

The Colorado Granger

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

WWW.COLORADOGRANGE.ORG

THE COLORADO GRANGER, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME 99, NUMBER 5

The Colorado Grange OPT IN Form

Deadline for submission is February 1, 2024.

The delegates at the state convention passed a resolution requiring all members/households to OPT IN to receive *The Colorado Granger* bimonthly publication. You have a choice of receiving it either via USPS in paper format or via email. Please choose your preference below and provide the information needed.

Check one please:

_____ I(We) prefer to receive The Colorado Granger in **paper format**.

_____ I(We) prefer to receive *The Colorado Granger* **via email**.

Your personal information (we want to be sure that we have your correct information)

Grange _____ # _____

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Please return this form to Colorado State Grange, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326. Or email the information to costategrange@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission is February 1, 2024.

If you do not respond we will assume that you are not interested in receiving *The Colorado Granger*.

Upcoming Events

Call individual Granges for more information.

- Jan. 5 Golden Gate Grange Meeting, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 8 Florissant Monthly Meeting.
- Jan. 9 Florissant Quilt of Valor Guild Meets, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Jan. 13 Florissant Pine Needle Basket Class, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Florissant Needle Felting Class, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Florissant Glass Painting Class, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Jan. 13 Pleasant Park Regular Meeting 10 a.m.
followed with Potluck.
- Jan. 13 Sunflower Master Gardener Outreach to Schools
speaker Krista Gay; Seed Swap.
- Jan. 20 Marvel Grange Chili Cook-off
and Dessert Auction, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 23 Florissant Quilt of Valor Guild Meets, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Feb. 1 **OPT-IN for *The Colorado Granger***
Receipts due to State Office
- Feb. 2 Marvel Grange Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 2 Golden Gate Grange Meeting, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 10 Florissant Pine Needle Basket Class, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Florissant Needle Felting Class, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Florissant Fabric Landscaping Class, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Feb. 10 Pleasant Park Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.
followed with Potluck.
- Feb. 10 Sunflower Plastic-Eating Mushrooms, Gary Heferle;
Seed Swap continues, Planning for Spring Sale.
- Feb. 10 Enterprise Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Planning Meeting.
- Feb. 12 Florissant Monthly Meeting
- Feb. 13 Florissant Quilt of Valor Guild Meets, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Marvel Grange Palentines/Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser,
6-8 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Enterprise Valentine's Party and Potluck, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 15 Articles for next *Colorado Granger* due.
- March 2 Progressive Pomona Meeting, 11 a.m.
at BMan's BBQ in Sedalia.
- March 9 Pleasant Park Regular Meeting, 10 a.m.
followed with Potluck.
- March 9 Sunflower Soil Talk, John Murgel of CSU
Extension Office; Planting for Spring Sale.
- March 13 Enterprise St. Patrick's Irish Potluck, 6:30 p.m.
- March 31 End of First Quarter for 2024
and time to send in Quarterly Report and Payment.
- April 30 Deadline for First Quarter Report due to State Office.
Marvel Grange – Mondays, Line Dancing, 9-10 a.m.
Golden Gate AA – Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.
Golden Gate Yoga – Wednesdays, from 3 to 4 p.m.
Florissant – Every Thursday is Community Potluck and Music.
Sunflower – Third Thursdays, Local History Book Club
Meets at BMan's BBQ at 1 p.m.



2023 National Delegates and Officers

National Grange Election Of Officers

The Delegate body elected Christine Hamp (WA), who stepped into the role of Vice President in 2021, President. John Benedik (NJ) was elected as the next Vice President. Tom Gwin (WA) was elected as the National Grange Lecturer. Walter Hartley (RI) was elected as the National Grange Assistant Steward. Kay Hoffman Stiles (MD) was elected as the National Grange Chaplain. David Allen (NC) was elected as the Na-

tional Grange Gatekeeper, and Barbara Foster (WV) was elected as the National Grange Pomona.

Re-elected to their offices were Executive Committee members Lynette Schaeffer (IL) and Buddy Overstreet (TX), Lady Assistant Steward - Kathy Gibson (MA), Treasurer - Joe Goodrich (VT), Secretary - Debbie Campbell (PA), Ceres - Cindy Greer (CO), and Flora - Welina Shufeldt (OK).



New National Officers

2024 Colorado Grange Handbook Inside

The Assembly of Demeter met for their annual business meeting. As a part of their meeting, election was held. Roger Bostwick was re-elected as the High Priest of Demeter. Phil Prelli (CT), William "Chip" Narvel (DE) was elected as Priest Archon. Martha Stefanoni (CA) was elected into her second term as Priestess An-

nalist. The Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange is responsible for organizing and presenting the Seventh Degree, as well as handling matters of Grange Law and ritual.

Chris Hamp can be reached at 14619 W Jacobs, Road, Spokane, WA 99224, 509-953-3533 champ@nationalgrange.org.

National Session Colorado Participants:
Roger and Sheryl Ayers, Vickie Gallegos, Harry and Cindy Greer, Gary and Kathy Wardle, Lisa Cole (MT), Elizabeth Hiner, and John Cole (MT).

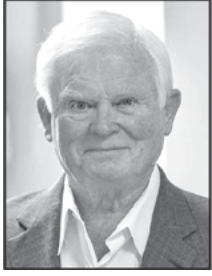


Master's Message

Gary Wardle, State Master

1136 Bluebell Way, Brighton, CO 80601

303-349-7390 • Email: cograngepresident@gmail.com



I hope all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. All the Granges should have had their planning meetings and are ready for the busy and productive 2024.

Kathy and I along with seven other Grangers from Colorado attended the National Grange convention held in Niagara Falls, New York. Thanks to all for attending. Congratulations to Cindy being elected to National Ceres for the next two years. Chris Hamp was elected as the new president of the National Grange.

A big thank you to Betsy Huber for her efforts and accomplishment as national president. The theme for the next two years is "Grange Strong: Rooted. Resilient. United." All should identify how your Grange is Rooted, Resilient, and United. This can be bringing together each of our members, building up the Grange, and highlighting the good that is being done in your communities. This can be used to celebrate Grange Month in April. All can use Grange month to celebrate the Colorado State Grange 150th anniversary.

The delegates elected BJ Bushman as the lecturer for Colorado. She is busy developing a new program for the next two years. I hope all will participate in the different programs. Thanks to Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter for their work on Family Activities. Look at their program and participate in these programs. We look forward to the entries in both programs at next year's convention. The convention for 2024 will be held on the western slope. We have started the planning, stay tuned for exact location and dates.

As you plan and host your events, let Kathy and I know the dates and time. We will make every effort to attend. Plan events that will celebrate our 150th anniversary. I have had some requests for the 150th anniversary banner. If you would like one, we will either send a banner or deliver one to your Grange.

Good Luck on a successful year.

IN ESSENTIALS UNITY, IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY,
IN ALL THINGS CHARITY

Chaplain's Corner

Amy Peterson State Chaplain

970-749-9374

amyloupeterson@gmail.com



It's the start of the new year and I pray that God will make this one a year of revival. With what we have seen in the past year the world needs to lean on God and leave this world behind us. Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (NIV) We need to have more peace in our world and the only way to that peace is through prayer to the Heavenly Father. Philippians 4:7 says, "And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

The world needs to look to Jesus and not the selfish ways of the world. Jesus told us that we would have trouble in this world, but He can overtake the world if we just trust Him and pray for His will. This being a new year, we need to trust that He knows what is happening in this world and be more prayerful for His will for us. If this world would do more praying and be less self-cen-

tered we could have the peace, He promised us. He is a good God who loves us and wants the best for us, but He is also a God who disciplines His children for their own good. He will always show us the truth and how we should live our lives to His glory. If we would just do as He has asked us, we will have the peace in our hearts and mind that He has promised. We are all part of humanity, no matter the race, gender, and beliefs, let's just get along in unity. Paul says in Colossians 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace." (NIV)

COLORADO STATE GRANGE MEMORIALS

Memorial donations to honor members and past members who have passed away should be made payable to CSG Leadership/Scholarship and mailed to the State Grange office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326. Memorial donations are listed in the Book of Memories and included in the Memorial service at the state convention.

