

The official publication of the NC Grange

2026 VOLUME ONE

GRANGE NEWS



25-26 FARM
OF THE YEAR

contents

3	From David's Desk NC Grange President
4	Local Grange News
5	Award Winning Recipe
6	Chaplain's Corner
7	Tobacco Farm Life Museum
8	Rosedae Dairy Farm
11	Local Grange News
12	Capitol News
13	New Members
14	Gotcha Covered
15	St. John's Grange

STATE OFFICERS

President	David Allen
Vice President	Jimmy Martin
Program Director	Bobbie Dellinger
Steward	Mark Hood
Assistant Steward	Charles Howerton
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	Dewitt Hardee
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Secretary	Barden Culbreth
Greeter	Joseph Beaman
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Sharon Ritchie
Flora	Wanda Crawford

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	Tom Cash
	Vinnie Duncan
	Melanie Hudson
	August Howerton
	Raymond Hayes, II
	Jason Davis
President	David Allen
Vice President	Jimmy Martin
Secretary	Barden Culbreth
Treasurer	Julia Stack
Emeritus	Charles Forrester

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Insurance Programs	Mark Davis
Coordinator	
Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Admin /Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Anna Liles
Events/Publications Director	Jessica Horton
Agriculture Programs	Dewitt Hardee
Coordinator	

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12-15

Family Conference | Asheville, NC

July 5-11

Grange Camp | Eastern 4-H Center

September 17-20

State Convention | Durham, NC

The Grange is a grassroots, community service, family organization with a special interest in agriculture and designed to help meet the needs of people, young and old, through a cooperative effort with government and other organizations that also seek the greatest good for the greatest number.

North Carolina Grange News (USPS 392-780) is the official publication of The North Carolina State Grange, 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy, Statesville, NC 28625 and is published bi-monthly. The yearly subscription cost is included in the annual membership dues for members of The North Carolina State Grange. ISSN # 0279-5914—Periodical Postage Paid in Statesville, NC and at additional mailing offices.





FROM DAVID'S DESK

On December 18, 2025, rural North Carolina lost a true advocate with the passing of former Governor Jim Hunt. From his early life growing up on a farm in Wilson County to the Governor's mansion in Raleigh, Jim Hunt recognized and battled the inequities of those living in rural North Carolina. Governor Hunt's Grange roots ran deep. When he was a young child, his father served as a delegate at a number of State Conventions, representing his local grange from Wilson County. While Hunt, Sr. was serving as a delegate, Kerr Scott, a future Governor of NC was a delegate from Alamance County. Like Hunt, Kerr Scott came from a rural background, and his term as Governor was marked with many initiatives and improvements in rural North Carolina.

Jim Hunt himself was active as a Junior Granger, back when they were referred to as Juvenile Grangers, with Rock Ridge Juvenile Grange. In 1951, Hunt submitted an essay in the writing contest. He won first place in the State competition, and his essay was forwarded to the National Convention for the National contest. His essay won, affording North Carolina its initial first place award in any Juvenile contest.

In 1955, Hunt was elected President of the North Carolina Youth Grange, and during youth camp that year, he was elected Camp King. He also represented North Carolina at various National Youth events. He was a member of the National Youth Committee and attended a number of Youth Leadership Conferences across the United States. It was at one of these meetings in 1955 that Jim met Carolyn Leonard from Iowa.

Three years after they met, they were wed, and they enjoyed sixty-seven years of marriage. Crystal and I had a brief opportunity to speak with Carolyn Hunt at Jim's funeral. Her face brightened as she spoke of the Grange, and the event in which she met her future husband so many years ago. Jim Hunt maintained his membership in the North Carolina State Grange for the remainder of his life. He was a valued friend to North Carolina and to the North Carolina Grange.

Jim Hunt was elected President of the FFA while he was a student at Rock Ridge High School. Through his active roles in the Grange and FFA, Jim clearly honed his skills in public speaking, innovation, and articulation. After high school, Hunt went to NC State University and served as a member of the student Senate and as two-term Student Body President. Jim was elected Lieutenant Governor of NC in 1972. He was elected Governor in 1976 and served two terms. He was elected Governor again in 1992, and served two more terms, making him the only North Carolina Governor to serve four terms. His tenure as Governor saw North Carolina make monumental strides in education and economic advancement. Notable achievements during his administration were the founding of the NC School of Science and Mathematics and the advocacy for growth of the Research Triangle.

The essay that Jim Hunt submitted to the National Grange in 1951 was entitled 'My plans after High School.' The words of his essay may be lost to history, but it would be hard to imagine that the plans laid out by that Junior Granger would surpass the actual achievements of the man that he became.



