

# THE CELLHOUSE SNITCH



## Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I am just finishing up my first year as President of NSPPS. I feel very lucky to work alongside so many active and dedicated volunteers.

We concluded a VERY successful 2021 tour season Nevada Day weekend and had a great turnout at the Annual Membership Meeting in November. Now, many of us are taking a small but much needed break from the weekly activities at NSP.

That said, there still are a few things going on. We are working on a capital improvement list to guide our projects for the next several years, and we will be putting together the 2022 tour season early next year.

The big news this month was a very generous donation from the Stemler Foundation. The matriarch of the Stemler Foundation, Peggy Stemler and her family, including Jim and Kathleen Stemler who live here in Carson City, donated \$20,000 to the NSPPS for us to continue our work maintaining the facility and enhancing the visitor experience in the future. I cannot thank the Stemler family enough for their generous donation.

My best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

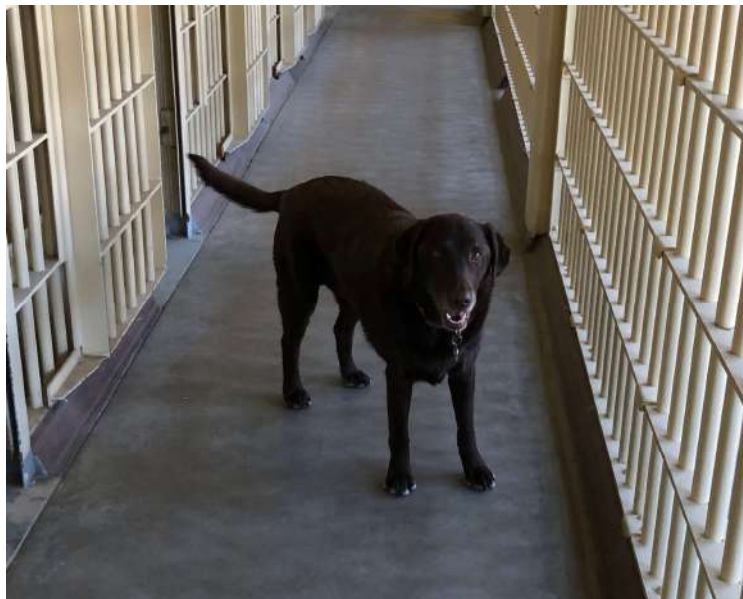
Jim Wells

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## **PROJECTS:**

Early this month Lee and Brew made arrangements for Ponderosa Roofing to carry out a one day work project on the Admin/Education roof. Ponderosa spent the day repairing 80 [!!] holes on that wing of the structure. That was a great little project especially considering the minimal cost of \$1,619. Great value for the money.

On Friday, 12.10.21, the day after the rains, Lee and Brew under the direction of Tootsie Perks, Lee's chocolate Lab, inspected NSP to check for leaks. Happy to report that the rooms in Education were dry, as was the area near Control. We decided not to venture onto the roof, but Tootsie made a compelling case to re-visit NSP after the predicted weekend storms to recheck Education and the Cellhouse.



### **TOOTSIE LOOKING FOR LEAKS**

[ What a good girl !!]

When we first arrived, the downspout by the Admin exit (grey door) was dry, but the water started flowing before we left. It must have warmed up the roof ice enough to turn it to water. It is becoming urgent that we extend that downspout to the ground level and direct the water into the drainage ditch.

A subcommittee of the Board is working on plans for maintenance and development at NSP. The committee met on Tuesday, 12-14-2021, and finalized its recommendations for projects and priorities for the next five years. These recommendations will be presented to the full Board at its January meeting. A full listing of the projects will appear in the next newsletter.

**Continued:**

## MISCELLANEOUS:

Because I was traveling I missed the broadcasts of the NSP episode on "Destination Fear". Through the power of the interweb you can watch old episodes of obscure TV programs. Our episode is episode 3 in season 4. Season 4 is not available to stream now but when it is I'll be watching and invite those of you who missed it to join me.

## HISTORY: Nevada Appeal 12-1-1870

The Great Escape of 1871 was not the only serious attempt to flee NSP in the 1870's. The following story details a fight involving guns, knives, iron bars, and pulled whiskers.

**Desperate Attempt to Escape—Fires.**  
VIRGINIA, December 1 —This morning, about 6 o'clock, as the prisoners at the State Prison in Carson City were being let out into the large hall, previous to going to breakfast, a desperate attempt to escape was made by them by rushing upon, disarming and overpowering the guards. Before more than five had succeeded in getting out, the iron door was closed. Those who were out, armed with a knife, a bar of iron and pieces of lead pipe, attacked the guards and attempted to disarm them. Captain Dallman, who was at the door, was seized by the whiskers by one of them, when he drew his revolver and shot him through the abdomen.  
McClure, the ring leader, formerly prison guard at San Quentin, and sentenced from Lander county, after being shot twice through the body while attempting to wrench a pistol from one of the guards, was shot and killed. After the fight there were two found mortally wounded, one shot through the chest and dangerously wounded, and one killed; the other escaped through the door and was found in the cellar. The guards, though severely, are not dangerously hurt.

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