



The Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Grant Union Gold dance team members strike a pose during a dance performed in practice, including, from left, front, Ali Chobo, Nikki Jones and Zinny Locke and, back, Emilie Updegrave and Celine Hicks.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

New coach leads Pros

Moore is Grant Union dean of students

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

New Grant Union girls varsity basketball coach Kristi Moore said she's excited for the season, and the team is eager to start practice.

Grant Union finished last season in fourth place at the OSAA State Championships, coached by Casey Hallgarth.

Hallgarth left the coaching post when he began this school year as the superintendent/principal for Prairie City School.

Moore, who coached the Grant Union girls junior varsity team last year, is taking the reins this year.

"The girls have high expectations of themselves," she said. "They know what it takes to be successful, and they're willing to work as hard as they need to in order to attain their dreams."

Moore started as an English teacher at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School last year, and this year is the dean of students and career coordinator.

Last summer, she led the AAU volleyball team, which included several Grant Union volleyball team members, to the AAU National Tournament held in Orlando, Florida.

Before working at Grant Union, Moore coached basketball and tennis at Sunnyslope High School in Phoenix, Arizona, for eight years, and also coached soccer and volleyball.

Moore graduated from Dayville High School and played basketball for four years with the Dayville/Monument team when they first combined schools for the sport.

"Sports teach you not just the athletic part of it but working with a team and adapting to difficult situations," she said.

She said the team is raring to go and hopes to fill the stands.

"The girls love it when community members come to the games," she said, adding they also enjoy interacting with people, whether at the grocery store or other places in town.

"I think it's an honor to coach here and work with them this season and guide them and help them," she said. "The girls are more than ready."

The Prospectors have their first game on the road Wednesday, Nov. 28, against the Burns Hilanders. Their first home game will be Tuesday, Dec. 11, hosting the Crane Mustangs, and they host Burns on Friday, Dec. 14.



Kristi Moore

Grant Union Gold dance team steps up, ready for season

Holiday Showcase set for Dec. 6-7

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Gold dance team is optimistic as they prepare for competition and their annual Holiday Showcase.

Dancers were busy at practice Nov. 7, warming up with ballet moves and running through a couple performance routines.

With all team members returning, except two who moved out of the area, this year's four seniors say they have a positive outlook.

"I'm excited to see how this year plays out," said senior Ali Chobo. "This group of dancers is so motivated, and we all have the same goal."

Chobo is a senior team captain along with Celine Hicks, and the other seniors are Andrea Comer and Nikki Jones.

Head coach Kattie Piazza, in her third year leading the team, has help from assistant coach Brandi Hicks this season.

Piazza said they are focused on going back to the basics of dance to build a foundation in both technique and teamwork. The team has increased conditioning and added a weights program this year, she said.

"On top of that, we're doing ballet regularly, which requires an extreme amount of focus and strength," she said. "Ballet is the foundation of all dance, and we can't be successful in Oregon as a team without a ballet foundation because it's the basis of all dance techniques — even with hip-hop, you have to have ballet. You've got to walk before you can run."

This year, Piazza was voted to the board of directors for the Dance and Drill Coaches Association of Oregon.

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Grant Union Gold dance team seniors are, from left, Andrea Combs, Nikki Jones, Ali Chobo and Celine Hicks.



Grant Union Gold dancers Shanniyah Hall, left, and Leah Comer work on double pirouettes in practice Nov. 7 at the school.

Grant Union Gold dance schedule

Dec. 6 and 7: Holiday Showcase at Grant Union at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 9: Tigard Competition at 10 a.m.

Feb. 23: Pendleton Competition at 10 a.m.

March 8: Spring Showcase (kickoff to state) at Grant Union at 5:30 p.m.

March 16: OSAA Dance & Drill State Championships

Other competition dates are being finalized.

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DAYVILLE/MONUMENT 1A SPECIAL DISTRICT 5 SIX-MAN FOOTBALL HONORS

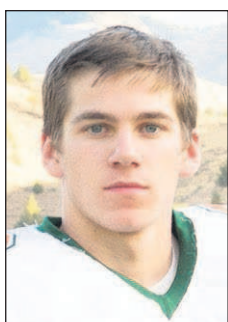
Contributed photos/Tanni Wenger Photography



Wesley Adams
 First Team
 Punter



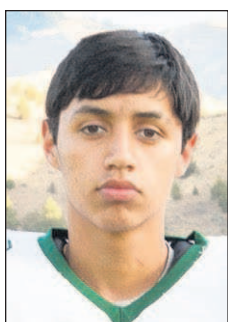
Tell Cox
 Honorable mention
 Linebacker



JT Hand
 Honorable mention
 Kicker



Cade Milton
 First team
 Defensive lineman



Mark Thomas
 Honorable mention
 Defensive back



Gabe Walker-Hopkins
 Honorable mention
 Running back

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

Learning wisdom

By Rod Carpenter
 For the Blue Mountain Eagle

My 13-year-old son, Tucker, drew a buck tag this year. Filled with excitement, we backpacked a couple of miles into the wilderness and set up camp.

After long hours of glassing, we turned up a few bucks way down in a hole. In the excitement of youth, Tuck was ready to go get them. I tried to explain to him that we really didn't want to shoot a buck down there, and he reluctantly agreed.

However, we couldn't turn up any other bucks, and after some badgering, I relented. We dropped down into the hole,



Rod Carpenter

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