



The Patrons Chain

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE

151st ANNUAL CONVENTION EDITION - DAY 3, NOVEMBER 9, 2017



Photo Credit: Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios

On Wednesday, 10 Grange members who served in various branches of the military were presented Quilts of Valor at the 151st Annual National Grange Convention.

10 receive warm thank you for service

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

On Wednesday night several veterans attending the evening session of the 151st Convention were provided warm thanks for their service to our nation in the form of gifted quilts.

Diane Watters, Eastern Washington Coordinator spoke to a roomful of Grange members about the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which gives gifts of thanks to our military veterans in the form of cut up fabric sewn together with love to form a beautiful quilts, before presenting 10 members with unique coverings.

Volunteers, Glenda Haddican, Betsy Jordan and Donna Kuhn, who attended the presentation with Watters, wrapped the handmade patriotic-themed quilts around the shoulders of the recipients when their name was called and their years of service announced.

Watters said that the Grange is symbolic of country, patriotism, national pride, working to improve the lives of others and Community. The

QOVF feeds off of those same values to create the patriotic quilts for service men and women who have been touched by war or put into harms way during their years of duty.

Blue Star mom Catherine Roberts began QOVF in 2003 from her sewing room in Seaford, Delaware. Her son Nathanael's year-long deployment to Iraq provided the initial inspiration, and her desire to see that returning troops were welcomed home with love and gratitude provided the rest.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation has awarded over 172,000 quilts since 2003. Currently there are 8,000 members and 450 registered groups nationwide. The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

US Army veteran and National Grange Treasurer Dwight Baldwin was wrapped in a quilt made by his wife, Kathy. Dwight was overcome with

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Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

The Fricke family was one of more than 80 recognized for five or more generations of Grange members in their family on Wednesday at the 151st Annual National Grange Convention.

More than 80 families recognized for generations of Grange dedication

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

More than 80 families were recognized for their deep roots in the Grange on Wednesday during a Distinguished Grange and Grange Legacy Family Recognition event at the 151st Annual National Grange Convention.

Emcee'd by National Overseer Jimmy Gentry, the program was unveiled as part of the Grange's 150th birthday, as a way to honor those families with five or more generations involved as Grange members.

"We give recognition to individuals who have been a Grange member for 25, 50, 75, 80, and even 90 years, and we want to recognize families and encourage the next generation to keep up with that and keep that legacy going," National Grange President Betsy Huber said.

Sales, Benefits, Programs and Membership Recognition Director Loretta Washington worked all year on the new program and said she was happy to see so many applica-

tions and photos sent in.

"I was talking to Betsy about how Grange members tell others about their grandparents or parents being Grange members and they are proud to continue the tradition of being involved in the organization," Washington said. "We discussed the idea of honoring those families who have five or more generations and the Grange Legacy Family Recognition was born."

More than 40 families were present to accept their recognition certificates. Many of the families traveled to the convention specifically to be part of the first annual ceremony.

Families can send in their Grange Family Legacy stories at any time of the year. Families can request the number of certificates they wish to have to provide to members who would like to display the legacy.

Photos and stories can be viewed in the Showcase room on the lower level of the West Wing below the Registration office.

Distinguished Granges recognized for work

BY JOSH HARPER
Guest Editor

Jimmy Gentry welcomed more than 100 guests gathered to take part in the Distinguished Grange and Legacy Family Recognition Hour on Wednesday, before presenting about three dozen Subordinate and State Granges with their awards.

As emcee, Gentry began with the first year recipients. Each Subordinate and State Grange were called up to accept their certificate or plaque.

They also had their pictures taken, and had a press release written by Communication Fellows, which will be sent Thursday morning to their local newspapers.

This is the eighth year of the program and the 2016-17 criteria were greatly "ramped up," National Grange Communications Director Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios said.

"The original idea was to increase the difficulty each year but that had kind of stalled, so there was a bit of a jolt to the system for folks who had been used to the same or similar requirements each year. However, it really made some of the Granges show off what they have been doing but that we weren't aware of so they could continue to get their award or to take on new projects and initiatives



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Members of Mossyrock Grange #355, Washington, receive their fifth consecutive Distinguished Grange Award, commemorated with a plaque, on Wednesday at the 151st Annual National Grange Convention.

in order to attain the Distinguished Grange status."

Last year there were nearly 60 Granges who received the honor, but this year it was down to 33 Subordinate and four State Granges.

These Granges were honored for the many different projects, and ways they were involved in their communities. Here's what some of the Granges did in the last year to qualify their Grange for this award:

Mossyrock Grange #335, WA

"We put flags out for Memorial Day at five different cemeteries in the area. We had the local fire department

out at our Grange hall to talk about a new fire station being built. We sponsor local, young wrestlers who use our Grange hall for free, for their practices. We also laid wreathes at local cemeteries for our military," Marilyn Armit said.

