

# Land Development Services to be closed to the public on Fridays

Beginning Friday, July 9, 2010, the Columbia County Land Development Services office in St. Helens will be closed on Fridays. The Friday closures are necessary due to another

round of staff cuts in the Land Development Services Department.

"Planning and Building Program staff have been reduced to levels that are inadequate to

maintain the current public counter hours of Monday through Friday, and to complete necessary development review activity in a timely fashion. Staff cuts have resulted from continuing low levels of permit activity and related permit revenue, which is the primary source of funding for the Land Development Services Department", said Todd Dugdale, Land Development Services Director.

"Columbia County, like many other Oregon cities and counties, is having to cut both staff and service hours in response to the impact of the economic recession on development activity. However, we will continue to do our best to provide quality and responsive services to our customers within the limita-

tions imposed by budget and staff cuts," said Director Dugdale.

The Land Development Services office will continue to be open from 8:30 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday except Holidays, and the staff furlough days scheduled for Thursday, July 2, and Thursday, December 23.

The Friday closure will not affect building and on-site wastewater system inspections. County Building and On-Site Program inspectors will continue to perform inspections on Fridays, even though the main office is closed.

Building and on-site wastewater system inspections will also continue to be received on

the County inspection phone line Monday through Friday and every effort will be made to perform these inspections within 24 hours of any request on a Monday through Friday schedule.

Residents should note that Land Development Services will not be accepting planning building, and on-site wastewater applications on Fridays, nor will County planning, building, solid waste, and code enforcement staff be available in the office or by phone during the Friday office closures.

For any questions regarding the Friday closure, please contact Land Development Services Director Todd Dugdale at 503-397-7207.

## County announces furlough days

Due to the County's budget situation, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners has approved the implementation of four unpaid furlough days for County employees with two exceptions; employees in the Sheriff's Office and the Roads/Parks Department will not be included in the furlough plan approved at the Wednesday, June 23, 2010, Commission meeting.

This action, along with several other staff-related measures, will save approximately \$125,000 and is just one of the steps being taken by the Commissioners to balance the com-

ing year's County budget.

The designated furlough days that were approved by the Commission are:

Friday, July 2, 2010;

Friday, August 20, 2010;

Friday, November 12, 2010;

and Thursday, December 23, 2010.

Residents should note that they will not be able to conduct County business on the above specified furlough days, however, State Court Offices will remain open and operating on those days from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Extension Service seeking two to fill AmeriCorps positions in area

The OSU Extension Service in Washington and Columbia Counties will each be hosting an AmeriCorps member starting September 2010. AmeriCorps members will provide basic financial literacy education to adults and youth in partnership with local community-based organizations. The AmeriCorps members will recruit, train, and support volunteers to help build organizational and community capacity in the area of financial literacy education.

The Washington County position will be based out of the

Extension office in Beaverton. Responsibilities include teaching financial literacy to limited income adults and older youth. Bilingual, Spanish/English language skills preferred.

The Columbia County position will be based out of the Extension office in St. Helens. Responsibilities include teaching financial literacy to limited income youth and their parents.

Experience in education/teaching, or prior 4-H experience preferred.

Benefits for serving in AmeriCorps full-time are: \$5,350 education award upon completion of term of service for future tuition, or payment on qualified student loans (taxed), a living allowance of \$11,800 for 11 months (before taxes), loan forbearance on qualified federal student loans, basic healthcare coverage and childcare assistance (if household income

**Please see page 22**

### — CORRECTION —

The sentence in the July 17 Vernonia City Council story that read, "Later, Harrison said she objected...", and the county's handling of the matter." should have read, "and the handling of the matter." *The Independent* apologizes for this error.

## Avoid beach water until danger gone

From page 1

flows, failing septic systems and even animal waste from livestock, pets and wildlife.

Water samples indicate higher-than-normal levels of fecal bacteria, which can result in gastroenteritis, skin rashes, upper respiratory infections and other illnesses. Direct contact with the water should be avoided until the advisories are lifted, especially for children and the elderly, who may be more vulnerable to waterborne bacteria.

While these advisories are in effect at Hug Point State Park Beach, visitors should avoid wading in nearby creeks or in discolored water, and stay clear of water runoff flowing into the ocean. Even if there is no advisory in effect, officials recommend avoiding swimming in the ocean within 48 hours after a rainstorm.

State officials advise that the status of water contact advisories at beaches is subject to change. For the most recent information on advisories, please visit [www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/beaches/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/beaches/index.shtml) or call 877-290-6767.

Although state officials discourage water contact, they continue to encourage other recreational activities on these beaches because they pose no health risk even during an advisory. Neighboring beaches are not affected by this advisory.



*Count on WFCU to be there when your life changes.*

## HOME EQUITY

RATES AS LOW AS

# 3.90%

# APR\*

**FOR THE FIRST 6 MONTHS. THEN YOUR LOAN WILL RETURN TO THE RATE SIGNED AT CLOSING. NO PAYMENT FOR 60 DAYS OPTION!**



**Wauna Federal Credit Union**

*Own the Difference*

**800.773.3236**

**waunafcu.org**

Astoria Clatskanie St Helens Vernonia Warrenton  
East Astoria and Scappoose Branch Locations Coming Soon!

\* Members of WFCU and qualified borrowers only. Rates above are Annual Percentage Rate and may change at any time. Offer above is for HELOC, maximum LTV of 80% of appraisal value. Exclusions and/or restrictions may apply. Closing costs are determined by the type of loan, the amount of loan and by third party charges for various services and are added to the loan balance to be paid by the borrower, which may change the APR. Fees and other costs are added to the end of the loan and can incur finance charges. WFCU is federally insured by NCUA and is an equal housing lender.

