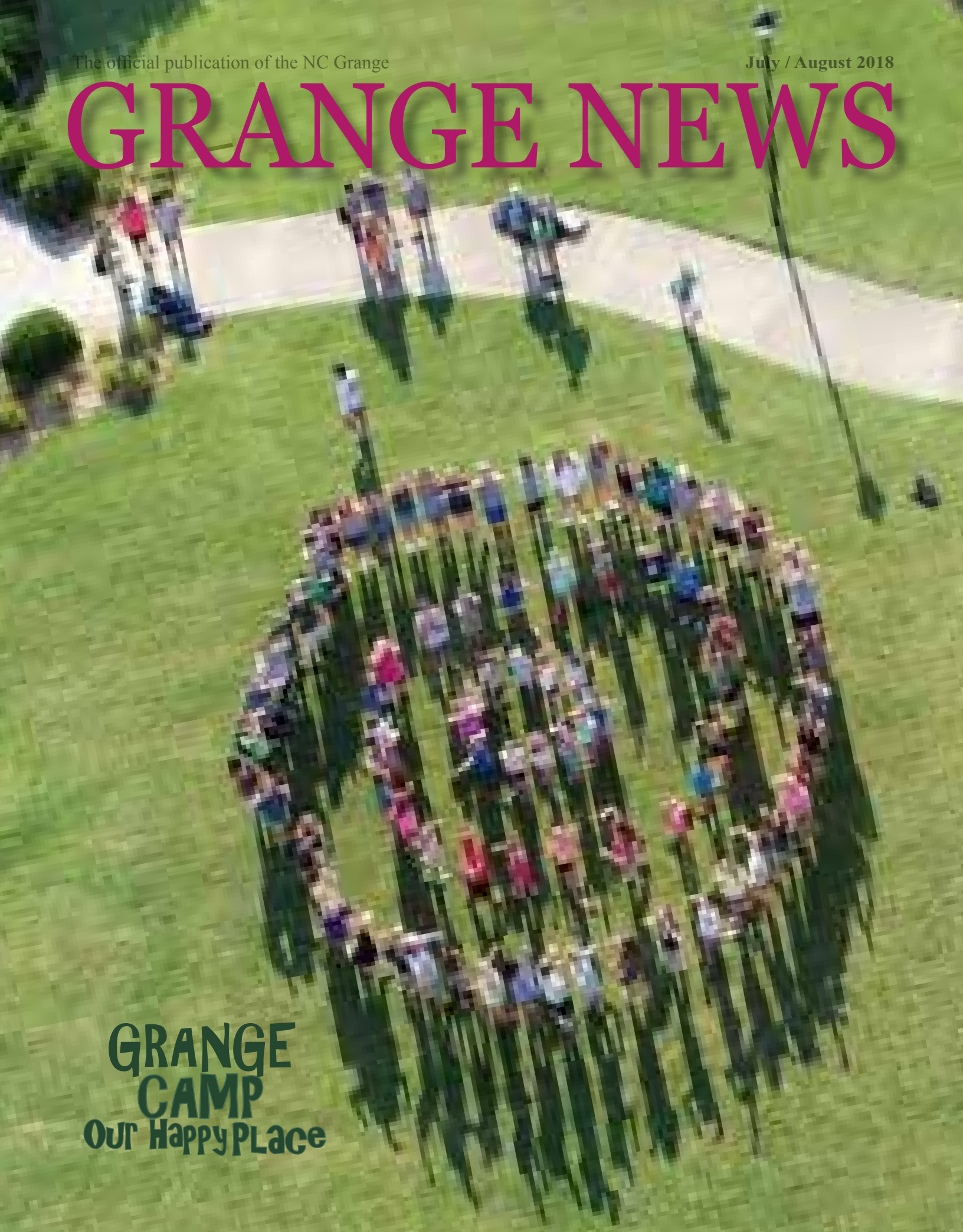


The official publication of the NC Grange

July / August 2018

GRANGE NEWS



**GRANGE
CAMP**
Our Happy Place



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Vice President	Ned Hudson
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July 6 was a sad day as the word spread that Sidney Albright had been killed. At the same time, we were relieved when we learned that Linda and Steven were not injured. Sidney served as President of Patterson Grange for many years and was well-respected in the community. In

2011, he was elected as Treasurer of the State Grange which placed him on the Board of Directors. He continued to serve in this position until his death.

Sidney was quiet, level headed, and loaded with common sense. When he spoke, the things he had to say were meaningful and quite sensible. He was a hard worker and willing to help in any way that he could. He worked at Patterson Farms, which is a large farm that grows produce and has an Agri-Tourism program. Sidney often worked with the bus loads of children who would visit the farm and learn about agriculture.

He affectionately became known as "Farmer Sid." In June we had our granddaughters for a week, and we took them to Patterson Farm to get some ice cream.

While we were there, the girls decided that they wanted to pick strawberries, and Sidney was working at the patch. They really enjoyed this visit!

One of the things I really admired about Sidney is that I never heard him say anything bad about anyone else. He was simply a good man who cared about others, his church, his community, and the Grange. We will miss him greatly. Our hearts go out to Linda and her family during this difficult time, and we wish them well.



Sidney Albright
1939 - 2018

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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.