Humptulips Grange #730, WA

"We do a lot of community service. We run our local food bank, and distribute food to those who need it. We are a large supporter of Hoquiam High School food drive. We are organizing, with the Hoquiam Sherriff Department, a neighborhood watch program." Jacob Gwin said.

ENJOY CONVENTION ACROSS MEDIUMS AND ACROSS THE WORLD

Several parts of the 151th Annual National Grange Convention will be live-broadcast through our Facebook page, National Grange, this week.

Also, daily reports and updates will be aired on Grange Radio at grangeradio.org. A digital version of the convention newsletter will be distributed to our email list and posted to the National Grange website.

Tell your friends to tune in!

Grange Radio alive, looking for talent

BY JOSH BETHANY
Communications Fellow

Grange Radio, which was restarted last national session, is still alive and well. Tuning in at www.GrangeRadio.org gives you unlimited access to free music 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Grange Radio is a way to get up-to-date information about what is happening in Granges across the country, or a great way for an old soul to hear the bluegrass and classic rock tunes they grew up listening to.

A few times a week you can also hear a few minute long podcast by John Block, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, about ag policy topics.

Recently, National President Betsy Huber sat down with FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and interviewed him about the issue of rural broadband for Grange Radio. The segment is airing twice a day and can be heard anytime by going to grangeradio.org and clicking on podcasts.

The station also allows members to submit bits to be played on the air and one member, Bob Charbonneau from Connecticut, has a music and humor show that airs four times a week.

"It's yet another way to allow our members to share their talents and inform others about our organization," National Grange Communications Director Amanda Brozana Rios said.

However, she hopes the station becomes more robust over the next year.

"I'd love to have a few more correspondents and stories about what Granges are doing



around the nation to be a part of our programming," Brozana Rios said. "It's important that we have voices from all over the country showing they are excited about this alive and wonderful organization that has embraced a new technology and use that technology to educate about things like the lack of broadband in rural areas – where our members are, some of which cannot even listen to the station because of access issues – so that we are a powerful and relevant voice."

Anyone interested in becoming a correspondent or having a show can contact Brozana Rios at communications@nationalgrange.org or by phone at (301) 943-1090.

QUILTS

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emotion and was humbled to receive the honor. The Baldwins have a son serving in the U.S. Air Force and is currently stationed in Germany. They said they hope he is a recipient of a Quilt of Valor one day.

QOVF, now an ongoing national service effort, in many cases connects civilians with service members and veterans, but also at times veterans with other veterans. Quilts of Valor are tokens of appreciation that unequivocally say, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor."

According to the Quilts of Valor website the quilts are lifetime awards, stitched with love, prayers, and healing thoughts.

On behalf of the National Grange, Chris Hamp presented Diane and her volunteers with a large bolt of batting to be used for the next

several quilts that will be made.

For more information, visit www.QOVF.org. To see the presentations, visit the National Grange Facebook page and look at our video archive.

QUILTS OF VALOR RECIPIENTS

John Hamilton Sr., 1971-75, USN

Guy E. LaRue, 1943-47, USN

William Rolf Booth, 1972-77, USN

Dennis McGurk, 1973-99, USA

William "Chip" Narvel Jr., 1967-88, USA

Tracy Hansen, 1979-88, USA

Michael Beckman Jr., 1983-89, USA

Bill Johnson, 1966-69, USA

Dwight Baldwin, 1970-77, USA

John Plank, 1974-78, USAF

WA Senator: Rural America needs advocates

BY TACY CURREY
Communications Fellow

Washington Senator Mark Schoesler spoke at the Salute to Agriculture Luncheon on Tuesday, calling for rural advocates to bring their voices to advocate rural America. During his message, he identified three key areas that he sees as critical in rural America today and said as a Grange member he knows the value of informed Grange members serving as the rural voice.

First, he drew the parallel of accessibility of railroad service in past generations and what it brought to rural America with the importance of broadband service to rural America today.

"Broadband communications is the railroad of today," he said.

He recounted a story of a local school district that worked to secure funding for each child in the district to have a Chromebook to use for schoolwork only to realize that students were unable to use them at home due to internet accessibility and speed issues.

When other communities are discussing the advance to 5G, many rural communities face dead zones. This issue weaves through the landscape affecting education, personal and business/entrepreneurship, plaguing rural economic development with its gaps and inaccessibility. One potential solution is UHF frequency usage, Schoesler said.

