



Sedalia View

VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 1 | FEBRUARY 2026

WESTON VALLEY RANCH MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Betty Purkey-Huck

Animals, particularly horses, seem to be able to read people and their emotions and somehow sense what a person needs. This extraordinary bond between humans and horses can be a catalyst for positive change. Through innovative equine therapy programs with a safe and nurturing environment, individuals can rediscover their inner strength, build resilience and embrace a brighter future.

At Weston Valley Ranch the Gift of Heart program, a 501(c)(3) combines the timeless beauty of horses with the transformative power of equine therapy. They provide mentorship and guidance to men, women and children on their path to emotional wellness equipping them with coping strategies while fostering social-emotional growth, building resilience and strengthening self confidence. Through specialized programs they empower people of all ages with the tools they need to navigate challenges, develop healthy relationships and cultivate a strong sense of self worth.

On this 400 acre ranch they have a 30,000 square foot arena with

inside space. They provide rides, horse camps, parties, gardening, daily chores and have eight therapy horses. They also have mini Highland cows, goats, mini horses, cows, and chickens. A visit provides work and play combined.



This experience is for anyone who needs it – veterans, special needs, handicapped, grieving, addiction, PTSD, anxiety, autism, suicidal, kids, adults – everyone. It can handle one on one or groups as big as 10. It is peaceful and quiet

Sessions are \$15-20 a time. They are fundraising this year so they can offer lower or free sessions. If you're interested in volunteering or being a mentor go to

the website and sign up on their questionnaire. You can also give a donation on their website, Weston Valley Ranch. They are located at 4898 Jackson Creek Road, (303) 981-9666.

The Gift of Heart, Weston Valley Ranch is making a lasting difference in our community, one life at a time.



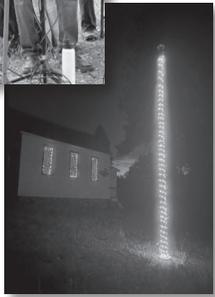
Support The Indian Park Schoolhouse At The 2026 Valentine's Dinner

By Lura Wolfe

Please plan to join us on February 14, 2026, at the annual Valentine's Dinner to support the Indian Park Schoolhouse.



I was asked, "What are we supporting by attending the dinner?" That is easy – History and Community. For almost 30 years the Indian Park Schoolhouse association has been hosting its annual fundraiser. The funds support the care of the schoolhouse and community.



Did you know that the events at the schoolhouse are free to attend? That is because of your generous donations and support. In 2025 we participated in many events. The first was the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. I hope you received some great candy.

Were you at the annual Star Gazing event this year? The Mountain Ranch

Band performed under the twinkling lights on the grass. A great night of food, music and community.

Did you provide cookies for the annual Cookie Cheer event in December? We provided 25 boxes of cookies and fruit baskets to many in the community. We couldn't do it without your support and participation.

These are just some of the events that Valentine's Dinner makes possible.

Please navigate to www.ipsha.org and reserve your spot at the annual Valentine's Dinner to support your local history and your community. Dinner is \$40 per person and includes steak or chicken, salad, potatoes and dessert. Thank you for all of your past and future support of our little piece of history!

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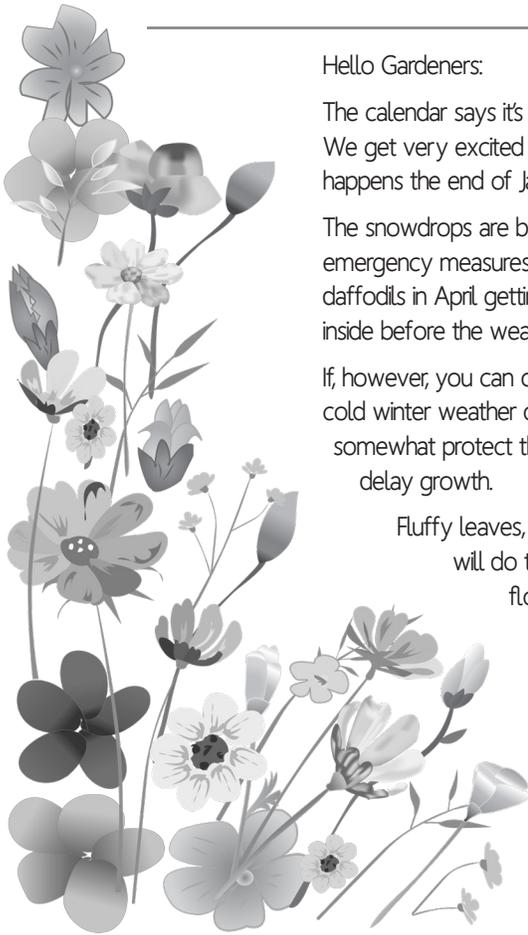


