

EXCHANGE STUDENT IN HEPPNER

Finnish youth finds classes, sports different from home

Attending school in Finland is much harder than in Heppner because students take 10 to 12 classes instead of six or seven, according to Jari Alasuvanto, Heppner High School's American Foreign Service exchange student this year.

Alasuvanto is from Imatra, Finland, a city of about 37,000. He will be living this school year with the Robert Abrams family in Heppner.

School is an important part of Alasuvanto's life. He has taken eight years of English and he is also a pupil of Swedish and German. He said students take a lot of different classes in Finland but they do not go to every class every day. Every day in the week has a different schedule of classes but the weekly schedule stays about the same.

The 17-year-old is interested in physics and math and he spends a lot of time studying. He spends about two hours a day studying and more, if he has a test.

In Finland, Alasuvanto said, students go through a comprehensive school system from age seven to 16. High school then lasts for three years. Graduates then choose to go to college or a mechanical learning college (like a trade school) where, "Students learn to specialize in making something well," he said. Alasuvanto is planning on

going to college when he graduates at age 19.

"It is hard to get into college," he said. "It is very competitive. If you want to go to college outside Finland you can but very few go."

Alasuvanto cannot drive in the United States. The driving age in Finland is 18 and it was stipulated before he came to Heppner that he could not drive.

"I'd be back in Finland in one week if I got caught driving," he said.

Alasuvanto is an avid jogger. He likes to jog five miles, four or five times a week. He wants to turn out for the Heppner track team this spring.

"Sports are different here," he said. "There are no school teams in Finland. There is P.E. in school and that's all. There are out-of-school clubs for sports."

Besides jogging, the Finnish student likes ice hockey and soccer. Pro sports in Finland are an ice hockey team, men's volleyball, and Finnish baseball which is "somewhat different than the American game," he said.

He also enjoys camping, backpacking and going places with his friends. He likes nearly all types of music but "not much classical," he said.

Alasuvanto belongs to the Evangelical-Lutheran church which is the one major church



STUDENT FROM FINLAND—Jari Alasuvanto, in a recent interview, compared his life in Finland with his experiences in Heppner as an exchange student sponsored by the American Field Service. He is attending Heppner High School and residing in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Abrams.

in Finland. He said 90 percent of the people in Finland are of that religion and the other 10 percent are mostly Catholic.

Jari is having problems understanding American television because it is quite different than TV in Finland.

"I don't understand TV too much so I don't watch it too

much," he said. "There are only two channels in Finland and there are not so many ads. There are more funny programs here but more documentaries and international news in Finland."

He said there are some American series in Finland and in fact, his home country

has TV programs coming from all over the world including Russia, Rome and England.

Alasuvanto said he does not think there is a job problem in Finland. He does not work during the school year but he does work in the summer at a supermarket where he drives a lift truck in storage.

"Nearly everyone has a summer job," he said.

Industry is most important in Finland, he said, with many new jobs in shops and services. Paper and steel are the two big industrial products.

One job Alasuvanto has never been interested in is being a doctor. His father is head surgeon at a hospital.

"I never planned to be a doctor like my dad," he said.

The Heppner High School senior said taxes are heavy in Finland.

"We pay much taxes but we get lots of services," he said.

Taxes pay not only for police protection, social security and other services like in the U.S., but taxes also pay for medical expenses at hospitals, he said.

But Alasuvanto said police protection is not that "big" because, "Crimes are not a problem in Finland."

"People are Finnish and Swedish mostly," he said. "There are some crimes but they are not so big. Drinking is a bigger problem than drugs. Eighteen is the drinking age.

Vodka is the favorite."

Alasuvanto is very interested in politics and the government in Finland is much different than in the U.S.

"We have a Republic with 10 to 12 political parties but four big ones," he said. "There is a right-wing party, a middle-central party, and two left-wing parties, one includes the communists. We have a parliament and a president. Our president is from the central party and he has been president for 24 years. Elections are every six years."

