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Caldwell Journal Info

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

Caldwell Journal

Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (26th): Plenty of sunshine.
High 66 Low 32
Precipitation: 0%

Friday (27th): Partly cloudy.
High 62 Low 34
Precipitation: 1%

Saturday (28th): Mostly sunny & mild.
High 66 Low 50
Precipitation: 0%

Sunday (29th): Mild with periods of rain.
High 61 Low 59
Precipitation: 64%

Monday (30th): Occasional morning rain.
High 68 Low 36
Precipitation: 62%

Tuesday (31st): Mostly sunny & cooler.
High 55 Low 33
Precipitation: 6%

Wednesday (1st): Sunshine.
High 52 Low 29
Precipitation: 2%

Laura Bush-Sedlacek achieves Elite status for enrolling over 100 consumers during Open Enrollment

LENOIR, NC (December 20, 2019) -- Laura Bush-Sedlacek has been nationally recognized for her dedication to helping consumers enroll in and manage qualified health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.



This nationwide recognition from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as a member of the 2020 Marketplace Elite Circle of Champions highlights her success in actively enrolling 100 or more consumers during this Open Enrollment Period.

"We thank Laura Bush-Sedlacek for providing her trusted advice and exceptional service to consumers to help them enroll in coverage," said Randy Pate, Director of the Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight within CMS, which oversees the Marketplace. "Helping 100 consumers during the Open Enrollment Period is an achievement to be proud of."

The Marketplace Circle of Champions program recognizes the hard work, expertise and service of Marketplace-registered agents and brokers. Agents and brokers who assist 20 or more consumers qualify for the Marketplace Circle of Champions – with those who enroll 100 or more consumers earning the Elite designation.

Eligible consumers can enroll in Marketplace coverage during this year's Open Enrollment Period, which runs November 1 – December 15, 2019. Consumers with questions about their coverage or who would like help enrolling, can contact Laura Bush-Sedlacek at Bush and Associates (828) 754-2601 or quotes@bushandassociates.net

Voters Will Be Asked to Show Photo ID Beginning in 2020

Beginning in 2020, North Carolina voters will be asked to provide photo identification when voting in-person or absentee-by-mail, with some exceptions.

Voters may provide any type of acceptable photo identification. More than 130 types of ID will be accepted. For more information contact or stop by the Caldwell County Board of Elections which is located in the lower level of the Caldwell County Resource Center (120 Hospital Avenue) in Lenoir. 828-757-1342

Organizations Hold Drives to Help Caldwell County Animal Shelter

LENOIR, NC (December 23, 2019) -- Groups from around the county have stepped up to assist homeless animals living at the Caldwell County Animal Shelter this holiday season.

"We are proud to have businesses and school groups join us in our mission to care for the county's homeless pet population and to help educate the community about good pet ownership," said Caldwell County Animal Control Manager Pam Culbreth.

Students from Gamewell and William Lenoir Middle Communities in Schools programs dedicated their Light Up Lenoir Christmas tree to the Stars of the Shelter to increase awareness and support for the animals at the shelter. In addition to decorating the tree, students raised money and collected supplies for the shelter.

As part of their Cato Cares initiative, Cato Lenoir is sponsoring a donation drive. Staff chose to support the shelter in hopes of alleviating the burden of caring for the homeless pets in the county. Their donation drive runs through December 24, and items can be dropped off at the store located in North Hills Plaza in Lenoir.

Friendship Ford Lenoir has an ongoing relationship with the county's animal shelter. Since early December, the dealership has been featuring a pet of the week on their Facebook page.

"All of the Friendship Auto Dealerships work with their local animal shelters. Our goal is to see pets adopted out to good homes and to assist with the process, we cover the adoption cost for our pet of the week," explained Friendship Ford Lenoir General Manager Brandon Caldwell.

In addition to their pet of the week feature, the dealership has collected supplies for the shelter. Their goal was to fill the back of a truck with much-needed items.

"We appreciate the work of these organizations to help homeless animals in our county, and we look forward to continued partnerships," said Culbreth.

