Pilsner Dunkel (dark) and König Ludwig's award-winning Hefeweizen.

Attendees can compete for fun and prizes during the not-to-miss beer stein holding competition, best dressed Oktoberfest competition and the Alphorn blowing contest.

Authenticity is important to the Fountain Hills Oktoberfest right down to the tables prepared in Bavarian blue and white where neighbors have the opportunity to chat, make new friends and join in

(cont. on page 9A)

## Local Coalition responds to opioid emergency

By Ryan Winslett  
Times Editor

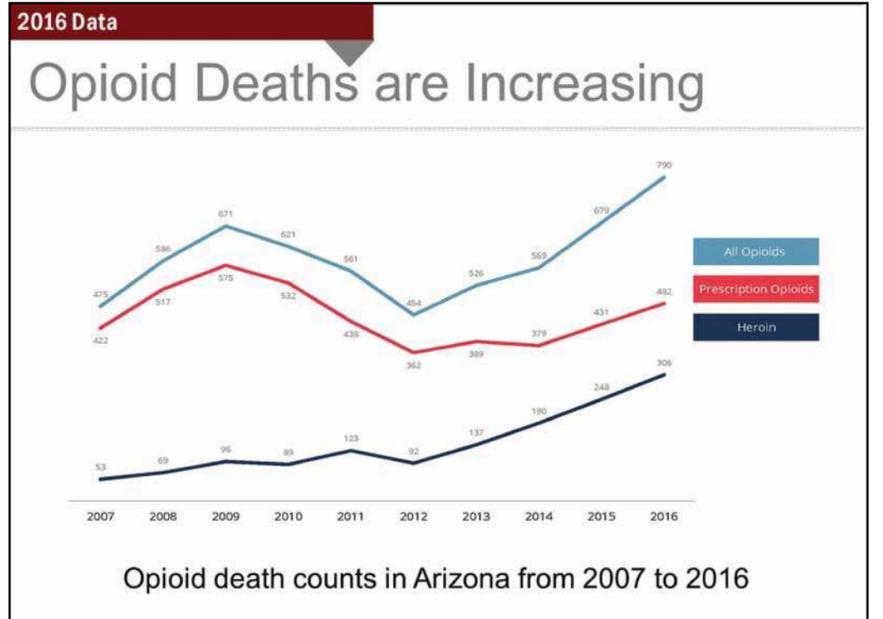
Over the summer, Governor Doug Ducey declared an opioid state of emergency for the state of Arizona. Moving forward, Fountain Hills Coalition director Shelly Mowrey said that this will be a major focus for the local organization dedicated to youth substance abuse prevention.

Mowrey spoke to the recent declaration from Governor Ducey during a Coalition meeting, pointing out that opioid deaths in the state have been on the rise since 2012.

Back in June, Ducey stated that, based on the most recent findings from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), a rapid response was necessary.

"As the number of opioid overdoses and deaths

(cont. on page 2A)



This slide from a recent Arizona Department of Health Services study shows the increase in opioid deaths since 2012, leading to Governor Doug Ducey declaring a state of emergency.

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

**Text-A-Tip:**  
Sheriff taking FH program county-wide.  
See Page 9A

**Hurricane help:**  
FH residents organize to help Harvey victims.  
See Page 8A

**Social:**  
Bill Haughey (pictured) promotes ice cream event.  
See Page 5A

## WEATHER

|                 | H   | L  | P  |
|-----------------|-----|----|----|
| Tues., Aug. 29  | 106 | 83 | -- |
| Wed., Aug. 30   | 106 | 80 | -- |
| Thurs., Aug. 31 | 105 | 84 | -- |
| Fri., Sept. 1   | 105 | 81 | -- |
| Sat., Sept. 2   | 106 | 79 | -- |
| Sun., Sept. 3   | 98  | 78 | -- |
| Mon., Sept. 4   | 101 | 80 | -- |

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