



The Granite Tablet



Volume 12, Number 6

A Publication of the Granite Falls History Committee

February 2025



NATIONAL QUILT MONTH *Quilts are Back!!!*

In recognition of National Quilt Month, members of Pine Needles Quilt Guild and Catawba Valley Quilters' Guild will show off their beautiful creations during the month of March at the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. It has been five (5) years since the COVID lockdown interrupted the last quilt show held at the museum, and the Granite Falls History Committee, which oversees the museum, is excited to welcome quilters back. In their honor, the committee will host an opening reception between 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 2, 2025. Committee members invite the public to attend, enjoy refreshments, and look at the beautifully crafted quilts. There is no charge. The quilts will remain on display through Sunday, March 30, 2025. The museum will be open to the public on Sundays from 2 until 4 p.m. Persons wishing to view the exhibit at other times may text a request to Linda Crowder at (828) 496-2835.

The above photos show a few of the beautiful quilts on display. Partially hidden behind the quilt on the right is Peggy Poe, a member of the Catawba Valley Quilters' Guild who spearheaded the exhibit. She plans to be present each Sunday to assist visitors, who want to take a closer look at the intricate craftsmanship of selected quilts.



Photo of Eric Church provided
by Jamie Paris

ERIC CHURCH AND LUKE COMBS *Recipients of Artist Humanitarian Award*

Various news outlets have reported that Country Radio Broadcasters presented Asheville native Luke Combs and Granite Falls native Eric Church with the Artist Humanitarian Award for spearheading a concert last fall, which raised millions for Hurricane Helene Relief. According to an article by Matthew Leimkuehler posted on February 25, 2025, on Forbes.com, the two country stars accepted the award on Friday, February 21, 2025, the last day of Country Radio Seminar, an annual convention of broadcasters, artists, and the recording industry. Combs and Church put together the "Concert for Carolina" last October, raising approximately \$24 million to benefit Hurricane Helene victims.

The Carolina Journal (carolinajournal.com) reported on February 25, 2025, that Eric's foundation, Chief Cares, had purchased land in Avery County the previous week on which to build at least 40 homes. His website, ericchurch.com, has a link under the tab "Chief Cares" to an application for pre-qualifying for help.

HURRICANE HELENE Caldwell County Update

During February 2025, Caldwell County posted these hurricane relief effort updates on its Facebook page "Caldwell County NC."

February 3: The Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) Application Center was at Collettsville Fire Department from Monday, February 3 through Wednesday February 5.

February 4: Debris pickup continued in the county by zones. This week they were in zones 3 and 8. A map with designated zones accompanied the post. One could use a QR code on the map to access a list of streets and their respective zones. Zones 7, 8, 9, and 10 covered the general Granite Falls area, with 8 being Grace Chapel and Dudley Shoals areas.

February 6: Hudson Recreation Center was the location of the Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) Application Center from Thursday, February 6 through Friday, February 7.

February 7: The county announced that the Red Cross would be in Newland, Morganton, Jefferson, and Boone.

February 9: Debris pick-up took place in Zones 1, 2, and 4.

February 10: The Private Debris Removal (PPDR) Application Center was in the Sawmills Town Council Chambers from Monday, February 10 until February 12.

February 11: The North Carolina Disaster Case Management Program was listed as a resource for helping people recover from the hurricane. The Facebook page had a link to the county's website, which had a link to an application for assistance.

February 16: Debris pick-up crews were in Zones 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

February 17: The Private Property Debris Removal (PPDR) Application Center was at Patterson Fire Department and Caldwell County Health and Human Services Building on Monday, February 17; Tuesday, February 18; and Wednesday, February 19. The center was at the Grace Chapel Fire Department on Thursday, February 20; Friday, February 21; and Saturday, February 22.

February 19: Disaster Recovery Centers in Western North Carolina closed on Wednesday, February 19 due to snowy/icy conditions.

February 24: Cajah's Mountain Town Hall was the site for the Private Property Debris Removal program on Monday, February 24; Wednesday, February 25; and Friday, February 28.

