



Colorado Grangers attended the 2024 National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa: Harry and Cindy Greer, Kathy and Gary Wardle.

## 2025 Colorado State Grange Program Handbook Inside — In Memoriam —

### Beverly Ann Weinert January 23, 1931 – October 15, 2024

Beverly Ann Moenning Weinert passed away at home October 15, 2024. Born January 23, 1931, and after her childhood in Hiawatha, Kansas, she met her future husband, John on a blind date. They married August 1, 1951, moved to Colorado in 1958, and eventually settled in Fountain, Colorado, with four young girls. They soon became involved in the community and became charter members of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. The couple continued to be active members with Beverly having a special interest in United Methodist Women.

Beverly was a Grange member for a little over 60 years, and held many leadership positions in the Fountain Valley Grange. She was State Ceres from 1969-1971. In 1971-72 she served as State Grange Junior Director, and was a regular state delegate. She and her husband John served as Deputies for a number of years. She served as Secretary of Pikes Peak Pomona and was known at State for her blue ribbons in the baking con-



Beverly Weinert

test, especially her breads and rolls. She assisted the State Grange when State Convention was held for two years at Good Shepherd.

She was also a member of the Fountain Historical Society and worked for District 8 as a school cook. After her children started school, She cooked for several summers at the Lions Deaf and Blind Camp. Later

### Lucille Cowell 1926 – November 6, 2024

Lucille (Lucy) Cowell, long-time Golden Gate Grange Member, passed away peacefully at her home on November 6, 2024. Lucy, aged 98, was a true mountain woman to the very end and will be greatly missed.

Lucy was born in 1926 in Lincoln Valley, North Dakota. Lucy graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in nursing. She married Keath Cowell in 1949. Keath's job with General Mills-Mechanical Division lead to moves every six months. They lived in Kansas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Florida, Idaho, Colorado, and England during this period. He then worked for Westinghouse in Maryland and Kansas.

Lucy never had trouble finding a job in new venues. John, Becca, and Cissy were born in the midst of all this moving. In 1959 they moved to Lookout Mountain where the twins, Matt and Sarah, were born. Lucy stayed home to manage the office for  
(Continued on Page 2)

Beverly obtained her CNA license and faithfully cared for patients. She loved reading non-fiction, traveling, word search puzzles, and antiquing. The family spent many Saturdays at farm and estate sales. She loved working in the garden and truly had a green thumb, and was able to revive most any plant. She loved to play games: cards, board games, dominos. Beverly taught her grandkids and great-grandchildren to enjoy family time.

Beverly was preceded in death by her husband John, and her daughter JoAnn. She is survived by her daughters Shirley (Weinert) Greener and Dexter, Ruth (Weinert) Lee and Steve, and Doris (Weinert) Dickson and Len.

She has five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She is deeply missed in the Fountain community.

## Upcoming Events

Call individual Granges for more information.

- Jan. 8 Enterprise Grange — Potluck, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 9 Golden Gate Grange — Meeting, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 11 Pleasant Park — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. followed with potluck.
- Jan. 11 Sunflower — Meeting, 1 to 3 p.m., Firehouse in Sedalia.
- Jan. 12 Mount Lookout — Community Dinner, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 18 Marvel Grange — Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction.
- Jan. 20 Marvel Junior Grange.
- Jan. 20 Mt. Allison — Business Meeting, 4:30 p.m. (Planning out the year.)
- Jan. 20 Mount Lookout — MLK Pancake Breakfast, 8 to 10 a.m.
- Jan. 31 Quarterly Membership Reports due from Subordinate Granges for 4th Quarter of 2024.
- Feb. 1 Darden Pomona — Meeting at Wheat Ridge Grange, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 3 Marvel Junior Grange
- Feb. 5 Maple Grove — Grange Meeting, 1 p.m.
- Feb. 6 Marvel — Methodist Church Ground Hog Supper
- Feb. 7 Marvel — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Sandy Valencia.
- Feb. 8 Mount Lookout — Board Retreat, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8 Pleasant Park — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. followed with potluck.
- Feb. 9 Mount Lookout — Community Dinner, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 12 Enterprise Grange — Valentine Party and Potluck, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 13 Golden Gate Grange — Meeting, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Marvel — Palentine's Dinner, FUNDRAISER
- March 3 Marvel Junior Grange
- March 7 Marvel — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Melissa MacDougall.
- March 8 Pleasant Park — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. followed with potluck.
- March 14 Enterprise — St. Patrick's Day Irish Potluck, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 2-5 2025 State Grange Convention (Session)
- Marvel Grange – Line Dancing on Monday, 9-10 a.m.
- Golden Gate Grange – AA – Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.
- Golden Gate Grange – Yoga – Wednesdays, from 3-4 p.m.
- Florissant – Business Meeting the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m.
- Florissant – Gift Shop is Open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday weekly.
- Florissant – Every Tuesday Quilt of Valor Guild, from 9 a.m.-12 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.

### CSG SCHOLARSHIP LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

## Scholarship applications

DUE APRIL 15, 2025

### Applications can be found at Coloradogranger.org

Applicants must be a relative of A Grange member.  
By-laws do not restrict schools to instate schools.





## Master's Message

**Gary Wardle, State Master**  
8606 Holman Circle, Arvada, CO 80005  
303-349-7390 • Email: cograngepresident@gmail.com



Brothers and Sisters, Kathy and I hope all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I am beginning planning for the 2025 State Convention. We will be meeting in Castle Rock at the Douglas County Fair Grounds. Thank you BJ for arranging the facilities. I am looking at October 2-5, 2025. I would like others to help me plan the three days. We need events for Thursday night, speakers or workshops during the day, and a tour. We are planning to have the Friday night Gala at the Meadows Grange Hall building. If you would like to help or have suggestions,

please email me at cograngepresident@gmail.com.

We will have a full election this year. I would request all Granges to discuss submitting resolutions. If you need assistance drafting a resolution you can use a website: chatgpt.com. You can put in the subject of your resolution, and it will give you a draft. You can change the draft to meet your needs.

I encourage all Granges to send delegates to the state convention. Now is a good time to begin planning to attend the convention. Maybe do some fund raisers to help with your delegates' costs to attend the convention. The convention is a good time to meet new Grangers and learn what others are doing.

Kathy and I attended the National Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa. There were approximately 500 Grangers in attendance. One item that will affect all Grangers is that the National Grange is considering dues increase for 2026. The dues will be increased from \$14 to \$20. The delegates will vote on the dues increase at next year's convention.

If Kathy and I can assist your Grange do not hesitate to call or email me.

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

## Junior, Youth And Young Adult

**Kathy Wardle, Director**  
720-354-1196  
8606 Holman Circle, Arvada, CO 80005  
artklw@aol.com



The National Grange has created Junior Grange programming that state and local granges can take and run with. Colorado State Grange is proud to promote the National Junior Grange Program as our Junior Grange Program for children 5-14. Please note that the National Grange Child Protection Policy is also the policy of the Colorado State Grange Junior Department.

