

Connect online to fresh Oregon-grown food

New web directory lists 11 operations in Eastern Oregon

The Observer

PORTLAND — Finding locally grown fresh food Oregon just became easier.

Oregon Taste, a public service project of nonprofit James Beard Public Market, announced the launch of OregonTaste.com, a searchable online directory of the state's locally grown fresh food.

The website allows area consumers to connect to Oregon's local fresh foods and food businesses, providing a reliable source for information on Oregon food, food products, food systems programs and food events.

The directory initially is focusing on Oregon's local producers that sell fresh foods directly to consumers. Listings include sellers of fresh, local and direct-to-consumer food,



Dick Mason/The Observer, File

Jan Marrs, co-owner of Almosta Farm at Cove, greets one of her Nigerian dwarf goats on June 30, 2020. Almosta Farm is in the new online directory at OregonTaste.com, which helps consumers connect to locally grown fresh food.

as well as information on farmers, fishers, ranchers, roadside stands, u-pick fields, farmers markets and orchards.

The directory so far lists 11 ag-related businesses in Eastern Oregon, including Evergreen Family Farm in La Grande, Almosta Farm in Cove and Mountain Beef in Enterprise.

Consumers can search the directory for fresh food producers across the state, find specific food products, link to a producer's website and learn how to connect with producers and their products. In collaboration with Oregon Farmers Markets Association, the website also provides consumers links to the websites of farmers markets across Oregon.

Lori Warner, development director for Oregon Taste, said in the press release the COVID-19 pandemic revealed how much local food systems matter.

"The idea for Oregon Taste was born out of this

increased need to connect Oregonians to more local farms and the foods they create," she stated.

Oregon Taste also soon plans to expand the directory to include links to food products manufactured or processed in Oregon; wine, beer, spirits and other beverages created in the state; and listings of local food events. Future plans include listings of the state's food-related nonprofits, agencies and food organizations.

As a public service project, the directory is free to consumers as well as local farmers and sellers who want to appear in the directory.

Organizations statewide are collaborating with James Beard Public Market to help connect consumers to Oregon-grown foods, including the Oregon Farmers Markets Association, Travel Oregon Food Trail Program and the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance.

Program will help landlords, business tenants

The Observer

SALEM — Local landlords with business tenants behind in rents can get some financial help from the state.

Business Oregon announced its Commercial Rent Relief Grant Program is accepting applications for grants to cover outstanding lease payments from small-business tenants that are behind on rent due to COVID-19. The grants provide up to \$100,000 per each business tenant lease, but not more than \$3 million for each landlord. And landlords must agree not to evict the tenant for six months, must waive any rights to collect outstanding penalties or interest, and cannot enforce eviction clauses related to the delinquent lease payments between March 1, 2020, and Feb. 28, 2021.

The Oregon Legislative Emergency Board allocated \$100 million to Business Oregon for the program to provide financial assistance to small businesses and commercial landlords undergoing hardships from the pandemic. Round 1 grant applications close on Monday, March 22, at 9 a.m.

"This new funding comes at a critical time to bring small businesses out of accumulated debt caused by the pandemic," said Business Oregon Interim Director Chris Cummings. "With improving COVID-19 numbers and us all doing our part to curb the spread, we can get businesses operating again. This program lets them get going with a little less weight on their shoulders."

Both the business tenant and property owner will need to participate in the application process and sign the grant agreement, but the landlord needs to complete the initial application.

The program has two rounds.

The state will allocate the first 50 in the application period that opened March 8. The remaining will be processed in an additional application period that will open in late April.

"Unsuccessful (but eligible) applicants from the first round will automatically be considered in the second round, as will any new round two applicants," according to Business Oregon.

This is the seventh COVID-specific program Business Oregon has implemented to help businesses navigate the impacts of the pandemic.

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the hormones, they calm down the nervous system, they release your body's own natural endorphins — it's kind of like taking a pain pill, only naturally — and it gets the body to establish a whole new stasis."

She said the tiny needles are smaller than a human hair and about 100 could be fit inside a standard hypodermic needle.

"You don't feel them when they go in — sometimes you can feel a tiny little bit of a pinch, but for the most part you don't feel anything," she said.

She studied for 10 years, primarily at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine in Portland, which she said emphasizes "a more



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Jamie Kimball, a practitioner of acupuncture and there non-traditional medical services, shows an acupuncture needle — which is smaller than a human hair — at her clinic, Eagle Cap Wellness, in Enterprise. The clinic moved to a new location in January 2021.

medical-based approach where we take what we do and can integrate it with other providers."

