

# Maste Mise

Reduce · Reuse · Recycle

A public service of Tillamook County Solid Waste

**Winter 2011** 



A worker handles flammable liquids turned in during the recent hazardous waste collection event.

# Hazardous waste events successful

wo recent collection events sponsored by the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department have kept tons of hazardous household wastes and potentially harmful medical wastes out of the local environment.

Over a two-day period in mid-November, 57,380 pounds of household hazardous waste materials were collected at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds from private citizens and businesses.

County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell said 40 local businesses accounted for about 25 percent of the total volume collected on the first day of the event.

On the second day, residents in 375 vehicles turned out in a drenching rain to dispose of the remainder of the hazardous wastes, including 38,700 pounds of paint and paint-related materials. Other materials turned in included mercury lighting, batteries, used motor oil, antifreeze, gasoline, solvents, aerosols and pesticides.

It was the first household hazardous waste event held in the county since 2008, according to Purcell.

"We did not have a collection in 2009," she said, explaining that funds normally earmarked for such an event were instead set aside for the household hazardous waste fa-

See Page 2

### Composting good for garden & planet

helley Bowe was glad to see the fresh grass clippings. "Oh, good," she told 10 members of the Garden Club at Tillamook Junior High School, "one of the neighbors must have just mowed his lawn."

It was 8 a.m. on a recent Friday morning and time for the club's weekly 30-minute work period at the "hoop house," a greenhouse set up outside the school.

Bowe – a board member and program manager for Food Roots, an organization that promotes local food production and food security – and TJHS teacher Kevin Kasmersky teach the seventh- and eighth-graders about the benefits of food production and how to grow their own vegetables.

The compost pile adjacent to the greenhouse is a key element in their teaching scheme.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, composting results in a number of environmental benefits:

- It can help regenerate poor soils by producing beneficial micro-organisms (mainly bacteria and fungi) which break down organic matter to create humus, a rich material full of soil nutrients.
- It can help clean up soil that has been contaminated. The compost process degrades and, in some cases, completely eliminates wood preservatives, pesticides and both chlorinated and non-chlorinated hydrocarbons in contaminated soils.



Shelley Bowe, left, and teacher Kevin Kasmersky, third from left, join members of the Tillamook Junior High School Gardening Club at their compost pile on school grounds.

- Composting prevents organic materials from going into landfills where they produce methane. Compost can prevent pollutants in storm water runoff from reaching surface water resource. It can prevent erosion and silting on embankments along creeks, lakes and rivers; and prevents erosion and turf loss on roadsides, hillsides, playing fields and golf courses.
- Using compost can reduce the need

for water and costly fertilizers and pesticides.

"People don't have a clue about how much microbial activity there is in a compost pile," Bowe said.

"A handful of soil has about a million organisms in it," Kasmersky added,

The kids' task on this particular morning is to clean out dead plant material in

See Page 2

### Women's Center plans thrift store network

isit the Wild Flower Boutique on Main Avenue in Tillamook and your thoughts are likely to turn to the reason it was started: to help pay for efforts to end domestic violence in Tillamook County. And that's what its founding organization, the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, intended.

But Wild Flower serves other interests, as well. The thrift shop also helps the environment. It sells reconditioned and discarded items – everything from children's toys and books to articles of clothing and even household appliances –

keeping them out of the waste stream and preventing them from going into landfills.

In the past year, Wild Flower started its appliance reconditioning program, which takes donated items – such as stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers and dishwashers – and refurbishes them for resale.

Long range plans call for the new service to be part of a regional initiative among a number of nonprofits to find a more efficient way to work together recycling used items while also providing job training for people re-entering the workforce, according to Women's Resource Center Executive Director Kathleen Marvin.

"We're always looking to be creative about recycling," Marvin said. "We're always looking for good ideas."

Marvin explained that the Women's Resource Center receives funding from the Oregon Department of Human Resources to provide job training and work experience to individuals who want to enter or re-enter the workforce. These individuals are given work experience at the Wild Flower.

"This kind of regional effort means

See Page 2

### **Thrift stores**

From Page 1

that more people can receive job training in such things as marketing, appliance repair, recycling, truck driving and shipping and receiving," Marvin said. "These are all highly marketable skills. We operate as a business, so they receive real-world business experience."

