

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## Weston group receives 200K revitalization grant



Athena residents Dennis Papineau, left, and his son, Greg Papineau, enjoy a cup of coffee and breakfast on Nov. 1, 2022, at the newly renovated Long Branch Cafe & Saloon in Weston. The Weston Area Development Association announced May 30, 2023, that it received an Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant to continue rehabilitation projects at the Long Branch and the Old Post Office, both in downtown Weston. Yasser Marte/East Oregonian, File

WESTON — Rehabilitation projects in downtown Weston's Long Branch Cafe & Saloon and the Old Post Office recently received a big boost.

The Weston Area Development Association announced it received a \$200,000 Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant to support the projects. WADA was among 27 recipients from across the state to receive grant funding.

In a press release, WADA President Trish Neal said the Long Branch — originally constructed as a mercantile in 1874 — needed rehabilitation work prior to a September 2021 fire. While she said it reopened a year later, the structure still needs restoration work identified before the blaze.

Constructed about 1895, Neal said the historic Old Post Office requires extensive restoration work. She said the funding will allow the owners to begin that process in order to save the building.

“This grant is the start of historic preservation work to be conducted in Weston’s Historic Commercial Downtown District,” Neal said.

WADA was established as a nonprofit organization in March 2022 in an effort to preserve the town’s history. For more information, visit [www.westonoregon.com](http://www.westonoregon.com) or email Neal at [wada97886@gmail.com](mailto:wada97886@gmail.com).

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Tammy Malgesini has worked as a community reporter/columnist for EO Media Group since 2006. She earned a psychology/sociology degree from George Fox College. In her spare time, Tammy enjoys spending time with her husband and two German shepherds.