



# Blue Ridge Energy Sends Care Packages For RED (Remember Everyone Deployed)

LENOIR, NC (January 7, 2019) — Blue Ridge Energy recently sent 18 care packages as part of their involvement in RED: Remember Everyone Deployed. RED shows solidarity and support for deployed military men and women while they are away from their families. Part of the support includes wearing shirts on Fridays, as shown by several Blue Ridge Energy employees in the photo, l to r: James Klostemeyer, IT; Caleb Edwards, IT; Jacob Puckett, PR; Rita Triplett, Accounting; Lynn Heatherly, Accounting; Kim Webb, executive assistant; Heidi Ragan, district manager; Karen Warlick, human resources; Gina Richards, accounting; Jessica Woodruff, accounting; Susan Greer, innovative energy solutions; Danette Landrum, accounting; Cookie Bradshaw, innovative energy solutions; Tanner Greer, IT; Adam Wike, IT; and Shawn Tilger, IT.



# Lenoir women tied to shooting of Caldwell County Deputy in July of 2018 to face prison time

LENOIR, NC (January 8, 2019) -- A woman tied to the shooting of a Caldwell County deputy in July 2018 will spend 32 to 51 months in prison following her conviction for accessory after the fact to assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury during Caldwell County Superior Court on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Stephanie Lee Sipes, 41, of Lenoir, pleaded guilty as charged and admitted to aggravating factors in the shooting of Deputy Jordan Sherrill during a traffic stop.

The Honorable Louis A. Trosch Jr., of Mecklenburg County, imposed the active prison term for Sipes, who will serve the sentence in custody of the North Carolina Division of Adult Corrections.

Deputy Sherrill was present in the courtroom when Sipes entered the guilty plea, and Caldwell County Sheriff Alan C. Jones spoke on behalf of the deputy and the department.

The shooting occurred on July 15, 2018, when Deputy Sherrill initiated a traffic stop for an expired tag along Cheraw Road. When Sherrill approached the car, the driver of the vehicle, Kerry Townsend, fired a single shot that struck the deputy in the abdomen. Sherrill made his way back to his vehicle where he called for assistance.

Continued on page 2...

#### **Caldwell Journal Info**

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www.caldwelljournal.com www.facebook.com/CaldwellJournal mark.jackson@caldwelljournal.com

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 Weather**

**Thursday (10th):** Sunshine; chilly. High 41 Low 18 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Friday (11th): Some sun; chilly. High 45 Low 28 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Saturday (12th): On-and-off snow. High 38 Low 29 Precipitation: 0.40 in. R/3.5 in. S

Sunday (13th): Cloudy. High 40 Low 30 Precipitation: 0.01 in. R/0.10 S

Monday (14th): Partly sunny; chilly. High 40 Low 24 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

**Tuesday (15th):** Mostly sunny. High 46 Low 27 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Wednesday (16th): Partly sunny.
High 50 Low 30
Precipitation: 0.00 in.

#### Lenoir women tied to shooting of Caldwell County Deputy in July of 2018 to face prison time

Continued from page 1...

The suspects left the scene in the car, and a private citizen assisted Sherill with his injuries until medical personnel arrived. The deputy later was flown from Caldwell Memorial Hospital to Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte for treatment of his injuries.



Following an extensive search and numerous interviews, investigators learned that a breaking

and entering had taken place on Zacks Fork Road. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team went to the residence on July 17, 2018, and made entry into the home. Team members found Sipes hiding under a blanket in the living room and Townsend was in a back bedroom. Townsend fired a shot at team members, who returned gunfire that resulted in Townsend's death.

Sipes gave investigators an account of what happened that led up to the shooting of Deputy Sherrill and then how she and Townsend moved around until being located the day Townsend died.

A third suspect, James Edgar Roberts, also has been charged with accessory after the fact. His case is still pending. He is considered innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Doug Dupell handled the investigation for the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and other local law enforcement agencies also assisted with the search for the suspects. Assistant District Attorney Nancy Lee prosecuted the case for the State.

