

# The Colorado Granger

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

WWW.COLORADOGRANGE.ORG

THE COLORADO GRANGER, WINTER 2026

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 1



Coloradans who attended the National Grange Convention.

## The Colorado Granger Moving To A Quarterly Format

Beginning in 2026, the Colorado Granger will transition to a quarterly publication schedule. You can look forward to new issues each **April, July, October, and January**. Article submissions for these editions will be due on the **15th of March, June, September, and December**.

This change allows us to continue delivering a high quality publication while adapting to shifting circumstances. With Grange Insurance Association updating its classification

and no longer providing support to several western states — including Colorado — we are adjusting thoughtfully and responsibly. Although this means a reduction of about \$16,000 in our annual income, it also gives us an opportunity to streamline operations and focus our resources where they matter most.

As printing and postage costs continue to rise, moving to a quarterly

schedule helps ensure the long term sustainability and strength of the Colorado State Grange. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to bringing you meaningful, engaging issues throughout the year.

Important information will be shared via Grange Engage platform established by the National Grange for all members with known email addresses.

**— Save The Date —**  
**September 24-26, 2026**  
**State Grange Convention**  
 Montezuma County  
 Senior Services Annex  
 107 N Chestnut Street  
 Cortez, CO 81321

## Colorado Farm Show Set For Jan. 27-29 In Greeley

Colorado's largest agricultural trade show is just around the corner, as the 2026 Colorado Farm Show is set to take place Jan. 27-29 in Greeley.

Each year, about 25,000 attendees make their way to Island Grove Regional Park (501 N. 14th Ave. in Greeley) to visit the approximately 300 exhibitors on hand and hear from dozens of industry experts cov-

ering a wide variety of agricultural topics.

The Colorado Farm Show began back in 1964 with about 30 exhibitors and has since then grown to become one of the biggest in the western United States.

In addition to farmers, ranchers, supporting businesses, and other industry professionals, the general public is also invited to attend the

event.

Admission is free, while the \$5 parking goes to scholarships for students pursuing college degrees in ag-related fields. To date, the Colorado Farm Show has awarded more than \$400,000 in scholarships.

A full schedule of the 2026 Colorado Farm Show, along with other information about the event, is available at [www.coloradofarmshow.com](http://www.coloradofarmshow.com).

## Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting Set For Jan. 14-15 In Northglenn

Timely and critical water-infrastructure issues will be at the center of discussions Jan. 14-15 in Northglenn, Colo., as ditch and irrigation company representatives, state and federal officials, farmers, and others convene for the Four States Irrigation Council's 2026 Annual Meeting.

The general public and media are also invited to attend the event, which will take place at the Delta Hotel in Northglenn.

Presentations during the annual meeting will cover some of the region's critical water-infrastructure projects, as well as examine various challenges and issues facing irrigators today. Updates will be provided by

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials, the Family Farm Alliance, representatives of state water resources offices, university staff, and other experts from across the Four States region, which includes Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Exhibitors at the event will showcase some of the latest innovations and provide attendees with up-to-date information on new products and services.

Additionally, the Headgate awards will once again be presented this year during the Annual Meeting banquet. These awards are given to

individuals who have been active and supportive of irrigation and water resources developments in the Four States region.

To learn more about the event and get registered, visit [www.4-states-irrigation.org](http://www.4-states-irrigation.org).

### About The Four States Irrigation Council

The Four States Irrigation Council, established in 1952, serves as a forum for irrigators, irrigation and water districts, ditch companies, and others to discuss water-delivery and

(Continued on Page 2)

## Upcoming Events

Call individual Granges for more information.

- Jan. 7 Maple Grove Grange — Meeting, 1 p.m.
- Jan. 8 Crescent Grange — Square Dance Lessons, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 8 Garden Home Grange — Monthly Meeting.
- Jan. 8 Golden Gate Grange — Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- Jan. 10 Florissant Grange — Basket Class 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Jan. 10 Sunflower Grange — Seed Swap and Beginning of 2026 Plant Project Cycle.
- Jan. 10 Pleasant Park Grange — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. followed with Potluck.
- Jan. 11 Mount Lookout Grange — Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 12 Mount Lookout — Family Craft Night, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 12 Mount Lookout Grange — Adult Craft Night, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 15 Sunflower Grange — Local History Book Club. Third Thursday — Bruce Hier.
- Jan. 15 Crescent Grange — Square Dance Lessons, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 17 Marvel Grange — Chili Cook-off and Dessert Auction.
- Jan. 19 Mount Lookout Grange — MLK Breakfast, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 22 Crescent Grange — Square Dance Lessons, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 24 Mount Lookout Grange — Board Retreat, 10 a.m.
- Jan. 27 Mount Lookout Grange — Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 31 Marvel Grange — Community Breakfast, 8-10 a.m.
- Jan. 31 Fourth quarter Reports for 2025 due to State Grange office.
- Feb. 6 Marvel Grange — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; Program: Roger Ayer.
- February Sunflower Grange — Heather Kelly of Douglas Conserves on Grants and Scholarships <https://douglasconserves.org/grants/> and <https://douglasconserves.org/scholarships/>
- Feb. 7 Darden Pomona — Meeting, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 8 Mount Lookout Grange — Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9 Mount Lookout Grange — Adult Craft Night, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 12 Garden Home Grange — Monthly Meeting.
- Feb. 12 Golden Gate Grange — Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Florissant — Valentine Breakfast/Brunch 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Marvel Grange — Valentine's-Valentine's fundraiser dinner.
- Feb. 14 Pleasant Park Grange — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m., followed with Potluck.
- Feb. 19 Sunflower Grange — Local History Book Club, Third Thursday — Bruce Hier.
- Feb. 20 Florissant Grange — Basket Class, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Fabric Landscape Class, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Feb. 24 Mount Lookout Grange — Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- March 6 Marvel Grange — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; Program: Sheryl Ayers.
- March 7 Progressive Pomona — Meeting at BMan's BBQ in Sedalia, 11:30 a.m.
- March 12 Garden Home Grange — Monthly Meeting.
- March 12 Golden Gate Grange — Meeting.
- March 14 Pleasant Park Grange — Regular Meeting 10 a.m. followed with Potluck.
- March 31 End of first quarter for 2026. Quarterly Report can be sent in to State Office anytime.
- April 11 Pleasant Park Grange — Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. followed by Chili Dinner.
- April 15 Scholarship Applications due to CSG Leadership/Scholarship Foundation.
- April 30 First Quarter Reports for 2026 due.
- Weekly Happenings:**  
 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 — Business Meeting the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

CSG Scholarship Leadership Foundation

## Scholarship Program

Empowering the Leaders of Tomorrow

**Applications due April 15**

Applications can be found at [coloradogranger.org](http://coloradogranger.org)

applicants must be a member or a relative of a Grange member.

No restrictions on college location.

### Correction

The last *Granger* listed our state Chaplain as Shelly Lackey, her name is Shelly Griffin.

# 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 a Happy New Year. As we reflect on the past year, I want to thank you all and the Granges for your support of your community. As I read all the articles, all the Granges are doing great work in your communities.

