

Grand show of talents take center stage

Variety of acts entertains the audience

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Contestants in this year's Grant County Talent Search had their five minutes of fame in front of the packed grandstands.

The talents ranged from an a cappella quartet to a trombone number.

First-place winners in each of the divisions — children (5 to 9), youth (10 to 17) and adults (18 and up) — were awarded \$100, and second-place winners received \$50.

Isaac Janssen won first place in the children's division, captivating the audience with a dance routine he choreographed to Aloe Blacc's "I Need a Dollar."

"I first heard it at a swim meet and started dancing," he said of the peppy song. "You have to learn to dance to live in Ethiopia."

Isaac was soon leaving his John Day home to move to Ethiopia with his family, including his parents, Drs. Andrew and Andrea Janssen, who plan to teach and practice family medicine there.

Coming in second in the children's division was Paytin Girvin, singing "You're a Grand Old Flag."



Carolyn Stout hands Isaac Janssen his award (\$100) for first place in the children's division of the Aug. 5 Talent Search at the Grant County Fair in John Day. In back are Chloe Bentz, left, Grace Carothers, Samantha Floyd and Max Bailey.



Samantha Floyd entertains the grandstands crowd with "76 Trombones" with accompaniment that she recorded, playing her trombone.

Chloe Bentz, playing her flute, won first in the youth division playing "In Dreams" from the "Lord of the Rings — Fellowship of the Ring" soundtrack and Mozart's "Sonata in F Major."

Bentz, who will be a freshman at Grant Union when

school starts, said she's played her flute for three years and played in the high school band as an eighth-grader.

She said the music she chose for the talent show is advanced, and they are selections she plans to play at the Western International Band Clinic in Seattle later this year.

Eithen Hatfield won second playing "God's Great Dance Floor" on keyboard.

Larry Cannon finished first in the adult division playing guitar and singing "Fraulein," accompanied by Clay Johnson on fiddle, Hap McCleod on banjo and Ron Phillips on guitar.

Talent Search Coordinator Carolyn Stout was impressed with the size of this year's audience. Moving the venue to the grandstands area made a positive difference, she said.

"It's back to its old ways," she said. "It was so good, and I had good help. I'm very grateful to Chester's Thriftway and Bank of Eastern Oregon for not only physical support, but also monetary support."

It was a hard job for the judges, she said. "They don't base it on their opinion, and no one judge picks the winner."



An a cappella group — Olivia, left, Miranda, Molly and Jess — sings "Zion Melody," each taking turns at lead vocals, at the Talent Search.



Chloe Bentz plays two selections and wins first place in the youth division of the Talent Search.



Larry Cannon belts out "Fraulein" at the Talent Search. He was accompanied by Hap McCleod on banjo, Clay Johnson on fiddle and Ron Phillips on guitar.

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Eastern Oregon Realty is happy to announce the addition of Shanna Langlely to its professional team of agents.



Shanna, a mother of two and grandmother of three, is a native Oregonian who moved from the Willamette Valley to Grant County. Loving the beautiful variety of regions in Oregon, she enjoys exploring as many places possible through travel, hiking, and sight-seeing. A favorite activity is white water rafting, camping with family, and playing ping pong with her dad. She also enjoys baking, puzzles, games and daily bible study.

Being involved in serving the community through schools, church, sports, and law enforcement has been an important part of her life. In addition to working at Eastern Oregon Real Estate, Shanna sells honey at farmers markets, officiates volleyball and substitutes as an instructional assistant. She looks forward to the opportunity of serving the great people of Grant County.

Welcome to the team, Shanna!

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