

Sisters salutes...



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

Project Unify has provided some fun basketball action for Outlaws and staff.

• Julia Huni wrote:
We frequently hear what a great community Sisters is, but that point was proven once again on the evening of January 22, at the Project Unify basketball game.

Project Unify is part of Special Olympics and “allows students with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and play together as teammates.”

The Outlaws Project Unify team includes a cohort of amazing student mentors from the high school and students from the Special Education programs of all three Sisters schools. Some of these kids have never held a basketball, and thought they had no interest in the sport. Others desperately wanted to play, but health issues prevented them. Now all of them are basketball stars.

Many of the mentors are athletes on other Outlaws teams, others are academics. All of them exhibit an incredible degree of compassion and altruism. They never take the spotlight. Given the choice to make two points or pass to one of their teammates who might not make the basket, our mentors always choose the latter.

Which brings me back to last Friday’s game. The Project Unify team from

Bend’s Mountain View High School cancelled, so the Sisters teachers and administrators stepped up to fill the void. Coached by Mike Geisen and featuring Joe “Meadowlark” Hosang, Heather “The Animal” Johnson, and Mario “Tasmanian Devil” Saraceno, the Sisters “Bandits” gave our Outlaws a game worth playing.

The kids clearly wanted to win. Who wouldn’t want to beat their own teachers? But our mentors stuck to their playbook, even in the face of The Animal, giving Sam, Brian, Max, Andrew, Zack, Gabe, and Michaela a chance at basketball glory.

The stands were filled with classmates, parents, neighbors and community members. Announcer Neil Fennel added color and excitement. Every score raised a cheer, and our Outlaws prevailed 46-34.

Josh Nordell, Bill Mitchell and Sherri Hermens, with the support of Tim Roth and the entire Sisters community, have built something amazing. Our disabled kids are getting a chance many never get: to be part of a sports team. And our mentors are getting the chance to experience the beauty of selflessly helping others.

Thank you, Sisters, for supporting all our children.

And to the Bandits’ number 34, whoever you are: you’re the world’s greatest rebounder.

• Sisters School District would like to thank Melvin Herburger for his continuous support of Sisters’ youth. Melvin donates countless hours as our Master of Ceremonies for bingo night, announcing school games, cheering in the crowd for our teams, and using his Fir Street Market as a place for kids to hold car washes, paint windows, and raise funds for their programs. This winter, Melvin sold Christmas trees and donated over \$1,000 from the sales of these trees to help support our kids in Sisters. Thank you, Melvin, for all your positive support! This community is extremely lucky to have you here.

• The family of Wyatt Hernandez would like to thank friends and family in Sisters for their support and willingness to help with their son. Wyatt suffered a concussion in football practice this last fall and has had long-lasting symptoms that have prevented him from enjoying athletics and everyday life as it used to be. While Wyatt has been strong and positive throughout this ordeal, things from the simplest gesture, and offers to help in any way possible, to words of support and encouragement have meant the world to him.

Local thespians produce one-act plays

The Sisters community is invited to “Now You’re Talking: Sisters One-Acts” at The Belfry on Friday and Saturday, February 5-6 at 7:30 p.m. Produced by Silent Echo Theater Co. in association with Sisters Classic Old-Time Radio Experience, over 20 actors and directors will entertain with plays written by several East Coast

playwrights.

The 10- to 20-minute plays are directed by local artists and feature talent from Sisters and Central Oregon.

Tickets at www.bendticket.com are \$12 adults, \$10 students/seniors. At the door (cash only): \$15 adults, \$12 students/seniors. For more information call 541-719-8779.

Church offers Shrove Tuesday meal

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. will provide supper for an entire family for \$10 at The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters.

Shrove Tuesday is the same day on which Mardi Gras is celebrated, the last day before Lent begins. In 2016, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10.

The observance of Shrove Tuesday began during the Middle Ages. Then, as now, particularly in certain parts of the world, food items like meats, eggs, milk and fish were restricted during Lent. To keep such foods from being wasted, they were shared in a feast so they would not spoil

during the next 40 days.

“Shrove” is derived from the word “Shrive” which means to confess and receive absolution. So, it is a day of repentance before a period of fasting that is observed by many during Lent.

Here in Sisters, everyone is invited to share in this tradition. The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration is located at 68825 Brooks Camp Rd.

The menu includes all-you-can eat buttermilk, plain, and blueberry pancakes, sausage, variety of syrups, homemade applesauce, orange juice, coffee and tea. Cost is \$4 for adults; \$2 for children ages 4 to 12, children under 4 are free; \$10 per family of four or more. All are welcome.

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