



Grandfather Mountain Highland Games return July 12

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN, NC (July 2, 2018)...Scotland returns to Grandfather Mountain July 12-15 for the 63rd annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Boasting bagpipes, Scottish athletics, Highland melodies, Celtic cuisine, crafts aplenty and tons of tartans, the Games hearken back to the rich cultural traditions of Scotland in a setting not so different from the mountains and glens some 3,600 miles away.

The event begins Thursday afternoon, July 12, with border collie sheepherding demonstrations, Celtic entertainment, the running of "The Bear" and the opening ceremonies.

"The Bear" pits approximately 700 runners against the steep switchbacks of Grandfather Mountain in a five-mile run that climbs 1,568 feet from the town of Linville to the mountain summit.

It's followed Saturday by another test of extreme endurance as the Grandfather Mountain Marathon winds from Appalachian State University in Boone to the site of the Games in Linville.

But the Games truly get under way at the torchlight ceremony on Thursday evening, where representatives of more than 100 clans announce their families' participation in the gathering. The "raising of the clans" proclaims that they have once again convened to celebrate their heritage.

Guests often bring dinner or purchase concessions at the field to enjoy a picnic at the opening ceremonies. **Continued on page 2...**

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

Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (5th): A t-storm around in the p.m.
High 86 Low 69
Precipitation: 0.04 in.

Friday (6th): A shower & t-storm around.
High 85 Low 68
Precipitation: 0.42 in.

Saturday (7th): Mostly cloudy; not as warm.
High 76 Low 60
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Sunday (8th): Mostly sunny.
High 81 Low 57
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Monday (9th): Plenty of sunshine; pleasant.
High 85 Low 62
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Tuesday (10th): Partly sunny.
High 88 Low 67
Precipitation: 0.01 in.

Wednesday (11th): A p.m. t-storm possible.
High 91 Low 69
Precipitation: 0.09 in.

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Friday, Saturday and Sunday are filled with competitions in traditional heavyweight Scottish athletic events, highland dancing competitions, bagpipe band parades, piping, drumming and harp competitions, sheepherding demonstrations by Scottish border collies and concerts, featuring a colorful soundscape of Celtic music.

The nation's top Scottish athletes clash Saturday in traditional heavyweight events, such as "Turning the Caber" and "Tossing the Sheaf."

In the caber toss, athletes flip a telephone pole-sized log end over end. The sheaf toss challenges athletes to loft a 16-pound sack of hay over a bar more than 20 feet high.

Other ancient tests of strength await the contestants, including highland wrestling, the hammer throw and various weight throws.

Events are repeated Sunday for amateurs and athletes 40 and older, in addition to the "Kilted Mile," clan caber toss and clan tug-of-war.

For the wee ones, the Games will again host youth highland wrestling clinics and competitions, foot races and tug-of-war battles.

Music

For 2018, event organizers are tuning up the Games' musical offerings.

Friday nights' Celtic rock show includes sets by Seven Nations, Nic Hudson, Rathkeltair, Scottish Octopus and Blue Ridge Brass, while the Saturday Celtic sessions feature Alasdair White, Ed Miller, Chambless and Muse, Seamus Kennedy and Piper Jones Band.

Other performers throughout the weekend's daytime musical offerings include Billy Jackson & Gráinne Hambly, Atlantic North, Brothers McLeod and Marybeth McQueen.

For more information, call (828) 733-1333, or email gmhginfo@yahoo.com.

History in Action

Throughout the weekend, visitors can learn about their own Scottish ancestry and genealogy at clan tents or browse the open-air market for Gaelic and tartan gift items.

Guests can take a taste of tradition with a variety of concessions, including Scottish meat pies.

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The Scottish Cultural Village will also return, hosting experts to discuss or demonstrate numerous aspects of Scottish culture, including blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, athletics, piping and drumming, dancing and more. Presentations will take place every 30 minutes throughout the weekend.

If You Attend

Adult admission to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games is \$15 Thursday, \$20 Friday, \$30 Saturday and \$15 Sunday. Tickets cover all activities in the meadows, which last from early morning to midnight Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$5 each day for children ages 5-12, and children younger than 5 enter free.

