

Depot Report of May 2026

They say “slow and steady wins the race” - progress on the Rolling Stock is proceeding steadily; with everyone’s help materials for the HCP grant are being gathered.

Facts about building space planning and financial implications have been shared with the WCHS Board as discussions about the future of the Archives continue. Kathleen and Linda met with Alex to gain an understanding about the needs of the Archives. Linda also met with Ed Garretson to hear his perspective.

The Vintage Quilt Show is experiencing another banner year, extending its showtime to an additional week. A U-Tube video of Linda talking about the history of the depot and restoration efforts has had so many “hits,” there is talk about planning more short videos.

Palouse Museum Report – May 2026

I hoped it wouldn't, but the damage from the hidden roof leak is showing its ugly face. The leak, which didn't show inside in the typical way (puddles on the floor), instead ran down between the two layers of exterior brick, which caused sloughing of the bricks inside. While the leak has been fixed, the dampened damaged bricks have continued to slough, and more are clearly going to. I have become increasingly concerned about structural integrity. Today (Saturday) local mason Chris Sapp came to evaluate. He assured me that structural integrity is not an immediate worry, but it's not going to get any better. We discussed 3 options: frame it and sheetrock; fix the bricks; or stucco over the bricks. As it is not his area of expertise, he guessed that framing/sheetrock cost would be comparable to fixing the bricks. Fixing the bricks will be a continuing issue however, due to age and condition of the bricks. He also has a license for stucco-ing and he recommended that as the most economical and permanent solution.

There was not time for him to prepare a proper estimate before this board meeting, but his best guess is \$12,000 to stucco vs \$18,000 to fix the bricks. This is strictly "ballpark" for this board meeting. A more detailed estimate is forthcoming. He would prefer to do it this winter since it is an inside job. It could wait a year, as far as structural integrity goes, but cost would increase. I will attempt to get a second opinion, but most of you know how hard it is to find a mason in the area. He has worked at the museum before and I trust him.

As with the initial roof project, I would need WCHS to initially cover the cost and trust me to come up with the rest.

Please advise if you want me to wait a year, or proceed with getting a real estimate with plan to do the work this winter, and what to do if I can't get a second bid.

Directors Report – May 2026

Coleman Cemetery is making brochures with a QR code to direct people to our site for giving. They will drop off extra brochures to put at each of our locations. The Coleman Cemetery group is hiring a person to take care of the cemetery this summer. We will pay the person and send them a 990 each year.

Frank White will be doing a presentation for us at the Library on June 20th to talk about the historic buildings in downtown Colfax. I believe there will be a walking tour after the presentation.

The pipe is fixed at the Perkins House.

Just a reminder to everyone: People who donate to the WCHS are our donors. We need to remind volunteers that they may not go to a donor and ask for funds without permission from us. Jeff and I had to deal with a situation at Perkins' house. One of our volunteers went to the McGregor family and asked if they could pay to take care of the flower beds at the Perkins House. They were just going to have the bill sent to McGregor's. We explained that we need to have the contract with the landscaper because it is our property. And projects need to be approved even if they are in-kind or someone else is paying. It is our property. We think we have it all cleared up now.