



Stepping into the spotlight

New coach leads
 Grant Union
 Gold dancers

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

New head coach Kattie Piazza is leading the Grant Union Gold dance team this year.

She was an assistant to outgoing coach Shannon Adair last year, and also led the elite junior high Platinum, a competition team, as well as the junior high Gemstones.

Piazza's dancing interest began in a ballet studio, from

Grant Union dance schedule

Dec. 1: Holiday Showcase at Grant Union at 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 2: Holiday Showcase at Grant Union at 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 27-28: Canby competition at 10 a.m.
Feb. 10-11: South Albany competition at 10 a.m.
Feb. 25: Pendleton competition, TBD
March 3-4: Thurston competition at 10 a.m.
March 10: Spring Showcase at Grant Union at 7 p.m.
March 16-17: State dance competition, TBD

ages 3-7. She was self-taught until she joined the Grant Union Gold team, where she participated through her high school years with Adair as her coach.

While attending college, Piazza took dance classes and

was a varsity cheerleader. She also had dance as her talent when entering Miss America pageants.

Last Thursday, Piazza and her team of 10 were practicing at the American Legion Hall, preparing a big band swing

routine for next week's Holiday Showcase.

The event, which includes dancers from age 4 through 18, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 1-2, at Grant Union. The cost is one canned-food item and \$5 presale or \$7 at the door.

As soon as the show is over, the team will switch focus to state competition. The team has a "lyrical and flowing" routine, with roots in ballet, planned.

Piazza said she is encouraged by some changes that have been made to the way state scoring will happen this year.

See *DANCERS*, Page A11



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Grant Union Gold dancers, senior Reannah Lemons, front, and Dana Schajor, kick high during practice last Thursday.

PROS PRIMED

Young, yet experienced, Grant Union team ready to take on season



Grant Union Prospect Kellen Shelley goes up for a shot in practice as Jacob Vaughan reaches out.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Boys team led
 by coach Kelsy
 Wright this year

By Angel Carpenter
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The Grant Union boys varsity basketball team is gearing up for the season with new head coach Kelsy Wright.

Wright was previously assistant coach for Steve Speth for nine years, working with the Grant Union varsity boys. He also coached youth basketball one year.

Wright now is taking the lead, and Speth is assisting along with Brandon Culley and Kelly Stokes.

The Prospectors have four returning players with varsity experience, juniors Zack Deiter, Duane Stokes, Caudy Weaver and Ty McDaniel.

Wade Reimers, who also played varsity last year, is expected to be out for the season due to an injury.

There are seven freshmen joining this year's squad, along with two sophomores, four juniors and one senior.

The coach said, although this year's team is young, they're not lacking in talent.



Jack Gentis

"We do have a lot of experience out of our juniors, and they're becoming role models for the younger players," he said.

Grant Union's opponents in the 2A Wapiti League include Imbler, Union, Elgin and Enterprise.

Last year, the team fell just short of advancing to the state championships, falling 56-50 to Imbler and 46-44 to Union, in physical games at the district tournament.

Wright said his team will be competitive this season, and he expects Imbler to be their toughest opponents.

"We have the goal of league champions, and to make it to the state tournament," Wright said.

See *PROS*, Page A11

Grant Union boys basketball

Dec. 2-3: @ Sherman tournament, TBD
Dec. 8-10: @ Umatilla tournament, 2 p.m. Dec. 8
Dec. 13: vs. Burns, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Dec. 16: vs. Irrigon, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Dec. 17: vs. Heppner, 5:30 p.m. (JV girls, 1 p.m.)
Dec. 21-23: @ Nyssa tournament, TBD
Jan. 7: @ Lakeview, 5:30 p.m. (JV girls, 1 p.m.)
Jan. 10: @ Burns, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Jan. 13: @ Elgin, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Jan. 14: vs. Union, 5:30 p.m. (JV girls, 1 p.m.)
Jan. 20: @ Imbler, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Jan. 24: @ Baker, 6:30 p.m. (girls, 5 p.m.)
Jan. 27: vs. Enterprise, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Jan. 28: vs. Elgin, 5:30 p.m. (JV girls, 1 p.m.)
Jan. 31: vs. Baker, 6:30 p.m. (girls, 5 p.m.)
Feb. 3: @ Union, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Feb. 4: vs. Imbler, 5:30 p.m. (JV girls, 1 p.m.)
Feb. 7: vs. Crane, 7:30 p.m. (JV girls, 3 p.m.)
Feb. 11: @ Enterprise, 5:30 p.m. (JV girls, 1 p.m.)
Feb. 17-18: District playoffs, TBD
Feb. 24-25: First-round state playoffs, TBD
March 2-4: State Championships in Pendleton, TBD

Grant Union alum headed to collegiate rugby nationals

Babe Nash: 'It's really exciting to be doing something at this level'

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union 2015 graduate Babe Nash was known for her softball home runs while playing for the

Prospectors.

Now a sophomore at Montana State University, she competes as a member of the Bobcats rugby club that is headed to the Division II Nationals in Wayne,

Nebraska.

Ranked No. 5 in the nation with a 10-0 record, this is the second year in a row the team has reached this level of success.

Montana State is in a league with opponents from Utah State University, Boise State, Idaho State, Gonzaga and University of

Idaho, as well as a team from Portland and one from Canada.

At regionals, held in Greeley, Colorado, MSU defeated Mesa College 65-22 and Utah State 46-12.

They'll face Wisconsin Saturday at nationals, and if they win this weekend's games, they'll advance to

the Dec. 3-4 Final Four, traveling to Furman, South Carolina.

Nash, in her first year playing for the Bobcats, is a forward on the team.

Since she started playing the sport, she's had some pointers from her father, Monty Nash, who played rugby while attending Uni-

versity of Oregon.

Babe said she's thrilled to be a part of the national competition.

"It's really exciting to be doing something at this level," she said. "I like the program, and it's a great group. I'm very proud of the team and what they're doing."