The Colorado Granger

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

WWW.COLORADOGRANGE.ORG | THE COLORADO GRANGER, FALL 2026 | VOLUME 102, NUMBER 4

Thank Yous For A Successful State Grange Convention

The successful completion of the 153rd Annual Convention of the Colorado State Grange was made possible by the dedication and hard work of many Grangers. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and talents.

A special thank you to Cindy Greer and La Plata Pomona Grange for providing the deli meat luncheon on Thursday afternoon. Lewis Grange, Cindy Greer, and Gary Wardle provided and prepared food and drinks for Wednesday evening's officers' practice. We are grateful to you all.

Thank you to Shelly Griffin for leading a memorable memorial service honoring the Grangers who have passed on to the Great Grange Above.

Thursday evening was filled with fun, thanks to B.J. Bushman and the Lecturers Department, who provided pizza and drinks. Ruth Wilson Francisco and B.J. entertained us with a Ruckus Bunko game and prizes. Thank you for a wonderful evening.

Lewis Grange treated us to a delicious breakfast on Thursday morning, featuring cottage potatoes, quiche, and more. Thank you to the fabulous cooks! Lewis Grange also welcomed us to its hall for the Past Masters' Breakfast on Saturday morning, giving everyone a chance to visit and enjoy the space.

A big thank you to the Family Activities Department and directors Karen Baxter and Idella Lewis for coordinating the contests and activities. We also extend our thanks to Lecturer B.J. Bushman for organizing the crafts, art, and writing contests, as well as a wonderful tour of Milligan's Bee Pollination Honey facility. Everyone learned so much.

Shelly Griffin organized Saturday's tours of the Anasazi ruins and the Ute Mountain Museum. Thank you, Shelly.

Thank you to all the Grangers who participated and helped make this convention a success. We also appreciate Larry Corman, Cindy Greer, and Carol Thompson for coordinating the Junior Grange program entries.

Another thank you to Lecturer B.J. Bushman for organizing the fun Mask-a-Rade Gala, where attendees wore beautiful masks and creative face designs. Granges and individuals from across the departments received awards, and we all enjoyed a potato bar featuring baked potatoes grown by a local Granger and prepared by Ruth Wilson Francisco. The women of Lewis Grange went all out with chili, onions, and other toppings. Thank you to everyone who made the evening special!

Tom Campion, chairman of the Executive Committee, organized the Annual Banquet. Thank you, Tom. Ruth Wilson Francisco and Cindy Greer entertained us with their talented writing, and Becky Polizzi and Shelly Griffin beautifully decorated the meeting room with mums.



Colorado State Grange Officers team for the 2026-2027 Grange year.

Jon Kullmann Named 2026 Outstanding Granger

Jon Kullmann of Pleasant Park Grange was selected at the Outstanding Granger for 2027. Jon exemplifies all of the qualities that define the ideal Granger. His qualifications include: Providing leadership and advocacy in his role as Steward of the Pleasant Park Grange #156 chapter in Conifer, Colorado, and Steward of the Colorado State Grange.



Jon Kullmann receiving Outstanding Granger Award from Gary Wardle at State Convention.

As Pleasant Park steward, Jon maintains their historic Pleasant Park Schoolhouse building, grounds, and bicycle rest stop with tremendous commitment and devotion. This involves frequent mowing, weeding, watering, wildfire mitigation, caring for the forest, cutting firewood from dead trees, well water treatment, managing the septic system, feeding the wood stove to warm the building for meetings in the winter, and all the repairs that arise with a 136-year-old building.

Jon is also an enthusiastic Grange advocate. He delights in enlightening others about the history and values of the organization and encouraging members to participate at the State and National level. And in focusing on agricultural stewardship, he coordinated the donation of a hay baler from a local resident, which is on display by our schoolhouse. Jon is in the process of making some repairs to allow providing demonstrations of the baler's operation during our upcoming Pomona Picnic and future events.

Jon is equally involved with activities supporting the community. He is a board member of the Conifer Salvation Army, serving as MC at their bi-monthly senior luncheon along with fundraising activities. He is also a board member Of the Pleasant Park Neighborhood Association. He volunteers at Staunton State Park teaching fly fishing to children and seniors and operating the park's historic sawmill. And he is actively involved with fire mitigation projects along evacuation routes in the area. Additionally, he can always be counted on to assist friends, with kindness, delightful humor and always a positive attitude.

Raffle Fun Raises Funds

Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased raffle tickets this year. The winner of the quilt was Carol Lackey and the winner of the planter made by Roger Ayers was Carol Thompson. The raffle brought in a total of $692 this year. The raffle funds from previous years have assisted individuals participate in conferences and this year the Raffle account paid for the rent on the building at Lewis-Arriolla and the cleaning fee. If you have something you would like to donate to the raffle please contact the state office, we are always looking for raffle prizes that people will want to purchase tickets on.

— *In Memoriam* —

Mary Geneva Ramstetter

1934 – September 2, 2026



With great sorrow, we note the passing of much loved Golden Gate Grange member, Mary Geneva Ramstetter, aged 91. Mary, a long time Golden resident, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Wednesday, September 2. She was one of four children born to Owen Francis and Geneva (Higley) Acers. Mary was born in Forest City, Missouri in 1934 and moved with her family to Colorado in 1937. She graduated from Golden High School in 1952. In 1954, she married Robert Roy Bliss, and had two daughters, Barbara and Kim. She worked at the Colorado School of Mines, as the Humanities Department Secretary, for over 20 years.

She married William O. Koch in 1965 and they enjoyed the ranch lifestyle in Golden Gate Canyon. She worked diligently with community groups to protect Golden Gate Canyon from over development, including the A35 initiative. After William's untimely passing in 1981, Mary married Charles William Ramstetter in 1983. She became an accomplished author and local historian. Together she and Charles researched, wrote, and published *John Gregory Country, a local history book about the Place, Names and History of the Ralston Buttes Quadrangle.*

(Continued on Page 3)

Upcoming Events

Call individual Granges for more information.

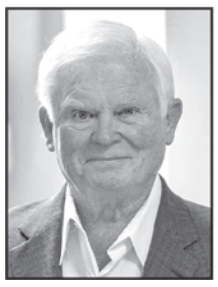
Oct. 31	Quarterly reports and payment due.
Nov. 4	Maple Grove Meeting at 1 p.m.
Nov. 6	Marvel Grange Business Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Program: Diane Delaney
Nov. 9-14	National Grange Convention in Broken Arrow, OK.
Nov. 12	Garden Home Grange Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m.
Nov. 12	Golden Gate Grange Meeting – 2:30 p.m.
Nov. 14	Mt. Allison – Craft Fair and Bake Sale (Contact Carol Thompson
Nov. 14	Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting – 10 a.m. followed with Thanksgiving Dinner.
Nov. 20	National Grange Honors Night – 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time streamed live on Facebook and YouTube.
Nov. 21	4-H Senior Thanksgiving Dinner at Mt. Allison Grange
Nov. 28	Mt. Allison Grange Christmas Bazaar (Contact Nan Youkum)
Dec. 4	National Grange Birthday
Dec. 4	Marvel Grange Business Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Program: Kathy Hogan.
Dec. 5	Wreath Making at Golden Gate Grange – 10 a.m.-Noon
Dec. 5	Mt. Allison Grange Christmas Breakfast and Food Drive 9-11 a.m.
Dec. 10	Garden Home Grange Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m.
Dec. 10	Golden Gate Grange Meeting – 2:30 p.m.
Dec. 12	Golden Gate Grange – Peak to Peak Chorale Concert – time TBD
Dec. 12	Darden Pomona Christmas Party hosted by Enterprise Grange – Saturday, 5 p.m.
Dec. 12	Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. followed with Christmas party.
Dec. 15	Articles due for the next quarterly issue of *The Colorado Granger*. Handbook information is also due.
Dec. 21	Marvel Junior Grange – 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 31	end of fourth quarter.
Jan. 1	Marvel Grange Business Meeting – 7:30 p.m. Program: Roger Ayers.
Jan. 9	Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting – 10 a.m. followed with potluck
Jan. 16	Marvel Grange Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction – 6 p.m.
Jan. 18	Marvel Junior Grange – 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 6	Darden Pomona Quarterly Meeting at Wheat Ridge Grange – 3:30 p.m. Bring a hobby to tell about or share.
Feb. 13	Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting – 10 a.m. followed with potluck

Weekly Happenings:

Florissant – Business Meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month, 6 p.m.
Florissant – Every Tuesday Grange Quilters, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Golden Gate Grange – AA – Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.
Golden Gate Grange – Yoga – Wednesdays, from 3-4 p.m.
Florissant – Every Thursday is Community Potluck and Music.
Florissant – Grange Gift Shop is open every day except Thurs. and Sun.

