LOCAL WEATHER

continued from page A1

at McNary Heights Elementary School and had been with the district for 10 years. She also had three children in the Umatilla school system.

"Her loss is felt by staff, students and the community," Superintendent Heidi Sipe said.

Sipe called Flores a "tremendous educator and ded-

WORKSHOP:

bilingual, so they switch in

and out of Spanish and En-

glish, and so a lot of our au-

diences end up being bilin-

gual," he said. "The whole

thing is that this is available

for anyone. If you speak only Spanish, that's fine.

If you speak only English,

ed by Lakin Valdez, is part-

ly a take on "The Wizard of

Oz" but it examines cultur-

Council press release, the play is set in January 2012 after the

Tucson school board agreed

to shut down the Mexican

American Studies program in

its schools and remove those

books from classrooms. A gi-

ant dust storm, or "haboob,"

strikes the city and leaves

Dolores Huelga, a teacher,

unemployed and in an alter-

nate reality. Lost in the desert,

Dolores sets out on a quest for

counters quirky a High-Span-

ic, a militant Super-Chicano,

and a working class Latina immigrant — all dispossessed exiles — with whom

she joins forces to fight for

truth, justice and the "indige-

"We got pretty good re-

views from the local press

here in Portland," Guz-

man-Orozco said. "It's an

interesting topic. It is sort

of to generate a conversation. It deals partly with

nous way."

Along the way she en-

the mythical city of Aztlán.

According to a Desert Arts

al issues, as well.

He said "Searching for Aztlan," written and direct-

that's fine.'

icated mother." She said Flores was known at the school as an especially talented reading instructor and had been involved over the years in a number of reading initiatives, most recently by teaching an after-school class called Rocket Readers to help boost students' reading skills.

"Her students excelled under her instruction, and she was truly dedicated to ensuring their success," she said.

Sipe said Flores, who

was bilingual, was also quick to volunteer around the school for anything that would benefit students and was a "strong conduit between the school and many families.'

Flores's co-workers and teachers at her childrens' schools were notified on Sunday. The district mobilized its crisis response team to provide grief counseling and other support to staff and students on Mon-



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSSELL J. YOUNG

Teatro Milagro performs 'Searching for Aztlan,' written and directed by Lakin Valdez. The group will present the bilingual play at 7 p.m. Friday at the Armand Larive Middle School auditorium. The group will also host a community workshop and potluck from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today in the Lanham Room at the Hermiston Public Library. Both events are free, but space is limited. To reserve a spot, call 541-561-1332.

what happened in Tucson with the change in curriculum, trying to outlaw certain ethnic studies."

Susan Winter, Echo, said the directors of Teatro Milagro are her personal friends, and she is excited to see the play.

'They use magical realism," she said. "They basically portray all the different kinds of Latino people we have in our society. They open the topic up in kind of an impersonal way, so the art kind of frees people to look at society.'

Winter said the theater group visited Echo last year, and the community response has been positive so far this year as well.

"Last year was a real success and brought a lot of different people together from different ages," she said. "We had kids from the Echo School and kids from Stanfield. We had people from the Hispanic Advisory Committee. That's the whole idea: It's community building through drama."

Winter said the actors are professionally trained with college degrees in drama. She said they made the community workshop last year a great experience.

"It was fun to see people of different ages doing a little bit of improv together,' she said. "They have a nice framework that they give you, so you're not just up acting like an idiot, you're portraying things. It's contagious, and they know how to work a crowd. These young people are really good. They're invigorating. They engage their audience, and they're bilingual."

Last

New

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First

Today's Weather Local 5-Day Forecast 4/16 4/15 4/17 4/18 4/19 62/34 70/39 77/47 76/43 75/43 A mainly sunny sky. High 62F. Winds Sunny. Highs in the Abundant sunshine Abundant sunshine Abundant sunshine Highs in the low 70s Highs in the upper mid 70s and lows in Highs in the mid 70s WSW at 10 to 15 70s and lows in the and lows in the upthe low 40s. upper 40s. mph. per 30s. Sunrise Sunset Sunrise Sunset Sunrise Sunset Sunrise Sunset Sunrise Sunset mericanProfile # celebrating the american spirit# Oregon At A Glance **Pendleton** 57/33 Hermiston **Portland** 62/34 59/40 La Grande Salem 54/30 60/38 Bend Ontario Eugene 60/30 60/37 Medford 64/35 Klamath Falls 57/28 **Area Cities City** Albany 40 pt sunny 40 pt sunny 57 33 sunny Pendleton Ashland 63 35 sunny Grants Pass 65 37 mst sunny 62 34 sunny Astoria 56 38 cloudy Hermiston Portland 59 40 cloudy 56 28 sunny 62 40 sunny John Day Klamath Falls 52 31 pt suns 57 28 sunny Baker City 52 26 sunny 50 23 mst sunny Bend Roseburg 46 sunny 54 30 sunny 55 23 sunny Salem Springfield Brookings La Grande 60 38 pt sunny 59 35 mst sunnv Burns 50 28 pt sunny Lakeview Lincoln City Coos Bay 40 pt sunny 62 39 sunny 58 37 pt sunny 60 32 sunny 60 38 pt sunny 60 37 sunny 59 Corvallis Mcminnville 38 pt sunny Tillamook Medford **National Cities** City Atlanta 85 68 pt sunny 81 60 sunny 74 56 t-storm 64 41 mst sunny Boston Los Angeles San Francisco 71 55 sunny Chicago 43 pt sunny Miami 86 74 t-storm Seattle 42 pt sunny Minneapolis 47 pt sunny Washington, DC 71 51 cloudy Denver 59 33 windy 67 47 pt sunny **Moon Phases UV** Index

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