



Oregon State Grange BULLETIN

December 2025/January 2026

News About the Grange

Volume 125 No. 6



L-r: The Oregon GROW Club and friends served an ice cream social as the harvest feast following the Fifth and Sixth degrees at the California State Grange convention in October. Servers included Steve Kroeker, Susan Noah, Phil Van Buren, Jesse O'Dell, Jessie Jo Gutridge, Joyce Parker, Sandi Ludi, Teresa Cernac, Linda Helm, Susie Kroeker and Suzy Ramm. See more from the 150th California State Convention on page 13.

District 5 to Host the 2026 State Grange Convention in Baker City

The Granges of District 5 are pleased to announce that they are *"Still Alive in District 5"* and will be hosting the 2026 Oregon State Grange Convention at the Baker High School in Baker City, June 20-25.

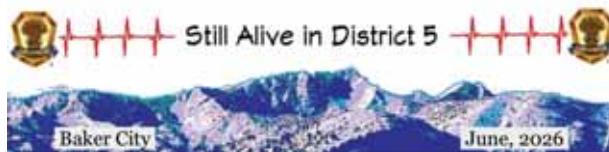
Baker City is the county seat of Baker County. The city and county were named in honor of U.S. Senator Edward D. Baker, the only sitting senator to be killed in a military engagement. He died in 1861 while leading a failed charge of 1,700 Union Army soldiers up a ridge at Ball's Bluff, Virginia, during the American Civil War.

Plotted in 1865, Baker City grew slowly in the beginning. A post office was established on March 27, 1866,

but Baker City was not incorporated until 1874. The Oregon Short Line Railroad came to Baker City in 1884, prompting growth and by 1900 it was the largest city between Salt Lake City and Portland and a trading center for a broad region. In 1910, Baker City residents voted to shorten the name of the city to simply Baker, the name change becoming official in 1911; another vote in 1989 restored the name to Baker City.

Thirteen miles of Oregon Trail wagon ruts are visible near Baker City. Visit the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center to see them.

Look for more convention in upcoming issues of the Bulletin.



Nominations for Oregon State Grange Officers Due BY January 25th

REMINDER: Candidates for the offices of the Oregon State Grange shall be nominated and voted upon in Subordinate/Community Granges by members in good standing in such Granges in the months of November, December and January.

At any regular meeting in November or December of odd years or January of even years, Subordinate/Community Granges may, by majority vote, present the names of members to become candidates for the offices of the State Grange.

The nomination form which was mailed in October to Community/Subordinate Grange Secretaries must be filed with the OSG Office no later than 5 p.m. January 25th.

National Grange Adopts Dues Increase

As expected, the National Grange Delegates passed the referred dues increase at the National Convention in November and it will take effect January 1, 2026. The National Grange has not raised its per-capita dues in over a decade, and this change reflects the rising costs of administration, insurance, and member services that benefit all of us across the nation.

As of January 1, 2026, the dues will now be as follows:

• Fraternal Individual and Affiliate Member Dues

\$20 National Grange + \$36 Oregon State Grange for a total of \$56/year

As you bill your members for their 2026 Dues, you should reflect on the above increases accordingly. Consult your Grange's bylaws to see if any amendments need to be adopted. Many of your Granges opted to pay a dollar amount above the National and State Grange dues, so an amendment will not be necessary.

Happy Holidays
From the staff of the Oregon State Grange
Sonny, Suzy, Steve, Shelsea and Carol
The Oregon State Grange office in Salem will be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

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*Office Hours:
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
8am - 4:30pm*

Bulletin Deadline
*for the
February/March 2026 Issue*
January 10, 2026

The President's Column

Sonny Hays-Eberts
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 President - Oregon State Grange



As I ponder this column, Halloween has just passed, but by the time you read this, Christmas will be around the corner and the New Year approaching. My past employment was always focused on immediacy; if something was broken, it needed to be fixed now. So it has been a challenge for me, as State President, to promote events and ideas and write columns so far in the future. But as you may see, while I might learn slowly, I do learn!

The Fourth Degree is set in the Home, in Winter. As noted, the seasons of Preparation, Culture and Harvest have passed and it is time to enjoy together the good things our labors have brought us. This in turn inspires us to begin the cycle anew, rejuvenated to turn our attention to the next cycle of the seasons.

Our appreciation and review of these good works is a seasonal tradition that extends beyond the Grange. The internet, TV and print media are rife with yearly reviews as December ends, and that is generally followed by making resolutions to improve in the following year. It is a tradition shared among so many that it almost seems a basic human truth.

Accordingly, I'm going to recap the significant events for the Oregon State Grange in 2025.

It's a truism that M&Ms (Money and Members) are a focus for many Granges, so I will start by recapping those. We started the year with losing over 100 members in our first quarter. Looking back at historical records, we rarely see a net positive gain after a start like that, but quarters two and three have been excellent, and we currently stand at a gain of almost 50 members. I

must admit I was slightly discouraged, membership-wise, in February, but I'm far more pleased now to see how much our Granges have turned it around.

So far, we have had one consolidation, Siletz Valley, and Sunnyridge. We also have a dormancy looming before the end of the year, which will leave us at 157 active Granges. However, the Grange becoming dormant is a Grange that is in a decent population area that has a very realistic chance of being reorganized.

We also generated additional income this year, a small amount from unclaimed property, and quite a bit more from sales of Grange halls. With the sale of Russellville pending, we are getting close to generating enough funds from the Dormant and Reverted Grange fund interest to fully fund the Matching Grant program. Those of you who endured my annual Treasurer's Report know how much of a big deal this is to me. I want our funds to grow and not diminish!

We held our regular events: Ag-Fest, State Convention and the Log Cabin at State Fair, which I thought were all successful, and I want to thank everyone who volunteered or worked on the Hosting Committee for making them happen. Likewise to the delegates and contest participants, without your involvement it would not have been as wonderful as it was.

The District Visits were not as well attended as I would have liked, and I intend to work with our Directors in December to improve our visits. We need to find the Goldilocks spot (just right) between visiting a single Grange (too small) or a District (too

big). However I was impressed and overjoyed to see the participation in the Geo-Grange program. Across society as well as in the Grange, socialization seems to be in decline, and while Community and Pomona Granges can fill this purpose, I felt it was something the State Grange should promote as well.

The leadership conference had 38 people attend. Some are names I know well from involvement in the State Grange, but I am happy to see members I don't see often, and from Granges that are not as active at the State level. I feel this bodes well for these Granges to have members who want to learn how to lead and operate a Grange! I hope next year to hold the same conference in a different location, or even locations, as it seemed well received.

In addition, I have formed committees this year to look into the Log Cabin and another to investigate potential changes in scheduling and hosting conventions in order to plan further into the future.

Our Matching Grant program continues to help Community Granges, and the Foundation is working to allow donations for Granges as well as sponsor grants and they will be providing information when ready and able to do so. We hope to begin preserving our Heritage documents, and we've requested proposals for our annual audit and Ag-Fest seedlings in order to ensure we're spending money as carefully as we can.

Details about our many other actions can be found in the collection of Executive Committee meeting minutes, but as the end of the year approaches, I feel it was a successful one, and I hope you do too. I have also been very impressed with the work our Community and Pomona Granges have undertaken and wish to congratulate them.

May you take pleasure in your home, your Grange, and your accomplishments this season!

Notes From the President ~ You need a referral?

Do you need to find someone to work on your building, clean your hall chimney, or perhaps find a new insurance company? Grange members often inquire with friends, other Granges, or even the State office, but did you know there is a section of the Oregon State Grange website dedicated to assisting with this sort of thing?

It is in the Members Only section, and is called Recommended By Granges. You can use this to hopefully locate businesses and services other Granges have used, and feel are worthy of recommending to others.

This does require a member login

to access. I encourage all Granges to submit the name and contact information of any business or service your Grange has used which you would like to promote to other Granges.

While there is currently only a small number listed, if Granges are willing to share recommendations, this can be very helpful to all Granges.

If you wish to recommend someone, please send the business name, address, phone and email, along with a web site URL (if one exists) to webmaster@orgrange.org or call the office 503.316.0106.

Community Service Director Wanted

The Oregon State Grange (OSG) needs a new Community Service Director since Director Liz Dehne has resigned. Interested Grangers should email OSG President Sonny Hays -Eberts at President@orgrange.org or call the office 503.316.0106.

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Non-members:
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New Artwork at the Coburg Community Grange

If you haven't seen it yet, it is a MUST!! It looks incredible and will for years to come. About a year ago the members of Coburg-West Point Community Grange discussed taking down the children's artwork on the west wall of the Grange hall and replacing it. The children's artwork was rapidly deteriorating in the weather after being up for several years.

Grange members started brainstorming and decided to try to do something historical that would be as permanent as possible. Suggestions included a painted mural and metal sculptures. The decision was made to check out the possibility of metal artwork. Grange President, Joe Morneau, contacted Jim Suess (local to the area) with some ideas and Jim Suess loved them all. The Grange wanted to showcase the beautiful Coburg Hills as well as their farming community, the historical timber industry, and the Coburg Bronco. Showing him pictures of the Booth Kelly mill workers and the Bronco horse emblem that

is used by the Coburg Fire Department were starting points.

