

Student from Jordan dispels stereotypes

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Sarah Abdeldayem, 17, is a junior at Wallowa High School. She resides with Woody and Megan Wolfe on the Wolfe ranch outside of Wallowa. Abdeldayem is from Amman, Jordan.

Like the majority of her country's citizens, Abdeldayem is Sunni. She wears a traditional head scarf, called a hijab. Contrary to popular belief in the U.S. not all head coverings are called burkas. A burka, which covers more than just the head, is only one of several types of traditional covering.

Abdeldayem wanted to join the American Field Service (AFS) foreign exchange students program to help dispel Muslim stereotypes as portrayed in the media. She is from an urban area and does not ride cam-



Courtesy Photo

Sarah Abdeldayem is an exchange student at Wallowa High School. She plans to go to college in the U.S. to become a neurosurgeon.

els or live in tents. The program chose Abdeldayem, and 19 others from a field of over 500 candidates who applied for consideration.

Jordan is typically on good terms with the U.S. and European countries. "We don't go marching in the streets holding signs and

hating other countries," Abdeldayem said.

Seeing Muslim families suffer persecution in the U.S. concerns her, but she describes her stay in Wallowa County in glowing terms. "People around here are very good. They didn't judge me when they saw me wearing my scarf. I've had no problems."

The absence of a Mosque is not a detriment to Abdeldayem's religious life. Even in Jordan, men are the ones more inclined to attend services, while women tend to worship at home.

Jordanian students start learning to speak English in kindergarten and Abdeldayem speaks better English than many Americans.

She had planned to take Spanish but decided to concentrate on improving her English.

After graduation, Abdel-

dayem plans to attend college with the idea of going to medical school to become a neurosurgeon. If her SAT scores are high enough for a U.S. scholarship, she intends to journey home for a year before returning here to start college.

Being independent and responsible for her own actions were part of Abdeldayem's expectations for her journey to Wallowa County. She liked the idea of the extensive differences between Jordan and Wallowa County as it's the point of the program.

Because she kept her expectations to a minimum, Abdeldayem did not find Wallowa County falling short on those expectations. She said she loves the nature, mountains and fresh air of the valley and always wanted to live in such a place, although she previ-

ously thought America only had large cities.

Among Abdeldayem's favorite things to do in the area is skeet shooting with her AFS family. This is something she never did in Jordan.

Abdeldayem said that she, too, harbored stereotypes about Americans and life in America that she had to revise.

This included the idea Americans eat and party all day long. "I got that from the international media and the movies, because we watch a lot of American movies," she said.

After her experience in Wallowa County, Abdeldayem said she feels like a new and different person who feels more responsible, mature, independent and open-minded. She said she now feels like a young ambassador for her country.

Rotary exchange student enjoys his Enterprise High experience

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Chawit Thanadkit, or "Gotro," as he is called, is 17 and attends Enterprise High School as a senior. He lives with the family of Randy and Jeni Greenshields.

Gotro is from Nonthaburi, a suburb of Bangkok, in Thailand. He attends school in Bangkok.

Gotro joined the Rotary exchange program for the experience and because he wanted to learn English. He said it is hard to learn English in Thailand because so few people speak it. A friend of Gotro's father belongs to the Rotary Club and got him the information to enter the program.

Gotro didn't have any idea where he'd get assigned other than being told



Steve Tool/Chieftain

"Gotro" likes the our weather and the mountains.

he would reside in America. Once he learned of his assignment to Oregon, he

assumed he would reside in Portland.

Gotro was elated to later hear he was going to Wallowa County. "I was excited because I didn't know about this area. It's pretty cool. This mountain (Mt. Joseph) is like a picture," Gotro said.

With the population of the greater Bangkok area running over 11 million people, Gotro said he liked the small school he now attends.

He said both the different family dynamics and the different food threw him a curveball at the start of his stay here. Both his mother and father are retired, and rice was a staple of his diet in Thailand.

Gotro had never participated in sports before coming to Wallowa County,

where athletics have been among his favorite activities during his stay. He played football, wrestled, and now participates in golf.

Gotro said one of the biggest differences, besides population, is the weather. In Thailand, it's between 90 and 100 degrees every day and all year.

Education is also very different. His Thailand school is on summer break until May. He also took extra classes, so he attended school about 6.5 days a week. The extra classes are in math because he wants to become an engineer. He will attend college in Thailand.

Gotro said he's enjoyed his experience here. "Some day I want to come back here. I made some good friends, and I want to keep in touch," he said.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Hanks

Oct. 27, 1925 - March 31, 2015

Elizabeth Austin Hanks passed away in her sleep on March 31, 2015, at her home in Enterprise.

Ellie was born in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 27, 1925, to Albert Walter Austin and Elizabeth Fredson Austin. She attended schools in Selah, Yakima, and Spokane, Wash.

Her varied employment history includes cook for logging camp in Alaska, manager for Alaska Housing Authority, bookkeeping, florist, and restaurant cook and baker at Toma's in Enterprise, Ore. Hobbies included genealogy, crafting and sewing.

Mrs. Hanks was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Chester L. Hanks, daughter Rebecca Hill, son Edward Blanford, and six stepsons: Joel, Nathan, Timothy, Jason, Matthew and Thomas Hanks. Also surviving are son-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Private family inurnment will be scheduled at a later date.

About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Wallowa County Chieftain. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home. Information submitted is subject to editing. Send obituaries by e-mail, obits@wallowa.com; fax, 541-426-3921; or mail, PO Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828. The deadline to submit an obituary is 2 p.m. Monday for the Wednesday paper. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-426-4567.

High and Low Temperatures

According to data sent to MesoWest: www.mesowest.utah.edu

Enterprise			Lostine		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
April 1	29	43	April 1	28	48
April 2	21	40	April 2	31	65
April 3	21	53	April 3	32	72
April 4	33	45	April 4	41	53
April 5	28	47	April 5	30	64
April 6	33	n/a	April 6	31	64
April 7	n/a	n/a	April 7	31	n/a

Joseph			Wallowa		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
April 1	28	41	April 1	42	53
April 2	21	45	April 2	n/a	51
April 3	25	52	April 3	29	59
April 4	32	45	April 4	40	51
April 5	28	45	April 5	33	53
April 6	32	46	April 6	39	54
April 7	27	n/a	April 7	31	n/a

Imnaha			Troy		
Date	Low	High	Date	Low	High
April 1	42	53	April 1	40	52
April 2	n/a	51	April 2	30	50
April 3	30	59	April 3	29	58
April 4	40	51	April 4	41	57
April 5	33	53	April 5	31	58
April 6	39	54	April 6	38	56
April 7	31	n/a	April 7	30	n/a

Six-day forecast

April 8 - April 13

Source: National Weather Service

April 8		H: 50 L: 28	Slight chance of snow
April 9		H: 55 L: 27	Slight chance of rain/snow
April 10		H: 58 L: 34	Mostly sunny
April 11		H: 49 L: 25	Rain showers likely/snow late
April 12		H: 44 L: 22	Chance of snow
April 13		H: 53 L: n/a	Mostly cloudy

Phases of the moon

April 10	April 17	April 24	May 1
Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO HOMES?

HINT: IT HAS TO DO WITH SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY.

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