

PC council votes to support effort to preserve Bates School building

Local citizen hopes to halt district's plans to sell empty facility

Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — The Prairie City City Council voted at its Feb. 10 meeting to support a local citizen's campaign to prevent the Bates School building, located at Prairie City School, from being sold or demolished.

The campaign, headed up by Frances Preston of Prairie City, is striving to garner enough local support to preserve the building, which at one time served the school with art and music classes and a library, but is now empty and not in use.

In a 4-3 decision, the council voted to draw up a letter of support for Preston for her cause.

After the meeting, Preston said, she was "delighted with the outcome."

"It was so nice to see the council agree with what the citizens want," she said.

In her presentation to the council, Preston offered several suggestions for alternate uses of the school, including housing for exchange students and a community learning center. She said Prairie City has a potential for growth, which would result in growth at the school and the need for more space in the future.

Preston, who grew up in the nearby logging town of Bates and attended the school, stressed the building's historical quality and the emotional connection for many people in the commu-



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler

The Prairie City City Council voted at their Feb. 10 meeting to support a local effort to prevent Prairie City School from selling the empty and unused Bates School building, located at Prairie City School.

Bates School all-class reunion

A 1965 graduate of Bates School is planning an all-class reunion.

Frances (Raines) Preston, who lived in Bates from 1947 until her graduation, is seeking out other alumni. She is requesting feedback about possible dates and activities. She is also requesting memorabilia.

For more information, contact Preston, fmpreston1@gmail.com; P.O. Box 3, 121 S. Washington St., Prairie City, OR 97869; 541-820-4463.

nity who attended classes there.

Preston, who has been working on the cause since last summer, said she had received the support of 107 signatures from people in the community to save the building.

Prairie City School Superintendent/Principal Julie Gurczynski told the council that the school board has determined the building, which has been deserted and not maintained for the past 10 years, is "no longer suited to our needs."

Gurczynski said they have plenty of room for growth. As it is, six rooms are already

not in use at the school, which has been maintaining a steady enrollment of 145 students for the past decade.

"We can house what we have within our current building space," she said.

Gurczynski added the building has been "significantly changed" over time, with new windows, roofing and paint over the years decreasing its "historic" status.

The absence of the building would be an asset for the school, she said, providing easier access for students to and from the main school building and the new gym, and allowing space for an added grassy area for students.

She added the school board isn't interested in housing exchange students, nor costly and difficult maintenance on the building.

The board has directed her to proceed with the sale of the building, and if it doesn't sell, it will be destroyed, Gurczynski said.

With a pending letter of support in her corner, Preston plans to continue her quest by knocking on more doors in Prairie City.

"I'm hearing the people of Prairie City want to keep it, and keep it where it is," she said.

Preston has also appealed to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department about the possibility of re-locating the school to Bates State Park. According to an email provided by Preston from Eastern District Manager Jim Hutton, the department assessed the building's condition and considered its fit with the park but determined it had been altered too much to be worth the significant cost.

Deadline to file for county positions is March 8

Blue Mountain Eagle

Several Grant County positions are open for elections this year.

Positions up for election include assessor, commissioner No. 2, sheriff, surveyor, treasurer and Public Forest Commission Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7 and alternates Nos. 1 and 2.

Tonya Cates filed for assessor Dec. 16. Chris

Labhart filed for re-election as commissioner No. 2 Sept. 22, and Jim Hamsher filed for the same position Jan. 21. Glenn Palmer filed for re-election as sheriff Dec. 15, and Todd McKinley filed for the same position Jan. 25. Mike Springer filed for surveyor Dec. 11.

No one has filed for the other positions. The deadline to file is March 8.

Discovering scientific significance of JD Fossil Beds

Blue Mountain Eagle

OPB will premiere a new Oregon Experience documentary that explores the life and legacy of Thomas Condon.

Embracing both religion and science, Condon was the first to recognize the scientific significance of the John Day Fossil Beds, becoming a nationally-known scientist and educator. Condon would devote his life to teaching others about Oregon's ancient past.

The half-hour documentary "Thomas Condon: Of Faith and Fossils" airs at 9 p.m. Feb. 22 on OPB TV and online at watch.opb.org.

Born in Ireland in 1822, Thomas Condon immigrated with his family to New York. After graduating from a Congregationalist seminary in 1852, he and his wife, Cornelia Holt, traveled to Oregon and spent 10 years in the Willamette Valley on various missionary assignments.

In 1862, Condon was transferred to The Dalles, where he settled and found a small but eager congregation that grew and thrived. He also always loved geology. He subscribed to scientific journals and collected rocks and fossils wherever he lived. Townspeople, teamsters and soldiers stationed at Fort Dalles knew of his great knowledge of geology and began bringing him fossils to examine and identify.

By 1865, Condon was accompanying the soldiers on trips into Oregon's interior and was the first to identify the scientific significance of the area now known as the John Day

Fossil Beds — where nearly 50 million years of time are preserved. Condon's early correspondence with East Coast paleontologists helped ignite worldwide interest in the area.

New hunters education class starts Feb. 22

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — A new series of hunter education classes starts Monday, Feb. 22, at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School, and will continue on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays over a two-week period.

Classes will start at 6 p.m. and run for about 2 to 2-1/2 hours.

A field day live shoot will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 5, at the police range.

No one under age 18 may hunt wildlife — except on their own land — without successfully completing the course. All ages planning to hunt as nonresidents in other states may be required to have a hunter education card.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife sponsors the classes and has set a \$10 class fee per student, which may be waived in some circumstances.

Enroll at Nydam's Ace Hardware, John Day True Value Hardware, the local ODFW office or any other ODFW license sales outlets.

