

Local

Powder River Pavilion opens

• GEISER-POLLMAN PARK HAS A NEW CROWN JEWEL

BY BRIAN ADDISON
Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

A decade of persistence, patience, and anticipation came to a celebratory climax Sunday, September 6, as the east side of Geiser-Pollman City Park filled with an enthusiastic crowd gathered to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Powder River Pavilion.

Original Baker City Bandstand Committee members Al Durgan and Phyllis Badgely, whose vision of a city central performance venue was finally realized, had the honor of cutting the ribbon on the Powder River Pavilion.

Joining Durgan and Badgely on stage during the ceremony included members of the bandstand committee, major project donors, along with pavilion architect Larry Abell and construction contractor Mark Johnson of Sid Johnson & Co.

After the dedication ceremony, Baker City's own Blue Yesterdays big band had the honor of giving the first performance in the Powder River Pavilion. The first song official performed in the pavilion was the "Star Spangled Banner." After the national anthem the band played John Phillip Sousa's "Star and Stripes Forever," giving added tribute to the American colors and to commemorate the historic concert played by the world-famous Sousa march band itself at the original Baker City bandstand 103 years ago. After playing a medley of military casons, the Blue Yesterdays transitioned back into its role as a swing era big band.

After the performance, architect Abell was grinning ear-to-ear realizing that his acoustic engineering more than passed the test. Many attended the ceremony commented afterward on the architectural brilliance of Abell, who created a design of aesthetic beauty that frames the park while serving as a functioning stage for any size musical ensemble.

Both Durgan and Badgely fondly remember the original bandshell and those memories spurred them to dream of constructing the new perfor-



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Phyllis Badgely tests out the weight of the official ribbon-cutting sword.



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

The Blue Yesterdays became the first band to officially perform in the new Powder River Pavilion.

mance venue. Committee meetings, sometimes contentious, began nearly a decade ago when it seemed everyone had their own idea as to how the project should be conducted.

The original bandshell stood near the northwest corner of the park until 1972, when the state widened Campbell Street and razed the performance structure. While the original bandshell was more of a traditional bandshell structure with a stage and back wall, the new structure incorporates an open design allowing audience members to view the trees and the park beyond, and itself is an artistic creation.

The bandstand commit-

tee worked during the past decade to raise \$250,000 to complete the project. Donations of \$20,000 or more were received from the Leo Adler Foundation, Ford Family Foundation, Baker City Bandstand Committee, and the Baker City Herald. Donors of \$10,000 are Ash Grove Cement, sisters Janet Aydelott Pease and Shirley Aydelott representing the Pease Family Foundation, Michael and Linda Wooters, Al Durgan and family, Triple C Redi-Mix, Natural Structures, LA Rose Architect, and Sid Johnson & Co. Donations of \$1,000 were received from 27 different families. And, more than 300 commemorative

bricks were purchased and became a permanent part of the structure. Triple C Redi-Mix donated all the concrete for the structure. A long list of local and visiting musicians donated time during fundraising performances during the summertime Powder River Music Review concert series.

Baker City Bandstand Committee members celebrating on Sunday included chairperson Dave Hunsaker, vice chairperson Marv Sundean, treasurer and Soroptomist rep. Lynette Perry, secretary and grant writer Joyce Badgely Hunsaker, and board officers Cindy Endicott, and Joy Berryhill.

Bicycle lawsuit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court, Oregon District, Pendleton Division, claiming that on June 30, 2012 during the annual Baker City Cycling Classic—then known as the Elkhorn Classic Bicycling Stage Race—McDannel attempted to cross Dewey Avenue in front of the Post Office to retrieve her mail when she was struck by one of the race's participants who was traveling north on Dewey against the flow of normal traffic. Dewey Avenue had been blocked to vehicle traffic and parking at the time.

McDannel stated in her lawsuit that the defendants failed to both adequately mark the pathway, thereby warning pedestrians of the danger, and failed to provide adequate human supervision in order to assure that pedestrians could cross the streets safely.

After being struck, the plaintiff sustained a fracture to her right ankle, a broken left wrist, a right arm fracture, destruction of her permanent dentures and dental implants, and cuts and bruises to her head, neck and shoulders. The required medical treatment ran \$77,041.98, which was the economic amount sought in her suit. An additional \$325,000 in non-economic damages was also sought.

In defense, the City submitted several exhibits that included the maps of the event route showing cordoned-off sections and places where volunteers and officers were located, and statements outlining the event's organization from Public Works Director Michelle Owen and Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner. Per City ordinance, Kee had also delegated safety authority during the race to then-Fire Chief Jim Price.

As the suit progressed, on July 13, 2015, Baker City filed a motion for summary judgement, hoping to have the case dismissed. That document also outlined events and included more exhibits, including one from Kee when Brian Vegter, the event's director applied for specific street closures from the City.

