

Scott Reilly is sworn in as District Attorney for Catawba, Caldwell and Burke counties

NEWTON, NC (January 1, 2019) -- Scott Reilly was sworn in as the new District Attorney for the 36th Prosecutorial District during a ceremony held at the Catawba County Justice Center on Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

In front of family, friends and supporters, Reilly and 14 Assistant District Attorneys took the oath of office administered by the Honorable Gregory R. Hayes, Resident Superior Court Judge from Catawba County.

"I want to make a difference by giving back to our community, and I expect our ADAs (Assistant District Attorneys) to engage in ways to give back to our community," Reilly said. "I understand that I have been given a vast amount of responsibility. I am asking family, friends and supporters for their thoughts and prayers in helping me make the right decisions and do the right things. This is the highlight of my professional career. It truly is an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of our district."

He begins his first term after defeating former DA David Learner in the 2018 primary to earn the Republican nod for the office. Reilly ran unopposed in the November general election.



As District Attorney, Reilly will oversee the prosecution of criminal cases in the 36th Prosecutorial District, formerly known as the 25th District, comprised of Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties.

Reilly, who has been practicing law for nearly 30 years, is no stranger to the District Attorney's Office, having served as an ADA under former DA Bob Thomas from 1989 to 1994.

As he begins his tenure as District Attorney, Reilly has identified a number of issues he wants to prioritize as he and his administration move forward. He wants to address the large number of pending murder cases, particularly in Catawba County, determining which of those need to go to trial and how best to resolve them to bring closure to victims of those aging cases.

He also wants to implement a jail diversion initiative to help substance abuse defendants get treatment and assistance with their addiction rather than remaining in an endless cycle of being arrested and going to jail over and over again.

"Hopefully, we can get them off drugs so they can go to work, support their family, be a good spouse and good parent," Reilly explained.

That being said, he noted the need to be tough on drug traffickers, dealers and sellers of "the poison they are bringing in to ruin so many people's lives."

In addition, Reilly wants to foster relationships between county commissioners and local school boards to make safety in schools a top priority in light of numerous incidents of school violence across the nation.

"We will aggressively prosecute anyone who compromises the safety of our students and teachers, he said.

Reilly also acknowledged a desire to build strong relationships with law enforcement agencies throughout the three-county district to better deal with criminal activity through prosecution of offenders.

"I look forward to working with each of our law enforcement agencies and giving them the support, encouragement and confidence they deserve," he said. "I want to build and strengthen the relationships between this office and our brave law enforcement partners."

In photo: Scott Reilly, center, takes the oath of office as District Attorney as his wife Beth holds the Bible for him during Tuesday's ceremony at the Catawba County Justice Center. The oath is administered by Resident Superior Court Judge Gregory R. Hayes, left.

Caldwell Journal Info

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The content of the articles or the advertisements does not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone affiliated with the Caldwell Journal. The Caldwell Journal is a non-discriminatory paper.

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

Caldwell Journal

Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (3rd): Rain & drizzle in the a.m.
 High 57 Low 48
 Precipitation: 0.13 in.

Friday (4th): Periods of rain; cooler.
 High 52 Low 44
 Precipitation: 1.25 in.

Saturday (5th): Decreasing clouds.
 High 59 Low 36
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Sunday (6th): Partly sunny; mild.
 High 63 Low 39
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Monday (7th): Partly sunny; mild.
 High 59 Low 41
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Tuesday (8th): A couple of showers possible.
 High 58 Low 34
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Wednesday (9th): Rain & drizzle possible.
 High 49 Low 28
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Caldwell Arts Council Seeks Artists for 2020 Exhibitions

LENOIR, NC (January 2, 2018) -- The Caldwell Arts Council will accept portfolios from local and regional artists for possible exhibitions in 2020 at our Caldwell Arts Council gallery (seven one-month exhibition possibilities).

All details for submitting your portfolio are available on our website at <https://www.caldwellarts.com/157-submission-guidelines-for-exhibit-consideration/> and portfolios will be accepted through January 31, 2019.