CORRIHER GRANGE

by : Carrie Brown & Vinnie Duncan



On January 3, Corriher Grange members and visitors gathered for the New Year at our annual homemade Oyster Stew and Hot Dog Meal with desserts. Kathy Irvin and Vinnie Duncan began stirring stew that afternoon in preparation for the event. The history of this special New Year meal dates back to Corriher Grange's beginnings. After being organized in 1929, our Grange's recorded minutes from January 1, 1930, state that this very meal was "held at the residence of J.A. Corriher with 23 out of 25 members present. Members gathered at 11:00AM as women began preparing oysters, fish and hot dogs for lunch. W.G. Yeager commented on the Grange and other things of interest to farmers at the event. After a very pleasant evening of mingling together, all went home with a feeling of a New Year's Day well spent." Corriher Grange members have enjoyed gathering for this traditional meal since then.



This year, Jan Williams, President, opened the gathering by welcoming our visitors and guests, leading Pledge of Allegiance, and blessing the meal. Following the meal, South Rowan FFA officers presented their 2025 recap of activities and awards and their chapter's plans for 2026 including their upcoming April month of service for community members.

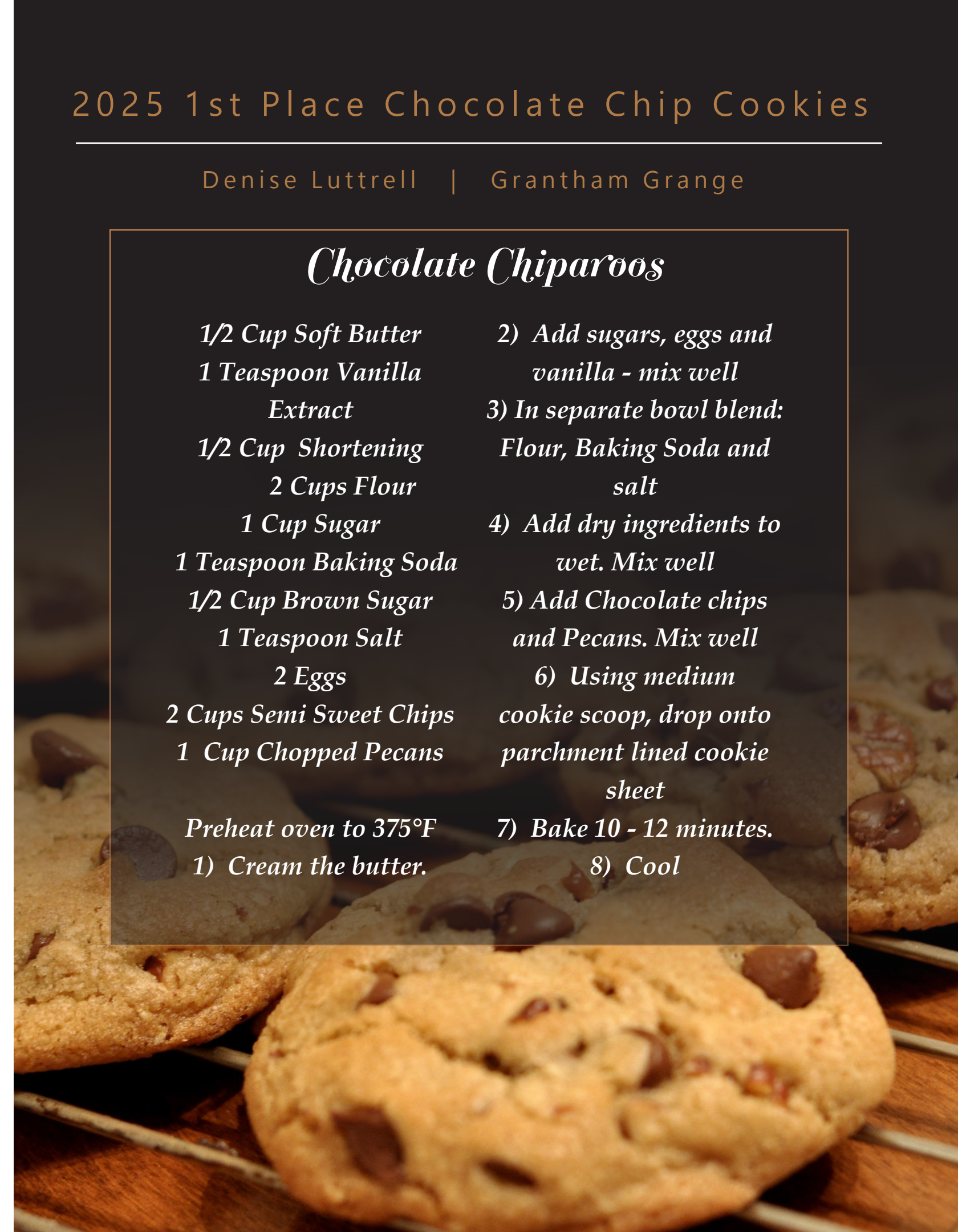


On the evening of February 7, Corriher Grange held its annual February Cake /Pie Auction and Walk. President Jan Williams recognized February birthdays and everyone sang. Members then voted to spend \$300 on the Funshine Day Camp community service project in March for the State Grange. In new business, members decided that Corriher Junior Grange, led by Christy Yost, will receive \$500 from treasury for their upcoming projects. Juniors met in the newly renovated Junior Hall to decorate cookies, and one Junior member won the cookie tray during the cookie walk. Members recollect this February event beginning in the mid 1960's. Funds raised contribute to community service projects and events held during the year. In years past, amounts ranged from \$95 to well over \$2,000. This year's event raised \$2213!

2025 1st Place Chocolate Chip Cookies

Denise Luttrell | Grantham Grange

Chocolate Chiparoos

- 
- 1/2 Cup Soft Butter*
1 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract
1/2 Cup Shortening
2 Cups Flour
1 Cup Sugar
1 Teaspoon Baking Soda
1/2 Cup Brown Sugar
1 Teaspoon Salt
2 Eggs
2 Cups Semi Sweet Chips
1 Cup Chopped Pecans
- Preheat oven to 375°F*
- 1) Cream the butter.*
 - 2) Add sugars, eggs and vanilla - mix well*
 - 3) In separate bowl blend: Flour, Baking Soda and salt*
 - 4) Add dry ingredients to wet. Mix well*
 - 5) Add Chocolate chips and Pecans. Mix well*
 - 6) Using medium cookie scoop, drop onto parchment lined cookie sheet*
 - 7) Bake 10 - 12 minutes.*
 - 8) Cool*

TIME FOR NEW GROWTH & BLESSINGS

Winter has provided some sting this year with cold temperatures and some precipitation that challenged our footing and driving abilities. In a few weeks we will see signs of spring with the budding of leaves and nesting of birds. We live in an everchanging environment.

