

The Kontras Quartet returns to Hickory with the Kruger Brothers for Chamber Classics Performance

HICKORY, NC (February 12, 2020) -- The Western Piedmont Symphony's 55th season continues with the Kontras Quartet, as part of this year's Chamber Classics: Homecoming series.

Chamber Classics 4 with Kontras Quartet and the Kruger Brothers will be held at J.E. Broyhill Civic Center on February 29, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Attendees will be sure to enjoy an evening of eclectic music performed by these world-traveling musicians.

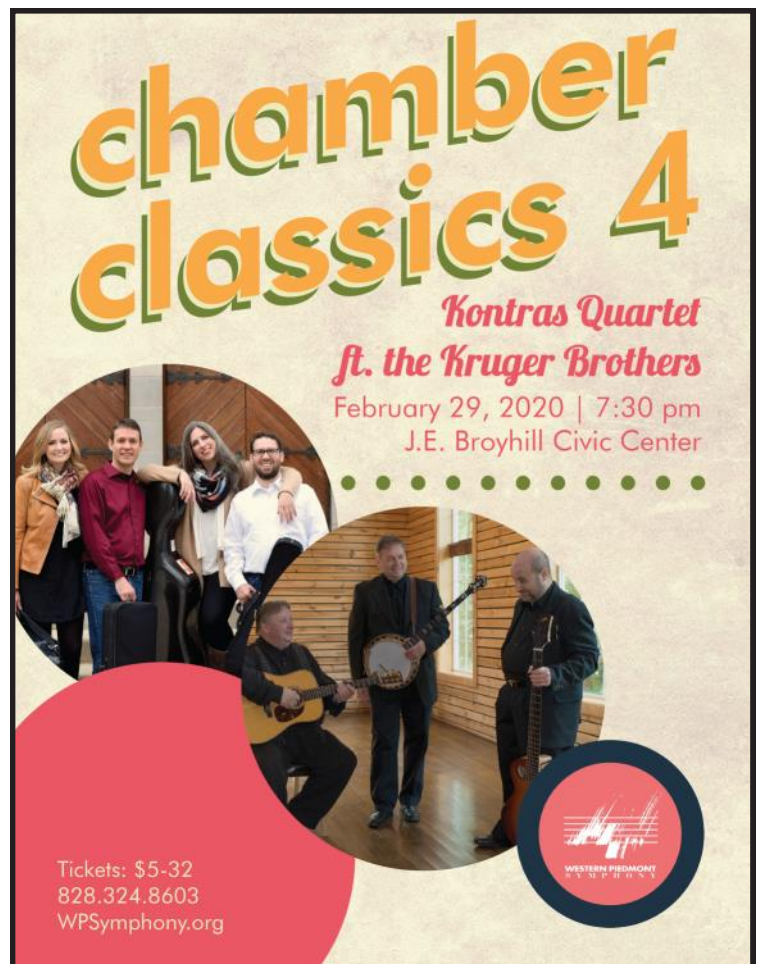
If you can't make the evening performance -- join the Kontras Quartet for lunch at our very popular Soup, Salad & Strings luncheon series at 11:45 am in the Keiser Community Room on Friday, February 28, 2020 at the SALT Block. Soup, Salad & Strings is an informal luncheon/concert that is perfect for concert goers who prefer daytime entertainment.

Kontras returns for a residency with the Western Piedmont Symphony after having served as the Hickory Metro String Quartet in residence from 2010-2014. The Hickory Metro String Quartet Residency is the only program of its kind in North Carolina; it brings numerous outreach programs to audiences of all ages in the region, and features world-class musicians.

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 Chamber Classics range from \$5-\$32. Tickets for Soup, Salad & Strings are \$35/person. You may also purchase tickets at the door. Season subscriptions are also available, offering discounted rates on all the concerts.

