

Getting to know your exchange students

Didrick Fagerheim Finnseth
17, Junior, Heppner

Where are you from? Bodø, Norway—A town in North Norway, just north of the Arctic Circle.

Host Parent(s): Jon and Jacque Dompier

What do you think of Heppner and Morrow County? “I really like it,

but it's a lot different. Where I come from, there's a lot of mountains and trees. Obviously here there aren't so many mountains and trees. I really like the people here. It's a totally different culture but it's lot of fun.”

How has the experience been for you? It's been really great so far. It's been fun to get into a new culture. I've made a lot of new friends. It's been great to experience new places and new things, and I look forward to experiencing more this year.”

What was the most difficult thing about this experience? “People expect you to behave differently than where I'm from. We dress differently. When I first got here, I wore a lot of skinny jeans and I got teased some about that.”

“Americans use pickles in everything, and I don't like pickles.”

“At home, my parents don't expect me to tell them where I'm going all the time. That was something to adjust to. It's been pretty smooth, though.”

What did you like best? “Meeting new people and going places. The food—chicken and JoJos at the Shell station! We go at least twice a week on school days to buy chicken and JoJos at the Shell station. And Gatorade.”

Did you have the chance to attend any special events? What did you think of that experience? “My favorite was Thanksgiving. We don't have Thanksgiving back in Norway, and I love turkey. It was one of my favorite experiences so far. All that food on the table. Just the whole family getting together to eat food. It was a lot of fun.”

“I'm looking forward to the Super Bowl. I watched the Super Bowl last year—I didn't know anything about football, and it was 3 a.m. because there's a big time difference between America and Norway.”

“I was really tired at school the next day. But I thought it was important, because it was American.”

Health district continues search for new clinic physicians

By April Sykes

The Morrow County Health District Board learned from CEO Bob Houser Monday night that a physician's assistant who had expressed interest in working for MCHD has declined the offer, saying that the move would not be good for him at this time. Houser also reported that the physician recruiter employed by the district still has no candidates interested.

Houser said that the Willow Creek Assisted Living facility currently has four vacancies, with one possible admission in the near future and several other possibilities for new residents.

Houser also said in his report that an employee had been offered a position with the Ione Community Clinic/Community Counseling Solutions, but the district has not yet received a response.

In other business, the board:

—learned from Houser that he would like to add consent items to the board agenda. He said this would

include information on the department managers' meetings, safety committee meetings, Q&A meetings and compliance meetings, among others. He said that the consent item agenda would allow the board to review the minutes and approve the agenda items as a blanket vote. He said the change would not only speed up some district meetings, but would keep the board informed of committee meetings held throughout the month.

—learned from Houser that he and his family are in the process of moving into the district house this week. He added that the district-owned apartment will then become freed-up for use by staff and interim employees, if needed.

—heard from Houser that he plans to meet with fire and police department personnel concerning Columbia River Enterprise Zone funds and needs throughout the district.

—received the following profit and loss statement for December: the district had

\$801,822 in gross patient revenue, less \$11,637 for bad debts, and \$104,845 in contractual and other adjustments, plus \$160,269 in tax revenue and \$7,150 in other operating revenue for \$852,759 in total operating revenue, \$769,031 in total operating expenses, plus a non-operating gain of \$11,900 for a \$95,629 gain for the month and an \$86,622 year-to-date gain.

—received the following report for December: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had eight admissions, three swing bed admissions, 10 observation admissions, two hospital respite admissions, 435 out-patients, 76 emergency room encounters, 1,647 lab tests, 89 x-ray procedures, 28 CT scans, 11 EKG tests, six lower endoscopy procedures, one upper endoscopy procedure, 14 respiratory therapy procedures; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 377 patient visits, 12 new patients, 35 seen by a nurse and 19 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 307 patient visits, 27 new patients,

63 seen by a nurse and 15 no-shows; Ione Community Clinic had 34 patient visits and three seen by a nurse; Heppner Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 25 transports for \$45,543 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 39 page-outs with 17 transports for \$25,663 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 16 page-outs with nine transports for \$12,070 in revenue; Ione Ambulance had two page-outs with one transport for \$1,427 in revenue; there were three flights; Home Health had 111 patient visits; Hospice had five admissions; Pharmacy had 1,395 drug doses for \$81,256 in revenue.

