

Day 4
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Mountain Ledger

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Jeff Dehne

Junior Grangers from around the Western Region opening the Junior Grange on Wednesday night during National Session.

Juniors perform Degree at Wednesday session

**BY CODY STEVENS and
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The Junior Grangers present at this years National Grange Convention performed the Junior Degree during General Session Wednesday night.

The 13 Junior officers, led by Na-

tional Junior President Briauana Her-
rick, of Oregon, marched to the Disney
song, "It's a Small World After All."

The Juniors, who arrived on Tues-
day, only had less than two days of
practice before performing in front of
the delegate body and attendees at the
convention.

They opened their session, then be-
gan to perform the degree, delegates
and visitors cheered and laughed, de-

lighting in the success of the children -
most of whom were under 10 years old
- to learn their lines, remember their
steps and display the Grange values in
their actions.

Elizabeth Dehne was in charge of
the program and acknowledged the
wonderful work of the Juniors after
their conferral.

"They did wonderfully. I am so

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Ed Luttrell*

It was great seeing the youth arrive yesterday. They bring so much energy and enthusiasm to our Session. I would remind every member that these youth are not only the future of our Grange, but are the Grange of today. Two of our State Grange Masters are still of Youth age and demonstrate the quality of this program.

Today we'll honor our past delegates with a luncheon and with recognition on the floor. In addition, we'll pause and remember those who have passed on to the "Great Grange" above during the memorial service. This service connects us today to those who work so hard in the past. Our organization is truly a chain of hearts and minds united in a common cause.

If you want to learn more about our history and those who made that history, check out our ebooks on Amazon and the Nook store. You will be amazed at what our Order and its members have accomplished.

JUNIORS

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proud of them. I cried after they did it,” Dehne said. “I just like to see them feel important.”

Dehne said it was important to have a larger audience for the children, especially one that includes the delegates.

“I think when they are in the Degree and performing with a lot of people, they get a lot out of it. These are our future members, our future leaders. To give them the chance to perform I think they feel really, really good,” Dehne said. “Hopefully the delegates saw this and then when they go back to their state, they will tell their subordinates to encourage the juniors to sit in or stand in and learn the work of officers.”

Aurianna VanHouten, the youngest member of the officer team who only turned 5 in September, served as the Ceres for the team, carrying a “junior-sized” American flag, that was taller than she was.

Degree Coach John Fine said Aurianna, his granddaughter, was really excited to take part in the program.

“When we start the practice, I tell them that the only way they’re going to be successful is if they have their own internal pride to do the very best job they can so they can be a showcase for all the other Juniors across the country,” Fine said. “Aurianna,

from the beginning, when I asked her if she was sure she could memorize this, and she assured me that she could, and once she said she could, there was nothing that was going to stop her.”

The remaining members of the team were Overseer Kyle Burrell, Montana; Deidre Schreiber, Oregon; Riley Reynolds, Oregon; Austin VanHouten, Oregon; Audrey VanHouten, Oregon; Alexis Kuosk, Washington; Amber Hall, Washington; Cameron Herrick, Oregon; Devin Schreiber, Oregon; Steffanie Eilers, Idaho; and Katlyn Eilers, Idaho.

Caroline Tart, a youth from North Carolina, said that she enjoyed the drill.

“It was a very special way to open the session. I never had a chance to participate in the Junior Grange, but seeing a drill like that makes me wish I had the opportunity to,” Tart said.

After the closing drill, National President Ed Luttrell shared his thanks to the Juniors. He also asked all former Juniors who are now members of the delegate body or visitors to the Degree to stand, recognizing that many of our leaders come from within our own Junior program.

Today, delegates take up the issue of the Junior Grange and membership requirements for children in areas where

Deputies discuss growth, successes with summer work

BY BARBARA FOSTER

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West Virginia Grange Member

Michael Martin, National Membership Chairman, opened the Membership Luncheon, “Lessons for Growth” on Wednesday.

After a lunch of baked potatoes and salad, speakers for the event were Joseph Stefenoni, Calif., and via video Christopher Szkutak, Mass., and Melanie Fitch, Ohio.

During the summer of 2012, three students traveled to Wyoming,

Arkansas and Wisconsin respectively, to promote Grange growth and revitalize Grange interest.

Suggestions offered by the three individuals to promote Grange growth were spreading the word through local newspapers, hand out pamphlets and flyers, talk to people everywhere you go including museums, yard sales or fairs. They also urged attendees to reach out to people who aren’t necessarily in rural areas.

