

# Opening of New Parowan Senior Center Celebrated

BY CATHY WENTZ

The scene was festive as many local seniors as well as city, county and federal representatives gathered in Parowan Oct. 15 to celebrate the completion of the new Parowan Senior Center building with lunch, speakers and entertainment.

Ground was broken for the Parowan Senior Center in April of this year, and its construction has been a joint effort between Iron County and the city of Parowan with many other

contributors as well.

Douglas Maxwell, chair for the Iron County Council on Aging, said he wanted to recognize several of the people who made the center possible. Those people included the contractor, Brian Nichols, along with a long list of subcontractors and the senior citizens of Parowan. He said Robert Mercer was the architect who oversaw the building's design.

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Maxwell said partnership between Iron County and the city of Parowan could be credited with getting 2,200 feet of sewer line installed.

"We appreciate all of you who made this facility possible," Maxwell said.

County Commissioners Wayne Smith, Lois Bulloch and Alma Adams were present for the festivities along with Mike Empey, field representative for Congressman Jim Matheson's office, and Marreen Casper, who represented Senator Orrin Hatch's office. Parowan Councilor Dale Bettridge and City Manager Joe Melling were also present.

Adams said it was a wonderful occasion for Parowan and northern Iron County. He said the new facility was marvelous and turned out very well.

"This will be a place of joy, a place of gathering, a place of fun, a place of merriment, a place of creativity, socializing and proper nourishment, refreshment, rejuvenation and camaraderie for the senior citizens of Iron County," Adams said.

Bulloch said society has an obligation not only to protect our past, but also to honor those who have come before us and brought us to this point in time. She said their sacrifices

should be acknowledged on a daily basis, and we should make sure we take the time to let them know how grateful we are for their places in our lives.

"Our senior citizens are one of the most precious commodities we have," Bulloch said.

She also said, "I'd like to think that this beautiful new building is one of the ways ... of showing our love and appreciation for our senior citizens. May you have many happy hours here," she said.

Melling said there is a long list of people who were involved with the construction of the new senior center.

"Without the involvement of every one of them, it would probably not be here," he said.

Karen Denhalter, whose mother, Carol Wright, will be turning 100 on Christmas Eve and recently suffered a broken pelvis, did the honor of the ceremonial ribbon cutting. Commissioner Smith then offered the prayer before lunch.

The Ukulele Ladies participated in the festivities with several musical numbers including "Parowan, The Mother Town."

Alda Clark, who was born and raised in Parowan and had customarily visited the old center at the courthouse about once a week, said she hopes to come to the new center as often as she can.

"I'm just so excited about it; I love it," Clark said.