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Hello Gardeners:

The calendar says it's winter, but it feels more like spring. The garden certainly agrees, especially the spring bulbs. We get very excited when the first green shoots poke out of the ground in early/mid-March but when this happens the end of January, we are becoming a little concerned. Should we just leave them alone?

The snowdrops are blooming in the garden as I'm writing this, so there is definitely nothing to be gained by taking emergency measures. Enjoy them while you can and practice a little garden Zen. After all, we are used to daffodils in April getting covered by six inches of snow. I usually pick a nice cheerful bouquet of them to enjoy inside before the weather turns nasty outside.

If, however, you can only see tiny green tips peeking out of the ground, you can appeal to the weather gods for cold winter weather or try and delay the growing process by a thick fluffy layer of mulch. By doing this you may somewhat protect the shoots from frost and at the same time keep the ground cold by shading it which may delay growth.

Fluffy leaves, pine straw, a winter weight garden blanket, anything light will work. A good blanket of snow will do the same. If you planted your bulbs properly, they will come back next year, whether they flowered this year or not. If you have to call it a loss this year, you may have to get your tulip or daffodil fix some other way. With Valentine's Day coming up, a beautiful bunch of spring flowers will definitely delight, but not move the scales up even a notch.

While we are waiting for spring to truly arrive, the garden is getting a bit of a face lift. No time like winter to assess whether some parts are looking a little tired. This is especially true for the Plant Select area, right by the fence in the front along the parking area. I only wish it was so easy for us when we start to look a little tired! We'll just have to make do with chocolate. Stay warm, everyone!

Ursula Rogers, DC master gardener and keeper of the garden



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A Local Family With A History Of Long Marriages

By IdaLynn Geddes

One of Jarre Canyon's longest residents was Frank Jackson. For 93 years he had rich memories, and experiences and developed a love and knowledge for the area that only time can produce.

About 1850, Frank's great-grandfather, a preacher, immigrated from Germany. His son, Evan Jackson, before the turn of the century, moved to Jarre Canyon. He resided at the Papoose Club property. He met and married Miss Ella Rouse, who was part Cherokee Indian. When Evan married Ella, he also gained an ambassador of sorts. Ute Braves passed through the area frequently. Ella, able to speak the Braves' language, was able to maintain peaceful terms with them. The family moved to the Chapin farm (now known as Indian Creek Ranch). They had four sons, Henry, Bowen, Thomas and Frank. Their lifestyle was simple but satisfying.

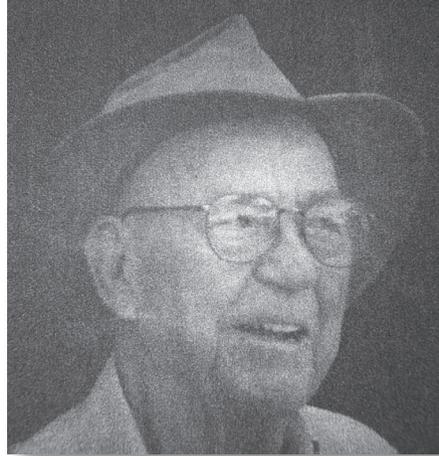
When Evan and Ella's family moved to Kremmling, their son Thomas

never lost his love for the country, and returned in 1934 with a lovely wife, Zula and six children. Zula (Smith) Jackson had previously traveled by covered wagon from Illinois to Denver with her family. Tom and Zula lived long, good, happy, healthy lives. (Tom 1889-1973 and Zula 1892-1978)

Due to large families, Jarre Canyon was swarming with youngsters when Tom and Zula's children were growing up. There are many fond memories of games, picnics at Elephant Rock, and rides on a work horse named Nigg. Frank Jackson, one of Tom and Zula's sons, and Lorraine Kissel met during this time. They were married on December 23, 1936. Frank and Lorraine had a wonderful

marriage of 73 years.

