

FUNDRAISER

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friendship shared on the court.

"I loved everything about the whole thing," said Special Olympian Elizabeth Swarthout. "Basketball is fun, and we share the ball all the time."

John Day Police Chief Richard Gray was on the law enforcement team, which included athletes from all the local agencies.

"I enjoy the camaraderie — that we're able to come together and visit and play a fun game of basketball," Gray said. "The guys enjoy doing that, and I'm glad the departments can come together for it."

Kimberly Neault, victims intervention specialist at the district attorney's office, said the event was "an absolute blast."

"Their athletic ability is outstanding, and the community support was great," she said.

Special Olympics coach and co-coordinator Deronda Lallatin said it was a fun evening.

"I really appreciate the police officers, taking all the grief from the emcee and refs," she said, referring to antics that played out on the court.

David Gill, a Special Olympics volunteer, said he appreciates the cooperation of school officials and law enforcement with Special Olympics.

"The event is a group effort, or you'd never get all this done," he said.

To learn more about Grant County Special Olympics, call Deronda Lallatin at 541-620-4295.

SOFTBALL

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"We have a ton of experience," Nash said. "Overall, this is probably our hardest working group. They have a great work ethic and tremendous attitude. Several stay after practice and are working hard. A lot of kids are pushing hard for positions, which makes them all better."

Although they are a 2A level size, the Prospectors will again play 3A.

Their opponents in the 3A Special District 2 include Burns, Elgin/Imbler, Enterprise/Joseph/Wallowa, Nyssa and Vale.

"Softball on the east side of the state is always competitive," Nash said. "Vale is always at the top of the league. We get (a game with) them at home, so that's nice."

She said the 3A level is a better fit for them, since they know the coaches, teams and fields.

"We were making sure we could go 15 deep with varsity," she said. "It's going to be competitive, and they enjoy it."

She said right now the coaches are focusing on team unity and making sure the athletes are being pushed hard enough.

"We really don't have to



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospector Cody Jo Madden pitches the ball during practice.

push them," she said. "They want to work hard. They're really a fun group to be around every day."

Among their goals, Nash said: "Obviously, we're looking to win league, and our goal in every game is to be competitive, working hard every day."

Nash has led the team since it began in 2006, and this year, her assistant coaches are Monty Nash, Les DeHaven, Kennedy Nash and Dominic DeHaven.

Three of the six seniors

have several years of experience playing softball, including Natalie Stearns, Dauna Bishop and Ravyn Walker.

"Even though it's early in the season, we work well together," Stearns said. "We have lots of potential, so I'm excited to see what our team brings."

Bishop said she likes the amount of experience there is on the team.

"We all bond really well together," she said.

Walker said, "One of our goals is being league champions this year. I think it's going to be really fun."

Hailey Carter, who's played softball for four years now, said she's looking forward to the season.

"There are a lot of experience levels, but that's what makes it fun," she said.

Third-year player Jessica Carter said that even though they've only been at practice for a couple weeks, the team is like a family.

"I'm really looking forward to how close we'll get," she said, adding they have opportunities to spend time together on road trips.

This is Myckee Coalwell's first year playing, and she said she's enjoyed the first week of practice.

"I feel accepted as part of the team," she said.

GOLF

Continued from Page B1

Friday was the team's first day on the course after eight days on the range.

"We'll be out on the course next week, learning the rules," he said. "I see some potential. I like to see

their friendship and their competitiveness."

He welcomes the community to watch the teams compete when they host the Grant Union High School Invite Friday, April 14.

Lundbom noted there were over 50 competitors last year, and there will be a golf scramble for locals that weekend for a team fundraiser.

Courtney Allen is the team's sole senior, and it is her first year playing golf.

"It's very lax, and you can

laugh with everyone, even if you get a bad shot," she said. "It's nice to just walk around the course. I'm learning that you can do your best and still mess up, and that's OK."

"It takes a lot of patience," she added. "There's something about golf — it gives you a good feeling inside."

Stokes said he's glad to be back out on the course this year.

"I think we have a good chance at a great season," he said.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 16

Grant Union track and field @ Breaking the Ice, Icebreaker in Prineville at 3:30 p.m.

Grant Union dance @ OSAA Dance and Drill State Championships in Portland at 8:10 a.m.

Friday, March 17

Grant Union dance @ OSAA Dance and Drill State Championships in Portland, TBD

Dayville and Prairie City track and field @ the Diana Thurmond Invitational in Harper at 11 a.m.

Grant Union softball @ Union at 12 p.m. (1)

Grant Union golf @ at Echo Hills Country Club in Echo (hosted by Heppner) at 10 a.m.

Saturday, March 18

Monument track and field @ Mullen-Leavitt Invite in The Dalles at 11 a.m.

Grant Union baseball vs. Lakeview at 12 p.m. (2)

Grant Union softball vs. Lakeview at 12 p.m. (2)



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Sivanna Hodge jumps to the beat in a hip-hop routine with Katie Piazza, left, and Shannon Adair, right.

DANCERS

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Batease, a Grant Union senior, said the Gemstones will be "very ready for state in April."

Gemstone dancer Halle Parsons said the team performed well. She also was a part of the hip-hop performance. She said she loves

the opportunity she has to express emotions through dance.

"Our team is open-minded and able to say what's on our minds which helps us improve," she said.

Senior Reannah Lemons performed with the varsity dance team as well as a solo routine. She said she's looking forward to state this week.

"This team has grown tremendously this year, and I'm excited to see how we place," she said.

The Grant Union Gold topped off the showcase event with their performance themed "Revolt."

A poem at the beginning of the presentation, reads, in part: "They said I couldn't do it. Be grace. Be power. ... Prove them wrong."

Piazza said she was proud of all the dancers who performed at the Showcase.

Her team will leave for state Wednesday, March 15, and perform at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at 8:10 a.m. Thursday, competing with 1A through 4A teams.

"The high school team performed the best I've seen them so far this year, and I'm excited that we got to perform for our home town," she said, adding she's encouraged by the size of the local dance programs. "I hope it continues to grow and that we can continue to serve the community."

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MOVIE SCHEDULE MARCH 17-23

BEAUTY & THE BEAST PG
A young prince, imprisoned in the form of a beast, can be freed only by true love.
FRIDAY (3:45) 6:45 9:35
SATURDAY (1:00) (3:45) 6:45 9:35
SUNDAY (1:00) (3:45) 6:45
MON-THURS 6:45

THE SHACK PG-13
A grieving man receives a mysterious, personal invitation to meet with God at a place called "The Shack."
FRIDAY (4:00) 7:00 9:45
SATURDAY (1:10) (4:00) 7:00 9:45
SUNDAY (1:10) (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00

KONG: SKULL ISLAND PG-13
Explorers and soldiers travel to an uncharted island in the Pacific, unaware they are crossing into the domain of monsters, including the mythic Kong.
FRIDAY (4:10) 7:10 9:50
SATURDAY (1:20) (4:10) 7:10 9:50
SUNDAY (1:20) (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS 7:10

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