Notes From The Secretary

Cindy Greer, State Master

7629 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81316

719-748-5008

Email: costategrange@gmail.com



February 1, 2024 – OPT IN for Colorado Granger forms/communication due to state office.

February 15 – articles for next Colorado Granger due.

March 31 – End of first quarter for 2024 and time to send in quarterly report and payment.

April 30 – Deadline for first quarter report due to state office.

Happy New Year! Hopefully by this time you have received your packet with the Journal of Proceedings, the roster, the 2024 password(s),

and your fourth quarter report for 2023. If you have not, please let me know and I will resend them.

Some of you may be wondering why we still have a password when most of us do not use it. Why do we still have one. This password gives you access to the National Grange website on the members side. Once you have been on the National Grange website you will need to create your own profile and your own password. So, for new members or first-time users of the National

Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors

The National Grange, has received a major grant that will leverage its position as the voice of rural America. Each Subordinate Grange will be receiving a packet of information in the coming year to utilize in their communities. Granges who do utilize the program may potentially benefit financially.

Joan C. Smith is the project manager. She announced that the National Grange received a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award (EADI #30051) for a program entitled "Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors." The National Grange received the PCORI award contract because the Grange is a trusted messenger to and for rural America. The aim is to reach 150,000 people across the nation in the next two years,

"This program provides local Community Granges the resources to educate and inform their areas about what senior citizens should be doing to prepare for surgeries — before the surgery, and when they return home," Smith said. "There's also a comprehensive 'Preparing for My Future' guide, with questions that any adult should think about. It covers topics from where bank accounts are located and what kind of care you're willing to have, to who in your community might be able to help you with certain activities post-surgery."

Smith suggests that community grants can reach their communities through other organizations like churches, 4-H, Kiwanis, or garden clubs.

The program is available at www.seniorsurgeryguides.com, which features over two dozen informational and instructional videos. These include videos on pre-surgery discussions, preparing your home, how to talk to others about your health, and what to do in case of hospitalization. The website also includes sections on finances and financial concerns, dealing with memory loss, and learning how to self-advocate in the healthcare process.

Burton Eller, National Grange Legislative Director is the campaign's project leader. He believes the National Grange is an ideal organization for the dissemination of this program. "The average rural American needs to drive over 10 miles to reach their nearest doctor, as opposed to their urban counterparts who have less than half that travel. Because of this discrepancy, many rural and small-town residents want to ensure that their time with a surgeon or doctor is well-spent and they can get all of the information they need. By having access to a list of questions they might not have thought to ask, they will now be bet-

ter prepared for surgery or whatever life brings them."

The National Grange has championed rural Americans since 1867 and has become a leading voice in advocating for better access to healthcare and high-speed internet. "And the two are intertwined," says Eller. "Especially since the pandemic, telehealth options have become a routine way of interacting with your doctor. However, 47% of rural residents still do not have the benchmark speeds for 'basic internet' access."

The Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors project is designed to be replicable by Community and State Granges, known for being community hubs and meeting spaces throughout the country. Each Grange will have access to videos that they can show in informational community programs and will be able to provide copies of the guides, lessons, and more information to help prepare their community members for the future.

"Everybody has questions before and after surgery," Smith says. "Our goal is to make it a simpler, less daunting process. Even I have already made adjustments to my home and lifestyle after helping prepare the program."

Everyone is encouraged to view the program trailer at www.grange.biz/rsss-trailer. For those who wish to know more, please contact Program Manager Joan C. Smith at rsss@grange.org. Colorado Grangers will recognize some of the participants in the videos as our own State president, Gary Wardle and first lady



B.J. Bushman, State Lecturer Receives Farm Bureau Award

Douglas County Farm Bureau received many awards the weekend of October 7!

After being installed as the Colorado State Grange Lecturer, and receiving the Sixth Degree, B.J. Bushman attended the Douglas County Farm Bureau at which she was presented with the Colorado Farm Bureau Distinguished Volunteer of 2023 Award!

Grange website this password gives you access. You will find the member benefits, contest rules and guidelines, and other information that only members need access to.

As you know, the delegates at State session passed a resolution that REQUIRES every household to OPT IN to receive *The Colorado Granger*. The executive committee has set the deadline for this as February 1, 2024. Please look for the OPT IN form, complete it, and return it to the state office.

A secretary's work is never done. As you collect dues from your members make sure you have their correct mailing address and please share it with the office so that we do not have return mail. Secretaries work hard and get very little recognition. I want to thank each of you for your work and encourage you to keep up the good work.

Kathy are featured as well as daughter Kara Jacobs. Some of our Colorado Grange halls are also in the background of some of the videos.

The National Grange worked in conjunction with consultant doctors, rural citizens, and Grange leaders from around the country in the creation of this program.

Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors Program COMMUNITY GRANGE INCENTIVES

The first 250 Community Granges will receive \$100 at National Grange convention in 2024 by completing three (3) of any the below items.

- Conduct a Grange program, report Number present
- Conduct a public forum(s)/program(s), report number present
- Provide Video/guides to three other organizations (Church, Senior Center, VFW, Masons, Clubs, FFA, 4-H), report names and numbers present/provided information.
- Have a Display/Fair & hand out guides – report numbers
- Provide info on social Media,, local Media (TV, Radio, Newsprint), must provide a screenshot or full article
- Provide semi-annual totals of people influenced – Report in May and October to email: rsss@grange.org.

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Cindy GreerSecretary

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Assistant Steward.....Christopher Cleary
Lady Asst. Steward.....Laura Anderson
Chaplain.....Amy Peterson
Treasurer..... Sheryl Ayers
Secretary.....Cindy Greer
Gatekeeper..... Barry Willits
Ceres..... Yvonne Ludwig
Pomona..... Dee Dee Ramstetter
Flora..... Terri Costeldia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Roger Ayers,
John Cruz, Tom Campion

Visit www.coloradogranger.org

Please notify the State Grange Office of any address change.

Because it is 2nd class mail, the Grange is charged 59¢ per address change the post office sends from the *Granger* mailings.

Email: costategrange@gmail.com

Call 719-748-5008 or mail the form below.

FOR THE COLORADO GRANGER MAILING LIST ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME _____ GRANGE # _____
OLD ADDRESS _____
(IF CHANGE OR DROP) _____
ZIP CODE _____
PRESENT ADDRESS _____
ZIP CODE _____
(GIVE ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER)

Send to: Colorado State Grange
7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326

The Colorado Granger Available Online

If for some reason you don't receive a paper copy or you prefer to read the paper online, you can obtain a copy at Colorado State Grange (coloradogranger.org). This is the State Grange website, scroll down on the left hand side to the *Granger* (newspaper) and click on it, which will take you to the papers which are categorized by year.



Lecturer

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ROSTER CORRECTION

State Lecturer:
B.J. Bushman
303-550-7901

Newbie.
Wet behind the ears.
Greenhorn.
Green (*definitely GREEN!!!*).
Yep. All of the above. While each of these terms define my experience in the Grange, it does not define my exposure. The Grange has a fabulous and honorable reputation nationwide. Be proud of that. Grangers are known for their deep community roots, their devoted support of agriculture, and their care to promote better standards of life.

While I am still learning how each of our Granges operate and fill a specific niche in their communities, it is clearly evident that success is seen statewide, annually. Kudos to those who were recognized at our State Annual Convention — both for State Grange Awards, as well as personal awards. I applaud your achievements!

As we look to 2024, may we spur each other on to great exposure in our communities and fellowship within our Pomonas. It is impressive to see the accomplishments of our neigh-

bors! May we be inspired by what we've heard and seen, and then encouraged to adapt great programming within our communities this year!

It is my hope that as you plan your events, joint-ventures with other community organizations, and promote sponsorships that you will be encouraged, rejuvenated, and inspired in your outreach. May you seek out new ways to communicate with your membership and community, recruit those who would make great partners, and maybe even reinvigorate where programming and involvement need refreshing!

New Year, new goals, new reach, and new fun!

While I am your Newbie, I eagerly look forward to experiencing your passion!

Let us have an ambitious, driven 2024 together!

