

Vernonia US Bank Has a New Manager

Matt Stone has done a lot in a short time during his career at US Bank. Now he is the new manager of the Vernonia branch.

Stone started working in Vernonia on November 16, 2012 as the new branch manager. Stone says he is happy to be working in Vernonia and wants to try to help the community professionally in whatever ways he can.

A California native from the Bay Area, Stone moved to Oregon with his wife Natalee in 2006 settling in Hillsboro. Matt and Natalee joined her parents and brother in Forest Grove a few years ago, where they built a home in a new development just five doors down the street from her brother and family. Natalee's parents also live close by.

Shortly after moving to Oregon, Stone began interviewing for positions in the banking industry. He took a job for a short time with Wells Fargo before being offered a position with US Bank. "It was a no brainer for me," says Stone. "US Bank was where I really wanted to be." Stone started at the Tanasbourne branch working as a teller.

Stone, who is enthusiastic, earnest and personable, quickly moved up through the ranks at US Bank. "A lot of times with US Bank, if you see someone new often it is because someone has received a promotion," explains Stone. "Often times they can't do that within the branch you are in because there isn't a position available."

Stone considers himself sort of a "poster boy" for moving around the US Bank system as he has worked himself up the company ladder. He started out as a part time teller and was promoted to the position of Universal Banker after



Matt Stone is the new Branch Manger at US Bank in Vernonia.

six months, which combines a Banker and Teller position. "That was my favorite position, just because I got to talk with more people and there is so much you can do," says Stone.

Stone then moved to the Cornelius office as a Universal Banker and Personal Banker where he worked for several years. Stone says he enjoyed the small town feel of working there where he knew most of the customers by name. Stone, who had taken some junior college courses in Fire Service before moving to Oregon, says he was motivated to join the Cornelius fire department

as a volunteer, after talking with local firefighters at his bank branch. "I was able to be a volunteer in the community I worked in, which was really great," he says.

Stone then moved to the Raleigh Hills Branch where he worked as a Personal Banker, which was a much busier with a different customer base. "I learned a lot about time management and about being efficient," says Stone. After a year, Stone was promoted to Customer Service Manager and moved to the Farmington office in Aloha where he learned about operations and working with staff. From there Stone went back to the Tanasbourne office where he had started and took a position as a Small Business Specialist. "That was a position I had applied for before but didn't get, but was something I really wanted to pursue," says Stone.

In that position Stone says he worked exclusively with small business clients, helping them with financing, commercial real estate, budget management, investments, and business banking. Stone says he sees that position as good preparation for the Bank Manager position he now holds because there are so many moving parts to small business management.

Stone became aware of the Manager position in Vernonia and took some time to explore the town, the branch and meet with the District Manager before applying for and accepting the job. "I put a lot of thought into this type of move," says Stone. "Since I didn't know

anything about the branch, the community and the management model here, I wanted to be sure that I was doing what was in the best interest for myself and for the branch. I didn't want to go somewhere that wasn't going to be a good fit."

Obviously, Stone decided to take the position here in Vernonia.

Stone and his wife Natalee have two boys, Dylan who just turned three and Luke who will be two in March. "My family is hugely important to me," says Stone. "Having my in-laws and brother-in-law close by is great." Stone says he likes sports and is a San Francisco Giants and 49ers fan. He says when he moved to Oregon he chose to be a Beavers fan, only because the team colors matched the Giants-if he had grown up in Oakland and been an A's fan, he would have picked the green and gold Ducks. He says he also enjoys working and relaxing in his yard and spending time gardening and also working in his garage on his truck and other household projects.

Stone says he actually enjoys the commute back and forth from Forest Grove to Vernonia. He has been getting to know his staff, the community, the people, and the local businesses. "I want to get to know as many people as possible," says Stone.

"Living in Forest Grove, I love the idea that I know my neighbors and talk with them and the sense of community we have. And I know that that is here in Vernonia," says Stone. "At the end of the day, I'm here to help people financially, that is my job. I just want to make a difference."

from the editor

ranks of the rodeo queen world, from Miss Rodeo Columbia County to Miss Rodeo Oregon and all the way to the top, as Miss Rodeo America.

I would also like to thank all our other special contributors who have provided feature articles throughout the year: to Karen Miller for her work on our *Senior Stars* stories which acknowledges and shares the stories those special folks in our community-our senior citizens; to Jill Hult who has stepped in on numerous occasions over the years to help us with reporting and feature stories, to Bill Langmaid who has shared his passion for our community on several different subjects; and to our two student interns during the past two

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school years- Nate Izzett and Savannah Brown, who shared their insight and perspective into the life of the youth in our community.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. The same could be said for publishing a community newspaper. It takes a lot of different perspectives, ideas, and points of view to make this a well-rounded publication. Thank you again to all of you who have shared your time and energy, your art, your photos, your stories, your thoughts and ideas and your voices. I couldn't do it without you.

Scott Laird
Editor and Publisher

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