

State Superintendent Mark Johnson announces \$141 million in school construction grants to 13 districts

RALEIGH, NC (October 8, 2018) -- North Carolina Superintendent Mark Johnson has announced that \$141 million in grant funds from the Needs-Based Public-School Capital Fund will be awarded this year to school districts in Anson, Ashe, **Caldwell**, Caswell, Cherokee, Columbus, Martin, McDowell, Mitchell, Nash, Swain and Tyrrell counties. The grant awards will allow for construction of new school buildings in these economically distressed areas.

"Through these grants, we will help address our state's need to replace old, outdated schools with better learning environments," Johnson said. "This is the second year these funds have been made available to benefit our students and educators who have had to deal with outdated facilities."



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

Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (11th): Wind & rain.

High 72 Low 45

Precipitation: 0.63 in.

Friday (12th): Mostly sunny; less humid.

High 70 Low 45

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Saturday (13th): Sunshine.

High 66 Low 46

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Sunday (14th): Times of clouds & sun.

High 67 Low 52

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Monday (15th): A couple of showers possible.

High 70 Low 44

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Tuesday (16th): Times of clouds & sun.

High 64 Low 46

Precipitation: 0.29 in.

Wednesday (17th): Variable cloudiness.

High 67 Low 43

Precipitation: 0.00 in.

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• Anson County: \$15 million for initial costs for a new Anson Middle School (\$49.4 million total project cost)

• Ashe County: \$15 million for a new Ashe County Middle School (\$34.9 million total project cost)

• Caldwell County: \$15 million for a new Granite Falls Middle School (\$20 million total project cost)

• Caswell County: \$15 million for a new Bartlett Yancey High School (\$32 million total project cost)

• Cherokee County: \$15 million for Early College High School, Alternative High School, Career Academy (\$20 million total project cost)

• Columbus County, Columbus County Schools: \$10.6 million for West Columbus PK-8 (\$19.1 million total project cost)

• Columbus County, Whiteville City Schools: \$4.3 million for new buildings at Whiteville High School (\$21.1 million total project cost)

• Martin County: \$5.3 million for a new CTE Center (\$7.1 million total project cost)

• McDowell County: \$15 million for a new Old Fort Elementary School (\$21.2 million total project cost)

• Mitchell County: \$15 million for a new grades 3-8 elementary school/middle school (\$26.5 million total project cost)

• Nash County, Nash-Rocky Mount: \$10 million for a new Red Oaks Elementary School (\$20 million total project cost)

• Swain County: \$4.7 million for a new building at Swain High School (\$7 million total project cost)

• Tyrrell County: \$637,000 for Columbia High School/Early College (\$850,000 total project cost)

The fund was created by the General Assembly to assist school districts in lower-wealth counties through revenue from the North Carolina Education Lottery. Awards are capped at \$15 million per project in Tier 1 (most distressed) counties and \$10 million per project in Tier 2 counties. The law requires a local match of \$1 for every \$3 in grant funds in Tier 1 and \$1 for every \$1 in Tier 2.

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The fund was created to assist lower-wealth counties with their critical public-school building capital needs.

County applications were reviewed based on priorities provided in the law, including ability to generate revenue, high debt-to-tax revenue ratio, and the extent to which a project will address critical deficiencies in adequately serving the current and future student population.

An emphasis was placed on projects that were far enough along in the planning process that construction could begin within 12 months.

"I thank the General Assembly for making these funds available to help schools in areas that are most in need," Johnson said. "I look forward to seeing these projects get under way in the coming months."

Rep. Destin Hall stated "Securing these funds for Caldwell County has been a top priority for me during my time in the General Assembly, and I am thrilled with State Superintendent Mark Johnson's decision to award the \$15 million grant to Caldwell County. Maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning is key to educating our children and this grant will make it possible for Caldwell County to replace one of our most outdated school facilities."

