HISTORICAL MADE

By Tyler Silky	
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Joshua Seematter had a problem. He knew he had his first state champion in his career as speech and debate coach before anybody else.
He knew even before the state championship, Stephanie Pumphrey, a 17-year-old senior at Northridge High School, had a problem. The problem was, Seematter couldn't say anything before the awards ceremony, which didn't come until 20-30 minutes after he found out, and the title, obviously, was a big deal! It made Pumphrey the first state champion in Northridge history.

Despite being an acting coach, Seematter knew he wouldn't be able to act normal. So he voiced Pumphrey before the awards ceremony.
"I couldn't talk with her, or I would have said over my mouth, "and Seematter, who lives at Northridge for eight years. "It's the hardest thing ever to not say something about it."

Debaters Harrison, junior, and senior, and Pranke, 16, junior, and Pumphrey will travel to Berthoud High School in January for the state tournament. The three qualified in another tournament that's separate from the state tournament. It will be Seematter's fifth trip with students to nationals.
Pumphrey won for program oral interpretation, a new event that combines drama and poetry. Pranke and Pumphrey took second in the national qualifying tournament.

A little more
Stephanie Pumphrey, 17, senior,
- First state forensics champion in Northridge High School history.
- Won the "program oral interpretation," which involves poetry and drama.

HARRISON PEPIN, 17, LEFT; Stephenina Pumphrey, 17, middle, and Zyer Pranke, 16, sit in a classroom at Northridge High School in Greeley. Pumphrey became the school's first state champion in speech and debate.

Pumphrey's winning piece is about being an outsider

Forensics
- Pumphrey's winning piece is about being an outsider, and the third time he's done it with a student at the state tournament.
- His piece titled "The Time the Best Man Got the Best Job." He qualified for state as a sophomore. His piece is a "bad boy" story about a high school student who doesn't fit in.
- Seematter has a "history" of students winning the state championship.

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- STEPHANIA PUMPHREY, speech and debate state champion

I was terrible at the beginning. Pumphrey said, "I was awful. Improvement is my favorite part because I thought I was never going to be successful." The three Northridge students aren't sure how they'll fare at the national tournament this summer, but they know they'll enjoy the journey.

I just love performing," she said. "I notice that I have the most success when I start caring, I've found success - just perform the piece to honor the characters."