To learn more about ways to help Caldwell County Animal Control, visit caldwellcountync.org/animal-control/ways-to-help.

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute will offer a Mental Health First Aid class from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 on the Caldwell Campus in Hudson. Focused on identifying, understanding and responding to the signs of mental health and substance abuse issues, the 8-hour training course is popular with medical professionals, business staff, faith communities and law enforcement. The cost of the class is \$75 and includes textbook. For more information, or to register, call 828-726-2242.



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18.74+/- acres of vacant land (per appraisal). The site has small frontage on public asphalt road but planned access is from Plymouth Road over right of way which is part private asphalt and part dirt. Site has been approved by City of Lenoir for PUD to include up to 136 attached and detached housing units.

Nominal Opening Bid: \$25,000

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Changes to Licenses and Fees Take Effect January 2020

RALEIGH, NC (December 20, 2019) -- The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) is announcing several changes to its hunting, inland fishing and trapping license structure and associated fees, which are set to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

Specific changes include:

- All licenses that authorize inland fishing will now include the trout privilege.
- All hunting and trapping licenses, with a few exceptions, will include the game lands privilege.
- Establishes a new Resident Lifetime Trapping License.
- Minor license fee adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index.

For more information on all NCWRC licenses, download the Commission's 2019-2020 North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest. To purchase a license, visit ncwildlife.org/licensing or a Wildlife Service Agent.

About the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Since 1947, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has been dedicated to the conservation and sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use and public input. The Commission is the state regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of fishing, hunting, trapping and boating laws and provides programs and opportunities for wildlife-related educational, recreational and sporting activities.

Get N.C. Wildlife Update — news including season dates, bag limits, legislative updates and more — delivered free to your Inbox from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Caldwell County Yokefellow is moving into a new location with an anticipated opening the 6th of January. They need an army of volunteers to help at the new location. The weeks of December 2nd and 9th the existing Thrift Store will begin moving racks and remaining inventory to the new 202 Harper location. Strong backs, trucks, and vans would be wonderful. The Food Pantry will need additional helpers and strong backs beginning the 2nd week of December to begin dismantling the Food Pantry and moving shelving, coolers, and food inventory to the 202 Harper location. Moving work hours will be 9:30-3:30 beginning Tuesday, November 19th and continuing through the Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. Contact Sharon Harmon at (754-7088) for more specifics.

Caldwell Pregnancy Care Center (CPCC) is looking for mature men to mentor fathers. This volunteer opportunity will consist of 2-3 hours per week and the impact you may have on a family could last for eternity. Please call CPCC at 828-757-9555 or come by and pick up an application.

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*Benefit quoted and monthly premium (rate) is for Plan G quoting a female, non-tobacco and is effective until May 31, 2020. ¹ Based on Blue Cross NC internal data, November 2018. Rates are subject to change June 1 of each year, but members will not be singled out for premium increases based on their individual health. ®, SM Marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. The agency is an independent entity that has been appointed as an authorized agent of Blue Cross NC. Blue Cross NC is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

U3198c, 3/19

Better Business Bureau Offers Tips for Holiday Returns and Exchanges

MATTHEWS, NC (December 26, 2019) -- Holiday returns aren't easy! And we don't mean the part where you explain to your mother why you returned the sweater, she gave you. Stores are not legally required to accept exchanges or give refunds, unless the merchandise was defective or misrepresented. While most retailers do offer refund and exchange programs as a courtesy to their customers, policies vary greatly from one store to another. Add to the mix warranties, which are usually fulfilled by the manufacturer, and holiday returns can get confusing. The following tips should help to make your holiday returns run more smoothly.

Get to know store policies. Before you make a purchase, find out if the store has a return policy and, if so, how it works. Understand that policies can change during the holiday season and may not apply to sale items. If the store does allow returns or exchanges, find out if you will need to pay a restock fee. Ask the seller if they offer cash refunds, exchanges, or only store credit. Store policies are usually posted at the check-out counter or printed on the back of receipts.