Master's Message

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



Brothers and Sisters, as we begin a new Grange year all Granges should be planning for next year. How can we make a difference in our communities? Who can we partner with to make a difference? How can we make our members want to participate? Best of luck in 2027.

I encourage all members to participate in the Grange contests. BJ develops a very good program with topics for all.

The 2026 State Grange convention was held in Cortez, Colorado, October 1 through 3. The travel to Cortez was beautiful with the fall colors. It rained all the way over to Cortez but the rest of the weekend was clear. We had about 30 members in attendance. A big thanks to the Lewis Grange members for their support of the convention. They cooked two breakfasts, provided a potato bar dinner on Friday for the Gala, and assisted with getting the caterers for the lunches and final banquet. We toured their hall on Saturday morning. The members have completed a lot of work to restore their hall. The hall is in beautiful condition.

There are many articles in this *Granger* detailing the convention, contest winners and the resolutions passed. We had the election of two officers. Jon Kullman was elected to the Executive Committee, and Joe Polizzi was elected Steward. Welcome to the new officers.

I will be attending the National Convention November 9 through 14, 2026. It will be held in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. All Grangers are invited to attend. I will report on the convention in the next issue of the *Granger*.

Thank you to all who attended the convention and thanks for your support during the convention and throughout the year.

Thanks to each of you for everything your Grange does to improve your community.

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

Membership



Elizabeth Hiner, State Director
970-403-4592
elizabeth.natlgrange@gmail.com

Our Granges are facing a multitude of challenges in keeping and gaining members. The challenges range from members passing away, leaving due to lack of purpose, rising costs of dues, and availability to have meetings either in person or virtually.

One of the Granges in trouble that I spoke with said that they don't have meetings because members are spread so far apart and they did not have the education to have meetings via Zoom or any other similar application.

Lack of interaction with State Grange Directors is also a problem. I met was met with silence when trying to contact our Granges that are in trouble losing their Charters either via phone or email. If current members could suggest innovative ideas on how to reach out to these Granges, I would appreciate it. Visitation is uncertain as these Granges do not hold regular meetings.

This year our Membership is showing a significant decline with only 11 Granges sending in reports out of the 40 plus/minus Granges in the state.

Of the Granges Reporting in there was a loss of 125 members with only 7 of those being deceased. This was expected due to National raising the dues.

The reporting Granges also reported a gain of 12 new members.

I feel that we need to incorporate the tried-and-true idea of meetings with modern technologies and attract the more tech savvy generation. When I can I like to take part in the Florida Grange meetings, my home Grange via Zoom.

Membership is a tricky task with all the different pieces that are in play, from dues, ideologies, and what the public is looking for. I feel that this is something that we need to do together, through branding, media, and keeping in touch with Directors so events can be advertised.

Thank you for having me as your Membership Director.

Visit the Colorado Grange website at www.coloradogrange.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

Notes From The Secretary



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

October 31 – Quarterly reports and payment due.

November 9-14, National Grange Convention in Broken Arrow, OK.

November 20 – National Grange Honors Night 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time streamed live on Facebook and Youtube.

December 4 – National Grange Birthday.

December 15 – Articles for the next quarterly issue of the *Colorado Granger* Due. Also *Handbook* information is also due.

December 31 – end of fourth quarter.

If I could offer one word of advice to every Grange member, it would be **READ**. Read your email carefully. Read your Grange publication — not simply for entertainment, but also to stay informed and educated.

Read your regular USPS mail as well. Why is this so important? Because the state office cannot do everything for you. Each member must take responsibility for their own Grange and for completing the tasks necessary to keep it active and functioning.

Grange Member Benefit: Start Hearing – Information in the Mandy Project article.

I would like to welcome new secretaries and returning secretaries. Your job is very important to the continued success of your local Grange, why because you are the key person people will communicate with. Beginning as early as now you should begin collecting dues from your current membership as Grange dues are due on the first of January for the coming year for all individual members. If you have questions about the various types of membership please contact me and I'll do the best I can to explain them. I will gladly help any of you that need assistance, but keep in mind that I am not a mind reader so you have to communicate with me when you need help. Let's make 2027 a great Grange year.

Community Service



Lisa Mittan,
State Director
4956 W. 66th Ave., Arvada, CO 80003
Email: mittan42@msn.com

Five combined reports were submitted. There were a lot of good and worthy programs and activities described in the reports submitted, that certainly merit recognition for community service. Since the National Grange is no longer conducting a State-based Community Service contest, there is no longer a need for details to be documented that would meet previously set National Grange requirements.

Our subordinate Granges seem to have really embraced the opportunity to tell the stories of the programs they conducted throughout the year in the colored star groupings for the Lecturer contests, without duplication of effort in the separate Community Service report. It is helpful to be able to understand which of these programs our Grangers want to have considered for recognition under the Community Service heading, but it's also apparent that the vast majority of things we do are positive impacts in serving our communities anyway.

Instructions for this new format, beginning with 2025, are provided on the Combined Reports form, and also in the annual *Handbook* included in the *Colorado Granger* newspaper and on the Colorado State Grange website. I have noticed some opportunities to improve the form for next year, so will get those done and emailed out shortly after Colorado State Grange Conference is over.

I have email addresses for a few key people from each subordinate Grange and will send out an introductory email before sending the form, in order to try to keep the form from ending up in recipients' junk/spam email folders due to the email – from what may be an email address that is unrecognized by spam filters, including an attachment. If you have not received these files from me in the past and would like to, please reach out to me at mittan42@msn.com with your name, email address, and the name of your Grange.

It does appear that many of the active Granges within the state of Colorado are conducting community service programs and events. It also appears that most of these Granges do not want to report on these programs at the State Grange level, regardless of the opportunities for recognition, including the possibility of monetary awards.

The National Grange has reinstated their annual cash award to each State Grange that has at least 25% of its subordinate Granges submit a Community Service report at the State level. We would need an additional 5 or 6 Granges to submit a report next year in order to receive that cash award. Colorado State Grange has historically distributed this award to the reporting Granges with the top 3 most compelling reports.

National Grange has also decided to provide a place to display State Granges' winning OneBooks during the National Grange annual conference. The intent is for these OneBooks (aka scrap books or brag books) to feature Community Service programs and activities. National Grange also provides a way for any subordinate Grange to tell its story of any given Community Service program. The rewards for reporting this way are a certificate, and possible inclusion in National Grange publications. Look for the "Share Your Project's Story" button at https://www.nationalgrange.org/community-service-programs/.

This year's Community Service winners were: First Place – Florida Grange #308; Second Place – Mt. Allison Grange #306; and third Place – Marvel Grange #479. First place received $100, 2nd place $75 and third place $50.

Granger Deadline And Guidelines

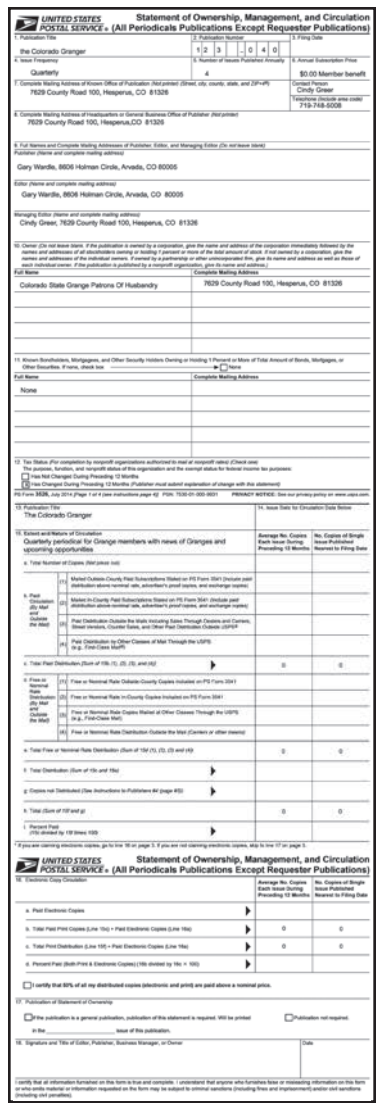
December 15, 2026, is the deadline for articles for the Winter 2027 edition of *The Colorado Granger*. You can send them to the State Grange Office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326 or email costate grange@gmail.com.

