



WASHINGTON STATE

Grange News

September/October 2026

Informing Grangers Since 1912

115th Year No. 5

Coronet Bay Camp



Camp Wooten



Camp David

SUMMER CAMPS!

Junior Grange Camps Grow For The Future

The Washington State Grange Junior Camping Program experienced an increase in participation in 2026. Three summer resident camps were held in 2026, with one, Camp Morehead holding a day camp due to facility issues. All camps reported successful programs in their 2026 camping programs.

The Grange operates six weeks of summer camp around the state as a part of their programming for kids, ages 8-14. While each of the camps operates independently and under the guidance of a board of directors, the Washington State Grange retains jurisdiction and the ultimate responsibility of

the camping program.

The daily program varies from camp to camp. Each of the camps does participate in the traditional Grange opening, closing, and Junior Grange degree. Craft projects range from nature craft and jewelry making to sewing and tie dye creations. The recreational activities of each camp

depend upon what is available in that area.... be it hiking, swimming, archery, fishing, dancing, and games. Educational features included making pickles, food dehydration, and outside speakers on a wide variety of topics.

Plans for the 2027 Junior Grange Camping Program are now underway. Camp

registration information will be available in January. While we held three overnight camps this year, Camp NEWA in the northeast corner of the state is planning a weekend camp in 2027, while Camp Morehead is planning to relocate to another facility for a full week of camping on the Washington coast.

November/December 2026 issue deadline – October 20th
Submissions can be sent to grangenews@wa-grange.org

2027 CAMPS

- **David**, held on the shores of Lake Crescent, Clallam County
- **Coronet Bay**, located near Deception Pass, Island County
- **Wooten**, on the Tucannon River, Garfield County
- **Morehead**, a Junior Grange day camp on the Washington Coast

Violet Prairie Grange will vote to make changes to their By-Laws on October 18th at 3:00 pm with a 2:30 potluck.

	<u>Was</u>	<u>Now</u>
Certificates	\$12	\$15
Shipping & Handling	\$5 to \$20	\$9 to \$30

- Held a discussion over the unpaid bills of Garden City Grange #280, along with questions on the future of this Grange.
- Selected Tom Cullen to be the second delegate from our state for the National Grange Convention.
- Approved a line of credit for capital improvement grants with the Department of Commerce for the following Grange: Tri Community Grange #1008 - \$1250,000; Skamokawa Grange #425 - \$50,000; and Fern Prairie Grange #866 - \$176,400.
- Approved the release of property funds in custodial accounts for the following Granges: Salmon Creek Grange #849 – door locks and electrical upgrades - \$10,167.25; Windsor Grange #980 – refinish floors - \$6,000; Horseshoe Grange #965 – replace front doors - \$10,629.00
- Reviewed potential sites in the Eastern District for the 2028 State Grange Convention.

- Adopted a mission statement for the foundation: “The Washington State Grange Foundation is committed to building and stewarding sustainable financial resources that support the Washington State Grange’s mission of developing leaders, enriching lives, and strengthening families for a better tomorrow.”
- Adopted a new logo for the WA State Grange Foundation.
- Approved the request from Rome Grange #226 for the foundation to be the received of donor advised funds for electrical work at their hall.
- Approved the request of Skamokawa Grange #425 to utilize the foundation to receive grant funds to “raise the Grange” above potential flood levels.

Fred Meyer
community
rewards rewards
Where shopping & giving unite

General: grange@wa-grange.org



Please mail to:
Grange News
PO Box 1186
Olympia, WA
98507-1186

President’s Message

Time For Grange
Booster Program
Planning

By Tom Gwin
WA State Grange
President

As Granges are wrapping up their summer activities and moving into a colorful fall season, we start planning booster programs, open houses, and fall celebrations in our Grange Halls and throughout our communities. All Granges are encouraged to hold a Booster Program, with the intent that the program will give us a “boost” into the upcoming new year. The Booster Program is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our Granges and our members, while sharing the celebration with others who may be interested in our Granges but are not aware of our purpose and goals. With that in mind, I share with you this year’s Booster Program message, which can be a part of your Grange’s program this year.

GRANGE BOOSTER
PROGRAM MESSAGE
2026

Welcome to the Grange Booster Night! A longtime tradition, the booster program is intended to provide a “boost” in the activities and membership of each Grange.

*Washington State Grange:
Uniting Communities by
Strengthening Families,
Enriching Lives, and
Building Leaders for a
Better Tomorrow.*

This mission statement identifies our organization. It reflects our organization’s values, our storied past, our modern-day projects and activities of the present, and the opportunities facing us in the future.

Every community in our state is impacted by the positive contributions of our Granges. Every successful community Grange provides the opportunity for its’ members to unite their community. We strengthen families through our support of youth programs. We cultivate connections by creating partnerships with local schools. This may include our efforts to provide school supplies, dictionaries, and to present scholarships for students. We enrich lives by supporting food banks, reading programs, and other volunteer organizations. In each instance, the connection

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-- Tom Gwin

between the Grange and the community creates an impact by making each community a better place for our citizens.

The Grange is truly a “grass roots” organization. Grange legislative policy development begins at the local level. Subordinate and Pomona Granges have an opportunity to submit resolutions that will update or change our current Grange legislative policy. Each resolution is considered at our State Grange Session, held annually in June. The 2027 session is scheduled to be held in Yakima. The resolutions adopted by the delegates become policy of the State Grange, while those with a



Tom Gwin

national scope are forwarded on to the National Grange for their consideration as well. Our lobbyists, both in Olympia and in Washington DC, use these policies as they lobby on behalf of all Granges.

As we are a grassroots organization, our Granges follow our traditional regular format. These face-to-face meetings allow for the traditional discussion on the important issues facing our communities, state, and nation. While we do allow electronic attendance at meetings, many items may only be voted on by those present at the meeting. The plus for electronic attendance, either via telephone, Zoom, or one of several other mediums, is it allows for increased discussion from those who cannot physically be at the meeting, but who desire to debate the issues for the betterment of their Grange and/or community.

While our storied past is well documented and well written, perhaps our greatest opportunity for success is still ahead of us. We must continue thinking outside of our traditional programs and activities as we continue to enhance our communities, strengthen families and enrich lives.

As of September 1, over 500 members have joined the Grange in our state thus far this year. We ask that all potential members consider joining our organization, and to share in our values as we cultivate the connections that will continue making an impact across the state.

Legislative

Races To Watch
On Election Night

By Jesse Taylor
Legislative Lobbyist



Jesse Taylor

Happy Autumn Grangers! The leaves are starting to turn color, the Seahawks are 1-0, I had apple pie last weekend and we’ll be starting to process apples and pears at the Taylor household in the next few weeks. In my world these are the signs of fall arriving. But in the political world, in an even year, it also means the home stretch of election season.

You should start seeing ballots arrive from your county assessor’s office right about October 16th. This is the beginning of the statutory 18-day voting window in Washington State. With several ballot measures plus a host of local elections, combined with state legislative races, there is a lot to consider this year.

In this column I will take you through some of the closest legislative races to watch on election night coming out of the primary and how they will effect the majorities and overall landscape of the Washington State Legislature.

The August Primary

1. LD 35 Senate

Drew MacEwen (R) vs. Carolina Mejia (D)

The primary was almost comically close:

- Drew MacEwen (R): 20,441 — 50.1%
- Carolina Mejia (D): 20,310 — 49.8%
- Difference: 131 votes

This was a two-person race, meaning there wasn’t a third candidate distorting the percentages. Senator MacEwen is the incumbent Republican representing the 35th which encompasses portions of Mason, Thurston and Kitsap counties. Carolina Mejia is currently a Thurston County Commissioner. This is potentially a Democratic Senate pickup while the Washington Senate is currently 30 Democrats to 19 Republicans. Democrats are already talking about expanding their majority, while Republicans have relatively few realistic opportunities to make gains.

