

# Morrow Co. schools shift administrators

Hermiston Herald

Morrow County School District recently announced it shifted around staff for the 2022-23 school year in the wake of the sudden resignation of David Norton, former principal of Riverside Jr/Sr High School.

John Christy, the principal, Windy River Elementary, is transferring to Riverside to take on the principal role there. Steve Sheller remains as vice principal. Christy is a long-time employee of the school district and has a

strong history with Riverside.

"We are excited to see the direction that RJSHS goes under his leadership," said Erin Stocker, director of Human Resources for the district.

Stephanie Ewing is transitioning from his principal position at A.C. Houghton Elementary to Windy River Elementary. Ewing has more than 10



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years of experience as an elementary principal.

Jill Ledbetter, then, is transferring from Sam Boardman Elementary to the principal job at A.C. Houghton. Ledbetter has a strong history with A.C. Houghton and the community of Irrigon.

And the district has promoted Jami Carbray from vice principal to principal at Sam Boardman, while Laura Browne Winters steps into the vice principal slot.

Carbray has worked side by side with Ledbetter this year to establish vision and action steps, so Stocker said the district is confident in her ability to create that continuity. Winters has a strong connection to Sam Boardman as well as a working knowledge of the special programs there.

"We are excited to have her return to the staff of SBE to support the students and families," according to Stocker.

New district Superintendent Matt Combe, who started in the position

July 1, said while these changes are unexpected, administrators configured the new team with the best interests of students, staff and families at heart. He said administrators reached out to staff to make introductions and answer any questions.

In a previous press release, the district announced that Rose Palmer was named the new principal at Irrigon Jr/Sr High School and Ryan Gerry was named the new principal at Heppner Jr/Sr High School. Principals at Hep-

## Local students Rose and Texidor earn history honors

BY ANTONIO ARREDONDO

Hermiston Herald

Two local students earned top honors at the National History Day virtual conference, presenting projects regarding the nation's history.

The National Museum of American History honored McKenzie Rose of Echo for her project, while Helix's MayaBella Texidor earned the Outstanding Affiliate Award for her documentary.

Rose and Texidor were part of the half a million students who prepped for the National History Day contest, a program where students conduct original research on a historical topic and present it to judges.

### 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 Affair — 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, she 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."

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## Stabbing leaves Hermiston man dead

BY BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

A 64-year-old Hermiston man was stabbed to death Friday, July 8, at the Hells Canyon Overlook in southeastern Wallowa County according to a press release from the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office.

Dan Ridling got into an altercation with an Albany man and was stabbed in the torso, Sheriff Joel Fish said July 11. He died at the scene.

"They got in an altercation in the parking lot," Fish

said. "It was a fight between two guys, and he ended up stabbed."

He said the weapon used was a fixed-blade sheathed knife similar to a hunting knife.

The 911 call requesting medical assistance was made at 11:36 a.m. Oregon State Police Major Crimes Unit responded to a request to assist with the investigation, the release stated.

The man who is believed to have done the stabbing cooperated with the investigation,

Fish said. Law enforcement also interviewed Ridling's wife.

No charges have yet been filed. Officials are awaiting the results of an autopsy before making any decision on charges.

"Once we get it all done, it'll go to the grand jury," Fish said. "He's not been charged with anything."

As a result, Fish declined to identify the Albany man.

Fish stated in the release that there are no known threats to the public following the incident.



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