



Lady Pros blast competition at Columbia Clash

Grant Union hosts teams Dec. 16-17

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Lady Prospectors won the Columbia Clash Tournament in Umatilla this weekend.

Prospectors Heather Mosley and Mariah Moulton were selected for the All-Tournament team.

Grant Union took home the tournament title with wins over Stanfield, 53-28; Pilot Rock, 37-33; and Echo, 44-36.

Prospector head coach Mark

Mosley said the Stanfield game presented an opportunity for the team to work on offense, and they executed well.

"We shot the ball very well from the outside and also took advantage of pounding the ball inside," he said.

Pilot Rock entered competition

ranked No. 4 in the state.

"Pilot Rock is a very good team that will have a lot of success this season," Mosley said. "We played well both offensively and defensively. It was a one- or two-point game the whole game. We were able to hit a couple big shots in the last 2 minutes that allowed us to

get a win."

Grant Union was scheduled to host the Burns Hilanders Tuesday, past press time.

They host the Irrigon Knights at 6 p.m. Friday and Heppner Mustangs at 4 p.m. Saturday. Junior varsity games will precede the varsity games.

Let it snow

Anthony Lakes opens for season as local ski bus prepares for trips

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Despite a power outage, Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort got their lift spinning for opening day on Saturday. Skiers and snowboarders flocked to the resort to ride, fall and enjoy the snow.

"We're a super small ski area but we have a base elevation of 7,100 feet so we get killer snow," Marketing Director Chelsea Judy said.

Judy is one of about 30 employees who run the mountain.

"It doesn't really feel like work most of the time because

I'm here with the people I love doing what I love," she said.

Sixty-two-year-old Bill Shank is the director of the ski school at the mountain and said, "It's like a family here."

Shank is in his third year as director, though he has skied at the mountain much longer. He enjoys sharing his joy of skiing with people such as 25-year-old Jenny Daffer, who moved to Oregon from the Philippines. Daffer has been skiing less than a year but keeps up with Shank just fine.

The mountain opened in 1963 and is still frequented by some of the original skiers, including members of the all-volunteer ski patrol.

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LEFT: Skiers and snowboarders wait in line to purchase tickets after a brief power outage at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort on Saturday, Dec. 10. RIGHT: Bill Shank, 62, carves down the hill at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Bentley Hall runs ahead of his sisters Amelia, left, and Shanniyah and mother, Alicia Hall, in Saturday's Ugly Sweater 5K.

Ugly Sweater 5K runners brave snow and slush for good cause

Proceeds to give bright Christmas to children

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Decked out in holiday threads, 45 runners had no shortage of enthusiasm for John Day's first Ugly Sweater 5K.

The snow, slush and chilly weather didn't dampen spirits as the participants gathered Saturday at The Corner Cup, where the race started and ended.

When faced with a decision of what to choose for her senior project, Reitta Wyllie chose a sport she knows and loves: cross country. Her senior project advisor, Russ Comer, also a 5K buff, helped Wyllie organize the race.

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Grant Union wrestling team has talent, depth

Full team includes 11 returning wrestlers

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union wrestling head coach Andy Lusco said he's seeing talent moving up in the ranks and expects the team to have a successful season.

Over the five years he's led the team, Lusco said he's seen an improvement in quality and quantity.

"We have a full lineup, which is huge," he said.

Of the 20 wrestlers on the roster, 11 are returning to the program.

"We have some pretty exceptional kids, and some pretty exciting young kids, too," he said. "We're starting to see the effects of kids club."

A couple boys who participated in the Grant County Youth Wrestling Club in the past are now on the varsity team, and even more are on the junior high team.

"That's going to start paying off dividends," Lusco said.

The youth club has 28 wrestlers this year from age 5 to 12.

Tye Parsons, who led the club last year, is an assistant coach to Lusco. He also assists the youth club head coach Terry Harper.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union assistant coach Tye Parsons, right, works with the team on proper stance.



Clay Johnson



James Mabe

Lusco also has help from assistant coaches Jake Batease and Guy Johnson.

Two seniors on the team, Clay Johnson and James Mabe, are stepping into leadership roles.

"Clay has qualified three times for state, and is a two-time placer, winning third and fourth," the coach said.

"He's in the challenge for state. James has been really stalwart in the program. He works hard and is a great leader."

He said the team is aiming to be a good dual meet team.

"That's the big goal," he said.

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GRANT COUNTY SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prospector boys win 2, lose 1 at tourney clash

The Grant Union Prospector basketball team was on the road to Umatilla for the Dec. 8-10 Columbia Clash Tournament in Umatilla where they placed fourth.

The team had a 78-60 loss to Stanfield, a 47-43 win over Arlington and a 48-44 win over Umatilla junior varsity.

Grant Union head coach Kelsy Wright described the loss to Stanfield as a difficult and physical game.

"Arlington was another tough game," he said. "We were trailing the whole game until the fourth quarter. We brought back a 12-point deficit and ended up winning by four points."

The Prospectors were scheduled to host Burns on Tuesday, past press time. They host nonleague games later this week, including Irrigon at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Heppner at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Panther boys pounce on Grant Union JV team

Prairie City boys head coach Jonathan Gill viewed their Dec. 6 game against the Grant Union junior varsity team as an opportunity to gain experience and playing time, and the Panthers seized the 64-43 win.

"I'm a big fan of rivalries," Gill said. "I was excited to see us playing GU. I think very highly of GU's program. It was a good chance for us."

Junior Dorran Wilson led the Panthers with 21 points, followed by senior Wyatt Williams with 11, including three three-pointers.

Senior Brogan McKrola contributed 10 points to the win.

Gill said the game was competitive and an overall good win for his team.

"It's a good start to the season, and I was very happy with the win," he said.

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