### THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER AccuWeather **YOUR 7-DAY FORECAST**

Thursday Today **Tonight** 

Mostly sunny Mainly clear, warm and humid and humid 83° RealFeel: 89° RealFeel: 68° UV Index: 5

Some sun with a shower; humid 80° 66° RealFeel: 85° UV Index: 3 The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is the only index that includes all the weather factors that play a role in how we perceive temperature, including the effects of wind, humidity,

UV Index: 2

Friday Humid with a brief shower or two 80° 65° RealFeel: 82°

Saturday Sunday Partly sunny Partly sunny 83° 63° 80° 61° RealFeel: 85° RealFeel: 83° UV Index: 5 UV Index: 5

Get notifications of nearby lightning! Get the AccuWeather App Monday Partly sunny RealFeel: 79°

UV Index: 5

Tuesday Plenty of sun 71° 50° RealFeel: 73°

UV Index: 5

YOUR ACTIVITIES FORECAST Today Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. FISHING INDEX 5 8 4 6 5 **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES INDEX** 6 8 7 9 9 HIKING INDEX **GOLFING INDEX** 10

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 2024

sunshine, precipitation, pressure, and elevation. Shown are the high ALAAANIAC

ALMANAC	
Charlotte on Monday	
TEMPERATURE	
High/low	82°/66°
Normal high/low	79°/58°
Last year high/low	85°/60°
Record high	91° (2019)
Record low	38° (1888)
PRECIPITATION	
Monday	trace
Month to date (normal)	9.49" (3.71")
Year to date (normal)	45.54" (33.68")
Last year to date	36.39"
COOLING DEGREE DA	YS
Degree days are an indicator of total degree days, the more e	of energy needs. The more the nergy is necessary to cool.
Monday	9
Month to date (normal)	277 (247)
Year to date (normal)	2023 (1708)
Last year to date	1760
SUN & MOON	
Sunrise today 7:20 AN	Moonrise today 7:07 AM

Mooninse today /:U/ AN Sullise today 7.20 AIVI 7:06 PM Moonset today 7:04 PM Last First Oct 10 Oct 17 Oct 24

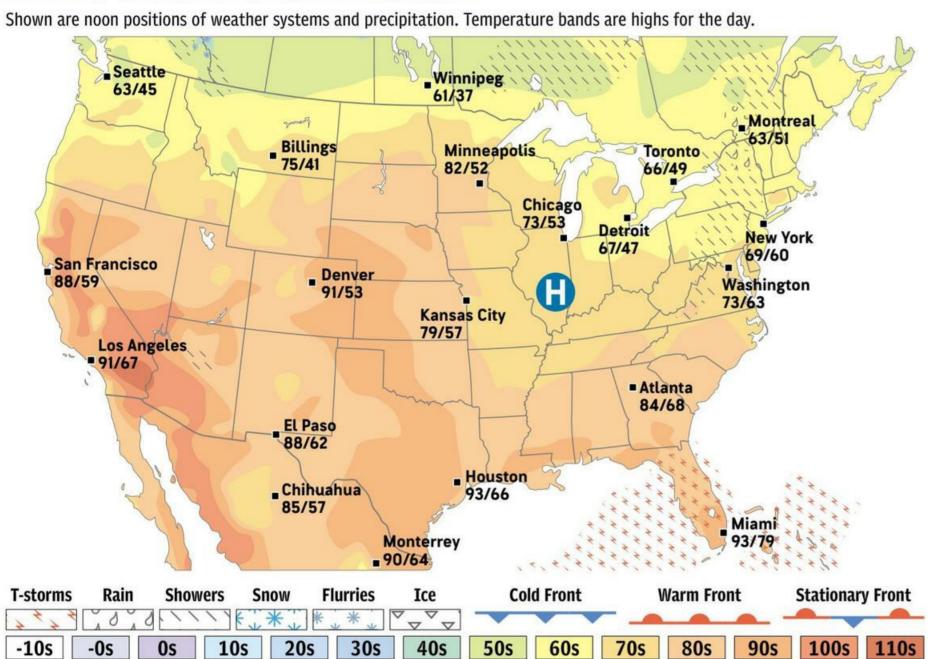
POLLEN INDI	EX		
AS OF 9/30			
Grass:			Absent
Trees:			Low
Weeds:			Low
Mold:			High
Source: National Allergy Bur	eau		
RIVER LEVEL	S		
	Flood	7 a.m.	24-hou
	Stage (ft.)	Tuesday	change
CATAWBA RIVER			
near Pleasant Gardens	11	2.90	-0.75
above Rock Hill	15	13.01	-4.92
above Catawba	58	19.45	-7.21
STEWART CREEK			
at West Morehead Street	t 14	1.40	+0.07
at State Street	10	1.02	+0.08
LITTLE SUGAR CREEI	K		
at Medical Center Drive	13.5	2.17	+0.04

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2024

24-hour Elevation Tuesday change -0.3499.40 -0.6299.09

All all and a second	me today's highs and to martinsville 79/59	speed to the second	3
Johnson City 77/57 Boone 72/56	Winston-Salem 80/63	79/61 Greensboro 78/63 Durham 79/62	Roanoke Rapids 76/61
Morganton 83/65 Hickory 81/65	Salisbury 81/63	Raleig 80/64	TO COMPANY OF THE PARTY OF THE
Spartanburg Rock Hil	83/67 82/6	marle 52 Fayetteville 83/63 Rockingham	Goldsboro 80/63
Greenville 82/63 82/64 84/67 77 Laurens 83/64		83/63 Lumb 82/6	
Greenwood 84/64 83/63 Columbia	Sumter O	Florence 84/66	Wilmington 0 84/65

