

U.S. Bank Again Leads State In Loans

For the third consecutive year, U.S. Bank of Oregon leads the state in granting new Small Business Administration loans, according to loan production numbers recently released by the Portland District SBA.

U.S. Bank approved the largest number of SBA loans during the year for a total of more than \$10 million. "Small business is definitely big business in Oregon," commented John Eskildsen, President and CEO of U.S. Bank of Oregon. "SBA loans have played an important role in the growth and success of Oregon small business. As the leading SBA lender in the state, U.S. Bank recognizes the importance of cooperative efforts to ensure small businesses have access to the critical funding needed to prosper."

In addition to continuing to be the top SBA lender in the state, U.S. Bank of Oregon also was designated an SBA "Preferred Lender" in 1994. Twenty-five percent of the bank's SBA loans are now through the Preferred Lender Program which allows the bank to streamline customers' loan review and approval process. One-third of the bank's SBA loans are through the SBA's Certified Lender Program which processes loan

applications in three days. Another third of the loans are through SBA's Low Doc Program which processes loans of \$100,000 or less to companies with sales of less than \$5 million and fewer than 100 employees.

SBA loans are available from U.S. Bank throughout the state to finance equipment, real property, acquisitions, leasehold improvements, machinery and other capital needs. The Bank's average SBA loan is \$125,000. "Our extensive experience in working with the SBA has given us great insight into the best way to package our client's needs and background information for evaluation by the SBA," said Pete Landis, U.S. Bancorp's Manager of Business Banking.

In addition to SBA products and services, U.S. Bank offers numerous other business loans and financial services to small and home-based businesses including VISA business cards, employee retirement plans, simplified business checking and savings accounts, and PC-based electronic banking, added Landis. As one of the nation's top fifteen agricultural lenders, U.S. Bank also offers Ag Advance, which streamlines the loan application and approval

process for Oregon's small family farmers and ranchers.

Small business owners who do not meet conventional underwriting standards may qualify for U.S. Bank's "Capital Access Program" CAP, an alternative source of funding offered in collaboration with the Oregon Economic Development Department. CAP is geared toward start-ups, agricultural producers with gross annual receipts over \$1 million, and retail and service firms with revenues of \$3.5 million or more.

U.S. Bank of Oregon has provided comprehensive financial products and services to Oregon consumers and businesses for more than 100 years. The state's largest commercial bank, U.S. Bank of Oregon has current assets of \$10.8 billion. It is a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp, the largest bank holding company headquartered in the Northwest and, with current assets of \$21.3 billion, one of the nation's 35 largest. U.S. Bancorp operates other U.S. Bank subsidiaries in Washington, Idaho, Nevada and Northern California, as well as financial businesses providing mortgage lending, merchant services, equipment leasing, and investment and trust services.

Albina Bank Attracts

State Farm Insurance Latest Investment

State Farm Insurance made a generous investment in the future of North and Northeast Portland with a \$100,000 deposit at Albina Community Bank.

ACB is a new community development bank dedicated to assisting low-to moderate-income residents take advantage of economic opportunities in the northern sections of the Rose City.

"We care about the areas in which we live and do business," said Gary Methner, State Farm Regional Vice President. "State Farm is proud to have a role in providing home ownership and business opportunities."

"State Farm's deposit has helped us open our doors, says Leon Smith, ACB's president and chief executive officer.

"Their money, as part of over \$3 million in deposits, has allowed us to start processing much needed loans for local families and entrepreneurs. We applaud State Farm's continuing commitment to the communities it serves."

Albina Bank is currently operating out of temporary facilities at 1130 NE Alberta St.

Smith says the bank will move to a permanent location, now under construction, at 2002 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. this summer.

Albina Bank's mission is to assist economic renewal in North and Northeast Portland.