The National Junior Grange Program Book can be downloaded at NationalJuniorGrange.org or from the National website: and will provide complete details on each pro-

gram. Colorado State Grange will also continue to offer several craft and photography contests open to children ages 1-14 with requirements listed in this handbook.

Please note that there are more opportunities for National recognition, National community service project awards, community advocacy awards, and a scholarship listed in the National Junior Grange Program Book that you are invited to participate in too. Plus, the Grange Baseball contest may be a fun activity for your subordinate Grange. If I can be of any help, let me know.

## Notes From The Secretary

**Cindy Greer, State Master**  
7629 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81316  
719-748-5008  
Email: costategrange@gmail.com



**December 31 — End of Fourth Quarter.**

**January 31 — Fourth quarter report for 2024 is due.**

**February 15 — Articles for the**

**Next Granger due.**

Happy New year and welcome to the challenge of trying to remember to write 2025. Mid-November the Journal of Proceedings (JOP) from

## Chaplain's Corner

**Amy Peterson State Chaplain**  
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amyloupeterson@gmail.com



Welcome to 2025, a new year, new challenges, and new endeavors awaiting. We do not know what this year will bring, maybe hardships, maybe prosperity, but I know we will have many new blessings from the Heavenly Father. Throughout history God has blessed His people and He will not stop now. He loves those who love Him and He knows what you are experiencing at the at the time it is happening, whether it is good or bad. Persevere in all things that may arise, James 5:11 states "As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." (NIV)

No doubt there will be some persecutions in your life this year, but just do what Romans 12:14 tells us to do, "Bless those who persecute you: bless and do not curse." (NIV). If we bless then God blesses us. There will also be many new blessings this year, like new births, weddings, reconciliations with friends or families, family reunions, many

joyous occasions, all being blessed by our Heavenly Father. He loves us and He wants to bless us by His grace and mercy. Remember the nine Beatitudes in Matthew 5:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted, they are all blessed by our gracious Heavenly Father. He loves us in all circumstances, good or bad, and He will always bless those who bless and love Him.

### 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.

We have received donations in memory of the following:

Lucille (Lucy) Cowell, Golden Gate Grange.

## — In Memoriam —

### Lucille Cowell

(Continued from Page 1)

Keath's new business and to run the household. She became a master of efficiency running herd on five kids and juggling office work as John traveled the seven Rocky Mountain States for business.

She was always a gracious hostess to foreign exchange students, Keath's business associates, international travelers, neighbors, and friends. Still, Lucy found the time and energy to be an EMT with the Highland Rescue team on Lookout Mountain, and later High Country Fire in Golden Gate Canyon.

In 1984 Lucy and Keath retired and built their home on Douglas Mountain. Retirement did not suit them. So Keath took jobs with companies that needed engineering help overseas ... and Lucy went along. They lived in India, England, Slovakia, Australia, and Italy for short periods of time. They also started Douglas Mountain Kennels, breeding and showing Newfoundland dogs. Wanderlust never left them and they continued to travel through Europe, South America, and Antarctic.

tica. Keath died in June of 2006.

Lucy chose to stay in her mountain home with her dog and cats. She filled her days with visits from family, neighbors, and friends. She made sure that her bird feeders were always full and never missed sending a birthday card. Lucy enjoyed having lunch with friends, going to Columbine Club gatherings, attending church, and working in her office. Even in her 90s Lucy was determined to stay in her home on the mountain, and thanks to her friends, neighbors, and Homewatch caregivers, she was able to do just that!

Lucy is survived by her loving family: children : John Cowell (Callie), Becca Murphy (Harry), Cynthia (Cissy) Guenther, Matthew Cowell (Susan), Sarah Zalan and AFS exchange student Edgard,o Goyret; grandchildren, Marty Lowell (Julie), Betsy Koerten (Luke), Amy Callantine (Lance), Katie Zalan, and Joe Zalan; and her great-grandchildren, Clifford Olson and Murphy Koerten. She was preceded in death by her husband, Keath; parents, John and Bessie Eichhorn; her sister, Elaine McQuay; and her great-grandson, Oliver Koerten.

### Colorado Granger OPTIONS form

How would you prefer to receive *The Colorado Granger*? Paper, email or not at all?

Please complete the form below and either mail it or email it to the Colorado State Grange *only if you have not responded before or if you would like to make a change.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I (We) prefer to receive an emailed copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (We) prefer to receive a paper copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I (We) do not want to receive *The Colorado Granger*.

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

Grange \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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.

State convention and the Colorado Roster was sent out to Secretaries. Two rosters were sent to each Grange, one for the Master/President, and one for the Secretary. If there are others who need them, please let me know and we will get them to you as soon as possible. Secretaries and Masters/Presidents should have also received the 2025 password. Even though many Granges no longer use the password, it is important to members who want access to the National Grange Website members section. This password allows you to establish your own password for the site.

Granges and Grangers have also been receiving information about "Grouper." If you are 65 and over your insurance may already be a part of Grouper. If that is true you are eligible to receive \$50 just for being a member of the Grange. If you're active and report back to Grouper on a quarterly basis you can receive an additional \$20 each quarter. We encourage you to check to see if your insurance is a participant.

I plan to have a Zoom meeting for all Secretaries sometime in January to assist with the quarterly reports and answer any questions yu may have. I will send out a link and notice when the date and time is set.

## Grange Hall Podcast



The Grange Hall releases a new episode every other Wednesday. Listen on **Apple Podcasts**, **Spotify**, **Amazon Music**, or **iHeartRadio**. You can also listen on **PodBean**, the **National Grange website**, or watch on YouTube! Be sure to like and subscribe!

If you have comments or questions, or if you'd like to recommend a member of YOUR Grange to be featured, you can contact us at [grangehallpod@gmail.com](mailto:grangehallpod@gmail.com).

### The Colorado Granger

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## 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](mailto: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





## Lecturer

**BJ Bushman, State Lecturer**  
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Greetings Grangers and Happy 2025! I hope the year end was filled with memories of a good 2024 and the promise of a new year full of potential to serve and give, as well as grow our Granges!

As many of us look to the new calendar year and anticipate the possibilities of ways to impact our communities with new and renewed activities, service projects, and partnerships, it is my hope that an energy and attitude of anticipation accompany our actions as we plan and execute the upcoming events of the new year. May we reach out and make new associations, build and strengthen current relationships, and find ways to create new bonds within our scope.

While we plan and search for new ways to enhance our communities, please keep the Star Award qualifying activities in mind. These particulars can help us set standards and create goals to achieve within

the span of our events. In doing so, please refer to the 2025 Handbook. Some updates have been created to help improve involvement and inclusiveness.

At our 2024 State Session it was agreed that we will be doing Karaoke during the 2025 Gala! Be prepared to shine for the "Performing Arts" State Talent Showcase — the stage will be yours! Check out this section in the 2025 Handbook for some updates.

Then also, as you are preparing your creative works, please review the Lecturer's Contest section in the 2025 Handbook for qualifications as well. Some updates have been made to this section, too. If you plan to submit any items to the National Grange Contests, please note that their deadline is September 1, 2025, while our deadline is September 3, 2025.