2. LD 12 House Position 1

Brian Burnett (R) vs. Stacy Willoughby (D)

This was another incredibly close primary.

The final numbers are approximately:

- Brian Burnett (R): 21,246 — 50.5%
- Stacy Willoughby (D): 20,786 — 49.4%

Only about 460 votes separated them.

What’s interesting is that Burnett actually trailed on election night, but on the second day of counting, Burnett moved ahead by only 108 votes, 50.1% to 49.8%. The 12th is a huge district geographically, stretching from Chelan County west along U.S. 2 toward Monroe in Snohomish County. Burnett is a Republican incumbent and former county sheriff. Willoughby is a first-time candidate with a financial-services background. The district leans Republican, so Willoughby doesn’t necessarily have the advantage just because the primary was close. But a Democrat getting essentially 49.4% against an incumbent Republican in the primary is a significant warning sign.

3. LD 37 House, Position 1

Sharon Tomiko Santos (D) vs. Kelabe Tewolde (D)

This is a Democrat-vs.-Democrat general election, not a traditional partisan swing race.

The August 4 top-two primary produced:

- Kelabe Tewolde (D): 19,891 — 51.8%
- Sharon Tomiko Santos (D): 18,504 — 48.2%
- Margin: 1,387 votes / 3.6 percentage points

So Tewolde didn’t just squeak into second place. He actually finished first and denied Santos the primary victory.

That is remarkable because Santos is a longtime incumbent and has represented the 37th LD for many years. The 37th is one of the safest Democratic legislative districts in Washington and Santos has served as the House Education Committee Chair since 2015.

The district gave Kamala Harris approximately 73% of the vote in 2024, according to district-level election data. Santos

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ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD



The Grange Foundation will accept nominations for members of the Advisory Board through Close of Business on October 16.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, bio, and a headshot to ngfb@grange.org and champ@nationalgrange.org.

Election will occur on November 8 at the National Grange Convention in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Lecturer’s Department

The Importance of Fair Grange Booths

By Claudine Mincks
State Grange Lecturer

It’s such a delight to find a large envelope stuffed in the mailbox when I open it this time of year. I instantly peruse the return address to see which Grange has sent it in, eagerly awaiting unveiling what the Grange Fair Booth Contest entry will look like. Was the booth displayed at a County or State Fair? How will it tell the story of agriculture? Will the booth be Produce or Educational? My inquiring mind can’t wait to see.

Speaking of fairs, did you know that the Washington State Fair was originally called the “Valley Fair” or

the “Puyallup Valley Fair”, and it first took place in a vacant lot near present-day Pioneer Park, in Puyallup, Washington, from October 4th to October 6th in 1900? Well, it did, and for a buck per family they could attend all three days of it. The perimeter was made up of a temporary ten-foot wooden fence with a wide opening in it to serve as the main entry gate.

Livestock and horses were tethered to the fence perimeter. A few sheds were built with left over lumber from the fence to house some of the exhibits in. Under a large tent, much like a circus tent, fresh produce and community exhibits were

displayed to keep them safe from the weather. Can you imagine that today? Do any of your county fairs still do that? The original founder of the Washington State Fair was actually a group of local farmers and merchants that was led by Lewis Alden “Dad” Chamberlain.

Just like we Washington State Grangers have a purpose, uniting communities by strengthening families, enriching lives, and developing leaders for a better tomorrow, so did the original Valley Fair Association. Their purpose in that first year was the need to promote the interests of agriculture, horticulture, dairy and beef cow production, mining and manufacturing of the industries of the Puyallup Valley, and for 126 years it has done just that.

It seems, to me, as Grangers, we are still promoting the same interests that fellow Washingtonians were in 1900, and there is a feeling of pride about that fact. Proudly Grangers are displaying the importance of agriculture, horticulture, dairy and beef cow production, and



Claudine Mincks



Pictured is the “Puyallup Valley Fair”, which first took place in a vacant lot near present-day Pioneer Park, in Puyallup, Washington, from October 4th to October 6th in 1900. The perimeter was made up of a temporary ten-foot wooden fence with a wide opening in it to serve as the main entry gate.

Heirloom Project Readings September, October and November 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026 (Autumn E.1): “Gather only the good seed. Our associations in life are the fields in which we reap. Use judgment, and while you glean let your example be such that others may profit by it.”
(Third Degree, President)



OCTOBER 2026 (Autumn E.2): “We must reap for the mind as well as for the body, and from the abundance of our harvest, in good deeds and kind words, dispense charity.”
(Third Degree; President)

NOVEMBER 2026 (Autumn E.3): “My Brothers and Sisters, all honest labor is honorable.”
(Third Degree; Vice President)

SPEAK LIKE A “CHAMP”

Speak like a “CHAMP” is a monthly message designed to get everyone speaking the same language to encourage positive teamwork as we Grange.

IMPACT PARTNERSHIPS

Impact Partnerships are collaborations intentionally designed to produce measurable, meaningful results for a community or organization. Unlike symbolic or superficial partnerships, **impact partnerships** are strategic, outcome-focused, and aligned with shared values and goals. They leverage the strengths of each partner – whether civic, nonprofit, agricultural, business, or governmental – to address needs, enhance capacity, and create sustainable change. For the Grange, **impact partnerships** expand our reach, accelerate progress, and demonstrate the powerful results that come from working together with purpose.

LECTURER AND FAMILY LIVING MONTHLY JOINT ZOOM PROGRAM SCHEDULE

State Lecturer Claudine Mincks and State Family Living Director Debbie Fisch have scheduled joint Zoom Sessions for the two departments on the First Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 PM on the WSG zoom link platform.

10/07/2026	03/03/2027
11/04/2026	04/07/2027
12/02/2026	05/05/2027
01/06/2027	06/02/2027
02/03/2027	

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98036971581>

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,98036971581# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

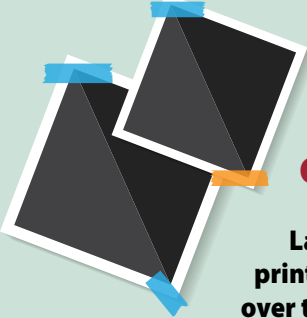
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

Fair Displays To Be Featured In November Issue

Grange fair displays will be featured in the November issue of The Grange News. All Granges (Junior, Subordinate, Pomona) completing a display at their local or county fair should take a clear picture of their display to submit for printing in the November issue.

Pictures should be emailed to grangenews@wa-grange.org . We also need the name of the Grange and what fair your display was in.



Deadline for submitting fair display photos is October 20.

Late photos will not be printed and will not be carried over to the next issue.

Legislative

Races To Watch On Election Night

Continued from Page 3

also ran essentially unopposed in 2024, receiving 98.3% of the general-election vote.

4. LD 18 House Position 1

Stephanie McClintock (R) vs. Randi Knott (D)

This is where the Southwest Washington story becomes particularly important.

Primary:

- Randi Knott (D): ~51.6%
- Stephanie McClintock (R): ~48.2%

The other 18th District House race produced a similar result:

- Deken Letinich (D): ~53.4%
- John Ley (R): ~46.5%

So Democrats aren't merely competitive in the 18th — they are ahead in both House races in the primary. Southwest Washington is arguably the most important geographic battleground for the state House in 2026. Democrats currently have a 59-39 House majority, and they're trying to reach a two-thirds supermajority. That would require flipping seven Republican seats. The 17th and 18th districts are central to that effort. In fact, Washington State Standard identified four Republican House incumbents in the 17th and 18th as vulnerable after the primary.

