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Weston Area Development Association receives \$3K grant for exhibit

Annie Charnley Eveland Special to the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin
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The Long Branch Cafe & Saloon, Weston, OR.

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WESTON — The Oregon Heritage Commission awarded a \$3,000 Heritage Grant to Weston Area Development Association.

OHC reports the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant program will match \$3,000 of the expenses along with in-kind services and \$890 from local donors.

The monetary amount is to be used specifically for WADA's project to repurpose a photo exhibit that appeared at the Heritage Station in Pendleton during 2018.

OHC awarded Award amounts ranged from \$1,000-\$20,000 and totaled \$381,262 in grants to 33 organizations throughout the state. The grants help fund a variety of projects including collection preservation and access, research, oral history, exhibits and performance projects.

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WADA will repurpose the original exhibit sponsored by Heritage Station and researched and curated by museum volunteer Kathy Wilson.

At exhibit's end, the Weston History Exhibit was disassembled, scanned, cataloged, boxed up and placed in storage.

When the museum couldn't store the exhibit any longer, Wilson took it home, intending to install it somewhere in Weston once a building to house it could be found.

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With the recent renovation of the Long Branch Café, the restaurant was deemed the perfect location for the exhibit, said WADA President Trish Neal in a release. It is expected to be installed by March, indoors at the café along a brick wall on the west side of the building.

The exhibit includes photographs that will be mounted and several binders of research material Wilson gathered as she researched the exhibit for the museum.

Creative Signs, LLC, Pendleton, will mount the laminated photographs on foam core boards to create individual 4-foot by 6-foot panels for the exhibit. They will also install the exhibit at the restaurant.

Materials in the binders are in page protectors.

Forms will be available for those who wish to add to Weston's history and can be mailed to WADA.

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“This will be a perfect way to celebrate 150 years of the Saling and Reese building, which has housed the Long Branch Café and Saloon for over 33 years,” Neal said.

The OHC competitive grant program for qualifying organizations is offered once per biennium for projects that conserve, develop or interpret Oregon’s heritage.

For more details about the Oregon Heritage Grant or Oregon Heritage Commission, visit oregonheritage.org or contact Kuri Gill at Kuri.gill@opr.oregon.gov or 503-986-0685. Find Wada online at westonoregon.com.

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Retired editor/journalist Annie Charnley Eveland freelances the Etcetera column and stories for the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin. Send contact name, daytime phone number, news and clear sharply focused photos as .jpg attachments to acereporter1979@gmail.com or call 509-386-7369.

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