

## Granite Falls History Committee awards Quilt Show Winner



GRANITE FALLS, NC (March 26, 2018)...The Granite Falls History Committee presented a People's Choice Award for Quilts to Betsy Lail during a reception held Sunday, March 25, 2018 at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum (107 Falls Avenue, Granite Falls). Her quilt entitled "Forest Galorest" featured a variety of colorful animals and plants. It was selected from among 34 entries by visitors to the museum during March. Barbara Ross, who coordinated the quilt show, made the presentation.

The museum is housed in the former home of Andrew Baird, an early settler who once owned land now known as Granite Falls, Grace Chapel, and Rhodhiss. Beginning Saturday, April 7th, the museum will feature an expanded sports exhibit, which includes a tribute to persons

from Granite Falls who have been inducted into the Caldwell County Sports Hall of Fame. The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum is open to the public from 2 until 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday except holiday weekends. Private tours may be arranged at other times by calling the Town Office at (828) 396-3131. In photo: Barbara Ross on the left and Betsy Lail on the right. The winning quilt can be seen beside Ms. Lail on the right side of the photo.

## NCDOT Chooses New Plan For Castle Bridge...Separate New Bridge In The Works Now

ASHEVILLE, NC (March 22, 2018)...The N.C. Department of Transportation is taking a different route to provide drivers a path over Lake Rhodhiss in the coming months and for decades to come.

As a result of multiple meetings and hearing the concerns of citizens, community business owners and leaders, it was evident that the community wanted an option that would be less impactful to traffic. Therefore, NCDOT officials have decided to make temporary repairs to Castle Bridge and begin planning for a new bridge beside it to connect Burke County and Caldwell County.

Instead of replacing steel beams and the concrete deck, a contractor will repair the beams so the bridge may remain in service for three to five more years while engineers plan, design, secure funding, environmental permits and right of way necessary for an additional bridge.

Engineers have begun drafting contract details for the repair process which should start this fall. The goal of making temporary repairs is to keep the existing bridge open as much as possible during the process.

The repairs should take four to six months to complete and may require short-term bridge closures of two-to-five days and lane closures for longer durations.

General plans, decisions and details regarding the time schedule, funding and design of the new bridge will be determined in the coming months.

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**Our Deadline Is On Friday At 5pm For Next Week's Paper**

## Caldwell Journal Weather

**Thursday (29th):** Cloudy.

High 73 Low 55

Precipitation: 0.04 in.

**Friday (30th):** Partial sunshine.

High 67 Low 36

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

**Saturday (31st):** Mostly sunny.

High 65 Low 43

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

**Sunday (1st):** Mostly sunny.

High 70 Low 44

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

**Monday (2nd):** Cooler with a shower possible.

High 59 Low 48

Precipitation: 0.01 in.

**Tuesday (3rd):** Chance of a shower.

High 70 Low 50

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

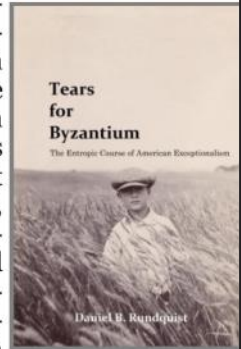
**Wednesday (4th):** Mostly cloudy, rain possible.

High 62 Low 47

Precipitation: 0.04 in.

## New Plymouth Press, LLC announces release of new book title by local author – all net proceeds are designated to support local DAV

CALDWELL COUNTY, NC (November 7, 2017)... New Plymouth Press, LLC is proud to announce today that a new book will be released to the public on December 1, 2017. The author, Dan Rundquist has completed work on his nonfiction title, *Tears For Byzantium; The Entropic Course of American Exceptionalism*. The work seeks to address the question of what exactly is the proper size, role, and scope of American government in a post-9/11 world through the prism of world history. It is told by a father, taxpayer, and ordinary American citizen.



