

Caldwell County Schools Ministerial council convenes

LENOIR, NC (January 10, 2019) -- At the inaugural meeting of the Caldwell County Schools Ministerial Council, more than 40 ministers representing different dominations and beliefs gathered at the Education Center by invitation from Superintendent Dr. Donald Phipps to explore further partnering opportunities among the faith-based community.

"As the work of public schools has changed over the years, our reliance on service providers within the community has become critical," said Phipps. "Whether the task to be accomplished is large or small, each effort leads to the success of our system and our larger community. I believe that we must leverage resources and work together to reach our potential and address the many needs that exist."

Presently, ministers and church congregations throughout the county are involved in programs that support students' needs and welfare, such as the backpack program, the districtwide crisis management plan and the school district's partnership program.

Phipps would like to expand those opportunities through the Ministerial Council. The Council plans to meet several times this school year in an effort to keep the faith-based community engaged and informed on educational matters, to gather input from the religious leaders in the county, and to strengthen existing partnerships between schools and their communities. Future plans with the Ministerial Council involve developing a Character Education program.

For ministers who would like to be involved, contact kchandler@caldwellschools.com. The next Ministerial Council meeting is scheduled for Feb. 21, 8:30 am at the Education Center in the Board Room. All ministers are invited to attend.

Fairfield on the Move: Industry Veteran Phil Cooper to Create Innovative Motion Seating Division for the Company

LENOIR, NC (January 4, 2019) -- Fairfield, a major U.S. manufacturer of fine upholstered seating for the home, office, senior living and hospitality industries, is pleased to announce the appointment of Phil Cooper as Director of the company's new Motion Seating Division. Cooper assumed the role effective January 2, 2019.

He was most recently the President of Comfort Design Furniture, where he spent nearly a decade cultivating, developing, and leading the luxury division of Klaussner Furniture Industries. Comfort Design Furniture specialized in custom order residential upholstery, notably made domestically in North Carolina. Ultimately growing the division to a multi-million-dollar business, it comes as no surprise that Cooper's over forty years in the industry play a role in his successful, strategic developments. Renowned for hiring a best-in-class salesforce, and growing relationships with the most successful retailers in the United States, Cooper plans to implement his tried-and-true tactical approaches to growing this new division of Fairfield.

Previously the Senior Vice President and Officer at Barcalounger Furniture for over two decades, during Cooper's tenure with the company he was a integral part of the management team that witnessed a multi-million dollar growth. Throughout that tenure, he was responsible for all product development, design, and showroom operations.

"I am excited to work with the Fairfield team, and the warm welcome I've already received. By honoring Fairfield's history of valuing its people, we will marry the company's heritage of high-quality products with introducing innovative design solutions and development, all while utilizing a top-notch salesforce of the best in the business," says Cooper.

"He brings a wealth of experience to the company and is a true subject matter expert in the motion seating business," says Dixon Mitchell, President and COO of the company. "We know him to be a talented and seasoned industry expert with a strong reputation for innovative motion seating designs and solutions," he continues. "Cooper was the perfect choice due to the many factors we were searching for in order to move the company forward. The company and I enthusiastically welcome him into his new role. We are confident in his abilities and excited for the future of Fairfield."

Fairfield will launch the Retail Motion and Recliner Division at the April 2019 High Point Furniture Market. The Senior Living Motion Division will launch in April 2019 at the Environments for Aging Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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

**Caldwell
Journal**

Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (17th): Cooler; an afternoon shower.
 High 44 Low 36
 Precipitation: 0.13 in.

Friday (18th): Periods of sun; not as cool.
 High 57 Low 39
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Saturday (19th): Cloudy, cooler; p.m. rain.
 High 48 Low 44
 Precipitation: 0.84 in.

Sunday (20th): Windy; a morning shower.
 High 51 Low 16
 Precipitation: 0.01 in.

