

Online Vehicle Registration Renewal in High Gear

SALEM, Ore. —Gov. Ted Kulongoski recently lauded the Department of Motor Vehicles' new online registration renewal service. The new service allows many Oregon drivers to renew tags for eligible vehicles through the Internet instead of by mail or in person at a Driver and Motor Vehicle Services field office.

"Our regulatory streamlining initiative is not simply about making it easier for businesses to grow and create jobs in Oregon," said Kulongoski. "Making government services more accessible and convenient for individuals, and more efficient for agencies, also contributes to Oregon's competitiveness and quality of life."

DMV has been testing the new service in Deschutes County since January. Many customers have sent positive messages about their experience.

"I was able to renew my vehicle and do a change of address in only a few minutes," wrote one customer. "I appreciate the time these online services save and the user-friendly format. Thank you very much."

"It was very nice and effective to be able to renew my tags via the Net," wrote another customer. "Thank you for saving me lots of time, and the time of the people at the local DMV office."

DMV offers two additional online services on its Web site. Customers can submit a change of address and they can notify DMV of the sale of a vehicle.

"Online registration renewal is among the first e-government services created under the 'DMV from Home' strategy, one of our many efforts at regulatory streamlining," said Bruce Warner, Oregon Department of Transportation director. "It also is part of our effort to maintain good customer service in an era of tighter budgets with a smaller workforce."

Customers will know whether their vehicles are eligible for online registration renewals when they receive their renewal reminder from DMV in the mail. For example, vehicles that are subject to Department of Environmental Quality testing are not eligible. Customers in DEQ testing areas should take their renewal reminder to the DEQ testing station; DEQ can renew tags after the vehicle passes the emissions test.

To use the secure Internet renewal system, customers will need to have their renewal reminder from DMV and a credit card handy when they go to www.OregonDMV.com.

Customers cannot use the service before they receive their renewal reminder.

Native Spiritual Run Coming to Several Cities in Oregon

Peace and Dignity Journeys is a spiritual run of indigenous people with runners in North and South America.

The South American runners started in April at Tierra del Fuego, the southern tip of the continent. The Northern group started May 1 in Chickaloon, Alaska. The run will end in October in the Kuna Nation in Panama, where the two groups will meet.

The spiritual runners will pass through Oregon from June 23-30. Portland, Marquam, Lebanon, Eugene, Reedsport, Coquille, and Gold Beach will serve as host communities this year.

Since no major funding sources exist, Peace and Dignity Journeys is dependent on host communities for food and lodging. Run organizers invite communities along the route to greet runners and are seeking help in providing food, lodging, and gasoline for support vehicles. Local runners are encouraged to join for a few miles, days, or even months.

The run was done in 1992, 1996, and 2000. The run brings sacred staffs to as many native communities as possible. Hosting the run gives communities a chance to participate in the run and the ceremonies that occur when it arrives in a community.

Peace and Dignity Journeys was inspired by an ancient prophecy of the eagle and the condor coming together. This joining represents the unification of indigenous people from the North and South after centuries of colonization.

Elders meeting in 1990 in Ecuador called for a spiritual run to realize the prophecy. They said, "We are like a body that was broken up into pieces and this body will come back together to be whole again."

Interested individuals should contact the Oregon Coordinating Committee at 541-345-3181, the national office in San Francisco at 415-377-2502, or www.PeaceandDignityJourneys.com.



Nominations Due for 2004 Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership

PORTLAND, Ore. — Ecotrust is accepting nominations for the 2004 Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership until Aug. 1, 2004.

The Buffett Award is a recognition program funded by the families of Peter and Howard Buffett to honor outstanding indigenous individuals in conservation and community development.

An individual whose activities demonstrate durable qualities of leadership to improve the social, economic, political, and environmental conditions in their homelands will receive a \$25,000 cash award. Four additional finalists will each receive a \$2,500 cash award.

Eligible individuals are: 1) Alaska Native village, First Nation or tribal members; 2) over 35 years of age; and 3) who have worked, or are working,

with an indigenous organization, tribal or First Nation government or community within the Pacific salmon territory of North America.

Guidelines and a nomination letter template for the Buffett Award are available at www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward/. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Woody at 503-467-0751, liz@ecotrust.org, or Ecotrust, 721 NW Ninth Ave., Suite 200, Portland, Oregon 97209.

The 2004 Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership will be presented Nov. 30, 2004, at Ecotrust's Natural Capital Center located in Portland. The ceremony will take place in the Billy Frank, Jr. Conference Center. The recipient's attendance is expected. Ecotrust will cover travel,

lodging, and related expenses for only the one awardee and four finalists.

The Buffett Award has had its support generously extended into the future by the Buffett family because of the program's success. It intends to provide resources for development and transfer of knowledge in indigenous communities. The recipient will use the cash award for professional development, program development, personal research, and traditional activities.

In 2003, Agnes Pilgrim was a finalist for the Buffett Award, as was David R. Hatch in 2001.

In addition to the Buffett Award, Ecotrust provides a variety of other programs and services to tribes, First Nations, and Alaska Natives through its Native Programs.

Ecotrust is writing and publishing, in collaboration with Klamath Tribes, *Klamath Heartlands: A Guide to the Klamath Reservation Forest Management Plan*. Other programs include development of native youth leadership opportunities through outdoor education, education and curriculum development, and developing markets for tribally caught wild salmon and tribally harvested sustainable forest products.

Founded in 1991 and based in Portland, Ecotrust is a non-profit organization working with individuals, organizations, businesses, agencies, and tribes along the Pacific Coast of North America to build Salmon Nation, a place where people and wild salmon thrive. For more information about Ecotrust and the Buffett Award finalist, visit www.ecotrust.org.