"The Caldwell County Board of Education and the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners have had the replacement of Granite Falls Middle School on the district's facility plan for over 20 years," said Dr. Don Phipps, Superintendent of Caldwell County Schools. "Due to budget constraints the project has not been possible. The Board of Education and Board of Commissioners wish to thank our legislators and DPI staff for this opportunity. With the receipt of these grant funds, the county will be able to renovate and replace a school that has served the community well. We are looking forward to building a new facility that will meet the needs of our students for the next 50 years. The BOE and BOC truly appreciate the support and opportunity this grant provides. Without this program, our ability to complete this project would not have been possible. We would like to thank all those involved for their efforts."

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Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

Slow-Cooker Lemon-Garlic Chicken

Ingredients

- 2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 large onions, diced
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 carrots, cut into 1" pieces
- 1 tbsp. sugar
- Juice and zest of 2 lemons, divided
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 3 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 c. frozen peas

Instructions

In a large skillet over high heat, sear chicken until golden brown, 2 minutes per side. Season with salt and pepper and place in a slow cooker. Add onions, garlic, carrots, sugar, zest and juice of 1 lemon, thyme, and chicken broth, then season with salt and pepper. Cover with lid and cook on low for 6 to 7 hours, or on high for 3 to 4 hours. Add peas and cover with lid until warmed through, 2 to 3 minutes. Add zest and juice of remaining lemon. Serve immediately.

Movies with Mike

Halloween Country by Mike Holsclaw

“... that country where it’s always turning late in the year. That country where the hills are fog and the rivers are mist; where noons go quickly and dusks and twilights linger, and midnights stay.” Ray Bradbury

As past readers will recall, October is my favorite month and Halloween my favorite holiday. The quotation above, from Ray Bradbury’s “October Country”, perfectly captures the optimal mood I’m always striving to recapture every year when fall arrives; half memory, half myth, it’s the warm smell of chimney smoke, the crisp bite of autumn air as the sun starts to set, the friendly sound of polyester uniforms swishing as youngsters shuffle from house to house, their faces lit by the candlelight of grinning jack-o-lanterns. It’s the piercing clarity of a night sky where a full moon glows like a new penny at the bottom of a well, and the melancholy feeling of the earth quietly groaning as it creeps into the dark half of its year, with much of the natural world either going to sleep or expiring before being reborn in the spring.



Some folk feel that there’s something sinister, even diabolical, about Halloween, especially since it originates, in part, from the pagan festival of Samhain (“sow-wen”), in which the Druids made obeisance and welcome to their familial dead. I, on the other hand, feel that it answers an almost instinctual need, a quixotic itch we’ve probably had since the first Neanderthal buried a member of his tribe along with some flowers and the deceased’s favorite hunting spear, to actively engage with death. Halloween offers us a richly symbolic means of confronting extinction, personal and cosmic, in a comparatively safe and contained fashion. Particularly in North America, we seem to be getting closer to the Mexican ritual of the Day of the Dead in the ways in which we observe Halloween; this also includes our choice of macabre entertainment; the scary stories and horror films we consume this time of year are basically benign rehearsals for what lies ahead; we don’t know what to expect but, like Henry Ward Beecher said on his deathbed, “Now comes the mystery”. That mystery is elaborated on, sometimes with great finesse, sometimes with incredible clumsiness, by pop culture that is Halloween centered.

I don’t know why, perhaps because the culture at large is in such a general state of chaos right now, but, this year, the Halloween festivities have been somewhat halting in their rate of emergence; I’ve only just caught a fleeting glimpse of the traditional beasties that have usually come out of hibernation by this point in the month. I will say that I’m thoroughly enjoying how Retroplex has begun showing many of the great Universal Horror films of the 1930’s; I watched the last forty minutes of Tod Browning’s “Dracula” a few nights ago and was completely entranced. Although I’ve seen it many times, my experience this time was subtly different; for perhaps the first time, I was acutely aware that this was a film that was 87 years old and it suddenly had just as much resonance as a historical artifact as one of the great films of the classic era. The gulf between their world and ours is now so great that the culture in which the film takes place feels exotic, even alien.