To help with the effort, the thrift shop earlier this year hired ex-logger, construction worker and handyman Mike Haynes as its appliance repair technician. Since Haynes joined the organization, Wild Flower nearly always has refurbished appliances on the floor ready for sale.

"We're able to repair them and offer them to our customers at prices well below retail," Marvin said.

Donations have become so plentiful, Haynes said, that a lot of his time now is spent picking up items and transporting them.

Haynes said he is careful to make sure everything meets Department of Environmental Quality standards, especially appliances that involve compressors and Freon gas. Some of the appliances he takes in are only good for parts. The rest he turns over to a scrap dealer.

"I won't spend \$150 to fix something that I could only sell for that," he said.

Haynes said he is always looking for volunteers to train on appliances – "people who are mechanically inclined and not afraid of electricity." Volunteers who have vehicles that could transport appliances would also be a big help, he said.

Wild Flower Manager Melissa Finnell said the store also needs volunteers with other talents and abilities to help prepare other items it sells such as clothing and furniture.

"We need people who are handy at all sorts of things," she said.

For instance, seamstresses are needed to help repair used articles of clothing; people with woodworking skills can help with refurbishing furniture and artists and



Mike Haynes repairs a washing machine at The Wild Flower, operated by Tillamook County Women's Resource Center.

crafters can help with various other items that can be resold.

Marvin said the Women's Resource Center is collaborating with its counterparts in Clatsop and Columbia counties, hoping that a cooperative can be established for refurbished items. Each would focus on a particular type of product to refurbish – such as small appliances or furniture. Items that couldn't be repaired in one location could be shipped to another.

"There are three thrift stores like ours in the region that have huge garbage bills because we can't repair or repurpose everything we receive," explained Finnell. "This will reduce that problem and also make sure more things can be used. Plus, it will help provide job training."

The Tillamook County Women's Resource Center is further along with its plan than its counterparts in the other counties.

Pat Burness, executive director of the Women's Re-

### **Donate Your Unwanted Items**

To donate or buy used goods in Tillamook County, visit these thrift stores and reuse centers:

#### **North County**

CART'M – 34995 Necarney Road, Manzanita, (503) 368-7764

Hope Chest – 36345 Hwy. 101 N, Nehalem, (503) 368-4461

Hope Chest Too – 316 Hwy. 101 N, Rockaway Beach, (503) 355-3333

Habitat for Humanity ReStore - Hwy. 101, Bay City, (503) 842-7472

#### Tillamook

Kit & Caboodle – 1911 1st St, Tillamook, (503) 842-8875

Teen Challenge – 416 Main Ave, Tillamook, (503) 842-4856

Wild Flower – 114 Main Ave, Tillamook, (503) 842-2996

New 2 Used – 1925 Suppress Rd. (next to Tillamook RV on Hwy. 101), Tillamook, (503) 842-6555

#### South County

Thrift Shop Library – 6335 Ferry St, Pacific City, (503) 965-7013

source Center in Clatsop County, said her organization hasn't yet finished developing its business plan.

"But we all want to help reduce what's going into landfills," she said.

The Wild Flower is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations are accepted at any time during business hours. The Wild Flower is at 114 Main Ave. in Tillamook, phone (503) 842-2996.

### **Composting at home is a fun activity**

From Page 1

the greenhouse and put it on the compost pile outside.

Though the Garden Club and other groups have specific times when they work in and around the hoop house, the compost pile gets daily attention. One of Kasmersky's students has the job of visiting the school cafeteria every day and collecting a bucket full of leftover salad makings and fruit and placing it on the compost pile.

"Apples work particularly well," Kasmersky said. "So do oranges and lettuce"

Bowe was glad to see the fresh grass clippings on the pile because they and other yard wastes – such as leaves, weeds, thatch and remains of garden plants – work well for mulch and composting.

"Grass clippings break down really fast," she said. "It's silly to throw them away. But it's important to remember that you should compost with grass clippings that haven't been treated with any kind of herbicide. We're finding that layering the compost pile – green, brown, green and so on – gives us a much nicer product," she said.

Kasmersky said composting at home is a great family activity.

