

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Trish Neal, President

WADA97886@gmail.com

541-204-0874

WADA Receives Wildhorse Foundation Grant

Weston, OR – The Weston Area Development Association (WADA) is pleased to announce the receipt of a generous grant of \$30,000 from the Wildhorse Foundation for the revitalization of two cherished historic buildings within the Weston Historic Commercial District. This grant has proven to be a pivotal milestone, enabling WADA to fulfill a crucial 30% match requirement for another grant dedicated to the same revitalization initiative.

Expected to begin in September, the project begins with restoration work on the Long Branch Café & Saloon building, a venerable cornerstone of Weston's history. Erected in 1874, this historic edifice had been undergoing restoration efforts until a fire damaged the structure two years ago. While the Long Branch Café & Saloon reopened its doors in 2022, substantial rehabilitation remains necessary to fully recapture the building's former grandeur.

The second part of the project is to revitalize the Old Post Office. It was constructed in 1885 and holds profound significance to the Historic District.

The majority of the restoration involves tuckpointing. Tuckpointing is the process of removing deteriorated mortar, filling joints with new mortar that matches the brick, then applying a thin line of putty in a contrasting color down the center of the joint. This recaptures the original look of the brickwork. It is a labor-intensive job and requires skill.

Supplementary tasks involve the replacement of compromised roofing sections and the abatement of hazardous materials, ensuring the structures' compliance with contemporary safety standards.

Upon completion, this revitalization will be a positive economic influence for the Weston community. With an estimated total project cost of approximately \$350,000, WADA is a mere \$4,000 short of securing the full funding needed to bring this ambitious restoration to fruition. The generous assistance of various grants and contributions has brought WADA remarkably close to attaining their fundraising goal.

WADA expresses profound gratitude to the Wildhorse Foundation for their contribution, acknowledging the pivotal role their support has played in rejuvenating the Weston Historic Commercial District. The community eagerly anticipates the transformation of these historic treasures, breathing new life into the heart of Weston.

About Weston Area Development Association (WADA)

The Weston Area Development Association is a dedicated nonprofit organization committed to preserving the rich history and fostering sustainable growth within the Weston community. Through collaborative efforts, WADA initiates and supports projects that enhance the appeal and vitality of Weston's historic landmarks, ensuring their legacy for generations to come.

About Wildhorse Foundation

The Wildhorse Foundation was established on January 1, 2001 for the purpose of formalizing charitable giving on behalf of the Wildhorse Resort & Casino and the Confederated Tribes of the

Umatilla Indian Reservation. Funds from the Wildhorse Foundation are used for education, public health, public safety, gambling addiction prevention, the arts, environmental protection, cultural activities, salmon restoration, and historic preservation. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis with deadlines on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. For more information, visit TheWildhorseFoundation.com.

About the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation comprises the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes, formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley. In 1949, the tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve, and enhance the reserved treaty rights guaranteed under federal law.