

## AT&T: Cell phone problems will be resolved ASAP

AT&T cell phone customers in Vernonia have been experiencing service problems for about four weeks, when attempting to make or receive calls, and with calls cutting in and out.

When first contacted, AT&T told *The Independent* that they had a degraded cell tower and were in the process of replac-

ing it. When problems continued after the new tower was in place, AT&T spokesperson Colleen Smith said, "We are aware that there is still an accessibility issue that is being investigated."

Smith responded, August 30, to a request for an update, saying, "We have repaired one of the antennas at the cell site.

Our testing concludes that it has improved service, but we are still seeing isolated incidents of accessibility problems." AT&T has a network engineer in the field to resolve these problems as soon as possible.

No further updates had been received as of press time.

## State and national employment stats show ups and downs

Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.6 percent in July, minimally changed from 10.5 percent in June. The rate has been between 10.5 and 10.7 percent for the most recent nine months. The state's unemployment rate was 11.4 percent in July 2009.

In July, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment dropped by 3,000, following a gain of 1,800 (as revised) in June.

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey Data)

In July, three of the major industries had large seasonally adjusted job declines: government (5,200 jobs), educational and health services (-2,600), and financial activities (-900). These losses were partially offset by notable gains in several industries: construction (+3,500 jobs), professional and business services (+700), and manufacturing (+500).

There was a substantial upward revision to the June payroll employment numbers. The originally reported seasonally adjusted totals showed a drop of 3,600 between May and June. Revised numbers show a gain of 1,800 jobs. The upward revisions were concentrated in government and professional and business services.

Government shed 32,900 jobs in July at a time of year when a loss of 27,700 is expected due to seasonality. The ending of work for 1,839 intermittent Census workers reduced both federal government and total government for July, subtracting from the 3,792 indi-

viduals who were working for the Census in June.

Local government dropped by 25,500 jobs in July as local schools employed fewer workers during summer school break. Local education employment was 83,000 in July, which was 4,100 below its year-ago level.

Educational and health services cut 5,200 jobs in July, when a loss of only 2,600 is the normal seasonal pattern. This sector has experienced an unusual period of job losses since the start of the year, compared with relatively steady growth over the prior 20 years. In the first seven months of the year, educational and health services has shed 3,500 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis.

In July, the component industry showing the biggest job loss for the month was social assistance, which plunged by 2,600 jobs to a total of 27,600. Much of the drop here was due to summer breaks in child day care services.

Financial activities was flat at a time of year when a gain of 900 jobs is expected due to seasonal factors. This major industry continues to gradually decline over the past 12 months, with all of its published components below their July 2009 levels.

Construction showed a strong gain in July, adding 5,200 jobs, when a gain of only 1,700 is the normal seasonal movement during this summer month. Gains were widespread with all published components adding jobs over the month.

Seasonally adjusted con-

struction employment, at 69,100 in July, is now well above its low point of 64,000 in February and has added jobs in each of the past five months. Despite the recent growth in construction activity, the industry is still below its year-ago figure of 73,400 jobs.

Professional and business services added 1,900 jobs, when a gain of 1,200 is the normal seasonal pattern. Services to buildings and dwellings added 500 over the month; it took a beating during the economic downturn, but seems to be clawing back with over-the-year job losses narrowing to 700 in July.

Employment services was revised sharply higher for its June reading. The latest estimates peg June jobs at 28,600 and July at 29,700, putting July 400 above the year-ago level. The recent, tentative rebound in employment services is watched closely as a leading indicator of future overall employment patterns.

Unemployment (Household Survey Data)

In July, Oregon's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained essentially unchanged at 10.6 percent compared with 10.5 percent in June.

Oregon's civilian labor force was close to 1,984,000 in both July 2009 and July 2010. During that 12-month period, the number of unemployed has dropped by 11,361, while the number of employed grew by 10,789, thus keeping the number of individuals in the labor force nearly unchanged.

## Tax-exempt organizations must file with IRS or lose the exemption

Tax-exempt organizations that do not satisfy annual filing requirements for three consecutive years automatically lose their tax-exempt status. The Internal Revenue Service is providing one-time relief for such organizations that have filing due dates on or after May 17 and before October 15.

The IRS list of non-profits at risk includes organizations for which the IRS does not have a record of a required annual filing for 2007 and 2008, and whose 2009 return, due on or after May 17 and before October 15, has not yet been received. The list may be incomplete, as certain organizations may be at risk of automatic rev-

ocation even if their names do not appear on these lists.

For more information, visit <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=225889,00.html>.

### County jobless rate

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.8 percent in July essentially the same as the previous month (11.6%) but lower than the year before (13.5%). Total employment rose by 86 to 21,586 but the number of unemployed people rose by 21 to 2,876. Total employment this July was 83 more than a year ago and 514 fewer people were unemployed.



*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.

