



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Sidewalk chalk art in downtown Baker City.



Becca Robbins / Baker City Herald

Chalk flowers, with a bumblebee and ladybug, brighten a section of sidewalk.

CHALK ART

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"People think of art as having to be in museums or galleries," McGuinness said. "I love that the public gets to interact with this."

Fry signed her name next to a piece inspired by a Campbell's Soup can that says "Baker City, Oregon" on it and a landscape drawing near Baker City Gold and Silver.

McGuinness said the drawings, some of them coated with a fixative, will likely stay on the sidewalk until they are washed away by rain, which she

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— **Megan McGuinness, who contributed to the sixth-annual Chalk it up to Art event Saturday**

agreed could be a while during this hot, dry summer. There hasn't been measurable rain at the Baker City Airport since June 20, a stretch of 41 days.

McGuinness said she remembers one drawing that stayed until February one year due to low rain and snowfall.

Chelsea Judy and Peter Johnson,

who work at the Trailhead on Main Street, said they came to work Monday morning and saw the rainbow on the ground outside of their door for the first time.

"We just came in and it was here," Johnson said. "We love it, though."

Although she said they usually aim for about 25 artists, McGuinness said this year was still "a good turnout" with around 12 to 15 artists, as more kids and families showed up than in years past.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "We're trying to get more people. We hope to get it in front of every business."



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Unicorn drawn by Ruby Fry and Megan McGuinness.

TENNIS

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McClure had owned the property, on a knoll above Grace Street at the city's southwest corner, since 2007.

McLagan said he had been interested in buying the property since March. He began negotiating to acquire it in May before finally closing on the sale July 27.

The four-courts complex is one of just seven grass tennis court facilities in the U.S. and of only one of two west of the Mississippi River, according to the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

The association gave awards to the complex in 2002.

"The game started on grass but since the 40s and 50s it's gradually diminished in favor of hard courts," said Michael Hughes, a tournament director for the courts who lives in Klamath Falls.

The property's original owners, Borden and Sandi Granger, built the first two grass courts in 1995, and the second pair in 2000.

The courts have generated considerable controversy, most notably complaints from neighbors about lights and noise, as well as a lack of land-use permitting.

In 2003, a group of Baker City residents claimed that the courts violated the city zoning ordinance because they constituted more than an "accessory use" for residential properties. With the help of the City Council, the Grangers reached a compromise with the residents.

That deal eventually led to the city issuing a conditional use permit for the property, which allowed the courts to remain so long as the owners followed a set of rules.

Then, in 2011, McClure asked city to change the rules so that the courts could be used for more tournaments and the lights at the facility could be on later at night.

After multiple City Council meetings, another compro-



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Michael Hughes is the manager of Baker City's grass tennis courts.

mise was reached allowing the lights to stay on until 10 p.m. on 10 of the 22 allowed tournament days per year.

Since 2011 there have been no reported issues with the courts and the city.

Hughes said the lights, which cost \$30,000, aren't used frequently.

Both Jon McLagan and Hughes said they are confident the courts will not cause problems for neighbors.

McClure said past complaints from nearby residents had no impact on his decision to sell the courts.

McClure said he sold the property because he had moved to Boise. He said he is confident that the McLagans will do an excellent job maintaining the property.

The McLagans have lived in Baker City for about a year. Jon McLagan is a real estate broker who has worked off and on in Baker City for the last 12 years and he and his wife have previ-

ously owned a yoga studio in Bend.

When the McLagans moved here last year they rented the property that includes the tennis courts and they fell in love with the facility, even though neither is an avid player.

"We definitely want to keep it as an asset to the community for sure because I realize now the passion and the uniqueness this has with the tennis players," Jon McLagan said.

"We were looking for a permanent move here and we were finally able to put that together."

The McLagans' daughter, Chelsea Judy, lives in Baker City and is the marketing director for Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

Jon McLagan said he and his wife don't plan to make any big changes to the way the courts are operated and that he will re-evaluate next year.

Hughes, meanwhile, who has been playing tennis most of his life, started as tournament manager at the Baker City grass courts last year.

"I started as a player with a passion for the game and a passion for the place and then it was obvious to me that there was a need for someone to step up," Hughes said.

The courts are mainly operated and managed by Save the Grass Courts Association (SAGA), a non-profit organization founded in 2007. SAGA is run by a board of volunteers.

"SAGA is really a non-profit that helps this thing stay alive but there is a broader mission about grass court tennis in general," Hughes said.

Members of SAGA pay yearly fees that allow them to play for free on non-tournament days and play in tournaments for discounted fees. All money



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Jon McLagan

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— **Jon McLagan, who with his wife, Susie, recently bought the grass tennis courts in Baker City**

raised from membership and tournament fees is used to maintain the courts.

Last weekend's Doubles on Grass tournament was a round-robin mixed double tournament with two separate brackets of eight players each.

"The grass courts are just like the most fun you could possible have with tennis," said Faith Ann Hughes, who played in the tournament and Michael Hughes' daughter.

One bracket had players at the 3.0 and 3.5 levels while the other had players at the 4.0 and 4.5 levels. Each player got to play at least seven matches, playing with each other player

in their bracket once. The four players with the best record in each bracket played a championship.

In late September, the courts will host the Pacific Northwest Grass Court Championships for the final tournament of the season, which will feature singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Though the first two owners have both named the courts after themselves, McLagan has not said if he will do the same.

He declined to disclose the sale price for the property. The transaction is not yet listed on the Baker County Assessor's Office website.

ICE employees' union says Portland police neglecting workers

PORTLAND (AP) — The union representing employees of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement urged the mayor of Portland, Oregon, to end his ban on city police helping ICE workers who have faced hostility from pro-immigrant activists.

Sean Riddell, the union's attorney, asked Mayor Ted Wheeler for a meeting about the hands-off policy and threatened legal action if things do not change.

"Your policy has created a zone of

terror and lawlessness," Riddell said in a letter Monday.

It stems from a recent protest outside an ICE facility in Portland that was mostly peaceful. Activists opposed to President Donald Trump's policy of separating immigrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border set up camp in mid-June and stayed around the clock for nearly 40 days.

Wheeler, a Trump critic in a state that instituted the first statewide sanctuary protections for im-

migrants in the country illegally, said in a series of tweets at the start of the protest that ICE would not get help from city officers if the agency wants to evict protesters.

Riddell said he understands that the mayor disagrees with Trump's policies.

"But we fail to see why targeting the employees of ICE and leaving them vulnerable to violence, harassment and even death threatens a legitimate government interest," the union attorney said.

The mayor's office told The Oregonian/OregonLive that Wheeler's legal counsel was reviewing the letter and had no further comment.

Wheeler's chief of staff, Michael Cox, did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press.

The mayor backtracked to a degree as the occupation stretched from days to weeks to more than a month. On July 23, he warned protesters to disband before they were removed by police. The occupation

ended peacefully the following day.

The letter emailed to the mayor's chief of staff Monday said the ICE union would like to avoid federal litigation but is "prepared to protect our membership and their families."

It references the 14th Amendment, which guarantees citizens equal protection under the law.

Portland is no stranger to protests, especially following Trump's election, and police often move quickly to disperse clashes between rowdy and violent groups.

