

Leader Conferences Scheduled to Discuss Coming 4-H Programs

"Four-H Kitchen Conferences" are scheduled for all Morrow and Umatilla county 4-H leaders, reports Mary Speckhart, county extension agent.

The conferences will be held in four areas and leaders are invited to attend the one closest to them. Dates and places are: February 24, 10 a.m., Mrs. John Walchli's home, Hermiston; February 25, 10 a.m., Mrs. W. H. Wolff's home, Heppner; February 26, 10 a.m., Mrs. Richard Piper's home, Milton-Freewater; and February 27, 10 a.m., Mrs. Robert Spiekerman's home, Pendleton.

Miss Speckhart and Jerry Brog, Umatilla county extension agents, and Gail McCarty, Morrow county extension agent, will discuss the latest developments in the club program. Leaders will also have an opportunity to ask questions about 4-H club work.

Blue Birds Greet Elderly Patients

Pretty Valentine favors were distributed to the nursing home patients at Pioneer Memorial hospital last Friday afternoon by members of the Swans, a second grade Blue Bird group, under the direction of their leader, Mrs. Lavern Keithley.

The favors were provided by members of the Heppner Soroptimist club, sponsors of the Blue Bird group.

Birthday Celebrated At Padberg Dinner

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg entertained dinner guests on Sunday at their home, on the occasion of Mr. Padberg's birthday.

Joining them were Mr. and Mrs. Oris Padberg of Lexington and Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Nash of Heppner. Calling during the afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Otto Calders and family of Fossil.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Patients admitted to Pioneer Memorial hospital during the past week, and still receiving medical care, are the following: William W. Hinton, Heppner; Margaret Weaver, Ione; Gloria Dolven, Lexington, and Melvin Connor, Heppner.

Those who received medical care, and were later dismissed, were Stephen Daugherty, Heppner; Richard Borman, Heppner; John Stevens, Heppner; Barbara Harris, Heppner; Mary Eaton, Condon, and Ted Hall, Spray.

Birth Announced

Mr. and Mrs. James Banks of Pendleton became parents of their first child, a son, born Monday, February 17 at St. Anthony hospital, weighing 6 lb., 12 oz. The mother is the former Kathy Ray. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Will O'Hara of Heppner, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jim Banks of Pendleton.

Card Club Meets At Keithley Home

A salad dessert with tea and coffee was served by Mrs. Lavern Keithley to guests following two tables of pinocle at the Keithley home last Thursday evening.

High score was held by Mrs. Bob Steagall, second high by Mrs. Bruce Griffith and the traveling pinocle prize was won by Mrs. John Mollahan.

Other guests playing included Mrs. Skip Ruhl, Mrs. Elwayne Bergstrom, Mrs. Lyle Jensen and Mrs. Don Stroeber.

Study Mending Tape

On February 11 the Nimble Thimble 4-H club had a sewing meeting. We learned how to mend with iron-on tape. We played games and sang songs. The next meeting will be February 18.

Kathy Schwarzin, reporter

Garden Club Enjoys Study of Violets; Youth Compositions

Mrs. James Driscoll was an informative speaker on the culture of African violets on February 12 at the regular meeting of the Ione Garden club at the Driscoll home in Heppner, with Mrs. Kenneth Palmer and Mrs. Fredrick Martin as hostesses.

Mrs. Driscoll, an enthusiastic Saintpaulia fan, shared her knowledge and experience from growing several hundred plants from leaf cuttings to mature bloomers. For continuous bloom, she pointed out how plants require plenty of light without direct sun, proper watering and fertilization (with over-watering causing crown rot), proper soil mixture of one-third sterilized soil, one-third peat moss and one-third sand or vermiculite. Her plant displays throughout the home delighted those attending.

A surprise feature of the afternoon was the appearance of six Heppner sixth grade students of Mrs. Inez Erwin who read their original poems and essays on the conservation theme, "The Amazing Seeds".

Poems were presented by Sally Winters, Mary Healy, Jim Ployhar, and Richard McDaniel. Essays were presented by Shannon Kelly and Anita Davidson. Each student was to receive one dollar from the Garden club for his effort. All compositions will be entered in the Blue Mountain District competition, with best poem and essay in the district sent in for state competition.

Eleven members responded to roll call by telling of their chosen bird's feeding habits. Among birds included were the humming bird, blue heron, red shafted flicker, bald eagle and killdeer.

Mrs. Gar Swanson was appointed chairman of advertising solicitations for the state directory. The executive committee is to set the date for the annual spring plant sale; Mrs. Kenneth Klinger and Mrs. Martin are compiling a list of books pertaining to gardening—horticulture, arranging, birds, and club procedure now in private libraries of members so that future exchanges may be made.

Plans to hold the spring meeting of Blue Mountain District No. 10 at Willows Grange hall on Wednesday, April 23, were discussed. On the committee in charge are Mrs. Cecil Jones, Mrs. Omar Rietmann, Mrs. Kenneth Palmer and Mrs. Tom Huston.

Mrs. Riley Munkers was a guest, and Mrs. Edwin Kessler received the door prize. Starts of fern, violets and bulbs were distributed to those present.

Next regular meeting will be March 12 at the home of Mrs. Omar Rietmann. Mrs. Will Sipple of Hermiston will speak on "Herbs in Our Gardens". Anyone interested in attending may contact a garden club member.