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.



chamber classics 4
*Kontras Quartet
ft. the Kruger Brothers*
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**Our Deadline Is On Friday At 5pm
 For Next Week's Paper**

Caldwell Journal

Caldwell Journal Weather

Thursday (13th): Heavy rain.
 High 62 Low 40
 Precipitation: 100%

Friday (14th): Mostly sunny & cooler.
 High 49 Low 20
 Precipitation: 0%

Saturday (15th): Chilly with clouds & sun.
 High 45 Low 28
 Precipitation: 0%

Sunday (16th): Mostly cloudy & milder.
 High 55 Low 34
 Precipitation: 11%

Monday (17th): Rain & drizzle in the p.m.
 High 56 Low 44
 Precipitation: 53%

Tuesday (18th): Occasional rain & drizzle.
 High 59 Low 42
 Precipitation: 66%

Wednesday (19th): Sun through high clouds.
 High 54 Low 32
 Precipitation: 25%

Attorney General Josh Stein Launches Operation Silver Shield with Anti-Robocall Initiative

RALEIGH, NC (February 13, 2020) -- Attorney General Josh Stein today launched Operation Silver Shield, a North Carolina Department of Justice (NCDOJ) effort to confront scammers and fraudsters who target older North Carolinians. Operation Silver Shield launches today with new action in Attorney General Stein's ongoing work to confront robocalls, where many scams originate.

Attorney General Stein is taking action on robocalls in two ways this February. First, he is asking for North Carolinians' help in highlighting these bad actors by launching the Robocall Report Task Force with a detailed web form (www.ncdoj.gov/norobo) and dedicated robo-report hotline (1-844-8-NO-ROBO). NCDOJ is asking people to report information about the scam calls they receive by using the web form and the hotline. Their information will help NCDOJ investigate potential scammers.

"Robocalls are annoying and disruptive at best – but at worst, can result in people losing their life savings," said Attorney General Josh Stein. "These scammers are clever and they know that it's difficult for law enforcement to go after them. If we don't receive the calls, we don't have all the information – but you do. That is why I'm asking North Carolinians to report their calls to me. My office will investigate these claims and share them with our federal partners so we can hold bad actors accountable."

Second, Attorney General Stein is providing an update on phone companies' work to make their networks safer for their customers. This past summer, Attorney General Stein led a coalition of 51 attorneys general and 12 companies to outline the Anti-Robocall Principles, a series of principles the companies agreed to take on to combat robocalls. Today, Attorney General Stein is releasing the companies' reported progress in implementing these principles. To view their progress report, [click here](#).

"As we tackle this issue, it's critical that we work with telecom companies and make sure they're doing everything they can to keep robocallers off their networks," said Attorney General Josh Stein. "While I am pleased with the progress these companies are making, our phones keep ringing. We know there is more work to be done. I am committed to continue pushing these companies to do everything they possibly can to stop these calls, including tracking down and identifying the robocallers sending out millions of calls per day."

The anti-robocall initiative is the first program Attorney General Stein is launching under Operation Silver Shield. Throughout the year, NCDOJ will continue this type of work to protect people from scams, take legal action against fraudsters when necessary, and educate people on how best to keep themselves and their parents and grandparents safe. For more information, please visit www.ncdoj.gov/silver

Continued on page 3...

Attorney General Josh Stein Launches Operation Silver Shield with Anti-Robocall Initiative *Continued from page 2...*

“Older North Carolinians are especially vulnerable to bad actors trying to frighten them out of their money,” said Attorney General Josh Stein. “We all have a responsibility to protect our loved ones, especially if they’re no longer as able to protect themselves. Through Operation Silver Shield, people across the state will be able to recognize scams, take action to safeguard themselves and their money, and keep each other safe.”

Primary Election Signs

The primary election is less than a month away – March 3. If you plan to stick an election sign near a state-maintained road, the sign must be:

At least 3 feet from the edge of the road;

Shorter than 42 inches above the edge of the road’s pavement;

No bigger than 864 square inches; and

Can’t obscure or replace another sign.

Signs must also be removed 10 days after the primary.

