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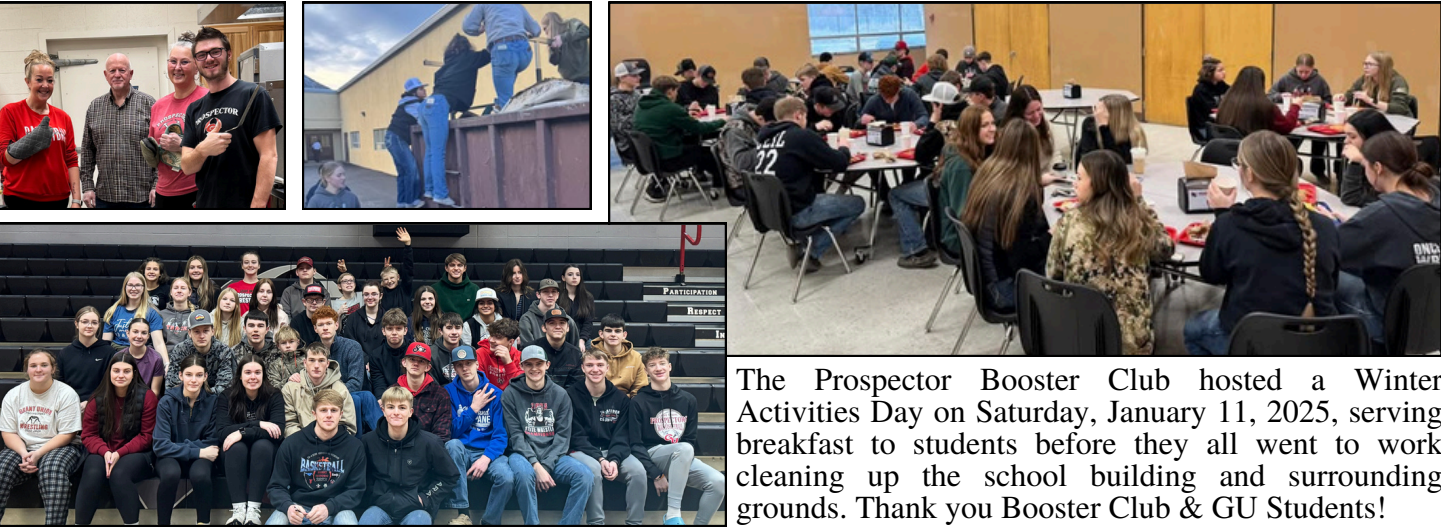
Prospector Spirit Shop at Chester’s Market!

Introducing our new GU spirit shop! Hosted by the local FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) chapter in Chester's Markets, our shop has a variety of sweatshirts, crewnecks, and shirts to choose from. Find several different designs to support your kids and our school system.

Thanks to the generosity of Chester's, all proceeds will go towards helping our FBLA members attend conferences and learn more about career and technical education classes to prepare for their futures! We are excited to share this new and accessible shop, which can be found in the front of the store!



Booster Club Hosts Winter Clean-up



The Prospector Booster Club hosted a Winter Activities Day on Saturday, January 11, 2025, serving breakfast to students before they all went to work cleaning up the school building and surrounding grounds. Thank you Booster Club & GU Students!

Thank you, Booster Club Business Members!



PROSPECTOR PRIDE

February/March 2025 Volume 2 Issue 4
A publication of Grant School District 3, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School,
Humbolt Elementary School and Seneca Elementary School

Students Connect Between Campuses

Grant School District 3 is excited to encourage fluidity between school campuses. Humbolt Elementary and Grant Union Jr/Sr High School are located only one block away from each other and work together in many different aspects of education. Many of the elementary students attend sporting events, drama productions, and other community-based opportunities at Grant Union. While many of these students look forward to the day when they will be old enough to participate, the sixth-grade students are already getting an introduction to life in junior high.

The majority of sixth-grade students are participating in at least one of the junior high sports teams, often walking together or riding the bus between schools for their sports practices. In addition, several sixth-grade students catch a bus to Grant Union to participate in seventh-grade Math or Language Arts classes.

Seven students from Grant Union are choosing to use one of their elective classes to be a TA (Teaching Assistant) for an elementary teacher at Humbolt Elementary. These Juniors and Seniors are responsible for their transportation and communication with their supervising teacher. Their jobs may include copying and organizing paperwork and assignments for the teacher, or they may be tasked with walking around the classroom and helping students with their assignments. The elementary students love having these TAs in their classroom and the students are learning valuable skills in office and classroom management. Students who plan to earn their teaching degree may be able to enroll in an EOU online education practicum course to earn college credit for time spent in the classroom.

