

Opinion



Michael Scharnow
Editor

Drug kits

A letter from:
Karen Bayne

Some parents may wonder what to do when they suspect illegal drug use by their child. It can be a confusing and stressful situation in a family.

The Fountain Hills Coalition, which focuses on youth substance abuse prevention, has created an Early Action Kit for parents who may not know exactly what to do or where to turn. The kits in the "red box" are available at no cost and can be picked up at any of the following locations.

* Susan K. Adams LI-SAC, LCSW, 480-225-2630.

* Dr. Jennifer J. Bjerke, Ph.D., 490-212-3991.

* Dr. Hummel, M.D., 480-816-3131.

* Deputy Jill Oschner, FHHS, 480-664-5510.

* Paula Goblet, FHUSD Nurse, 480-664-5084.

* Both Fountain Hills fire stations.

* FH Community Center, 480-816-5200.

The kit contains a five-panel urinalysis drug screen, directions how to administer it, steps to take if the test is positive or negative, local resource information and websites to go to that provide parental support and promote prevention.

Twelve percent of the Early Action Kits currently available have already been given out to the community.

The kit gives families a private way to obtain information and make decisions on how to move forward. Parents don't need to give any information when picking up a kit. There is no obligation and no one will contact you. Just ask for a kit – that's it.

I strongly encourage any parent who is experiencing concerns to visit one of the above locations to obtain a kit. It will give you step by step instructions on how to proceed during what can be a difficult period for any family.

But I contend there are so many Fountain Hills issues that defy to be pigeonholed, to be defined solely in terms of "black or white."

I think it's foolhardy to cast the garbage-hauling decision, for example, in terms of more or less "freedom," Republican or Democrat, Occupy Fountain Hills or Tea Party, free enterprise lover or Socialist.

We should transcend this stuff on the local level. We should be better than that. We should be looking at Fountain Hills as a community, not as a ground zero launching pad for some national platform.

To pigeonhole things on such a narrow scale truly brings an imbalance to what should be a more enlightened approach on a local level.

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The Times wants to hear from its readers and encourages letters to the editor. All letters must be under 300 words. It is preferred that they be typewritten and must include a name, address and telephone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing, and all letters that are judged as personal complaints about neighbors or businesses will not be considered. No person may submit more than two letters or guest cartoons for publication during a calendar month. Two submittals will not be published in the same issue.

Letters deadline noon Monday

All letters must be submitted by noon on Monday to be considered for publication in that week's edition. They are to be dropped off at *The Times* office, 16508 E. Laser Dr., Suite 101, mailed to P.O. Box 17869, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-7869 or faxed to 837-1951. Letters also may be e-mailed to mike@fhtimes.com.

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