APPLE PECAN CAKE

LINDA ALBRIGHT | PATTERSON GRANGE
THIRD PLACE ADULT APPLE CAKE

1 1/2 CUPS OIL
4 EGGS
2 CUPS SUGAR
3 CUPS FLOUR
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
1/2 TEASPOON CINNAMON
1 TEASPOON SALT
2 TEASPOON VANILLA
3 1/2 CUP GRANNY SMITH APPLES
1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS

PREHEAT OVEN TO 325 DEG.
IN A LARGE MIXING BOWL, ADD OIL & EGGS.
MIX WELL UNTIL NICE AND CREAMY.
IN A MED. MIXING BOWL WHISK FLOUR, SODA, CINNAMON AND SALT.
ADD TO LARGE MIXING BOWL MIXING WELL. ADD VANILLA.
STIR IN APPLES & PECANS. POUR IN TUBE
PAN THAT HAS BEEN SPRAYED, AND BAKE IN OVEN AT 325 DEG. FOR 1 HOUR.
TEST TO SEE IF DONE.

GLAZE
3/4 C. BUTTER
1 C. LIGHT BROWN SUGAR
1/4 C. MILK
1T. VANILLA

IN A SMALL PAN, MELT BUTTER, STIR IN
BROWN SUGAR AND MILK.
BRING TO BOIL OVER LOW HEAT, REDUCE HEAT & STIR CONSTANTLY.
BOIL FOR 10 MINUTES.
REMOVE FROM HEAT, ADD VANILLA.
LET COOL AND POUR OVER CAKE.

OATMEAL CRANBERRY COOKIES

LEIGH PAYNE
TROUTMAN GRANGE
SECOND PLACE NUT CANDY

1 1/2 ALL PURPOSE FLOUR
2 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
3/4 SUGAR
1 1/2 CUPS SALTED BUTTER, SOFTENED.
2 LARGE EGGS ROOM TEMP.
3 CUPS OLD FASHIONED OATS UNCOOKED
1 CUP DRIED CRANBERRIES

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES. MIX ALL INGREDIENTS
AND BAKE FOR 12 MINUTES OR UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN.

GRATED APPLE PIE

JUDY BROGDON
WESTBROOK GRANGE
SECOND PLACE APPLE PIE

2 CUPS GRATED APPLES
1 STICK MARGARINE
1 CUP SUGAR
1 TEASPOON VANILLA

MIX AND BAKE IN A PIE SHELL AT
350 DEGREES UNTIL DONE.

OLD FASHIONED SWEET POTATO PIE

PATTY SWING
ARCADIA GRANGE
SECOND PLACE SWEET POTATO PIE

WHAT MAKES THIS SWEET POTATO PIE DIFFERENT
AND BETTER IS PUTTING THE BROWN SUGAR IN
THE BOTTOM OF CRUST AND BAKING.

2 CUPS COOKED SWEET POTATOES
3/4 CUPS BRN. SUGAR
1 STICK BUTTER
1/2 CUP WHITE SUGAR
2 LARGE BEATEN EGGS
1/3 CUP FRENCH VANILLA COFFEE CREAMER
1 TEASPOON EACH OF CINNAMON,
NUTMEG AND GINGER
1 UNBAKED PIE CRUST (SEE RECIPE BELOW)

BRUSH BOTTOM OF PIE CRUST WITH BUTTER.
SPRINKLE WITH 1/4 CUP BROWN SUGAR. BAKE ON
400 DEGREES FOR 10 MINUTES. REDUCE HEAT TO
350 DEGREES. LET COOL WHILE MIXING OTHER
INGREDIENTS. BEAT ALL INGREDIENTS TOGETHER
AND PUT IN PIE SHELL. YOU MAY GARNISH WITH
PECANS IF DESIRED. BAKE FOR 45 MINUTES TO ONE
HOUR UNTIL FILLING SETS.

EASY PIE CRUST.
1 1/2 CUPS ALL PURPOSE FLOUR
1/2 TEASPOON SALT
1/2 CUP SOLID CRISCO
ABOUT 1/3 CUP ICE WATER TO MIX.

MIX FLOUR SALT AND SHORTNING UNTIL CRUMBLY.
ADD WATER TO FORM SOFT DOUGH. REGRIGERATE
FOR A SHORT WHILE. ROLL OUT INTO 1/8 INCH
THICKNESS AND PLACE IN PAN AND FLUTE EDGES.



GRANGE CAMP Our Happy Place

JENNIE GENTRY
NC GRANGE YOUTH DIRECTOR

PT Barnum once said, “The noblest art is that of making others happy.” This is exactly what we aim for each year at Grange Camp...making campers happy while making a lasting impact on their lives. If you were to ask our campers about this year’s camp, they will tell you that it was just that – impactful, meaningful and happy!

The highlight of the summer, Grange Camp, was one that will go down in the history books as being remarkable and memorable. With the beautiful scenery and the fun activities of Eastern 4-H Center, campers started the week on Sunday July 8 with much excitement, and ended the week on Saturday July 14 with amazing friendships. It was one of our favorite years of camp that will be long remembered.

PT Barnum also said, “No one ever made a difference by being like everyone else.” This bold statement became the root of such a powerful message at this year’s camp. “Come As You Are” was the theme, created by our Youth Leadership Team. Using quotes and songs from the movie *The Greatest Showman*, the team taught campers the importance of accepting others despite differences, but also accepting yourself for who you. Amazing lessons were taught daily, and the team used this theme to make an incredible, strong impact on our campers. At the end of the week they gave each camper a small rock that said “home.” This reminds them that they always have a place to come home to in the Grange where they will always be accepted and loved for who they are.

