Welcome to the new (trial) newsletter format

When we send out our newsletter by e-mail and do not print it, it may be created in this new format that should be much easier to read on your computer screen. Please feel free to comment on this trial format.

Now, here is a reminder of who and what we are and what we hope to accomplish in this newsletter:

The Great Basin National Heritage Area is a geographical region located in both Nevada and Utah, and encompasses White Pine County, Nevada, and Millard County, Utah and adjacent Indian reservations that contain nationally significant archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, and scenic features that are emblematic of the entire Great Basin Area. This quarterly newsletter will help you learn more about the Great Basin National Heritage Area, The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership that acts as the coordinating partner, and about its constituent or member partners, and its important heritage features. It will provide support information for those partners and explain and how to become involved with the organization that helps coordinate promotion of the Great Basin area and its heritage.

This quarter’s news follows:
GBHAP meeting planned for Delta

The public is invited to join the board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership when it meets at the Delta School District Offices 450 N, 285 E on Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m. MST.

During the regular organizational business meeting the Board will discuss current and proposed projects. One such proposed project is a tour of the heritage features of Millard County, UT for those in the tourism industry and those managing heritage features in White Pine County, NV. A reciprocal program is likely to be discussed in the future.

A featured activity of the board meeting will be the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Heritage Area Partnership. The objective of the MOU is to establish the terms under which the NPS and Partnership will work together and in collaboration with the Governors of the States of Nevada and Utah, the Ely Shoshone and Duckwater Shoshone tribes.

The board will also get an update on the final stages leading to submission to the Secretary of the Interior of the Partnership’s recently completed management plan. The management plan will be used to guide the Partnership’s activities in stimulating public interest and in support for the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin Natural Heritage Area.

As always, the public will be offered an opportunity to comment during the meeting.

Feature film shot in GBNHA nears release

Filmed, in part in the remote desert of the Great Basin National Heritage Area, the feature Film John Carter, a Disney production, is scheduled for release March 9. The sweeping action film, set on the myste-
rious and exotic planet of Barsoom, is based upon the classic novel John Carter on Mars by Edgar Rice Burrows (creator of Tarzan).

The film tells the story of war-weary, former military captain John Carter, who is inexplicably transported to Mars where he becomes reluctantly embroiled in a conflict of epic proportions amongst the inhabitants of the planet.

Much of the filming was done in Tule Valley in the west desert of Utah between Delta and the Nevada Border. Many of the background scenes are familiar but some scenes have been digitally enhanced to portray the futuristic time frame and far flung space location of the story’s setting. The virtual effect may be somewhat startling to those familiar with the real salt flats and mountains of the area.

Education about the of the Heritage Area that may lead to the film industry’s non-destructive use of the Area such as this filming and its attendant local economic enhancement is one of the missions of the Great Basin National Heritage Area Partnership.

Pictured above—the virtual and the real Tule Valley look pretty much the same.
GBNHA co-hosts another successful Sheepherder’s Gathering

For three days in late January more than a hundred old-timers and relative newcomers to the Great Basin sheepherding industry gathered at the Border Inn on US Rout 50 at the Nevada/Utah border to swap stories, engage in heritage entertainment, renew old friendships and record oral histories of their experiences. The event marked the 9th annual such gathering—which is now fast becoming a tradition in itself.

The Gathering hosted by the Border Inn and the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership and supported in part by a grant from the Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities featured a traditional sheep camp dinner of lamb stew and biscuits, western music and a traditional sheepherder’s ball.

The general public was invited to join in on the festivities presented on the second day of the gathering. Activities that day began with a sourdough pancake breakfast buffet. Educational programming included the screening of the full length documentary “Sweet Grass” produced by Wyoming Public Broadcasting. The film was described by the New York Times as “A graceful and often moving meditation on a disappearing way of life”. Depicting a one year iteration of the annual cycle of sheep shearing, lambing, trailing to summer ranges in the mountains (where the sheep were boldly protected from bears, starvation, tumbles from high rocks and other hazards) and trailing back to the home ranch, the film had been distributed widely and had received critical acclaim at the Berlin and New York City Film Festivals. In the afternoon the Red Hill Rangers provided a concert of traditional western music. A Basque dinner of cabbage soup, ranch salad, roast lamb, beef tongue, boiled beans, served family style, celebrated a regional tradition.
The Los Angeles Times sent a reporter to cover the event. And a representative of the University of Utah Digital Library came to see how oral histories, historic photographs and other cultural recordings would fit into the Library’s archives.

