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Bring about anything, including kitchen sink

By Matthew Hill
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

The Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association wants to add one more reason to the "why people shouldn't litter" list by hosting its first-ever scrap metal and appliance collection.

Thursday through next Saturday, anyone with metal trash may bring refuse, free of charge, to Mullens Opportunity Center — the former Mullens Grade School at 300 Guyandotte Ave. The collection site will operate from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The state Department of Environmental Protection is donating a metal-crusher, which will be used to flatten everything, including the kitchen sink.

Reducing the amount of litter in the watershed is the main goal of UGWA, and watershed coordinator Kelly Jo Drey sees the collection as fully compatible with that objective.

"Our mission is improving water quality," Drey explained. "Some of this trash would otherwise end up illegally dumped in our rivers and streams.

"Vehicles can be brought, as long as the tires and gas tanks are removed.

"Refrigerators are welcome, as well as stoves, washing machines, dryers, lawn mowers, bicycles, air conditioners and water heaters. If you want to bring truckload after truckload, you can. Basically, if you have junk you want to get

rid of, we'll take it."

Prohibited items include ordinary trash, televisions, bed springs and rolled wire.

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Drey explained that, for each item brought to the center, the owner will receive one ticket to enter in a drawing for door prizes. So the more junk brought, the greater the chances of taking home something that is far from trashy.

"Some of the prizes are lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, a new washing machine, a \$100 savings bond, a Wal-Mart gift card, a watch, a Hatfield-McCoy Trail pass and a weekend for two at Twin Falls State Park, including lodging and golf," Drey said.

In addition, each participant will receive a \$1 gold coin, and \$5 in gold coins will be awarded for scrap vehicles.

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Drey wants people to know there is a group of citizens that cares about water quality in the area. For her, recycling falls right in line with preventing pollution. The way people dispose of trash, she said, has a big impact on the environment and lifestyle.

"We live in a beautiful place, and there's so much potential for recreation and for people to enjoy these places. It improves the quality of life for everyone to not have rivers full of trash."

For more information, contact Drey at 294-6188.

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