

THE LEADER-NEWS

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NORDAK NORTH PUBLICATIONS



Monument rising

Work accelerates ahead of Aug 1 ceremony

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
 REPORTER

Construction is moving quickly at Veterans Memorial Park as Washburn prepares for the Aug. 1 unveiling of a polished granite monument honoring U.S. Secret Service agent and Washburn native Clinton J. Hill. The project, more than a year in the making, has entered its final phase as crews install infrastructure, pour concrete foundations and ready the site for what organizers expect to be one of the largest public events the park has hosted.

The monument, carved from a single block of granite and designed in consultation with Hill's widow, Lisa McGovern Hill, will serve as a permanent tribute to Hill's 17 year Secret Service career protecting five presidents and his widely recognized actions in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. McGovern Hill has been involved in every step of the design process, working closely with the local committee to ensure the memorial reflects both her husband's public service and the personal legacy he carried with him.

"We're moving at a fast clip to make sure everything is ready for Aug. 1," said John Schulz, chairman of the Clint Hill Memorial



PHAIDRA YUNKER | THE LEADER-NEWS

A construction crew pours concrete at Veterans Memorial Park in Washburn on April 29 as work continues on site improvements ahead of the Aug. 1 unveiling of the Clint Hill Memorial Monument.

Committee and a member of American Legion Post 12. "There's a lot happening at once, but it's coming together."

Veterans Memorial Park is closed to events through June as crews install new restrooms, a snack bar and related utilities. The work has temporarily restricted access to the picnic shelter and the Main Avenue side of the park.

In the monument area a 9 by 12 foot concrete platform designed to support the monument's largest granite section, which weighs roughly six tons — about the weight of a full size school bus concentrated into a footprint the size of a small dining table.

"It's an undertaking," Schulz said. "That concrete platform has to support six

tons without shifting. It has to be done right."

The monument area will also include stone benches set on granite foundation slabs and concrete walkways to guide visitors through the space. Names of major donors will be engraved on the bench closest to the bandshell on the north side of the monument.

Elsewhere in the park, the Veterans Memorial Wall received a fresh coat of stain this spring, shifting from terracotta to a darker gray that better matches the monument's granite and the nearby bandshell.

Last year, the committee announced that the monument would be crafted by Bismarck Memorial Monument, a family owned busi-

Monument cont. on 6

AWARDS

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tion was a "terrific section and idea."

"All of the stories truly showcase the amazing women you have in your community," the judge wrote. "Spacing in some areas is a bit much, but overall the layout and use of photos to articles is great. The ads featuring women who work at those businesses are a nice touch."

Publisher Kelsey Majeske told The Lead-

er-News staff it was "wonderful to see your hard work recognized by the judges."

"These awards are a testament to the quality of the newspaper we produce and our commitment to serving our communities," Majeske said. "From holding local government accountable to creating engaging sections like Hometown Heroines, your dedication truly shows."

Correction:

In the April 30 edition of The Leader-News, in the story "What McLean County voters need to know ahead of June 9 primary," one of two open positions for the Washburn Commission was left out of the story. Although the Secretary of State's Office showed only one commis-

sion seat available, Washburn Auditor Chelsey Brandt said two positions are up for election. However, Brandt said no one had filed to fill either position, so both will be listed on the ballot as write-in ballots. The Leader-News regrets this error.

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