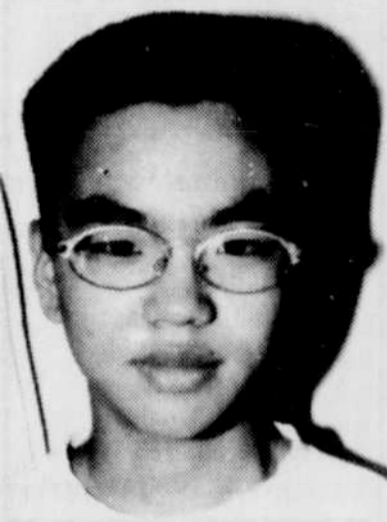


## Exchange students embrace life in America



Back l-r: exchange students and chaperone Yohei Yakuta, In Sub Jae, Sung Yeon Hwang, host sister Roxy Miller; front chaperone Seung Joo, host brothers Josh Winters, Kyle and Carl Miller, Akiko Ishiyama and host sister Allison Sykes.



Jeon Yunn Joo

They came to Morrow County strangers--to the country, to the culture. But nearly a month later, they find themselves embracing and being embraced by their adoptive U.S. families.

They are two Japanese and three Korean children and their chaperone who came to Morrow County in July through the 4-H exchange program.

The Japanese children, Akiko Ishiyama, and Yohei (pronounced yo-hay) Yakuta, arrived in the county July 26. The Koreans, Sung Yeon Hwang, In Sub Jae, and Jeon Yun (jay yun) Joo arrived July 28 because a typhoon had struck their country and they were unable to leave on schedule. Their

chaperone, Seung Joo-Hong, from Korea, spent several days with another host family at Lincoln City before arriving in Morrow County.

Akiko Ishiyama, 13, is from Nagoya, Japan. She says her family felt the earthquake which devastated Kobe, Japan. She lives in a condominium with her mother, who is a homemaker and a LABO (Japanese 4-H) tutor, her father, who is an architect, her sister, 24, a television announcer, and her brother, 21, a college student.

Akiko says she likes just about everything about America. Her favorite American food is pizza and her favorite candy is "Laffy Taffy". Since she arrived in Heppner, Akiko has been to the Morrow County Museum and Oregon Trail Library and shopped in downtown Heppner. She also has been to the Tri-Cities and Hermiston, where she enjoyed shopping, a walk-in movie and a drive-in movie. She and the other exchangees and their host families had a picnic at the Irrigon marina and swam in the Columbia River. Akiko also rafted and swam at Willow Creek Lake and spent a long weekend camping at Bull Prairie Lake. She has also made a lot of friends during her stay. She especially likes her host family's little yellow kitten.

In Japan, Akiko enjoys play

ing piano, calligraphy and a Japanese type of fencing called Kendo.

Akiko remarked on the bright stars visible here, which, she says are not as bright in Japan.

Akiko was hosted by David and April Sykes and their children, Chris, 17, Andy, 15, Allison, 13 and Camille, 12.

Yohei Yakuta, 13, is from Kanazawa, which is around 430 kilometers from Tokyo. Yohei lives with his father, who is an engineer involved in building dams, his mother, a homemaker, and a sister, 21, who attends college.

Yohei is interested in animals and has helped take care of his host family's sheep. He comments that there are "so many animals" here. He likes spaghetti and microwave popcorn, which he wants to take back to Japan, but was not too impressed with blackberries.

Yohei enjoyed the picnic at Irrigon, camping, fishing, a drive-in movie, shopping at Tri-Cities and Hermiston, shooting with a bow and golfing. He bought a tool, some T-shirts, cookies and some targets to take home with him. In Japan he belongs to a target shooting club, plays baseball and cycles. He once cycled a circuitous route to Tokyo which took five days and encompassed 570 kilometers. His host mother says that he is also good at track, running the 1500 meter in Korea.

Yohei stayed in Heppner with Rhonda and Dave Winters and their sons, Travis, 14 and Josh, 10.

In Sub Jae, 14, is from Pusan, Korea. He lives with his father, who works for an electric company, his mother, a homemaker, and a sister, eight.

Since he came to Heppner he has traveled to Baker City to visit the Interpretive Center with the Tom and Marlene Currin family, picnicked at Irrigon, visited the Maryhill Museum and has been to the Tri-Cities shopping. He says that many things are cheaper in U.S. and bought a small television to take back, a Barbie Doll for his sister and a video game.