Monday (21st): Sunshine; cold.
 High 38 Low 19
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Tuesday (22nd): Sun through high clouds; cold.
 High 38 Low 32
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

Wednesday (23rd): Chance of a little p.m. rain.
 High 47 Low 33
 Precipitation: 0.63 in.

Administrators focus on digital learning environments

LENOIR, NC (January 10, 2019) -- School principals, assistant principals and district administrators are learning new strategies and best practices to leverage digital tools and resources in the classroom.

The digital training sessions are offered this school year at the Education Center. The Educational Program Services Department and the Human Resources Department jointly facilitate the supportive platform among administrators to further develop a positive culture of learning that seeks continuous improvement among staff and students through learner-centered environments equipped with appropriate learning resources, including digital technologies, to meet the diverse needs of all students.

Some of the main topics addressed during these training sessions include 21st Century classroom set-up and design; student centered learning to meet diverse needs; and effective use of technology to differentiate instruction.

“This training is awesome,” said Craig Styron, West Caldwell High School principal. “Anytime I can collaborate and work with my colleagues, it’s a win-win experience.”

Stay Safe and Avoid Scams: Price Gouging Law in Effect in North Carolina

RALEIGH, NC (January 14, 2019) -- The price gouging law that protects consumers from scammers is now in effect in North Carolina after Gov. Roy Cooper declared a statewide state of emergency due to this weekend’s winter storm. Attorney General Josh Stein notified businesses and consumers today to be on the lookout for any issues.

“After this weekend’s winter storm, North Carolina is under a state of emergency and our state’s price gouging law is in effect,” said Attorney General Josh Stein. “It is against the law to charge excessive prices during a state of emergency. If you see a business taking advantage of this storm, let my office know so we can hold them accountable and protect you from price gougers.”

North Carolina has a strong statute against price gouging – charging too much during a time of crisis – that is tied directly to a declaration of a state of emergency. When Gov. Cooper declared a state of emergency for North Carolina on Sunday, Jan. 13, the statute went into effect for the entire state and will remain so until the state of emergency is lifted.

Attorney General Stein and the North Carolina Department of Justice will be reviewing complaints from consumers closely over the next several weeks and are prepared to take action against any businesses engaging in price gouging activities. Please report potential price gouging by calling 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or file a complaint at www.ncdoj.gov/gouging.

Valmead teacher awarded the Cylinda Hazen scholarship for diversity project

LENOIR, NC (January 9, 2019) -- With her primary focus on accepting others with disabilities, Lynn Aydlett, first grade teacher at Valmead Elementary School, was awarded the Cylinda Hazen Scholarship sponsored by the Education Foundation Inc. of Caldwell County.

Aydlett's project entitled Diversity and Tolerance: A Lifelong Attitude incorporates social study lessons, literature, and dramatic play to teach children about diversity and tolerance.



Aydlett explained, "Students love toys, but very few toys allow students to embrace diversity and understand it. I will be providing students with the opportunity to use diverse dolls and toys for dramatic play. These dolls and toys emphasize handicaps our students are exposed to in our school and our community. In addition, these dolls and toys will be used in lessons by teachers to teach the students about diversity and tolerance."

The scholarship totaled approximately \$1,000. The funds will be used to purchase special needs dolls with special needs equipment and a collection of children's books on disabilities and diversity.

"Whether during lessons or having the books as a free choice in the library, literature is the backbone to this project being successful," said Aydlett. "Having the students exposed to lessons, literature, and diverse toys and dolls will be a treasure that the school will love for many years to come!"

About the Cylinda Hazen Scholarship:

The Cylinda Hazen scholarship recognizes a Caldwell County educator who dedicates him/herself to improving the lives of children through teaching or promoting character education, good citizenship and volunteerism within his/her school, i.e., going beyond the call of duty. For more information on the Cylinda Hazen Scholarship, go to <https://www.caldwellschools.com/Page/738>.

In photo: left Carol Sturgis, Principal, and Lynn Aydlett, 1st grade teacher at Valmead Elementary School.