Real Estate Management

Mike Lackey, State Director
303-521-8773
Email: thelackeyteam@gmail.com



- Strong Demand:** The Colorado residential real estate market witnessed continued strong demand in 2023. The state's desirable location, outdoor amenities, and robust job market attracted homebuyers from both within and outside of Colorado.
- Rising Home Prices:** Home prices in Colorado experienced steady appreciation throughout the year. Factors such as limited housing inventory and high demand contributed to the increase in prices. However, the rate of price growth varied across different regions within the state.
- Competitive Market:** The market remained highly competitive, with multiple offers and bidding wars becoming common occurrences. Homebuyers faced challenges in finding suitable properties as inventory levels struggled to keep up with demand. This led to increased competition among buyers.
- Urban and Suburban Areas:** The urban and suburban areas of Colorado were particularly sought after in 2023. Cities like Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs witnessed significant demand, resulting in a thriving real estate market and higher prices in these areas.
- Emphasis on Affordability:** While the overall trend leaned towards rising prices, there was also an increased emphasis on afford-

ability. Developers and builders focused on creating more affordable housing options to cater to a wider range of buyers.

Remote Work Influence: The rise of remote work due to the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the Colorado real estate market in 2023. Many homebuyers sought properties with dedicated home offices or flexible spaces to accommodate their work-from-home needs.

Sustainability and Green Homes: There was an increased interest in sustainable and energy-efficient homes throughout the state. Buyers prioritized properties with eco-friendly features such as solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and smart home technology.

Mortgage Rates: Mortgage rates remained relatively low in 2023, which contributed to improved affordability for buyers. Low-interest rates continued to support the demand for homes and encouraged potential buyers to enter the market.

It's important to note that this summary provides a general overview of the residential real estate market in Colorado for 2023. For a more detailed and accurate analysis, it is recommended to consult local real estate professionals or market reports specific to the region you are interested in.

Granger Deadline And Guidelines

February 15, 2024, is the deadline for articles for the March-April 2024 edition of *The Colorado Granger*. You can send them to the State Grange Office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326 or email costategrange@gmail.com.

We would appreciate your following these guidelines when writing an article.

- Name of Grange
- Contact person (with phone number)
- Upcoming dates

- Brief summary of what has been happening at your Grange — DO NOT SEND MINUTES
- Community Service Projects
- In Memoriam (Grangers who have passed away)
- Thinking of You
- (Grangers who are sick and shut in — include address if they would enjoy cards)
- Hats Off (Grangers to be recognized)
- You're Invited (activities open to nonmembers and visiting Grangers)

Colorado State Grange Website

Larry Corman takes care of the web page for the State Grange. He is requesting that Officers and Directors contact him with updates for their departments.

He would like to link the web page of each Grange to the State Grange site. Please contact him to have this done so Grange members and others can easily access your page for information.

Larry Corman: larry_corman@hotmail.com or 970-749-8438.



Family Activities

Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter, State Activities Co-Directors
Idella Lewis, 303-274-9390
Email: idellamlewis@gmail.com
Karen Baxter, 14857 CR 240, Bayfield, CO 81122
970-259-1595



With Valentine's Day coming up, it is time for everyone to express their affection with greeting cards, flowers, chocolate, jewelry, and going out for a special meal. Many of these special traditions were started many years ago. It is a day that is celebrated in the U.S. as well as in Britain, Canada, Australia, Argentina, France, Mexico, and South Korea. In the Philippines it is the most common day for weddings, and many mass

weddings are held then because there are so many on that day.

Cards were exchanged beginning in the 17th century in America. They were handmade at that time, but it wasn't until 1830 that manufactured cards were made, due to the availability of paper and a universal postal system which was more available. Some of the early handmade cards had many intricate drawings and lovely poems were included.

A family or Grange activity could be done by making handmade Valentine cards. All that is needed is some colored paper or doilies and colored pencils and don't forget the glitter! Handmade cards could also be made and given to residents in care centers. Original messages or poems could be written. Sometimes a handmade item is appreciated more! Let your creativity shine!
Happy Valentine's Day!



Agriculture Report

David H. McCord, State Director
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Update, Measure #91, initiative to ban so-called mountain lion, bobcat, and lynx "trophy hunting": At the October State Grange Session, delegates voted to oppose this initiative that would outlaw hunting and trapping of mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx. The measure will need 124,238 signatures for the 2024 ballot. I am apprehensive that petitioners will work crowds in the urban Front Range for signers and avoid rural ag communities where opposition is likely and hunting is popular.

Approval would prohibit "trophy hunting" as "intentionally killing, wounding, pursuing, or entrapping a mountain lion, bobcat, or lynx." Exemptions allow for protection of human life, property, and livestock.

The above and below initiatives are products of motivated radical animal rights activists who include committed vegans who would remove meat from our diet to apply their views on what the rest of us eat and they claim cruelty prevention. They want a plant-based food system. There is no public hearing process for initiatives, no discussion, and no public input beyond our votes. The activists will continue to attempt controls on how we choose to live.

In Denver, two initiatives would 1) outlaw slaughterhouses, and 2)

ban fur sales. The activists have successfully placed these initiatives on the 2024 Denver ballot. A similar fur ban was approved for Boulder in 2021 supported by the same activists.

Denver has at least one slaughterhouse. Per their spokesperson in the *Denverite*: "Superior Farms is an employee-owned company and the leader in the American lamb industry. We source from local family farms throughout the western U.S. We supply a premium lamb product to retail and food service. Hundreds of our employee-owners are proud to call Denver home, where we serve the rancher, restaurant, and retail industries." The company dates back 70 years. Lamb products are shipped nationally and locally. Closure would devastate the sheep industry, deny history and culture, and harm the owners, while attempting to control consumer diet. Superior Farms employs Halal practices important to Muslim consumers. Per the initiative, workers affected by closure would receive workforce training and other help; burdening Denver taxpayers to pay for this radical and unneeded measure.

It's unclear how Denver fur sales outlets would be affected — a Google search seems to indicate about 10 stores that may market fur and sheepskins. The Colorado Fur Trap-

pers have long hosted a fur sales booth at the National Western Stock Show and another booth is at the annual ISE Sportsmen's Expo at Denver's Convention Center. The Fur Trappers conventionally gift the rodeo queen with a fur coat.

Wolf introduction. As I write this, the Colorado Cattlemen and Gunnison County Stockgrowers are suing Parks and Wildlife to delay re-introduction of gray wolves seeking declaratory judgment that the wildlife agencies violated the law by not preparing an environmental impact statement. In early December Colorado wildlife staff using helicopters were attempting to capture Oregon wolves to be flown to western Colorado for release at locations not made public.

2024 Bonding Insurance Report

The following Granges in Colorado have sent in payment for Bonding insurance for 2024.

Rose Hill #256	\$5,000	\$53
Oxford #482	\$25,000	\$75
Left Hand #9	\$10,000	\$60
Poncha Springs #417	\$25,000	\$75
Victory #453	\$5,000	\$53
Golden Gate #451	\$25,000	\$75
Pleasant Park #156	\$5,000	\$53
Maple Grove #154	\$25,000	\$75
Florissant #420	\$10,000	\$60
Animas Valley #194	\$5,000	\$53
Crescent #136	\$25,000	\$75
Empire #148	\$5,000	\$53
Sunflower #162	\$5,000	\$53
Colorado State Grange	\$25,000	\$75
Total Amount		\$888

Metrum Community Credit Union

Currently The Colorado State Grange has two accounts at the Metrum Community Credit Union in Centennial. Any Grange member who might be interested in opening an account at Metrum can utilize their Grange membership to qualify for an account.

Since 1946, Metrum Community Credit Union, a Centennial, Colorado credit union, has been providing quality financial services to members. We provide savings, checking, and loan services to fit individual member needs. Whether you're looking to refinance your home, purchase a new car, or build a nest egg for retirement, we can help you reach your goals. We are a local Centennial, Colorado Credit Union and are here to serve our community.

What Is A Credit Union?

When you search online for a "credit union near me," what exactly are you searching for? What makes us stand out from other financial institutions? Let's break down what it means to be a Centennial, Colorado, credit union:

Not-for-Profit – While most financial institutions operate to make a profit for their stockholders, your Credit Union operates for the benefit of its membership.

Member-Owned – Every Metrum Community Credit Union member is an owner, not just a customer. In fact, membership is one of the key differences between credit unions and other financial institutions. All credit unions are not-for-profit organizations owned by those who save and borrow there. The Credit Union returns surplus funds, in excess of expenses and required reserves, to the membership in the form of better rates, services, and dividend payments.

