

Business Notes

Contractor likes working close to home

Need something excavated? Want a new pond dug? How about getting a site for your new house ready? Robert J. Watts Construction, Inc. can help with these needs and many more.

A self-employed general contractor for the last six months, Watts has 19 years of experience in construction. He has worked on jobs adding turn lanes to highway 219 and 30, performed on subdivision site work, including work at two Street of Dreams sites.

Watts grew up in the Buxton/Vernonia area and still lives here with his wife, D'Lisa, who many know from her involvement with 4-H. Their two children, Kody (22) and Amanda (18), both graduated from Vernonia High School. The Watts still have quite a menagerie with rabbits, chickens, pygmy goats, dogs and cats, many of which came by way of Amanda's 4-H projects.

Specializing in excavating, trenching, grading, house dig-outs, septic, driveways,



Striking out on his own, Robert Watts is ready to serve the needs of area residents with excavating and other construction services.

ponds, and Indian wells, Watts can take care of many construction needs. He really enjoys building demolition, too. Having his own business allows Watts to stay closer to home and have more flexibility in his hours, plus it gives the

people here in the valley a chance to use his expertise.

To see if your needs and the expertise of Robert J. Watts Construction, Inc., are a match, call his office at 503-429-5504 for an appointment to review your project.

Meeting on sustainable forestry efforts

The Oregon Board of Forestry's ad hoc advisory committee on sustainable forest management indicators will meet Wednesday, April 12, in the Tillamook Conference Room at the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) headquarters, 2600 State St., in Salem. The advisory committee will be continuing work on an important step in implementing the Board of Forestry's strategic policy document, the Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO), adopted in 2003.

The meeting is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The agenda includes consideration of comments received from technical experts and invited reviewers on draft Oregon sustainable forest management indicators. Further changes to the set of indicators will be discussed prior to providing a recommendation to the Board of Forestry later this year. The committee will also receive a report from ODF staff on the Oregon Forest Assess-

ment Project, which is assembling data collection tools to assess the conditions and future trends for Oregon's forest resources. Linkages between the assessment work and sustainable forest management indicators will be discussed.

The charge given by the Board of Forestry to the committee is to:

1. Coordinate with technical experts to reach both policy and technical consensus on a set of recommended sustainable forest management indicators for use in measuring FPFO implementation performance.
2. Solicit and summarize stakeholder input on both the usefulness of the recommended indicators and potential desired future outcomes for these indicators.
3. Advise the Board of Forestry both on recommended indicators and desired future outcomes.
4. Advise the State Forester on future assessments of Ore-

gon public and private forest resources.

The overall project goal is to provide the Oregon Board of Forestry, its partners and cooperators, Oregon citizens, and potential purchasers of Oregon forest products with a comprehensive, manageable, set of outcome-based environmental, economic, and social indicators to assist in understanding Oregon's forest conditions and trends.

The 22-member advisory committee includes invited representatives from private forest land owners, federal land management agencies, state, local and tribal governments, environmental organizations, and sustainability organizations.

For more information, visit http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_PLANNING/Sustainable_Forest_Indicators_Project.shtml or contact David Morman, Forest Resources Planning Program Director, at 503-945-7413 or dmorman@odf.state.or.us.

County unemployment rate stays at low of 6.5 percent in February



Columbia County's unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 6.5 percent in February – the lowest February rate since 2000 and about three percentage points lower than one year ago. The rate was the same as the statewide unadjusted rate of 6.5 percent but higher than the national rate of 5.1 percent. Total em-

ployment in the county grew by 104 since January and the number of unemployed people increased by 80. Total employment was 21,712 in February and 1,509 people were unemployed.

The rate was 9.7 percent one year ago in February. Total employment for the month was 701 greater than one year before and 749 fewer people were unemployed.

Unemployment rates for other counties can be found at <http://www.qualityinfo.org/olmis/j/AllRates>.

Home Equity Loan

6.50% APR*

5 Year Fixed Rate

Borrow Long

Certificate Account


4.50% APY*

6 Month Special

Save Short

Offer ends on April 30, 2006!





Wauna Federal Credit Union

Your hometown financial solution

800-773-3236 www.waunafcu.org

Astoria Clatskanie St Helens Vernonia Warrenton

* Members of WFCU and qualified borrowers only. Exclusions and/or restrictions may apply. Our usual criteria apply. Rates above are Annual Percentage Rate, Annual Percentage Yield and may change at time. Home equity rate may vary based on credit factors and loan to value. Closing costs are determined by the type of loan, the amount of loan and by third party charges for various services and are paid by the borrower. Maximum loan amount is \$100,000 and max LTV is 80% of appraisal value. Certificate account yield applies to balances of \$500 or greater and is not renewable or available for IRA accounts. Penalties for early withdrawal. WFCU is federally insured by NCUA and is an equal housing lender.