For more information about NCDOT Now, contact the NCDOT Communications Office at (919) 707-2660. Additional news stories from throughout the week can be found on NCDOT.gov.

Open house held to discuss Hickory pedestrian and bicycle needs

HICKORY, NC (February 10, 2020) -- Community members are invited to attend a public open house meeting to discuss walking and biking in the City of Hickory. The open house will be held on Thursday, February 27, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Ridgeview Recreation Center, located at 115 7th Ave SW in Hickory.

The City of Hickory received \$25,000 from LiveWell Catawba to assist in funding the development of a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan to evaluate the needs of people walking and biking in Hickory in order to develop a clear vision for the future. In December 2019, Hickory City Council approved an agreement with Alta Planning + Design to develop a master plan.

“The City of Hickory is already improving infrastructure and promoting an active living culture through the bond program and its connected urban trail system. This comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan will guide the City in further enhancing the community, promoting public and economic health, and improving transportation opportunities,” said Hickory Transportation Planning Manager John Marshall. “The open house is an opportunity for community members to provide valuable input that will assist in the development of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.”

For more information, visit www.hickorync.gov or contact the Planning & Development Department at (828) 323-7422.

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Caldwell Animal Control Sees Significant Drop in Euthanasia Rates

LENOIR, NC (February 3, 2020) -- Caldwell Animal Control recently released euthanasia rates for 2019 and the numbers have dropped substantially over the last four years. In 2016, 67 percent of animals turned over to Animal Control were euthanized. In 2019, the number dropped to 36 percent.

"Over the last few years, the Animal Control staff has made a commitment to work with the community and rescue groups in an effort to decrease euthanasia rates," said Caldwell County Public Health Director Anna Martin. "Their work has paid off and I believe we will continue to see the rates drop as they find even more ways to address the problem."

Animal Control has partnered with nonprofit rescue groups to take animals when space becomes an issue or when they have an animal that may not be eligible for adoption.

"We never want to euthanize one good animal to make room for another one," said Animal Control Manager Pam Culbreth. "We want animals eligible for adoption or rescue to find forever homes."

The community has also helped Animal Control through their willingness to hold onto animals they wish to surrender until space becomes available either through adoption or rescue.

"When we ask people to hold onto their animals for a time, they are often able to rehome their pets without ever surrendering them to us," explained Culbreth. "These proactive efforts are really making an impact, and we appreciate the community's willingness to work with us."

Lenoir Caldwell Crime Stoppers Thanks Callers

In 2019, Lenoir Caldwell Crime Stoppers callers helped local law enforcement recover over \$51,000 in stolen property, make 30 arrests which resulted in 73 felony and misdemeanor charges, and closed 19 cases for local law enforcement. Pretty Impressive! There were 376 calls taken in the call center. Lenoir Caldwell Crimestoppers is a nonprofit organization and operates almost entirely on donations and money made at fundraisers. Thank you, citizens, for taking time to read our posts on social media and taking the time to call with information. With that being said, if you have information that may lead to the arrest of a wanted person or information that will help law enforcement recover stolen property or any information about a crime call the tip line at 828-758-8300. The line is manned 24/7 365 days per year.

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U3198c, 3/19

Meth Trafficking Ring Shut Down

LENOIR, NC (February 3, 2020) -- Sheriff Alan C. Jones announced on February 3, 2020, Narcotic Agents with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office Ice Unit made arrests on four large scale methamphetamine traffickers. This investigation was in conjunction with the Alexander County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security, Hickory Police Department, Boone Police Department, and Catawba County Sheriff's Office. Jeremy Matthew Magnus, age 44, of 5354 Buffington Road Gillsville, GA, Angela Marie Dale, age 33, of 104 Ervindale Lane in Morganton, Troy Noman Powell, age 42, of 2359 West Lenoir Drive in Lenoir, and Heather Nicole Swanson age 35, of 2860 Donihue Place in Lenoir were arrested and charged with multiple counts of Trafficking in Methamphetamine and incarcerated in the Caldwell County Detention Center under \$500,000 secured bonds each.