About the Caldwell Arts Council

The Caldwell Arts Council is a regional arts center that presents art exhibits and educational programming that foster the cultural arts in Caldwell County.

Our center is housed in an historic 100+ year old home. There are four gallery spaces that have been renovated as professional exhibit spaces. Exhibits range from contemporary to traditional and include 2-D and 3-D exhibitions.

The Caldwell Arts Council exhibits artists from across the country and has a reputation for quality exhibits. For information on the gallery space or to see a list of upcoming exhibits please visit our website at www.caldwellarts.com.

The Caldwell Arts Council's programs are supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources and by individual and corporate donors and sponsorships.



Call For Photographers: "Exposures: A Photography Competition and Exhibition"

When: Entry Deadline: January 7, 2019

Exhibition: January 11-26, 2019

Where: Caldwell Arts Council

Cost: \$15 to enter competition; no cost to attend reception or exhibition

The Caldwell Arts Council invites Caldwell County artists and photographers to enter up to 2 framed, ready-to-hang photographic works in the January "Exposures: A Photography Competition and Exhibition" event. All the details for participation are on the website: <https://www.caldwellarts.com/386-exposures-photography-competition/>.

An opening reception and awards announcement for this exhibition will be held Friday, January 11, 2019, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The exhibition will continue through January 26, 2019.

The Caldwell Arts Council presents the arts in all its forms to the people of Caldwell County. Located at 601 College Avenue in Lenoir, the Caldwell Arts Council is open Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm, free to the public. Phone 828-754-2486; Website www.caldwellarts.com.

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Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

Bacon Cauliflower Chowder

Ingredients

- 4 slices bacon, cut into 1" pieces
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 2 sprigs thyme, stripped and chopped
- 1 head cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 1 qt. vegetable broth
- 1 c. whole milk

Instructions

In a large pot over medium heat, cook bacon until crispy. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate and drain all but 2 tablespoons of fat.

To pot, add onion, carrots, and celery. Season with salt and pepper. Cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Stir in flour and cook 2 minutes more. Add thyme and cauliflower.

Pour in broth and milk and bring to a boil. Immediately reduce heat and simmer until cauliflower is fork tender, about 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Garnish with cooked bacon before serving.



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Slacker Book Club



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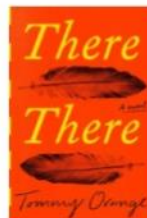
We hear you, Granite Falls. It's cold. It's dark. You want to stay in. Introducing the Slacker Book Club! Pick up one of the three monthly book selections, read it, then fill out and return the comment card. That's it!

January's selections:

The Perfect Nanny by Leila Slimani

There There by Tommy Orange

The Long Home by William Gay





Recent Accomplishments by the Town of Cajah's Mountain



New Businesses

- New business openings include: Southfork Medical, Dollar General, Walt's Chicken Shack, Kings Formals and Rentals, and the remodeling of Domino's for a dine-in option.

Recreation and Appearance Upgrades

- Purchase of 101 Merrywood Drive for the Town's first park.
- Received \$43,375 from PARTF program for construction of Town's first park.
- Surveyed residents of Cajah's Mountain to include amenities selected by you, our citizens.
- Park opening planned for mid-2019.
- Installed town entrance signs at north and south entrances
- Installed "In God We Trust" on the exterior of Town Hall, on the interior of Town Hall, and on the Town's formal seal free of charge.

Waste and Recycling Accomplishments

- Re-negotiated contract with Republic Services for upgraded waste and recycling services.
- All residents received a free 96-gallon waste cart and 96-gallon recycling cart.
- Recycling jumped from 71 tons per year to 152 tons under the new contract. This represents a 114% increase from the prior year. Thank you for making our Town more sustainable long-term!

Sewer System Accomplishments

- New contract with Baton Water Corporation increased sewer revenues approximately 20% to keep sewer rates down in future years.
- Received a 0% interest loan for approximately \$2,000,000 to expand the sewer system and install a new pump station.
- The new pump station will allow the Town to expand the system even further in future projects.