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)

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 (colorado grange.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.



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Castle Rock CO 80108

Mountains, high deserts, mesas, and desert canyons created a stunning backdrop at the beautiful location of our 153rd Colorado State Grange Convention, hosted by the Lewis Grange in Montezuma County. Heritage, ancestry, and warm hospitality encompassed the tone for our State Meeting. Our event was hugely productive with successful legislative work, new officer installation, completion of the 6th Degree, and, of course, the celebration of your year's accomplishments!

It is always deeply impressive to review reports from Granges statewide, highlighting programs designed to enrich traditional activities alongside fresh, dynamic events. How inspiring to observe the capturing of opportunities that will ultimately result in the Grange's role of impacting communities in a positive light.

Through the Lecturer's Star Awards, these efforts were acknowledged. Certificates and monetary awards were given to: Florida Grange #306, Maple Grove Grange #154, Marvel Grange #479, and Mt Allison Grange #308.

Individual talents across various categories of the Lecturer's Contest were recognized as follows:

Hobby Corner -
Holiday Items:

1st - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange #479

2nd - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange #479

3rd - Vicki Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison Grange #308

Hobby Corner -
Miscellaneous Items:

1st - Tamera Halbeisen, Maple Grove Grange, #154

2nd - Tamera Halbeisen, Maple Grove Grange, #154

3rd - Cindy Greer, Marvel Grange, #479

Workbench - Wood

1st - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange, #479

2nd - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange, #479

3rd - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange, #479

Workbench -
Leather, Metal, Recycled Items

1st - Mike Delaney, Marvel Grange, #479

2nd - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange, #479

3rd - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange, #479

Workbench - Art

1st - Shelly Griffin, Lewis Grange, #406

Photography - Windmills

1st - Vickie Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison Grange, #308

Photography -
Helping Hand

1st - Cindy Greer, Marvel Grange, #479

Photography -
Fenceline

1st - Kathy Hogan, Marvel Grange, #479

2nd - Shelley Griffin, Lewis Grange, #406

3rd - Roger Ayers, Marvel Grange, #479

Photography -
Miniature/Gigantic

1st - Vicki Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison Grange, #479

2nd - Shelley Griffin, Lewis Grange, #406

As was mentioned at our State Session, we will be on the lookout for the rebranding information from the National Grange and how it may apply to the Lecturer's Programming for 2027.

Watch for new and exciting categories in the *2027 Handbook!*



Agriculture Report

David H. McCord, State Director
David • 303-388-1259
Email: dmccord60@earthlink.net

The following are ag related activities and items of interest that involve my time.

Along with Mike Lackey, Grange President Gary Wardle, and other Grange members represented Colorado State Grange at the annual Ag Day at the State Capital.

With help from Gary Wardle it was arranged for Colorado Ag Leadership Program (CALP) Executive Director Dani Traweek to present a program on CALP to Grange Delegates at our 2026 State Session.

Drafted and submitted regular Ag Reports to editor Cindy Greer for the *Colorado Granger*.

Represent Colorado Grange on the Colorado Ag Council. (main function has been to sponsor Ag Day at the Capital).

Monitor email messages and web sites for the following:

The National Young Farmer's Coalition

Colorado Ag Water Alliance (We are member via membership in the Ag Council), seminars

Colorado Parks and Wildlife – monitor web site covering wolf program

Colorado Secretary of State – monitor web site on initiatives for ag considerations

Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, news letter

Colorado Corn Promotion Council, newsletter

Colorado Agricultural Commission, meetings and publications

Colorado Wildlife Coalition Project, coalition of 22 conservation organizations supporting Colorado hunting and fishing, esp. monitor Colo. Parks and Wildlife Commission, members include ag producers

Attended the National Western Stock Show and Greeley Farm Show.

— In Memoriam —

Mary Ramstetter

(Continued from Page 1)

Mary also authored a historical fiction series of three books. She was a member of the Golden Gate Grange for 73 years and longtime member of the Golden Gate Canyon Columbine Ladies Club.

Mary is preceded in death by both her parents, brother Owen Francis Acers Jr., brother Stephen Owen Acers, and her husband, Charles Ramstetter. She is survived by her sister Ruth Ann Smith, sister-in-law Gerri Dewane Acers, daughters Barbara Bliss and Kim Ricards (Alex), grandchildren Gina, Mary, and Matthew Ricards, great-granddaughter Lillian-Rose Ricards, numerous nieces and nephews, step-children Julie and Jeff Ramstetter, step-grandson Michael Ramstetter (Nicole), and step-great grandchildren Cody O' Brien and Emma Rose Ramstetter.

Mary had many friends and loved making new ones. Her loss will be felt by anyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. A memorial service will be held sometime in November.



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



The Family Activities Department had another successful year at the Colorado State Grange conference held in October in Cortez at the Lewis Arriola Community Center. There were a variety of entries in the Baking and Needlework events. The following Granges participated by entering the various contest events: Florida 11; Lewis 6; Maple Grove 8; Marvel 18; Mt. Allison 22

BAKING

Altered Cake Mix
1. Idella Lewis, Maple Grove
2. Sheryl Ayers, Marvel
3. Karen Baxter, Mt. Allison

Yeast Bread
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel
2. Idella Lewis, Maple Grove

Sweet Rolls
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel
2. Idella Lewis. Maple Grove

Bar Cookies
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel
2. Norma Conley, Mt, Allison

Drop Cookies
1. Idella Lewis, Maple Grove
2. Diane Delaney, Marvel
3. Norma Conley, Mt. Allison

Quick Breads
1. Karen Baxter, Mt, Allison
2. Tom Campion, Marvel
3. Vickie Sutton Gallegos Mt. Allison

Fudge
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel
2. Trish Corman, Mt. Allison

Canned Foods
1. Trish Corman, Mt. Allison
2. Vickie Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison

Jams, Jellies, Syrups
1. Tom Campion, Marvel
2. Vickie Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison
3. Tamera Halbeisen, Maple Grove

Juices
1. Sheryl Ayers, Marvel
2. Vickie Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison

Tomatoes
1. Trish Corman, Mt. Allison
2. Cindy Greer, Marvel

Pickles
1. Vickie Sutton Gallegos, Mt. Allison

NEEDLEWORK

Crochet Afghan
1. Pauline Ford, Florida
2. Karen Baxter, Mt, Allison
3. Tamera Halbeisen, Maple Grove

Crochet Miscellaneous
1. Karen Baxter, Mt, Allison
2. Pauline Ford, Florida

Machine Embroidery
1. Ruth Wilson Francisco. Lewis
2. Tamera Halbeisen, Maple Grove
3. Harry Greer, Marvvel

Machine Quilt
1. Ruth Wilson Francisco, Lewis
2. Cindy Greer, Marvel
3. Karen Baxter, Mt. Allison

Hand Quilt
1. Ruth Wilson Francisco, Lewis

Quilted Table Topper
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel

Quilted Wall Hanging
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel
2. Ruth Wilson Francisco, Lewis

Adult Garment
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel

Apron
1. Karen Baxter, Mt, Allison

Stuffed Toy
1. Tamera Halbeisen, Maple Grove

Quilt of Valor Block
1. Karen Baxter, Mt, Allison
2. Cindy Greer, Marvel
3. Carol Tompson, Mt, Allison

Quilt Block of Choice
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel
2. Karen Baxter, Mt, Allison
3. Karen Baxter, Mt. Allison

Miscellaneous
1. Cindy Greer, Marvel
2. Ruth Wilson Francisco, Lewis

END OF YEAR REPORT
2025-26

The Family Activities Department has two Co-Directors, Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter. Idella writes the articles for the *Granger* and helps with setup at the State Convention. Karen enters the entries and assists the judges during the judging.

There were many outstanding entries in both the baking and needlework events at the Colorado State Grange Convention held at Castle Rock in 2025. In the needlework event the quilt category had the most entries with some amazing quilts. The food preservation event had the most entries in the baking/foods event. We hope that everyone will encourage their members to enter projects they are working on or learn a new skill to enter something in future years. Everyone who enters something is a winner!