Tickets for Thursday night's opening ceremonies are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Tickets for the Celtic rock concert only (no Friday Games activities) are \$15 for adults or \$5 for children (ages 5-12). The Saturday night concert is also \$15 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 5-12). This does not include admission to the Saturday Games activities.

Tickets purchased on site must be paid with cash, and credit cards will only be accepted at the Games' main entrance gate.

Four-day passes are also available by calling (828) 733-1333. Adult passes are \$75 (including shuttle), and children's passes are \$30 (also including shuttle).

Parking is available at the Games on Thursday and Friday on a first come, first served basis, with overflow parking at shuttle lots in Linville Friday only (no shuttle buses run on Thursday). Public parking is not available at the Games on Saturday and Sunday.

Shuttle service is provided for a fee between MacRae Meadows and satellite parking areas in Linville, Newland and Boone. Shuttle fees vary depending on the distance between the lots and MacRae Meadows, costing \$5 for Linville and Newland and \$10 for Boone.

Questions?

For more information about the Games, visit www.gmhg.org, or call (828) 733-1333. For lodging and travel information, contact the High Country Host visitor center at (800) 438-7500 or highcountryhost.com.

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Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

Chicken Nepiev

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - pounded to 1/4 inch thickness
- 4 tablespoons garlic flavored cream cheese spread
- 1/4 cup garlic and herb seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

In a cup or small bowl, stir together the Italian seasoning, onion powder and garlic powder. Sprinkle over both sides of the chicken. Place 1 tablespoon of cream cheese on the center of each piece, and spread slightly. Tuck in the sides, and roll up tightly. Secure with toothpicks. Place the bread crumbs on a plate or in a shallow bowl. Roll the chicken rolls in the bread crumbs to coat. Place on a plate, cover, and freeze for about 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Heat the butter and oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Brown the chicken rolls on all sides, this should take about 5 minutes. Transfer the rolls to a baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until chicken is no longer pink and the juices run clear. Spoon drippings from the dish over the rolls before serving.



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A Nation That Must Be United

SPECIAL TO THE CALDWELL JOURNAL (By **Daniel B. Rundquist**)...This month we observe our national Independence Day on the fourth of July. It is our 242nd such celebration. I like to believe in a grand, romantic notion that America was founded in unity but that would be little more than a pleasant fiction. The reality of the historical record simply does not support that idea, and in fact proves the opposite was true. America ended its union with England as a result of both the actions and inactions of the crown that were injurious to the colonists. The Declaration of Independence provides a list of injuries which is then summed up in this manner:

“In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.¹”

The true revolutionaries in America who subscribed to this rebellious line of action might have been considered the minority early on. There were the many Tories who lived in the colonies and were fiercely loyal to the crown of England. These men were in control of many of the institutions of the colonies. The people of the colonies were politically divided from the start, either by fear, loyalty, or hope as a catalyst.

Later, when it was time for the Constitution of the United States to be ratified, there were unnerving divisions played out in debates on every point. Federalist and anti-federalist factions sparred over so many details. So distrustful were they of each other that both parties kept separate recorded minutes of the meetings and events.

Divisions in early America were so awful that Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr descended to dueling which resulted in Hamilton's death in 1804. Even Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were bitter rivals for a very long time until late in life.

The total lack of unity in America today, however, did not occur by mere accident or some natural cultural process. American politicians and their accomplices have orchestrated and executed a careful and deliberate plan to divide Americans and place us at odds with each other. A divided populace is easier to control and pander to than a united one that seeks a common justice and accountability from its own government. A divided America is a defeated America.

