

Recycling Week reminds us of wise use

November 9-16 is Recycling Awareness Week, 2002. For the first time since the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been collecting data, waste generation declined. In addition to reusing, recycling and composting, waste prevention is another way to be active in the solution to solid waste problems.

Consumers impact the environment in both positive and negative ways through the choices they make. Keep in mind that because the majority of environmental damage is caused during mining, manufacture and shipping of a product to market, each individual plays a critical roll in sustainability at the point of purchase.

Some useful questions to be asked before making a purchase are:

- Is this item really necessary, or is there a more productive way to spend the money?
- Can the items be borrowed, rented or purchased used, rather than new?
- Is this product made to last? Can it be repaired if it breaks? Will the manufacturer take it back to use the parts when it can no longer be used?
- Is the product recyclable when it can no longer be used?
- Is the product made locally? Does it have excessive packaging? Is the manufacture of it harmful to the environment?

By asking these simple

questions, we can preserve Oregon's beauty for future generation and send signals to manufacturers about the type of products we prefer.

For more information, visit the Oregon DEQ website at www.dep.state.or.us or call Tara Hurm at 503-543-1501.

Vernonia Pride seeks history of old buildings

A Walking Tour of Vernonia, with information about some of the older buildings, is a new project for Vernonia Pride. Last month, letters were delivered to several businesses asking for information about their buildings, the year of construction, prior owners' names and any other pertinent facts.

The information will be used on plaques to be placed on the buildings. A booklet containing the information may also be published.

Anyone with information that might help in this project is asked to send it to Vernonia Pride, c/o Enid Parrow, 842 2nd Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Calligraphy art display at Pacific

"Masters of Calligraphy: Artists from Japan", featuring calligraphy by Seishi Sato, Seisui Yokoyama, Seiou Shishido and Shigetsu Shinohara, will be on display at Pacific University's Katherin Cawein Gallery through November 27.

A blend of Asian calligraphic styles will be presented. Many of these works were previously shown in exhibits at the Port-

land Art Museum and Portland's Japanese Gardens.

The artists, who are all teachers at the same school in Kamagawa, Japan, will be unable to attend the exhibit's opening.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment. Admission is free.

Signup time for Master Gardener classes in Columbia County

The avid home gardener with a thirst for more gardening knowledge and a willingness to pass that knowledge on to others, can now take advantage of the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener program in Columbia County.

The Master Gardener program is designed to teach volunteers how to make better use of gardening resources and abilities, in order to pass this knowledge on to others. Volunteers are given training in soil management, vegetable gardening techniques, landscape maintenance, pest control and

many other aspects of gardening. During the gardening season, the new Master Gardeners help teach others to do a better job of growing and caring for plants, fighting off pests and making our communities a better place to live.

Classes will be held in St. Helens on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning in January. The first class is Monday, January 6. There is a \$40 fee for reference materials.

For more information, contact the Columbia County Extension office, 505 N. Columbia River Highway in St. Helens, 503-397-3462.

Multimedia sale will benefit Chorale

The Columbia Chorale of Oregon will hold a Fall Multimedia Sale on Saturday, November 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Columbia Center, 375 S. 18th Street, St. Helens.

Used books, videos, CDs, cassettes and similar items will be offered for sale. Vintage and contemporary items will be included. Raffle tickets for a piano will also be available at \$1.00 each, or six for \$5.00. There is no admission charge for the Multimedia Sale. All pro-

ceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Columbia Chorale of Oregon, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The chorale's next program, a performance of Handel's Messiah, will be presented on Saturday and Sunday, December 7-8, at Olmscheid Auditorium on the St. Helens High School campus. Advance tickets for those performances will be available at the Multimedia Sale.

Dukes elected vice-chair of state legislature's task force on stable school funding

State Senator Joan Dukes (D-Svensen) has been elected Vice-Chair of a new legislative task force on school funding at the group's first meeting in Salem.

Dukes will help lead the Joint Task Force on Revenue Options, School Funding and Accountability, which is charged

with reviewing as many options to the state's school funding problem as possible, including revenue, cost containment and accountability. It will make recommendations to the Legislature that provide a stable fiscal environment for Oregon schools for the next ten to twenty years.

"There may be no more important issue before the Legislature than finding a stable, sustainable funding source for our schools, so they don't have to go through deep cuts and

turmoil like they did this year," said Dukes.

"The quality of education in Oregon affects our economy, public safety and our communities. It's often our smaller communities that are the hardest hit when cuts are made," Dukes said.

To get a broad range of choices and to encourage Oregonians to participate, the task force will meet in every congressional district in the state. In compiling a list of options, it

will study policies of other states and methods used in Oregon in the past, according to Dukes.

Dukes was chosen for the leadership position of the task force in part because of her

many years of experience on revenue committees.

"I'm honored to be serving on this task force because we have to find a permanent solution for our schools and our children," said Dukes.

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