

Colorado Correctional Industries' Connections Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- New employee orientation has gone from 16 to 8 hours.



Juniper Valley Chardonnay Wins Silver Medal

The Juniper Valley Chardonnay scored a silver medal in this years 15th annual Grand Harvest Awards festival in Santa Rosa, CA. The competition included wines from all over North America and several regions across the world. Judging took place February 16-18, 2005. Wines are judged according to their viticultural area. The goal is to identify the finest wines from each region. There is a panel of 5 judges from different ranks of wine professionalism that usually includes a winemaker, wine marketer, wine writer, etc. Judges use a 100 point scale to judge the wines. All judges need to agree upon a score of 80% or higher for the wine to receive an

award. The Juniper Valley Vineyards planted the crop of grapes in 2001 that were used in the making of this wine. The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey just released the 2003 Chardonnay that won the medal. There are only 150 cases produced. For more information visit the Winery at Holy Cross Abbey's website at

www.abbeywinery.com or call them toll free at (877) 422-9463.

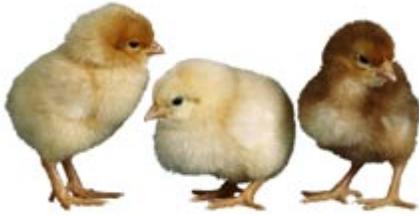


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Extra, Extra, Read All About It

Have an idea for a newsletter article? Please forward any ideas, pictures, website addresses, newspaper articles, etc. to Jennifer Zettersten. She can be reached by e-mail at Jennifer.zettersten@doc.state.co.us or by phone (719) 226-4200. You can also fax over any articles to (719) 226-4220.



Eggceptional Venture

Excerpts from the Pueblo Chieftain story by Tracy Harmon

Steve Smith recently launched a new Juniper Valley Product that has brought 8,000 cage-free chicks to the East Canon Prison Complex, where they are cared for by a staff of 4 inmates. Eventually another 10 inmates will be put to work on the labor-intensive task of collecting the large brown eggs by hand. The chickens and the feed are being supplied by Colorado Natural Eggs in Denver, so

start-up costs have been nominal. After expenses, Smith projects Correctional Industries will make a \$33,000 profit within the first 14 months of the operation. After being collected by inmates, the eggs will be refrigerated and shipped to Colorado Natural Eggs, where they will be sorted and candled. Colorado Natural Eggs will then sell the eggs under its Nest Fresh label in Ricky Mountain region stores like Albertsons, King Soopers, City Market and Wild Oats. "Cage-free eggs pack seven

times the amount of vitamin E and contain less cholesterol than regular eggs, Smith said. The chicks have been at the prison since they were 1 day old and almost tripled in size their first 10 days. "We were told to expect a 4 percent mortality rate in the first 6 days, but lost less than 1 percent, thanks to the hands-on approach," Smith said. Little goes to waste. The chicken manure will be put into a compost and mixed with other waste matter and soil for a better grade of compost.



CCi Welcomes New Employees

Joseph Carochi was hired to open Fiberglass Manufacturing shop at FCF.

Amy Cook (Wild Land Fire Program at RCC) promoted out of CCi.

Jody Evango moved into Furniture Facility from Transportation as CCi Supervisor I.

Greg Hawkins moved to Transportation Delivery, Custome

Service as CCi Supervisor I.

Alan Passarelli moved from H.E. to Canon Canteen as CSTS I.

Paul Smith moved from CCi to AutoCAD design center at Garfield.

George Vasquez came on board with the Transportation Unit.

David Wang will be working with Denver Canteen as a Material Handler II.

Jennifer Zettersten transferred from HQ Administration/Front Desk to CCi Administrative Assistant II positions to replace Patricia Hart as Sales' Marketing Assistant.

CSFS-CDOC develop fire partnership

Excerpts from the Colorado Forestry 2004 Annual Report by John Grieve & Jeff Burns

The Colorado State Forest Service Canon City District has a close working relationship with the CDOC, Correctional Industries fire crew program. Each spring CSFS foresters teach basic fire fighting and wildlife behavior courses to inmate

trainees. CSFS Foresters also accompany the crews on wild-fire assignments, acting as the "Crew Boss" and provide on-the-job training for DOC supervisors to become qualified Crew Bosses themselves. Once the supervisors become fully qualified as a Crew Boss, the crew can respond to wildfires independently. Since inception of

the program, SWIFT crews have responded to 38 Colorado fires and have logged 159 days on those assignments. The SWIFT program is financially self-supporting and it's estimated that the program has saved Colorado taxpayers \$500,000 so far by avoiding costs associated with inmate incarceration.

