

# Band shell work in Sawhill Park has finally begun

By Amanda Miller  
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The band shell in Sawhill Park is receiving some much needed renovations. After years of work to get funding for the project, the sound of jack hammers was heard throughout the city last week. Bringing the amphitheater back to life will help preserve and promote a unique treasure in the community.

The band shell was built during hard times in the 1930's. During the Depression, dust storms and crop failures shaped the lives in Cheyenne County. The hard times meant an absence of luxury or frills.

The St. Francis City Council arranged for workmen and federal funds to help build a park on an empty lot on Main Street. One of the men to volunteer to help was Howard T. Sawhill.

The need for a place of beauty and refuge was great during this time, and the workmen and volunteers worked with enthusiasm and dedication to finish the project.

Years ago, on summer evenings, people would go to Sawhill Park and enjoy the conversation, entertainment and fresh air. The operating fountain had colored lights and was lovely at night. The flowers were fragrant, and children rolled on the lawn in the amphitheater circle. The huge tree that the amphitheater was built around gave a canopy for shade for a good portion of the audience seated.

Today, the hope is that people will return to the park as they did years ago.

The city council, in 2005, received a donation from Garnett

Miller that was to be used on the band shell. Mrs. Miller was a close friend of the Sawhill family, and wanted to see the band shell restored. She donated \$52,657. Once the donation was received, it set in motion plans to restore the historic artifact.

After two attempts, the city was given a grant from the Kansas Historical Society. In 2012, a grant for \$70,268 was accepted for the first phase of restoration of the band shell.

The city plans to restore the band shell in three phases. The first phase is the exterior restoration. This will include a new stage floor, roof, lighting trough, and they will also open the windows in the green room that have been cinder blocked and plastered closed for many years.

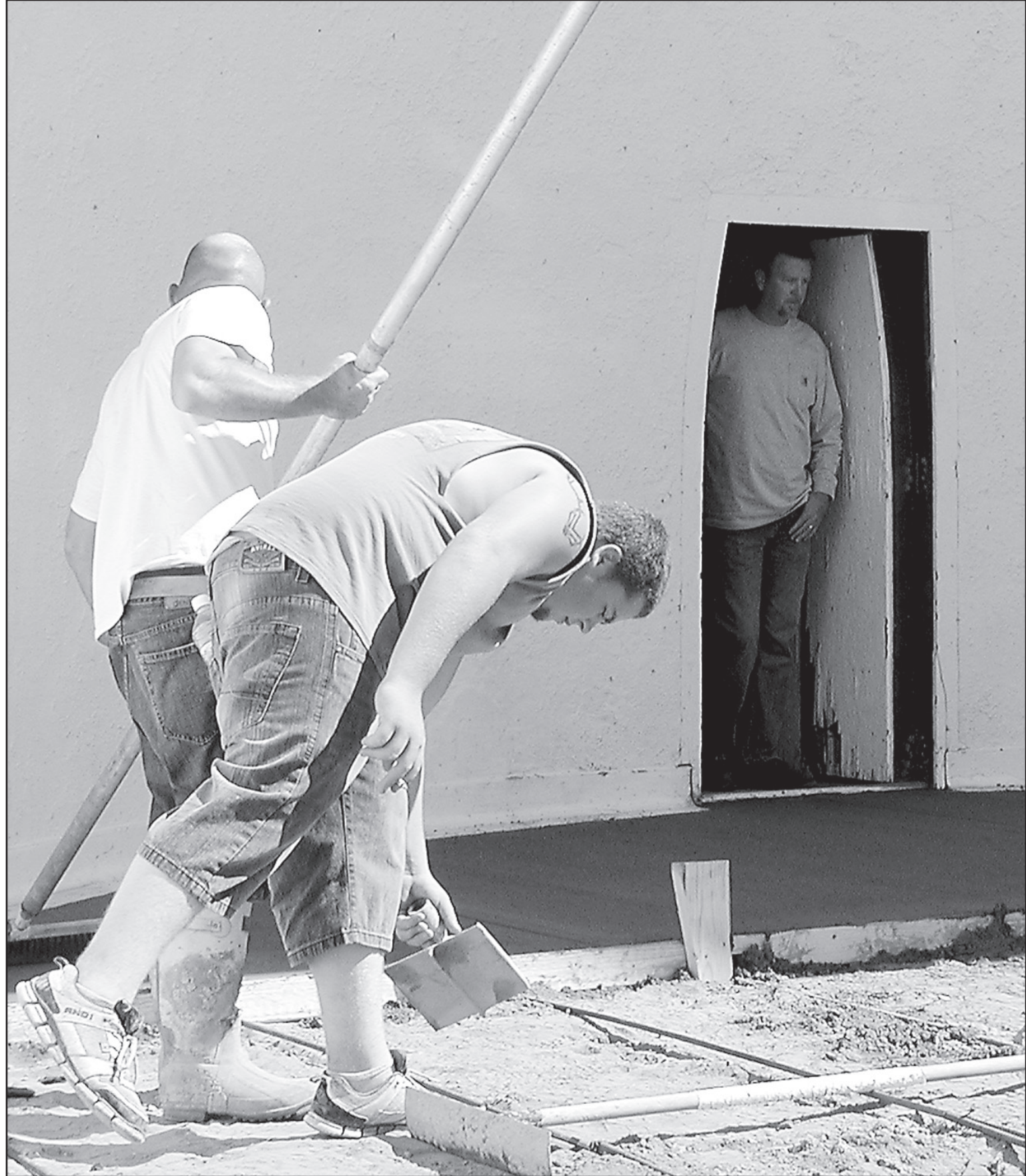
The city will try to get another grant to work on the second phase, the interior of the building. Finally, the third stage would be to restore the art work that is inside the building.