November 3rd is election day across the nation. Do your civic duty and vote for the outcome of our desire and have your ballot mailed or dropped by 5pm that day!

2027 Convention Info



JUNE 23 - 26, 2027

138th Annual Washington State Grange Convention

at the

Central Washington Fairgrounds

(State Fair Park)

1301 South Fair Avenue, Yakima, WA 98901

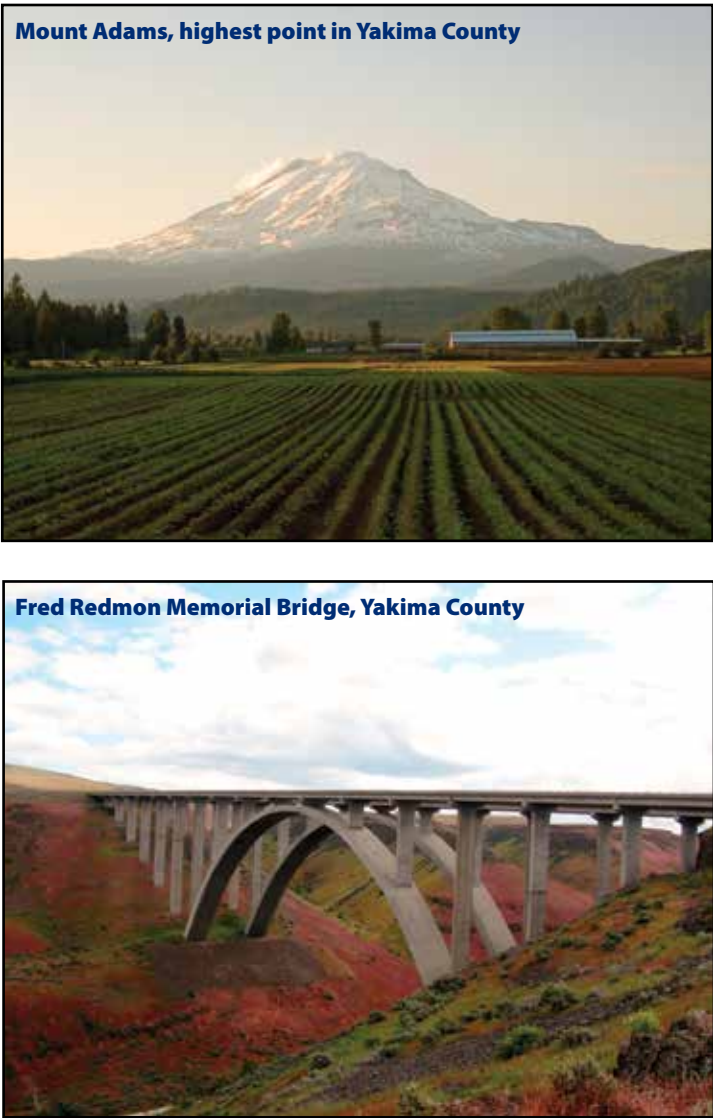


2027 WA State Grange Convention Lodging Information

The 2027 Host Committee for the WA State Grange Session recommends early booking for both hotels and RV spaces. There are several other events in the Yakima area during our convention, thus the need to book early to allow better options for our Grange members. Below are some of the recommended hotels for our 2027 State Grange Convention. **Book Soon!**

HOTELS AND LODGING									
AVERAGE NIGHTLY RATES (\$) \$99 OR LESS, (\$\$) \$100-\$200, (\$\$\$)\$200 OR MORE POOL (I) Indoor, (O) Outdoor BREAKFAST (C) Continental, (F) Full									
	RATES	WI-FI	RESTAURANT	BAR/Lounge	ROOM SERVICE	BREAKFAST	POOL	FITNESS	PETS WELCOME
BAYMONT INN BY WINDHAM YAKIMA 509-457-4444 * wyndhamhotels.com * 1603 E Yakima Ave * Yakima	\$\$	X				C	O	X	X
BEST WESTERN PLUS AHTANUM INN 509-248-9700 * bestwestern.com/ahtanum * 2408 Rudkin Rd * Union Gap	\$\$	X					F	O	X DOGS ONLY
OXFORD SUITES 1701 E Yakima Avenue * Yakima * book online in the reserved Grange block of rooms http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=5416513&hotelID=106556	\$\$	X		X		X	X	X	
FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES 509-452-3100 - marriott.com * 137 N Fair Ave * Yakima	\$\$	X				C	O	X	X
LEDGESTONE HOTEL 509-453-3151 * ledgestonehotel.com * 107 N Fair Ave * Yakima	\$\$	X						X	

RV PARKS AND CAMPING									
	# OF RV SITES	# WATER POWER SEWER	# OF TENT SITES	SEWER DUMP	SHOWERS	PETS WELCOME			
CENTRAL WASHINGTON STATE FAIR PARK 509-248-7160 EXT 112 * statefairpark.org * 1301 S Fair Ave * Yakima	169	148	19		0	X	X		
YAKIMA SPORTSMAN STATE PARK 509-575-2774 * parks.wa.gov	37		37	X	33		X		



Home & Family

Autumn News From The Family Living Department

By Debbie Fisch
Family Living Director

“The greatest gift you can give another person is your time, because when you give your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back.”
~ Unknown

As summer turns to fall, life shifts quickly — cooler mornings, shorter days, and harvests that remind us to slow down and focus on what matters. Fall always brings me back to family, friends, traditions, and community, especially after a year filled with work, Grange activities, and volunteer commitments. Family traditions grow from simple moments: picking apples, gardening, preserving food, sharing meals, or attending local fairs. This year, our family welcomed a new son in law and our fifth grandchild, adding to those traditions. We learn so much from parents and grandparents

through shared time— recipes, stories, gardening tips, and traditions passed down because we paused long enough to share them. Harvest season teaches us that good things take time, just like families and our Granges. The seeds we plant today— teaching a child, welcoming a new member, listening to an older member’s stories, or working together—shape the future. I love collaborating on our Grange Booth Committee and celebrating afterward with a simple meal together. One of the greatest strengths of the Grange is how it brings generations together. Longtime members offer history and experience; younger members bring energy and new ideas. Asking each other questions helps us learn and grow. Granges are more than meetings—they are neighbors helping neighbors. Food drives, scholarships, community meals, agricultural projects, and simple acts of kindness

teach young people what service looks like. They learn by watching us. Life is busy, but we must make room for the people who matter. Share meals, call someone you miss, listen to a grandparent’s story, teach a recipe, take a walk, garden together, come to a meeting, and stay to visit. We may forget our to do lists, but we remember the people, the laughter, and the traditions. As we enjoy the harvest, it is worth asking what we are planting in our families and Granges—kindness, service, gratitude, and community. The future depends on today’s small actions: inviting someone, teaching a skill, sharing a meal, or listening. Time is precious. Give some to your family, your Grange, and your community. Share stories, teach traditions, welcome others. These moments become tomorrow’s harvest.



Debbie Fisch

Malo Grange Hosts Candidate Forum



Malo Grange hosted a candidate forum as the ballots were arriving for the primary election. The forum was well attended and we had candidates for state senate and representative, county commissioner, sheriff and superior court clerk and other local candidates in attendance.

Community Service

What’s Next On Youth Community Service Card?