A bake sale was held following the judging of the entries and $25 was raised which will go toward the prize money. Thank you to everyone who purchased baked goods A tray of baked items was also assembled for the Friday night gala.

There were 10 Granges participating in the needlework and baking/foods event at the State Convention in 2025 with their number of entries as follows;

Marvel 15
Golden Gate 13
Florissant 11
Mt. Allison 11
Enterprise 6
Maple Grove 5
Lewis 4
El Paso 2
Florida 2
Green Valley 1

Karen Baxter and Idella Lewis,
Co-Directors



Idella Lewis, right, and Karen Baxter presenting Family Activities Awards.



Quilt of Valor presented to Raymond Hotchkiss by Karen Baxter and Harry Greer.

Colorado Granger OPTIONS form

How would you prefer to receive the Colorado Granger? Paper, Email or not at all?

Please complete to 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 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.

Chaplain's Corner



Shelly Griffin State Chaplain
P.O. Box 232, Lewis, CO 81327
colorado.state.chaplain@gmail.com

The power of prayer. Oftentimes people are intimidated by the word prayer, thinking prayers must be said a certain way or with certain reverence. At times this is true, but on an individual basis prayers can be offered in a way the person praying feels most comfortable with. The point of prayers is to make your requests known to God.

Let me explain. Talking to God and answered prayers – Prayers, what often I refer to as "talkin' to God," should reflect an open and honest personal relationship with God instead of a strict ritual or performance. I was raised with the latter and often found it difficult, if not impossible, to pray in a way that brought me comfort, until I figured out a better way for me to pray. I read a passage in the bible that began to change the way I prayed. Matthew 6:6 NIV states "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." The bible instructs us to keep it simple and speak plainly from the heart.

Throughout the years, this has changed for me. There were times I tried to pray and simply could not formulate what I wanted to pray about. I just couldn't find the words. It was very frustrating and left me feeling defeated. This is when I started "Talkin' to God." I knew that as long as I expressed gratitude to Him my prayers would be heard. This opened my mind and let me receive His grace. Philippians 4:6 NIV states "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

I am often asked "what should I pray about?" My answer is always tell God whatever is heavy on your heart or mind, and to get in the habit of Talkin' to God every day. It gets easier the more times you do it. If nothing is troubling you, then let Him know your gratitude for His presence in your life. If you don't know what to say or can't find the words because it's all too much, tell him that, and spend a few moments in silence. I have often felt a sudden calm wash over me by simply telling Him I don't have the words.

When making your requests known to God, your prayers will be answered. It may not be on your timeline, or the answer you hoped for, but God will answer prayers. It takes some practice to open your mind to receive the answers, but the more you do it the easier it becomes to recognize an answered prayer. I could go on and on with personal experiences of answered prayers in my life and answered prayers for those God has put in my life, but there is not enough room in one article to do this. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like specific examples. I am happy to share.

In closing, with the busy holiday season approaching, I want to wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons – Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! May God bless you all.

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.

Mandy Project

Cindy Greer, Coordinator
970-588-3386 • Email: hcrdgreer@frontier.net

This year has been pretty uneventful for the Mandy project.

As Grange members whenever we encounter a child with hearing loss we can reach out to the parents to tell them about the Mandy project, so that when they have needs that arise, we can help. Children grow so fast and so much that ear molds have to be replaced often and hearing aids wear out and new ones have to be purchased to replace them to insure the child's continued success.

The Mandy project has tried to help 146 families for the last 28 years. You should be proud of your contributions to this project. It's the one way that we get the Grange name out to the public. Thank you for your continued support and promotion of this project.

October 30 of 2025 we donated $1,770 to Soulfill Music. They needed to hire a sign language interpreter so that deaf students could enjoy the musical presentation more. Soulfill Music Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Salt Lake City, Utah, that has been designed to produce musical programs and initiatives that provide spiritual nourishment to people of all cultures, faith and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The American Disabilities act required the foundation to provide for individuals with hearing loss. This service would not have been possible without our help as their budget is very tight.

Thank you to Amy Peterson, Audrey Maydew, and Ruth Wilson Francisco for serving on the committee to review applications. We did not receive any application in 2026. The Mandy project still has over $50,000 in CSG invested funds. If you have suggestions on how these funds might be utilized, please be sure to contact us. And if you learn of a child or student with hearing loss that could benefit from Mandy project assistance, please be sure to give them information. This is still one of our best projects. We're delighted insurance has become more accommodating to people with hearing loss, but that leaves us with money we can help others with as long as it involves hearing loss.

Thank you for your continued support.

Grange Member Benefit: Start Hearing

Helping you find the best solution for your hearing needs and lifestyle – at the best value. Grange Members and their families receive: • Discounts up to 48% on today's latest technology, including hearing aids and tinnitus options • FREE annual hearing consultations • Access to a nationwide network of 3,000+ hearing professionals • Three-year supply of FREE batteries (40 cells per hearing aid purchased per year) • One year of free office visits (limit of six) • 60-day risk-free trial period • FREE Deluxe Warranty Plan, including loss and damage • Financing plans available (subject to credit approval) With Start Hearing, their Hearing Care Advisors are with you each step of the way. To find out more and to schedule your hearing consultation, please call (833) 926-2824 or visit www.starthearing.com/partners/grange.

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

Cindy Greer, Secretary, called the meeting to order in the absence of the President and Vice President. Those present were Gary Wardle, Karen Baxter, Harry Greer, Cindy Greer, and Sheryl Ayers.

Cindy shared information regarding the annual report.

The minutes from the previous year included discussion of the need for a Partnership Agreement. Cindy reported that the need for a formal agreement has become increasingly important because there appears to be some misunderstanding regarding PICK's role in applying for grants. In one instance, a Grange submitted a grant request without the knowledge of any PICK Board members.

Cindy reported that she had prepared two versions of a Partnership Agreement. Both versions were reviewed, and the longer version was considered more acceptable. It was noted that the Secretary should document when agreements are sent.

Harry Greer moved that PICK accept the longer version of the Partnership Agreement. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Silent Auction was discussed. This year the silent auction brought in $385, we had around 34 items to bid on. The proposed budget was reviewed and accepted.

Discussion was held regarding expenses PICK might cover for State Session. Because the raffle funds were not transferred to PICK as requested by the Executive Committee, those funds will be available to help cover the building rental and cleanup expenses.

Discussion was held regarding possible uses for some of the funds currently held by PICK. It was determined that approximately $10,000 could be utilized.

Harry Greer moved that PICK offer up to $10,000 in capital improvement grants through the Colorado State Grange Grant Program. The motion was seconded, contingent upon the bank not charging PICK a fee for reducing the account balance by that amount. The motion carried.

Harry Greer moved that PICK pay for the Junior, Creative, and Performing Arts, and Women's Activities awards this year. The funds will be transferred to the State Grange. The motion was seconded and carried.

It was suggested that funds raised through the Silent Auction be placed in the general fund rather than divided among the various departments supported by PICK since those funds seem adequate at the time. This would allow additional funding to be provided from the general fund to a division when needed.

Cindy Greer, Secretary/treasurer

Real Estate Management



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

What this means for Colorado real estate:

1. Buyers can afford less house.

A higher mortgage rate substantially increases the payment on the same-priced home. For example, on a **$500,000 mortgage:**

Rate	Approx. principal & interest
5.5%	$2,839/month
6.5%	$3,160/month
7.0%	$3,327/month
7.5%	$3,496/month

That's before property taxes, homeowners insurance, and HOA fees.

2. Colorado home sales are being affected.

Colorado's September economic forecast says rising mortgage rates have worsened affordability, while home prices and sales have been declining. In Denver, prices in June 2026 were **4.6% below their mid-2022 peak.**

3. Sellers have less leverage.

Higher rates reduce the number of people who can afford to buy. That can mean:

- homes staying on the market longer with more price reductions
- buyers asking for closing-cost assistance
- sellers offering mortgage-rate buydowns
- greater importance of pricing a home correctly from the beginning

Nationally, nearly **45% of home sales** recently involved some type of seller concession, ccording to a Redfin analysis cited by *Fortune*.

4. There is an unusual effect on existing homeowners.

Many Colorado homeowners have mortgages with rates far below today's rates. They may be reluctant to sell because replacing a 3% mortgage with a 7% mortgage could dramatically increase their payment. That can restrict the supply of homes coming onto the market.

