

Lonnie Reed: Living his passion daily

BY LOIS BELL
SHERIDAN SENIOR CENTER

SHERIDAN —“You want to focus, to do the best you can,” said Lonnie Reed. “The most important golf is the game you’re playing now.”

Reed is the golf pro at Sheridan’s Hidden Bridge Golf Course and living his lifelong passion for golf every day, a passion he has

held for more than 40 years. “What entices me is that no matter how well you play, you can always do better,” said Reed.

Reed was introduced to golf “late in life” – as he says - when he was a sophomore in college. His future father-in-law invited him to play. He refused at first but eventually gave in.

“I played four to five times and got the bug,” said Reed.

He continued to play with his father-in-law and his passion for golf grew.

“In the spring of my junior year at Black Hills State (college in Rapid City, South Dakota), the college started a golf team. I wanted to be on that more than anything,” said Reed. He made the team.

Following graduation from Black Hills State, Reed taught for seven years, playing golf during the summer school breaks. In four years, Reed’s ability allowed him to turn “pro”, a fast advancement in that short amount of time for an individual in the golf world.

Most pro golfers manage and oversee golf courses, teach golf, and deal in golf equipment while a smaller group of pro golfers compete professionally for money. Reed played competitively and later moved to becoming a club professional.

“As a pro, if Arnold Palmer showed up in a tournament I’ve signed up for, I’d have to play against him,” said Reed.

In 1977, Reed left teaching and went into a retail business with his brother and wife. They worked out a schedule that allowed him to share the business responsibilities and golf.

“I can’t tell you how much I wanted to be a good player,” said Reed, who hits 500 practice balls a day.

When playing in tournaments, Reed competes against the golf course.

“If I won a tournament, I



COURTESY PHOTO

A golf pro at the Hidden Bridge Golf Course, Lonnie Reed discovered his passion for golf more than 40 years ago. Reed has competed in more than 15 tournaments each year, winning several one- and two-day tournaments.

felt I played the best against the course,” said Reed. “It’s hard to explain but it’s a feeling like nothing else.”

But as good as he is, Reed finds beating a course is challenging. His first professional tournament was a one-day pro-am in the Navajo Trail Open in Durango, Colorado. He shot a score of 67.

“I thought I was in the money but I wasn’t,” said Reed, who placed fourth in that tournament. “So I thought I’d need to work a little harder.”

How many tournaments has Reed played in and how many has he won?

“Wow, over 40 years, I

couldn’t begin to guess, but I’ve won a number of one-day and two-day tournaments,” said Reed, who played 15 – 18 tournaments a year.

Reed’s passion passed on to his son, Craig. In 1985, Reed backed off his own golfing to support his son, who was playing competitively.

Later, Reed enrolled in the Professional Golf Association training program and tested for the certification that allows him to teach golf and manage a clubhouse. He passed. He has been a PGA member for 26 years and is now a card-carrying retired life

member of the association.

Reed has been the pro at the Gillette Golf Club and an assistant pro at a course in California. With his son living in Sheridan, the position as the golf pro at Sheridan’s Hidden Bridge Golf Course was very appealing. He was hired.

For non-golfers, par for the course means that you hit your ball the number of times the course says it takes to play it. A typical golf course is 18 holes and rated for a player to hit their ball 72 times to complete the 18 holes.

“Today I just try to shoot my age,” said Reed, age 70. Not a bad goal.



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CENTER STAGE

It’s hammer time – construction continues at Senior Center

The Sheridan Senior Center is excited to announce the increased construction activity that is underway at many of the Center’s facilities. The Center was extremely fortunate to raise more than \$9 million toward expansion, investment and renovation. The funding is something that the Center is extremely proud to have and we are considering it a mission to stay within budget and on task in the efforts to reshape the Center’s spaces for the future.

The Center was able to receive funding from many sources, including the Wyoming Business Council, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, the city of Sheridan, many private donors, businesses and philanthropic foundations. Many of these sources have added specifics to the construction, as well as the Center’s long-term goal for the future with \$2 million going toward the Center’s endowment, called The Loving Legacy.

We want to let the community know what we are working towards and how we are progressing on our goals of completing new construction and renovation.

With that in mind, we start with the construction that is taking place on the Day Break facility. If you have driven by the site, you may have noticed that there are walls and trusses up and it is getting a roof. The interior walls are taking shape and it will soon become enclosed for interior work to begin. The goal is to have the Day Break program occupying the new space by Sept. 1 and we look forward to continue the work with Sheridan College on the programming that will take place in the new facility. It will make the experiences for the patrons even more significant and will help prepare the workforce for aging in place. We thank O’Dell Construction, as they bring this project to life.

D.A. Construction was awarded the bid for the main Senior Center project at 211 Smith Street and will include the dining room, kitchen, activities and administration areas. We have begun working with D.A. on the design as they were contracted under a design/build scenario. The Center has been collecting data, design ideas, thoughts and creativity from patrons, the community and a volunteer steering committee for many months and years. All those concepts and thoughts are being integrated into this design phase. The thought process of this design is to make the absolute best use of the donations and support from funders and friends of the Center.

We will be determine the progression of the various phases of this project so as to limit the amount of time that certain functions have to be moved temporarily. Please don’t hesitate to let us know if you have a time- or cost-saving idea. We are always open to suggestions.

It is also a busy time for transportation as our Goose Creek Public Transit Facility at 2114 Eastside Second St. will soon be getting an addition of needed space. This project is also a design/build contract and the award was given to Cascade Construction. Three additional vehicle storage bays, a wash bay, maintenance bay, tool room, restroom, and four work stations will be added. As our transportation program continues to grow in response to demand, this project is very important.

We are always happy to update our friends in the community on the progress of these projects, which were made possible in part by the Celebrating Generations & Building Community Capital Campaign donors and state and federal grants.

RINDY WEST is the Development Director at the Sheridan Senior Center. Center Stage is written by friends of the Senior Center for the Sheridan Community. It is a collection of insights and stories related to living well at every age.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS

- The Sheridan Senior Center holiday hours for Memorial Day are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, May 30. Lunch will be served at 211 Smith Street during the usual hours of 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Home-delivered meal service will be on its regular schedule on Memorial Day.
- SHERIDANAIRESS Spring Follies performance: “Country Music Through the Years” Matinee performance on Thursday, June 2 at 1:30. A \$2 suggested donation is appreciated.



RINDY WEST

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Fun and Food

Entrees and kiosk include sides, dessert and drink.

<u>Entrée Choice*</u>	or	<u>Soup Kiosk</u>
Sun - Hot Turkey Sandwich with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy		
Mon - Cheeseburger Deluxe		No salad bar today
Tue - Chicken Pot Pie		Creamy Broccoli/Swiss
Wed - Pork Chop Supreme		French Onion Soup
Thu - Taco Salad with Beef, Cheese, Chips & Salsa		Pork Gumbo
Fri - Oven Fried Chicken		Cream of Cauliflower
Sat - Egg & Sausage Bake		

***Home Delivered Meals**

Mon - Memorial Day Holiday Hours	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	
Tue - Tai Chi	8:30 a.m.	Community Room
Wed - Gentle Yoga Balance	10:30 a.m.	Community Room
Thu - SheridanAires	1:30 p.m. \$2 SC	Dining Room
Fri - SheridanAires Dinner/Program	RSVP for dinner at 6:00 p.m.	Dining Room

Lunch Service Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.,
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