



THINK PINK

Grant Union's first league matches support breast cancer causes

Grant Union hosts Union Friday at 4 p.m.

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

“Dig Pink was a successful, emotional day,” said Grant Union Prospector head coach Shae Speth.

The Prospectors hosted the Enterprise Outlaws and Elgin Huskies for their first league matches, which had more meaning than the average volleyball competition.

Grant Union's gym was flooded with pink for the ninth annual event, from the balloon displays and spectator T-shirts to the team uniforms, in honor of breast cancer awareness.

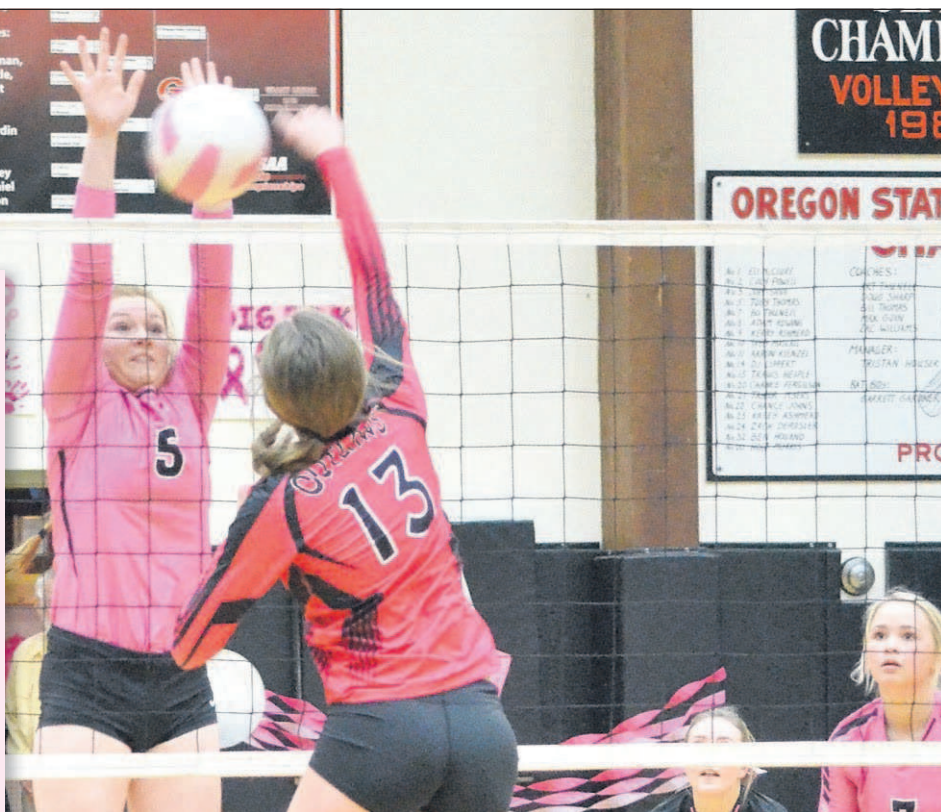
“We chose to make this year's event much more personal by honoring and recognizing those who are fighting breast cancer, and those who have battled and won, and battled and lost, along with their families,” Speth said. “It was a very touching dedication.”

Several women who've been personally touched by breast cancer received flowers.

“I think this is a great fundraiser that we've done over the years,” said Prospector Reagan Shelley. “It's fun to see everyone come together and play for a great cause.”

Prospector Mariah Moulton agreed the event is fun.

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Grant Union Prospector Trinity Hutchison (5) protects at the net, facing Enterprise Outlaw Gracie Niezen (13) at Saturday's Dig Pink Rally at Grant Union in John Day.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Grant Union Prospector Haillie Wright sets the ball, her teammates Trinity Hutchison, center, and Reagan Shelley at the ready.



Cheering on the Grant Union Prospector volleyball team at the Dig Pink rally are eighth-graders Casey Vaughan and Parker Neault.



The Grant Union Prospectors huddle during the Dig Pink games.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

From left, Prairie City cheerleaders Megan Camarena, Shaelynn Bice, Caitlin Willet and Aries Bice perform. Not pictured is Paige Moore.

Panther cheerleaders raise school spirit

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Prairie City Panther cheerleaders kept busy during last week's homecoming festivities.

This year's group of five girls and head coach Jill Wright planned their school pep assembly down to the finest details.

Wright said this year's team does more than cheer from the sidelines at the football games.

“We have a group of girls that are able to stunt,” she said. “They're dedicated, and we have goals set.”

Another part of the cheering section is Penelope Panther, the school mascot, who helps ignite the crowd.

Last week, all five girls and the mascot cheered on younger students who participated in the school's jog-a-thon fundraiser.