In the 1830's French aristocrat, diplomat, political scientist, and historian Alexis de Tocqueville became exasperated by the problems he saw in America and the world at the time. Although written nearly two hundred years ago, the same issues surrounding his observations of the time are still in the newspaper headlines of today. He wrote, “Without common ideas, there is no common action, and without common action men still exist, but a social body does not. Thus, in order that there be society, and all the more, that this society prosper, it is necessary that all the minds of the citizens always be brought together and held together by some principle ideas.²”

“Has every other century been like this one? Has man always confronted, as he does today, a world in which nothing makes sense? In which virtue is without genius and genius without honor? In which the love of order is indistinguishable from the lust of tyrants? In which the sacred cult of liberty is confounded with contempt for the law? In which conscience casts but an ambiguous light on the actions of men? In which nothing any longer seems forbidden or allowed, honest or shameful, true or false? Am I to believe that the Creator made man only to allow him to flounder endlessly in a sea of intellectual misery? I do not think so.”³

As Americans, we must consider that the path back to our success must begin with the restoration of virtue and unity. These two things transcend modern political idealism. In the American culture whose original role in society was it to maintain the constructs of virtue and unity among the people? What happened to it, and how might we get it back? **Continued on page 6...**

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Government cannot legislate either virtue or unity—try as they might. This is the folly of American politics today. Here, the government is a representative republic—reflective of the values of the people who elect those who are supposed to do the work of government. They can make all the laws they want—but the actions (or restraint) associated with virtue originate from within a person, not from fear of breaking a law. If it were laws alone that were responsible for creating and maintaining virtue, then the jails would be empty.

Do laws make Americans virtuous? We might as well ask if red lights stop cars. No. Responsible drivers who apply the brakes stop cars. We have many laws prohibiting murder, theft, and so on—and yet these crimes and so many more are committed every day. Laws are merely the guardrails of society but laws do not create virtue; instead, it is the virtue of the people and by extension, their legislative body that creates just laws.

On the other hand, overreaching “antidiscrimination” laws, for example, tend to have the opposite effect of their stated purpose. They cause even more animosity, more division (read disunity), and can result in reverse discrimination cases. Government is not the source of virtue and unity and when they attempt to assume that role, cultural failure is all but certain.

So, what happened to unity and virtue? Here’s a grand, tin-foil hat theory for consideration; American has been put into a forced economic and cultural decline for the past sixty years, orchestrated by the oligarchs of the political class. They use inflation and trade agreements (such as NAFTA) to undermine the American citizen’s ability and potential to create intergenerational wealth. This in turn, forces a slow but absolute process of decline which forces a growing number of otherwise productive citizens into intergenerational poverty. The poverty naturally causes the poor to seek answers and look for hope, and there is government—ready to answer with handouts. Never enough money to quite get out of poverty, but enough to live comfortably (relative to the poor in the rest of the world.) This causes dependence on government and centralizes power to the political class—their true aim all along. *Continued on page 7...*

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Americans are left to wonder what happened to the American Dream. While American politicians are perpetually promising that they are the source of some far-off future prosperity in order to garner votes, the citizens are left to shift for themselves as best they can in an ever-declining socialist state complete with uncontrollable public debt and planned monetary inflation eating away at the value of their money. They look for hope. They search for meaning. They look to the church but find little to hold on to and perhaps not much meaning at all. They may turn to drugs and alcohol to soothe them in their struggle. With it comes to substance abuse and addiction—where again, government sets itself up as the solution with programs and penal incarceration. This, my dear reader, is the new American Dream of the political class—an America that is jobless, penniless, and hopeless without their “help.”

America has long been considered a Christian nation as many of the founding documents are based on Christian ideals. Because that is so, then it would stand to reason that the charge for the maintenance of its two key founding principles, unity and virtue in our culture should rest with American Christian churches. What we have witnessed in the latter half of the 20th century is largely the abdication of this responsibility by the church and a subsequent falling away of church followers. This falling away is reflected in the devolution of the American culture, in our style of dress, our food, our music, our media, our attitudes, our values, and our relationships.