This year the Nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our founding. Colorado will be celebrating our 150th birthday. This is a good time for Granges to partner with other organizations to host a community celebration. I hope all will take this opportunity to get the Grange name in front of your community to gain membership.

Kathy and I attended the National Grange Convention. The National Grange is beginning a new program next year to help state and local Granges develop membership and support their local communities. The information on the new program, as soon as we have details, I will share them.

Membership development should be a goal of all Granges. We need to find those that will carry on our Granges. We need to find younger members and let them implement their ideas. Their ideas will be different than the ways we have done things in the past. We need to change to meet the needs of the future.

I hope all Grangers have a successful year of 2026.

Thanks for all your efforts to promote the Grange and make it relevant in your community.

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

# Legislative Activity

**Mike Lackey, State Director**

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

## Colorado Legislature Advances Policy Debates At The Capitol

The Colorado General assembly has been active this session, with lawmakers debating a wide range of bills affecting housing, education, transportation, and public safety. Committees in both the House and Senate have held packed hearings as legislators hear testimony from state agencies, advocacy groups, and residents from across Colorado.

Among the major topics under discussion are efforts to address the state's housing shortage, including proposals aimed at increasing affordable housing and streamlining development approvals. Lawmakers are also reviewing education funding, with bills focused on school fi-

nance, teacher support, and student mental health services.

Transportation and infrastructure remain key priorities, as legislators consider funding for road maintenance, public transit, and clean-energy initiatives. Meanwhile budget writers continue work on the state's annual spending plan, weighing how to allocate revenue while maintaining reserved required under state law.

With the session moving forward, legislative leaders say collaboration across party lines will be necessary to pass bills before the constitutional adjournment deadline. The General Assembly is expected to continue floor debates and committee work in the coming weeks as proposals move closer to final votes.

## Granger Deadline And Guidelines

**March 15, 2026**, is the deadline for articles for the Spring 2026 edition of *The Colorado Granger*. You can send them to the State Grange Office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326 or email [costategrange@gmail.com](mailto:costategrange@gmail.com).

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

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

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

# Notes From The Secretary

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



**January 31 — Fourth quarterly reports and payment due in the state office for all subordinate Granges.**

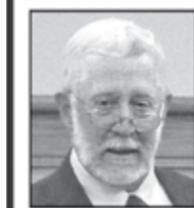
**February 15 — Articles due for next Granger.**

**March 31 — End of first quarter.**

**April 30 — First quarter reports and payment due in state office.**

The National Grange has rolled out a new data base system called "Grange Engage." Colorado members and Granges are currently in

the system. We are still learning exactly how to do everything that is involved. From my understanding, each individual Grange member that has provided an email address is able to access their information and make corrections. Granges can also set up meetings utilizing the Grange Engage APP. Grange members can connect with Grangers from other States and Granges that have items to sell or just to share ideas for programs and fundraisers. As with any new APP there is a learning curve, so be patient, it just might be the



# Agriculture Report

**David H. McCord, State Director**  
David • 303-388-1259  
Email: [dmccord60@earthlink.net](mailto:dmccord60@earthlink.net)

Below is an insightful media release on our state's agriculture by Joyce Kelly, Executive Director, Colorado Pork Producers Council. The drafter is a friend from the Colorado Ag Council, and I felt it important to appear here.

November 26, 2025

Contact: Joyce Kelly, [jkelly@copork.org](mailto:jkelly@copork.org)

## Colorado's Unsung Harvest: A Thankful Reflection On Agriculture And Community

When we think of Colorado, we picture soaring peaks, pristine ski slopes, and the vibrant culture of its cities. However, the true heartbeat of the Centennial State — the foundation that sustains both its people and the world — lies in the sprawling plains and fertile valleys where agriculture thrives. This industry, driven by hard work, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the land, deserves profound gratitude, particularly for the often-unseen but essential contributions of its farming communities, including its significant hog farms.

Colorado agriculture is an economic powerhouse and a global provider. While cattle and calves dominate cash receipts, the state also produces immense quantities of corn, hay, wheat, and potatoes. This bounty of diverse products ensures that Colorado feeds its own rapidly growing population while also exporting nearly \$2 billion in goods annually, supporting consumers in markets from Canada to China. This global reach is a testament to the efficient management of limited resources, such as water, and the successful application of innovative farming practices in a challenging high-altitude climate.

Central to this success are the state's animal agriculture sectors, with hog farming serving as a vital link in the food supply chain. Although the number of hog farms has consolidated over the years, the industry remains highly productive,

contributing millions of dollars to the state's economy and supporting crucial processing infrastructure and local jobs, particularly in eastern Colorado counties like Yuma and Weld. Hog operations utilize locally grown feed grains, creating backward linkages that benefit corn and soybean producers, thereby magnifying the economic impact across the agricultural landscape. The pork industry's commitment to providing a consistent supply of protein helps stabilize food prices and offers a critical export commodity that benefits global food security.

Yet, our deepest gratitude must be reserved for the people. The resilience of Colorado's farmers and ranchers is truly humbling. They are the nearly 40,000 operators — many of them multi-generational family businesses — who manage 31.8 million acres of land. They face relentless challenges, from volatile commodity markets and rising input costs to the harsh realities of drought and unpredictable weather. They are simultaneously entrepreneurs, mechanics, scientists, and environmental stewards.

From the potato farmers in the San Luis Valley safeguarding ancient water rights to the hog producers implementing advanced animal welfare and waste management protocols, these are the people who wake before dawn and work well after sunset. They are the backbone of the state, ensuring that the legacy of Western stewardship continues. They are the ones who make Colorado proud in their relentless dedication to producing high-quality food, thus enabling a global community to share in the bounty of the high plains. Recognizing their labor and their profound impact is not just a point of civic pride, but a simple act of thankfulness for the food on our tables.

Joyce Kelly,  
Executive Director  
Colorado Pork Producers Council  
and proud Colorado Producer

# Mandy Project

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

We received a "Thank You" note from the parent of the deaf child that was able to participate and enjoy the SoulFil Music Foundation program. Helping people learn and enjoy life is an underlying purpose of the Mandy project.

If you know of a deaf child/student who needs help with something please be sure to tell them about the Mandy project and have them apply for assistance.

As we approach our country's celebration of 250 years, be thinking of how you can include the deaf in your community in your activities

and programs, and if you need to hire an interpreter for the event be sure to think about compensating the interpreter. If you need financial assistance to do that be sure to apply to the Mandy project for assistance.

**— Save The Date —**  
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**Montezuma County**  
**Senior Services Annex**  
107 N Chestnut Street  
Cortez, CO 81321

thing you're looking for.

As you know we have an increase in dues that went into effect January 1. We hope that you can see that the Grange dues need to keep up with the economy and we have not been doing a very good job at that. This dues increase will help, but as things continue to change, I suspect that the dues will also change.

I hope that the Colorado State Grange *Journal of Proceedings* will be sent out by the first of the year and that the new *Roster* will also be in your hand. Sometime the office has to wait on others to get the information in before printing can begin.

