GBHAP board meeting planned for Ely

The public is invited to join the board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership when it meets at the White Pine Library on Saturday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m. PST.

During the regular organizational business meeting the Board will discuss current and proposed projects and handle organizational business. One such item will again be the election of officers of the Partnership—President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board will also be inviting suggestions from board members and individuals for persons to serve on the Partnership Board. The Board recently received resignations from a few of those currently serving.

The board will also entertain proposals for collaborative partner projects.

As always, member partner representatives and the public will be offered an opportunity to comment during the meeting.

NAI Workshop will hone interpretation

The National Association for Interpretation's annual conference, which they call "national workshop," will be held in Reno next fall (November 6–9). This is an opportunity for training for staff, docents/volunteers, and community members who are interested in gaining knowledge and skills that will help them to better present and interpret their local history and culture(s). Please pass on as appropriate.

A message from the president of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership:

When summer is over, one tends to think that they will have some time to kick back. But that's not so with the Heritage Area. We are getting an incredible amount of work done.

I attended the American Association of State and Local History conference in Salt Lake City In October. It was interesting and informative. I especially enjoyed the session called "Interpreting Places of Tragedy" where the new Topaz Museum was the site the group chose to use for the discussion. Also, the Fort Douglas workshop was interesting as was seeing what is happening there. As an alumna of the University of Utah, I was exceedingly proud to tour the new Natural History Museum. You all should plan a trip and take the kids and grandkids to it.

While in Salt Lake, I teamed up with Dr. Greg Thompson of the University's Marriott Library to raise funds for the new Great Basin Permanent Special Collection to which our sheepherders' oral histories, photos and books will be donated and digitalized making our work available to the public and to researchers.

I know some think I am totally wacky about my fascination with sheepherders but Dr. Thompson and I had a ball making our contacts because those we talked to had wonderful sheepherder stories to tell and we laughed a lot. We received commitments for the archive project from Steve Regan Co., Utah Farm Bureau, Utah Wool Marketing, and Producers' Livestock Auction.

Invitations for this year's Old Sheepherders' Gathering will be mailed out the first of December. This is our tenth year and I am working to make it the best one yet.

I am still intending to resign as President. Officer election is on the Dec. 1 meeting's agenda as is Board recruitment. If you or anyone you know might be interested in serving on our Board, please get the names to us.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Denys Koyle, President
Heritage Area helps to present heritage festival

In September, the 15th annual Old Capitol Arts & Living History Festival was presented by the Friends of the Territorial Statehouse State Park & Museum in Fillmore, Utah and the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership helped to sponsor part of it.

The Festival is a three day celebration to tell the story of Millard County’s living history and to help people see, smell and feel of their ancestors and past history. It is intended to be an educational and fun experience for all—young and old alike. It presents demonstrations on napping (chipping arrowheads from stone) broom making, cooperage (barrel making), wagon wheel making, blacksmithing, crockery creation, quilting, and spinning and other often by-gone industries.

A wide variety of exhibits help visitors feel see and even smell some of the practices of yesteryear.

The Old Capitol Arts and Living History Festival is held on the grounds of the building that served as Utah’s first territorial capitol.
Thousands of visitors listened to stories and music while noshing on heritage tinged foods like Indian tacos and barbecue and sipping on homemade sarsaparilla. The Statehouse Park acts as the town square for the community and during the event it had the festive feeling of the fourth of July.

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership sponsored the blacksmith and wheelwright among other heritage demonstrators. It also sponsored the stagecoach and horse drawn hayrides. In addition, the Partnership helped to restore a steam engine, sawmill and a lumber wagon to represent the equipment that would have been used at portable lumber mill operations around Millard County (and the adjacent White Pine County, NV) during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The steam engine had been manufactured in 1893 saw mill in 1891.

The GBHAP was on site with its own new exhibit to promote the heritage of the area, heritage tourism and to develop partnerships.

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Partnership to sponsor annual sheepherders gathering January 18 & 19, 2013

This year the 10th annual Sheepherders Gathering will be sponsored by the Great Basin Heritage Area Partners. Previously the Partnership had assisted in the presentation sponsored by the Border Inn, a local accommodation for tourists on the Nevada/Utah border in the heart of the Great Basin National Heritage Area. The Border Inn will continue to partner in the presentation.

The event is a highlight for those in the sheep industry in and near the heritage area. For three days in late January more than a hundred old-timers and relative newcomers will gather to swap stories, enjoy heritage entertainment, renew old friendships and record oral histories of their sheep raising experiences. The event is becoming a tradition in itself.

The Gathering supported in part by a grant from the Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities will feature a traditional sheep camp dinner of lamb stew and biscuits, western...
music and a shepherder’s ball. Feature performer during the event will be Sourdough Slim.