#### **Firewise Landscaping Class**

When: February 19, 2019-11 am - 12:30 pm

Where: NC Cooperative Extension

Caldwell County, Room 2

Caldwell County Public Library Basement

120 Hospital Ave, Lenoir NC

Speaker:

Christina Newhouse Firewise Project Manager Carolina Land and Lakes RC&D

Come and learn how to make your home and community Firewise with landscaping and home maintenance techniques.

Cost: Free and Open to the Public

#### It's Girl Scout Cookie Season!

COLFAX, NC (January 7, 2019) -- With the start of the new year, comes the arrival of everyone's favorite cookies- the Girl Scout cookies! Running now through March 3, the public can stock up on Thin Mints, Caramel Delites, Peanut Butter Patties and more!

The iconic girl-led entrepreneurship program develops the next generation of female business leaders...

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls not only discover their inner leadership potential, but also use their earnings to power amazing experiences for themselves and their troop, including travel, outdoor adventure and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programming. Many girls put the money toward impactful projects right in their own backyards, from supporting animal shelters and food banks to working with local and state legislators to change laws. The cookie program's benefits are many, and a recent Girl Scout Research Institute study found that two out of three girls who participate in the program learn five crucial skills goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics-while doing incredible things for themselves and those around them. The proceeds stay local, meaning that when consumers purchase the delicious cookies, they're giving back to their wider community.

This year, along with the classic cookie flavors, Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont is celebrating a tasty new way to support young female entrepreneurs with a recently debuted Girl Scout cookie added to the 2019 lineup: Caramel Chocolate Chip. This gluten-free option features rich caramel, semisweet chocolate chips and a hint of sea salt in a chewy cookie. This gluten-free cookie will retail for \$5 a box, while the other cookies are \$4 a box.

To find cookies near them, consumers can visit the cookie booth locator at www.girlscoutcookies.org or download the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app, available for free on iOS or Android devices. They can also contact the council at info@girlscoutsp2p.org.

#### **Growing Herbs at Home**

When: Tuesday, February 12 - 5:30 pm-7 pm Where: NC Cooperative Extension Caldwell County, Room 2 Caldwell County Public Library Basement

120 Hospital Ave, Lenoir NC

Learn about growing different herbs and spices in the home garden, as well as techniques for propagation. Open to the Public. Prior registration required. Register by calling: 828-757-1290

Cost: Free

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# Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

## **Instant Pot Chicken Noodle Soup**

#### **Ingredients**

2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil 1 small yellow onion, chopped 2 medium carrots, peeled and chopped 2 stalks celery, chopped 2 cloves garlic, minced 2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves 2 bay leaves (optional) 2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 4) Kosher salt Freshly ground black pepper 4 c. low-sodium chicken broth 4 c. cold water 8 oz. egg noodles Pinch crushed red pepper flakes (optional) Juice of 1/4 lemon (optional) 2 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley, for garnish

#### **Instructions**

Turn Instant Pot to Sauté setting. Heat oil, then add onion, carrots, and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are slightly tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Add garlic and thyme and cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Add bay leaves if using, then add chicken breasts and season generously with salt and pepper. Add broth and water and close lid. Set Instant Pot to Soup setting and set timer for 7 minutes. When cooking is complete and air has been naturally released from Instant Pot, carefully remove lid and use tongs to remove chicken breasts onto a plate or cutting board. Using two forks, shred chicken, then return chicken to pot. Remove bay leaves and add egg noodles. Return Instant Pot to Sauté setting and cook, uncovered, until noodles are cooked through, 4 to 6 minutes. Turn off Instant Pot and stir in pepper flakes and lemon juice if using. Ladle into bowls and top with parsley and more black pepper before serving.



