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After high school, Cimmiyotti attended Portland State University and received a degree in drawing and painting. She stayed in Portland for several years before her mother, a teacher, convinced her to pursue art education.

With a teaching degree from Eastern Oregon University, Cimmiyotti landed her first job where she had her first art class.

"Luckily enough, I was able to get hired at Sandstone to teach art, which is kind of like the dream job," she said. "I get to work with kids, which is great, but I also get to

help get them interested in art — I think about how influential my art teachers were. And then being back where you went to school is kind of cool too."

Cimmiyotti now works alongside her first art teacher, Larsen, who now teaches at Armand Larive Middle School. The two teachers collaborate to create a single lesson plan for both schools. Cimmiyotti said Larsen is a great artist and teacher, and he has also been a great resource and mentor as she transitioned from student to teacher.

She said inspiring young artists and cultivating their talent can be challenging. After years of education and practice,

she said, a teacher must present the information in a way that is understandable to people with little or no experience.

"You have to go back and think of it as though you're approaching it for the first time, and what are some of the questions you would have?" she said. "It's a learning process because you don't

think of all the questions students are going to have when they're going to create something."

In an art classroom with diverse projects, Cimmiyotti feels at home. She enjoys experimenting with different styles and media. She alternates between watercolors and oils and drawing and discovered one of her newest

passions, India ink, while developing a project for her students.

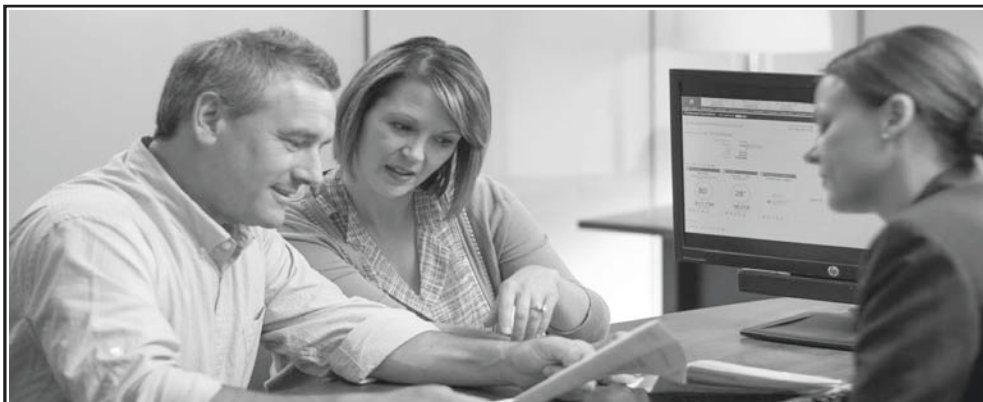
Cimmiyotti said perseverance is the biggest key to success for any artist.

"It's frustrating at times, and sometimes you feel like you're not going anywhere with it," she said, "but just like anything, you've got to keep practicing."

SUBMITTED PHOTO Sandstone Middle School art teacher Nici Cimmiyotti created this portrait of Irve Williams, a local Boy Scout leader and pastor, using India ink. Her work is on display this month at the Hermiston Public Library.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hermiston High School alum Nici Cimmiyotti, 31, created this piece of art. Cimmiyotti said she likes to experiment with different styles and media.



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**CAMERAS:**

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\$5,000 each, she said, so the department only plans to update one vehicle per year.

The body cameras are much less expensive, between \$800 and \$1,200 each, she said. The budget provides enough funding to purchase eight body cameras the officers will share.

Huxel said she has not yet ordered the body cameras, but she will purchase them from WatchGuard, the company from which the department purchased the vehicle cameras. She said the infrastructure, including data storage, is already in place, so the body cameras will be easy to integrate into the system.

Huxel said she has been pleased with the effectiveness of the vehicle cameras.

"They've been extremely beneficial here recently because of our new officers. We've been able to utilize them a lot for training to review different stops and whatnot," she said. "It gets us good images of the traffic just prior to the activation of the lights, as well as the interaction with the people involved in the traffic stop. Some of our court cases have relied on some cameras."

With both vehicle and body cameras, Huxel said views from multiple perspectives would be available. She said the video is valuable not only for training and as evidence someone violated a law but also as evidence for complaints against officers.

"I think you're going to see more agencies at least doing some trial runs with body cameras if they haven't already," she said. "If anything else, the trend will probably be that it will dispel a lot of accusations (against officers) versus capture a lot of stuff that shouldn't be happening out there. I believe that, a majority of the time, we are doing the right things for the right reasons."

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