2026 is a new year so I encourage you to try something new and to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation and 150th of our state.

# Four States Irrigation Council Annual Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

irrigation-related issues, exchange ideas and information, and develop solutions. The Four States annual meeting is held each January to discuss big-picture water-infrastructure issues, as well as explore more specific topics, such as new developments in water measurement, canal operations, dam safety, on-farm irrigation efficiency, project financing, legal and legislative issues, and more.

Four States — which also hosts biennial summer tours — promotes the wise use of the nation's water resources and encourages effective and diverse use of this limited resource. Improving agricultural conservation, promoting more efficient use of water, and balancing these needs with aquatic and wildlife concerns are all priorities of Four States.

Four States members include irrigation and water district representatives, farmers, engineers, university staff, extension agents, government officials, and others with an interest in irrigation and water infrastructure. Membership is open to anyone, and there are no annual dues or membership fees. To become a member, simply attend one of our events or visit [www.4-states-irrigation.org](http://www.4-states-irrigation.org) and request to be added to the Four States mailing list.

## The Colorado Granger

Vol. 102, No. 1 Winter 2026

The Colorado Granger  
USPS: 123-040 • ISSN: 1094-0022  
is printed quarterly  
for 4 issues annually  
by the COLORADO STATE GRANGE  
Phone: 719-748-5008  
Office of Publications & Editorial Office  
7629 County Road 100  
Hesperus, CO 81326  
Email: [costategrange@gmail.com](mailto:costategrange@gmail.com)  
Periodicals Postage Paid at  
Durango, Colorado  
and additional mailing offices.  
A portion of your annual membership dues pays your "Colorado Granger" subscription for one year.

Views and opinions in articles are not to be taken as official expressions of the Colorado State Grange's policy unless so stated.

POSTMASTER: Send address change form 3579 to: THE COLORADO GRANGER, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326.

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Visit the  
Colorado Grange website at  
[www.coloradogranger.org](http://www.coloradogranger.org)

Please notify the State Grange Office  
of any address change.

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

Email: [costategrange@gmail.com](mailto:costategrange@gmail.com)

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

### FOR THE COLORADO GRANGER MAILING LIST

ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

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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**  
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 8033 Sabino Lane  
 Castle Rock CO 80108

New page, new year! What amazing plans do you have for your Grange programming for 2026? Will there be expansion, additions, total reinventing taking place? Even though our programs and activities fit our community, always be on the lookout for change. Are the needs the same? Will routine meet any fluctuation in interest or shift in your audience? Could it be beneficial to add a seasonal activity?

How will the Grange way of serving be activated? Here are some points to consider from the National Grange: nonpartisan legislative advocacy\*, educational programs\*, service projects\*, and social interaction – networking\* in our communities. As you link these themes into your programming, refer back to the Star Awards and see how those categories can be fulfilled. Document your activities, be mindful to take photos, and see where certain awards overlap for multiple applications.

Are there any projects you can do as a Pomona? Put that networking to use and discover how to support each other within your region. Pooling resources and manpower can be

extremely beneficial in planning and execution of joint events, or even new activities. When you double up your participation, then your reach will expand as a benefit of that effort!

Be sure to check out the 2026 Handbook for revisions and updates. Due to the timing of the National Lecturer position election, our contest categories will not align this year. Our Colorado Grange categories for Photography and Creative Writing are listed in the 2026 Handbook. Please check the National Grange website for news on the National Lecturer's contest categories.

Please also do not be dissuaded with participating in both of these contests — our local Colorado contests and National contests! Enter both! Enjoy both! We are proud to have two national winners in the National Grange Creative Writing Contest!!! Judi Vogel won Second Place and Ruth Wilson Fransisco won Third Place! Keep those creative juices flowing for all your future programming — whether it be local Grange, Pomona, or individual! Stay Grange Strong!



**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

Thank you to Elizabeth Hiner and Anna Goebel who helped enter and display entries at the State Grange Session in October.

With the new year comes a time

to make resolutions. A resolution is defined as a goal you make in order to improve on what you have done. Maybe you could make a resolution to try something new this year.

Notice that the new *Grange Handbook* is in this issue. Look it over and see if there is something you could enter in next year's event! Good luck!



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

This article is going to be part of a series on how to get and retain new members. This first and most important way to get new members is to invite friends, co-workers, and anyone you meet and talk to about the Grange. Not everyone will be interested in joining, but there are those who will be. Also don't limit yourselves to a specific age group. I know we are looking to recruit younger members to keep the Grange pertinent, but newly retired people are a valuable resource as they may be looking for something to do. So, with that said below is

the first step in getting and retaining members. The information will be new to some and a refresher for others, Enjoy.

**Assess And Improve Your Grange's Culture.**

Put yourself in the shoes of a new or prospective member, a member of your community who interacts with your Grange, or a member discussing the Grange. Is what they're hearing and seeing **positive, friendly, and welcoming**? When new people come to visit or join your Grange, do you have the right person at the door to greet them and offer to an-

swer any questions they may have? We often forget how confusing our business operations and jargon can be for newcomers.

Do you have mentors, for new or prospective members, who have been given specific guidance on how to **encourage members to participate** as much (or as little) as they wish? Often, we forget that newcomers may not be aware of annual events or that they are welcome to participate in contests or attend various conferences and events of the Grange throughout the nation.

Some Granges have developed certain habits or personalities that make others feel unwelcome or as if they are intruders. Even long-time members should sometimes reevaluate their place and consider whether the Grange holds value in their lives when they feel marginalized or left out. Who is checking in, and what is your plan to put a quick end to any bad behavior that may negatively impact someone's Grange experience?

Every Grange can improve its internal culture by working to engage every member as part of the Grange family. In addition, your Grange can provide greater opportunities for fellowship, offer healthier potlucks, find ways to celebrate members' personal milestones, and more — all things that will make membership more meaningful.

The next article will cover the topic of "Getting Focused" on your membership, to be followed up with "Carry the Message," "Have Fun," and "Embrace Esto Perpetua." If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at the number above. I am always looking for current ideas and suggestions to make our Grange/s strong and more relevant in today's world.



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

Hello Grangers! Happy New Year 2026! 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 Lecturer's and Community Service 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.

This past year, National Grange changed how they are doing recognition for our Granges' Community Service events and activities. They are no longer holding a contest for the 50 States contest winners to be entered for National level Community Service recognition. Consequently, state-level reporting can be simpler now. Between Community Service and Lecturer events reporting, we really wanted to simplify so you all only need to tell the stories of your various events — for vari-

ous purposes — only once. I know it got confusing when it was necessary for you to report for Community Service events in that section of the Combined Reports form in order for your reports to potentially be eligible for National recognition. NOW though, we ask that you please only tell the stories of your events once — and do it in the Lecturer Stars section of the form. Tell your stories and include your pictures — please limit to 4 per event — only under one of the colored stars Lecturer section, and only list the names of

the events you want considered for Community Service —with a note as to which color star you chose — under the Community Service section of the form. I will read your list and refer back to the Lecturer Star reports to read your stories.

By the time you're reading this, I plan to have the reporting forms out to everyone who got it 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!

