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Opioids

(cont. from page 1A)

increase at an alarming rate, we must take action, Ducey stated in his official statement. "It's time to call this what it is - an emergency...We must do more. I'm declaring a statewide health emergency because we need to know more about the epidemic, including enhanced data that illustrates when and where these overdoses occur so that we can develop real, targeted solutions.

Those findings from ADHS paint a grim picture, with opioid deaths in the state increasing steadily over the course of the past four years, moving from 454 in 2012 to 790 in 2016. Between June 15 and Aug. 25 of this year, 272 suspected opioid deaths have been reported with 2,138 suspected opioid overdoses.

According to ADHS' map of affected areas, Fountain Hills is pegged as having between one and four opioid deaths this year with none reported in the neighboring Fort McDowell community. That puts Fountain Hills on the lower end of the spectrum for opioid-related incidents. but surrounding communities are displaying a higher volume of incidents. More detailed information can be found at azdhs.gov.

Despite those findings, Mowrey said the community of Fountain Hills should not consider itself in the clear.

"While Fountain Hills has not seen as many opioid-related deaths as some areas of the Valley, our families are still very



much impacted," she said. "Four out of 10 Arizonans now know someone who is struggling with opioid addiction. Even one opioid death in a community is devastating.'

Mowrey offered a selection of precautions for local families to help prevent opioid misuse, including:

*Clean out the medicine cabinet and get rid of all of the unused, expired or unwanted medication.

*If you know someone who has an opioid disorder, make sure that person and their family knows about Naloxone, a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose death.

*If there is someone you know who is ready to go to treatment, there is help. Look for programs that are certified Opioid Treatment Providers.

Mowrey added that it is important to call around and explore all options for treatment, with a list of opioid treatment providers in Arizona available at dpt2.samhsa.gov/treat-

ment/directory.aspx. Mowrey said that the Coalition is currently planning a "Take it to the Box" campaign encouraging Fountain Hills residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and get rid of unneeded medications via the permanent drop box located within Town Hall. The Maricopa County Sheriff's office and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation police department will also be hosting a prescription drug "take back day," on Oct. 28, encouraging folks to drop off their unneeded medications between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. More details will be provided as those events

draw near. "We will also be working with pharmacies and doctors' offices to address the epidemic," Mowrey said. "the community is encouraged to reach out to us. We provide free presentations to community groups, parents and faith-based organizations.'

More information on the coalition and contact information can be found at safehomesfh.org.

Bike recycling program continues

Used bicycles have already been donated by residents as part of the annual "Recycle your Bicycle" program.

The Noon Kiwanis Club, in conjunction with the two bicycle shops in town, is once again coordinating a local collection of used bikes that will help Arizona kids in the foster care sys-

The program will run through September.

The club and bike shops last year collected more than 50 bicycles for donation to the foster kids program.

All bicycles collected during the drive will be given to children during this winter's holiday season with the help of the Arizona Association for Foster & Adoptive Parents.

Recycle your Bicycle' started in 2009 with one volunteer and one bike. The program has grown into 1,000-plus bikes being donated each year.

And now Fountain

Hills residents can easily contribute to that effort with the help of the Noon Kiwanis Club and two bike shops in town - Fountain Hills Bikes and McDowell Mountain Cycles.

Residents who want to donate new or gently used bicycles can simply drop them off during normal business hours at one of the bike shops.

Fountain Hills Bikes is located on the north end of town near the middle school at 15225 N. Fountain Hills Blvd., suite 104.

McDowell Mountain Cycles is located on Saguaro between Colony and Panorama at 11879 N. Saguaro Blvd.

The Noon Kiwanis Club will periodically pick up donated bikes at the shops and then ultimately get them to Recycle your Bicycle organizers.

For those who have bikes for donation but need someone to pick them up, contact Kiwanian Mike Scharnow at 480-226-6524.

Balance courses start next month

The Fountain Hills Activity Center is offering an eight-session class, "A Matter of Balance" this fall.

Participants will learn to view falls as controllable; set goals for increasing activity; make changes to reduce fall risk at home; exercise to increase strength and balance.

This program was designed to benefit older adults who are concerned about falls; have sustained falls in the past; restrict activities because of concerns about falling; are interested in improving flexibility, balance and strength; are age 60 or older, ambulatory, and able to problem solve.

The classes are pre-

sented by doctoral students from health profession programs affiliated with the Arizona Coalition for Fall Prevention and sponsored by the School of Health Sciences at A.T. still University in Mesa.

The classes will meet on Fridays beginning Oct. 6 and continue through Dec. 8. There are no classes Nov. 10 for the downtown art fair and Nov. 24 on the Thanksgiving holiday. The sessions meet from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center.

Pre-registration is required, reference Course #2972 when signing up. Activity Center membership required.



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