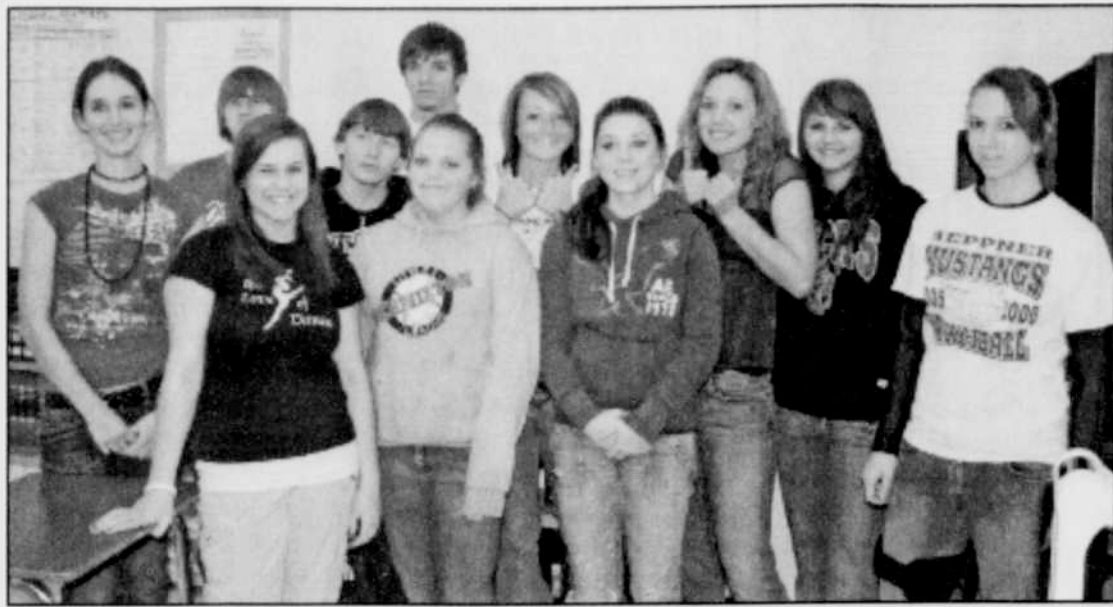


HHS students interview foreign exchange students to introduce them to community



Students in Jeannie Collins' leadership class recently interviewed the foreign exchange students that are enrolled for the 2007-2008 school year at Heppner High School in an effort to introduce them to the community. -Photo by Autumn Morgan

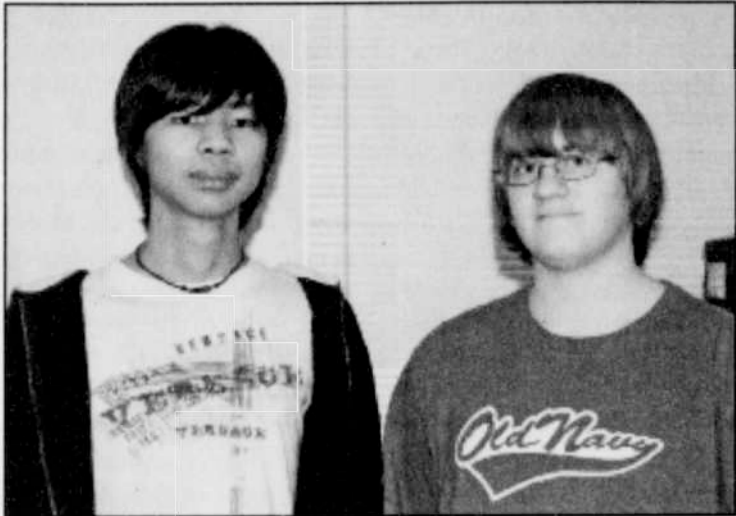
Thanaphan Sathitkhan (Aof) - Thailand

By Chris Hickerson

I am writing about the foreign exchange student Aof. But Aof isn't his real name. His real name is Thanaphan Sathitkhan and he is from Bangkok, Thailand. He is 16 years old and he is in the 10th grade.

In Thailand, Aof goes to a private school where the population of the school is about 2,000.

When Aof is in Thailand he likes to spend his free time hanging out with his friends and playing video games. He likes to play ping pong with his friends. He does like it in Heppner but he would rather live in a big city. At his school his



Aof Sathitkhan and Chris Hickerson

favorite sport is soccer.

Aof says he likes living with the VanDoorn's.

Aof has two brothers. He started learning

English when he was in elementary school. Aof also knew Mo and Pek before he came over to America.