Second, Schoesler said water is of great con-



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Washington State Senator Mark Schoesler spoke to attendees at the Ag Luncheon on Wednesday.

cern. Simply put, the more people you have, the more water you need.

Schoesler was quick to point out that in his career span he has seen a 40 percent increase in the number of constituents in his district. This simple fact places pressures on delivery, storage and identified areas of best use for this precious resource.

Finally, the regulatory climate keeps increasing spanning issues regarding cultural resources, endangered species and waters of the state, Schoesler said. The steps and hurdles continue to increase to operate which places increased burdens on producers.

With this he implored members to become active and encourage others to be the voice, the champions for rural issues in America.

HERE AT CONVENTION - NEW & EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS! Fedora Hats, Proud Buttons, Grave Markers / Flags and more!

Fedora Hats embroidered with the letters "Go Grange!"TM
Embroidered with yellow/gold thread on a navy blue ribbon.

Buttons - 2-1/4" round printed in full color with the message
"PROUD TO BE A GRANGER". - .50¢ ea., 100 or more - .35¢

Bronze Cast Grave Markers/Flag Holder - \$79.50 ea.
(includes aluminum stake, flag sold separately - \$15 ea.)

Flash Drives, Now with 16GBs of Memory!
Start your Holiday Shopping the Grange® Way.
Gift Certificates Available.



Watch the pie-ing live on the National Grange Facebook page.



Support the Juniors by buying a chance to pie a ‘Grange celebrity’

BY LURAE BENZIO

Communications Fellow

National Junior Grange Director Samantha Wilkins is selling \$1 chances to be the person to toss the pie at one of the VIP Grange members who are on the receiving end.

The money collected from the Raffle will be given to the National Junior Grange Program.

The raffle ticket winners will be drawn just prior to each night of pie tossing. If your name is not drawn the first night, you still have a chance to be drawn for the other two nights.

Here is the line-up of the Pie in the Face Tossing Event:

Wednesday, End of Session

- Asa Huchins, National Male Youth Ambassador (Pie thrown by Sharon Croucher, NY)
- Chris Johnston, National Gatekeeper (Pie thrown by Allen Stiles, MD)
- Amanda Leigh Brozana Rios, National Communications Director (Pie thrown by Joan Smith, NJ/DC)

Thursday - End of Assembly Meeting

- Chip Narvel - National Steward

- Kennedy Gwin – National Female Youth Ambassador
- Bruce Croucher, Roger Bostwick and James Owens – The Priests of the Assembly of Demeter
- Charlene Shupp Espenshade – National Youth Director

Friday – End of Evening of Excellence

- Chris Hamp – National Lecturer
- Mandy Bostwick – National Grange Young Patron
- Jimmy Gentry - National Overseer
- Betsy Huber - National President

Since Oklahoma and Pennsylvania each raised the most money for the Fundraiser, they will have the honor of pie-ing the top two recipients of pies – Overseer Jimmy Gentry and National President Betsy Huber.

Pennsylvania President Wayne Campbell will be the pie toss-er for Gentry and Oklahoma President Billy Shufeldt will have the highest honor of throwing the pie in the face of Huber.

See Junior Grange Director Samantha Wilkins to buy your chance to throw the pie!

Updates on headquarters mixed

BY ELIZABETH HINER

Senior Communications Fellow

During her annual address, National President Betsy Huber addressed several situations, related to the National Grange headquarters in Washington, D.C. and thanked many people, Granges and affiliates who have stepped forward with donations and loans for needed repairs.

In early August, the air conditioner at the National Headquarters building blew up during the height of the summer season, leaving the tenants and the National staff suffering from the heat. To make it through the rest of the summer season, National Grange rented chillers to keep the building cool while the building's broken down chiller was assessed to see what needed to be replaced and/or fixed and a new chiller was ordered. Upon inspection, the contractor told Huber and the National Grange Executive Board the old system would have to be replaced. The system was removed, a new system ordered, and the National staff is waiting on delivery and installation which is now projected to take until February or later.

Huber especially showed appreciation for the \$400,000 National Grange received as a gift from the Grange Rural Retirement Housing Association of Washington. Loans from Grange Advocacy, Grange Foundation, Red Lion Grange #1781 in Pennsylvania, Potomac Grange #1, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, New York and Indiana State Granges have added up to about \$225,000. Individual members and local Granges have also sent donations that are still coming in and have not been totaled.

National Grange is hoping to receive the remainder of the necessary funds from insurance.