### **TODAY'S NATIONAL FORECAST**



Lake Wylie

Lake Norman

High Rock Lake

### **AROUND THE NATION**

	Today			Thursday		
City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Anchorage	48	38	S	47	39	C
Atlanta	84	68	S	84	68	S
Boston	64	55	C	68	57	рс
Chicago	73	53	S	80	58	рс
Dallas	90	69	S	94	69	S
Denver	91	53	S	79	48	S
Detroit	67	47	рс	74	54	рс
Honolulu	89	75	S	89	74	r
Indianapolis	70	48	S	78	55	рс
Kansas City	79	57	рс	88	57	S
Las Vegas	103	74	S	103	74	S
Los Angeles	91	67	S	89	64	S
Miami	93	79	S	92	80	t
Nashville	77	57	рс	83	61	S
New Orleans	88	72	S	86	73	sh
New York City	69	60	C	74	60	рс
Orlando	86	74	t	88	76	t
Philadelphia	70	60	C	76	59	рс
Phoenix	108	81	S	109	79	S
St. Louis	74	53	S	83	58	S
Salt Lake City	85	56	S	82	59	S
San Francisco	88	59	S	83	57	S
Seattle	63	45	рс	65	48	рс
Washington, DC	73	63	рс	78	61	рс

Thursday Lo City 76 t 59 42 pc <u>Amsterdan</u> 56 45 sh Bogota 85 70 s 52 34 pc 58 49 pc 87 75 sh 71 pc 81 61 s 76 63 c Lisbon 46 pc 79 54 pc 71 54 pc Mexico Cit 69 50 pc 99 74 s 58 44 c 70 58 sh 52 34 s Stockholn 67 58 sh 68 51 s 86 71 pc 76 71 t Tokyo

**AROUND THE WORLD** 

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

# Western North Carolina communities hope for 'some sort of lifeline' after Helene damage

BY RYAN OEHRLI roehrli@charlotteobserver.com

**SWANNANOA** A long stretch of

Swannanoa is no more. Businesses and homes along the Swannanoa River were destroyed by Helene, which hit Florida as a Category 4 hurricane before it dumped historic rain totals in western North Carolina as a tropical storm. At least 30 people have died in Buncombe County alone, Sheriff Quentin Miller announced in an afternoon press briefing.

People in Swannanoa, a community east of Asheville along Interstate 40, scrambled for water, gas and other basic supplies this weekend. Help began arriving this weekend from the National Guard and others traveling from

across the region. Meanwhile, North Carolina received a major disaster declaration for 25 counties that will provide quicker help to those who

need it. The federal government also says it will reimburse local governments, state agencies and nonprofits for repairs.

Rescue workers will navigate their way through a maze of impassible roads and debris caused by Helene. Roads became rivers. Lakes filled with debris. And in many communities, there's just nothing left.

The situation is dire. Many of North Carolina communities haven't had fresh water, internet or cell service for multiple days.

"It seems like there would be more people here by now," said Dustin Ebert, whose home is about 200 yards away from the main stretch of road that got destroyed in

His floors got flooded, and he has three kids in the house. Around him, the roads were covered in dirt and dark mud. Old U.S. Highway 70 was fragmented and broken apart, much of it landing

Swannanoa.

in the ravine below. "But you know: What else can you do?" he

asked. More help wasn't coming, he was certain. "Where is FEMA at

when we need it?" Angela McGee asked as she walked along that road while searching for her mobile home that wound up far from its usual spot. McGee said she heard about a mandatory evac-

uation late, and she's currently living with her kids in her car. "We are down here in a

disaster and no one is helping us out," she said. She wants more than a federal agency to show up. She needs water, cell service, shelters and food. Everything she's learned has been through word of

furiated," she said. For about a year Shemsuddin Millard prepped to open Black Mountain Improvisational Theater next door to Swannanoa. In another two months, he could've started lessons

mouth, and she's "in-



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Swannanoa residents walk through devastating flood damage from the Swannanoa River on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

and workshops for people who want to do unscripted theater.

The question for him as he stood by his destroyed hopes: what's next?

"Maybe the hard part is hoping that there's some sort of lifeline and wondering if that's there, but then kind of being faced with the reality that: No, there is not," he said. "Might as well just f—ing laugh about it. Because, you know, what else is there? I already cried."

**NC NATIONAL GUARD** 

National Guard humvees rolled through Black Mountain and Swannanoa on Sunday. Helicopters buzzed by every so often. A slew of law enforcement agencies and the National Guard handed out water bottles at an Ingles in

Black Mountain. The grocery store's lot was filled.

**Atlantic Beach Fire Department Deputy Chief** Casey Arthur was "clearing" a van that had fallen into the river with some National Guardsmen in Swannanoa early Sunday afternoon, "making sure nothing's inside."

the river, he said. Searches started to taper off as cellphone service returned in spurts in corners of the county. "These guys in Swanna-

They'd finish that job

and keep moving down

noa have been running constantly," he said.

## **WESTERN NC CELL**

PHONE SERVICE Not being able to call others has been among the biggest problems for survivors. Panicked family members can't reach their loved ones in communities devastated by the storm. Families wondered: Are

they alive? Karen Morris worried about a relative in the county who needed to be cared for at home. She got a text Sunday morning: that relative had no power, no water and her oxygen was no longer work-

"We tried to get (family) to get ahold of 911," Morris said. "We don't know vet whether they were

able to do that." Gov. Roy Cooper said during an interview on CNN Sunday that families who can't reach their loved ones can contact North Carolina's 211 service to ask for a welfare check. The United Way, which operated the service, also has a form on its website to request one.

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mento, CA 95816.

The Charlotte Observer, USPS 100-760