

Arco Atom dedication ceremony held last Friday afternoon, June 29

With weather conditions Friday afternoon being just marginally cooperative, a fair sized group assembled beneath the canopies erected near Arco's newest attraction, the Arco Atom, located across the highway from Pickles Place. Friday's ceremony opened with the Presentation of Colors by local veterans of VFW Post #7137, after which Chandos Gamett performed our National Anthem. Arco City Mayor, Ross Langseth, welcomed all in attendance for the *Arco Atom* dedication, then turning the mic over to Monica Hampton, Executive Director of Butte County Economic Development.

Monica acknowledged a few in attendance including; Amy Taylor, Regional Director for Senator James Risch, representatives from the



Monica mentioned a picture which was hanging on the wall of the office occupied by her economic development predecessor. The photo did not go unnoticed by Stephanie Cook, of the INL either, noticing the photo while visiting Butte County on economic development issues. Stephanie suggested perhaps Batelle Energy Alliance and INL be considered as a funding source for future economic development projects in

Butte County. With the help and advice of Boise State University, an application was submitted to the tech-based economic development program. Monica went on to thank Cece Gassner and Greg Hill, Idaho Policy Institute directors, for their help with administrative efforts in the application to INL for the economic development grant. Matt Nel-

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INL, Butte County Commissioner Rose Bernal, Arco Mayor Ross Langseth, City Council President Jeff Frederici, and Councilmember Elaine Higginson, and Doug Sayer of Premier Technologies. Monica briefly recounted the history which brought to fruition, the Arco Atom.



Arco Atom dedication..

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son, BHS welding instructor, was also thanked for listening and taking action to assure the sign adorning the sculpture base was constructed.

Monica recounted a conversation she had with Mandy Jacobs, of Premier Technology, explaining the vision of an atomic sculpture. Mandy listened and approached Mr. Doug Sayer. Doug also listened and took action, accepting the sculpture as a special project. Monica acknowledged the talented and creative people of Idaho, and the technically skilled and hard working people at Premier Technology. She also thanked the Butte County Commissioners for assuring an economic development program for Butte County. In her closing remarks, Monica drew attention to the atom sculpture, as means to celebrate our past and for good things to come.

Guest speaker for Friday's dedication, was Mr. Richard Dean of Arco. Richard, a Navy veteran, served aboard AKA 141, AP 124 Patrol Frigate, and is a retired INL worker,



Richard Dean

moving to Arco in 1991. Richard recounted some of his experiences at the Site, comparing it with the operation of a business, plus radiation. Richard says he learned to protect self, workers, and public from radiation. He recalled the installation of a screen into a silo with no incident, however upon removal, by hand, his boss instructed him to put it back, as it was too "hot" to be handled. Richard also spent time working on the aircraft reactor, which is now on display at EBR-1. Richard encouraged everyone to visit EBR-1 east of Arco and the Idaho Science Center, right here in Arco.

Mayor Langseth then introduced Mr. Doug Sayer, Chief Business Officer, and co-founder of Premier Technology, of Blackfoot. Doug expressed it as being an honor and privilege to be involved in this nice project, and proud of the nuclear heritage in Idaho, and also proud of the craftsmen who make it possible. Doug also acknowledged the atten-



Doug Sayer—Premier Technologies

dance of Wade Wixom and his family. Commenting that Wade's talents are on display here today. Doug also mentioned it was nice to have their product out where it can be seen and enjoyed by the public, as their work rarely gets displayed in such a prominent place. "Every time we drive by we will be reminded of the hard work and craftsmanship that went into it's construction."

Langseth then introduced Stephanie Cook of the INL. Stephanie is Idaho National Laboratory's manager of Technology Based Economic Development and Technical Assistance Programs, responsible for developing partnerships with local, regional, state and national groups to stimulate partnerships and cooperation between the lab and the technol-

ogy business sector.

Stephanie stated, "History started on July 17, 1955, proving for the first time in the world that nuclear energy could provide useful energy." This date is now commemorated yearly in Arco with the Ator Days celebration.

Stephanie went on to describe Gordon Battelle, who is attributed for the development of the first modern laboratory. Mr. Battelle strongly believed that research and industry should be used to uplift communities and to help solve problems of mankind.

In the name of the late Mr. Battelle, the Gordon Battelle Memorial Institute was formed. Today it supports communities where Battelle Laboratories operate. With philanthropic donations, which is the result of the INL Tech based Academic Development grant. Cook went on to describe the future as exciting, and is optimistic for the future of nuclear energy, including INL involvement in NASA projects, involving Pluto and Mars.

