Ye Olde Educators' Party Line

Gem County Retired Educators

Vol. II, Iss. 4 Nov. 2026

Greetings from Your President

Back in the day—choose any year in the 1950s—I used to jump with joy (I would have danced, but that was forbidden in our house) when the Sears Roebuck Christmas catalog arrived in the mail. A world of shopping revealed itself to my deprived eyes. Of course I knew we would not be getting any dolls or dresses or new ironing boards or even rust-free tools, but a girl can dream! Later I found out that earlier in retail history people had bought houses and tractors and pianos along with their sturdy cotton underwear from Sears.

Well, lo and behold! Just in time in my life—when my arthritic knees have made it too painful to shop in person—the new version of the catalog has arisen. I raise a toast of plain water to internet shopping! It's even faster and easier than catalog shopping, with more choices!

And here's where I give special thanks. My car was twenty-two years old. Still running, but probably not going to last all the years I still intend to drive. I decided I should buy one last car of a lifetime. The blessing? I bought it on the internet—didn't have to tussle with a salesman over the price, wait while he "talked with his manager," or argue about undercoating. In fact, I didn't talk to a single human in the whole process. And I got a good deal. And it was delivered to my door. And so were the registration and license plates. So, I'm giving thanks!

I hope you have a **Happy Thanksgiving**, too!

Thank you, Pam!

No one understands how she does so much. It's not as though she has no personal responsibilities. . .

Pam Walker gave us an excellent program in November. She got an assortment of participants in the Emmett Community Playhouse to visit us to share their positive experiences. They came in all age ranges and spoke about the fun and rewards of bringing theater to Emmett. The emphasis was that there is some way for anyone to participate, regardless of ability or type of talent.

It was so gratifying to see that the group started by Al Schneider, Ann Serrano, and Ginny and Roger Benny back in the 90s is still going strong.

Lucky Amy!

Amy Linville won the donor prize of the cashmere scarf in October.

Amy has done an outstanding job as our education-in-politics committee member. We all appreciate her diligence, her animated reporting, her thorough research.

Maybe it was karma that let her win the drawing?

Donor Drawing







This month you have three chances to win a prize if you donate to the Cheer Baskets (or any of our causes)! Traditional blown glass ornaments from Old World Christmas will give your tree (or someone else's tree) a nostalgic touch while adding whimsey. Choose from a page out of "The Wizard of Oz," a twist cone, or a Santa bringing world peace if your name is drawn. I love these exquisite ornaments and have been giving them as gifts for nearly twenty years. One of these years I'll start giving them to myself for my own tree!

Cheer Baskets



Cheer Basket Chair, Lyn Haun, reported that the Emmett Superintendent of Schools refuses to let the legislature ruin Christmas. In spite of their Act, our schools can continue collecting and collating food and gifts for the community.

You are encouraged to donate money for the shoppers to customize the baskets for each family in need. Remember, the teachers are the ones who identify them based on what they see in students.

In our November meeting GCRE members voted to donate a ten-pound bag of potatoes to each family as well.

Looking Ahead
Put December 29th on your calendar, and don't let your doctor try to get you for an appointment! Our end-of-the-year meeting will be a party! Your Exec. Board decided that since everyone else crams in Christmas themed events before Christmas, we'll focus on the New Year instead! So you don't have to wear your sparkly Christmas sweater (though you can).
You can wear your formal New Year's Eve party gown (you don't have to).

Program Change
The new Community Coordinator for Gem schools will not be able to attend in November. We hope she can tell us what she does in January.

Have You Received a Nice Gift You Know You'll Never Use?
We'll never tell! At our December meeting we'll have a *No-Guilt-Regifting* Opportunity! Bring your nice-but-not-for-you gift, and we'll have a gift exchange to pick out something you might have chosen for yourself.

No white elephants, no beat-up thrift store candidates—just well-meant gifts that aren't your style. Maybe something you got for Christmas, maybe something you got for your birthday, maybe something you got for a door prize, maybe even something you got from me!

We won't let you feel guilty about passing it on to someone who likes it!

Unwrapped please!

Happy Thanksgiving!