In Wallowa County, she said, she's developed a good working relationship with practitioners of

traditional medicine. She's also credentialed to practice at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, although she does not perform surgery, which is not considered a part of Oriental medicine.

"I work closely with a lot of providers in the community, so if we think surgery's necessary, I can refer (patients) to them," she said. "What I do is preimpose surgery support and help with surgery recovery."

She emphasized that her practice does not try to replace traditional medicine.

"Western medicine is still absolutely needed," she said. "There are things I can't do — I can't cure cancer. I can't fix a failed kidney. But can I help with cancer support? Yes. Can I help with nausea and other side effects from chemo-

therapy? I can certainly help with that."

Kimball said most insurance plans cover treatment at her clinic, including Medicaid. However, there's still work to be done to get Medicare to cover it.

Still, demand for the integrated health care she offers is growing.

"It's amazing the demand there is for a different form of health care, so I have grown exponentially in four years," Kimball said. "I have grown because people want something different than just a pill. They want something different than surgery. They want more wellness. They want more natural medicine. They want an alternative. I think that's why our business has grown as much as it has."

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Dynamic Service Fire and Security and sought class-action status for the suit, according to a complaint filed Dec. 6.

The state, per the settlement, agreed to use a different pot of money to pay grants to up to 1,252 non-Black applicants that sought funding through the program before Dec. 8, 2020.

An independent third party will determine how much money those newly eligible will receive.

According to the agreement, the applicants must meet the fund's race-neutral criteria and adequately demonstrate financial loss related to the coronavirus.

According to the settlement agreement, the independent party issuing the funds would apply the same criteria — except for racial self-identification — the Oregon Cares Fund had in awarding claims.

Not all claims will qualify for an award, according to the court document.

By agreeing to the settlement, the court document said, neither side is admitting guilt. The state is settling to avoid "complex, costly and time-consuming litigation and the likelihood of success on the action's merit."

Man pleads guilty in \$12M grass seed fraud

PORTLAND — A former manager of a Washington-based company that produced and sold grass seed and turfgrass to independent Oregon growers has admitted to mislabeling, pyramiding and real estate investment schemes that defrauded customers and netted him more than \$12 million.

Christopher Claypool, of Spokane, Washington, pleaded guilty Monday, March 15, to conspiring to commit wire fraud and money laundering during his first appearance in federal court in Portland, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Prosecutors will seek a four-year prison term for the 52-year-old if he follows the conditions of his pre-sentencing release, including paying \$8.3 million in restitution plus unpaid taxes.

Prosecutors said the various schemes ran from about 2015 through August 2019. Claypool had worked for Jacklin Seed Co. at its headquarters in Liberty Lake, Washington.

Federal prosecutors said Claypool's schemes include packaging seed varieties with false and mis-

leading labels, embezzling more than \$12 million while posing as a foreign sales partner and conspiring with a travel agency in Spokane to inflate costs of his international travel.

Netflix tests password-sharing crackdown

NEW YORK — Netflix is testing a way to crack down on password sharing.

The popular streaming service has been using popups to ask some users to verify their account via email or text, or to "verify later."

"If you don't live with the owner of this account, you need your own account to keep watching," the screen reads, according to Streamable.com, which first reported the test.

The test comes as streaming services proliferate and more people share passwords and services. Netflix confirmed the test, but did not say how many people were part of the test or if it was only in the U.S. or elsewhere.

"This test is designed to help ensure that people using Netflix accounts are authorized to do so," the company said in a statement.

On the most basic plan, which costs \$9 monthly, users can only

stream on one screen at a time. The most popular plan, which is now \$14 monthly, allows two simultaneous streams; the \$18 premium plan allows 3.

But there has never been a limit on sharing an account when you aren't streaming at the same time.

Barbie's friend Ken celebrates 60th birthday

Ken is turning 60, two years after his best friend Barbie did.

Mattel launched a reproduction of the original Ken doll on Thursday, March 11, to commemorate his 1961 debut. That slender doll with blond felt hair wears a red bathing suit and comes with red sandals and a yellow towel. Over the years, Ken's body type, hair textures and fashion choices have become more diverse.

The company said it is working with several fashion designers to celebrate Ken's birthday and showcase him as an influencer. The designs will be viewable on Instagram with the handle @BarbieStyle.

The original, clean-cut '60s version of Ken became much groovier over that first decade.

— Associated Press

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