Slim, aka Rick Crowder, is a well-traveled veteran of stages ranging from The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering to The Lincoln Center's Roots of American Music Festival and the Carnegie Hall Folk Festival. His fast-paced stage show finds him crooning Western classics, playing accordion, guitar and harmonica, dancing a jig, twirling a lariat, dishing out hilarious comedic sketches and letting loose with his accomplished yodeling. His yippie-ti-yi style won him the Academy of Western Artists 2001 Will Rogers Award for "Yodeler of the Year" and 2009, 2010 and 2011 nomination for "Entertainer of the Year" from the Western Music Association. Sourdough Slim will also be doing an educational music performance for local school children in the heritage area.

This program helps 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 helps 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 provides an educational opportunity for the community of Baker and the wider cultural community of shepherders who attended.

Utah Office of Tourism distributes geographically targeted guides

As part of its Life Elevated program to promote tourism in Utah, The Utah Office of Tourism has recently developed a series of colorful brochures titled Elevated Experiences that each target a significant geographical part of the state. The Central Utah guide features maps.
and lists of scenic places, wildlife viewing areas, and activities/museums for three sub-regions. One of these focuses on West Central Utah (subtitled West Desert and Historic Trails), it predominantly covers Millard County within the Great Basin National Heritage Area. It also includes a nod to the Great Basin National Park (just over the Utah border in Nevada). The brochures are distributed at welcome centers around the state and will be distributed at the many trade events that the Office on Tourism attends throughout the country to promote tourism in Utah.

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Partnership plans for Area signage

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is preparing to embark on a program to locate, design and install signage within (and perhaps in some cases outside of) the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

There are six basic purposes for signs. This signage is meant to inform passersby that: 1). They can follow a directed route to get to the Great Basin National Heritage Area; or, 2). They are entering the Great Basin National Heritage Area; or, 3). They are being welcomed to and oriented to the Great Basin National Heritage Area; or, 4). They are on a recommended route within the Great Basin National Heritage Area; or 5.). They are directed to a heritage site within the Great Basin National Heritage Area; or 6.) They can learn details about the Great Basin National Heritage Area or the features of a heritage site.

A sign program manual was begun in late September. It is based in part on the objectives and directives for an interpretive network pro-
posed in the interpretive plan produced in support of the Partnership’s management plan. The sign manual will guide to the determination of need, location, structural type, design, and message that should be followed in development and placement of needed signage.

The sign manual will identify placement locations and provide details of typeface and size and messaging.

Note: The examples shown here are preliminary and may not reflect the final solutions to be presented.

Actual locations for proposed signs are being scouted so that discussions with state departments of transportation can be detailed and specific.
The details of the program will be discussed with the departments of transportation in both Utah and Nevada so that placement of directional signage, entering signs and welcome kiosks can proceed. Partners with heritage attractions will be contacted about their interest in erecting interpretive signage at associated locations.

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**Partnership board moves to cooperate in forwarding local heritage projects**

At recent meetings of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership, the organization’s board moved to assist in several important projects designed to educate about various aspects of history and culture of the Great Basin Heritage Area.

The Board agreed to partner with the Northern Nevada Railway in Ely, Nevada to develop an interpretive node on the railroad platform. The Partnership will provide $80,000 to do necessary NEPA studies and install interpretive signage, shade structures and associated platform work.

The Board also agreed to partner with the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah to provide further funding for the completion of the Topaz museum (see architect’s drawing to the left). The Partnership had earlier agreed to provide $50,000 toward this project. The Partnership’s additional $100,000 is expected to fund interpretive displays.

The Board agreed to consider partnering with the Great Basin Park Foundation to provide $50,000 to assist in the construction of a celestial observatory at Great Basin National Park.

The board also created an Education committee that will develop the proposed program to sponsor bus transportation for local school kids to museums and curriculum development related to local heritage learning.

Finally, (as detailed in an article elsewhere in this newsletter) the board agreed to assume primary sponsorship of the annual sheepherders gathering that had previously been primarily sponsored by a local business.

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**Placemat project moves to next stage**

In June, the Partnership board proposed that an informational piece be produced to tell visitors to the area more about heritage features and attractions within the Great Basin National Heritage Area. The piece was to have a map on the front side depicting the heritage area. The map would be bordered by photographs of the heritage attractions with a number locating each on the map. The back side of the piece was to provide in depth stories about some aspect of the area’s heritage.
The publication was to be used by tourism offices as a directive guide that could be written on and then given to visitors who had questions about the area. These sheets would be padded into “books” so each map could be easily torn off to hand to a visitor. The second purpose was for use by area restaurants (frequented by visitors to the area) as placemats. The objective of both was to encourage visitors to consider spending an additional day or two in the region or perhaps plan a return visit to experience the heritage sites. This would promote tourism and additionally induce a bit of local economic stimulation. A secondary purpose is to inform locals about the heritage of their home region.

The publication was funded in part by the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board and the Millard County tourism Board as well as the National Park Service. The publication has just arrived from the printer. Restaurants in the region are being signed on as volunteers to assist in the publication’s distribution.

New Heritage Area partner celebrates Ely history and culture

The newest partner to join the Heritage Area is the Ely Renaissance Society.