—received the following year-end ambulance report: Heppner Ambulance had 292 page-outs with 235 transports; Boardman had 349 page-outs with 203 transports; Irrigon had 337 page-outs with 194 transports; Ione had 10 page-outs with five transports; for a yearly total of 988 page-outs, 637 transports and 33 flights.

Speed limits change March 1 on I-84, other eastern Oregon highways

Motorists traveling on some state highways in central and eastern Oregon will see a change soon due to Oregon House Bill 3402.

The bill, enacted by the 2015 legislation, raises the speed limit on Interstate 84 and some other routes east of the Cascades. The new law takes effect March 1 and will raise legal speeds to 70 mph for passenger vehicles and 65 mph for commercial trucks on I-84 between the Idaho border and The Dalles. These same speed limits will apply for U.S. 95, which runs through southeast Oregon between the Nevada and Idaho borders.

In addition, sections of eight other highways will have speed limits increased to 65 mph for passenger vehicles and 60 mph for trucks. These include portions of U.S. 20, U.S. 26, U.S. 97, U.S. 197, U.S. 395, OR 31, OR 78, and OR 205.

The new speed limits will more closely match



A section of I-84 and some other eastern Oregon routes will see speed limit increases effective March 1. -Photo courtesy of ODOT

those of neighboring states.

More information, including a map showing the specific highway segments that will see the changes, a copy of HB 3402, update news and information, plus links to related photos and video is available on at www.tinyurl.com/OR-speed2016.

The current speed limits on I-84 are 65 mph for passenger vehicles and 55

mph for commercial trucks. These limits will not change for the section of interstate west of The Dalles.

The current speed limit for other non-interstate state and U.S. routes is typically 55 mph for all vehicles, unless posted otherwise.

Prior to March 1, 2016, travelers may see some highway work needed to support the speed limit change, including modify-

ing passing zones to reflect the higher legal speed; new sign posts installed to accommodate new, larger signs; new or modified curve warning signs; and other minor changes.

The new signs are expected to be installed on I-84 by March 1 and on secondary highways as quickly as possible to accommodate the March 1 effective date.

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Bank of EO announces eighth BEO Wrestling Invitational



The Mustang wrestling team. Back row (L-R): Carson Brosnan, Tim Jaca, Will Lutcher, Ryan Smith, Cord Flynn. Front row (L-R): Charles Cason, Trevor Chamberlin, Leo Waite, Zach Bredfield, Sabashian Futter. -Contributed photo

Getting to know your exchange students

Mads Damkjaer Meltofte
16, Junior, Heppner

Where are you from? A small town near Middelfart, Denmark—Middelfart is a town in central Denmark, with a population of about 14,800.

Host Parent(s): Ray and Jennifer Cecil

What do you think of Heppner and Morrow County?

“The size of the town is basically the same as the town I come from. What surprised me was that they have these big hills surrounding the town. And the people here are so nice and so willing to help you if you ever need anything, and they're so open-minded here. That's not something I'm used to in Denmark.”

How has the experience been for you? “So far it's been amazing. It's really a great opportunity to come over here. I've been playing football with the team; winning a state championship is something most exchange students don't experience. I've made a lot of new friends. It's been great so far.”

What was the most difficult thing about this experience? “Before I came over here I used to cuss a lot, swear a lot. In my country, people don't take it as hard or offensive. So I got constantly told I could not say that, don't say that. That was hard. But I got past that, and now I hardly cuss at all.”

What did you like best? “When the football team won the state championship. I played on the JV team, but the coach always thought it was important that we should all get experience, so we always went along and, whenever the team was winning, we got to go in and play at the end of the game.”

“That was a huge experience, to go out and play on the field in Hermiston and then be able to say I played

-See EXCHANGE STUDENT/PAGE FOUR

Report hunt results by Jan. 31

\$25 penalty for not reporting deer and elk tags

SALEM, Ore.—Any hunter who purchased 2015 big game or turkey tags needs to report their hunt results by the deadline, which is Jan. 31 for most tags. Hunters are required

to report on each deer, elk, cougar, bear, pronghorn and turkey tag purchased—even if they were not successful or did not hunt. Sports -See HUNT RESULTS/PAGE FIVE