

# Henderson District Public Libraries

*Time Capsule Submission*  
*March, 2003*



The First Library in Henderson  
1946



Henderson District Public Libraries



## Paseo Verde Library

280 S. Green Valley Parkway  
Henderson, NV 89012  
(702) 492-7252



[www.hdpl.org](http://www.hdpl.org)



Paseo Verde Library opened August 24, 2002 with a day-long celebration. An early morning reception paid tribute to Honorary Friends of the Library, including Selma Bartlett, Donna Childs, Bob Fielden, Mayor James B. Gibson, Brian Greenspun, Lorna Kesterson, Claire MacDonald, Sandy Miller, Mike O'Callaghan, Hal Rothman, Hal & Tina Smith, Othena Williams and Commissioner Bruce Woodbury.

A dedication ceremony was held outside, featuring a keynote speech by Mayor James I. Gibson. Nearly 3,000 people visited the library that day to enjoy music, food, storytelling and author visits and to check out 2,500 books!

In the first six months of operation, August 24, 2002 to February 28, 2003, the Paseo Verde Library checked out 196,661 items.



## James I. Gibson Library

280 S. Water Street  
Henderson, NV 89015  
(702) 565-8402



[www.hdpl.org](http://www.hdpl.org)



The James I. Gibson Library opened March 13, 1989 with a celebration honoring Senator James I. Gibson for his assistance in obtaining passage of a state-wide bond and subsequent allocation of funds to Henderson for the building. The previous building at 55 S. Water Street, acquired in 1946, had long been in disrepair, outdated and over-utilized. The fast growing population hailed the new library as a symbol of their "arrival" in the modern world of libraries.



# Lydia Malcolm Library

80 N. Pecos Road  
Henderson, NV 89074  
(702) 263-7522



[www.hdpl.org](http://www.hdpl.org)



The Lydia Malcolm Library opened on September 30, 1995 to provide service to a rapidly growing area of Henderson. Named for Henderson's longest-serving librarian, Lydia Malcolm, who oversaw the opening festivities, the 4,000 square foot facility opened with 15,000 books on its shelves. The facility offered traditional library resources, such as a reference section and selection of music CD's, but had a particular emphasis on children's services. The Malcolm Library became the third facility for the Henderson District Public Libraries. The Malcolm Library was the first storefront library in Henderson.



## Pittman Cybrary

1608 Moser Drive  
Henderson, NV 89015  
(702) 565-5816



[www.hdpl.org](http://www.hdpl.org)



The Pittman Library had been housed since its opening on the western edge of Wells Park in a building constructed by the Pittman Women's Club in the mid-1950's. In February, 1988 a new facility, made possible through federal funds opened its doors to the Pittman area community. During the opening ceremonies, Mayor Lorna Kesterson noted the building was "completely modernized." Nevada First Congressional District Representative, James Bilbray, was on hand to see first hand how the federal funds benefited individual members of the community. He called the public library system "one of the great benefits of being an American," during his address to the crowd of well-wishers that gathered for the grand opening. The library was renovated again in the 1990's through a cooperative effort of the Henderson District Public Libraries, Henderson Boys & Girls Club and the City of Henderson. Today, the Pittman Cybrary as it is now known, is housed in a building shared with the Henderson Boys & Girls Club. Cutting edge technology and innovative programming helped launch the Pittman Cybrary into the new millennium.



## Legal History of Henderson District Public Libraries

1. The Library was founded on January 22, 1944 by petition for the formation of the Henderson School District, approved by the Board of County Commissioners per letter by Roger D. Folly, District Attorney. He based this finding on the minutes of the Henderson School Board but did not locate the petition in the County Clerk's Office. According to the Henderson Herald, August 8, 1946, the Library opened for business on Thursday, August 1, 1946 and was governed by a board of directors appointed by the Railroad Pass School District. The Librarian was Mrs. L. G. Jondahl.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** The legal basis for the formation of the library was Nevada Compiled Laws, 1929, Section 5590, 5591. (Statutes 1895, 79 as amended by statutes 1901, 37; 1901, 99; 1907, 181; 1925, 129.)