Here's to accomplishing great things in 2025!



## Family Activities

**Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter, State Activities Co-Directors**  
Idella Lewis, 303-274-9390  
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Karen Baxter, 14857 CR 240, Bayfield, CO 81122  
970-259-1595



The 2024-25 Handbook has the same events as in previous years with two new events for next year. One is a Colorado Quilt Block to be submitted and the ones received will be made into a quilt. The second item has guidelines for the Quilt of Valor. Refer to the new Handbook which is included in this issue for the guidelines to follow.

## Real Estate Management

**Mike Lackey, State Director**  
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Political uncertainty, soaring insurance costs, and the growth of artificial intelligence are among the hot topics that likely will have a big impact on the real estate industry in 2025, according to the Counselors of Real Estate, a global organization of property advisers. Each year, CRE releases its list of the top 10 challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

"We have seen a significant increase in optimism in the commercial real estate industry following the Fed's easing of interest rates, the potential for a U.S. economic soft landing, and the impact on commercial real estate assets and lending market conditions," says CRE global chair Anthony DellaPelle. "However, the commercial real estate industry faces a number of challenges, from geopolitical uncertainty, elections and regional wars to loan maturities and debt repricing. In many of these challenges, there are opportunities, too, like housing affordability and attainability, sustainability and AI."

Here are the issues that topped CRE's list for 2025:

1. **Political uncertainty:** "This

coming year, elections in more than 70 countries could shake up an already volatile geopolitical landscape, and the U.S. elections, in particular, will have a significant impact on regulation, trade, corporate taxes, immigration policy, and sustainability," DellaPelle says. Further, debates could brew over rent caps for corporate landlords or 1031 like-kind exchange modifications. "Unpredictability complicates real estate transactions," CRE cautions in its report, noting investors could be waiting for greater clarity on economic growth, inflation, and interest rates.

2. **High financing costs:** Interest rates began dropping in the fall but remain elevated, making purchasers cautious. "Deal assessments and market valuations remain complex," CRE says. "Many owners are hesitant to sell, and potential buyers are wary of high prices, still expecting a surge in distressed asset sales due to upcoming loan maturities." CRE predicts that buyers will continue to act cautiously, focusing on higher-cap-rate deals. A more aggressive market reentry likely will not materialize for the sector for another two

years, the report notes.

3. **Loan maturities deadlines:** Nearly \$1.8 trillion in commercial real estate loans is set to mature before the end of 2026. "While lenders are increasingly extending these loans in hopes of better market conditions, this temporary relief may soon reach its limits as banks grapple with regulatory constraints and insufficient capital reserves," CRE finds, adding that the dynamic could affect competition and tenant retention across property types.

4. **Geopolitics and regional wars:** Ongoing global turmoil, including the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, could contribute to supply chain disruptions, inflation, labor shortages, and more. "Expect higher cap rates as investors price in greater risk" and abandon their former reliance on historical cycles, the report says.

5. **Insurance costs:** Natural disasters caused \$380 billion in economic losses in 2023 alone, yet only 31% of those were covered by insurance. Insurance premiums are surging due to extreme weather, inflation, and increased property values. "Residential, hospitality, and senior living properties are particularly impacted, with rising claims," the report finds. "The old model of buying insurance is fading as owners focus on risk management, rightsizing coverage, and exploring alternative risk transfer solutions to control escalating expenses."



## Agriculture Report

**David H. McCord, State Director**  
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The Colorado Ag Council has re-emerged with fresh energy beginning with its first meeting for the 2025 legislative session. The new chair is Erin Karney, Colorado Cattlemen's Exec VP, and Tyler Garrett, Farmer's Union, Vice Chair and Sec/Treas.

The members objected to Gov. Polis' recent muddled tweet seemingly blaming everything wrong with the world on agriculture, especially on use of pesticides. The Gov's response was due to President Elect Trump's nomination of RFK Jr., antivaxxer, to be the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Polis' comments addressed "impact of pesticides on public health" and he wants to shakeup the FDA, a barrier to lowering drug costs.

A draft letter to the Governor from the Council is under review "...we would like to discuss the importance of correcting misinformation about the growth, maintenance, and sustainability of Colorado's agricultural products" further, "Colorado's statewide pesticide regulations have a proven record of successfully protecting our food supply and environment from pests and pest-borne diseases, as well as the health of our citizens."

### Other items from the meeting:

A committee will focus on content for regular Ag Council meetings and to best structure Colorado's Ag Day at the Capital, historically mid-March, but may move to the National Western Stock Show time.

Janet Stephens, representing the Colorado Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners, was present. They support work to promote reasonable and enforceable dog legislation. She shared that animal rights efforts to ban dog breeding has resulted

in importation of dogs, many from 3rd world countries, with uncertain animal health standards and lack of disease control. The animal rights interests state that having a pet is an "exploitation of animals," therefore, eliminate pets by mandating spay and neuter, put pet stores and commercial breeders out of business, and ban breeding.

The Federation opposeS strictures that will impact the rights of hunters or agricultural practices in any negative way, but support freedom of choice when selecting a pet, animal limit laws, and support for importation of healthy dogs. She opposed Prop 127, the CATS bill, also opposed by the Grange, and turned down by voters.

### Other:

From the Ft. Collins *Coloradoan* "Colorado's livestock guardian dogs fight wolves." Two cattle dogs may have encountered a wolf. They returned home agitated due to an unknown cause, possibly the Copper Ridge wolf, that subsequently died. Livestock protection dogs are available via the USDA.

The Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame will recognize Dr. Michael Bartolo, Rocky Ford; Don Brown, Yuma, (former Ag Commissioner); Terry Fankhauser, CCA (Posthumously); and Wayne Schmeekle, Ft. Morgan. They will be recognized in February following the Colorado Agriculture Leadership Program Forum. I have long held Don and Terry in the highest regard and it saddens me that Terry is gone.

A disturbing recent comment: The United States, long an agricultural powerhouse, is now facing a significant shift in food production and trade changing from exporter to importer for the third time in five years.

## Life's Too Long Not to Belong

Research shows that being active and enjoying time with friends is good for your health. **The National Grange** has partnered with Grouper to reward eligible members for being an active participant in your community.



COMMUNITY SERVICE



**LET YOUR CURRENT HEALTH PLAN REWARD YOU FOR HAVING FUN WITH FRIENDS**



### CHECK ELIGIBILITY

Two simple questions and no personal information needed

[GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange](https://GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange)



### GET PAID

Receive \$50 if your current plan includes Grouper.



### STAY ACTIVE

Earn \$20 every 3 months by reporting social activities.



Instantly find out if your are eligible by visiting:  
**[GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange](https://GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange)**

Exclusive benefit for current National Grange members 65+ in the U.S. with an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan.



