

## Change your clock, change your batteries

HICKORY, NC (March 2, 2020) -- Is your smoke alarm working? On March 8 the spring time change will occur and this is a good time to make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working.

Although a large percent of homes have smoke alarms, many may not work because of dead or missing batteries. These nonworking alarms give residents a false sense of security. To check an alarm, firefighters recommend pushing the test button. The alarm should sound a loud beeping sound by the time you count to 10. If not, it needs to be replaced immediately.

Hickory Fire Chief Matt Hutchinson stated "Working smoke alarms provide an early warning to the dangers of smoke and fire. This early warning is particularly important for those most at risk such as children and seniors. Changing smoke alarm batteries once a year is one of the simplest, and most effective ways to reduce these tragic deaths and injuries."

Hutchinson continues "If residents do not own a smoke alarm or need help changing batteries or checking alarms, I encourage them to contact their fire department immediately to receive assistance."

Another fact that people may not be aware of is that alarms also have a service life of typically ten years and should be replaced at that time. Another good idea is to install smoke alarms in bed rooms so you can "Hear the beep where you sleep". Firefighters also suggest taking time to plan "two ways out" and to practice escape drills with the entire family.

For more information about smoke alarms, call the Hickory Fire Department at (828) 323-7521.



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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 (5th):** A bit of afternoon rain.  
High 54 Low 37  
Precipitation: 47%

**Friday (6th):** Times of clouds & sun.  
High 49 Low 32  
Precipitation: 25%

**Saturday (7th):** Abundant sunshine.  
High 54 Low 25  
Precipitation: 0%

**Sunday (8th):** Sunny to partly cloudy.  
High 61 Low 33  
Precipitation: 2%

**Monday (9th):** Pleasant with clouds & sun.  
High 64 Low 46  
Precipitation: 4%

**Tuesday (10th):** A couple of showers possible.  
High 64 Low 46  
Precipitation: 30%

**Wednesday (11th):** T-storms possible in the p.m.  
High 68 Low 44  
Precipitation: 35%

## CONSUMER ALERT: Don't Let Scammers Exploit Your Coronavirus Fears

RALEIGH, NC (March 3, 2020) -- Fears about the coronavirus and news of infections are on the rise, so scammers and fraudsters are sure to follow. Recent media reports [bbc.com] detail unscrupulous sellers touting fake treatments listed at outrageous prices. Scammers are setting up bogus websites, emails, texts, and social media posts to take people's hard-earned money.

Our office is watching the news closely, and we want you to be able to avoid coronavirus scams. The best way to protect yourself is to follow these tips:

- Be skeptical of "miracle cures." Ignore online offers for vaccinations, pharmaceuticals, and medicines. If you are unsure about a product, check with a doctor before you buy it. Remember, as all scams go – if it's too good to be true – it probably is.

- Watch out for high-priced or low-quality products. Because of high demand, prices are increasing on products like hand sanitizers and face masks. Moreover, some of these products may not even be of the quality they promise. Consider health recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control [cdc.gov] when deciding whether a purchase is necessary. If you are unsure about a product, check with a doctor or health professional before you buy it. Research before you make a purchase and try to buy from reputable companies with a reliable record – and don't pay an unfair price for something you may not need.

- Don't let anyone rush you. Avoid offers that are only good "now or never." Fears about the spread of coronavirus mean that many people are making decisions under pressure – walk away from high-pressure sales pitches or cure-all promises.

- Watch out for phishing emails. Criminals will try to steal your money and information by sending you phony communications. If a person claiming to be an expert on coronavirus contacts you, ignore them. Double-check links before you click on them, and don't open anything from an unfamiliar sender.

- Look out for unauthorized or fraudulent charities. Don't let anyone rush you to into making a donation and visit [www.give.org](http://www.give.org) [give.org] or [www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org) [charitywatch.org] to make sure the organization you are considering donating to is legitimate.

A lot of false information is floating around about the coronavirus. Stick to reputable sources – visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [cdc.gov], World Health Organization [who.int], or North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services [ncdhhs.gov] websites for more information or contact your doctor if you have questions.

If a company contacts you and you're unsure of their authenticity or if you believe that you have been the victim of a scam, contact our office's Consumer Protection Division at [ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint](http://ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint) [ncdoj.gov] or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.



## Caldwell Hospice's Coffee, Grief, & Hope to Be Held March 30

LENOIR, NC (March 5, 2020) -- Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care will hold its monthly Coffee, Grief, & Hope at 6pm, Monday, March 30, 2020, at Dunkin Donuts, 219 Wilkesboro Blvd., NE, Lenoir, NC. The informal time of coffee and conversation is open to anyone who is experiencing grief and loss due to the death of a loved one or close friend. Coffee is Dutch treat.

