

TALENTS SHINE ON STAGE

Grandstands packed for performances

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

An abundance of local talent took the stage at Wednesday's Grant County Talent Search.

The grandstands were full for the event, which kicked things off at the Grant County Fair.

Singers and instrumentalists gave toe-tapping performances, and some in the audience clapped or sang along with the performers.

Tanner Elliott's comedy act stole the show with impersonations of United States presidents and presidential candidates.

He won first place in the youth division and plans to perform at the State Fair's talent show.

"I just joke around at school

usually and decided to try the talent show," the Grant Union sophomore said.

Joan Metlock, who won the adult division, said she's performed six times at the talent search.

"This is the first time I won first," she said. "It's fantastic. I enjoy singing. This is my life."

Metlock sang "One Day at a Time, Sweet Jesus," backed up by Ron Phillips (bass guitar), Carl Stinnett (guitar) and Hap McCloud (banjo).

Metlock said she won't be attending the State Fair, and that opens the opportunity for the second-place winner Katie Johnson to go.

Johnson, who sang Roy Rogers' "Don't Fence Me In" — with backup from her dad, Guy, on guitar; mom, Angie, on bass; and brother Clay on the mandolin — said they are considering going.

Katie is a high school student but was part of the adult division because the adults were part of the performance.

The children's division winner was 8-year-old Bella Fitch, singing "Peace Like a River."

Other contestants included: Eithen Hatfield, keyboard, "Final Countdown"; Austin McKrola singing "Hallelujah"; Chloe Bentz, singing and guitar, "Take me Home, Country Roads"; Alici Archibald, keyboard, classical; and Marcus Perkins, singing "Rockin' Robin."

"I like performing a lot," Fitch said. "The more people there are, the more confidence I have. I've never had stage fright."

Judging the contest, which was sponsored by KJDY and Len's Drug, were: Kelly Workman, Sheila Bruce, Sharon Livingston, Levi Manitsas and Rozanne Mullin. Denny Langford was master of ceremonies.

Contest chairman Carolyn Stout said she appreciates the participants.

"It's important that our young people have a place to



Katie Johnson sings Roy Rogers' "Don't Fence Me In" at last Wednesday's Grant County Talent Search, winning second place.



First-place winner in the adult division of the Grant County Talent Search Joan Metlock sings "One Day at a Time," with backup from Ron Phillips, back, as well as Carl Stinnett and Hap McCloud.

have an opportunity to showcase their gifts and talents," she said. "It's the next best thing to public speaking."

Talent search results:
Children's division
 Bella Fitch, 1st, \$50
Youth division
 Tanner Elliott, 1st, \$100
 Dakota Ballou, 2nd, \$50
Adult division
 Joan Metlock, 1st, \$100
 Katie Johnson, 2nd, \$50

A dog day afternoon

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Border collies and German and Australian shepherds strutted their stuff, and occasionally goofed off, during the 4-H dog show at the Grant County Fair Wednesday afternoon.

Despite the heat, dogs went head to head in obedience and showmanship to figure out who really was a "good boy."

Trainers led their animals through a series of courses, answered assorted dog trivia and demonstrated their dogs' obedience during the long sit portion of the show, in which the dogs were required to remain seated. Despite distractions ranging from cotton candy to a plethora of other dogs, the hounds seemed quite content to relax in the shade, some even looking close to napping during the heat of the day.

Over half a dozen female handlers competed at varying levels, and all walked away with at least one ribbon.



Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs
 Lucy Moody walks her German shepherd, Izzy, in the 4-H dog show during the county fair Wednesday, Aug. 10.

Taylor Osgood: 266

Showmanship Junior
 Jaydon Hoffman: 275
 Lucy Moody: 269
 Rowdy Israel: 263

Performance: Advanced Graduate Novice Obedience Senior
 Reitta Wyllie: 274

Performance: Graduate Novice Obedience Intermediate
 Megan McManama: 270

Performance: Novice Dog Obedience Intermediate
 Taylor Osgood: 266

Performance: Pre-Novice Obedience Senior
 Reitta Wyllie: 274
 Maggie Justice: 264

Performance: Pre-Novice Obedience Junior
 Jaydon Hoffman: 275
 Lucy Moody: 269
 Rowdy Israel: 263



Clifford, a red border collie, lays attentively during the obedience portion of the 4-H dog show at the county fair Wednesday, Aug. 10.

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