

# Dance group shines in 'Holiday Traditions'

By ANGEL CARPENTER  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Gold dance team performed Dec. 6-7 in a musical theater presentation at their 22nd Annual Holiday Showcase in John Day.

Dancing to the theme "Holiday Traditions," 16 girls were cast as characters, including a welcoming elf (Brianna Majors), a Grinch (Zinny Locke), reindeer and snow fairies.

Majors, who performed a short dance between each routine, said she'd never performed in a musical theater.

"The first night was a big success," she said on opening night. "To have it like Broadway is a new, positive experience."

This year, the team performed without the addition of three to four dozen younger dancers who are coached through Body, Fitness & Dance, focusing instead on the theater-style program.

One younger dancer joined the group, seventh-grader Hailey Mecham, who auditioned and was chosen by the team, said Grant Union Gold head coach Kattie Piazza.

Piazza said she was pleased with the performances.

"I thought it went really well, and they worked hard," she said. "A lot of it was their own choreography."

The styles of dance included jazz, ballet and hip-hop.

She added, "They did a great job embodying the characters and making it feel like a play."

The dance team will now continue preparing for their competition season, which begins Feb. 9 in Tigard.



Grant Union Gold dancers, including Leah Comer, Brianna Majors and Madison Spencer perform in 'Holiday Traditions' Dec. 6 in John Day.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Grant Union Gold dancer Brianna Majors dances to 'That Time of Year' with the other team members in their opening number at the Holiday Showcase.



Shanniyah Hall leaps in her performance to 'Snow.'



ABOVE: Grant Union Gold dancer Nikki Jones performs in a ballet number.



LEFT: A group of Grant Union Gold dancers perform to 'You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,' including (left to right) Lexi Stauty, Andrea Comer, Zinny Locke, Cailee Fuller and Emilie Updegrave.

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