Understand online store return policies. If you are shopping online, search for the seller's return policy and read it through before clicking "buy." Find out if they accept returns or exchanges, and who pays the shipping when an item is returned. In some cases, you can save on shipping fees by returning an online purchase to the local brick-and-mortar store.

Get the details on a product's warranty. Most electronics and home appliances come with warranties that are to be fulfilled with the manufacturer, not the retailer. Find out how returns and repairs are handled if an item stops working or needs replacement parts. Will the retailer ship the item to the manufacturer for you? Or will you need to deal with the manufacturer directly? Knowing the answers will leave you well-prepared for any future issues.

Keep your receipt and packaging. Most stores will only accept returns and exchanges if you can present the item with its receipt and original packaging. Always include a gift receipt with items you give and hold on to any gift receipts you receive.

Bring your ID. To avoid holiday return scams, many stores ask to see your ID when you return an item. Sometimes retailers require you bring your ID and the original form of payment. If this is the policy of the store where your gift is from, you may need the assistance of the gift giver in order to be reimbursed.

Make returns in a timely fashion. Almost all return policies are valid during a specific time period. Some stores modify their return period during the holidays, so don't risk missing your chance to make your return. Take the item back to the store without delay.

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[illegible]

Upcoming Small Business Center Workshops

HUDSON, NC (December 19, 2019) -- Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Small Business Center offers free workshops, one-on-one assistance and many more services to help local small businesses. To reserve your seat at one of the free workshops, call 828-726-3065 or visit www.cccti.edu/smallbusiness to register.

Upcoming free workshops in Caldwell and Watauga counties, as well as online:

Basic Bookkeeping and Taxes

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Small Business Center will offer a free workshop titled "Basic Bookkeeping and Taxes" from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9 at the Appalachian Enterprise Center at 130 Poplar Grove Extension, Boone. The workshop covers the financial records needed for good business management and developing the systems and practices for collecting necessary information for tax reporting and business decision-making.

QuickBooks for Small Business

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Small Business Center will offer a free workshop titled "QuickBooks for Small Business" from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Appalachian Enterprise Center at 130 Poplar Grove Extension, Boone. The workshop covers the basics of using QuickBooks, how to set up QuickBooks, how to customize and format invoices and how to select the best version of QuickBooks for your business.

How to Start a Business

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Small Business Center will offer a free online workshop titled "How to Start a Business" from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7. The workshop focuses on the basics of starting a business taking you from idea to opportunity. Learn key strategies for start-up, financing and marketing as well as important information about legal issues, licensing, zoning, operations and more. Realize the importance of a self-assessment and how to evaluate the feasibility of a business idea. Discover the resources available to help start and successfully operate a business.

Business Plan Basics

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Small Business Center will offer a free online workshop titled "Business Plan Basics" from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16. Participants will learn how to turn ideas into a solid plan for financing and long-term success. This seminar teaches the important components of a business plan and helps lay the foundation for a winning plan. Participants also will find out how marketing, operations, and finance are interrelated; discover how a business plan is used by potential lenders; and the dos and don'ts of writing a plan and steps for making the process easy. This seminar is designed for new and established business owners.

The Business of Hemp

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Small Business Center will offer a free workshop titled "The Business of Hemp" from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16 at the HUB Business Center, 145 Cedar Valley Rd., Hudson. The workshop will help local farmers cash in on the abundance of opportunities in the legal hemp industry, as well as guidance on how to grow, process and sell hemp in North Carolina.