2. The Library became a county library district in 1956 during a special session of the Nevada Legislature during a major overhaul of education laws. At that time, school district statutes were repealed and county library districts were automatically established with identical boundaries and the board of trustees began being appointed by the board of county commissioners. Minutes in possession of the Library District show County Commission appointments to the board in 1958.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** 1956 Statutes of Nevada, Chapter 48, pages 214-219.

3. In 1967 legislation was passed to make it easier to form a library district. The requirement was changed from "...a majority of the taxpayers or by the taxpayers representing a majority of the taxable property..." to "...10 percent of the taxpayers or by taxpayers representing 10% of the taxable property..." This legislation replaced the more stringent method and revised other parts of the county library district law. Two county library districts, Henderson and Boulder City remain as previously formed under 1956 statutes, Chapter 48. Several additional county library districts have subsequently been formed, including Clark County Library District (later Las Vegas-Clark County Consolidated District) and Pahrump, Smokey Valley, Amargosa, and Tonopah library districts in Nye County.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** NRS 379.021 (1967 Statutes 1058; as amended 1981, 997; 1993, 1075; 1995, 2201.

4. In 1970, both Henderson and Boulder City library districts filed boundary maps with the county recorder. Henderson's map appears to look alot like their original boundaries, However, between 1970 and 1985 the boundaries moved steadily westward in conjunction with city annexations. The western boundary was fixed in 1985 when the Las Vegas-Clark County district sought legislation to establish boundaries for the purposes of a bond issue.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** 1985 Statutes of Nevada, pages 7-9.

5. The 2001 session of the Nevada Legislature passed AB441 establishing a procedure for the allocation of the boundaries of certain library districts. Upon passage of the legislation, the library district was able to annex the area known as Anthem, and, in 2002, to annex small pockets around the city and rationalize the boundaries around the Green Valley Library, which is part of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. It is the plan of the library board of trustees to continue to include within its boundaries any future acquisitions of the City of Henderson.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** NRS 379.0223 (AB 441)

The Board of Trustees of the Henderson District Public Library in meeting assembled on this Second day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty Three adopted the following resolution:

Whereas the John C. Galbraith Company and Basic Management Incorporated offered to the Board of Trustees of the Henderson District Public Library, acting for the people, the right to enter into purchase agreement for the building and grounds at 55 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada, which building houses the Henderson District Public Library, and, whereas, the Board of Trustees deem it to be in the best interests of the people of the Henderson District to obtain title to such building and grounds, it was unanimously agreed by the Board of Trustees to enter into such purchase agreement as previously proposed by the John C. Galbraith Company,

*Whereas funds have been made available and will continue to be made available to the Henderson District Public Library through the tax levy upon the real and personal property in the Henderson School District in sufficient amount to amortize the ~~present~~ indebtedness accruing to the Henderson District Public Library,*

ROGER D. FOLEY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
JOHN C. MOWBRAY  
GEORGE M. DICKERSON  
JOHN F. MENDOZA  
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

Office of the District Attorney

CLARK COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

July 25, 1953.

Mr. Paul O'Malley  
Clark County Recorder  
Clark County Court House  
Las Vegas, Nevada

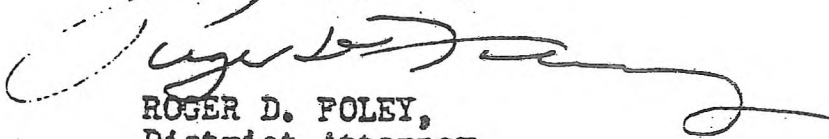
Subject: Henderson Library

Dear Mr. O'Malley:

Mr. Gordon McCaw reviewed the minutes of the Henderson School Board and found an entry dated January 22, 1944, which indicated that the Petition for the formation of the Henderson School District Library was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and a rate of ten cents per annum fixed for the expenses thereof after the signatures on the said petition had been certified by Judge George E. Marshall.

This petition should be on file in the Clerk's Office. In any event, this office is satisfied that the Henderson School District Library was legally established, but suggest that a further effort be made to locate the petition.

Very truly yours,

  
ROGER D. FOLEY,  
District Attorney.