Volunteers Make the Difference – Metrum Community Credit Union is governed by the Supervisory Committee and the Board of Directors, which are comprised of members who are elected democratically and serve without compensation. The Board of Directors sets policies and directs the Credit Union's efforts to ensure the best interests of the membership are met.

Safety and Soundness – Your money is safe at the credit union. We are a state-chartered financial institution that is regulated and administered by the State of Colorado Division of Financial Services.

More information about the Credit Union is available on their website metrumcu.org.



metrum
community
credit union

Legislative Activity

Mike Lackey, State Director

303-521-8773 • Email: thelackeyteam@gmail.com

Democrats entered this legislative session with confidence, touting a mandate from Colorado voters for their team to deliver bold, progressive policies after the November election. Though the party had been fully in control of state government for four years, their advantage grew to historic margins, especially in the House. And there were plenty of fresh faces: one-third of the legislators were new to the Capitol.

With a larger caucus comes greater diversity of opinion, and Democrats didn't always see eye to eye. While Republicans played a hand in policy discussions, the most notable debates often came from internal disagreements among Democrats, with moderates and progressives at odds over key issues.

Governor Jared Polis vetoed 10 bills, frustrating members of his party. And despite calls to prevent a crush of bills in the legislature, from budget constraints to Republican delays, Democrats struggled at times to advance their agenda, particularly as the clock ticked down. Members of the party's left wing hit roadblocks in areas such as criminal justice, substance use, and housing, with progressive Democrats unsuccessfully pushing for measures to limit arrests for certain non-violent offenses, allow cities to open overdose prevention centers, and place limits on single-family zoning for homes. Longstanding lobby groups also exerted influence, successfully opposing or amending legislation that critics said threatened the interests of local governments, hospitals, and businesses.

But in the end, Democrats largely delivered on their promises. Two successes of note: passage of bill packages addressing reproductive

health and guns. These highly partisan issues proceeded quickly, generally facilitated by support from across the Democratic Party, including both progressives and moderates, legislative leadership, and the governor. The new laws are receiving national attention, held up as models for other states looking to pass legislation popular with progressives.

Many policy decisions each session come down to money. After being flooded with federal COVID-relief aid the past two sessions, the legislature had fewer dollars to spend on new programs and initiatives. This forced tough decisions for leaders, including members of the Joint Budget Committee, which shapes the state's budget. Legislators focused on pocketbook issues, notably controlling health care costs, promoting affordable housing, and providing tax relief and tax credits.

And health, again, was at the forefront. Legislators passed bills to improve behavioral health access and funding for screening and treatment services. They changed up some notable new programs, such as the Colorado Option insurance plan and Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB), as well as the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). They altered licensing and scope-of-practice requirements for health care providers, such as physician assistants and psychologists, and continued to advance a slate of policies focused on climate change by tackling air quality and wildfire issues. They extended coverage for some people on Medicaid. Without a major election in the fall, the months before the start of the 2024 session should be a quieter time.

Mandy Project

Cindy Greer, Coordinator

970-588-3386 • Email: hcrdgreer@frontier.net

Maureen Blackwell, was diagnosed with a mild-moderate sensorineural hearing loss bilaterally at the age of 11 weeks. This hearing loss will have a significant impact on her speech/language and psychosocial development as well as academic achievement. The use of bilateral hearing devices will greatly improve her communication ability, quality of life, and learning potential. Her mother is a teacher and their insurance does not cover hearing aids or other expenses related to hearing loss. Her mother also has a hearing loss and knew that there was a possibility that this condition could be passed on genetically.

The family's goals with Maureen

are for her to get speech therapy as early as possible, and to get her into a routine of wearing her hearing aids. The family will continue to work with the insurance company to cover hearing loss and the needs associated with hearing loss. The Colorado State Grange Mandy project awarded this family \$1,000 and PICK sent them \$500 toward their expenses which will amount to at least \$3,500.

Donations for the Mandy Project are used to help people with hearing loss. Donations can be sent to the State Grange office or to PICK. Checks should be made out to either Colorado State Grange or PICK with a note that it is for the Mandy Proj-



ects. Checks made out to the Mandy Project will have to be returned and must be written correctly in order to deposit.



Community Service

Lisa Mittan, State Director

4956 W. 66th Ave., Arvada, CO 80003

Email: mittan42@msn.com

Hello Grangers! Happy New Year! As we start 2024, I commend all of you for the work you and your Granges are doing in your communities. You are a diligent and very creative bunch, who find ways to help where you're needed, and bring in others to join you in your efforts.

Over the next two months, many of you will be planning your home and/or community gardens for the coming growing season. As always, I suggest that you figure out a way to grow an extra plant or five, to have that much more produce to share with your neighbors and others less fortunate in your areas.

If you haven't looked into food preservation before, maybe work on

learning more about canning-at-altitude, or freezing, or baking extra produce into meals or desserts for your families or that can be shared with others. If you already know how to do gardening or food preservation, maybe look into holding an after-school introduction or class with age-appropriate skills for whatever age group of kids makes sense for you.

Share your knowledge and skills wherever you can, including beyond your own families. If you can get a group of school kids to participate in growing something over the summer, you can stay with them and

show them how to prepare and preserve those foods.

If you are on Facebook, I encourage you to find and join the National Grange Community Service and Activities group. The National Grange Community Service Director finds posts from local Granges all over the country, talking about the awesome activities they're having. There are a lot of ideas that may be usable in your communities as well!

I also encourage you to subscribe to the National Grange weekly newsletter that can be delivered to your email. It is not an attachment — and there is always really good information in that as well. Get to the webpage at www.nationalgrange.org and start getting this bounty of info delivered directly to your inbox. If you'd like to read any of the Community Service reports that were submitted for 2023, please let me know and I will be happy to send you a secure link.

2023 Session By the Numbers

Bills Introduced

617

311 House Bills

306 Senate Bills



486 Bills Passed



131 Bills Killed



79% Bills sent to governor for signature



182

Bills undecided with 5 days remaining in session
* Nearly 30% of all bills



194

Health-related bills on CHI's tracking list

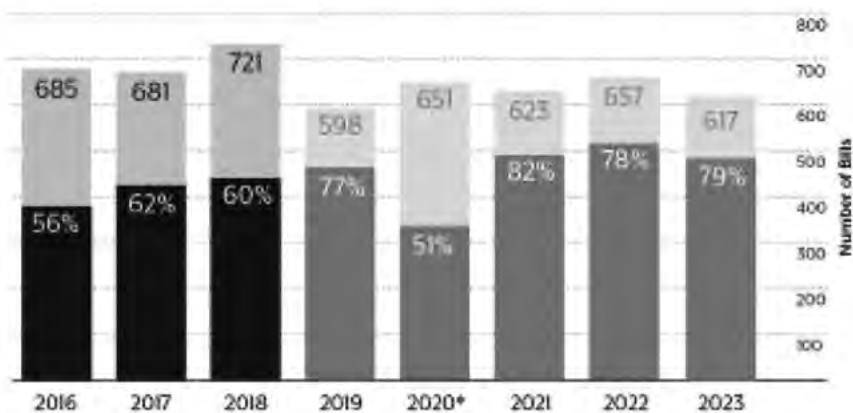
33

New legislators
* Out of 100 total legislators

8

Number of weekend days worked
* In the House of Representatives

Introduced Bills and Pass Rate by Year



* The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the session and forced many bills to be tabled due to time and budget constraints.

Governor Vetoes

10

Margin of Democratic Control

HOUSE: 46 (Horse icon) / 19 (Elephant icon)
SENATE: 23 (Horse icon) / 12 (Elephant icon)

Junior, Youth And Young Adult

Kathy Wardle, Director

720-354-1196

1136 Bluebell Way, Brighton, CO 80601-6783

artklw@aol.com



Hi. I am Kathy Wardle and I am the Colorado State Grange Junior and Youth Director. I am very excited to be able to communicate the excellent National Junior, Youth, and Young Adult Programs to Colorado State Grangers. Basically, our State Program is an adoption of the National Program. For several years, according to National Junior Grange Development Director Samantha Wilkins, National Grange has been working to create a program local and state Granges across the nation can run with.