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Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

Easy Chicken Parmesan Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 c. panko bread crumbs
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 c. freshly grated Parmesan
- 1 large egg, beaten with 1 tbsp. water
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken cutlets
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- 2 c. marinara
- 1 c. shredded mozzarella
- 3 tbsp. chopped fresh basil

Instructions

Preheat oven to 400°. Prepare breading station with 3 large mixing bowls: 1 bowl with panko, garlic powder, and Parmesan mixed with a fork; another with the egg mixture; and the third bowl with flour. Season chicken with salt and pepper, then coat each piece of chicken in flour and shake off excess. Dip chicken into egg mixture and then into bread crumb mixture; repeat steps for remaining chicken and set aside on a plate.

In a deep cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat, add 1" oil. When pan is hot but not smoking, add chicken. Cook about until golden brown, 5 to 7 minutes, then transfer to a paper towel-lined plate to drain.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, warm marinara. Turn off heat and place chicken in sauce. Top with mozzarella and bake until cheese is melted, 5 to 7 minutes. Top with basil and serve immediately.



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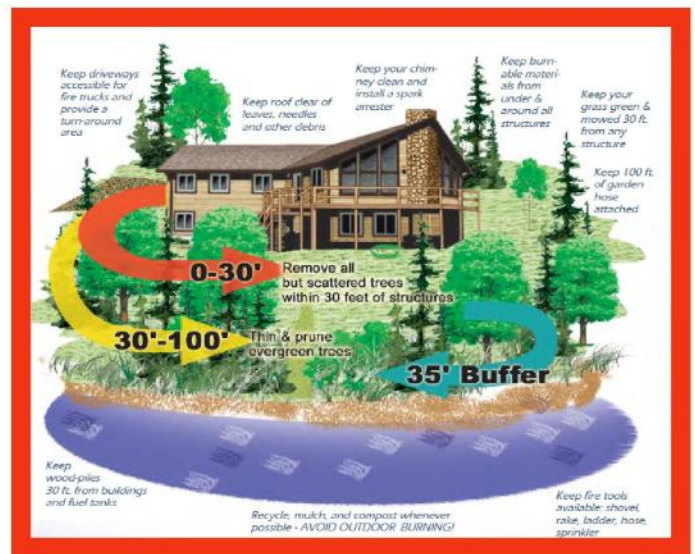


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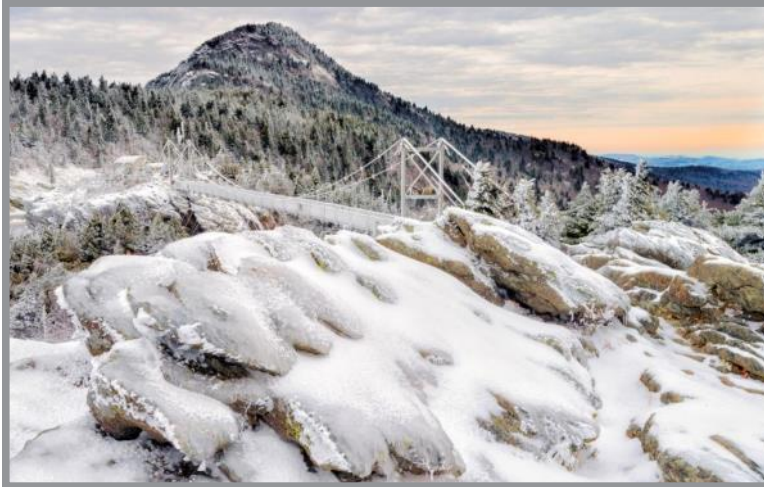


Grandfather Mountain experiences one of wettest years on record

LINVILLE, NC (January 10, 2019) -- 2018 made a splash on Grandfather Mountain.

As per the recording site at Grandfather's Nature Museum, where the park's naturalists gather daily records, some 123.62 inches of precipitation fell on the mountain last year.

"That's 10 feet of water!" said Amy Renfranz, director of education for the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation, the nonprofit organization that owns and operates the Linville, N.C., nature park. "Though we had several big days of rain and snow, most of it fell in small amounts throughout the year."



