

Rotary Club’s Letter Bee raises \$2,000 for Joseph playground

Laughter and humility all around mark the competition

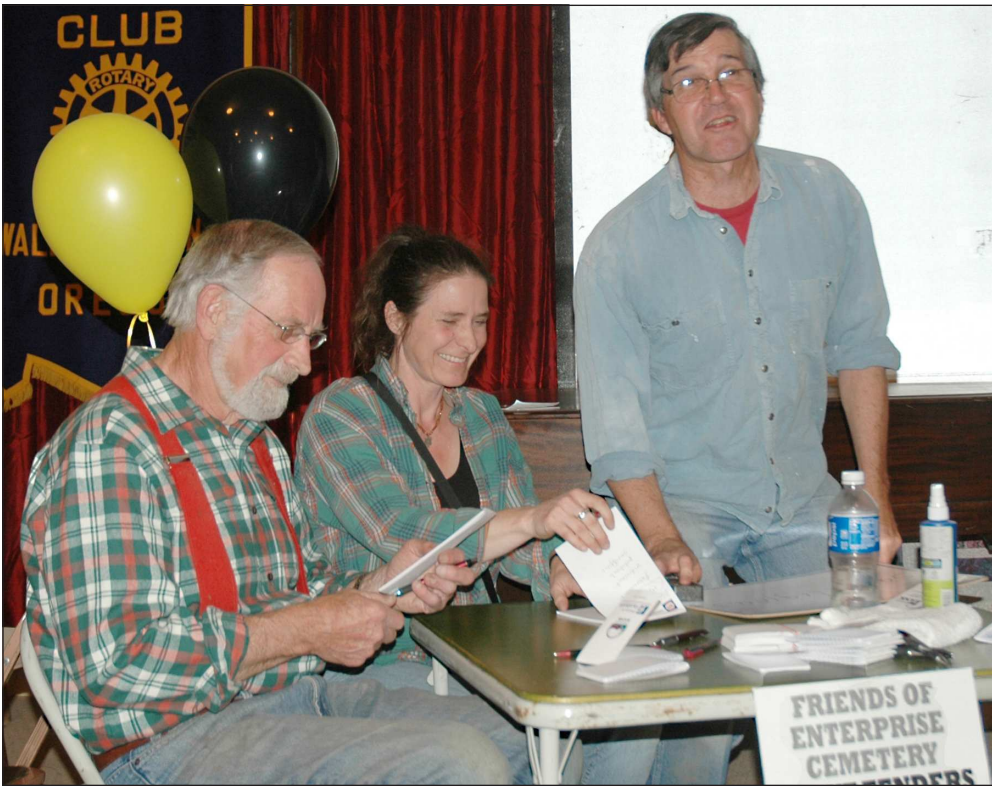
By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

They can ride, they can deliver a speech, they have exceptional social skills — but how long can they stay in a spelling bee competition?

We found out the night of April 26 when the Chief Joseph Days Court went down early in the competition at the Rotary Club’s fifth annual Letter Bee. The ladies were gracious losers and never lost their sense of humor.

In all fairness, it was a tough competition with quizmaster Kathleen Ackley selecting tricky words like “judgment” (which can actually be correctly spelled with an “e” and so was thrown out). Shortly after the court went down, a word they’d have gotten easily — “palomino” — took out Joseph FLCCA, sponsored by Wallowa Mountain Properties, and knocked the “Joseph Playground Students,” sponsored by Vali’s Alpine Restaurant, into “save me” territory.

Each team started with three balloons tied to their chairs and every miss meant a popped balloon. An audience member could “save” a team from elimination by buying them one more



Kathleen Ellyn/The Chieftain

And the winners of the 2016 Rotary Club Letter Bee — the “Grave Tenders” team.

balloon, which aided every team except the eventual winners, the Friends of Enterprise Cemetery’s “Grave Tenders.”

Judges Alice and Ben Kable of Enterprise monitored the progress, Rich Wandschneider acted as emcee and coordinator Jolene Cox did double duty as the “bee stinger” that popped balloons when a team missed a word.

The letter bee this year was a fundraiser for the Joseph Playground project.