"I have wept for my nation until I am out of tears. Not from a personal depression, but with the deepest grief and sorrow as one might have for a dying loved one. The patient in this case is our nation, America, but she is not so much ill as she is being euthanized. I weep for her because I love my nation, and she is nearly lost to us. I have always loved my country, and I am not alone." *Dan Rundquist*

*The Caldwell Journal has been awarded exclusive distribution of the e-book format...*

This special edition of the book will be made available exclusively by a distribution agreement with the Caldwell Journal:

- The publisher has set the title price at \$4.99 and the author is donating ALL net proceeds for this special PDF edition to Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 6 Hudson, NC.
- ISBN: 978-0-9862967-8-9
- 151 pages, 8.5 x 11 PDF format, print volume is expected to release summer, 2018.
- Link to the Caldwell Journal: [www.caldwelljournal.com](http://www.caldwelljournal.com)
- Media inquiries, requests for advance copies for review can be made directly to the author at [dbquist1986@gmail.com](mailto:dbquist1986@gmail.com)
- Inquiries to the Caldwell Journal: Mr. Mark Jackson, [mark.jackson@caldwelljournal.com](mailto:mark.jackson@caldwelljournal.com)

## Abington Road bridge in Lenoir repaired and now open

LENOIR, NC (March 27, 2018)...N.C. Department of Transportation officials re-opened a two-lane bridge on Abington Road in Lenoir after making emergency repairs over the last week.

A routine inspection on March 20 revealed irregular bowing in the beams, which weakened the overall integrity of the bridge, causing transportation officials to immediately close the structure.

Crews from Division 11 Bridge Maintenance installed new wooden supports at the center of the beams, which will extend the life of the bridge at least 3-5 years. The bridge, which carried an average of 4,600 cars per day in 2015, is on a list to be replaced in the next two years.

The Abington Road bridge was built in 1972 with wood support columns, steel beams, a steel floor and an asphalt top. The repairs raised the weight limits on the bridge to 24 tons for passenger vehicles and 32 tons for trucks.

All 18,000 bridges that NCDOT maintains are inspected at least every other year.

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## Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

### Heavenly Chocolate Cake

#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds fat-free ricotta cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (16-ounce) package sugar-free chocolate cake mix
- 1 (1.4 ounce) package sugar-free instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- 1 (8-ounce) container fat-free frozen whipped topping, thawed

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9x13 inch baking dish with cooking spray. In a large bowl, with a hand mixer, beat ricotta cheese, eggs, sugar, and vanilla until smooth; set aside. In another large bowl, prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour cake batter evenly into baking dish. Slowly pour cheese mixture evenly over cake batter. Bake 50 to 55 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool completely. In a medium bowl, whisk pudding mix and milk until smooth. Fold whipped topping into pudding until well combined. Spread mixture on top of cake. Refrigerate 4 hours, or until ready to serve.



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## This Warning of “Suspicious Account Activity” Is a Scam, Utilizing Landlines

RALEIGH, NC (March 26, 2018)...Scammers have begun exploiting a quirk in landline technology to steal from consumers. They usually call early in the morning, claiming to be a law enforcement officer or a representative of a financial institution. They report that a suspicious charge was placed on your credit card the night before via an online purchase, an in-store transaction, or an overseas transfer. They need your credit card account information to cancel the transaction. For confirmation that what they are saying is true, they direct you to call the number on the back of your credit card. Then they say goodbye, and (appear to) hang up.

But actually, unbeknownst to you, the scammer remains on the line. Even as you dial the number on the back of your card, you remain connected. You end up talking to the con man's partner in crime, who falsely confirms the suspicious charge and ultimately convinces you to transfer your funds to an external bank account, for safety's sake, until their “investigation” is complete.

This scam technique is being seen in Canada and is expected to be used against consumers in the US, if it hasn't already. Keep your guard up! Scammers are slick, so be extremely cautious of anyone who claims to be acting on your behalf but needs access to your information. If you have a landline, be aware that the previous caller can remain on the line after you hang up so that when you pick up the phone again, you are still connected to them.