The largest precipitation events took place on May 19, 2018, with 6.41 inches of rain and Sept. 17, 2018, with 5.84 inches of rain.

"This record year nearly doubles our annual average of 63.13 inches," Renfranz said. "In comparison, Seattle only received 35.73 inches of precipitation in 2018 — a markedly dry year for the Western states. New York City received 46.78."

In 2017, Grandfather Mountain recorded only 73.73 inches of rain. The mountain's rainiest day in history remains Sept. 8, 2004, on which 11.3 inches were measured.

As recorded by the weather station at the Mile-High Swinging Bridge, the mountain's wettest year was 1979 with 89.25 inches of rain. The same station recorded

77.36 inches of rain in 2018 (making it the fifth wettest on record), but, due to high winds and closures from inclement weather, rain data collected at the bridge often amounts to lower totals than other collection areas on the mountain — in this case, significantly lower.

The Nature Museum measurements are made in accordance with the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, commonly known as CoCoRaHS. Grandfather Mountain's naturalists have been recording and reporting data to CoCoRaHS since 2011, and 2018 marks the wettest year on record, according to that particular data.

Wind

Grandfather Mountain recorded two gusts above 100 mph in 2018. On March 2, 2018, a gust of 101.9 mph was charted by an automated weather station at the Mile-High Swinging Bridge, followed by a 101.7-mph gust on Oct. 20, 2018. The record wind speed at that location is 120.7 mph, set in December 2012. In addition, winds gusted higher than 60 mph at least 64 days in 2018.

Temperatures

A place known for its temperature swings, Grandfather Mountain experienced a temperature range of 83.8 degrees in 2018. The highest temperature recorded at the Mile-High Swinging Bridge was 77.2 on May 13, 2018, and the lowest temperature was -6.64 on Jan. 19, 2018. As such, the mountain did not beat its record high of 83.2 degrees from July 1, 2012, or its record low of -32 degrees from Jan. 21, 1985.

Weather Reporting

The Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation records and reports data in three different ways:

- The park maintains an automated weather station at the top of the Mile-High Swinging Bridge. The N.C. State Climate Office assists the foundation in calibrating the machines and ensuring overall accuracy of data.
- Grandfather Mountain has been an active member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Cooperative Observer Program since 1955 by reporting daily temperature, precipitation and weather events from a location near the Mile-High Swinging Bridge.
- Park naturalists also record and report daily precipitation totals from the Nature Museum and Entrance Gate to the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS).

With rare exceptions, the temperature will be 10 to 20 degrees cooler at Grandfather Mountain than in the flatlands below. The average rate is 2.2 degrees per 1,000 feet, meaning that for each thousand feet gained, the air is 2.2 degrees cooler.

For more information on Grandfather Mountain's weather or to access current conditions, visit www.grandfather.com.

The not-for-profit Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation strives to inspire conservation of the natural world by helping guests explore, understand and value the wonders of Grandfather Mountain. For more information, call (800) 468-7325, or visit www.grandfather.com to plan a trip.



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Don't be conned by a new Social Security scam

RALEIGH, NC (January 11, 2018) -- Social Security numbers are our most important personal information. These numbers – which can be used to open new credit cards, take out loans, even set up a new identity – are a scammer’s dream. That’s why they work so hard to steal your Social Security number.

We’ve been hearing about a new uptick in scammers posing as Social Security Administration (SSA) employees and calling people and threatening or misleading them in an attempt to steal their Social Security number. These scammers are able to fool your caller ID to show the SSA’s real phone number (1-800-772-1213), but that’s not the SSA calling. Here’s what you need to know:

- Your Social Security number is not about to be suspended. You don’t have to verify your number to anyone who calls out of the blue. And your bank accounts are not about to be seized.
- SSA will never call to threaten your benefits or tell you to wire money, send cash, or put money on gift cards. Anyone who tells you to do those things is a scammer. Every time.
- Never give any part of your Social Security number to anyone who contacts you. Or your bank account or credit card number.

