

When banks closed their branches in Union, Oregon, four years ago, residents had no local financial services provider. Old West Federal Credit Union came to the rescue, opening a branch in 2019.

Tucked near the western edge of the Willowa Mountains, Union, Oregon, is a vibrant agricultural community. It boasts one of the nation's most innovative goat dairy farms, an historic hotel that is more than 100 years old, and some of the best ice cream around at the Union Fountain. For a small town, it seems, they have everything.



One thing they didn't have for many years was access to local financial services. That's because banks closed shop there in 2016.

"When we lost the bank, we lost a lot of business, at the grocery store, and at several of the restaurants here in town," said Aaron Wise, who owns the Union Fountain.

Old West Federal Credit Union came to the rescue and opened a branch in 2019.

"Having Old West show up here was really a great thing for all of us," said Charlie Morden, owner of the historic Union Hotel. "It pretty much stopped the decline of small-town America."

Opening in Union was an easy decision for the credit union's leadership.

"The first time I came to Union, I just fell in love," said Ken Olson, President and CEO. "There is a good vibe here and we wanted to find a way to serve the folks."

Since Old West came to town, David Dodds financed a new roof for his auto body shop, and Stephanie Rovey expanded her goat dairy farm and is now a leading supplier of goat's milk to a major goat cheesemaker.

Old West, like a lot of credit unions, stepped up to serve rural Oregon. Across rural communities in Oregon, more than 100,000 consumers are benefitting from credit unions' presence.

Credit unions serve Main Street, wherever Main Street might be.

"It pretty much stopped the decline of small-town America."
- Charlie Morden, Owner, Union Hotel, on Old West moving into town