

Get rid of old meds at Take Back Saturday

By Damon Lawrence

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This Saturday, Oct. 28, is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition will accept items at its office in Kingston.

“Getting rid of unused medications is one of the best ways to keep them from being abused,” Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition Executive Director Sarah Harrison said. “We have permanent disposal bins at the sheriff’s office and at most of the police departments in the county but we hope that our participation in the DEA take back day will encourage people who haven’t taken advantage of these sites to dispose of old medications responsibly.”

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, a 2015 study showed that many of the prescription drugs that were abused came from home medicine cabinets. Drug take back events allow people to get rid of their unwanted, unused and expired medications. The DEA said 450 tons were collected during a take back event in April of this year.

The Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition is located at 151 E. Race St. Saturday’s drug take back event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The service is free.

“In addition to proper disposal we want people to keep their medicine locked up to prevent anyone from taking it,” Harrison said. “We have some lock boxes that will be handed out at the event on Saturday while they last.”