If you think you might be dealing with this scam, try to use a different phone for your confirmation call to the credit card company. If you must use the same landline, hang up for an extended period of time (at least 20 minutes) before lifting the receiver to make the confirmation call. Listen carefully for a normal dial tone before proceeding, and hang up if you don't encounter a typical automated telephone system when your call gets connected.

If you think you may have been the victim of a scam, contact the Department of Justice at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or file a complaint online.

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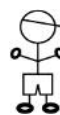
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## WBTV launches “On Your Side Tonight with Jamie Boll”

CHARLOTTE, NC (March 23, 2018)...On Tuesday, April 10th at 7:30 p.m., WBTV will launch “On Your Side Tonight with Jamie Boll.” The new program will air weeknights following “WBTV Prime-time,” replacing “Access Hollywood.” While loyal viewers of WBTV News may find the show familiar, it should not be mistaken for a traditional news-cast.

By choosing a few topics for a deeper look each night, the show’s creators will strive to provide context, analysis and expanded reporting beyond what happened throughout the news day to highlight why it matters. Veteran anchor Jamie Boll will bring WBTV’s “On Your Side” brand promise to life with a thoughtful, in-depth news program that is responsive to viewer questions, concerns and curiosities.



“This shows our commitment to deliver even more quality local journalism produced right here in this community,” said WBTV Vice President and General Manager Scott Dempsey. “It’s part of our ongoing mission to be available when and where our audience demands.”

The show’s host, Jamie Boll, is an award-winning journalist who has been with WBTV since March 2005. He co-anchors “WBTV News First at Four” with Brigida Mack and “WBTV News at 5:30 p.m.” with Molly Grantham, as well as producing investigative and political reports. He annually emcees Charlotte’s Autism Speaks event at ZMAX Dragway along with other community service commitments.

*Continued on page 7...*

## WBTV launches “On Your Side Tonight with Jamie Boll”

*Continued from page 6...*

“Reporting the news today demands a very fast pace. But, we also see the need to take a longer look each day at how what’s happening in the news is affecting our community,” said Jamie Boll. “Our goal is to teach ourselves and our viewers something new every night and we’re excited to get going.”

For a unique look behind the scenes, download the WBTV app on Roku. Over the past several weeks, WBTV has captured a glimpse of what it’s like to launch the new show and will be releasing a few documentary-style episodes.

The addition of “On Your Side Tonight with Jamie Boll” brings the amount of local programming produced by WBTV to 52 hours each week, the most in the Charlotte market.

“Access Hollywood” will now air on WBTV immediately following “The Late Late Show with James Corden.”

## Caldwell County CALL FOR ARTISTS

### Caldwell Visual Artists Competition

LENOIR, NC (March 27, 2018)...The Caldwell Arts Council is pleased to announce the 42nd Annual Caldwell Visual Artists Competition scheduled for June 22-July 28, 2018.

Cash prizes will be awarded at the opening reception June 22, 2018, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

This competition is open to 2-D (paintings, collage, etc.) and 3-D (pottery, small sculpture, etc.) visual artists 18 years of age or older who reside, work, attend school or take art classes in Caldwell County. Photography is excluded from this competition; however, Caldwell Arts Council will host a new photography competition in January 2019!

A non-refundable entry fee of \$25 entitles each artist to display two works of art. Artwork must be delivered either June 15 (9am-5pm), June 16 (10am-2pm) or June 18 (9am-5pm).

All the details and prospectus are available on the website: [www.caldwellarts.com](http://www.caldwellarts.com) or by calling 828-754-2486.

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### Eight Baptized at Bethlehem Baptist Church

BETHLEHEM, NC (March 25, 2018)...Baptism is "going public" about your faith in Jesus and declaring to the community your commitment to following Him. It's the next step after salvation. Simply put, believers are baptized because Christ commands it. Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) When believers are baptized, they are following the example set by Jesus. The Gospel of Mark tells us, "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river."

Eight individuals followed Jesus Christ in baptism on Sunday, March 25, 2018, during the morning service at Bethlehem Baptist Church: Bella Pennell, Caleb Williams, Mason James, Parker Mosteller, Ayla Hamilton, Zonie Bailey, Anna Caviness, and Cooper James.