Rather than being off-putting, though, the effect was thoroughly charming; I was surprised, but it felt a great deal like watching a silent film; the basic cinematic syntax was similar to today but the overall affect was almost completely different. The discretion they felt about how graphic they could be or, rather, how much they must not show, feels naïve now but also oddly appealing; such reticence today is almost unimaginable. On the other hand, the casual misogyny and xenophobia was bracing because it now feels inconceivable. Rather than being overly offended, though, I couldn’t help but feel somewhat condescending about their parochialism; instead of seeming superior, they came across as blinkered and sadly lacking in their limited understanding of the world. *Continued on page 5...*

Movies with Mike

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Nevertheless, despite the narrowness of their worldview, there is still an unexpected power to the film's images and Bela Lugosi is still as potent a presence as he ever was. Even more than in its heyday, he is such an obvious fusion of sexual energy and deathwish that he burns a hole in the screen whenever he shows up. He exerts attraction and repulsion in almost equal amounts and I can only imagine how overwhelming his impact must have been on unsuspecting audiences in 1931.

Because I had such an unexpected reaction to "Dracula", I'm now really looking forward to seeing the films in this year's Double Feature; "Nosferatu" is almost 100 years old (!) and it's been almost five years since the last time I watched it, so I'm intrigued about what my response is going to be at seeing it again. At a guess, I think I'll still admire Murnau's artistry as much as I always have and will probably still be supremely unnerved, as ever, by how ghastly and corpse-like Max Schreck appears. I suspect (and fear) that I will be unavoidably put off by some of the stiff, stodgy performances that some of the other actors in the film give; I know that this style was representative of silent films produced in the Weimar Republic at that time but I don't think it will translate all that well into the 20th century. On the other hand, I still remember being impressed with Greta Schroder as Ellen; the last time I watched the film, I thought her performance was overly expressive, perhaps even kabuki-like, but I also thought that she and Schreck were the film's heart and its center of gravity; the game of spiritual feint and parry in which they engage still stands out as being just as fascinating today as it was in 1922.

As to "Carnival of Souls", I have always been a huge fan of Candace Hilligoss; I find her allure to be both glamorous and bizarre, as though she's an exotic peacock with a dazzling plumage. I don't expect that to change but I do think, in light of the heightened times in which we find ourselves, that I will be more sensitive to the sexual politics of the film than I have been in the past; I've noted before that I consider her character, Mary Henry, to be on a continuum of horror film heroines, including Janet Leigh in "Psycho" and Sigourney Weaver in "Alien", in which the female protagonist is, at least in part, in a state of rebellion against the restrictions which their societies place on them because of their gender. This time around, I think those cultural limitations will probably stand out in an even more stark contrast than ever before. I look forward to seeing how different the movie will seem after my having been, hopefully, somewhat "woke" by the events of the last several years.

Speaking of "sexual politics", I'm totally jazzed at the prospect of seeing the latest iteration of the "Halloween" franchise; as much as anything else, I'm excited at how the narrative has been recast as the opportunity for Laurie Strode to take back her life after the trauma Michael Myers inflicted on her all those many years ago in Haddonfield; I won't use the cliché of "empowerment", but I will say that Laurie has always been one of my favorite horror movie icons and I'm glad that she's going to have a "lioness in winter" moment to tie the story into a neat little bow. (This new film dispenses with all the cluttered, knotted-up mythology that accumulated in the sequels to John Carpenter's original and, for the most part, I'm in complete agreement with that decision, but the one sequel I did like was "Halloween: H2O", which, again, featured Jamie Leigh Curtis as Laurie Strode. Still, from all the advance praise I've heard, this new film may be an even better instance of "Laurie vs. Michael", so, the pain of "H2O" no longer being "canon" is slight).

As we grow closer to the 31st, I'm sure there will be even more weird and wonderful sweetmeats for us to consume, and I may revisit what's waiting for us out there, but these are just a few of the treats I've begun to avidly anticipate. Have a safe, happy Halloween and, always remember, the gobble-uns'll git you ef you don't watch out!

Hudson announces its 26th Dinner Theatre Production, “Children of Eden”

HUDSON, NC (October 7, 2018) -- The Town of Hudson is proud to announce its 26th Dinner Theatre Production, “Children of Eden,” which will be presented Thursday through Saturday, October 18th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th and 27th, at the Hudson Uptown Building (HUB) at 145 Cedar Valley Road, Hudson, NC 28638. “Children of Eden” is a musical with music and lyrics by noted composer, Stephen Schwartz. His other works include “Godspell,” “Pippin” and “Wicked.” This play chronicles the first 9 ½ chapters of the Biblical Book of Genesis. The first act deals with Adam and the second act deals with Noah.