By Leslie Wells
Community Service Director

Summer is winding down – can you feel it? The mornings start out much cooler and our days aren’t quite as warm as they have been. The Farmer’s markets are also winding down which means our ability to get farm fresh produce for the last of our canning and preserving will soon be gone. Yes, I feel fall is in the air. This time of year also signals changed in our home life. With kids back in school our focus changes to different activities – homework, after school sports, and other endeavors. There is also a time when our Grangers start to consider some new Community Service projects. For instance, how about a Haunted House or Halloween Party for your community members. Now would be a good time to start planning for your event. Who is going to Chair the

project? (Someone needs to be in charge!) What will you have? What will it involve? What will be the financial impact on your Grange? How will you get the information about the event out to the public? Do you want to consider partnering with another community group? Even something as simple as hosting a Trunk or Treat in your Grange Hall parking lot will require some planning. As with any project your Grange gets involved in, be sure to review your Grange Hall Insurance policy to make sure your event is in compliance with your coverage. This is really important, especially if you are hosting community members in your Hall. Another project suggestion involves your local schools. Many of our Granges still participate in The Dictionary Project. This involves purchasing and distributing dictionaries to the third-grade students in your local school(s). After talking with

the school administrators to verify they are interest in receiving them, you can order the dictionaries online through www.DictionaryProject.org. There are a variety of dictionaries to select from. If you have any questions, the contact number on the website are (843) 856-2706 or (843) 737-1345. You can also just ask your local school administrators if there is anything your Grange members can do to assist them with the learning process – tutoring or reading coaches perhaps. I think this is especially important in the early foundational grades. There may be a need for us be we’ll never know if we don’t make contact. Whatever your Grange members decide to do, please do it well. After all, we are also members of the community and we care!



Leslie Wells

Good Time Had By All At Ohop Grange



Although Ohop Grange only meets once each month in June, July, and August, we have stayed busy. In July we hosted the annual Pomona Picnic followed just a week later with an Open House for the Community. We are happy to report that a couple of the visitors to the open house have joined the Grange. August means hours of getting the fair booth in for the State Fair at Puyallup. It is always a lot of work, and we were happy to have a couple of young new members step up and help out with both products and labor in getting items placed in the sloping display space. September brought a fun event at our hall when we collaborated with the local food co-op and an Old Time Fiddlers group for an evening of music and dance. Dancers ranged from retired couples, to single friends, families with children, and mothers who danced with their daughters as a caller taught round and square dances. She also taught dances with great explanations and steps. The band provided lively music. A good time was had by all.

National Grange News

A View From The Hill - Fall 2026 Wrap-Up

By Burton Eller
National Grange
Legislative Director

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Grange urges passage of the Senate farm bill

The National Grange joined 263 farm, ranch, food, conservation, research, education, rural, and other groups to urge the Senate Agriculture Committee to expeditiously pass the Agriculture Act of 2026 in a bipartisan manner. The letter to Chairman Boozman (R-AR) and Ranking Member Klobuchar (D-MN) highlighted the significant pressures facing U.S. agriculture and the urgent need for a farm bill to get across the finish line to provide certainty and support for America’s farmers and ranchers. The Committee failed to reach that milestone, however, amid a partisan feud over Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provisions. Negotiations continue, and another attempt to pass the farm bill is expected in September after the Senate returns from its August recess.

House budget package with ag aid heads to the Senate

The House passed a \$95 billion budget measure, or “reconciliation 3.0,” which includes around \$12 billion to help the struggling ag sector. The package also includes funds for the war in Iran and the SAVE America Act, which would require proof of citizenship to register to vote and photo ID to vote in federal elections. Its future in the Senate may be shaky as Majority Leader Thune (R-SD) looks for a strategy to fund the government beyond September and avoid a government shutdown.

Secretary Rollins proclaims National Farmers Market Week

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins signed a proclamation recognizing August 2-8, 2026, as National Farmers Market Week. She called on Americans to make the week a nationwide celebration by visiting and supporting their local farmers markets. Observed the first full week of August annually, National Farmers Market Week recognizes the

important role farmers markets play in strengthening local communities, creating new market opportunities for producers, and connecting consumers with fresh, American-grown food.

Harvest to Hallways for schools

The USDA and HHS (Department of Health and Human Services) will invest \$70 million in cafeteria infrastructure, \$25 million to incorporate locally produced foods into child nutrition programs, and \$30 million in research to identify practical, cost-effective ways to improve the quality of school meals under their new Harvest to Hallways Initiative.

AG WORKFORCE

Massive support for House ag labor bill

The National Grange and over 460 state and national organizations signed a letter to all members of the House in support of the Securing Agriculture’s Workforce Act, H.R. 9535. This bipartisan legislation was drafted and introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA) to reform the outdated H-2A program. Given the increasing unavailability of domestic workers, the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Program is the only option for many agricultural producers to secure the workers they need. The cosigners urged the House to pass the bill swiftly. H-2A is costly, administratively burdensome, slow, and was designed for larger producers who need large numbers of workers. The Grange is disappointed that the legislation did not include a program outside H-2A for smaller producers who need only a few workers. A new program lacked the political will for such a debate, plus it was opposed by the administration..

Ag worker bill opens GOP rift

Immigration hawks are crying “betrayal” of the party’s immigration agenda and are mobilizing President Trump’s

base to tank the years-long effort aimed at helping farmers secure scarce labor as introduced by Chairman Thompson. Many objectors are referring to the effort as granting amnesty to undocumented immigrants, a claim that Thompson readily rejects. For now, President Trump and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH), whose panel has jurisdiction over the bill, are noncommittal on Thompson’s legislation.

HEALTH CARE

Hamp urges approval of cancer screening technology

National Grange president Chris Hamp filed comments with FDA’s Molecular and Clinical Genetics Panel to support the approval of the cancer screening Galleri technology. Established screening programs exist for a limited number of cancers. Galleri can detect dozens of cancers at early stages with a simple blood draw. Early diagnosis and treatment of cancer is vital to patient recovery. Hamp pointed out that cancer is one area where geography, distance, and time continue to matter far too much. Cancer centers are not in rural areas. Commuting to distant cancer centers for treatment after the disease has progressed creates major upheavals for the patient and the patient’s family, time commitment, business, expenses, caregivers, and quality of life.

Grange addresses end-stage renal disease

In a letter to Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Grange President Chris Hamp called for CMS to reverse a recent policy that bundles phosphate-lowering therapies with all other dialysis center services. Rural kidney patients are left navigating a system where geography, provider access, and food insecurity compound one another. Managing blood phosphorus levels is a life-or-death consideration that can be managed by the kidney patient’s own local doctor

without having to travel for hours for mandatory in-center treatments.

Grange joins Hill briefing panel

National Grange’s Burton Eller joined American Cancer Society and Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease panelists for a congressional briefing on emerging cancer treatment innovations. Many cancer therapies depend upon hours-long intravenous infusions at a major cancer center. Now, it is possible to treat several cancers with subcutaneous injections at a local doctor’s office. Approval of targeted subcutaneous injection cancer treatments will save rural cancer patients considerable time, expense, travel distance, and fatigue.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

GAO says broadband access is improving

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee that broadband has improved over the last four years despite continuing issues with inter-agency coordination. In 2022, GAO found significant fragmentation in rural broadband programs. There are 130 federal broadband programs administered by 15 agencies. GAO found that this myriad of programs created a fragmented, overlapping patchwork of funding that could lead to wasteful duplication of funding and effort. GAO noted that it had previously recommended agency coordination and collaboration to understand what each agency is doing, where it is deploying broadband, and whether it is leveraging resources to bring communities up to speed. Progress has been made, but the recommendations have not been fully implemented. The largest agencies administering broadband programs are the USDA, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of the Treasury.



OF INTEREST

Work requirements kick in, SNAP enrollment drops

Enrollment in the largest federally funded food aid program dropped more than 13% in a 12-month span, a decline far steeper than the government estimated for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Another SNAP impact is expected when states are required to pay part of the cost of benefits if their error rate (when recipients receive more or less than they should) is above 6%. These requirements, an attempt to initiate welfare reform, were part of the President’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed by Congress last year.

