

## **Riverton High School**

12476 S. Silverwolf Way, Riverton, Utah 84065

March 2021

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# **Cheer for Cheer!!!!**

#### **By: Carter Blackwell**

Close your eyes and picture a team taking First in region. Then picture taking second in the entire state. Now open your eyes! Did you picture cheer? Well that's who it is. What makes this image more spectacular is what this year's cheer team went through while achieving what they did.

When Riverton High's Cheer team came into a new season, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the season was not the only new thing. Covid brought new ways of competing and practicing as well. This of course is the same with any other team, sport, or club. However, cheer is unique because they had to do a handful of their competitions on a zoom. That was something I hadn't seen from any of the other sports this year.



The cheer team was led by three seniors. Bella Roller, McKenna Neilson, and McKenna Beesly. When McKenna Neilson was asked about the impact cheer has on crowds, she responded by saying, "I think that at times, especially during covid, we are the ones keeping the energy high and getting everyone pumped up. Whether that is the crowd or the players, I think overall we keep the energy up."

State Standings	keep me energy up.	
State Standings	These three seniors take on a role of leadership. Bella told me that	"being an example" was an
Riverton Dance Company	important part of being a senior on this team. That leadership causes	s this team to pump up the
	basketball players and make the crowd cheer loud during a rival footba	all game.
	Legendary coach, Herb Brooks, once said, "Great moments are borr	n from great opportunities."
	The challenges were set on multiple levels, but sometimes it's the	challenges that lift us up.
	Sometimes we need opposition to lift us higher than we thought wa	as possible. Good Teams do
	good during simple times. However, great teams take challenging	
	great moments, even moments like first in region and second in state.	Well done, RHS cheer.
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# **FEATURES**

#### Welcome, Foreign Exchange Students~! By: Ana Christensen

Hannah Potthast (16) and Yua Matsumoto

(17) are foreign exchange students here at our school! Hannah came from a village called Bredenborn in Germany, and Yua came from a town called Kumamoto, Japan.

They love it here in America. Hannah says, "I really like it in America and I really enjoy it. Both countries have something I prefer over the other one, so I can't choose which one is better." Yua says that she enjoys it here too,

"I enjoy the classes because this school has many fun classes unlike Japanese high school." There are many differences between an American school and a school in Europe. For example, Yua says, "...(The) school system is much different compared with American school. For example, we can't choose any classes." Hannah really enjoys the "many subjects to choose from and having school sports teams."

We hope you enjoy being here at Riverton High School, Hannah and Yua!



Photos courtesy of: Hannah Potthast and Yua Matsumoto Foreign Exchange Students Hannah Potthast (left) and Yua Matsumoto (right)

### **Teacher Feature: Mrs. Rush By: Carson Packer**

Mrs. Rush has been teaching English for 24 years. She has been at Riverton since it opened up in 1999!

She originally went to college for a degree in the english department, but she didn't know exactly what she wanted to do. She got married relatively young and started a family as a stay-at-home-mom. What made her want to become a teacher was that she saw her son struggling in school even though he was a smart kid. She wanted to learn how to teach him better than the teachers he had at his school and she fell in love with teaching.

Once she became a teacher full time she realized that teaching is a lot harder than it looks. She loves to teach her students and her main goal as a teacher is that they learn to question everything so they can become better critical thinkers.



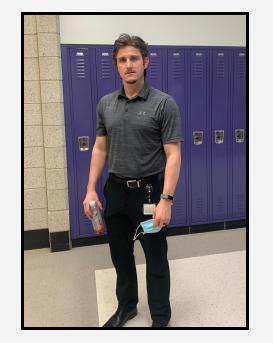
#### **Teacher Feature: Mr. Mvers** By: Bodie Hollingsworth

Mr. Myers started teaching at Riverton High in 2019, he teaches all of the finance-based classes like: financial literacy, marketing, etc. He moved here from St. Louis, Missouri where he used to teach math.