February 24: Debris pick-up crews were finishing up their collections in Zones 1, 2, 4, 9, and 10.



IT'S NOT EASTER YET! *Who Hid the Eggs?*

In December 2024, shoppers found empty shelves and higher prices for eggs due to the spread of H5N1, known as avian influenza or bird flu. News reports stated that farmers killed massive numbers of hens that weren't sick to keep them from spreading the dreaded disease. The above photo was taken at Walmart in Granite Falls on February 4, 2025.

On February 13, 2025, Brooke Rollins became the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture. On February 26, she announced a billion dollar strategy to reduce the spread of the flu and to bring financial relief to farmers and consumers. Under the plan, \$500 million would go toward expanding "biosecurity" to prevent transmission of the disease; \$400 million would assist affected farmers, and \$100 million would be used for vaccine research. In addition, the USDA would consider temporary import options and aim to reduce unnecessary regulations. For more information, see the full press release at www.usda.gov.



OUT WITH THE OLD *The First to Go*

In February 2019, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) announced plans to widen Hwy 321A (North Main Street) from Pinewood Road to Duke Street, requiring the demolition or relocation of numerous buildings. Demolition has begun on this vacant, dilapidated building on the corner of North Main and Fairview Street.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS
Building a Base at the Intersection of North Highland Avenue and Pinewood Road



Initial Grading
February 3, 2025



Adding Silt Fence and Gravel Base
February 4, 2025



Three (3) Porta-Johns
February 5, 2025



Chewed Up Two (2) Trees
February 6, 2025



Lined Up Pipeline
February 25, 2025



Moved Pipeline to a Different Location and Added More
February 25, 2025



Expanded the Area with the Silt Fence
February 25, 2025



Brought in Black Pipeline
February 26, 2025

WHAT'S NEW IN GRANITE FALLS



DUNKIN' DONUTS IS COMING TO TOWN ***New Business Plans to Open***

A new Dunkin' Donuts is being built in the parking lot of the Fairvalue Shopping Center on the corner of Hickory Boulevard (Hwy 321) and Pinewood Road. According to the Dunkin' website, Dunkin' was founded in Quincy, MA in 1950. The restaurant is now part of Inspire Brands, which includes Arby's, Baskin-Robbins, Jimmy John's, Buffalo Wild Wings, and SONIC.



MEANWHILE ***A Fire Destroyed Another Business***

On Friday, February 22, 2025, Granite Falls Fire Department responded to a fire at All Purpose Auto Care (former home of Euro-Car Specialists) located at 110 South Main Street between Minton Automotive and the City BBQ. They were assisted and supported by Rhodhiss Fire Department, Grace Chapel Fire Department, Caldwell County EMS, and Caldwell County Fire Marshal's Office. City BBQ employees and customers had to evacuate, and the business closed for the rest of the day. According to a news report by Dave Faherty of WSOC TV, the building was a total loss. Two (2) people who lived in the rear of the building escaped, but five (5) cars stored in the building were destroyed. A leaky propane tank is thought to be the cause of the fire. (photos taken from video shot by Jonathan Fox)



The Granite Tablet is a publication of the Granite Falls History Committee, which manages the Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum. The museum is located in the historic home of Andrew Baird, an early settler. The building is the second oldest residence in Caldwell County. The Baird House was built around 1795 with additions made over the next hundred years. The house remained a residence until 2001 when the owner sought permission to have it burned down due to the high cost of maintenance. Recognizing the historical significance of the building, the Town of Granite Falls purchased the home with the intentions of turning it into a museum. With the help of a grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation and hours of hard work by dedicated people, the vision became a reality. The Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum held its grand opening and ribbon cutting on January 18, 2007. Visit us on Facebook under "Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum." Our website is www.granitefallshistorymuseum.org.

Granite Falls History and Transportation Museum - 107 Falls Avenue, Granite Falls, North Carolina 28630 - Phone: 828-396-2792

Newsletter Editor: Linda Richards Crowder [email: lrldcrowder@gmail.com - phone: (828) 396-1066 - text: (828) 496-2835]