Jim Suess used his skills to share what he could do. He then designed the farm scene with fields, a home, barn, horse, chickens, etc. After seeing draft versions of what was possible, Grange members made suggestions and a few changes. Preliminary plans were submitted to the City of Coburg for approval. Once approved, Jim Suess went to work on the metal panels. He had them black powder coated so there would be no reflection and would last longer. At the end of September, Jim Suess and his crew, the Coburg Fire Dept, and volunteers installed the artwork on the exterior west wall.

The Grange wanted it to be a "surprise" gift to the community so it was mostly only talked about at Grange meetings. It was an almost year-long project. They hope the community enjoyed the SURPRISE and the history of Coburg depicted on the wall.



Above: The artwork on Coburg Grange hall of the Coburg Hills, Timber Industry and the Coburg Bronco.

Live Bluegrass at Multnomah Grange on December 13 and January 10

Multnomah Grange #71, Multnomah County, continues its Second Saturday Bluegrass Concert Series with the Country Fools and the Book Club Regulars lined up for December 13. Filthy Skillets and Sweet Fern kick off the new year with their great bluegrass sounds on January 10th.

The Multnomah Grange's second Saturday concert series also hosts an open bluegrass jam in the Grange lobby when the doors open at 6pm. This is a family friendly venue, and concerts start at 7pm. You can arrive hungry, as the snack bar sells hot dogs, delicious home made desserts, popcorn and non-alcoholic drinks.

Multnomah Grange #71 is located at 30639 SE Bluff Rd in Gresham. Suggested donation is \$15 for



adults and \$5 for kids under 12, cash only, please. For more information, including the list of bands performing through May, check out the Multnomah Grange #71's Facebook page.

The Lecturer's Column

Susie Kroeker
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Lecturer - Oregon State Grange



Brothers and Sisters,

The Lecturer's committee has begun planning the Lecturer's contests for next year's state session and we have some exciting changes to announce! We will have a few special categories next year that you won't want to miss.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Joyce Parker, we will "Celebrate America's 250th Birthday" through photography. We will have three categories: Patriotic Scenes (parades, fireworks, etc.), Historical (landmarks, reenactors, etc.), and Patriotic Meal Celebrations. These contests will be offered only in 2026 and 2027 to honor this American milestone.

Last year we introduced "My Grange Story" which is an invitation to our Grange members to submit your stories to be compiled into a notebook to be read by current and future members. This is not a contest, but an opportunity to share your experiences in the Grange. Last year, we required that stories be typed and there was a word limit. Next year, we will accept clearly handwritten submissions and will not have a limit on words. We also would like to encourage Grangers to share not only their personal stories, but to share family grange stories if you have parents or grandparents who are members. The hope is to fill our book with histories of our Grange family.

In conjunction with "My Grange Story", next year only, we will have a "My Grange Story" cover contest. Our book of stories will need a beautiful cover, and my hope is that some of our artistic members will submit entries to create a permanent cover for our notebook.

Our Open Mic Night will return next year with a few tweaks. We will be

Silverton to Host MLK Celebration

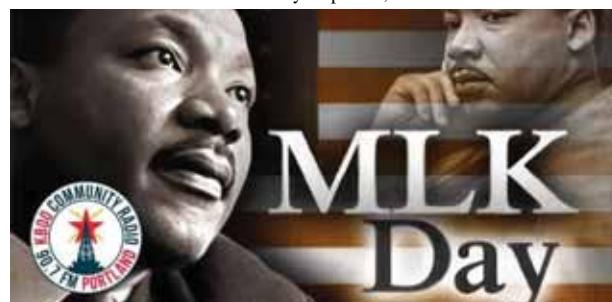
Silverton Grange #748, Marion County, and Silverton People for Peace will host their annual Martin Luther King Celebration and Potluck on January

opening the show up to non-members, though only members will be eligible for prizes. We will have two categories, Juniors and Adults. Any group with a mixture of juniors and adults will be judged as adults. We hope to have many of you join us in the fun by sharing your talents with all of us next year.

I've Learned

that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
that when you're in love, it shows.
that when just one person says to me, "You've made my day!" makes my days.
that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
that being kind is more important than being right.
that you should never say no to a gift from a child.
that we should be glad we don't get everything we've asked for.
that money doesn't buy class.
that underneath everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
that love, not time, heals all wounds.
that the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
that the opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you've missed.
that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.
that to ignore the facts doesn't change the facts.
that simple walks with my father (mother) round the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

19th. Bring one of Martin's favorite dishes (or yours) to share. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Thank you to their media sponsor, KBOO radio.



The Chaplain's Corner

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Chaplain - Oregon State Grange



Looking ahead to the new year with Gratitude...

Gratitude stands out as one of the most essential traits for achieving happiness. It involves seeing the good in everything around us and appreciating every person we encounter. When we focus on gratitude, we begin to notice the positive aspects of our environment and relationships, which can greatly enhance our overall sense of well-being.

Think of gratitude as a refreshing shower for our mind. It washes away negativity and leaves us with a clearer perspective and a lighter spirit. Noticing small daily joys brings greater peace and contentment. Rather than getting caught up in desires for more or dwelling on what is wrong, gratitude helps release mental burdens, opening space for appreciation and lightness.

Taking a moment to let go and appreciate what brings a smile to our face allows us to cherish the people who uplift us. Shifting our attention from what's lacking to what we have eases the weight

on our mind. This practice creates room for happiness and helps us value the support of those around us.

Carrying gratitude forward can shift our outlook—worries become less overwhelming, and moments of happiness are easier to find. Embracing gratitude transforms ordinary experiences into meaningful memories, nurturing a deeper sense of well-being that lasts long after the moment has passed.

As we move forward guided by gratitude, we may become more open to new experiences and the beauty found in everyday moments. This openness builds resilience, helping us handle challenges with greater patience and optimism. Gratitude fosters considerate behavior toward both others and ourselves. It encourages us to recognize our personal growth and efforts, cultivating an inner strength that supports us through both calm and turbulent times. Through thankfulness, we can enrich our life with warmth and meaning.

Dee Thomas McKern Past Chair of the Grange Insurance Association Board of Directors

Dee Thomas "Tom" McKern passed away on October 4, 2025. Brother Tom was born in Colville, Washington in 1942 to Dee and Ina McKern. He was raised in Rice, Washington graduating from high school in 1960. Following graduation, Tom completed Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at Washington State University where he also obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science and Natural Resources. He served in Vietnam with the US Army from 1965 to 1967 where he was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart.

Tom was a man of service, joining and serving in a multitude of organizations. He served two terms as Stevens County Commissioner from 1987-1994. In 1995, Tom was appointed to the Spokane Community College Board of Trustees where he served for four years. He spent many years on the Board of Supervisors for the Stevens County Conservation District. Tom, like his father, served as chair of the Grange Insurance Association Board of Directors. It was in that capacity that many Oregon Grangers got to know

him. In December 2024 after 28 years, Tom re-tired as chairman.



Tom McKern was a 67-year member of Quillisascut Grange and an affiliate member of Stranger Creek Grange. He had served in several Washington State Grange positions, including Gatekeeper, Assistant Steward, Overseer, and a member of the Executive Committee. He had been the Master of Stevens County Pomona Grange for many years and was the recipient of the 2024 Washington State Grange Leadership Award.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers and in honor of Tom's life, memorial contributions may be made to the Quillisascut Grange, c/o Carolyn McKern, 1602 McKern Rd, Rice, WA 99167-9729



9-11 Remembrance Service Held at Morning Star Grange

Morning Star Grange #311, Linn County, and the Veterans Community Center held a joint 9-11 Remembrance service at the Morning Star Grange hall. Held on the 24th anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, Brother David Soloman, Chaplain of the Grange and President of the Veteran Community Center led the memorial service.

York City Fire Department (NYFD) member and a survivor of the 9-11 attack. He shared memories of the day and his own photographs of the devastation resulting from the attacks. About 50 people joined the service which included color and honor guards, singers and speakers, including the Albany Fire Department, Albany Police Department, and members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Brother Soloman is a retired New



David Soloman, President of the Veterans Community Center and Chaplain of Morning Star Grange #311 and a survivor of the 9/11 attacks renders a salute during the Commemoration ceremony at Morning Star Grange on September 11, 2025. Behind Brother Soloman is the vocal group Praise NIN3D.



*Seen through the eyes of Faith,
we remember our Brothers and Sisters not as
ones dead, they have only gone on before us
through the gates of the Grange above, where
dwells the Great Master of us all.*



Springwater Grange Holds 103rd Annual Community Fair and 3rd Annual Car Show

Community members and Grangers entered their produce, canning, photography, crafts and more at the 103rd annual Springwater Community Fair put on by Springwater Grange #263, Clackamas County. Held every year on the third Saturday in September, this mostly free event attracts Grangers and community members from around the area.

Activities during the day included a scavenger hunt, tie dying, Cornhole, the ever-popular cake walk and other craft activities. New this year was a Lego craft tent where attendees could create their own Lego creation and enter it in the fair. This was part of the Rural Life initiative program that Springwater had received a grant for in November 2024.