RDF/bmp ✓  
cc - County Clerk



# HENDERSON HERALD

VOL. 1 NO. 5  
HENDERSON, NEVADA  
WEEK ENDING  
AUGUST 8, 1946

Henderson News Bureau and Business Manager, Dean B. Acker, 146 Mangnese Street

## Library Opens In Henderson

To correct the erroneous report in a local paper, it was the Henderson District public library that opened Thursday, August 1. It is not a branch of the Clark County library, it is an independent organization governed by a board of directors appointed by the Railroad Pass school district.

The library is being opened for the convenience of the residents of the Railroad Pass school district. Mrs. L. G. Jondahl, librarian, announced that the hours will be from noon to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, Saturday from noon to 9 p.m. It will be closed Mondays.

A two dollar deposit will be required on all cards and will be refunded at any time.

The library is located at 55 Water street. Mrs. Jondahl wishes to thank all the residents who contributed to the library.

There is a large children's section and the latest best sellers that are available for seven days on a membership card.

## Library Holds Grand Opening

The Henderson District Public Library, 55 Water St., re-opens its doors to the public, August 16. Open house will be from 7 to 9 P.M. Dedication will be at 8 P.M.

The library, which has been remodeled since the first of June now has the addition of a children's reading room, a new check out section and more book stacks. It has been modernized with glass partitions, re-arranged windows, and a new and larger cooling system.

The front has been beautified with a planting box and glass around the entrance and vestibule.

Miller, Haynes and Smith, contractors, handled the job.

A check was made in the court house by a member of the Pittman group who stated that the county maps clearly show that this area was zoned by the County Commissioners as residential. No new zoning has been done by the Henderson planning board.

Mayor French promised the group that he would refer the matter to the planning board. In the meantime the only action that could stop the erection of the building would be a restraining order filed by property owners in the area.



# HENDERSON

NEVADA'S INDUSTRIAL CENTER

# HOMEN

Volume 40, 28th Edition *Henderson, Nevada*

THE COMMUNITY'S NEWSPAPER 25¢



*HHN 4-11-89, p.1*

**LIBRARY DEDICATED**—Sen. Richard Bryan led a host of other prominent officials who attended the official dedication of the James I. Gibson Public Library Saturday. More than 300 people attended the ceremony, which was followed

by an open house. Designed by Tim Massanari of Massanari Bemis Associates, the \$2 million, 16,000 square-foot library opened March 13. Gibson served in the state Legislature for nearly 30 years before his death last August.

