



Grant Union claims home tournament title

Lady Pros host
Culver Bulldogs
at 5 p.m. Sept. 5

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union battled up the bracket to victory Saturday at their home invitational volleyball tournament.

The 2A Lady Prospectors beat 3A Burns 2-0 in the championship game with scores of 25-12 and 25-21.

Pilot Rock finished in third place over Heppner.

The championship match was a hard-fought win for Grant Union.

The Hilanders stayed ahead early on in the final set, and the teams tied the score a few times. At 20-19, the Pros-



Grant Union Prospect Kaylee Wright moves the ball over the reach of Burns Hilanders.

pectors held the lead for the 25-21 win.

"It was a good matchup with quite a few long rallies and strong defensive plays,"

said Grant Union head coach Shae Speth. "It was good to be challenged and have to come from behind."

Prospector Reagan Shelley

said she was happy with the outcome.

"It was good to see all of

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Prairie City Panther Samantha Workman passes the ball, with her teammates Emily Ennis (foreground), Haley Pfefferkorn and Cassie Hire (23) in the action.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City Panthers return with strong volleyball team

Panthers host home
invitational at
8 a.m. Saturday

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panthers are ready to take the volleyball season by storm.

The team of 19 is led by co-coaches Lance and Louanne Zweggardt, though Lance has the official "head coach" title.

He's in his fifth year as head coach, and Louanne has 10 years of coaching experience.

Prairie City, in the 1A High Desert League, finished in fourth place at the district tournament last year. The top three advance in district competition to the first of two state playoff games before the state championship tournament.

With five seniors and other players who've had some varsity experience, the team is confident about the upcoming season.

Louanne said senior Brianna Zweggardt is returning as a strong setter, and senior Cassie Hire is returning as an excellent blocker.

"Middle attack is something we're looking forward to seeing lots out of her (Hire)," Louanne said.

"They all have something to offer," she added. "We are making some adjustments from last year to make a difference in the top end of our play, but it will take some time to develop."

Brianna was recognized as Setter of the Year in the league the past two seasons. She also received an All State volleyball honorable mention as a sophomore, and led the team stats in serving, setting, hit/tipping and blocking.

"We have a really good team dynamic this year," Brianna said. "We work really well together, and there's no drama, so it makes the playing environment fun, and I'm very excited for the season."

Hire was named to the All League second team last year.

She said her goal this year is to work on her middle hitting skills, and work with the setter, Brianna.

"I think we have a strong team this



Prairie City sophomore Hailee Wall, right, passes the ball to sophomore Aleah Johns in a recent practice.

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2017 Prairie City Panther volleyball schedule

Aug. 30: JV/V vs. Burns, 4 p.m.

Sept. 1: V vs. Spray/Mitchell, 5 p.m.

Sept. 2: Prairie City Tournament, JV/V, 8:30 a.m.

Sept. 8: JV/V vs. Pine Eagle, 4 p.m.

Sept. 15: V @ Burnt River in Unity, 4 p.m.

Sept. 16: V at Interleague Jamboree in North Powder, TBD

Sept. 21: JV/V vs. Grant Union, 5 p.m.

Sept. 22: JV/V vs. Harper (homecoming), 4 p.m.

Sept. 23: V @ Crane Tournament, TBD

Sept. 27: JV/V @ Burns, 4 p.m.

Sept. 28: JV vs. Long Creek/Ukiah, 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 29: JV/V @ Huntington, 2 p.m.

Sept. 30: JV/V @ Monument/Dayville in Monument, 2 p.m.

Oct. 6: JV/V vs. Jordan Valley (senior night), 4 p.m.

Oct. 12: JV/V @ Grant Union, 5 p.m.

Oct. 13: JV/V @ Crane, 2 p.m.

Oct. 14: JV/V @ Adrian, 3 p.m.

Oct. 21: District tournament in John Day

Oct. 25: First round state playoffs

Oct. 28: Second round state playoffs

Nov. 3-4: State Volleyball Championship Tournament at Ridgeview High School in Redmond

Seniors



Cassie Hire



Mariah McClung



Brianna Zweggardt



Megan Camarena



Sierra Dahlen

year," Hire said. "I think it will be good as we progress more. I'm looking forward to playing with my team."

The other three seniors, Mariah McClung, Megan Camarena and Sierra Dahlen, also have a good outlook on the season.

"We have a lot of positive communication," McClung said. "I think what's exciting is a lot of the girls are here to learn and are committed."

Camarena said being a senior role model is a big responsibility, and so far, she said, they are doing well.

"I'm looking forward to being very

family-like this year," she said.

Dahlen said she's been impressed at the work ethic of the five freshmen.

"It makes us happy as seniors to see that because they are the future leaders," she said. "Definitely, everyone is working really hard this year. I don't see anyone giving up or not trying their best."

Three juniors and six sophomores round out the varsity and junior varsity teams.

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The Prairie City Panthers will host Burns at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, beginning with junior varsity and followed by varsity. In the photo, sophomore Rilee Emmel passes to sophomore Mariah McClung in practice.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

New head coach leads Panther varsity football

Panthers host
Spray/Mitchell at
7 p.m. Sept. 1

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A new head coach is leading the Prairie City Panther football team as they move up the ranks this season, from junior varsity to varsity.

Nate Barber, who was assistant coach last year, is leading the team of 16 players.

He said the athletes on this year's roster are bringing size and speed they were lacking last year.

Barber has 15 years of overall coaching experience, including three as a head coach and



Assistant coach David Packard, left, and head coach Nate Barber instruct the Prairie City Panther team during last Wednesday's practice.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

12 as an assistant. He trained his two now-grown sons in the sport.

Recalling his time as a high school football player,

Barber said, "My dream was to play at Ricks College."

He grew up in Rexburg,

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Youth compete at fair Rodeo

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Saturday's Grant County Kids/Junior Rodeo brought out many youth competitors for their own fair rodeo.

Fair rodeo board member Jim Hamsher spearheaded the event with other volunteers, including Trevor Hamsher, Carol Waggoner, Bryan Martin and Tanner Way.

Hamsher said the kids seemed "elated" to compete, and the winners were happy with their belt buckle awards.

"I'd like to thank the volunteers who helped out and those who donated the stock," he said.

Among those donating stock were Monte Legg, Larry Finley, Trevor Faulkner, Didgette and Joe Mc-



Kase Schaffeld is successful in breakaway at Saturday's Grant County Kids/Junior Rodeo.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

See rodeo results and more photos on Page A10

Jim Hamsher said he was especially glad to hear positive comments about the event.

"It was really nice, and it makes it all worthwhile when you get to see the smiles on the kids' faces," he said.

Cracken, Abby Winegar, Brandon Culley, Tyler Waggoner and Simmie Waddell.