

# Sedalia View

VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 3 | SEPTEMBER 2024

## SEDALIA IS PRESERVED BECAUSE OF BARBARA MACHANN

When Barbara Machann died June 30, 2024, she left behind a town changed forever by her efforts. Barbara was the founder of the Sedalia Museum. The very appearance of the town entrance gained a focal point, and the history of those who settled Sedalia is preserved.

Born in 1937, she was the daughter of Ed and Dorothy Belfield. Her family moved to Sedalia in 1951, buying a 120-acre ranch on Rio Grande Ave., formerly owned by Nels Anderson. She is survived by her son, John; a granddaughter, Danielle Martinez; two great grandchildren, McKinley Martinez and Becket Martinez; and sister, Pam Belfield. Barbara and her late husband, John, built their home on the ranch property in 1964. Barbara and John were active with the West Douglas County Fire Protection District, as Barbara's father had been.

Barbara had many talents. She trained as an X-ray technician, served as dispatcher and office assistant for the fire department, became a wildlife rehabilitator, and was interested in minerals and medicinal herbs. But her real passion was local history. In 1982, she published her first booklet on Sedalia's history.

Sedalia grew along the Plum Creeks in the late 1800's. Many of the original settlers have descendants living in the area. Barbara was concerned that as older residents died, history was being lost. They began taping interviews with long-time residents. Their collection became the basis for the Sedalia Museum local history files.

Other residents interested in local history banded with them. In 2000, they formed the Sedalia Historic Society. By 2001, the group applied for tax exempt status. There were 11 charter members.

People were beginning to offer articles from their ancestors as well as oral histories. Barbara's chicken coop, the original

museum storage, was getting crowded. How about setting up displays—but where?

About that time, the fire department decided to build a new firehouse in Sedalia.



*Barbara Machann (right) and her sister, Pam Belfield.*

"What will you do with the little brick firehouse?" Barbara asked then-chief Terry Thompson. Terry planned to make it his office, but the two agreed that the front half of the building could become a new museum. Museum members had a great time cobbling together the first exhibits from the donated items, supplemented with items from members' own collections.

But Barbara wasn't content. Right across Rio Grande Avenue from her house was one of the area's early ranches, developed by Willis Bryant. There sat a sad little dilapidated Victorian cottage. Built by Willis Bryant and

his wife, Mary Ellen, after their big brick house was consumed by fire. Years of weather and renters had taken their toll. Perfect for a museum! Current owner Gary Sutton agreed to sell it for a dollar, provided it be moved.

Now Barbara had a museum—but no place to put it. She set her sights once more on fire department property. The first choice was to the west of the new station. But it turned out that major communications wires ran under it. The east side on Highway 67 featured a huge unsightly borrow pit, courtesy of Colorado Department of Transportation when they widened that block of the road.

Most of the other museum members thought Barbara was nuts. There were fewer than a dozen members, most of them inactive. Estimates for the move and restoration was \$36,000. The museum treasury had less than \$5,000.

Most of us knew Barbara as a petite, quiet woman—with a touch of spice. But as threats to her dream arose, she turned into a

*Continued from front page.*

momma grizzly bear. She convinced the highway department they were unlikely to widen that road to six lanes—and they didn't need the borrow pit. They agreed.

Next, the notoriously cranky Douglas County Planning Commission had to approve. Barbara made her application. Back came a letter with 20 reasons why they could not approve, including the need for handicapped bathrooms in the 18 x 24 foot building. Researching other Colorado museums, the building committee was able to refute each one.

Back came another planning commission document—with 20 new reasons why the project was impossible. Now Barbara was mad. She went directly to the county commissioners and came away with not only approval, but a large grant for the project and a promise that the planning commission would be reorganized. The new museum was off and running.

During those early years, museum members learned more than they ever wanted to know about county regulations, construction and grant-writing. They painted window frames and researched paint colors. In 2009 the museum opened at a cost of more than \$150,000. It remains community-funded and volunteer run. The yellow building with a green roof and white trim offers a cheerful

welcome to Sedalia's entrance—far better than a borrow pit.

But during the process, Barbara had been thinking about Sedalia's needs. She was instrumental in landmarking several buildings, including the water tower, the brick firehouse, and the Manhart house (Gabriels).