Lunch Buddy Program Connects Students

This year, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School has eighteen Juniors and Seniors participating in their Lunch Buddy program. The Lunch Buddy program connects high school students with an elementary “buddy” student. These students eat lunch, play on the playground, and get a chance to connect with an older student who believes in them and encourages them. “I love this program!” said Grant Union’s Tonia Seebart, who trains the high school students and coordinates the program. “It can hold significant importance for fostering positive social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes for the young ones involved.” However, Seebart quickly points out there are also benefits for the high school students involved. “For our high school student volunteers, these programs teach about the importance of empathy and kindness, fostering a sense of community and shared understanding. The volunteers gain valuable skills, such as active listening, conflict resolution, and mentorship, which are transferable to personal and professional settings.”

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Students Appreciate Fallen Lusco...
Fallen is patient, kind, and has great rapport with her students.
-Jaclyn Lopez, Online Teacher

Paige Lamb Goes Above and Beyond...
A big shout-out to Paige Lamb, a wonderful new addition to our elementary school! She goes above and beyond to support her students, always bringing kindness, creativity, and dedication to everything she does. Her students absolutely adore her, and we're so lucky to have her as part of our team!
-Kelli LaFramboise, Humbolt 5th Grade Teacher

Thank You School Board...
I would like to thank Mr. Witty and the school board for the exemplary job of get our ship back on track.
-Sonna Smith, GU Science Teacher

Kalli Wilson is a Great Teacher...
She is a great teacher and cares about all her students.
-Erin Donathan, GU Student

GU Students of the Month...
The November students of the month are Kaitlyn Charette, Toby Reynolds, Bradlee Hunt, Daizie Reynolds, Emma Northway, and Brighton Griffin. The December students of the month are Teagan Gibson, Gregory Bernstein, Kara Hansen, Abril Ceja, Rhys Conn, and Ryan Coombs. These students have displayed a great work ethic and positive character traits. Go Prospectors!
-Dennise Blevins, GU English Teacher

Students Take on CNA Program...
Huge shoutout to students Madeline McManus, Lily Durych, and Natalie Clarry, who are in the Treasure Valley CNA program, which includes countless hours of evening class and weekends filled with clinicals. So proud of you three!
-Sylvia Ross, GU Health Science Teacher

Kabrina Vardanega Values Students...
I want to recognize and celebrate the incredible work that Kabrina Vardanega does every day! From going above and beyond in supporting our students to consistently creating a welcoming environment. Your patience, compassion, and commitment to ensuring every student feels valued is deeply appreciated. Thank you for all the hard work and care you put into everything you do! Keep up the amazing work!
-Erin Hodge, Online & Special Education Teacher

Lavana James Puts the Pep in Pep Band...
Mrs. James is a great leader for music classes and the Pep Band. She always makes her students a priority.
-Benjamin Finley, GU Student

Science Classes Bring Joy...
I would like to send a huge shout-out to my science classes. You all make my day enjoyable. I love that you ask questions and share your thoughts on topics we study. Keep it up, everyone!
-Sonna Smith, GU Science Teacher

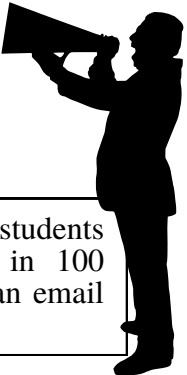
Marcus Teague
Marcus Teague is doing great things in Spanish! I have had several students excited about projects they are working on, including creating paper apparel for stick figures to understand culture and having Mexican Hot Cocoa in class! I always hear students happy, having fun, and learning in Teague's class.
-Elijah Humbird, GU Language Arts Teacher

Amy Hunt Makes a Difference...
Amy Hunt is an amazing reading specialist at our school, and the kids absolutely love her class! She makes reading fun and helps every student feel confident about their skills. Her passion for teaching and her supportive approach make such a difference, and we're so lucky to have her on our team.
-Kelli LaFramboise, Humbolt 5th Grade Teacher

Kalli Wilson Knows Sports Marketing...
Kalli Wilson helped Zeke Rookstool with his sports marketing project. With her help, he raised over \$360 for the Grant Union High School boys' Basketball team. This was a really fun thing for him to do and the community enjoyed it as well!
-Heather Rookstool, SPED Secretary/Librarian

Marcus Teague Leads Gaming Club...
For leading gaming club and being the coolest, chilliest teacher ever.
-Logan Bronson, GU Student

Mr. Sharp Sets a Great Example...
Shout-out to Doug Sharp, our awesome elementary PE teacher, for his calm, cool, and collected demeanor that sets such a great example for our students! His positive energy and encouragement help kids stay active, build confidence, and develop healthy habits. We're so grateful for the positive influence he brings to our school every day.
-Kelli LaFramboise, Humbolt 5th Grade Teacher



Send a shout out to staff, students or community members, in 100 words or less by sending an email to shoutout@grantesd.org.