For someone buying or selling in Colorado the important point is that **interest rates and home prices work together.** A lower-priced home at 7% isn't necessarily cheaper each month than a higher-priced home at 5.5%.

For example, if you're looking at this from a **real-estate-agent/seller perspective**, today's environment creates an interesting situation: buyers are payment-sensitive, but sellers may still have substantial equity and may not want to reduce their asking price significantly.

And Colorado's market isn't necessarily moving uniformly. **Denver, Broomfield, Arvada, Boulder, Colorado Springs, and other markets can behave differently.**

Legislative Activity

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

The Colorado Legislature's 2026 session addressed several major issues affecting residents across the state. Although the regular session ended in May, the summer brought the implementation of new laws and preparation for future legislative work.

Education was a major focus, with lawmakers approving funding for K–12 schools and the state's 2026–27 budget. The Legislature also passed measures involving teacher preparation and recruitment.

Housing and insurance were other important topics. Lawmakers approved legislation aimed at increasing access to homeowner's insurance and considered policies designed to support workforce housing. These issues remain significant as Colorado continues to face housing affordability challenges.

Energy, environmental protection, and water were also priorities. New laws addressed emissions from electric-generating units and funded water projects. The Legislature also made changes to wildfire-related programs and disaster funding.

Health care legislation covered behavioral health, Medicaid transportation, and access to medical records. Meanwhile, Governor Jared Polis vetoed several bills after the legislative session, demonstrating the continuing debate over technology, immigration, labor, and other policies.

Overall, the 2026 Colorado Legislature passed hundreds of measures affecting education, housing, health care, energy, water, and government spending. During the summer, attention shifted toward putting these new laws into practice and preparing for the next legislative session.

Colorado State Grange Leadership And Scholarship Foundation

Brothers and Sisters, the Colorado State Grange Leadership and Scholarship Foundation held two meetings in 2026. The first was in January to elect officers and review the scholarship applications. The officers are Gary Wardle, President; Nick Maydew, Secretary; and Sheryl Ayers, Treasurer. The board members are Jim Miller, Cindy Greer, Harry Greer, Karen Baron, and Dave McCord. The board decided to amend the scholarship awards to give Grange members additional money depending on available funding.

The second meeting was held in May to review scholarship applications and award scholarships. In 2026 the foundation received 12 applications. All 12 applicants were awarded scholarships. The non-members received $1,500. They are: Emili Davis, Pikes Peak Grange; Gavin Gehring, Cresent Grange; Isabell Gehring, Cresent Grange; May Bachman, Golden Gate Grange; Clarity Trujillo, Golden Gate Grange; Kai Eberhart, Golden Gate Grange; Tyler Fortune, Golden Gate Grange; William Irish, Golden Gate Grange; Kingston Stanton, Colorado Grange.

The Grange member applicants received $2,500. They are: Ryan St. Aubin, Wheat Ridge Grange; Gavin Dougharty, Marvel Grange; Trevor Phillips, Golden Gate Grange.

The Colorado State Gange Leadership and Scholarship Foundation also signed a Trademark Agreement with the National Grange to allow the foundation to use the name of the Grange. All organizations that are not chartered with the National Grange must have a Trademark Agreement to use the Grange name. There is no cost for the agreement.

We would encourage Grange members and Granges to become members of the foundation. To become a member of the foundation a member or Grange can donate $500 to the Colorado State Grange Foundation. We also use memorials to help fund the scholarships. We encourage members and Granges to make a memorial donation to the foundation for the members that have passed. All donations can be sent to the Colorado State Grange Secretary.

Fraternally submitted
Gary Wardle, President



Celebration banquet participants.



Final Banquet



4-H Mom and 4-Her there to help.



BJ Bushman presenting awards at the Gala Mask-a-rade.

Thank You For A Successful State Grange Convention



Gary Wardle and Tom Campion presenting.



Joe Polizzi, our new State Grange Steward being installed, Karen Baxter acting as Marshall.



State Fair Display



Carol & Mike Lackey

Colorado Junior Grange Award Winners

AMERICA 250TH CRAFT
Ages 5-9
First Place: Sierra Phelps
Second Place: Henry Greer
Third Place: Ruger Phelps
NATURE CRAFT
Ages 5-9
First Place: Henry Greer
Second Place: Ruger Phelps
Ages 10-14
First Place: Taven Koeslke
HOLIDAY DECORATION
Under 5
First: Aurora Dennison
Ages 5-9
First Place: Henry Greer
Second Place: Ruger Phelps
Third Place: Sierra Phelps
Ages 10-14
First Place: Jacob Greer
Second Place:
Charlie McGlaughlin
Third Place: Taven Koeslke
WORK OF ART
Under 5
Aurora Dennison
Ages 5-9
First Place: Henry Greer
Second Place: Sierra Phelps
Third Place: Ruger Phelps
Ages 10-14
First Place: Taven Koeslke
SPECIAL GIFTS
Under 5
First Place: Aurora Dennison
Ages 5-9
First Place: Henry Greer
Second Place: Henry Greer
Ages 10-14
First Place: Taven Koeslke
Second Place: Jacob Greer
MISCELLANEOUS:
Ages 5-9
First Place: Sierra Phelps
Second Place: Henry Greer
Third Place: Ruger Phelps
Ages 10-14
First Place: Jacob Greer



Ruth Wilson Francisco reading her essay.



Dani Traweek, Executive Director of CALP (Colorado Ag Leadership Program).



Milligan Honey Tour



Sheryl Ayers at Past Masters Breakfast



Kathy Hogan & Jean Campion



Jon Kullmann being installed as an Executive Committee member.

Deadline for Winter 2027 Issue Of *The Colorado Granger* Is December 15, 2026.

Progressive
Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas & Elbert Counties

Sunflower

Contact Cherry Ellis, 303-581-7672, cherryellis5@yahoo.com, P.O. Box 221, Sedalia CO 80135, for further information.

October 10 – Grange meeting outside at BMan's, 10:30 a.m.

October, TBD – Bud's Bar/Billy Moore Pumpkin Weigh-in the "first Friday after the first frost" See Billy for information.

October 30 – Sedalia Elementary Trunk or Treat. Sandi Hier, Robbie Person and Diana Bates represent Sunflower.

November, TBD – Grange meeting Meadows Grange.

December, TBD – Sedalia Winterfest with partners BMan's BBQ.

January 2027 – Seed Swap at Meadows Grange.

For another summer, Sedalia folks were fortunate to enjoy music-and-barbeque-under-the-stars with Bruce Hier and the Sideways Seven at BMan's BBQ, co-sponsored by Sunflower Grange. One night each summer month, the band drew 200+ mostly local, very mellow crowds of all ages. The musicians just get better every year. We hate to see the summer end. For those who couldn't see or hear them in person, here are some videos: https://www.facebook.com/SidewaysSeven-Band/videos/sideways-seven-buds-bar/494064993729439/

Since Sedalia has an aging population with few children, we've maintained Grange membership of about 25 since reorganizing in 2019 by having members from out of town and family members, but finding new leadership has been difficult as some of us age-out. Last year Danelle Klaasen, president of Moms Club, joined Sunflower and brought more young families with enthusiasm and energy into our group.

August 30, we elected new officers who will maintain the Sedalia connection as well as geographically expand Sunflower. Sunflower's Master/President is Bruce Hier. The Hier family has been in Sedalia for five generations; his family's business, Hier Drilling, dug many of the wells in the area. Bruce is related to other founding families/original Sunflower Grangers and provides a strong historical — and musical — connection between the town and our organization.

Brad Simmons, Sunflower's Overseer/Vice President (and Meteorologist), is one of the new members with a young family (daughter Remy) who lives in Castle Rock. Brad is a great communicator, bee-keeper, gardener and organizer. When he discovered the Grange, he said it felt like home.

Sandi Hier is the new Treasurer. Sandi volunteers for several organizations including Senior Center, and has been our Sunflower ambassador for years. Sandi always shows up, always makes events more enjoyable and she always contributes.

Thank goodness Diana Bates continues as Lecturer this year! Diana has been very successful in engaging the local business community and good speakers, and she is the most reliable Granger. This year, she would like to have a co-Lecturer join her in planning meetings. Diana and Sandi co-chair the Community Service Committee.

Cherry Ellis is Secretary and will continue communication for the Grange; she would like to have a co-Secretary to make sure she doesn't forget everyone's names or how to create email lists.