### **Things to Compost**

Following is a list of some things you can put into your compost pile:

- High-carbon ingredients (brown waste) include: dry leaves, twigs, sawdust, paper (including tissues, napkins, newspaper, coffee filters and tea bags), cardboard and straw or dry grass.
- √ High-nitrogen ingredients (green waste) include: vegetable scraps, fresh lawn clippings, manure from animals that don't eat meat, garden weeds and shrubbery clippings.
- √ Never add meat or dairy products, fats or oils.

"One of the best things about it," he said, "is that you can dispose of garbage and, if you do it right, it won't smell. And it saves money. A sack of compost from Canada can cost \$4 or \$5. It's the same for a cubic foot of potting soil."

His advice for people who want to start a compost pile at home: Pick an out-of-the-way spot in your yard. Take the bottom out of that old rusted out garbage can in the garage and bury it about 5 inches into the soil. That's your compost bin. Then start tossing ingredients in.

Composters are readily available at many local retailers and Tillamook County has Earth Machine composters available for sale at cost – \$45 each – at the County Public Works Dept. on Marolf Loop in Tillamook. The composters also will be available for sale at the Headlight-Herald Home & Garden Show, April 2-3, at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds.

Bowe suggested that it's sometimes a good idea to have two bins working, one for compost that's ready to use and another for compost that's still cooking.

For more information on composting at home and school, contact Bowe at (503) 842-3154 or Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell to obtain a copy of the booklet, "Home composting made easy." Other sources of information include the U.S. Department of Agriculture website at www.attra.org; the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality website at www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/compost/, or the Washington State Department of Ecology website at

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/kidspa ge/compost.html.

### **Hazardous waste**

From Page 1

cility planned for the Tillamook Transfer Station on Ekloff Road. However, permitting and other contracting and weather-related delays have kept that facility from opening as scheduled, she added.

"County staff in cooperation with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee agreed that hosting an event was in the best interest of the community," Purcell said.

The county typically spends \$80,000 for an event of this kind, she noted. Costs include a contractor who handles, transports and disposes of the material, along with staffing and related costs. Businesses pay for the cost of disposing of their wastes, Purcell added.

On Oct. 23, county solid waste officials and narcotics officers from the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office collected a total of 19 gallons of pharmaceutical waste from local residents for safe disposal.

Among the types of materials collected and incinerated were expired prescription drugs and vitamin pills along with various medical creams, liquids and gels. During the event, also held at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds, officials recycled as much of the packaging as possible, including plastic bottles and cardboard.

Pharmaceutical wastes are particularly harmful to aquatic life. According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, pharmaceutical wastes constitute a serious threat to human and animal health in the state.

How now, GREEN cow?
Students create
unique art project

hat do you get when you mix processed cow manure, Portland cement, rebar and wire mesh? If you're a science student at Tillamook High School or a member of an art class at any of the high schools in Tillamook County, the answer is: three "personality cows."

The cows occupy three highly visible locations around the county – in Hebo along U.S. Hwy. 101 at the entrance to the Cedar Creek Child Care Center; at Second and Laurel in Tillamook near the Transportation Center across from the County Courthouse and just off Hwy. 101 at the wayside in Rockaway Beach.

They are the result of a brainstorm by local members of the 2008 Ford Institute Leadership program class that included Clair Thomas, who coordinates the Natural Resources learning programs for Tillamook School District 9, and Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell. The Ford Family Foundation provided a \$5,000 matching grant to help fund the project.

The cows are also the end product of a two-year science and art project by students at Tillamook High School.

On the science side, Thomas said the students were looking for a lightweight substitute for hypertufa that would stand up to Tillamook County's freezing, thawing, wind and rain. Hypertufa is a manufactured substance composed of various aggregates bonded together with Portland cement. It is mainly used for making garden ornaments, growing pots and land forms. It was invented for use in cold cli-



mates. And, because they were going to create public art with the result, the students knew they needed a material that could withstand people climbing on it.

"The students designed the research project," Thomas said. They wanted to find a way to incorporate something symbolic of Tillamook County into the mix. They chose processed cow manure residue taken from the Hooley Digester at the Port of Tillamook Bay

"They tested 12 or 14 different recipes and came up with a couple that were equally strong," Thomas noted.

The result was a highly durable mixture that is 50 percent digested cow manure. Talk about solid waste recycling!

"The key is that there can't be any organisms living in it," Thomas said, "or it would decompose over time." The residue from the digesting process is sanitary.

