

Governor Speaks On Urban Vs. Rural Split

Many of Oregon's agricultural organizations supported his opponent in the November election. But John Kitzhaber, Oregon's new governor, is convinced he will change a lot of minds within the industry before his four-year term is over.

"I think in four years you will find a significantly different attitude in the agricultural community about me and about my administration," says the Roseburg Democrat. "I am an environmentalist, but the fact of the matter is that I represented a rural constituency for 14 years, timber and agriculture. Actually, at one time I received the endorsement of the Douglas County Farm Bureau."

Kitzhaber strongly believes that a middle ground exists between protecting the environment and sustaining Oregon's multi-billion dollar agriculture industry.

"We have somehow painted this as a black or white issue," he says. "It is not. It's a debate over how you balance shared values. If it becomes a confrontational debate, the agricultural community will lose just on the basis of numbers and what is happening demographically in this state. We can't allow that to happen. We have

to come to the table and work these things out."

The new governor talks more like an architect than a politician when discussing the needs of the industry.

"One of the things the agricultural community needs to do is build bridges between themselves and urban constituencies," he says. "The fact of the matter is 50,000 people are coming into Oregon each year. Most of them are moving into urban settings. The agricultural community is becoming a shrinking constituency in a sea of people who don't necessarily understand its importance. The agricultural community cannot allow itself to become isolated. One of the things I can and will bring to that community is the ability to be an advocate for their interests to urbanites, letting them understand the importance of maintaining agriculture."

Kitzhaber agrees that agriculture needs to have its fair share of land and water resources in order to survive in Oregon. Ensuring access to those requirements is a challenge given the competing needs of an increasing population, demands for

wildlife protection and the desire for more recreational opportunities.

"We need to exercise and in some ways strengthen elements of our land-use planning program to make sure that we preserve the land base for agriculture," says Kitzhaber. "I supported Right-to-Farm legislation in the past but that is not enough. We basically have to use the land use planning tools that we have to make sure agriculture has its base."

The new governor uses the term "strategic thinking" when talking about ensuring access to land for agriculture. Kitzhaber argues that residents of the Portland metropolitan area need to be willing to support investments in rural infrastructure, telecommunications, surface transportation systems and airports so that some of the population growth and development moves out into appropriate rural settings. He says the secondary lands question needs to be addressed to make sure that growth occurs not on prime farmland as it is in the Rogue Valley of southern Oregon, but in locations where the land is of more marginal value.

The Year 1994: CSD Releases Trends On Adoptions

The Children's Services Division has just released the agency's adoption trends for the year 1994. CSD looks for adoptive homes for special needs children: those with physical or mental disabilities; some were born drug-affected; brothers and sisters who need to be placed together; minorities; children over eight years old.

"I am pleased to see that we found homes for 470 special needs children in 1994," said Jan Reed, CSD Interim Adoptions Manager. "At any given time about 200 kids are waiting for adoptive families and the majority of the children have been abused or neglected."

Key points in CSD adoptions in 1994:

Adoption placements totaled 470, down slightly from 481 in 1993. More younger children are being adoptively placed; 31% are children under three years old.

Foster parents became adoptive parents for 55% of children placed.

Nearly 95% of CSD adoption placements continued without disruptions compared to other states where disruption rates can be as high as 30%.

67% of the children placed are white.

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OSU Graduate Serves As Bureau Of Mines Chief

Rhea L. Graham, who will serve as the 19th director of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, is a 1977 graduate of Oregon State University.

Graham, recently sworn in by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, earned a master's degree in oceanography from OSU and is the first woman and first African American to serve as director of the 84-year-old agency, federal officials said.

She also is the first African American woman to earn a master's degree from OSU's College of Oceanography. While oceanography seems distant from mining, Graham said her work at OSU gives her solid footing at the Bureau of Mines.

"In OSU's ocean program, as in the ocean, everything is connected - there are no boundaries," Graham said. "In oceanography, you study the complete picture; the chemical, physical, geographical, biological and geological interactions."

Her former professors concur. "It's true that we offer a holistic view in oceanography," said Jack Dymond, an OSU professor of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sci-



Rhea Graham

ences who has taught at the university since 1969. "Rhea was prepared for a range of study and research. She is also very personable and I would imagine that she will do quite well in her new position."

A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Graham has two children.

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Family Care Takes Aim At Violence

Continued from Metro

The Family Care Team sees its effort an extension of the school program, reinforcing at home what their kids learn in school.

"We want to expand to become a focal point for the community," said Bridget Wright, a member of the team.

Kay Lowe, another team member, is proud of how those skills have already paid off.

She has seen her own children voluntarily start playing "conflict resolution" to divert fighting in the home. She said her son was cited by security police for being able to defuse a fight at Lloyd Center.

The team got its start just over a year ago when a small group of women, mostly African Americans, started meeting in the community center of the Iris Court apartments in inner-north Portland.

Initial support came from northeast Portland's Block Mom program.

The group agreed to commit to six months of training in conflict resolution and mediation and three months of passing on those skills to others.

Today, the Family Care Team meets one a week at Iris Court to enhance their mediation skills and explore new conflict resolution training opportunities.

"We're mediators," said Rene Watson, a Block Mom coordinator who is now working with Camp Fire.

For more information and join the effort you can contact Watson at Camp Fire at 224-7800.

Attention To:
 Black Dollar Days Task Force Members
 African-American Business Owners
 And The Community At Large
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 will be held
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