Director Keith Smith says, “This is an extremely spiritual, fresh, inspiring, uplifting story, told from a human perspective and perception. I believe strongly that people of faith will be moved by the narrative and people who are not of a spiritual background will be made to think and feel. Whatever one’s background, he or she will identify because this show grapples with the age-old cornerstone issues of humanity. The play addresses creation fall from grace, free will, family, inheritance, disobedience, faith, redemption and restoration. This very human and very spiritual story is woven through beautiful, powerful music with clever, profound lyrics. I chose this musical because of the quality of the script and music and because it has not been previously performed in the Unifour area. This is an ideal play for church groups, particularly youth groups, to create a healthy, thoughtful dialogue concerning scripture. But it stands on its own as a great piece of entertainment. We have a fine blend of experienced community theatre actors and professional actors, some who drive well over 100 miles each way, each night. In the turbulent times in which we live, you will leave the theatre feeling renewed with a sense of hope for the future. You really owe it to yourself to see this production.”

Dan'l Boone Inn will cater the meal, serving fried chicken, country ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, stewed apples, biscuits and strawberry shortcake. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM with the play to follow at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$35.00 for dinner and the show, \$17.50 for balcony seats only. You may purchase tickets by calling the HUB Box Office at 726-8871 or you may go by the HUB Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00 PM with the exception of one hour when the box office is closed for lunch from 12:30 PM until 1:30 PM.

November 6, 2018 General Election Dates and Information

Friday, October 12 - Last Day to Change Party Affiliation

One Stop/Early Voting Locations

Caldwell County Alden E. Starnes County Office Plaza
City/County Chambers
905 West Avenue NW
Lenoir, NC 28645

Shuford Recreation Center
56 Pinewood Road
Granite Falls, NC

Dates and Time

Wednesday through Friday, October 17 - November 2 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 2 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (the only Saturday)

Election Day - Tuesday, November 6

If voting on Election Day, you must go to your designated precinct.



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Attorney General Josh Stein Fights to Stop Illegal Robocalls and Spoofing that Plague Consumers

RALEIGH, NC (October 9, 2018) -- Attorney General Josh Stein today called on the Federal Communications Commission to create new rules to allow telephone service providers to block more illegal robocalls being made to North Carolinians. In addition to taking today's action, Attorney General Stein is leading a bipartisan working group of forty State Attorneys General to tackle this problem.

"Robocalls are not only extremely annoying, they're also a way to scam North Carolinians, including seniors and other vulnerable people, out of their hard-earned money," said Attorney General Josh Stein. "That is why I am calling on the FCC to create new rules that will allow telephone service providers to block illegal robocalls."

The formal comment to the FCC explains that scammers using illegal robocalls have found ways to evade a call blocking order entered last year by the FCC. Despite the FCC's order, robocalls continue to be a major irritant to North Carolinians. In the last three years, telemarketing and do-not-call complaints have ranked as either the first or second most frequent consumer complaints filed with our office. In many years, we have received more than 5,000 complaints about telemarketing and do not call violations – out of an approximate 20,000 complaints each year.

"Spoofing" allows scammers to disguise their identities, making it difficult for law enforcement to bring them to justice. One tactic on the rise is "neighbor spoofing," a technique that allows calls - no matter where they originate - to appear on a consumer's caller ID as being made from a phone number that has the same local area code as the consumer. This manipulation of caller ID information increases the likelihood that the consumer will answer the call.

To date, the FCC has not issued a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning additional provider-initiated call blocking. The Attorneys General anticipate that further requests for comments will take place on this subject.