Magnus and Dale were taken into custody pursuant to a vehicle stop in Granite Falls. A Sheriff's Office K-9 conducted an open-air sniff around the vehicle and alerted to the presence of illegal drugs. A search of the vehicle was conducted, and agents located over two (2) pounds of methamphetamine wrapped in a Christmas present box. Agents also seized \$966.00 in cash and their 2010 BMW 328I used to transport the illegal drug. Subsequent to this investigation, Powell and Swanson were stopped and taken into custody after leaving the residence on West Lenoir Drive. Agents searched the home and seized over 1 1/2 pounds of methamphetamine, \$17,091.79 in cash, and a 2013 Nissan Rogue SUV. The drugs seized during the investigation has a total street value of \$291,300 according to North Carolina State Drug Guidelines.

"This ring of individuals was a major pipeline for methamphetamine into this County. We are going to send them away for a long, long time." – Sheriff Alan C. Jones

The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office is always in search of any information involving the use and distribution of illegal controlled substances. A concerned citizen's information and assistance will be kept confidential. If you have any information concerning illegal drug activity in Caldwell County, please contact the:

Caldwell County Sheriff's Office I.C.E. Unit
828-757-1178

Lenoir Police Department's Narcotics Division
828-757-2145

Hudson Police Department
828-728-5021

Granite Falls Police Department
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Caldwell County Crimestoppers
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Q&A with Caldwell Extension Center Director Seth Nagy

LENOIR, NC (February 11, 2020) -- This week I would like to share some questions that were recently asked at the Caldwell Extension Center. I hope you find these questions and answers helpful. If you have specific questions not answered here, please contact me and my team at the Caldwell Extension Center.

Question: Is RoundUp safe?

Answer: Glyphosate is the active ingredient in the herbicide RoundUp. Glyphosate is a widely used herbicide that controls broadleaf weeds and grasses. It has been registered as a pesticide by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1974. Registered pesticides undergo review every 15 years.

Because of public pressure, the EPA did an interim review of glyphosate again. The EPA stated in the latest interim review, "EPA continues to find that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label. EPA also found that glyphosate is unlikely to be a human carcinogen."

For this reason, I continue to say glyphosate is a safe product when used according to the label.

Question: How do I control buttercup in my pastures?

Answer: Buttercups in Caldwell County are winter annuals. Annuals grow from seed each year. Winter annuals sprout in the fall, grow during the winter, and flower in the spring so they can make seeds before dying in the heat of the summer.

When pastures are grazed short in the fall, it exposes the soil surface to sunlight. Sunlight is important for buttercup seed to germinate. If the soil surface is not exposed to sunlight, the seeds will not germinate.

Take time to scout your pastures for buttercup. Once you learn to recognize the unique leaf shape of bulbous buttercup and hairy buttercup, it will be almost as obvious as their bright yellow flowers.

If weed control is needed, 2,4-D Ester will do a great job controlling buttercups in January and February. Once buttercups bloom, it is too late to spray for control. They will die soon anyway. 2,4-D Ester can be mixed with most liquid fertilizers or just applied with water. Pick a time when there will be a few warm days to make the application. Adding in a non-ionic surfactant, sometimes called soap, will improve the herbicide's effectiveness.

If you do have problems with buttercups and other weeds in your pasture, it is time to evaluate your pasture management. Buttercups are an indication of overgrazing.

Question: How can I learn to be a beekeeper?

Answer: The Caldwell County Beekeepers Association has been offering a beginner bee school for many years. Local Master Beekeepers lead this school. It is a fantastic way for non-beekeepers to learn about bee biology, hive management, and gain hands-on practical beekeeping experience.

If you have an interest in keeping bees, this is the right way to get started. Beekeeping is more complicated than it used to be. There are more pests and parasites that affect bees now as compared to 15 or 20 years ago. For all practical purposes, bees are not able to survive without management from humans. There are no "wild honey bees" anymore.