As part of the fair, the 3rd annual Car Show with Tractors and Motorcycles too was held with 42 entries. The car show was a benefit for the Clackamas County Veterans Village and the Grange with each entry fee of \$10 per displayed vehicle split between the two. Prizes were awarded to the winning entries. All first place and special prize awards

R: Some of the many items entered in the Springwater fair.

were handcrafted by local artisan and Grange member Vernon Souders.

Refreshments were available for purchase including the prize-winning pies. BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs were also served. New this year breakfast sandwiches were made and served in the morning. The car show entrants really appreciated the ability to get food early in the day.

The event was highly successful with \$1000 raised for the Veterans Village.



Honoring 250 Years of American Spirit: The Grange Flagpole Relocation Initiative

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of the United States, the Grange is proud to take part in this historic celebration by launching a meaningful, patriotic initiative that reflects our enduring commitment to civic engagement and community pride.

This project invites local Granges to lead the way in rediscovering and restoring unused or forgotten flagpoles in their communities. By relocating these flagpoles to prominent locations-such as local parks, Grange Halls, town squares, or veterans' organizations-we renew their purpose and reignite a sense of national pride.

Many abandoned flagpoles can be found at closed civic buildings, such as shuttered schools, hospitals, armories, fire stations, and libraries, or former meeting halls of groups like the Masons, IOOF, or closed Granges.

These flagpoles are ready to stand tall again as symbols of freedom and unity.



This initiative not only strengthens your Grange's ties to the community- it also offers incredible opportunities for collaboration with local governments, historical societies, veterans' groups, and civic organizations.

Imagine the powerful moment: neighbors gathered around a newly-raised flag, young and old standing together in reverence, a community united in celebration of America's 250th birthday.

Let your Grange be a proud part of that story.



The Agricultural Report

*June Colony
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Agriculture Director - Oregon State Grange*

Last Saturday I witnessed a miracle adjacent to our South Fork Grange hall. Dozens of community members were hauling and spreading wood chips and compost over layers of cardboard placed over the long grass of the unused pasture behind the grange. Inside the hall, other folks were preparing and serving lunch to those hard workers.

Land is a precious resource that many of those workers cannot afford. But this 1.6-acre parcel was offered to our Grange on a 49-year lease by a generous neighbor, and we are working with the Oregon State Grange Foundation to make that come true.

I remember hearing a National Grange Membership chair say that the way to grow your Grange is to make it relevant to your community. Because our Grange hall had recently burned down, we had a big task in just replacing it with a remodeling of an old building on a side street in Lostine. But once that was accomplished, our membership was teetering at 7 (or less). It was time to find that relevance.

We instigated community lunches,

skills classes, a new library, hall rentals, a Farmers Market, and now, a Community Orchard and Garden. And our membership? Over 40 members now, with meetings that have babies and teens in attendance. 103 years old, South Fork Grange #605 has 49 more years of new work to bring fruit and veggies to serve our community. Proof that "Relevance" matters.

Does someone in your Grange grow a garden, giving away produce from its' abundance? Is there a young family near your Grange whose meals are scanty, and whose income is even scantier? Perhaps that Grange member could offer a basic class in gardening, and perhaps a small plot of ground by your hall could be offered to that family for their own little garden?

Community relevance rooted in our agricultural history can be this simple. Remember the lesson of giving a fish, versus teaching to fish? Surely someone in your Grange can give this gift of gardening skills to a family in need. Perhaps you will gain a new member or two through your generosity.



Above: Dozens of Lostine community members busy hauling and spreading wood chips and compost over layers of cardboard placed over the unused pasture behind the Grange.

Oregon State Grange Silver Sponsor of OSU Small Farms Conference

Oregon State University Small business, and more.

Farms Conference will be held on February 21 at the OSU LaSells Stewart Center. Geared toward farmers, agricultural professionals, food policy advocates, students and managers of farmers markets, a variety of educational sessions will be offered on a range of topics relevant to Oregon small farmers. Speakers include farmers, OSU Extension faculty, agri-

Check their website starting in mid-December for updated session descriptions and registration information. At this time, the Oregon Small Farms Conference will be an in-person event for 2026. Registration is \$85 per person until February 3rd. After February 3rd fee increases to \$100 per person.

Deaf Awareness and Family Health

Lilly Anderson
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OSG Deaf Awareness and Family Health Director



Cancer: What exactly is it and what are our risks?

Part One: Cancer Defined

Hello Grangers, and welcome back to our conversation. As some of you may know, I have just spent the last 10 months battling cancer and so it's been on my mind a lot. After my first few days of panic, I was able to settle into the subject and begin to do what I do, which is analyze the situation and try to determine what would be different if I still lived in a rural part of Oregon. As you can imagine, there was quite a bit.

Additionally, if you grew up when I did, the very word cancer, strikes fear. At the very least, there was the overhanging cloud, which even if I did survive, it was only a matter of time before it came back. To try to help any of you who might be predisposed to panic like I did, I thought we'd take a closer look at cancer, beginning with Part One: Cancer Defined.

So, what is cancer? Cancer is not actually a disease, but rather a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and can invade nearby tissues.¹ Normally, our genes send instructions to our cells, telling them when to start and stop growing. Healthy cells follow these instructions, cancer cells don't. There are over 100 types of cancer that are categorized by where they start in the body and the type of tissue they affect.¹ Here are the three broad cancer types:

The first type are solid cancers: this is the most common type and accounts for between 80 and 90% of all cases. This type includes *carcinomas* that form in epithelial tissue such as skin, breast, colon and lungs, and *sarcomas* that form in bone, cartilage, fat, muscle, blood vessels and other connective and supportive tissues.

The second type are blood cancers: these cancers start in the blood cells and blood forming tissue like bone marrow, or in the cells of the lymphatic system. Examples include leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myelomas.

The third type are mixed cancers: these are cancers that involve two categories or subtypes. Examples include carcinosarcoma and adeno-squamous carcinoma.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the U.S., and while a lot fewer people are dying of cancer than 20 years ago,

your prognosis is directly related to where you live. Those living in rural areas face greater challenges, have limited access to both early detection and treatment, and are more likely to be uninsured and live below the federal poverty level.² So, while cancer mortality rates have decreased overall, this has not been experienced equally across the nation.³ Research indicates an 8% overall higher cancer mortality rate for rural residents with some cancers significantly higher, such as lung cancer, which is 18-20% higher than urban residents.⁴

About one in four people will develop cancer at some time in their life.¹ In 2024, over 2 million people received a cancer diagnosis, and over 611,000 people died from the disease.¹ Cancer can affect anyone, but the disease affects more men than women, more people over the age of 60 than any other age group, and more black men and American Indian or Alaskan Native women, than other racial groups.¹ The most common cancers in the U.S. are: breast cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, colorectal cancer and blood cancers.¹

In addition to the type of cancer you may have, the stage your cancer has reached is also crucial to your prognosis. Cancer stages tell your provider how advanced the cancer is.¹ This helps providers plan treatments and helps you to shape your expectations of what is to come. Understanding cancer stages can be tough because staging systems differ between the different types of cancer.¹ So, a stage 2 breast cancer is not the level of disease as a stage 2 blood cancer.

Typically, cancer staging systems assign a number from 0 to 4 with the higher the number being a more advanced cancer stage.¹ Early-stage cancers involve less intrusive treatments and are more likely to be curable, while late-stage cancer treatments may focus on slowing the cancer spread and/or relieving symptoms.¹ Next time, we will examine the different stages, what types of treatments are available and what possible symptoms may indicate that a screening is called for.

As always, thank you for spending time with me. I wish you all great health and happiness!

Pleasant Grove Hosts Hospital Talk

Pleasant Grove Grange #475, Union County, hosted a community meeting to discuss the local Grande Ronde Hospital (GRH) located in La Grande. Several hospital personnel including CEO Jeremy Davis, Communications and Marketing staffer Karrine Broghitti, Patrick Flynn GRH Foundation Manager and other hospital staff attended the meeting held November 6th.

Those in attendance discussed and asked questions about a variety of hospital issues. Discussion topics included recent expansion of operating rooms to five, anticipated MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging technology update; use of tele-med for certain medical conditions like infectious disease and over transport-



Grande Ronde Hospital (GRH) CEO Jeremy Davis explains what's available at the Grande Ronde Hospital (GRH) located in La Grande.

NATIONAL GRANGE
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1616 H St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006

Stay Active. Have Fun. Get Covered.

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Did you know? Group activities - like service projects, club meetings, youth programs, and even having lunch with friends - are now being covered by many health plans, much like gym memberships are covered.

It's true. Enter the National Grange's partner, Grouper. Grouper works with health plans that offer their members activity benefits. These benefits, which begin with a \$50 annual payment, encourage you to stay active, engaged, and healthy through group activities.

References:

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- 4-Health Resources & Services Administration. Examining rural cancer prevention and control efforts, 2019. Accessed: <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hsra/advisory-committees/rural/publications/2019-Cancer-Control.pdf>

The Education Committee

Lyle Utt
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OSG Education Director



One of my favorite quotes “You don’t grow old when you stop growing; when you stop growing you are old.” The quote is a variation of sentiments expressed by several individuals but is often attributed to **Ralph Waldo Emerson**.

