

Front Page News

Graduating senior unlocks his potential at Hidden Valley

By Nick Morgan of the Daily Courier

MURPHY — A graduating Hidden Valley senior's quick lockpicking fix of the school library's laminating machine may have helped the teen secure his career path.

But even if Logan Rogers charts a course other than locksmithing after high school, Tracey Jacobs, the school's library manager, is certain that Rogers' quick thinking and creativity will take him far in life.

"I truly believe Logan is going to do amazing things," Jacobs said.

She has watched the student's ingenuity shine since at least sixth grade. Jacobs was a teacher's aide at Applegate School, and Rogers was the new kid from Arizona.

"We had a lot of lunch detentions together," Jacobs reminisced.

At Applegate, Rogers once came to school in a cardboard costume resembling the helmet and armor worn by "Halo" video game hero Master Chief.

Rogers downplayed the praise because he found a template for the costume, but Jacobs said she had never seen anything like it.

"He has an idea — boom, he creates it," Jacobs said.

Rogers' most recent interests have included locksport, or lockpicking as a hobby. He bought a lockpicking set this year after finding inspiration from the likes of the YouTuber LockPickingLawyer, who buys different types of locks in his videos and outlines security issues.

"I watch that guy — he's pretty cool," Rogers said. "I think it's a good skill to know because it's useful in a lot of situations."

That lockpicking set came in particularly handy while Rogers was working as a library aide earlier in the school year.

In a storage room behind the school's library is a laminating machine. Jacobs said a key that switches on the laminator's heating element somehow went missing.

The problem had vexed Jacobs for two or three months, she said. The laminator is a piece of equipment she had rarely thought about before, but teachers across the school used the machine.

One day, while Rogers was reshelving books, Jacobs called him over and asked for help. In a matter of minutes the machine was back up and running.

"Since I'm somewhat new, it took a bit of guessing," Rogers said. "It took, like, 20 minutes, but in the end I got it."

"It was no time at all," Jacobs said.

Like many students he struggled with online remote learning.

"During COVID it was really tiring because I was online all the time," Rogers said.



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier
Hidden Valley High School senior Logan Rogers is well-known throughout the student body and staff for being a technological problem-solver. His interests include locksmithing and computers.



It was from that experience, however, that Rogers learned to enjoy school once in-person learning resumed. He said he's enjoyed wood shop, theater and math classes.

"I really enjoyed going back to school whenever we could after COVID," Rogers said.

In an interview at Hidden Valley days before graduation, Rogers' school-related challenges are now in the rearview mirror, but his plans for what's next are an unanswered question.

He's looking forward to being able to enjoy the 3D printer he got for his birthday, and he knows he wants to save up to buy his own house. He said he's thinking about locksmithing.

"I've given it some thought," Rogers said. "It's up there in my list of options of things to pursue."

In the days before graduation, Rogers said he's "just excited to be over with it."

There's plenty about high school that he will miss, he said.

"I think I'm going to miss some of the teachers, the woodshop class," Rogers said. "I probably won't end up talking to a lot of people."

When Rogers walks across the stage and collects his diploma, Jacobs will be rooting for him. And she will be watching for the look he makes when a new idea sparks his imagination.

"His eyes just light up," Jacobs said. "You know he's got a thought in there."

Reach reporter Nick Morgan at 541-474-3806 or nmorgan@thedailycourier.com.

Hidden Valley graduation

WHEN: Today, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Hidden Valley High School, 651 Murphy Creek Road, Murphy

VALEDICTORIANS

Morgan Tiffin

GPA: 4.228

ACTIVITIES: Volleyball, basketball, softball, cheer

PLANS: Attend Western Oregon University

PARENTS: Michelle and Andrew Ausland

Madison Williams

GPA: 4.218

ACTIVITIES: FFA, softball, Leadership

PLANS: Attend George Fox University, majoring in early elementary education

PARENTS: Darren and Denise Williams

Jianna Bents

GPA: 4.205

ACTIVITIES: Volleyball, basketball, softball, student government, JCF

PLANS: Attend George Fox University, majoring in interior design

PARENTS: Rob and Dee Dee Bents

Megan Wassink

GPA: 4.205

ACTIVITIES: Volleyball, track, Leadership, student government

PLANS: Attend George Fox University, majoring in kinesiology

PARENTS: Lee and Patti Wassink

SALUTATORIANS

Natasha Harmon

GPA: 4.168

ACTIVITIES: Cross country, FFA, JCF, student government

PLANS: Attend Oregon State University

PARENTS: Trampus Harmon

Natalia Sahr

GPA: 4.147

ACTIVITIES: Tennis, Sparrow Club, FBLA

PLANS: Attend Oregon State University

PARENTS: Kevin and Carolyn Sahr

Morgan Wilson

GPA: 4.1006

ACTIVITIES: FFA, volleyball, softball

PLANS: Attend Rogue Community College

PARENTS: Jesse and Shandell Wilson