The Youth Team also mentored our third Junior Leadership Team, helping this young group to grow their leadership skills. Made up of Bryleigh Apple, Caroline Barber, Natalie Bolton, Ryley Gray and Skylar Newton, these young leaders made quite an impression and did such an amazing job!

Throughout the week, campers enjoyed a variety of daily camp activities such as kayaking, group games, ropes courses, crabbing, wall climbing, swimming, archery, team building, leadership, and more. They also enjoyed group challenges as part of the traditional “Battle By the Bay” competition. Groups competed in a variety of activities with one group emerging as the week’s champions. This year’s youth champion was the group Faith, led by counselors Adam Beshears and Micalah Bright and Youth Team members Nick Jones and Margie Griffin. The Blue Group led by counselors Lisa Anderson, Raymond Hayes and Sadora Hayes was named the Junior champions.

Campers also participated in a community service project during the week. They made ornaments for nursing home residents and wrote letters of well-wishes for the Albright Family who recently lost beloved Grange member Sindey Albright. It was so sweet watching our campers putting love into these projects.

After daily activities, campers joined together each evening for camp’s traditional events. Sunday night brought fun get-acquainted games led by the Youth Team. Monday night held our famous Great Grange Challenge where campers raced in a round robin of team building water activities on the sports field, which also ended in a giant “water fight”. On Tuesday night, campers enjoyed the annual Talent Show and costume night in which campers dressed up as anything having to do with the circus and *The Greatest Showman*. Wednesday night held our traditional Skit Night when each group performed a skit, giving everyone many laughs.

Thursday evening, campers demonstrated their leadership skills at Model Grange Night. State Officers and Drill Team leaders performed their duties by opening and closing the Grange meeting in ritual form. Our State Youth President, Rylee Furr of St. John’s Grange, led the youth officers in the Grange opening with Nick Jones and Lillie Griffin leading the Officer Drill as the Assistant and Lady Assistant Steward. An intricate Youth Drill was also performed, led by Brandon Medlin and Lauren Foushee, both of Bushy Fork Grange.



Most Valuable Teammates

Faith MVT: Asheton Medlin
Hope MVT: Clay Rapp
Charity MVT: Aley Brunner
Fidelity MVT: Hunter Martin

Junior Officers

President: Caroline Barber
Vice President: Ryley Gray
Program Director: Natalie Bolton
Chaplain: Bryleigh Apple
Steward: Peyton Trexler
Asst. Steward: Clayton Cameron
Lady Asst. Steward: Skylar Newton
Secretary: Cade Howerton
Treasurer: Amber Whitaker
Gatekeeper: Spencer Hanes
Ceres: Ryleigh Hartsell
Pomona: Mary Ella Griffin
Flora: Kayla Laws
Executive Committee: Lucy Anderson, Emma Doroshenko, Emery Starnes, Nick Cameron, Elijah Klein

Junior Counselor Awards

Hunt Best Camper Award:
Ryley Gray
Clayton Cameron

Grange Leadership Award:
Bryleigh Apple
Cade Howerton

Counselors Award:
Natalie Bolton
Nick Cameron

Junior Prince and Princess:
Caroline Barber
Peyton Trexler

Youth Superlatives

King: Nick Jones
Queen: Lillie Griffin

Best All Around
Female: Margie Griffin
Male: Tyler Leonard

Best Role Model
Female: Rylee Furr
Male: Lucas Carter

Grange Spirit Award
Female: Asheton Medlin
Male: Michael Bethany

Mr. and Miss Congeniality
Female: Baylor Howerton
Male: Jacob Roquet

Best Personality
Female: Nayhive Gonzalez
Male: James Lesley

Unsung Hero
Female: Maria Rapp
Male: Carson Lackey

Most Outstanding Leader
Female: Amber Long
Male: Zac Mazag

Most Unforgettable
Female: Emma Duncan
Male: Brandon Medlin

Most Fun to Be Around
Female: Olivia Gentry
Male: Cole Settle

Best 1st Year Camper
Female: Faydra Lackey
Male: Hunter Martin

President's Best Camper Award
Female: Baylor Howerton
Male: Zac Mazag

Youth Director's Award:
Lucas Carter
Cole Settle

Grange Leadership Award
Female: Amber Long
Male: Tyler Leonard

Counselors Award:
Female: Baylor Howerton
Male: Zac Mazag

The Junior Officers also performed the Junior Opening and Closing of the Grange led by State Junior President, Caroline Barber of Queen City Grange. The Junior Officer Drill was led by Clayton Cameron and Skylar Newton, who served as the Junior Assistants. All of our officers truly stood out, demonstrating phenomenal leadership skills.

At our annual Friday evening Awards Ceremony, trophies were presented to each Junior Camper for superlatives chosen by their group counselors. Royalty was crowned, naming Clayton Cameron and Caroline Barber as the Junior Prince and Princess. Counselors also selected several special awards that will be presented at September's State Convention. The Junior Counselors' Award was given to Nick Cameron and Natalie Bolton. The Junior Grange Leadership Award was given to Cade Howerton and Bryleigh Apple. The highest honor, the Hunt Best All Around Camper Award, was presented to Clayton Cameron and Ryley Gray.

Youth Awards were also presented, starting with superlatives which were selected by their peers. Nick Jones (Southern Wake Grange) and Lillie Griffin (Troutman Grange) were crowned this year's Grange Camp King and Queen. (The full list of youth superlatives is included with this article.) Counselors also selected special youth awards to be presented at the State Convention in September. The Counselors Award was given to Baylor Howerton and Zac Mazag. The Grange Leadership Award was awarded to Tyler Leonard and Amber Long. The highest honor, the President's Best Camper Award, was presented to Nick Jones and Margie Griffin. All campers did a wonderful job throughout the week! The Awards Ceremony was followed by a camp slideshow and dance. The evening ended with a special camp video, created by August Howerton, that campers watched during a touching candlelight ceremony that was led by our Youth Team. It was a very special night to end our incredible week together.