For more information, call Bryan Nelson at 541-575-1808 or ODFW at 541-575-1167.

Cowboy Chapel Hour
KJJDY
Sunday, 7 a.m.
"Jesus and John Wayne"

City of John Day City Manager – Job Announcement

The City of John Day seeks a city manager who is an established leader, understands all aspects of municipal government, and has an appreciation of the challenges facing small rural cities. The city manager supervises 18 employees and two contracted services. The city manager is the administrative head of the City and is responsible to the council.

The city manager will be paid an annual salary of \$53,000 - \$71,500 (DOQ&E), plus benefits. The ideal candidate will have leadership experience in public or municipal administration. Managerial experience is essential, preferably with a well-rounded background that includes a combination of public and private sector experience. The ideal candidate will have knowledge and significant experience in municipal operations, services, and finance, including, without limitation, budget development and implementation. Highly developed communication skills and experience working closely with elected officials is crucial, as is a background in facilitation and conflict management. An exceptional ability to collaborate and develop effective community partnerships is required. A bachelor's degree (e.g., in business administration, public administration, public policy, or related field) is preferred but not required. Master's degree or equivalent experience in public administration is also preferred but not required.

An essential function of the position requires access and use of certain confidential and sensitive financial information not customarily provided in a retail transaction (that is not a loan or extension of credit). In addition, the City may be required to obtain credit history information as a condition of bonding or insuring the city manager. The City's obtainment and review of an applicant's credit history, background, and/or criminal investigation reports is substantially job-related. Any offer of employment will be contingent on the applicant passing a credit history, background, and/or criminal history investigation. The investigation will be made subject to and in accordance with applicable law.

If you are interested in this position, please visit the City's website at www.cityofjohnday.com for the position profile, job description, and application. Applications may be emailed, mailed, or hand delivered to Mayor Ron Lundbom, John Day City Hall, 450 East Main Street, John Day, Oregon 97845 (jdmayor@grantcounty-or.gov). Applications must be received on or before **5:00 p.m. on March 15, 2016**.

If you have any questions concerning the position or application process, please contact Mayor Ron Lundbom via telephone at 541-620-0427 or email at jdmayor@grantcounty-or.gov.

The City of John Day is an equal opportunity employer.



The deadline for What's Happening items is 5 p.m. Friday. Call Cheryl at the Eagle, 541-575-0710.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17

Lenten lunch

• 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 139 S. Washington St., Canyon City

A soup meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., followed by a service until 12:45 p.m. All are welcome. Call 541-575-1326 or 541-575-0766.

Meeting for weather observers

• 4-5:30 p.m., Grant County Regional Airport, John Day

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer weather observer is encouraged to attend the public meeting of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. For more information, visit www.cocorahs.org.

THURSDAY, FEB. 18 Blue Mountains Forest Partners to meet

• 4-7 p.m., Grant County Regional Airport, John Day

The Blue Mountains Forest Partners will hold its monthly full group meeting. The public is invited to participate.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20 Spay-ghetti Dinner

• 4-7 p.m., Squeeze In restaurant, John Day

The all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner buffet is a fundraiser for New Hope for Eastern Oregon Animals, hosted by the group's Grant County committee. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverages. Other activities include door prizes, drawings and a silent auction. Suggested donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets for drawings and door prizes are available at the door. Beer and wine will be available for an added charge.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

Mad Hatters to meet

• 1 p.m., El Cocinero restaurant, Prairie City

The Grant County Mad Hatters will meet for lunch. Everyone is welcome.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

Lenten lunch

• 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First Christian Church, 311 N.E. Dayton St., John Day

A soup meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., followed by a service until 12:45 p.m. All are welcome. Call 541-575-1326 or 541-575-0766.

MAAG OF VALLAD
19th Annual Performance Sale

Thursday, March 17, 2016
Maag Angus Ranch Headquarters, Vale, Oregon

Cattle & Customers...Our Only Business

Selling 27 sons
• Complete Fertility Testing, including a Negative Trich Test and Tag.
• All Bulls Tested BVD PI Free.
• Free Feed for 1 month after the sale.
• Bulls Fed A High-Roughage Ration to Grow NOT Get Fat.
• Large Sire Groups with many Full and 3/4 Brothers.
• 1st Breeding Season Guarantee.
• Videos of all Bull Lots at DVAuction.com

Deer Valley All In

Selling 12 sons
• Sons of Consistency, Confidence, EP Complement, Kisslers Pointman, KCF Bennett Expert, SAV Final Answer, WK Bobcat and more!

KCF Bennett Absolute

Angus and Hereford Bulls Offering 200 Head
One of the West's Largest Selection of Two Year Old and Long Yearling Bulls

For More Information or a Catalog Contact Any One of Us
Bob & MaryAnn Maag (501) 473-2108 • Terry & Susan Off (501) 889-6801 • Jason & Deanne Vallad (501) 889-4564
Or Visit Us on the Worldwide Web at www.maangangus.com

BABY STEPS
Birth & Beyond

We believe having a baby means so much more than just labor and delivery. Prenatal classes help parents feel calm and confident with the birthing process, while reducing the duration of labor. Parents also gain a profound awareness of the importance of their role. The first 1,000 days of a child's life provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

This prenatal class will cover:

- Touring the family birthing unit
- Prenatal and postpartum nutrition
- Relief of common discomforts during pregnancy
- Creating a birth plan
- Stages of Labor
- Comfort Measures & relaxation tools during labor

Please call **FAMILIES FIRST** to register, 541-575-1006

For more information CALL 541-575-1006

Blue Mountain Hospital
www.bluemountainhospital.org

Families First
PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

Teresa Aasness ffedta@gmail.com or Katrina Randleas ffhvkat@gmail.com