**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.

**Publicity**

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

Hello everyone, I am looking forward to seeing you in person this year, as I can do, I would like to attend one of your events or meetings. I will need help from you, so I can schedule a visit to your Grange, I would like to see what you are doing and find out what I can do to help you. I will be attending/or attending/or will have attended Darden Pomona's Christmas Dinner with Santa this month (December).

I would like to do the West side during the summer months and can do the East side during the Winter, weather permitting,

Also, I am working with Larry to get a Calendar on the State Grange Website that I can add events and meetings to. This would be for all Granges to see what everyone else is doing and give them a chance to stop by and see you also.

So please send me a calendar of your schedule events and meetings to the email above. I truly would like to stop by for a visit.

**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](mailto:costategrange@gmail.com).

## Chaplain's Corner

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



Happy New Year!  
With the new year comes the promise of new beginnings, whether it is a New Year's resolution or the expectation of good things to come. Some are great while others may be challenging. Our trust in God and His will is paramount to going through these changes and challenges with success.

The new year can mean new people, new environments, and new ways of doing things. A lot of "new" may feel beyond your control, but that is exactly where God wants us — at the end of our own strength, so we turn fully to Him, so we turn to Him. Instead of trying to do it all ourselves, limited by our human understanding, trust that God is in control and will be there for us in our time of need. "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you. I will help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10-NIV

Personally, I rely heavily on Proverbs 3:5-6-NIV "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your

ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." It is hard to fully trust, but I promise you God will not let you down. We may not always understand or even recognize His answers to our prayers, but He is always with us and never fails us. In His perfect time and in His loving way, our prayers are answered. All we are asked to do is come to Him, ask, and trust. The journey of faith may be difficult at times, but it is always worth taking.

I wish you all the very best for this new year and what it brings. God loves us all under any circumstances, and all He asks is that we love Him in return.

### 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 Memorials and included in the Memorial Service at the State convention.

## Real Estate Management

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



### Colorado Real Estate: A Market Shaped By Mountains, Momentum, And Migration

Colorado's real estate market continues to attract attention for its blend of natural beauty, economic opportunity, and diverse housing options. From the bustling urban core of Denver to the resort towns of the Rockies and the growing suburbs along the Front Range, the state offers something for nearly every type of buyer and investor. One of the defining features of Colorado real estate is demand driven by lifestyle. Access to outdoor recreation — skiing, hiking, biking, and open

space — remains a major draw, particularly for remote workers and professionals seeking a balance between career and quality of life. This sustained interest has helped support home values even during periods of higher interest rates.

The market itself varies significantly by region. Denver and Boulder tend to feature higher home prices, competitive listings, and a strong tech and professional employment base. Suburban areas such as Castle Rock, Parker, and Broomfield appeal to families looking for more space, while cities like Colorado Springs and Fort Collins offer rela-

tively more affordable options with growing job markets.

Mountain communities, including Aspen, Vail, and Breckenridge, remain premium markets influenced heavily by second-home buyers and tourism.

New construction plays an important role in addressing housing demand, particularly along the Front Range, though inventory often lags behind population growth. As a result, buyers frequently encounter competitive conditions, while sellers benefit from steady interest and limited supply.

Overall, Colorado real estate reflects a market rooted in strong fundamentals: population growth, economic diversity, and a nun matched outdoor lifestyle. While conditions fluctuate with broader economic trends, the state's long-term appeal continues to make Colorado a desirable place to live, work, and invest.

## 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.



**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: hcrgreer@frontier.net

PICK received a grant from the Coors Family Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 to help three Granges with capital improvement projects. Those Granges are Animas Valley, Mt. Allison, and Marvel. It's been a process as we started by submitting an application in July. In November their board met and awarded us the funding. We had to provide several documents and financial

statements from each Grange and our liaison was very helpful and supportive throughout the process.

PICK is once again trying to encourage people to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation and the 150th of our state with some contests that are open to non-members and grants to Granges wanting to plan a special event. We hope that you will promote the contests and consider

planning a special program and apply for some financial assistance.

Granges can partner with PICK to apply for Grants if a 501c3 is required. Once you determine what your project is and what the needs are, then you should contact PICK to set up a partnership to apply for Grants. Any Grants or gifts received by PICK for a specific Grange will need to complete an "application" for those funds. If you want to a fund raising campaign and give individuals a tax deductible receipt then you need to work with PICK. The donations would be sent to PICK, and then after a little paperwork return to the Grange they are intended for. Each Grange would have a receipt to give to the individuals that shows their donation to the 501c3.

**Deadline for the Spring 2026 Issue Is March 15, 2026**

## Junior, Youth And Young Adult

**Gary Wardle, Director**  
720-354-1196

8606 Holman Circle, Arvada, CO 80005  
cograngepresident@gmail.com



I will be providing support for the Youth and Junior program this year. If there is someone who would like to be Junior/Youth director, please contact me this year. The contest will stay the same as last year. This next year we will be promoting patriotism. We will be celebrating the

250th anniversary of America and the 150th anniversary of Colorado. The contest could reflect these celebrations.

I will provide information on the Youth Ambassador program from National Grange when it is available.

## National Grange Communication Programs

### Communication Fellows

The Communication Fellows program empowers Grange members of all ages to take an active role in sharing the #GrangeStory.

Stay tuned for information about the 2026 class of Fellows and a revamped and refreshed program!

If you have questions, please email National Grange Communications Director Philip Vonada at pvonada@nationalgrange.org.

### Show Off Your Grange Publicity!

The National Grange will soon be opening a portal where you can show off the various ways your Grange publicizes its events, programs, and projects — from social media to traditional press, posters, and other creative means. In the meantime, you can always email your publicity to Philip Vonada, Communications Director, at pvonada@nationalgrange.org.

### Good Day!™ Magazine

Don't miss an issue of the National Grange quarterly magazine, *Good Day!™* For just \$16 a year, you will receive four issues of this full-color publication mailed to your door filled with articles, stories, recipes, and so much more. The magazine aims to keep readers up-to-date with Grange happenings and information vital to Grange members. Now in its 9th year!

Visit the National Grange website to subscribe.

Previous issues can be purchased digitally at <http://issuu.com/grangegoodday>.

### Grange Today! Newsletter

Granges nationwide are constantly making news, and we want to share it with you!

All Grange members are encouraged to subscribe to Grange Today!, the National Grange's biweekly newsletter. Each issue is packed with updates from the National Grange departments and stories from Granges around the country.

Don't worry. Your contact information will never be shared with anyone outside the Grange.

Visit the National Grange website to subscribe.

### The Grange Hall Podcast

Join hosts Meagan Rakoci-McDonald (WA) and Philip Vonada (PA) as they interview Grange members from around the country about their Grange history, their Grange's history, and where they see the Grange going in the future — and anywhere in between.

The Grange Hall aims to welcome diverse voices within the Grange, highlighting local members who are "movers and shakers" within the Grange.

This podcast is not just for current Grangers! We encourage you to share this podcast with friends, family, and others who may be interested in or curious about the Grange.