"It is very hard to explain. It took an hour to explain to Mr. Abrams and he still did not understand it, it is so different."

Tickets go on sale for Cotillion

Tickets for the 11th annual Christmas Cotillion for the American Cancer Society are now on sale.

The theme for the ball is "An Enchanted Christmas." It will be held at the Pendleton Armory Dec. 1 beginning at 9 p.m. Music will be performed by the Wayne McGuffan Orchestra.

Cost for the ball is \$30 per couple and \$26.50 of that is tax deductible as a donation to the Cancer Society. Tickets may be purchased by writing to the American Cancer Society—Christmas Cotillion, 1234 N.W. Ingram, Pendleton, Ore. 97801.

Blue Mt. students elected

Sam Myers, Wendy Myers and Jackie Mollahan, all of Heppner, and Vickie Daniels of Boardman were elected to the student council at Blue Mountain Community College recently.

Also elected were Joe Forty, Sharon Gillette, Lori Levy and Jeff Marshall, all of Pendleton; Dennis Stevens and Bob Walchli, both of Hermiston; Katie Barbour of Umatilla; Candie Berger of Prineville; Chris Burns of Walla Walla, Wa.; Kurt Charlton of La Grande; and Larry Holeman of Echo.

The student council meets weekly at BMCC to plan student activities and service projects. At Christmas time, the students host the community at a Christmas Eve dinner.

The student body president at BMCC is Kent Madison of Echo.

Estate study meet set

A workshop on Estate Planning will be given Oct. 31 at the Lexington school for all Morrow County residents who would like the opportunity to learn about new state and federal laws which affect estate planning, how it affects you and what you can do to reduce the impact of inheritance tax laws.

Dr. Grant Blanche of Oregon State University will host the workshop.

The workshop will consist of two different sessions. The first is planned for next Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. and the second session will be Nov. 7 at the same time and place.

Persons interested in attending the workshop may call County Extension Agent Harold Kerr at 676-9642.

Medals for achievement awarded at 4-H Family Night

By Birdine Tullis
Morrow Extension Service
4-H County Medals Awarded for Achievements

County medals for achievement in 4-H projects were awarded to local members at the two recent 4-H Family Nights.

Members in seventh grade and over are eligible to receive the medals, with nominations for the honors by 4-H leaders. To be considered for the recognition, members must submit their 4-H project records for the preceding 4-H year.

County medals were awarded as follows: Swine, Dean Rill; Citizenship, Steve Curtis; Foods-Nutrition, Becky Hobbs; Foods Preservation, Jyl Hobbs; Horse, Nancy Miller; Beef, Anne Van Schoiack and Ken Bailey; Leadership, Todd Harrison; Sheep, Paula Palmer; Style Revue, Diann Morter, Anita Palmer, Angie Evans, Margaret Doherty, Erin Evans, and Jyl Hobbs.

Winners in the county 4-H record book contests were: Juniors: Geology, Ken Curtis; Agriculture, Kim Wright; Home Economics, Kimberly Hughes. Intermediates: Geology, Steve Curtis; Agriculture, Cathy Lindsay; Home Ec., Diann Morter. Seniors: Agriculture, Anne Van Schoiack; Home Ec., Jyl Hobbs. Best Secretary book award went to Paula Palmer

for the Gooseberry Livestock Club.

Home Fire Safety and Prevention

When you crank up the furnace for the winter season, do you have more concerns for the safety of your family in case of fire?

That is a typical reaction as we ready homes for winter. This year the Extension Family Living program is offering ideas for homemakers in fire-proofing their homes, and family safety precautions, through a study lesson on fire prevention and safety. Morrow County leader-teachers for the lesson will take their training October 31, in Hermiston, and will teach the topic to groups in November.

Anyone may attend the training. All extension programs are open to the public.

