

## Oregon lures California's specialty food producers

The initial response to Oregon's efforts at recruiting California natural food companies may seem lukewarm at best to the average Oregonian, but state officials are encouraged enough to begin planning the next wave of recruitment.

That phase focuses on specialty food companies in general and will cast a wider net on prospective transplants.

"We have many high quality specialty food manufacturers in Oregon right now, but we think it is an area of fertile ground for us," said Jerry Gardner, business development manager with the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA). "We'll continue contacting out-of-state companies and make them aware of all that Oregon has to offer."

Funds provided by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Dept. (OECDD) will once again target Northern California companies through direct contact, advertising in trade publications, appearances at trade shows, and other marketing means.

At the heart of the pitch will be the fact that the Oregon mystique is a great fit for specialty foods.

"California seems to be the poster child for an unfriendly business climate right now, and we have a lot of things going for us here in Oregon," said Gardner. "We'll provide specific information to firms in California in hopes they'll consider Oregon."

In looking at specialty food companies, Oregon officials are seeking small- to medium-sized businesses that employ 100 workers or less. Products usually feature unique ingredients, innovative pack-

aging, premium pricing, and third party certification for organic or sustainability status. Products consist of meat, seafood, dairy, fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

Specialty food companies are growing at a pace that exceeds traditional food processing. Because Oregon has already successfully demonstrated that specialty food companies can do well within its borders, officials hope to expand the already-existing "cluster," which includes equipment and service providers for that industry sector.

Gardner said ODA and OECDD are mindful of what Oregon already has by way of an overall food processing industry.

"Our strategy includes retaining the businesses we already have and helping them expand, but we also want to recruit new companies," said Gardner.

The specialty food company recruitment will come on the heels of an earlier effort aimed at natural food companies. Gov. Kulongoski sent letters to some 250 California companies extolling the benefits of relocating north of the state line. Those benefits include comparatively low corporate tax rates, and savings on utilities and Workers Compensation rates.

"We had about a 7 percent response rate from companies asking for more information and expressing some interest," said Gardner. "We expected about a 2 percent response rate but got quite a few more hits than we might have anticipated."

Most respondents indicated a long-term interest and were in no position to immediately relocate. That's the kind of expectation Oregon officials have with the coming recruitment effort.

## Buttolph appointed long-term care ombudsman for Oregon

Lloyd Buttolph of Grants Pass has been appointed by Meredith Cote, the Long-Term Care ombudsman for Oregon, to the Recruiting and Screening Committee for District 82, Josephine County.

He will work with the Recruiting and Screening Committee to help recruit volunteers to improve the quality of life for residents of nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities and adult foster homes. Buttolph previously was employed as a production analyst with Texaco and also serves as a certified ombudsman.

The committee meets monthly to develop strategies for recruiting potential volunteers to serve as certified ombudsmen. They visit the residents of their assigned homes weekly and serve as their advocates, protecting their rights, safety and dignity, and ensuring they receive the best possible care.

The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman is a program of the state of Oregon. A training class for ombudsmen will begin on Jan. 7 in Medford.

For more information on the Ombudsman Program, call (800) 522-2602.



**SCOTTISH NEW YEAR - A Scottish New Year feast was held on Saturday, Jan. 3 at the RCC Belt Bldg. in Kerby. The event was sponsored by the Shire of Myrtleholts/Caversgate of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Participants were served traditional Celtic food. The evening also included entertainment, and some of those attending wore Renaissance attire.**

## Hazardous waste reporting launched online by DEQ

As a cost saving measure, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hazardous Waste Program has launched a new electronic reporting system for businesses that must report hazardous waste that they generate.

The Internet-based system, called Haz-Waste.net, allows businesses to submit their information to DEQ electronically, instead of dealing with paper forms.

Oregon has approximately 4,000 businesses that are registered hazardous waste generators. Each December, DEQ sends out hazardous waste reporting forms to businesses required to report their generated wastes. The forms are due the following March 1.

Each generator will receive a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to log into the system, and instructions on using the Internet to submit their annual report to DEQ. DEQ will also provide instructions for those unable to provide electronic reports to DEQ.

DEQ expects to save nearly \$100,000 annually by moving to the new system, said Sheila Monroe, manager of DEQ's Hazardous Waste Program. The electronic system will also help businesses track their waste generation

more efficiently, she added.

DEQ will offer training sessions to businesses throughout the state in January to help answer any questions they may have about using the new system.

The nearest session will begin at Medford City Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.

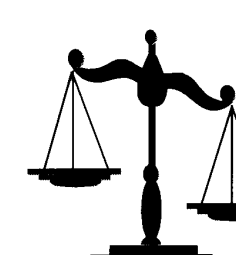
DEQ first implemented an electronic reporting system in 2000, but the new system has expanded capabilities and is much easier to use. DEQ contracted with Windsor Solutions, of Lake Oswego, to design the new system.

The new system is available to both large and small quantity generators of hazardous waste, as well as to conditionally exempt generators. Conditionally exempt generators are those who generate no more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste or no more than 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste in any single calendar month. DEQ will review how the new system is working and make adjustments is necessary.

DEQ's launch of this new system incorporates several recent changes made by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and ensures consistency with federal reporting requirements.



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## 'State of City' address set for Monday

A "State of the City Address" is on board at the next meeting of the Cave Junction City Council on Monday Jan. 12 at 7:30 in CJ City Hall.

Agenda topics also include a sheriff's report, public hearings about planned development, business licenses and utility service; and council updates.

**The longest journey is the journey inward.**  
- Dag Hammarskjold

**Courage mounteth with occasion.**  
- William Shakespeare, 'King John'

**The fruits of humility are love and peace.**  
- Hebrew proverb

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#### Board Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of month):

Workshop Meeting	County Building	7:00-9:00PM	1/8/04
Board Meeting	County Building	7:00-9:00PM	1/22/04

#### Committee Meetings (Held throughout the month, subject to change):

Quality of Life	Family Resource Center	5:30-6:30PM	Thur	Cancel
Bus. Dev./Tourism	IVCRT	6:00-7:00PM	Weds	1/14/04
Coordinating Council	JoCo Court House	6:00-7:30PM	Tues	1/20/04
Education	Family Resource Center	5:00-6:00PM	Mon	1/26/04
Executive Committee	IVCRT Office	5:30-6:30PM	Tues	1/27/04
Infrastructure	IVCRT Office	5:00-6:00PM	Wed	1/28/04

*The Illinois Valley Community Response Team (IVCRT) is a non-profit organization working to build community consensus around projects that aim to improve the quality of life and foster economic and community development in the Illinois Valley. Meetings are open to the public and Illinois Valley residents are encouraged to attend and participate.*

Office hours are 8:30AM-5:00PM, Monday -Friday  
Please call 592-4440 for more information! Fax: 592-4106 TDD: 1-800-735-00

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