

Things to Do

Local T-shirt shop sales go toward Hurricane Helene relief

BY HEIDI FINLEY  
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With widespread devastation in Western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene spurring relief efforts that will likely stretch for years, many in the Charlotte area are looking for ways to help and show their support.

One easy way to do that is to buy a shirt or sweatshirt. Many local and regional shops are selling apparel to donate funds to organizations working in storm-hit areas, and all you have to do is click “buy.”

Here are a few options for hurricane relief items that you can check out:

**THE BITTER SOUTHERNER GENERAL STORE**  
Location: Online  
Funds from sales of The Bitter Southerners’ The South – Disaster Relief Shirt will rotate over time, but right now the white T-shirts are benefiting World Central Kitchen.  
Cost: \$38  
[FEEDING THE COMMUNITY: Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen distribute thousands of meals in Western NC.]

**ELLIS + OLIVIA RUTH BOUTIQUE**  
Location: Online  
Ellis + Olivia Ruth Boutique’s Mountain Strong shirts showcase a blue mountain range image on a black T-shirt. Twenty percent of proceeds will go to those who have been affected by the hurricane.  
Cost: \$25 (Note: They are currently sold out, but new orders are on the way.)

**GLORY DAYS APPAREL**  
Location: 2202 Hawkins St, Charlotte, NC 28203  
Glory Days’ custom online exclusive Carolina Strong T-shirts and sweatshirts are available in multiple colors. Youth sizes are available, too. All proceeds from the items will benefit the NC Disaster Relief Fund.  
Cost: \$34-\$70

**HOMEWURK**  
Location: Online  
Homewurk has offered a choice of three Carolina sweatshirts — with green, blue or brown writing — with 100% of proceeds going to Samaritan’s Purse and Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. Online, you can select which organization you’d like your donations to go to.  
Cost: \$38

**MCCALL & CO.**  
Location: Online  
McCall & Co. is offering black and gray Together We Rebuild shirts with your choice of locations, including Asheville, Swannanoa, Chimney Rock and other spots, plus a few Appalachia Strong selections. All proceeds go to Little River Baptist Church in Penrose, which is serving as a disaster relief feeding and distribution center. Shipping is available, but shirts will also be available for pickup at McCall Farm in Penrose.  
Cost: \$20

**PAW MOUNTAIN DESIGNS**  
Location: Online  
Paw Mountain Design’s Western NC Relief collection offers gray and black T-shirts with your choice of multiple designs. Shipping is available, or you can pick up your purchase at Southern Grace Studios, 1207 Southern Grace Lane in Raleigh. All proceeds will be donated to community support and disaster relief.  
Cost: \$20

**SYCAMORE CYCLES**  
Location: 112 Hendersonville Hwy, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768  
Sycamore Cycles has created an oatmeal-colored Ride for WNC Helene Relief T-shirt and a hat option, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to local charities dedicated to rebuilding Western North Carolina. Youth sizes are available, too.  
Cost: \$24.99-\$29.99  
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Luke Combs performs at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte on July 15, 2023.

Luke Combs, Eric Church to play Helene benefit concert

BY THÉODEN JAMES  
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In the grand scheme of things, fellow North Carolina natives and country-music stars Luke Combs and Eric Church are happy to be co-headlining a concert at Bank of America Stadium later this month.

And, at the same time, they’re unhappy about it — about why it’s necessary to begin with, that is.

“I wish it had never happened,” said Church, the 47-year-old Granite Falls native and 10-time-Grammy-nominated singer, speaking to The Charlotte Observer by Zoom Tuesday.

“I’m glad we can help, but ... I wish we were never here,” Church said. “So now it’s a matter of trying to figure out the best way that we can rebuild where we’re both from ... the place that made us who we are as artists.”

Monday, Church and Combs were announced as two of the headliners of a special benefit show on Oct. 26 that will help victims of Hurricane Helene in the Carolina region.

“I would love to be there right now chainsawing trees down, or whatever that may be. Just trying to figure out, in what way can we have the most impact, right?,” added Combs, 34,



Eric Church, left, and Luke Combs, right, will co-headline “Concert for Carolina,” a benefit for Hurricane Helene victims, at Bank of America Stadium with James Taylor and Billy Strings.

who was born in Huntersville and raised in Asheville.

“Like Eric said, obviously, we wish that we didn’t have to be even having this conversation. But we are. So I think that’s where this concert comes in. This is something that we can

do to make to make an impact.”

Tickets for the “Concert for Carolina” will go on sale at 10 a.m. Thursday, with pricing to be announced. Church and Combs will be joined for the event by folk legend James Taylor, who has ties to Chapel

Hill; bluegrass star Billy Strings, who has performed regularly in North Carolina; along with Keith Urban, Sheryl Crow, and Bailey Zimmerman.

All proceeds from the event will be split evenly between Combs and Church’s Chief Cares Foundation, to be distributed to organizations of their choosing in support of relief efforts across “the Carolina region.”

The event is the brainchild of Combs, himself a Grammy nominee responsible for hits like “Forever After All” and “Fast Car.”

“I was just sitting at home and watching everything, and waiting to hear back from my friends and family, and I called this guy,” he said, gesturing to Church. “He was my first call. I was like, I know he’s gonna want to do something and step up. And I had the crazy idea of seeing if the Panthers would be willing to give us the stadium.”

The David and Nicole Tepper Foundation — which owns the team and already had pledged more than \$3 million to those impacted by the deadly storm that swept through the Carolinas on Sept. 26 and 27 — was all-in.

“Then,” Church added, “we both got on our phones and started texting people, calling

SEE CONCERT, 2C

MOVIE REVIEW

‘The Apprentice’ a portrait of Trump as young man

BY KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

There’s a scene late in “The Apprentice,” the new film directed by Ali Abbasi about the relationship between Donald J. Trump and the attorney Roy Cohn, that’s akin to Dr. Frankenstein realizing in horror just what he has made.

An ailing Cohn (Jeremy Strong) is being uncomfortably feted at the palatial Florida estate Mar-a-Lago for his birthday. His longtime protegee, Donald Trump (Sebastian Stan), seems to have ascended to the height of his powers (how things would develop three decades later is not yet known). Empowered by his own hubris, Trump builds and borrows and bangs with impunity, and a freewheeling sense of gleeful

The Apprentice

★★★

**Cast:** Sebastian Stan, Jeremy Strong, Martin Donovan  
**Director:** Ali Abbasi

**MPA rating:** R for sexual content, some graphic nudity, language, sexual assault, and drug use

**Running time:** 2 hours

**How to watch:** In selected theaters nationwide Oct. 11. Check local listings for availability.

combativeness. After an aggressive and somewhat insulting birthday



Jeremy Strong, left, and Sebastian Stan star in “The Apprentice.”

toast, Trump wheels out an American flag birthday cake festooned with sparklers, an ode to Cohn’s oft-repeated professions of love for America. Cohn, for the first time in the film, looks shaken. It’s the icing on top of what he already suspects: that he’s created a monster — a monster to whom America is a joke, a punchline, something to be devoured, like a can of Diet Coke, a blond model, or a bottle of cheap speed, all things that Donald consumes ravenously over the

course of the film’s runtime.

Abbasi’s “The Apprentice,” written by Vanity Fair political reporter and Roger Ailes biographer Gabriel Sherman, is a portrait of the former president as a young man. Stan delivers the performance of his career so far, embodying Trump from the early 1970s to the 1990s. The plot concerns Trump’s learning at the feet of Roy Cohn, the powerful attorney and political fixer known for his

SEE THE APPRENTICE, 2C