Special thanks to Joy Baptist Church for the use of their portable baptistry.

To learn more about a relationship with Jesus Christ, call 828.495.7250 or visit [www.bethlehembc.org/believe/jesus](http://www.bethlehembc.org/believe/jesus).

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located at 7500 NC Hwy 127N, Taylorsville, NC.

### YOUNG AT ART April exhibit at the Caldwell Arts Council

Lenoir, NC (March 27, 2018)...The Caldwell Arts Council announces the exhibit "YOUNG AT ART – THE MIDDLE & HIGH STUDENT ART SHOW" featuring student artwork from each of Caldwell County's middle schools and high schools.

The Young At Art exhibit will be on display April 6-28, 2018. A reception for students & their families will be held on Friday, April 13, 2018 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – free and open to the public.

Located at 601 College Ave SW in Lenoir, the Caldwell Arts Council's operating hours are Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 10am-2pm. For more information, call 828-754-2486 or visit [www.caldwellarts.com](http://www.caldwellarts.com).



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## Who Stole Caldwell County?

GRANITE FALLS, NC (By Dan Rundquist - March 29, 2018)...Someone has committed a grand larceny and it is unlikely that anyone will ever be charged or ultimately brought to justice for it. It is quite obvious who the perpetrators were—we call them our Congress in Washington. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect January 1, 1994. As it turns out, it was free for them, but very expensive for us here in Caldwell County. It would mean the demise of the furniture industry and nearly all the related support businesses over the following twenty years. We have watched a slow motion economic and cultural disaster take place right here.

I have often wondered what Caldwell County would look like today in a world without NAFTA. This county at one point "owned" the furniture industry since the Lenoir Furniture Company was formed in 1889. Prior to NAFTA, some 80% of all hardwood sold in the U.S. was destined for Caldwell County and the surrounding area for furniture production.

What might we have achieved by now if our future had not been robbed by NAFTA in the late 1990's? If someone in 1990 was going to set out to purposely craft a policy specifically designed to destroy the economy of Caldwell County, you would be hard pressed to come up with anything more effective at doing so than NAFTA.

Mr. Jack Skinner is a Caldwell County native and is in the business in Granite Falls and has worked as a N.C. Forester before entering the furniture trade. He notes that it took a while for NAFTA to take hold in furniture because it took time for the infrastructures overseas to improve to the point where they could take the business. At the same time, the technology used in the furniture industry here was somewhat antiquated in 1994 and the local manufacturers were comfortable. But I would argue that we never had time to take advantage of the coming digital revolution (circa 2000 forward) and upgrade our industry before it was unjustly torn away. Today he says the furniture industry is fragmented and often completed piece-meal with companies specializing in smaller segments and assembly across a broad geography. And he shares my own belief in the people of Caldwell County stating: "If we could get industry back in Caldwell County it would be successful because the people here want to work."

Mr. William McNeill works as a lumber broker also based in Granite Falls. He is one of the last remaining in his field here. When NAFTA took hold, many of the lumber brokers in the area simply retired. Today the bulk of his brokered lumber is for delivery outside North Carolina. He says a lot of lumber is going overseas now because of the decline in domestic demand. Of the people still in the lumber trade, he remarks, "They are good people, my kind of people."

Those who crafted and passed NAFTA, however do not care about the good people in Caldwell County. By 1999, according to the U.S. Census bureau, Caldwell County had a median household income of \$35,739, with 10.7% of our residents living in poverty. As of 2016, median household income was recorded at \$37,118, with 17.1% living in poverty. This means that over the past 17 years alone, wages were essentially flat or declining when true inflation is factored, and poverty has increased by a deplorable 60%. This amounts to nothing short of a grand theft of our wealth, our economy, and our future.

When statistics began to clearly illustrate a change in the late 1990's as the economic damage was being done—companies closing, joblessness rising and it became evident that NAFTA proved to be the cause, did our politicians end NAFTA? Nope. They instead offered some lame "job training" programs that imagined that they could convert our fine furniture industry folks into an army of unneeded customer service reps somewhere.