Carrie Thompson, born and raised in Sedalia, National Grange EMT in 2020, farmer and Sunflower member for several years, will be the 3-year Executive Committee member, along with Bruce Hier, and Billy Moore; she will also head up the Membership Committee because she knows almost as many people as Bruce does.

Finally, Whitney Hart (with daughters Josie and Quinn) from Castle Rock will be our new Family Activities Chair. Though Whitney has many obligations, she brings an abundance of enthusiasm and creativity to every event. Welcome to all the new and returning officers and committee chairs! Thank you for giving our Grange new energy and direction.



2026 Tomato Tasting/Fall Celebration at Meadows Grange was the best ever! The Neubert family brought a variety of their produce.



Music-and-barbeque-under-the-stars with Bruce Hier and the Sideways Seven at BMan/s BBQ, co-sponsored by Sunflower Grange.

The new officers, members and friends made the 2026 Tomato Tasting/Fall Celebration at Meadows Grange the best ever! Thanks to Juli Asbridge for advertising to the Meadows community for us and for the use of the great building and patio. The Ayres family Mountain Ranch Band played on that patio while about 50 tasters tried the many varieties of tomatoes and delicious salsas, casseroles, salads, breads, and cakes, Dylan Neubert's roasted chilis, and cantaloupe, Brad Simmons' honey and honeycomb, and Whitney's giant sunflower and seeds for eating/planting. Toni Romaine and Janice Solomon brought gardening expertise and seeds for swapping, Carrie sold her fresh eggs, and Ellie Ayres let everyone pet the kittens she raises for sale. The 15+ very well-behaved, happy children who attended made this a very special event.

Cash prizes were awarded for Tomato contests. Ron Johnson of Lakewood won the Biggest Tomato contest with a Celebrity; Tastiest was Honeybee Cherry; Ugliest was Thornburg Terra Cotta; Prettiest Taxi. Pam Caruso, gardener from Castle Rock, won Best Recipe for her delicious Green Tomato Cake.

Karin Bates, our photographer, captured the Best Poem "To a Muse in a Garden" by Jeff Ayres, Best Photo "Dragon Fruit Flower" by Kara Ayres, and two Best Veggie Paintings "Garden Roots" by Silas Vincent (6 ½) and "Gems that Grow" by Jamin Ayres (adult).

Thanks to Jared, Katy and Harvey Ellis and Andrew Ayres for the paper airplane contest. Ziggy Neubert won in the 1-5 category; his cousin Madoc won 6-11 (Ziggy and Madoc coached by Russ Romaine); Kaylynn Soileau won in 12+ and Whitney Vincent won the Adult. All young contestants received $2 bills for entering. This contest is a keeper!

Ellie Ayres won an Animal Husbandry award for the well-behaved kittens, and Whitney Hart won for her Sunflower. There were many more entries in all contests than before. Thanks to everyone for participating.

Janice Soloman, a new Grange friend/gardener from Castle Rock, wrote: "This was my first tasting and it won't be my last. I enjoyed all of it — especially the honey and honeycomb that reminded me of fresh honey from my grandpa's beehives." She loved "local art to view and paper airplanes for the children and the child in all of us, the relaxing, fun and uplifting music. I plan on bringing tomatoes and attending next year and visiting with this very friendly group of people." Me, too.

Our dear friend and Grange member Fred LaPerrier passed on, and daughter Jenny and son Lee held a Celebration of Life in September. Fred grew up in Douglas County before development and once rode on horseback from Perry Park to Chatfield across ranches not on roads. He had many stories to tell about milking cows, Louviers bowling, getting his first BB gun and rifle, meeting and falling in love with Kay in Paris, military life, building businesses, and more. He had such a good memory for detail, it was a joy to listen to him. He was a collector of military vehicles and could be seen driving around Sedalia in his Army Jeep with his Army hat. We will miss Fred's curiosity, generosity, and good humor. He was a community hero. https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/castle-rock-co/fred-laperriere-13029767

Margaret and Bill Ellis celebrated their 65th anniversary in September. Bill once said the key to their success was to let Margaret lead and then just hang on! Together they raised nine children and spent 36 summers on Devil's Head where Bill was fire lookout. This year they celebrated with some of their family that now includes great-great grandchildren. Happy Anniversary, Margaret and Bill!

Cherry Ellis



Toni Romaine and Janice Solomon brought gardening expertise and seeds for swapping, and Ellie Ayres let everyone pet the kittens she raises for sale.



Margaret and Bill Ellis celebrated their 65th anniversary in September.

Garden Home

Contact Renee Hackett, 303-565-9494, rhackett@hotmail.com, for further information.

Monthly Meeting Dates — 7 p.m., October 8; November 12; December 10.

September 22, we celebrated Gail M. Land, on her 100th BIRTHDAY. A Wonderful Celebration was had with a very large crowd from all over the land. Gail is a gift to us all and she had a great deal to tell us all about her life. Everyone was interested what life was like 100 years ago. Gail was involved in many groups- she played Golf, she bowled, she is a member of The Red Hats, she was part of a Travel Trailer Club, she is the most prominent member of our Garden Home Grange, and she beats] Everyone at cards at both her pinnacle group and at home with family and friends! She is the most beautiful woman!

Thankful we get to enjoy this life with her.

Gail is a BLESSING to us ALL!!

Renee Hackett



Celebrating Gail Land on her 100th Birthday.



Wendi, The Mayor of Lakewood, with Gail on her 100th birthday.



Gail with her children, from left, top row: Todd, Kevin, and Kent; bottom row: Karen, Gail, and Tom.

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:

- **October 17 (6 to 8 p.m.) – Cribbage Night at the Grange.**
- **October 22 (6 p.m.) – Grow Dome Meeting and Potluck.**
- **Each Tuesday (12:30 until 1:30 p.m.) – Fresh Produce distribution as long as it lasts.**
- **November 5 (6 p.m.) – PRC Ditch Meeting.**
- **November 14 – Craft Fair and Bake Sale (Contact Carol Thompson).**
- **November 21 – 4-H Senior Thanksgiving Dinner.**
- **November 28 – Christmas Bazaar (Contact Nan Youkum).**
- **Dececember 5 – Christmas Breakfast and Food Drive (9-11 a.m.).**

We've had a good start to Fall with a welcomed, wet September. Some of us got over 9" during September which more than doubles the moisture since January 1.

September found us getting entries ready and entering them into the La Plata Pomona Exhibit Day on September 12 at the Florida Grange Hall. We had several entries in Family Activities, the Lecturer's Dept, and Junior Grange. Congratulations to those that entered including Karen Baxter, Trish and Kayla Corman, Vickie Sutton-Gallegos, Sharon Nossaman, Charly and Josephine Foster, Sierra and Ruger Phelps, and Gracie and Braydon Luna. I apologize to those that I might have missed.

September 12 was our last major fundraiser of the year with Brad Corman flipping hamburgers for a hamburger fry and bake sale. We had many in the kitchen helping prepare all of the condiments and being on the serving line. The helpers included Cathy Seibel, Berlinda Vorheis, Leslie McGownd, Dan Verniero, Trish and Larry Corman, Carol and Wayne Thompson, Karen Baxter, and Sharon Nossaman. Picture included.

September 14, Brent and Charly Foster and Larry Corman delivered dictionaries to the third graders at HOPE School and the Ignacio Elementary school. Students asked and answered questions and were appreciative of the dictionaries. This has been a program (Words for Thirds) that Mt. Allison in conjunction with the Bayfield Lions Club has been a part of for many, many years. Picture included.

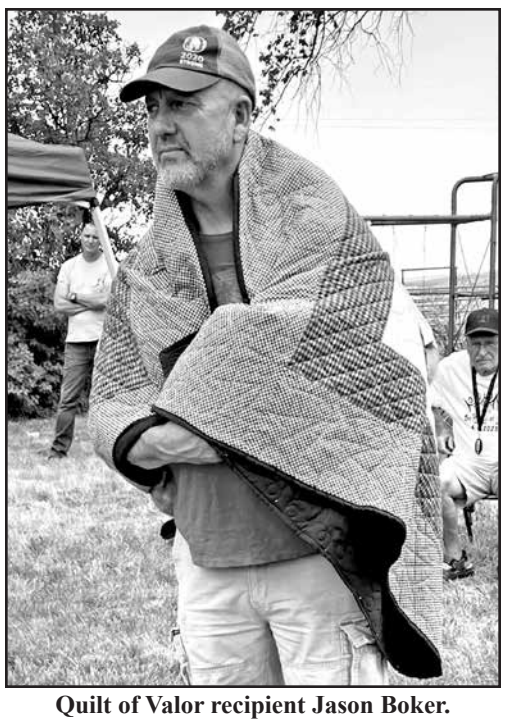
The end of September had some of us (Larry Corman, Karen Baxter, and Carol Thompson) traveling to Cortez for the state session. It was well worth our time to make this trek and reconnect with fellow Grangers and conduct the business of the State Grange.