Huber also mentioned the buzz in the building over the summer with six interns working at headquarters on various projects. Several interns helped



Photo Credit: Waymarking.com

with communications projects including Good Day!™ magazine, historical research and archives, Grange Radio and more. Two interns specifically helped with legislative projects including updating the legislative portion of the national website and attending many D.C. events to help raise the profile of the Grange. Four of the interns, Huber said, were given room and board by Communications Director Amanda Brozana Rios and her husband, Victor, over the summer, something that she said the Grange was grateful for.

There has also been work in the sub-basement to take inventory of what is there and to get it organized so items that are of historical value to the Grange can be identified and preserved. The officers of the

Assembly of Demeter came to headquarters to take inventory of the items and documents in storage. Members with time to help with archiving and digging through the stored items are asked to consider donating time to do so.

On a positive note, early this summer Potomac Grange #1 installed two five-drawer beehives to the 11th story roof. They purchased a NUC with 10,000 bees and a queen and the bees help to pollinate the gardens of the White House.

"Potomac Grange #1 supports Ag in the Classroom and is looking forward to working with the D.C. school system and taking classes on tours of the hives while providing a history of the Grange." Potomac Grange #1, D.C. President Joan Smith said.

Youth escape 'same old' at party

BY LURAE BENZIO
Communications Fellow

You may have noticed a sizeable increase in Grange members in the session hall on Wednesday evening. The majority of Grange Youth arrived with enthusiasm and spunk, ready to enjoy their days in Spokane.

All of the Youth were asked to participate in the 'Get to Know You Games' held in the Skyline Ballroom. Approximately 45 Youth from Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington entered the room that was set up as a Grange meeting with stations, regalia, songbooks and more in place.

The first game was a take on the popular "Escape Room" concept.

The Youth were told that the implements from the box had gone missing and they had one hour to locate all of the implements that were hidden around the room.

They had to solve a variety of clues in order to get more clues to unlock the boxes that held the hidden implements. The group of 45 worked together to solve the clues and were able to use the manuals, songbooks and more to help with answers.

The last box was found with 1 minute 28 seconds left.

Mandy Bostwick, National Grange Young Patron and the National Youth Ambassadors, Asa Huchins and Kennedy Gwin, were in charge of the game.

"This game was played at Midwest Regional and it was a lot of fun, and educational and I knew it would be cool to play at National Convention," Bostwick said.

After the Escape Room Challenge, the Youth played a modified BINGO game where they had to find people from different states, regions or other notable criteria and jot down their name. Once they had the required number of names to qualify for a BINGO – they could move on to



Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Youth gather around clues Wednesday night during the Escape Room challenge at the Youth Get Acquainted Party.

a thrilling game of Rock-Paper-Scissors with the winner claiming bragging rights.

Snacks were served, and the Youth ended their evening early so that the Youth officer team could begin their practice.

Thursday will be very busy for the Youth as they embark on the General and Youth Tour in the morning, work on a community service project in the afternoon and have fun at the Costume party and dance at night.

Remember to say hello as you see their smiling faces walking past.



WIN YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE

Buy your challenge coin for only \$20 to support the National Lecturer's Fund. Find Chris Hamp or visit the Fellow's Room.





Photo Credit: Tacy Currey

Quilt blocks and quilted items are part of the display in the Showcase area under the Great American Handicraft and Quilt Expo.

Showcase, Expo open today; talent abounds

BY ELIZABETH HINER
Senior Communications Fellow

This year the Grange showcase is sharing the exhibition hall with the Great American Quilt and Handicraft show, Monroe Classic Grange Store and outside exhibitors.

The showcase is featuring the quilt blocks, which increased from 30 last year to 329, plus handicrafts from across the country, along with the booths from the Grow Club, Jr Grange, the Grange Legacy Families and the Dictionary Project.

New to the convention this year is the Great American Quilt and Handicraft Expo, with donations of quilts and other handicrafts from Grange members and non-Grange members. They are featuring quilts, table runners, clothing items and specialty handcrafted items.

G.R.O.W. Club is having a silent auction, featuring candies, cards, and an assortment