As our surroundings are constantly changing, our spiritual challenges are also evolving. God is always working in our life, and we sometimes never realize it. Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth in I Corinthians 15:10, stipulated, "But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace." Just like Paul, God is working through each of us in some form or fashion every day. In 1 Peter 5:10, Peter explains that God strengthens us who are His to rest the devil – "In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation."

Our world today is no different from our ancestors when it comes to the struggles of the flesh. Apostle Paul wrote of our daily internal struggles in Galatians 5:17 – "The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions." So how do we guard ourselves from this ongoing dilemma? That is where God has provided for us the strength and means to overcome. Paul further describes in Ephesians 6:13-17 how we can defend ourselves from the strategies of the devil by "putting on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

So how do we get in tune with God to help us fight against our evil nature? First, we must realize our best is not good enough, and we must have ourselves cleansed before seeking the love and blessing of a Holy God. If we recognize we are not

good enough or strong enough on our own, we can then ask for forgiveness of our sinfulness and an unrighteous nature by asking Jesus Christ, God's Son, for forgiveness. By His blood we can be washed clean and then be part of God's family. In Acts 2:38-39, the apostle Peter responds to this question saying, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."

Upon our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior, we immediately have the Son of God being our mediator before God himself as noted in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus." As a member of God's family, we have become a new creature as noted in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

So as you see the new life of spring begin showing and displaying its rise for a new beginning, I encourage you to reflect on your walk with the Lord Jesus and the new life you have by being a member of God's family. As God provides for the new life of spring with spring showers and longer days of light with its accompanying warmth, He will also provide for you to grow and prosper.

We serve a loving God and should act accordingly as described in 1 John 4:7, "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God." Share His love with others and grow in His Spirit for God's love is eternal and never dries up.

In Memoriam

*Gov. James Hunt
Karen Dale
Margaret Nichols
Carl East
Rella Jernigan*

*Associate
Mingo
Schley
St. John's
Grantham*

You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

*Psalm 138:28
* 50 Year Member*

A HIDDEN GEM ALONG I-95: THE TOBACCO FARM LIFE MUSEUM



If you are traveling along Interstate 95 near the Kenly exit and take notice of the road signs, you will see directions to Exit 107 for the Tobacco Farm Life Museum on Highway 301. Open since 1986, the museum has long served as a tribute to the rich agricultural heritage of Eastern North Carolina. Today, it proudly operates as part of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Division of History Museums.