For me it has two parts, part one is learning from your mistakes so you don’t repeat them and become a better person. Part two is to learn new things on a regular basis, the technology and connectivity allow us to connect to a number of free online sources from free or low-cost universities to YouTube and other video sources. If you know a child that needs help with learning school subjects one of the best online sources is Khan Academy www.khanacademy.org. if you search online for “free online courses” you will find a lot of sites listed, remember to read carefully.

I noticed in the news this morning (11/9/2025) from the US Department of Education that the Department’s rulemaking will eliminate the Grad PLUS program as of July 1, 2026.

Here is a link to the news release. www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-concludes-negotiated-rulemaking-session-implement-one-big-beautiful-bill-acts-loan-provisions

Key Takeaways

- The ED announced that its negotiated rule-making session has concluded, with the advisory committee (the “RISE

Committee”) reaching consensus on all of the proposed federal student-loan rules under the OBBBA. The session occurred over two weeks in September and November.

- Major reforms under OBBBA being implemented include:
 - o Eliminating the Grad PLUS Loan Program (Grad PLUS) for new borrowing.
 - o Capping the Parent PLUS Loan Program (Parent PLUS) borrowing.
 - o Sunsetting the complex array of repayment plans created under prior administrations.
 - o Creating a new simplified repayment plan called the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP).
- Starting July 2026, for new borrowers:
 - o Graduate students will have an annual loan cap of \$20,500, and a lifetime cap of \$100,000.
 - o Professional students will face an annual cap of \$50,000, and a lifetime cap of \$200,000.
- The ED says these reforms are intended to “hold universities accountable for outcomes,” reduce tuition pressure, and ensure borrowers aren’t exposed to unsustainable debt.
- The RISE Committee reviewed and agreed on 17 regulatory provisions, and the ED incorporated more than a dozen changes to its proposed regulatory language based on committee feedback.

Donated Bottles and Cans Help Young Minds Explore the Wonders of Geology

In November Lake Creek Grange #697, Jackson County, presented a check to Lake Creek Learning Center (LCLC) in support of their 2025 Field Trip to the Oregon Caves National Monument. Lake Creek Grange was able to give the school \$1000 which covered the admission charge to the Caves of \$15 per student.

The Eagle Point school district does not provide any budget to LCLC for field trips, and these field trips can be quite expensive. Without monetary donations each year, LCLC would not be able to take their kids on cool education field trips.

The money from the Lake Creek Grange comes from the generosity

of greater Lake Creek community members who donated their re-



Robert Smith Leadership Scholarship

The Robert Smith Leadership Scholarship is open to all Grangers above Youth and Junior age and can be used to attend Grange Leadership Training opportunities including National Grange Convention, Oregon State Grange Convention, Western Regional Leadership Conference, and other Grange Leadership Conferences. Priority will be given to new applicants, but no limit will be placed on a member receiving the funds more than once.

Applications will be reviewed at the quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Oregon State Grange Foundation. Applications must be submitted at least 30 days before the event. Requirements of the scholarship include completing the application and writing a 200-300-word report/essay on the event and what was learned at the event. Applicants will receive funds after the written report about the event is received and reviewed by the foundation. The Oregon State Grange Foundation intends to provide these reports to Oregon State Grange Bulletin for inclusion in the paper. Submission of the report shall serve as permission granted for publication in the OSG Bulletin.

Year End Contributions and Re-imbursements

Now is the time to contribute to the Oregon State Grange Foundation. All contributions for 2025 must be postmarked by December 31, 2025.

Requests for reimbursement of hearing items for 2025 from the Thomas Hearing Impairment Fund are due by December 31, 2025. Reimbursement can be up to \$500 per year for expenses due to hearing issues. Complete the application and attach receipts to receive funding.

Mail request for reimbursement or contribution to:

Oregon State Grange Foundation
643 Union Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301
or via email to:
foundation@orgrange.org.

The Foundation Board of Trustees wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2026.

Metal Grange Town Marker Signs Available



Benefits the Oregon State Grange Foundation

www.fredmeyer.com/account/communityrewards/

Add/update the Community Organization on your account information page to Oregon State Grange Foundation - FM650



There have been several inquiries recently about the Grange Town Marker Signs. Did we have them, could we get them, are they still available? The answers are no, maybe and yes.

The Oregon State Grange does not stock them. We can get them but the shipping charges to the office and then to the Granges is cost prohibitive.

The best option is to order them directly from Monroe Classic, Inc.’s Grange member store www.monroeclassic.com. It is item #9343 and cost \$40.00. Currently shipping and handling is \$22.50.

Contact Mike at:
sales@monroeclassic.com
1.800.868.2330

deemable Oregon bottles and cans to the Grange for their community service efforts. In addition to LCLC, recent recipients have been the Lake Creek Fire Dept, and Eagle Point Scout Troop #48.

L-r: Lake Creek Grange Community Service member, Shirl Bandy, presented the check to LCLC teacher Heidi Daniels.

Rural Life Initiative Grant Recipients

2025 Oregon Rural Life Initiative Grants Recipient Granges and Their Stories



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ral-life-initi-
tive.

Five Oregon Granges received Rural Life Initiative Grants this past summer from the National Grange. Following this introduction are stories from four of the Granges about how they used the grant money to increase community involvement, partnered with other organizations and increased membership.

Future grants will be announced on the National Grange's social media and in the *Grange Today!* newsletter. Additional information can be found on the National Grange website at <http://www.nationalgrange.org>.

Granges, please make sure your members are signed up to receive the *Grange Today!* newsletter. Signup for the newsletter at <https://members.nationalgrange.org/grange-today-e-newsletter>. And start thinking about programs and projects that you are currently doing or would like to do that might qualify for a grant. Often the turnaround time from notice of grant to deadline to apply is short.

Pleasant Grove Uses Grant to Pump Up

Pleasant Grove Grange #475, Union County, received a \$1000 grant from the National Grange under their Rural Life Initiative program in order to pump up their fitness program. The weekly 'Exercise for Balance' class is just one of the activities and events that they do at their Grange; members want to serve their community and its well-being, including physical & mental health.

But the Rural Life Initiative Grant also has another component to encourage new memberships in the Pleasant Grove Grange. For each new or reinstated (previous members that dropped) membership, the National Grange added \$50 to the award. That is an astounding value and one that could help any Grange to deliver more programs and opportunities to their community. All new (and former) members are welcomed!

Pleasant Grove's proposal involved the expansion of an exercise/balance program into a general health info hub to also included involvement by our healthcare partners in the county: NEON (NE Oregon Network), Grande Ronde Hospital (GRH), Community Connection of NE Oregon (CCNO), OSU Extension, Selina Shaffer (Medicare and Supplemental Insurance advisor), Big 5 Sporting Goods (La Grande), and Columbia Bank. Primarily their partners provided educational materials related to nutrition, pamphlets related to health-related services, and rewards for those who came to the programs.

While Pleasant Grove had several ideas for their proposal, they chose to go with this one because they had most of the necessary components already identified- i.e., instructor in place, knowledge of prospective partnerships, as well as some ideas as to how to promote membership. The Grange chose to go for one of the \$1000 grants because they felt

Getting the Grant

Pleasant Grove heard about the grant program in multiple mailings from the National Grange, newsletters and direct email message, the timeline was very short- like one and a half weeks once the Grange gave the "go ahead" to apply. They quickly contacted their potential partners and got responses from a couple in time to enter them in the grant application. Several more came forth during the time of the grant award and were included in the final report sent to National Grange.



Above: Exercise balance program at Pleasant Grove Grange led by Laura Zambrano.



Lacomb Upgrades Community Market Gains New Members

The Lacomb Grange #907, Linn County, conducted a member outreach initiative as part of its newly minted Sunday Community Market. The market ran June 22 through September 28, on Sundays from 2-5, under the iconic Grange Giant Sequoia. They coordinated community activities in conjunction with their partners. The Grange offered a \$25 market credit to new members who sign up for the rest of 2025 and all of 2026 (a \$75/person commitment.) It has worked well for the Grange and for the market vendors.

Lacomb partnered with the Oregon State University well safety program, the 4H Ridgeline Ranchers club, the Oregon State University Small Farms Program and Living on the Land workshop and the Lacomb School Parent Teacher Club.

One of the Project Sustenance pillars is Community and Personal Resilience. This project leveraged the Community Market initiative which began on June 22nd into an active, very robust Lacomb Grange member recruitment drive; and they drew the connection between Grange values and long history to current community needs: well water safety, local outlet for home businesses, a source for research based practices that result in more secure, profitable small scale agriculture. The biggest impact has been the connections made every Sunday as folks drop in to chat, check out the local vendors, buy Grange member Brent Rea's wide variety of artisanal bread. He is not only a big draw for repeat customers, but also an evangelist for becoming a Granger.

Sunday August 8 when the OSU well water testing crew came out was the biggest draw. They sent out postcards and reported 43 tests for nitrate. They shared that sending out postcards is one of the most effective ways to reach many people who do not follow social media. And that is how the Grange got the idea of sending out a postcard for the Lacomb Grange. The difference

is that OSU has a mail list and Lacomb opted for Every Doo Direct Mailing (EDDM), so they sent a mail piece to everyone on the Lacomb route, 516 boxes.

