

Business Oregon Awards Grant to County for Broadband Study

Columbia County gauges resident needs, desires via survey, open houses

Columbia County is undertaking a grant-funded study to determine the current availability and need for high-speed internet access across the County. The Broadband Planning study will also assess a range of options for bridging existing gaps.

The grant was awarded by the Oregon Business Development Department and is partially funded by the Oregon State Lottery.

The County is working with a consultant to conduct information gath-

ering and outreach activities including a survey of randomly selected Columbia County households, a series of focus group meetings with business, government, and educational entities, and two town hall events open to the public.

Selected households will receive a postcard, which will provide a link to complete the online survey. Residents not selected for the formal survey were invited to participate by attending a town hall event, one in Vernonia on October 15 and one in St. Helens on October 16, or by completing an informal survey available on the County's website beginning mid-October.

Participants at the town hall event in Vernonia reported that the project is planning to take the input and investigate what upgrades might make sense for the region. This might be working with partners/providers to bring in a new provider of service. It might be doing some work to put in a fiber backbone that would then make it more attractive for a provider to come in. There may be opportunity for grant money to build infrastructure. Feedback from Vernonia and a resident in the Natal area was that Frontier is not providing good service. A customer in Birkenfeld reported satisfaction with Century Link. There was

some discussion around the quality of local cell coverage. If the county does anything it would most likely be fiber based.

The County's business community and specific sectors will be invited to participate in 45-minute focus group meetings in mid-October. Businesses that do not receive an invitation, but would like to provide input, will be able to comment via a business broadband survey available on the County's website from October 15-31.

Questions about this project should be addressed to the project email at broadband@co.columbia.or.us.

Men of Worth to Perform in Clatskanie

The Clatskanie Arts Commission opens its 30th Performing Arts Series with The Irish Scottish folk music duo, Men of Worth.

From Scotland's outer islands and Ireland's west, some of America's most authentic musical heritage is coming back to Clatskanie, Oregon.

The event will be held at the Birkenfeld Theatre in the Clatskanie Cultural Center, 75 S. Nehalem Street on Friday, October 26, at 7:30 pm.

Men of Worth's tunes and songs are so authentic, so closely connected to their heritage, that Scotsman Donnie Macdonald sings some in his native Gaelic; while Irishman James

Keigher includes time-polished pieces saved from the oral traditions of his native County Mayo.

"Our music has its history in the crofting life of my Hebridean homeland and James' western Ireland. It was a part of the fabric of everyday life and it came to America with the immigrants a century ago," explained Macdonald. "Now, we're playing it again, to audiences for whom it could only be a generational memory."

The pair could not escape the emotion and tradition of their homeland song heritage. "We could not grow away from those sounds," said Macdonald, "so we have preserved them as accurately and authentically as we can, in our performances. We entertain people with the real music of our regions; we have an ancient yet fresh musical story to tell."

Sometimes that music comes from prosaic sources – Keigher wrote one song after overhearing two old ladies gossiping about him in a village market – and sometimes from traditional music passed down the generations. Several of Mac-

donald's songs come from his mother's own poetry and from Hebridean crofters' airs.

The musicians, who met in California in 1985, each play a handful of instruments, among them mandolin, guitar, mandocello, banjo, concertina, and bodhran (a handheld drum). They have played concerts across the U.S., from Alaska to Texas. They also take guided tours to their own musical roots: leading folk fans to the

western isles of Scotland and to Ireland's heartland to hear the real music of the isles.

If you can't make that journey, you can hear the music when these talented troubadours bring it to you! – www.menofworth.com

Tickets are available online at clatskaniearts.org or by calling Elsa at (503) 728-3403. Tickets are going fast so get yours now! Adults \$15; Seniors 60+ \$13; Students \$13; Children 12 and under \$10.

Visit clatskaniearts.org for this season's other performances by: Oregon Symphonic Band, America's Premier Doo-Wop Group, the Alley Cats, A one-woman show – Eleanor Roosevelt - Across a Barrier of Fear, Missoula Children's Theatre production of the Pied Piper, and Ventriloquist Comedienne, Lynn Trefzger.



Commission Approves Roadkill Salvage Rules to Take effect January 1

The Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted administrative rules for the salvage of roadkilled deer and elk during its meeting in Klamath Falls. The new rules are due to the passage of SB 372 by the 2017 Oregon State Legislature and take effect on January 1, 2019.

Highlights of the new rules include:

- Deer and elk accidentally stuck by a vehicle may be salvaged for consumption only. Intentionally hitting a deer or elk in order to salvage it remains unlawful.
- Anyone who salvages a roadkilled deer or elk must complete a free online permit within 24 hours of salvaging the animal and provide information including their name, contact info, where and when salvage occurred, species and gender of animal salvaged, and if they were the driver that struck the animal.
- Antlers and head of all salvaged animals will need to be surrendered to an ODFW office within 5 business days of taking possession of the carcass. This rule will meet the requirements of SB 372 and will contribute to ODFW's surveillance program for Chronic Wasting Disease.
- The entire carcass of the animal including gut piles must be removed from the road and road right of way during the salvage.
- In cases where a deer or elk is struck, injured and then put down to alleviate suffering, only the driver of the vehicle that struck the animal may salvage the carcass and law enforcement must be immediately notified. (This is a requirement per Oregon Revised Statute 498.016 and SB 372.)
- Any person who salvages a deer or elk will consume the meat at their own risk. ODFW/OSP will not perform game meat inspections for any deer or elk salvaged under these rules.
- Sale of any part of the salvaged animal is prohibited, but transfer to another person will be allowed with a written record similar to transferring game meat.
- The state of Oregon is not liable for any loss or damage arising from the recovery, possession, use, transport, or consumption of deer or elk salvaged.

The Commission also approved the purchase of 214 acres of property adjacent to the Klamath Wildlife Area and the 560-acre Edmunds Well property near the Summer Lake Wildlife Area.

The Commission is the policy-making body for fish and wildlife issues in Oregon. Its next meeting is a joint meeting with Washington's Fish and Wildlife Commission on November 1 in Vancouver, Washington.

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