Artists Christine Harrison of Tillamook and Heidi Clemens of Netarts were commissioned by the Ford Institute Leadership group and they worked with Tillamook High School Ag Science teacher Max Sherman and some of his students to build the art. The students welded rebar and provided wire mesh for the artists to use in shaping the three cows. The digester residue mixture was spread over the mesh and a white coating was applied on top of it, making the cows ready to paint.

Thomas said the cow that sits in Tillamook outside the Transportation Center and serves as a bench for waiting bus passengers is the heaviest of the three, weighing in at about 6,000 pounds. The

Rockaway Beach cow is just under 2,000 pounds and Hebo's cow tipped the scales at just over 4,000 pounds.

Tillamook High School art teacher Jenny Wyss and her students created the scenes that were painted on the Tillamook cow. They include depictions of the Tillamook Air Museum hangar and the famed Pig 'N' Ford races.

Students in Steve Albrechtsen's art classes at Neah-Kah-Nie High School in Rockaway Beach and Mark Cavatorta's art students at Nestucca High School in Cloverdale developed the artistic designs and painted the cows in their respective

Everybody involved in the project helped raise money to match the Ford grant. The City of Tillamook donated transient room tax funds and a grant came from US Bank. Providing materials and other support for the project were the Port of Tillamook Bay, Rosenberg Builders Supply, Nehalem Bay Ready Mix, Coastwide Ready Mix, the Bay City Arts Center and others, according to Purcell.

## New Oregon law sets up paint collection system

If you have left-over paint you want to dispose of, a new Oregon law that went into effect this summer has now provided several drop-off locations on or near the Oregon coast where you can drop it off at no cost.

The new Paint Product Stewardship Law is the first of its kind in the country for managing leftover oil-based and latex interior and exterior paints sold in containers of five gallons or less. It requires makers of paint sold in the state to set up, run and pay for a more convenient statewide system for collecting leftover paint and recycling it or delivering it for energy recovery or safe disposal.

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, more than 750 million gallons of latex and oil-based paints are sold every year in the United States. An estimated 10 percent of it goes unused and is the largest part of household hazardous waste collected.

Oregon's new law is expected to result in the reuse, recycling, energy recovery or

safe disposal of about 800,000 gallons of paint annually.

The new law establishes a pilot program for handling leftover paint. It requires manufacturers to:

- Pay a "paint stewardship assessment" for every container of paint they sell in the state to cover, but not exceed, the cost of running the program;
- Contract for collection, transportation, recycling, energy recovery or sound disposal of leftover paint;
- Develop strategies that will reduce the amount of leftover paint;
- Promote the reuse of leftover paint, and
- Inform customers about where to bring their leftover paint.

DEQ officials said customers will continue to buy paint as before, but they must be given information about how to purchase the right amount of paint and reduce the amount of waste. They also must be told how and where to dispose of leftover paint at no charge.

Ordinary house paint is considered to

be hazardous waste, which is only collected at certain permitted facilities on certain designated days.

Now collection sites have been set up at the following locations in the North Oregon Coast area:

- Sherwin Williams Gearhart, 3527 Hwy. 101 N. in Gearhart (Monday Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Phone: (503) 738-6751.
- Astoria Builder Supply, 1777 Marine Drive in Astoria (Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday – Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Phone: (503) 325-3611.
- Sherwin Williams Newport, 121 NE Harney St., D in Newport (Monday Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) Phone: (541) 574-0774.
- Vernonia Hardware and Supply, 1026
   Bridge St. in Vernonia (Monday –
   Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday noon

to 5 p.m.) Phone: (503) 429-5651. Call to confirm collection site details.

Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell said there are no collection sites currently operating in the Tillamook area. The local Household Hazardous Waste facility will be a collection site, but is not yet available.

On July 1, 2010, consumers purchasing paint at retail locations throughout the state began paying for the program. For instance, when purchasing a one-gallon can of paint, customers pay a \$.75 "recovery fee." Purcell added, "It is important that our residents are provided the service for which they are paying a fee."

PaintCare, the organization established to set up the statewide collection system, is actively seeking collection sites in Tillamook County.

For information on collection sites, covered products and fees, go to www.paintcare.org or call Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell at (503) 815-3975.



