



## SHOOTING THE BREEZE

# The .270 Winchester

I'm an unabashed Jack O'Connor fan. Over the course of his hunting career, he used many different cartridges and rifles in the hunting field. It's no secret as anyone who read his books and columns for Outdoor Life knows, the .270 Winchester was his absolute favorite.



Dale Valade

The first and for a long time only .277-caliber rifle cartridge came available in 1925 in the Winchester Model 54 bolt-action rifle. It was not an immediate hit to say the least. Ammunition availability was partly to blame — at the time you could walk into any store in the continental U.S. and buy .30-06 or .30-30 shells amongst several others with relative ease. Bad reviews by some of the gun writers of the day did little to help. Elmer Keith, for example, felt the diminutive 130-grain bullet would fragment rather than penetrate to the vitals on anything larger than coyote or pronghorn. Despite these poor reviews, some went out and bought one anyways. Even though .270s killed quickly, complaints arose that the thin-jacketed bullets ruined too much meat. A remedial, lower-velocity 150-grain bullet at 2,650 feet per second was released, but dismal sales caused it to be dropped shortly thereafter. It's comparably pedestrian velocity defeated the main purpose of owning a .270.

No, it was Cactus Jack who really put the .270 on the map. With it he hunted mule deer, whitetail deer and Coues deer in the southwest and Mexico. He took it for Rocky Mountain elk in Wyoming, for sheep, moose and bear in Alaska. From there he went abroad to Africa, again proving the usefulness of the light recoiling, super accurate and deadly high velocity 130-grain bullets.

The Winchester Model 70, the rifleman's rifle as it came to be called, was released in 1937. Although originally sold in only seven different caliber choices, the .270 and .30-06 calibers alone accounted for well over half of all Model 70 Winchester sold. As many began to find out, the .270 was and is a real keeper. Even on animals like elk, moose and bear, which traditionally take a bit more killing than deer or sheep, the .270 has more than proven itself. Like so many other classic cartridges, innovations in propellant and bullet technologies have only made them better. While most factory loads have been dialed back slightly from their original advertised ballistics, handloaders can and still safely do achieve the amazing high velocity and accuracy that .270 owners have appreciated for 96 years now.

While it may lack the versatility and military record of rounds like the .30-06 or .308, and it may not seem as glamorous as the 7mm Remington Magnum or the new 6.5s, the .270 is a classic, and classics endure. And let's face it, there is practically nothing that any of those rounds can do that the .270 isn't just as capable of doing. To put it simply, the .270 is one of my top three favorite all-around hunting cartridges, as the pluses far outweigh any minuses. The popularity of this cartridge is very well founded and without sensible dispute; it is still a national top 10 seller in guns and ammunition annually.

My own favorite .270 is an heirloom Browning BBR. Topped off with a Leupold 3-9 variable scope, it shoots very well with 130-grain Sierra Gamekings on top of H4831 powder, a combination that Mr. O'Connor was quite fond of. If I ever draw a sheep or pronghorn tag, the .270 is definitely coming along!

Are you a .270 fan? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Grant Union volleyball vs. Prairie City, 5 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Prairie City volleyball vs. Dayville/Monument, 5 p.m.  
Grant Union volleyball vs. Hepner, 5 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Grant Union cross country hosts Gold Rush Run in John Day, 1 p.m.

Grant Union football vs. Umatilla, 6 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Dayville/Monument football vs. Echo, 1 p.m.



The Grant Union Gold dance team performs in front of an audience on March 19.

The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

# The return of the gold standard of dance

## Grant Union Gold dance team unite, doing what they love

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union Gold dance team is making a return this year as the seven girls unite to outshine the pandemic.

Head Coach Carli Bremner said having a season this year is exciting since it means the team can compete again and participate in an activity they enjoy.

Bremner said the girls have taken the new season well as a few brand new dancers joined along with returning dancers leading the team.

"The ones that have danced before, it is challenging (this season) because we know what we're missing, but at the same time we're so excited to have this opportunity just to be able to compete again and do what we love, even if it's different this year," Bremner said.