United Appeal Support Asked In Morrow County

Support for the Oregon United Appeal, which embraces 11 child care agencies and nine other organizations, is asked from Morrow county residents by John A. Venard, chairman of the Appeal in this county.

Information on the combined charitable program and a request for contributions has been mailed to many in the county, and each is urged to send his donation in the envelope enclosed.

While the United Appeal is often a part of a local drive, which also includes other community needs, there is no such United Fund in Morrow county. The organizations included in the statewide drive, however, are of as much benefit to Morrow county, in proportion, as they are to other counties of the state.

For instance, care provided Morrow county children last year through agencies of the United Appeal cost \$3,374. Venard points out. Also, the county has 73 young men in military service, and no matter where they are serving, the USO brings them a bit of off-duty relaxation. It is one of the agencies of the United Appeal.

Child care agencies included are Albertina Kerr Homes, Inc., Boys and Girls Aid Society, Catholic Services for Children, Children's Farm Home, Christie School, Providence Nursery, St. Mary's Home for Boys, Villa Gerard, Villa St. Rose, Volunteers of America and Waverly Children's Home.

Research, assistance and youth organizations include American Social Health Association, Leukemia Society, Inc., Mental Health Association of Oregon, National Association for Social Policy and Development, Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency Association for Retarded Children, USO at home and abroad, YMCA on Oregon campuses, and YWCA on Oregon campuses.

Last year, \$930,516 was dis-



STATE FFA LEADERS, including David Hall, right of Heppner, have spent a busy winter promoting work of the organization, which this week celebrates National FFA Week. Guests last fall of Gov. and Mrs. Tom McCall and television and movie star Morris Amsterdam, center, at a State Fair luncheon, were (from left) Bill Bellamy of Sherman, state FFA sentinel; John McCulley of Fair luncation, state FFA secretary; David Dietz of Coosby, state FFA president, and Hall, right, state FFA reporter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hall. The officers tour the state and visit FFA chapters during the school year. They were in planning sessions in Salem last week for state FFA convention, to be held in Astoria on March 19-21.

Dennis O'Donnell Named to Who's Who

Dennis O'Donnell of Heppner, a sophomore at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, has been listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, according to information from the college news bureau.

A law enforcement major, O'Donnell is one of 19 from the college to be so honored. He and his wife, the former Peggy Snyder of Heppner, and their baby are living in Ontario. O'Donnell is nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Harry O'Donnell and his wife is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Snyder, all of Heppner.

Need scratch pads? Get them at The Gazette-Times.

Amateur, Dance Slated at Spray

Saturday, March 1, has been scheduled as the date for the annual Amateur and Dance at Spray, according to announcement from the sponsoring American Legion Auxiliary.

It will be held in the Spray school gymnasium at 8 p.m. on the Saturday night. Admission for the dance will be \$1.50 per person, and admission to the amateur hour will be 75c for adults and high school and 50c for grade school children.

Music will be by the Western Gentlemen. There will be more prizes than ever before, the sponsors state.

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April 1 Deadline Set on Medicare's Doctor Bill Plan

Elderly persons will get letters this month reminding them that they have only until April 1 to sign up for the voluntary doctor bill insurance under Medicare.

In the letter, Robert M. Ball, Commissioner of Social Security, points out that for many of those who missed out on previous opportunities to sign up, the period from now to the end of March will be the last chance to get the protection. This includes persons who were born October 1, 1901, or earlier, and those who were enrolled in the program earlier, but dropped out January 1, 1967, or before.

With the doctor bill insurance part of Medicare, elderly people can supplement their basic hospital insurance protection with protection that helps pay doctors' and surgeons' bills and a wide variety of other medical expenses. In 1937, Commissioner Ball points out. It helped pay some 26 million medical bills and in 1968, another 33 million bills, mainly for physicians' services.

Almost 19 million of the elderly are signed up for the protection, but about another million do not yet have the protection. The Social Security Administration is able to send the Commissioner's letter to 800,000 of them—those who have been issued Medicare cards showing that they are covered only by the basic hospital insurance part of Medicare.

There are perhaps another 200,000 or so for whom the Social Security Administration does not have current addresses, because they have not yet applied for the hospital insurance under Medicare. Since the Social Security Administration has no way to get directly in touch with these older people, Ball appealed to sons and daughters and friends to call the open enrollment period to their attention, and suggest that they get in touch with the nearest social security office.

The medical insurance part of Medicare is financed half from the monthly premiums paid by the older persons enrolled and half out of general federal revenues. So the protection is worth twice the amount of the premium the older person pays. The basic premium rate is \$4 a month, but older people who are late in signing up pay a premium that is 10 percent higher for each full year that they could have been enrolled, but were not.



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The Nation's View Of Rural America And Rural Electrification

The overwhelming majority of Americans assign most of the classic virtues of life to rural people and rural life. They believe rural people are superior to their city counterparts — in health, friendliness, community involvement and freedom from pressure and tension.

The American public also expresses great support for the rural electrification program and the government resource development program.

These are among the findings of a recently completed independent nationwide survey of attitudes toward these subjects. The survey, the most extensive of its kind ever made, was conducted for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) by International Research Associates, Inc., New York.

NRECA, an organization representing almost 1,000 rural electric systems throughout the United States, commissioned INRA to measure public knowledge and understanding of rural America . . . its problems and its people . . . in light of a rapidly changing rural economy and vast rural-to-urban population shifts.

The survey was conducted among 1,400 people, two-thirds of them urban and one-third rural to reflect the nation's population balance.

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