

DRINKING: Teens, parents invited

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teen and almost half of my class is drinking, why shouldn't I?"

A survey done this past spring revealed that among FHUSD students who report drinking, the average age for the onset of drinking among those students is 12.7 years old (typically a seventh grader).

Some 42 percent of sophomores last year indicated they had a drink of alcohol within the past 30 days.

It is alarming numbers such as those which prompted the coalition to put together the symposium and hopefully reach out to parents and teens.

Carole Groux, who directs the coalition, said it is

the group's goal to change the "social norms" in Fountain Hills, particularly those surrounding underage alcohol consumption.

"Only 9 percent of American adults think it is OK for adults to provide alcohol to underage youths," Groux said.

"My hope is to keep educating parents and teens so they understand why it is

a bad idea."

A "parent toolkit" will be handed out at the symposium as well.

Grant money from the Fountain Hills Community Foundation was used by the coalition to purchase some items to be given out in the toolkits.

Information: fhcoalition@me.com or call (480) 639-0519.

* Got pills? Drop 'em off Sept. 25

Prescription drug abuse in this country is an epidemic and law-abiding citizens could be partly to blame without even knowing it.

With pill abuse at record levels, addicts are looking in as many medicine cabinets as possible – maybe even yours.

Help is on the way.

On Saturday, Sept. 25, DEA in conjunction with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is operating a collection site in Fountain Hills where residents can turn in their unused, unneeded and expired prescription drug medications – no questions asked.

This is a free, any-

mous service that will help keep homes safe and could save lives.

Prescription drugs treat illness and alleviate pain, but they should only be used when prescribed by a doctor.

Unfortunately, these medications often end up in the wrong hands. More than 70 percent of people who abuse these medications say they get them from family or friends.

Many users of street drugs like heroin start with abusing painkillers. Don't be an unknowing source. Help make the community and homes safer by participating in this program.

The Fountain Hills collection site will be at Town Hall located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, at La Montana Drive. Hours of operation will be 1 to 4 p.m.

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NEWS**

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