Scammers are always looking for new ways to access sensitive information. If you encounter someone seeking to get this information from you, report it to our Consumer Protection Division by calling 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or by filing a complaint online.

High School graduation will be held on Saturday

LENOIR, NC (January 15, 2019) -- At the Jan. 14 School Board meeting, the Board of Education voted unanimously to change the high school graduation date from Friday, June 7, 2019, to Saturday, June 8, 2019.

Hibriten High School, West Caldwell High School, and South Caldwell High School will graduate on the same day with staggered start times. The graduation ceremonies will commence as follows: South Caldwell High School, 9:00 am; West Caldwell High School, 12 noon; and Hibriten High School, 3:00 pm. These events have been held previously on Friday evening at the same time.

Superintendent Dr. Phipps made the recommendation to the Board of Education to allow for each of them to have the opportunity to attend all high school graduation ceremonies.

“This is one of the most important occasions in the school district and within the family circle,” said Phipps. “Graduation is a culmination of each student’s educational advancement and achievement beginning in kindergarten. A milestone such as this should merit the presence of the school system’s Superintendent and all its Board members.”

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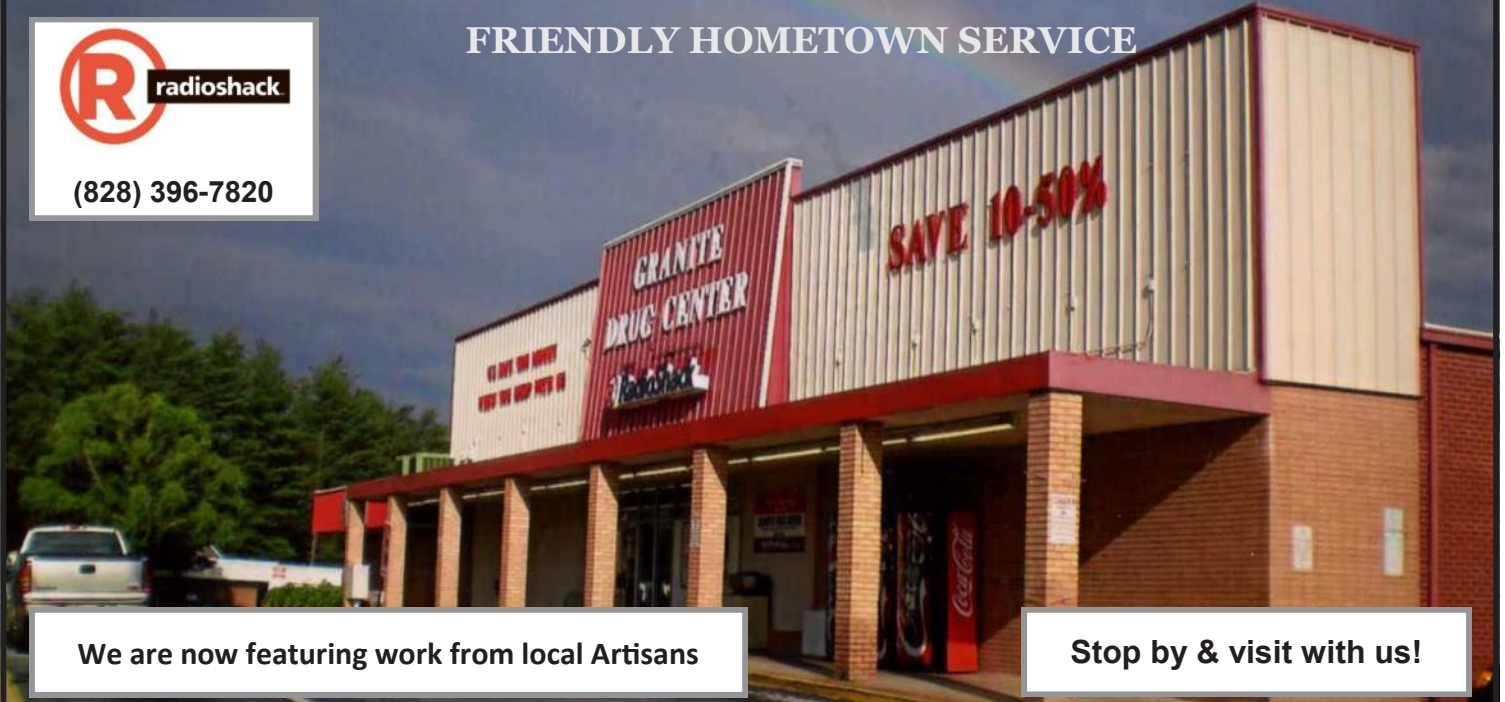


