

Business Notes

Oregon searching for owners of unclaimed State Farm drafts

The Oregon Division of State Lands is searching for about 5,000 Oregonians who have uncashed claim drafts from State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company.

State Farm Auto Insurance Company recently handed over about \$892,000 worth of claim drafts to the Division of State Lands as unclaimed property.

The drafts represent settlements that were unclaimed or forgotten by Oregon residents. At least 5,000 owner names are listed on the report from State Farm and have been added to DSL's Web site list of unclaimed property owners.

To find out if you are on this report, search DSL's database. On the Web, go to: <http://state-lands.dsl.state.or.us>, then click on "Unclaimed Property." Send questions to: claims@dsl.state.or.us. If you see names of family or friends refer them to the Web site. They must respond for themselves.

There is no charge to search, or to file a claim. No Internet access? Your local public library or community college may offer access. Or, you may send information to the Division of State Lands and staff will search for you. Send your name, mailing address, day-

time phone number, and former addresses during the past 10 years to: Trust Property Section, 775 Summer St. NE Suite 100, Salem, OR 97301-1279.

Unclaimed property is held for claim by owners or heirs forever. Until the money is claimed, it is invested as part of the Common School Fund, a constitutional trust that generates earnings for Oregon's K-12 public schools.

DSL's database contains names of people for whom any unclaimed property has been reported, such as uncashed payroll or dividend checks, utility deposits, and savings or

checking accounts. The database contains more than 710,000 names with accounts valued at nearly \$128 million.

The agency adds hundreds of names to the site each month, so it is important to check it regularly.

County will sell composting bins

Columbia County is holding a Composting Bin Sale in an effort to reduce the amount of organic waste that is burned or buried in landfills.

Anyone who generates a lot of food scraps and yard debris should consider purchasing a home compost bin at a discounted rate of \$33.00 each (retail value is \$80.00). The bins are made of durable, recycled plastic and may be used for both kitchen scraps and

yard waste.

Orders will be taken until July 26. Remember, by composting kitchen and yard waste at home, you can create a free source of fertilizer while conserving valuable landfill space.

For more information, call Tara Hurm, Columbia County Solid Waste Program Coordinator, at 397-1501, ext. 7222, or e-mail: HurmT@co.columbia.or.us

Corsiglia appointed to advisory board of Oregon counties group

The Association of Oregon Counties Board of Directors has appointed Columbia County Commissioner Joe Corsiglia to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to the Department of Human Services.

The LGAC committee includes seven county commissioners, plus health and human services designees who meet monthly with the department director and sort out significant issues in intergovernmental relations.

County Commissioners who serve on the committee:

1) Represent the interest of local elected officials and the association of Oregon Counties.

2) Provide the committee with timely, accurate information regarding the impact of policy, programs, budget and legislation changes on local government.

3) Develop recommendations for consideration by DHS.

In accepting the appointment, Corsiglia said, "I am hon-

ored and look forward to making counties a more integral part of the human service delivery system. Rural counties have long suffered from an imbalance of capacity to match growth and need. I hope to strengthen the relationship between the state and counties in delivering human services to our shared constituency."

Best-selling author will be in St. Helens

New York Times best selling author Kristin Hannah will be at St. Helens Bookshop, July 31 at 6:00 p.m., to promote her latest novel, *Distant Shores*.

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Hannah captures both the majesty and mystery of the region in her settings. Her books exhibit a strong voice, rich storylines and a depth of emotion that have gained her international acclaim.

Her previous works include such favorites as *Angel Falls*, *On Mystic Lake*, *Summer Island* and *If you Believe*.

For more information, call Gena Pugh at St. Helens Bookshop, 503-397-4917 or online at www.sthelensbookshop.com

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