Akmaral Thleubergenova - Kazakhstan

By Melissa West

Akmaral Thleubergenova is a new sophomore at Heppner High School. She started school at the beginning of January, but the neat thing about her is that she is an exchange student and comes from a small country called Kazakhstan.

Akmaral does not play any sports; instead, she spends that time playing the piano. As a sophomore, Akmaral already has a college degree, if she wanted to go back to Kazakhstan, she would be able to become a piano teacher. However, this is not what Akmaral wants. Unsure now of what lies in her future, Akmaral leaves her options open.

Akmaral enjoys school here in America. Not only is school easy for her, considering she has done all her high school studies as an eighth grader, but instead of staying in one classroom she has the opportunity to move from class to class. School in Kazakhstan is probably



Akmaral Thleubergenova

more interesting though, instead of eight subjects a day like we have at Heppner High School, they get 20 and they change everyday. Students also go to school six days a week instead of four.

Even though this is Akmaral's first time as an exchange student, she has no problem fitting right in with the rest of the students. Just like the others she enjoys all kinds of music as long as it's not opera. She says that she became tired of it while taking piano classes. She also likes all sorts of movies as long as they are not drama.

Here the driving age is 16, we vote at 18, and begin drinking legally at the age of 21. For Akmaral and her friends they cannot do any of it until they are 18, and I thought Americans teenagers had it bad. Like the other exchange students, Akmaral found the food tasted different, but in both countries, prices are about the same.

The weather here has been very cold lately around eight below; however to Akmaral, eight below is warm weather. To her this would be a time to swim. In Kazakhstan, weather is mostly around 30 below. Now that is cold.

Akmaral has one cat as a pet, and is an only child. This summer chances are her parents will be able to come to America and experience just a small portion of what America is really like.

Akmaral is staying with Chuck and Katie Foster.

Nina Schoener - Germany

By Tori Lankford

Nina Schoener is a foreign exchange student from Hamburg, Germany. She transferred to Heppner High School about a week and a half ago.

I was asked to interview her about her thoughts and views of America in comparison to Germany. Nina is sixteen years old, a sophomore, and her favorite color is red. She lives with Linda, Terry, and Conner Corbin, who is a freshman at our school.

This is Nina's first time coming to America. She enjoys the French fries the most here. Nina speaks a little bit of French, and Spanish, and is fluent in German and English.

School in Germany is a little different than in America. Students don't



Nina Schoener and Tori Lankford

move around to their classes, they stay in the same room all day and have the teachers come to them. They don't have many electives to choose from, only Spanish and biology. They also only have one grade level in each of their classes, and for example they do not mix grade levels such as ninth and tenth graders.

In Germany, there isn't as much transportation as compared to America, for example, we use cars more. Most people walk or ride their bicycles to school. Tennis is not just a spring sport in Germany; tennis is an all round sport over there. One of her favorite parts about America is the nice and helpful people.

Surasak Charnsethikul (Pek) - Thailand

By Melissa R. West

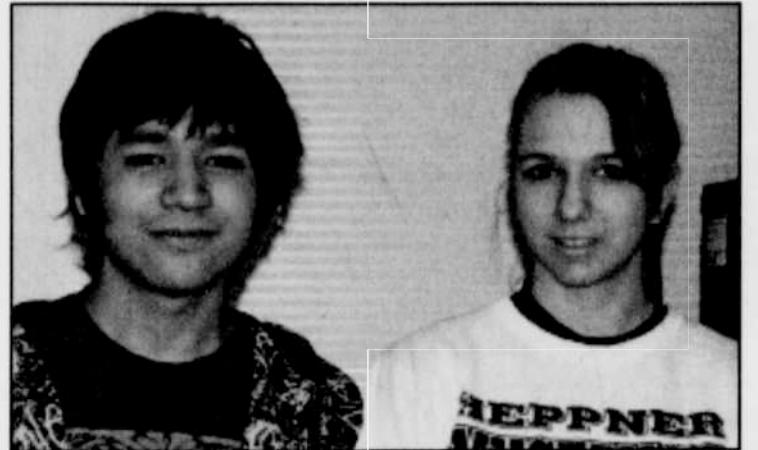
Here in Heppner High School, the leadership class interviewed the foreign exchange students. I interviewed one of the exchange students from Thailand, Surasak Charnsethikul, whose American name is Pek.

Each student in the leadership class picked an exchange student and split.

