

**Class Project Becomes a Business: We3 Coffee & Deli Opens in Dufur, Oregon creating jobs and serving community appetites.**



Remodeling of Building

**Outline of Need:** As a college student, Jennifer Albrecht recognized a need for a family-friendly coffee and eating establishment in her hometown of Dufur, Oregon. She completed a business plan for one of her classes and developed the idea of WE3 Coffee & Deli. She envisioned a casual and friendly eatery where friends and family could go eat and hangout after a ball game at the high school across the street or during the annual Threshing Bee.



The Albrecht's and their partners

**How Rural Development Helped:** With college behind Jennifer and the support of her parents, Bill and Virginia; she met with Darrell Roberts of the Small Business Development Center at Columbia Gorge Community College (SBDC). Then Mike DeMott of Bank of the West in The Dalles and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) provided financing needed to remodel a building owned by her parents, Virginia and Bill. This financing was also used to purchase equipment and signage needed for the new restaurant, which made Jennifer's class assignment a reality. Funding from MCEDD utilized a revolving loan fund set up using a low interest loan from USDA Rural Development.



WE3 Coffee & Deli ready for orders

**The Results:** The community of Dufur now has WE3 Coffee & Deli, a convenient location for a drink and a meal while enjoying events and activities. Jennifer manages the day-to-day operation of WE3, which offers a great menu of Kobos coffee and espressos, Tillamook ice cream, made to order deli sandwiches and baked goods by Mo Olsen. This business has created 2 full time and 2 part time jobs. This project is a superb example of collaborative efforts of a small business owner; a commercial bank, an economic development agency; Small Business Development Center and USDA Rural Development to create a new business and help a Mid-Columbia area economy grow.