The Tobacco Farm Life Museum offers visitors an in-depth look at a wide range of agricultural enterprises that have shaped the region. Exhibits highlight the importance of sweet potato production, soil and water conservation efforts, farm loss and preservation, and the history of the town of Kenly. Visitors can also explore impressive displays of antique farm equipment, tractors, and vintage automobiles that help tell the story of rural life in decades past.

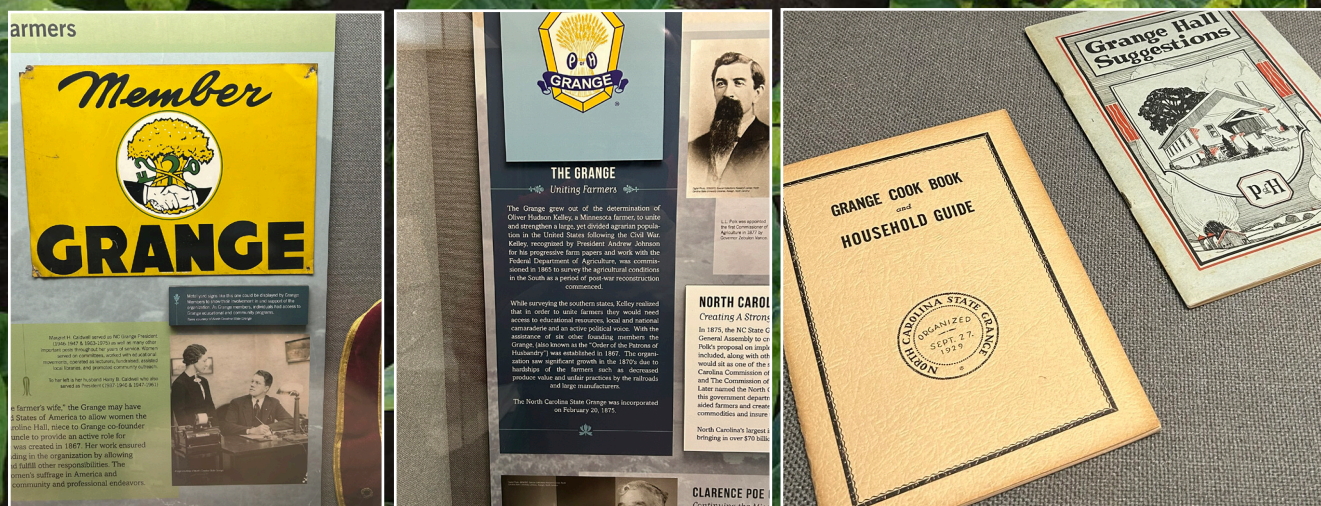
True to its name, however, the museum's most extensive and carefully developed exhibits focus on the history of tobacco production. Tobacco has played a defining role in North Carolina's agricultural economy, and the museum documents its evolution through engaging, professionally designed displays that capture both the challenges and achievements of farmers through the years.

One particularly noteworthy exhibit honors the North Carolina State Grange. This well-designed and informa-

tive display highlights significant agricultural advancements that were either initiated or strongly supported by the Grange. Among these achievements are the establishment of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, the development of the Agricultural Extension Service, and improvements in rural roadways and utility services. The exhibit also emphasizes the many valuable partnerships that have strengthened agriculture across the state.

The museum is financially supported by The Friends of the Tobacco Farm Life Museum, a dedicated organization committed to preserving and promoting this important piece of North Carolina's history. The North Carolina State Grange is proud of its relationship with the museum and is pleased to contribute annually to support its continued success.

The next time your travels take you near Kenly, North Carolina, consider making a stop at the Tobacco Farm Life Museum. You are certain to leave with a deeper understanding of North Carolina agriculture—and you might even discover the answer to the age-old question: What is the difference between Burley and flue-cured tobacco?



farmers



Member of the Grange...
The Grange may have been the first...
The Grange may have been the first...
The Grange may have been the first...

THE GRANGE
Uniting Farmers

The Grange grew out of the determination of Oliver Hudson Kelley, a Minnesota farmer to unite and strengthen a large, yet divided agrarian population in the United States following the Civil War. Kelley, recognized by President Andrew Johnson for his progressive aims inspired and worked with the Federal Department of Agriculture, was commissioned in 1889 to survey the agricultural condition in the South as a period of post-war reconstruction commenced.