He's always had a passion for teaching and helping people, and he says that he got this love for teaching from his mentors who helped him learn about the world around us. "These individuals have taught me a lot, and have shaped me into who I am." says Mr. Myers.

It is a drastic change to move from Missouri to Utah, but Myers and his wife love Utah for its beautiful mountains where they enjoy skiing, hiking, and hanging out at all of the various reservoirs.

The one thing he wished to tell all of the students here at RHS is: "Take Marketing 1". He believes it is a good opportunity for all students and is a very fun class!



#### **Teacher Feature: Mr. Powers** By: Emma Jenson

Andrew Powers has been teaching for 8 years total, 5 years at Riverton High. He teaches Chemistry and he coaches the Riverton Swim team.

Mr. Powers graduated from Utah State College where he originally went for veterinary sciences, but he made the switch to chemistry, and got his degree in that. While in college, Powers was a swimmer, and specialized in sprint freestyle and butterfly. He has kept his passion for swimming in his coaching, and is dedicated to helping each one of his team members be the best version of themselves.

His favorite holiday is overwhelmingly halloween. Every year in his classes, he has a short segment talking about the best halloween traditions, from haunted houses, to best scary movies-Powers has you covered.

Powers likes to keep things light, and is a super fun teacher to have in class. He has won many teaching and coaching awards, and has a bright career in front of him.



Photo by: Carson Packer Mrs. Rush in her Language Arts classroom

Photo By: Bodie Hollingsworth Mr Myers hanging out in the hallway

Photo By: Emma Jenson Mr. Powers grading papers

# **FEATURES**

#### **Sterling Scholars** By: Eden Slabbert

recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement of graduating high school students."It's a demonstration of academic achievement and excellence that allows candidates to show their skills in any of the given categories for a chance to win a scholarship." says Valeria Ensisco. Staley Binks says: "Sterling Scholar is an

The Sterling Scholar Awards Program amazing program that highlights remarkable talents and academic performance of students all over the state. I have learned so much about myself in this process, and am grateful for the rare opportunity!" With a chance to win scholarships and represent your skills and your school Sterling Scholar is a huge chance of a lifetime.

We would love to wish these Silver Wolves so much luck with their upcoming interviews, competitions and preparations (and to any of you who could be the future RHS Sterling Scholars.)

Now with that being said, I would like to introduce Riverton High School's Sterling Scholar finalists of 2021:

Kathryn Howard- English Skyler Reeves- Math Steven Wills- Social Studies Brennen Jacketta- Science Valeria Encisco- World Languages Jacob Malm- Computer Tech Skyler Lawson- Business and Marketing Hope Thomas- Skilled and Technical Science Education Madeline Fuchs- Family and Consumer Science Staley Binks- Speech/ Theater Trinity Gonzales-Vocal Performance Hannah Watson-Visual Arts Isabella DeJesus- Dance Alexis Romeril-Instrumental



Photo courtesy of: Riverton High School Website Riverton's Sterling Scholar nominees for the 2020-2021 school year

