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## 'Take Back Day' yields 218 pounds of FH drugs

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

It appears the recent drug "Take Back Day" organized by the Drug Enforcement Administration, was a big success.

Doug Coleman, special agent in charge of the DEA Phoenix office, said more than 10,000 pounds of prescription medications were collected in one day.

On Oct. 26, 10,303 pounds (5.15 tons) of prescription medications were collected from citizens at more than 90 locations manned by more than 60 state, local and tribal law

enforcement agencies that partnered with DEA on the event.

According to MCSO Capt. Joe Rodriguez, commander for District 7 based in Fountain Hills, deputies collected 244.7 pounds from two sites in the district.

At Town Hall in Fountain Hills there were 218.8 pounds dropped off, and at the Rio Verde Fire District station there were 29.9 pounds received.

Rodriguez said the district finished second only to Sun City, which had 329 pounds dropped off.

The Fountain Hills Drug Coalition had tables set up at the Town Hall site, giving

out information about the coalition and its two major programs, Text A Tip and Safe Homes Network.

### 29 tons

When added to the collections from DEA's previous five Take-Back events, more than 58,000 pounds (29 tons) of prescription medications have been removed from circulation.

"The overwhelming public response to DEA's seventh statewide Take-Back event not only rid homes of potentially harmful prescription drugs, but was an unprecedented opportunity

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Residents drop by Town Hall to turn in unused and outdated prescription drugs. The semi-annual Take Back Day sponsored by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and the Sheriff's Office collected more than 200 pounds of unused prescriptions during the drive.



Times photos by Barb Charzuk

## Halloween in the Hills

Five-year-old twins Ricky and Ritchie Kuhlman advertised free kisses as they roamed along the Avenue of the Fountains. They were hoping to be transformed from frogs into Prince Charmings. For additional pictures, see Page 1B and visit our gallery at [www.fhtimes.com](http://www.fhtimes.com)

## Fountain Festival all set

By Barb Charzuk  
Times Reporter

Marge Russell loves Christmas and the jolly old fellow so much that she developed a business of creating Santa Clauses.

The Oakhurst, Calif. resident designs one-of-a-kind Santas -- not only the typical red velvet and white fur outfits. She customizes Santas to resemble outdoorsmen, fly fishermen and toy makers. One design even has Santa riding a reindeer.

Russell forms her Santa bodies of wood and wire. Vintage fabrics and recycled materials, such as her mother's fur coat, have been utilized for outfits.

Russell will be among nearly 500 returning favorite artists and new vendors at the 39th annual Fountain Festival of Arts and Crafts.

Hours for the three-day show are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday through Sunday, Nov. 8-10.

Booths will line the Avenue of the Fountains and a portion of Saguaro Boulevard.

Parking and admission are free, said Chamber of



Semi-retired artist Marge Russell paints the molded faces and hands of her Santa creations. Her husband Bill assists with the designs.

Commerce events producer Sharon Morgan.

A new performer to the festival, pianist Grady Soine, will play easy listening melodies at the corner of Saguaro Boulevard and

the avenue.

The entertainment area at the intersection of the avenue and Verde River Drive will feature 11th Hour performing pop, jazz and genres in between.

## Veterans to be honored

Fountain Hills veterans groups are inviting the public to gather with them for their annual Veterans Day ceremony to take place at 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11, at the Veterans Memorial.

The keynote speaker is Ted Vogt, director of Arizona Department of Veterans Services.

Vogt was appointed to his post by Gov. Jan Brewer in June. He served as an intelligence officer in the Air Force from 2000 to 2006 including tours in Iraq as a part of Operation "Iraqi Freedom" and in Afghani-

stan as a part of Operation "Enduring Freedom" as well as a tour in the Pentagon where he briefed the chief of staff of the Air Force.

After leaving the Air Force, Vogt attended and graduated from the University of Arizona's Rogers College of Law. Vogt served in the Arizona House of Representatives from March 2010 to January 2013 representing the (then) 30th District (Tucson).

This year, American Legion Post 58, led by Commander Len Ahsing, has lead responsibility for the

Nov. 11 ceremony, which is a joint project of the town's three veterans service organizations, VFW Post 7507, AMETS Post 7 and American Legion Post 58.

Responsibility for all ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial rotates between the three veterans organizations.

Veterans are encouraged to wear their medals and/or ribbons whether on civilian clothes or full/partial uniforms.

The wearing of shirts

(cont. on page 14A)

## Chamber

### Ferrara to retire at 2014's end

Frank Ferrara, who has headed the Chamber of Commerce as president and CEO for 15 years, announced Monday he will retire at the end of 2014.

Before becoming executive director, he served two terms as board chair beginning in 1996. He previously operated a local mortgage company.

In an email to current board members and The Fountain Hills Times, Ferrara said he decided to announce his retirement at this time "to allow the Chamber to do a compre-

hensive search for his successor."

Board members consist of chair Teresa Russo-Cox; vice chair

Terry Cox; Colin Horning, Debbie Skehen, Jay Schlum, John Hersey, Rand Hubbell and Sandy Myhr.

"It's time to move on," said Ferrara, who would not give his exact age. "I'm in my 70s."

Ferrara became the first



Ferrara

executive director to contract with the organization for his services. Previous directors were Chamber employees rather than serving at the pleasure of the board.

His salary and benefits are not publicly accessible, a situation that has irritated some business owners in recent years.

Under his helm, the Chamber purchased property at the corner of Verde River Drive and Palisades Boulevard and built an office headquarters and visitors bureau.

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Mentors are honored.  
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**Sports:**  
Yost sisters (pictured) help CC team.  
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## WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Oct. 29	74	58	--
Wed., Oct. 30	71	48	--
Thurs., Oct. 31	74	48	--
Fri., Nov. 1	80	49	--
Sat., Nov. 2	87	57	--
Sun., Nov. 3	80	54	--
Mon., Nov. 4	78	50	--

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