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#### Matt Hutchinson appointed new Hickory Fire Chief

HICKORY, NC (January 7, 2019) --Hickory City Manager Warren Wood has appointed Matt Hutchinson to be the City of Hickory's next Fire Chief. Wood stated, "After receiving more than 60 applications from all across the country for the position and after conducting numerous interviews, it became clear that Matt Hutchinson was both the best qualified and suited candidate to lead our Fire Department in the direction we need to go. Chief Hutchinson is fortunate in that he will have a group of highly trained and highly motivated fire personnel to assist him in moving the department forward."

Hutchinson began his firefighting career as a volunteer firefighter, and in 2003, he was hired as a full-time firefighter with the Hickory Fire Department. He moved through the ranks, eventually serving as Battalion Chief over Logistics, and is currently Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal over the Fire & Life Safety Division.

Hutchinson has certifications as a Fire Service Instructor Level II, Level II Fire-fighter, Fire & Life Safety Educator I-III, and Technical Rescuer through the North Carolina Fire & Rescue Commission. Hutchinson continues to maintain his certifications as an Emergency Medical Technician and as a Fire Inspector. He is currently working to obtain his certification as a Certified Fire Investigator. In 1994,



he graduated from UNC-Asheville with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice. In December 2008, he completed his Master's degree in Public Administration from Appalachian State University.

In April 2017, Hutchinson completed the prestigious four-year Executive Fire Officer Program through the National Fire Academy (NFA). He has North Carolina Fire Officer I, II, & III certifications, Incident Command System 100-400 certifications, and the Chief 101 certification. Hutchison is also a graduate of the Fire and Rescue Management Institute through UNC-Charlotte, which provides instruction in leadership, team building, management skills, strategic planning, communication skills, and personnel management. The program is designed to prepare participants to become more effective in the increasingly challenging and complex world of fire and rescue management.

Chief Hutchinson stated, "I am excited to be chosen to lead this exceptional department and to continue to work with City Management to provide the best emergency services possible to Hickory citizens. I am eager to lead our employees in a transparent and innovative environment. It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve as the Fire Chief in the community I grew up in."

Hutchinson lives in Hickory with his wife, Millie, and daughter, Rebecca, and son, Matthew. They attend First United Methodist Church in Granite Falls. In his free time, he and his family serve in missions locally and abroad.

Chief Hutchinson will start in his new role effective immediately.





HICKORY, NC (January 3, 2019) -- After 30 years to the fire service, Captain Andy Webster has retired from the Hickory Fire Department. He was hired on August 21, 1989 as a firefighter and moved through the ranks. In March 2017, he was promoted to Captain. Captain Webster obtained certifications and courses to further his career including: NC Level II Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Operations level, NC Level II Qualified Fire Service Instructor, NC Fire Prevention Inspector Level I, NC EMT Basic, NC EVD, NC RIT, Leadership I-III, NIMS through FEMA, and level 2 NC Fire Officer.

Webster served as President of the Western North Carolina Association of Firefighters in 2017. He has been a member of the Cool Springs Volunteer Fire Department since 1984. In 2013, he was appointed Fire Chief and still serves in that capacity. After retirement, his plans are to continue serving as Fire Chief at Cool Springs and may one day run for elected office.

Webster said "I'm looking forward to what every direction life takes me in and just being able to work at my schedule. Plan to travel and

catch some college and pro football games with my son Dallas and see the country with my life partner Jennifer. And cook a meal every now and then for family and friends." He continued "I also want to thank all the citizens of this great city for allowing me to serve them for the past 30 years. I was able to live out my childhood dream of working as a firefighter."



# Dolly Parton's Stampede Band "Mountain Ruckus" to perform at the HUB Auditorium in Hudson

HUDSON, NC (January 6, 2019) -- Dolly Parton's Stampede Band from Pigeon Forge, TN - "Mountain Ruckus" - will be in concert Saturday, Jan. 12th, 7 pm at the HUB Auditorium located at 145 Cedar Valley Road, Hudson, NC. The opening act will be Caldwell County's own "Blackberry Jam" featuring the musical talent of several Caldwell youth.