The bee school is a three session class that meets February 15, 20, and 22. To sign up or for more information, visit caldwellcobeekkeepers.org.

For answers to your agriculture questions, call the Caldwell County Extension Center at 828-757-1290 or visit us online anytime at caldwell.ces.ncsu.edu.

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One-Stop (Early) voting begins Thursday, February 13th

LENOIR, NC (February 10, 2020) -- One-Stop (Early) Voting for the 2020 Primary Election in North Carolina and Caldwell County begins on Thursday, February 13, and continues through Saturday, February 29.

Hours for One-Stop (Early) Voting will be Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Voters can cast their ballots at the Caldwell County Resource Center, 120 Hospital Avenue in Lenoir, or the Shuford Recreation Center, 56 Pinewood Road in Granite Falls. A picture ID will not be required to vote in the Primary Election.

Citizens can register to vote and cast their ballot at the one-stop sites. To register to vote, a person must present one of the following items showing their name and current address:

North Carolina driver license

Other photo identification issued by a government agency

A copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing the voter's name and address

A current college/university photo ID along with proof of living on campus

To vote absentee, voters must submit an application for a ballot. Applications for absentee voting may be picked up at the Caldwell County Board of Elections located at 120 Hospital Avenue in Lenoir or downloaded at CaldwellCountyNC.org/Elections. The deadline to request a ballot is Tuesday, February 25, at 5 p.m.

On Election Day, Tuesday, March 3, registered voters must go to their regular precinct. To find their precinct, voters can visit CaldwellCountyNC.org/Elections or call the Caldwell County Board of Elections at 828-757-1326. Polls will be open on Election Day from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

For more information about the upcoming Primary Election, visit CaldwellCountyNC.org/Elections or call 828-757-1326.

Town of Hudson Spring Dinner Theatre

HUDSON, NC (February 7, 2020) -- The Town of Hudson announces that the cast has been selected and that tickets are now on sale for the Spring Southern Comedy Dinner Theatre Production of "The Dixie Swim Club." The play will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 26th, 27th, 28th and April 2nd, 3rd and 4th at the HUB Station, 145 Cedar Valley Road, Hudson. "The Dixie Swim Club" tells the story of 5 college swim teammates who, after graduation, get together every year for a long weekend at a beach cottage on the North Carolina Outer Banks. The story carries them through 55 years of friendship, with both hilarious and touching moments. Director Keith Smith says, "This show is written by the prolific team of playwrights, Wooten, Hope and Jones. They have written 20 plays over the last 15 years and are the most widely produced playwrights in America. In my opinion, this is their strongest script." The caterer for the play is Hog Wild Barbecue, who will serve a meal of smoked chicken, city ham, green beans, whole potatoes, slaw, rolls and assorted cakes. Tickets are \$30.25 for dinner and the show, \$15.25 for the show only and may be purchased in one of three ways. You can go by the HUB Station Box Office, 145 Cedar Valley Road, call (828) 726-8871 or go online at townofhudsonnc.tix.com.

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Caldwell Heritage Museum "Coffee with the Director"

LENOIR, NC (February 14, 2020) -- Please join us for the Caldwell Heritage Museum's February "Coffee with the Director" on Wednesday, 19 February 2020 @ 10:00. We are excited to host William Ritter from Patterson School as our presenter. He will bring to us the history of seed-saving in Appalachia that will include traditional music relevant for old mountain foodways and original songs about the same. And you might just get to go home with some seeds! Just in time for spring planting.

As usual, coffee and pastries of some type will be offered. A \$5 donation is requested. Please contact us if you have any questions.

North Catawba Baptist Church

An Evening with Michael Franzese (as seen in the documentary "The Mafia" with Sir Trevor McDonald) will be held at North Catawba Baptist Church on Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21, 7:00-9:00pm. Featured will be Franzese's book "From godfather to serving God the Father" and there will be a book signing at the end of the event. Tickets are \$8.00. Contact the church at 828-728-9253. The church is located at 1596 North Catawba Church Avenue, Lenoir.

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