We are going to do just that. I have included brief summaries of many of the National Grange Programs in both the Junior and Youth Programs in our Handbook. More programs can be found in the National Program Books for both Juniors and Youth that can be downloaded from the National Grange website.

Please refer to the National Grange 2024 Junior Grange Program Book and to the National Grange 2024 Youth and Young Adults Program

Book for a complete listing of the outstanding opportunities offered by the Grange.

Also, our Handbook has some familiar craft and photography programs that we have had for years. Because of the Junior + 1 Program, junior Grangers affiliated with a subordinate Grange can participate in all the National Junior Grange programs with the help of an adult Grange member from their community. Check out and participate in the Junior + 1 Program.

As always, activities for juniors and youth are open to the imagination and creativity of adults working with the young Grangers. All well-managed activities will benefit the participants. Gary Wardle (State President) and I will readily be available to write any letters of recommendation that are required for your young Granger to participate in these opportunities. I am looking forward to seeing your young Colorado Grangers participate in world class leadership opportunities.



P.I.C.K.

People Improving Communities And Kids

Cindy Greer, Secretary/Treasurer

7629 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81316

970-588-3386 • Fax 970-588-3871

Email: hcrdgreer@frontier.net

P.I.C.K. stands for People Improving Communities and Kids.

P.I.C.K. is a program that is needed by the members of the Colorado State Grange in order to fund many of the programs and projects that they have going.

P.I.C.K. will also help us to expand our current vision and explore new avenues of funding and create interest in the organization of the Grange.

There will be no membership class in P.I.C.K. but membership in the Colorado State Grange is a requirement for the board.

At State session we heard of several Granges that had capital improvement projects that needed funding. PICK is eligible to apply for Grants because we have the 501c3 status. In order for us to apply (Continued on Page 5)

In Memoriam



Elizabeth Mildred Stewart

December 31, 1924 – November 1, 2023

Elizabeth Mildred Curtis Stewart was born on December 31, 1924, on the “Bryant” place, west of Sedalia, Colorado, to Henry Harper Curtis Sr., and Ella Mildred Bean Curtis. She entered Glory on November 1, 2023, (All Saint’s Day) at Cantril House in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Mildred went to the Oaklands School for eight years and graduated from Douglas County High School

in 1943. She graduated from the University of Colorado in 1947 with a degree in Geology. Mildred taught school from 1947-1948 in the old Jarre Creek School before going to work at the *Catholic Register* from 1948 until 1951.

Mildred was married to J.F. Stewart on May 12, 1951. They bought her Grandparents’ home in Castle Rock, Colorado, where they lived and raised their children. In 1972, they moved to her parents’ home on Oaklands Ranch, where she had been raised. Mildred and J.F. took two trips to Israel and were awed with the experience.

Mildred was a member of Christ’s Episcopal Church where she taught Sunday School and youth group, did janitorial services, and was a member of the Alter Guild. When she and J.F. moved to Oaklands Ranch, she returned to her home church, St. Philip in the Field, where she had been baptized, and repeated those jobs. She was very honored to become one of the first Lay Eucharistic Ministers at St. Philip.

Mildred had many interests (most including teaching children) and served many organizations in the county, among them: Sunflower Grange (all her life), the Mission

Development committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, 4-H Leader (50 years), Little Bears Preschool (20 years), Senior Shuttle Driver for many years when she was a Senior. Children, hers, and everyone else’s were her calling and she made it count for countless children.

Mildred was preceded in death by her beloved J.F., her daughter Michele, her parents, her siblings: Gwen, Winnie, and Bud (Henry Jr.). Surviving her are her daughter Natalie (Michael) Young, her son Phillip Stewart, her grandchildren (three fellers and a fellerette): Travis Stewart (Sydney), Jennifer Karros (Tom), Dylan Rumney (Sarah), Ryak Meeker; her great-grandchildren: Rachel Clouse (Kihe Taylor), Charles Clouse; great-great-granddaughter Paisley Taylor; and many beloved nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Elizabeth’s memory may be made to Colorado Agricultural Leadership Foundation, P.O. Box 581, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104; St. Philip In the Field Episcopal Church, 397 N. Perry Park Rd., Sedalia, Colorado 80135; and Castle Country Cantril House, 221 Cantril St., Castle Rock, Colorado 80104.



Karen Lynne Ray

November 16, 1962 – December 10, 2023

Karen Lynne Ray was born to Pat and Lila Greer on November 16, 1962, the youngest of four kids who were raised on the Greer homestead. While her brothers and sisters loved working cows or helping around the ranch, Karen could always be found in the house wearing her shorts and flip flops. She just couldn’t wait till she grew up and moved off the farm so she could live in a house with carpet. That dream came true when,

upon graduating high school, Karen met and married the love of her life, Jeffrey Ray. They bought a home in Cedar Hill, New Mexico, which is where Karen has called home for the last 40 years. Though the two divorced over 15 years ago, they still remained close friends. But perhaps her best and most loyal friends of all were her two calico kitties, Callie and Chewy.

Karen was a warrior for Jesus, sharing the word with everyone she met. Just attending church on a Sunday was never enough for Karen... she had to attend three church services on Sunday plus several bible studies throughout the week. Several years ago she even made a trek to the Holy Land where she was baptized in the Jordan River.

The past two years, Karen fought a tough fight with cancer. During this time, she called upon her prayer warriors and leaned on her faith in Jesus to get her through a year of chemo/radiation and two years of immunotherapy. After scans showed that she was cancer-free last year, she deemed herself “the walking talking MIRACLE” and shared her story with local churches all around the Four Corners. She was an inspiration to all to keep

fighting and never lose faith in God.

Professionally, Karen worked for the *Durango Herald* right out of high school, then moved to the LaPlata County Extension Office where she was a secretary for nearly 20 years. Upon leaving the county, she worked several secretarial jobs including working for the Aztec Baptist Church, San Juan Baptist Association, Chandler CPA, and most recently the Community Banking Association in Farmington, NM. She loved planning events and loved to travel, so her role with the Banking Association allowed her to really shine.

Karen was a member of Florida Grange #306. She began her Grange membership in Marvel Junior Grange #37, joined Marvel Grange at the age of 14, and transferred her membership to Cedar Hill Grange #1 and then to Florida Grange. She served as the State Grange as Princess in 1983, and State Grange Lady assistant Steward from 1980-1983.

Karen loved to be the life of the party and to have all eyes on her. Recently she got to take part in the SJRMC Cancer Survivors Fashion Show, where she glowed and her eyes sparkled as she walked across the stage, smiling from ear to ear.

Karen also loved music, whether it was singing karaoke at Applebee’s on a Wednesday night with her friends, or singing “One Day at a Time” as a special at church.

She loved to plan parties and events, be it a simple family Christmas dinner or a large family reunion. She was always the one to say a blessing before every meal and she tried to make every get-together a fun one with her never-ending games. Karen loved to host fish-fry’s at her home in Cedar Hill, and she was best known for her chocolate bundt cake and WEAK iced tea, which she would bring to every potluck.

Karen lived a full life until she passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2023, surrounded by her loving family at her sister’s home in Hesperus, CO. She held on until Sunday morning so she wouldn’t be late to her front row seat at the church service in Heaven. She was preceded in death by her father, Pat Greer, and her niece Sophie Horvath. She is survived by her mother, Lila Greer; brothers Harry (Cindy) Greer, Jim Greer, Frances (Dale) Horvath; her two cats Callie and Chewy; and numerous nieces/nephews and great nieces/nephews.



Sunflower

Contact Cherry Ellis, 303-688-1997, cherryellis5@yahoo.com, sunflowergrange.org, P.O. Box 221, Sedalia CO 80135, for further information.

Upcoming Events:

Third Thursdays – Local History Book Club meets at BMan’s BBQ at 1 p.m., discussing Men of Sedalia; next, Curtis family.

January 13 – Master Gardener Outreach to Schools speaker, Krista Gay; Seed Swap.

February 10 – Plastic-Eating Mushrooms, Gary Heferle; Seed Swap continues, planning for spring sale.

March 2 – Progressive Pomona meeting at 11 a.m. at BMan’s BBQ in Sedalia.