Mountain Ruckus performs regularly at Dolly's "Dixie Stampede," and it is rare to see them anywhere else. The band is led by Dolly's band leader & producer, Gary "Biscuit" Davis, who is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and four-time National Banjo Champion. He has also co-produced three of Dolly's albums and was musician on six of them. Matt Varhola, second member of Mountain Ruckus, contributes vocals and plays bass. Varhola is noted for having performed with the Vogues, The Platters, Wayne Newton, Louise Mandrell, Glenn Campbell, and numerous shows on Broadway. Third Ruckus member, Robert Hale, contributes vocals and plays guitar. Hale is noted for having been lead singer for J.D. Crowe and the New South, leads his own band Wildfire, and is a regular on Sirius XM radio. He has also sung and played guitar on two of Dolly Parton's albums.

All proceeds from this event go to benefit the "HUB Station" project. Tickets prices are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 12 & under. Tickets are available at: HUB Box Office, Hudson Town Hall, The Gold Mine Jewelry Store and TIX.com. For more information please call 828-726-8871.

The concert is the culmination of the Open House and kickoff on January 12th for the new HUB Station project that is re-branding The HUB as a full arts and economic development center for the region. Open House begins at 11 AM and concludes at 4 PM, allowing the public to view the changes occurring to scale up how The HUB will become an even greater stimulus for community by connecting arts and business.

- For more information, contact Town Manager Rebecca Bentley at 828-728-8272 or Rebecca.bentley@townofhudsonnc.com
- Tickets available online at https://www.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1101356
- www.townofhudsonnc.com

#### **Hudson announces official Open House for the HUB Station**

HUDSON, NC (January 6, 2019) -- The Town of Hudson is pleased to announce the official Open House for the HUB Station, a visionary model for connecting Arts and Business in the area, scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Still in the early rollout stage, the HUB Station, known for 16 years as The Hudson Uptown Building (HUB), will open with new external cosmetic features that signal the beginning of a regional center for economic development and arts promotion. "Connecting Arts and Business" is the new slogan for HUB Station.

Jan. 12, 2019 is the 16th anniversary of the opening and dedication of The HUB by the Town of Hudson in 2003. The anniversary date was chosen by the Hudson Town Council and HUB Steering Committee as a fitting time to recognize the grand opening of the re-branded HUB Station.

Beginning at 11 a.m., the first floor of both HUB Station campus buildings will be open to the public. In the main building, which houses the theater, the public will have access to the newest occupant of that facility, The Red Awning Gallery — an original art gift shop run by the Western N.C. Society of Artisans, a regional artists' group based in the HUB. Artists will staff the gallery and refreshments will be available.

Also, at 11 a.m., the former Horizons School building will be open as the HUB Station Business Center. Anchoring the Business Center is the Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute Small Business Center (SBC). Visitors can meet Ben Willis, director of the CCC&TI SBC, and other entrepreneurs to learn about the free services and supports that are available to area small businesses. Visitors can also tour the newly remodeled space and test out some of the helpful resources available to SBC clients, including virtual reality technology.

The public is invited to walk through the HUB Station during the 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open House on Jan. 12. That evening, the Town of Hudson and HUB Steering Committee are also sponsoring a musical event – The Mountain Ruckus Band – musicians and comedians from Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede in Pigeon Forge. Tickets for the show are available at the HUB Box Office or online at https://tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=1101356.

HUB Station is located at 145 Cedar Valley Road, Hudson. For more information on HUB Station services, please call 828-728-8272.



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### **Upcoming Caldwell Senior Center Events**

#### **Medicare 101**

Monday, January 14th, 3:00-4:30pm

Are you new to Medicare? This is a chance to learn about the basics of Medicare and any special circumstances you may have. All who attend will receive a packet of information to take with them. Please register at 758-2883.

