

# Joseph Charter School adds classrooms, practice facility



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Joseph Charter School's new practice facility appears well on its way to its scheduled June 1 completion target.

**By Steve Tool**

Wallowa County Chieftain

Joseph Charter School recently undertook several important additions to its campus, including new classrooms and a practice facility.

School superintendent Rhonda Shirley said the school received a \$2 million grant specially allocated for charter schools to fund the project.

The school applied for and received charter school status in 2011.

Shirley said the school needed the new additions as the district leased out the old Joseph Elementary School to the U.S. Forest Service in 2010. The lease accelerated the school's plan to consolidate all grades at the present site. Consequently, grades K-3 relocated to the main campus.

"We were super tight for room. We converted a hallway that was a weight room into our resource room. When we needed a kindergarten room, we put a divider into

one large room. We were really cramped for space," Shirley said.

The district decided to start looking for funding possibilities. JCS found a charter school funding grant specifically designated for facilities through the state of Oregon.

The practice facility is a part of the same grant package. Shirley said the school needs the facility for reasons of space and regulations. "It's always been a challenge to do all of our PE classes, and now it's mandated for elementary students to have more PE," Shirley added that the current lack of a practice facility necessitates middle school teams holding practices before school. The new facility also meets the need for a covered area in which to hold recess during inclement weather.

Shirley said the practice facility is regulation size, 7,400 square feet, and features a synthetic floor as the district cannot afford installation and maintenance of a hardwood floor such as the present gym has. "The facility is large enough to meet volleyball standards, and we plan to use it for volleyball practice

as well," Shirley said. The practice facility has a projected completion date of June 1.

Along with the practice facility, the school added three new classrooms. Shirley said the original 1968 blueprints for the school called for the eventual addition of three classrooms anyway, so the school already had plans and space to work with.

The three new rooms include a resource room that teacher Kristin Albee utilizes, a room that teachers Laurie Altringer and Olan Fulfer use for their fifth-through eighth-grade classes, while the other room will see use as a conference room with possible use by reading groups as well. The classrooms, a priority, were completed in December 2014.

"These additions were much needed because we've been cramped in for so long with K through 12 in one building. The practice facility is going to make things so much easier for our different sports," Shirley said.

The school hired local businesses Miller Plumbing, Mountain View Glass and Joseph Excavating to work on the project.

## Community Calendar: Old-Time Dance; session on Motorless Mondays

**Wednesday, March 18**  
Wallowa County Forestland Classification Committee meeting, 10 a.m., OSU Extension office, Enterprise. More info: 541-886-2881.

**Thursday, March 19**  
Circle 100 Club One & Only Annual Meeting, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Wallowa Memorial Hospital conference room. Club dues: \$100, which gets donated to the Wallowa Valley Health Care Foundation for a use chosen by the club. RSVP at 541-426-1913.

**March 20-22**  
"Anne of Green Gables," performances by MidValley Theatre Company in old Lostine gymnasium, Lostine. Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Admission \$7 general, \$6 student. More info: Kate Loftus, 541-569-2302.

**Friday, March 20**  
Spring Equinox Seed & Book Exchange, 1 to 4 p.m., Hurricane Creek Grange. Bring seeds and gardening publications you don't need and exchange them for something useful to you.

**Saturday, March 21**  
National Quilting Day, observed in Enterprise. Quilts displayed in Enterprise businesses; window displays at Wild Carrot Herbs and the Litch Building. More info: Sondra Lozier, 541-426-3229.

Old-Time Community Dance, 7 to 10:30 p.m., Odd Fellows Hall in Enterprise. Admission \$5/person, \$10/family, free for children under 12. Live string band and caller. Beginners welcome, all dances taught, no partner necessary. Info: Laura Skovlin, 541-398-0800.

**Tuesday, March 24**  
Motorless Mondays brainstorming session, 7 p.m. at Odd Fellows Hall in Enterprise. On the idea of

disallowing motors' use on Wallowa Lake on Mondays.

**March 27-28**  
First Aid/CPR/AED classes conducted by Project Heartbeat in Enterprise. Two offerings of 7-hour class to train lay responders to assist in medical emergencies until ambulance arrives. Two-year certification from American Red Cross upon completion. Cost: \$45. For more info and to register: 541-432-0259.

**Friday, March 27**  
Special presentation on Rocky Mountain Elk, 6 p.m. at Wallowology, 508 N. Main, Joseph. Free admission. Experts from ODFW and The Nature Conservancy will give a multimedia presentation on the history of Rocky Mountain Elk in Wallowa County and their current management on the 33,000-acre Zumwalt Prairie Preserve. All ages welcome. Sponsored by Wallowa Land Trust and Wallowology. More info: wallowalandtrust.org.

**Thursday, April 2**  
Fashion Show, a fundraiser for the Joseph Public Library's expansion, 7 p.m. at OK Theatre in Enterprise. Doors open at 6 p.m. for social hour. Tickets \$10, available only in advance at Old Town Café, Joseph Public Library, Soroptimist Thrift Store, M Crow in Lostine. More info: 541-432-0141.

**Sunday, April 5**  
Troy's Old-timers Easter Potluck, 4 p.m. at the Troy School.

*The Community Calendar lists fundraisers, free local events and those with a nominal fee organized by nonprofit organizations. Submit information to calendar@wallowa.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. To promote for-profit events, contact sales representative Brooke Pace at bpace@wallowa.com.*

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**JADA GRAY**

This week's athlete of the week features Enterprise fifth grader Jada Gray. Gray, 11, scored a whopping 12 points for the Outlaws in a March 10 game against Joseph.

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Gray's mother, Chelsie Gray, coaches the team.

Gray loves horses and likes to ride bikes and play sports in her spare time. Other sports Gray participates in include soccer, although basketball remains her favorite.

She also likes running and hopes to participate in a future Olympics as a sprinter. Gray practices with her team every day. Her big sisters are an inspiration and she enjoys practicing with them on occasion and watching their games. Gray is also a scholar/athlete who likes to read and has A's in all her classes.



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Chad Stangel, 541-263-1770 or Sam Magera, 541-263-1436

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Enterprise, OR 97828



Jan Hileman, 2014 Winner of the Nature Conservancy Buck Tag Green Score 191

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The Wallowa County Chieftain

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