The late Evangelist Rev. Billy Graham, however, had his own opinions on the matter:

“The Christian faith has become a cheap faith because we too often live as if it has no value. We complain when the preacher runs over a few minutes on the Sunday sermon and consider it a great inconvenience to return to services once or twice more in the same week. No wonder so much of the world does not consider our faith relevant when we are not even willing to give of our time, much less our freedom or lives, for what we say we believe in.”⁴

So much of American Christianity today has been forced to evolve to the point where God Himself is often rationalized and marginalized so as not to interfere with—or worse support—what is politically correct, popular, or just plain offensive. Those who prefer sin and don’t want to adhere to God’s laws and want to be condoned by those who do, seek to create a moral equivalency—making others accept, support, and even celebrate their questionable life choices within Christianity—however they choose to twist a particular doctrine to meet their own standards instead of changing their lives to meet God’s standards. This, I suspect, is why so many today find church as meaningless. If the standard is no longer rock solid, then what is the point?

I would argue that American organized religion has catastrophically failed to maintain education on virtue in the United States. This is an inarguable fact based on the data we see year after year on the subject of religion. Many of the modern denominations do not see this as their mission any longer. Teaching virtue and unity is not exciting, does not attract new members and their money, actually repels folks who enjoy their sinful ways, and therefore is a losing proposition.

There are today so many things America must do to restore our culture, and we cannot be certain that Americans are even up to the task. Consider that in a recent LendEDU survey of 1,238 employed Americans, it was discovered that 35% of respondents would permanently trade their right to vote in all elections for a mere 10% immediate raise in wage. 113 people in that same group indicated that they “would give up their child’s or future child’s right to vote in all elections for life” to get the 10% raise.⁵ This is a pathetic state of affairs.

In today’s America, we struggle with even the more basic issues such as the very concept of what is right and what is wrong. In a 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Study, 64% of the respondents thought that “right or wrong depends on the situation.”⁶ This trend was seen across many religious groups.

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What's even worse is that the youngest generation has no moral compass. Only 15% of the respondents in the same study aged 18 – 29 and a scant 12% of immigrants agreed that "there are clear standards for what is right and wrong."⁷

So, called "higher education" has apparently done much to harm the values of Americans. Only 10% of the respondents in the same study who have completed post-graduate degrees agreed that "there are clear standards for what is right and wrong, while the figure rises to 38% of those with high school or less education"⁸

It is still, however, the church that must teach our citizens about virtues and unity. This means that the inadequacy that often passes for Christianity now must be "cleaned up" and the message of Christ restored as its centerpiece. Without the standards of something bigger than merely the laws of a few politician's American society will be lost. All of America was once perhaps balanced by the plethora of small local churches teaching Americans about God's plan for their lives. Now, virtue and unity must start again at home, in our neighborhoods, our towns and cities. We must restore the instruction of virtue and unity to our children and their children for the sake of the nation.

This exclusive article for the Caldwell Journal provides a preview of the material in a new book soon to be released by Dan Rundquist, *Prayers for Byzantium; How a Lost Nation Might Find its Way*; Coming soon from New Plymouth Press, LLC.

1 The Declaration of Independence

2 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

3 Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Introduction, pg 13, Library of America, 2004

4 http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/40328.Billy_Graham?page=2 from Billy Graham, *Unto the Hills: A Daily Devotional*.

5 "What Would You Do For A Raise? | 35% of Americans Would Give Up the Right to Vote" by Mike Brown April 3, 2018 LendEDU <http://lendedu.com/blog/what-would-you-do-for-a-raise/> accessed 4/7/18

6 <http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/belief-in-absolute-standards-for-right-and-wrong/> accessed 1/7/2018

7 <http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/belief-in-absolute-standards-for-right-and-wrong/> accessed 1/7/2018

8 <http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/belief-in-absolute-standards-for-right-and-wrong/> accessed 1/7/2018

Auditions for Dinner Theatre Play

HUDSON, NC (July 3, 2018)...This fall, the Town of Hudson will present its 26th dinner theatre production, the Stephen Schwartz musical, "Children of Eden." The play deals with the first nine chapters of Genesis; the first act concerns Adam, the second act, Noah. Auditions will be held in the main auditorium at the Hudson Uptown Building (HUB), 145 Cedar Valley Road, Hudson, Monday and Tuesday, July 23rd and 24th, at 7:00 PM each night. Show dates are: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 18th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th and 27th.

