

Four Hours of Freedom for Escaped Inmate

Written by Steve Frank
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About four hours of freedom came for an inmate who escaped custody yesterday in Watauga County, his freedom ending with a swim in Price Lake on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Blowing Rock. Michael Lee Calloway, 39, of Buncombe County, a Caldwell Correctional Center inmate, was discovered to be missing some time after 2 yesterday afternoon from a work detail on a paving crew on Old Turnpike Road, according to the Watauga Sheriff's Office, Calloway last seen around noon. The reverse 9-1-1 call went out to residents in the area of Foscoe to Blowing Rock while the Watauga Sheriff's Office called for High Country Radio to again ask for folks to secure their vehicles and lock their doors. It was the second such call of the week, with a suspect managing to flee an Alexander Deputy Monday, causing a lockdown and a manhunt that ended in Virginia. For Michael Lee Calloway, it was a bit less dramatic, but he will face new escape charges to go along with his habitual felon status, with larceny, larceny of a motor vehicle, robbery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a deadly weapon and felony breaking and entering convictions, according to the N.C. Department of Public Safety. Calloway had been due for release in May 2016.