Did data centers creep up on rural communities?

Rural America is rapidly becoming the next frontier for digital infrastructure, and the scale of the transformation is without modern precedent. According to Pew Research Center, 67% of the approximately 1,500 data centers now in various stages of development are planned for rural locations. Of these, 39% of planned projects are targeting counties that currently have no data centers. Grange members are encouraged to become engaged with their county governments and local planning bodies as data center expansion comes to fly-over country. Data centers are necessary to support the country’s technology explosion. The issue is not whether we must deal with data centers, but it’s how to deal with them. This is a local issue, and Grange members have the opportunity to help shape their community’s future.

Membership Corner

A Time to Grow, Lead, and Thrive

By Sophia Keller
Membership Director

Election season is more than choosing officers for the coming year. It is a chance to renew our vision, celebrate new leadership, and explore fresh opportunities to strengthen our Granges and the communities we serve.

As new officers and committee members step into leadership roles, let's take a moment to think beyond our routine and ask some important questions:

- How can our Grange become an even stronger community resource?
- What new partnerships can we build in 2027?
- How can we create experiences that inspire people of all ages to get involved?
- What opportunities can we provide for emerging leaders?
- How do we ensure every member feels valued, engaged, and connected?

Meeting Growing Community Needs:

Across the country, people are seeking practical skills, meaningful relationships, and opportunities to connect with their neighbors. Many are learning to garden, raise livestock, preserve food, and become more self-sufficient. These interests align perfect-

ly with the knowledge and traditions found within our Granges.

Consider offering programs such as:

- Backyard Beekeeping Basics
- Seed Saving and Garden Planning
- Intro to Homesteading
- Farm-to-Table Cooking Classes
- Emergency Preparedness Workshops
- Financial Literacy for Families
- Youth Leadership and Public Speaking Programs

These types of educational experiences position the Grange as a valuable community hub while giving residents a reason to walk through our doors.

Turning our Visitors into Future Members:

Every event is an opportunity to build relationships. Instead of simply handing out membership applications, create meaningful ways to stay connected. Consider:

- A community interest survey
- A free door prize drawing
- A newsletter sign-up sheet
- A QR code linking

to your Grange website or social media pages

Follow up with attendees after the event. A simple phone call, email, or personal invitation to the next meeting can make all the difference. People are far more likely to join when they feel genuinely welcomed.

This year, set one ambitious goal that stretches your Grange beyond its comfort zone.

Building Membership Through Engagement:

New members are attracted by activities, but they stay because they find purpose. When welcoming new members:

- Assign a mentor or "Grange Buddy."
- Invite them to serve on a committee right away.
- Ask about their talents and interests.
- Provide a brief orientation about Grange history, principles, and opportunities.

The goal isn't simply in-

creasing membership numbers. It's helping people find a place where they belong and can contribute.

Fresh Ideas for Membership Growth:

Community Open House:
Transform one meeting night each year into a community open house with displays, refreshments, and demonstrations showcasing everything your Grange does.

Bring-a-Friend Challenge:
Encourage every member to bring one guest to an event during the year. Small efforts by many members can create significant growth.

Community Champions Night:
Recognize local volunteers, teachers, farmers, first responders, or nonprofit leaders. Honoring community members creates goodwill and introduces new people to the Grange.

Young Families Welcome Events:
Host family-friendly activities such as:

- Family game nights
- Outdoor movie nights
- Community picnics
- Harvest celebrations
- Family craft workshops

Service Projects That Make a Difference:
One of the best ways to increase visibility is through service. Ideas include:

- Community clean-up days
- School supply drives
- Senior assistance programs
- Holiday meal baskets
- Pollinator and community garden projects
- Support efforts for local veterans
- Scholarships for students pursuing agriculture or trades

When people see the positive impact of the Grange, they naturally become interested in learning more.

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders for Today:

Leadership succession doesn't happen by accident. Encourage members to:

- Chair a committee
- Lead a project
- Coordinate a fundraiser
- Speak at meetings
- Attend state and regional Grange events

By giving members meaningful responsibilities, we help build confidence and prepare the next generation of leaders.

Make Your Grange Visible:

If your community doesn't know what your Grange is doing, you're missing opportunities. Try:

- Posting regularly on social media
- Sharing event photos and success stories
- Submitting articles to local newspapers
- Creating a monthly community newsletter
- Partnering with schools, libraries, and local organizations

Every story you tell helps others understand the value of the Grange.

Here is your Grange Challenge:

This year, set one ambitious goal that stretches your Grange beyond its comfort zone. Maybe it's hosting a new event, increasing membership, launching a community project, or developing future leaders.

Most importantly, invite someone new to experience your Grange. Enthusiasm is contagious, and a personal invitation remains one of the most powerful recruitment tools available. Together, let's embrace new leadership, welcome new members, strengthen our communities, and build a vibrant future for the Grange. The opportunities ahead are limitless, and the next chapter starts with each of us.

Congratulations Winners!

New Membership Contest

• January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026 •

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in 5 new members into your Grange. You will each receive the membership T-shirt.

T-Shirts

Debbie Fisch – Bee Hive #385
Michelle Kocher - Chumstick #819

Congratulations to the following Grangers for bringing in an additional 5 or more new members into the Grange.

After recruiting your first 5 members and receiving your t-shirt, when you bring in another 5 or more new members, you will receive a \$25 "Grange Bucks" Certificate, which can be spent on any Grange gear, pamphlets, jewelry or other paraphernalia we have on hand at State Grange.

\$25 Grange Bucks:

Tara Bock – Lummi Island #925

Membership Corner

• Welcome New Members •

GRANGES WITH MEMBERSHIP GAINS
JULY / AUGUST 2026

	# Joined	Jr. +1
34 Baw Faw	1	
Erika Shoemaker		
385 Bee Hive	1	
L. Gay Auckland		
687 Camden	2	
Cameron Ruesch, Birgitte Ruesch		
819 Chumstick	9	
Selena Bently, Don Dodson, Paige Mackenzie, Michael Stanford, Mikaila Clawson, Hayes Clawson, Reid Rayfield, Tyler Markwart		
266 Edgewood	2	
Lisa Giddings, Hannah Evans		
925 Lummi Island	2	
Kevin Jones, Laurie Jones		
710 Mansford	3	
Nancy Alanis-Aguirre, Samantha Hammer-Froning, Tyler Skelton		
276 Marion	1	
Rachel Stickney		
357 Matlock	1	
Charlie Knox		

769 North Creek Valley	5	
Mark Ryder, Roberto Benitez-Baltazar, Nora Mariscal, Jaseline Marban, Meleaha Moreno		
1125 Olalla	1	
June Quidachay		
684 San Poil	1	
Rachell Gayle		
250 South Bay	5	
Marilee Williams, Kathleen Wallace, Stephanie Childers, Dick Evans, Tyler Kuenzi		
805 Steele Lake Highline	3	
Charles Brenzina, Christopher Monson, Chris Monson Jr.		
1005 Steptoe	2	
Carol Keifer, Darren Keifer		
1058 Stillaguamish	1	
Frederica Cipriano		
984 Swauk Teanaway	1	
Kris Johnson		
482 Twisp Valley	1	
Leslee Goodman		
	# Joined	Jr. +1
TOTALS	42	



Washington
Agriculture in the Classroom

What is Washington Agriculture and
Why It’s Important To Everyone

By Judy M. Hamp Hossner
jmhhag@gmail.com
360-394-7744
(please leave a message)

As a Washington Grange member are YOU familiar with all of Washington’s agriculture?