The Pishny Restoration Services has been working on the first phase of the restoration the past couple weeks. Pishny is a historic restoration company from Lenexa.

Once the exterior restoration is completed, the band shell will be available to rent. The rental fee is waived for non-profit organizations. But even those wishing to put on a show can rent the band shell now for \$75.

Our hope is that the band shell will be used more, said Glori Milne, city clerk.

Anyone interested in renting the band shell can call the city office at 332-3142.



WORKERS FROM PHISNY RESTORATION SERVICES begin to resurface the band shell stage in Sawhill Park.

Herald photo by Amanda Miller

## Book Reviews

### Zero Day

By David Baldacci

John Puller is a combat veteran and the best military investigator in the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigative Division. His father was an Army fighting legend, and his brother is serving a life sentence for treason in a federal military prison. Puller has an indomitable spirit and an unstoppable drive to find the truth.

Now Puller is called out on a case in a remote, rural area in West Virginia coal country far from any military outpost.

Someone has stumbled onto a brutal crime scene, a family slaughtered. The local homicide detective, a headstrong woman with personal demons of her own, joins forces with Puller in the investigation. As Puller digs through deception after deception, he realizes that absolutely nothing he's seen in this small town, and no one in it, is what it seems. Facing a potential conspiracy that reaches far beyond the hills of West Virginia, he is one man on the hunt for justice against an overwhelming force.

### Bonnie

By Iris Johansen

When Eve Duncan gave birth to her daughter, she experienced a love she never knew existed. Nothing would stand in the way of giving Bonnie a wonderful life — until the unthinkable happened and the 7-year-old vanished into thin air. Eve found herself in the throes of a nightmare from which there was no escape.

But a new Eve emerged: a woman who would use her

remarkable talent as a forensic sculptor to help others find closure in the face of tragedy. Now with the help of her beloved Joe Quinn and CIA agent Catherine Ling, Eve has come closer than ever to the truth. But the deeper she digs, the more she realizes that Bonnie's father is a key player in solving this monstrous puzzle. And that Bonnie's disappearance was not as random as everyone had always believed.

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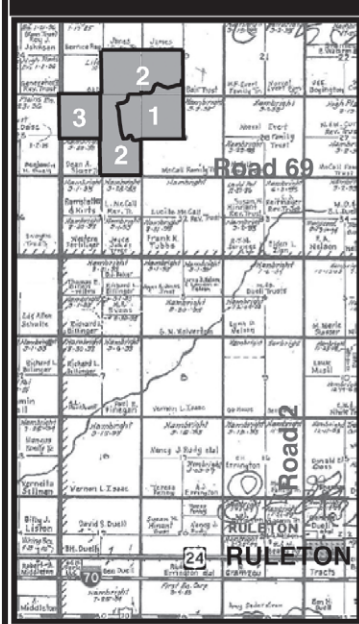
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