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ORLANDO SENTINEL

Small Businesses

Progressions, etc.

Finance

Monica Pérez has joined Mercantile Capital Corp., Altamonte Springs, as a senior loan officer.

Lender's work picking up

A local small-business lender says anticipation about the stimulus plan and the lack of lenders in the market is boosting its business.

Mercantile Capital Corp., which specializes in U.S. Small Business Administration 504 loans, said it is seeing as many loan proposals now as it did during its peak in mid-2007.

The small-business community is "shaking off the doom-and-gloom attitude" and starting to take a practical approach to severely discounted commercial property in the marketplace, Mercantile Chief Executive Officer Christopher Hurn said in a written release.

The Altamonte Springs-based lender said it is also benefiting from the turmoil in the financial markets because deals that ordinarily would have gone to larger regional banks are now winding up with local lenders.