Please prepare a song for your audition. There will be cold reading from the script and some improv for the children and possibly the adults. There will also be a bit of basic movement, so please wear something comfortable. There are many roles for children and adults, including Father (God), Adam, Eve, Snake (Several people), Cain, Abel, Noah, Mama Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth, Aysha (Shem's Wife), Aprah (Ham's Wife), Yonah (Family Servant, Japheth's Wife), Young Cain, Young Abel, Primary and Secondary Storytellers, Angels, Animals, Humankind and Chorus. You must be able to sing and sing in harmony. For more information, call Director Keith Smith at 728-8272.

New Democratic Party of Caldwell County headquarters Grand Opening set

LENOIR, NC (July 3, 2018)...The Democratic Party of Caldwell County will celebrate the Grand Opening of its new headquarters at 313 Morganton Blvd. in Lenoir on Saturday, July 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will have free food and live music. Candidates from Congress to County Commissioner will be there to meet the voters. We will be collecting non-perishable food for charity and the Young Dems will have a book sale for charity. The public is invited.

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Don't touch this plant...

CALDWELL COUNTY, NC (July 1, 2018)...Giant Hogweed, a "Federal Noxious Weed," has been in the news recently and it is worse than poison ivy. The sap from this plant can also cause blindness if exposed to the eyes. Below is a "Pest Alert" from the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a biennial plant in the carrot family (Apiaceae). Giant Hogweed was introduced into the US as an ornamental plant. It is native to Eastern Europe, but escaped cultivation and has now naturalized in areas with rich moist soils (vacant lots, uncultivated or waste areas, riverbanks, along roadways, and in agricultural lands). The plant produces dried fruits which birds eat, thus dispersing the seeds. Giant Hogweed is a Federal Noxious Weed, as well as a Class A North Carolina Noxious Weed, and is found only in Watauga County. It was introduced by a homeowner for soil erosion and shared with neighbors. The plant was discovered in 2010 and has been found in 6 unique sites around Blowing Rock. The sap of the plant is very dangerous when it gets on your skin or in your eyes, causing blisters and blindness.

Identification

Giant hogweed can grow up to 15 feet tall with a taproot or fibrous root. The stems are hollow and 2-4" in diameter with dark reddish-purple blotches. The stem has coarse white hairs, that circle the stem at the base of the leaf. The leaves are compound, deeply lobed, with three leaflets, up to 5' wide. The inflorescence is an umbrella shape up to 2.5 feet in diameter. It blooms in mid to late summer. The fruits are elliptical in shape and produce up to 1500 seeds per flower head. The seeds are viable in the soil for 15 years. In North Carolina, there are several plants easily confused with Giant Hogweed. The first is native Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) which grows in the NC mountains, and can also be poisonous – but is not a Noxious Weed. Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) also has a white flower and grows rampantly across the state on roadsides. This plant is not dangerous, nor is it a noxious weed.

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Supported by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Opioid STD/Cures (Grant#1H79T086257) and SRF-RX (Grant # 1U79SP022087).



Don't touch this plant...

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Giant Hogweed also resembles Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*), and Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

Hazards

Giant hogweed is a threat to natural systems and human health. It is an aggressive plant that can dominate ravines and stream banks due to its size and rapid growth, reducing the amount of suitable habitat for natural plants and wildlife. When it dies off during winter months, increased soil erosion can happen. Giant hogweed can cause skin reactions when humans come into contact with its sap. The reaction, called Photodermatitis results in large, painful blisters with eruptions (worse than poison ivy) within 24-48 hours of exposure. When exposed to sunlight, the blisters leave permanent purple scars. The sap can also result in blindness if exposed to the eyes.

Regulation

The Plant Industry Division, under the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, prohibits the propagation, nursery cultivation, sale and/or distribution of Giant Hogweed

Current Situation

Giant Hogweed has been found in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, Washington DC, Maine, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Michigan, NY, Indiana, Illinois, Oregon, Washington and most recently in Virginia. It is also found in Watauga County, NC. Giant Hogweed has been quarantined in this county and plant pest specialists continue efforts to eradicate the population using herbicides, as well as to survey surrounding areas for additional populations.