This successful program helped to record, strengthen and maintain oral cultural and musical heritage of the western Great Basin sheep herding community by repetition and exposure to younger community members. It helped carry out the mission of the Great Basin National Heritage Area and the Heritage Area Partnership to conserve interpret and promote significant cultural features of the Great Basin. And it provided an educational opportunity for the community of Baker and the wider cultural community of sheepherders who attended.

The Great Basin National Heritage Area annual Sheepherder’s Gathering was sponsored in part by the Nevada Arts Council and by the Border Inn.

Partnership in area projects fulfill several missions and initiate track record for Heritage Area

Over the past year several significant projects were approved by the GBHAP board to assist groups within the Heritage Area to forward their missions while forwarding the mission of the Great Basin Heritage Area and the Heritage Area Partnership at the same time.
One project was to help the White Pine County (NV) Museum perform an appraisal on a building that the Museum proposed to develop into a regional mining museum. The museum would interpret the regional importance of the history of gold, silver and particularly copper mining that brought development and economic growth to White Pine County. Funding for the project was restricted to non-federal funds donated to the Partnership.

A second significant project funded by the Partnership was development of architectural drawings for the Topaz Museum proposed for construction in Delta, Utah to interpret the story of the Topaz Japanese/American Internment Camp that relocated 11,212 people through the camp while it was in operation from September 11, 1942 to October 31, 1945.

A third project helped the Northern Nevada Railway in Ely, NV to expand its provision of interpretation and demonstration of live steam locomotive operation by assisting in the funding of the restoration of coupling devices between two of the Railroad’s vintage railcars.

The Partnership will likely remain engaged in all of these projects to assure that they are seen through to complete fulfillment of the missions of each.

Such projects, along with a soon to begin partnership with the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe to develop a museum of arts and native culture, serve not only to fulfill the missions of the Great Basin National Heritage Area and its managing entity the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership. They also begin to leave a local legacy that will strengthen local support for the Heritage Area and its future programs and projects.

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**Topaz: Artists in Internment their visual work and words**

The Topaz Art show grand opening on Jan. 20, 2012 featured 32 pieces of art painted at Topaz with a poetry reading by Lawson Inada.
The show will remain at the Rio Gallery in Salt Lake City until Feb. 13 when it will travel to San Leandro and later to the San Francisco Public Library.

Topaz art exhibit: Rio Gallery in Salt Lake features artwork from detainees

Topaz art exhibit leaves a message of optimism by displaying artwork from those in a Utah-based Japanese internment camp

By Kurt Hanson a reporter for The Daily Universe

Dust wrapped around the confused young boy as he and his family were packed like sardines into the stifling train bound for the fairground.

He assumed his day was going to be filled with laughter, joy and carnival treats. But the armed guard next to him and his family cast a shadow of fear over him. The train stopped. The boy and his family were ordered out of the train by the guard.
The fairground in Fresno, Calif., would be his involuntary home for an indefinite period of time before he would be shipped to Arkansas and then Colorado. Not an average day at the fair.

This story of Lawson Inada, now a poet laureate from Oregon, and more than 110,000 others make up a part of U.S. history hardly heard of and less frequently taught. Japanese internment camps, like those where Inada stayed, were used during World War II to keep Japanese Americans and their families from the West Coast in "safe places." The government declared the West Coast a military zone and ordered all Japanese Americans to be transported to these confining camps inland. Around two-thirds of those interned were American-born.

The Topaz internment camp near Delta was the home of the late Chiura Obata. Obata was an art professor at University of California-Berkeley before he was moved to Topaz in September 1942. Many of his students were interned with him. Through cooperation with the camp suppliers and local government, Obata and more than 600 others organized art classes as diversion from the rigors of daily life. Some two dozen subjects in art were covered by 16 instructors in subjects including oils, watercolor, anatomy and architectural drafting.

