

McKenzie Rose/Contributed Photo

**McKenzie Rose of Echo stands next to her National History Day project on the Trent Affair. The Smithsonian Learning Lab's virtual showcase included Rose's project, which the National Museum of American History also honored on June 18, 2022.**

## History:

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### An experienced historian

For Rose, the project was no new trek; this was the Echo High School juniors' fifth time taking part in NHD and her fourth time attending nationals. Rose's first appearance at nationals was in the sixth grade. While other works have come naturally to her, this year's project idea did not.

"Honestly, I just started looking up historical events on the internet and kept coming across the Trent Affair," Rose said.

The Trent Affairs — an American Civil War conflict that nearly saw the British side with Confederate Soldiers after a naval dispute — fit the project's theme well, and Rose decided to go with it.

### A new documentarian

Texidor had never participated in NHD. She had never even made a documentary. As part of a required history class she took at Griswold High School, she had to make a documentary as an assignment.

After initially being interested in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Texidor decided to narrow the scope and present on the Executive Committee of the National Security Council meetings that occurred during the crisis.

While only four of the 10 students in the class finished the presentations, Texidor pushed through, learning the software the week before and turning in the project on time. Though she got it in, Texidor admitted she did fall a bit behind at points.

"There was a lot of procrastination involved with this project trying to find information because it was way harder than I thought it would be," Texidor said.

### The process

Rose found newspaper clippings from 1861 and memoirs containing firsthand information about the Trent Affair. She would stay up until 11 p.m. working, missing time with friends.

"Often I would wonder if it was really worth all the over-scheduling and stress to compete," Rose said.

Texidor struggled to find sources on the EXCOMM

council. Because President John F. Kennedy's council regarding the Missile Crisis was secretive, there weren't many around to talk about it.

"Finding someone to interview about EXCOMM was almost impossible." Texidor said, "I reached out to a lot of people trying to discuss the crisis with them but almost no one responded."

Eventually, Texidor contacted local Bonnie Harper, and the two talked about Harper's crisis experience as a teenager. They compared the crisis to the Russian-Ukraine conflict, an element Texidor used in her project.

### National History Day

After all of their hard work, the two sent their projects off to the national competition. NHD was online due to the pandemic, with three full days of activities. Neither one was present.

While Texidor was on a family vacation, Rose was in Washington, D.C., for a school trip — the same city she would normally be for the in-person festivities.

Neither may have been there, but both projects received rave reviews. One judge said of Texidor's work, "that this documentary was your first attempt at video-making is astonishing to me. I sincerely hope it won't be your last."

Meanwhile, Rose's project earned a spot in the Smithsonian Learning Lab's virtual showcase.

### What's next?

Despite her back-to-back honors, Rose is unsure if she will return for competitions next year. With so many other activities, the soon-to-be-senior knows that her schedule won't get any lighter.

Even if her future is doubtful, Rose has discovered a new passion. She writes history pieces for the *Hermiston Herald*.

"History is a love of mine," Rose said, "We can learn so much from the past, and it's just downright fascinating at times."

Texidor may have taken the class as a requirement for school, but she, too, developed a love for the process.

"Being able to gather and process historical information, interviewing people and working with advanced software are all very beneficial skills," Texidor said, "NHD is hard but it's worth it."

## Water:

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She added she and other people at the school are providing water to people who are unsure about whether their water is contaminated, perhaps as they wait for a test result.

Sanchez said she identifies as Latinx. This group, she said, "hasn't largely known about this issue" and has not been fully informed. Fluent in English and Spanish, she said she can communicate with people who only know a single language.

Ana Maria Rodriguez, community organizer, agreed with the importance of communicating facts in multiple languages. Working at Sam Boardman with Sanchez, she said most of the people she encountered only know Spanish. Without the assistance of other Spanish speakers, these people would not be provided with information.

Ana Pineyro, Morrow County communicable disease and emergency preparedness coordinator, was working alongside Sanchez and Rodriguez. She said she frequently encounters people who do not have all the facts, regardless of whether they speak Spanish or English.