- Fruit (Tree Fruit and Berries)
- Row Crops (Grains and Vegetables)
- Forestry (Trees and Lumber)
- Ranching (Dairy Cattle, Meat Cattle, Sheep, Goats)
- Aquaculture (Fish and Shellfish)

Agriculture is the world’s oldest, largest, and most essential industry. Even many

rural students and educators are not familiar with Washington’s total impact of our agriculture. For example, when a student lives in a wheat-growing area or maybe a forestry/ lumber area, that student is usually not aware of the total Washington “agriculture picture.” Washington Ag in the Classroom (WAIC) strives to bridge this gap through accessible, classroom-ready resources, geared to Washington State’s expectations.

WAIC Programs -
➤ FREE Books about agriculture for 2nd Grade classes, we supply the readers and the book is left for the classroom library.
➤ Our self-published 8-page, all color FREE

magazine, Ag @School, Issue 1, will be mailed to subscribing teachers on October 14-15. This magazine, published 3 times each year, is geared towards Washington’s 4th grade reading, writing, math, and STEAM requirements. Many high school ag teachers and FFQ advisors also use this magazine. There will be some additional magazines available after the October mailing.

How can YOU and Your Grange help Washington students and educators be more informed about Washington agriculture and its necessity for our survival- food, clothing and fabrics, medicines, houses / shelters / buildings, employment, supplying renewable energy

sources like biofuels, sold nationally and internationally, and more:

- You can make contact with local schools and give them information about our resources and contact information (see my information at the close of this article).
- Let me know you are going to talk with a teacher. I can send you more details of our materials.
- You can make a donation directly for your local school
- Each book for one 2nd grade class, high school ag, FFA chapter, etc. is \$15.
- Three issues of our magazine (one school year) is \$100.
- Go to <https://washington.agclassroom.org/> for the

Donation Form.
For your personal donation - Washington Ag in the Classroom is a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization Contributions are tax deductible.
Please contact me via email at jmhhag@gmail.com.
I can:
1) meet with your Grange;
2) find a reader for a 2nd grade class;
3) get the Ag@School subscription started; and
4) attempt to answer your questions.
-Judy M. Hamp Hossner, Washington State Grange rep on WAIC Board

You can always check us out at our WAIC website: <https://washington.agclassroom.org/>



SUMMER CAMPS!



**CORNET
BAY
CAMP**





SUMMER CAMPS!



CAMP DAVID



CAMP WOOTEN



Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Youth

Youth And Juniors Plan For Legislative Experience

By Jerry Gwin
Youth Grange Director

The youth department is wrapping up 2026 and looking forward to 2027. Our final event of this year is the Youth Livestock Judging Contest, scheduled for September 18 in Othello. Results of this event will be in the next issue of The Grange News.

Unfortunately, we had no applications this year for the National Grange Youth Programs. It appears there were only a few applications on the national level for the National Grange Youth Officer

Team. In our state, we are reviewing our programs to determine the future direction of the youth program.

Our first event for 2027 will be the Junior and Youth Legislative Experience. This event is scheduled for January 17-19 in Olympia. Youth will arrive on Sunday, January 17 in the late afternoon for an orientation and get acquainted activities. Pizza will be supplied for dinner on that evening.

Monday, January 18 is Martin Luther King Day. The day will be filled with speakers, workshops, and tours. There may be a few

legislative appointments with your state legislators scheduled in the afternoon. The youth department will provide dinner to all participants and their chaperons that evening.

We will complete the legislative appointments on Tuesday, January 19. After an evaluation and debriefing, we plan to be finished by 12 noon to get everyone back on the road.

Registration information will be available in January. All you, ages 8-19, are invited to attend and learn about the Grange legislative process.



Jerry Gwin

Juniors

Our Juniors Are The Grangers Of The Future

By Jacob & Tessa Gwin
Junior Grange Directors



Jacob and Tessa Gwin

Hello Grangers!

We hope everyone had an amazing summer filled with fun! It was a busy one for sure, and we cannot wait to see everything that everyone did!

If your Junior Grange is looking for a community service project for the fall, consider donating school supplies or classroom snacks to a local school district. In the fall, we also start to see several canned food drives. Consider collecting non-perishable items and donating them to a school backpack program, which provides additional food to students and families in need.

As your Juniors are starting back at school, encourage them to talk to their friends about their Junior Grange adventures from this summer! We are always looking for ways to increase our number of Junior members, as well as Junior participation and this could be a great way to get the word out! Encourage your Juniors to strike up a conversation with a friend about Grange camp if they went, any volunteer work they did this summer, or even if they participated in a county or state fair activity. Remember, our Juniors are the Grangers of the future, let's make sure we teach them how to advocate for this great organization too!

In the coming articles, we are going to start "advertising" information about some Junior programming as an effort to see some increased participation in different contests at State Grange. So keep taking pictures, planning fun activities, volunteering in your community so we can see what all our Juniors are up to!

Norm Manley Named Junior Grange Leader Of The Year



At our July 28 meeting, we had the privilege of honoring Norm Manly for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the Manson Grange Youth Program.

What began as a great idea and a worthwhile investment in our local youth has grown into a thriving reality because of Norm's vision and commitment. Debbie Fisch, representing Family Living at the Washington State Grange and the Pomona Beehive Grange in Wenatchee, presented Norm with a plaque recognizing his exceptional achievements and service.

The evening also included a celebration of Norm's birthday, making it an especially memorable occasion. In accepting the award, Norm expressed his heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has worked so hard to make the youth program a success, giving special recognition to the kids who make it all worthwhile.

Junior Connection

HUMPTULIPS JUNIOR GRANGE

Humptulips Junior Grange completed a display for the Grays Harbor County Fair. Members had nearly 250 entries in the Junior Grange Department at the fair, including a wide variety of flowers, herbs, and vegetables. The Junior Grange will meet in October to plan their fall activities.

NORTH RIVER JUNIOR GRANGE

North River Junior Grange entered a display at the Grays Harbor County Fair. Nine members had entries in the Junior Grange department at the fair. We are also taking care of our raised bed garden at the Grange Hall.

New Series Alert

Coming Every Friday

We will be talking agriculture every Friday on TikTok and Instagram. Tune in to hear about the Farm Bill, Subsidies, Cover Crops, and much more!

New!

FOLLOW US
INSTAGRAM: @NATIONALGRANGEOFFICIAL
TIKTOK: @NATIONALGRANGE

Spotlight on Youth & Juniors

Youth Fairs Program To Hold Wrap Up Meeting

The Grange Youth Fairs Program Management Team will hold a Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. to evaluate the 2026 fairs season. This is an opportunity to bring forth program rule and policy changes for consideration by the management team. We will also look at what events and activities the State Grange will offer in 2027.

All youth fairs program leaders, members, and advisors are invited to participate in the discussion.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98036971581>
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,98036971581# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your Location: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

South Lake Stevens Grange Honors Most Improved Readers

Each year South Lake Stevens Grange honors the most improved reader from each of the seven grade schools. We have done this for over 40 years now. We honor the students with a dinner for them, their family and the teachers. A plaque, certificate and a book. The Boy Scouts helped with the program this year with a lovely opening and closing ceremony. We thank Ann Muchoney for putting this together every year since the beginning.



Grange Hunger Action Month

One can of soup. One jar of peanut butter. One box of cereal.

It may not seem like much, but every donation helps a local food pantry provide meals for families facing difficult times. When an entire community gives a little, the impact can be extraordinary.

Action Challenge: Pick up one or two extra shelf-stable items the next time you shop and donate them to a local food pantry. If you're able, consider high-demand items like peanut butter, canned proteins, canned fruits and vegetables, whole-grain pasta, or oatmeal. (You might also consider donating a can opener!)



Grange Connection

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Elma Grange made the fair display a tribute to Grange Master Larry Gaub, who passed away in June.

