

the **Goldfield**
Historical Society
Goldfield, Nevada



President, John Ekman
www.goldfieldhistoricalsociety.com

2nd Quarter 2018, Issue No. 24

We have good news to report on the next grant for the high school, work being done around town and new businesses are opening up. We're also up to 126 members, so far, for 2018. Always something going on.

The society met three times since the last newsletter. Typically meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. However, due to personnel schedules, that hasn't been the case lately. If you plan to attend, please check first. The next meeting is planned for July 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce/Historical Society Building. All members are welcome to attend.

High School Restoration – Our President, John Ekman, traveled to Carson City in April for the Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Grant Awards for FY17-18. \$1,000,000 was budgeted by the legislature and, with \$50,000 set aside for State Historic Preservation Office program management overhead, \$950,000 was available.

There were fifteen applicants (one withdrawal) from across the state requesting \$1,914,721 – a bit more than was available. However, the Society was awarded the largest percentage of our ask. We requested \$85,000 and were awarded \$80,000 for the High School front wall rebuild. It seems that our project ranks very high on the commissioners' list of those needing to be funded.

The state will sell the general obligation bonds in the fall and the funds will be available soon thereafter (most likely November), after which we'll have around a year and half to complete the work. Once done, the major stabilization/rebuild of the exterior walls of the High School will be complete...then on to the roof! This is very exciting.

The steel column for the west end of the south wall has been delivered. Unfortunately, it will need a little modification before installation.

The front stair ballusters that were ordered last year have been completed and are on their way. Apparently there was an issue in obtaining the correct wood to be used.

There are still more lintels at Millers Rest Stop that need to be moved.

We also received front page press in the May 17th issue of the Tonopah Times-Bonanza and Goldfield News. The article, "Revival effort takes shape in Goldfield" by Jeffrey Meehan has been copied and appears at the end of the newsletter.

Our President, John Ekman, will not approve of my writing this but I think that its time he deserves some recognition. John has been totally responsible for writing the grants for the high school, taking his time to go to Carson City at his own expense, and presenting our needs. I sincerely believe that the school would not be standing if it wasn't for him. He also does a zillion other things that don't get mentioned but are vital for the high school and other buildings around town. He's always willing to lend a hand regardless of whatever he is doing. I know we

all do what we can but the heavy lifting is done by John. Thank you Thank you Thank you John! We really do appreciate you and all that you've done to save the High School. We sincerely wish you a long life.

Goldfield Days – This year Goldfield days will be held on August 3, 4, 5. The Historical Society will have a booth at the event this year. This is Goldfield's BIG event of the year, so plan to attend. You'll have a good time.

Photo by Joan Sieber



Visitor Center— The visitor center had its grand opening on April 28. Thanks to our member, Jeri Foutz of Just Jeri Photography, it was a great success and the Center looks fabulous. The public restrooms, paved parking lot and dog relief area are already in use by travelers. The Visitor Center is located on Highway 95, west of Main Street. It is currently being staffed by volunteers, so it's not always open. But as you can see, the interior is gorgeous. There are still things that need to be done and it will just get better. Thanks Jeri.

Photo by Joan Sieber



New Director – At the May meeting, it was decided to add an additional Director. This was approved and Sydney Martinez was voted in as a new Director for our Historical Society. She seems to have a lot of energy and will be a plus for our organization. Welcome Sydney.

Fundraisers – Fundraisers were discussed at the monthly meeting. One suggestion was donating to a window campaign for the High School. We have window frames but need the glass to be replaced. This is vital to securing and protecting the building from the elements and it will greatly improve the appearance. So, look for more information about this on the website and in the newsletter, once we have all the details.

Historic Markers - We now have 82 markers placed around town.

Photo by John Ekman



Donations – Marion & Betty Harner have donated to the Goldfield Historical Society a caboose stove pictured on the right. It is currently residing in the High School. This will help us to interpret Goldfield's rich railroad history. These are not easy to come by and the donation is very much appreciated.

Passings – A long time member and supporter of the Goldfield Historical Society, Lina Sharp, passed away on May 18, 2018 at 98-1/2 years old. She was born in Los Angeles. When she was 11 her family moved to Las Vegas. Her first job after graduation from the University of Nevada, Reno was teaching in a one room school on the Blue

Eagle Ranch. A year later, she married the ranch owner and lived there for 78 years. She is survived by 5 daughters. She will definitely be missed.