Some people, she said, inaccurately believe boiling water will make it safe for drinking. The truth, Pineyro

### UMATILLA COUNTY ALSO TESTING WELLS

The Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area covers northern Morrow County as well as the west corner of Umatilla County, home to Umatilla, Echo, Hermiston, Stanfield and Echo. The county health department recently announced it is launching a program to assist residents in those ZIP codes in obtaining free water quality tests for their domestic wells. Participation in the program will provide test results regarding coliform, nitrate and arsenic. The county intends to use the results to better understand the scope and scale of any existing or potential concerns to public health. The pilot program kicked off June 22 and remains active until June 30, 2023. The focus

is on the four areas, but additional funding could lead to the county expanding the testing. To participate, pick up test kits from Kuo Testing Laboratories, 1300 Sixth St., Suite J, Umatilla, or either Umatilla County Public Health location: 435 E. Newport Ave., Hermiston, or 200 S.E. Third St., Pendleton. Kuo Testing is handling the testing analysis and accepting samples Mondays through Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (the business is closed noon to 1 p.m.). Samples must be delivered to the lab the same day they are collected. The lab will deliver results to individuals listed on the lab form and send a copy of the results to Umatilla County Public Health for epidemiological analysis.

said, is very different.

"With nitrates, this is not true," she explained, because boiling water increases nitrate concentration.

Also, she said, many people don't think about all the ways that they use water. They will avoid drinking glasses of water, but they use it for cooking or preparing coffee. These uses, she said, still are dangerous.

She said she wants people to take this issue seriously. Nitrates, Pineyro said, are infamous for adversely affecting children and preg-

nant people. What people might not know, however, is that nitrates can be bad for other people, too, especially if the nitrates are consumed in high quantities over a long period of time.

### Helping people at Boardman Foods

Deanna Camp, Boardman Foods safety and training manager, is helping people, too. At her company, she meets people, gives them bottles for collecting their drinking water and then instructs them to gather their water

and bring it back to her company.

Camp said she often clears up misconceptions. Often, she said, people don't know about proper water collection.

Drinking water, she said, should be collected from the same taps from which people drink.

"We're looking for water samples from the kitchen sink," she said.

Camp stated she has had to correct people who have thought they should be getting samples directly from their wells.

She said, too, that it doesn't take much water to create a sample. According to Camp, a lab can detect nitrate levels in 4 ounces of water.

They do, however, need to process the sample quickly, according to Camp.

"The lab has to test it within 48 hours," she said.

Once people bring samples to Boardman Foods, Camp said, the samples are sent to Kuo Testing Laboratories, whose nearest office is in Umatilla. Results can take a week or more.

Camp said she has received tests back already, and some nitrate results are more than 40 ppm.

Given the level of some of these tests, Camp said it is important for people to have full understanding of their well water. Knowledge, however, is just one step, she said; there must be action, too.

## EOU:

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"Different things such as econ or music or whatever the major is — grab one or two of their really dynamic classes and be able to allow students to take those here or online," Brown said. "You always have classes that have a few extra spots in them, so why don't we allow our high school students to go in those?"

High school students who pass classes through those dual credit pathways would be able to apply the credits

to a degree at EOU, Brown said. And for students who enroll at EOU, a big focus will still be making sure that students are acclimated to college and have the support they're used to coming from smaller communities.

"One of the things that we have is a bunch of students will take these dual credits, but then they come to a university and it's like, 'Whoa, I don't have the exact same supports that I had before because I had my mom, and I had my dad, and I had my counselor and all my teachers,'" Brown said.

At EOU, Brown said, there's a recognition that

rural students are coming from tight-knit, small communities and might have different experiences than students from larger cities.


"We want to just basically have this smooth transition from all these loving people that have put an inordinate amount of time into you, and this is going to be the next group of people that do the same thing," she said. "So, we want to be able to have that same feel, and I think that Eastern is primed for that because we are a small institution and we have small classrooms." EOU President Tom

Insko said the grant funding will help the school fulfill its mission.

"EOU's work as Oregon's Rural University will be greatly enhanced through this grant," he said. "Our strategic goal is to intensify rural student recruitment and outreach, and providing access and support for educational and career pathways will help build and sustain our communities. We are grateful for the support of Oregon's U.S. senators."

— Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter Meerah Powell contributed to this report.

**76<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**



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	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room — DJ
<b>THUR</b>	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
	9:00am	Steer Tripping, Three Rounds
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Wear Pink
	9:00pm	Fun at the Thunder Room after Rodeo — Stay Tuned!
<b>FRI</b>	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Live Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — Whiskey Creek
<b>SAT</b>	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	2:30pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Rodeo Gates Open — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:30pm	Live Music and Dancing at Thunder Room — Whiskey Creek
	After Rodeo	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 3:00am
<b>SUN</b>	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — til 10:00am
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service

To purchase tickets and for more information visit [www.chiefjosephdays.com](http://www.chiefjosephdays.com)

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