

DANCE

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Astoria, which claimed the championship title with a score of 75.56.

Finishing out the rankings were: Santiam (3rd), Banks (4th), Sweet Home (5th), Bandon (6th), Portland Lutheran (7th) and Seaside (8th).

This year's Gold included seniors Carli Gardner, Amy Lallatin, Lucrezia Nosedá, Auna Waldner, Jenny McCloskey, and manager Charli Bowden.

"Everything came together - our costumes, the music, the choreography all matched," said Waldner, who has learned dance from Adair since she was a young girl.

She said she was pleased with the way the team bonded.

"We're all friends on the team," she said.

She added that this year's state competition routine was her all-time favorite, and making it even more meaningful, each dancer contributed to the choreography.

Taking a major role in the choreography with coach Adair were Waldner, Reannah Lemons, Mackenzie Woodcock and 2014 graduate Hannah Andrews.

"I really couldn't have asked for a better season," Waldner said. "It was a great way to finish off my senior year."

Lallatin said the team worked hard this year.

"I'm glad that everything paid off well," she said. "It's been a fun season, and I love the team very much."

"This is such an excellent group," Adair said. "They're a very diverse group from different backgrounds, yet they worked well together as a team - it was definitely a team effort."



Grant Union Gold dancers, from left, Auna Waldner, Serena Pace Rebecca Batease, Lucrezia Nosedá and Mackenzie Woodcock compete with their team at the state championships in Portland.

Contributed photo/Cindy Dougharty-Spencer

The Grant Union Prospectors break out of their after-game huddle to high-five their opponents, the Pilot Rock/Nixyaawii Rockets.

The Eagle
Angel Carpenter



PROS

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The tie sent the game into extra innings.

Taking the mound in the eighth, Zack Dieter, Winters and Copenhaver kept the Rockets at bay.

The Prospectors sealed the win in the bottom of the inning when Young singled to second base, scoring Dieter.

Brady Burch and Young

had two RBIs each, and Grant Union overall had 12 hits to the Rockets' six.

Dieter took the mound for a little over five innings and had 13 first pitch strikes and four strikeouts.

"They're just a bunch of gritty guys who like to play for each other - not for themselves," Delaney said. "They don't know how to quit. We have a lot to work on still, but if they can grind these games out and wear down pitchers, they'll do well."

He added, the Rockets are "a talented, quality team."

The Pros had a 6-7 loss in Culver last Friday, the coach attributing the result mainly to first-game nerves.

Grant Union hosts the Les Schwab Icebreaker Tournament this Thursday-Saturday and will play the winner of Country Christian vs. Oakland at 11 a.m. Friday. The Prospectors also will hold their annual fundraiser dinner and auction at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Grant Union.

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

GU

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"My coaches always taught me to be a part of something that is bigger than yourself, meaning your team comes first, and showing up for practice every single day," he said. "That's the kind of

work ethic that you try to teach kids."

Another important part of Sharp's program is the time team members spend together bonding and developing friendships.

He said the teams' annual traditions include a visit to the Crane Hot Springs when they play the Mustangs, a trip to see a University of Oregon Ducks game, the Sisters Tournament, and the finale, the Seaside Tournament.

"The kids are making a huge sacrifice, and when you work hard, you're rewarded," he said.

Sharp said he's only as good as his support staff and parents.

"I would like to thank the people who supported our team, and the girls for their dedication and hard work, and coming to practice - it was a big commitment they made," he said. "We had a couple fundraisers, and the girls had to work hard - they didn't get anything handed out to them."

Junior varsity girls

With no freshman girls team at Grant Union this year, coach Lisa Weigum's junior varsity group had 10 freshmen, two sophomores and two juniors.

"Overall, based on the win-loss ratio, we had a successful season, but more importantly, I think our success could be defined by development," she said. She noted her team sees a higher level of competition, and it's not uncommon for them to be up against seniors.

"It's about development for the future and preparing them to play at the varsity level, which I'm very confident in - I'm confident in what the future of Grant Union varsity basketball program holds."

This season the girls held a 10-5 overall record and were 7-5 in league.

"I've really enjoyed getting to know the kids," Weigum said. "I appreciated their positive at-

titudes and their work ethic and commitment to the sport - it was a great group of girls this year."

Weigum, also assistant coach for the varsity girls team with head coach Mark Mosley, said she's proud of what that team accomplished this year - making it to the first round of state playoffs.

"It was the first time in seven years to get to the state playoffs," she said.

"Mark did a great job, and Doug does a great job preparing the girls," she said. "They're great coaches, and we're on our way to building a successful program."

Junior high and junior varsity boys

Coaching the junior high seventh-grade and combined seventh- and eighth-grade teams this year was Kelly Stokes who also assisted Casey Hallgarth in coaching the junior varsity boys.

Stokes said the younger teams worked through injuries and faced tough competition in club basketball tournament but ended with a winning season overall during the interscholastic basketball season, showing great improvement.

Besides training his team in the fundamentals of basketball, Stokes said he tries to teach them the importance of family and friends, respect for others, keeping their composure in stressful times, preparing them for the next level in high school basketball.

"It was a fun season, and they're a great group of kids," he said. "They're going to do well, as long as they keep playing together."

He said the junior varsity boys played hard also, and with a lot of heart.

"It's nice seeing the kids after coaching them at a younger level, and watch how much they improve, each at different increments, as they become great young men," he said.

He hopes they're now ready for the next level of basketball.

"I anticipate them doing well, competing at districts and even at state over the next several years - with this year's junior high group, maybe even further," he said.

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North Fork John Day Watershed Council

The Juniper Arts Council is Seeking Grant Proposals for the John and Linda Shelk Foundation Community Grant Program

The Juniper Arts Council has \$4,500 from the John and Linda Shelk Foundation to distribute in Grant County to organizations in need of funding for community projects.

Priority will be given to organizations whose projects demonstrate support by the community, meet the greatest needs and serve the largest number of community members, and include some collaboration and/or community partnerships.

Applications are available from Karin Barntish, 131 W. Main St., John Day or call Kris Beal at 541-932-4792 for more information or an application. Grant applicants will be accepted until April 3, 2015 at 5:00pm