The museum was the only non-government controlled organization in town. Why couldn't it reach out and do community service as well as history? The members established a quarterly newsletter, the Sedalia View, mailed to all in the 80135 zip code. Fourteen years later it is still publishing, and completely paid for by ads. A Girl Scout project, The Little Library, lends books to all. A Community Pantry, built by a Boy Scout, provides food for families in need. Several annual festivals bring the community together.

And far from resting on her laurels, Barbara and other members published a second edition of the Sedalia book, compiled family histories of early settlers now sold as The Sedalia Men's Book and Remarkable Ladies of Sedalia. She also printed a book of photos she took featuring early barns of Sedalia. All are available at the museum.

Barbara's legacy lives on in her many accomplishments for her beloved Sedalia. And as she arrives at the Pearly Gates and gets a look around, I'm sure she's making plans for improvement.

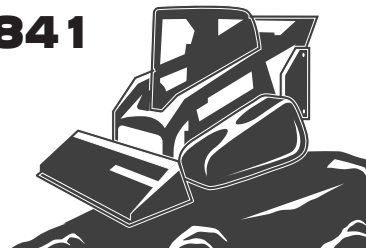


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# The Whistle Stop: Local Beacon Of Resilience Celebrates Five Years

By Sandra Brownrigg

Sedalia's cherished shop, The Whistle Stop, located at 4064 Douglas Avenue, is a treasure trove of one-of-a-kind antiques, distinctive gifts, timeless decor, and original Colorado-made creations. As proprietors Judy Smith, Ed Worthley and Dave Smith celebrate the shop's fifth anniversary this November, they are hosting a series of specials and celebrations just in time for holiday shopping.



Despite its name, The Whistle Stop is far from a fleeting presence. Over the past five years, the owners have demonstrated remarkable resilience and fortitude.

In 2018, Judy moved her family from Arizona to be closer to her son Steve, a firefighter for 23 years who was the fire marshal for West Douglas. Judy, along with Dave and Ed, initially started The Whistle Stop under the Sedalia Bakery, offering quilting supplies and sundries. They later moved to the larger space at 4064 Douglas Avenue, expanding their inventory to include unique antique and vintage items and offering estate sale expertise.



Steve Smith

The future seemed bright until the COVID-19 pandemic hit. In-person sales plummeted. They barely survived via socially distanced deliveries. Business eventually picked up as the pandemic waned.

Tragedy struck again in April 2022 when Steve Smith unexpectedly passed away. The community stepped up to support the Smiths. They gratefully returned the favor by donating some of their proceeds to the West Douglas County Fire Protection District, a nod to Steve's legacy.

This past June, thieves stole Steve's truck, treasured by his son Colton, a firefighter following in his father's footsteps. In July, the family patriarch, William Smith, passed away at age 82.

Through these challenging times, the family focused on the store, extracting joy from grief by connecting the community and celebrating the creativity of local artists. The Whistle Stop has become a cornerstone of area talent, featuring unique Colorado-made items from artists and other unique offerings, like Parker-based Rivertrail Candy.

Stop by to say hello as they prepare to celebrate their fifth anniversary, culminating on Black Friday, November 29. The festivities will honor local talent, community resilience, the unquenchable spirit of the Smith/Worthley family and Sedalia itself.

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# A Walk On The Wild Side

By Carole Williams

Sedalia has always walked a bit on the wild side. The museum is full of pictures like the one of Frank Penley and his buddies showing off their trophies following a successful mountain lion hunt. Chet Hier tells of his brother and friends roping a bear and tying it to a telephone pole outside of Bud's Bar in 1957.

Just this spring a young bear wandered through the center of town. The sound of wolves howling fills the air near Deckers.

Homeowners are used to seeing rabbits, deer, wild turkeys, and even a bobcat or mountain lion. So, it should come as no surprise that not one, but two wildlife rehabilitation organizations have made West Douglas County their home. Though their focus is different, each works toward rehabilitation and recovery. Both are 501(c)3 charities, existing on gifts from corporate donors and individuals, and volunteer work.

