

# HOLIDAY SHOWCASE A HIT

Preschool through high school dancers delight crowd at 20th annual event

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The 20th annual Holiday Showcase was met with cheers and applause from the crowd at the old Grant Union gym Thursday night.

Students aged 4 to 18 took part, some in group performances, some as solo performances. The students danced to songs fitting this year's winter wonderland theme and performed to tracks such as "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" and classics from The Nutcracker.

Grant Union Gold varsity dance team's head coach Kattie Piazza danced in the showcase when she was in high school and described running the show as "surreal."

"It's kind of a whirlwind for me," she said, adding that while she had assisted in the production before, it was her first time leading it.

Roughly 200 people were in attendance for the Thursday night show, and Piazza said she expected about the same for the Friday night show.

Attendees were given a discounted ticket for bringing canned food that will be donated to a local food bank.

The varsity team was joined by the Grant Union Gemstones junior high team, coached by Rebecca Batease, as well as younger dancers in the Level I, II and III dance groups, which train at Body, Fitness and Dance.

Level I consists of dancers aged 4 to 6, led by Trista Collins. Level II consists of dancers in grades 1 and 2, led by Elena Allen. Level III consists of dancers in grades 3 and 5, also led by Piazza.

"It was a really good show," Piazza said. "We were very pleased with the turnout, and we're glad to carry on the tradition."



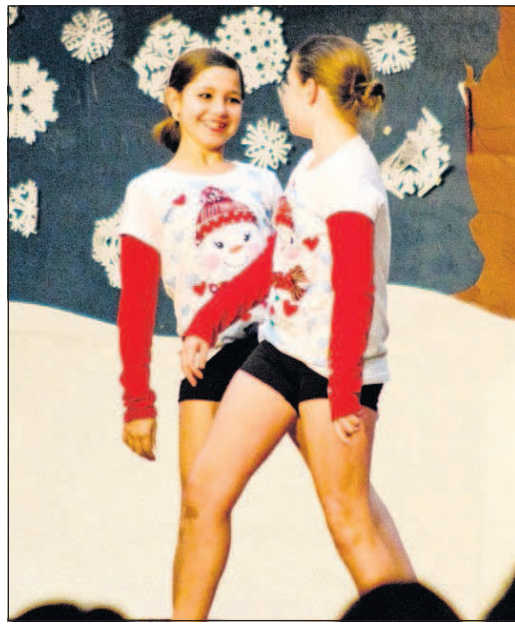
First- and second-graders from the Level II class, coached by Elena Allen, dance during the 20th annual Holiday Showcase.



German exchange student Dana Schajor dances during the 20th annual Holiday Showcase Thursday.



From left: Audrey Colson, Tori Holland and Paislee Hueckman dance Thursday night. The showcase raised money for the group's costumes and travel expenses.




Liberty Woehlert, left, and Halle Parsons perform a duet during the 20th annual Holiday Showcase. Both trained at Body, Fitness and Dance.



Dani Goldblatt, right, and Nikki Jones perform Thursday night. The showcase drew a crowd of about 200 people.


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