The week could not have been made possible without the excellent leadership and creativity of our 2018 State Youth Leadership Team, who helped plan the camp activities and theme. This team, made up of Lucas Carter, Rylee Furr, Lillie Griffin, Margie Griffin, Nick Jones, Tyler Leonard, Amber Long and Zac Mazag, truly stood out as outstanding, charismatic, mature leaders who made a strong, lasting impact on our campers.

The week's success is also attributed to the incredibly positive Grange Counselors, who we thank for their hard work and volunteering their time to help make a difference. Without their nurturing, loving hearts, camp would not be the amazing camp that it is. Special thanks are also given to all of our local Granges and individuals who helped sponsor and pay for campers to have this opportunity.

Grange Camp is such a unique, special week that truly makes a lasting, positive impact on the lives of those who attend. Campers develop very close friendships, with many referring to those friends as their "second family." It is so rewarding to watch campers grow, learn, gain confidence and overcome challenges. It is a place where kids come out of their shells, build relationships, work together and accept each other. Most importantly, it is a place where campers can completely be themselves. We encourage more people to send their kids to Grange Camp to be part of this incredible, life-changing experience!



The General Assembly recessed as predicted on Friday, June 29, and will reconvene at noon on Tuesday, November 27. After the House adjourned, House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, said legislative leaders wanted the option to come back in November “assuming the constitutional amendments pass” to take up any legislation for those amendments. Also, two vetoes were not voted on to be overridden. The vetoes for House Bills 131 and 1055 were sent to the House Rules Committee. HB 131 involved bail bond forfeitures (a similar, but not identical, provision was in an omnibus insurance bill which is now law) and HB 1055 limited some supplemental retirement benefits for state employees. Below is Connect C’s report from the General Assembly short session. (Connect C is our Ag Alliance partner.)

New Laws:

2018 Farm Act: This highly publicized law places limits on property owners’ ability to file nuisance lawsuits against industrial hog farms and other large farms among other things. This is a response to a \$50 million jury verdict -- later reduced -- against pork giant Smithfield, one of dozens of lawsuits working their way through the courts now over smells and other impacts brought on by hog farms. The Farm Act also enforces labeling requirements on products that claim they are milk such as soy and coconut milk. The existing law requires that a product claiming to be milk must be from a lactating animal. NC will now begin enforcing this law. Raw milk can now be consumed if someone has ownership or part ownership in a cow or goat, however this milk cannot be bought or sold. The Farm Act requires Uniformity to Assessment of Farm Machinery by directing the Department of Revenue to publish a depreciation schedule for farm equipment and make the schedule electronically available on its website. A county appraiser may use any of the appraisal methods provided in statute and must consider relevant taxpayer information. However, if the county uses a cost approach method to appraise the equipment, the county must appraise the equipment using the depreciation schedule published by the Department of Revenue.

Opioids: The Heroin and Opioid Prevention Enforcement Act puts money toward addiction programs and allows greater police access to the state’s prescription database during investigations. Some patients and doctors worried the access is a violation of privacy; supporters including lawmakers said the bill would help combat the opioid epidemic.

Rape kit tracking: A rape kit tracking system was approved overwhelmingly after law enforcement reported having 15,160 untested rape kits. Attorney General Stein has said testing one kit costs \$700. Some lawmakers tried unsuccessfully to add more money for testing.

Gifted classes: Low-income students will now have better access to advanced math classes. Public schools will now be required to give students who earn the highest score on state math exams the opportunity to take advanced classes. Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers said the bill passed as a response to a series, “Counted Out,” which revealed that thousands of bright, low-income kids were being excluded from advanced classes.

Charter schools: A bill that set off a flurry of debate allows four majority-white, suburban towns outside of Charlotte to create charter schools and gives preference to the town’s residents. Lawmakers separately allowed cities to fund their local schools. Charter schools have already faced criticism over segregation, and critics said this proposal would create racially segregated schools.

GenX: A chemical being released into the Cape Fear River by the company Chemours has found its way into some North Carolinians’ drinking water. A bill aiming to address the pollution was added to the state budget.

In the News

Bond Rating

State Treasurer Dale Folwell has announced that all three major national bond rating agencies have reaffirmed the state’s “AAA” bond rating, noting the state’s strong economy, growing reserves and conservative fiscal management. North Carolina is one of only 13 states that have an “AAA” rating from all major rating agencies. The ratings were assigned in preparation for the second issuance of

voter-approved General Obligation Public Improvement (Connect NC) Bonds totaling \$2 billion for universities, community colleges, local parks, infrastructure and other projects. The prior issuance of \$200 million occurred in 2016. This issuance will be for \$400 million and is expected to be offered on July 18. S&P Global Ratings also noted North Carolina’s establishment of the first-ever Solvency Fund to address the state’s nearly \$50 billion in health care and pension IOU’s. Moody’s Investors Service noted the state’s strong, conservative fiscal management. Fitch Ratings referenced North Carolina’s strong ability to close budget gaps during economic downturns. (NEWS RELEASE, 7/11/18)