PROUD TO BE INCLUDED IN:

**Grouper**

Call 833 445-2400 Email [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com)

**Renew Active**  
UnitedHealthcare

**OnePass**

## Mandy Project

**Cindy Greer, Coordinator**  
970-588-3386 • Email: [hcrdgreer@frontier.net](mailto:hcrdgreer@frontier.net)

Do you know any children with hearing loss? If so, please take time to let their family know about the Mandy project. There are no guidelines regarding the income of a family. Kids are always growing so they are always in need of new ear molds for hearing aids. They also have issues with needing updated hear-

ing aids, as they grow their needs change.

I feel that the Mandy Project is still relevant. We have been fortunate that the legislature made insurance companies in Colorado support hearing loss equipment, but we also know that even then the costs can still be too high for families.





# Community Service

**Lisa Mittan,**  
State Director  
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Email: mittan42@msn.com

Hello Grangers! Happy New Year 2025! I hope you all had great events for the holidays in your communities. I know you’ve made a big difference, because it’s what you do. I am always so impressed and heartened when I read your Community Service and Lecturer’s reports that you submit to Colorado State Grange in September. You are so dedicated and creative, and I know that you folks in Granges where you don’t send in your annual reports are also doing great things in your communities. I especially love to learn when you are coordinating with other organizations and businesses in your area to magnify all of your efforts and make even more of an impact to help others.

During these winter months, one of the things we do is plan our home and community gardens for the coming growing season. In the fall of 2024, many of the food pantries here in the Denver metro area were accepting produce from private gardeners. There are likely neighbors in your area who will welcome extra fruits and vegetables that you may have, even if you don’t have a food pantry that will take them. If you

grow even a little extra, you’ll be able to find someone who can use it for their families. I’ve got three seniors on my street who don’t really have the ability to grow their own gardens anymore and they appreciate extra veggies — even zucchini!

It’s the season for planning. We plan our events for the coming Grange year, and come up with new ideas for changing up our regular events and trying new events — maybe ideas for how we can work with other groups too. Many Granges in the country have Facebook pages and if you are on Facebook, I encourage you to search for them. There is also a page for National Grange Community Service and Activities” on Facebook, with regular posts about what they’re up to, regarding their community service programs. It’s a great source of ideas — some of them are really impressive.

By the time you’re reading this, I plan to have the reporting forms out to everyone who got them last year. If you didn’t get an email from me and want to, please let me know. Email me at mittan42@msn.com or call/text me at 720-413-4106. Have a great year everyone!

## 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.

# Grouper Fact Sheet

**About Grouper** Grouper is leading a movement that encourages healthy living through meaningful social connections and shared experiences. Grouper helps you access benefits to cover the group activities that provide social connection and keep you healthy.

**Our Mission**  
To encourage healthy living through activities that build meaningful social connections and shared experiences.

## WHAT IS SOCIAL FITNESS?

Research shows that participating in groups and activities with others improves our mental, physical and social health. It's called "Social Fitness," and it's the driving force behind everything Grouper does.

**Physical**  
Staying active through exercise, fitness classes or walking is crucial for maintaining good health.

**Mental**  
The more mental stimulation we get, the more likely we are to hold on to better brain functioning as we age.

**Social**  
Studies have shown that social connections are closely related to well-being and personal happiness.

PROUD TO BE INCLUDED IN:



**Grouper**  
Call 833-445-2400  
Email Info@hellogrouper.com



**Club Partnership Program**  
Grouper partners with large Medicare Advantage and Supplement health plans. Our club partners enjoy a Group Payment for telling their members about the benefit. We confirm member eligibility, and eligible club members will receive an initial \$50 check as well as \$20 quarterly ongoing activity payments by Grouper.

**Health Plan Eligibility** Members will receive a dedicated registration link that they will use to confirm if their Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan includes Grouper.

**GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange**  
Grouper will verify eligibility with the member's basic contact information and send a check in the mail to eligible members. It's that simple!



# Legislative Activity

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

**Bill Summary**  
The act prohibits knowingly leaving a handgun in an unattended vehicle unless the handgun is stored in a locked hard-sided container that is placed out of plain view and the

container is in a locked vehicle, the locked trunk of the locked vehicle, or a locked recreational vehicle.

The act prohibits knowingly leaving a firearm that is not a handgun in an unattended vehicle unless



## 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

PICK will be offering some contests this year in preparation for the USA's 250th and Colorado's 150th. We hope that many of you will decide to participate.

If your Grange is thinking about doing some improvements to your hall in the next year and you want Grant assistance, please take the following steps:

## 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.  
Every Tuesday the Florissant Grange Quilt of Valor Guild meets from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Business meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m.  
Gift Shop is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday weekly.  
January is vacation month.  
Feb. 8 — Pine Needle Basket

Classes; Seasoned and newbies, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Needle Felt-ing Class, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Feb 22 – Paint with me class.

Craft Classes continue to be held each month except January this year. We are declaring January Vacation month. The classes continue to be successful and fun.

In October our Grange held a celebration of life for one of our quilter's husbands. It was a very nice tribute and service. His granddaughter sang a song and a local friend and entertainer read a very nice poem about him.

Our Grange also hosted the VFW regional annual meeting again this year. It was a full crowd and went very well for all those traveling quite a distance.

Alan and I missed the State Grange Session this year and none of our Grangers were able to attend either. Alan and I missed seeing everyone and participating.

In November we held our annual FREE Thanksgiving Dinner for our community. We had volunteers from all over the community cooking turkeys, mashed potatoes, and much more, and a family of five showed up to serve everyone.

The Fire Department volunteers came to help serve the pies and to make sure everyone had plenty of food and the High School students from the Lake George Charter School came to deliver food and drinks to those who were handicapped or just having difficulty walking and carrying their dinners. They also manned the “take-out” door and made sure everyone who came through the drive through got their meals.

What a great crew we had this year. The Thursday night Band also played and entertained everyone. It was a huge success as always.

The Florissant Grange Quilters awarded two more Quilts of Valor

the firearm is stored in a locked hard-sided or soft-sided container that is placed out of plain view and the container is in a locked vehicle, the locked trunk of the locked vehicle, or a locked recreational vehicle. A firearm that is not a handgun that is stored in a soft-sided container must have a locking device installed on the firearm while stored in the soft-sided container.

A person who is considered to have a disability who stores a firearm in a locked soft-sided container does not violate the requirement to store a firearm in a hard-sided container. The act includes exceptions from the storage requirement for storing antique firearms, storing a firearm that is a not a handgun in a vehicle being used for farm or ranch operations, a person who lives in a vehicle or in a recreational vehicle, peace officers and active members of the armed forces, and certain activities related to lawful hunting.

Unsafe storage of a firearm in a vehicle is a civil infraction.

**APPROVED** by Governor May 15, 2024

**EFFECTIVE** January 1, 2025  
(Note: This summary applies to this bill as enacted.)



Fire Department Volunteers serving pies at Florissant's annual FREE Thanksgiving Dinner.

in November and December and we have a nice list of more Veterans to award in the near future.

December 9, we held our Annual Christmas Bazaar. We had 16 crafters inside the main building and 30 or more in the Gift Shop. There were so many wonderful handmade, one-of-a-kind gifts to choose from, I think most of the crafters and customers were able to finish their Christmas Shopping this year.

