

Girl, 10, returns 'large amount' of lost cash

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

A Hermiston student is getting kudos from the Hermiston Police Department and the community after turning money she found in to the police instead of keeping it for herself.

Elizabeth Doherty, 10, got a visit and a letter of thanks from chief Jason Edmiston last week after she found a distinctive money clip with what the department described as a "fairly large amount of cash" recently. A post about it on the department's page had more than 1,300 likes and 95 comments complimenting her as of Tuesday afternoon.

"It's kind of weird but it's good," Elizabeth said of all the attention her good deed is getting.

Her parents Melissa and Ben Doherty didn't expect all of the attention, either.

"This whole thing has caught my wife and I by surprise," Ben said.

He was with Elizabeth when she pointed out the money to him and wanted to try and return it to its owner. He said she didn't seem to struggle with deciding whether to turn in the money, and he's sure many other people in the community would have done the same thing.

"I don't think there was any big test of will to



STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL

Elizabeth Doherty at Rocky Heights Elementary.

overcome," he said.

Elizabeth said after she spotted the money she and her dad walked around to some nearby businesses to ask if anyone was looking for it, then drove to the police department. The doors were locked, but an officer spotted them and asked if he could help and they turned the money over to him.

Last week, her teacher at Rocky Heights Elementary got a call asking if the police could talk to the class, and a few minutes later Edmiston showed up and presented her with a department patch and a letter of recognition. In the letter, he said being a police officer can be difficult because officers spend so much time dealing with people who hurt others.

"You are none of these

things, and people like you are the reason why the men and women of the Hermiston Police Department put their uniforms on every day and come to work to make a positive impact on this community," he wrote.

He thanked Elizabeth for her integrity and said that when the department finds the owner of the money they will be sure to let the person know they got it back because of an "amazing 10-year-old girl who did the right thing."

The owner still has not been found, as of Tuesday afternoon.

The rightful owner of the money can call the department's evidence/property technician at 541-667-5108 to describe the item and make arrangements to get it back.

Smith finalist for Walla Walla superintendent job

Wade Smith, the deputy superintendent of the Hermiston School District, is one of seven finalists for the top job in the Walla Walla School District.

The new superintendent, to be selected by the school board, will begin July 1, replacing Bill Jordan who will retire at the end of the school year.

Smith was hired as Hermiston's assistant superintendent of human resources in 2007 after five years as an administrator in the Morrow County School District. He served as the Hermiston interim superintendent for 18 months in 2011-2012 while Superintendent Fred Maiocco was deployed to Kuwait as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

"I was honored to work with an incredibly talented and supportive staff," Smith said about his time in the top leadership role. "You see districts put on the brakes or coast in that kind of situation, but we made great

progress and had great success."

Upon Maiocco's return, Smith was named deputy superintendent.

Smith said his nine years in Hermiston schools have been great, but he felt it was time to move into a superintendent leadership role. He and his family would like to stay in the region, so the Walla Walla job made sense. Hermiston School District has an enrollment of 5,500 and Walla Walla is about 6,200.

Smith will join administrators Susan Bell (Touchet, Washington), Kent Kultgen (Helena, Montana), Mark Mansell (La Center, Washington), Kevin McKay (Zillah, Washington), Jared Hoadley (Mead, Washington) and Molly Ringo (Everett, Washington) in the final round of interviews.

The Walla Walla School Board will conduct finalist interviews Feb. 29, March 1 and 2, and public meetings will be held on those dates at 5 p.m. at the district office.



Wade Smith

EOU honors local teachers

By **JENNIFER COLTON**
Staff Writer

Three local teachers have been honored by former students in the "Inspirational Teacher Awards" from Eastern Oregon University.

EOU first-year honor students who maintained dean's list standing during fall term nominated 26 teachers from Oregon, Washington, California and Nevada. Students were asked to choose teachers who influenced them on

their road to higher education and academic excellence.

At Hermiston High School, 2015 graduates Shay Lovejoy and Breeanna Hughes nominated Paul Dunsmoor, a member of the band staff.

Makayla Mangione, also a 2015 graduate of Hermiston High, nominated Tim Zacharias, a former member of the English staff.

"Tim Zacharias goes out of his way to challenge his students, giving them

the tools they need to succeed," Mangione said via email. "He encouraged me to think deeper, write better and to engage in a myriad of disciplines beyond my preferred course of study. His mentorship inspired me to pursue a career in English education so that I too can help students succeed."

Karla Bedolla, a 2015 graduate of Umatilla High School, nominated Keith Gebers, business communication and computer sys-

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