Do you have a unique Grange story? Does your Grange have a signature event that helps you stand out? Email [grangehallpod@gmail.com](mailto:grangehallpod@gmail.com), and we might feature you on the Pod!

[nationalgrange.org](http://nationalgrange.org)



## Square Dance Class

Start Thursday evening: 7:00 pm

Jan 8, 15, or 22, 2026

16 - 18 classes

**Great social activity**

**Meet new friends**

Healthful Exercise

for mind & body

Join us for fun



Easy as walking to music

Singles

Couples

Families

Free First Class — Bring your Friends

Broomfield Crescent Grange

7901 W. 120<sup>th</sup> Ave, Broomfield

Email: [suebish@aol.com](mailto:suebish@aol.com)

Or Call Sue: (303) 263-7978

Visit: [www.scootbacks.com](http://www.scootbacks.com)





Contact Joan Hill, joannhill@gmail.com, for further information.

Progressive Pomona met at the Wind Crest in Highlands Ranch, at 11:30 a.m. on December 6, with Jeannie Davies hosting the meeting.

A potluck luncheon and catching up with the last three months' activities was enjoyed. We did miss a few members and hopefully will see you at the next meeting to be held at BMans BBQ in Sedalia, Colo., Sunflower Grange will be our hosts, on March 7, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting was opened at round table by the newly elected Master Judy Harrison.

After discussion the members voted for the following:

1. To donate \$50 to the Colorado State Grange Scholarship fund.
2. To raise the yearly membership fee for Pomona to \$5 per year per Member.

Christmas prizes were won by the following: Jeannie Davies, a member of Grange for 74 years, she joined Deer Trail Grange in 1951; Judy Harrison, a 58-year Granger joined in 1967; Rob Northway is a long-time member also. The meeting was closed.

Our Pomona wishes all a Blessed Holiday Season.

Joan Hill

### Sunflower

Contact Cherry Ellis, 303-581-7672, cherryllis5@yahoo.com, P.O. Box 221, Sedalia CO 80135, for further information.

2025 Calendar in progress. Meetings 2nd Saturday of the month.

January 10 — Seed Swap and beginning of 2026 Plant Project cycle.

January 15 — Local History Book Club 3rd Thursday — Bruce Hier.

February — Heather Kelly of Douglas Conserves on Grants and Scholarships <https://douglasconserves.org/grants/> and <https://douglasconserves.org/scholarships/>

February 19 — Local History Book Club 3rd Thursday—Bruce Hier.

October's Pumpkin Weigh-in at Bud's Bar had seven entries this year, but Billy Moore, the most frequent winner, had zip. He was glad to see a new generation of pumpkin growers take the honors: Ziggy and Kaia Roussa (parents Shelbi and Dylan) won 1st with a 40 pounder that was grown at 7,000 feet with trucked-in water; 2nd, Sage Slattery (parent Mike) with a 24 pounder; 3rd, Savanna Slattery (parent Mike) 19 pounds; 5th, Shanna O'Pry 11 pounds; 6th Susan Bell 9 pounds; 7th, Dick and Cherry Ellis 8 pounds. Winner #4 was a new Weigh-in category this year — Cute Babies. Baby Lenna Harper (mom Nicollete) weighed in at 11.5 pounds on the official Pumpkin Scale. Thanks, Bud's and Billy!

Sandi Hier (The Good Witch) caught COVID in October this year and wasn't able to make it to Trunk or Treat, so Robbie Person the Clown stepped in to help Diana Bates' Hedwig the Owl. Thank you, Robbie and Diana. There was no candy shortage at Trunk or Treat; some of the youngest paraders had to drag their weighty candy bags along behind them. The 212 students at Sedalia Elementary were so polite and appreciative; our Grange always enjoys activities with them.

Though Sedalia is a small town, it has several restaurants that we like to frequent and support, so we have not developed our Grange potluck skills. We hope the spaghetti potluck in November was the first of many. Thanks to Dennis Ellis who provided the delicious baked pasta, Diana Bates for the roasted broccoli and peanut clusters, Sandi Hier for decadent desserts, and Dick and Cherry for homemade ice cream.



Pumpkin Weigh-in Winner — 40-pounder grown by Ziggy and Kaia Roussa (parents Shelbi and Dylan) with trucked-in water at 7,000 feet.



The Diehl family visiting with Santa at Sunflower Grange.

December 6 was Winterfest, the all-Sedalia holiday celebration. The Museum has a \$1 sale of donated gifts for children to buy, businesses have drawings and refreshments, tractor taxis (thank you Weston family and Peter-Paul Sukarb) circulate around town, and Sunflower partners with BMan's BBQ crew to host Santa.

Thanks to new Grange member Karin Bates for the Santa posters. More than 50 children talked to Santa, no time limit. This year's elves, Augustus Ellis, his girlfriend Rayne, and friend Grinch Dylon Pflughardt (who needed a ventilated Grinch head), helped Santa hand out stockings and building kits. A big thank you to Arnell Galley and Vitha Danser who sewed 100 little felt stockings from our Grange this year; we hope the homemade stockings decorate trees for many Christmases to come.

One young visitor told his grandma he didn't want to talk to Santa because he wasn't sure which was the "real" Santa, he'd seen so many. (Reader, you must have wondered about that, too.) His grandmother said that Santa has many helpers because he can't be everywhere all at once, and real Santa is at the North Pole working feverishly to get the toys ready for December 24. The boy decided to permit this Santa to take his requests.

Santa's many return visitors this year included Gus, the Elder's dog, who wagged and squirmed all over the place until he was told to pose for a picture with Santa — he stopped, sat, and put on his best camera face. One young lady fresh from a dance recital performed a number for Santa, and another wore the perfect new cowboy hat (from the Museum's sale) for her Santa picture.

Santa talked football with the four Kurz boys and took the annual photo with the Ballinger family. Next year Santa wants to do a turn around town on the tractor taxi to visit other Sedalia sites and children. Dennis



Pumpkin Weigh-in Winner — 40-pounder grown by Ziggy and Kaia Roussa (parents Shelbi and Dylan) with trucked-in water at 7,000 feet.

Ellis has been our Sedalia Santa for four years, taking over from Margaret and Bill Ellis who were Mr. and Mrs. Santa for many years before. They came to say "hi" to the many people they know in the area from their 36 years on Devil's Head Fire Lookout. We sang Happy Birthday to Dick Ellis who turned 87. Many, many thanks to Diana Bates, our Grange lecturer/photographer, and to

Rachel Ballinger and Rachelle Elder for photos.

In 2026 we hope to finally have an online presence with the Colorado State and National Grange websites, elections in January, the U.S. 250th celebrations, a good growing season and community engagement. Happy New Year, Everyone!

Cherry Ellis  
(More on Page 6)

## Plan Ahead To Attend! September 24-26, 2026 State Grange Convention

Montezuma County  
Senior Services Annex  
107 N Chestnut Street  
Cortez, CO 81321

## Reaching Rural Seniors

### HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SURGERY?

Having questions about an upcoming surgery is expected. Some Doctors, a research institute, patients, family members, caregivers and Grangers have used their personal experiences to help create this website.