The Coffee, Grief, & Hope is sponsored through Ashwood Grief and Counseling Services, grief support services of Caldwell Hospice, and is one of many opportunities offered to help individuals of all ages and families cope with the loss of people they love. Because of the generous support of our community and the belief that grief support services improve quality of life, Caldwell Hospice offers community grief support services to anyone who needs help in coping with grief. For more information about the upcoming Coffee, Grief, & Hope or other grief support services, call 828.754.0101, or visit [www.caldwellhospice.org](http://www.caldwellhospice.org) or Facebook.

## Special events at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum

GRANITE FALLS, NC (March 4, 2020) -- The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum is hosting its annual quilt show during the month of March. Located at 107 Falls Avenue, the museum will be open between 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The last day to see the quilts is Sunday, March 29th between 2 and 4 p.m. On that day, the Granite Falls History Committee will host a reception in honor of all the quilt owners. The public is invited to attend.

On Saturday, March 14th, the Granite Falls Historical Association will sponsor a Hike to the Falls that gives the town its name. The hike begins at 2:30 p.m. and lasts about an hour, giving participants time to see the quilts before and after the hike. Persons wishing to participate should call Linda Crowder at (828) 396-1066. She can also arrange a private tour of the museum for persons not able to attend during regular hours.

## Robin's Nest "Swing into Spring" Tickets On Sale

LENOIR, NC (February 25, 2020) -- Robin's Nest Children's Advocacy Center of Caldwell County invites you to "Swing into Spring Featuring Dancing with Caldwell Stars" at Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenoir on Saturday, April 4th, from 6:30-11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each and include the dinner buffet, DJ Dennis with Sandstorm, and the Caldwell Stars who are dancing for donations. Attendees may also participate in Eggstravaganza and a raffle for a vacation trip for 2. Please visit [robinsnestcac.org](http://robinsnestcac.org) to vote for your favorite Caldwell Stars and to purchase tickets or call 828-754-6262 for more information. Proceeds benefit Robin's Nest, a 501(c)(3) corporation that coordinates resources to serve child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse.



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## Volunteers Needed for Statewide Spring Litter Sweep

RALEIGH, NC (March 4, 2020) -- Volunteers across North Carolina are needed to help clean up trash along roads during the N.C. Department of Transportation's annual Spring Litter Sweep from April 11-25.

Each April and September, the department calls on volunteers to help remove litter from roadsides. Volunteers from local businesses, schools, non-profits, churches and community groups play an important role in keeping North Carolina's roads clean.

"Every day, more people make North Carolina their home or do business here," said David Harris, NCDOT's Roadside Environmental engineer. "With that, comes increased litter and trash on our roads. We need others to help us keep our state beautiful and safe, and it starts with each of us doing our part."

Volunteers wear gloves and safety vests and are given cleaning supplies such as reversible orange and blue trash bags. People wanting to participate should contact their local litter management coordinator.

Last year, Adopt-A-Highway groups, NCDOT employees and other volunteers removed nearly 939,000 pounds of litter during the spring litter sweep.

Visit the Litter Sweep webpage for more information. Questions can be directed to Litter Management at 919-707-2970.

## Girl Scout Council to host block parties in celebration of Girl Scout Week

COLFAX, NC – March 6, 2020 -- Every year, Girl Scouts across the country celebrate Girl Scout Week during the week of March 12. This annual tradition is a week that recognizes the worldwide sisterhood that began in 1912 with founder Juliette Gordon Low who, on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, GA, held the first Girl Scout troop meeting.

Girl Scout Week 2020 runs March 8-14 and is celebrating the 108th birthday of the Girl Scout organization, the premier leadership development program for girls in the world.

Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont will celebrate the week with Girl Scout Block Parties happening at four locations across their 40-county jurisdiction. Locations include: Asheville Mall, 3 S. Tunnel Road, Asheville; Rotary Centennial Pavilion, downtown Gastonia, 107 N. South Street, Gastonia; Hickory Girl Scout Service Center, 208 Union Square NW, Hickory; and Triad Girl Scout Service Center, 8818 W. Market Street, Colfax. Activities in Asheville, Gastonia and Colfax run 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Hickory activities run 1-4 p.m.

All Block Parties are free and open to the public. Festivities will include community partner activities, badge-earning opportunities, crafts, Girl Scout programming information, service projects, music and more.

For more information about the Girl Scout Block Parties or Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont, please contact [info@girlscoutsp2p.org](mailto:info@girlscoutsp2p.org) or call 800-672-2148.

