

Syphers takes her act overseas

Perrydale senior accepted into music, cultural exchange in Norway

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Riley Syphers will have to get used to snow, cold weather, and ... more rain.

Syphers, a senior at Perrydale High School, will be leaving the mild climate of Oregon in July to spend a year in Norway as part of a musical and cultural exchange through Brunstad Christian Church's Youth Exchange Program. Based in Norway, the church has branches in 65 countries.

She was selected for the opportunity from a pool of more than 3,000 applicants nationwide. Only about 250 are chosen for the exchange each year.

Syphers said the application process is so competitive that the program encouraged applicants to make a "plan B," in case they aren't selected. Syphers' was to attend classes at Chemeketa Community College.

"But I got in, so I was really excited about that. There are five other kids from the Northwest that got in," she said. "To be able to do something like this is so insane because I feel like kids and young people my age always talk about traveling and never actually get to do it. I think this is a really cool way to do it because you are learning a good work ethic."

Giving young adults work experience is one of the objectives of the program. A classically trained singer, Syphers applied to be involved in the exchange musical and performance arts programs. She never considered teaching music as a career, but is open to the challenge as part of her year in Norway.



Riley Syphers, middle, sings with fellow members of the choir at Perrydale High School. Syphers will head to Norway in July to participate in a musical and cultural exchange program through Brunstad Christian Church's Youth Exchange Program.



Syphers

"If I could teach someone how to use their voice better and help them in that way, I would," she said. "Every other year, they do a big, huge Christmas program, which is televised throughout Norway. That's one of the main reasons I wanted to be part of it."

Misty Matthews, Syphers' choir teacher throughout high school, said she will be a good fit for the exchange.

"Riley is an exceptional kid," Matthews said. "She's so dedicated."

When it comes to music, Matthews classifies Syphers as a "natural talent" who understands music without much instruction.

"You love watching her," Matthews said.

Discovering the program through her church, Syphers said the timing for her acceptance to the program couldn't be more fitting.

"I wasn't ready for college. I kind of just wanted to break away from school and,

like, be somewhere new and travel," she said. "I thought this was a good way to do that."

Syphers said one of the few concerns she has is leaving her family behind for so long, but she is also eager to find her "Norway family."

Part of doing that will be immersing herself in the culture and learning about the history of Norway. The exchange requires participants to learn some Norwegian before leaving.

"They give you classes that you have to pass before you can go and buy your plane tickets," she said. "I think it's cool that they really want you to learn because you can really put yourself into the culture."

She added that her experience in the country might provide her direction when it comes time to go back to school and choose a career.

"Right now it's just a blank slate that is going to happen eventually, but I'm just going



Riley Syphers is eager to try her hand at teaching music while in Norway.

to let the rest of this happen first," she said. "I might find what I want to do and what I want to be over there."

As for the weather, Syphers said she will try to keep an open mind and "learn to like snow."

"Maybe I will go to Italy in the winter and hang out there," she said. "Why not, right?"

SCHOOL NOTES

LVCS kinder roundup, open house

DALLAS — Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools will host a Kindergarten Roundup and Open House Orientation on April 23. The event, held for new enrollees for the 2015-16 school year, takes place from 6 to 7 p.m. at 17475, Bridgeport Road.

Teachers will be available for a meet and greet. Chili will be served.

For more information: Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools, 503-623-4837.

Holocaust remembered Tuesday

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University is seeking volunteers to help set up and take down the school's Holocaust Remembrance Day display.

WOU's Holocaust Remembrance Day is Tuesday. Volunteers are needed to help set up the display from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday and to help disassemble the display from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday. Shifts are also available.

For more information: John Wilkins, 503-838-8229; email to wilkinsj@wou.edu.

Latino parent workshop Saturday

INDEPENDENCE — The Latino Parent Acton Committee will host a Latino Parent Workshop on Saturday.

The event begins at 11 a.m. in the Central High School cafeteria with a carne asada lunch.

The family event, which runs until 2 p.m., will feature a number of topics, including: the new community health center, a presentation by Daniel Alvarado on how parents can get involved at the schools to make educational changes, and a presentation by Sara Csaky on Latino parents and how to support their students.

There is no cost to attend. Child care will be available.

For more information: Luis Cisneros, 503-428-3671 or Jason Clark, 503-838-0480.

Inkblot to host slam Thursday

DALLAS — Dallas High School's literary publication, Inkblot, is hosting a poetry slam Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m.

The slam will be in DHS' Little Theater, 1250 SE Holman Ave., Dallas, and is open to poets of any age and skill level. Competitors will be scored and given feedback by judges.

For more information: www.facebook.com/InkblotLiteraryArtsMagazine.

Perrydale to host concert Thursday

PERRYDALE — Perrydale School's spring choir concert will be held Thursday evening at the school, 7445 Perrydale Road, Amity.

The concert will take place at 7 p.m. in the school's old gym, where the state-qualifying high school choir will be among the groups performing.

For more information: 503-623-2373.

Free sealant program at Perrydale

PERRYDALE — Free preventive dental sealants will be offered to students at Perrydale School next week.

