

# Gym honors Shirley

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

About 75 people from Joseph Charter School and the surrounding community attended the May 31 ribbon-cutting and dedication of the school's new practice gym, Rhonda Shirley Court.

Earlier this spring, JCS students voted to dedicate the gym to retiring JCS Superintendent Rhonda Shirley, who was instrumental in obtaining grants to fund the construction of the gym along with three additional classrooms for the school.

After a short ceremony, which culminated in the ribbon-cutting, the crowd filled in to the gym to enjoy snacks and punch as well as to congratulate Shirley and thank her for her years of service.

In the spirit of the event, several children enjoyed play-



Steve Tool/Chieftain

**Namesake of the gym. Retiring JCS superintendent, Rhonda Shirley, stands beneath the sign to the school's new practice gym. JCS students voted to give Shirley the honor earlier this spring. Shirley helped the school get grants for the gym's construction, as well as three new classrooms.**

ing basketball with a football on some of the gym's six backboards.

Shirley herself was quite moved at the event. "It is such an honor to have my name

attached to the new practice gym. It brought tears to my eyes and I thank the school board, staff, and students of Joseph Charter School for selecting the name," she said.

# Wet golfers moody, blue

By Rochelle Danielson  
For the Chieftain

The general mood at Alpine Meadows the past few weeks of a wet May goes something like this: A golfer can sing in the rain and a golfer can dance in the rain, but a golfer sure-as-heck can't golf in the rain.

Golfers so love the game, they get the blues when week after week the weather is either in a torrential downpour, an all-day drip and drizzle, or a sporadic thunder and lightning storm.

The clubhouse — open

from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. — is a hangout for those antsy ones as they drink coffee and watch for a window of sunshine. But, the café/bar is also the center for all members as well as a welcome spot for the public to meet for a gab fest over a deli sandwich or a drink. The café serves a full lunch menu. With the "now open" grill, hamburgers and fries are popular along with an "Arnold Palmer" ice tea/lemonade mixture.

A new face in the clubhouse is Curt Nebel, former manager of Bronson Lumber in Enterprise. He's accepted the

manager position, upon the resignation of recently hired Ted Pithoud, who decided the job wasn't for him.

Come and meet Curt. He's learning the golf ropes. He's courteous, friendly and will make you feel welcome.

The wet weather has slowed the work of the greens crew. "Even with abundant rainfall the course requires care," reports Gregg Sturtevant. "With every break in the weather fairways, greens and the rough are mowed, otherwise the grass gets out of hand."

The annual Spring Fling, held in May, drew 60 people. Cheri Lamb and Josh Kissingner, co-chairmen of the event, express their thanks to all who helped make it successful. After a prime rib dinner, a pie auction was held. Money goes for front entry landscaping.

Men's Day, Thursdays, and Ladies' Day, Tuesdays, have begun. Also AMG Eastside Seniors have shown representation at Milton-Freewater and Echo.

Let's hope for sunnier days, but in case of rain frustrated golfers may kill time at home watching an old movie with Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire, two entertainers you can dance and sing along with.

# Joseph tennis courts reborn as garden area

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The crumbling tennis courts at Joseph Charter School, out of use for two decades, were recently transformed to a horticultural center for the school. About \$35,000 of a \$73,320 Career and Technical Education Revitalization Grant awarded to the school from the Oregon Department of Education helped fund the project, as well as a \$2,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, according to Laurie Altringer, JCS Title 1 teacher, who is overseeing the yet-unnamed project.

Altringer credited the school's superintendent, Rhonda Shirley, who helped brainstorm the project after looking into refurbishing the decaying courts and finding the cost prohibitive. "It was an area we didn't know what to do with. We started thinking of things to make the entrance look better.



Steve Tool/Chieftain

**A completely viable horticultural and outdoor class area now occupies the area where crumbling tennis courts once stood at Joseph Charter School.**

I'm lucky to have people like Laurie (Altringer) who write grants and follow up on these things," Shirley commented.

A greenhouse already stands in testament to the project, and considerable landscaping, including the planting of numerous trees and import of soil makes the area virtually unrecognizable from even six months ago. A huge log arch stands over the entrance waiting for the construction and installation of a "Welcome to Joseph Charter School" gate, the senior project of student Eric Lara.

JCS students got right to work in the greenhouse, caring for a number of plant starts for Magic Garden, as well as constructing two raised beds for permanent installation in the greenhouse. Altringer's eighth-grade Gardening and Community Service class waters the starts daily, while student interns will perform plant care duties over the summer break. Eventually, the harvested produce, both fresh and frozen, will go to JCS.

Seven livestock water tanks line the outside of the greenhouse, fulfilling the role of outdoor raised beds, one for each class from kindergarten through sixth grade. Altringer said that sixth-grade students came up with the stock tank design idea in keeping with the county's ties to agriculture.

Ag instructor Toby Koehn is having his classes start a com-

post heap inside the enclosure. The west side of the enclosure has newly installed sod and will see service as an outdoor classroom with the upcoming installation of picnic tables. Altringer's eighth-grade gardening/community service class will install the tables. Altringer added that any JCS class is welcome to use the outdoor classroom.

Altringer said her community service class contributed greatly to the project, while Koehn's class helped with fencing and greenhouse construction. Community entities helping with the project include Eastern Oregon Landscaping, which taught students about landscape design as well as helping with construction of the greenhouse and landscaping. Both Alder Slope Nursery and Wallowa County Nursery donated plants and also gave students tours of their facilities.

Altringer also credited fifth and sixth grade classes with planting seeds and helping with the garden design with their outdoor raised beds idea.

"With the foundation of this project almost complete, the next phase will allow new opportunities for the Magic Garden project, new pathways in Joseph Charter School's Career and Technical Education programs, and hands-on activities that promote learning in our elementary programs," Altringer said.

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**JAMES HAYES**

This week's athlete of the week is James Hayes, driver of car #22 for the Hayes Brothers Racing Team. Hayes, 41, is a graduate of Wallowa High School.

At the Meridian Speedway in Meridian, Idaho, Hayes placed ninth in a field of 20 cars in the Pro4 event on May 24. He drove a highly modified Ford Fusion with a 300 horsepower engine. Surprisingly, Hayes is only in his second year as a driver. He won the driving spot by default as the driving helmet the team bought fit him best. His brother, Jerry Hayes doesn't mind. "We thought about switching places at times, but he did so well last year, why mess with something that's working."

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