During the week, the team works at learning their cheers and stunts, and

all, including Penelope, are also members of the Prairie City volleyball team.

They practice cheer before school, then have volleyball practice after school.

“It's overwhelming sometimes, but it's definitely worth it,” said senior Megan Camarena.

She said she's happy the team has more girls this year.

“It's also the first all-girl squad that does stunts,” she added.

“I think it's fun seeing people's reactions, seeing how many cheerleaders we have bringing spirit to the school,” said sophomore Shaelynn Bice.

“We work together like a family,” said freshman Aries Bice. “It's just really fun to support the team.”

Junior Paige Moore and freshman Caitlin Willet agreed that cheerleading is fun.

“We're really close, and it's a blast,” Moore said.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Prospectors Mason Gerry (15) and Cameron Hallgarth (28) zero in on a Burns ball carrier in Friday night's game.

Hornets swarm at Panthers' homecoming

Prairie City builds for future seasons

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Friday was homecoming for the Prairie City Panthers, but the Harper Hornets stole the show with a 60-6 win.

Senior Danner Davis scored Prairie City's sole touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Prairie City freshman quarterback Jayden Winegar connected with him for 10 yards, and Davis ran another 25 to the end zone.

“That was Danner's last home game, so that was pretty cool to have him score,” said Prairie City head coach Nate Barber. “Jayden's got a good head and has good football IQ.”

Davis also recovered a Harper fumble in the final two minutes of the game.

Harper quarterback Morgan Butler and running back Dalton Bixby seemed to find the Panthers' weak spots for many of the Hornets' successful plays.

In the second half, the score 54-0, Prairie City played with greater intensity.

Prairie City freshman Declan Zwegardt recovered a Harper fumble in the third.

On the Panthers' next drive, Zwegardt caught Winegar's pass for a first down, but the Hornets made the stops and took over on downs



Prairie City Panther Connor Jones (20), far right, makes the carry in Friday's game against Harper.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Prairie City Panther Jake McHatton tackles a Harper ball carrier in Friday's game.

greatness, but they just have to be consistent on every play,” Barber said of his team. “Every play has to be that intense.”

He added, “We caught the ball for the most part.”

Commenting on defense in the second half, he said, “We changed some stuff up on the end and got more attitude.”

Barber said he's pleased with the freshmen team members.

“I want to give the young guys more experience, so we're going to be building for every game for seasons down the road,” he said. “These freshmen are stepping up.”

The Panthers now prepare to face Huntington on the road at 1 p.m. Friday.

“Getting ready, we're going to be working on our blocking,” Barber said.

at their 35-yard line.

Early in the fourth, Panther sophomore Connor Jones combined with Davis to sack Butler.

Panther Jojari Field, a freshman, followed up with a tackle in the backfield and

another tackle at the line of scrimmage. Jones made a fourth-down tackle, causing a turnover.

From there, Prairie City made offensive gains, which led to Davis' touchdown.

“We have moments of

Hilanders topple Prospectors for 32-28 win

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

and Burns took possession going into the fourth.

The 2A Grant Union Prospectors and 3A Burns Hilanders each had their ups and downs Friday night at Three Flags Field in John Day, but the Hilanders won the night 32-28.

Fans of both schools packed the stands, cheering loudly for their teams.

After a scoreless first quarter, Burns was first to add points to the board.

Grant Union's Wade Reimers scored with a quarterback keeper, and Burns led 8-6 at halftime.

Things started looking good for the Prospectors when they recovered a Highlander fumble in the third.

Reimers kept the ball for two runs in the red zone, scoring a touchdown and the conversion points to up Grant Union's score to 14-8.

Burns running back Cade Maupin answered back to tie it, and the Hilanders scored the two-point conversion.

With another keeper from Reimers, Grant Union led 20-16.

After Prospector linebacker Cauy Weaver recovered a Burns fumble, Reimers connected with receiver Duane Stokes for a big gain, but a penalty later pulled Grant Union back,

Burns again tied the score, this time with a touchdown from receiver Zane Taylor.

The Hilanders also made the two-point conversion for the lead.

Stokes caught a touchdown pass, and Weaver made the grab in the end zone for the two-point conversion to take the lead right back.

Grant Union was 28-24 with 9:03 left in the game.

The tables turned once again as Burns managed another touchdown, also scoring the two-point conversion.

Grant Union head coach Jason Miller said team will be looking at the missed opportunities in the night's game, and will work to improve blocking and tackling.

“The guys fought hard. We just didn't take advantage of chances we had,” Miller said. “Burns is the better team today.”

The Prospectors have this week off and return to action at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, with a road game against the nonleague Culver Bulldogs.

Grant Union's first league game will be 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, against the Imbler Panthers.