

Local officials discuss government, infrastructure



Shanna Cummings and Ashley Maden

Wednesday, February 06, 2019 8:50 AM

NNRDA/HDA Economic Development Officer Jan Morrison, Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority Executive Director Sheldon Mudd, Governor's Office of Economic Development Deputy Director Matt Moore and Governor's Office of Economic Development Mining Industry Specialist Joel Lenz.

Editor's Note: The annual Winnemucca Futures economic development forum took place on Jan. 30, and featured Humboldt County's industry and government leaders. What follows is the first of a four-part series.

Winnemucca Futures 2019 highlighted the advancements and trajectory of Humboldt County's government, industries and education. More than 165 people from Humboldt County and other locales attended the event, held at the Boys and Girls Club.

Government and Infrastructure

City of Winnemucca

Winnemucca city manager Alicia Heiser spoke about the city's current and planned projects, including the capacity for expansion.

The city has completed several recreational construction projects in the past year, including the splash pad, playground equipment replacement at both Vesco and Highland parks, and the fitness walking path installed at the Whitworth Recreational Complex. The fitness walking path is free for the public to use year-round and funding was provided by an AARP grant obtained by the Age and Dementia Friendly group in Winnemucca.

Planned recreational projects this spring include new playground equipment for both Pioneer Park and the Whitworth Recreational Complex adjacent to the splash pad.

Heiser said the city plans to have a feasibility study and report conducted to determine whether it makes more sense to repair the pool or construct a new one and to document issues with the pool. She said Bode Howard Memorial Pool is not large enough to hold revenue-generating



swim meets and current known issues include problems with the HVAC system, ventilation and utility room conduits that are corroded.

Heiser said the new sewer plant that was installed by the city just over a year ago currently processes just over 800,000 gallons per day. The capacity of the sewer plant is 2.4 million gallon per day allowing for expansion and new projects.

There are seven water wells throughout the city and Heiser said plans are underway to construct a new well on the east side of town to allow for expansion. The city is also constructing a railroad spring pipeline on BLM land that will allow water that currently runs out onto the ground to be transferred to the east side of town, providing redundancy for the city's most utilized well seven.

Heiser said the city has supported the community in two new programs to contribute to downtown economic development and historic preservation, which include the Nevada Mainstreet program and Nevada State Historic Preservation Office Certified Local Government Program.

Heiser reported that the city's financial state is good as the general fund is stable and consolidated tax distribution (CTX) has been very good this year so far. The only debt held by the city is on the newly constructed sewer plant. Heiser said the water fund capital is low, but has enough for current maintenance.

"The city's role in economic development is making sure that businesses want to be here and that we have the infrastructure to expand when businesses come and bring new employees," said Heiser.

Humboldt County

Humboldt County Manager Dave Mendiola discussed Humboldt County's part in Cyanco's choice of Winnemucca for its solid sodium cyanide expansion location. He also stressed the importance of having a community prepared for an influx of new jobs and residents. Companies look at housing, infrastructure, Internet and community offerings when choosing a location, and if Humboldt County can't provide these things, they will take the business elsewhere, Mendiola said. He also spoke about the I-11 corridor and the county's strategic plan for economic development.

Regarding the water question, Mendiola said the county is in the process of acquiring Star City Water, but also still needs to address the high level of nitrites in the Grass Valley area. In response to the question about the recreation tax initiative, Mendiola emphasized the importance of a future initiative benefiting the rural communities as well as Winnemucca. Regarding the increased traffic from Cyanco and Lithium Nevada, Mendiola said he was discussing additional turnouts and passing lanes on 95 to ease traffic pressure. He said the



county is stable financially, with no debt, and the general fund sits at around \$13 million. "Humboldt County is in a great position to grow and move ourselves into the future," he said.

Economic Development

Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA)

The NNRDA represents five counties in northeastern Nevada, covering approximately 45,000 square miles and making up 41 percent of the state. Executive Director Sheldon Mudd said the main focus of the NNRDA is to recruit business and create jobs, with a focus on community exposure.

Mudd reported that in 2018, NNRDA was involved in \$112.5 million of new capital investment into northeastern Nevada, equivalent to 66 jobs. Mudd said the NNRDA is at a 20 percent success rate for attracting new people who have inquired into the regional area.

The NNRDA has been working on ancillary objectives such as infrastructure and housing to be prepared for community marketing and diversification efforts.

