



CINDY IUTZI / DAILY GATE CITY

Lee Erlandsen of Keokuk (wearing a plaid shirt and pointing) directs a group's attention to detailed restoration work on the outside of the Keokuk Union Depot. After patching and rebuilding the eaves and brackets (upper right), volunteers painted the pieces a faux wood grain pattern, returning them to their original look.

Depot group nears \$667K roof fundraising objective

BY CINDY IUTZI
 djgreditor@dailycity.com

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A steady stream of interested, curious and invested people ate refreshments, learned more about the project, dropped off a donation or two, and heard an excited Janet Smith, president of the Keokuk Union Depot Foundation, announce how close the group is to its fundraising goal.

"I have wonderful news," Smith said. "As of June 30, we have raised \$589,504 toward our \$667,000 goal."

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Keokuk Union Depot Foundation President Janet Smith announces the status of the group's \$667,000 fund drive during the depot open house. Project Manager Neal Vogel is on the left.

DEPOT: Depot Foundation establishes a \$125 Club for donors of that amount or more; just \$66,569 to go for match

FROM PAGE 1

Program grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa.

"On July 1, the actual 125th anniversary date, we received a \$10,000 donation, leaving \$67,496 to go for the Jeffris match," she said.

Additional donations came in Saturday during the celebration, boosting the amount raised to \$600,431, leaving \$66,569 to go for the match.

The Jeffris Family Foundation awarded a \$333,000 one-third matching grant toward restoring the depot's clay tile roof and central tower. The grant is conditional

on Keokuk Union Depot Foundation raising \$667,000 by mid-2017 in order to capture the funding.

The Depot Foundation has established the \$125 Club for donors who contribute \$125 to the project. Checks can be made to the Keokuk Union Depot Foundation, P.O. Box 463, Keokuk, IA 52632.

Smith said there are more than 275 donors to the project so far.

"Of those, 230 are individuals," she said. "Tom Jeffris loves Keokuk. He told me this week, 'Keokuk is my kind of city.'"

The Jeffris Foundation is based in Janesville,

Wis. Its mission is to "preserve the cultural history and heritage of the Midwest through the preservation of regionally and nationally important historic buildings and decorative arts projects; support the preservation of history and culture and the unique sense of place in small towns and cities; develop significant historic sites in eight Midwestern states; assure sustainability and quality restoration through good research and planning; and inspire and motivate community leaders and local families to support historic preservation in their towns," according

to jeffrisfoundation.org.

Part of the roof project will include the building of the highest point of the roof's central tower. The 24-foot structure will be built on the ground and hoisted onto the roof by crane, said Neal Vogel, president of Restoric of Chicago, depot reconstruction project manager and Keokuk native.

He hopes to have that part of the project completed by Labor Day.

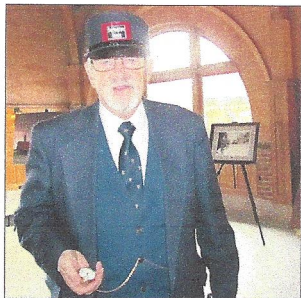
"It's going to be a really dramatic fall," Vogel said.

Vogel said much of the materials and labor are being kept locally.

"Of all the projects I've worked on in my 14 years of business, this one has the most heart," he said.

Christin and Matt Martin of Elgin, Ill., are fully invested in the depot's future.

Christin, who was a student of Vogel's, first saw the depot when it



CINDY NITZ / DAILY GATE CITY

Richard Leonard of Hamilton, Ill., is a self-described train man and Depot Foundation webmaster.

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She ended up writing her master's degree thesis on the depot and its adaptive reuse as a wedding venue "which they were already doing,"

she said.

"And a brewery," added Matt. "I would love that."

Matt, who is an architect, built a scale model of the depot and completed two color renderings of the finished depot as well as a detailed drawing.



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By Cindy Iutzi dgceditor@dailysgate.com | Posted: Wednesday, July 6, 2016 10:47 am

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Good news

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