The Ely Renaissance Society was founded in 1999 by a group of individuals with the vision of an attractive downtown area which would be representative of the art and culture belonging to the diverse group of people who had built and strengthened the small community through the years.

As occurs in many mining towns, cycles of “boom or bust” had left the community of Ely, Nevada dreaming for a more stable economy, something more than mining alone.
Several “shotgun” homes previously owned by Bill Geraghty were purchased by the Renaissance Society and have been furnished as house museums to reflect various cultural groups that inhabited Ely—Asian, Slavic, Greek, etc.

In its heyday Ely had been a bustling town with numerous small family-owned businesses catering to the needs of the settling families to ranch, to work the mine and build the railroad. People came from everywhere, and the small town of Ely was a true example of a diverse population.

The stories, characters, and the influences of the many ethnic groups would not be lost. And so, a movement sprang forth to not only preserve and celebrate the richness of the community, but also to offer the story up to visitors.

Volunteers to the Ely Renaissance Society began by commissioning murals to show the lifestyle of this Nevada community from historical perspectives such as the Pony Express, as well as modern times and the “age of communication”. [The murals were highlighted in the Heritage Area Newsletter for September 2011.]

A more recent venture of the group was to purchase a piece of property made up of 12 shotgun houses. Originally built at Ely City’s 8th Street and Avenue B in 1907 as housing for railroad employees, the dwellings were purchased and moved to their present location in the early 1920’s. These small houses have been made into unique museums by the Renaissance Society depicting the turn-of-the-century population of Ely. Re-enactments and living history presentations are held at the Ely Renaissance Village.

A visit to the Renaissance Village is a chance to see what housing and life was life in the early 1900’s in Ely. Many items have been donated to the Village and are on display. Walking through each house, decorated to represent the various ethnic groups that lived and worked here, is a chance to see and remember life with wringer washing machines, wood stoves, manual typewriters, heavy metal irons, ice boxes, and all the modern appliances of the 20th century.

Pictures taken at the Renaissance Society’s Renaissance Village accompany this article on this page and the next.
Renaissance Village home interiors have been created to interpret various cultural groups that have lived in Ely.
Heritage Area mission encompasses rural tourism, this pays off

The mission of the Great Basin National Heritage Area is to develop and enable partnerships to help to identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity. That is a mouthful! And it is not always easy to see what various activities can support that mission. But it has been clear that one of the specific objectives the Partnership has is to educate the public about the heritage of the area in order to encourage tourism within the area. This is because growing tourism within the region will help support the local economy.

For several years the Heritage Area has partnered with the Nevada Commission on Tourism in several projects to promote local tourism. The Commission keeps track of the impact of tourism on the local economy. Because of the huge proportional impact of entertainment and gaming in Las Vegas and the Reno/Tahoe Area, the Commission separates out impact on rural Nevada. Rural Nevada is all counties in Nevada not including Clark and Washoe Counties. Impact results for 2011 were recently released. The impact is eye opening:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RURAL NEVADA TRAVEL IMPACTS 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What is the total overall travel spending in Rural Nevada?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,288M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What is the number of jobs attributed to the travel industry in Rural Nevada?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What percentage is this compared to all state travel employment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. What is the amount of earnings attributable to the travel industry in Rural Nevada?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$849M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What is the direct gross domestic product (GDP) of the Rural Nevada travel industry?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$765M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. What is the direct visitor spending by commodity purchased in Rural Nevada?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaming $642M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging $199M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Beverages $172M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Transportation and Motor Fuel $170M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment $48M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales $70M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Recreation $20M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Recreation $18M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stores $14M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Transportation (visitor only) $2M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total direct visitor spending in rural Nevada is $1,355M!
Historic Preservation grants available in Nevada

Our partners within the Great Basin National Heritage Area may be interested to know that applications for federal historic preservation grants administered by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office will be accepted through December 3, 2012. Grant funding is provided by the National Park Service as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and is used to support preservation efforts by government agencies and non-profit organizations.

Grants may be used to support building rehabilitation, historic preservation surveys and projects that promote heritage tourism throughout the state of Nevada. Previous projects funded in Nevada by this program include underwater exploration and documentation of the SS Tahoe scuttled near Glenbrook, the painting of the Fourth Ward School in Virginia City, site stewardship activities across the state and the recordation and National Register evaluation of the Beverly Green neighborhood in Las Vegas.

The Preservation Office encourages first time applications from local governments and non-profit organizations particularly in rural communities. For additional information about historic preservation grants, eligibility or an application, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 775-684-3443 or visit its website: www.shpo.org.

Informative Short Pieces

The Ely’s Nevada Northern Railway had its most successful October ever, thanks to the sell-out crowds on its Haunted Ghost Trains.

Beginning in 2013, public tours will be presented monthly at the Robinson Nevada mine just west of Ely, NV.

The Partnership has been invited to participate in a monthly roundtable focusing on building tourism in Ely. The partnership participated in the first of these in September.