

Wauna FCU has an eventful annual meeting Council okays playground equipment

CEO Robert Blumberg announced Wauna Federal Credit Union 2008 financials at the 42nd Annual Meeting, held on March 7, in Westport. He reported growth in Assets (\$117.1 million, up \$12.4 million in 2008), Deposits (\$105.5 million, up \$14.6 million in 2008), and Loans (\$99.8 million, up \$4.8 million in 2008). The income contribution to member equity was \$660,167, a \$275,153 increase from last year's income contribution. A combination of strong financial growth and sound lending standards allows Wauna Federal Credit Union to continue meeting members' borrowing needs. Member shares at the credit union are insured by the NCUA up to \$250,000 as part of the Economic Stabilization Statute. According to the NCUA website, not one penny of insured savings has been lost by a member of a federally insured credit union.

Blumberg reported changes to better serve the needs of members in 2008. Some of those changes are apparent to the members while others are not. The focus last year was to stabilize the employee base by reducing turnover and improving employee training. Some other changes made in 2008 included the introduction of a Member Service Department, mortgage program and Account Specialist positions to serve the needs of our members. Focus for the upcoming year will be on providing new and improved products and services to members.

WFCU also announced its 2009 Green Plan. Going Green is an incremental process with each year bringing a new commitment to our communities and environment. Wauna Federal Credit Union's Green Plan includes documenting and reducing usage of paper, electricity, water and waste.

On April 22, the credit union will celebrate Earth Day and its dedication to sustainability by giving each member who visits their local branch a reusable shopping bag made from recycled material, and featuring local artist Darren Orange. Each branch will have a unique and numbered bag design with two Darren Orange prints for collecting.

Wauna Federal Credit Union plans to open a new Scappoose Branch in 2009. This branch will be U.S. Green Building Council, Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Certified. It will also be the first LEED Certified building in Columbia County, using green construction and landscaping practices. O.H.M. Equity Partners, LLC, is responsible for attaining the LEED certification and the project developer for the new Scappoose branch.

Hawkins Park will get new playground equipment after the Vernonia City Council approved the use of up to \$15,000 for the purchase at their March 16 meeting. The funds will come from Parks SDC (System Development Charges). These funds, made up of fees charged for new construction projects, can be used only for capital improvements, not for maintenance, nor can they be used for projects or needs outside the fund they are in (such as Parks).

Council approved Resolution No. 4-09 setting new fees and rates, such as \$.10 per sq. ft. for hangar ground lease fees. The changes brought Vernonia Airport fees into line with other airports of similar size and usage.

Resolution No. 5-09, adopting financial management policies was approved unanimously. Interim City Administrator

Jim Johnson told council that, in addition to these policies being needed in general, some of the language was written specifically to meet the requirements for management of Drug-Free Coalition grant funds.

The first reading of an ordinance that will establish an Emergency Preparedness Committee was approved. This committee will be made up one council member, one member recommended by the Board of Directors of the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, the General Manager of West Oregon Electric Cooperative, and four members-at-large. Of the four at-large members, one can be from outside city limits, and two must be CERT members. The committee will make recommendations to the council on emergency preparedness matters.

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Community Calendar

VERNONIA			MIST-BIRKENFELD		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Monday	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street	M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue	M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin	M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church	M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	6:30 p.m., City Hall	M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018	M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081	Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.	T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-4250	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library			
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2		For Info Call 503-819-0143			
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall	BANKS		
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193	Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant	Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street	Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713	Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414	Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Vernonia Community PTA	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library	Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall	Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.	CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Learning Center	1st Wednesday	6:00 p.m., VLC	Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall	Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
Vernonia Pride	2nd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall	T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center			
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	6:00 p.m., Fire Station	COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office	Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center	Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS	Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station	County Fair Board	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station	County Parks Commission	3rd Tuesday	Times vary, 1054 Oregon St.
Upper Nehalem Watershed Council		For Info Call 503-429-0869	Mental Health Advisory Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC	Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30
			Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.