This article was paraphrased from Frank Jackson's story in the book Men of Sedalia "Stories compiled by the volunteers of The Sedalia Historic Museum and Gardens." The book is available at the museum.



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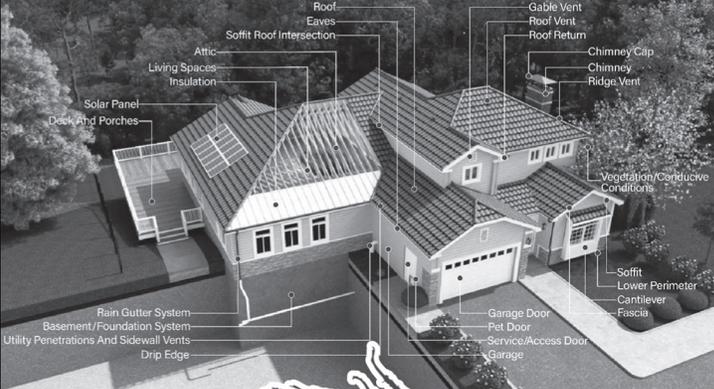
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New Cattle Business—And More!

By Carole Williams

Pete Swaab began his business career when his honorary grandmother bought him a lawnmower. Today, he owns enough businesses to make your head swim.

Anyone who has traveled south on Hwy. 67 from Sedalia has seen Pete's large sign advertising hay for sale, driveway plowing, grading. That's just the tip of the iceberg.

When he was a high school sophomore, Pete moved from his home in Washington state to Parker. He quickly learned that mowing lawns in Colorado was far less lucrative than in Washington. He switched his focus to landscaping. While still in high school, he had

a whole landscaping crew working for him. He owned the landscaping business for twelve years before switching to excavation work, founding Freedom Industries. He also builds modular homes, with one in Steamboat Springs and five in Durango.

But in addition to his other business, Pete was fascinated by ranching. He rented grazing land, but found commuting from Parker to Sedalia was too time-consuming. When he

and his girlfriend, Amanda Riley, had the chance to obtain the Hwy. 67 property, also the home of Sedalia Tire, they established the A&P Ranch and Cattle Company. They moved their horses to the ranch and acquired a herd of 26 cattle. Two Colorado Mountain livestock guardian dogs give herd protection.

"I'm a first generation rancher," Pete said. He and Amanda pride



themselves on organically raised cattle, grass fed and finished with no antibiotics or additives. They have big plans for the enterprise. Next summer they will set up a farm-fresh stand, selling their beef and chickens, fresh organic vegetables, honey and beef sticks. A large greenhouse is in the planning stages.

In just a few months in Sedalia, Pete has snow plowing customers including all the area fire stations and the Sedalia Museum. He hung Christmas lights for the Museum, plans to help with landscaping improvements there in the spring. He is working to expand his hay business to local horse owners.

One of his first projects upon moving in was to clear and regrade the channel of Jarre Creek, long clogged with dead and dying cottonwoods and willows. Evidence of his industry is visible as large stacks of wood chips along Hwy. 67. Pete is giving the chips away, and will load them for anyone who wants them.

As if all this wasn't enough, Pete is available for ranch fencing, gate entrances, animal shelters, covered hay feeders, grading driveways and fire mitigation. He also does hay cutting, drill seeding and field mowing. If anyone needs help getting agricultural status, Pete is searching for land leases in Sedalia.

How does he manage all these varied enterprises?

"I have good employees," he said modestly.

To reach A&P Ranch and Cattle Company, call (970) 281-5110 or e-mail peterpaul@landyswaab.com.