While surveying the southern states, Kelley realized that in order to unite farmers that would need access to educational resources, local and national correspondence and an active political voice. With the assistance of six other founding members the Grange, also known as the "Order of the Patrons of Husbandry" was established in 1887. The organization saw significant growth in the 1870s due to hardships of the farmers such as decreased produce value and unfair practices by the railroads and large manufacturers.

The North Carolina State Grange was incorporated on February 20, 1918.



NORTH CAROLINA STATE GRANGE
Created in 1918...
In 1918, the NC State Grange General Assembly to create a public proposal on issues included, along with others would take as one of the Carolina Commission of Land and the Commission of Labor raised the North Carolina government department aided farmers and create correspondence and literary...
North Carolina's largest... bringing in over \$700 bills.



photo: www.needpix.com/photo/794361/

by : David Allen



ROSEDAE DAIRY 25-26 FARM OF THE YEAR

By: Carrie Brown

As you pull off a busy highway and head down a dusty road toward Rosedae Dairy, you are greeted with beautiful undulating farmland on one side, woods on the other, and a massive barn at the end. The farm is tucked in a growing corner of Rowan County but once you reach the barn and farm buildings, you can forget all about the hustle and bustle.

Scott and Vernelle Davis, owners of Rosedae Dairy, feel called by God to provide high quality food for their neighbors and to be good stewards of the land. Their work is informed by those two callings and is exemplified in all they do. All cows on the farm are treated with respect, given exceptional care, and loved, which is evident by how happy and friendly the cows appear to be. The land is also treated with respect and managed properly for future generations.

Rosedae Dairy currently raises 400 Holsteins with about 200 in dairy production year round. For the past 30+ years, Rosedare Dairy has provided high quality dairy products to be processed and made into items purchased at local grocery stores, mostly milk, cheese, and ice cream. Occasionally, they provide beef products as well. In addition, they currently farm over 400 acres for feed crops (silage, rye, and barley).



Rosedae Farm originated in Mecklenburg County in the 1960s by Scott's uncle, James U. Davis. Scott worked with his uncle on the farm in the 1970s and partnered with his uncle after graduating high school. In 1988, James U. Davis sold the farm to Mecklenburg County so that he could retire. The land is now in a conservation easement and is currently a county park for all to enjoy. After the farm



was sold, Scott worked grading land for various housing developments but missed farming. In 1989, he found Hugh Brown Karriker's Long Meadow Dairy Farm for sale in Rowan County and purchased the land in 1990. Hugh Brown participated in a retirement / buyout program with

the stipulation that cows were not allowed on the property until 1992.

For the next two years, Scott and Vernelle moved their family (children Banks, Michelle, & Megan) to the new farm to prepare the land and buildings while waiting for cows to be allowed on the property. Scott and Vernelle, along with their three children, lived in the existing farmhouse. Scott drove to Huntersville every day (twice per day) to milk cows. When not working off the property, Scott remodeled

the barn to ensure it was ready for operation. Vernelle worked in Charlotte at her family hardware store each day.

In 1992, cows were moved to the property and Rosedae Dairy was fully operational. Their operation has grown to

400 Holsteins, half of which are in dairy production year round. They currently farm over 400 acres of crops for feeding their herd. Scott, Vernelle, and their son, Banks, currently run the family farm with the help of a few key employees including Carlos, who has been with the dairy for 13 years and oversees milking the cows; Lonnie, who hauls and spreads manure and is a Corriher Grange member; and Keith, who is the jack of all trades, helping where needed.

The schedule for a dairy farm is rigorous - 200 cows must be milked twice per day at 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. Milking and feeding at those hours takes four hours every morning and afternoon. Scott and Banks begin their day at 3am and are usually done by 9pm. The milk truck arrives at 6am each day to receive and transport milk for processing. Vernelle feeds the calves twice per day as well at 4 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Davis family will tell you the reward for all their hard work is knowing they are contributing to their community and providing high quality food.



GRANTHAM GRANGE

By: Sally Best

Across the state, political candidates are gearing up for the upcoming Primary on March 3 in hopes of securing their position on the November election ballot. Grantham Grange was proud to provide an opportunity for the voting public to personally be informed by the candidates prior to casting their vote. The importance of serving Wayne and surrounding counties was evident by the successful attendance in the Political Forum held the evening of February 10 at Grantham Middle School auditorium in Goldsboro, NC.

Candidates running for state and local elections took time at the podium to share their experience and goals for the office in which they seek. Over 200 guests which included many notables across the state filled the building to enjoy a brief meet-and-greet with the candidates over refreshments provided by the Grange members. Grantham Grange was particularly honored to have State Grange President David Allen and Legislative Director Laurie Barnhart who was joined by her husband, Jeff, who were in attendance for the evening.