Mattersville, located in a remote area near Deckers, has two goals—to work with military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through an animal therapy program retraining wolf hybrids. Founder Drew Robinson, a solar engineer and designer, watched his childhood friend, Marine Randy Hansen, succumb to the effects of PTSD. He was stunned to find that at least 22 veterans commit suicide each day. Colorado has the highest rate in the nation. Drew started to study mental health issues and animal therapy programs. He called his project Pack 22. Drew partnered with Jefferson County mental health and he and the Mattersville staff all received mental health first aid certification.

He and his friends envisioned a place where people could get away from the pressures of modern life—the theme of a song by MFOX—Mattersville. Eventually they hope to be fully self-sustained off the grid.

When Drew learned that the Rocky Mountain Wolf Sanctuary was closing due to the health of its owners, he offered to take in the animals, most of them wolf hybrids. The organization obtained a property near Deckers and launched the Heroes and Hybrids program to pair wolves and veterans. Drew had hoped to provide tiny homes for homeless veterans as well, but Douglas County zoning made that impossible. Fortunately, Mattersville was able to get land near Yoder, where they already constructed five tiny homes

and have enough space for farm animals as well as wolves.

The Deckers property had been occupied by squatters for many years, and the entire area was covered in trash. The first challenge was to clean the land. Repairs on the existing house were

completed recently, and Drew, his wife and their two daughters moved onto the property. Next was building cages for wolves. Secure eight-foot fencing is built of no-climb wire, extending several feet underground in the enclosure because wolves love to dig. Double-gated entrance areas give extra security. Each pen has a water tank where the wolves can cool off, as well as a shelter. Wolf-dogs, all neutered, live in pairs based on

compatibility. When he enters the cages, most of the animals come up for a tummy rub.

Drew has worked out an arrangement with local Walmart stores to get about-to-expire meat to feed his animals. Wolves eat between three and five pounds of meat a day, and between the two facilities, Mattersville cares for 130 animals.

The two-pronged program seeks to retrain wolf dogs for adoption and give veterans with PTSD the skills they need for coping with civilian life. Both wolves and veterans are ranked by their needs.

All the wolf-dogs are genetically tested, and their programs ranked by the percentage of wolf DNA. Some are mostly dogs and can be rehabilitated as pets. The more wolf blood, the more likely they will need special escape-proof pens.

"You can't turn a wolf into a chihuahua," Drew says.

The veterans who are just entering the program work primarily with the dogs with the least wolf DNA and work up the "difficulty scale" to those with the most. Wolves are apex predators, Drew explains, providing a challenge to the veterans to be in charge of their emotions. The goal is to help veterans adapt to civilian life and return to their families.

For more information on Mattersville or to donate or volunteer, contact 720-244-4424 or [info@mattersvillevets.org](mailto:info@mattersvillevets.org).





# Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance

By Carole Williams

Have you ever found a baby bird on the ground, or a seemingly abandoned fawn? Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance, located on Highway 85 in Sedalia, has a website, [www.rmwalliance.org](http://www.rmwalliance.org), that walks you through a series of questions to help you determine the next steps to take. If you determine that help is needed, the alliance has volunteers who can do intake from 10am to 4pm daily.

Founder Emily Davenport created the alliance in 2017. She spent two decades as a veterinary professional working with small animals and exotics. She is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with Colorado and with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and one of only four people in Colorado who is internationally certified in wildlife rehabilitation by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. Her special interest is raptors. Because of her certifications in the wildlife community, Emily trains other wildlife rehabilitators and educators. The center has certification to care for reptiles and migrating birds.



*Wildlife rehabilitators offer oxygen to an injured animal*



*Too injured to release, a bald eagle is used for education.*

Since 2022 the alliance has been housed in a series of buildings on Cherokee Ranch property. It has treatment rooms, complete with veterinary equipment, and a series of holding rooms (think large floor-to-ceiling horse stalls) adaptable to housing animals during recovery. Current fundraising is targeted toward getting an x-ray machine. Now rehab workers have to take injured wildlife to a veterinary clinic to check injuries. Ten lead volunteers, most with zoo or veterinary backgrounds, are joined by about 50 other volunteers who do everything from animal care to cage cleaning and handyman chores. All volunteers have an orientation session before working with the animals.

On the day we visited in June, education director Mac McIntosh gave us an overview of the facility. Several animals, including an ornate box turtle, great horned owl, and red-tailed hawk, are permanent guests. Their injuries are too severe for release into the wild, so now they serve as demonstration animals when Mac does educational presentations.