Humptulips Grange was awarded first place on their produce display at the Grays Harbor County Fair. The youth group also received first place on their display. Grange members spent a great deal of time preparing for their display at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup, where we place sixth on arrangement and fourth on overall exhibit. The number of food bank clients rose dramatically in August as we served 61 families with 185 total people. We anticipate our

numbers to remain high for the foreseeable future. Harvest Bingo will be held on October 3, beginning at 7 pm. We will also have our annual Turkey Bingo on November 21. The Community Trunk or Treat Event is moving to the Grange Hall this year, and will be held on Sat, October 31 beginning in the late afternoon.

Olympic View Grange had a produce display at the Grays Harbor County Fair. The Grange has been busy with hall rentals. A Lazy Man Cake Walk is scheduled for Sat, October 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

Satsop Grange created a display for the Grays Harbor County Fair using boxes of ribbons received by the

Grange over the years.

Sharon Grange received the first place award for project displays at the Grays Harbor County Fair. Farmers markets were held on the third Saturday of each month through the summer. Hall improvements are continuing. The old carpet has been removed from the dining area and replaced with modern vinyl flooring. Work on the kitchen flooring is in the near future.

LEWIS COUNTY

Newaukum Grange celebrated member Irene Tripp's 103rd birthday on August 1. Tripp received her 90-year Grange membership award earlier this year. She is a part of the Miller Family,

recipients of the Grange Legacy Family Award, presented by the National Grange.

MASON COUNTY

Agate Grange has several community events coming up, and everyone is welcome to join us! The second Friday of every month we will host crafting from 6:00–9:00 PM. Bring your sewing, quilting, knitting, crochet, or other craft project, along with a favorite drink or snack. We will also be hosting Halloween at the Grange on Saturday, October 31st from 2:00–8:00 PM and the event will include vendors, games, trick-or-treating, and a costume contest at 5:00 PM. On Wednesday, November 4th from 5:00-6:30 PM we

will be hosting a Wildfire Preparedness Workshop where participants can learn how to reduce the risk of wildfire around their home, farm, forest, and community while creating a more resilient landscape.

Matlock Grange will be changing their October meeting date to Fri, October 9. Updates to the by-laws will be presented to the membership. Matlock Grange has a display on the history of food preservation at the Grays Harbor County Fair. The Grange will be serving pie and ice cream at Oysterfest, held in Shelton on October 3 & 4. The Annual Hunters Breakfast will be held on October 17. The Grange will

Continued on Page 14

Grange Connection

vote on the updated bylaws on Fri, November 6. The 7 pm meeting will be preceded by a 6:30 pm potluck dinner.

PACIFIC COUNTY

Long Beach Grange created a display of historical items for the Grays Harbor County Fair. Youth and Junior Grange members also had nearly 20 gardening and art exhibits at the fair. The Grange also had a display at the Wahkiakum County Fair. The Grange Sewing Club meets regularly and completes projects. The Indoor Market was held throughout the summer and continues through the fall. The Drum Circle is now meeting every Sunday at the Grange Hall.

North River Grange is preparing for the Saginaw Loggers Day on September 19. The Grange will be open for breakfast and lunch during the annual event. The Grange received second place on their project display at the Grays Harbor County Fair. The Grange hosted the North River Reunion in August. Plans are in the works for a Cider Making Day in October.

SPOKANE COUNTY

Green Bluff Grange was honored to receive a plaque for 100 years of service to their community presented by National Grange President Christine Hamp at our July

meeting. Peach breakfast on August 30 was sure a peachy event and enjoyed by all. Bingo will be on Sept. 29. The Fall edition of The Green Bluff Gazette was distributed end of August. We celebrate apple season with the applesauce breakfasts on Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, & 25. Price of these special breakfasts is \$10 for adults and kids' prices will not change. Craft Faire will be Oct. 16-18 at the Grange—lots of vendors!! Our area of the state was devastated with FIRES. Our Grange porch was a collection place for donated items and then taken to donation places in Spokane. We were fortunate to not have any fires in the Green Bluff area – although the fires came close.

STEVENS COUNTY

Camas Valley Grange members have had a very busy summer! Different groups have hosted Bingo on the first Saturday of the month, from March through November. In June we supported the SFDA PeeWee Rodeo, and the SFDA Open Rodeo; Stevens County Cat Care provided a spay/neuter clinic, which was also done in July, August, September, and October. In July members rode in the annual Parade, supported the annual Showcase In the Park and people enjoyed a slice of cake at the front of the Grange building - the Camas Valley Grange had its 100th birthday in July!

In July and August members purchased and donated a lot of school supplies to Mary Walker School District; some members worked on revamping the Haunted House area, which continued into September and first part of October. In September, firwood was stacked for the winter; plus homeless bags were assembled and delivered to that coordinator. Members will decorate the Haunted House, Kiddie Karnival, and Kreepy Kafé the first half of October so all will be ready to go for October 16, 17, 23, 24, and 30. Members will continue to be very busy through the first Sunday in December. This area received some much-needed rain in September, yet still in drought conditions, so please continue to be careful. Grange members are dedicated and caring people. Remember to support your local small businesses and stay healthy and safe.

THURSTON COUNTY

Prosperity Grange was excited to partner with Thurston County Waste Management's Fix-It-Fair program for a community Fix-It-Fair event in August under the Project Sustenance umbrella. For 3 hours, local residents had the opportunity to bring in items for repairs instead of throwing those items away. 47 items were checked in to fix, and the repair rate was 83%! Items fixed included

clothing, lamps, garden tools, power tools, bicycles and more. Thurston County has developed a robust program with a volunteer network with many events in partnership with Lacey Makerspace, and has only recently been bringing these events out into more rural areas of the county. They are looking for more places to host events, and also for people who are willing to volunteer a few hours and their skills to help keep items in use longer and out of the landfill.

South Union Grange held regular meetings on July 20 and August 17. They've been busy planning events for the rest of the year. Matt Jackmond, building and grounds committee chair, reported a recent break-in of the St. Pauly donation shed. He was able to repair damage to the door. He also reported that someone broke into the Grange's old fire station and stole the dehumidifier. Mat has since installed a deadbolt and distributed the new keys to committee members. Billie Williams of Violet Prairie Grange was special guest at the July meeting and extended an invitation for South Union members to again help her Grange with directing vehicle parking at the upcoming dog show in Tenino. The Grange will again co-host Thurston Conservation District's annual Harvest Festival on October 3 from 10-3. The public event is free, and there will be educational and fun

displays for visitors to see, and informational talks and music will be ongoing for the day. The Grange will sell pop, water, hot dogs and baked potatoes with or without chili topping, pop, and water. Vendors will sell items such as coffees and pastries. Other upcoming events: A Candidates' Forum will be held October 9 at 7 pm.; South Union Grange will host Thurston County Pomona's Veterans' Appreciation event on Sunday November 8 at 2:00. On November 26 at 2 pm, Grangers will meet for the annual "Deck the Hall" party to put up hall decorations.

Violet Prairie Grange supported our local VFW Legion with an "Honor Roll" donation to their new community "Veterans' Memorial Wall" and also attended the dedication ceremony. The most recent additional Eagle Scout project to date is our beautifully refinished original wooden floors. And we wrapped up the summer with this year's annual garage sale over the Labor Day holiday weekend!

WAHKIAKUM COUNTY

Skamokawa Grange hosted a Fair Dance during the Wahkiakum County Fair. The Grange Hall is located right next to the fairgrounds. The Grange also had a display at the fair and received the first-place award.

A Busy Summer At Rome Grange



(Left) Rome Grange (Whatcom County) received a new coat of paint this summer, making the hall more attractive to those travelling the Mount Baker Highway.

