

4-Corners snowmobile club has playday



Deacon and Nathan Heideman enjoy a lunch break of hotdogs and chili

Club members, friends and snowmobile enthusiasts from all over the region joined in the fun and food at the 4-Corners Snowmobile Club Play Day Sunday, Jan. 2. Good snowfall on Friday and Saturday provided a good base along with a fresh coating of powder snow for the snowmobilers. More than 60 persons attended from Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Hermiston, Echo, Pilot Rock, Ukiah, Arlington and Pendleton.

Gene Orwick, club president, cooked hot dogs and chili and kept the coffee pot full. Riders participated in a "poker run" trail ride which covered 7.6 miles around the Kelly Prairie area. Todd Hamby of Pilot Rock took first place and won \$25 in the poker run. Joe Taylor of Lexington came in second winning \$15 and Donna Dougherty took third for \$10.

The conditions past Cutsforth

Park prohibited driving, so riders parked and unloaded at Cutsforth and rode to Kelly Prairie. A large fire provided warmth between trail rides and poker runs. Four new families joined the club, bringing club membership to 26 families, representing 68 family members and 72 machines.

Membership dues are \$25 with \$20 paid to the state snowmobile association and \$5 for local dues. Membership provides families with information on statewide events, club activities from all over the state, funding for grooming of trails, and receipt of the state and local newsletters.

Anyone interested in joining the 4-Corners Snowmobile Club may send their name, address, number of family members and machines, along with \$25 to Della Heideman, secretary, 4-Corners Snowmobile Club, 22948 Fairview Lane, Ione, OR 97843.

Heppner native presents slide show on Russia



Sandy Matheny Fennessy

Sandy Matheny Fennessy, who grew up on the Matheny wheat ranch out of Heppner and now lives in Libby Montana, recently provided a glimpse of Russia with a slide presentation at the Libby Public Library.

Fennessy, who provides professional facilitation and mediation through her business, Matheny Associates, traveled to Russia in 1992. During her two-week stint in Russia with a National Center Associates team, she helped prepare an environmental mediation curriculum for Russians learning public policy planning.

The environmental mediation curriculum is one of several programs entitled the "Russian-American program of conflictology" aimed at assisting Russians in the transition to open governmental process.

The slide presentation featured scenes of old Russia, cathedrals, icons, gold leaf accents, mosaics

and winter palaces.

Fennessy's slides also showed the cities, housing, ballet, motion picture production and statuary depicting the impact of World War II.

Fennessy also described the program activity that took her from Libby to St. Petersburg, which is located on the Gulf of Finland.

Although Fennessy didn't speak Russian before the trip, by the end of her visit she had picked up necessary words and phrases. She also communicated by drawing pictures.

Before she left for home, she "could get in and out of a Russian computer. I even downloaded an American program into one of their computers," she said.

While in St. Petersburg, Fennessy stayed at the home of a senior Russian naval officer and his wife.

The Russians determined the type of training provided by Fennessy and her center associates. "They have a growing awareness of environmental matters, since the Chernobyl nuclear accident in April 1986," she said.

Fennessy and the team plan to return to Russia to continue their training early this year.

Fennessy is a graduate of the University of Oregon. She was a public affairs staff officer with the Kootenai National Forest before earning certification as a mediator.

Fennessy's program was arranged by the Friends of the Lincoln County Public Library and Cabinet Books and Music in the Libby Shopping Plaza.

State Grange master visits Grange

By Delpha Jones

Dale Morris, Oregon State Grange master from Portland has been visiting in the area encouraging the grangers in their work. Although the grange started as a farmer's organization, it now embraces all walks of industry, as all are connected in some way or another in the workings of the grange. Where would people get the fruit, vegetables and other staples they eat and use without the farmer? The grange is a family organization where all members may attend and children are welcome.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday at the Greenfield Grange Hall in Boardman. Some of the points of interest brought forward were scholarships given through the G.W.A. (Grange

Women's Association), the many contests with prizes, such as cooking, arts and crafts, quilts and others. The insurance programs of Grange are most beneficial to the members and all granges have an insurance person, who will answer any questions and give assistance with grange problems. The Grange also has a man at the legislature all the time, and through the many resolutions to the county, state and national government and senators and representatives, many bills are passed and much is accomplished.

Those attending at Boardman were state master Morris, county deputy Delpha Jones, insurance agent Kathleen Clark and Barton Clark, past Wheatland Pomona master and Cecil Jones.

On Saturday, Mt. Vernon Grange in Grant County was hostess to an officers' conference at their hall with Master Morris, his wife and about 35 other members present. Membership was discussed along with many services the Grange can offer such as hearing service, dogs for the deaf, the Ron McDonald House, eye glasses for the needy, credit union, college scholarships and many other things of interest. Meetings and programs are presented at each meeting with potluck dinners and friendship and fellowship with other members and the community service that each does.