Conclusion

Your help is needed to help us find and control new infestations of this plant. If you think that you have seen this plant, please contact the NCDA&CS Weed Specialist Dr. Bridget Lassiter (bridget.lassiter@ncagr.gov or (919) 707-3749). You are always invited to report invasive species to the NCDA&CS by calling 1-800-206-9333 or report by email: newpest@ncagr.gov.



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Man arrested and charged with murder

LENOIR, NC (July 2, 2018)...Sheriff Alan C. Jones announces that an arrest has been made related to the Homicide that occurred in Caldwell County on 06/25/2018. Michael Vincent Osborne, age 37, was arrested this past Friday and charged with the Murder of Edgar Rigobert Mendoza Picazo. The murder occurred on 06/25/2018 at 3863 Grace Terrace Drive in Granite Falls. Witnesses at the scene indicated that a white 1990's model Lexus was observed leaving the scene.

Deputies with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office were able to develop Osborne as a suspect and with further investigation were able to obtain a warrant for arrest for Murder. Osborne was taken into custody on Friday evening at approximately 9 pm in the Hildebran area of Burke County. During the investigation Investigators were able to recover what is believed to be the vehicle that fled from the scene of the incident. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and Hudson Police Department assisted with the investigation and apprehension of Osborne.

Michael Vincent Osborne, age 37 has been Charged with murder. Osborne was placed in the Caldwell County Detention Center Under no bond. His First Appearance is Scheduled for 07/02/2018 in Caldwell County District Court.

"This case is a perfect example of cooperation between agencies with the focus placed on capturing a dangerous murder suspect in order to ensure the safety of the public" Sheriff Alan C. Jones

Patterson School Foundation Program Director Job

The Patterson School Foundation Program Director is presently a 24 hour/week position which will be responsible for overall Program development and management, including but not limited to the Incubator Farm Program, Agricultural courses, Art workshops and Wellness Programs. The Program Director will report to the Board of the Patterson School Foundation. Annual salary will be \$24,000, one year assured, 2 weeks paid vacation, plus housing, utilities and garden plots if desired. We will consider applications through August 1, 2018. Email letter of interest and resume to: kityrosati@pattersonschoolfoundation.org

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Newcomers to Host President of Lenoir-Rhyne University on July 11

HICKORY, NC (June 29, 2018)...Lenoir-Rhyne University president Fred Whitt will speak to Newcomers of Catawba Valley on Wednesday, July 11 at Hickory Regional Airport, 3101 9th Ave. Dr. NW, Hickory.

Dr. Whitt became the college's 12th president on February 1, 2017, coming from Appalachian State University. There he started ASU's health science college, now the Boone university's second largest college. Whitt was instrumental in forming an alliance between ASU and Wake Forest University's school of medicine. Lenoir-Rhyne University is making major advances in its health sciences programs, with the national accreditation of its Master of Public Health and its first graduating class in its new Physician Assistant program. The University has also announced plans to offer degrees in Family Nurse Practitioner and Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

Dr. Whitt is a native of Mount Holly. His talk will begin at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited and welcome to attend.

Newcomers of Catawba Valley is primarily a social organization that enables new and long-time residents of the region to meet, make friends and participate in a variety of activities, including support of area charities and service programs. The club is made up of men and women and does not limit how long a member may belong. General meetings are usually held at the Hickory Regional Airport at 10:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month. For more information, visit www.newcomersofcv.com.

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**Wildlife Commission Requests Help in
Reporting Wild Turkey Observations**

RALEIGH, NC (July 2, 2018)...The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is seeking public assistance in reporting observations of wild turkeys this summer.

Through Aug. 31, wild turkey sightings by volunteers and Commission staff will be recorded and submitted to management biologists. Observation information gives an indication of annual wild turkey productivity, gobbler carryover and other population trends — all of which help the Commission manage the state's turkey population.

To participate, new volunteers should use this online survey link. For the first time this season, participants can enter their observations online in the field from any smart phone or small-screen device.