Photo by Jeff Cowie

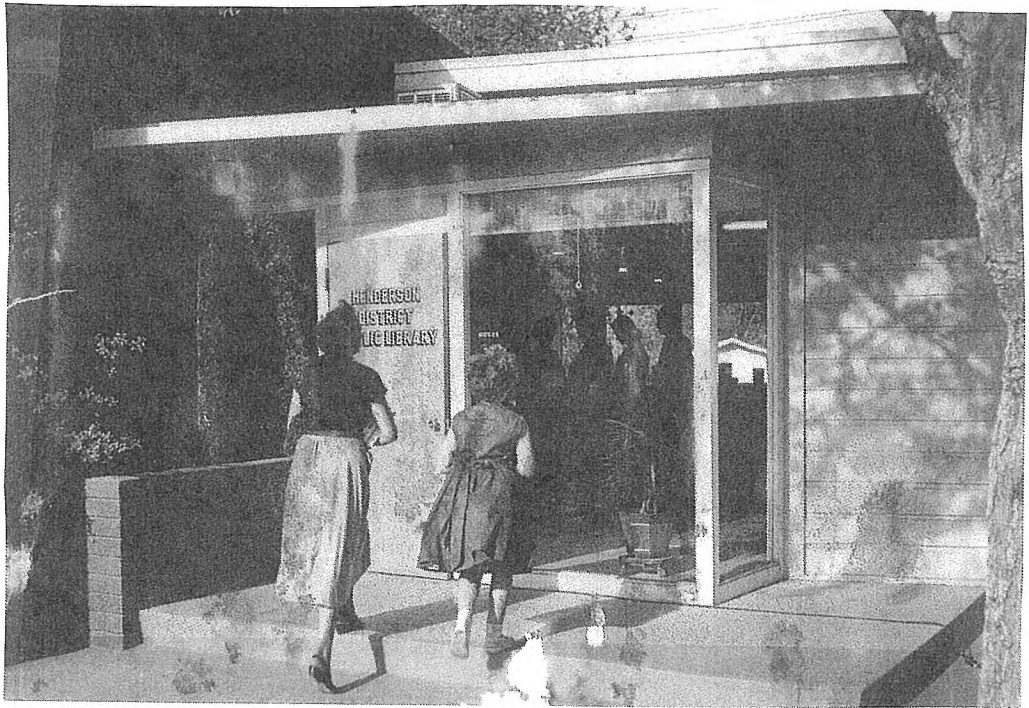


Tuesday, April 11, 1989



**CHILDREN'S ROOM CEREMONY**—Members of the Boyd family cut the ribbon to officially dedicate the Mary T. Boyd Children's Room Saturday in the Gibson library. The room was furnished with a gift from the Eldorado Casino and is named for the late wife of Sam Boyd. Photo by Jeff Cowen





The first Water Street Library



HENDERSON

# New Paseo Verde Library to open on Saturday

By Jeffrey Libby  
LAS VEGAS SUN

Bob Kennard says if his dad's great grandfather shows up in the 1930 U.S. Census, which was released in its entirety in March, he should be able to trace his roots from Maryland farmland "clear back to Scotland."

Like the other 162 members of the Clark County, Nevada Genealogy Society, Kennard has been "poisoned," he says, by a love of family history and of mystery.

Starting Saturday, when the Paseo Verde Library opens in Henderson, volunteers from the society will help others learn how to dig their roots online and from microfiche at the state's only public library genealogy collection.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has four genealogy libraries in the Las Vegas Valley open to the public. But those libraries have more restricted operating hours and are privately funded, said Joan Kerschner, director of the Henderson Public Library District.

"We're going to be open 68 hours a week," Kerschner said of the \$6.6 million, 42,000-square-foot facility at the southeast corner of Interstate 215 and Green Valley Parkway.

The new facility will also be the most high-tech public library in the state, Kerschner

● **What:**  
Opening of  
Paseo Verde  
Library  
● **When:**  
Saturday, 11:30  
a.m.  
● **Where:**  
280 S. Green  
Valley Parkway

said, with videoconferencing capabilities and Internet hookups available throughout the book stacks.

The library also has specialized sections for pre-schoolers, young teens and a medical collection.

Ron Hughes, a retired Marine, said he'll spend his time at the new library online, researching his mother's father's side of the family. He just finished with his mother's mother's side of the family.

"It goes on forever," he said. "Sometimes, though, you find out things you don't want to know. I never have. But a lot of people have."

At a recent society meeting, Hughes said, a member passed around mugshots and Arizona prison records of relatives who did time for murder in the early 1900s.

*Jeffrey Libby is a reporter for the Sun. He can be reached at (702) 259-4063 or by e-mail at jlibby@lasvegassun.com*

LAS VEGAS SUN

\$2.50 a week delivered  
383-0400

# Paseo Verde Library opens new chapter for Henderson

By KRIS HILL

Debbi Erwin, holding a baby and standing next to a stroller, talked with other mothers in the children's section of the Paseo Verde Library Saturday shortly after the new facility opened its doors.

"It's beautiful," Erwin said. "It's a lot bigger than we expected. It's very exciting."

She especially liked the children's department.

"I like that the kids' section is separated from the rest of the library," she said. "That way you can bring your children in and it's OK if they make some noise."

Erwin was one of hundreds of residents and community leaders who turned out for the grand opening of Henderson's first full-service library and first library built in the city in 14 years.

At least an hour before the ribbon cutting for the \$6.5 million, 42,000-square-foot facility, excited patrons lined up outside in the afternoon sun.

Mayor Jim Gibson, who spoke prior to the official opening, was in the line.

"We are so thrilled to add this to our community," Gibson said. "It's an incredible facility. This is probably going to be the most used facility in the city. But we can't stop here."