Following the meet-and-greet social time, the event was opened with invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Grantham Grange President John Crawford, followed by an opening statement from North Carolina Grange President David Allen. A special greeting was given by Dr. Mark Whichard, Superintendent for Wayne County Public Schools, who shared the progress being made in local schools and the importance of the sales tax vote to the school system on the March ballot. During the session, each candidate in attendance was introduced and given the opportunity to personally address the filled auditorium with very informative particulars regarding their qualifications and their political platforms. The evening was viewed as a huge success by all that attended with much knowledge gained and friendships kindled. On behalf of the Grantham Grange, a heartfelt "thank you" is extended to each candidate, each dignitary, each Grange member and each guest that helped to make the event a success.



CAPITOL NEWS

by : Laurie Barnhart



For all intents and purposes, little has changed at the North Carolina General Assembly over the past several months, aside from brief gavel-in, gavel-out sessions and a limited number of committee meetings. Members who are running for office in the 2025–26 legislative cycle and facing a primary are focused on campaigning ahead of the March 3 elections, further extending the ongoing budget stalemate between the House and the Senate.

The 2025–26 state budget remains at a standstill, with state government continuing to operate under funding levels established in the previous session. In late October, the House passed and sent three separate budget proposals to the Senate; however, the Senate has not been in session to consider them, effectively halting negotiations.

Both chambers are expected to return for a voting session in early April. Priorities at that time are anticipated to include healthcare funding and other appropriations that are supported, in part, by federal dollars. The 2026 Short Session is scheduled to begin the week of April 20. There is hope that at that time, the House and Senate will be able to reach a compromise and move the budget process forward.

On the Hill

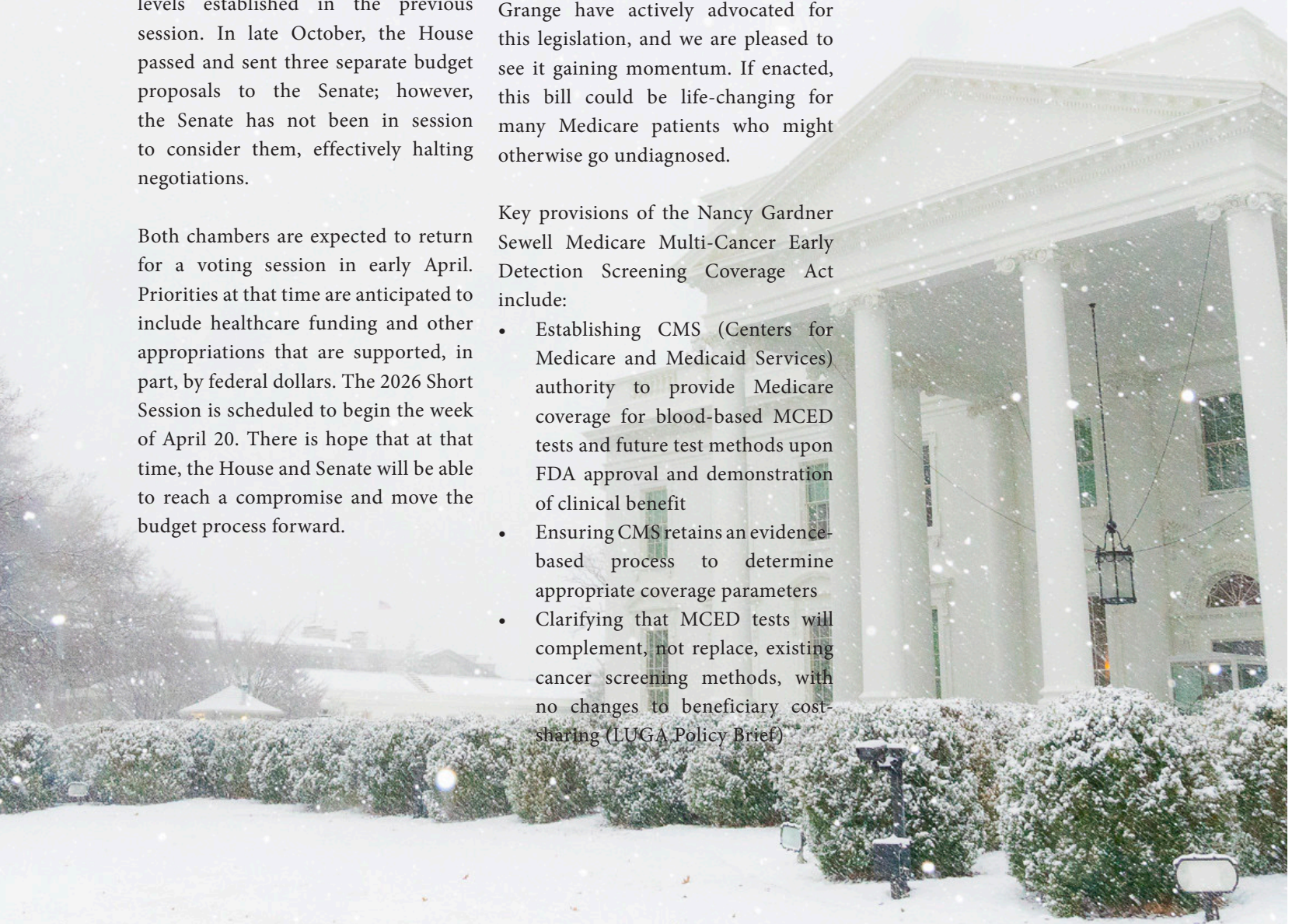
In Congress, there has been encouraging news regarding the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act. The House has passed H.R. 7148, which includes this legislation, and it now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests are a new type of lab test that can detect signals of multiple cancers from a single blood sample. While these tests are not yet FDA-approved, some are already available. Both the North Carolina Grange and the National Grange have actively advocated for this legislation, and we are pleased to see it gaining momentum. If enacted, this bill could be life-changing for many Medicare patients who might otherwise go undiagnosed.