The National Grange and medical technical experts have developed two Guides which can help you prepare for surgery and think about your future options.

You will find a variety of information on pre-surgery, post-surgery and planning for your future within this website. There are questions that are important for anyone planning a surgical procedure. Circle the questions you want to ask, and/or write your own questions. It's okay if you do not want to ask your Healthcare Provider some of these questions. You can ask your doctor/surgeon whatever you feel is important to you. Tell the doctor/surgeon how much or how little you want to them to know and ask the surgeon to explain anything you don't understand.

"I'm glad I learned the right questions to ask, the important decisions to make and how to best care for my grandfather," Rhonda Allen.

YES, you do have options for treatment. We hope this website helps you and your surgeon decide what's right for you.

### HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN RURAL AMERICA THE PROBLEM

Rural America is underserved by the nation's healthcare system. There are fewer doctors, especially specialists, per capita, many rural hospitals are in danger of closing, incomes are lower and employers less likely to provide health insurance, distances to care are greater, and there is less broadband access to medical information and virtual office visits.

Older rural residents requiring surgery have less access to care and may be less informed on how to participate in their care and about treatment options.

### THE SOLUTION

The Grange, founded in 1867, is the largest and best-known community organization in rural America; it conducts a variety of social, service, and educational programs and is a leading advocate for rural interests.

The National Grange has developed and is disseminating a user-friendly Pre-Surgery Guide – Question Prompt List that can be utilized to talk to your doctor/surgeon and Planning for My Future Guide that can be utilized to talk with your spouse/partner, family, caregiver to help provide your plans and desires for your future.

### EMPOWER

Empower rural surgery patients to become more engaged in their own care and to obtain care in line with their personal values and preferences to improve their life span.

### INFORM

Inform patients of what to expect after surgery, allowing more time for planning and informing caretakers and family about aftercare both short-term and long-term.

### PREPARE

Prepare older rural patients with the ability to make the best pre- and post-surgical decisions based on a deeper understanding of their current health and physical condition.

### REGIONAL CONTACTS

**Great Plains**  
Alamo Grange #1446, TX  
Samantha Wilkins  
PO Box 386  
Somerset, TX 78069  
(210) 838-7892

**Western**  
Walterville Grange #416, OR  
Paula Herrick  
88088 Millican Road  
Springfield, OR 97478  
(541) 741-1046 or  
(541) 561-3407

Visit [nationalgrange.org](http://nationalgrange.org) for more information.



### Garden Home

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

January 8 — Monthly Meeting.  
February 12 — Monthly Meeting.

March 12 — Monthly Meeting.  
Hats off to Gail Land — Gail turned 99 years old. She joined the Garden Home Grange in 1982...43 years!!! She has such interesting facts of history, with stories that she remembers in fine detail.

We celebrated Gail with a dinner out and a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to YOU celebration! It is an honor to share this lifelong journey with this beautiful, strong, incredible woman.

What's happening — Did a deep clean and repairs to our Garden Home Grange! Refreshing. We are in search of a reasonable licensed electrician who can update our electrical panel to change our insurance policy. We are so thankful to share the Grange with Church Ministries and help in spreading God's word. Monthly donations were to Cade's Legacy, items for Operation Christmas Child, and The Salvation Army.  
Renee Hackett



Grangers did a deep clean and repairs to our Garden Home Grange.



Celebrating Gail Land's 99th birthday at Garden Home Grange.



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

Darden Pomona Meeting Feb. 7 at 3 p.m.

The annual Darden Pomona Christmas party was hosted by Enterprise Grange. The tables were decorated with Christmas décor which was very festive! A complete Christmas dinner was enjoyed with Enterprise Grange providing the ham, turkey, and all the trimmings, and members bringing salads and desserts. Guests were present from Shannon's Hope, a safe house for women and children. Following the delicious meal, carols were sung, "Twas The Night Before Christmas" was read by Mike Lackey, Santa came to hear children's wishes and a gingerbread house piñata made by Nicole was broken. It was truly a special evening to remember



Gingerbread piñata made by Nicole for the Darden Christmas Party at Enterprise Grange.

for everyone.  
At the February meeting bring a hobby to share or tell of a hobby you have known someone to do.  
Idella Lewis



Music at the Christmas Party.



Darden's Christmas Party Santa.



Enterprise Grange members provided a complete Christmas dinner.

## Community Service Report Form

(Request for \$250 Award & Certificates)

The National Grange will continue awarding \$250 to states where at least 25% of Granges submit reports at the state level. Electronic certificates will also be available for printing and presentation.

To receive a monetary award and/or certificates, the National Grange Community Service Report Form must be completed and emailed to [communityservice@grange.org](mailto:communityservice@grange.org).

This is the only form required to request the award. Visit the National Grange website for the form, [nationalgrange.org](http://nationalgrange.org).

### Clear Creek Valley Grange

IN MEMORIAM

Ramona (Bacher) Wuetig

June 14, 1928 –

November 22, 2025

Ramona (Bacher) Wuetig, 97, passed away peacefully at her home on Saddleback Mountain in Clear Creek County on November 22, 2025, with her children by her side. She was born in Wheat Ridge on June 14, 1928, to Helena (Apel) and Joseph Bacher. Ramona grew up on the family farm at 44th and Wadsworth, and graduated from Wheat Ridge High School in 1946.

On August 13, 1947, she had her first date with Robert Wuetig. On August 13, 1948, they were engaged, and on August 13, 1949, they began their marriage that was to last until his passing in 2006. In 1972, Ramona and Bob moved to Saddleback Mountain, into the beautiful home that she had designed. She was proud of her Colorado heritage, a lifelong member of the Clear Creek Valley Grange, a Territorial Daughter of Colorado, and a diehard Colorado Rockies fan.

Ramona's life was centered around her family, and she will be deeply missed by us all: son Gary (Karen Hope), and daughter Gail Buelter; grandchildren Holly (Florian) Seeberger, Kent (Jenna) Austin, Wayne Buelter, and Darian (Katie) Buelter; her seven great-grandchildren; and her nieces and nephews from the Nosler, Snowdon, Bowen, and Wuetig families. She was preceded in death by her sisters Jeanette Nosler and Betty Snowdon, her husband Robert, her daughter Robin

Austin, and many beloved canine companions.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Clear Creek County Animal Shelter, aka "Charlie's Place."

### Enterprise Grange

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

January 14, 2026, Wednesday — Potluck at 6 p.m. At this meeting, we will plan the remaining activities for the 2025 Grange year and explore future community service projects. We will also discuss details for our April Community Service Night. Members are encouraged to bring ideas for fundraising activities, recommendations for how funds should be designated, suggestions for a community member to honor at Community Service Night, and ideas for group outings. In addition, we will review the outcome of the Chili Dinner fundraiser and decide whether to continue it or consider alternative fundraising options.