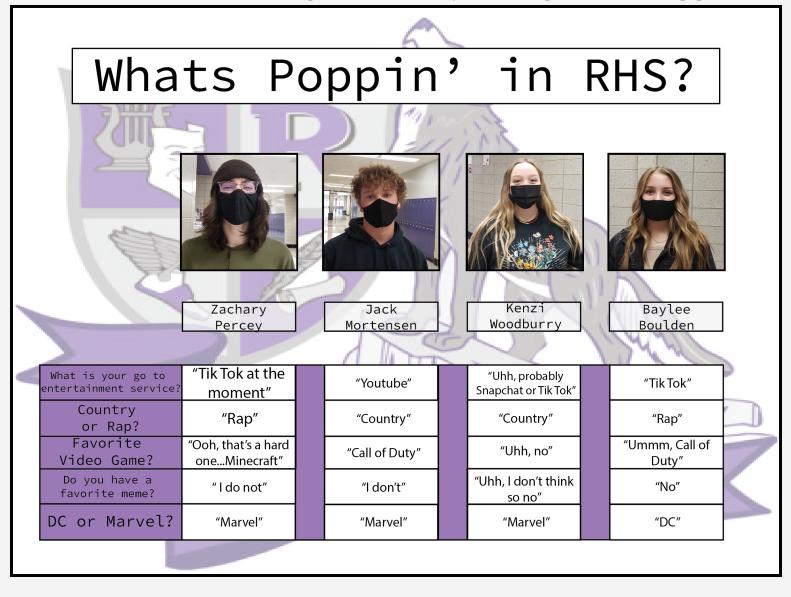


## **STUDENT LIFE**

#### Whats Poppin' in RHS

By: Jaron Millaway

Students of RHS were asked four random questions in the hallways about their personal favorites of pop culture!



#### **Spring Date Ideas**

#### By: Emma Jenson

Spring is a great time to get to know new people. Especially since covid restrictions are getting lighter, spring dates are an open possibility this next quarter. Unfortunately you might be out of ideas, but luckily I have a few amazing ideas for you. You can go to the thanksgiving point gardens, They are currently giving complimentary garden tours monday, wednesday, thursday, and friday. At 9:30 am, so you might only be able to make the Friday tour. In april to may, thanksgiving point is hosting the tulip festival, and it's \$25 to get inside, but it's well worth the money.

You could also go to The Butterfly Biosphere, which is also at Thanksgiving point. The Butterfly Biosphere is open Monday-Saturday until 8pm, but it is closed on Sundays. The admission is \$17 per person. The butterfly biosphere is a conservatory full of different kinds of butterflies. You can also do a butterfly release, and release a butterfly into the conservatory for \$4 per butterfly, (\$3 if you're a member at thanksgiving point).

Another fun date idea is going geocaching outside. One of you can download the geocaching app, and it will tell you all the places that have geocaches. The rules are simple: Find the geocache, and then replace whatever you take with something of equal value. Most of the time there will be a clue or a hint about the location of the geocache.



Since it is getting warmer outside, soon you can go to the lava hot springs as a date. It's super fun to hike down to the springs, and meet all the other people who are down there. IT is a good idea to bring slip on shoes that are ok with getting a little muddy, some extra towels, and a warm hoodie for after the hot springs.

A date that never gets old is a picnic. You can bring a blanket to a park, or a view (potato hill is a great place to go with a nice view). It's fun to pick out the food on your picnic together, so it may be a good idea to go someplace like walmart, or smiths, and get some fruit, or other snacks to eat together. After the picnic, you can go back into the car and watch a movie in the back seat before going home.

Something to remember about dates is to keep the other person in mind when planning a date. Try to plan something that you will both enjoy, and will give you time to get to know each other better.

Photo by: Emma Jenson Spring is a great time for a date!

# **STUDENT LIFE**

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# 2021 Horoscopes

By: Carli Maravilla

Information partly provide from:

https://www.romper.com; https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com; https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com; https://www.allure.com

## Aquarius (January 20-Feb 18)

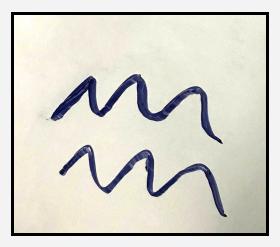


Photo by: Carli Maravilla and Carson Packer

## Welcome to 2021, Aquarius,

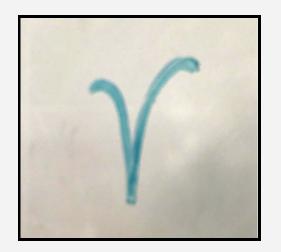
and congrats on surviving 2020. Despite your aloof nature, your emotions run deep, and the stress of the pandemic has taken a toll on you. As an intellectual air sign, you use your brain to try to stay busy rather than sink into despair. With Jupiter and Saturn in their sign for most of 2021, Aquarians will feel a jolt of creative energy and positive momentum to bring their altruistic visions to life. In order to recognize this inspiration as it comes, you'll need to stay open and receptive.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

