

# DAILY Gate City

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## Depot group has \$227K of match

### Keokuk Union Depot Foundation mounts fundraising campaign to replace roof of historic riverfront structure

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The Keokuk Union Depot Foundation and Commission on Thursday evening invited the community to help “raise the roof” for the historic structure on Keokuk’s riverfront.

Forty to 50 people attended the event to learn about the Depot 125 capital campaign to raise a two-for-one match to a \$333,000 grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation, which will allow the depot foundation to put a new roof on the building. The match of \$667,000 must be raised by Sept. 30, 2017, according to depot foundation President Janet Smith.

However, in honor of the circa-1891 depot’s 125th anniversary, “I am hoping that on July 1, 2016, we will be able to celebrate mightily what we have raised in donations and pledges,” Smith said.



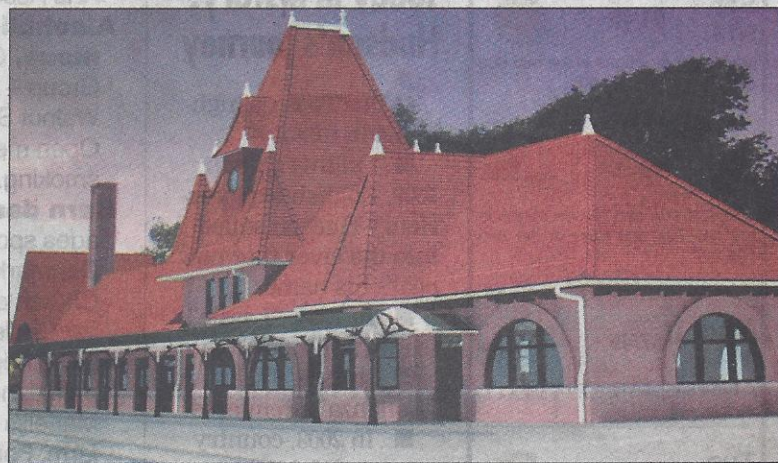
She told the audience that more than \$227,000 has been pledged or donated so far.

After the matching funds have been raised, a contractor can begin the million-dollar task of setting red clay tile and raising the central tower of the roof to its original height. A new roof will go a long way toward ensuring the depot can serve the community for many years to come, according to Smith.

“The goal of restoration is for the most efficient use as a community center,” she said, adding that the depot already is available to rent for a variety of events such as meetings, reunions, concerts and dinners.



**ABOVE:** Neal Vogel, left, owner of Restoric LLC in Chicago and Keokuk native, and Bob Woodburn of the Keokuk Union Depot Foundation speak about the depot’s historic structure report Thursday. **RIGHT:** Vogel’s company supplied a rendering of the restored depot.



As with other depot-related projects, no tax dollars will be used to finish the roof of the city-owned structure.

Neal Vogel, a Keokuk native who’s the principal owner of Restoric LLC in

Chicago, spoke enthusiastically about his involvement with the depot restoration project.

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