February 11, 2026, Wednesday — Valentine Party and Potluck at 6 p.m. This meeting is our annual Valentine Party, a fun evening of friendship, laughter, and Grange spirit. Please bring a Valentine for your Granger Friends and Family. We also feature Valentine-themed decorations, refreshments, and activities designed to celebrate Valentines Day. Members are encouraged to wear red, pink, or festive Valentine colors and to bring a favorite potluck food, entrees, salads, or dessert to share.

As always, the Valentine Party is a wonderful opportunity to connect

## Metrum Community Credit Union

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

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

### What Is A

#### Credit Union?

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

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

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

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

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

More information about the Credit Union is available on their website [metrumcu.org](http://metrumcu.org).



metrum  
community  
credit union



Enterprise Grangers filling Christmas stockings.



Delivering Christmas stockings to senior citizens.

with fellow members to enjoy what makes Enterprise Grange such a special part of all of us

**March 11, 2026, Wednesday, 6 p.m.** — Join us for our St. Patrick's Day Irish Potluck. Bring a dish that's green or inspired by Irish cuisine and enjoy an evening of good food. Following the potluck, our meeting will focus on planning key upcoming activities, including the Community Service Award program, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and our Community Garden project. Your participation is welcome as we work together to support these important community efforts.

Shannon's Hope clients were invited to join us for our Thanksgiving celebration, along with Grange friends and family. The evening featured a traditional Thanksgiving feast complete with turkey, all the trimmings, and an abundance of delicious desserts. As with any Grange dinner, the night concluded with everyone leaving full of good food, shared laughter, and grateful hearts.

Over Thanksgiving weekend, we had our get-together for our annual Christmas Pre-stocking and Stocking Stuffing Party. We received a significant amount of donations from the Arvada community this year. We also requested items through "Next-door" and the "Arvada Neighbors" facebook pages. Nancy also found a business called: "The Craft Box" whose customers knitted 212 hats and scarves for our stocking project. That was a Herculean task. All were beautiful and all were donated to us.

Also, Nancy's daughter, Cassandra, and her bible study group wrote all the Christmas Cards for the stockings. Nancy works tirelessly on this project throughout the year. Without her we could never have the stockings completed on time for our seniors! We filled 100 stockings for Arbor View Senior Living and 112 for the Olin Residences. Both are for senior residence centers for low income and disabled or are disadvantaged in other ways.

Stockings were delivered the following Tuesday to Arbor View by Nancy Sells and Tom Eplett, a friend of the Grange, and to Olin Residences by Carol Lackey and Judy Kay, a friend of the Grange. 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.

Nancy Sells received a huge THANK YOU call from the property manager of the Olin Residences. She told her that some of their clients had only the clothes that they came to them with and the stockings were even more appreciated this year. It is always nice to hear that we are serving those in real need!

This holiday season, Enterprise Grange was honored to adopt a family referred to us by the Carin' Clinic who was in need of extra support. Through the generosity of our members, Grangers signed up to provide gifts and essential items to help ensure the family's children experienced the joy of the holidays.

Requested items included a crockpot, diapers, clothing, shoes, and socks for their two-year-old child, as well as pajamas for the mother. In true Grange spirit, we also added toys, a scarf, a winter hat, and other thoughtful extras. In addition, members contributed to a food basket to assist with holiday meals. We are grateful for the opportunity to share kindness and make a meaningful difference during the holiday season.

December 7 marked our annual Santa Picture Day, and once again Mike Webster generously served as Santa. We are incredibly grateful to him — he truly is the best Santa we've found and helps make this event so special each year. Santa Day was a wonderful success, with many children and pets stopping by to visit. Guests enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies, children had fun with coloring books and crayons, and everyone went home with a professional photo capturing their

memorable moment on Santa's lap.

Our final community service project of the year is a joint effort with the Scarlet O'Hatters, led by Marlys Halbeisen, along with members of Maple Grove Grange, Enterprise Grange, and the Thursday Canasta club. Together, we assembled 38 gift bags for seniors of Parkhill Residences, a low-income assisted living facility that provides 24-hour care and activities that promote healthy, active lifestyle, and social engagement. For the past two years, our groups have been the only ones to provide gifts for these residents, and they are truly excited and grateful that we are continuing this tradition for their annual Christmas Eve celebration. This meaningful project would not be possible without the generosity and support of this wonderful community.

Enterprise Grange hosted the Dardon Pomona Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner again this year on Saturday, December 13. We started the evening with a potluck of ham, turkey, sweet and mashed potatoes, side dishes, and salads galore. And who could forget the desserts! The Grangers of Dardon Pomona with their friends and family and Shannon's Hope clients were all in attendance.

The Program after dinner included Christmas Carol sing-a-longs led by Jim Calm, and reading of the "Night Before Christmas" by Mike Lackey, Master of the Enterprise Grange. Santa Claus, (Mike Webster the brother of Kathy Wardle), arrived to a thunderous applause when he heard "Jingle Bells" 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.

Nicole Dannels, Leonard and Dorothy Dannels granddaughter, made a Gingerbread House piñata for the children filled with small toys and candy. Thanks to all the members of the Dardon Pomona for making this such a memorable evening for all! And a special thanks to Elizabeth Hiner who drove up from Durango to join us.

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.

**January 7, 2026 — Maple Grove meeting, 1 p.m.**

Maple Grove Grangers and friends of our renters collected 350 lbs. of food in a food drive in October and November. Tamera Halbeisen delivered the food collected to a food bank. Thank you to all who made contributions to the food drive, making the holidays brighter for those who are food challenged!

Idella Lewis



Residents at Olin Residences were very grateful for the stockings.



Santa Picture Day at Enterprise Grange was a wonderful success.

### Pleasant Park

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

**January 10 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Potluck.**

**February 14 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Potluck.**

**March 14 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Potluck.**

**April 11 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed by Chili Dinner.**

Welcome to new members, Tracy and Nancy Anderson. They were initiated at the December meeting.

The annual Christmas party was lots of fun with unique White Elephant gifts and delicious food.

Sadly, members Dave Lewis and Suzanne Stevenson passed away after long illnesses. The charter was draped in honor for Dave at the October meeting and for Suzanne at the November meeting. They will always remain in our thoughts and hearts.

The Bicycle Rest Stop closed the end of October. Thank you to all the members who made this a successful year.

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

The annual Thanksgiving Din-



New Pleasant Park Grange members Tracy and Nancy Anderson being initiated in December.

ner was held on November 15 at 12:30 p.m. after the regular meeting. Thank you to all the Grange members who attended and made this a special event. The weather was gorgeous!

Mark your calendars for the annual Chili Dinner on April 11 and the Pomona Picnic on July 11.

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



Unique white elephant gifts at the Pleasant Park Christmas Party.

### Golden Gate

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

**Thursday, January 8 at 2:30 p.m. — Grange Meeting.**

**Thursday, February 12 at 2:30 p.m. — Grange Meeting.**

**Thursday, March 12 at 2:30 p.m. — Grange Meeting.**

**Yoga — Wednesdays, from 3-4 p.m.**

**AA — Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.**

The Golden Gate Grange Holiday Craft Fair in October was a great



Costumed children in line for candy at the Halloween Trunk or Treat at Golden Gate Grange.

success! A wide variety of artisans, including many Grange Members, displayed their beautiful and unique crafts. Kudos to all the crafters and others who donated homemade baked goods! Thirza Kennedy and Deb Curlee, who organized and ran this event, deserve a huge thanks for all their expertise and hard work!

