

Students show 'Panther spirit' in jog-a-thon

Kids run gym laps for fun to benefit school

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Energetic Prairie City students were unstoppable Sept. 20, participating in an hour-long, music-filled school jog-a-thon.

Fifth-grader Lilly Rockhill was among the 92 participants, in grades preschool through sixth, running laps with gusto around the school gym.

"I'm excited to raise money for the school to help out in a lot of ways," she said.

Parent-teacher committee president Lindsay Rausch said the fundraiser was a "resounding success" that will benefit some of the organization's efforts, including the artist in residence program and playground equipment.

"Those are the big things we're planning for," she said.

Fourth-grader Kaitlyn DeHart, who raised \$31, said she also ran in last year's jog-a-thon.

"It's fun," she said. "My brother and sister run with me."

Donors could either contribute a flat sum of money, or give a certain amount for each lap.

As of Thursday, pledges were still being tallied. Last year, the event raised \$1,244.

Some students just enjoyed the running.

"We get to run a lot," said first-grader Jase Whatley. "Everybody, including fifth and sixth grade, is running together."

Audrey Colson, also a first-grader, ran 29 laps, and with five or 10 minutes left, she wasn't ready to quit.

"I like to run," she said. "I high-fived the Panther (mascot) and the cheerleaders. I love the music."

Sabrina Howard, a Prairie City School Title I assistant and committee treasurer, cheered on the students as



Moving along at the Prairie City School jog-a-thon are, from left, sixth-grader Brooke Teel, first-grader Connor Teel and third-graders Sam Rausch and Jonathan Leighty.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Third-grader Brenna Johns runs at full speed during the Wednesday, Sept. 20, jog-a-thon at Prairie City School.



Kindergartner Erik Teel pauses as parent volunteer Jenny Jacobs marks his jog-a-thon sheet. Teachers and volunteers marked each lap the students completed.

they ran past.

She said this is their second year holding the jog-a-thon, and they plan to make it an annual event.

"We have a great amount of help from our parent volunteers," she said. "We couldn't do it without them."

She added, "I love being able to give our elementary kids a chance to participate in homecoming week and being able to show their Panther spirit. They love it."



Contributed photo/Jeanne Strange

Buckaroo Festival grand marshals Betty Richards, left, and Donna Campbell sit together at Saturday's event. Tom Campbell was also a grand marshal.

Buckaroo Festival-goers dine on salmon and elk

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A host of volunteers in Monument rolled up their sleeves to make Saturday's Buckaroo Festival & Harvest Auction a success.

The event featured fun, games and food for the whole family, including a dinner of salmon, elk and corn on the cob.

"It's my passion," said event coordinator Judy Harris, who is the Monument Senior Center fundraising chairman. "100 percent of everything we do goes toward the senior center."

Harris said the festival started when she was a child and some of the elder people planned it to raise money for the grange hall.

She revived the event last year and plans to make it an annual event, the funds benefiting the senior center, which is also a community gathering place.

The 2016 event brought in \$1,300, which Harris said is amazing for the community.

She said this year has been even more successful. So far, \$1,700 has been raised, with

pledges still to be counted.

This year's grand marshals were Tom Campbell, Betty Richards and Donna Campbell.

Games in the park included corn hole, horse shoes and stick horse races. The local 4-H group was there, also fundraising, serving chili and brats for lunch.

The highlight was dinner.

Ray Davis of Monument donated an elk, which provided 400 steaks. Bruce Hansen, from Sauvie Island and Rudio Meadows, added enough salmon, which he caught, cleaned and fileted, to feed the 250 hungry diners.

Hansen also brought corn on the cob, and Missy Boyer of Hermiston whipped up mashed potatoes.

Harris said everyone's help was needed and appreciated.

"I can't say enough about everyone who helped, because it takes an army to make it happen," she said.

Next year's event is already scheduled for the third week-end in September.

"It's been exciting to see it grow and see the community come together," Harris said.

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SUNDAY (3:30) 6:30
MON - THURS 6:30

THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE PG
Six young ninjas are tasked with ending their island home, called Ninjago.
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:40
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00
MON - THURS 7:00

IIR
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