## Welcome to 2021, **Pisces**.

Congratulations are in order; you made it through the disaster that was 2020. Will this year be better? While that remains to be seen, it certainly won't be boring. The stars are going to be plenty busy, and there will be many opportunities for healing; we just have to take advantage of them, both collectively and individually. For much of the last year, most of us were feeling pretty stagnant as we put a lot of plans on hold and stayed home to keep ourselves and each other safe. But now, you're likely starting to look toward the future and wonder what things are going to look like. Your mission for 2021 is to do what you can to heal past wounds, and to keep your eyes forward so that you're ready for whatever comes next.

## Aries (March 21- April 19)



passage! You were often faced with feelings of anger and rage on a very intimate level. Like most Aries, you worked within multiple layers of emotional realms including feelings of inadequacy and decisions about what battles you actually needed to fight. A major crossroads now brings you into a more aligned point of independence.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)



Photo by: Carli Maravilla and Carson Packer

## Welcome to 2021, Taurus.

This should be a fantastic year for your ambitious sign of the Bull. Plenty of dynamic events will influence you on all levels of personal life, love, and career wins. You're the shining star of the show thanks to Uranus' continual transit through your sign, beginning in 2018 and destined to sparkle through your first house of personal appearance until 2025! This year is defined by the major square aspect between Uranus through Taurus and Saturn in Aquarius. This allows interplay and sudden societal adjustments that can change your life-and also make you feel extremely vulnerable.

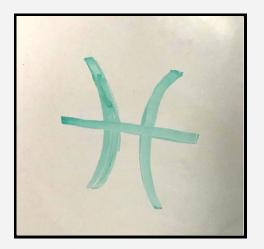


Photo by: Carli Maravilla and Carson Packer

Photo by: Carli Maravilla and Carson Packer

## Welcome to 2021, Aries.

This is a moment of truth for really taking action on those important lessons that put you through your paces in 2020. It was as if you were going through some sort of rite of

## **CENTERSPREAD**

#### Lights! Camera! Action: **Riverton High's School Musical** By: Eden Slabbert

Once again Riverton High's MDT crew get together to create an incredibly fun and enjoyable experience for not just themselves and their audiences as well. Bringing to the stage the story of *Matilda*.

Matilda Wormwood was an unexpected child. Despite the misfortune of a love-lacking home, Matilda doesn't let the draining abuse of her parents and evil school principal (Miss Agatha Trunchbull) get the better of her! She loves reading and has a brilliant imagination; and as any little child, she has a mischievous side too. Using her quick wits Matilda is able to save herself and her friends from the evil grasps of "The Trunchbull." With Delilah Tanner as Matilda, Staley Binks and Darcy Brumfield as the Wormwoods, Anson Bagley as Miss Agatha Trunchbull, Emma Otis as Miss Jenny and all the rest of the MDT crew...the production was brilliantly put together to bring smiles and laughs to the crowd while also sharing the story of the importance and true value of love in the life of a child.

## Thou shall have hope! Hope Week 2021

By: Patrick Kastner

It was a week of hope, a week of strength, and Frankly, a week of fun. January 25th - 30th, Riverton high held its annual 'Hope Week' to support suicide prevention.

On Monday, through Thursday, RHS held activities at lunch ranging from a root beer float stand to service dogs. Saturday held the famous 'Hope Walk,' where many people participated in a 'march' from the school to the Riverton City Spirit Corner (on Redwood Road and 126th south). Riverton Mayor, Trent Staggs, gave a few words while people indulged in some tremendous hot chocolate and cookies.

Hope Squad President, Hope Thomas, said "Hope week is important to me because suicide is such a rising issue in our generation and in the world right now, and if we can make a difference. that's responsibility." our Silverwolves and everyone made it a great week; remember to always stay strong!

If you or someone you know is in need of help, please call the National Suicide hotline: 1-800-273-8255

## **Riverton's Got Talent! Riverton High Talent Show**

By: Alyssa Brown

The annual Riverton High Talent show took place on March 12, 2021. From music to magic, the talent show has always been an opportunity for students to showcase their talents, and gives them a chance to shine.