May each of my fellow Grangers have a blessed Fall and enjoy the fellowship with your fellow Grangers

Larry Corman



Katie Hott presented a program titled *Refuse to be a victim*, tips and tricks travelers can use to help prevent criminals from targeting them.



Quilt of Valor recipient Jason Boker.



Quilt of Valor recipient David Lamb.

Marvel

Contact Cindy Greer, 970-749-8108 or hcrdgreer@gmail.com for further information.

November 6 – Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Diane Delaney.

November 20 – No activity unless others choose one.

December 4 – Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Kathy Hogan.

December 18 – TBD.

December 21 – Junior Grange 10:30 a.m.

December 31 – New Year's Eve Party.

January 1 - Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Roger Ayers.

January 16 – Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction.

January 18 – Junior Grange 10:30 a.m.

January 30 – Community Breakfast, 8-10 a.m.

Our Breakfast in August had around 64 in attendance. Thank you to all who helped. We have a breakfast coming up in October. Thank you to Kathy, Sheryl, and Roger for their help at the County Fair concession. We have a harvest host camper scheduled in October for one night.

There were five from Marvel attending the Pomona Picnic at Animas Valley. They had a quiz with questions that those seeking to become citizens had to answer which was quite challenging.

Ice cream social I July had around 80 in attendance and we presented two quilts of Valor, David Lamb and Jason Boker. We had a few pie entries and Tracy Smith was given a gift certificate from Debra's café and Campions received $25. Kathy Hogan and Isaac Greer organized a corn hole tournament with the Sprigg's winning and receiving cups Isaac Greer engraved.

September 18 we had a potluck supper and Katie Hott will present a program entitled Refuse to be a victim, tips and tricks travelers can use to help prevent criminals from targeting them. It was an excellent program.

October 24, we participated in the Dry Side Trot. We had a haunted house which Jenna Greer and her kids setting it up and helping. We also had a Fish pond and cupcake walk and sponsored a costume contest. The Red Mesa LDS Church and the Library had events prior to ours. In the process of getting ready for the haunted house we cleaned up the basement and have some tables to get rid of that are small and we haven't used in years.

We had 44 entries from Marvel members and nonmembers in the Pomona Exhibit day in September. We challenged members at the meeting to enter at least one item, and I think everyone who was at the meeting except for one did just that. Thank you for participating.

We were selected to participate in the Rural Women shaping Health Research program National Grange and PICORI are promoting. More details will be shared when we learn what we are to do.

Cindy Greer



Mt. Allison had a hamburger fry and bake sale fundraiser.

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 Quilters meet from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Business meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Gift Shop is open every day except Thursday and Sunday.

October 2 & 3 – Craft Show with lunch 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

October 24 – Halloween Haunted House 12-2 p.m.

Novovember – TBD Art Class.

November – Free Thansgiving Dinner, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

December – TBD Art Class.

December – Christmas Party with Santa.

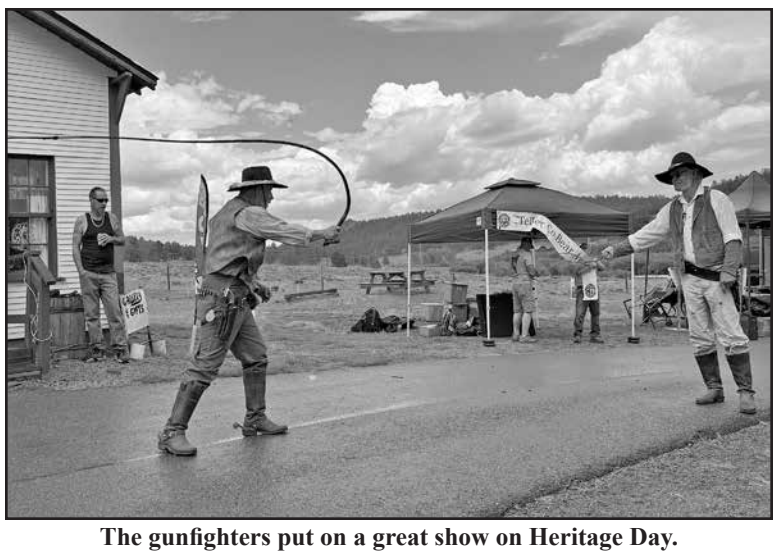
Fall is here and the weather has been just PERFECT. It just Doesn't get any better than this. Enjoy it, soon we will have snow…. Which is beautiful and so needed for moisture this year.

The Florissant Grange Quilts for Veterans group has been busy making and awarded beautiful patriotic quilts. We participated in two Purple Heart Day Celebrations. The first ever Purple Heart Day celebration in Teller County was held at the Florissant Grange. Attendance was fantastic and two veterans were awarded special Purple Heart Quilts. The Second Celebration was held in Woodland Park and we were there to present another very special Purple Heart Quilt to the widow of a Vietnam Veteran. It was a very moving and beautiful Celebration.

Because of the beautiful weather we are still hosting campers from Harvest Host. This was a very busy camping season and we were happy to have the all tour our Historic School House and Museum and Gift Shop. It is so fun when they camp on Thursday nights and join us for our Potluck and Live Music.

We were very well recognized at this years Teller County Fair with two very large banners showing us as donners for the awards for the 4-H kiddos.

Heritage Day was a huge success as always. We had more than 500 visitors at the Grange to see our Crafters and Vendors, have Ice Cream, witness the Gunfighters put on a great show, and listen to the History of the Old School House. The Florissant Quilters also joined the fun by auctioning off two beautiful quilts and having a sale to earn funds to help us with the cost of making these patriotic quilts



The gunfighters put on a great show on Heritage Day.



October 2 & 3 will be our Holiday Craft Fair. 15-17 Crafters will have their hand made, one-of-a-kind crafts and gifts for sale for all those early bird Christmas Shoppers.

October 24 will be our Halloween Haunted House. We will also have free Halloweenies for all the visitors. All the kiddos will receive a goodie bag full of candy and crafts and other fun Halloween stuff.

In November we will have an Art Class and our Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner.

In December we will have another Art Class and our Christmas Party with Santa. All the kiddos will get a stuffed animal and a bag full off goodies, crafts and other fun Christmas stuff..

Renee Caldwell



The Florissant Quilters auctioned two beautiful quilts to raise funds.

Resolutions Passed At State Convention 2026

The following resolutions were passed at the state convention. Only three resolutions were rejected, either due to their being adverse or considered local issues and not state wide issues. Many of the resolutions were written in committee at the state convention.

AG/LEG #1 • ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

RESOLVED, that all solar and/or wind farm commercial electricity generating ventures must return the area they utilize to its original condition when they are no longer producing electricity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that before a project begins all commercial ventures building wind or solar electric production arrays must provide a surety bond dedicated to restoring the land back to its original condition; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this regulation is retroactive to all commercial wind or solar arrays.

AG/LEG #3 • RULES AND REGULATIONS ON SITING DATA CENTERS

RESOLVED, that Granges at all levels support cautious siting of data centers subject to controls of external impacts, and with data center demands being known and considered in the final siting decisions by local governments.

AG/LEG #6 • RIGHT TO HUNT AND FISH

RESOLVED, that Colorado State Grange supports a vote to approve Amendment 83 the right to hunt and fish.