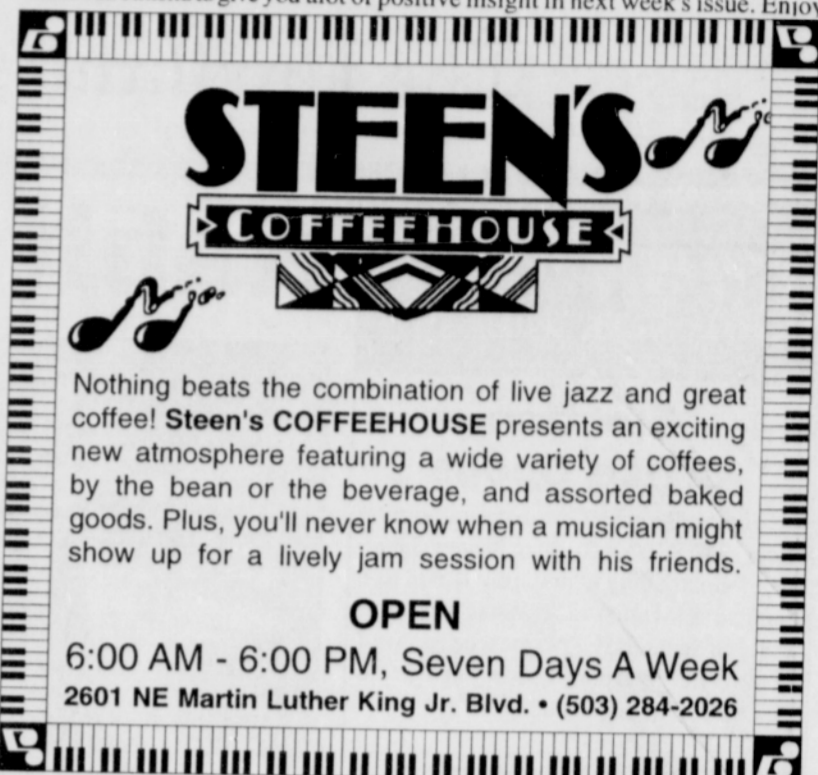
In addition to providing typical bank products such as checking and savings accounts, Albina Community Bank specializes in government-guaranteed mortgage and small business loan programs.

Jefferson High School Class Of 1956 is planning its 40 Year Reunion. If you are a class member or know of one's whereabouts, Please contact: Dale Hing, 644-7179 or Marlene (Goebel) Iverson, 690-2037.

Alert!!! New Restaurant Opens

By TONY WASHINGTON

The Portland Observer encourages you to take advantage of Free Admission to a new restaurant and lounge in Portland, Annie Pearl's, located at 315 S.E. Third. Buy \$15 worth of their delicious authentic soul food and receive a complimentary VIP pass at no charge. After sampling their menu I insist you check them out. I intend to give you alot of positive insight in next week's issue. Enjoy!

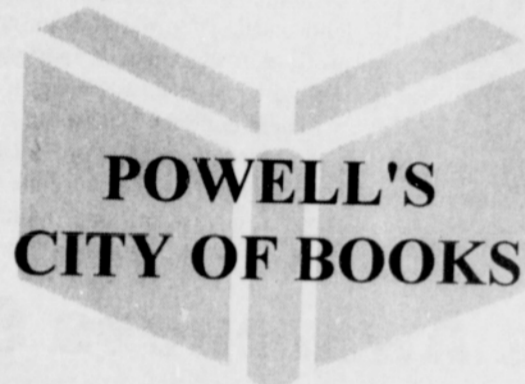


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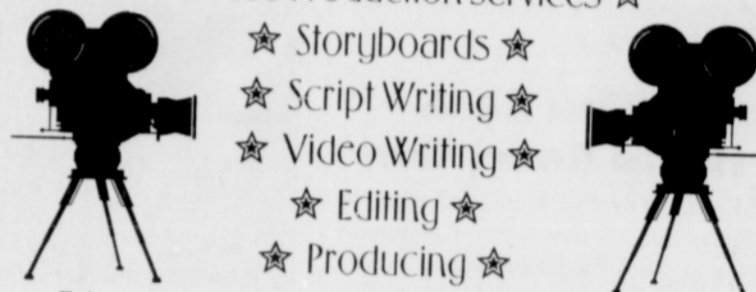
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Brandon Breaks Ground

Continued from front

land is proud you are willing to make this commitment."

Brandon, in his fifth season in the NBA, gave thanks to many folks who helped make his dream possible.

He said this was just a start of his contributions to the neighborhood in which he was raised.

"This is not a business venture as much as a commitment to help revitalization," Brandon said. "My basketball dream is becoming a reality, but this is something that will last a long longer than my basketball career."

Brandon, who bought 50 tickets for his family and friends to see his team go up against the Trail Blazers on Sunday, has the admiration of many people for his commitment to the Alberta district and his commitment to be the very best he can.

Many area residents are giving him credit with being socially responsible.

By investing right here in the northeast community, he is not only a winner on the court, but more importantly, a winner off the court.

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