March 9 – Soil Talk, John Murgel of CSU Extension Office; planting for spring sale.

The Local History Book Club is going strong. At our October meeting discussing Bob Campbell from Men of Sedalia, we were very fortunate to have Bob’s daughter Bobbie Elder, grandson Brook and his wife Rachelle, great grandchildren Harper and Campbell, and friend Lori Bannister drop in for the best discussion ever!

It has been many years since Sunflower Grange has had one of their Grangers hold a State Grange office. We were surprised and pleased to hear of our own BJ Bushman being elected to State Lecturer during our Colorado State Grange Convention in September. BJ is well versed in membership organizations and is a dedicated volunteer. We look forward to her term and our increased connection to the State organization. Well done, BJ!

Grange member SuJeanne Foster started a new public Facebook group “Sedalia Voices” that tracks various activities of interest in the area. She has a calendar for local organizations’ meetings, and she summarizes discussions at meetings she attends. Because Sedalia is unincorporated, over the past few months she and other residents have been working with the county and state officials to improve life in the area, such as repair of a culvert and obtaining a pedestrian crosswalk across highway 67 in town. Monthly community meetings have been attended by local citizens with participation from County Commissioner Lora Thomas and State Representative Brandi Bradley.

Expectations were low for Bud’s Bar’s Annual Pumpkin Weigh-in this October. Past winners Billy Moore and Sheri Folsom reported their pumpkins had been wiped out by hail and grasshoppers. And we fell for their stories again! When will we learn they always surprise us? Both showed up with giant pumpkins again. John Pope, the official Weigh Master, reported the results:

- #8 SuJeanne Foster..... 4 lbs
- #7 Carrie Dunn Thompson..... 12 lbs
- #6 Guy Elder 20 lbs
- #5 Harper Elder..... 25 lbs
- #4 Billy Moore..... 56 lbs
- #3 Billy Moore..... 93 lbs
- #2 Christal Reyes..... 111 lbs
- #1 Sheri Folsom..... 179 lbs

Sheri’s pumpkin-growing buddy, Christal Reyes, came in second, and Billy third. Bobbie Elder presented Sheri with the 2023 Crown made from a painted pumpkin, Guy Elder and grandson Campbell hefted the big ones back into Sheri’s car, and we were promised some of the seeds from the winners for our Grange seed swap in January. Most of the crowd moved in to Bud’s for a beer and burger. The great rivalry between Billy and Sheri continues for the 2024 season!

Sandi “the Good Witch” and Cherry had the treat of handing out chocolate and trinkets to 200+ very polite but spooky students at Seda-

lia Elementary’s Trunk or Treat. Sandi found Sedalia’s Principal Jeff Johnson, the entire Addams Family from BMan’s BBQ, and Bigfoot, who apparently travels with the Watts family’s mini-horse fairy, Scarlett.

The first person to sign up when Sunflower Grange #162 was reorganized in 2019 was Elizabeth Mildred Curtis Stewart. Her father, Henry H. Curtis, helped found the Grange in Colorado and was one of the first State Officers. Mildred, our only 50+ year Grange member, passed away on November 1 at age 98, and she will be missed by all.

Mildred had many interests (most including teaching children) and served many organizations in the county, among them: Sunflower Grange (all of her life), the Mission Development committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, 4-H Leader (50 years), Little Bears Preschool (20 years), Senior Shuttle Driver for many years when she was a Senior. Children, hers and everyone else’s, were her calling and she made it count for countless children.

Contributions in Elizabeth’s memory may be made to Colorado Agricultural Leadership Foundation, PO Box 581, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/castle-rock-co/elizabeth-stewart-11520505>.

December 2 Sunflower partnered with Douglas County Farm Bureau for their annual Holiday Potluck Brunch. Sunflower has use of the Meadows Grange building 12 hours per year in exchange for the Meadows subdivision use of the name “Grange” for their community center. About 50 people enjoyed a delicious meal in great surroundings.

Don Richards of Douglas County Farm Bureau spoke briefly to say BJ Bushman received the 2023 Distinguished Volunteer Award from Colorado Farm Bureau for her tireless efforts. Douglas County High School’s Future Farmers of America Officer Team spoke about their speech competition and their trip to the FFA National Convention. Sunny Arbrogast, their teacher and sponsor, also attended. Partnering with Farm Bureau, we are sure to make good use of our 12 hours at Meadows Grange building in 2024.

On December 9 Sedalia celebrated Winterfest. Every business or organization contributed to the festivities, starting with cocoa and warm clothes at Plum Creek Chapel; chili at the Firehouse; singing, cookies, and kid’s shop with \$1 gifts and wrapping at the Museum; drawings at Bud’s, Sedalia Country Store, Whistle Stop, Castlegate Knife Shop, and Bowser Bubbles; cookies and coffee at Sedalia Bakery and O’Brien’s; ornaments at Magpie, toys at Hell’s Angels, arts and crafts at Sedalia Elementary; and handmade Grange stockings at BMan’s. Don Person made several tours around town from 10 til 2 with his Sedalia Tire Tractor Taxi stopping at each event, and Davey Coach, hired by the Country Store and Sedalia Artists, circulated, too. It was a wonderful celebration to start the holidays.

Thanks to proceeds from our plant sale in spring, Sunflower Holiday Giving included ten \$25 King Soopers gift cards for Sedalia Elementary to help a few families have a nicer holiday, and a \$250 donation to Douglas County’s Help & Hope foodbank. Sandi Hier delivered both donations and said they were greatly appreciated.

Our website is now up (sunflowergrange.org) and also on Colorado State Grange’s website. A big thank you to Danielle Voorhees and Larry Corman for all the work to get it in place. There will be upcoming events posted soon for 2024 — including a presentation on plastic-eating mushrooms!

Cherry Ellis

P.I.C.K.
(Continued from Page 4)
ply we must have information from Granges that need assistance, but that means that those Granges have to have all of their homework complete. You have to know how much the project(s) will cost, what kind of in-kind donations from members, who can expect (time, materials, labor, etc.). PICK needs to know what you use the building for — what kinds of programs and activities you provide for your community, not just rentals.

Who the main contact for the project(s) will be and even when you want to accomplish the project.

Utilizing a Colorado common grant application to provide information to PICK will be the easiest way for PICK to create one grant for all the Granges needing assistance. If your Grange wants to partner with PICK, please get a Colorado Common Grant application to us by March 1, 2024. They can be emailed to herdgreer@gmail.com or mailed to 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO. 81326.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM
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Darden
Jefferson County

Contact Idella Lewis, idellamlewis@gmail.com, 303-233-3393, for further information.

Saturday, Feb. 3, 3 p.m. Darden Pomona meets at Wheat Ridge Grange. Bring a hobby to show/share.

The annual Darden Pomona Christmas party was hosted by Enterprise Grange on Saturday evening, December 9. A spectacular Christmas dinner was served including roast turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green beans, sweet potatoes, rolls, and an assortment of salads and desserts. Guests for the evening were from Shannon's Hope, a safe house for women and children.

Following the delicious meal, everyone went upstairs and festive music was played with everyone joining in to sing Christmas carols. As the children gathered around the Christmas tree, Mike Lackey read *The Night Before Christmas* story. Santa arrived with a box of stuffed animals to hand out. An elephant piñata made by Carol and Ashley Lackey was hung from the ceiling and after numerous tries, it was broken, spewing out candy for the children to gather into their bags.

Everyone enjoyed a fun evening!
Idella Lewis

Enterprise Grange

Contact Carol Lackey, carollackeyhomes@gmail.com, or 303-521-4477, for further information.

January 10, 2024, Wednesday Potluck at 6:30 p.m. We will be planning the rest of the 2024 Grange Year activities and community service projects. Come with suggestions of people you know of that could benefit from the funds we raise and of places you would like for us to go as a group.

February 14, 2024 Wednesday Valentine Party and Potluck at 6:30 pm. Bring a Valentine for your Granger Friends and Family. We are looking to have a fraud presentation but are still waiting for confirmation.

March 13, 2024 Wednesday St. Patrick's Day Irish Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Bring something green or something Irish! We are checking into entertainment by the Celtic Bagpipe Music Band. Planning for the Community Service Award program, Easter Egg Hunt and our Community Garden will follow.