GOTO#1 • JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

RESOLVED, that copies of the *Journal of Proceedings (JOP)* be sent only to those Granges requesting the *JOP* from the State Grange office by January 1 and be it further

RESOLVED, that when the *JOP* becomes available on the website notice of its availability will be published in the *Colorado Granger*.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES #1 • FREE LIBRARIES

RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange recommend and support the establishment of free libraries and/or book exchanges at Grange Halls to encourage literacy, promote lifelong learning, and make books accessible to all members of the community.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES #2 • GLP-1 MEDICATIONS

RESOLVED, that the National Grange encourages increased public education and awareness regarding GLP-1 medications, potential health risks, and side effects.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES #3 • HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED, that local Granges are encouraged to promote, organize, and support health and wellness activities within their communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange supports the National Grange's Rural Life Initiative and encourages local Granges to participate in its efforts to improve the health and well-being of rural communities.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES #4 • RECYCLING BENEFITS

RESOLVED: That Granges are encouraged to educate their communities about the benefits of recycling, including the various recycling processes and how they contribute to environmental sustainability and conservation.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES #5 • PROMOTING PATRIOTISM AND RESPECT FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG

RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange and National Grange promote the United States of America Flag, encourage patriotism for our country, respect for the United States of America flag, and an understanding that this flag represents our nation and not any political party or other entity.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES #6 • PROMOTING PROPER AMERICAN FLAG ETIQUETTE AND CARE

RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange support and promote education and awareness of proper American flag etiquette, through online or other printed communication, community programs and activities, and but it further

RESOLVED, that the National Grange support and promote education and awareness of proper American flag etiquette, through online or other printed communication, community programs, and activities.

GRANGE ACTIVITIES # 7 • AWARENESS OF THE GRANGE'S PURPOSE AND MISSION

RESOLVED, that the Colorado State Grange recommend that members use the three founding purposes of the Grange — legislative advocacy, social fellowship, and education — as a foundation when explaining what the Grange is and what it does.

HIGHWAY/TRANSPORTATION #1 • BICYCLE LANES

RESOLVED, that Colorado State Grange encourage county and state governments to allocate funding annually to build bicycle lanes as road structures are improved.

Darden

Jefferson County

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

December 12 — Saturday, 5 p.m., Darden Pomona Christmas Party hosted by Enterprise Grange.

February 6 — Quarterly meeting at Wheat Ridge Grange, 3:30 p.m. Bring a hobby to tell about or share.

The September meeting was held at Maple Grove Grange with Kathy Wardle presiding.

Plans were made for the Christmas party to be hosted by Enterprise Grange in December.

Members are asked to arrive at 4 p.m. Everyone is to bring a covered dish to share and the main dish will be provided. Members, relatives and guests will enjoy a complete Christmas dinner at 5 p.m.

Following the dinner, an evening of music, singing, storytelling, pinata breaking and fellowship will be enjoyed by all.

Donations collected from Granges in Darden Pomona will be given to a deserving family at Christmas.

Idella Lewis

Maple Grove

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

November 4 Meeting at 1 p.m.

Maple Grove Grange met in September with Master/president Marlys Halbeisen presiding. New officers, were given the oath of their office.

A fall food drive will be held to replenish the supply of food in area food banks, renters of the Grange always help donate food items for this worthy cause. A table is always overflowing with donations as well as a collection bin which is collecting food throughout the year.

Idella Lewis was the delegate to the Colorado State Grange Session in Cortez.

Thank you to Dean and Tamera Halbeisen who continue to do maintenance outside the building mowing weeds and leveling rocks in the parking lot. Thank you to everyone who helps with the upkeep of the building.

The flag will be replaced after it was ripped around by the wind recently.

Idella Lewis

Pleasant Park

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

November 14 – Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Thanksgiving Dinner.

December 12 – Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Christmas party.

January 9 – Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

February 13 – Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

We are mourning the loss of longtime member, Vince Fisher. Vince came up with the idea for the Bicycle Rest stop and it has proven to be the best fundraiser ever. He built our picnic tables and did many repairs around the facility through the years. Vince was a community leader as well including President of the Conifer Chamber of Commerce, Chairperson the Conifer Extension of the Salvation Army, and Leader at the Conifer Kiwanis Club. He will be missed!

Thank you to Jon Kullmann for representing the Pleasant Park Grange at the State Convention.

The bicycle Rest Stop has very busy. Thanks to all the members who take care of the coolers and keep the area clean and the bears away.

Everyone is invited to attend the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 14. The meal is provided by our membership so please RSVP to make sure there is enough food for everyone.

The Journey Through Books book club continues to meet at the Grange Hall the last Monday of every month. The energetic group brings a lot of happiness to the Grange Hall!

The Conifer Rotary Club along with the Fire Department cut down several trees at the Grange Hall to make a safe fire evacuation route alone Pleasant Park Road.

Regretfully the Pomona Picnic was cancelled.

We continue to look for new members and ways to educate locals of the advantages to become a member.

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

Yvonne Ludwig

Golden Gate

Contact Terri Costeldia, terricosteldia@hotmail.com, 970-640-7185, for further information.

GGFPD Slash Event – Saturday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grange Meeting – Thursday, October 8, at 2:30 p.m.

Holiday Craft Fair – Saturday, October 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community Meeting – October 21, 7 p.m.

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 31, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Grange Meeting – Thursday, November 12, at 2:30 p.m.

Wreath Making – Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Grange Meeting – Thursday, December 10, at 2:30 p.m.

Giving Tree Gift Drive – Early December.

Peak to Peak Chorale Concert – Saturday, December 12, time TBD.

Yoga — Wednesdays, from 3-4 p.m.

AA — Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.

The GGFPD final 2026 Slash Event for Canyon residents was held at the Golden Gate Grange on Saturday, October 3. Thanks to all who brought slash to each event all of which were held at the Golden Gate Grange and to the GGFPD volunteers who handle the chipping and debris removal.

The Holiday Craft Fair headed by Thirza Kennedy and Deb Curlee will be held on October 17th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a great variety of artwork and crafts from our talented local artisans. Do some early Holiday shopping. You will find items for everyone on your gift list. This is also a great chance to find a great hostess gift. Oh, you will definitely find something for yourself, too! Lunch and Baked Goods will be on sale. Drop in for a free cup of coffee and peruse the wonderful array of crafts.

The Community Meeting on October 21st will be an informational event to explain the proposed Mill Levy Ballot 6B. This mill levy increase would be exclusively for fire truck replacement and/or enhancement.

The Annual Halloween Party "Trunk or Treat" will be held at the Grange on October 31st from 4 to 7 p.m. Trunkers will have decorated trucks or trunks and will pass out candies to the children. The Fire Department will have a truck at the event. Food will be available for purchase. If you would like to participate as a "Trunker" contact Jessica at 720 651-0566. Check your emails for more information.

Wreath Making will be held on Saturday, December 5th. This is a favorite Canyon Event where local greenery is provided for participants to make their own Holiday Wreaths or Swags.

The event is free to Golden Gate Grange members and a $5 donation from non-Grangers is requested. If you would like to help gathering greens please call Jayne at 303-949-6083.

Also in December the Grange will once again participate in the Jeffco Commissioners' Giving Tree Gift Drive for children and teens in need. Our community has always been very generous with their donations in past years. Members are encouraged to join this worthy cause again in 2026. More information will be sent out around Thanksgiving.

The Peak to Peak Chorale will present a concert on Saturday, December 12th. We will announce the time in an email. This is a free event, but surely any donation would be appreciated.

The Canyon favorite Rummage Sale was held in August. Thanks to Carol Rockman who organized the event and all the many volunteers who helped organize, sell and clean up after the event. Thanks to all the shoppers who shopped and made additional generous donations. It was once again a very successful fundraiser for our Grange.

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.

AA meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

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

Grange phone: 303-273-9516.

Grange Rentals: DeeDee Ramstetter 225-603-2705 or DKMHH1@gmail.com.

Jayne Ruesch

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.

#GrangeStrong is the National Grange's current theme and rallying message.
It represents the resilience, adaptability, and enduring spirit of the Grange as an organization and of its members. Since the Grange was founded in 1867, members have worked together to support agriculture, rural communities, and families through advocacy, education, and service. Being Grange Strong means:



- **Resilient:** Grangers have weathered challenges—from economic depressions and wars to technological shifts and pandemics—while continuing to serve their neighbors.
- **Community-focused:** Every local Grange strengthens its community through service, outreach, and programs that bring people together.
- **Forward-looking:** #GrangeStrong isn't just about honoring tradition—it's about adapting to modern needs, ensuring the Grange remains relevant and impactful today and into the future.
- **Supportive and United:** The Grange is a grassroots family. Members know they're part of something bigger than themselves, working collectively at the local, state, and national levels.

In short, **#GrangeStrong** is both a celebration of the Grange's history and a call to action for members to keep serving, growing, and leading in their communities.