His host mother says that he is very interested in history and wants to visit the Morrow County Museum. He also likes to play cards and the game "Jenga". He commented about the variety of food in America and remarked about our recycling, saying it's a "good system". He also likes his host family's pets.

At home in Korea, In Sub likes music and playing baseball.

In Sub is hosted by Tom and Bonnie Bennett, Heppner, and their children, Jonathan, 11,

and Rebecca Ward, 17. Another son, Chris Ward, is in the Navy.

Sung Yeon Hwang, 14, is from Tae-Jon, Korea, which is around 215 kilometers from Pusan. He lives with his father, a vice-president of a large concrete company, his mother, a homemaker, and two sisters, 20 and 21.

Sung Yeon says he likes "many things in America", including the people and nature. He says chicken is his favorite food and definitely does not like chili.

Since his arrival in Morrow County, Sung Yeon has been very busy, attending the Irrigon picnic in addition to swimming, golfing, camping, tubing in the mountains, riding a combine and other farm equipment, riding motorcycles, horses and four-wheelers. On top of all that he helped feed animals, shear sheep and wash pigs. He also squeezed in football, basketball, archery and baseball, shopping and visiting his hosts' cousins.

Sung Yeon is hosted by Debbie and Ray Miller, who live in Lexington with their children, Roxanne, 13, Kyle, 11, and Carl, nine.

Jeon Yun Joo, 14, lives in Pusan, Korea, a town of around four million people, with his father, who is a con-

struction worker who drives big cats, his mother, who works in a restaurant, and a brother, 12.

Jeon Yun says he has had a good time in Oregon and "likes everything" here. He particularly noticed the clear air here.

Since his arrival, Jeon Yun toured Pendleton and traveled to Baker City to visit the Interpretive Center with his hosts, helped mow the lawns and moved haying equipment on their ranch. He went shopping in the Tri-Cities and brought back a CD player, commenting that some things are cheaper in the U.S. He also rode horses and bicycles, and played computers and computer games, teaching his host brother a thing or two.

Jeon Yun is hosted by Tom and Marlene Currin and their son, Jeff, 13. Another son, Ryan, attends college.

LEX (Korean 4-H program) chaperone Seung Joo Hong, 43, lives in Seoul, Korea. She not only speaks her native Korean, but also speaks fluent Japanese and English, so is very helpful in assisting the exchange students and their host families.

Seung Joo, who says this is her first trip to the U.S., stayed in Lincoln City with another host family before coming to Heppner.

Seung Joo and her husband, a government official, have two sons, 17 and 15, whom she misses very much.

While Seung Joo "likes

everything" in America, she does confess to missing Korean rice and kim chee, which is a cabbage dish, flavored with red peppers, onions and garlic.

In addition to Lincoln City and Heppner, Seung Joo has visited Newport, Tillamook, Corvallis and Portland, where she went to a Korean restaurant with her host family, Hermiston, Pendleton, Mt. Vernon and the Tri-Cities. She says that she was amazed at the beautiful horizons and wide expanses of wheat fields in Morrow County. Seung Joo has already tried her hand at cooking at the Morrow County Fair snack shack.

Seung Joo is hosted by Joyce Hughes and her children, Trent, 18, and Jaclynn, 14, Heppner.

From here, the exchange students and their chaperone will catch a bus in Pendleton at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21. They will travel to the Oregon State University campus where they will spend the night in a dorm. The next day, Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 1 p.m. they will depart for their home countries.

As the exchange draws to a close, the host families all agree on several issues--the exchange students seemed to fit into their families just like of their own kids, and the time has gone too fast. One host mother joked, half in earnest, "We don't want to send him home. Do you think his mother would mind if we kept him?"

## Teenage dance to be held August 18

A teenage dance, sponsored by Oregon Together, will be held this Friday, August 18, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Heppner High School cafeteria.

Dan Burns' 3-D Productions will provide music.

Admission to the dance is \$1. Pop will be furnished.

## DeSpain resigns from board

Aloha Despain, veteran member of the Morrow County Mental Health Advisory Board has announced her plans to retire from the advisory board after 24 years of service.

"Aloha has been an invaluable stabilizing influence on our many health programs," said Kelly Sager, director of Morrow County Mental Health. Aloha was appointed to the board of directors by Judge Paul Jones in 1971.

