

**ONLINE:** School is investigating multiple incidents

*Continued from page 1*

provided more context and information.

While school personnel could not share specific information due to an ongoing investigation into the incidents, principal Alison Haney and Vice Principal Tim Roth acknowledged and defined the situation to some degree, and included some of the actions taking place to get to the bottom of what happened.

Results of the investigation will help school officials decide how to further intervene on those responsible and to help ensure that similar incidents don't happen again.

Haney and Roth's letter indicated that the language was "beyond inappropriate."

The investigation includes work on the part of the technology department to determine the user(s) responsible for the incidents.

Further response by the school will include providing counselor and staff support for students affected by the incidents as well as working as a staff to help problem-solve in order to mitigate any such occurrences from happening again.

The letter said, "We are exploring every possible way of keeping our students as safe as possible in this digital realm."

Haney said in the second letter, "I'm not so naive as to think that this will be the last event of technological misuse, but I do believe we must send a clear message to our students, both from home and school, about appropriate use and its consequences at home, school, and in life."

The letter included a message focused on using this situation as a learning experience in order to thwart incidents like these by understanding points, "such as speaking up when inappropriate behavior occurs, standing up for others, understanding that actions have real consequences, differentiating between what is a so-called joke and what is not, what discriminatory and harassing words are, the permanency of online actions, and many others."

Haney wants parents and students to be assured that all leads are being investigated thoroughly and fairly and will have consequences that align directly with the actions in which guilt is discovered.

In an interview she re-emphasized, "We are always here to forgive, as well as instruct and support our students on both sides of this issue, as middle school is a critical stage to teach some of life's most difficult lessons."

# Outlaws Athlete Spotlight

While high school sports have been topsy-turvy due to the coronavirus pandemic, athletes continue to step up into leadership roles.

Coaches singled out track athlete Shelby Larson and soccer player Simon Rhett for the Outlaws Athlete Spotlight.

"Shelby Larson epitomizes what can be accomplished as a scholar/athlete throughout her school career without skimping on the other facets of scholarship, exemplary character and service," said Assistant Coach Jim Anderson. "She is a role model without pretense, willing to help others as they try to emulate her example. She presently carries a 3.9-plus GPA and is the 2020-21 student body president."

She placed second when she was a freshman and won the Far West League pole vault title last year, going on to tie for third at the state meet.

"Shelby does not complain about our lost season, but has instead set high goals for her senior year," Anderson said. "With this season yet to unfold, she well could challenge our school record, as well as a state meet title."

He concluded: "Coaching this fine young lady has been such a joy to her coaches: she often takes the next step before it is even explained.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Simon Rhett.

Go, Shelby!"

Coach Kevin Eckert praised Rhett's leadership.

"He organized summer trainings and motivated a group of kids to come out for soccer, and more impressively, fitness training over the summer and into the early fall," he said. "As we coaches had to be very 'hands-off' (and can't push kids to participate) given the current times, I was glad to see Simon and a few other kids consistently training, and spreading the word to get other kids involved. And, from what I saw, they were being responsible and pretty darn safe — impressive for kids this age."

As Simon is also friends with my boys, I've gotten to know him well this last



PHOTO PROVIDED

Shelby Larson.

year plus. He's hardworking (often gets up ungodly early to work in mom's bakery!) and balances school and other life commitments very well. He's a really outstanding young man.

# Sisters salutes...

Faye Ziebert wrote:

"I would like to send my appreciation to Three Sisters Floral and Sisters Bakery for preparing the beautiful flowers and delicious food for my husband Frank Ziebert's celebration of his life, and Autumn Funerals for their helpfulness in coordinating the Honor Guard for the ceremony which honored his service-filled life.

Lastly, Partners in Care Hospice House of Bend has meant so much to me in providing care for Frank and myself during these long difficult months.

Sisters has opened it's heart for me and my appreciation is profound."

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