September 23, our members Leonard and Dorothy Dannels celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Grange Hall. It was a festive occasion with so many others than Grangers in attendance. Their Grange friends provided much of the luncheon along with so many others. Congratulations to Leonard and Dorothy with warm wishes for many more!

For our October 9 meeting, we started out with potluck at 6:30 p.m. We then outlined the outcome of the State Convention. We went through the resolutions that both passed and failed. We also were proud to find out that Mike Lackey was elected as Assistant Steward for the State Grange.

We held our annual Chili Dinner on Sunday, October 15. Almost all the Grangers wanted to bring their favorite chili. There so many different yet delicious chilis it was hard to decide which one to choose. Most of us tried as many as we had room for. Our attendance dwindled but the participation by the Grangers held steadfast. Next year we will be planning further ahead. We wait for the Broncos schedule to come out so we can make sure to have the dinner on a bye week. The schedule seldom comes out before August so everything becomes a rush. We'll just decide early on a date and live with the outcome. We will also be reviewing our marketing for the dinner and hopefully find a better way to involve the community.

We held our Thanksgiving potluck at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8. Carin' Clinic and Shannon's Hope clients were invited



Darden Pomona Christmas party fun included an elephant piñata.

to join us along with any Granger friends and family who wished to attend. Our Thanksgiving feast was a traditional potluck with turkey and all the trimmings. As with any Grange Dinner, when it was time to leave everyone was full of food and laughter!

December 2 was our Santa picture day. It was almost a disaster when our Santa called in sick at 8 a.m., only two hours before we were to start. Several phone calls later, Kathy Wardle came through. Her brother, Mike, said YES! And he had played Santa previously at the Wheat Ridge Grange so he was perfect. We were in! He lives in Arvada and was at the community room by 9:30 a.m. to get dressed and ready to go. We all de-

cidated he was one of the best Santas ever. Next year we need not look any further. Big shout out to Mike and to Kathy for coming through in a real pinch!! Santa Day was a big success with plenty of kids and pets attending. Hot chocolate, cider, and cookies were served. Then everyone walked away with a professional photo of their time on Santa's lap.

December 3 was the pre-stocking stuffing and Grange decorating day where we do what I call our sub-assemblies. We fill small bags with candy, others with small lotions, shampoo and conditioners, and then remove all the packaging around items that come in multiple packaging. The best organizer ever is our friend, Nancy



Santa with Shannon's Hope at Enterprise Grange.



4-H Helpers at Enterprise Chili Dinner in October.



Children waiting to see Santa at Enterprise Grange.



Santa Day at Enterprise Grange.



Enterprise Santa with Jim Calm who entertained with Christmas carols.



Shannon's Hope clients at Enterprise Christmas party.



Enterprise Chili Dinner Attendees.

Sells. She has all the stations set up and everything ready to go. We are so lucky to have her. Nancy's daughter, Cassandra Sells, and her prayer group wrote out all the Christmas Cards that go into the stockings. That too was a real blessing.

The 4-H group were there also working on decorating the tree and the rest of the Grange. The poor tree was battered. They did an amazing job figuring out how to get it to stand up and then decorating it better than we have ever seen it. We'll be looking for a new tree after Christmas so they'll hopefully return to help again next year. Even with the hours of prep work Nancy accomplished, it was still a four-hour job for the rest of us.

Saturday, December 9, was the Pomona Christmas held at the Enterprise Grange. Grangers provided the basics of a Traditional Christmas Dinner with ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, cranberries, rolls, salads, and plenty of desserts. No one was going home hungry that night.

Shannon's Hope attended with their clients. Lynn, the Director, gave Dorothy Dannels a huge bouquet of flowers and Mike Lackey a box of candies to thank us for inviting them. They are so thrilled to have an opportunity to celebrate with us and with each other.

After Dinner, we went upstairs to be entertained by the organist and piano player, Jim Calm. He played so many beautiful Christmas carols and led us in a sing-a-long. Mike Lackey read the children "The Night Before Christmas" and then Santa arrived. This year Santa was one of the 4-H member's dad, Paul Archuleta. We lucked out again. He turned out to be a great Santa and the kids loved him.... of course!

After everyone got the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap, it was time for the piñata. This year it was an elephant dressed in pink. It was so cute. All the kids got to hit it at least once which is always a relief. I'd hate to see disappointment. Thank you, Carol Lackey, once again for the homemade piñata. And a BIG Thank You to all the members of the Darden Pomona for making this such a memorable evening for all!

The day we fill the stockings is a day we all look forward to. We decided on December 13 at 4 p.m. Again, Nancy Sells had everything laid out and ready to go with the assistance of her friend Tom. I don't know what we would do without her. Back to our old ways, I guess. CHAOS!! Within an hour and a half, we were done! On December 13, Nancy Sells and Ashley Lackey delivered the bags to Olin.

We also adopted a family this year. We get a family in need and then a list of what each family member wants from Carin' Clinic. We each take some of the gifts we would like to buy for them and return them to the Grange by stocking stuffing day wrapped and ready to go. Dorothy and Paul also take all the food that we have collected for a food basket and deliver it all to the Carin' Clinic where they are given to the family.

The last community service project for this year was a joint venture with the Scarlet O'Hatters lead by Marlys Halbeisen and some members of Maple Grove and Enterprise Granges. We have put together 36 bags to go to the Parkhill Residences that is an assisted living facility. It is a low-income residence that offers 24-hour care and activities for their residents to maintain healthy lifestyles by encouraging movement and socializing with their peers. The bags are filled with lap blankets, stuffed animals, large lotions, shampoo, conditioner, socks, and so much more. They always appreciate seeing us at their door near Christmas.

We are so thankful to everyone who helped in every way. We could never do this without all the generous people that surround us!

Hope everyone had a Happy Holiday and are looking forward to a wonderful 2024!

Carol Lackey



Maple Grove held a successful food drive in October and November.

Maple Grove

Contact Idella Lewis, idellamlewis@gmail.com, 303-233-3393, for further information.

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1 p.m. Maple Grove monthly meeting.

Maple Grove Grange held the December meeting with a dessert lunch and gift exchange.

A successful food drive was held in October and November. The square dance callers, square dance groups, round dancers, and beekeepers group donated generously to the food drive which was greatly appreciated. \$100 was donated as well as everyone donating food for this project.

To help celebrate Christmas, 36 gift bags were delivered to Park Hill Nursing Home. The Red Hat Club and members of Maple Grove, Enterprise and Wheat Ridge Granges helped with this project to bring Christmas cheer to elderly people. This is the sixth year of doing this project.

Members helped Enterprise Grange fill 300 Christmas stockings for the senior stocking project. The stockings are filled with toiletries, socks, and candy to brighten the Christmas season for forgotten seniors in the county.

A very successful Darden Pomona

Christmas Party was held at Enterprise Grange with Maple Grove members bringing food for the dinner and joining in the festive event.

Wishing everyone a good year in 2024!

Idella Lewis

Pleasant Park

Contact Yvonne Ludwig, Master, for information, at 303-838-4805, 22551 Pleasant Park Road, Conifer, CO 80433.

Jan. 13, 2024 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

Feb. 10, 2024 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

Mar. 9, 2024 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

Mother Nature gifted us with a foot of snow so the December meeting was canceled because many members couldn't get out of their driveways. We will do our gift exchange at the January meeting.

The Thanksgiving Dinner was on November 11. Thank you to all the Grangers and guests who attended and to all the members for providing an excellent meal.

The Bicycle Rest is closed and all the members are taking a much-needed break for the winter.

Al Leo was installed as the new Steward, Jon Kullmann was install-

ed as the new Lecturer, and Terra Stern was installed as the new Chaplain at the November meeting.

Welcome to Tom Hunter, our newest member.

Suzi Morris has been working endlessly on revising our bylaws. The revision will be voted on at the January meeting and sent to the State Grange Master for approval.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

Yvonne Ludwig

Golden Gate

Contact Terri Costeldia, terri.costeldia@hotmail.com, 303-277-0351, for further information.

Grange Meeting — Thursday, January 5, 3 p.m.

Grange Meeting — Thursday, February 2, 3 p.m.

Yoga — Wednesdays, from 3 to 4 p.m.

AA — Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.

