

CHAMBER BANQUET continued from page 2

Excellence in Agriculture

Ted and Diane Bloomer, ranchers in Durkee, were recognized as this year's Excellence in Agriculture award winner. The couple has been ranching since the early 1970s when they were married and say their main focus for the ranch is rangeland integrated management enhancing the use for range and pasture for livestock and recreation.

"We are in hopes to preserve the ranch in succession for our family," says Diane.

The Bloomers are deeply involved in the Durkee community and in addition to being members of the Baker Livestock Association and Oregon Cattlemen's and CattleWomen's Association, are also involved in the Burnt River Fire District, Lookout Fire Association, Durkee Community Corporation, the Burnt River Irrigation District board, Lower Burnt River Weed Dis-

trict, and on the Advisory Committee for Ash Grove Cement. They also participate in Beef for Schools.

The couple has two grown children, both of whom are married and have children: Michelle Richwin and Travis Bloomer. Diane's family roots go back to those who traveled here on the Oregon Trail.

Community Project of the Year

The Bandstand Committee was chosen for this award having been nominated by the Lions Club. The Powder River Pavilion was completed and dedicated in the Geiser-Pollman Park early last September after nearly 10 years of hard work from tireless volunteers. Al Durgan and Phyllis Badgley sparked the idea and a diverse group of individuals worked and promoted the cause, raising money "brick by brick" to complete the project.

Dave Hunsaker, chairman of the Bandstand Committee stated when accepting the award with the

group, that this is how Baker County gets big projects done--with collaboration and cooperation, by working together.

Hunsaker said in an earlier statement about the project, "The Powder River Pavilion is a true example of an extraordinary community based project....due to the Bandstand Committee's tenacious dedication and the participation of a wide scope of citizens, businesses, organizations and charitable foundations, Baker City now has a stunning, first class performance facility that few communities our size nationally can claim."

On Sept. 6, 2015, the Baker City Bandstand Committee gifted the Powder River Pavilion to the City of Baker City, for the use and enjoyment of all.

Up and Coming Leader

JJ Vela was recognized for his project coordination of Miners Jubilee for the past two years, all while attending school and working part time. Prior to that JJ and his father organized the Miners Jubilee Parade.

The following was said during the award presentation about Vela by emcee Justin Nedrow, " He is a hard worker, takes initiative, has amazing follow through, strives to do the very best he can and hungers to learn more every day."



Up and Coming Young Leader, JJ Vela



Diane and Ted Bloomer, Excellence in Agriculture



Photo by Gina Perkins
Community Project of the Year: Baker City Bandstand Committee: front (from left): Phyllis Badgley, Lynette Perry, Jodie Hausotter, Dave Hunsaker, chairman; Middle row (from left): Ted Hausotter, Larry Abell, Cindy Endicott, Joyce Hunsaker, Mark Johnson; very back: Grant Johnson

Badger Ladies Have League Record of 3-2

by Janelle (Sam) Stephens

The Powder Valley Girls Basketball team has experienced a lot of change and is a young team. Their coach Allen Bingham has implemented a new offense and while the girls are excited, it takes time to learn a different way of doing things. The girls started out a little slow this year and there was some confusion from time to time in the beginning. Once they got past a few non-league games and in the groove, they have been doing better and better.

The Badgers started the season in December playing at the Union tournament where they suffered a few losses. They lost to Cove 45-48 and then to Union 44-49. But a little later in December, they redeemed themselves against Cove at home, winning the game 48-26.

A few days later the girls were on the road to Jordan valley where once again, they suffered a loss 49-54. The following week, however, they played their first league games against Pine Eagle in Halfway. They really started getting in the groove and won big with a score of 61-24.

The next day they played Joseph at Powder Valley and had another league win 59-54, Badgers.

Then, just before Christmas, the Badgers played at the La Grande Optimist tournament at the EOU College court. Again they lost to Union with a heart breaking score of 27-28 Union. Although the loss to Union put them in the consolation bracket, the tournament was not over for them and they ended up taking the win in the next two games beating Wallowa 62-17 and then winning against Cove, 46-20.

They would next meet up with Adrian at home for another non-league game. But even with excitement of a home game, they fell to Adrian 32-36.

Next, off to Prairie City where the girls were able to make some good things happen and won the game 44-23.

Now moving a little further into January, the league season really begins to kick off. The girls played two league games against Nixyaawii and Griswold losing both games. It was a very disappointing weekend after such a long drive. But, the girls held their heads up and knew they could and would do better.

A home league game against Echo (their annual

Pink Game), was nerve racking and exciting. They started out slow going into halftime losing; upon returning from the locker room, however, you could feel a difference in the air. The girls were ready to play and they slowly took over the lead. But as the saying goes, it's not over 'til it's over, and the score started to go back and forth until the final buzzer blew. The Badgers won by a single point 40-39.

The next day was a trip to Baker and yet another win 44-36.

All of this has left the girls with an all around record of 8 and 7 and a league record of 3 and 2

Although the girls' season has seemed like a bit of a roller coaster ride from time to time, I think we will continue to see may great things happen on the court with this group of girls. They are still pretty young and have a great desire and determination.

The starting five consist of Savanah Stephens a junior, Hallie Feik a Junior, Kimberly Williams a sophomore, Samantha Kerns a sophomore and Megan Hufford another sophomore.

The Badgers will play Friday in Wallowa and Saturday at home against Pine Eagle. Come and cheer them on. Game time Saturday will be at 3:45 p.m. starting with half of a Girls JV game, then straight to Varsity Girls with the Varsity Boys to follow.

Go Badgers!



Varsity Boys Topple Tigers

The Baker boys varsity basketball team had the time of their lives defeating the Tigers in La Grande on Jan. 15, by a score of 51-36. The game didn't come without cost, as a couple bulldogs were injured in the battle, as well as a Tiger.

Baker took the lead for good in the second quarter. The three senior Bulldogs were all in double figures: Logan Sand had 17, Teancum Taylor and Bryson Smith each had 10.

Earlier in the week, the Bulldogs were defeated by Pendleton in Baker 60-82.



Photo by Eden Taylor
Bryson Smith made 10 points in the game in La Grande.



Photo by Eden Taylor
Teancum Taylor shooting against Pendleton.

Junior Varsity Lady Bulldogs Defeat Tigers

The JV girls topped the La Grande Tigers on Friday, Jan. 15 40-33. The boys JV basketball team, however, lost to the Tigers that day by a score of 74-39.



Badgers Have New Coach

The Badger Boys high school basketball team has a new start this year with a new coach. Michael Lieuallen of La Grande is the head coach with his assistant coach being Victor Benich.

There seems to be a lot of excitement from the boys about the new things happening and they seem to really click with the new coach. The boys so far have an all around record of 11 and 3 with a league record of 4 and 1.

The Boys beat Echo on Friday at the PV annual Pink Game. Gus McGinn a junior had a really good game along with Isaac Colton, another junior. Some of the other boys on the starting lineup are Seth Dixon a junior, Caleb Day a senior and Tanner Eubanks a sophomore.

The Pink Game is a very important event at our school due to the fact that all of the kids playing, knew and had respect for a teacher at our school who died following a long battle with breast cancer.

The Badgers will be traveling to Wallowa on Friday, Jan. 22 and hosting Pine Eagle on Jan. 23. Game time on Saturday will be at 3:45 p.m. starting with a half girls JV game. Varsity girls should be starting around 4 p.m. with the Varsity boys to follow. Come watch some basketball and say Go Badgers!



Photo by Sam Stephens



Darian Villalobos shooting from outside.

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