During this year's performance, 17 incredibly talented acts were showcased for all to see. From songs provided by either one or multiple instruments at once, to dance routines featuring contortion and knife throwing, to a number of beloved songs sung by both students and puppets. This year's talent show was a huge success, and all of the students who performed received a large amount of applause for their hard work and performance.

Because of the pandemic, changes were made on account of safety measures. Both students and adults were required to buy tickets in order to watch the show. Masks also were worn by all. But despite this, the performers and SBO's still worked hard to make the event a success.



Photo Courtesy of RHS Drama Department RHS students create magic on stage!

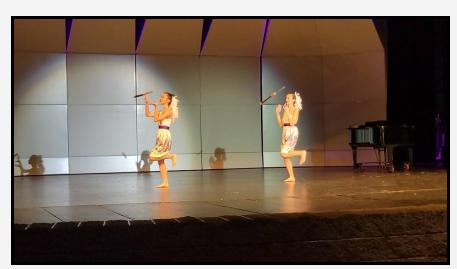


Photo courtesy of Jackie ChuShing. Aneti and Analei ChuShing showing off their knife and dance skills with a traditional Samoan Dance



Photo by: Patrick Kastner People march for hope, escorted by Riverton Police department

# **CENTERSPREAD**

### Word Search - Spirit Week

By Alyssa Brown

Spirit week 2021 was a huge event for Riverton High School. From Sandals Day to oreo activities, students in every grade worked to participate in the events that took place and earn points for their grade. Even though Covid placed a limit on activities, students still strove to participate in the different dress up days throughout the week.



Photo by: Patrick Kastner Students showing spirit during Spirit Week

## Get Out Your Pencil to Play or Play Online!

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# **OPINION**

#### Does The ACT Make Sense ? by : Carli Maravilla

On March 9th the juniors here at Riverton where the ACT takes me:

beginning of a rat race. It's like society (starting in schools) is trying to put me in the race towards the end of education... college, then off and to the next milestones...career...house...dogs, 3 kids...early retirement...years to travel...nice gravestone...

Now I'm left wondering why does that have to be the end? Why are we racing, if it's not going anywhere? Why do I feel education is the beginning of my journey, when shouldn't societal expectations, education be my journey?

School should be preparing me for a life of took the ACT. This got me thinking about learning, not a prescribed set of extrinsic goals to be attained. I believe this is so important I feel the ACT is like the gun fired at the because from day one of our existence the goal is to learn, and somewhere in the middle we're told to settle with the knowledge we already have then just focus on getting the "stuff" society dictates is necessary.

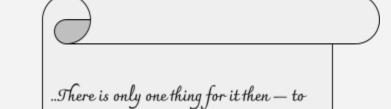
> College is not a race and it's not going anywhere, so I want to enjoy my K-12 education and live a curious life full of new discoveries endless and learning opportunities. I don't want my decisions to get bogged down in being based off of some

but based on wanting to learn and what experiences will help me grow the most as a person, which is where the joy comes from. I want to be *in* the moment not obsessed about the next moment.

The ACT does not tell how smart a person is; it's just one commentary on your experience. So are grades. My dream is to someday have a culture that values a life of learning over limiting my educational identity to just a number on a test.



Photo by Carli Maravilla Alyssa Brown prepares for the ACT



"The best thing for being sad...is to learn

something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds..."

learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn." ~T.H. White, The Once and Future King

# **OPINION**

Flex Fridays By: Patrick Kastner and Taylor Eaton

RHS students and faculty have been asked for their thoughts on this year's "Flex/RTI Fridays." As we know, Flex Fridays are days where in-person attendance is not required, but is available to students for their advantage to work with teachers one on one. A questionnaire was sent out to students and faculty, separately, to see how they felt about Flex Fridays.