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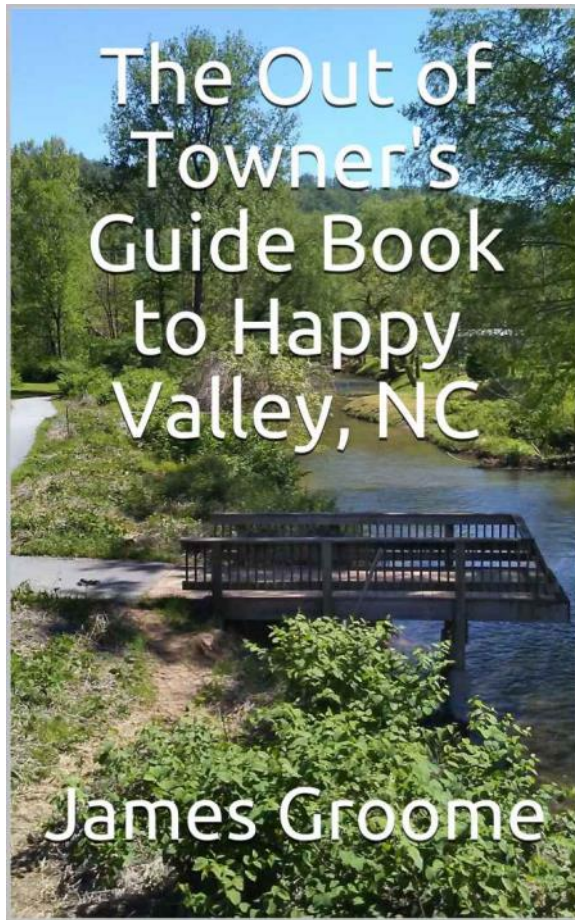
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Local Musician Writes Book about Happy Valley, NC

LENOIR, NC (12-27-2019) -- Along with being a talented musician, James Houston Groome of Lenoir, NC is a prolific writer. He's been journaling for years and is the author of poems and short stories, mostly unpublished. As a young man he fell in love with the Happy Valley community and soon began collecting notes and observations about people, places and things in the area. It was always on his bucket list to write a book about his experiences.



He mentioned his desire to write a book to his friend, Leila McMichael. McMichael has over 25 years' experience in the printing industry as a desktop publisher and typesetter. She received English and Journalism awards in high school and worked in literary research in college. She was the editor of two of the Haunted Broughton books by her sister, Margaret Langley. She volunteered to help make Groome's dream a reality.

The Out of Towner's Guidebook to Happy Valley contains personal and often humorous reminiscences of the author's life and experience in historic Happy Valley, a beautiful 28-mile-long valley nourished by the Yadkin River and stretching from Patterson, NC almost to Wilkesboro, NC. Groome includes local lingo (explaining common words and phrases) folklore, hauntings, historic references to both Revolutionary and Civil wars and famous local personages, regional natural history, the local music culture, delicious recipes and more! The book is a very easy read and chock full of photos and illustrations.

The Out of Towner's Guide Book to Happy Valley, NC by James Houston Groome, edited by Leila M. McMichael represents untold hours of discussion and planning; thousands of hours of research, writing, typing and re-typing; hundreds of hours of formatting and publishing, and scores of miles of travel culminating in a literary work of around 23,319 words; 83 photos and a whole lot of love for historic Happy Valley.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of many, Groome's dream was fulfilled: a book written to honor Happy Valley, educate the reader on its rich heritage, and share his love for its people, culture, history, and beauty.

Copies are available at the Caldwell Heritage Museum and the Wilkes Heritage Museum and online at Amazon.com in both print and Kindle versions.

