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HEPPNER

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Tazette imes

VOL 123 NO. 1 6 Pages Wednesday, January 7, 2004 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

Weather dips; schools close Monday



Photo by Lee Jeffries

Gary Wight uses his four wheeler to plow the sidewalks of Heppner and keep them safe for walking. While the Bank of Eastern Oregon temperature sign registers a minus 6 degrees early Monday morning.

The weather was the topic of conversation all over the state as temperatures took dramatic dips and many areas in the region, including Pendleton, Hermiston, Meacham and Heppner saw record lows.

Heppner saw -7 degrees as of 3:18 a.m. Monday, January 5, with the thermometer at the Bank of Eastern Oregon registering 1

degree around 9 a.m. Schools were closed throughout the Morrow County School District and Ione Monday. Schools opened as usual Tuesday.

Condon saw a -1 at 8:30 a.m. with the road closed to oversize movement due to packed and drifting snow, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation online (www.tripcheck.com)

Pendleton was -15 degrees at 6:31 a.m., with an official low of -20, and Hermiston was -6 at 6:34 a.m. with an official low of -12, Arlington was -2 degrees at 8:34 a.m., but no place could beat Meacham with a -27 at 6:33 a.m., and an official low of -31, also closed to oversized movement.

The forecast is for warmer temperatures as the week progresses.

Slob Sisters to return to Town and Country event

The "Slob Sisters" will be the featured entertainment at Heppner's annual Town and Country Banquet, "2004...Heppner for All Seasons", on Thursday, January 15 at the Heppner Elks Club. The evening will get underway with a no-host social hour at 6 p.m. with a baron of beef dinner to begin at 7 p.m.

The evening will also include the coronation of the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court, the Morrow County Extension award, annual chamber of commerce awards-man, woman, business, educator, youth and lifetime achievement awards,

and door prizes, compliments of Peterson's Jewelers.

Tickets are available for \$20 each at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Murray's Drug and Morrow County Grain Growers.

For more information and reservations contact the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, 676-5536.

Everyone is welcome to attend a variety of meetings hosted by the Morrow County Livestock Growers and the Soil and Water Conservation District upstairs at the Elks Club during the afternoon of January 15. Contact Janet Greenup, SWCD, 676-9011, or Bill Broderick, Extension Service, 676-9642.

City hired public works director

A new public works director has been hired by the City of Heppner.

Bruce Nelson, 41, comes to Heppner from Junction City where he grew up and worked 10 years for the city public works department. He also worked three years for the city of Harrisburg. Nelson is single.



Bruce Nelson

Heppner girl experiences life in a Caribbean paradise

Heppner native Janelle Healy at first thought of a trip to The Dominican Republic as an adventure, but once there found that she had discovered not only an extended family, but also a love of the country, people and culture (not to mention dancing!).

Healy, a 1999 Heppner High School graduate who had just turned 21 years old, was at a crossroads in her life. She had recently finished a two-year program at Mount Hood Community College and pondered her next move. Her mother, Carmen Healy, Heppner, who was born and raised in The Dominican Republic, suggested that she travel to The Dominican Republic to hone her Spanish-speaking skills. Janelle at first thought no, but then reconsidered, and called her mother back, saying, "Were you serious?" "I thought if I didn't like it I could always come home," said Janelle. "It was pretty scary at first, but once I got there it was pretty smooth sailing.

Once she decided to give it a try, the adventure began. At first Janelle stayed with Carmen's brother, Paco Tineo, in Santiago, a city of around 1.8 million people, but Janelle, used to her independence after living on her own for the past year, chafed at her uncle's very strict and "old-fashioned" rules. Another factor was that she had not learned much Spanish during the time she lived with her uncle because she didn't have much contact with other people. She attended Spanish courses in school, and found that the classes helped, but discovered that interaction with other Spanish speakers was the key. She had befriended a woman from Thailand, Vimol Anderson, who arrived in The Dominican the same day she did. They were both new to the country and helped each other. The woman, who had come to The Dominican with her Swedish husband, who was an engineer, lived nearby and Janelle soon moved in with her. Janelle lived with Vimol for two months until she returned to Thailand. Janelle then moved in with a distant relative (Carmen's sister-in-law's uncle), only around five houses down from where her uncle Paco lives, and where she plans to return after her visit to Heppner.

Janelle's dad, Jerry Healy, says that only a short distance from where Janelle lives in a neighborhood of wealthy homes, families live in extreme poverty. "This (the slums) is a good neighborhood, though compared to one in Haiti," adds Jerry, who met his wife, Carmen, when he served with the Peace Corps in The Dominican in the mid-70s.

Janelle says that Dominicans eat most or less the same thing almost every day-called "la bandera" (the flag), a combination of rice, beans and meat, mainly chicken. Carmen Healy says that Dominican meals consist of basically the same dry ingredients as Mexican food,

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Janelle at Playa Punta Rucia on the North Beach on the Atlantic Ocean



Janelle Healy (left) and her cousin, Yudelka Cruz, from The Dominican Republic, at the Healy home in Heppner



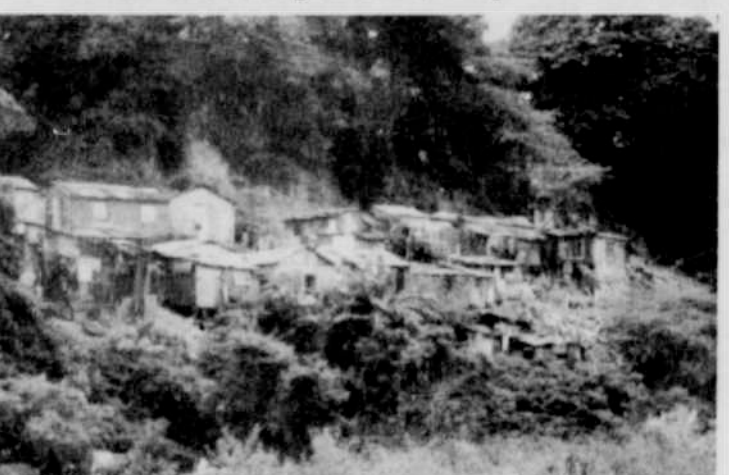
Janelle's home in The Dominican



Janelle with her former roommate, Vimol Anderson, on the North Beach



Janelle relaxes at a neighborhood shop



Dilapidated slums only a short distance from Janelle's home in The Dominican

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