

Big band sounds in Baker City

The Blue Yesterdays play Sunday, Aug. 29



Travel Baker County

For the Powder River Music Review's season finale, the Blue Yesterdays will play Sunday, Aug. 29, at 4 p.m. in Baker City's Geiser-Pollman Park.

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — For 40 years, The Blue Yesterdays have kept big band music alive at venues around Baker City.

This weekend, the band plays at Geiser-Pollman Park for the season finale concert of the Powder River Music Review.

The show starts at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29. Admission is free, although donations are welcome.

Raffle tickets for a chance to win a gift basket are sold to support the music series, which depends on donations, grants and sponsorships. Tickets are \$5 each or 15 for \$20.

Jim Monroe and Doug Smurthwaite started The Blue Yesterdays in 1981. Both men have passed away, but the tradition they started continues today.

POWDER RIVER MUSIC REVIEW

4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29
Geiser-Pollman Park
Baker City

The pandemic has been tough on maintaining regular rehearsals, said Brian Watt, a current band member. They did practice outside until the summer days got too hot, but they persevered and about 14 musicians will take the stage this Sunday.

"We play old-timey swing music from the '30s, '40s, and '50s," Watt said.

The band is open to new members. Prior experience is recommended — even if someone played years ago with a high school jazz band.

"We'd love to have more locals," Watt said. "It's about having fun."

Instruments include saxophones (tenor, alto and baritone), trombones, trumpets,

piano, bass, drums and guitar.

Anyone interested in learning more about joining The Blue Yesterdays can call Watt at 541-523-4662.

SUPPORT FOR THE CONCERTS

The concert series is sponsored by Sorbenots, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, Gray's West & Co. and Coles Tribute Center, Oregon Trail Motel and Restaurant, Scorpio International, Country Financial, Baker City Realty, Vision Wealth and Mountain View RV. Weekly gift baskets are also supported by Copper Belt Winery, The Cheese Fairy and North Seven Brewing Co.

UPDATES

For news about the Powder River Music Review, visit the Facebook page or go to www.bakercityevents.org. The concert series is organized by the nonprofit Baker City Events.



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