Fiscal Accomplishments

- Saved \$249,866 in most recent budget year to apply towards Sutton Place sewer project.
- Lowered Sales Tax Interlocal Agreement contributions to the County from \$224,000 to \$155,000 per year for the next four years.
- Savings from new Sales Tax Interlocal Agreement amount to \$276,000 over next four years.

New Ordinances

- Passed the Tall Grass Ordinance to address abandon properties and neglected properties that have un-kept lawns to protect property values and the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens.
- Passed the Abandoned and Junked Motor Vehicle Ordinance to address properties with junked vehicles to protect property values and the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens.
- Passed the Solid Waste Ordinance to address neglected properties that accumulate excessive solid waste materials to protect property values and the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens.

Communication Upgrades

- Updated Town Website to include: all ordinances, contact information, departmental information, forms, permits, sewer prices, meeting dates, agendas, minutes, and personnel information to better inform you, our citizens.
- Contracted with CodeRED to provide citizens with telephone updates, delays, and emergency notifications to keep you informed when it matters most.

Working Together

- Worked with leaders from Caldwell County to house an Emergency Management Services unit at Town Hall.
- Worked with N.C. Representative Destin Hall, N.C. Senator Warren Daniels, and Rutherford College municipal leaders to reduce the closing of Castle Bridge from over 1 year's time to no time at all, saving over two-dozen businesses from profit losses on both sides of the bridge. This was a huge win for business owners.



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Blue Ridge Parkway Accessible to Public during Government Shutdown

(NC/VA) -- During the shutdown of the federal government due to the lapse of appropriations, national parks will remain as accessible as possible while still following all applicable laws and procedures. Park roads, overlooks, and trails on the Blue Ridge Parkway will remain accessible to visitor's weather permitting. Emergency and rescue services will be limited.

There will be no NPS-provided visitor services at the Blue Ridge Parkway, including public information, restrooms, trash collection, and facilities and roads maintenance (including plowing if applicable). Some lodging, restaurants, and other services may be available when provided by concessioners or other entities (such as the Southern Highland Craft Guild at the Folk-Art Center). Reservations at park hotels for instance, should be confirmed by contacting the concessioner that operates the hotel or visiting their website.

Because of the federal government shutdown, NPS social media and websites are not being monitored or updated and may not reflect current conditions.

Specific details of the operating status of Blue Ridge Parkway facilities during the federal government shutdown are:

- **Park Roads:** Parkway motor road is open, unless otherwise closed due to snow/ice.
- **Trails:** Open if accessible.
- **Picnic Areas:** Price Park Picnic Area will remain open as long as the road is accessible/open. All other picnic areas are closed.
- **Campgrounds:** Closed
- **Gated Parking Areas:** Open as long as road is accessible/open, unless already gated for regular seasonal closure.
- **Government Offices:** Closed
- **Year-Round Visitor Centers:**
 - * Asheville Visitor Center at Milepost 384 is closed.
 - * The Minerals Museum at Milepost 331 is open, weather permitting, managed by Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce.
- **Concession Facilities:**
 - * Folk Art Center at Milepost 382 is open, weather permitting.
 - * Peaks of Otter Lodge at Milepost 86 is open on winter schedule, weather permitting.

For updates on the shutdown, please visit www.doi.gov/shutdown.

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Upcoming Caldwell Senior Center Events

"Hoarding"

Friday, January 4th at 10:00am

VAYA Health will be at the Senior Center to present a training called "I'm Covered Up: What You Need to Know about Hoarding". These FREE trainings are held on the 1st Friday of each month to caregivers and professionals in the community.

Please call 758-2883 to register.

Dessert with the Director

Friday, January 4th at 1:00pm

Join April Austin for dessert and discussion at the Senior Center. Bring your program and activity ideas to share. Please register by calling 758-2883.