### Your Guide to Recycling in Tillamook County

### **FACTS**

### **HOW TO PREPARE** FOR RECYCLING

#### WHERE TO TAKE IT

### **ALUMINUM**



#### **STEEL CANS**



#### **PAPER**



- Americans use over 200 million aluminum beverage cans a day.
- Using recycled aluminum uses 95 percent less energy.
- Aluminum cans can be recycled into new cans and back on store shelves in 60 days.
- Rinse.
- No other preparation required.
- City Sanitary

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

"Redeemables" can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County and are accepted as donation at Habitat for Humanity, 2610 Third St., Tillamook

- Most metal food containers are made of steel.
- Ferrous metals containing iron are attracted to a magnet.
- √ Rinse.
- Remove labels.
- City Sanitary

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling), Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary)

Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts

- Paper is the No. 1 material that we throw away; it makes up 35 percent of our waste by weight.
- One ton of paper made from recycled fibers instead of virgin fibers saves 7,000 gallons of water, 17-31 trees, 4,000 kWh of electricity, and 60 pounds of
- Anything that comes in the newspaper can be recycled with the newspaper.
- Shredded paper can be recycled with mixed
- Cereal boxes, brown paper sacks, egg cartons, and other non-waxy cardboard packaging can be recycled with corrugated cardboard.
- Flatten boxes.

**Newsprint** is accepted at the following:

City Sanitary, Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling)

Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts; Kiwanis Recycling Trailer at Les Schwab, 1220 Main St., Tillamook

Magazines and catalogs are accepted at:

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling)

Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary)

Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

Recycling Depots: Kiwanis Recycling Trailer at Les Schwab, 1220 Main St., Tillamook

Mixed Paper is accepted at:

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

Corrugated cardboard is accepted at:

City Sanitary

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary)

Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)



- **ORGANICS**

### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

- Plastics are coded by material type, not recyclability or recycled
- By weight, plastics make up about 11 percent of America's municipal solid waste; 25 percent by volume.
- √ We recycle bottle-neck plastics #1-7; containers with a bottle-neck, regardless of plastic type.
- Remove lids.
- Rinse.
- City Sanitary

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary)

Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

"Redeemables" can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County; also accepted as donation by Habitat for Humanity, 2610 Third St., Tillamook, and other local non-profit organizations. Other plastics such as food containers, butter and yogurt tubs, and rigid plastics are not readily recyclable in Tillamook County. Contact your recycling center for more information about what is accepted.

- Glass containers are 100% recy-
- Recovered glass is the main ingredient in new glass containers.
- An estimated 80% of recovered glass containers are made into new glass bottles.
- Remove lids.
- Rinse.
- No need to remove labels.
- Sort glass by color clear, green, or brown.
- City Sanitary Service

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling)

Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary)

Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts

"Redeemables" can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County.

There is no food waste collection system available to the public. Backyard composting

Yard debris and food waste ("organics") make up approximately 1/4 of the average household's

Many products can hurt people,

fish and wildlife. Never dispose of

household toxics down the drain,

on the ground, is a storm drain or

garbage can.

is a great way to reduce your waste and produce a fertile soil amendment. Composters are available for sale at the Tillamook County Public Works office. Call 503-842-3419 for more information. Yard debris (excluding grass clippings) is accepted for recycling at:

Manzanita Transfer Station (CART'M Recycling)

Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)

Tillamook County has traditionally sponsored an annual collection event offered free to the public. A permanent household hazardous waste collection facility is expected to be operational this spring at the Tillamook Transfer Station. If you are unable to hold onto your household hazardous waste until collection is available in Tillamook County, the closest facility is the Metro Central Station, located at 6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/garbage for more information.

For additional information on recycling in Tillamook County, please visit our website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste.

### **City Sanitary**

(Operated by City Sanitary Service) 2303 11th Street, Tillamook (503) 842-6262 Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### **Manzanita Transfer Station**

(Operated by Cart'm Recycling) 34995 Necarney Rd., Manzanita (503) 368-7764 Thurs.-Sun, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### **Tillamook Transfer Station**

(Operated by Averill Recycling) 1315 Ekloff Rd., Tillamook (503) 842-2431 Open daily, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### **Pacific City Transfer Station**

(Operated by Nestucca Valley Sanitary) 38255 Brooten Rd., Pacific City (503) 965-6898 Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.