Last year’s defending youth

champs “Alternative Education School,” sponsored by Ed and Marky Pitts, came a cropper on the word “occasionally,” and in the end the “Joseph Charter School Playground” team won the \$150 prize in the six-team youth division on the final word “physician.”

There were two rounds in the 12-team adult division.

“Millennium” knocked out the adult “Joseph Playground” team, sponsored by Winding Waters Expedition, and sent the Nature Conservancy’s “Natural Bom Spellers” and the Forest Service’s Employee Association team “Bee Wilderness” into

“save me” territory.

Not that it was easy for the “Grave Tenders,” either. John McColgan, who along with Perry Davis and Jennifer Hobbs made up the team, said that if Jennifer’s excellent hearing hadn’t been helping them out, they’d have been trying to spell the wrong words entirely.

The audience was playing along and soon discovered it’s not so easy when you don’t have your spellcheck turned on. Spectators were quick on the draw with their smartphones even after the correct spelling was posted on the overhead. “Ricocheted” was such a

puzzler that three teams didn’t have their guesses written down in time to beat the 40-second buzzer and lost a balloon each.

It was finally down to the “Grave Tenders” and “Maxville Timber Culture” in the first round of the adult division when “flocculent” knocked the lady loggers out.

The next adult round saw “carburetor” wreak havoc, taking out the Fishtrap team, sponsored by Wallowa County Grain Growers, and “Stellar Spellers,” sponsored by Wheatland Insurance. The word also sent “Joseph Charter School Teachers,” sponsored by Moonlight Graphics, and “Highway to Spell,” sponsored by Building Healthy Families, into the “save me” category.

The winners in that second adult round were the Alpha Betties, sponsored by Eide-Bailly, LLP, who held on through “soliloquy,” “prestigious,” “cygnet” and more to finally beat the “American Association of University Women” on “entrepreneur.”

The “Grave Tenders” came back in the final round against the “Alpha Betties” and the “Joseph Charter School Playground” team for just five words, taking the win with “sac-rilegious.”

Their \$250 prize went to the cemetery project. The event raised \$2,000 for the playground at Joseph City Park.

It was a costume event as well, and “Highway to Spell” — Maria Weer, Sara Crawford and Michael Cooler — won the category with their rock star costumes and inflatable guitars.

ROUNDUP

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Softball: Cubs salvage a split

The Wallowa Valley Cubs split a twin bill with Riverside at home on Friday, losing the first game 6-5 and winning the second 14-13. Cubs coach Cliff Conrad said the Cubs scored five runs on six hits in the first game. Starting pitcher Madison Plew added two RBIs to her cause while taking the loss for the Cubs.

Game 2 was an extra-innings nail-biter, with the Cubs rapping out 15 hits for their 14 runs while Riverside scored their 13 runs on 11 hits.

“We won it in the bottom of the eighth,” Conrad said. He credited Plew with the victory on the strength of her eighth-inning pitching performance. Natalie Williams pitched the previous seven innings.

Offensively, Shelby Moncrief drove in three runs, while Darby Gassett, Becca Bateman and Josie Scott each knocked in two RBIs for the cause.

The Cubs are 6-6 in league play and 8-10 overall. The Eagles (6-6, 8-10) were scheduled to play a doubleheader Tuesday afternoon at Elgin/Imbler, as The Chieftain was going to press.

Golf: Alpine Meadows hosts 5-team tourney

High school golfers took over Alpine Meadows golf course in Enterprise of Friday, trudging through rain and wet grass in pursuit of the greens. Competing schools included Heppner, Wallowa/Joseph, Enterprise, La Grande and Grant Union.

Wallowa/Joseph coach Marvin Gibbs said the boys team placed third with Joseph’s Kai Oliver turning in a strong performance with a 90 score. Tori Suto, also of Joseph, placed third for the girls team, shooting a 90 on the day.

The Enterprise boys placed second on the day with a team score of 445, led by Sunny Galli’s 91 game and Brycen Locke’s 92. The Outlaw girls shot a collective 491 for the day with Jackie Jenson leading the way with a 117 score.