RNC 2020

The Republican National Committee’s site selection committee unanimously backed Charlotte as the site for its 2020 National Convention. That means Charlotte will be the city where President Donald Trump is nominated for a second term. He would accept the nomination in Spectrum Center. Charlotte would be hosting its second national political convention in a decade. The RNC will formally approve Charlotte on Friday as part of its summer meeting in Austin, Texas. The convention is expected to be held in late July or August of 2020. No exact date has been set. The decision puts North Carolina on the front lines of the 2020 political battles. The decision kicks off more than two years of planning and organizing for an event that will cost upwards of \$100 million. (Jim Morrill, Steve Harrison and Katie Glueck, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 7/18/18)

Farmers Market Purchases

At least two Triangle farmers’ markets hope to avoid shutting down a program that allows people to buy fresh produce with federal food stamps. The Durham Farmers Market has used Novo Dia Group’s equipment and service since 2014 to serve low-income customers receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, dollars. Novo Dia Group is shutting down July 31, forcing Durham, Chapel Hill and 43 other markets across the state -- among 1,749 markets nationwide -- to buy new equipment. It is unknown how many individual farmers

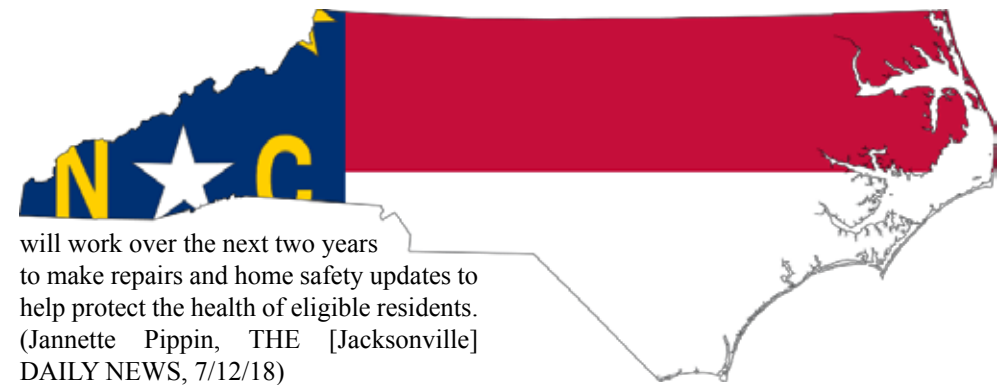
have their own systems, state agriculture officials said. A new system could cost \$1,000 or more. Roughly 85 percent of the nation’s 8,687 farmers’ markets accept SNAP payments, racking up \$22.4 million in sales last year. More than 240 farmers and 55 farmers’ markets participate in the SNAP program in North Carolina, a 305 percent increase since 2012. The amount of SNAP dollars being spent rose 204 percent over that period, to \$328,215. (Tammy Grubb, THE DURHAM HERALD-SUN, 7/17/18)

Dangerous Tick

Agriculture officials say a new species of tick which threatens livestock has turned up in North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services said the Longhorned tick was found on an opossum in Polk County. The tick has been identified previously in Arkansas, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia. It is considered a pest of livestock in its native regions. How the tick traveled from its native east Asia isn’t known. Before its discovery last fall in New Jersey, the Longhorned tick wasn’t typically found in the U.S. While the Longhorned tick hasn’t been linked to human infection in the U.S., the N.C. Division of Public Health is working with state agriculture officials to understand its distribution and monitor for diseases it may carry. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/12/18)

Homes Initiative

A new statewide initiative will bring repairs and safety updates to more than 100 homes in Eastern North Carolina to help prevent illness and unhealthy living conditions for area residents in need. The North Carolina Community Action Association has launched the Healthy Homes Initiative with the help of a \$2 million investment by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC. Susan Leath, NCCAA’s director of communications and development, said adequate housing is one of the many “social determinants” that impact the health and welfare of individuals. The program will help remedy some of the unsuspecting causes of illness that may be hidden in homes of North Carolina’s most vulnerable populations. Leath said a home’s air quality may affect someone with asthma, lack of safety rails can lead to injury, or a lack of adequate refrigeration for insulin can be harmful to a diabetic. The Healthy Homes Initiative



will work over the next two years to make repairs and home safety updates to help protect the health of eligible residents. (Jannette Pippin, THE [Jacksonville] DAILY NEWS, 7/12/18)

Anesthesia Program

Heart surgery is complicated, and every person in the operating room plays an indispensable role in its success. One evolving role is the anesthesia technologist, who, alongside doctors and nurses, prepares and maintains technological equipment for surgery, ready to tackle any challenge to make sure the procedure runs smoothly. While essential in ensuring patient safety, advancements in anesthesia technology and North Carolina’s growing population have created a shortage of qualified anesthesia technologists at hospitals throughout the Research Triangle and beyond, putting a strain on hospital staff. To address the need for anesthesia technologists, Durham Technical Community College will launch a new anesthesia technology program in the fall in partnership with the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the UNC School of Medicine and UNC Health Care. The new program will be the only one of its kind in North Carolina and one of only 11 approved programs in the United States offering the associate degree required for an anesthesia technologist certification. Besides Durham Tech, the nearest American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians-approved program is in Baltimore. (India Mackinson, NC HEALTH NEWS, 7/17/18)