Thanks to the community members who supported the Gift Drive for children and young people in need or at risk. We coordinated with the Jeffco Commissioners Office through their "Giving Tree" to make the holiday brighter for these youngsters. Your donations to this effort

are greatly appreciated.

The Peak-to-Peak Chorale hosted a free concert at the Golden Gate Grange in December. This has become a wonderful holiday tradition at the Grange over the last many years. Thanks to Peak-to-Peak Chorale and their talented singers.

We were disappointed when we had to cancel the Trunk or Treat event due to a sudden snow event which would make driving difficult and dangerous for all....especially with children in the car. Terri and DeeDee distributed the candy to those stopping by on Halloween afternoon. Hoping for better weather next year as everyone loves this fun event.

Yoga is held on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. If you haven't been to a class before Instructors, Judy and Susan, will provide a class that will offer alternatives for all levels. We hold the yoga classes at the Grange, but during the winter we may cancel the in-person class and provide a Zoom session if the weather conditions are hazardous. Send your name to jayruesch@aol.com to be on the yoga email list for notification of in-person class cancellations and Zoom instructions.

The beginning of the year will see several important upgrades to the Grange building. The floors in the main room will be resealed. In addition, a team of experts is going to assess the requirements for the planned improvements on our electrical system. This will be a prelude to making the upgrades in the near future.

We are also having our Health Coordinator inspect our current first aid kit. It will be replaced or replenished as advised. In addition, we need a new AED (defibrillator). Our old unit is no longer serviceable. We have some alternatives (new or refurbished), but if you have a contact that might be more affordable, let us know.

The Line Dancing Instructor is looking for a new DJ. Classes are on hold until a new DJ can be found for this once-a-month activity. The equipment needed is at the Grange, if you would like to volunteer your services, please contact us.

Check out the information from the Grange about help with the cost of internet service. The Affordable Connectivity Program is not available to everyone, but for those in need it could be helpful.

Website: www.GoldenGateGrange.com/Facebook: Golden Gate Canyon Community.

Grange phone: 303 273-9516.

Jayne Ruesch



Happy Birthday to Pleasant Park members Jon Kullmann and Terra Stern.



Guests at the Pleasant Park Thanksgiving dinner.

Pikes Peak
El Paso and Teller Counties

Florissant

Contact Renee Caldwell, 719-748-5004, florissantgrange@gmail.com, for further information.

Upcoming Events:

Every Thursday is Community Potluck and Music.

January 8 — Monthly meeting.

January 9 — Quilt of Valor Guild meets from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

January 13 — Pine Needle Basket Class, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Needle Felting Class, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Glass Painting Class, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

January 23 — Quilt of Valor Guild meets from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

February 10 — Pine Needle Basket Class, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Needle Felting Class, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fabric Landscaping Class, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

February 12 — Monthly meeting.

February 13 — Quilt of Valor Guild meets from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

We took a break from Craft Classes in December because of all the

Christmas activities we had, but will continue them in January and February of the New Year. They continue to be successful and fun.

Our Free Thanksgiving Dinner was, once again, a huge success. We had approximately 75 take out dinners ordered and we served at least 200 community members who came in and dined and listened to the band. All of our members and many community members helped us cook all 13 Turkeys, 40 pounds of mashed potatoes, 25 pounds of sweet potatoes, two large crock pots of Gravy, six casserole dishes of cranberry salad, six dishes full of Green Bean

Casserole, 200 homemade dinner rolls, and 30 assorted pies. The Fire Department volunteers came to help by serving and cooking and they sent in a clean up crew for when we were all finished. What a great job they all did.

We scheduled our Christmas Bazaar for December 9, but had to cancel because of the 13+ inches of snow we received overnight. What a beautiful sight to wake up to, but what a disappointing thing to have to cancel. So, Master Alan suggested that we let all the vendors set up for the whole week, since the weather (Continued on Page 8)

La Plata
Archuleta and La Plata Counties, CO
and San Juan County, NM

Animas Valley

Contact Bonnie Nicholl, 949-233-2329, dbnicholl3@gmail.com.

The Animas Valley Grange sponsored two fun community events this Fall. In October we held an apple pressing and solar eclipse day where local community members brought their apples and we assisted them in using our apple press to create delicious apple cider. The Grange also provided glasses for viewing the solar eclipse which occurred at the same time.

In December the Grange sponsored a gingerbread decorating event as well as having the children in attendance decorate the Grange Christmas tree. It was a fun event and local children created beautiful gingerbread houses and cookies.

The Animas Valley Grange continues to utilize grant money to provide locally grown food to families, seniors, and others in need. We are currently delivering frozen meat and fresh vegetables to 25 households. The food distribution is underway and will continue through the summer.

Bonnie Nicholl

Marvel

Contact Cindy Greer, 970-588-3386 or hcrdgreer@frontier.net, for further information.

January 20 – Chili Cook-off and dessert auction 6:30 p.m.

Feb 2 – Business meeting 7:30 p.m. Program.

Feb 3 – Marvel Methodist ground Hog supper.

Feb 14 – Valentines Date Night dinner.

Feb 23-25 – Quilters retreat.

Line Dancing on Monday's 9-10 a.m.

The Pioneer 4-H club had a successful Pancake supper for Veterans on November 10 at the Marvel Grange Hall.



Cindy Greer

Marvel JG

Contact Cindy Greer, leader, 970-588-3386 or hcrdgreer@frontier.net, for further information.

Junior Grangers met November 6 and made alcohol ink coasters, practiced presenting and retiring the flag. In December 18 they met, worked on holiday crafts and had a Christmas party. In January we will plan a membership drive as many of our juniors are getting close to aging out.

Cindy Greer



Highlights from the Luau at Marvel Grange in October.



Animas Valley Grange provided glasses for viewing the solar eclipse.

In October we had our Luau. We had 57 in attendance with 11 dancers (Cortez, Marvel, and Durango groups) and eight in the Sleeping Ukes band. Thank you to everyone who helped with the food prep. Bills included extra plates and cups for upcoming events. Donations received were \$254. Pork, chicken, rice with spam, plain rice, cabbage salad, fresh fruit, and desserts were served. We also served a pineapple punch, iced tea, and water.

The hall was rented to the Peine Family on Thanksgiving day.

In December we voted to cancel our third Friday activity due to the many other activities happening in the community. Members were encouraged to attend the Community Christmas program on December 10.

The Secret sister group met at Sheryl Ayer's home on December 3 at 3 p.m. They enjoyed snacks, a game, and exchanged gifts and ten (10) took on a new secret sister for the year.

December 30 we had a community breakfast and December 31 we had our annual New Year's Eve party with a Tex-Mex theme. The dinner started at 6:30 p.m. and featured Frito pie. Individuals brought desserts and snacks for the evening. Table games were brought out and door prizes acquired were given out throughout the evening.

The Lecturer is looking for volunteers for programs for some of the upcoming months and for ideas for a 150th celebration of the State Grange.



Children decorating the Grange Christmas tree.



Florissant volunteers at free Thanksgiving dinner.



Pressing apples into cider at Animas Valley.



Gingerbread decorating at Animas Valley.



Children visiting with Santa at Florissant Grange.



Quilt of Valor awarded at Florissant's Free Thanksgiving Dinner.



■ **Florissant**

(Continued from Page 7)

looked like it would be much nicer. So we did just that, and had a great time entertaining all the shoppers who were delighted to come out and shop since they didn't get to on Saturday the 9th. We had about nine vendors who took us up on that idea and we all had a great time.

We held our annual Christmas Party on Dec 16. Santa came to see the kiddos and we had hot cocoa, apple cider, and cookies for everyone. The kiddos talked to Santa and he had goodie bags for all of them.

The Quilt of Valor Guild awarded one Quilt of Valor to the son of one of our Grange members on the night of our Free Thanksgiving Dinner. He was completely unaware of the event and it was great fun to award him with a beautiful quilt.

The Potluck and Music nights every Thursday continue to be a successful event for our Grange. The Band has played together for more than 5 years and make some really fine music together. The community continues to come out and enjoy the food and the music. The winters sometimes cause the crowd to thin out with Thursday night football and bad roads, but we will continue to have the community gathering as long as they continue to enjoy the night out.

Renee Caldwell