Through Feb. 10, the Rio Gallery in Salt Lake City will host "Topaz: Artists in Internment," displaying some of the images of daily chores, local wildlife, landscapes, days of sorrow and days of joy, produced by Obata and his students.

More at: http://universe.byu.edu/index.php/2012/01/26/topaz-art-exhibit-rio-gallery-features-artwork-internment/

Submission deadline set for April 27, 2012 for Nevada Commission on Tourism 2013– 1st cycle rural grants

Beginning February 27, 2012, grant requests for Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) FY13 1st Cycle Marketing Grants
can be found at http://travelnevada.com/industry/grants/. To access the request form, simply click on the “access the online grant system by clicking here” button. Enter your user name and password then click on the Marketing Grant 2013 1st Cycle Request button and fill out the questions and both budget sections of the form.

“Tourism continues to be the leading force in Nevada’s economy and we support those in the industry, particularly within the rural communities, with our Marketing Grant Program,” Brian Krolicki, Lt. Governor and NCOT chairman, said. “These grants are exclusively targeted to our rural areas, which must remain competitive when vying for tourist dollars.”

NCOT, which is funded by 3/8 of 1 percent of state room tax revenues, uses a part of its budget to offer the Marketing Grant Program for rural communities. Typically, grants are awarded in the spring and fall. More than $1 million in grant funding is distributed to improve the rural tourism infrastructure.

“The grant program is a great example of room tax dollars being reinvested in the economy to generate more tourism,” Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs Director Claudia Vecchio said. “It’s an established program that reaps benefits for Nevada.”

Marketing Grant Requests submitted using the online system will automatically generate a response when received at NCOT back to the sender indicating the file has been received. If for some reason you are unable to complete an application online, you need to call Kari Frilot at NCOT on 775.687.0620 to discuss alternative procedures.

All applications MUST BE RECEIVED in Commission on Tourism offices by 5:00 pm on April 27, 2012 to be considered. Applications not received by 5:00 pm April 27, 2012 will not be considered. Grant applicants must meet the criteria outlined in
the Grant Guidelines for Marketing Grants which is available on the grants webpage [http://travelnevada.com/industry/grants/](http://travelnevada.com/industry/grants/).

Grant applicants will be notified by mail after the Nevada Commission on Tourism approves the awards and/or denials at their June 2012 meeting. Projects awarded funding in this cycle will cover expenses incurred or committed between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. Any expenses outside of this timeframe will not qualify for reimbursement.

For further information contact:
Kari Frilot - Rural Grants Manager
Nevada Commission on Tourism
401 N. Carson Street, Carson City 89701
775.687.4322 ph - 775.684.8912 fax
kfrilot@travelnevada.com

Web seminar to focus on resources available to the arts

It's not too late to register for NASAA's February 15 web seminar, Resources for Rural Development: The US Department of Agriculture and the Arts.

This seminar focuses on resources available to the arts through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) rural development programs. These resources include grants, loans and technical assistance services open to arts agencies and cultural organizations. The February 15 seminar contains information about funding streams, upcoming grant deadlines and tips on working with the rural development offices located in your state or region.

Doug O'Brien (deputy under secretary) and Tammye Trevino (administrator) from the USDA's Rural Development division
are featured speakers. The one-hour session also offers time for audience Q&A.

The seminar takes place on Wednesday, February 15, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern. Presenters ask that participants log on a few minutes early so that the program can begin promptly.

Registration is free. Contact eric.giles@nasaa-arts.org for details.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Each of the 56 states and jurisdictions has created an agency to support excellence in and access to the arts.

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White Pine County C of C plans highway guides

Each year the White Pine County (NV) Chamber of Commerce produces a pair of visitor guides highlighting attractions and businesses serving tourists along US Route 93 and US Route 50 which intersect in Ely, Nevada. This year's guides are now being designed and those with heritage features or visitor services have been encouraged to contact the chamber. This year the guides will include Quick response code blocks that will allow those with smart phones (if they are within range of multiple G service) to get more detailed information about items highlighted in the Guide.