Attending from Wheatland were master Mike Medlock and his wife, Aloha, Spray Master Hammick and county deputy Delpha Jones and husband Cecil.

BMCC offers aerobic class

By Anne Morter

Blue Mountain Community College is offering an aerobics with weights class this term in Heppner. This is a nine week class designed as a fat-burning workout using light weights. Students should bring three, five or 10 pound weights to class. Kay Fowler, Heppner, is the instructor.

The class has been moved from Monday night to Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the multipurpose room of the Heppner Elementary School.

Interested students should contact BMCC coordinator Anne Morter 422-7429 for registration information.

Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

--Cecil Jones visited with his cousin, Hilda McComber at Mt. Veron during the grange meeting there on Saturday.

--Holly Rebekah Lodge met on Thursday for the regular meeting with the NG Leila Palmer in the chair. Reports to the state had been made and reported. Plans were discussed for the next card party in February starting with a chili sup-

per at 5:30 p.m. followed by the card party with prizes and refreshments. The chili supper will be \$5 with cards extra.

--Friends were sorry to hear of the death of Lyle Allen. He was taken to Portland by ambulance one day last week suffering from a heart attack and underwent major surgery there. His wife Lois had been staying with him in Portland.

Survey of health providers reveal labor shortages

A survey of health providers in Northeast Oregon revealed labor shortages in many allied health professions and difficulties in obtaining continuing education.

Eight allied health professions were surveyed: dentists, dental hygienists and assistants, medical laboratory technologists, medical records technicians, nurses, physical therapists, radiologic technologists and respiratory therapists.

The professions interviewed identified their main concerns as: the difficulty in recruiting allied health professionals; the lack of a qualified labor pool within the community; and the difficulty in accessing continuing education.

Most health providers reported it was hard to get away for continuing education because of a lack of back-up. All except dentists expressed a need for part-time and "casual" labor to cover sick and vacation days and to allow employees to be away from the job for continuing education. Dentists were the only professionals reporting little problem in getting away.

Employer-provided funds are

limited and often dedicated to employees requiring continuing education for re-licensing. Most of the continuing education programs are offered in Boise, Spokane or Portland, adding to the expense and time away.

Many records technicians are on-the-job trained from within the community and do not have formal training or a medical background. Though they desire additional training, they are unable to leave the region to obtain it because of family obligations.

Almost all allied health training programs are located outside the Northeast Oregon area, primarily in Portland or Boise. Offering training in this area would enable people trained on the job to provide needed back-up for the more skilled providers.

Northeast Oregon AHEC plans to use information from the assessment to prioritize their continuing education offerings. The agency serves health professionals in Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Union, Umatilla, Wallowa and Wheeler counties.

The assessment was conducted by Carole Smith, education coordinator for Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center. The Area Health Education Centers Program is a joint effort between Oregon Health Sciences University and communities around the state.

For a copy of the study, contact the Northeast Oregon AHEC Office at 503 962-3801.

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Barley stripe rust on its way to Oregon

Pat Hayes, OSU barley breeder, announced at a recent STEEP meeting in Richland that barley stripe rust Race 24 was found in Idaho in 1993 and it will likely reach Oregon this year. A workshop has been planned in Ione on January 27 to learn more about barley stripe rust and other diseases.

Barley stripe rust is a fungal plant disease that has reduced barley yield by as much as 70 percent in Texas, Mexico and Columbia as it has moved northward over the past few years. All spring barley varieties are susceptible. Wheat is not susceptible.

Breakthroughs in understanding the genetic makeup of the barley chromosome will allow Hayes to genetically alter a current spring variety, giving it barley stripe resistance, for possible release in 1996. Barley has fewer chromosomes than wheat, making it easier to understand and manipulate.

Hayes has recently released a barley stripe resistant winter variety called Kold. Other winter barley varieties are susceptible to this disease.

According to Texas A&M University research, treatments of the fungicides Tilt or Bayleton + Maneb reduced stripe rust severity and increased yield in Steptoe barley, a susceptible winter variety. Kold showed no effect from the barley stripe rust and consequently showed no response to fungicides. Kold yielded about 40 percent more than Steptoe in the Texas trial.

Kold was named after Mat Kolding, recently retired Oregon State University plant breeder at the Hermiston Experiment Station.

Barley stripe rust and other diseases will be discussed at the wheat seminar on Pendleton on January 26 at the Pendleton Elks Lodge at 9 a.m. or at the disease workshop in Ione on January 27 at the Willows Grange at 1 p.m. Dryland and irrigated growers are encouraged to attend. There is a \$20 charge for the Pendleton workshop, which will be an all day session. Lunch and materials are included.

For more information regarding these two workshops contact the Morrow County Extension office, 676-9642.