Dental sealant help prevent cavities, so this is an opportunity to protect children's long-term dental health. Capitol Dental Care will be providing the sealants, and the dental van will be there Monday to April 23 from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information: 503-623-2040.

Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools
Cultivating Excellence - Developing Leaders

Open House & Kindergarten Round-Up
April 23rd, 6-7 pm

Accepting Enrollment Applications for New Students and Current Students (K-8) for 2015-2016

COME SEE WHAT MAKES LVCS PIONEERS SO OUTSTANDING!!

Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served

Kindergarten will need copy of Birth Certificate and Immunization

For more information call 503-623-4837 • 17475 Bridgeport Rd., Dallas, OR 97338

2015 Relay For Life of Polk County

It's a CELEBRATION!

Free event for all caregivers, cancer survivors, and those currently in treatment and their families!

Sunday, April 19, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Dallas Aquatic Center
1005 SE LaCreole Dr, Dallas

Snacks, Swimming, Bingo and Prizes!

For more information: Tammy or Jennifer
2015relayforlifepc@gmail.com

2015 PEP Talks Series
Promote Enterprising Performance

Fundraising for Non-Profits
Tuesday, April 28, 12 PM to 1:30 PM
Monmouth Public Library • 168 Ecols Street S.

- General principles of fundraising and fundraising plans
- Money-making versus fundraising
- Roles, responsibilities and evaluations

Phil McCorkle: Serving as the president of the Center for Community Innovation, Phil has over 28 years of experience working in area non-profit organizations. Phil grew up in Monmouth and graduated from Western Oregon University with a Bachelors of Science in Psychology.

Cost per workshop: \$15 for MI Chamber members \$20 for non-members. Fee includes lunch.
Register by noon April 27, 2015.

The 2015 PEP Talks Series features six workshops led by local leaders in their respective fields of expertise and are designed to strengthen businesses and organizations in our community.

For more information and to register, contact the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center:
www.micc-or.org or 503-838-4268

2015 Relay for Life of Polk County

A Very Special 23rd Birthday

She was just 20 years old when she was diagnosed with a rare stage four brain tumor. She had surgery, and went through ten weeks of both radiation and chemotherapy, but a few months later, the tumor returned, which for most patients meant death within about six months.

Doctors injected a modified version of the polio virus into her brain tumor. Through research, scientists have discovered this polio virus will attach to tumor cells and kill them. Her own immune system now appeared to recognize the invading tumor and attacked it whereas it had not recognized the cancer tumor before. Two years later, her MRI showed the tumor was gone. She was cancer free and celebrating the 23rd birthday doctors said she'd never see. The hope is that the modified polio virus, although not yet recognized as a cure, will someday be used to fight other cancers.

Because of donations from sponsors like those in Polk County and around the world, research is being funded every day, leading to some amazing results and some very special birthday celebrations. Please join us in thanking our three most recent sponsors, along with the following businesses, health care professionals, families, and organizations for their commitment to Relay For Life and its mission to find a cure:

Matthew Woolsey, DMD ~ American Outdoors
~ Salem Sand Club

- West Valley Hospital
- West Valley Physicians & Surgeons Clinic/Dr. John Hadley
- West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic/Dr. Alison Smith
- Monmouth Medical Center/Dr. Charles Essex
- Southview Medical Arts
- First Community Credit Union
- Dallas Retirement Village
- H & R Block of Dallas & Monmouth
- Michelle Hasbrook, DDS
- Dallas School District
- Les Schwab Tire Centers of Dallas, West Salem, & Independence
- Rotary Club of Dallas
- Dallas Family Medicine
- James W. Fowler Co.
- Central Lions Club
- Mitch Ratliff State Farm
- Polk County Association of Realtors
- Siletz Trucking Company
- Bollman Funeral Home
- Hancock Forest Management
- Dutch Bros. Coffee
- Washington Street Steakhouse & Pub
- Eola Hills Wine Cellars
- OREPAC Building Products
- Limeberry Frozen Yogurt
- Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center
- Elkay Manufacturing
- R & J Mobility Services
- White's Collision Service
- Van Well Building Supply
- Bookey Strong
- Dallas Aquatic Center
- NW Natural
- Monmouth-Independence Rotary
- The Majestic
- Dallas Glass & Window
- Republic Services
- Partnerships In Community Living, Inc.
- Royal Flush
- Polk County Itemizer-Observer
- Western Days

The deadline for submitting a sponsorship is April 15. Make this the year your family, company or organization signs on to finish the fight! If you or someone you know is interested in sponsorship, contact Lyla Bruce at 503-508-9277 or visit our website at www.relayforlife.org/polkcounty

Relay For Life 2015 will take place May 30-31, at LaCreole Middle School in Dallas

Common Sense Tip FOR PEDESTRIANS

LOOK LEFT. RIGHT. LEFT.

Things change fast, so follow these simple steps to make sure the coast is clear before crossing any street. And walk on!

Walk Safely. The Way to Go. Transportation Safety — ODOT