Joseph Stefenoni shared how he met with community leaders, ex-

plaining the who and what of the Grange.

“It’s important to wear the Grange logo, so people will ask you questions,” Stefenoni said. “To encourage people to ask me about the Grange, don’t hesitate, it’s everyone’s responsibility to get new members.”

The luncheon was concluded with remarks from National President Ed Luttrell.

“This needs to be an organizational effort and necessity. We are all part of the team,” Luttrell said.

Plant breeder featured speaker at Salute to Ag Breakfast

BY JOSEPH STEFENONI

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Grangers began their morning Wednesday by honoring agriculture at the Salute to Agriculture breakfast.

The keynote speaker for the event was Hans-Henning Vos, a plant breeder for Betaseed, Inc. in Kimberly, Idaho.

Beatseed, Inc. is headquartered in Shakopee, Minn., and is the market leader in sugar beet seed research and development.

Hans-Henning said that 80 percent of domestic sugar consumption comes from domestic production and 60 percent of all sugar production comes from sugar beets. He also said that in his opinion, “agronomic practices have reached a plateau and therefore plant breeding has become the way to improve plants and increase yields.”

Hans was born and raised on a small dairy farm in

Lower Saxony, Germany. Growing sugar and fodder beets with his father was always an important and fun part in Hans-Henning’s life.

Later, Hans-Henning graduated with a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Sciences, with a focus in plant breeding and physiology, from Georg-August-University in Goettingen, Germany.

He continued his education and completed his Ph.D. in breeding for Fusarium resistance in wheat from the State Plant Breeding Institute at the University of Hohenheim in Germany.

Following Hans-Henning’s presentation, he opened up the floor and entertained questions from Grange members. The members offered a wide variety of questions ranging from how the technology has improved production to how sugar is extracted from the beet.

Hans-Henning was given a hearty “thank you” and the delegates returned to their work.

AT&T simulator imitating crash while texting on display Thursday, Friday for all convention attendees

BY GRACE BOATRIGHT

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The title of AT&T's new campaign, "It Can Wait," might sound like a pro-abstinence movement, but is actually AT&T's response to the abundance of car accidents occurring in recent years as a result of people, especially teens, sending and reading text messages while driving.

According to AT&T's research, people who send text messages while driving are nearly 23 times more likely to be involved in a car accident than people who wait until reaching their destination.

According to USA Today, in the past five years, roughly 35,000 teens have died in car accidents. That comes out to 18 deaths per day.

Since its debut, texting has especially become a problem for drivers, with one in three adults admitting to reading or sending text messages while behind the wheel.

New developments in technology often come with unintended consequences.

Fatalities associated with texting are a new danger that teens, parents and every adult driver should be aware of and avoid.

Drivers ages 15 to 18 have been the primary target audience of this movement, as young drivers have not had an opportunity to develop bad driving habits.

AT&T has taken several steps to help communicate this important message, even establishing a "No Text on Board-Pledge Day," Sept. 19, where drivers were asked to take a pledge to never text and drive.

So far, AT&T has obtained many signatures.

The company has also developed a compelling 10-minute documentary, entitled "The Last



Photo courtesy of AT&T

A similar AT&T high-tech device that simulates a crash while texting and driving will be available Thursday and Friday for all convention participants to test.

Text," that features real stories from individuals whose lives have been dramatically affected, or even ended, due to texting and driving.

However, perhaps most productive is AT&T's new DriveMode app that provides a customizable message that is automatically sent out to anyone trying to reach someone via text while that individual is driving.

The app will automatically send out this prewritten message to inform the other party that the individual is driving and will respond at their earliest convenience, allowing the driver to communicate hands free while keeping their eyes on the road.

The app can be downloaded for free for all Android and BlackBerry customers.

As part of their fight to bring awareness to this important issue, AT&T has also developed incredible, state-of-the-art simulators that imitate a car crash one might experience from texting and driving.

The user, sitting in a seat meant

to resemble a driver's seat, is able to operate the vehicle in real time, just as they could in a real car. As they move along, a crash will be simulated, allowing the "driver" to experience an intense car crash while still maintaining their safety.

The simulators are traveling to over 200 locations by the end of 2012, allowing drivers all across the country to experience these incredible machines.

The 2012 National Grange Annual Convention is fortunate to be a part of this tour, with two simulators set to arrive Thursday and stay until late Friday night.

