

Business Notes

3 Blind Mice...



Having fun while making people laugh was the goal of the staff at Wauna Federal Credit Union's Vernonia branch on Halloween day. Fanciful decorations also converted teller's windows into a paradise for mice.

Demand for natural gas may lead to higher prices for consumers

Demand for natural gas is increasing in Oregon and around the country, which may lead to higher prices this winter. Parts of the country could also experience problems with supply, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Supply problems are not anticipated in the Pacific Northwest, but price increases are expected. Natural gas accounts for about 19 percent of the energy used in Oregon.

"Natural gas is used for home heating, generating electricity and keeping Oregon's industries running," says Michael Grainey, director of the Oregon Office of Energy. "Conserving all forms of energy can help protect Oregonians from price shocks. There are ways our office can help, from no-cost energy saving ideas to tax credits for investments in conservation."

Oregon has about 627,000 natural gas customers. It's estimated that about 38 percent of the natural gas delivered to Oregon produces electricity, 32 percent is industrial use, 13 percent is commercial use and 17 percent is residential use.

Oregon receives natural gas from Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, British Columbia and Alberta. The three natural gas

utilities in Oregon are Northwest Natural, Avista Corporation and Cascade Natural Gas.

"We can all play a role in reducing energy consumption," Grainey says. "Conservation will not only help ease the pressure on the natural gas supply, but will save consumers energy and money."

Some ideas for saving energy include replacing furnace filters, sealing leaking duct work, using a programmable thermostat, installing compact fluorescent lights and washing clothes in cold water. More information on conservation, renewable energy and tax credits can be found on the Oregon Office of Energy Web site at www.energy.state.or.us

Contact numbers for Lewis & Clark Bridge

- Toll Free Lewis & Clark Bridge Deck Replacement Project Hotline: 1-866-427-4630
- Project Web Page: (Follow the Project Update link to the monthly calendar) www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/lewisclarkbridge
- Lewis & Clark Bridge Deck Replacement Project E-mail: lewisclarkbridge@wsdot.wa.gov
- Highway Advisory Radios:
 - Kelso, WA AM 1580
 - Rainier, OR AM 530

Park Service seeks local contractors

The National Park Service is accepting proposals from qualified contractors for construction of the Netul Landing Shuttle Facilities at Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Astoria. The estimated range of construction is between \$750,000 and \$1,500,000. Contract completion will be June 1, 2004. The solicitation is a competitive negotiation contract, with contractor qualifications and price proposal equally considered for contract award purposes. This solicitation is a small business set-aside project targeting prospective contractors with average revenues the last three years of less than \$28.5 million.

The Netul Landing, a transportation stop connecting Lewis and Clark sites, will become the park entry point and visitor access shuttle stop to Fort Clatsop during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Netul Landing, located 1-mile south of the Fort Clatsop visitor center along Fort Clatsop Road and the Lewis and Clark River, is a former log sorting deck that will be

rehabilitated for visitor facilities. Facility construction will include 1,600 square foot shuttle shelter and concrete plaza, vault toilet, roadways and a 70-vehicle parking lots, power and telephone utilities and site improvements.

"This construction project is a key element of the Lewis and Clark Shuttle System and is a terrific example of how the Bicentennial Commemoration can provide a lasting legacy for the community," said Chip Jenkins, Superintendent of Fort Clatsop National Memorial. "We hope the contractors in the region will consider this opportunity to be part of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial."

The solicitation has been issued electronically on the Federal Business Opportunities website, [www://fedbizops.gov](http://www.fedbizops.gov) and Department of Interior's National Business Center, (NBC) web site, <http://ideas.ec.nbc.gov>. The solicitation number is N8000040909. All solicitation materials can be downloaded from these web

sites. No paper copies will be issued by the National Park Service. All responsible small businesses may submit an offer that will be considered. Solicitation proposals are due to the National Park Service Center office, located in Denver Colorado, on November 20, 2003.

Contractors Seeking Additional information, should call Nancy Gertler, Contract Specialist, 303-969-2229, or email: Nancy.Gertler@nps.gov

Update on Lewis & Clark Bridge project

The speed limit across the bridge has been reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph. This will be in effect until further notice.

Full Bridge Closures*:

- Thursday, Nov. 6, 9:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 7.
- Sunday, Nov. 9, 9:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 10.
- 9:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, to 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, to 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12.
- 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, to 5:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 13.
- 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, to 5:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

Don't Get Taken for a Ride

If your credit history is less than perfect or if you haven't established credit, don't fall prey to lenders promising auto loans to anyone—good credit or not. These lenders may give you a loan, but you'll pay a steep price. The finance rates they charge often are considerably higher than rates charged on a SHCFU loan*.



If you're not sure you can get an auto loan, don't assume these lenders are your only option. Check with us first. We might save you from getting taken for a ride. Call or visit us today.

*All credit subject to Approval



St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union

Three Locations to Serve You

1720 St Helens Street
St Helens, OR

52691 Columbia River Hwy
Scappoose, OR

118 East A Street
Rainier, OR

503-397-2376 -
For All Locations