PROCLAMATION

09-2026

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day, observed annually on August 31, is the world's largest campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind, and raise awareness that overdose deaths are preventable; and

WHEREAS, substance use and overdose continue to impact individual, families, and communities across North Carolina and Caldwell County, affecting people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life; and

WHEREAS, every life lost to overdose represents a family member, friend, neighbor, coworker, and valued member of our community whose life and memory deserve to be honored with dignity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, stigma can prevent individuals and families from seeking help, accessing treatment, utilizing harm reduction services, and openly discussing substance use and recovery; and

WHEREAS, education, prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery support, and community collaboration are essential components of a comprehensive response to substance use and overdose; and

WHEREAS, access to lifesaving resources, including naloxone, overdose prevention education, peer support, treatment, recovery services, and post-overdose response, can save lives and create pathways to healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County recognizes the dedication of first responders, healthcare professionals, behavioral health providers, peer support specialists, treatment and recovery organizations, harm reduction workers, families, advocates, and community partners who work each day to prevent overdose and support individuals and families impacted by substance use; and

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day provides an opportunity for our community to remember those we have lost, support those who continue to grieve, celebrate recovery, reduce stigma, and reaffirm that every life has value and that recovery is possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes **August 31, 2026, as International Overdose Awareness Day in Caldwell County, North Carolina**, and encourages all residents to join in remembering lives lost to overdose, supporting individuals and families impacted by substance use, promoting overdose prevention and education, and working together toward a healthier, safer, and more compassionate community.

Adopted this 24th day of August, 2026**.**

Attest:

Randy Church, Chairman
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

Tasha Brown
Clerk to the Board