After new volunteers submit observations, the Commission will automatically contact them the following year to provide an opportunity to participate again. In 2017, more than 1,200 people helped with the survey, reporting their observations of more than 35,000 turkeys. Many volunteer observers are members of the National Wild Turkey Federation — a valued partner of the Wildlife Commission in the reintroduction of the wild turkey in North Carolina.

Before the 1970s, wild turkeys were scarce in North Carolina, with only about 2,000 birds statewide. Today, there are more than 265,000 birds from the mountains to the coast, and wild turkeys are one of North Carolina's most popular game animals. Survey summaries from 2003 to 2017 are available online, as well as up-to-date turkey harvest summaries in North Carolina.

For more information or to participate in the wild turkey summer observation survey, contact Upland Game Bird Biologist Chris Kreh at 336-386-0892 or email chris.kreh@ncwildlife.org.

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Caldwell Master Gardener Volunteers at the NC Blackberry Festival- July 13th and 14th

LENOIR, NC (July 2, 2018)...Stop by and see the Caldwell Master Gardener Volunteers at the Blackberry Festival in Downtown Lenoir on July 13 and 14. They will have a booth with lots of information on gardening and lawn maintenance, soil test kits, and smiling faces to answer your lawn and garden questions. They will also be selling Korean hand hoes and high-quality gardening gloves. So while you're out enjoying blackberry delicacies, stop by and see the Caldwell Master Gardeners! Be sure to ask them about the exciting things going on in the Extension Master Gardener Program.

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 Hibriten Mountain, the annual Sculpture Fest, the annual Blackberry Festival, Wilson Creek, Highway 1890, the antique car shows, old timothy 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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Results are in: Office of State Fire Marshal installs thousands of smoke alarms; declares statewide canvass a success

RALEIGH, NC (June 25, 2018)...Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, who also serves as the State Fire Marshal, is pleased to announce the 2018 statewide smoke alarm canvass was a huge success in the ongoing effort to prevent fire deaths in North Carolina.

With the assistance of the American Red Cross, Kidde, Nationwide Insurance and dozens of local fire departments, volunteers and organizers with the Office of State Fire Marshal installed 3,130 smoke alarms to residents and homeowners in North Carolina in one day.

"I want to personally thank all the firefighters, volunteers, and organizations who chipped in to help with this first undertaking of canvassing the entire state," said Commissioner Causey. "Smoke alarms save lives, but they need to be in good working order to do that."

OSFM organizers, American Red Cross volunteers, and firefighters from more than 90 departments across North Carolina went door-to-door to check homes for the presence of working smoke alarms and install new ones where needed at no charge to residents (FOR BROADCAST QUALITY VIDEO, [CLICK HERE](#)).

Of the nearly 4,000 homes checked statewide, volunteers found the following information:

1,137 homes had non-working smoke alarms

517 homes had no smoke alarms

3,130 smoke alarms needed to be installed because there was not enough coverage for the home

There have been 91 fire deaths in North Carolina in 2018.

To put that in perspective, in the entire year of 2017, 83 people lost their lives in North Carolina because of fire.

In many of those incidents, there was no working smoke alarm present.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) reports three out of every five home fire deaths across the nation resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

The Office of State Fire Marshal is continuing its efforts to prevent fire deaths in North Carolina by providing education and resources to the public and encouraging local fire departments to host their own smoke alarm canvassing events throughout the year.

In addition to changing or checking your smoke alarm battery, residents should take note of the following fire preparedness tips:

Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home outside sleeping areas. If you keep bedroom doors shut, place a smoke alarm in each bedroom.

Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it.

Prepare and practice an escape plan – know at least two ways out of a room, crawl low under smoke and plan where to meet outside.

Keep smoke alarms clean by regularly vacuuming over and around it. Dust and debris can interfere with its operation.

Install smoke alarms away from windows, doors, or ducts that can interfere with their operation.

Never remove the battery from or disable a smoke alarm. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms," try locating it further from kitchens or bathrooms.

For more information on how to check smoke alarm batteries or have an alarm installed, contact your local fire department or the Office of State Fire Marshal at 1.800.634.7854.