Enterprise is hosting its annual Four for Fore fundraiser tournament Saturday at Alpine Ridge golf course. The next event for Wallowa/Joseph is the district golf tournament at the Pendleton Country Club on May 9-10.



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TRACK

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Local Top-3 finishers


Boys
100 meters: 1. Nathaniel Perren 11.84 Enterprise; 2. Garrett Thorne 11.92 Enterprise. 200 meters: 1. Garrett Thorne 25.06 Enterprise; 2. James Madsen 25.14 Enterprise. 400 meters: 1. James Madsen 55.25 Enterprise. 800 meters: 2. Tyler Homan 2:11.68 Joseph. 1500 meters: 1. Jacob Everts 4:46.45 Enterprise. 4x100 relay: 1. James Madsen, Garrett Thorne, Trent Bales, Nathaniel Perren 46.73 Enterprise. Shot put: 1. Chandler Burns 43-08.00 Enterprise.

2. Blaze Lepper 43-00.00 Enterprise. Discus: 1. Blaze Lepper 122-03 Enterprise; 3. Chandler Burns 116-06 Enterprise. Javelin: 2. Ethan Burns 147-00 Enterprise. High Jump: 1. Nathaniel Perren 5-10 Enterprise. Long Jump: 2. Trent Bales 17-01.00 Enterprise. Triple Jump: 3. Aaron Schaafsma 34-01.75 Enterprise.

Girls
100 meters: 1. Annie Duncan 13.68 Joseph; 2. Hero Peters 14.80 Enterprise; 3. Christina Russell 14.95 Enterprise. 200 meters: 1. Riley Gray 29.12 Enterprise; 2. Reagan Bedard 30.51 Enterprise; 3. Stacy Douglass 30.98 Enterprise. 400 meters: 1. Johnelle Suto 1:07.26 Joseph; 2. Alexis Sykora 1:08.01 Joseph. 800 meters: 1. Eliza Irish 2:35.58 Enterprise; 2. Karli Bedard

2:46.77 Enterprise. 3000 meters: 1. Isabelle Tingelstad 11:39.20 Joseph. 100 meter hurdles: 1. Stacy Douglass 18.13 Enterprise; 2. Claudia Poudereux 20.77 Enterprise. 300 meter hurdles: 1. Annie Duncan 51.27 Joseph. 4x100 relay: 1. Hero Peters, Reagan Bedard, Riley Gray Stacy Douglass 54.93 Enterprise; 2. Johnelle Suto, Courtney Bailey, Addie Kilgore Alexis Sykora 56.90 Joseph. 4x400 relay: 1. Annie Duncan, Johnelle Suto, Alexis Sykora, Isabelle Tingelstad 4:29.34 Joseph; 2. Reagan Bedard Riley Gray, Karli Bedard, Eliza Irish 4:31.00 Enterprise. Discus: 3. Andrea Butterfield 92-08 Enterprise. High jump: 1. Karli Bedard 4-10 Enterprise; 2. Ally Cooney 4-08. Joseph. Pole vault: 3. Maddie Bailey 6-00.00 Joseph. Long jump: 3. Ally Cooney 14-03.25 Joseph. Triple jump: 1. Ally Cooney 31-02.50 Joseph; 3. Tiffany George 27-09.00 Enterprise.


Student of the Week



Sierra Cabral
Wallowa High School

Sierra Cabral is a junior at Wallowa High School. She is the daughter of Waynoka and Jose Cabral. Sierra transferred to Wallowa High School last year and has been a wonderful addition to our school. She is very conscientious and hardworking. She excels academically which is demonstrated in her 3.81 GPA. Outside of classes Sierra is involved with several activities. She is the Student Body Government secretary, is the treasurer of the Music department, a member of National Honor Society and is the manager for the Cheerleading team. Sierra is a member of our choir which is competing at state this week. Most importantly, Sierra is a genuinely nice student who is kind and respectful to others. Wallowa High School is proud to put her forward as student of the week.

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK




TORI SUTO

Tori Suto of Joseph Charter School is this week’s Athlete of the Week. Suto, 15, golfs for the Wallowa/Joseph team.

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