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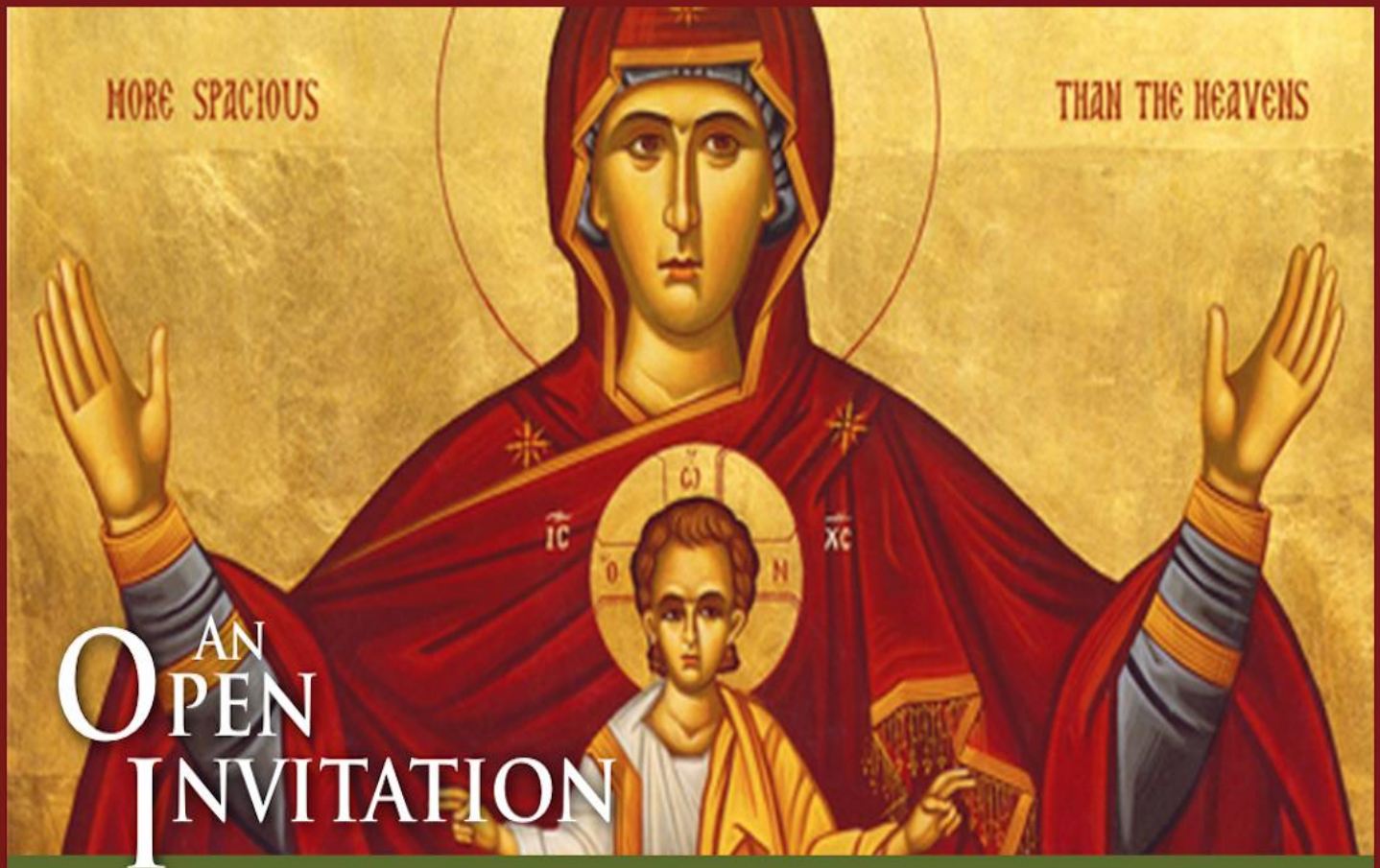
Questions? Call Youth Services at (828) 757-1274

Spring Season: January 7 - May 21

Lenoir 120 Hospital Avenue (828) 757-1270

Granite Falls 24 South Main Street (828) 396-7703

Hudson 530 Central Street (828) 728-4207



Christ is born! Glorify Him! On Christmas day the Church celebrates the Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The sacred hymnography and iconography of the Church provide words and images to help us interpret the light-filled feast that we celebrate on this day.

“Make glad, O ye righteous; Greatly rejoice, O ye heavens; Ye mountains dance for joy. Christ is born; and like the cherubim the Virgin makes a throne, Carrying at her bosom God the Word made flesh. Shepherds glorify the new-born Child. Magi offer the Master gifts. Angels sing praises, saying: “O Lord past understanding, glory to Thee”

We welcome all to come and see as we meet together in worship at St. Sebastian Chapel located on the campus of St Aloysius Catholic Church, **921 Second Street, Hickory, NC.**

Lay led prayer services each Sunday at 10 AM. Great Vespers on 12/21 at 6 PM and Divine Liturgy on 12/22 at 10 AM.

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