Glenwood HISTORY

2025 ISSUE 2 NEWSLETTER

The Match is Ours!

The historical society's board of directors is very pleased to announce it has raised $40,000 in donations and other revenue, thereby earning the required match to receive the final $40,000 match of a $120,000 allotment awarded for 2025 by the City of Glenwood Springs!

"The funding we've raised has come from the hard work of our volunteers, staff, and board, and we're grateful for the generous support of many in the community," said Kevin Gibson, the historical society's treasurer. "We're very proud to have met the requirement to receive the matching commitment just five months into the year, and glad that city leaders value the society's work."

The city's allocation allows the society to pay essential expenses for the operation of the Frontier Museum in Glenwood Springs, including utilities, insurance, and maintenance costs. The allocation also makes it possible for the society to employ a full-time executive director and part-time archivist, and cover the costs related to the professional management, storage, and display of a historic archive and museum collection.

Some of the match donations were the result of new partnerships with businesses and local organizations, laying the groundwork for additional programming that will bring awareness of the city's unique history to locals and visitors alike. The society's board extends heart-felt thanks to Glenwood Hot Springs Resort, Hotel 1888, and Alpine Bank for their generous donations in recent weeks, as well as to the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners for a grant to complete some badly needed repairs at the museum.

Special thanks is also expressed to the owners of Two Rivers Park Plaza and building manager Jimmy Kucera for allowing the historical society to operate a fundraiser during Strawberry Days in their parking lot.

Meet Our New Executive Director

After conducting a national search, the Glenwood Springs Historical Society is pleased to announce the hiring of Mark Jensen as Executive Director. The candidate pool, which included several local applicants, was extraordinarily strong. However, the Society's Board believes it has found the right match of experience and skills to lead the organization in its work to preserve and share local history.

Jensen, who began work on June 13, is an experienced archivist and museum curator dedicated to preserving and interpreting American history. He holds a Master of Arts in American History from the University of Utah.

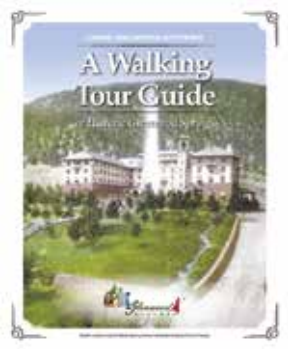
Jensen most recently served, since 2011, as Executive Director of Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch, a non-profit historic preservation organization in Minden, NV. Under his leadership, the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park flourished, transforming into a vibrant public day-use park featuring a fifteen-room house museum and seven other National Register-listed buildings and structures dating from 1857 to 1917. He played a pivotal role in the creation, growth, and success of the organization, overseeing board development, goal setting, planning, and non-profit administration. His efforts earned the organization more than $1.4 million in income from donations, grants, events, rentals, and museum store sales.

While managing the park, he guided several building and landscape restoration projects, helping to preserve the park's historical authenticity. He planned and managed an annual budget, increasing it from zero to more than $130,000 annually, with primary responsibility for fundraising and donor development. His creation of a membership program expanded the annual contributor list to more than 550 individuals and business sponsors. He also led the effort to create an endowment fund to benefit the park, securing donations to grow the balance to more than $265,000.

Jensen's grant-writing skills resulted in numerous successful applications for foundation and government grants to fund programming, restoration, staffing, and operations. He developed the park's guided history tours, artifact exhibits, and other interpretive programs that enhanced the educational experience for visitors, and managed the park's collection of 45,000 artifacts, documents, and photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries. His creation of the Dangberg Summer Festival, featuring concerts, Chautauqua performances, and author and historian presentations helped quadruple the park's visitation from 1,000 to almost 5,000 annually.

Before his most recent role, Jensen's experience included work as a historic site interpreter for Nevada State Parks, the archivist for the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games organizing committee, and archivist at the University of Utah's Marriott Library. He is a native of northern Utah.

New and Improved Walking Tour Booklet Printed



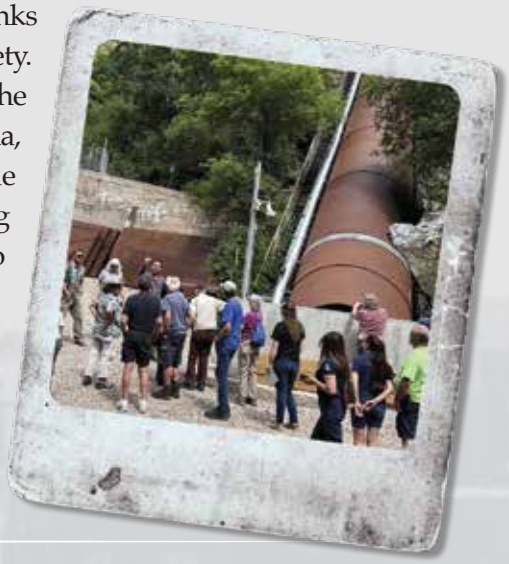
After a few months of hard work by the Board of Directors, the historical society recently printed a new and improved A Walking Tour Guide of Historic Glenwood Springs. Copies have been distributed at various locations around downtown, including the visitor information center and several hotels.

The guide has been revised and expanded and includes information about significant Glenwood Springs historic buildings and sites. The purchase of advertisements by local businesses funded the entire cost of the first print run of 3,000 copies, so we want to thank these society supporters:

à la cart • Alpenglow Books & Gifts • Annie's Café & Bakery • Balcomb & Green • Bullocks Western Wear
Elizabeth Dean Boutique • Glenwood Hot Springs Resort • Gran Farnum Printing
High Country Gems & Minerals • Homsted • Hotel 1888 • Hotel Colorado • Maxwell Anderson Hotel
Narcissus Hair Salon • TreadZ

Thank You to GSHS Volunteers!

The Board of Directors express, with a resounding cheer, its sincere thanks to the volunteers for all that they do to support the museum and the society. This includes Debbie Chirrick and Nancy Frizell for their work on the artifact collection and more, as well as Murray Booth, Debra Bosna, Martha Cochran, Stacee Dalrymple, Keith Edquist, Dale Hancock, Hilde Hottendorf, Corrine Merritt, and Danyelle Rigli for their friendly staffing of the museum's welcome desk. The board also sends a special thanks to Carlos Ulloa-Jaquez for designing the newsletter over the last year, and to Mel Benton, Marc Rebert, and George Dalrymple for their help at Strawberry Days, helping keep things lively. Also, the society's staff certainly thank the board members (listed below) for all that they do—staffing the museum desk, organizing fundraisers and tours, and so much more–they're volunteers, too!more—they're volunteers, too!



Josh Mattson of Excel Energy (3rd from left alongside retired society director Bill Kight and museum archivist Peg Vidakovich) explains the Shoshone Hydroelectric Plant to a group of Glenwood Springs Historical Society supporters during a recent tour. The society's speaker series will resume on September 11.

Glenwood Springs Historical Society

1001 Colorado Ave
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
970-945-4448
GlenwoodHistory.com

Glenwood Springs Historic Society has a mission to collect and preserve artifacts and materials relating to the history of Glenwood Springs and Garfield County, to make these materials available for research, and interpret them through exhibits, publications, and educational programs, while cooperating with others to accomplish these goals.

Board of Directors: Jamie LaRue, President | Tyler Benton, Vice-president | Lisa Passmore, Secretary | Kevin Gibson, Treasurer | Corrinne Diemoz | Brenda Grumley | Doug Laven | Clara Miller

Staff: Mark Jensen, Executive Director | Peggy Vidakovich, Archivist | Ari Beachey, Archival Intern