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Lenoir woman to spend six to eight years in prison

MORGANTON, NC (January 10, 2019) -- Sharon Denise Logan, 60, of Lenoir, will spend six to eight years in prison following her conviction for larceny by defeating an anti-theft device, habitual larceny and admission of her habitual felon status during Burke County Superior Court on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

The Honorable Lora Cubbage, Superior Court Judge from Guilford County, imposed the active sentence for Logan following her guilty plea. The defendant will serve her term in custody of the North Carolina Division of Adult Corrections.

Officer Clint Lail of the Morganton Department of Public Safety responded to a Burke County business on April 20, 2016, for a larceny complaint. He spoke with the store's loss prevention staff who identified Logan stealing three women's handbags. Surveillance footage showed the defendant cutting the anti-theft devices from the bags before leaving the store.

Logan's habitual larceny charge came as a result of multiple convictions in Burke and Caldwell counties for misdemeanor larceny or shoplifting offenses as well as several felony larceny-related convictions.

The defendant's prison sentence was enhanced by her habitual felon status stemming from convictions for felony larceny (1998), possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine (1995) and obtaining property by false pretense (1987), all in Caldwell County.

Lail handled the investigation for the Morganton Department of Public Safety. Assistant District Attorney Michelle Lippert prosecuted the matter for the State.

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Happy Belated New Year and other stuff by the roving sports reporter Dan O'Neal

GRANITE FALLS, NC (January 9, 2019) -- Winter sports are now in full swing and I am behind. My apologies for being delayed in reporting the South Caldwell Boys and Girls basketball results and updates. So, on this day, I seek to catch up and get you readers updated.

First, the girls' basketball as it is said, "Ladies first, lol" In the recent Christmas tournament at Catawba Valley Community College, the Lady Spartans (and yes, we are pleased with Coach Jeff Parham's magnificent recovery) won two of three over St. Stephens and Fred T. Foard. In their last six games, they are 3-2 after beginning the 2018-19 season at 0-5.

After losing to Watauga at home 33-22 on January 2nd, the girls rebounded with a victory at West Caldwell by the count of 42-38 this past Friday. In the last two contests, the Lady Spartans were led in scoring by junior point guard Taylor Austin, who scored 35 while junior small forward Catherine Huggins added 15 in the win at Gamewell.

At the time of this writing, the Spartan boys are still seeking their first win. After going toe-to-toe with Watauga in the first half, the Pioneers' shooters went on a torrid three point shooting spree, outscoring the Spartans 38-20 in the second half, eventually falling to the Pioneers at home, 88-63. Then there was the game at West Caldwell, who were also seeking their first win of the season. South led in the first frame by the score of 12-10. However, in the next period before halftime, the Warriors found the Spartans' main defensive weakness...guarding against the trey, which put West 34-21 at the half. The barrage of three balls continued in the second half resulting in the Warriors winning their first game of the season, 81-63 and leaving the Spartans winless at 0-9.

The Spartans were led in scoring by junior center Justin Eggers, who scored 34 against the Pioneers and 24 against the Warriors. Colby Collins added 11 in the Watauga loss and injuries have not helped his cause. Junior Spencer Piercy added 11 in the West Caldwell contest by making excellent moves to the basket.