Photos courtesy of Bar-C Photography

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love actually

When I was a freshman at a women's college, 17 years old, a friend talked me into going on a blind date with her. We were halfway over the Blue Ridge Mountains, ostensibly on the way to a fraternity party in Lexington, Va., when I found out our dates were soldiers from the 82nd Airborne on their first leave after two months on combat alert, and we were going on a "picnic" in the woods—in December. One couple got sleeping bags from the trunk and disappeared into the woods. The other couple locked themselves in my date's car with a bottle of bourbon and steamed the windows. There I was, alone in the wilderness with a man I'd only met that day. I not only survived the experience, but our 60th wedding anniversary is this June. ♥ Carole

A good-looking guy was sitting across the college library table from me. Sixty years ago, you weren't allowed to talk in the library. Notes passed between us and the possibility of coffee together—sometime—was mentioned. I spent many hours in that library hoping to see that great looking guy again. It took a couple of weeks before he stopped by the library table again and said, "I'm going for coffee. You coming with?" With that he turned on his heel and walked away. I was determined that with that attitude he owed me a cup of coffee and followed him out the door. We were married by the end of the year. ♥ IdaLynn

I was attending a big church in Englewood. Randy was applying for a facility manager's position at the same church and thought he had the job. He was called a few days later as they had found someone else for the position. Several weeks later he got a call back from the church and they asked if he was still interested. The guy who had taken the job dropped dead in the parking lot. My husband of 30 years likes to say that "someone had to die" for us to meet. ♥ Jenny

I met my husband at my work place. We interfaced with each other and saw each other frequently. He thought I was cute and wanted to ask me out but when he saw me, sometimes I had a ring on and sometimes I didn't. He wasn't sure if I was married or not. It turns out I had my office key on a key ring and frequently put it on my finger. He asked and found out I was single and he asked me out. We dated for five years and ended up happily married for 36 years until he passed away. ♥ Betty

I'm German and married my American husband in Germany. My mother arranged all details of the wedding since I was in the middle of finals. When it came time to cut the wedding cake, we discovered that it was really a three-tier fruit cake, and probably everyone's worst nightmare. The baker thought a British and an American wedding cake were the same! I was glad I was 4000 miles away when it came time to eat the top tier for our one-year anniversary. ♥ Ursula



Thank you to all who generously donated to Winterfest this year. Proceeds from Santa's workshop are distributed back to the community to assist in fulfilling community needs. Winterfest and Santa's Workshop are a community effort. No proceeds go to the Museum.

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Excerpts from Martha Manhart's Scrap Books—The excerpts were collected from newspapers from 1898–1930.(Notebooks containing the collection are found in the Sedalia Museum.)

12-18-1897— So far the Toluca card parties do not seem to be of much success. We think it is because so many of the young folks have been married since last year, and you know old married folks do not enjoy them so much.

1-25-1913— Many people from Sedalia and vicinity have attended the Stock Show this week.

1915—Everybody attended a Field Day at Castle Rock Saturday, except the few that didn't go.



Sedalia's Heartbeat

*In Sedalia's streets, the laughter flows,
Where every neighbor's kindness shows.
Ladies' clubs with stories shared,
Crafting bonds with love and care.*

*The smoke of BBQ fills the air,
A feast of friendship everywhere.
Cold beer clinks in twilight cheer,
Echoes of joy draw people near.*

*The museum holds the town's proud past,
Preserving moments meant to last.
Each artifact, each tale retold,
Keeps Sedalia's spirit bold.*

*It's not the size that makes it grand,
But the warmth of every hand.
Community strong, both old and new,
Sedalia's heart beats bright and true.*

*Written by
SuJeanne Foster*



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Murder In The Garden

By SuJeanne Foster

The Growers Club, which I refer to as the Growers' Social Club, has its roots in the Sedalia Museum and Garden Club. We blossomed into a genuine feel-good group of ladies who love gardening. We come together once a month to talk dirty (good soil is important), and once a year we grow plants for the annual museum fundraiser. There are guest speakers, seed exchanges, potluck parties, a sourdough lesson, wild deer, and even a movie night. We just have so much fun with each other's company.