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U3198c, 3/19

## Wildlife Commission Adopts 44 Proposed Rules for 2020-21 Seasons

RALEIGH, NC (February 28, 2020) -- The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission voted at its business meeting on Thursday to adopt rules related to wildlife management, fisheries, game lands and law enforcement for the 2020-21 seasons. The Commission adopted all 44 proposals presented at public hearings in January, though several were modified before adoption. The effective date for these regulations is Aug. 1, 2020.

During the open comment period, the Commission received input from constituents regarding the proposed changes. Commissioners carefully weighed those comments and amended the following proposed rules prior to voting in favor of them:

\* **Big Game Harvest Reporting:** Big game harvested in remote areas must be registered by 12:00 p.m., the day after leaving the remote area. Big game harvested in remote areas may be placed in the possession of another person, provided that the person in possession of the big game has the successful hunter's name and harvest date on their person. If the carcass cannot be transported intact, the harvested big game must be skinned and dismembered before registration.

\* **Cervid Excretions:** No person may possess or use any substance or material that contains or claims to contain any excretion collected from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife. This prohibition does not apply to natural substances collected by an individual from non-farmed cervids legally taken in North Carolina or synthetic products.

\* **Pee Dee River Game Land:** Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the portion of the game land south of US-74.

\* **Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days:** On designated veterans/military waterfowl days, veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from a half hour before sunrise to sunset.

To view the full text of all proposed regulations, view the exhibits within the February 27, 2020 Commission meeting agenda package.





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## Foundation of CCC&TI Announces Fund Drive Chair

HUDSON, NC (February 26, 2020) -- The Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute has announced that Dr. Mark Poarch will lead the 2020 Annual Fund Drive campaign.

Poarch, president of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute since 2016, is a native of Caldwell County with more than 28 years of community college experience. Prior to being named president, Poarch served as executive vice president and in several other leadership roles.

"I am honored to be asked to lead the Fund Drive in the year 2020. What an awesome opportunity I think we have as we begin the new decade," Poarch said to college faculty and staff at an internal campaign kickoff event. "Collectively, we are going to establish the vision for the college and what happens over the next few years for this institution."

Poarch went on to share a list of projects and initiatives that have had or will have a tremendous impact on the college and the community. Poarch talked about partnerships such as the CobraCare Clinic and Aspire Appalachian as well as the construction of new facilities and various academic achievements as part of the college's commitment to a vision of ongoing success.

"2020 and beyond has the potential to be the biggest year and years in the history of the institution," he said. "I can't thank the Foundation enough for what they do for us, because we couldn't do it without their support."

In announcing Dr. Poarch as the 2020 campaign chairman, Foundation of CCC&TI Vice Chairwoman Deborah Murray said he's the perfect choice to lead the first campaign of the decade. She pointed to Poarch recently receiving the 2019 Herman Anderson Award, which honors individuals who have an impact on the county's economic development efforts, as an example of his dedication to the college and the community.

"I wanted to make sure that you knew what role he has because we have a great person to follow, and he has maximized our opportunities at this institution. He does it every day," Murray said. "Who better to follow, and who better to lead a campaign that focuses on the year 2020, on the vision and the opportunity that we have as an institution."

The 2020 Foundation of CCC&TI Annual Fund Drive campaign will kick off for the community on March 3. At the event, Poarch will be introduced as the campaign chair and the 2020 fundraising goal will be announced. Last year, the Foundation raised more than \$375,000 to provide scholarships, academic support, personal help for students, professional development for college employees and much more.

For more information on the Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute or to make a donation to the Annual Fund Drive, go to [www.ccti.edu/foundation](http://www.ccti.edu/foundation) or call 828-726-2260.

**Poovey's Chapel Baptist Church** will be hosting a marriage conference on Friday, March 13 from 7:00-9:00 PM. This is a completely free event. Rev. Terry Hunt will be speaking on 2020 vision for your marriage. Whether you've been married for fifty years, or newlyweds, this conference is for you.

**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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## **Restoration of Linville River continues; seedling planting and trout stocking to be in next phase**

CROSSNORE, NC (February 28, 2020) -- The N.C. Forest Service and partnering agencies have restored 2,450 feet of the Linville River channel as it flows through Gill State Forest and beyond Crossnore Mountain Training Facility and Linville River Nursery.

Additionally, the NCFS has enhanced 500 feet of an unnamed stream that discharges to the river by planting understory growth that will eventually shade the stream.

In the next phase of the project, tree seedling planting and trout stocking will begin in March. Forest Service staff have already placed signs on river and stream banks advising fishermen and visitors of the new understory vegetation already planted and of the future tree plantings.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will stock the restored river reach for opening day of trout fishing season, the first Saturday in April. Due to restoration construction, the Commission suspended stocking of hatchery trout in the summer of 2018. According to Commission officials, this portion of the river will be stocked with trout in March; restocked twice during April and May, and once in June and July.