School Enrollment

Nearly 1 in 5 North Carolina students is not attending a traditional public school, and that percentage is likely to continue rising as more families choose alternative education options. For the third year in a row, enrollment has fallen in North Carolina’s traditional public schools even as the number of students continues to rise in charter schools, private schools and homeschools. The percentage of the state’s 1.8 million students attending traditional public schools has dropped to 80.8 percent

and is continuing to fall rapidly. Enrollment in the state’s traditional public schools has fallen each year since the 2014-15 school year, dropping by 14,293 students in that time period. At the same time, charter schools added 31,199 students. Newly released state figures show that during that same three-year period, enrollment in homeschools went up by 28,896 students and private schools gained 4,516 students. Private school enrollment had been on the decline before the voucher program was created. The enrollment disparity was particularly sharp during the 2017-18 school year when traditional public schools lost 6,011 students from the prior year even as charter schools, homeschools and private schools combined added 18,093 students. The percentage of students attending the state’s traditional public schools has dropped 5.6 percentage points since the 2010-11 school year. (T. Keung Hui, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/13/18)

Hemp Production

More than 300 North Carolina farmers are experimentally growing industrial hemp. Hemp farming is otherwise illegal under state and federal law, because the industrial hemp plant is the same species as the marijuana plant. According to the growers, industrial hemp could be the next frontier of North Carolina agriculture -- a boost to the rural economy of a state where the countryside has languished while the cities have boomed. The key difference between hemp and marijuana: Industrial hemp plants have little THC, the chemical that makes people high when they consume marijuana. Hemp is grown for its fibers, seeds and oil. It’s used in thousands of manufactured products, such as textiles, paper, food, cosmetics, concrete and car parts. Proponents see so much market potential that the U.S. Senate voted on June 28 to fully legalize industrial hemp farming. It is a provision in this year’s

In April, Jimmy Gentry sent a letter to President Trump regarding the tariff issue and the impact it could have on agriculture. The letter expressed the need for trade and encouraged a resolution that will lead to healthy agriculture markets. This is President Trump's reply.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 5, 2018

Mr. Jimmy Gentry
Statesville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Gentry,

Thank you for taking the time to express your views regarding trade policy.

Open, fair, and competitive markets increase opportunities for American workers and employers and contribute to a higher standard of living. Many Americans, however, have not seen clear benefits from international trade agreements. For too long, other nations have engaged in unfair trade practices, gamed the system, and taken advantage of America. This must stop.

My Administration will modernize and improve existing trade agreements, negotiate new trade deals based on fairness and reciprocity, reform the international trade system, and take strong enforcement actions against trading partners that break the rules.

This work is well underway. We have begun negotiating to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was signed before the internet was a part of daily life, and we are seeking substantial improvements to the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement to give American workers a fairer deal.

My Administration is using available leverage to ensure that more markets are truly open to American goods and services, and I am prepared to make new bilateral trade agreements with any nation that wants to be our partner and will abide by the principles of fair and reciprocal trade. We are working with like-minded nations to bring much-needed reform to the World Trade Organization, which has not always been fair to American interests.

I will not tolerate unfair trade practices that harm American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses. The United States Trade Representative has already initiated an investigation of possible discriminatory trade practices by China, and other enforcement actions are ongoing.

Thank you again for writing. To learn more about what I am doing to ensure that trade deals work for all Americans, please visit www.WhiteHouse.gov. As President, I am committed to expanding trade in a way that is fairer for the United States and leads to a more effective and balanced world trading system.

Sincerely,



Do you want to attend
National Grange
Convention this fall in
Vermont? Registration is
live at nationalgrange.org!

In Memoriam

Mr. Charles Hooker	Old Richmond Grange
Mr. Sidney Albright	Patterson Grange
Jean Tucker	Associate Member
Mr. Henry Wilson	Summerfield Grange
Mr. Woody Wyrick	Gate City Grange

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

*Psalms 138:1-2
* 50 Year Member*

(cont. from page 11)

edition of the federal Farm Bill. North Carolina farmers are in their second year in modern times of legally raising hemp, albeit on a limited and tightly regulated basis. (Paul Woolverton, THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, 7/14/18)

Sunday Hunting

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is seeking participation in an online survey to gauge public opinion on opening 61 select game lands across the state for Sunday hunting. The survey, accessible at ncwildlife.org/Public-Opinion-Survey, will be available through Friday, Aug. 31, and data collected will be used to evaluate options for Sunday hunting on game lands. Since 1868, hunting on Sundays has been prohibited in N.C. by state law. However, in 2015, legislation was passed removing the absolute prohibition on hunting with firearms on Sunday. In July 2017, the North Carolina General Assembly granted public land managers, including the Wildlife Resources Commission, authority to implement new options for Sunday hunting on public lands. (THE WATAUGA DEMOCRAT, 7/16/18.)

(Cont. page 10)

Capitol Hill News

The week of July 16th was a whirlwind. Every opportunity I have had to go to Washington DC on behalf of the North Carolina Grange membership has been a truly great experience. My husband, Jeff Barnhart, and I were invited to go back to DC this year for the 2018 We Work For Health Summit. This coalition advocates on behalf of PhARMA, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, which represents the country's leading biopharmaceutical researchers and biotechnology companies. The NC coalition is managed by Randolph Cloud & Associates in Raleigh. This industry has had a tremendous economic impact on our economy in North Carolina. In 2015, the biopharmaceutical sector

(cont. page 13)

The Power of Prayer

Remember to whom you are praying. It's been said that there is nothing that two people can't do if one of them is God. Through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, we can talk directly to His father. It's awesome; it's powerful to know that we can actually talk to our creator and the creator of the universe. It's beyond my comprehension.

