



The Hair, Face & Nail Place in Cave Junction's Western Plaza was presented its membership plaque in Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, May 9. (From left) LaVina Fonseca, a

new chamber associate member joined Dulcie Moore, chamber secretary and office manager, and Don Moore, board president for the presentation to the crew. (Photo by Illinois Valley News)

## OSU offers bio-ag course

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service is offering an introductory class on biodynamic agriculture Saturday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the OSU Extension Auditorium, 215 Ringuette St. in Grants Pass.

There is a class fee, which includes lunch. Registration before June 25 is requested by phoning 476-6613.

The instructor is Don Tipping, co-owner and operator of Seven Seeds Farm, a certified biodynamic farm in Williams.

*Introduction to Biodynamic Agriculture* is one of the Small Farm program classes offered through OSU Extension Service.

Biodynamic agriculture, conceived of by philosopher Rudolph Steiner, is a method of agriculture that treats farms as unified and individual organisms, emphasizing the interrelationship of the soil, plants, and animals as a closed, self-nourishing system. It is considered to be one of the first modern ecological farming systems, and focuses on the use of prepared manures and composts.

There will be a field visit to Seven Seeds Farm. Information on this class and other Small Farm classes is available at [extension.oregonstate.edu/josephine/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/josephine/) under Small Farms.

## Fed funds to boost Oregon public health efforts

Public health officials in the Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) will use \$550,000 in federal public health emergency preparedness funds to bolster local efforts statewide.

The funds are from the state's cooperative agreement with the federal Centers for Disease Control and were not spent during the previous budget cycle. Under the agreement, the Public Health Division must use them this federal fiscal year, which ends this August.

"Our joint state and local leadership within public health agreed that helping communities meet local needs is the best use of this money," said Mike Harryman, public health preparedness manager in DHS.

"The plan we developed focuses on a variety of preparedness needs, and will help fill gaps at the county level," he said. Harryman outlined specifics of the comprehensive plan:

\*Iridium satellite phones will be provided to county health departments, hospitals and tribal preparedness programs this summer. The phones will be supported by DHS through 2010.

\*Amateur radio operations will be provided or enhanced county-by-county.

\*Incident Command System training, a nationally accepted method of managing emergencies, will be provided to local health departments, hospital personnel and emergency medical responders in locations around the state. An intensive three-day course on exercise design and compliance with new U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security requirements also will be offered.

\*Some 400 intermediate user licenses will be added to the Health Alert Network (HAN). HAN is a secure, Web-based multimedia alerting system and is the key communication component of the preparedness program.

\*Standardized signage will be provided to local health departments for use during activation of the Strategic National Stockpile. In the event of a major disease outbreak, medications would be obtained from the federal government and dispensed at 168 pre-identified locations. The signs would help people navigate the dispensing sites.

\*Personal protective equipment (PPE) and training will be provided to local

health department staff for use during a pandemic or other highly pathogenic disease outbreak.

Harryman noted that DHS also is using federal Hospital Preparedness Program funding in other ways to benefit communities. Some examples:

\*The Hospital Capacity (HOSCAP) Website on HAN is being enhanced to allow an increased ability to track and display emergency department status, supplies and regional events. Regional trainings for HAN and HOSCAP system administrators will begin later this summer.

\*Materials are being developed to inform health-care providers about the Oregon Health Care Volunteer Registry, which will go online this summer. Target audiences

include licensed physicians, nurses, pharmacists and emergency medical technicians who would be needed to help assist during a major public health emergency.

\*Statewide disaster burn training, which is part of the state emergency plan for burn injuries, is being conducted by the Oregon Burn Center.

\*Geographic Information System (GIS) software has been purchased to allow rapid identification of the locations of critical infrastructure facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and fire and police stations throughout the state. This cooperative project involves the Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services, Dept. of Human Services Public Health Division, Oregon Military Dept. and Metro Regional Government

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