#### **Hepatitis C Screening**

Tuesday, January 15th, 3:00pm

High Country Community Health will be at the Senior Center to provide a FREE Hepatitis C screening. If you were born between 1946-1964, you may want to consider being tested. Please call 758-2883 to register.

#### **Better Breather's Club**

Friday, January 18th, 11:00-12:30

If you suffer from chronic lung disease, this would be a great support group for you. The American Lung Association has trained volunteers to facilitate this group that meets at the Senior Center on the 3rd Friday of each month. They have guest speakers and great information about living with chronic lung disease. Caregivers and family members are invited to attend also. Please register at 758-2883.

#### Karaoke

Friday, January 18th, 2:00-4:00pm

Join Teresa Braswell and her 1999+ karaoke songs for a fun time! Whether you want to sing, dance or sit and watch, there is a spot for you. Light refreshments will be served. Please register at 758-2883.

Caldwell Senior Center is a United Way participating agency. Senior Community Partners caldwellseniors@gmail.com 650A Pennton Ave SW, Lenoir (828) 758-2883

# Chase Keller Promoted to Vice President of Operations for Granite Insurance

GRANITE FALLS, NC (January 3, 2019) -- Granite Insurance announced today that C. Chase Keller has been promoted to Vice President of Operations for Granite Insurance, effective immediately. In his new role, Keller will be responsible for select aspects of agency operations, including servicing staff, information technology, claims and administrative support.

In his prior role as an account manager at Granite Insurance, Keller led the servicing team for the organization's Adventure Sport group. Under his leadership, the team has tripled in size and now serves Adventure Sport clients in over 35 states.

Lou Anne Annas, Granite Insurance Agency Chief Operating Officer said, "Chase has done a wonderful job of managing the service growth of one of our most successful divisions. I look forward to working with him as we continue to transition Granite Insurance to better focus on the success of those clients we serve."

Keller earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Appalachian State University in 2014. A lifelong resident of Caldwell County, he resides in Lenoir with his wife Greta and is involved in multiple community organizations.



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# The Tesla Quartet returns to Hickory with fresh, new program

HICKORY, NC (January 4, 2019) -- The Tesla Quartet returns once again with one of their final concerts as the Hickory Metro String Quartet in Residence. Enjoy an evening of beautiful music performed by these exceptionally talented musicians.

Inside-Out/side-In, Chamber Classics III of the season, will be held in the Drendel Auditorium at the SALT Block on Saturday, January 19th at 7:30 p.m. This truly unique program focuses on works by modern composers, including Fratres (Pärt), The Wind in High Places (Adams), Allaqi (Goddard), and String Quartet No. 5 (Glass).

All tickets are available in advance online at WPSymphony.org/tickets, by calling the office at (828) 324.8603, or by emailing tickets@wpsymphony.org. Ticket prices for this concert range from \$5-\$32. Mini subscriptions are available for the remaining Chamber Classics concerts. You may also purchase tickets at the door. The performance will take place at the SALT Block, located at 243 Third Avenue NE, Hickory.

The Chamber Classics Series is sponsored by the Friends of the Quartet. Western Piedmont Symphony is a grant recipient of the North Carolina Arts Council and a funded affiliate of the United Arts Council of Catawba County. Business offices are located on the SALT Block at 243 Third Avenue NE, Hickory. Box Office hours are 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. daily.

For more information about the Western Piedmont Symphony, call 828-324-8603, visit www.WPSymphony.org, or email info@WPSymphony.org.



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#### Granite Falls man arrested for breaking into South Lenoir Church of God

LENOIR, NC (January 3, 2019) -- On January 3rd, 2019 at 9:09 am officers with the Lenoir Police Department responded to an alarm at the South Lenoir Church of God, which is located at 1786 Hickory Blvd. Lenoir, NC. Once on the scene officers located an open door. As officers were searching, it became obvious that one of the offices within the church was broken into. It appeared that someone forced the door open and caused damage. The officers reviewed the security camera video and were able to locate the suspect and identify that he was driving a black Ford F-150 with a camper shell on the back.