"Going into the future we're really going to try to expose this area to what's out there and target specific industries, aerospace and defense, agriculture and several others that we'll be targeting," said Mudd.

NNRDA Economic Development Officer Jan Morrison spoke about community capacity building, which includes infrastructure, Interstate 11 planning, downtown planning, housing issues, local certified government, and the Mainstreet program.

Morrison reported that the previously projected decline in Humboldt County's population is now expected to grow in the next three to five years, along with the estimated number of primary jobs.

"We've made some huge progress with housing issues in talking to major employers and have some workforce housing developments coming out of the ground this year," said Morrison. "The city and county have worked hard in problem-solving and working to remove some of the economic barriers."

Mudd shared the importance of community groups and local governments working together toward a common goal.

"You guys have a lot going on in Humboldt County and you guys are a shining example of how county and city can work together to make things happen," said Mudd. "We're working on that with some of our other areas but here it's working well and you're really blessed to have a group of folks that are all going in one direction."



Governor's Office of Economic Development

Matt Moore, deputy director for the Governor's Office on Economic Development (GOED) said GOED's focus is coordinating the efforts of all of the economic development authorities in the state. He said Nevada lost over 100,000 jobs during the recession of 2008-2012. Since then, the state has created almost 300,000 jobs and gained 190,000 jobs back, in part because of the efforts of economic development authorities.

GOED was integral in providing many of the financial incentives that enticed Cyanco, for instance. These incentive packages depend on the company meeting requirements like numbers of jobs offered, and do not include actual money. Rather, companies receive tax abatements for a number of years, or fee waivers. Altogether, GOED and Humboldt County offered an incentive package of \$1.5 million.

Moore said only 80 percent of the companies that apply for incentive packages actually meet the requirements. "The pressure is now on Cyanco to meet those metrics," he said.

GOED Mining Specialist Joel Lenz said mining in the state is solid, and is optimistic about gold, as well as copper and lithium. He said the mining industry is countercyclical; for instance, in 2012 when the rest of the state struggled, mining had its heyday, but has slid in recent years, only recently coming out of the slump. He said part of his job is "marketing Nevada" in the mining industry, which is relatively easy because government entities don't attempt to assert control over mining resources.

Humboldt Development Authority

Patrick Gray, Humboldt Development Authority board president, spoke about the importance of Humboldt County's strategic plan, calling it the "roadmap to where we want to go." Grants often require the information provided in the strategic plan, as do efforts to bring the Interstate 11 corridor through Humboldt County. He also spoke about catalyst projects, or projects that spark continued growth, like reinvigorating downtown Winnemucca, and emphasized that economic growth in the county leads to community abundance.

Gray explained how the strategic plan came together in three phases: information gathering, analysis and implementation. The plan includes projects to encourage value-added agriculture like bringing in dairy operations so hay grown in the county remains in the county rather than being exported. It also touches on recreation, public land and tourism.

Gray recounted a quote by ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes, who said "Give me a lever long enough, and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world." Gray said the county's strategic plan is the fulcrum that will allow the county to do amazing things.

Leaders discuss industrial opportunities

[Shanna Cummings](#), News4Nevada Contributor

Friday, February 08, 2019 8:42 AM



The manufacturing and local industry panel consisted of (left to right) Lithium Nevada Corporation Vice President of Government Affairs/Community Relations Tim Crowley, Cyanco Sales Manager Steve Cochrane, Humboldt Ford General Manager Steve Kuhn, Humboldt County Commissioner Ron Cerri and Loon LLC. Operations Manager Paul Acosta. During his presentation, Cochrane displays a small model of an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) container, used to store sodium cyanide to be shipped to its destination.

Editor's Note: The annual Winnemucca Futures economic development forum took place on Jan. 30, and featured Humboldt County's industry and government leaders. What follows is the second of a four-part series.

Winnemucca Futures 2019 highlighted the advancements and trajectory of Humboldt County's government, industries and education. More than 165 people from Humboldt County and other locales attended the event, held at the Boys and Girls Club.

Lithium Nevada

Tim Crowley, VP of Government Affairs for Lithium Nevada, started off the panel on Manufacturing and Industry. The relatively new Nevada branch of Lithium Americas identified a "world class" lithium deposit in the Thacker Pass area of the McDermitt Caldera near Orovada. Mining the deposit requires a new process for the soft clay ore.

Crowley said the team initially intended to mine all of the claim, but changed directions due to complications with sage grouse habitat as well as infrastructure and topography challenges.

