



WITH HONORS

Gamma Chi organization celebrates its history at 50th anniversary event
FRONT RANGE, 3A

LOVELAND GAMMA CHI

Organization marks 50 years of service

Founding member Millee Bovee honored during celebration

By PAMELIA JOHNSON
REPORTER-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Fifty years ago, a Loveland chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha formed to give back to the community.

Sunday, a room full of Gamma Chi members, past and present, gathered to celebrate the difference they have made in the community by donating time and raising money and the lasting friendships they have formed.

Millee Bovee, the last active founding member, who signed the original charter in 1968, was honored with an ESA 50-year pin at the celebration in Loveland on Sunday. She described the past five decades of community service as "unbelievable."

"The chapter itself and the orga-



Marlene Kopsa attaches a 50-year pin to Millee Bovee's sweater during Gamma Chi's 50th anniversary celebration in Loveland on Sunday. Bovee is the last active founding member of the Loveland chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International.

PAMELIA JOHNSON / Loveland Reporter-Herald

nization have done so much for the community, for people," said Bovee.

The overall ESA organization, which includes Gamma Chi, has

money to Project Self-Sufficiency, Community Kitchen, WINGS and much more.

Members have raised money through dances, bake sales, walk-a-thons and many other activities. They serve at the Community Kitchen each month.

They help with the Honor Flight that takes veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

They give money to the 137 Connection and the House of Neighborly Service, and the list goes on.

"When you see what they've accomplished every year, it adds up," said Kathy Garrison, Colorado president of ESA, who drove from Denver to attend the Sunday event. "This is a very active chapter. They are a shining star."

Because the Gamma Chi chapter was formed in 1968, members researched food from that year for the buffet spread at the celebration, including deviled eggs, stuffed celery, meatballs made

with chili and grape jelly, cucumber sandwiches and a layered cake that was literally every color of the rainbow.

"We wanted a rainbow cake because rainbows were the thing in 1968," said Kerry Date, member of the Loveland chapter.

Also, photos and hand-made scrapbooks portrayed the diverse events and ways that the members impacted each other and Loveland over the past five decades. Some books were quilted and others made from wood — including a scrapbook shaped and painted like a smiley face — and the clothing and hairstyles varied, but the mission of the group remained the same since 1968.

"We have so much fun doing it," said Pat Bernhardt, a Gamma Chi member for 33 years. "We try to make a difference ... and it's just fun."

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