"During fledgling season, we get about ten calls a day from people who find baby birds in their yard," she said.

The baby birds and other wild animals are terrified by their contact with humans, so the window to their cage is covered with a towel. Grackles made up the largest population on our visit. In one cage, fitted with sleeping shelves rather than perches, four foxes curled together. Several great horned owls peered down from perches in another. Outside the main building, two flight cages helped with rehabilitation, preparing birds for a return to freedom.

For more information on the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance or to donate or volunteer call 720-831-8130. Their website is excellent and provides answers to many wildlife questions.



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# A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL JEFF

Connecting to the “Wild Side” theme of the Sedalia View may prove to be a bit of a challenge but at Sedalia Elementary, we are always up for a challenge!



In the spring edition of the Sedalia View, we shared information about our annual chicken races celebrating reading. This unique twist, and Sedalia Elementary specific celebration, is one of the kids’ and community’s favorite events. People from all over the county join our students and



staff and watch the wild side of reading celebrations come to life. We appreciate everyone who came out to support us at this event in May.

We also saw some wild growth with our students in reading and math this year. Some of the biggest celebrations within our school was seeing the percentage of students in all three categories (on/above grade level, one-year below, two or

more years below) move in positive directions from the fall to the spring assessments for both reading and math:

Many thanks go to our parents, students, and staff for all the hard work that went into these remarkable changes from August 2023 to May 2024!

Math	Fall %	Spring %
On/Above grade level	12%	55%
1 year below grade level	59%	29%
2+ years below grade level	28%	16%

Reading	Fall %	Spring %
On/Above grade level	32%	65%
1 year below grade level	43%	20%
2+ years below grade level	25%	15%

The 2024-2025 school year started on Wednesday, August 7. We are looking forward to another remarkable year of fun and learning at Sedalia Elementary.

If you are interested in learning more about our school, please reach out to me at [Jeff.Johnson@dcsdk12.org](mailto:Jeff.Johnson@dcsdk12.org).

Respectfully,  
Jeff Johnson - Principal

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## School Offers Scouts Project Opportunities

By Carole Williams

Sedalia Elementary School not only has an excellent working relationship with the students, but also actively encourages programs that bring students from outside the district to do projects for the school.



Ryan Ausherman of Highlands Ranch recently completed his Eagle Scout award, based on his project for Sedalia Elementary.

"Another Scout in my troop had done a project at the school, so I called and asked for suggestions. The school asked for raised garden beds to help students in the special education department garden more easily."



He went on to say that Eagle Scout projects are evaluated not by the job itself, but by how well the Eagle candidate shows leadership skills. He must get the project approved by the Scout troop and council, draw up the plans, raise the needed funds, and direct fellow Scout members to complete the job.

Ryan raised the necessary \$1,200 mostly from friends and family. Building the beds cost \$850 with the remainder going to the school as a donation. The project took two months to complete with six fellow Scouts joining the labor force, for a total of 92 hours of service.

The 16-year-old continues in his Scouting activities. In June he spent 10 days at the Scout's Northern Tier adventure camp in Minnesota, offering wilderness canoeing and camping. He returned to Colorado to spend the remainder of the summer as a councilor at Peaceful Valley Scout Camp.

## A Unique And Fun Jewelry Store

By Betty Purkey-Huck

Zia Mountain Jewelry, located at 5040 Plum Avenue in Sedalia, is a place you want to add to your "to go" list. Zach and Jessica Harris purchased and transformed the building that now houses their small family owned and operated business.

For years, Zach worked on making jewelry with his uncle in Woodland Park and it grew into a hobby he really enjoyed. Unfortunately it is also an expensive hobby, so Zach decided to start selling his work. He is a skilled, self-taught silversmith, as you will see when you look at his impressive work. He designs pendants, necklaces, rings, pendants, bracelets, belt buckles, earrings and bolo ties. His pieces range in price.



Zia Mountain Jewelry also offers a room full of unique and enchanting gifts. A collection of 3D printed dragons, steel tongue drums, dream catchers, geodes, handmade leather purses, Native American pottery, kachinas, crystal kits, photographs of nature, gnomes, bears, candles, bath bombs, tea cups, fossils, rock carvings and more.