Pek comes from a big city, Bangkok. Bangkok is the capital of Thailand. Unlike Korea, people from Thailand are the same age in all countries. In Korea they are two years older than everywhere else as they start aging even before they are born. Pek is the oldest exchange student in Heppner at 17 and will be 18 on April 2.

The exchange program that he and the other Thai students used was Face The World. Pek said that in order to become an exchange student the students have to go through a series of tests on learning to speak English and others to see what classes to be placed in.

In Thailand the exchange students are allowed only to come to America, whereas in other countries they are given the choice as to what country to go to. When asked how he likes it in America, Pek said that



Pek Charnsethikul and Melissa West

it was nice but he could do more things in Thailand. Here in Heppner in order to get to school the students either drive themselves, catch the bus or walk. In Thailand Pek has to take a taxi in order to get to school. In Bangkok Pek says they have a large shopping mall where as here in Heppner we have a small store. Bangkok also has cheaper prices, to go to the theater it costs maybe two dollars and here it costs \$8.50. Pek's school has 6,000 students in it. For the seniors alone, 40 students are placed in 18 classrooms.

Some of Pek's favorite sports are tennis, badminton, squash, and swimming. When asked what his exchange family is like Pek replied that they were friendly, nice and treat him like he's part of the family. Pek views them as a second family. Pek has an older sis-

ter who is currently attending college in Thailand.

I asked Pek if there was a difference in the food between America and Thailand. He said that American food was spicier, but he was starting to like it. Even though both countries have a McDonalds, Pek says they taste rather different. Here a meal would cost roughly \$5 over there a meal would cost maybe \$2. Pek prefers the McDonalds in Thailand because the food is better and cheaper. Pek's favorite music is pop, though if given no choice, he will listen to whatever is playing. Like other exchange students, Pek likes fantasy, adventure, and horror movies.

Unfortunately like all other exchange students, when school ends Pek has to go home, and leaves June 10, 2008. Pek is currently living with the Corbin family.

Kim Dulyun (Kylie) - Korea

By KayLee Helfrecht

Kim Dulyun, or better known as Kylie at Heppner High School, is an exchange student from Cheon An, Korea. Kylie is staying with the VanDoorn family here in Heppner. She is part of the "Face The World" exchange program. Kylie wanted to be an exchange student because she wanted to come to America. Kylie said that to become an exchange student she had to pay a lot of money.

In America Kylie is 16 years old but in Korea she is 18. Kylie is 18 in Korea because when they are in the womb Koreans consider children as being a year old and when they are born they are considered two years old.

While Kylie is in America she would like to go to Disneyland. Her favorite thing about America is the stars in the night time, because in Korea you can't see the stars at night be-



KayLee Helfrecht and Kylie Dulyun

cause the city lights in the town cover them up. Her favorite food is pizza and her favorite drink is mocha milkshakes. Kylie's favorite singer in America is Hannah Montana, her favorite actor is Brad Pitt and her favorite actress is Kira Knightly.

One of the big differences about America and Korea is the school. In Korea they go to school late at night, and here the kids don't go to school as long as they do in Korea. The teachers there are also a lot stricter and the teachers can also hit the students.

In Korea the clothes

are very different to how that casual American lifestyles here. They have to wear a uniform to at school and on the weekends they have to dress in nice clothes. On the weekends in Korea Kylie likes to watch movies and sing karaoke with her friends. Kylie misses her family, friends and Korean food most. Kylie has one younger sister.

Kylie has also visited Thailand and Philippines. Kylie goes back home in June but would like to come back to America one day and visit California and New York.

Hee Young Chong - Korea

By Nathan Van Cleave

Coming to America for the first time is for most people a new and exciting experience. It certainly has been for Heppner's exchange students. Hee Young Chong is one such student and is from the Republic of Korea. His home town, Pusan, has approximately 3.65 million people.

He is a city boy, however, and being in a small town is a new experience. Hee Young has definitely noticed a few differences upon his arrival. For instance, in Korea they eat a lot of rice whereas here in the U.S. we have a lot of fast food. In school, instead of moving from classroom to classroom they stay in the same place in the same seat



Hee Young and Nathan Van Cleave

during the entire school day. In addition, they do not have a gym in his school.

Hee Young is the older of two boys in his family. He enjoys playing basketball and computer games. At his school he is a sophomore and says that school is a little harder back at home than here because they require better grades to

graduate. After high school he is required to join the army for a minimum of one and a half years. Once he is out of the army he wants to go to college and become a doctor, a very difficult task both here in the U.S. and in Korea.

Hee Young is staying with John and Kathy Marick.