A short time later a Narcotics officer with the Lenoir Police Department located the suspect's vehicle in the Wal-Mart parking lot located at 935 Blowing Rock Blvd. Lenoir, NC. Officers searched Wal-Mart and located the suspect who was identified as Clayton Eugene Darr. Darr was later arrested and charged with Breaking and Entering into a Place of Worship. He received a \$30,000.00 secured bond and an initial court date of 01-04-2019.

Investigators are still determining if anything was stolen from within the church. The damage to the interior door was valued at \$250.00. Chief Brent Phelps said "It is sad when anybody is victimized by another person, but it is especially concerning when individuals decide to victimize a place of worship. I'm proud of the diligent work by our responding officers and the alert narcotics officer that located the suspect vehicle and then the suspect within a short time period. Mr. Darr being located this quickly is an example of professional police work."

#### Lenoir man arrested for Breaking and Entering of Lenoir car wash

LENOIR, NC (January 4, 2019) -- On January 3rd, 2019 at 8:42pm officers with the Lenoir Police Department responded to a call of Larceny at Bonnie Mist Car Wash #4 located at 1979 Harper Ave. Lenoir, NC. While on the scene, officers learned that 4 of the vacuum cleaners and a combination fragrance and vacuum cleaner were damaged when someone forced open the back panel to make entry into them. Also, a credit card scanner attached to one of the wash bays had been ripped off the wall. Additionally, the door to the boiler room had been damaged when the suspect attempted to enter it as well. Officers on the scene were able to view security camera video of the incident and were able to get a detailed description of the suspect. After they left the scene, these officers kept checks throughout the night at the Bonnie Mist Car Wash businesses within our city.

On January 4th, 2019 at 1:09 am a Lenoir Police Department officer noticed someone standing near the vacuums at Bonnie Mist Car Wash #2 which is located at 1046 Morganton Blvd. Lenoir, NC. Upon further investigation that officer found that this person matched the description of the suspect from the earlier call. This subject was later identified as Noah Daniel Pace. While talking to Pace the officers noticed that he had what appeared to be burglary tools inside his jacket and a backpack that he had with him. When questioned further Pace admitted to the crimes committed at Bonnie Mist #4.

Pace was arrested and charged with 1 count of Felony Attempted Breaking and Entering, 1 count of Felony Possession of Burglary Tools, and 1 count of Misdemeanor Breaking into a Coin Operated Machine. Pace received a \$5,000.00 secured bond and an initial court date of 01-04-2019. The total amount of damage done to the equipment at Bonnie Mist #4 was estimated at \$5,500.00. Pace also stole \$85.75 in change during the incident which was recovered during the arrest. More charges may be forthcoming in the near future.

#### Wildlife Commission to hold Public Hearing in Morganton on Jan. 16

MORGANTON, NC (January 4, 2019) -- The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will conduct a public hearing in Morganton on Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. to take comments on proposed changes to agency regulations related to enforcement, wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2019-2020 seasons. The public hearing will be held at Western Piedmont Community College's Leviton Auditorium located at 1001 Burkemont Ave. in Morganton.

The comment period for the proposed regulations will run through Feb. 1, 2019. More information on all of the proposed regulations for the 2019-20 seasons can be found in the 2019-2020 Public Hearing Booklet. Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted online, at the public hearing, emailed (including full name and address) to regulations@ncwildlife.org or mailed to:

Rules Coordinator N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission 1701 Mail Service Center Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1701

After collecting and considering all public comments, the wildlife commissioners will meet in February to decide whether to adopt the proposals. Approved proposals will take effect Aug. 1, 2019.