Alumni Focus on Ken and Shermayne Boethin

Ken and Shermayne Boethin were both born and raised in Grant County. They grew up working for their parents in the family businesses. Ken's dad, Bob, owned Boethin Plumbing and Heating, and Shermayne's parent's (the Stutesmans), owned Valley Meat Packing.

They grew up together and were in one of the first classes to attend first through third grades at Humbolt Elementary. They fondly remember teachers like Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Bird, and they remember a variety of student activities, including vibrant May Day festivities with elaborate costumes and dancing as well as the decorating of the May Pole. Ken even served as May Day King during his third-grade year.

Fourth grade students met in the Junior High Annex, then moved into the John Day Junior High School for fifth through eighth grades. Mrs. Pocock and Mrs. Davis were a couple of their junior high teachers. Ken and Shermayne were good friends, and they began dating in the eighth grade.

Grant Union High School was an adventure for all ninth through twelfth grade students. Ken played football, basketball, and ran track. He credits Mr. Kosydar, the math teacher and track coach, as being a role model in his life. Grant Union did not have a track so the track team would practice by running laps around the outfield of the baseball field, which was located beside the football field. Ken also served as Senior Class President. Shermayne participated in the choir, was Homecoming Queen, a majorette and attended every school event.

The school began construction their junior year, adding the new gym, the cafeteria, the senior hallway, and two classrooms. Ken helped his father with the plumbing for the project, and they were the first senior class to use the addition in the fall.

Ken and Shermayne graduated in 1969 and headed off to college. He left for Oregon College of Education in Monmouth (now known as Western Oregon University) to pursue an education degree but changed his focus to law enforcement during his

sophomore year. Ken continued to run track in college, finally having a real track to practice on, and competed in the national competition in Arkansas during his senior year.

Shermayne attended Marylhurst for a year before joining Ken at Oregon College of Education. They were married in 1972 and graduated in 1973. Ken took a position with the Children's Services Division in Roseburg where Shermayne substitute taught for a year before taking a position teaching first grade in Sutherlin.

In 1979, they returned to John Day with their daughters Stephanie and Jenni so Ken could help his dad with the family business. Two years later, he was recruited for the Grant County Juvenile Department, where he worked until his retirement in 2015. Now, Ken enjoys gardening, yardwork, and working in his wood shop.

Shermayne substitute taught in Prairie City and John Day until the girls were in school and then she accepted a kindergarten teaching position at Sonshine. Two years later, she helped develop the Kindergarten program in Mount Vernon and worked there until the districts combined in 1991. She then taught many years of kindergarten, first, and second grades at Humbolt Elementary before her retirement in 2013.

Ken and Shermayne enjoy being active in the schools, their church, and the community. When Canyon Creek flooded the high school track, Ken and Shermayne volunteered their time to head up a committee to replace the existing track with an eight-lane track, spending countless hours meeting with the school board and completing grant applications and other paperwork. Although Ken is no longer helping to coach the track team, both Ken and Shermayne enjoy volunteering their time to help with the home meets.

In 2015, Shermayne was appointed to the position of Lay Leader Assigned at the United Methodist Church, where she continues to serve her community with her teaching skills and love for people.



Where Are They Now?



Marta Faulkner
Class of 2015
(Humbolt Elementary, Mount
Vernon Middle School, and
Grant Union Jr/Sr High)

Where are you now?
I’m currently a PhD student at MIT in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program for Oceanography, where I study Arctic ocean physics. I love the Boston area, and outside of work I sing with the choir of Trinity Church (we just released a Christmas album!) in addition to soaking up the various music and art offerings of the city. I’ve been pursuing ocean physics since partway through college (I studied math and music at Cornell), and other than my current PhD program, I’ve had the chance to work and/or study in upstate New York, San Diego, Virginia, Scotland, Germany, and New Jersey since graduating high school. I’ve met a lot of people and learned a lot of things and it’s been fun.

Do you have any teachers you would like to thank?
Two teachers whose lessons I still think about often are Mr. Hennen and Mr. Lusco. I may not remember all of the details of mitosis or the sixth amendment to the Constitution (sorry), but however far I venture into the labyrinths of academia, I’m always grateful for the critical thinking skills they taught me way back when I was getting started. Their classes were absolutely foundational!