Grant Union senior Leah Comer said she was really excited to dance with the team again, and they have been lucky to practice in person.

"Definitely different than it has been in past years, but it's exciting to have one (season) at all," Comer said.

Bremner said the team usually travels to the west side of Oregon as they compete in big competitions with other schools, but this year many of the competitions are virtual.

She said, in April, there will be in-person judging, but judges will be traveling to schools instead of schools meeting at one facility.

Several other changes this season are the mask requirements for dancers, dancers keeping 6 feet apart from each other in their routine, which limits formation changes, and the prohibition of lifts and stunts due to the distance requirements and minimal contact allowed.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

This is Carli Bremner's first year as head coach of the Grant Union Gold dance team.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

From left, Leah Comer, Mariah Olson, Emma Schlarbaum, Hailey Mecham, Laramie Kiser and Emily Finley.

Comer said she values this season because she started dancing when she was 4 and wanted another chance to dance with the team for her senior year.

"Dancing for my senior year has been really important, but it's been fun so far this season," Comer said.

Comer and Finley both agreed that their favorite part of dancing has been performing the choreography they practice in front of an audience and the chance to express themselves through dance.

This is Bremner's first year as head coach, and she said she is loving the responsibility. She grew up

in the county and danced since she was 4. Bremner, who was assistant coach last year, competed all through high school and knew she wanted to coach one day so she continued to dance in college.

"I came back and I said I want to get back in this," Bremner said. "This year, I gave everything that I have into coaching, and I love being here. I love seeing the girls being able to develop through their dance, and I love being able to coach them, and they get to experience what I got to experience back in the day and the joy that dancing brings."

The assistant coach is Megan Pass, and the dance team this year includes Leah Comer, Mariah Olson, Emma Schlarbaum, Hailey Mecham, Laramie Kiser, Emily Finley and Madison Spencer.

# A disc sport for people of all ages

## Frisbee golf course set up at Seventh Street Complex in John Day

By Rudy Diaz  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Get your disc ready this spring. John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation District recently made available again a nine-hole Frisbee golf course at the Seventh Street Complex called the Rattlesnake Ridge Disc Golf Course.

The nine baskets are out for people of all ages to enjoy.

"We wanted to get people outside to enjoy a COVID-friendly activity and give them a chance to exercise by walking our course on nice days," said Program Manager RC Huerta. "It's a game for all ages. Kids can play it, adults can play it, older adults can play it and enjoy the sport."

Huerta said the course is still a work in progress as new tee boxes and course signage are being added, but the course is available for anybody to use.

The new tee signage will include the distance from tee to basket and have a QR code, which can be scanned with a cellphone to



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

Frisbee golf can be played by everyone at their own pace on the course at the Seventh Street Complex.

take a player directly to the course map image and details. A map of the course is available on Google Earth that details the tee locations and the distance from tee to basket.

Huerta said to find the map, people can go to [jdccparksandrec.org](http://jdccparksandrec.org), hover the mouse over "Parks" and then over "7th Street" on the home page. Click on the Frisbee golf tab and then click on "Google Earth Course Map" to access the map.

"We just got signage ordered, and I finished up with the baskets

and tees, and the signage will show them which number tee they're at along with QR codes at each tee sign," Huerta said. "I'm going to also build four-by-eight-foot tee boxes that are standard tournament size."

There are no fees at the moment to rent out the discs, but there are plans to make a donation box or kiosk at the beginning of the course along with information on the course. The donations would help cover maintenance, the program



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

The disc golf tee boxes are currently painted and will be constructed in the near future.

or new discs, according to Huerta. The baskets are available all day.

For questions on the program or to request equipment to play, people can get in contact with Huerta at [jdccparksandrec.rc@gmail.com](mailto:jdccparksandrec.rc@gmail.com) or leave a message at the office number at 541-575-0110. Huerta said to make sure to give a notice in advance to rent discs.

"This is a big opportunity for anybody because this can be played at any time," Huerta said. "Ideally, the long-term goal of this is to have a drop-in disc golf league or bring in people from outside of the county, when the time is right, to host tournaments and have everybody enjoy the course and park."