

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Free event at Columbia County Transfer Station offers residents chance to bring toxic, harmful items for proper disposal.

Columbia County is giving residents a chance to rid their homes of toxic items and protect the environment. On Saturday, October 28, from 8:00 am to noon, the County will host a free household hazardous waste collection event at the Columbia County Transfer Station at 1601 Railroad Avenue in St. Helens.

Many items used around the home, including cleaning, gardening and automotive products are considered hazardous to people and wildlife. Toxins in these products can present potential safety and health hazards when discarded into the environment.

"Bringing household hazardous waste to the event is the safe and responsible way for people to get rid of items that can't be placed in garbage containers or recycling bins," said Kath-

leen Boutin-Pasterz, the County's Solid Waste Program Coordinator.

Below is a list of items that can be brought to the October 28 event. Items must be in containers of less than five gallons and should be secured safely during transport. Trained household hazardous waste technicians will unload materials from vehicles.

- art and hobby chemicals
- ammunition
- antifreeze
- automotive batteries
- batteries - car, rechargeable, button -no alkaline batteries
- cleaners and detergents
- cooking oil
- compressed gas cylinders
- fireworks and flares
- fluorescent tubes
- gas / diesel / fuels / antifreeze / motor oil
- herbicides and pesticides
- lawn and garden chemicals
- light ballasts - please remove from light fixture
- Medical Sharps (in sealed, puncture-

proof container)

- mercury - any items containing mercury
- used motor oil
- paint and paint products
- propane cylinders
- pool and spa chemicals
- poisons
- solvents and thinners

Residents should note that Medical Sharps are always accepted at the Transfer Station's scale house during open hours for no cost. Sharps must be brought in a sealed, puncture-proof approved container (available at pharmacies and the scale house). Additionally, although automotive batteries, antifreeze and fluorescent tubes will be accepted at no cost during this collection event, a fee is charged when brought to the Transfer Station at other times.

Expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs can be brought to the St. Helens Police Department at 150 S 13th St. Monday through Friday from 10 am - noon or 1 -5 pm and deposited in the MedReturn collection box.

Keeping the environment clean and protecting fish and wildlife habitat as well as water quality is one of Columbia County's goals. To assist in reaching that goal, the County began collecting household hazardous waste at free events in 2006. Since then, more than 750,660 pounds of toxic items have been kept out of the landfill and has been properly disposed. Of that number, 30,083 pounds, or about four percent was recycled.

For more information, email Kathy Boutin-Pasterz at Kathleen.Boutin-Pasterz@co.columbia.or.us or call her at (503) 397-7259.

About Columbia County Solid Waste Program

Columbia County plans, organizes and directs recycling, reuse, waste reduction and household hazardous waste management throughout its 657 square-mile area. The County operates the transfer station in St. Helens and administers the solid waste collection franchises within the unincorporated area of the County.

The War of the Worlds Presented by Clatskanie Arts Commission

The most notorious radio show in history, "The War of the Worlds," will be performed on Saturday, October 28, at the Birkenfeld Theatre in Clatskanie, presented by Stageworks Northwest Theatre and sponsored by the Clatskanie Arts Commission.

Director Leslie Slape of Rainier says the show will be performed in classic 1938 radio style, including live sound effects.

Written by Howard Koch ("Casablanca"), the program was originally broadcast on Orson Welles' radio show, "The Mercury Theatre on the Air." The Martian invasion was presented in such a realistic style that many listeners — who were already tense about the prospect of war in Europe — thought it was real. The original performance is known as "the night that panicked America."

This performance at Clatskanie's Birkenfeld

Theatre, 75 S. Nehalem, will be Stageworks Northwest's first production in Clatskanie. The hour-long play begins at 1:00 pm Saturday, October 28. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors 60+/students, and \$10 children. Buy online at www.clatskaniearts.org or by calling Elsa at (503) 728-3403.

The show will also be performed at Stageworks' home theater in Longview. For more information about the Longview shows and the organization, go to www.stageworksnorthwest.org

This performance is part of the Clatskanie Arts Commission's 29th Performing Arts Series which also includes: Lisa Tyack Trio, Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 pm; Tingstad & Rumbel Holiday show, Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 pm; Missoula Children's Theatre, The Wiz of the West, March 2 and 3; classical pianist Steven Vanhauwaert, Saturday, April 7 at 7:30 pm; Or-



gon Symphonic Band, Sunday, April 22, 3:00 pm.

For more information about these performances or the Clatskanie Arts Commission, visit www.clatskaniearts.org or Facebook page.

Readers Lend Their Voices... *continued from page 4*

tract Optional Tax and landowners with more than 10 acres need to sign into the program and is not reversible for obvious reasons. Representatives from the ODF and ODR were present for all the meetings in Salem. This was to be revenue neutral and our number established the rate per thousand to be paid annually. At the conclusion the ODR statistician compared the department's rate with ours and we adjusted the rate slightly upwards. This rate is effected by the regu-

lar allowable tax increases in the state of Oregon.

I find his explanation of "Hormone Mimicking" unproven and unscientific. His inflammatory and incorrect statement about corporations, "...yet you have your biggest land owners (corporations) not paying taxes," is simply not true. Even if they didn't harvest any wood, they would be subject to the Oregon For-estland Tax.

Paul Nys
Rainier

To the Editor,

The Public Health Foundation of Columbia County is encouraging Columbia County residents to commit or recommit to healthy, tobacco-free lives by participating in the American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout on November 16, 2017.

Tobacco use is the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States. About half of all Americans who keep smoking will die because of the habit. Each year more than 480,000 people in the United States die from illness related to tobacco use. This means smoking causes about 1 out of 5 deaths in the U.S. annually. Yet, because tobacco is one of the strongest addictions one can have, about 40 million American adults still smoke. Doctors and public health officials used to encourage smokers to quit cold turkey on a single day. Today, the evidence shows that quitting is a process. It starts with a plan, often takes time and requires a lot of support.

In 2014, 6,500 Columbia County adults regularly smoked cigarettes. Tobacco-related illnesses cost Columbia County residents \$19.3 million in medical care and \$15.5 million in productivity losses due to premature deaths.

The Public Health Foundation is partnering with the American Cancer Society, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide support as people make their plan to quit. More information is available at cancer.org/smokeout or by calling 1-800-227-2345.

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