Do you have any advice for students?
Be more curious than self-conscious. The vicissitudes of teenage and young adult years are hard enough without constantly worrying about what other people think about you—the sooner you can learn that not everyone will (or must) like or understand you, the sooner you can focus on embracing the possibilities of life. So, try redirecting that brainpower to something you’re passionate about.

Where are you now?
Austin became a certified phlebotomist and worked at Bend Memorial Clinic for three years before moving home to John Day in 2019. He worked as a mail carrier for the post office for a few years and then switched to a position at UPS as the Dispatch Supervisor. Carli received her associates degree at COCC and then transferred to OSU Cascades where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in December 2018. After moving back to John Day, she started her career at Solutions, CPAs as a staff accountant and has recently added a job as Event and Wedding Coordinator for Berry Creek Ranch. They were married in May 2019, have two kids and love life!

Do you have any teachers you would like to thank?
Austin: Mr. Hennen and Mrs. Shelley were always there when you needed assistance.
Carli: I would like to thank Mr. Jones and Mrs. Shelley for being incredible teachers, influencers, and friends in my life.

Do you have any school memories you would like to share?
Austin: My favorite memories always included sports with friends.
Carli: My favorite memories were sports trips, Science Club trips, and planning events on student council.

Do you have any advice for students?
Austin: Embrace new opportunities, stay true to yourself.
Carli: Have fun and enjoy each stage life brings.



Austin & Carli
(Gardner) Bremner
Class of 2012 & 2015
(Humbolt Elementary, Mount
Vernon Middle School, Grant
Union Jr/Sr High)

Where are you now? We would love to hear from all of our alumni! Reach out to us by e-mail at shoutout@grantesd.org or call the district office at 541-575-1280.



Russell Hodge
Class of 2020
(Humbolt Elementary, Grant
Union Jr/Sr High)

Where are you now?
I am living in Kansas City, Missouri, and I have been in the Air Force since high school graduation. On May 17th, I will be marrying my beautiful fiancée, Sophia Stenner.

Do you have any teachers you would like to thank?
My favorite teachers were Mr. Jones and Mr. Lusco. I wish I could go back and sit in one of Mr. Lusco’s history or government lectures. Mr. Jones is such an amazing teacher. He made math just click.

Do you have any advice for students?
To current students and future graduates, I would say to enjoy school and live in the moment. You may think school and homework or a final will be the hardest thing you ever do in your life. Sadly, I hate to break it to you that it’s not. There will be many things in your life that are way more difficult than a test. I would also play as many sports as possible. Sports help you grow as a person, from being disciplined to working together to accomplish a goal. It also teaches you to work hard and shows you the amount of work you put into something will be what you get out of it.

Once a Prospector, Always a Prospector
Here are a few alumni we found on Grant County School District 3 Staff

1973 Shelley (Johnston) Myers	1997 Tonia Seebart LeAnn (Komning) Coalwell	2006 Bobbee (Ferguson) Boethin Shanley (Day) Cobb	2019 Marissa Smith
1979 Sonna (Sintay) Smith	1998 Erin (Holliday) Hodge Kelli (McLeod) LaFramboise	2007 Vanessa (Holmstrom) Houpt	2020 Drew Lusco Fallen (Bolman) Lusco
1980 KoRina (Benson) Jones Tammy (Cox) Larkin	2000 Levana (Gilmore) James	2008 Mallory Thomas	2021 Kenna Combs Jordan Hall Brianna Majors
1982 Fred Ostberg Doug Sharp	2001 Shanna (Thomas) Northway	2010 Bre (Wilson) Apostol	2022 Dalaney Coombs
1985 Cammie Round Copenhaver	2003 Heather (Sheldon) Rookstool Sara (Lemons) Wilson	2014 Kyle Erickson Mikayla (Luttrell) Miller	2024 Quinlan Taylor
1988 Cindy Dougharity-Spencer	2004 Trista (DeRosier) Strong	2015 Cheyenne Gentis	
1991 Andrea (Brandt) Combs	2005 Sylvia Dowdy Kristal (Holliday) Hansen	2018 Hadley Boethin Elijah Humbird Mariah Moulton	
1995 Chris Beil			

Math Club Holds Local Competition

Grant Union's Middle School Math Club was created in the Fall of 2023. We hosted our first competition at Humbolt Elementary School in January 2024, then headed to the chapter competition at Blue Mountain Community College in February 2024. Although we were a young team, we still pulled off a 3rd place standing and brought home a trophy for the case.