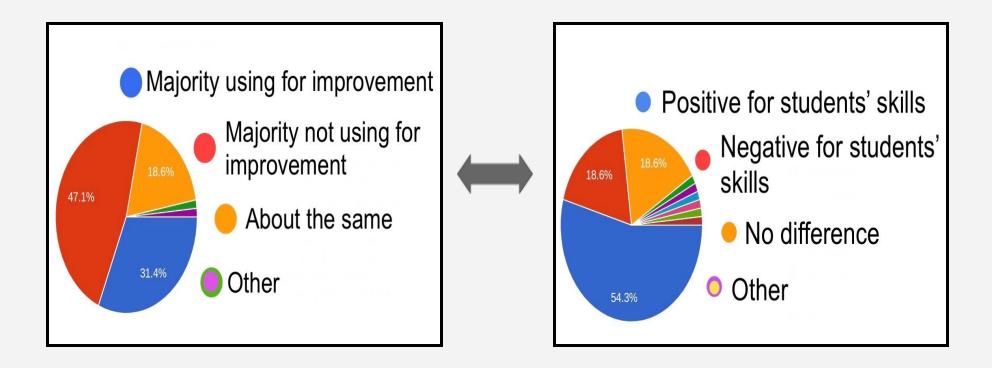
200 faculty members, from teachers to admin, were sent a questionnaire. With 70 responses, the opinions on Flex Friday were all over the place. 54% of those questioned said that Flex Fridays have had a positive effect on their students' skills. Conversely, two thirds of those questioned said their students are either not choosing to use Flex Fridays for their improvement, or are indifferent. The faculty's opinion is conflicted to the point that exactly half would like Flex Fridays to be the same next year, whereas the other half would like it done in some other way, frequency, or not at all.

Although the school has constantly promoted the use of Flex Fridays how many students are actually using them? With 408 student responses, only 26% percent of students said they actually used them as intended, leaving 73% of the school who use them sometimes or not at all.

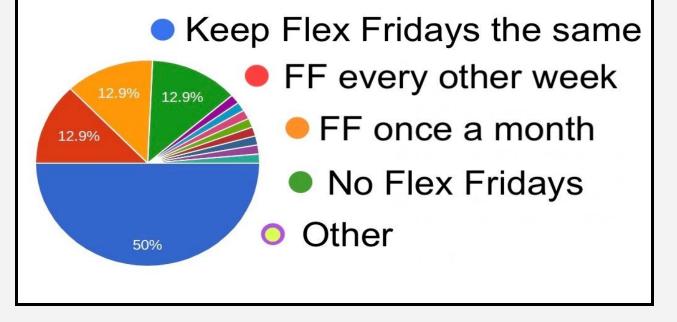
Many students have openly said that rather than using Flex Fridays as an opportunity to get caught up on their academics, they use it to go to work or as an extra day in their weekend.

The future of Flex Fridays has both different and strong opinions surrounding it from keeping it as is to decreasing the number of times it happens, to abandoning them altogether. All in all, this complex set of responses shows us how complicated the decision is as to what to do with them next year. One thing is certain, the job of the school board and others to make this decision will be a difficult one.

Images Courtesy of: Patrick Kastner Faculty and Staff offered complex responses to a survey about Flex Fridays



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# **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



Gary's World by: Carli Maravilla Gary enjoying himself in the spring

When I Was Little

By: Sydney Blanchard Article By: Ana Christensen

When I was little I would take shots of water out of the bottle cap.

I would try to force two magnets together

I would build pillow forts with chairs and blankets only letting certain people enter

When I was little I would poke holes in my eraser with my pencil. I would talk into a fan to use like auto tune I would pretend to be asleep in the car so my parents would carry me to my room.

When I was little I would think a watermelon seed would grow in my stomach

I would pretend lava was the floor I would let my mom find me while I try to hide in the clothing racks at the store.

When we were little we couldn't wait to grow up and be adults All we did was run and play



When I was little I would pretend to smoke when it was cold outside. I would pretend that TicTac's were pills I would be scared to turn off the light down stairs before I ran for the hills.