The INL's Transuranic Test Facility (TREAT) was listed among



Stephanie Cook—INL



Ribbon Cutting—Pictured above are Wayne Wixom, Jeff Frederic, Monica Hampton, Doug Sayer, Stephanie Cook.

President Trump's first year highlights for our nation, focused on advancing scientific discovery. Many developments, including DOE's issuance of Site Use permit for the establishment of the world's first SMR (Small Modular Reactor) consisting of twelve 50 megawatt modules, to be built right here. The supply chain opportunities created as they move from first of a kind reactor, to manufacturing and shipping nationally and worldwide the Small Modular Reactors. And all this development and advances in nuclear energy, commented Cook, would not have been possible without that first demonstration of peaceful power and energy in Arco on July 17, 1955."

Everything around us is made up of atoms, one of the tiniest things on earth, but when atoms combine they can produce a tremendous amount of energy, the people of Arco are aware of this, and have used their energy to think big and bold, and built the Arco Atom.

Stephanie thanked County Commissioners Harrell, Bernal, and Beal, County Clerk Shelly Blackner with whom great partnerships have been formed. Thanks also was extended to Boise State University, and Premier Technologies, and to Monica Hampton for her vision and steady hand throughout this process. And thanks Arco, for today we celebrate community, power, and discovery in creating a beautiful work of art, culture, and science to be enjoyed by all. Gordon Battelle would be proud of the Arco Atom, past and future.

Mayor Langseth thanked Ms. Cook for her presentation, and also thanked Tammy and Jeff Frederici and the Home Maintenance crew for their donated time in constructing the sculpture base. Also to City Clerks, Tara Ruth and Lani Brewer for their contributions.

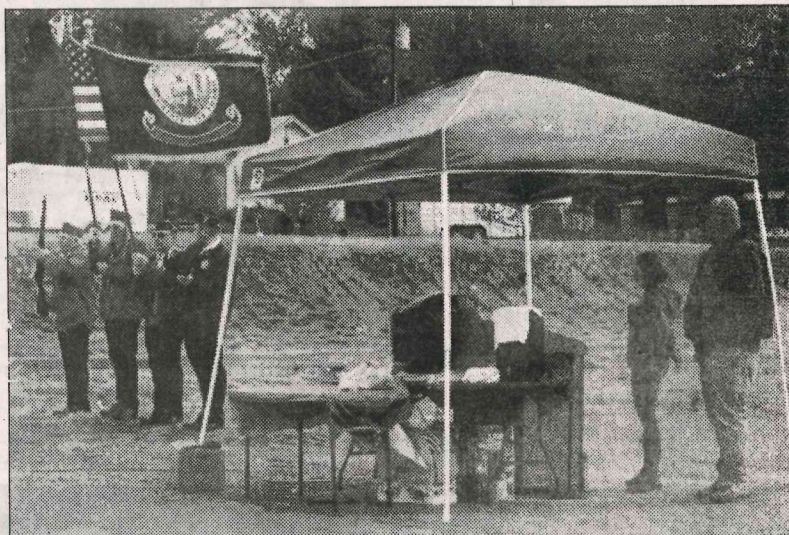
A ribbon cutting was then held with Arco Atom creator, Wayne Wixom, having the ribbon cutting honor. Standing with Wayne were Jeff Frederici, Monica Hampton, Doug Sayer, and Stephanie Cook.

"Celebrating a bold nuclear past, and shiny future"

Stephanie Cook-INL



Arco City Councilmembers Jeff Frederici, Elaine Higginson, and Mayor Ross Langseth, posing in front of the Arco Atom.



VFW Flag Presentation as Chandos Gamett and Ross Langseth look on.

Lost River Calendar of Events

- 2nd & 4th Mondays at 6 p.m. — Arco City Council
- 2nd & 4th Mondays at 10 a.m. — Butte County Commissioners
- 2nd Wednesday of Each Month 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. — Mackay's Community Kitchen at the Mackay American Legion Hall
- Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Quilt & Craft Club at Episcopal Church
- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. — Bingo at the LR Senior Citizens Center in Arco
- Thursdays 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. — Handi-work Group meets at the Sr. Center in Arco
- Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. — American Legion Texas Hold'em Poker at the Legion Hall in Mackay
- July 20th-22nd — Atomic Days

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If you would like your event included in this calendar, contact Cheryl at Nathan's - 208-527-8959 by 3:00 p.m. each Monday.



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