



Postal employee delivers during her long tenure

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The one place nearly everyone in town visits? The post office.

Regular visitors have their favorite employees. Linda Hawkins is one of those.

"I've known Linda for a long, long, long time. She's a wonderful lady and I just love her," said Martha Salmi, a frequent postal patron. "She's always helping people and she has such a sweet spirit. She never gets ruffled. She just takes her time and stays patient. You just can only say nice things about Linda."

Hawkins, 64, retires Jan. 31 after more than 20 years with the U.S. Postal Service. While nearly all that time has been in Warrenton, she also has served as a temp in Garibaldi, Manzanita, Astoria, Seaside and Cannon Beach. She ran the Seaview, Wash., post office for 14 months.

Hawkins grew up in Warrenton and was first urged to apply at the post office by a friend who worked there. She applied and won a job as a route substitute, then took a test to become a desk clerk. As soon as a job opened, she moved in.

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Above: Linda Hawkins waits on customer Norma Keever at the Warrenton Post Office front counter.

Left: Hawkins uses a tiny desk squished between post office boxes and sorting bins. She'll retire at the end of the month.

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Wendy's set to begin hiring Fast-food chain isn't only project in the works

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The walls are up, trusses are on site and rough plumbing and electrical work starts soon at the Wendy's Restaurant in the Warrenton Highlands shopping center.

The 2,400-square-foot eatery at Ensign Lane and Highway 101 will include a drive-through window and indoor and outdoor eating areas. It's expected to open in March.

"We're excited to be there," said Jason Graber, construction manager. "It will be a great location for us. This is a brand new Wendy's style; there are only a few in the country."

It has a smaller footprint and a larger outdoor eating area.

"Instead of a traditional front counter, there will be ordering stations in the dining room and a small pick-up counter," he said. "There will be bar-style seating where the traditional front counter would be with a wide-open front where people can see their cheeseburger being made, watch lettuce being cut in the morning."

The chain expects to fill up to 170 transactions per hour. At least 40 employees will be hired. The hiring site went live this week at jobatwendys.com.

Despite winter weather causing development snags on the North Coast, there still is plenty of commercial development going on.

OTHER PROJECTS

Work continues on new headquarters projects for C&S Builders and Sand Ridge Construction, both on

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Local school candidates could benefit from state program

The Oregon School Boards Association has launched a campaign in hopes of getting more people interested in running for school board seats.

It could be helpful in the Warrenton-Hammond School District. Board members interviewed three candidates this week who applied for a board vacancy left by Stacey Brown, who resigned the Position 4 seat last year.

The board will have three additional seats expiring in June, which will be voted on in Clatsop County's special districts election on May 21.

They belong to board Chair Debbie Morrow, Position 1; Vice Chair Greg Morrill, Position 2; and board member Dalan Moss, Position 5.

The state's campaign is called "Get on Board."

Information about it is at getonboardoregon.org.

The website and campaign are designed to raise awareness about the volunteer work performed by education board members and to encourage individuals to run.

In Oregon, school board elections are in odd-numbered years; the filing

period for candidates opens Feb. 9.

The statewide association is holding two candidate webinars, on Jan. 24 and Feb. 19, designed for people considering running for school board, an education service district or community college board.

Informational goals include preparing candidates to understand how board actions affect student success, encouraging candidates of color to run, helping prospective candidates understand board responsibilities, and guiding participants in planning next steps.