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Business Leaders Get It.

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THE INSIDER

Breaking news, insights and developing stories from across the local business scene

Marple's newsletter sold to Oregon publisher

One of the region's most venerable business publications, Marple's Northwest Business Letter, will soon move its headquarters from Seattle to Eugene, Ore.

Michael Parks, who has owned the twice-monthly newsletter since 1980, has sold it for an undisclosed price to Eugene-based Random Lengths Publications Inc., a publisher of forest products trade data.

"I've done this for long enough," Parks said from his 600-square-foot office near the Space Needle. "I'm 65. Mrs. Parks and I have both worked all our lives."

The new editor, Eugene Register-Guard veteran Jim Murez, will be based in Eugene but with a five-member staff able to cover economic trends in the entire region, Parks said, adding that Seattle will not be neglected.

"Hasn't anybody ever heard of a telephone?" he joked.

The newsletter also will be available online.

Parks bought the publication from founder Elliot Marple, who died in 2001. The newsletter has 1,100 loyal subscribers, Parks said, but in recent years he has struggled to juggle editing duties with a side business as a public speaker. Parks will stay full-time with Marple's through the end of the year, and serve as editor emeritus at least through 2010.

—STEVEN GOLDSMITH

What's sauce for the entrepreneur

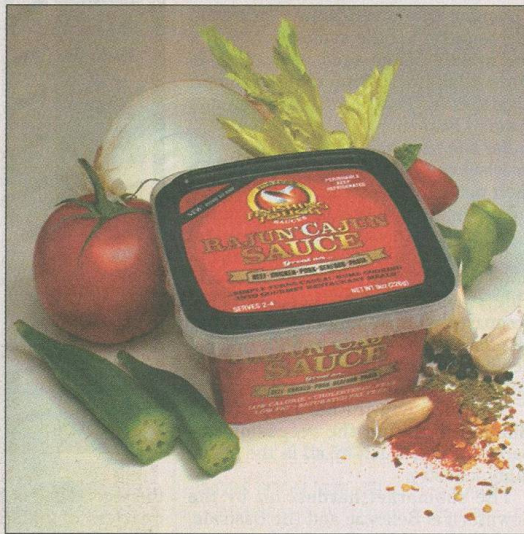
Kevin Fortun hopes to do for sauces what his previous company, Fortun Foods, did for soups.

Fortun, who sold Fortun Foods' Stockpot soup operation in Redmond to Campbell Soup Co. in 1998, is about to roll out a line of refrigerated sauces to dress up home-cooked meals. The dozen sauces, which range from Marsala & Mushroom to Mulligatawny, will be sold through grocery stores and to restaurants and food service companies under the Fortun's Finishing Touch Sauces label.

The manufacturing operation will be based in Southern California with an administrative office in Kirkland, where Fortun supervises all seven companies he's launched since selling Stockpot.

Fortun's other business ventures include Hundred Acre Winery in Napa, Calif., Desert Sage restaurant in La Quinta, Calif., the Copper Ridge residential development in Ketchum, Idaho, and KGF Equestrian Center in Kirkland.

—JEANNE LANG JONES



FORTUN FINISHING TOUCH SAUCES PHOTO

SPICING IT UP: Rajun' Cajun is one of a line of refrigerated sauces from the latest venture by Kevin Fortun.

SCOREBOARD

Updating our headlines from a year ago

By DEIRDRE GREGG

THEN

REBRANDING: Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center changed its name to Seattle Children's, in part to emphasize the fact that the hospital is located in Seattle.

NOW

A city hearing examiner in August recommended that the Seattle City Council reject Seattle Children's planned 1.5-million-square-foot expansion in the Laurelhurst neighborhood, calling it too big for the surrounding community. The hospital said that it may need to move outside Seattle if it can't expand in the city.

NEXT

The recommendation was appealed by Children's and other parties, and the Seattle City Council will take it up. But given the budget and other issues the council must address this fall, a decision may not be made before year end.



Seattle Children's
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