Not only was Caldwell County at "ground zero" for the NAFTA bomb, we have been suffering and surviving along ever since as a result. These outcomes—unemployment, underemployment, lower earnings and increased poverty—have put an enormous strain on our culture, our families, our members of law enforcement (because of increased crime), our tax base, our property values, and so many other related issues. **Continued on page 11...**

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## Who Stole Caldwell County? *Continued from page 10...*

Thank you, Washington politicians; some of us will always be looking for ways to put you out of work, too - on Election Day.

In spite of the forced economic decline handed to us by our own federal government, local leaders and the citizens of this county have done quite an admirable job of rescuing our culture regardless of the betrayal. In 2008, our County Seat, Lenoir, was indeed awarded the All-American City designation. That is a significant cultural achievement given the circumstances.

### Tariffs and Taxes

President Trump is reviewing NAFTA now, and has announced that he will be renegotiating its terms. We here in Caldwell County can only hope for better ones. This is long overdue for us. If it does come to adding more tariffs, we should be embracing that, too. Strategically applied tariffs are nothing to be afraid of despite what you may hear in the news or spouted by those pundits who never actually worked for a living. In our history there was a time in our nation when our primary tax revenue came from tariffs, not income taxes.

In his first State of the Union address on December 8th, 1801, the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson announced that the government was able to pay for itself and its debt on money raised from tariffs and that the “internal taxes” were going to be eliminated—along with the Internal Revenue Service:

“Other circumstances... have produced an augmentation of revenue arising from consumption in a ratio far beyond that of population alone; and though the changes in foreign relations now taking place so desirably for the whole world may for a season affect this branch of revenue, yet weighing all probabilities of expense as well as of income, there is reasonable ground of confidence that we may now safely dispense with all the internal taxes... and that the remaining sources of revenue will be sufficient to provide for the support of Government, to pay the interest of the public debts, and to discharge the principals within shorter periods than the laws or the general expectation had contemplated.”

A few years ago, writer Thomas R. Eddlem explained how this was possible in an article he wrote for The New American:

“Prior to ratification of the 16th (income tax) Amendment in February 1913, the federal government managed its few constitutional responsibilities without an income tax, except during the Civil War period. During peacetime, it did so largely — or even entirely — on import taxes called ‘tariffs.’ Congress could afford to run the federal government on tariffs alone because federal responsibilities did not include welfare programs, agricultural subsidies, or social insurance programs like Social Security or Medicare.” *Continued on page 12...*

## Who Stole Caldwell County?

*Continued from page 11...*

A hundred years later the government is almost wholly dependent upon income taxes to raises its revenue. In 2012, the federal government relied on individual income taxes, Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes, and corporate income taxes (ultimately paid by consumers), to provide 90% of its revenue. As an important side note, I'll remind the reader here that no nation in all of world history has ever taxed itself into prosperity.

Of course, the United States government was quite a smaller thing to manage in Jefferson's time; no unconstitutional entitlements like we have today. Now, the Trump Administration is attempting to "right the ship" with the increase and introduction of some tariffs. President Trump is not the first president who had to embark on a whirlwind effort to reign in the size, scope, and runaway expense of ever-expanding federal government during his first year in office while at the same time addressing unfair trade issues. Jefferson also faced similar circumstances which he noted:

"When we consider that this Government is charged with the external and mutual relations only of these States; that the States themselves have principal care of our persons, our property, and our reputation, constituting the great field of human concerns, we may well doubt whether our organization is not too complicated, too expensive; whether offices and officers have not been multiplied unnecessarily and sometimes injuriously to the service they were meant to promote."

Jefferson saw, too, that government had to be kept small and manageable, and not be allowed to balloon itself into an unaffordable bureaucracy:

"Considering the general tendency to multiply offices and dependencies and to increase expense to the ultimate term of burthen which the citizen can bear, it behooves us to avail ourselves of every occasion which presents itself for taking off the surcharge, that it never may be seen here that after leaving to labor the smallest portion of its earnings on which it can subsist, Government shall itself consume the whole residue of what it was instituted to guard."