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Caldwell County Health Department Reschedules Annual Flu Drive-Thru Clinic

LENOIR, NC (October 4, 2018) -- Caldwell County Health Department has rescheduled the annual "Flu Drive-Thru Clinic" for Saturday, October 20th, 2018 at the Caldwell County Health Department, 2345 Morganton BLVD SW, Lenoir, NC 28645. The drive-thru clinic is open to the public from 8:00am-11:00am. The flu vaccine being administered this year is the quadrivalent vaccine and is designed to protect against four different flu viruses: two influenza A (H1N1) viruses and two influenza B viruses.

Caldwell County Health Department accepts most insurances (Medicare part B card, current Medicaid card or any other private insurance card). Please provide a front and back copy of your insurance card, at time of service. Uninsured patients can receive a flu shot for \$30. We accept cash and check at time of service.

For your convenience and to save time at the clinic, flu consent forms can be found online at caldwell-countync.org or can be picked up at both the Caldwell County Health Department and at any of the Caldwell County library branches in Lenoir, Hudson and Granite Falls.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that getting vaccinated is the single best way for people to protect not only themselves against flu, but their loved ones as well. "As this year's flu season approaches, remember these four simple tips to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others: wash your hands often, cover your cough, stay home when sick and get your flu vaccine," said the Caldwell County Health Department's Preparedness Coordinator, Chad Coffey.

For more information regarding the flu or the annual flu drive-thru, contact 828-426-8461.

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N.C. Cooperative Extension to Launch Eat Local Caldwell Campaign in October

LENOIR, NC (October 2, 2018) -- N.C. Cooperative Extension in Caldwell County is partnering with the NC 10% Campaign and community partners to launch a local foods promotion campaign during October of 2018 called Eat Local Caldwell. The goal of Eat Local Caldwell is to increase knowledge among citizens, businesses, and community leaders about local foods in Caldwell County and to increase local foods purchasing during October and beyond.

During Eat Local Caldwell, N.C. Cooperative Extension-Caldwell County will run a 10 day social media contest on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/caldwell.ces.ncsu.edu), from October 8 -18. They will post information about the benefits of local food and where to purchase food in Caldwell County, and feature new small farms and food businesses in Caldwell County. Individuals are invited to participate by liking, commenting, or sharing these posts publicly, using #eatlocalcaldwell or #caldwelllocalfood in their posts. Those who participate will be entered to win prizes, donated by community partners. Community partners such as farms, food business, local government, or local business organizations are encouraged to share these posts publicly to help promote local foods awareness and purchasing in Caldwell County.

Local food business and community partners can also participate by signing up for the NC 10% campaign at www.nc10percent.com. On this platform, individuals can report their local foods purchases and consumption on a weekly basis, with an ultimate goal of getting everyone to aim for growing or purchasing at least 10% of their food locally.

As part of the campaign, N.C. Cooperative Extension - Caldwell County and the NC 10% Campaign generated a Caldwell County Local Foods Guide complete with a map of farms in the county that sell directly to Caldwell County consumers. This will feature farm information and locations. The guide will be available on the NC Cooperative Extension- Caldwell County Center website (caldwell.ces.ncsu.edu) and hard copies will be available at the Extension Center and through community partners across the county.

Follow, like, and share the N.C. Cooperative Extension-Caldwell County facebook posts (www.facebook.com/caldwell.ces.ncsu.edu) this month to enter the #eatlocalcaldwell contest, and sign up for the NC 10% campaign to report local foods purchasing. By purchasing local foods, community members support our local economy, improve their own health, and support farms and farmland in Caldwell County.

Catawba County Firefighter's Memorial Service

CONOVER, NC (October 8, 2018) -- The Catawba County Firefighter Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at Joy Baptist Church located at 4015 Herman Sipe road in Conover. Weather permitting, the service will conclude at the memorial site next door at the Catawba County Firefighter's Museum. This is the 18th annual service, and this year's event will have 22 members that we will be paying tribute to on this special afternoon.

"This service has a special meaning for all who attend, but especially for the family of the deceased fire service members that we honor and remember. These men and women have given years of their lives to our county's fire service, and it is only proper that we give their families an hour of our time in remembrance of them." states Memorial Coordinator David Pruitt.

For more information, contact David Pruitt, Catawba County Firefighter Memorial Committee at 828-302-4300 or email dpruitt@catawbacountync.gov.