The T&T Model Railroad - The Society is working diligently to maintain this extremely historic and educational display. Richard Dizmang & Dick Ruiz now have the model railroad up and running. It is definitely more interesting with an operating train. Thanks to you both. Donations are being made from visitors and it's hoped that that will be enough to pay the rent. Time will tell. KGFN which occupies the other end of the building had a cave in under the NE corner. They have had to replace the wall and shovel out the dirt from the cave in. They have taken care of it and hopefully there won't be any other surprises with the building.

More Restorations News – Work continues on some of the historic structures around town. The Beets Garage, owned by Bjorn Thomas Hoen, continues to improve. The Burner Resource Center (BRC) owners of the Elk's Building report major progress on their roofing project. Jon Aurich has made window repairs and grounds cleaning is progressing at the Lockhart House. The Lyric Theater (Terry Bergman) continues to improve. The masonry repair looks great and the reinforcement continues. The owners of the Stanton House (Bill & Sandy Beltz) have done wonders with stabilizing this house. The brothel (Richard & Edie Koepnick) is constantly being worked on and looks better on a daily basis. They hope to have it open for Goldfield Days. Our caboose (Jim Price & Joan Sieber) is getting some attention. The front and back doors have been rebuilt and expected to be hung soon. Under carriage supports are being added to keep it from sagging. Interior steps are being added so that one can get up to the cupola without a ladder – big improvement.

Unfortunately, the north side of the Parker/LaBarth house near the corner of Hwy 95 and Fifth Ave. has collapsed. Not sure if the owners are going to try to stabilize it but it would be a shame to lose this historic home.

Other News— Octopus Ink had their grand opening on May 26th. It's run by the Burner Resource Center and is located at 510 E. Crook Ave. They sell jewelry, rock specimens, clothes and expect to feature artwork and crafts by local artists. The **Goldfield Emporium** (formerly the Goldfield Gift Shop) owned by Bill & Sherry opened on June 1. They carry antiques, souvenirs, jewelry, crafts, and snacks. It looks great and also serves as the entrance to the **T&T Museum**. As reported in the last issue, **Wild Inspirations** is up and running. They feature unique handcrafted items created by the owner and her family and other local artists plus more. Mike and Sherri are the owners. They all seem to add more items on a weekly basis. The **Goldfield RV Park** has new owners, Scott & Dianna. They are located at 401 S. 4th St., behind the Post Office. They have put a lot of effort into improving the grounds and it looks good. Reservations can be made on line at www.goldfieldrv.com.

Please let me know if your e-mail or address changes, so that I can update the membership list and you'll continue to receive our newsletter. For those who continue to receive a printed newsletter, if you can provide an e-mail address we would appreciate it as it would save us money on postage to send you the newsletter by e-mail.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter, please send them to Joan Sieber at jcsie@pacbell.net.

The Goldfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 393, Goldfield, NV 89013

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Goldfield Historical Society

Construction crews work on the Goldfield High School's south wall. The south wall project came to completion in March 2018 as efforts to transform the century-old structure into a community, cultural and interpretive center continue.

Revival effort takes shape in Goldfield

High school project gets boost

By Jeffrey Meehan
Times-Bonanza & Goldfield News

The Goldfield Historical Society is set to receive a boost on efforts to revive the Goldfield High School that has sat dormant in the desert town for more than six decades.

The Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation awarded \$80,000 to the Goldfield Historical Society in April to help restoration efforts underway to resurrect the three-story, 20,000-square-foot structure that was shuttered in 1953.

At a glance
The building dates back more than 100 years, including its informal opening in 1907, its actual completion in 1908 and its closing in 1953.
Source: Times-Bonanza archives

John Ekman, president of the Goldfield Historical Society and project manager for the high school, said reuse intention for the old high school is a community center, cultural center and interpretive center, a modern term for a museum.



Bryan Smalley cuts stones for the Goldfield High School restoration project on a structure that has been empty for over six decades. Work on the south wall that collapsed in 2005 came to completion in March 2018, with efforts continuing by the Goldfield Historical Society.

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According to Ekman, the building has pretty much sat undisturbed and no work of any consequence has been done since the school was closed in the early 1950s, until 2005 when the south wall of the structure collapsed.

That's when volunteers stepped in to help maintain the structure. A few years later, the historical society became involved in the effort, Ekman said.

Project's beginnings

A milestone was reached on the high school project in the second half of March, with the completion of reconstructing the south wall of the high school, which has been in the works for more than a decade, according to Ekman.