Thanks to our young kitchen crew, Samantha, Yoseline, Alicia, Nataly, and Giselle, who took orders and delivered lunch to our crafters and guests.

The Halloween Trunk or Treat party held at the Grange, coordinated by Jessica Swanson, was well attended and fun for all! Trucks and cars decorated with spooky Halloween themes distributed candy to the costumed children. Chili, hot dogs, and grilled cheese sandwiches were served. As always, we were impressed with the community response to our participation in the Jeffco Commissioners Holiday Gift Drive for children. Thanks to Dee-Dee Ramstetter and Terri Costeldia (Continued on Page 8)



Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner at Florissant Grange was a full house with at least 30 requests for take-out food.

**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.

January 10 — Basket Class 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

February 14 — Valentine Breakfast/Brunch 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

February 20 — Basket Class 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Fabric Landscape Class 1-3 p.m.

We are excited to announce that because of all our Fundraising events, we were able to replace the very old furnace in the Grange Hall. AND, we were able to replace the heating unit in the old Coal House as well. We use the coal house as the Florissant Grange Gift Shop. We are nice and warm again, just in time for the first snow of the season.

The Florissant Grange Quilts for Veterans group awarded two beautiful patriotic quilts in November. We have six more ready to award and will get this accomplished in Jan and Feb.

Sadly, we had to cancel our Hallo-

ween Haunted House in October. We had an unusual amount of Grangers who could not help, and, as much as I hate to admit it... it was way too much work for the remaining five of us who could help. It takes hours and lots of people to set up the Old School House into a haunted house and we just couldn't do it. We still gathered together outside on Halloween and handed out goodie bags, which was fun.

In November we had our annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner. We had a full house and at least 30 requests for take-out food. Our Grangers, the Fire Dept. and many community members, came together to cook, serve, and get to know each other. It was great fun and one of the events that is the highlight of our Grange year.

In December we held our annual Christmas Bazaar. We had a nice steady stream of customers buying Christmas gifts and yummy food. We had 15 crafters in the main building and the gift shop was open so all the customers had many choices and hundreds of wonderful gifts to choose from.

As I write this, we have not yet held our annual Christmas Party with Santa. It will be held on the 20th and I am sure we will have our normal crowds. We will serve cookies and punch and Santa will have goodie bags full of small Christmas stickers, books, stuffies, and candy.

In January, we look forward to

taking a break after three months of events and planning. We will have one basket class in January, because it was requested from some of our

community who leave for most of the winter.

We have decided to bring back the Valentine Breakfast/Brunch again.

So the planning begins for this event at the end of January.

Have a great New Year.  
Renee Caldwell



Annual Grange Giving community dinner at Mount Lookout Grange.

**Ute Mountain**  
Dolores and Montezuma Counties

**Mount Lookout**

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

January 11 — Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

January 12 — Family Craft Night, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

January 12 — Adult Craft

Night, 6 p.m.

January 19 — MLK Breakfast, 8 a.m.

January 24 — Board Retreat, 10 a.m.

January 27 — Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

February 8-9 — Adult Craft Night, 6 p.m.

February 24 — Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

The November community dinner at Mt. Lookout Grange was our annual Grange giving, and everyone had a wonderful evening. There were turkeys, ham, salads, roasted veggies, and sparkling cider. We are so grateful to everyone who attended and volunteered! December's community dinner was an impromptu game night with friends and neighbors of all ages playing Bananagrams, chess, and Jenga. It

was a great way to spend the evening after enjoying DeWayne Jackson's delicious Texas-style chili.

We are so grateful for all of the work that has happened at Mt. Lookout Grange over the past year, including our new roof, ceiling, lighting, ceiling fans, and flooring. In January we will all meet for our board retreat to plan for the year ahead. There are rumblings of constructing a stage, new community event programming, and expanded Craft Nights. On that note, Adult Craft Nights have been a huge success, and starting in January we will be adding Family Craft Nights to our schedule. These will happen twice annually, and families with children of all ages are welcome to come participate. In January, we will be rolling beeswax candles.

Abby Fox

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

**Marvel**

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

January 17 — Chili cook-off and dessert auction.

January 31 — Community Breakfast 8-10 a.m.

February 6 — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Program: Roger Ayers.

February 14 — Fundraiser "Valentine/Palentes" Dinner — reservations required.

March 6 — Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: Sheryl Ayers.

November found six of our members and one non-member spouse at the National Grange Convention on the cruise so we did not meet or have any activities until everyone arrived home safely, which they all did.

November 29 we had a community breakfast with around 64 in attendance. We served our normal menu of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, juice, and coffee.

We had around 80 in attendance at

our Luau in October with great entertainment, food and dancers.

December 19 we had a soup supper (potluck) and special entertainment by "Reeder and Spencer," two female singers who performed for two hours. Special thanks to Roger and Sheryl Ayers for sharing the certificate they purchased supporting La Plata County 4-H.

December 31 we had a Southwestern new year's eve party. We served tacos and everyone who attended enjoyed table games and snacks.

We had a bird get into the hall, through the opening around the hot water heater. It left quite a mess in the women's bathroom and other places in the hall where it tried to get out. So Roger Ayers and Harry Greer patched around the hot water heater pipe to keep other birds from getting in. Our kitchen heater wasn't working on the night of our December meeting. Thanks to Tom Campion and Harry Greer for discovering that a bird had gotten into the pipe and was blocking the heater from working. When they got the bird out the heater worked. Oh the challenges of having a building and winter!

Cindy Greer

**Golden Gate**

(Continued from Page 7)

for organizing this wonderful event and to the Community members, who so generously bought gifts for 22 children and donated funds which were used to supply gifts for an additional 20 children.

Wreath Making in early December was fun for all that attended. While parents or grandparents make beautiful wreaths from local greenery, the kids were busy with holiday crafts. Terri Costeldia, Patti and John Neer cut and provided the greenery

from their property for the event.

Our holidays were brightened with the yearly concert by the Peak to Peak Chorale. This year's program, "Searching for the Light," was dedicated to the victims of the Caribou Village Fire in Nederland. Grange member Marith Reheis is a member of this esteemed local musical group.

Can recycling is not only a service to the community but also a great fundraiser for the Grange. The Grange recycled 3,500 pounds of cans as of the end of November! Deb

Curlee, Paul Prue, Thirza and Bob Kennedy deserve a big round of applause for handling this undertaking.

Yoga is held on Wednesdays from 3-4 PM. If you haven't been to a class before Instructors Judy and Susan will provide a class that will offer alternatives for all levels. This is a good idea to put on you New Year's resolution list!

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

Grange phone: 303-273-9516.

Jayne Ruesch



Participants enjoyed Wreath Making in December.



Terri Costeldia and DeeDee Ramstetter organized Golden Gate Grange's participation in the Jeffco Commissioners Holiday Gift Drive for children.