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Prairie Talks focuses on human rights

September 27, 2013

Chris Bieri - Tribune Editor , Pierce County Tribune

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Bjorn Engesland has a keen sense of the differences between how human rights are viewed from country to country.

As the Secretary General of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Engesland has followed and tried to affect human rights issues worldwide.

"We try to rally Norwegian and international reactions," said Engesland, the guest speaker at the Sept. 22 edition of Prairie Talks. "We also believe in engagement."

Article Photos



Chris Bieri/PCT

Prairie Talks was established by Benson County native Kristi Rendahl, designed to bring speakers of various, often international backgrounds, to the area to discuss their areas of expertise.

Engesland covered a number of topics during his discussion, from European perspectives to American action and reaction to human rights violations throughout the world.

Engesland also focused on the relationship between Norway and Russia and how human rights are often stymied under authoritarian regimes.

The speech was followed by a lively question and answer session with the nearly 100 people in attendance at the talk, which was held at the Rugby Eagles.

The next Prairie Talks will be on Jan. 26, and will feature author and Wyndmere native Melanie Hoffert, who was a college classmate of Rendahl's.

Prairie Talks are free and open to the public and sponsored in part by the North Dakota Humanities Council.

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