Matter of Balance Classes

Fridays, Jan. 25th - Mar. 15th from 3:00-5:00pm

This is an 8-week program for seniors concerned about falls and improving balance. Western Piedmont Area Agency on Aging will provide this FREE training to participants at the Senior Center. This program will emphasize practical strategies to manage falls.

YOU WILL LEARN TO: view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risks at home and exercise to increase strength and balance. Please register at 758-2883.

Powerful tools for Caregivers

Mondays, Feb. 11th-Mar 18th, 3:00-4:30pm

This FREE 6-week program is for caregivers who need emotional support. You will develop many self-care tools to: reduce stress, reduce negative self-talk and communicate with family. Each participant receives a FREE copy of The Caregiver Helpbook. Join Mary Mitchell, Family Caregiver Specialist and Karen Phoenix, Project CARE Family Consultant with WPCOG for this informative program. You must register at 758-2883 as space is limited.

Caldwell Senior Center is a United Way participating agency.

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Rabid Black Bear Found Dead in Hyde County

FAIRFIELD, NC (December 28, 2018) -- A black bear found dead in Hyde County has tested positive for rabies — the first known case of a rabies positive black bear in the state, according to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Johnny Dale, of Fairfield, contacted the Commission on Dec. 17 after finding the yearling male bear dead at his game feeder. Dale reported he first observed the male bear the day before at his game feeder and that it was alive, but very lethargic and unable to move. Because the cause of death was not obvious, Commission personnel conducted an initial necropsy (autopsy performed on animals) and sent the bear to researchers at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia for further testing. On Dec. 21, SCWDS informed the Commission the bear had rabies, which had resulted in its death.

Rabies is a fatal disease, which can affect all mammals, causing inflammation in the brain with symptoms that can include lethargy, loss of balance, fever, anorexia, and/or eye and nose discharge. Signs progress within days and can include fever; swelling in the head, neck, tongue or eyelids; excessive salivation; difficulty breathing; difficulty swallowing, vomiting; paralysis; abnormal behavior, self-mutilation, aggression, and/or no fear of humans.

“Rabies in wild black bears is extremely rare; it has been documented only four times in the lower 48 states since 1999,” said Colleen Olfenbittel, the Commission’s black bear and furbearer biologist. “You can only get rabies by coming in direct contact with the saliva, tears, or brain/nervous tissue of an infected animal.”

The Commission offers the same precautions to bear hunters as it does for deer hunters to prevent disease transmission:

- Do not handle or eat any animal that is acting abnormal or appears to be sick.
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing; never handle a dead animal with your bare hands.
- Minimize the handling of the brain and spinal cord.
- Do not allow pets around your field dressing area to prevent contact with saliva, blood and other tissues.
- Wash hands, boots and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- If a deer or bear is commercially processed, request that animal be processed individually and without meat from other animals.
- Use proper cooking temperatures to ensure safe food.

Anyone who encounters a black bear exhibiting disease symptoms or comes across a dead black bear should call the Commission’s N.C. Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401. The call center is open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On weekends, please call 800-662-7137.

The North Carolina Division of Public Health was contacted and provided recommendations to Dale regarding post-exposure treatment.

For more information about black bears in North Carolina, visit the Commission’s black bear webpage.

Upcoming Foothills Community Workshop Events

January 4, 2018 (Friday)

On Friday, Jan 4, 8AM-4PMFCW will be training 20 Caldwell Public School Teachers in using 3d printers. FCW purchased the printers with a Google Community Grant via Tides Foundation. 12 of the printers will be loaned to the schools on a rotating basis to allow instruction in 3d printing.

January 5, 2018 (Saturday)

Foothills Community Workshop in Granite Falls will be hosting a class for those interested in obtaining an Amateur Radio (Ham) entry level license. The first session will be held at FCW on Saturday, Jan 5 at 10:30AM followed by additional sessions on Jan 12, 19 and 27. The exam will be available on Feb 2. This class is free and open to the public.

For more information, see www.foothillscommunityworkshop.org or call Michelle at (828) 754-5002.