The motion goes on to state that the plaintiff was informed before she crossed the street by Officer Jury of the Baker City Police Department that she would be unable to access the Post Office by car. McDannel parked her yellow Corvette in the WorkSource Oregon parking lot and proceeded to cross Dewey Avenue on foot, not within any marked crosswalk, according to that document. A crosswalk staffed with a race volunteer was available at the intersection of Place and Dewey.

Before the City's requested oral argument could occur, the insurance company for Baker Loves Bikes negotiated a settlement with the plaintiff via their attorneys, and a 60-day dismissal order was entered on August 19.

Terms of the settlement, to be paid by Riverport Insurance, while not confidential were unavailable in time for print.

Durkee man dies in crash

On September 8, 2015 just before 10 p.m., OSP Troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a single vehicle motorcycle crash on Interstate 84 near milepost 321 (east of Baker City).

Preliminary information indicates a 2013 Harley Davidson was traveling eastbound on I-84, when for unknown reasons, drifted off the shoulder. The motorcycle struck a concrete barrier ejecting the operator, Dwight W. Rosin, age 66, of Durkee, Oregon, onto the roadway. Rosin landed in the lanes of travel and it is believed he was struck by at least one other vehicle which has not been identified.

The motorcycle remained upright and crossed the center median and into the westbound lanes where it was struck by a 1993 Ford F150 operated by Wayne R Bonderer, age 52, of Winnemucca, NV. Bonderer and his passenger, April Bonderer were not injured. The eastbound lanes of I-84 were closed for 5 hours while the investigation was conducted. OSP was assisted by the Baker County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Baker City Police Department and Baker EMS.

Public Arts Commission moves toward vinyl wraps

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Public Arts Commission met in City Council Chambers Tuesday at 5:30 to discuss the LAMP extension project, the Vinyl wrap project and the Master Plan.

The committee that is made up Ann Mehaffy, Chairman, Brian and Corinne Vegter, Mary Miller, and Derek Hosler was also attended by Mike Kee, City staff representative. City Council representative Mack Augenfeld was not in attendance.

After calling the meeting to order, Mehaffy called attention to the minutes from the last meeting which the committee approved.

The LAMP (Leo Adler Memorial Parkway) exten-

sion project was first up.

Mehaffy said she had visited the site the day before and it was looking good. "The parking lot is great and I think the lamp-post is the only thing that has really been installed," said Mehaffy.

Miller addressed concern of a sign she had seen at the other end of the parking lot stating that it was not a park and private property. Miller felt the sign was "very unwelcoming."

The committee discussed the area in which the sign was agreeing that the area was private property that has been used in the past as parking and Kee advised, "Well, there have been trespassing issues there in the past."

Miller supported that

statement by saying, "There was a homeless man there when I was there, oddly enough juggling."

Members made suggestions that perhaps approaching the owner and asking for different placement of the sign, not diminishing any trespassing issues, be an option.

Mike Kee said he would look into the issue as he was not aware of the sign.

Miller asked if there were plans to provide signage from downtown to the area to which Kee said he believed so.

The name of the park was also discussed and it was suggested perhaps a 'name the park' contest would be a good idea. The name "Inter Tube Park" was also tossed out seeing

how much of the design of the park is based on inter tube symbols and the like.

The committee next moved on to the vinyl wrap project. Mehaffy provided information from a company out of Bozeman, Montana called Clean Slate. She said, "I think the thing that was exciting to me, was that they have anti-graffiti vinyl. It is a type of vinyl that regardless of whether it's spray paint, magic marker or whatever it comes off with simply a cleaner." The expected life time of the product is about four years and it was agreed among the committee that that was the type of product is what they should go with.

Mehaffy said she had conferred with the local business Oregon Sign

Company who is looking into whether or not they can obtain the same product from their vinyl supplier to offer the service.

Mehaffy said she would really like to keep the money for the project local if possible however if that was not possible she knew the Clean Slate Company could do the work and was sure there were others that would be able to as well.

It was noted and discussed that OTEC was not interested in allowing utility boxes to be covered and ODOT was willing to keep an open mind about the project involving traffic boxes, but wanted to see examples before committing to allowing the project stating that to their knowledge no other community in Oregon had done such

a thing.

The Committee agreed that OTEC may have a change of heart once the idea is more tangible and they can see firsthand examples.

The group also talked about adhering vinyl to buildings to make a "freak alley" allowing for many different types of paintings or art be put on the sides of buildings however the Historic District Design Review Committee has previously indicated that because many of the buildings are historic there are restrictions as to not changing or "defacing" the buildings.

Vinyl is removable so it was thought maybe that would help get around some of those restrictions.

SEE VINYL WRAPS PAGE 7