



(Photo by Judy Hoyle, Illinois Valley News)

Cheryl Nelson points out the Middle Deer Creek area of focus for the “Stream Team.”

GMO ... Continued from A-1

Yet a report titled “Failure to Yield,” commissioned by the Union of Concerned Scientists, shows that, over time, GMO crops are no bargain, for either farmer or consumer. The results of this long-term study indicated that for the first two years GMO crops did produce higher yields, but as time passed, more and more pesticides were needed, the soil became depleted and early gains were lost as more

“super-weeds” took root. There’s 24 different species of super-weeds resistant to Round Up that result from GMO farming and heavy pesticide use. So far, more than 60 countries have restricted GMO farming, including Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, Hungary and Mexico. In Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, after the hurricane that devastated the nation, farmers

were given GMO seeds. But they burned the seeds and 10,000 farmers took to the streets to demand a GMO ban, to protect their agricultural heritage. GMO’s and their derivatives are said to be found in up to 85 percent of all conventionally processed food in the United States, according to Middleton.

Bank ... Continued from A-1

As the merger is facilitated banking officials say there will be no disruption of services. Following the merger, deposit accounts will continue with the same features as before, and there will be no changes to customers’ account numbers. If there are to be any modifications or changes to checking accounts, customers would be notified in writing. As people order new checks, the Umpqua logo will replace the Sterling logo, and within a few weeks customers will receive new Umpqua debit and/or ATM cards, though PIN numbers will remain the same.

Those seeking loans will find the same terms and conditions as before the merger. Additionally, those with current loans should continue making payments just as they do now, either through the mail or at any Umpqua outlet, whether the loan was previously through Sterling bank or not.

Umpqua Holdings Corporation, the parent company of Umpqua Bank, is an Oregon-based community bank (with headquarters in Portland) recognized for its entrepreneurial approach, innovative use of technology and distinctive banking solutions. Umpqua Holdings also owns a retail brokerage subsidiary, Umpqua Investments, Inc., which has locations in Umpqua Bank stores and in dedicated offices in Oregon. Umpqua Private Bank serves high net worth individuals and non-profits, providing trust and investment services.

Before the merger, Sterling Financial Corporation, based in Spokane, Washington, was the bank holding company for Sterling Savings Bank, a Washington state chartered and federally insured commercial bank, with 170 outlets in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Sterling has offered banking products and services, mortgage lending, and trust and investment products to individuals, small businesses, corporations and other commercial organizations.

The merger promises a sophisticated product mix: from home loans to international banking and debt capital markets to wealth management.

Anyone with questions can call the local bank at 541-592-3126 or the customer care center at 800-650-7141, or go online: customercare@bankwithsterling.com.

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