Santa came to our Grange on December 21. We got together to stuff the goodie bags for all the kiddos on the 18th, we decorated early on the 20th, and we served cookies and cocoa to all those who came on the 21st from 1-2:30 p.m. The high school kids from the Lake George Charter School came and helped all the kiddos do some crafts and we all had a great time.

We have declared January as vacation month so we all have some time to take off and see family who do not live close by. Alan and I will be heading to Arizona and Texas. Warm weather here we come.

Renee Caldwell



Florissant's Engle family serving community Thanksgiving dinner.





**Sunflower**  
Contact Cherry Ellis, 303-581-7672, [cherryellis5@yahoo.com](mailto:cherryellis5@yahoo.com), [sunflowergrange.org](http://sunflowergrange.org), P.O. Box 221, Sedalia CO 80135, for further information.

January 11 from 1 to 3 p.m., meeting, Firehouse in Sedalia.  
Local History Book Club discussing *Men of Sedalia*, third Thursdays at 1 p.m. at BMan's.

2024 Speaker series on Cybersecurity, Uses and Abuses of Technology, and Supporting Small Businesses.

On October 31, 2024, Sunflower Grange participated in the annual Sedalia Elementary school Halloween Trunk or Treat festivities. It was well-organized by the school, the weather was perfect and the children were delightful with their wild variety of costumes and polite behavior. Some younger ones are just coming to grips with the concept of Halloween. One tiny girl was a bride, complete with white gown and skewed veil. Hedwig the Owl had her photo taken, appropriately, with a young Harry Potter.

The Sunflower Grange-decorated Trunk was attended by the Good Witch Sandi Hier and Hedwig the Owl Diana Horner-Bates. Trunk participants handing out treats included a police vehicle with an incarcerated skeleton (the police stated that he had been in custody a very long time), a fire truck with firefighters, B-Mans BBQ, Lowry Insurance, and many others. Non-human attendees included the miniature horse Scarlett, Peaches the goat, and a costumed kitty. A small flock of chickens and one duck approached cautiously to observe the activity and prospect for errant treats.

In November, Sedalia lost Chet Hier, a valued community member and Executive Committee member of Sunflower. The Hier family is one of the oldest in Douglas County; many fourth-generation members continue to live in the area, where you will see Hier street names. Chet grew up in Sedalia and was best known in his later years as a local historian. He authored two books: a memoir, *Let Me Think a Minute: Memories of a Free-Spirited Life* (2019); and local history, *I Shouldn't Say This: The colorful 73 year history of Sedalia's Beloved Watering Hole, Bud's Bar*. If you did not know Chet, you will by the time you have read his books.



Sedalia's and Sunflower Grange's Chet Hier.

Sedalia was so lucky to have Chet as its own time-machine. With a long family background in the area and historian's eye, Chet recognized the importance of Bud's Bar as a Sedalia institution, and wrote about the community Bud's represents. For more than 75 years, it has been the gathering place for the town, where flood victims took shelter in the Flood of '65, the place to find local medical help, the site of kids' birthday parties, Pumpkin Contests, group lunches, and, like European pubs, a regular stop for locals to see neighbors and catch up as they have a beer and burger. Bud's Meeting Table, reserved for "office hours" 10 and 3 daily, has chairs with Chet, Billy Moore, Guy Elder name plates, but anyone who wants to drop by is welcome to share the conversation. Bud's is the community's hub.

Besides writing community history, Chet's "free-spirited life" included breaking bronzes, raising orphaned bear cubs at home (!), wrestling and arm wrestling, riding a horse into Bud's — just once — fishing and hunting stories, military service, work. Like many of the early residents in Sedalia, Chet was a Renaissance man. He will be greatly missed.

During the holidays, our Grange mission is to share with community. For the past four years Sunflower has donated \$250 to Sedalia Elementary and to Help and Hope to provide food for community members in need, and we did the same this year. Sandi Hier delivered a check to Help and Hope and gift cards to Sedalia Elementary.

Gary Heferle sent this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icZwm6Aact8>) to the old version of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. If you haven't seen how the very unruly Herdman children transform the church Christmas pageant, you have to watch.



Thanksgiving dinner crowd at Florissant Grange.



Santa visiting with kids at Florissant Grange.



Hedwig (Diana) the Owl and Good Witch Sandi at Sedalia Elementary's Halloween Trunk or Treat.

Winterfest is Sedalia's holiday collaboration of all the businesses and organizations in town, each one doing something special for children. The Museum had \$1 gifts children could buy for family members and have them gift-wrapped free, and Miss Nancy helped write Santa letters; Sedalia Elementary had games and free tacos. Sunflower was at BMan's. Mrs. Santa (Margaret Ellis) planned to be there, but illness kept her at the North Pole.

The Santa gift (from Dennis Ellis) was a Home Depot building kit, along with a stocking or bag of goodies from BMan's. All year, Dennis collected the building kits the first Saturday of each month until he had 107; he gave out 79 kits and an equal number of goodie bags or stockings. Sunflower received \$14 in donations for items Margaret sent, visitors enjoyed freshly baked chocolate chip cookies and hot cocoa, and children colored ornaments at a table Roxann set up.

The whole staff dressed for the holidays — Briana, Alyssa, and Naomi in sparkly overalls, Dawson the elf, and the t-shirt wearer with the choices "Naughty, Nice, and I Tried." They sang "Happy Birthday" to Dick Ellis, the 86-year-old



BMan's crew dressed up for the holidays.

Grinch, and enjoyed a piece of his chocolate moose (pun intended) birthday cake.

Just about everyone had photos taken with Santa, thanks to Sandi Hier and the elves — almost as many pictures of animals as people. One family had five of each! Unlike previous years, the children wanted to talk to Santa, not just ask for gifts. Harvey, Augustus, and new elf Dillon recorded the requests, took photos, and enjoyed the taxis. We hope the photos turned out well and will accompany Christmas cards this year.

The weather was perfect for riding around town on the tractor taxis — the favorite activity for all the children. The taxis dropped people off, picked others up, and drove on to the next stop for more fun. Thanks to Don Person, Zach Watts, and another very nice driver, traffic moved smoothly all day. One very happy eight-year-old elf spent most of the day riding with Don's and Zach's families. When we closed at 2 p.m., our Sunflower group enjoyed great barbeque. Thank you, Sedalia!

(Continued on Page 8)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Grouper and how does it work?

Grouper partners with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement Plans that offer their members age 65+ group activity benefits. We help you connect to group activities that match your passions. As you stay socially active and participate in qualifying in-person activities with your group, we work with your health plan to cover the participation costs and make other benefits available to you.

### This sounds too good to be true, what's the catch?

There is no catch! Grouper recognizes what medical and social research have now well documented: building and maintaining social connections become more difficult as we age. We believe that group activities are an important part of the solution, and we are committed to bringing people together and strengthening social connections. Simply put, group activities lead to longer and healthier lives. By partnering with health plans that share our values, Grouper helps eligible members access and make the most of their health plans' activity benefits available through their health insurance plans.

