

Whitton now Operations Manager at Wauna FCU's Vernonia branch



Sue Whitton

Wauna Federal Credit Union (WFCU) recently announced

that Sue Whitton was promoted to Operations Manager for the Vernonia branch. Whitton has been with WFCU for over a year and brought restaurant industry management experience to her position. Her desire to put members' needs first has made her a quick favorite with the membership in Vernonia.

Wauna Federal Credit Union is headquartered in Clatskanie and has branches in Astoria, Clatskanie, St Helens, Vernonia and Warrenton. Everyone in Clatsop or Columbia counties is eligible for membership. For more information, call their toll free number, 1-800-773-3236.

Disaster loans for small business

Darryl Hairston, Acting Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), announced that the SBA is making low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small businesses economically impacted by severe winter storms in Oregon that occurred from December 14, 2008 through January 4, 2009.

The declaration covers the primary Oregon counties of Columbia, Hood River, Multnomah and Washington as well as the neighboring counties of Clackamas, Clatsop, Tillamook, Wasco and Yamhill in Oregon and Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Wahkiakum in Washington.

SBA's disaster declaration immediately makes these low-interest disaster loans available to help small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations meet financial needs caused by the disaster.

"The U.S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist Oregon's small businesses with federal disaster loans," said Acting Administrator Hairston. "Getting our businesses up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA," he continued.

Hairston's action responded to a February 6 request from Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski. Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West, said SBA acted under its own authority to

declare this disaster.

SBA is offering working capital loans of up to \$2 million at an interest rate of four percent with terms up to 30 years. "These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. These loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses affected by the severe winter storms to help overcome the temporary financial impacts they are experiencing," Judd said.

"Due to the economic loss the severe winter storms caused small businesses in Oregon, we want to provide every available service to help get them back on their feet," Judd continued. SBA is opening a Disaster Loan Outreach Center where customer service representatives will be available to meet individually with each business owner to explain how an SBA disaster loan can help finance their recovery. "We can answer your questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and accept your completed application," he said.

The SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center is located at the Gateway Children's Center Service Building, 10317 E. Burnside Street in Portland. It opened February 17, and will remain open Mondays through Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., from now through Wednesday, March 4.

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County taxation and assessment data is now online

Columbia County Assessment and Taxation Data is now available on-line. Go to www.co.columbia.or.us/assessor/ and click on A&TSearch!

The Simple Search Tool can be used to explore assessment information by Account Num-

FSA farm disaster aid is now available

The USDA/Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Oregon announced that the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) is available to assist nurseries and other farm operations that suffered damage during the December ice and snow storms.

The ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. It is administered by county FSA committees. Subject to availability of funds, locally-elected county committees are authorized to implement ECP for all disasters.

Nurseries and other farm operations with damage to hoop houses or other temporary structures from the storms should contact an FSA Office before March 9. Funds may be available to assist with removal of damaged structures. Damaged permanent irrigation systems may also be eligible. Permanent structures such as green houses and barns are not eligible, nor are portable irrigation systems.

Individual or cumulative requests for cost-sharing of \$50,000 or less per person, per disaster are approved at the county committee level; \$50,001 to \$100,000 at the state committee level. Over \$100,000 must be approved by the national office.

The FSA Office will compile notice of losses and make site visits to determine eligibility. ECP participants receive cost-share assistance up to 75 percent of the cost for approved emergency conservation practices, as determined by county FSA committees. Contact the FSA office for Washington and Columbia Counties as soon as possible by calling 503-648-3174, ext. 2. Other offices can be located online at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=or&agency=fsa>

ber, Property Address or Map/Tax lot. The assessment report for the selected account will show basic information about the property such as ownership, real market and assessed values, land size, description of building(s) and original tax amount for the current tax year. This data will also be periodically updated.

The Map Search Tool can be used to explore the county by clicking on the map to zoom into the selected area. It also includes the ability to search by Map Number or Account Number. The map will continue to be periodically updated by the County's GIS Section and will soon include an aerial map layer. This tool currently runs only with Microsoft Internet Explorer.

For questions or comments regarding these web programs, call the Columbia County Assessor's Office at 503-397-2240 or email sue.poling@co.columbia.or.us.

Hours changed in Land Development Services

The Columbia County Land Development Services Department will close during the lunch hour, Noon to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting Monday, February 23. The new office hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to Noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This change is in response to the effects of recent economic conditions, reduced development activity and staff levels.



Wauna Federal Credit Union's 42nd Annual Meeting

Where:

Westport Church at 49246 Hwy 30, Westport

When:

Saturday, March 7, 2009
Social 2pm, Meeting 3pm
no charge to attend the meeting

Meal Tickets:

Limited to 200 Adult Tickets - \$5 each
30 Children Tickets (10 and under) - \$1
Hurry - First Come, First Serve!
All tickets sold at the door will be \$10 each.

Join us for this celebration of great food, many prizes, a credit union update and elections for our Board of Directors!



Wauna Federal Credit Union

Own the Difference

1.800.773.3236 www.waunafcu.org

Call your Member Service Agent at:

Astoria	Clatskanie	St Helens	Vernonia	Warrenton
325.1044	728.4321	366.1334	429.8031	861.7526