

Business Notes

BPA weatherization funds for needs of low-income families

With temperatures falling in the coming months, many citizens in the Pacific Northwest are weatherizing their homes so they can stay warm. Low-income weatherization experts say that, for some people, it's hard enough to get food on the table, let alone invest in home upgrades to keep out the winter chill.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is working to help these low-income citizens through its Low Income Weatherization program, which is providing \$15 million to Pacific Northwest states and tribes over the rate period of FY 2007-2009, or \$5 million per year. On an average yearly basis, this is more than the federal power marketing agency has provided for low income weatherization in its 69-year history.

"There is a tremendous need in the Northwest for low-income weatherization assistance," Mike Weedall, vice president of Energy Efficiency at BPA, said. "We hope these increases in contributions from

BPA, along with other government and utility funds, can bring more help to the people who need it."

BPA distributes its weatherization funds through cooperative agreements with the four Northwest states — Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. The funds are to be used in conjunction with existing state-run low-income weatherization programs that follow U.S. Department of Energy Weather Assistance Program guidelines. Funds earmarked for low-income tribal weatherization programs are allocated similarly through direct contracts with Northwest tribes.

BPA coordinates with states and tribes through their programs because they have expertise and established strategies for effectively reaching their respective low-income residential sectors. BPA has implemented weatherization programs using the state agreement method since 1996 and has conducted direct contracting with tribes starting in the early 2000s.

"These BPA funds are crucial because existing state and federal weatherization funds are being stretched and the need continues to climb," said Dan Elliott, weatherization program coordinator for the state of Oregon's Housing & Com-

Property taxes may be paid at Wauna CU

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calling 1-877-246-3058. There is a 2.5 percent charge to use a credit card, or a \$3.00 flat fee for debit card use.

As in past years, arrangements have been made with local financial institutions to collect the 2006-2007 property taxes through November 15, at the following: Wauna Federal Credit Union in Clatskanie, St. Helens, and Vernonia; all St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union branches in Columbia County; Bank of the West in St. Helens.

State law allows property owners to appeal the value of their property. However, if the appeal results in a lower market value, there would be a reduction in the taxes due only if the market value falls below the assessed value. The deadline for filing an appeal is January 2, 2007. Appeal forms are available from the county clerk or county assessor's office.

Exercise includes free flu shots

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PODs will be open throughout the county for the general public. Vaccine is free but there is a limited amount available, so not everyone who reports to a POD will receive a shot. Again, teams of nurses and support staff will be deployed to administer the vaccine, which is the actual flu vaccine for the 2006-07 season. Free vaccine will be available on Thursday, November 2, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street.

Those wishing to receive a shot should have not experienced a fever recently and have no allergies to eggs or feathers.

Ederlinda Ortiz-Clawson is

Danielson named VP and CFO for Wauna FCU



Anya Danielson

Wauna Federal Credit Union welcomes Anya Danielson as

vice president and chief financial officer (CFO). Danielson was accounting manager at Oregon Community Credit Union in Eugene, where she managed a five person department and was responsible for the accuracy of financial records. She has been in the credit union field for the past eight years. Danielson has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Oregon with an emphasis in Finance and Accounting, and a post Baccalaureate Accounting Certificate from Linfield College.

"Hiring a new CFO is para-

mount to our future success. Wauna Federal Credit Union is delighted to bring on Anya Danielson, a bright individual with strong experience and work ethic," said Bruce Mallory, President and CEO.

Wauna Federal Credit Union is headquartered in Clatskanie, and has branches in Astoria, Clatskanie, St Helens, Vernonia and Warrenton. If you live, work, attend school or worship in Clatsop or Columbia counties you are eligible for membership. For more information, call your local branch or the toll free number 800-773-3236.

munity Services Division.

The low-income weatherization funds are allocated to each of the four states based on their relative numbers of low-income residents as counted by the 2000 census. A total of \$500,000 is set aside annually for tribal efforts, and the remaining \$4.5 million annual allocation is divided among the states as follows: Washington will receive \$2,305,000; Oregon will receive \$1,235,000; Idaho will receive \$518,000; and Montana will receive \$441,000.

During the most recent BPA rate period, from 2000 to 2006, BPA committed about \$3.7 million per year for low-income weatherization assistance in the four states.

coordinating the activity for the Columbia Health District. She said this exercise will test Public Health's ability to communicate clear messages quickly to emergency responders, will test the ability to deliver vaccine quickly to satellite sites and move people through the sites efficiently. "In addition," she said, "it will test everyone's ability to work together."

The Public Health clinic was closed to regular business on November 1 and will be closed on November 2 as all staff members will participate in the exercise. Questions can be directed to Ortiz-Clawson or to Pam Powell, Public Information Officer, 503-397-4651, ext. 211.

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