Many home owners are turning to wood for a heat source as prices continue to rise on other heating methods. It is wise to use care heating with wood, both in the installation of a wood stove, and while burning wood. Information relating to burning wood is also available at the extension office.

Estate Planning Reminder

First of two session on Estate Planning will be Oct. 31 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lexington School Building. Each three hour session will offer opportunity to learn about new laws, both state and federal, with

ideas of what property owners may do to reduce the impact of inheritance tax laws.

Halloween Hints

Time again for the hobgoblins to be out for tricks or treats!

Make it a safe and fun time for the little people by a few simple safety precautions.

Be sure younger children wear garments or costumes that make them visible to drivers, and allow them to move safely without tripping, and that they have only products intended for children.

Most people in our rural area look forward to visits from neighboring children and are well prepared to help with the fun of Halloween. If you are stocking up on treats, you might consider small boxes or raisins, apples, peanuts in the shell, or perhaps a small can of fruit juice or other treats not so sweet. All much better for teeth and health than too many sweets.

It's Autumn

Summer lingered so long, we had almost forgotten how lovely it is to have autumn. There was moisture to seed the crops, and now around the county we see the beautiful green of early seeded wheat fields as the leaves begin to color and fall.

In addition, come the timely, needed rains, and morning with a hint of frost, telling us that it is time for the last South Morrow 4-H Night Success

Pumpkins, corn stalks and halloween decorations sparked the atmosphere at the south Morrow 4-H family night last Wednesday, which attracted a large number of 4-H families. Decorations were by Judy Wright, 4-H leader.

The event was a potluck dinner, with ham furnished by the 4-H Council. Program for the evening was spotlighted on presentation of 4-H year pins, county medals, and other awards earned for achievement in 4-H. Certificates of accomplishment were presented to the members of Theta Lowe's club for participation in the state 4-H poster contest.

Throughout the evening there was a continuous showing of slides of past year 4-H activities and events. The event was termed a success by John Nordheim, 4-H agent, who expressed appreciation for the large turnout of families to mark the end of the past 4-H year, and the beginning of a new.

minute care of flowers and yards, and that winter will be on the way. What a lovely

fall, time to enjoy the sometimes unnoticed beauty of our county.

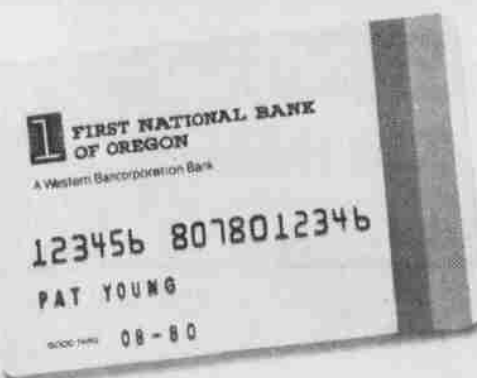
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FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON



Irrigon news

• Francis Rose Wilson • 922-3352

Brown's Motel in Irrigon hosted open house Oct. 20 at the newly constructed facility.

Located at First Street just off Highway 730, it is owned and operated by Paul and Joanne Brown. The motel is now open for business. For many years it was the first overnight accommodation available for travelers between Boardman and Umatilla.

The complex consists of 11 units. Each unit is equipped with a TV, air conditioning and heating as well as full bath facilities. When filled to capacity 35 persons may be accommodated. A laundry room and office are also included.

Landscaping is underway which will include flower beds, lawn and blacktopped

drive and parking spaces. Electric power service is by recently installed underground lines.

The motel facility is only a part of a planned development by the Browns, who also own the B&E Service Station and adjoining B&E Repair, which offers mechanical and towing service to the area.

Also planned is a restaurant, adjacent to the motel. It is presently under construction and will service tourists and truckers as well as motel customers and local residents.

An average of nearly 182,000 patients were treated each day in Veterans Administration medical centers in 1978.