They are open Thursday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm as well as by appointment on Tuesday and Wednesday. Hours will change in the fall since Zach is an outfitter during hunting season.

Jessica works full-time at Sage Canyon Elementary in Castle Rock as an EA and in the library. They have three girls ages 14, 12 and 10.

Stop by this new addition to Sedalia!

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# Only In A Small Town—Sedalia's 4th Of July Celebration

By Jenny Schechter



Homemade ice cream, an art show, a local family band and a "day in the life of a pioneer." That's one of the beautiful things about living in Sedalia. Hopefully many of our readers were able to be at the Sedalia Museum's

annual Ice Cream Social and Art Show on the 4th of July. If not, here's a little preview and pictures of the event.



Everyone loves a treat, especially a cold one on a hot day. The ice cream flavors ranged from vanilla to peach to cherry chocolate chunk and everything in between. There was even goat's milk ice cream and non-dairy ice cream.



Our local family band (and I mean the whole



darn family) the Mountain Ranch Family Band kept the festivities hopping. They performed a wide variety of music including patriotic bluegrass, country, old-time gospel and folk music. All the band members sang and played guitar, banjo, violin and several cellos. They were wonderful!

We have such creative talent in Sedalia and our local artists are amazing. They displayed their work in the West Douglas Fire training room, which consisted of paintings using various mediums such as oils and watercolors, and sculptures and kept with the theme of our Sedalia history and environment.

New to our 4th of July celebration were the speakers, representing actual historical figures that lived and shaped our town of Sedalia. Tinker Barnet played Lizzy Kinner and Joe Gschwendtner talked about his book, Five Bright Sunbonnets, highlighting many of our historical women. We even had the first Forest Ranger from the late 1800s, Bill Kreutzer, tell us about watching over Devil's Head lookout and the fires he helped tackle as a young man.

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# Elizabeth "Lizzie" Field Kinner 1853-1930

Page 79 of "Five Bright Sunbonnets" by Joe Gschwendtner 2023

Good morning!

My name is Elizabeth Kinner. My friends call me Lizzie. My story is at first sad and difficult. It is a hardship story.

When I was 11 years old, it was 1864, near the end of the Civil War. Our family joined a wagon train from Wesleyville, Pennsylvania to Denver, Colorado.

It took us 6 weeks to get down here. When we arrived here, both Ma and Pa had "the fever" and almost died, but they survived.

Not able to find work, Pa joined the Colorado Calvary. Within days he got sick and died. My sister also died of pneumonia while in Denver.

My poor Ma was on her own with the children. She had her mind set on going back east. We had met Sarah Coberly Crull who had Crull's Halfway House and Tavern in Denver. Ma decided to lease-me-out as an indentured servant. Although the family spoke of it as adoption, the arrangement was like slavery, except that I was not owned by Mrs. Crull. The formal document read that I would get room, board and clothes for my work, but no pay.

Ma left with the children, and I never saw nor heard from her or my brothers and sisters again. I was young and afraid. It was a difficult time for me.

I worked hard, doing laundry, cleaning, making beds and anything that was needed to do. Later, Mrs. Crull had a tavern south of Denver between Castle Rock and Larkspur on East Plum Creek, not far from here. A lot of people came through on this route between Denver and Colorado Springs. It was here that I met John Kinner.

John was from Illinois. He was ambitious and tough. He had been a blacksmith when young, worked in the Colorado mines at Blackhawk and Central City, and later drove a mule team for government freight wagons. John already had 100 acres of ranch land on West Plum Creek, 6 miles south of Sedalia in the Perry Park area.

John and I were married in 1873. I was 20 years old, and he was 40 years old. No matter, I had years of work experience! I was prepared to manage the homestead.

We had a great life together! John and I had 11 children, 7 daughters and 4 sons. All of them finished school through the 8th grade, as far as they could go at Glen Grove School. The younger ones went on to high school.

We built the ranch to 900 acres. It gave us meat, dairy, eggs, grain and apples. What a blessing!

We had much interaction with First Nation, Native Americans. There

once was a Chief that came by the ranch to trade grain. He had brought a blanket for loading it onto his pony. It spilled out all over, but John reloaded it for him, and he was on his way.