### Is my privacy protected?

Yes. Your information is not sold. We only share your information as explained in our [Member Terms of Service](#), as well as our [Privacy Policy](#).

### What do I need to sign up for Grouper?

- Basic contact information (Name, Phone, Email, Zip Code)
- In some cases, we might ask for your membership number if you are already part of a group or club



### How do I get started?

STEP 1: Register online to confirm your eligibility at:

[GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange](https://GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange)

STEP 2: Tell Grouper where to send the check.

STEP 3: Keep participating in your passion!

Once your eligibility is confirmed, Grouper will send you an annual payment of \$50. Also, for every three months of activity after that, we will send \$20, if you keep us updated on your in-person group activity!



# Grouper

Call 833-445-2400  
Email [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com)

PROUD TO BE INCLUDED IN:



Grouper Club Network Locations ("CNLs") are not owned or operated by Grouper or its affiliates. Use of CNL facilities and amenities limited to terms and conditions of CNL basic membership. Facilities and amenities vary by CNL. Always talk to your doctor before starting an exercise program. © 2024 Grouper. All Rights Reserved.



Darden

Jefferson County

Contact **Idella Lewis**, [idelamlewis@gmail.com](mailto:idelamlewis@gmail.com), 303-233-3393, for further information.

**February 1, 3 p.m. — Darden Pomona Meeting at Wheat Ridge Grange.**

The November meeting at Enterprise Grange had to be postponed due to a snowstorm.

The annual Darden Pomona Christmas Party was hosted by Enterprise Grange on December 14 with members and guests attending. Following a complete Christmas dinner, everyone enjoyed watching the children gather around the Christmas tree, eagerly awaiting a visit from Santa, and breaking of the piñata. Everyone enjoyed a very festive holiday evening leaving with the true spirit of Christmas in their heart.

Idella Lewis

Enterprise Grange

Contact **Carol Lackey**, [carollackeyhomes@gmail.com](mailto:carollackeyhomes@gmail.com), or 303-521-4477, for further information.

**January 8, Wednesday** — Potluck at 6 p.m. We will be planning the rest of the 2025 Grange Year activities and any future community service projects. We will also discuss our Community Service Night in April. Come with suggestions on Fundraising activities, of people you know that could benefit from the funds we raise, a community member that we will honor on Community Service Night, and of places you would like for us to go as a group. We will also discuss the outcome of the Chili Dinner and whether to continue it or find an alternative fundraiser.

**February 12, Wednesday** — Valentine Party and Potluck at 6 p.m. Bring a Valentine for your Granger Friends and Family. The program will be information on Hospice Care, its benefits, and ways



Grangers filled Christmas stockings at Enterprise Grange for delivery to senior citizen residence centers.



Servers for Christmas Dinner at Enterprise Grange.

to navigate through the care. We will then play Valentine games.

**March 14, Wednesday** — St. Patrick’s Day Irish Potluck at 6 p.m. Bring something green or something Irish! Planning for the Community Service Award program, Easter Egg Hunt, and our Community Garden will follow potluck.

For our October 9 meeting, we started out with potluck at 6 p.m. We discussed 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 onto the Executive Committee for the State Grange.

The speaker was Diane Hegeman from AWRSAU (Arvada, Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth) recognizing youth who have overcome a major life obstacle or adversity. It is an organization that also promotes cooperation of Community Service Organizations



Children sat on Santa’s lap to tell him their Christmas wishes then picked a stuffed animal from the Enterprise toy box.

ed “Nextdoor” and the “Arvada Neighbors” Facebook page.

We filled 100 stockings for Arbor View Senior Living, and 112 for the Olin Residences. Both are for senior’s residence centers that are low income and have disabilities or are disadvantaged in other ways. Stockings were delivered to Arbor View by Nancy Sells, Ashley and Carol Lackey, and Tom Eplett, a friend of the Grange. Stockings were delivered to Olin by Nancy Sells and Tom Eplett. We would be amiss if we didn’t take the time to thank everyone for their willingness to go the extra mile for these Community Service activities.

We also adopted a family given to us by the Carin’ Clinic that doesn’t have the means to give their children a gift for the holidays. This family also did not have the basics, such as towels, frying pans, bowls, etc. They moved here from the south, so they were also in need of warm, cold weather clothing. We were also happy to help with their holiday meals.

December 7 was our Santa picture day. Mike Webster was our Santa again this year. He’s the best we’ve found and are so grateful for him. Santa Day was a big success with plenty of kids and pets attending. Hot chocolate, cider, and cookies were served. There were coloring books and crayons for the kids. Then everyone walked away with a professional photo of their time on Santa’s lap.

The last community service project for this year was a joint venture with the Scarlet O’Hatters, led by Marlys Halbeisen and members of Maple Grove and Enterprise Grange. We put together another 35 bags to go to the Parkhill Residences, 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.

For the last two years we have been the only group that has given them gifts. They are so excited and very thankful that we are continuing again this year to their annual Christmas Eve party. We distributed the gifts on December 23. We could never do this without all the generous people that surround us!

Enterprise Grange hosted the Darden Pomona Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner this year on Saturday, December 14. We started the evening with a potluck of ham, tur-



Guest singing during the Christmas program.

throughout Wheat Ridge and Arvada, each helping the others to obtain members and share ideas.

We held our annual Chili Dinner on Sunday, October 20. Almost all the Grangers wanted to bring their favorite chili. There were so many different yet delicious chilis, it was hard to decide which one to choose. Our attendance dwindled again this year but the participation by the Grangers held steadfast. We will be deciding whether to continue this fundraiser or find another.

Our Thanksgiving potluck was at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13. Carin’ Clinic and Shannon’s Hope clients were invited to join us along with any Granger friends and family who wished to attend. Our Thanksgiving feast was a traditional dinner with turkey and all the trimmings and desserts galore. As with any Grange dinner, when it was time to leave, everyone was full of food and laughter! .

November 22 was the pre-stocking stuffing day where we do what I call our sub-assemblies. We fill small bags with candy, others with small lotions, shampoo, and conditioners, and remove all the packaging around items that come in multiple packaging. 212 Christmas cards that go into the stockings were already written by Nancy Sells’ daughter Casandra and her prayer group. They also provided 212 handmade bookmarks. We are very grateful for what Nancy and her family provide.

On December 2 we had our get-together for our annual Christmas Stocking Stuffing Party. We received a significant amount of donations from the Arvada community this year. We also requested items through an internet application call-

Privacy Matters

Is Member Privacy Protected?

Yes. We know the privacy of your members is important. It is important to us, too.

During registration, members will be asked for:

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Mailing address
- Costs (if any) associated with your membership

We take steps to protect member information and ensure it is used appropriately. We share information for purposes of administering the activity benefit and for other related reasons, such as connecting members to social groups. More detailed information is provided in our [Member Terms of Service](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#). We do not sell member information to marketers or advertisers.