The Thacker Pass lithium project has a mine life of 46 years, Crowley said, and has the potential to produce 25 percent of the world's current demand for lithium. The US currently produces 2 percent of the world demand.

Crowley said the project was moving quickly and anticipated construction for the mine to begin in 2020, with production rolling out in 2022. He estimated hiring 900 workers to build the plant, and 290 direct



full-time employees once production begins. The mine should be a \$1.7 billion capital project, and will generate approximately \$6.7 billion in state and local taxes over the life of the mine.

Crowley also expressed some concerns, particularly workforce, housing and education in the Orovada area, but conversations are underway on ways to address these concerns.

Cyanco

Cyanco's Winnemucca plant is expanding to produce and transport solid sodium cyanide. Cyanco produces and delivers cyanide - a substance integral to gold mining - in an on-demand method similar to topping off a cup of coffee, said Sales Manager Steve Cochrane.

Cochrane said Cyanco started with a small plant in Winnemucca, and has grown to become the largest supplier of sodium cyanide in the world.

The Winnemucca plant expansion will convert excess sodium cyanide solution into solid briquettes to export to areas where transportation of liquid sodium cyanide isn't economical. Cyanco's decision to locate the expansion in Winnemucca rather than at their Alvin, Texas plant, came after months of negotiations with economic development authorities, Humboldt County administration and the Governor's Office for Economic Development to put together an incentive package.

Construction is already underway, and Cochrane said production should begin in 2020. The expansion will add 20 new jobs at first, with another 16 jobs over the course of the next year.

Humboldt Ford

General Manager Steve Kuhn spoke on behalf of Humboldt Ford, which opened its doors in Winnemucca following the closure of DeLong Ford dealership in early 2018. Humboldt Ford serves as an example of the role economic development and infrastructure can play in determining economic feasibility in a particular location.

Kuhn said when he was first approached by Ford with the proposal of opening a dealership in a rural town of approximately 8,000 people, he wasn't sure it would be economically viable. However, upon visiting Winnemucca, Kuhn said he realized the need for products and services in the area with the presence of large ranching and mining communities.

"We really looked at the infrastructure here in Winnemucca; it seemed like the businesses, citizens and local government put a real high priority in economic development in the area," said Kuhn. "The facilities, the events center, the arenas, the college - in a town this size these are things you just don't see. You start talking 80,000 instead of 8,000 then you start rivaling facilities - and not just facilities but support behind them, that meant a lot to us."

Humboldt Ford reports hiring 35 employees and \$12 million in sales in the first five months and plans for growth. They have recently begun expansion into accessories, rental car availability and shuttle service.

Humboldt Ford is a part of the Teton Auto Family, a group of locally managed Idaho-based dealerships which specialize in medium and small markets.

Agriculture

Humboldt County Commissioner and rancher Ron Cerri spoke about opportunities for value-added agriculture to build on the county's agricultural roots. Humboldt County is home to over 350 farms and ranches, bringing in \$135 million annually, but 100 percent of the county's agricultural commodities are transported out of the state or even out of the country. Value-added agriculture includes operations that use what farms and ranches in the county provide, circulating the commodities and the money within the county. Cerri gave examples like dairy operations, since the hay grown in this region is top-quality and improves the milk produced by the cows. Currently, the county's hay goes to California.

Cerri also mentioned growing hemp, a versatile and high-demand crop used in textiles, pharmaceuticals, paint and biofuels. Growing hemp here currently is challenging because it is such a new crop, and there aren't any processing plants nearby. However, the hemp industry is expected to grow 700 percent in the coming years.

Agriculture establishments use 90 percent of the groundwater pumped in Humboldt County, and the county pumps more groundwater than any other in the state. He said water will continue to be a valued resource.

Loon LLC - Airport Industrial Park Expansion

Operations Manager Paul Acosta gave an update of Loon LLC., the internet-carrying balloon launching company which has resided in Winnemucca at the airport industrial complex for the past five years.

Loon's core mission is to connect the unconnected, by attaching cell phone antennas to balloons and launch them 70,000 feet in the air, then directing them from the Winnemucca or Puerto Rico Launching facilities to remote areas around the world using the wind to provide connectivity where infrastructure is absent.

Loon went live with data-providing balloons in 2017 following hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and was able to provide connectivity to nearly a quarter of a million people while their infrastructure was being rebuilt.

Loon began under Google's Project X research and development arm in Mountainview, California and graduated from the X program and become its own company under the umbrella of Alphabet. Google and Loon now both reside under the recently formed Alphabet parent company.

Loon is in phase three of expanding their facility, which included footprint growth to fifteen acres in Winnemucca. The larger facility will be complemented by a new launch system to support next-generation flight systems and support ongoing research and development.

Acosta said in searching for a home base for Loon in the western United States, they visited 30 locations in a three-month period, with the last one being in Winnemucca where he met with the airport fixed base operator and former city manager Steve West.

"The hospitality and the willingness to work with us as kind of a crazy science experiment was something that really drew me to the area," said Acosta.

Mining takes the stage at 'Futures'

Shanna Cummings and Ashley Maden

Friday, February 15, 2019 8:01 AM



Twin Creeks Mine General Manager Melissa Harmon (center) as well as Turquoise Ridge General Manager Henri Gonin and Marigold Mine General Manager Greg Gibson talked about the increasing use of technology like drones to make mining safer and more efficient during Winnemucca Futures.

Editor's Note: The annual Winnemucca Futures economic development forum took place on Jan. 30, and featured Humboldt County's industry and government leaders. What follows is the last of a four-part series.

Winnemucca Futures 2019 highlighted the advancements and trajectory of Humboldt County's government, industries and education. More than 165 people from Humboldt County and other locales attended the event, held at the Boys and Girls Club.

Representatives of six gold mines in Humboldt and Pershing counties spoke in two panels. The first panel included Henri Gonin, General Manager of Barrick Turquoise Ridge Mine; Melissa Harmon, General Manager of Newmont Twin Creeks Mine; and Greg Gibson, General Manager of SSR Mining Marigold Mine. The second panel included Tracey Thom, Vice President of Investor Relations for Hycroft Mine; Jerod Eastman, General Manager of Pershing Gold Relief Canyon Mine; and Robert Stepper, General Manager of Coeur Rochester Mine.

Newmont Twin Creeks

Newmont Twin Creeks Mine General Manager Melissa Harmon offered an update about the mine's operations, including the new Twin Creeks Underground mine that opened last year.

Harmon said the underground mine supplements the operation's open pit. She said Twin Creeks



contributed 350,000 of the nearly 700,000 ounces of gold produced by Newmont's Nevada mines in 2018.

Twin Creeks mine has supported Winnemucca and Humboldt County economic development and community investment and support, Harmon said. Through the Legacy Fund and employee donations, Twin Creeks donated almost \$1 million in cash, scholarships and grants in Humboldt County in 2018.

Twin Creeks has been in operation for 32 years with 22 years under Newmont. Harmon said Twin Creeks is "aggressively pursuing resource growth" in order to extend mine life, and looks forward to celebrating 50 years of operation in Humboldt County within the next two decades.

In response to an audience question, Harmon said Twin Creeks uses different types of technology, including drones for aerial surveying and inspection, and in processing, technology provides real time information that allows technicians to see the chemistry of the ore and make changes.

Harmon emphasized the need for skilled workers like diesel mechanics, stressing the importance of a strong Career and Technical Education program, but the employee of the future will need some technological experience as well, in order to use the technology available.

Turquoise Ridge Mine

Barrick Turquoise Ridge (TR) Mine General Manager Henri Gonin gave a synopsis of the Turquoise Ridge Mine, located approximately 44 miles northeast of Winnemucca. Turquoise Ridge is a joint venture, with Barrick Mining Corp. as the 75 percent owner and Newmont holding 25 percent.

TR is reported to be continually expanding and growing, as it has for the past 33 years. Barrick officially announced a merger with Randgold Resources on Jan. 1. Gonin said that following the merger, Turquoise Ridge is still being recognized as one of Barrick's core mines, an achievement the mine reached in the past year.

"There is even more focus now from our new leadership within the company to aggressively grow Turquoise Ridge and that's important because within the industry we compete for capital and within our own company, as capital is not an endless resource," said Gonin.

In the way of technological advancements, TR has been using a remote operational chair in its Winnemucca town office to operate a loader underground at the mine site as a trial. Gonin said it's going well and they plan to continually explore methods of innovation.

Gonin reported the \$300 million third shaft project at TR to be progressing well and on schedule with the physical sinking planned to start mid-2019.

Turquoise Ridge employs roughly 500 full-time employees, with another 120 full-time contractors, along with an additional 100 on site for the shaft-sinking project.

Gonin also announced his immediate departure from Turquoise Ridge to fulfill the role of General Manager at the Cortez Mine in eastern Nevada near Elko.

Marigold Mine

Marigold is a gold mine located approximately 36 miles east of Winnemucca in Humboldt County, acquired by SSR Mining in 2014 from Goldcorp Inc. and Barrick Gold for \$275 million. As of 2019, Marigold Mine has been in production for 30 years and currently has a 10-year mine life.

Marigold General Manager Greg Gibson reported that in 2019, Marigold produced 205,000 ounces of gold from 77.6 million tons of ore and placed a record 27 million tons of ore on the leach pad. Marigold is constructing a new leach pad and adding four new trucks to the operational fleet to increase production.

"In the community, Marigold strives to be a good partner, we have over \$200,000 per year that we contribute through different donations and about \$60,000 annually that we put toward scholarships," said Gibson.

Looking at 2019 and beyond, Gibson said Marigold is looking toward growth, with a predicted increase in workforce, ounces produced and several large construction projects including leach pad cells (\$10 million each), continued mine exploration to add to the mine life, autonomous drilling implementation, continued technology innovation and an environmental impact statement (EIS) to be able to mine below the groundwater level.

Last year Marigold spent \$9 million in exploration on the west side of the mine property and this year they hope to convert that to mineable ore reserves. In 2019 they plan to spend \$7.5 million on exploration on the east side of the property.

Hycroft Mining Company

Hycroft Vice President of Investor Relations Tracey Thom shared some of the activity the mine has been quietly working on and deemed Futures as Hycroft's "coming out party."

Thom said Hycroft began a mill demonstration plant in 2015 that was successful, which demonstrated the success of the new Alkaline Atmospheric Oxidation (AAO) mill process (tank oxidation with sulfides) and built two five-thousand-ton demonstration leach test pads for a newly developed two-stage sulfide oxidation and leach process.

The two-stage sulfide oxidation process works as an alternative to mill ore processing, which eliminates the need for hundreds of millions of dollars of capital needed to build a new mill, and instead allows for new leach pads to be built which the mine already has the infrastructure in place for.

Hycroft has built seven demonstration pads for the new leach process with success and will move forward with a limited restart. Thom said the crusher and all other equipment is rehabbed and ready



for production and expected to be in operation within a month.

"We hope to give back to the community by creating more than 200 direct jobs at Hycroft and indirectly by focusing on working with contractors and consultants in the area," said Thom.

Hycroft is a good and silver mine located in the Sulfur Mining district, 54 miles west of Winnemucca.

"I have been with the company for 10 years so I've watched it come from nothing to blow all the way up to almost 400 people and sadly back down again, so I'm really happy to be able to say that we're working towards building back up," said Thom. "This time it's going to be a very measured growth cycle for us."

Pershing Gold Relief Canyon

Jerod Eastman, General Manager of Pershing Gold Relief Canyon Mine, gave an update on the reopening of the mine. "We keep getting closer and closer, but we're not quite ready to pull the trigger yet," he said, adding that the government shutdown had slowed down progress. He expected an announcement about the completion of the merger with Americas Silver this month, with construction to reopen Relief Canyon Mine to begin shortly after that. He said the mine will make every attempt to spend capital locally, and counties will see the tax benefits.

Eastman anticipates adding 200 jobs, looking in a 70-mile radius around Lovelock, including Winnemucca, Fernley, Fallon, Reno to pull employees. "I'd like to thank Greg and Melissa and Henri for training them for us," he joked, referring to the General Managers of Marigold, Twin Creeks and Turquoise Ridge mines.

Regarding transportation to the mines, Eastman said administrators are looking into carpooling opportunities like busing. He said his current employees have housing, but looking forward to expansion, it was important to keep housing in mind.

Coeur Rochester

Rob Stepper, General Manager Coeur Rochester, gave a quick update on the mine's status. He said the mine employed about 150 Winnemucca residents, and about 50 to 60 Winnemucca contractors as well.

Since operations began in 1986, Coeur Rochester mine has produced 150 million ounces of silver and 1.6 million ounces of gold. Stepper anticipates the current amendment of the plan of operations to take the mine life as far as 2035. The current 250 million construction project will require about 300 contractors at its peak to finish.

Stepper said the mine wouldn't be able to bus because of the range of counties where employees live. He also said Coeur Rochester was using contractors for some of the technological jobs. Though he hadn't spoken with his employees directly about housing needs, he said some of his employees were struggling to find adequate housing.

Leaders discuss education and youth

Shanna Cummings and Ashley Maden Thursday, February 14, 2019 1:00 AM

Like 0

Tweet 



Comments (0)

Winnemucca Futures 2019 highlighted the advancements and trajectory of Humboldt County's government, industries and education. More than 165 people from Humboldt County and other locales attended the event, held at the Boys and Girls Club.

Humboldt County School District

Superintendent Dave Jensen gave an update on Humboldt County School District's (HCSD) progress, including announcing that the graduation rate had reached nearly 91 percent, a 27-point difference in the six years since he took the reins. Jensen credited the district's five-year strategic plan as a significant boon to improvement. The district took 18 months to formulate its strategic plan with a five-year vision, which centers on Guaranteed Learning and Culture for all grade levels.



Humboldt County School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dave Jensen, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Educator Brad Schultz and Great Basin College Health and Human Services Dean Dr. Amber Donnelly.

The district is also in the process of updating Reading and Math curricula for all grade levels. Last year, the district adopted the Fountas and Pinnell curriculum for pre-kindergarten through third grade. This year, grades four through eight began the Wit and Wisdom curriculum. Lowry and McDermitt high schools are currently piloting new ELA and Math curricula.

Jensen said programs like Gear Up and Summit that support postsecondary education and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers are funded by grants that, when the funding ends, requires the district to create contingency plans to continue providing the service, or else discontinue the program. Declining enrollment at McDermitt Combined School as well as a lack of teachers for rural locations has meant that students suffer for lack of art and music programs.

Jensen also stressed the importance of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) or vocational program for students not interested in college, and assured attendees that the district has no intention of dropping its CTE program.

To address the issue of suicide and mental health in schools, Jensen said HCSD teachers have all been trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid that helps teachers identify students experiencing suicidal ideation and intercede for these students to prevent tragedy.

UNR Cooperative Extension

University of Nevada Reno Cooperative Extension Educator Brad Schultz talked about how the Cooperative Extension distributes agricultural research around the state, particularly range and grazing management as well as noxious weed management and eradication.

The Cooperative Extension's 4H program teaches about 225 youth about agriculture and around 20 other programs ranging from animal husbandry to rocketry, as well as in-school and after-school programs. Despite a significant budget cut in 2011, Humboldt County Cooperative Extension still has a full time 4H position.

The Cooperative Extension provides non-credit education on a number of community-based issues like agriculture, natural resources, community development and children, youth and families. Schultz said he primarily works with range management, agriculture and grazing, with proposals for migration of pronghorn, sage brush fire rehab, dormant season grazing, noxious weeds with Conservation Districts and Weed Districts.

Schultz said agencies are looking into changing the strategic use of grazing and fire breaks to combat wildfires, including changing grazing seasons on permit land to reduce fuel buildup like cheat grass.

Great Basin College

Great Basin College (GBC) Health and Human Services Dean Dr. Amber Donnelly shared the most recent accomplishments of the college, along with plans for the future.

At the 2018 Winnemucca Futures event, Donnelly shared news of the \$5 million Pennington Foundation grant pledge for a new health sciences and technology building to be constructed in Winnemucca, with a requirement of securing \$2 million in community funding by June 2019.

Donnelly announced that the college had met its funding goal with numerous donations and an additional contribution of \$500,000 from the Pennington Foundation. She said the building is ready for design and they expect to break ground on the building in June 2019.

"That's a really big win for our community; it literally was just an idea that we had originally when we started the nursing program here four years ago," said Donnelly.

Currently, second year nursing students are housed in the ambulance barn of Humboldt General Hospital, which Donnelly said isn't really conducive to learning.

The first year nursing program celebrated six graduates, twelve have graduated to-date and nine are slotted to graduate from the four-year nursing program. Fifteen students are currently enrolled and on track to graduate in the Winnemucca nursing program at GBC.

The GBC nursing program has seen a growth from approximately twenty nursing students in Elko when the program began five years ago to now over 110 students between Winnemucca and Elko.

Looking to the future, Donnelly said they would like to add radiology and stenography programs in Winnemucca, along with technical programs and additional opportunities created by the new building where the paramedic program would likely be housed.

Donnelly reported that the new building will also allow for dedicated lab space for the Electrical program, with the program being funded with a partnership with Barrick Gold Corporation.