

WASHINGTON FEDERAL INC  
Form 425  
April 10, 2012

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K

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CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): April 4, 2012

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Washington Federal, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Washington (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	001-34654 (Commission File Number)	91-1661606 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
425 Pike Street, Seattle, Washington 98101 (Address of principal executive offices)(Zip Code)		
Registrant's telephone number, including area code (206) 624-7930		
Not Applicable		
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)		

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 8.01 Other Events

On April 4, 2012, Washington Federal, Inc. (the "Company") announced by press release the signing of a definitive merger agreement with South Valley Bancorp, Inc. ("South Valley") headquartered in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The merger agreement calls for the merger of South Valley with and into the Company, followed by the merger of South Valley's wholly owned subsidiary, South Valley Bank & Trust, into the Company's wholly owned subsidiary, Washington Federal. A copy of the Company's press release is attached to this filing as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) Exhibits:

99.1 Press release dated April 4, 2012.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: April 9, 2012

WASHINGTON FEDERAL, INC.

By: /s/ BRENT J. BEARDALL  
Brent J. Beardall  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer