

## LFD Station 3 becoming a reality

LENOIR, NC (April 4, 2019) -- Work continues on the City's new Fire Station 3 located at 1015 Wilkesboro Boulevard.

Brushy Mountain Builders is currently upfitting both buildings on the site. Workers are reconfiguring the interior spaces for living quarters, installing sprinklers and plumbing, and finishing the exterior. The building facing Wilkesboro Boulevard will house the offices, training rooms, and bedrooms. The building in the rear will house the fire engine and other equipment.

Fire Chief Ken Hair hopes to open the station in June and have a grand opening ceremony July 1.

"We're excited and looking forward to getting this station open," Hair said. "We've been trying to add another station for decades. Now, we'll have firefighters in the west side of town who can respond much quicker to the area. Station 3 will definitely enhance our service to the public."

Once complete, Station 3 will be home to a battalion chief, four firefighters, and one fire engine. The station is close to William Lenoir Middle School and Hibriten High School as well.

The City had planned to build a new station on Tremont Park Drive NE, but the initial bids came in way over budget. The project architect estimated the cost would be around \$1.72 million. The lowest bid for the new station was \$2.4 million. Given the increase, Council decided to take a different approach.

Staff approached Martin Family Motorplex LLC about buying the property on Wilkesboro Boulevard. The company had expressed interest in selling the property in the past. Staff worked out a land swap deal between the City and Martin Family Motorplex.

Martin Family Motorplex agreed to buy the city-owned tract on Tremont Drive for \$38,000. The City bought the Martin Family Motorplex property for \$1,028,612. As part of the agreement, Martin Family Motorplex built an access road to Taylorsville Road and made stormwater improvements to the property. Staff plans to spend \$549,000 or less to upfit the building, which includes building interior rooms, electrical, plumbing, sprinklers, HVAC, fixtures, furnishings, and equipment.

The total budget for Station 3 is \$1,635,612, which is about \$84,000 less than the initial plan. Staff hopes to come in under budget, which could reduce the final cost even more.

Blue Ridge Energy helped finance the project by providing a \$1,360,000 zero-interest, 10-year loan to the City. Blue Ridge Energy secured the funding through the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program. Read more at <https://www.blueridgeenergy.com/news/article/141>.



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

# Caldwell Journal

## Caldwell Journal Weather

**Thursday (11th):** Sun & clouds; nice.  
 High 73 Low 57  
 Precipitation: 0.02 in.

**Friday (12th):** A p.m. shower or t-storm.  
 High 74 Low 49  
 Precipitation: 0.16 in.

**Saturday (13th):** Mostly sunny; pleasant.  
 High 74 Low 50  
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

**Sunday (14th):** Chance for rain; cooler.  
 High 58 Low 46  
 Precipitation: 0.53 in.

**Monday (15th):** A morning shower possible.  
 High 68 Low 42  
 Precipitation: 0.60 in.

**Tuesday (16th):** Times of clouds & sun.  
 High 72 Low 46  
 Precipitation: 0.00 in.

**Wednesday (17th):** Mostly cloudy.  
 High 72 Low 49  
 Precipitation: 0.10 in.



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**Last year, 38 people were killed in work zones. To bring attention to worker and driver safety, April 8-12 is Work Zone Awareness Week.**

RALEIGH, NC (April 4, 2019) -- The N.C. Department of Transportation urges motorists to obey the posted speed limit, avoid distractions, watch for workers, and expect the unexpected in work zones.

### Driving in Work Zones

Even though workers might not be present in work zones, motorists should still expect narrowed or closed lanes, traffic shifts and reduced speed limits as well as other conditions that might affect normal travel.

- \* Stay alert: Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- \* Pay close attention: Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- \* Watch out for road debris.
- \* Turn on headlights: Workers and other motorists must see you.
- \* Don't tailgate.
- \* Don't speed: Be patient and obey posted speed limits. The penalty for speeding through a marked work zone is \$250.
- \* Keep up with the traffic flow.
- \* Don't change lanes in a work zone.
- \* Minimize distractions: Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phones while driving a work zone.
- \* Expect the unexpected: Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- \* Watch out for road debris.
- \* Don't drink and drive.
- \* Use alternate routes, when possible, to avoid traffic congestion.

Leave early to get a head start on your drive and travel at non-peak times.

## Caldwell Humane Society's Bark in the Park by Laura Sedlacek

LENOIR, NC (April 3, 2019) -- Caldwell Humane Society will host their 15th annual Bark in the Park on Saturday, May 18th at Redwood Park in Hudson starting at noon. Rain location to be announced.

This annual event held by the Caldwell Humane Society includes dog-friendly games such as Best Trick, Pet and Owner Look Alike, and Frosty Paws, a popular ice cream eating contest for dogs. The fun filled Dog Walk is where you can collect pledges from family and friends for you and your dog(s) to walk. There will be Concessions for sale and a Silent Auction. Entertainment to be provided by Jonathan Beal of Second Shift on acoustic guitar.

Caldwell Humane Society, an all-volunteer group that provides low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinics to reduce pet overpopulation in Caldwell County holds Bark in the Park as its annual fundraiser. All funds raised will be used to provide low cost Spay/Neuter Clinics as well as educational programs in local schools and community.

To learn more, or to get a Dog Walk pledge form, please visit us on Facebook @Caldwell Humane Society Inc., on Instagram @caldwellhumanesociety or log onto [www.caldwellhumane.org](http://www.caldwellhumane.org), email [caldwell4pets@gmail.com](mailto:caldwell4pets@gmail.com) or call (828) 499-0289.

Caldwell Humane Society, Inc. is a public charity under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).

~Laura Sedlacek is a volunteer with CHS.

## Greenhouse vegetables offer local produce year-round

RALEIGH, NC (April 4, 2019) -- Tomato lovers don't have to wait to find fresh, locally grown tomatoes. That's because fresh greenhouse-grown tomatoes are now available at farmers markets across the state.

"While there is no official season for greenhouse vegetables, early spring is the busiest time of year for local growers. The greenhouse technology allows growers to extend their growing season and helps further diversify the state's \$87 billion agricultural industry," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Tomatoes account for about 90 percent of the state's greenhouse vegetables, but other vegetables, such as cucumbers, lettuces and peppers, are also grown.

To celebrate, the department and the N.C. Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association will host Greenhouse Vegetable Days at the State Farmers Market in Raleigh on April 18 and the Robert G. Shaw Piedmont Triad Farmers Market in Colfax on April 26. Both events offer the public the opportunity to sample greenhouse-grown tomatoes, make a fresh tomato sandwich and learn about greenhouse technologies from local farmers.

To find local greenhouse growers near you, go to [www.ncgreenhouse.org](http://www.ncgreenhouse.org).

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## Caldwell Journal Weekly Recipe

### Cauliflower Parmesan

#### Ingredients

- 1 large head cauliflower, stem trimmed and cut vertically into 1" planks
- 3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 c. marinara sauce
- 1/4 c. freshly grated Parmesan, divided
- 1 shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 c. basil leaves, torn if large
- Crushed red pepper flakes

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 425°. Arrange cauliflower in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet and brush both sides with oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Roast, flipping once, until cauliflower is tender and golden, about 35 minutes. Remove from oven and top each cauliflower steak with marinara sauce. Sprinkle with half of Parmesan and mozzarella cheese.

Switch oven to broil and return to oven until cheese is bubbly and golden in places, about 3 minutes. Serve with remaining Parmesan, basil leaves, and red pepper flakes.

Caldwell  
Journal





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<sup>1</sup> Brand Tracking and Image Study, March 2018. Maru Group.

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## **N.C. Forest Service urges residents to think safety in spring wildfire season**

RALEIGH, NC (April 4, 2019) -- The N.C. Forest Service is urging North Carolina residents to think safety and exercise extra caution when burning materials during the spring fire season. The spring fire season typically runs from March through May and is historically the time when wildfires are most likely to occur.

"The leading cause of wildfires is careless debris burning. Protect our natural resources by acting safely," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Don't burn on dry, windy days; maintain a careful watch over your debris fire; and make sure it is fully extinguished."

Troxler also warned against using drones over wildfires, an emerging concern across the country. In 2018, there were 26 drone incursions into air space over wildfires across the nation.

When unauthorized aircraft, such as drones, fly into the same airspace as helicopters and airplanes even at low altitudes, the air operations must be stopped due to safety concerns. This means no water drops to slow the spread of a fire and no eyes in the sky to help direct firefighters on the ground, Troxler said.

The N.C. Forest Service encourages anyone considering debris burning to contact his or her local county forest ranger. The forest ranger can offer technical advice and explain the best options to help maximize safety to people, property and the forest. For people who choose to burn debris, the N.C. Forest Service urges them to adhere to the following tips to protect property and prevent wildfires:

- Make sure you have an approved burning permit, which can be obtained at any N.C. Forest Service office, a county-approved burning permit agent, or online at <http://ncforestservice.gov>.
- Check with your county fire marshal's office for local laws on burning debris. Some communities allow burning only during specified hours; others forbid it entirely.
- Check the weather. Don't burn if conditions are dry or windy.
- Consider alternatives to burning. Some yard debris such as leaves and grass may be more valuable if composted.
- Only burn natural vegetation from your property. Burning household trash or any other man-made materials is illegal. Trash should be hauled away to a convenience center.
- Plan burning for the late afternoon when conditions are typically less windy and more humid.
- If you must burn, be prepared. Use a shovel or hoe to clear a perimeter down to mineral soil of at least 10-feet, preferably more, around the area around where you plan to burn.
- Keep fire tools ready. To control the fire, you will need a water hose, bucket, a steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire.
- Never use flammable liquids such as kerosene, gasoline or diesel fuel to speed debris burning.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out. Remember, debris burning is the No. 1 cause of wildfires in the state.
- These same tips hold true for campfires and barbecues as well. Douse burning charcoal briquettes or campfires thoroughly with water. When soaked; stir the coals and soak them again. Be sure they are out cold and carefully feel to be sure they are extinguished. Never dump hot ashes or coals into a wooded area.
- Burning agriculture residue and forestland litter: In addition to the rules above, a fire line should be plowed around the area to be burned. Large fields should be separated into small plots for burning one at a time. Before doing any burning in a wooded area, contact your county ranger who will weigh all factors, explain them and offer technical advice.

Studies have shown that taking these and other measures can greatly reduce wildfires and the loss of property associated with them. For more information on ways you can prevent wildfires and loss of property, go to <http://ncforestservice.gov>, click on "fire" and follow the links.

## **DAV Annual James Smith Memorial Golf Tournament**

GRANITE FALLS, NC (April 8, 2019) -- Disabled American Veterans of Caldwell County, Chapter 6: will again host their annual James Smith Memorial Golf Tournament, this being the 9th annual outing.

All proceeds stay in the local area to benefit veterans. Chapter 6 is the sponsor of the Veterans Transportation Network, providing free transportation to veterans of Caldwell and Catawba counties to their appointments at the Asheville or Salisbury VA Hospitals.

The outing will be held Saturday, May 11th at The Orchard Hills Golf Club in Granite Falls. Captains choice, tee time 12:30. A hotdog lunch with all the trimmings will be provided at noon. Cost for the tourney is \$50.00 per player or \$200.00 per team. Mulligans will be available for \$5.00. Each golfer will be given a goody bag at sign in and a thank you gift at conclusion of play. Cash prizes to top 3 teams of \$300.00, \$200.00; \$100.00. For preregistration, please contact either the golf club at 828-728-3560 or David Pilkinton at 828-850-2493.

## NCDA&CS agronomist offers home garden tips

RALEIGH, NC (April 4, 2019) -- As the weather warms up, garden enthusiasts, community gardeners and landscapers gear up for the spring and summer growing seasons. Whether it's a home vegetable garden or establishing plants that will turn into breathtaking beds of flowers and ornamentals, many North Carolinians love to garden.

"Now is the best time to submit soil samples as the peak season for the soil lab has passed," said Jagathi Kamalakanthan, an agronomist with the Agronomic Services Division. "Soil samples are analyzed free of cost and the turnaround time to get results during spring and fall is usually just a little over a week." Information on submitting soil samples for home gardens is available at [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/HomeApr2014.pdf](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/HomeApr2014.pdf).

### Lime:

If your garden or lawn has not been limed in the past two to three years, it may need it, Kamalakanthan said. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Agronomic Services Division suggests you test your soil to optimize lime or fertilization needs.

Lime takes several months to react and there is no real substitute for time. Some people, in a rush to get plants established, end up buying soil from big-box stores or from lawn and garden suppliers instead of improving the fertility of the existing soil.

### Topsoil:

Kamalakanthan cautions that it is always buyer beware when purchasing topsoil, because the sale of topsoil is not regulated in North Carolina. "Many times these soils have high soil pH and high nutrient levels," she said.

It is a popular misconception that more nutrients are better when it comes to soil fertility. Some nutrients such as zinc and copper are beneficial to plants in very small amounts, while those same nutrients in excess can be toxic to plants, Kamalakanthan said. Additionally, excessive phosphorus which can be harmful to the environment is sometimes found in purchased topsoil. Before buying topsoil, it is best to soil test so you are aware of its quality, especially if buying large quantities. More information on topsoil can be found at [www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/sfn14.pdf](http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/sfn14.pdf).

### Compost:

Another common mistake is the misuse of compost and bagged manures. Plants should not be grown directly in compost or manures. These materials should be used as an amendment to improve the physical properties of the soil and provide additional nutrients. Hence, it is best used by mixing well with the native soil or as a topdressing, applied as a thin layer to the soil surface. Growing plants directly in compost or animal manure alone can possibly harm plants with excessive nutrients or salts associated with these products. Pure compost and manure can also retain too much water causing poor rooting.

Composts can be purchased, but also can be made by homeowners. To find out more composting how-to's, go to [https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/2-composting#section\\_heading\\_5154](https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/2-composting#section_heading_5154).

Whether made at home or purchased, consider having compost tested for its nutrient value by the division's Plant/Waste/Solution/Media lab of Agronomic Services. <https://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/documents/WasteSampleForm2017.pdf>.

Both native clayey and sandy soils in landscapes across our state can be very productive if managed well. Soil testing to establish lime and fertilizer needs is the first step. If amending with compost for improvement, use compost wisely and know its nutritional value for best results.

For more information, contact the Agronomic Services Division at 919-733-2655.

## SHP Announces 2019 Operation Drive To Live

RALEIGH, NC (April 8, 2019) -- In anticipation of spring break and prom season, the State Highway Patrol is once again conducting Operation Drive to Live, an annual campaign to reduce collisions involving teen drivers. Beginning Monday, April 8 through Friday, April 12, troopers will step up their enforcement in and around school zones between 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

In 2018, the Highway Patrol investigated over 55,261 motor vehicle collisions involving drivers and passengers who were between the ages of 15 – 19. Of those collisions, 10,287 injuries were reported and 94 resulted in one or more fatalities. According to National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, young drivers are significantly over-represented in fatal crashes, particularly those who are 16 to 19-year-olds. Immaturity and inexperience are primary factors contributing to fatal crashes by young drivers, especially during the first six months of driving.

This year, SHP is focusing on distracted driving, one of the leading causes of teen-related crashes. Cell phones, passengers and other electronic devices are just some of the distractions that can lead to needless collisions involving injury or death.

With this in mind, the Patrol has partnered with the Johnston County (JoCo) Teen Drivers Club, to produce PSAs on the dangers associated with distracted driving. The PSAs will be featured throughout the week on the Patrol's Facebook page in hopes of combating distracted driving collisions.



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## Attorney General Josh Stein Announces Medicaid Fraudster Conviction

RALEIGH, NC (March 29, 2019) -- Attorney General Josh Stein today announced that Andrea Monique Purnell of Wade pleaded guilty to one count of Medicaid provider fraud in the Eastern District of North Carolina.

“This individual defrauded the Medicaid program and wasted taxpayer money in the process,” said Attorney General Josh Stein. “My office will continue to hold people responsible for healthcare fraud and abuse.”

Purnell, formerly known as Andrea Boatman Hall, was the owner, operator, manager and/or CEO of Extended Reach Day Treatment for Children and Adolescents, a behavioral health services provider that offered “day treatment” services. From 2013 to 2016, Purnell engaged in a scheme to defraud Medicaid by submitting claims that included additional units of day treatment services that were higher than what was provided. Purnell also billed for day treatment services on dates when patients never received any services and billed for psychotherapy services that were never provided.

In all, Purnell defrauded Medicaid out of \$337,615.42. Purnell is scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 6, 2019.

The investigation and prosecution of this case was conducted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General, the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Department of Justice’s Medicaid Investigations Division.

About the Medicaid Investigations Division (MID)

The Attorney General’s MID investigates fraud and abuse by healthcare companies and providers, as well as patient abuse and neglect in facilities that are funded by Medicaid. Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that helps provide medical care for people with limited income. To date, the MID has recovered more than \$850 million in restitution and penalties for North Carolina.

To report Medicaid fraud in North Carolina, call the North Carolina Medicaid Investigations Division at 919-881-2320.

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## Traffic stop leads to drug arrest

LENOIR, NC (April 3, 2019) -- The Lenoir Police Department's Narcotics Unit had been investigating drug sales centered on Elizabeth Jane Lewis. During the investigation it was uncovered that Lewis was indeed selling and transporting illegal narcotics. On April 3rd, 2019 at 10:12 pm officers stopped Lewis's vehicle near the intersection of Connelly Springs Road and Oak Street for a minor traffic violation. A Lenoir Police Department K-9 indicated for the odor of illegal drugs in the car. Lewis' yellow 2001 Ford Escape was searched. 6.8 grams of methamphetamine and 0.1 grams of cocaine were located in a small safe in the back floorboard.