The Colorado Master Gardeners maintain the actual flower beds at the museum. The Growers Social Club is a separate free-spirited group. Master Gardeners have a state website at <https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/>, but the Growers Social club is less formal. Our team leader, Nena Robbins, gets us the good dirt, and wholesale prices for gardening supplies. Agendas are brief. We exchange stories about all the things that go wrong and how to fix them.

For example, what kinds of things can go wrong. The soil must have the right amendments. And the right pH. There can be too much or too little water, sun, wind, and fertilizer. Then there're pests, hoppers, aphids, fungus gnats, spider mites, mealy bugs, birds and goats. Don't forget the plagues such as powdery mildew. Sounds biblical

sometimes. And which plant goes where when? Regardless, we eagerly await the thaw and dauntlessly restart the planting every year with youthful exuberance and optimism.

But sometimes there is a murder. Our favorite master gardener planted her penstemon in the museum demonstration garden and placed a lovely "Plant Select" label to mark the spot. A short while later, the only thing remaining was the label. The foliage was gone! Dug out! Murdered! A brief investigation revealed the identity of the murderer: another master gardener! Unperturbed, as nature often is, it grew back.

Ode to Ursula

Mistook for a weed, the penstemon went,
dug up with gusto, its life seemingly spent.
But back it sprang, in defiant bloom —
a floral escape from its shallow tomb.



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Happy Birthday Colorado

By Betty Purkey-Huck

If you're like me, you've never thought about what it takes to become a state. It's obviously harder than I thought when I read the History Colorado story about Colorado becoming a state. It took seventeen years and five attempts.

The first attempt was in 1859. There was a Denver Businessmen Coalition that wanted statehood. Many of the population were miners and they were not interested in paying taxes toward statehood.

The second attempt was in 1864. The Latino people in the South were added to the New Colorado Territory (1861) and they said these people don't represent us.

The third attempt was in 1865. The attempt was successful in Colorado and went to Congress and they passed it on to President Johnson. He vetoed it because he said we didn't have enough population.

The fourth attempt was in 1866. The same thing happened again with the President.

The fifth attempt was after several petitions up to 1873. President Grant had visited Colorado and saw several changes and was impressed – we had a train, more free land for settlement after efforts against the

Indians, and more population. It was delayed for a couple of years due to various adjustments at the federal level but in 1876 statehood was granted and we became the Centennial State.

This year Colorado is celebrating its 150th birthday and the United States is celebrating its 250th Anniversary. Learn about the official America 250-Colorado 150 Commission at www.America250Colorado150.org. There will be many events and celebrations this year.

If you have a story or an event you want to add locally, please contact Mary O'Pry (maryopry@aol.com) or Betty Purkey-Huck (bphck2@gmail.com). The Sedalia Museum will have displays, a July 4th event, and several other events are in the works.



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A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL JEFF

The theme for this edition of the Sedalia View, Do Good, fits well with many aspects of our remarkable school. At Sedalia Elementary, we find evidence of students Doing Good every day. Small gestures like helping a classmate pick up a spilled supply box, giving a compliment, inviting someone new to play in a game at recess or sit at the lunch table are common behaviors we see.

We also have students who take remarkable steps to Do Good for others in our school. We have a student in 4th grade who has volunteered to work with our kindergarteners as a class mentor and he sacrifices some of his independent time to model and mentor positive behaviors with our students.

These photos are from one of the classes where PE became fully inclusive. In PE, a class with two students who use wheelchairs demonstrated incredible inclusivity during their jump rope unit. The students worked together to find creative ways for everyone



to participate. The photos below capture this inspiring example and the joy that it brought to everyone.

A spirit of service, or "Doing Good," is clearly evident in our students and staff. A wonderful example of this was the support coordinated by our PTO for several families during the holidays. This initiative provided large boxes of food and self-care items, and even transformed a classroom into a temporary "shop" where parents could select Christmas gifts for their children. The outpouring of support from the broader Sedalia community

was truly heartwarming, demonstrating how everyone connected to our school embraces opportunities to help others.

These examples of selfless acts of kindness are a tiny example of how much Do Good happens at

Sedalia Elementary. If you would like to fill someone's bucket and simultaneously fill your own with acts of kindness, please reach out to us for volunteer opportunities. A child's smile, hug, or thank you will make you feel like royalty and you will be able to see how Doing Good makes everyone feel a little bit better.



