Notes from the May 2026 THN meeting.

Northport: Rose Kalamarides reported that the Welcome Center project was going well. They are having work parties every Saturday and have wallpapered three rooms and the hallway upstairs, are sanding, priming and painting the doors and trim throughout. The tile for the downstairs bathroom will be installed soon. They are also working on appropriate signage on the lots Jerry and Dinah Gallo donated. Webley Lumber has generously offered to provide the flooring needed to finish the project for a very low price, with most of their time donated. Rose will work on an article with the Stevens County Historical Society about the Webley family and their generosity to these organizations.

Clayton/Deer Park: Ron Endlich reported on the research that he is writing about the history of the Clayton Brick Yard, the terracotta factory and other brick plants in the area. Ron is an expert on the history of terracotta and brick manufacturing.

Under SCHS,

The SCHS museum is open for the season. The digitizing microfilm/microfiche reader has arrived and is at the Stevens County Commissioners' Office. The microfilming quality of the commissioners' minutes done in the 1990s is not the best. The receptionist will use the machine to digitize the papers from 1980 to 1995 that accompany the minutes, as those have been destroyed. SCHS is lending the commissioners' staff one of our Viisan scanners to do the commissioners' minutes, starting with book I. Sue will put them into the meeting-date format for uploading to the Washington State Digital Archives. We will have copies by page, which tend to be easier to use. The mural for the museum's front doors should be completed in a couple of weeks and installed soon after.

Research notes:

The digitization of The Chewelah Independent should be completed by the end of May. The formats will be TIF, JP2, and PDF. The full set requires a 4TB hard drive. The contractor will send Sue a hard drive containing all the files. Once I get it, I'll know how much drive space is required if you only want JP2 and PDF, for example.

With Richard Willner's help in printing large maps, Sue will make a map display for the north wall of the Chewelah Public Library meeting room. Although the emphasis will be on the Chewelah/Valley area, several maps will cover Eastern Washington and the greater Northeast Washington region. There will be some photographs from the Crossroads and Washington Rural Heritage Collections to accompany the maps.

Research: The map collection is up at the Chewelah Public Library. This includes territorial maps, regional maps, and Chewelah and Valley specific maps. Per the librarian, a number of folks have stopped by to see them.

Sue is still waiting for the Spokane early schools researcher to get back about which school districts listed in the 1870s might have been Spokane schools based on the school district numbers. Regardless, a listing of schools and where to find them in the FamilySearch online collection was included in the reports sent out to everyone.

SCHS: University of Idaho researchers conducted dendrochronological analysis of the schoolhouse log building. The logs were cut in the fall of 1872 and early 1873.

Two school groups visited the museum and had a good time. Overall, visitation is slightly under 400, excluding those on the grounds.

The City of Colville has approved the permit for the concrete pad to support Ray Kresek's building.

We received an interesting donation of a castle built in 1948 by John Humphrey, a relative of Ada Hixson, whose castles were moved to the Keller Heritage Park in 1993, located across from the Keller House. In John's castle, family members' names are inscribed in the concrete of the inner walls during construction, making it a truly standing family monument. It was placed with the other Hixson castles using a lift.