

Business Notes

Illegal dumping is expensive for property owners and taxpayers

Illegal dumping of trash or chemicals on public or private property is a major problem in Columbia County. The actions of a few offenders have serious effects on the rest of us, threat-

New location for Buds & Blooms

A change of location doesn't mean that Buds & Blooms is going to close. Matt Davis is just moving his florist service across the street and down the block. He is going to close out the nursery portion of the business, however, and concentrate on gifts and indoor plants along with the florist service.

Some great close-out prices are being offered - check his ad on page 14 in this issue of *The INDEPENDENT*.

The Treasury holds an eclectic collection

The Treasury, a new business at the corner of Jefferson and Bridge Street, appears to have popped up overnight, like a mushroom following a rain.

Owner Krissy Toward, who moved to Vernonia four years ago from California, explained that she brought the inventory with her and has had it in storage. The merchandise defies description, ranging from sports cards to jewelry, antiques, collectibles, games, toys and women's leather garments. Stop in and meet Krissy any day except Monday.

Drive-thru espresso ready for commuters

Vernonia commuters can now take advantage of a drive-through espresso for their morning caffeine booster.

Sunnyside Espresso is next door to Sunnyside Deli, adjacent to Hwy. 47 just south of Vernonia, and the 4:30 a.m. opening really fills a need for early weekday commuters. In addition to hot, iced and blended drinks, Sunnyside Espresso offers candy, muffins, cookies, pastries and other goodies—and you don't even have to leave your vehicle.

When speed is your need, check it out.

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In the Bridge Street Mall
(503) 429-8603

ening public health and safety, environmental damage, property value and quality of life.

The clean-up of trash or chemicals often winds up being the financial responsibility of the property owner, whether private or public. This is an old problem that demands a second look at the consequences it has on our community and the actions we can take to get rid of it.

At night, trash, debris and chemicals are often dumped from vehicles along road sides, creeks, and on unattended private property. Wastes that are

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For rates and additional information, call Sandi, Monday through Friday, at 429-4588.

Sheriff Derby files for a second term

Columbia County Sheriff Phil Derby has filed for election to a second term of office. He was first elected in 1996.

A graduate of Clatskanie High School, Derby has a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Portland and a Bachelor's degree in Social Science and Corrections from Western Oregon State College. He completed his student training as a Corrections Counselor at the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Derby's 27 years of experience in law enforcement and corrections started with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. He also served 13 years as Chief of Police in Rainier prior to his election as sheriff.

dumped to avoid either disposal costs or the time and effort it takes for proper disposal typically include construction and demolition wastes such as dry-wall, roofing shingles, lumber, bricks, concrete and siding; abandoned automobiles, auto parts, and tires; appliances, furniture and bulky items, yard waste, medical waste, methamphetamine labs, and household trash.

Once people start dumping in an area, the dump site has a tendency to attract more

Repair loans for very low income

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has Section 504 funds available to very-low income homeowners in rural Oregon who are unable to qualify for conventional credit and who need to repair or modernize their homes.

The Rural Development office in St. Helens is currently accepting applications from homeowners for home improvement loans and grants.

Loan funds, up to \$20,000, are currently available at one (1) percent interest and may be used for almost any needed repairs or improvements related to the dwelling. The term can be written for up to 20 years and is based on the borrower's repayment ability.

Grant funds, while limited, are also available up to \$7,500 for those who qualify. To obtain a grant, the homeowner must be a senior citizen, age 62 or older, and be unable to repay the funds based upon a loan at one (1) percent amortized over 20 years.

Grant funds can be used only to pay costs for repairs and/or improvements that will remove identified health or safety hazards.

For additional information regarding the Section 504 Loan program, call Martha Chamberlain or Mary Jo Simpson at (503) 397-1432. The St. Helens Rural Development office serves Columbia, Clatsop, Washington and Tillamook Counties.

waste, attracting hazardous wastes such as asbestos, household chemicals, paints, and gasoline. People dumping dangerous things along road sides, in creeks and in other areas where kids walk, play or ride their bikes, endanger children.

When the waste is dumped in our creeks and rivers, it is toxic to aquatic wildlife. Runoff from dump sites containing chemicals pollute the environment and may contaminate wells and surface water.

Illegal dumps are expensive to clean up and often require tax money. Beaver Falls is one example of a local attraction where garbage is accumulating, according to county Recycling Coordinator Katherine Romano. Additionally, decreased property values are the result of waste that is dumped or left on private property. The Lower Columbia River Watershed Council and the County Recycling Coordinator are interested in doing a clean-up in the spring and are looking for volunteers.

The problem of illegal dumping is getting more serious and stronger enforcement has become necessary. Residents should report suspected or observed illegal dumping to the enforcement officer in the Department of Land Development Services in St. Helens, 503-

397-1501.

The County also sponsors recycling and waste reduction programs as another means to reduce trash, conserve resources, and minimize the long-term costs of solid waste disposal.

For further information or to state your view on illegal dumping and the county's efforts to address the problem, call the Board of Commissioners at 397-4322, or county Recycling Coordinator Katherine Romano at 397-1501 or romanok@co.columbia.or.us.

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507 Rose Ave., Vernonia

DEADLINE 2000 DOG LICENSE

Elizabeth E. Huser, Columbia County Clerk, reports that the deadline for licensing dogs in Columbia County is

MARCH 3, 2000

You may mail your rabies vaccination certificate (if not on file in our office) along with the appropriate fee to Columbia County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, St. Helens, OR 97051. Commercial and non-commercial kennel licenses are available. Contact Clerk's Office for information.

To All Columbia County Dog Owners
\$10 Penalty after March 3, 2000
\$25 Penalty after April 2, 2000 (Without Citation)
\$50 PENALTY IF CITATION IS ISSUED
Dog License Fees are due on all dogs with permanent teeth or that are six months of age for year of 2000.

FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

On or Before March 3, 2000
REGULAR, NOT SPAYED OR NEUTERED.....\$26.00
DOG SPAYED OR NEUTERED.....\$10.00
SENIOR CITIZEN-DOG NOT SPAYED OR NEUTERED...\$15.00
SENIOR CITIZEN-DOG SPAYED OR NEUTERED.....\$5.00
(Senior Citizen is 65 Years or Older - 1 per Household)
REPLACEMENT TABS.....\$5.00
ASK ABOUT OUR OPTIONAL THREE-YEAR LICENSE

2000 APPLICATION FOR DOG LICENSE

Owner: _____
Residential Address: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Zip: _____
1999 License No.: _____ Phone: _____
Dog's Name: _____
Breed: _____
Sex (Check one): Male Female
Neutered: Spayed:

A VALID (Good through Oct. 31, 2001) Rabies Vaccination Certificate MUST accompany this application or be ON FILE in the Courthouse, along with a spayed/neutered certificate if applicable.
WE WILL RETURN YOUR LICENSE AND DOG TAG TO YOU BY RETURN MAIL.



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