Sunday September 14, the Grange hosted the Ridgeline Ranchers 4-H Club. Sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits were part of a petting zoo, and static boards explaining animal projects were on display. Lacomb had coordinated with the Lacomb School PTC, but it was last minute, so they are planning for more collaboration later. The PTC co-president explained how she uses Facebook as form of weekly communication and she will be an editor on the Grange's page to get them started.

New Members Engagement Plan:

Lacomb now plans a recurring social event on the 3rd Sundays at 3pm: Soup-A-Thons, a potluck of soups to try and to take home. It was suggested by a new member, Charlotte Aaron, and has received enthusiastic response. The Grange is still finding their way with messaging but starts the conversation by asking what folks think Lacomb is missing, what it needs, and how the Grange might help. More than that, folks see from their new banner that the Grange is welcoming, and the new website sees several inquiries a week using the contact form.

Getting the Grant

The Lacomb Grange Secretary read about the grant program in the National Grange email and circulated it to their members. The Grange voted on it at the July 11th business meeting and got it in by the deadline of July 30. They had already started the Community Market, and it was a natural fit to recruit from that base (vendors) and during the event.

They have eight new members that have paid their dues and applications for two families. When they do the Grange will have gained fourteen new members from this effort.

Rural Life Initiative Grant Recipients

Rockford's "Yes We Can! Preservation Festival"

Rockford Grange #501, Hood River County, used the \$1000 grant they received from the National Grange under the Rural Life Initiative program to hold a one-day "Yes We Can! Preservation Festival" on Wednesday, September 24. There were Nerd Talks on the upper floor of the Grange hall, at a podium with projector technology available, and offered hands-on workshops on the lower floor of the Grange, which has a kitchen. There was also a table for the "Museum of the Preserved," and downstairs a recipe library. There were eight Preservation Festival Raffle Baskets, with items such as a full canning kit, canning bottles, harvest bags, gift certificates for local organizations, canning tea towels, canning books, and more.

The Grange partnered for this event with Gorge Grown Food Network (gorgegrown.com). Their purpose is to build an inclusive, resilient regional food system that improves the health and well-being of our community. Gorge Grown Food Network helped with three areas as a Project Partner. First, they helped publicize the event via their networks, putting up flyers, and on social media. Secondly, they helped with setup during the day of the event. Thirdly, they had an information table in a prominent position in the hall of the event where they were promoting their programs, including the joint program of the upcoming Fill Your Pantry event held on November 2.

This event connected to Project Sustenance Pillars: Food Security, Community and Personal Resilience and Self-Sustainability. Food Security Pillar, sharing skills and making connections about preserving food enables us as a community to increase shared food security, within their neighborhoods and region and at great savings.

Community and Personal Resilience Pillar. As the National Grange points out, there are two dimensions to this Pillar, and our event spoke to both of them. First, we are building relational support through shared learning and skill building. "By nurturing relationships with friends,



family, and peers, individuals gain a support system that provides encouragement, advice, and practical help in difficulties. These personal habits foster adaptability and strengthen one's ability to recover and grow in the face of challenges. Furthermore, on a community level, resilience is built through connections, collaboration, and preparedness. These gatherings create a sense of belonging and lay the foundation for a strong, supportive community." The Preservation Festival nurtured relational and community connections, collaboration, and resilience.

Finally, this event aligned with the **Self-Sustainability Pillar.** The Self-Sustainability Pillar includes "Learning practical life skills, such as basic home repairs and proper tool use, not only saves time and money but also fosters confidence and empowers individuals to solve problems and promotes self-reliance." Learning preservation skills nurtures self-sustainability by helping people turn the abundance of our agricultural valley into sustained nourishment all year long. This kind of skill building breaks the cycle of dependence on commercialized food production. As older generations who relied on these skills age out, younger generations in our area have expressed a desire to step up their skillsets to keep the old ways alive.

Member Engagement and Recruitment

The Grange gained six new Grange members who joined during this project: five new individual memberships and one new family membership who joined during this project.

New Members Engagement Plan

How do they plan to keep these members active and engaged with your Grange regularly? One of the program organizers will reach out individually to speak to each new Grange member about their talents, interests, and vision by the end of October and extended a special invitation to their New Member Ceremony and potluck on November 12.



Nerd talks and other lectures took place upstairs in the main hall.



Fall Gardening Class follow up event out at the Rosland Community Greenhouse.

Little Deschutes Enhances Open Door Day Events

Little Deschutes Grange #939, Deschutes County, used the \$1000 grant they received from the National Grange under their Rural Life Initiative program to upgrade two of their Open Door Days (their version of an Open House), A Fall Gardening Class and follow up event and support for a "Drop-In" Kids Garden Day Camp.

These were events they already had on their calendar, but we added to what was already planned to meet the requirements of the grant. For instance, on one of the Open-Door Days a FREE Community BBQ was added where approximately 150 visitors from the community came to the Grange hall for lunch. The Grant paid for the food.

The Open Door Day BBQ was the most effective event. The next best was the Fall Gardening Class where they had approximately 22 community members. As a follow-up event to the garden class an extra event was held at the community greenhouse, putting to use some of what had been learned. Approximately 15 Grange members and friends of the Grange participated in a workday and picnic lunch. The "Drop-In" Kids Garden Day Camp was a win because of the connections made and what the Grange learned from the kids; how they liked to learn

based on the activities available.

Little Deschutes had participated in a smaller grant through the RLI & Pfizer at the end of 2024. (see story in the February/March 2025 Bulletin). Their President had watched a podcast where they talked about a leftover lump of money and were granting funds, but they had to be used before the end of 2024. This only gave them a month to spend \$500, which they did.



Open Door Day Community BBQ in September.

She then saw the 2025 opportunity for the \$1K Summer or \$5K Bigger Grant, they chose to apply for both. Since there were only two of the \$5000 grants and 30 of the \$1000 grants, they were not surprised that they did not get awarded the bigger \$5000 grant.



Little Deschutes gained four new members during the July 1st through Sept 30th period.

"Drop-In" Kids Garden Day Camp.



GWA

Susan Noah

susannoah6@gmail.com

OSG Grange Workers Activities Director

It's the holiday season and I am seeing lots of stories and advertisements from Community Granges highlighting their craft shows and seasonal activities. I have to say that I am a Christmas fanatic when it comes to decorating so by the time you all read this Mark will have made several trips to the storage unit and the attic to bring a boat load of red, white, and green into our home. I believe we can all find light in this season and hope that each of you will find comfort and joy as the holidays transition into the new year.

Memory Jars

Something that I read in the Connecticut Granger gave me some ideas for our Granges here in Oregon. Their PR Director wrote about creating a memory jar for the Grange. The Jar, often decorative, is used to collect and store memories for a specific period of time, anywhere from one year to longer. Memories can be written down on a slip of paper, and the jar can even contain small keepsakes, photos, clippings, drawings, or cards. The jar acts as a time capsule, allowing the Grange to reflect on the past year while revisiting the memories stored in it.

Start with a jar or container of some sort, decorate it as you wish either completely covering the container with fabric, stickers, special trim or leave it opaque. Either way, when finished leave it on display to be available to receive special memories or keepsakes throughout the year. These can be memories of

members and their families, messages of hope or gratitude, fun events at the Grange, special projects, or special members.

The more your members are involved the better the payoff at the end of the time period. Start in January of 2026 and plan on opening and reminiscing over the contents at your 2026 Holiday party. All year encourage your members to add items to the memory jar, and wherever it is displayed also leave some note paper for that spur of the moment addition. What a great way to remember the year, celebrate our triumphs and learn from our disappointments.

Contest Sponsors

It's also time to renew your contest sponsorships. Letters will be coming out soon to everyone who currently sponsors a GWA contest and I hope that you will all consider continuing your support of these great contests. We all look forward to the entries on display at the State convention.

For all our members, the contest guide will be out shortly after the first of the year. Remember we will continue to reward the member with the most entries in the GWA contests as well as the Grange with the most entries, so start now to get your items ready for the 2026 State Convention in Baker City.

As we move into the new year make your resolution to grow your Grange and to make 2026 a year of enjoyment!

Successful Leadership ~ Operating a Grange Conference Held

State President Sonny Hays-Eberts led a Leadership and Operating a Grange conference on Saturday November 8 at Marys River Grange in Benton County. 38 Grangers from nineteen Granges from around the state attended the all-day conference.



Subjects covered included identifying and developing leadership skills, how to run a Grange meeting and the basic requirements of a meeting, and operations of a Grange outside of the meetings. Other subjects included engagement: recruiting new members as well as engaging your current members; representing your Grange through interviews with news outlets and postings on social media; what is your Grange's external face. Also, What additional resources are available to assist your Grange.

In addition to the State President, state office staff members Steve Kroeker and Suzy Ramm were available to answer questions on reports etc., that Granges send to the state office.

This was the first of several conferences to be held. Two or three more will be scheduled around the state later in the spring.

Chili Cook-off Held at Pleasant Grove

Pleasant Grove Grange #475, Union County, held their annual "Chili Cook-off/Dessert Auction/Cider Press" event on October 25 in Summerville. Always a popular and rousing event, this year was no different. Many Grange and community members participated by entering their own special chili recipe or donating a homemade dessert for the auction or just sitting with friends and sampling the delicious chili entries.