This year, we started our practice season in October 2024 and held our 2nd Annual Grant Union Math Competition in the Student Commons on Friday, January 10, 2025. We were excited to invite

schools from all over Grant County to compete. We had two teams from Humbolt Elementary, five teams from Grant Union, and one Grant Union teacher team. Prairie City brought five student teams and a Prairie City teacher team! We had a packed house with 57 individual competitors! Next year, we hope to invite not only all of our Grant County schools, but also schools from Vale, Ontario, Baker City, and Burns.

Our Middle School Math Club will be headed to BMCC again this February with at least two teams! We are excited to go up against some larger schools with more experienced clubs.



Blue Mountain Hospital Partners with GU Health CTE

Blue Mountain Hospital and Grant Union Jr/Sr High School have been working collaboratively to put a strong emphasis on practical career readiness for our students at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School who may be interested in a healthcare career. Blue Mountain Hospital conducts a great Healthcare Career Day to expose students to the many different health fields and their future options for working in healthcare. The students are looking forward to this educational event later on in the school year.

In addition, Grant Union students have access to a Health Occupation class, where they are able to connect to Blue Mountain Hospital. As a part of this class, students apply for a job shadow opportunity which includes the job application process, participation in mock interviews, and spending time watching healthcare in action. Last year, Blue Mountain Hospital had eight students participate in their Job Shadow program.

"Our job shadow program is designed to give students a comprehensive experience of what its like to work in healthcare. By integrating professional interviews into the process, we help them build confidence and skills they can carry into their future careers," said Maisie Taylor, Blue Mountain Hospital's Human Resource Director. Sylvia Ross, GUHS Health Occupation CTE (Career and Technical Education) Instructor adds, "It is so rewarding to see how excited the students are when they return from their job shadow days. The students are getting to see what that area of healthcare looks like and be empowered by getting to be a part of the healthcare system. Its so good for them. I strongly encourage students to participate in job shadows."

Blue Mountain Hospital also offers scholarships to Grant County students who are pursuing the healthcare field after high school, which is a great way to support our local students.



Students Help Carrie Young Memorial

Lucie Immoos established the Carrie Young Memorial in 1993 after the death of her sister. That first year the nonprofit raised \$50.00 and followed Carrie's loving example of buying Christmas presents for residents of Blue Mountain Nursing Home. Since then, the nonprofit has grown and expanded to help care for the senior community of Grant County at Christmas and all year long. The Carrie Young Memorial holds a dinner and auction on the first Saturday of December, raising funds to give Christmas gifts and help pay for bills and services throughout the year. This year, the fundraiser raised over \$50,000.00, delivered over 50 loads of firewood, wrapped and delivered Christmas presents to nursing homes, and supplied groceries, heating oil, and electricity for seniors living at home-all in the month of December! This is in addition to helping with bills, medical transport, mowing of lawns, home repairs, and other services as needed. Lucie is always looking for ways to help the senior community of Grant County!



Grant Union and Prairie City students help wrap and deliver gifts to local nursing homes. Pictured are: Addy Northway, Fallon Giffin, Ryland Beil, Bubby Kirby, Sawyer Quinton, Bella Williams, Keira Stiner, Logan Randleas, Maddie Bailey, Addisen Saul, Bailey Nichols, Ava Brown, Alexis Anderton, Morgan Walker, Cosette Klusmier, Mallory Lusco, Zoey Beam, Savannah Watterson, Kydalin Sagaser, Skylar McKay, Reece Jacobs, Grace Kenyon, Josie Horrell, and Lilly Rockhill

Excerpt from "An Illustrated History of Baker, Grant, Malheur and Harney Counties: with a brief outline of the early history of the state of Oregon."

Western Historical Publishing Company, 1902.

"John Day has excellent schools and its people have always been found standing shoulder to shoulder on all problems affecting the advancement of the educational interests of the town. This school district was established by Superintendent Rhinehart on January 2, 1865, and was known as district No. 3, which number it still retains. The first session of school was held in the summer of 1866. The pioneer board of this district was composed of A. G. Mulkey, N. W. Fiske, Wilson Harer, directors, and W. F. Vinegard, clerk. School has been maintained regularly since then, and at present about one hundred pupils are enrolled. This summer a new four-room schoolhouse, costing \$3,400, was completed, which is now in charge of Professor H. L. Mack and wife and F. S. Ottman. The school board is composed of Clarence Johnson, C. H. Timms and G. W. Porter, directors, and E. J. Bayley, clerk." - Transcription shared with permission from Genealogy Trails, For the complete article, see their website at <https://genealogytrails.com/ore/grant/historyofgrant6.html>.