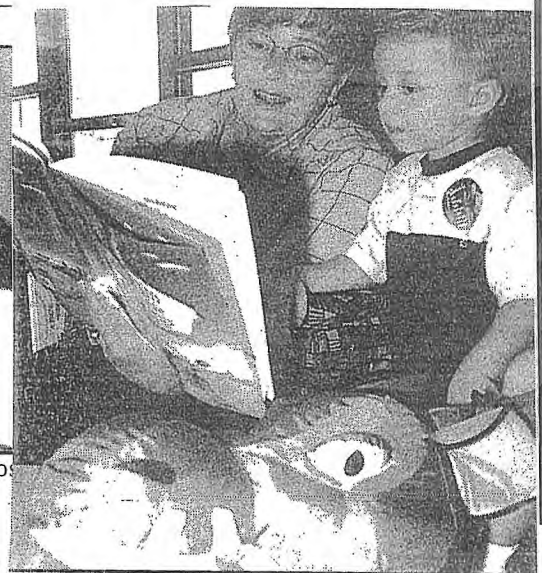
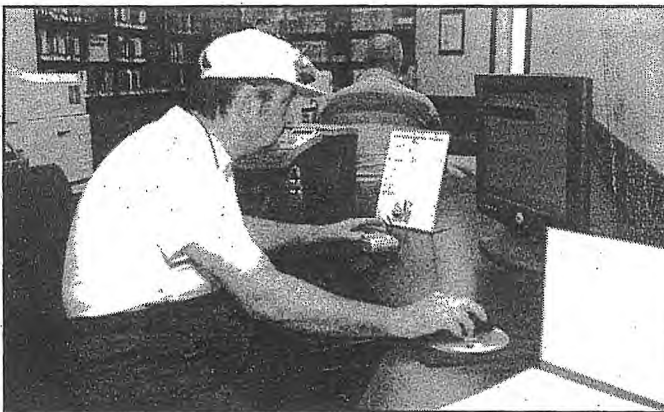
Gibson said that while the new library is a great addition, it is only the first step in providing enough books and services to meet the needs of the growing city.

"We have an opportunity here to do something more," he said.

The mayor encouraged those in attendance to become outspoken supporters of the tax override to appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. The tax override, if approved, through an increase on residential property tax, would raise revenue for the library system, which is in a special tax district and doesn't receive city funding.

"There is nothing that brings quality of life to a community quite like a library," he said.

Henderson Home News | Thursday, August 29, 2002



RON MARTINEZ/NEWS-STAFF PHOTO

Left to right, dignitaries cut the symbolic ribbon opening the Paseo Verde Library just east of Green Valley Parkway Saturday and Joan Kerschner, executive director of Henderson District Public Libraries, happily displays the ribbon; Robert Kennard works in the new library's research area; and Shannon Berndt reads to her 4-year-old grandson Wyatt Berndt. Below, Kim Bosnos watches as sons Cody, 5, and Colton, 3, look at the glass art wall in the children's section. Henderson children created artwork to adorn the squares. Below right, local author



# LIBRARY

from Page 7

Carr, a New York Times best-selling author, gladly helped bring other authors to sign their books at the grand opening because she is a

neighbor and advocate of the library system.

"We're so excited that we can walk to the library," she said. "And isn't it about time we had a library with a coffee shop?"

The number of people there for the opening impressed City Councilman Andy Hafen. Patrons streamed into the li-

brary following the ribbon cutting.

"Of all the city building openings I've been to, this is the most people I've seen in attendance," Hafen said.

Joan Kerschner, executive director of the library district, was also delighted with the community's response.

"It's awesome," she said. "It

was an awesome turnout. We expected a lot of people. I'm just so impressed so many people were willing to stand and sit in the sun. And none of them seem to be in a hurry to leave."

Kerschner said she thinks Paseo Verde Library will be a great help in selling the tax override to the community.

Connie Pate, who lives near the library, said she and her husband David moved to the area specifically because of the library.

"It's very nice," she said. "That's why we moved here six years ago, because we knew this was coming."

Pate was surfing the Internet as her husband watched. She said they don't have access to the Web at home.

The new library has 40 public computers with high-speed Internet connections, a huge increase over the half dozen computers at each of the other libraries.

Local romance novelist Robyn Carr said she's delighted to have the library open.

"This is such a privilege," Carr said as she signed books. "This is the most beautiful library I've ever seen. This just brings the community together."