"The improved aquatic habitat means more places for trout to call home and a sustained fishery throughout the spring and summer," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "We restored the river in the fall and winter months to minimize impacts on fishing and other recreation that occurs at Gill State Forest."

For fishing and hiking enthusiasts, visitor parking is available just off Linville Falls Highway, adjacent to the high-water bridge. This summer, a river trail and self-interpretation kiosks will be established to inform forest visitors about the many benefits of river restoration. You can learn more about the restoration by visiting the N.C. Forest Service website at [https://www.ncforestservice.gov/water\\_quality/wq\\_streamrestoration.htm](https://www.ncforestservice.gov/water_quality/wq_streamrestoration.htm).

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## Hatchery Supported Trout Waters Closed to Fishing, Feb. 29 until April 4

RALEIGH, NC (February 25, 2020) -- The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will close approximately 1,000 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to fishing one-half hour after sunset on Feb. 29 and reopen them at 7 a.m. on April 4.

While fishing is closed, Commission personnel will stock all Hatchery Supported Trout Waters in preparation for opening day. Staff stocks Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, which are marked by green-and-white signs, at frequent intervals in the spring and early summer every year.

This year, Commission personnel will stock approximately 916,000 trout — 96 percent of which average 10 inches in length, with the other 4 percent exceeding 14 inches in length.

While fishing on Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limit or bait restriction. Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are open from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until one-half hour after sunset on the last day of February the following year.

For more information on trout fishing in North Carolina, visit the Commission's trout fishing page, or call the Inland Fisheries Division, 919-707-0220.

## Caldwell County CTE ranks among the best

LENOIR, NC (March 2, 2020) -- Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the Caldwell County Schools ranks as one of the top programs in the state and as CTE students prepare for the state competition that will be held in April, the district celebrates its success.

Below are 10 outstanding reasons for celebrating CTE in Caldwell County:

1. CTE Concentrator Graduation Rate of 99% exceeds the NC rate of 86.3%
2. 95% of CTE Concentrator Graduates went on to post-secondary education or advanced training, military service or employment
3. CTE graduates successfully placed 25.9% Four Year College; 38.9% Two Year College; 27.5% Employment; and 2.7% Military
4. 80 CTE courses are offered in the Caldwell County Schools
5. 14 Career Pathways are offered to students
6. CTE students earned 204% credentials, ranking the school district 5th in the State
7. CTE students earned 4,616 total Industry-recognized credentials in 2018-2019
8. CTE students earned Career Readiness Credentials: Platinum – 32; Gold – 98; Silver – 201, and Bronze – 154.
9. 88.2% of CTE students passed technical skill assessments aligned with industry-recognized standards, ranking Caldwell County Schools 11th in the state
10. The CTE program partners with local businesses and industry for job apprenticeships, summer camps, job shadowing and job ready.

Career and Technical Education prepares students for high-wage, high-demand careers ranging from health care to information technology to advanced manufacturing.



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### **Caldwell Agriculture Expo – first-ever event in Caldwell County**

LENOIR, NC (March 2, 2020) -- The first ever Caldwell Agriculture Expo will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Caldwell County Fairgrounds.

Exhibitors will have farm animals and farming equipment on display. Interactive booth displays will provide fun and educational experiences on farming, forestry, foods, local businesses and post-secondary studies. Try a taste of local honey or a favorite local vendor. The event is free to all.

Students and youth can enter for door prizes. The public is invited on Saturday, March 28, 9-3 pm at the Caldwell County Fairgrounds in Lenoir at 2461 Fairground Rd., Lenoir. Plan for a day to explore Caldwell County and North Carolina agriculture!

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The poster features a central graphic with a tractor in the middle, surrounded by eight green arrows pointing outwards. Each arrow contains an icon representing a different agricultural product: a cow, a corn cob, a tree, a bean, a wheat stalk, a flower, a leaf, and a corn cob. The background is a collage of agricultural images: a green field with horses, a sheep in a field, a close-up of a hand holding a green leaf, a close-up of red and green tomatoes, and a close-up of orange carrots. The text is in a bold, green, sans-serif font with a black outline.

# Caldwell Agriculture Expo

## March 28 at the Caldwell County Fairgrounds

Caldwell Agriculture Expo is a unique opportunity for Caldwell County residents to explore the agriculture industry. Come see how agriculture supports and impacts our community. What you can expect to see and experience: exhibits, livestock, demonstrations, vendors, door prizes and food trucks.

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Caldwell County Fairgrounds | 2461  
Fairgrounds Rd., Lenoir | For more information visit our Facebook  
page at <https://www.facebook.com/caldwellcountyagexpo>**