

Grange 567 exists to celebrate rural life

REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

Nestled along West Eighth Street across from Bodle Road in Kingston Township, Grange Hall may look like just another building to passersby. But members of Mountain Grange 567 know their meeting hall is a place for socialization and to better rural America.

Carol Swanson, 62, of Kingston Township, was elected president of Mountain Grange 567 in August. With only about 20 current members in the organization, she says it's critical that more people join the Grange.

"What I want to do is get some young people," Swanson said. "I'd like to have something for families to do. We have that building there that belongs to us and we can do anything we want."

The National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was founded on December 4, 1867 by seven men in Washington, D.C. to improve the economic and social positions of farmers. The organization eventually expanded to include non-farming rural families and communities.

According to a past article in The Times Leader, Mountain Grange 567 began meeting at the Grange Hall location in 1906. Sutton's mother, Melinda Sutton, joined at age 19 and was an active member until her death at age 95.

One of Carol Swanson's earliest memories of Mountain Grange 567 is that of an annual pork and sauerkraut dinner where local farmers donated fresh pork and produce and Sutton cooked the pork and made applesauce.

Tragedy struck the organization on May 17, 1987 when an arsonist lit Grange Hall on fire. Trucksville Fire Chief Bill Eck, who has been chief since 1979, says the incident was the beginning of a string of about 27 arson barn fires that occurred in the area, all of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Mountain Grange No. 567 recently held a flea market to raise funds for community service projects and to maintain their hall. Shown at the flea market are, from left, Carol Swanson, Betty Hilstolsky and Margie Farber.

FOR MORE INFO

For more information about Mountain Grange 567 or to join the organization, call Carol Swanson at 696-3415.

which are still unsolved.

Eck recalls lugging out voting machines that were in the building, which was a former Kingston Township voting precinct. After the fire, Trucksville Fire Department did training with a controlled burn of the building prior to its demolition.

A new Grange Hall was built at the site which continues to be used by members of the organization. The Grange holds a flea market the second Saturday of every month in warm weather (typically April through November) in the hall. Money raised benefits the Grange and community service projects.

Swanson has many more ideas for the organization. She would like to have a Christmas party for the community, a booth at the Luzerne County Fair, picnics and family board game night. Swanson also wants to participate in the

state Grange's Operation Shoebox program which sends care packages to soldiers overseas.

In addition, Swanson says there is a natural artesian well behind Grange Hall that the public can access for free.

"If everybody gives a little bit, we could create a synergy and we can be something more than we can be by ourselves," Swanson said. "What I would like to see in this Grange Hall is a celebration of rural life as we know it in Franklin and Kingston townships."

Membership to the Mountain Grange is \$30 a year, half of which is paid by the organization. Members receive one free table at the flea market each year, can open a bank account with the Grange Credit Union in Harrisburg, are eligible for health insurance with vision, accidental death and dismemberment insurance and a discount on laser vision correction, hall rental and BJS Wholesale Club.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Saturday of the month but are subject to change.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Gallagher cited for puppy training

Alexander Gallagher, 18, of Dallas, received a scholarship from The Seeing Eye for raising several puppies for the world-famous dog guide school.



Gallagher

A freshman at Drexel University where he is studying Chemical Engineering, Gallagher has been a puppy raiser for four years as a member of his Seeing Eye/4-H puppy club. In this capacity, he has taught puppies basic obedience, attended local puppy club meetings once a month, exposed his puppies to a variety of social situations and provided them with love and companionship.

After a year and a half, Gallagher returned each puppy to The Seeing Eye for its formal training.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Charles Woodworth of Hunlock Creek is currently exhibiting his art work at the Dallas branch of the Citizens Bank.

'Woody' displays art

The Dallas branch of the Citizens Bank is currently exhibiting artworks by Charles Woodworth of Hunlock Creek. The exhibit includes snow scenes, local landscapes, still lifes and florals.

Charles "Woody" Woodworth has been teaching and painting for decades. He is best known for his pastels and colored pencil artworks. He is an active member of the Cider Painters of America, the Colored Pencil Society and an

elected signature member of the Pennsylvania En Plein Air Society. He is currently working on a mile-long drawing of natural science "found objects" which he hopes to complete by the summer of 2010.

The public is invited to view this exhibit at the Dallas branch of Citizens Bank, Main Street, Dallas during regular banking hours through the end of December.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Kindergarten Program scheduled at Lehman

The Lake-Lehman School District announces the second installment of the Kindergarten Readiness Program, which will feature math readiness, for children planning to enter kindergarten next fall.

The schedule is: Ross Elementary at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18; Lake-Noxen Elementary at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19; and Lehman-Jackson Elementary at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20.

Parents are asked to register for the second installment of the program by calling Ross Elementary at 477-5050 or 256-7897, Lake-Noxen Elementary at 639-1129 or Lehman-Jackson Elementary at 675-2165.

This program is only for children who will be years of age before September 1, 2009 and who are entering kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year in

the Lake-Lehman School District.

Zen Meditation program offered

An Introduction to Zen Meditation program will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Mercy Center on the campus of Misericordia University.

Thee program includes an introduction to Zen meditation practice, a brief time for practice and time for questions.

Pre-registration is required and a free will offering will be taken.

To register, call Sr. Barbara Craig at 675-1872.

Misericordia plans Adult Learner Night

The Center for Adult and Continuing Education at Misericordia University will host an Adult Learner Night on from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library on campus.

The event is open to adult

learners interested in obtaining more information about Misericordia University's undergraduate and graduate programs.

An appointment can be made for Adult Learner Night, but registration is not necessary. For more information about the Adult Learner Open House, contact Larree Brown, coordinator, Adult Education at 674-6451.

'The Hollow' scheduled for Misericordia

Misericordia University's theatrical troupe, The Misericordia Players, will present "The Hollow" by Agatha Christie as part of its "Murder and Mayhem" themed season at 8 p.m. November 20-22 in the newly refurbished Lemmond Theater at Walsh Hall on campus at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door for \$5 and tickets for students and seniors are \$3. For more information, call the Misericordia Players at 674-3069.

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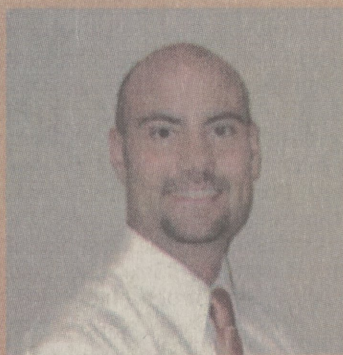


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