The cider press was churning away as people brought their own



Auctioneer and Union County Commissioner Jake Seavert working his magic as he auctions off a homemade-from-scratch chocolate cake.



Grant Darrow, Community member, was the master cider presser.

apples to have them pressed into cider. Gallon jugs were provided to transport their freshly pressed juice back home. Community businesses donated items for a silent auction with everything from a delivery of pea gravel to quilting supplies. Union County Commissioner Jake Seavert, also a professional auctioneer, donated his talent again this year to make the dessert auction a lively success.

At the end of the evening everyone left with a full belly, a delicious dessert and maybe even a jug of cider. All proceeds are donated to the Summerville Grange for support and activities.

Monthly Breakfast at Williams Grange

Williams Grange #399, Josephine County, hosts a community breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The breakfast is served from 8:30 – 11 am and includes whole-grain pancakes, blue corn pancakes, bacon, sausage, and baked tofu with delicious organic coffee and orange juice. Hope you can join us sometime.



Above r: Cooks busy cooking in the kitchen.

Below: Diners enjoy a hearty breakfast at Williams Grange.





L-r: Grange President Marilyn Reiher giving Elaine and Diane the Junior obligation and explaining their responsibilities.

Winona Welcomes New Juniors

Winona Grange #271, Washington County was pleased to welcome their first two Junior members in over 40 years at their November meeting. Becoming +1 Junior members were Elaine and Diane Chiu. They are twins and it is expected that they will have twice as much fun.



The Sandy Has a Fun Halloween



Above: Some of the young people at the Haunted House.

The Sandy Grange #392, Clackamas County, held a Halloween haunted house and festival on Halloween night, October 31. The event was for the purpose of doing something fun and affordable for the community and with the wet and windy weather on Halloween it was a place to gather and feel a sense of sharing with the community.

The Haunted House and festival were headed up by a mother-daughter team - Cassie Ogden and daughters Zacari Ogden and Chyna Baney-Ogden with setup help provided by Grange members.

Junior Grange Corner

Vickie Thorp
vickieothorp@yahoo.com
OSG Junior Director



Since my last column, our Junior members are back in school and super busy with all their school sports, fund raisers, and activities. It can be hard to find time to get together for Grange things too. So let's think outside the box a little.

We Grangers are not always our best cheerleaders, so maybe we borrow or build on the example of our Junior's enthusiasm as they participate in their interests and activities. Notice how when they are super excited their smiles show over their entire faces and reach even their eyes. They lean into their audience and use their hands as they emphasize what has them so excited. Most of all they are genuinely excited and can't wait to tell you how great something is. That kind of enthusiasm is infectious in a good way. How do you describe your Grange events?

Maybe what I just described isn't your style or you aren't quite enthused enough to make it feel genuine to your audience. Talk to a Junior member and get their take on whatever you're doing, maybe they aren't finding your activity too exciting either. Ask them what would make it exciting for them or their friends. They already think outside the box most of the time and have really terrific ideas. Better yet get them directly involved. Give them an area to be in charge of or help with. Have them invite their friends and friends' families to our Grange events.

What schools do your Juniors attend? Local school districts are usually willing to post our Grange activities on their school web pages, so find out who to send your info to and let the community know what Grange is doing for them. In this digital age, don't forget to include your hometown newspaper to get the word out as well.

As the holidays are approaching,

there are so many ways to get involved in giving back to our communities. Put your best Grange foot forward and get the Grange noticed for all the good we do year-round!

If you or your Grange is donating items for the holidays, be sure to have pictures that include your Youth and Junior members for the public to see. So many people are looking for ways to actively be a part of helping their communities and love that the Grange starts at such a young age to teach the value of giving back.

If you are donating to an "Angel Tree" or something similar, take a Junior with you to help do the shopping. You would be amazed at how well they do at making those dollars stretch to have the most impact for the gift recipient.

Maybe you are holding a blood drive, while our Juniors are too young to donate blood, they make the best greeters or love to help pass out the snacks. Juniors are terrific company while the donors wait the 15 minutes before time to go on with their days. Also have copies of the Grange Bulletin for reading material while the donors wait their turn.

Have DIY decorations/ornaments that can either be done in a group setting or sent home individually to be completed. Next, gather them up and then take these to your local care facilities. Whenever possible take your Juniors with you to hand them out to the residents. You will never see brighter smiles than when a Junior presents one of those residents with a special gift. The residents appreciate being remembered and the Juniors get the recognition of a job well done. Both of these feelings last a lifetime!

Have a remarkable, memorable, safe and Blessed Holiday Season!



Above: A selection of gourmet Halloween cakes.

Community members provided pumpkins, hay, candy, and other decorations to help the project. The Grange served a five-dollar spaghetti dinner along with gourmet Hal-

loween cakes baked by the talented Grange and community members. The Sandy Grange hopes that this event will become an annual part of Halloween in Sandy, Oregon.

Legislative Update

Mark Noah
marknoah00@gmail.com
OSG Legislative Director



The 2026 short session of the Oregon Legislature gears up with Legislative committee days on January 13-16, with the session to start on February 2. The all-important quarterly revenue forecast, which sets the table for all the budgetary discussions, is due on February 4. This is a 36-day session (counting the weekends) and there won't be time for many new bills. Most of the session will be taken up with working on business unfinished in the regular or special sessions, or revising budgets to match the revenue forecast.

The big issue during the September/October special session was the transportation bill. There's a lot of controversy around this, and some Grangers have asked about the State Grange position. The fact is that we have two positions, which makes it really difficult for us to issue an opinion. In our policy handbook we have TU8.19, "The Oregon State Grange opposes increased vehicle registration and title fees" but we also have TU7.24 that says in part "The Oregon State Grange supports a combination of inflation adjusted fuel and mileage taxes increased to match inflation adjusted levels of 1960 to help finance road maintenance and improvement in Oregon". In our Installation of Officers ceremony, the installing officer states "Nor does our Order interfere with...religious or political views..." Thus, individual Grange members are not bound to OSG policy but must ensure that their opinions and actions are not identified with the Grange, especially taking care to avoid partisanship on a Grange website or other Grange-identified social media.

Oregon resolutions at National: we forwarded 8, with the following outcomes (the National Grange reference number is in parentheses):

- EH2 from Mohawk-McKenzie #747, 'Coverage of Obesity Treatments' (501-OR), committee report favorable, resolution adopted.
- EH4 from Clackamas Pomona #1, 'Medical Insurance Coverage for Acupuncture' (502-OR), committee report favorable, resolution adopted.
- LE1 from Lorane #54, 'Supporting Rural Mail Deliver and Rural Post Offices' (802-OR), committee report was unfavorable and the resolution was rejected.
- LE2 from Benton Pomona 'Raise Number of Congressional Seats' (304-OR), committee report was unfavorable and the resolution was rejected.
- LE8 from Clackamas Pomona 'Electoral College' (301-OR), committee report was unfavorable and the resolution was rejected.
- LE11 from Clackamas Pomona 'Executive Orders' (302-OR), committee report was unfavorable and the resolution was rejected.
- LE14 from Clackamas Pomona 'Preserving Funding of Public Broadcasting' (303-OR), the committee report was 'unfavorable as this is present policy' and the resolution was rejected for that reason.
- TU7 from Clackamas Pomona 'Wipers on and Headlights On for Safety' (801-OR), the committee report was 'unfavorable as this is present policy' and the resolution was rejected for that reason.

Note that National Grange delegates are now instructed to vote to reject a resolution if the session committee reports that it is 'present policy'. We might discuss the National Grange resolution process at our next Zoom meeting. As you read this, our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 28, 2026.



All Grangers are invited

OSG Legislative Forum Zoom Meeting

When: Wednesday January 28 @ 7 pm PDT
Where: Zoom

The OSG Legislative Committee will lead a discussion on current legislative issues, ballot measures and Grange resolution developing.

Contact: Legislative Director Mark Noah
login information
marknoah00@gmail.com



Government Affairs

John DeHaas
lobbyist@organge.org
Lobbyist for the Oregon State Grange

Hello Grangers,

This is a snapshot of what is taking place in Oregon with the upcoming Snap benefits, and how they will be distributed, under the new laws. There will be a lot more information on this subject, and as soon as we can get the information, we will get it out as I know that affects a lot of people in the state of Oregon, some Grangers too, so we thought that it would be very helpful to have this information.

The SNAP program in Oregon, which serves over 750,000 recipients, is currently facing significant challenges due to federal funding restrictions, new federal laws, and a recent federal government shutdown. Oregon is implementing SNAP benefit reductions mandated by federal law, rolling out new work requirements for certain adults, and navigating potential delays in benefit distribution caused by ongoing government budget issues.

Current Issues with SNAP in Oregon

1. Benefit Reductions:

Starting November 1, 2025, SNAP benefits were to be reduced to 50% of the current allotment due to federal funding restrictions. About 313,000 recipients will be affected initially, with others facing cuts over the following year.

2. Work Requirements:

New federal legislation requires Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) to work, volunteer, or train for

at least 80 hours per month to maintain eligibility for benefits. This requirement starts for some counties on October 1, 2025, with statewide implementation in January 2026.