They will be set up in the Boise Centre and participation is free.

Everyone is encouraged to partake, especially our Grange Youth, who will have access to them during Thursday and Friday nights' activities.

AT&T representatives will be standing nearby to assist with their use.

OP-ED: Encouraging our Youth

Take time to listen to, inspire youth this week

BY CHARLENE SHUPP ESPENSHADE

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As at each National Convention, youth are a part of session for several days.

But how can convention attendees interact with them?

Speaking from my own personal experience, the youth love hearing the stories from older members, as well as sharing their own.

Take time to learn how many of these youth got involved with Grange. Their stories range from those who are a third or fourth generation Granger to those who attended a Grange event and fell in love with the organization and joined.

Some youth have been instrumental in chartering Granges in their hometowns and beyond.

I have found there is much to be learned from how a member is attracted to a local Grange.

Grange youth and young adults continue to be a key part of the success of our organization.

At home, they are leaders in their Granges, have provided lecturer's programs, participated in youth programs and supported the work of Junior Granges.

This week, they are participating in workshops and activities to improve their Grange efforts.

I encourage you to join the youth as they take in workshops, reunite with old friends and have fun. Listen to youth in the exchange of thoughts about different programs, their new ideas for youth events and, most importantly, how to implement ideas at home.

Secondly, find out what attracts youth to Grange events.

I have often received requests asking for what type of activities youth and young adults like to participate in.

This week, there are youth on hand ready and willing to answer these questions and more.

I have learned the most by asking youth about their Grange experience and what they do.

Third, many of these youth and young adults have become leaders in their local, Pomona and State Granges. Some have aspirations to being a State Master, national delegate or officer someday.

Again, be willing to share your own Grange story. Let them know what experiences helped you in your role today and, most importantly, be an encouraging voice.

Our Grange Youth and young adults come from a wide cross section of our nation.

Look within a group of Grange youth and you will find those that have been born and raised on a farm, those who live in the country and others who live in more suburban communities. This diversity brings an opportunity to learn about each of these communities and how our resolutions can impact each of these communities.

It is great to see youth discuss an issue that is impacting their lives. That understanding can help all Grangers become better advocates to issues that improve all of rural America.

Many members say there was that one member or select group of members that helped inspire us along the way.

This week we each have the ability to be that inspiration for someone else, young or old.

Chaplain's Daily Devotion



Even in our darkest moments, let us remember:

God Is the Light

Amid the turmoil in this world
And all the problems that exist,
Always be aware that God
Is forever in our midst.
He is the shining beacon;
He is the guiding light;
The hope that is enduring
Through every day and night.
For when we stay within His light,
He will guide us as we sail
Through tempest storm confronting us;
God's the light that will not fail.
He will lead us to safe harbor,
Keeping vigil as we go.
No harm can ever come to us
When we stay within God's glow.

By Patience Allison Hartbauer

Awards, Juniors renew spirit for Trimble youth

BY MATTHEW CLARK
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Today was a great day. There were three highlights for me today.

The first was the Distinguished Grange Awards.

I was very impressed with the granges that took on their responsibility and did their part to grow the Grange as well as go above and beyond their responsibility at the same time.

I am going home with a new attitude and will do my part so my community and state grange can achieve this award.

The second highlight of the day for me was the arrival of the youth.

Each year I look forward to reacquainting with friends from the past and making new friend-

ships that will last for years to come.

The final highlight of the day for me was the Junior Degree.

Having never been a junior member, I feel I have missed out on a part of the Grange.

I would like to see the junior program continue and for those states that do not have a Junior Grange, I would like to see some rules that would allow juniors to be part of a Subordinate Grange.

This is important to me as I have two boys, Trevor, 4, and Seth, 3, who I would like to get involved in the contest and events that are offered by the Grange, and give them an opportunity I did not have.

It's Christmas at National Grange convention

BY SAMANTHA JOHNSON and ALLISON FOWLER

Sales, Benefits and Programs Director
and N.C. State Grange Legislative Director

Grange attendees can enjoy a lovely display of Christmas trees in the lobby of the Boise Centre. Make sure to stop and take a look on your way to Session.

There are 10 Christmas trees representing each of the hosting states: Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Also represented are trees from the Western Youth, the Junior Granges and the National Grange.

The ornaments came from many

Granges, and it is a joy to share these homemade items with Brothers and Sisters from across the nation, coordinator of trees Tom Gwin, Washington, said.

