

Mist Store stung, but other county stores pass tobacco "sting"

Columbia County tobacco retailers are doing better than most in the state in not selling to youth, according to the latest

statistics from statewide inspections.

According to the Oregon Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (OADAP), only one retailer - the Mist Store - sold tobacco illegally in 13 attempted buys in Columbia County in the last months of 1999. The Columbia County rate in 1998-99 was six illegal sales out of 10 tries, according to OADAP.

"The Columbia County Tobacco Prevention Coalition is happy to get this news," said Pam Powell, Tobacco Program Coordinator for Columbia County Public Health.

"This is a great step forward. The Coalition's long-term goal is to see these kinds of statistics every year," said Doreen Hocraffer, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for Public Health.

The latest Oregon State Police "sting" operations included inspections at 306 retail stores in 13 counties. Minors accompanied by plainclothes state

police officers tried to buy cigarettes and smokeless tobacco in late 1999 and early 2000. Police kept track of whether clerks ask for and check identification, the type of store and other statistics.

The survey included B&B Market, Jackpot Food Mart and JJ's IGA in Scappoose; Rite Aid, Zatterberg's Grocery and St. Helens Marina in St. Helens; Chevron Food Mart and Lindberg Grocery in Rainier; Quincy Store and Weigant's

Market in Clatskanie, plus Scipio's Goble Landing, the Deer Island Store and the Mist Store.

The results throughout the 13 counties were not as encouraging as in Columbia County. Clerks sold tobacco to buyers under 18 years of age almost 21 percent of the time. This is an increase from 1998-99 in the 13-county area when 18.3 percent of minors were able to buy tobacco.

The inspections were con-

ducted in Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Lane, Malheur, Multnomah, Umatilla and Washington Counties, as well as Columbia County.

Lane County had the highest rate of illegal sales with 26 percent. Clackamas was next with 25 percent; Multnomah County's rate was 15 percent.

In Oregon, it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under age 18. Clerks can be fined for selling illegally.

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St. Helens man heads Oregon Workforce Alliance

St. Helens business owner Paul Pulliam has been elected president of the Oregon Workforce Alliance (OWA), which provides leadership for employment programs for 23 rural Oregon counties.

Pulliam is a member of the St. Helens City Council and is also president of the Region One Workforce Investment Board which works directly with the OWA. Pulliam owns the Credit Bureau of Columbia County and the Credit Bureau of Clatsop County.

The OWA has 48 members representing private business

and public agencies. The group meets quarterly to discuss local workforce plans, including training and education for people who want first jobs, better jobs, or who are changing careers.

Even though unemployment rates are relatively low right now, Pulliam said the rural areas are lagging behind. "Rural Oregon has a labor surplus. Part of our mission is to promote programs that prevent the brain drain to the metro areas and keep the best and brightest in our local communities."

Formed in 1999 under the federal Workforce Investment Act, OWA replaced the Oregon Private Industry Council, on which Pulliam served as a member and officer for five years.

Locally, employment programs are offered through MTC Training & Placement Services and other collaborating partners. The OWA, in partnership with the Oregon Consortium, has an annual budget of workforce funds of approximately \$20 million, which is directed to workforce programs in the 23 rural member counties.

Conference scheduled for Oregon women veterans

A one-day conference for women veterans will be held Friday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Building 50 at Chemeketa Community College, 4071 Winema Place NE in Salem.

The conference, a cooperative effort of local, state, and federal agencies and organizations, is an attempt to reach out to women veterans, to honor them for their service to their country, inform them of valuable benefits to which they may be entitled, and assist them in

obtaining those benefits.

Sponsors for the event are the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Portland Vet Center, the Salem Vet Center, the State Employment Department, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dodie Blessing, Women Veterans Health Clinic Coordinator at Roseburg VA Medical Center, will be the keynote speaker for the event. A variety of presentations and workshops will be featured, includ-

ing women's health issues, job search/employment, and federal VA benefits. One-on-one benefits counseling will also be available.

Organizers have planned for up to 200 participants. There is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided. Women veterans interested in attending should contact the Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs at 1-800-692-9666, ext. 2246 or 503-373-2246 to pre-register and/or to obtain additional information.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Friday, March 17th • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Join us for
Corned Beef
and Cabbage
Hotdogs & Fixin's
Clover Leaf Rolls
Pistachio Cake



at the
Vernonia Community Church
957 State Avenue
RSVP: 429-6790

Community Calendar

MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27					18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31								25	26	27	28	29	30	

VERNONIA

Al-Anon	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wed.	Noon, Lew's Place
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Scout Cabin	4th Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Girl Scouts	Thursdays	6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 429-4074
Preschool Story Hour	Wednesdays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Senior Center Directors	1st Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
TOPS	Thursdays	6:30 p.m., 1st Baptist Church
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	4th Thursday	For location call 429-2401
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors	1st Thursday	For location call 429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	6:30 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Comm. Dev. Corp.	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Vernonia Grange	2nd Friday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Wednesday	6:00 p.m., 854 Grant Ave.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 429-1204
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., VHS, Rm. 6
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	8:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st & 2nd Thurs.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st & 2nd Wed.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Rescue	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Wednesday	10:00 am, 755-2346 for info.
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Brown Derby
Citizen Participation Org.	3rd Monday, odd months	7:15 p.m., City Hall
Friends of the Library	1st Saturday	10:00 a.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
TOPS	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Jr. High Library
Tri-City RFPD Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
County Fair Board	2nd & 4th Mondays	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
County Parks Commission	3rd Thursday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1)	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713
Traffic Safety Commission	1st Wednesday	7:00 a.m., Village Inn

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.