3. Federal Government Shutdown:

The federal shutdown had created uncertainty, leading to potential delays in distributing November benefits for SNAP recipients. The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) had warned that benefits might halt after October 31, 2025, although emergency funds may help mitigate some disruptions.

4. Changes in Eligibility:

The recent law also removes SNAP eligibility for certain non-citizens, affecting many refugees and immigrants. Notifications about these changes began in mid-October, with benefits ending for some groups by October 31.

5. Support and Communication:

ODHS is sending notifications to recipients about benefit reductions and changes, emphasizing their commitment to helping families navigate these challenges.

Oregon's SNAP program faces significant challenges due to federal regulations, funding issues, and eligibility changes, impacting over 750,000 recipients. The situation remains fluid, with ongoing updates from ODHS and the potential for further changes.

Happy Trails

Grangers Worked With Other Groups to Get Water Bill Passed

The Oregon State Grange legislative team along with members worked to get **HB 3372 Relating to Exempt Uses of Water** through the 2025 Legislative session. Actions taken by Grangers to support and help pass HB 3372 included:

1. Making Phone Calls and Emails:

They reached out to their local representatives and state senators to persuade them to support the bill.

2. Testifying Online:

Granger participated in online hearings during the bill's committee review, providing testimony to influence the committees in favor of the bill.

3. Advocacy Letter:

The legislative committee, influenced by Grangers' efforts, wrote a letter supporting the bill and forwarded it to the relevant representatives and senators to bolster the case for its passage.

4. Our Lobbyists made personal

visits to Senators and representatives.

These actions showcased Grangers' proactive approach to advocating for the bill and facilitating its approval.

With the bill's passage, starting on January 1, 2026, up to 1/2 acre in commercial gardening within the existing commercial activity exemption for domestic wells — with no more than 3,000 out of the already allowable 5,000 gallons per day to be used towards commercial gardening.

Until now, irrigated agriculture was the only non-allowable use of domestic well water. This bill was designed to help increase access to local food, especially in Oregon's food deserts, where farmers markets are often the only reliable source of fresh produce.

Apron Auction~ r: Jesse O'Dell tries to convince Susan Noah to buy the apron he was modeling.

Right bottom: Phil Van Buren exhibits an apron to the bidders.

Below: Steve Kroecker demonstrates his modeling skills.



Upcoming Dates/Deadlines

November/December/January	Nominating of Oregon State Grange officers in Subordinate/Community Granges.
December 14	Oregon State Grange Holiday Open House – Salem 2-4pm
December 24- January 5	Oregon State Grange office closed
December 31	Oregon State Grange Foundation - “Thomas Hearing Impaired Fund” re-imbursement request deadline for 2025. Send them to the state Grange office.
January 15	Subordinate/Community and Pomona Grange officers’ information for Roster due to the State Grange office.
January 25	Nominations for Oregon State Grange Officers must arrive at the State Grange office by 5pm.
January 31	4 th Quarter Reports due to the State Grange office.
February 21	Oregon State University Small Farms Conference - OSU LaSells Stewart Center
March 1	Candidate acceptance and statements for Oregon State Grange Officers must arrive at the state office by 5pm
	Deadline for first 2026 Matching Grange applications. Must be post marked by March 1 or if emailing, completed application must arrive by March 1 at the State Grange office.
March 26-28	Western Regional Leadership Conference Best Western Airport ~ Boise, Idaho
April 25-26	Oregon Ag Fest – Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem
June 20-25	Oregon State Grange Convention District 5 – Baker High School, Baker City
November 10-14	160 th National Grange Convention Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
November 2027	161 st National Grange Convention Sparks, Nevada



GROW Club

“Go Right On Working”



*Mark Noah
OSG GROW Club President
marknoah00@gmail.com*

Ice Cream Social Served in California

Twelve members and friends of the Oregon GROW Club traveled to the California State Grange convention held at Van Duzer River Grange in Carlotta, California to serve an ice cream social following the conferal of the Sixth Degree on Saturday evening, October 11th.

Attending the convention were GROW Club members Susan Noah, Steve and Susie Kroecker, Sandi Ludi, Teresa Cernac, Jessie Jo Gutridge, Joyce Parker, and Suzy Ramm. Also attending the convention were Phil Van Buren, Jesse O'Dell, Roberta O'Dell, and Linda Helm.

Oregon Grangers participated in many parts of the convention including the Old-Fashioned Grange Dance and Apron Auction on Friday night which raised funds for their historical records preservation project, helping with their election and installing their officers. Oregonians also took advantage of scheduled tours and workshops to learn more about the area.

California's 2026 State Convention will be held in October at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in Turlock, and their 2027 convention will again be in the northern part of the state in Shasta County.



L: Susie and Steve Kroecker on tour at the Humboldt Distillery in Fortuna.



L-r: Joyce Parker, Jesse O'Dell and Roberta O'Dell follow along as resolutions were discussed.



L-r: Sandi Ludi, Susan Noah, Linda Helm and Phil Van Buren listen for their numbers during one of the raffle drawings.





Membership Matters

Jay Sexton
pawpawsexton@gmail.com
OSG Membership Director

Many Granges have just held their officer elections and the new officers are learning their duties as continuing officers perform theirs, but there is one responsibility, very important in the health of a Grange, which is often ignored.

Officers should think about who will follow them in their office – succession ensures that a Grange prepares its members for the natural evolution in leadership that is crucial to avoid a bumpy road of awkward transitions. The best time to think about who may follow you in an office is right after you are elected.

Each officer should let members know about the responsibilities of their office. Especially Secretaries and Treasurers should take a few minutes in a meeting to explain a few of the details of their duties. The President demonstrates their primary duty at every meeting, leading an organized, and properly prepared, discussion, without bias, which respects each member's contribution to the function of the Grange.

It is our responsibility to show that the offices of the Grange are open to all, not too much work, and not mysterious. All members should feel that they can participate and contribute to the distributed work of the Grange. No Grange should lay all the work of the local Grange on

too few shoulders.

New members particularly, should be encouraged to accept nomination into some of the less responsible offices, to "break the ice." New members will feel the effort to include them as a vote of confidence. Nothing is more discouraging to a new member than feeling like they are not an equal member of the group, that they are not needed for more than keeping a seat warm.

A Grange is strongest when there are several members who have held each of the primary responsible positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. New holders of these offices will have a mentor in the prior holder and be able to ask other members about details of the office. New officers should not be set adrift without help, but they should also be allowed to show their own individuality in the performance of their duties. This is often most obvious in the performance of the Lecturer and the Chaplain who can gain their inspirations from different interests, experiences, and social connections.

We all know the Grange members who do way more than their share. All of us need to step up and help our Granges grow strong and our memberships be mutually supportive.

Leadership & Membership

Open Doors Membership Award

The membership committee introduced a new award in the 2025 Awards, Contests and Scholarship booklet last spring. Called the **"Open Doors Membership Award"** any Grange which starts the year with less than 20 members and which has a net increase of at least three members at year's end will receive an award of \$50 from the Membership Committee.

It is not too late for Granges to qualify. Small membership Granges are encouraged to energetically seek new members and welcome them into our fellowship – bringing new ideas and energy.

Make sure all your new members are reported on the 4th Quarter report so they will be counted.

DOES YOUR GRANGE NEED HELP?

Installation of Officers Degrees (1-4 and/or 5th)
Draping the Charter Presenting the Flag
The Oregon GROW Club offers these and more.

Contact one of the GROW Club board members to get information.

- Mark Noah, President 971.726.6106
- John Fine, Dist. 1 - 541.673.0369
- Steve Kroeker, Dist. 2 - 541.974.1724
- Stacy Brown, Dist. 3 - 971.808.6431
- Vacant, Dist. 4
- Vacant, Dist. 5



GROW stands for Go Right On Working!!!

Grange Youth & Young Adults

Amanda Puls
OSG.youth@gmail.com
OSG Youth & Young Adult Director



This issue's column is written by District 4 Youth Chairman, Breanna Hays-McKay

Dear Youth and Young Adult Grangers,

We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful fall and are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season.

The Youth Committee encourages each of you to participate in a community service activity before the end of the year. Giving back is a meaningful way to support your community and identify areas where help is needed. We would also love pictures of you doing community service or participating in your Grange activities on the Oregon State Grange Youth Facebook page.

June will be here in no time, and we

would like to remind you to begin thinking about and preparing your contest entries. We look forward to seeing strong participation from our youth at the State level. If you are unable to attend State convention in person, please consider asking your Grange's delegate or someone traveling to State to submit your entries on your behalf.

Additionally, please note that the Regional Leadership Conference will take place March 26-28, 2026 in Boise, Idaho at the Best Western Vista Inn at the Airport. This event offers an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow youth and Grange members from our region, develop leadership skills, and enjoy a weekend filled with fellowship, games, and food. More details will be in the February Bulletin and on FaceBook.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable remainder of the year.



Grange Welcome Bags for New Corbett Neighbors

WELCOME to our community!

Inside are a few items to help you get acquainted with your neighbors.