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Small Town, Big Heart: The Giving Soul of Sedalia, Colorado

By Amy Lee Hoffmann, REMAX Alliance

Having lived in Sedalia for twenty years, I can say with certainty that it is one of the most giving small towns in Colorado. This spirit of generosity has been part of the town's fabric since the 1800s, built by people who consistently offer their time and resources to the community. Historically, figures like George Manhart set the standard for public service and dedication by running the local mercantile while serving as postmaster and head of the school board. This dedication to stewardship was mirrored by Tweet Kimball, owner of Cherokee Ranch, who established a conservation easement for over 3000 acres. Her actions protected the land from development forever, ensuring the town's natural beauty remains untouched for future generations.

That same heart for service is alive today through the many people who support the Sedalia Museum. Bev and Andy Wiedeman initiated the barn quilt project in 2012 to support local merchants and the Sedalia Museum, while Ursula Rogers, a Colorado master gardener, volunteers her time to maintain the museum's beautiful gardens. The community's heart is perhaps best seen in annual traditions like the enjoyable St. Patrick's parade where so many local businesses participate as well as the volunteer-run tomato sale

where volunteers grow plants from seed, donating every cent of the proceeds to keep the museum running.

This neighborly care was especially evident during the pandemic, when Donna Ingram, owner of O'Briens and the Sedalia Bakery, personally delivered free meals to neighbors who were unable or unwilling to leave their homes, ensuring no one in the community was left behind.

Sedalia's compassion also extends to animals, supported by several dedicated 501c3 nonprofits. Organizations like Hoffmann's Little Haven focus on kitten rescue, while 4Paws 4Life has saved over 18,000 animals. The town even looks out for its wildlife through the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Alliance, which provided life-saving care to a baby raven I once found with a broken wing. The town of Sedalia is filled with so many generous and wonderful people that naming them all would take thousands of words, but I feel incredibly lucky to live in a community defined by such enduring kindness and generosity.



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Save the Date

- ⊙ **Saturday, Feb. 14: 4–8:30 pm — Indian Park School House Association's Annual Valentine's Dinner**
At Sprucewood Inn. Reserve seats via www.ipsha.org.
- ⊙ **Sunday, March 15: 2 pm — O'Brien's St. Patrick's Day Parade**
Line up starts at B-Man's BBQ at 1:30 pm. Corned beef and cabbage at O'Brien's Cafe at 2:45, available until it's gone! For more info call Donna at (303) 916-2240.
- ⊙ **Saturday, May 16: 9 am – 2 pm — Sedalia Museum and Gardens Annual Flower and Plant Sale**
At the West Douglas Firehouse training room and parking lot. Flowers, herbs, vegetables and tomato sale.



Regular Meetings in Sedalia:

- ⊙ **Second Monday: 6 p.m. (note new time) — Together Women Rise**
Indian Creek Clubhouse. Contact: Betty Purkey-Huck, bphck2@gmail.com or (303) 688-4983
- ⊙ **Second Saturday: 12–2 p.m. — Sedalia Grower's**
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room. Master Gardeners and total newbies, join us to be inspired to grow things. Contact: Nena Robbins, nenarob@aol.com or call (303) 250-2361.
- ⊙ **Second Saturday: 3–5 p.m. — Sunflower Grange #162**
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room. Contact: Cherry Ellis at sunflowergrange162@yahoo.com.
- ⊙ **Third Monday: 7–8 p.m. — Sedalia Water Board Meeting**
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room. Contact: bryan.green54@gmail.com. *Sedalia property owners welcome.*
- ⊙ **Fourth Wednesday: 10 a.m.–12 p.m. — Great Books Club**
Meets at Various Locations. Contact: Cherry Ellis at cherryellis5@yahoo.com or (303) 688-1997.
- ⊙ **Fourth Friday: 10 a.m. — Sedalia Museum and Gardens Meeting**
West Douglas Fire Department Training Room. Contact: Betty Purkey-Huck at bettyp@sedaliamuseum.org or (720) 823-2999 for more information.

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

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