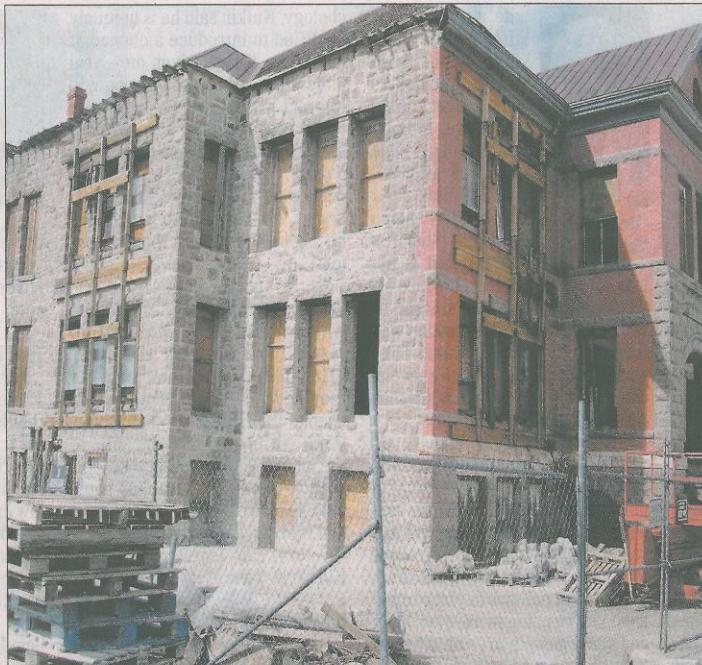
A multitude of grants has been obtained over the last several years to revitalize the old school.

Ekman said the historical society has received grants from the National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation - along with private donations.

The next steps on the project include work on the east wall, followed by working on the roof of the building that sits on the corner of Ramsey Street and Euclid Avenue, near the courthouse.

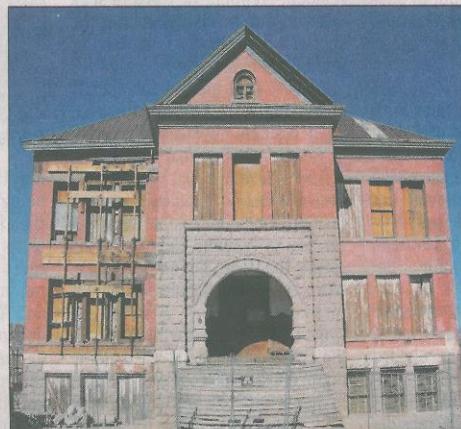
Work on the wall is set to be completed by the end of 2019 with monies from the \$80,000 grant that was approved in April, Ekman said.

In the meantime, Ek-



Goldfield Historical Society

Work on the south wall of the Goldfield High School came to completion on March 21, 2018 (pictured), according to the Goldfield Historical Society, which is spearheading a major restoration. The south wall collapsed in 2005 and restoration efforts have been ongoing for about a decade.



The east wall of the Goldfield High School (pictured), which has been shuttered for over six decades, is the next target of the Goldfield Historical Society's restoration efforts. The historical society was awarded \$80,000 in grant funds from the Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation with completion planned for the end of 2019.

man said he is planning to do fundraisers to generate private donations for rebuilding the stairs and

windows in the school. "A lot of expense was incurred just to bring it to the point to where we

could start doing permanent structural stabilization and repair work," Ekman said.

Ekman explained that, "a little over \$200,000 had been put into the project because of all of the temporary stabilization required and because of the interior and exterior structure supports required by the National Park Service before we could even begin any actual physical work."

Rebecca Palmer, state historic preservation officer at the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, said the project has received three grants through the Nevada Commission of Cultural Affairs, all of which were used to stabilize the building, she added.

What's ahead

Going forward, Palmer said the next grant cycle will begin after July 1, 2019, though funding is never a guarantee because it's a general obligation bond fund, she explained.

The funding happens through the Capital Improvement Planning process, Palmer said.

"The state sells bonds based on our debt capacity, and the bonds are then used to pay for capital improvement projects and other special programs," she said. "One of those is for the Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation."

This round of funding brought in \$1 million in grants for 15 projects across the state, including the Goldfield High School and the Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation that was allocated \$100,000.

Contact reporter Jeffrey Meehan at jmeehan@pvtimes.com. On Twitter: @pvtimes