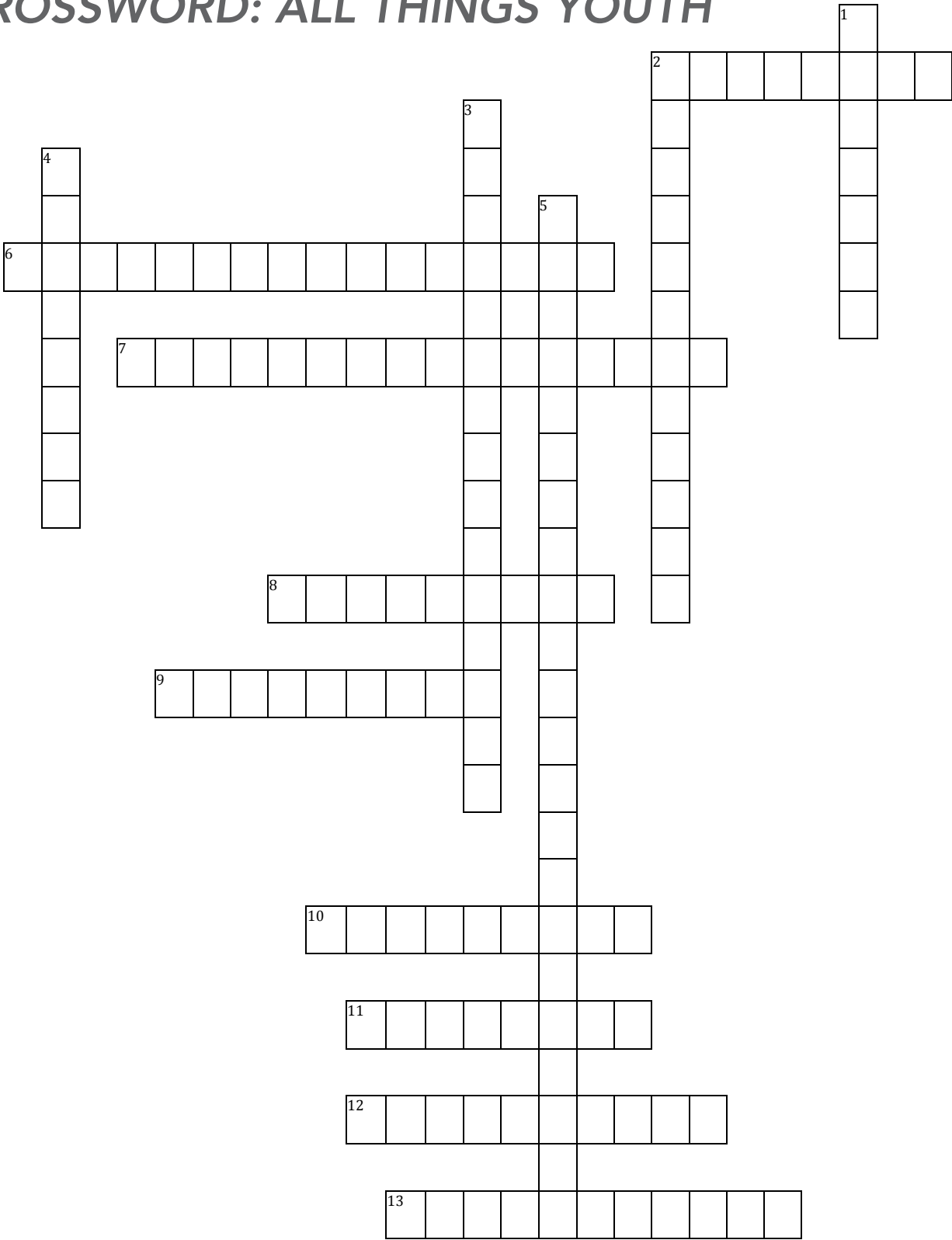
of other items. They are also selling raffle tickets to support the Grange Youth Leadership Fund. The drawing is on Friday, November 10th at the G.R.O.W. Club Function.

Monroe Classic Grange Store has several items for sale, including flash drives, USB Port extenders, and flashlights with or without a mini tool kit. The store has Grange apparel items from ties and scarves to shirts and jackets. Included in the store items are all the Grange Degree jewelry and an assortment of Grange materials.

The showcase also has booths featuring booths on Legislation, Communication, Live Stock, Community Service and Ag in the Classroom.

This year's outside vendors are Genesis Satellite and Cable, AAA, Dogs for the Deaf and a booth for Medicare and Medicaid.

CROSSWORD: ALL THINGS YOUTH



Across

- 2. National youth director
- 6. opens the Grange on Friday morning
- 7. Youth program to encourage involvement in all forms
- 8. youth contest to raise deaf awareness
- 9. program to increase membership
- 10. what the youth are doing Thursday
- 11. John Trimble Legislative Experience winner
- 12. male ambassador
- 13. female ambassador

Down

- 1. morals given every night after activities
- 2. party like it's your birthday
- 3. representative of a state (can have 2)
- 4. include ambassadors, patrons, and officers of the youth program (member for life)
- 5. newer youth contest that is about how business is conducted

GRANGE TRIVIA

Day 2 A: Sarah H. Holland

What Chicago-based publication deserves much of the credit for making the Order more than just a Minnesota phenomenon? SEE ANSWER IN DAY 4.