Oh what I would give to go back for just one more day.

Photo Courtesy of: Sydney Blanchard Sydney Blanchard writes about Childhood

Sydney Blanchard is a 16 year old Junior who loves to write poetry. When she isn't writing she is either reading or doing anything creative! If you would like to submit your poetry to be featured in the newspaper, contact Mrs. Frank at <u>kelli.frank@jordandistrict.org</u>.

# **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

## The Photographers of RHS

By: Molly Freeman

At Riverton High we have amazing artwork from our students and art teacher, Mrs. Harris, in the Commons. But we don't just have artists that paint or draw, Riverton also has photographers like Haydon Halling, Hannah Watson, Treyson Anderson, and our own teacher, Mr. Gunther!





Photo by: Treyson Andersen

Treyson found photography as a way he could creatively express himself. His favorite style of photography would be action. " it's cool to see the way people [are] frozen in what they love".





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Photo by: Molly Freeman

Mr. Gunther started to take photos when he traveled so he would have a souvenir to bring back. " it turned into a part of me," he says and then started taking more candid and portrait photos. He takes amazing bird photos! Gunther said that the Leica mlop is his go-to camera. It's a rangefinder and is very durable and simple.



Treyson Anderson loves action photography.



Mr. Gunther loves taking photos of birds.

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# **SPORTS**

#### Wrestling Results and Bright Future By: Josh McClellan

Covid 19 has impacted everyone including the Riverton wrestling team. The wrestling team didn't wrestle their normal matchups, but they still had the best season they could have hoped for this year.

One of the wrestling members, Gentry Bowles, says "I love a lot of things about being a better person and everything it has taught me". Gentry got into wrestling because his uncle and his dad wrestled in highschool and in college. He got into Rivertons youth wrestling at the age of 6 or 7. Next year they have some big goals. Gentry said "We are going to have an amazing class of seniors and juniors and even some awesome sophomore and incoming freshmen". Sounds like Riverton is in good hands in the near future. Some meets gentry is looking forward to is the Mountain Ridge and the Lone Peak matchup. Riverton lost some wrestling kids to mountain ridge when it opened. Even through all of this, Riverton wrestling still had an awesome year for wrestling, finishing a total of 3 members of the boys finishing top 5 in state and 4 girls in the top 10. This was the first year in Utah history that the sport was sanctioned this year.



Photo Courtesy of: Gentry Bowles Gentry Bowles wrestling



Photo Courtesy of: Taylor Eaton Trophies from teams doing well in state and region

State Standings By: Taylor Eaton

Third Quarter was a great quarter for sports as many teams went to state! Boys swim took 16th in state and Girls swim took 17th in state. Boys basketball took 14th and Girls basketball took 9th. Wrestling did extremely well with both boys and girls placing in the top 5. A big round of applause for cheer for taking Region and placing 2nd in state! Overall it was a very successful winter season!

Dance Company has faced challenges with the virus but many opportunities as well. Rivertons dance company's team this year has learned a lot this past year and learned not to take anything for granted. They learned to appreciate every single moment and cannot wait to perform in front of an audience again. This past year they had to adapt and learn from zoom meetings and videos with the pandemic going on.

#### Riverton Dance Company By: Josh McClellan

Dance company is not a competitive team. A member of the team Madison Jones says "One thing i love about dance being non competitive is because it allows us to focus on our artistry and appreciate the passion, You dont dance for

a trophy". Their coach Brynn Perkins said "Non-competitive dance is a space where you can communicate the deepest part of your soul without having to say a word". Dance company is extremely dynamic this year. Their coach Brynn Perkins said "This is one of the most talented groups I have ever coached". Some goals for the team is to get it as recognized as ever. To get a live audience concert as big as ever to get everyone the appreciation they deserve. The team wants to bring joy to the student body in any way shape or form, "They are honored to represent Riverton High School students and dancers".

Said Brynn Perkins.



Photo Courtesy of: Madison Jones Dance team at practice