Jefferson had formulated a plan of action:

"I will cause to be laid before you... a statement of those who, under public employment of various kinds, draw money from the Treasury or from our citizens....Among those who are dependent on Executive discretion I have begun the reduction of what was deemed unnecessary...The inspectors of internal revenue who were found to obstruct the accountability of the institution have been discontinued...Other reformatations of the same kind will be pursued with that caution which is requisite in removing useless things..."

Recently, the U.S. raised sizable tariffs on both steel and aluminum in a long overdue effort to level the playing field on these industries against foreign competition that enjoyed a giveaway market for far too long. "Fair trade" should not come at the expense of Americans, or there is nothing "fair" about it. These other nations do not have the same industry standards, environmental restrictions, wage requirements and other expensive regulations as an input to their cost structure and so will always enjoy an unfair cost advantage here. The added tariffs account for this now and will help many American industries that relocated because of NAFTA to now begin the process of recovery.

Does this mean Americans might pay a little more for their steel and aluminum products? Of course, but we have been paying a far greater price for many years; a steep and hidden tax. That price was the loss of American jobs and industry, more unemployment benefits, higher taxes, higher crime rates, increased poverty, and the very highest price of all, lost American potential—exactly what we have been paying for in Caldwell County for far too long.

*i "Before the Income Tax" by Thomas R. Eddlem Friday, 18 January 2013 The New American*





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## Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday at Bethlehem Baptist

BETHLEHEM, NC (March 25, 2018)...Bethlehem Baptist Church invites the community to join their journey through Holy Week 2018 at special services on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Lynn McCoy of Jews for Jesus will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" on Thursday, March 29, at 7pm, at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7500 NC Hwy 127, Taylorsville, NC.

McCoy, veteran missionary at the Washington, DC branch of Jews for Jesus, will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. She will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian communion celebration today.

### EASTER SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 1, a community-wide Sunrise Service will be hosted at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, 9042 NC Hwy 127, in the Bethlehem community, at 6:30am. Dr. Wayne Caviness, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, will share the resurrection message.

The Easter celebration will continue at Bethlehem Baptist on Sunday, April 1, with a special time of worship at 9am. "We invite you to celebrate Christ's resurrection with us through beautiful music and a message from God's word," says Dr. Wayne Caviness, pastor. There will be no Sunday School on this day.

Getting into the building may look a little confusing due to construction, but just follow the signs to park behind the building. Entrances from the parking area are to the far left and far right. Guest parking is available near the building, and greeters will welcome you just inside the door.

For more information about Bethlehem Baptist Church, call 828.495.7250, visit [www.bethlehembc.org](http://www.bethlehembc.org), or like them on Facebook.

**Mulvale Baptist Church**, in Collettsville, NC is currently seeking a part-time summer youth minister for 2018. If interested, please email [pastorbr549@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbr549@gmail.com) for more information.

**First Baptist Church of Whitnel** is in need of a pianist. If interested contact Donna Kaylor at 828-308-5516.

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### Poetry in LA: Only in LA (L.A. Poems)

Paperback November 2, 2017

Poetry about L.A. (east in North Carolina). These poems are taken from the Facebook page, Poetry in LA (@poetryinla) created by LB Sedlacek. Poems are about Hibernian Mountain, the annual Sculpture Fest, the annual Blackberry Festival, Wilson Creek, Highway 1890, the antique car shows, old timesy buildings, and the general way of life in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountain area that locals fondly call "LA." for Lenoir Area.



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## Grade level reconfiguration at Valmead and West Lenoir Elementary

LENOIR, NC (March 23, 2018)...At the March 12 Board of Education meeting, the School Board voted to reconfigure the grade levels served at Valmead Elementary and West Lenoir Elementary, a discussion that was introduced last June to parents, faculty and staff at both schools.

Students in grades Pre-K through 2 will attend Valmead Elementary School and all students in grades 3-5 will be enrolled at West Lenoir Elementary School. This grade level reconfiguration is effective next school year beginning in August of 2018.