The Grange Membership Committee of Columbia Grange #267, Multnomah County, welcomes new homeowners and renters to the community of Corbett with the delivery of a welcome bag containing information about the community. Neighbors are encouraged to let the Grange know if they know someone that has moved to the area via email columbiagrange267@gmail.com to have a welcome bag delivered.

2025 Lane County Fair ~ A Celebration of Community, Creativity, and Agriculture

This year's Lane County Fair held July 23-27 at the Lane Events Center in Eugene was a vibrant showcase of community spirit, with 17 Granges and one community non-profit organization coming together to create imaginative displays. Each entry captivated fairgoers, adding color and excitement to the event.



Collective Community Displays People's Choice Awards

- 1st Place: Spencer Creek Grange #855 ~ \$100.00
- 2nd Place: Mohawk McKenzie Grange #747 ~ \$75.00
- 3rd Place: Jasper Grange #532 ~ \$50.00

Agricultural Focus Displays Judged Awards

The Judging points were educational value, eye catching and attractive, easy to read, and good mix of visuals and creativity.

- 1st Place: Ada Grange #570
- 2nd Place: Crow Grange #450
- 3rd Place: Mohawk McKenzie Grange #747

Opening Day Grange Day Festivities

The fair's opening, known as Grange Day, was filled with fun for all ages. Highlights included kids' fruit and veggie dress-up entries, as well as cookies and beverages for

L-r At the October Lane Pomona Grange meeting, Ken Schwieger presented certificates to the Granges that won the People's Choice contest with their booths. 1st place Spencer Creek #855 ~ Cookie Trupp, 2nd place Mohawk McKenzie #747 ~ Katrina Brower and 3rd place Jasper Grange #532 ~ Ray Massingham.

everyone to enjoy. This festive start to the fair was made possible by the time and generosity of Grangers and Granges who provided treats and support.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to transforming the Wheeler building into a fascinating and welcoming space for all fairgoers. Your energy, creativity, and commitment made the 2025 Lane County Fair an event to remember.

Lane County Sheriff's Office Thanks Grangers for Support of K-9 Program

Creswell Grange #496, Lane County, President Martin McClure and Executive Committee member Patti Scott presented the Lane County Grange's \$4,356 check to the Lane County Sheriff's K9 Unit. Patti headed up the fundraising efforts at Creswell Grange, bringing in \$1,650 to help provide food and veterinary care for the Sheriff's K9 Unit dogs.

The fundraiser – a competition between the county Granges concluded in October. Creswell won the

competition among Lane County Granges to see which one could raise the most for the cause. As the winner, Creswell will get the prize of a public demonstration by the K9 Unit. It will happen in the Spring.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit is supported by community donations, which funded the purchase of Ripp. All donations go directly to the K9 program to supply food, veterinary care, and equipment.



L-r: Deputy Warner K9 Ripp's handler and Ripp, Creswell's President Martin McClure, and Creswell EC member Patti Scott present the check from the fundraiser.



Clackamas Pomona Enjoys Fun Night

Clackamas County Pomona Grange #1 gathered at Molalla Grange on Saturday September 27 for an evening of fun and fellowship. The evening started with a potluck dinner followed by a Pie/Dessert Auction for the Charlie Bowser Scholarship. The action raised \$500 for the scholarship fund which annually gives scholarships to college students from Clackamas County Granges.

Most of the members then moved on to play BINGO for white elephant prizes that members brought that included fresh fruits and vegetables from gardens, candy, cookies, and



Clackamas Pomona Holds Pumpkin Contest

Clackamas County Pomona Grange #1 met on Saturday October 25, 2025, for the 4th Quarter Business meeting at Garfield Grange. The meeting had the usual Grange and committee report plus a follow up on the Cookie Booth at the Clackamas County Fair which netted the Pomona Grange about \$5,000.

An annual feature of the October meeting is the Pumpkin Contest with categories of carved, decorated, largest and smallest pumpkins. The winners for 2025 were Annette Naylor, Clarkes #261, with the smallest pumpkin, Suzy Ramm

Springwater #263, with the largest pumpkin, Shirley Gilman, Redland #796 with the best decorated pumpkin and because there were no carved pumpkins this year, Lecturer Serna Johnson made a special category for pumpkin clothing with awards to Barbara Brockway, Eagle Creek #297 for her pumpkin sweatshirt and socks and Tracy Metzker, Redland #796 for her pumpkin shirt.

Below L to r: Pumpkin contest winners: Barbara Brockway, Annette Naylor, Suzy Ramm, Tracy Metzker and Shirley Gilman.



UPCOMING POMONA GRANGE MEETINGS

Pomona Secretaries are to send in meeting information to the Bulletin Editor as soon as date, time, and location are determined and/or changed.

Pomona	Date	Time	Meeting Place
Baker #24	Feb 7	10:30 AM	Eagle Valley Grange
Benton #36	Jan 17	10:30 AM	TBA
Clackamas #1	Jan 24	9:30 AM	Abernethy Grange
Columbia #18	Feb 7	10:00 AM	Yankton Grange (PUD)
Deschutes #25	Feb 14	11:30 AM	TBA
Douglas #13	Jan 18	6:00 PM	TBA
Josephine #20	Jan 31	10:00 AM	Fruitdale Grange
Lane #14	Jan 10	10:00 AM	TBA
Lincoln #10	Feb 21	10:30 AM	TBA
Linn #12	Jan 10	10:00 AM	Morning Star Grange
Polk #3	Jan 13	6:00 PM	Buell Grange
Tillamook #9			TBA
Wallowa #22	Jan	5:30 PM	TBA
Washington-Yamhill #2	Jan 17	10:00 AM	Kinton Grange

Oregon State Grange Grant Recipients

No More Leaks at Eagle Creek

Eagle Creek Grange #297, Clackamas County, recently received two \$5,000 Grants, one in 2020 and a second in 2024 from the Oregon State Grange plus an extension to complete work. Because of Covid and a serious back order on insulation materials required to complete the new roof, the project was finally completed in the summer of 2025. The Grange has a new metal roof with proper insulation installed on the hall to replace the original roof (*circa 1960's*) which was tin, very rusty, and sporting a few leaks. The roof was an eyesore, as the Grange hall sits at a four-way intersection and is the main focus for lots of traffic. They rent the Grange hall out on a regular basis and the old rusty roof was commented on many times by the renters as needing replaced.



The Grange learned that the key to a successful completion of a grant is communications. Communication about hours donated by community members, hours that a contractor overseeing a project will donate and hours he will expect to be paid for and communications about days when lunches need to be provided for the volunteers. The project went over budget, which is why the 15% contingency fee must be included in the plan and budget for hall improvements.

The Grange loves how the new roof makes the Grange hall look and thanks Oregon State Grange for the two grants and the extension of time so that the project could be completed.



Lake Creek Upgrades Meeting Room

Lake Creek Grange #697, Jackson County, was awarded a grant in the fall of 2023 and work was completed in 2024 and 2025. The primary aim of the Grange was to improve the usability of the main hall for more potential income.

There were two big projects: installing gutters on the outside of the building to protect the building and foundation, and to paint and patch up the main hall. The Grange hired a professional roofing company to do the gutters. Then volunteers were recruited for the Main hall.

This involved a lot of work on the inside of the building. The paneling (furring strips) and paint have given new life to the old space. Lake



Above: Scaffolding was needed to paint, patch and apply the furring strips to the ceiling.

L: New chandelier lights were added to the main hall, now the "feel" of the room is much improved after the new lights, paint, and cleaning of the wood floor.



North Bayside Beautifies Exterior

For North Bayside Grange #691, Coos County, painting the hall and putting in a new metal fire door was the outcome of the grant money and volunteer time put into their hall.

Volunteers pressure washed, prepped the taping and masking of windows and doors, and painted the building. Not only did the Grange members help with the project, but other people in the community volunteered their time as well. It was a great opportunity and a highly successful project that brought the community together.

The exterior painting of the Grange has been an overwhelmingly positive project with people stopping in at the Grange meet-

ings and complimenting them on the new appearance of the Grange. The day it was being painted people would honk their horns as they were driving by to cheer the Grangers on.

The front (or main) door was replaced by an experienced contractor of 40 years he had worked with concrete walls. After seeing the problems, the Grangers were very thankful they had hired him to install the new door. The new door is metal and fireproof, so it no longer has to be double checked to make sure it is locked and closed like the previous door did. The peeling layers of wood and paint no longer exist. The building is secure with the final door replacement and the paint enhances the appearance of the building.

Waterville Makes ADA Upgrades

Waterville Grange #416, Lane County used grant funds to improve Americans with Disability Act (ADA) issues at their Grange hall, and this makes their Grange hall and Community Center more welcoming for everyone.

The ADA improvements included new ADA signage in the parking area, door handles that are ADA approved, padded a sink in a restroom to prevent injury to persons



in wheelchairs and added an ADA hand washing sink in the kitchen which will allow wheelchair bound individuals to wash their hands while helping in the kitchen.

Your Name: _____ Moving? Let Us Know.

Old Address: _____ New Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Grange Name/Number: _____

Please provide name of any Subordinate/Community Grange office/Committee Chairman positions currently held.

Mail to: Oregon State Grange
643 Union St NE
Salem OR 97301-2462
gbulletin@orgrange.org