Canola topic of breakfast meeting

Does \$5 per bushel for wheat in 1993 and 1994 sound interesting to wheat growers? According to Mike Stoltz, Umatilla County Extension agent that is what some growers of canola are saying their returns equal on their farms.

"Because of substantial interest in canola we have had requests for another canola meeting," said Stoltz. The meeting has been scheduled for January 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Sizzler restaurant in Pendleton. Breakfast is compliments of SeedTec International, a prime canola contractor in the area.

Growers are asked to call the extension office at 276-7111 ext. 235 for reservations by January 14. Reservations are important because the group needs to let the Sizzler know how many there will be for breakfast. "It is a real problem when 20 extra show up," said Stoltz.

Topics will include an economic comparison of wheat and canola on both irrigated and dryland soils, 1993 research results, herbicide update and sulfonyleurea problems, increasing insect problems and strategies and a grower panel. "We knew when the canola acreage reached a certain point that we would have more insect problems, particularly cabbage seed pod weevil. In 1993 we seemed to have reached that point," said Stoltz. "Consequently we have asked Joe McCaffery, entomologist from Idaho and a canola expert to join us for this session. I think his insights should be invaluable for this year," continued Stoltz.

The dryland growers on the panel are Brian Jones and Jerry Terjeson. Irrigated growers are Rick Hale, Sam Meyers and Tom Branetter. "Their wide range of experience and farming areas ought to make this the highlight of the meeting," according to Stoltz.

Kevin Jordan of the Umatilla ASCS office will explain how to fit canola into your farm program. In the right situation a person can receive wheat deficiency payments or take a marketing loan on their canola. "It will often pay to understand how this works," Stoltz said.

To finish up the meeting Kris Powers, canola buyer for Mitsubishi will give some price outlook data and PGG and SeedTec will talk about contracts and pricing.

Off the Wall

By Meryn Robinson

A postponement of New Year's resolutions is one way to avoid abandoning those noble thoughts and deeds. After all, it's difficult to really pursue slimming exercises when the nose requires so much attention.

Maybe this mild winter weather can erase all the flu bugs that have been passed around. Few families escaped having their holiday season marred by incidents of flu or other health problems.

This week, I've been inspired to do some yard cleanup. Surprisingly, I found some pansies in bloom. But I don't have any intentions of gardening just yet, because no telling what kind of weather February will bring.

Our surrounding green pasture has attracted a large herd of deer that come in nightly for a piece de resistance or maybe just dessert. I don't know if they are just inspecting the strawberry plants, but they certainly leave plenty of tracks and their calling cards should help fertilize that area. I did hang some garbage bags over small tender trees. It seems they like to use small sumacs as toothpicks, from the looks of the ends of these small fuzzy trees.

A dose of sunshine makes things look a whole lot brighter. And one can't overlook some major happenings as we reflect on 1993. The new city fire hall is completed--giving that area an uptown look that will facilitate the department. Firemen who so diligently check out their equipment can look forward to a new fire truck this year, the results of the past year's efforts.

With the sewer plant renovation underway, that's a big step in upgrading city services that has been on the drawing board for several years. And the sheriff's department and emergency management offices in the renovated former Forest Service building certainly puts them on top of the hill instead of in the basement. Also the medical clinic addition that allows for more health services is a major improvement.

Volunteers are the heart of any community. And this week's Town and Country affair will acknowledge the 1993 first citizens. Many people donate their time to worthwhile causes. The implementation of a new rodeo arena and the PRCA first-class show have been the results of the hard working rodeo committee, who never gave up even when they were up against a deadline.

The community benefits from events like Fair and Rodeo, the St. Patrick's celebration and other events like Town and Country. And the county would not be the same without all the people who tirelessly dedicate their time to serving on various boards. Community support gives a positive feeling when helping the needy such as supplying holiday baskets and helping in times of disaster.

It's appropriate to take time to smell the roses, or in this case, pansies, as we launch into a new year. We truly have to be thankful for the opportunity to live where crime is not a major problem and children can freely walk the streets. And now that I've run out of excuses, I've got to carry on with a resolve to dedicate more time to some self-help plans--a stab at reducing flab.

4-H News

The Junior Cookers

By Heidi Kurts, reporter

Members held their first 4-H cooking meeting for the year recently. The club name is The Junior Cookers. Members also voted for president, treasurer, vice president and reporter. Jesse Gutierrez, president; Paula Spicerkuhn, treasurer; Kelsey Greenup, vice president and Heidi Kurts reporter. The club made fruit kabobs. They also did a fruit experiment. It was called On Darkening of Fruit. It was good. It was not very hard at all. First they had pineapple juice, lemon juice, and salt water. The salt water was the worst. The pineapple was the best. The lemon was OK but it sure was sour.

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