To find out if your health plan partners with Grouper, visit

[GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange](https://GrouperGroups.com/CO-Grange)

Grouper

Call 833-445-2400

Email [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com) Visit [hellogrouper.com](https://hellogrouper.com)

Delivering 100 Christmas Stockings to Arbor View Senior Living.



key, sweet and mashed potatoes, side dishes, and salads galore. And who could forget the desserts! The Grangers of Darden Pomona with their friends and family and disadvantaged children from the Carin’ Clinic and Shannon’s Hope were all in attendance.

The Program after dinner included Christmas Carol sing-a-longs, children’s performances, and reading of the “Night Before Christmas” by Mike Lackey, Master of the Enterprise Grange. Santa Claus arrived to a thunderous applause when he heard “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” being sung by the children. They all sat on Santa’s lap telling him their Christmas wishes.

All the children received a stuffed animal from our toy box. It was fun to watch the delight on the children’s faces when they picked out their special animal. Carol Lackey made a Christmas Bulb piñata for the children filled with small toys and candy. Thanks to all the members of the Darden Pomona for making this such a memorable evening for all!

Hope everyone had a Happy Holiday and are looking forward to a wonderful 2020!

Carol Lackey

Maple Grove

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

Feb. 5, Wed. — Maple Grove Grange meeting 1 p.m.

After an extended long, warm fall, a significant snowstorm came in with a blast and the November meeting had to be cancelled.

A successful fall food drive was held with members as well as renters donating food for those less fortunate. The food was taken to The Jeffco Acton Center to replenish their food pantry.

Mary Ann Forman is collecting greeting card fronts to be taken to a Methodist Church in Colorado Springs where they are made into new cards. Any card front can be used as long as there is no writing on the card. What an exciting way to repurpose those beautiful cards! We also collect used eyeglasses which are taken to a local eye doctor who takes them to other countries to use.

The December Christmas party was held with everyone bringing a favorite Christmas dessert to share. Guests attending were Duffy Boyle, President of Rollin’ Wheels Square Dance Club, and Kitty Campbell, Co-Vice President of Rollin’ Wheels. Following the indulgence of sampling the delicious desserts, a gift exchange was held with many exciting gifts exchanged.

Idella Lewis

Pleasant Park

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

January 11 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

February 8 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

March 8 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

Mother Nature is in charge again. The November meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner had to be canceled because of the snow and cold. We had the dinner after the December meeting along with a white elephant gift exchange.

Sadly, several members have left our Grange for various reasons. With the strong leadership of the remaining members, we will rebuild and be as strong as ever.

The Bicycle Rest Stop closed the end of October and members are taking a much-needed break from the maintenance of our only fundraiser.

The annual Chili Dinner is scheduled for April 12, 2025.

The Pomona Picnic is scheduled for July 12, 2025.

Jon Kullmann, Lecturer, has plans to educate members about the origin and rituals of the Grange as part of the programs for next year.

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, 970-640-7185, for further information.

Grange Meeting — Thursday, January 9 at 3 p.m.

Grange Meeting — Thursday, February 13 at 3 p.m.

Yoga — Wednesdays, from 3 to 4 p.m.

AA — Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.

Grangers Deb Curlee and Thirza Kennedy recruited 30 talented crafters, then organized and ran our Holiday Craft Fair, which was held in mid-October. This was a wonderful event for finding that perfect gift made by a local artist or artisan, many of whom are our own Grangers and other Canyon residents. Several young Grange members helped with the lunch service. Thanks to Deb and Thirza for the best Craft Fair ever!

The Halloween Trunk or Treat Event was fun for young and old. We had 14 Decorated Trunkers plus two GGFPD fire trucks passing out goodies to the 60 plus children. The ladies of the Columbine Club donated funds for some of the sweet treats. The costumes of the kids and

85 community members. There were two turkeys, countless side dishes, and all the pumpkin pie you could eat. We are grateful for the attendance as well as the volunteers who set up, cook, and clean. Because of the uptick in attendance we are even increasing our budget for community dinners in 2025.

We also want to give a sincere thank you to Kelsy, who has worked so hard and shared all of her expertise this year. She is a master of marketing, digital advertising, social media, website construction, and so much more. With her help we are reaching more people through social media, improving our booking system for Grange Hall and kitchen rentals, and simplifying donations and ticket sales for our fundraising events.

And a shoutout to Greg and Evan, who keep the place running, from plumbing to yardwork, to installing the new roof. We are so lucky to have all of their experience and hard work to keep this historical building a welcoming community hub. Please enjoy these photos from our annual pig roast in September. The talented Cody Perry donated his time and skills to deliver us these wonderful snapshots of a beautiful day.

Abby Fox



Wreath Making and holiday crafts for the kids at Golden Gate Grange.



Effie Bachman at Golden Gate Grange’s Holiday Craft Fair.



Halloween Trunk or Treat was a fun event for everyone.



Jess Wotring, Trunk or Treat coordinator, with her crystal ball and fortune wheel.

parents were imaginative ... some sweet and some scary! Thanks to Jess Wotring who coordinated the event and set up a fun fortune wheel and crystal ball on the porch.

Again this year we partnered with the Jeffco Commissioners and CASA of Jefferson County in their Giving Tree program. DeeDee Ramstetter coordinated this worthy event. Our Grange members fulfilled the wishes of 21 children. In addition, members donated another \$400 in gift cards which will be used by Jeffco Commissioners and CASA to provide gifts for additional children and teens in the Giving Tree program. Thanks to DeeDee and all who contributed!

Wreath Making is always a favorite activity in early December. Twenty members and friends made beautiful wreaths from our native greenery. Kids were busy making a variety of Holiday crafts.

We started collecting old and damaged flags in June. A *Friend of the Grange*, Bill Frueh, assures that the flags are retired in a proper manner. This will be a year-round project, so bring us any old flags that you would like to have a flag retired in a respectful manner.

We hope to accomplish several important upgrades at the Grange in January and February. In addition to these projects, we are hoping to raise funds for an AED.

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.

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

Grange phone: 303-273-9516. Jayne Ruesch

Ute Mountain  
Dolores and Montezuma Counties

Mount Lookout

Contact Abby Fox, abbyjfox@gmail.com for further information.

\*No Monthly Meeting in January.

January 12, 5 p.m., Community Dinner.

January 20, 8 a.m.-10 a.m., MLK Pancake Breakfast.

February 8, Board Retreat, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

February 9, 5 p.m., Community Dinner.

Here at Mt. Lookout Grange we are happily reflecting back on the past year. Successful fundraisers, the addition of live music to summer community dinners, strategic planning, expanded community engagement, grants, a new roof, and so much more! We want to say thank you and spotlight a few people who have made 2024 such a success.