John Judge/News Staff

**BOOKS** — Elizabeth Johnson, children's librarian for Lydia Malcom Branch of the Henderson District Library, organizes books in preparation for its opening Saturday, Sept. 30. The new branch will provide books for children and adults as well as some periodicals.



August 6, 1953

Mr. Harry E. Parsons  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Henderson, Nev.

Re: Mayor French, Dedication of Henderson Library

Dear Mr. Parsons:

In answer to your letter of July 24th, the Board of Trustees is happy to have Mayor French dedicate our Library. As stated previously, the dedication will be on Sunday, August 16th, at 8 p.m., however the Library will be open to visitors beginning at seven o'clock. We hope to start the ceremony promptly at eight and ask that Mayor French limit his talk to between five and ten minutes. A few pertinent facts which may be of use to him are as follows:

The Henderson Public Library first opened its doors July 1946. Mrs. Laura Jondahl was the first Librarian, Mrs. Lydia Malcolm is the second Librarian, starting November 1948.

Book Circulation is as follows:	1946 (6 mo.)	2,564
	1947	12,683
	1948	14,008
	1949	16,921
	1950	19,496
	1951	19,888
	1952	20,717

In the Summer of 1950, the Children's Summer Reading Program was started. The enrollment that summer (six weeks) was 76. In 1951 the enrollment was 125 and in the summer of 1952, the Library was forced to limit the number to 207, as the one room of the Library could not accommodate more than this number of children in one afternoon. As a comparison figure only, with other libraries in this vicinity, this was a very large volume.

In addition there have been many exhibits at the Library. Some of them include Girl Scout Handicraft, Ceramic and Leather displays, Paintings of Local Artists and one large exhibit each year to which the school children are invited. These large exhibits included Displays of dolls and handicraft from the nations of the United Nations and were sent to the Library through the various foreign embassies in the United States. Another display was Dolls from Fairy Tales and Mother Goose Land. A very fine exhibit of Colonial and Revolutionary War articles came to the Library from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. Last year the exhibit consisted of articles loaned by the Dept. of Anthropology of the University of New Mexico and stressed the Indians of the Southwest. In co-operation with the Henderson Public Schools and the Parochial School, over 1,200 children visit the Library, coming according to a half hour schedule all during the day and each class accompanied by its teacher. Explanation and history of the

articles on display, was given by the Librarian.

It was because of the increase in the number of children who used the Library and also because of the building of new homes and growth of our community, that the Board of Trustees felt that they should go ahead with what funds were in a Building Fund, established some years ago, and remodel the present Library. The first step was to buy the building, since title to it could be obtained in no other way, and then remodel, so accordingly the building was purchased in February 1953. Architect for the building was Mr. Jack Miller who started working on the plans at this time. Notices were posted in the newspapers, and in April when the bids were opened, Miller Haynes and Smith were found to be the lowest bidders and were so awarded the contract. When the plans were drawn, and before submitting them for bid, Mrs. Malcolm, Librarian, consulted with the Las Vegas Librarian, and with other Librarians in Southern Nevada as well as with the State Librarian, Mrs. Collins, regarding these plans. The building you will see represents the best ideas of today for a small modern library and its efficient functioning.

As Librarian, I have nothing but the highest praise for all the members of the Board of Trustees - Mr. Gordon Mc Caw, President; Mr. Earl Loman, Clerk and Mr. Bernard Cannon, Member. These men have devoted much time and effort as well as thought and foresight, to the affairs of the Library. They have worked together in perfect harmony and the results are obvious - a Library for the whole town and one in which the whole town can take great pride.

The Henderson District Public Library is supported by a tax levied on Henderson School District Number 2. It's Board of Trustees come under and are appointed by the School Board of Henderson.

If there is any further information either you or Mayor French may desire, I shall be happy to supply it or you may contact Mr. Gordon Mc Caw, President at the Henderson School, phone 1109.

Very truly yours,

Lydia S. Malcolm  
Librarian



Lydia Malcolm





**CHAT-Nevada First Congressional District Representative James Bilbray discusses local matters with Henderson Mayor Lorna Kesterson at Friday's Pittman branch library opening. Funds from the federal Community Development Block Grant Program made the renovation possible.**

**Photo by John Gurzinski**