Lewis was arrested and charged with 1 count of felony Possession with Intent to Manufacture, Sell, or Deliver Methamphetamine, 1 count of felony Possession of Cocaine, and 1 count of felony Maintaining a Dwelling or Vehicle for the Purpose of Controlled Substance. Lewis received an initial court date of 04-04-2019 and a secured bond of \$25,000.00. According to North Carolina State guidelines, the seized drugs were valued at \$1,030.00. This arrest was the product of a month-long investigation. It should also be noted this is the third time Lewis has been arrested for drug charges this year.

## New District Attorney Office Website

NEWTON, NC (April 8, 2019) -- The District Attorney's Office announced the launch of a new Web site and Facebook page on Monday, April 8, 2019.

The Web site, [BurkeCaldwellCatawbaDA.com](http://BurkeCaldwellCatawbaDA.com), provides information and links to resources for the community and victims. Whether it's information about traffic tickets or victims' rights, the Web site has basic information to demystify the court process.

Using a streamlined design, the Web site works well on both desktops and mobile devices. The Web site can also be reached at [BurkeDA.com](http://BurkeDA.com), [CaldwellDA.com](http://CaldwellDA.com), and [CatawbaDA.com](http://CatawbaDA.com).

In order to reach the public through social media, the Facebook page, [facebook.com/BurkeCaldwellCatawbaDA](https://facebook.com/BurkeCaldwellCatawbaDA), will be regularly updated with local events and information that will help the public engage with the local law enforcement community.

"As a governmental agency, we have the duty to keep the public informed," District Attorney Scott Reilly said. "A good Web site and Facebook page help accomplish that goal, and provide more ways for the community to keep up with our office."



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## Grandfather Mountain State Park Trail Repairs Require Closures

LINVILL, NC (April 2, 2019) -- Last spring, Grandfather Mountain State Park experienced heavy, prolonged rains that severely damaged and eroded park trails, making some areas impassable. Damage to the Nuwati and Cragway trails was so extensive that repairs will require contracting outside work. The wet weather continued as Grandfather Mountain experienced 10 feet of precipitation in 2018, compounding the damage to all our trails. Park staff are working to get contracts underway while repairing what we are able to on the other trails. Trail renovations cannot begin until May at the earliest because there is currently a moratorium on construction work in trout streams or tributaries while the fish are spawning, this is a critical protection measure for trout.

Park staff hope to complete work and reopen trails by late summer, but these timelines are difficult to estimate. Until the repairs can be made, the Nuwati and Cragway trails will remain closed. This closure includes the four campsites along the Nuwati Trail: Streamside, The Hermitage, Storyteller's Rock and The Refuge.

The National Park Service closed the Tanawha Trail foot bridge over Boone Fork due to damage to the footings from the same period of heavy rain in May. We do not have up-to-date information on their repair schedule, but the trout moratorium applies to this work as well. The bridge, located off the Boone Fork Parking Area just north of the mile marker 300 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, is used to access the Daniel Boone Scout, Cragway, Nuwati and Tanawha Trails.

The Daniel Boone Scout Trail is open, but the only parking access is at the Boulder Field Parking area on the Blue Ridge Parkway between mile markers 302 and 303, which can accommodate about eight vehicles. The hike on the Tanawha Trail from Boulder Field to the Daniel Boone Scout Trailhead is 2.8 miles. Due to the closure of the foot bridge, all campers must register for their campsite at the Profile Trailhead, even if hiking on the Daniel Boone Scout Trail. The Profile Trail is open, and the trailhead is located at 4198 Highway 105, Banner Elk, 28604.

The Grandfather, Grandfather Extension, Blackrock and Underwood Trails are all open. These trails are accessible through the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation, a private organization that owns and operates the southern, developed portion of the mountain. An entrance fee is charged by the stewardship foundation. Please call 828-733-2013 for information on their organization.

Park staff greatly appreciates your understanding and cooperation. We are also disappointed that the trails and campsites remain closed; it is very important to us that we are able to provide the public with beautiful, safe hiking trails while protecting the natural resources that we all love so much.

Up-to-date information on the state park will be posted on Grandfather Mountain State Park's website (<https://www.ncparks.gov/grandfather-mountain-state-park>) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/grandfathermountainstatepark](https://www.facebook.com/grandfathermountainstatepark)). Any questions may be directed to the Grandfather Mountain State Park office at 828-963-9522 during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Celebrate Recovery Spring Jam will be held at **Day 3 Church**, 4365 Hickory Blvd, Granite Falls on April 13, 11am-2pm. This community family event is being held to raise awareness that there is hope and help available for those of us in need of recovery from hurts, habits, and hang ups. There will be three Christian singing groups performing and guest speakers during the event with a free hot dog/hamburger lunch being served. There will be bouncy houses and games for the kids. Event info at 336-575-9169.



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