



Letters to the Editor

📅 As of Wednesday, February 7, 2018

BottleDrop easy way to help turf

The Dallas Booster Club is spearheading a campaign to raise \$800,000 to install artificial turf at Dallas High School. We have been collecting cans and bottles since last summer, and it has been a huge success.

BottleDrop is an opportunity for everyone in our community to contribute, and we greatly appreciate the support we have received.

Nov. 20 - Dec. 20 was a Holiday Matching period sponsored by BottleDrop.

We set a goal to raise \$5,000 during that period and we achieved it. As a result, BottleDrop credited our account an additional \$2,118. Not only did we reach our goal, we raised more money than any other BottleDrop featured fundraiser during this time.

We could not be successful without a small army of volunteers. Dave Voves, John Strader, Bill White, Mike Hiebert and Barb Chaney have spent countless hours collecting and transporting bags.

Kathy Voves is leading the expansion of the program into neighborhood pickups. And the Buchanan family has graciously offered a secure place to store bags prior to transport.

Les Schwab has been our partner every step of the way. Their support has been invaluable as we host collections there on the last Saturday of every month (10-2 p.m.). And now they will take your bags anytime in between.

Several athletes at the high school have volunteered their time to help with BottleDrop Saturdays. This past weekend we collected over \$1,100 in just four hours. This brings our grand total raised to over \$13,000.

I want to thank everyone who has donated their cans and bottles to this project. You are bringing us closer to our goal every day. With \$577,000 raised to date, we are on track to order materials in April. So keep saving your empties for us, and we'll see you at Les Schwab.

Stephanie Earhart

Dallas Booster Club President

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Oregon's BottleDrop program benefits us all

👤 Doug Knight and Rep. Brad Witt 📅 Monday, February 12, 2018

Improving access to redemption is just one of the ways that the bottle deposit program is helping St. Helens

As the store manager for the St. Helens Safeway, and the state representative for the district, we share a common desire to see our community prosper. That's why we're excited the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) has put a BottleDrop Express site at our store.

Oregon's bottle deposit and return program has worked well to keep our roadsides and rivers litter-free. Now the expansion of the program to include more recycling, and the addition of more BottleDrop locations like the one in St. Helens, will mean more economic opportunity in Columbia County.

The new solar-powered drop box at our Safeway makes returning your bottles and cans, and getting your deposit back, easier than ever. Instead of putting individual containers into machines, members of our community can now make use of BottleDrop's outstanding Green Bag account program.



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Signing up for an account is easy, and you can do it right in store and get your bags there, too. Then you fill the green bags at home with your containers and drop them off to be processed. Your bag will be picked up, sorted and counted, and the money will be put in your BottleDrop Account. You can either get cash from your account in store, or if you spend it on your groceries, you can get an extra 20 percent added to your balance by using the BottleDrop PLUS option. That's real savings for our community. There's even a BottleDrop Express location in Scappoose, too.

Improving access to redemption is just one of the ways that the bottle deposit program helping St. Helens. As a co-owner of ORPET, the plastic recycling facility here in town, OBRC is also providing more than 20 permanent full-time jobs. ORPET employees are responsible for processing 100% of all the plastic containers redeemed in the entire state of Oregon. In 2017 alone, this facility processed over 17 million pounds of plastic, generating high-quality recycled materials for manufacturers. As the bottle deposit program expands to include more plastic containers that means more jobs and more investment in St. Helens.

The bottle deposit system represents much of what makes Oregon an outstanding place to live: concern for the community, conservation of our natural landscape, and private sector leadership. We hope you enjoy using the BottleDrop Express site, shopping at our Safeway, and knowing that your plastic bottles

are getting recycled right here in town.

Rep. Brad Witt represents House District 31 in the Oregon legislature; Doug Knight works as store manager at Safeway.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The BottleDrop Express in Scappoose is located at the Fred Meyer grocery store, 51501 Columbia River Highway.

http://www.nrtoday.com/business/nonprofits/bottle-deposits-raise-funds-for-saving-grace/article_aa885a96-a10b-5c96-a431-af578c70721c.html

Bottle deposits raise funds for Saving Grace

EMILY HOARD The News-Review Feb 13, 2018



Scooter looks on as Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center volunteer Ken Fazio gathers recyclables during a fundraising event BottleDrop in Roseburg on Saturday.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN/The News-Review

Sebastian, a miniature pinscher, and other dogs waiting to be adopted from Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center greeted people at the Roseburg BottleDrop Center on Saturday.

Recyclers hauled bags full of bottles and cans to the facility at 740 NE Garden Valley Blvd., and many of them decided to donate their bottle deposits to Saving Grace.

“These funds go toward the care and feeding of the animals,” said Wendy Kang, executive director of animal shelter Saving Grace.

Kang said she was excited the Roseburg BottleDrop opened late last year to offer an easier way to recycle and donate to local causes. She set up a fundraiser account with the center so people will be able to donate to the shelter continuously, not just on the Saturday event.

People can still donate their deposits to Saving Grace by picking up a blue bag at the Package Depot, 1224 Walnut St., Roseburg, filling it with bottles and cans and dropping it off at the BottleDrop Center.

Kang said the fundraiser benefits both Saving Grace and BottleDrop.

“We thought this was a great way for both of us to get the word out and get people used to the idea of donating their bottles and cans for the shelter,” Kang said Saturday. “We’ve had a number of people drive up with the back of their pickup trucks full of bottles and cans.”

Timothy and Katarina Howe of Sutherlin came to drop off their bottles and cans at the center with their 2-year-old, Chloe, who enjoyed petting the dogs.

“I adopted one of my favorite dogs, Roscoe, from Saving Grace when he was a puppy,” Timothy Howe said. “They’ve always been great with dogs and they’re doing a great thing.”

Joe Jaukkuri of Roseburg donated deposits from a garbage bag full of bottles and cans to Saving Grace on Saturday out of his “general love for animals.”

“We’ve adopted a couple animals from them before and they found one of ours when we lost it,” Jaukkuri said of the nonprofit. “It’s a much-needed service for our community and it’s a pleasure to help out whenever we can.”

Cherilyn Bertges, the manager of the BottleDrop Give donation program, said the event was successful with a good turnout.

As of Monday, the donated deposits added up to about \$1,200, and BottleDrop matched the donations up to \$1,000.

Bertges said organizations have used bottle deposits as fundraisers on a smaller scale for a long time.

“But with BottleDrop, we can get more people involved and keep the state clean while helping nonprofits to be successful,” Bertges said.

Volunteers with Saving Grace were outside the deposit center Saturday with a list of photos and information about dogs, cats, rabbits and other animals available for adoption.

People can bring in or adopt stray animals at Saving Grace, which also receives the animals found by Douglas County Animal Control.

For more information, contact the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative at 503-222-2266 or Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center at 541-672-3907.

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