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**MULE CREEK STATE PRISON AND PRESTON CASTLE FOUNDATION
PARTNER TO PRESERVE THE PRESTON CASTLE**

IONE, CA: Thanks to inmates of the Mule Creek State Prison, the Preston Castle, a national historic landmark, is closer to restoration. The Preston Castle Foundation and Mule Creek State Prison have teamed up through the Mule Creek State Prison Vocational Cabinetmaking Program. The program ensures the restoration of all of Preston Castle's windows and gives Mule Creek State Prison inmates the opportunity to learn valuable skills and give back to the community.

Each inmate participating in the Mule Creek State Prison Vocational Cabinetmaking Program works on some aspect of the window restoration project. The inmates disassemble and reverse engineer each Preston Castle window casement and sash, render a detailed design using Computer Aided Drafting and restore each window accordingly. Instructor Mike Doud supervises the inmates that participate in the five-year cabinetmaking program that is accredited by San Joaquin Delta College.

The restoration of the Preston Castle windows began in 2007 and will continue until all windows are completed. "We are very excited about this partnership with the Mule Creek State Prison," says Marie Nutting, president of Preston Castle Foundation. "It benefits the prison, the castle and the community."

Chris Weathersbee, public information officer for Mule Creek State Prison, is also enthused about the Preston Castle project. "This partnership benefits the inmates by providing a skill that will facilitate successful integration back into society," Weathersbee notes. "An inmate is much more likely to obtain employment with a contractor or cabinetmaking shop if he can reference specific skills that relate to either of these related trades."

"The Vocational Cabinetmaking Program provides a valuable skill, with hands on working environment," says MCSP Inmate Hill.

The Vocational Cabinetmaking Program began in 1987 and instructs inmates on all the traditional cabinet construction techniques. The 27 inmates who participate in the program learn every aspect of the cabinetmaking trades from types of cabinets, woods and materials used to how to build doors, drawers, shelves and countertops. They are also taught how to mass-produce cabinets and how to build and install custom cabinetry. Every student who graduates from the

Vocational Cabinetmaking Program is certified as an entry-level tradesman. Every graduating student has the ability and opportunity to achieve economic success.

About Preston Castle Foundation

The Preston Castle Foundation began work in 1997 to restore, preserve and provide utilization of this important California landmark. The Preston Castle Foundation was recently awarded a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Known today as the "Preston Castle," the Preston School of Industry opened in 1894. Vacant since 1960, the building now needs full restoration to become a self-sustaining community resource. Tours of the castle are available the first and third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., March through October. Help save the castle by visiting www.prestoncastle.com. All contributions are tax deductible.

About Mule Creek State Prison

Mule Creek State Prison, which opened in 1987, houses 3,800 minimum-, medium- and maximum-custody inmates. The Amador County prison provides academic classes, vocational instruction, work programs and other rehabilitative programs and employs more than 1,100 people.

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