Louis Carlson, Morrow County Judge, said that with her "background of policy making and vision for the direction of mental health programs in our area, the citizens of Morrow County have seen a comprehensive mental health care program put into place with drug and alcohol treatment, family mediation, child rehabilitation services and general mental health care."

Anyone interested in filling this vacancy should apply by September 6 for county court appointment. To qualify, one must be a resident of Morrow County, preferably live in the Lone/Heppner community and have an interest in mental health issues and the direction of the program in this county.

Meetings are held bi-monthly, rotating between the Boardman and Heppner offices. Interested parties may contact the county court personally, or call 676-9061.

## OTR Boosters near goal

The Oregon Trail Rodeo Boosters announce that they are a little over a fourth of the way to achieving their goal of \$100,000 for the completion of a permanent grandstands at the Morrow County Fairgrounds rodeo arena and football field. The Kinzua Corp. Resource grant donated \$25,000, First Interstate Bank \$2,500 and the Oregon Trail Booster Club Brand Program \$500.

The Oregon Trail Booster Club has applied for, but not yet received other grant monies which would help to purchase and construct the new grandstands which will be utilized by both the rodeo area and the football field. The permanent bleachers would include box-seats and would enable use of the facility created in the master plan to be used for different events, not just horse-related activities.

The rodeo arena has been used this past year for rodeos, barrel races, team ropings, team brandings, 4-H horse shows and practices, private riding associations, individual practice sessions and for the mini-rodeo demonstration for the eighth grade exchange.

Future plans of usage might

include motorcycle events, dog shows, plays, fashion shows and concerts, said a club spokesperson.

"The Oregon Trail Booster Club is grateful for all of the community volunteers that have made this dream become a reality," said a club spokesperson. "Hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and use of equipment have resulted in the fairgrounds and rodeo arena becoming the excellent facility that it now is."

Volunteer help has totally rebuilt the bucking chutes, corals and the temporary announcer stand, graded the arena, brought in rock, dirt and sand fill, planted trees along the creek and put in a drip-line to water them.

Future plans include completion of the grandstands with box seats, beautification of the grounds, restrooms and an announcer stand that could be used both for the arena and school football games.

The Boosters are still seeking funds to complete their projects. Donations may be sent to: Oregon Trail Booster Club, c/o Mike Mills, treasurer, P.O. Box 113, Heppner, OR. 97836, or phone 676-9711 or 676-5806.

## Preschool to hold annual meeting

Creative Care Preschool of Ione will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, September 7, at the preschool facility (Christian Education Building on Main Street) beginning at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The meeting is being held to discuss the preschool's finances as well as to elect board members and officers.

Creative Care Preschool offers a "developmentally appropriate, hands-on" program for children ages 3-5, including a pre-kindergarten class. Michelle Raible begins her third year as teacher of the school.

Creative Care is a private, non-profit organization with scholarships available for qualifying students.

## Strategies meeting slated

A North Central Regional Strategies Board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Dodge City Inn in Boardman.

**Seed Wheat**  
Clean - Large Kernel  
**Mac Vicar**  
Processed or out of bin  
Ken Turner 676-9710

**This Week's "THINGS TO DO" List:**

1. Perform a random act of kindness.
2. Wear a cowboy hat and/or boots.
3. Read a child a book, preferably a Western.
4. Have a piece of Cowboy-Farmer Dan's birthday cake at Twice upon a Time... (next to City Hall) on Thursday or Friday!

**Summit Springs Village**  
P.O. Box 687 - 133 S. Church Street  
Condon, Oregon 97823

is accepting residents.  
Come visit our new 29-apartment retirement and assisted living facility in the friendly community of Condon.

Totally independent, 2-bedroom, one-car garage apartments in duplex and fourplex arrangements; or studio and one-bedroom apartments in convenient and comfortable 23-unit ALF complex. All one level; three meals daily; housekeeping services; and levels of care as you need them.

Call today - (503) 384-2101

**Come Worship With Us**  
at  
**Willow Creek Baptist Church**  
Sundays at 3 p.m.  
Meeting in the  
7th Day Adventist Church  
560 North Minor

**Roger Britt Septic Service**  
Serving Morrow-Gilliam County & surrounding areas

- 24 Hr Service
- Licensed & Bonded #37316
- DEQ approved

676-5096 • Rt. 2 Box 2060 • Heppner, OR  
Septic tanks pumped, residential & Commercial  
Your local septic service  
"We appreciate your business, hopefully you appreciate ours"