Cristina is our fearless leader for community dinners, bringing energy, enthusiasm, coordination, and delicious meals. With her help, community dinners have grown, and the “Grangegiving” we hosted in November was enjoyed by more than

2025 Grange Revival 4.0 — Torrey, Utah

Lodging Options

Primary Gathering Spot:

Thousand Lakes RV Park, Campground and Cabins

1110 UT-24, Torrey UT 84775

435-425-3500 or 800-355-8995

www.thousandlakesrvpark.com

Email RV size or request for tent site or cabin to

Tammy at: reservations@thousandlakesrvpark.com

Also booking in advance:

Sandcreek RV Park and Campground

540 UT-24, Torrey UT 84775

435-425-3577

www.sandcreekrv.com

Harry (owner) – call and say you are with the Grange

Also know we are coming:

Cowboy Homestead Guest Cabins

2100 UT-12, Torrey UT 84775

435-691-4384 or 888-854-5871

www.cowboyhomesteadcabins.com

There are many, many additional campgrounds, motels, and resorts in the immediate vicinity with all types of cabins, rooms, yurts, glamping tents, and more!

Another option is to look into renting an RV as the Thousand Lakes RV Park, Campground and Cabins has more than enough RV spaces.





**Progressive**  
Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas & Elbert Counties

**Sunflower**  
(Continued from Page 5)  
Sunflower member Wayne Eads in Greeley wrote: “Thanks to you all for staying engaged and keeping me informed of Sunflower’s activities! Here is a little dose of Christmas cheer from Greeley. It’s a Google Drive link so just turn up your speakers and click on the link! Merry Christmas! Wayne’s 2024 Video Christmas Card Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nV2LE8rK-kvpisKebc3eCCYzNFGNu-J2o/view?usp=sharing>  
Stay engaged. Happy Holidays from Sunflower.  
Cherry Ellis



**Agriculture Awareness at Garden Home Grange.**



**Hats off to Garden Home Granger Gail, 98 years old.**

**Garden Home**  
Contact Reneé Hackett, rhackett10@hotmail.com, for more information.  
Agriculture Awareness SQUASH, BEAUTIFUL SQUASH! Beautifully home grown and shared.  
Garden home Grangers made bags to hand out for the homeless. The bags contained — two pair of socks, water, peanut butter crackers, pop tarts, granola bars, Slim Jim’s, gummy bears, Kleenex, lip balm, gum, toothpaste, toothbrush, and most importantly, a salvation flyer.  
We also collected Coats for Colorado.  
We also wanted to recognize sweet, intelligent, beautiful, Gail turning 98 years old! Hats off to this amazing woman who is so loving



**Garden Home Grangers filling bags to hand out to the homeless.**



**Garden Home Grangers: William, Tom, Ashley, Rob, Kevin, Sandy, Karen, Gail, Bing, Peggy, Paul, Reneé, Marilyn, Don, and Matt, with beautiful squash!**  
and such an inspiration to all. Such a gift to our Grange with all of her memories and details over the years! We are blessed!



**Garden Home collected Coats for Colorado.**

Attendees for pictures: William, Tom, Ashley, Rob, Kevin, Sandy, Karen, Gail, Bing, Peggy, Paul, Reneé, Marilyn, Don, and Matt.  
We donate monthly to different organizations: Salvation Army and Disabled Veterans were the latest.  
Reneé Hackett



**Lynn Swanemyr receiving Quilt of Valor from Mt. Allison.**



**Mt. Allison Harvest Supper was a big success.**



**Mt. Allison community Christmas breakfast well-attended.**

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

**Mt. Allison**  
Contact Larry Corman, larry\_corman@hotmail.com, 970-749-8438, for more information.  
Upcoming Events:  
• **January 20 — Business Meeting at 4:30 p.m. (planning out the year).**  
We had a very successful Harvest Supper (first full-blown dinner since pre-Covid) with approximately 100 in attendance. We honored Lynn Swanemyr with a Quilt of Valor which meant a lot to him. We also received a sizable check from La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) for being the oldest business member in LPEA’s southeast district.  
November was a busy month for our hall with a wedding, a holiday craft fair, and a 50th wedding anniversary celebration.  
December saw us having our annual free community Christmas breakfast. We had another good turnout with probably 50 or so in attendance. The menu of biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, hash browns, and ham were a hit with the attend-

ees with very little left over. We had a Grinchmas theme that included decorations, a bean bag toss into the Grinch’s mouth, and word games as the placemats at each table setting. Thank you to our worthy Master, Yvonne Chapman, for all the decorations and placemats.  
Larry Corman

**Marvel**  
Contact Cindy Greer, 970-749-8108 or hcrdgreer@gmail.com for further information.  
**January 18 — Chili cook-off and dessert auction.**  
**January 20 — Junior Grange.**  
**February 3 — Junior Grange.**  
**February 7 — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Sandy Valencia.**  
**February 6 — Marvel Methodist Church Ground Hog Supper.**  
**February 14 — Palentine’s Dinner FUNDRAISER.**  
**March 3 — Junior Grange.**  
**March 7 — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Melissa MacDougall.**  
Our Luau in November had an attendance of 62. Three members of the Sleeping Ukes band were present and provided lots of music. Dancers from Cortez, Durango, and



**Marvel’s Isaac and Emmett Greer, and Sheryl Ayers cooking.**

Marvel shared several dances to the 62 participants. We received \$261 in donations which didn’t quite cover the expenses.  
The secret sisters group met December 1 at the home of Sheryl Ayers for their annual gathering. They played charades, had snacks, opened gifts from their secret sister, and found out who she was, and then drew names for the coming year.  
Seventeen Marvel Grange members adventured out to the Durango Cowboy Church Dinner and Bar D Show on December 20.  
Melissa MacDougall is working on a contract for our table and chair rentals for the future.  
We began discussing what improvements we want to make to the Grange Hall. Some of those include: New windows, steps and ramp off of North door, steps out back basement door, stucco on outside of building,



**Marvel Grange held our Luau in November. Entertainers danced and Sleeping Ukes band played for the 62 in attendance.**

and repair shingles that are starting to come off, leveling the West end of the Grange Hall, and having gravel put down so that we have additional parking and better parking for Campers. We will work on getting estimates, then start fundraising and grant seeking, also for an outside outlet with a key pad lock.  
A Palentines Dinner fundraiser committee was established of Kathy Hogan, Sandy Valencia, Melissa MacDougall, and Cindy Greer. Others said they would help however needed.  
New Year’s Eve party theme was announced. We’ll celebrate the Cowboy Western Way. Food will be Potato Bar/Nacho Bar. Individuals were encouraged to bring snacks, desserts, and their favorite table game.  
Special thanks to the Delaney family for donating a sink and cabi-

net for the men’s bathroom. Special thanks for Dave Mathias and Roger Ayers for getting the additional supplies and installing it. It looks great. Now we need to paint!  
Sheryl Ayers provided a very entertaining program at our December meeting on writing a charity letter using Mad Libs.  
Cindy Greer

**Marvel JG**

Contact Cindy Greer, leader, 970-588-3386 or hcrdgreer@frontier.net, for further information.  
The juniors met November 25 and worked on Holiday decorations and started study on water which is the National Grange’s ag project this year. Our juniors are all growing up; this year, two will graduate from Junior Grange and can join Subordinate Grange if they choose to.  
Cindy Greer

**The Colorado Granger**  
**Available Online**  
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