(Right) Rome Grange (Whatcom County) holds a Farmers Market through the summer. The market includes a consignment table, which the Grange operates, for members to sell their produce.



The Grange Exchange

Let us help you buy or sell with a classified ad!

Cost per word	one month	4 or more
Regular	\$.50	\$.40
Boxed	1.00	.75
Centered or reversed text	\$2.50/line	
Minimum for one month	\$5.00	
Word count: hyphens, spaces and X's separate words. Phone numbers count as one word. We do not print ads for 900 number services.		
Deadline: 5th of each month (for the following month's paper). Classified ads must be paid in advance. (Tear sheets not sent for classified.)		
Ad copy (or attach copy): _____		

No. words _____ @ rate \$ _____ x # months _____ = \$ _____ (enclosed)		
Name _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		

Pomona Connection

Whatcom Pomona Models Vests For Northwest Washington Fair



Whatcom Pomona members model the new vests worn by those working the Grange Information Booth at the Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden.

GRAYS HARBOR/PACIFIC POMONA

Grays Harbor/Pacific Pomona met at the North River Grange Hall. Discussion included a review of the Grays Harbor County Fair. There were 13 Grange displays this year – three produce displays, seven project displays, one youth display, and two junior displays. The Youth/Junior Department at the county fair had 288 entries, up nearly 20% from last year’s record number of entries. In addition to manning the Grange Department at the fair, Grangers also worked to oversee the Gardening and Environmental Science Department as we share the same building. Pomona Grange members voted to take on the duties as superintendents of that department in future years. The next Pomona Grange meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at the Humptulips Grange Hall. All Granges are asked to bring the 2027 calendar of events to share at the meeting.

SKAGIT COUNTY POMONA

Skagit County Pomona had three Granges participate in the Skagit County Fair. Skagit Valley Grange received a First Place Sweepstakes ribbon for its produce booth. Fredonia Grange received a First Place Sweepstakes ribbon for their “egg-ucation” Booth and the Rexville Grange received a First place ribbon for

their educational booth about nutrition. Debbie Riegel-Yates and Steve Yates were volunteers at the Pomona information table. There were several other grange members who volunteered during the fair, sharing information about the Grange, our activities and community services. Pictures of the displays will be in the November issue of The Grange News.

THURSTON COUNTY POMONA

Thurston County Pomona Grange met at Skookumchuck Grange on August 6 for their regular business meeting. Heather Senn presented the completed Pomona’s 2026 the Quilt Trail brochure. Pomona had a display at the Thurston County Fair, and the new brochures were available to visitors of the booth. The next Pomona meeting will be held at 7 pm on October 1 at Brighton Park Grange, preceded by a potluck at 6 pm. Election of 2027 officers will be held at that meeting. The November 5 meeting will be held at McLane Grange with refreshments at 6:00. The Pomona Veterans Appreciation event will be held at South Union Grange on November 8 at 2 pm. Everyone is welcome, but Grange members from all county Granges are encouraged to invite and even bring veterans to the event. Refreshments will be served.

Pomona Calendar

Pomona Granges are reminded to send their 2026 & 2027 meeting schedules to the State Grange Office for inclusion in The Grange News.

- CHELAN**November 21 at Entiat, 10 a.m.
Lunch at Smitty’s in Wenatchee at 12 pm on September 17, October 15, and November 19.
- CLALLAM**September meeting date, time and location to be announced.
October 29 at Sequim Prairie, 5 pm potluck, 6 pm meeting....will include election of officers.
- CLARK**October 14 and November 12 at Manor, 7 p.m.
- COWLITZ/ WAHKIAKUM**September 19 Pleasant Hill, 1 pm potluck, meeting to follow.
- EXCELSIOR**September 26 meeting and harvest auction at Camas Valley, 10:30 am.
November 21 at Greenwood Park. Election of officers.
- FERRY**September 14 at San Poil, 6 pm.
- GRAYS HARBOR/ PACIFIC**November 21 at Humptulips, 10:30 am meeting, 12 pm potluck lunch.
Will be election of officers.
- KING**to be announced.
- KLICKITAT**October 24 at Goldendale, 12 p.m. potluck, 1 p.m. meeting.
- LEWIS**October 3 at Adna, 12 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. meeting.
- MASON**October 17, 11 am meeting, 12 pm potluck.
- OKANOGAN**November meeting to be determined
- PEND OREILLE**October 3, 12 pm at the Golden China in Newport.
- PIERCE**October 3 at Elk Plain, 10 a.m. – Election of officers.
November 7 at Edgewood.
- SKAGIT**October 7 at Rexville, 6:30 pm meeting with refreshments following.
November 4 at Skagit Valley.
Will be election of officers.
- SNOHOMISH**September 19 at Garden City, 10 am.
November 21 at Granville.
- SPOKANE**November 21 at East Spokane, 10 am.
Will be election of officers.
- THURSTON**October 1 at Brighton Park, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting...election of officers.
November 5 at McLane
- WHATCOM**November 17 at Hqynie, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting
- WHITMAN**October 17 at Whelan-Ewartsville, 10 am meeting, 12 pm potluck.
November 21 at the Colfax Library.
- YAKIMA VALLEY**October 12 at Fruitvale, 5 pm potluck, 6 pm meeting. Will include election of officers.

NATIONAL GRANGE
HONORS NIGHT

Friday, November 20
8:30 pm ET / 5:30 PM PT
streamed live on Facebook & YouTube

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming State Grange Events

Scheduled events may be either cancelled or postponed. Please call prior to the event to confirm.

- SEPTEMBER 18** State Grange Livestock Judging Contest, 8 a.m. at the Othello Fair

SEPTEMBER 27 Eastern District Convention Host Committee Meeting at the Ralston Grange Hall (Adams County) to discuss potential sites for the 2028 State Grange Convention.

SEPTEMBER 30 Secretary Reports (Third Quarter) due to State Grange Office

OCTOBER 6 Central District Convention Host Committee Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 7 Lecturer and Family Living Zoom Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 14 Grange Youth Fairs Program Management Team Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm... All program leaders and participants invited to attend.

OCTOBER 15-17 Idaho State Grange Session at the Latah County Fairgrounds, Moscow ID

OCTOBER 16 Deadline for Agenda Items for Consideration by the State Executive Committee....items due to the State Grange Office
- OCTOBER 21** State Grange Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom, 6 pm

OCTOBER 20 Deadline for the November issue of The Grange News

NOVEMBER 3 Lecturer and Family Living Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm

NOVEMBER 9-14 National Grange 160th Annual Convention at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

NOVEMBER 11 State Grange Office Closed for Veteran's Day

NOVEMBER 26-27 State Grange Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER 2 Lecturer and Family Living Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm

DECEMBER 20 Deadline for the January issue of The Grange News

DECEMBER 31 Secretary Reports (Fourth Quarter) due to State Grange Office

JANUARY 17-19, 2027 Youth and Junior Grange Legislative Experience in Olympia

JANUARY 6, 2027 Lecturer and Family Living Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm

FEBRUARY 23, 2027 Grange Legislative Day in Olympia



INAUGURAL DINNER

AUCTION

Cultivating Community

Sponsorship Opportunities

- ☒ Title Sponsor - \$5000
- ☒ Dinner Sponsor - \$2500
- ☒ Bar Sponsor - \$2500
- ☒ Auction/Auctioneer Sponsor - \$1500

THURSDAY

JUNE
24
2027

6:30 PM

THE CROWN BALLROOM
101 NORTH NACHES AVENUE
YAKIMA, WA

Green Bluff Grange Celebrates 100th Anniversary



National Grange President Christine Hamp presented Green Bluff Grange #300 with a plaque commemorating 100 consecutive years of service to their community. Green Bluff Grange Master Jim Lahde happily accepted the award of behalf of the Grange.