"We have given both school communities the time to embrace this new concept, and overwhelmingly, the school administration, faculty and staff want to proceed with the reconfiguration plan," said Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. "Educators and parents alike see this as an opportunity to reinvigorate their school environment, secure more resources for each classroom and provide a professional, collaborative exchange among teachers."

Parents, faculty, staff and community partners attended public meetings last summer and provided input on the proposed reconfiguration plan. In an effort to give stakeholders ample time to conceptualize and adapt to the new redesign, Dr. Steve Stone tabled the proposed action until this school year. He re-introduced the reconfiguration plan at the regular Board of Education meeting in March, and it was approved by a 6-1 vote.

Presently, these two high poverty elementary schools face similar challenges of declining enrollment, fluctuating low performance, and dwindling resources for non-tested areas. Due to new state legislation governing classroom size, they also have no alternative but to continuously combine grade levels.

As the school district begins the implementation process, adjustments to school bus transportation will be minimized, since there is only a three-mile distance from each location and the student attendance areas are practically overlapping. Parent meetings will be held prior to the end of this school year to discuss possible bus route modifications, potentially new bus stops or necessary bus shuttles.

Since the start of this school year, both principals have coordinated joint activities and meetings with students, parents and staff to encourage friendships, to build professional relationships and to create consensus as schools transition to the new models.

"This concept that has been successfully introduced in other districts, and we are excited to offer it in the Caldwell County Schools," said Stone. "We owe it to these schools to implement a positive change that will bring about new ideas, a clearer focus and a fresh start for teachers and for every student."



## Key Practices of the Christian Life

### Practice #5: Mission – The Fruitful Life

*“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Psalm 100*

The Christian life is not just about meeting with the Lord in prayer or having a sense of personal peace, it is also about glorifying God by being used in His service. One of the amazing realities of the Christian life is that God chooses to use us as His instruments to bring blessing into the lives of others. Here are some practices we can adopt which will make us prepared to be used by God in His work in the world.

#### Practices for a Fruitful Life

**A Close Relationship with God.** The daily fellowship you have with God will go a long way toward renewing your mind, inspiring your heart, and changing your character. Having been changed through God’s saving work in your life and being daily changed through your relationship with Him, you will be ready to serve God when the time comes.

**Availability.** The surrendered heart is the useful heart. In both a one time way and a daily way, we need to yield our hearts to God, committing to trust Him to use us in any way He sees fit.

**Outward-Focus.** We must have eyes that see need, whether need for the gospel or need for physical assistance or just need for encouragement.

**Joining with Others.** God has given us one another so that we remember that we don’t carry responsibility alone. God is sovereign, God is at work and you have help. Just be faithful and join with others who have a heart to serve like yours.

**Training.** Take advantage of Sunday School classes, seminars and other opportunities to learn how to share your faith more effectively.

**Plan to Serve.** Put on your calendar times you will go be involved in ministry to the needy, or times you will have a family over for dinner. Service and mission do not have to be spontaneous. Plan to minister or you most likely will not minister to others very often.

**By Pastor Scott Frady**

of West Hickory Baptist Church, 40 12th Street NW, Hickory, NC

## Caldwell Arts Council announces 13th Annual Middle School Poetry Recitation Competition...public invited

LENOIR, NC (March 27, 2018)...Sixteen Caldwell County middle school students will compete in the 13th Annual Middle School Poetry Recitation Competition sponsored by the Caldwell Arts Council, in conjunction with Caldwell County Schools.

Cash prizes totaling over \$1,000 will be awarded to the top finishers.

The public is invited to watch these talented students on the main stage at the JE Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir Saturday, April 7, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The Caldwell Arts Council presents programs that foster cultural arts in Caldwell County. These programs are supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources and by individual and corporate donors.

To learn more about Caldwell Arts Council events and programs, please visit [www.caldwellarts.com](http://www.caldwellarts.com), email [info@caldwellarts.com](mailto:info@caldwellarts.com) or call 828-754-2486.