

Alice Abrams spends summer vacation in Costa Rica

If Alice Abrams is asked to write an essay on "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" when she returns to Heppner High School this fall, it would likely make for some interesting reading.

The HHS junior is spending her vacation in Costa Rica, as part of the Partners of America program, a group that hosts exchanges between North American and Latin American nations in such areas as education, trade and technology.

Alice has been in Latin America since June 17, and will remain there until Aug. 20. She has been staying in the home of Esmaralda Alfara, who was the Abram's houseguest and a Heppner High drop-in for five weeks last winter.

The Alfara family lives in the Heppner-sized college town of Ciudad Quesada. Mr. Alfara is a craftsman in wood, and his wife is a florist. Both are former teachers.

More recently, Alice has been staying with the Ramirez family in suburban San Jose, Costa Rica's capital. She is attending high school there, since vacation time in Costa Rica falls during our winter season.

She wrote her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Abrams, that her Costa Rican counterparts tend to party more than teenaged Heppnerites, holding dance parties nearly every night. Since school starts at 7 a.m. (but ends at noon), "I'm getting pretty tired," she wrote.

Although the tropical republic is a long way from the U.S., Alice reports meeting a number of Americans during her stay, from places such as Kansas, Indiana and Tennessee. She also reported having

watched "Saturday Night Fever" at a Costa Rican cinema.

The Latin American menu appeals to the Heppner girl, according to her letters. She has grown to like the Costa Rican staple of rice and beans, making her "a real Tico", the slang word Costa Ricans use to describe themselves. A wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, such as mangoes, sweet lemons, mandarin oranges and avocados also

add variety to the Costa Rican mealtime fare.

Alice has made a side trip to Panama, which has become Latin America's market basket due to its low prices, and viewed the Panama Canal.

Needless to say, Alice's Spanish is improving, which should make HHS instructor Gordon Munck pleased.

Two years ago, Alice took part in an exchange program which took her to Nagasaki, Japan.

Auctioneer opens trade in Morrow County

Starting an auctioneering business in the Morrow-Umatilla County area is Frank "Sandy" Gross, a graduate of the Western College of Auctioneering in Billings, Mont.

Gross, who assisted with this year's Lone United Church of Christ Auction, as well as with farm and other auctions in Morrow County, has been involved with a farming operation near Hermiston for the past 3½ years. He also holds an animal science degree from Oregon State University.

The 28-year-old auctioneer is available for work in farm sales, estates, liquidations, and livestock production sales. Gross will donate his services free of charge to organizations sponsoring

large fundraising events. He is a member of the Oregon and National Auctioneering associations, and is a licensed and bonded auctioneer. Gross may be contacted at 567-2947.

Shots for variety of diseases available free at clinics

Morrow County residents have a wide range of immunizations and other health care services available free of charge from the Morrow County Health Department. Shots are available for dis-

eases including measles, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and polio. The health department also conducts free of charge a hepatitis control program, tuberculosis testing, allergy shot monitoring, blood pressure checking and monitoring, and flu shots.

In Irrigon at the County Office Building, clinic hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

In Lexington, at the Health Department's office in the Morrow County school administration building, clinic hours run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. The Lexington clinic will be close on Aug. 18.

Archie Padberg in intensive care at St Anthony's

Archie Padberg, Heppner, who has been a patient at Good Shepherd Hospital, Hermiston, was transferred to St.

Anthony's Hospital, Pendleton where he underwent major surgery Friday. He is still in intensive care.

Senior citizens meal site change not final, official tells group

Early Wednesday evening, July 26, an open meeting of senior citizens who had attended the dinner at the Elks Club was held in the County Fair Pavilion. Rollin H. Reynolds, human resources and aging specialist with the East Central Oregon Association of Counties came from his Pendleton office to dine with the seniors and to lead the discussion.

Reynolds said that the announcement from the Fair Board meeting that came out in last week's paper was "premature and not an official decision." He wanted to make certain that all concerned thoroughly understood that it has not yet been decided where or when senior meals may be rescheduled and that the group is very content with the arrangement existing with the Elks Club.

Reynolds also stressed that Pat Brindle will continue to direct senior activities in

Morrow County "absolutely no change is contemplated—we just couldn't get along without Pat."

It was brought out that 10 percent of the U.S. population is now 65 or older. A recent survey shows that there are about 1,000 citizens over 55 in south Morrow County—but that only a small part of the group is attending the senior activities.

Reynolds stressed that these activities foster social interaction and alert seniors to various supportive social services such as the Homemakers Program under Sue Jepson and the Home Nursing Program under Sheridan Tarnasky which are directed from the Heppner Neighborhood Center.

Help with special transportation, information and referral services, assistance with social security problems and tax rebate help are offered. It was again stressed that the Heppner Elks had contributed much to the senior meal

program and that all were pleased with their help.

A discussion about the timing of the meals and of possible locations brought out some needs. Better food storage and preparation space is needed. This area has one of the poorest attendance records of the 17 senior meal sites in the ECOAC area. Many

communities are getting special buildings with recreational facilities just for senior citizens.

It was emphasized that senior meals are not a charity program—that they cannot continue here unless there is more participation. Approximately 35 usually attend the dinners here on Tuesdays and

Wednesdays—many less than attend at the other 16 sites.

As the meeting concluded those attending were urged to stimulate more participation—which would provide more donations of meal money here. They were assured that the guiding committee here was diligently considering several possibilities for the location of

future activities. Most of the participants spoke out for keeping these activities close to the center of Heppner and are happy with the Elks Club.

Reynolds assured the seniors that any decisions would be made by the majority of the group members and that no changes had been determined presently.

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