But we must remember we cannot just casually approach God like we do with everyone else. Rather, we must remember that it is really our God we are talking to, and accordingly we should humble ourselves before going to Him in prayer. James 4:10 states, "Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

In our Sixth Degree work the Chaplain's prayer starts out, "Almighty and Everlasting God, Maker and Ruler Supreme, we bow in humble reverence before Thy throne. We acknowledge Thy majesty and power, we invoke Thy blessing upon the deliberations of this hour."

The Bible tells us to pray for our nation and our leaders. We pray for our families and our friends. We are even told to pray for our enemies. When you think about it, prayer is the life blood of the Christian experience. It connects us to the power source for right living. It brings peace and beauty to our lives. Without prayer, we cannot find God. Prayer is the means by which we seek and find Him. F. B. Meyer said, "The greatest tragedy of life is not the unanswered prayer, but the unoffered prayer."

Think on these things.



supported \$92.6 billion in economic output for the state of North Carolina including \$45.4 billion generated directly by the sector, and another \$47.2 billion through its vendors and suppliers and through the economic activity of its workforce. The NC Grange's policy has always supported access to healthcare and medication which is especially important in rural North Carolina where most of our membership resides. We feel the "We Work for Health" coalition is an important advocacy group to partner with and support. The first day of the summit included a 2018 election preview by a Republican and a Democratic strategist. Following were presentations by Jessica Hulsey Nickel, President and CEO of the Addiction Policy Forum, who gave an update on the opioid crisis; and Dr. David Fajgenbaum, Co-founder & Executive Director of the Castleman Disease Collaborative Network, who gave a fabulous talk on his own personal journey with this disease and the criticalness of personalized medicine research and

collaboration for remission. Two panels were also held on Navigating Capitol Hill in a Hyperpartisan Environment and Innovation, Value and Policy: A Layered Communications Strategy.

The second day was organized around visits on Capitol Hill to our NC delegation's offices and staff. Congress was extremely busy with scheduled votes to wrap up before the August recess. However, we were able to visit with the staff of Sen. Burr, and the staff of House members, Hudson, Price, Holding, McHenry, Tillis and Meadows. We were fortunate to have brief, unplanned visits with Congressman Rouzer and Senator Tillis. It was a busy but productive day on the Hill. The message I carried on behalf of the Grange was preserving Medicare Part D, which provides seniors and individuals with disabilities with access to affordable prescription drug coverage, and Medicare Part B, which covers physician office visits, outpatient care, ambulance services, some medical

devices and most medicines administered by a physician for complex conditions like cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune conditions and others. These services are at risk of potential sweeping changes to reimbursement without thoughtful consideration, and could put Medicare patients who rely on medications at serious risk, especially for patients who live in rural areas where doctors and hospitals are not as easily accessible.

Going into the fall will be a busy time for legislators at the Federal and State level in preparation for the elections in November. North Carolina will not have a US Senate race but all of our US House, NC Senate and NC House member seats will be up for re-election. It will be an interesting election with many changes expected. Be prepared for the many political ads as well as those early evening phone calls from political candidates asking for your vote.

The Constant Change

In July, our NC Grange Agents started the process of re-certification and training for the upcoming marketing period for both the under and over 65 individual health market products. As part of the process, I had the opportunity to attend a Producer Summit conducted by BlueCross BlueShield of NC at Palmetto Bluff near Bluffton, South Carolina. Several senior management staff members of BlueCross BlueShield of NC addressed a variety of current topics including a quick preview of new product offerings and changes to existing plans.

As usual, we can expect changes in the 2019 programs. There are some exciting, positive changes for both the over and under 65 markets, both in rates and product offerings. While we were not given specific rates or extensive details, it was enough to determine that we should have some very happy individuals this fall. It is also obvious that things are moving from being a “Sick Care” program to becoming a “Well Care” program. We all recognize that it costs less to regularly service our vehicles to keep them running well than to ignore changing the oil and filters until something breaks. It is the same principle with our bodies. When we stay fit and keep our bodies running well, physically and mentally, there is less cost to ourselves and to our insurance company. With WellCare, everybody wins!

Another idea presented at the summit is the emerging development of “Precision Medicine” for patients. These presenters focused specifically on Alzheimer’s and Dementia conditions. With this new development, treatment plans are individualized for the patient. To develop the plan, professionals use data from the individual’s gene profile, blood test, imaging (MRI), medical history, consideration of two or more chronic conditions, prescription and over the counter drugs taken, and lifestyle. When all these factors are put into a computer model, the likely outcome of a treatment plan is mapped very much like what we see when

the meteorologists are projecting the tract of a hurricane. The patients in the trial process of this procedure showed a significant improvement over the control group. With genetic testing, experts are able to look for certain genes that predispose individuals to conditions such as Alzheimer’s and help those individuals to take various preventative actions to minimize or flatten the statistical onset curve of the disease occurrence.

One of the speakers from outside of our field was Rob “Waldo” Waldman, Lt. Col USAF (Ret), a combat jet fighter pilot. He shared his experiences as a pilot and the importance of having a wingman by your side and not flying alone. One of the key functions of the wingman is to “cover your 6.” He explained that just as you have “blind spots” around your vehicle, pilots also have them in a jet. The “6” spot is directly behind you. Your wingman can become your primary defense simply by looking over his or her shoulder to search for any danger that you cannot see. The wingman is always on guard for the changes and missiles that are intended to takeout or disrupt the goal of a mission. The takeaway from this message is that our wingman is an invaluable resource that we need each day to help us avoid the missiles of life. The wingman is there to report our position and assist us until we can get extracted from the situation and back to safety. But we must not forget the importance of the ground crew because without their support and diligence, the pilot nor wingman would ever fly.