"This project brought unity to our region - everyone responded," Gwin said.

The Junior Grange tree is a particularly exciting tree on display. The Host Committee contacted Junior Grange Directors from each state, and with coordination with the National Grange Junior Department, Junior Granges provided ornaments and decorations for their tree.

Join in the pride of the Western Region and take a look at the trees which help bring a spirit of Christmas.

Not only will this spirit be instilled in convention attendees, but will bring happiness and joy to assisted living and retirement homes as well as veterans homes where they will be delivered.

"The trees turned out beautiful. The host states did an excellent job and we're proud to be able to deliver them to local organizations," Gwin said.

Feeling of home never far when surrounded by Grange family

BY ALLISON FOWLER

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As a North Carolinian, I've come to miss a piece of home while in Boise.

A Southern trademark; a tradition; the elixir of the South. I've missed my beloved sweet tea.

There are pieces of comfort we find in our hometowns - familiar faces, family members, and even the foods that bring back a warm feeling.

During National Convention, many of us visit new places - places we've never been before. We step off the plane or get out of the car in a new place, unsure of our surroundings.

It can bring a feeling of unease.

But, then a familiar face steps off of the elevator or provides your registration packet to you. They save a

seat for you at dinner, anticipating a chance to catch up since last year's convention. And you realize that maybe home isn't a few hundred or thousands of miles away. As you spend time with Grange members from all walks of life from all around the nation, "home" begins to form around you.

Home, the place of refuge and rest, is being built by new friends and old friends. Strangers truly become Brothers and Sisters and fraternal bonds are formed and solidified.

While you may still ask the concierge for directions to a local restaurant or continue missing your sweet tea, you should know that when surrounded by Grange members, you truly are home.

You share a special bond with the people around you and a special "home" surrounds you this week. And as the saying goes, there's no place like home.

LEADERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP TIP: Charity

By helping we uphold lessons, show others Grange values

BY MICHAEL MARTIN

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Today's Leadership/Membership tip is about Charity.

Remember when you first joined your Subordinate Grange?

As candidates in the Third Degree, we were welcomed as Harvesters and Gleaners.

As we continued our journey toward full membership in our Order, we draw upon what were common lessons and symbols 145 years ago.

The lessons and symbols of the Third Degree come from the fields and household of our local farms.

As we know full well, the lesson of

the Third Degree is Charity.

In the First Degree, we mastered the how to prepare the soil and select good seed and the lesson of Faith.

In the Second Degree, we received instruction in planting and cultivating the crop.

Now, in the Third Degree we learn that "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."

In the Third Degree, we learn about the sickle. The sickle "speaks of peace and prosperity, and is the harbinger of joy. It is used not merely to reap the golden grain for the sheaf, but, in the field of mind and heart and soul,

to gather every precious stalk, every opening flower, every desirable fruit."

Charity is perhaps the most natural action of our Granges.

We seek opportunities to be of service to our community. We support others in their need. We are good neighbors.

Invite those we serve to join us and help us serve others.

Membership in the Grange brings an obligation to do good works.

We work hard in our fundraisers so we can dispense liberally to those among us who may be in need of charity.

Remember how good it feels to help another and ask someone to join your Grange so they can share that same feeling.

Communication Tools

E V E X P E F L A F E A T U R E S T O R I E S B C
M E D I A A L E R T S K O O B C I M O C P O L R H
R R O W E V H S P O E N I L G A T Q D M R S A O I
B A S T N E M E S I T R E V D A I O U Z E E I C W
S L L I T A A N A E P H O T O S M C F X S G R H E
D S O S R I N O X N O S R E P S E K O P S A O U I
R M G G L M H H I S A P P A R E L E C S R S T R V
A J O Y H A I D E M L A I C O S Y O B E E S I E R
C R R B U B A F L Y E R S S Y U C R A H L E D S E
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A D V E Y R E C N E R E F N O C S S E R P A U P D

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Speeches

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Timely Comments

Videos

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DAILY TIP

Don't forget to schedule your return shuttle trip to the airport.

The town of Boise offers free shuttle service from The Grove Hotel to the Boise Airport.

We expect a high demand for shuttle service on Sunday, Nov. 18. Reserve your shuttle trip early for the best selection of times.

Visit the front desk of The Grove Hotel for assistance.

By Events Planner Jessie Cope



Austin Miller

Illinois State Grange President Lyle Lee uses free time and humor to lighten the mood in the Production Room on Wednesday.