Key provisions of the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act include:

- Establishing CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) authority to provide Medicare coverage for blood-based MCED tests and future test methods upon FDA approval and demonstration of clinical benefit
- Ensuring CMS retains an evidence-based process to determine appropriate coverage parameters
- Clarifying that MCED tests will complement, not replace, existing cancer screening methods, with no changes to beneficiary cost-sharing (LUGA Policy Brief)

- Congress continues to work through negotiations on federal government funding. As the General Assembly and Congress move toward key decisions in the coming weeks, we will continue to monitor developments that impact North Carolina's communities, agriculture, and rural healthcare. Updates will be provided as legislative activity resumes in the NC General Assembly and in Congress in the weekly Legislative Update.



FERGUSON GRANGE

by : Sharon Underwood

Wilkes County



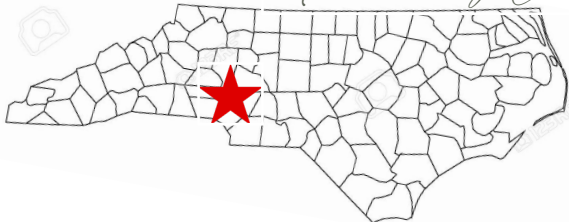
Congratulations to Veteran and Ferguson Grange member Paul VanSweden (pictured middle) who was recently honored with a Quilt of Valor, made by Kathy Heisler (right) from the Boone Chapter of the organization. Also pictured is Paul's wife, Cyndee (left).



VILLEWORTH GRANGE

by : Jessica Horton

Mecklenburg County



Villeworth Grange members met in February to start early seeds consisting of okra, peppers and tomatoes. We also discussed the upcoming garden layout and possible changes to be made this season. Seeds, soil and potting trays were shared among the members.



Welcome to our newest Grange members!
We are delighted to have you join us.

Associate Members:

Arthur Warren

Alan Walker

Corriher:

William Morrison

Donna Morrison

Patterson:

Kathy Blalock

Fred Steen

Tena Steen

Schley:

Ann Hollowell

Little Mountain:

Izzy Garcia

Benny Layell

Chastity Layell

Grantham:

Jimmy Edmundson

Stephen Howell

Josh Stroud

Kim Stroud

Jeremy Hutson

Ashley Hutson

Marie Hutson – Junior

Rylee Hutson – Junior

JoCo:

Lily McLamb

Brogden:

Caleb Whitley

Maysa Bradshaw – Junior

Westbrook:

Denise Underwood

Sylvia Underwood

Elaine Capers





GOTCHA COVERED

by : Mark Davis

WE SURVIVED WITH SOME BATTLE SCARS

The Marketplace Open Enrollment for 2026 is closed. We did survive the government shutdown, and the Enhanced Premium Subsidies expired as originally scheduled when they were created. Now, the million-dollar question is, will there be some form of Enhanced Premium Subsidies created while Congress works on health insurance revisions? It appears each party is “dug in” and not willing to work on a compromise to truly fix the problem or even put a bandage on it until a suitable solution is found. Once again, health insurance is a political football, both nationally and within our state. We did see some individuals suffer from abnormally large premium increases. These typically were a result of a bump in age bracket, plan choices, and household income increases. Some of these individuals had to make that tough choice of paying huge premiums with a very high deductible or becoming self-insured and hoping they do not have a major medical issue.