Moving forward in the world of healthcare and insurance, changes are coming more rapidly than ever. Let a NC Grange Agent be your wingman to help you navigate and avoid the missiles of life. With our partner, BlueCross BlueShield of NC, we have the ground crew and resources need to successfully take flight and soar!

Give us a call today. We look forward to presenting new plans, plan enhancements, and many reduced rates to you very soon!

NC GRANGE HOSTS SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

JENNIE GENTRY
NC GRANGE YOUTH DIRECTOR

The NC Grange was proud to host this year’s Southeastern Regional Grange Conference in Statesville. Held the last weekend in July, Grange members of all ages from North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Florida and even Pennsylvania joined together to fellowship. A large group from NC attended the conference to represent our state in several important contests for a chance to attend this year’s National Convention.

National Grange President Betsy Huber attended the event, offering kind words to the group. Also attending were National

Chaplain Barbara Bourderieux and National Secretary Judy Sherod. NC Youth Ambassadors, Rylee Furr and Zac Mazag, attended to represent our state and led vespers for the group on Saturday evening.

The weekend included a Grange “Escape Room” activity led by National Youth Director, Charlene Shupp-Espenshade, and National Young Patron Jenn Nauss. Jennie Gentry led a game of Grange Family Feud and a Goals Auction to help attendees discover the importance of setting goals.

Participants from North Carolina had great success with contests this year. Eight ladies (Ashley Drop, Rylee Furr, Jennie Gentry, Lillie Griffin, Margie Griffin, Ashley Holloman, Baylor Howerton and Amber Long) brought back the “Grange Bellas” to compete in the Group Sign-a-Song Contest, winning Best In Show.

Ashley Drop also won Best in Show in the Public Speaking Contest. Competing in Grange Jeopardy and winning the top 3 places were Rylee Furr, Nick Jones and Zac Mazag. All of these winners will compete in these contests at the National Grange Convention.

In the fun and entertaining Impromptu Speech Contest, Missy Mueller (NC) won first place for the Young Adult category, and James Lesley (NC) won first place in the Youth category.

After a delicious cookout sponsored by Piedmont Pomona, attendees enjoyed an evening pool party before departing on Sunday morning. It was a very fun, successful weekend! We are very thankful to all who attended and assisted with the weekend’s activities.

FERGUSON ICE CREAM SOCIAL

BY; SHARON
UNDERWOOD

The Boomer-Ferguson Elementary School Ice Cream Social was sponsored by Ferguson Grange. It was held on Monday, June 4, 2018, for the school staff. During this event, the Ferguson Grange presented Beth Hubbard, principal, with a check for \$750 to go towards additional Chromebooks to improve computer skills in grades 2 through 5. The money was raised during a Bingo-Hot Dog Ferguson Grange fundraiser held on April 21, 2018, by Ferguson Grange.



GRANGERS ATTEND CO-OP CAMP

BY: MARK DAVIS



Baylor Howerton of Bushy Fork Grange attended the NC Cooperative Council’s summer camp held at the NC FFA Center at White Lake representing the Grange. NC Grange staff member Mark Davis also attended and lead Mad City Money, an exercise designed to teach youth how to develop a budget and conduct the daily expenses of being an adult.

GRANTHAM SERVES AND HONORS

BY: JOYCE HOOD



Members of Grantham Grange recently visited the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville, NC, to deliver a meal to the house at Vidant Medical Center. They also delivered “wish list” items to the house on Moye Blvd to help stock the house’s pantry. Several of these Grange members supported the “Sport a Shirt, Share a Night” campaign by purchasing a \$10.00 t-shirt to help pay for one night’s stay at the Ronald McDonald House for a family in need. This program houses families of sick children who need to stay near a hospital together while their children receive treatment for serious illnesses and medical conditions.

Pictured left: Mikayla Jones; Jessica Lucas; Graham Jernigan; John Crawford; Joyce Hood; Mark Hood; John Tart, Jr.; LaRue Tart; John Tart, III; Jerry Waddell; and Merlene Best

Grantham Grange also held its 7th Annual Community Service Awards Presentation Dinner at Selah Christian Church in the Grantham Community. With approximately 125 people in attendance, President John Crawford welcomed everyone and presided over the event, and a memorial for Mrs. Frances Stevens was conducted by members Mark Hood and Jimmy Martin. The theme for Grange Month, “That’s the Grange Way,” was explained and those attending were invited to join the Grange and become involved in this great organization. After a delicious meal, guests were recognized, awards were presented, and comments were made by State Grange President Jimmy Gentry. It was a great night of fellowship! This year’s award winners are as follows:

Pictured: Kenny Moser (Military Person of the Year), Sam Parker, Joseph Jennette, Tony Best and Nathan Lassiter (Smith’s Chapel Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Department of the Year), Joyce and Mark Hood (Grange Family of the Year), Ethel and Tom Britt (Volunteers of the Year), Kim Holloman (Educator of the Year), Karly Denning (Grange Youth of the Year), Lyndon Sutton (Law Enforcement Officer of the Year), Jennifer and Vernon Britt and Grandson, Benjamin Hope (Farm of the Year), Billy and Shirley Carter (Dedicated Service Award), Jimmy Martin (Granger of the Year) and Rev. Ray Smeltzer (Jordans Chapel Baptist Church, Church of the Year.)



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