A young male who was expelled from his tribe for something he had done wrong, lived with the us for years. We called him Pete. Perhaps he was a chance for me, who had suffered much and now had so much, to give back.

And there were horse thieves.

I've thought about it, my hardship years; feeling alone and working hard at a young age and how that hurt so bad.

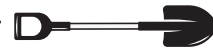
I thought, maybe Ma was sad, too, at her decision to go and leave me all alone. Maybe she was also wise and saw a chance for me to have a good, safe life. Maybe it helped me see that another young person like Pete, who was also alone, needed our help.

In the end, I am both sad and very grateful for my life.

I am Lizzie Kinner! Thank you!

Read more about Lizzie in Joe's book, "Five Bright Sunbonnets" page 79.

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# House Talks — Home Is Where The Wildlife Is

By Amy Lee Hoffman | REMAX Alliance

Years ago, I had an unforgettable experience while showing a property. A large male buck with an impressive rack was lounging in the front lawn of the house I was about to show. The out-of-state buyer, coming from the city, was in absolute shock. I got out of my car and shooed the buck away, much to her astonishment. Looking back, I want to thank that buck for creating such a memorable adventure for my buyer. The truth is it's not unusual to see an abundance of Colorado wildlife around your home. But the privilege of sharing your outdoor space with wildlife comes with certain responsibilities, all to keep you and the wildlife safe.

In 1992, Colorado passed a law making it illegal to feed big game animals since it alters their natural behavior. Residents should secure their trash and food sources to avoid attracting unwanted visitors like raccoons, bears and coyotes. Trimming tree branches near your roof can prevent access for opportunistic animals like raccoons/rodents to enter (remember these critters can jump short distances). You may also consider using a bear-proof dumpster which can hold up to six cubic yards of trash. These dumpsters are designed to keep bears out and deter them from coming back.

In addition, be sure to inspect porches, decks, sheds and garages for holes and securely seal them off to prevent rodents and snakes from intruding. Check

roofs and eaves, using metal to block holes and rust-proof screening on vents. Close garage and shed doors at night to keep critters out.

In place since the early 1880s, Colorado has been a "fence out" state, meaning that, if you don't want someone else's livestock on your property, it is your responsibility to fence them out, not the owner's responsibility to keep livestock fenced in. While fences serve various purposes, they can be expensive to build and maintain, and can also harm wildlife. Consider fencing only what's crucial to protect and leaving access to the habitat that animals need.

All of these measures ensure a safe and harmonious relationship between humans and Colorado's wild residents.



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*Amy Lee has lived in Sedalia for 17 years*



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*Live Stream at PlumCreekChapel.org*

**(Located 4 blocks west of the Firehouse)  
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*"Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land,  
and feed on His faithfulness."  
(Psalm 37:3)*

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## Regular Meetings in Sedalia:

- ⊙ **Second Monday: 6 pm (note new time) — Together Women Rise**  
Indian Creek Clubhouse  
Contact: Betty Purkey-Huck, [bphck2@gmail.com](mailto:bphck2@gmail.com) or (303) 688-4983
- ⊙ **Second Saturday: 3–5 pm — Sunflower Grange #162**  
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room  
Contact: Cherry Ellis at [sunflowergrange162@yahoo.com](mailto:sunflowergrange162@yahoo.com)
- ⊙ **Third Monday: 7–8 pm — Sedalia Water Board Meeting**  
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room  
Contact: [bryan.green54@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.green54@gmail.com)  
*Sedalia property owners welcome.*
- ⊙ **Fourth Wednesday: 10 am–12 pm — Great Books**  
Meets at Various Locations  
Contact: Cherry Ellis at [cherryellis5@yahoo.com](mailto:cherryellis5@yahoo.com) or (303) 688-1997
- ⊙ **Fourth Friday: 10 am — Sedalia Museum and Gardens Meeting**  
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room  
Contact: Deby Williams at [sedaliamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:sedaliamuseum@gmail.com) for more information



The Sedalia View is published quarterly by the volunteers of the Sedalia Museum and Gardens and other citizens of Sedalia.

Contact Us: [sedaliamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:sedaliamuseum@gmail.com) | Post Office Box 394, Sedalia, CO 80135

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