What is the solution? I know at least one candidate running for the NC Senate who is pushing for a one payor system, Medicare for all. There are many opinions on what to do, but ultimately, health care reform must start at an individual level. We must take the responsibility for our own care to avoid many health issues, or proactively manage and mitigate any health issues we are already experiencing. Let me give an example of what I am speaking of; even though it is not a health issue, the same principle applies.

My father-in-law had a great mechanical mind and could repair anything from a vehicle, large appliance, or even a toaster. At his last place of employment, he oversaw and maintained several pieces of cooling equipment, refrigerators, freezers, and some air conditioning units, some of which were well beyond the expected life span. His habit was to check each piece of his assigned equipment several times each week to make sure that everything was running at peak performance. If something was just a few degrees out of its normal range, he would tinker with it to find the issue and get it back up to specs. On a normal day, he would start to run his “route” around the plant by 8:30 a.m. and could be back in the shop by 10:30 a.m. Then he would work on his pet projects, have

lunch, and start the afternoon check by 2 p.m. If all was good, he would go back to the shop by 4 p.m. to tidy up and get ready to go home for the day. When he was ready to retire, all the other militant folks wanted his job as they saw he had it made in the shade and all of his equipment seemed to never break down. Just a few months into his retirement, the gentleman that took his “pie job” came to him and asked, “How did you do this job? The first couple of weeks were great, but now everything seems to be falling apart at the seams, and I cannot get ahead. What was your secret?” My father-in-law just smiled and asked the fellow, “Did you go around and check on the equipment to keep it running, or did you just wait until someone called to say it was broken?” The fellow dropped his head, answering it was the latter. Preventative action was the key to my father-in-law’s success in creating the “pie-job” everyone wanted.

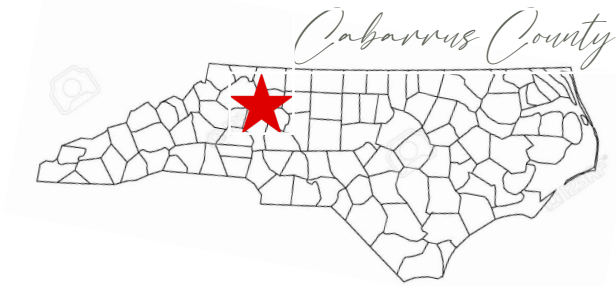
Our bodies are complex mechanical “machines” that also need care. Are we aware of some of the negative influences we subject ourselves to? Do we value convenience over quality in our food choices? Do we get enough sleep or physical activity? We should also look at our mental health as well as our physical bodies. They are both interconnected.

A key concept that is coming to the forefront in many sectors is “well-care” as the preventive cost are far cheaper than “sick-care.” Our BCBSNC programs have a lot of well-care benefits built into their plans. These include items such as wellness checkups and preventive care with little to no copayments. For the Medicare beneficiary, you will also see Silver Sneakers, vision, hearing and dental benefits.

The last quarter of 2025 presented a lot of challenges for our NC Grange BCBSNC agents and their clients. We are still in the process of cleaning up some of the bumps and bruises some clients experienced. Having someone there to guide you through the health insurance choices, as well as navigating you along when there is a bump in the road, makes your insurance agent a very valuable individual. So, if you don’t have an agent to assist you, give us a call, and we will put you in contact with someone who can be your guide.

ST. JOHN'S GRANGE

by : Emily Hartsell



St. John's Grange met for their annual planning meeting on January 2. The evening began with food and fellowship. President Greg Furr initiated the meeting, and discussions began for the year ahead. We are still planning something to honor our farmers this year; the date is still to be determined. St. John's Grange is committed to ensuring local farmers feel supported and know they are appreciated. The group decided to continue their annual Chicken Noodle Supper in 2026 since we had another successful year. The committee has set the "Noodle Making Days" for Saturday, May 30, and Monday, June 1. The Chicken Noodle Supper is scheduled for Saturday, November 21. St. John's Grange welcomes community members and other Grange members who are interested in learning the art of noodle making to join them on those days at their Grange Hall at 8 am. Lastly, the Grange members voted on their annual awards, which will be announced at our April Banquet. With a full year planned, the St. John's Grange is looking forward to another great year of fellowship and fun with our Grange family.



Save The Date!

State Convention

September 17 - 20

Durham, NC

Sheraton Imperial





North Carolina Grange
1734 Wilkesboro Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625
704-878-0000
ncgrange.com

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

Grange Camp Registration Opens April 1!

