

# Winston-Salem Journal (NC): Page 1

October 23, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Winston-Salem, North Carolina Page: 1 OpenURL Link

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Winston-Salem Journal (online), 23 Oct 2024 1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
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# Winston-Salem Journal (NC): Page 8

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#### Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers

October 22, 2024 | Bertie Ledger-Advance (NC) Author: Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat Section: Across Carolina 814 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — After driving eight hours leading a convoy of more than 50 tractor-trailers of hay to Watauga County, it didn't take Kelton Keller but a minute to hop from his truck and begin unloading the hay for local farmers recovering from Hurricane Helene.

The convoy set off from Keller Farms near Litchfield, Ohio, at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15, before finally arriving in Watauga County around 2:30 p.m. According to Alyssa Keller, wife of Kelton Keller, the immense support from Ohio farmers started with a simple social media post.

"Last time something like this happened, there were some fires out in Colorado. He and a buddy loaded up some trucks and trailers and took some hay out there. When this happened here, he said let's try it again but make a Facebook post and see who would be interested in helping, and it exploded," Alyssa Keller said.

In about a week, the post had garnered the support of farmers across Ohio. While some included friends and family members of the Kellers, the vast majority were strangers who simply wanted to help in whatever way they could.

In addition to square bales, round bales and small bales, the donations that flowed in for the ag community on Tuesday also included feed for horses, chickens, goats and other farm animals, and dry goods, tarps, baby supplies, posts and barbed wire fencing, and dozens upon dozens of donated goods.

"It's a significant amount, and we hope it helps a lot of people," Keller said.

Keller said they first heard about the first-hand effects of Hurricane Helene from a family friend who was from the Boone area. A couple of phone calls later, they were able to contact Wine to Water and other community members.

She added that helping one's fellow neighbors is simply a matter of putting oneself in another person's shoes after seeing everything they've worked for suddenly vanish.

"There was a dairy farm in southern Ohio where their milk parlor caught fire," Keller said. "So my husband was part of a bunch of people who were able to haul out close to 1,500 milk cows that needed to be dispersed to different farms throughout Ohio and West Virginia. In the agriculture community, if someone needs something, they're going. They don't want anything back. They just want to help."

Watauga Extension Director Jim Hamilton estimated that the donated hay will last many livestock farmers through the month of December. Fortunately, work continues to ensure farmers do not go without. Nevertheless, Hamilton said the ongoing effort remains significant.

"We were looking for locations to store hay. We had hay coming in from different sources across the state. When we first heard this was coming in, we heard 25 trucks, then 40, then it got over 50. That's when logistical planning had to come into play," Hamilton said.

The ag extension began providing hay distribution to local farmers on Thursday, Oct. 17. The distributions, affectionately known as "Hay Days," are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. Farmers must call ahead of time to make reservations to pick up.

On Thursday, Hamilton said 30 to 40 local farmers showed up to pick up the hay delivered from Ohio and expects most of it will be claimed within the next week or so. He described the efforts thus far as a "good start."

"It was an enormous response from the ag community across the state and really from east of the Mississippi. There are also other warehouse spaces in western NC where hay will continue to be brought to, and we will coordinate with those larger places when the need arises," Hamilton said. "We've been blessed with an enormous outpouring of support from other farmers who recognize how dire the situation is."

Kendra Phipps, livestock agent with the Watauga County Agricultural Extension, said the immediate needs for livestock producers in the county after the hurricane hit were fencing and containing animals. She added that hay will continue to be a priority as winter sets in.

"Hay is going to be a need, probably through February and maybe even into March. There are people that have lost 300 to 500 bails of hay. Everything they were going to feed their cattle with this winter is gone," Phipps said.

As work continues to keep livestock farmers supplied throughout the winter, Phipps said recovery will be a long, sustained effort.

"These donations are coming from farmers across the country and across the state. They're not pity donations. They're agricultural community donations — farmers helping farmers. And I truly believe in my heart that if something like this happened anywhere else, we would be the ones helping. I know it's true because during the wildfires in Texas, we sent hay from North Carolina to Texas. That's just what we do. We help each other," Phipps said.

Call the Watauga County ag center's hay hotline at (828) 319-2543 to make a reservation to pick up hay. Copyright © 2024 Bertie Ledger-Advance. All rights reserved.

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Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat, 'Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers', *Bertie Ledger-Advance* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63E103AE82B70">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63E103AE82B70</a>



# Grandfather Mountain announces reopening date after temporary closure due to Hurricane Helene

October 22, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Chyna Blackmon, The Charlotte Observer | Section: c5\_travel | 600 Words OpenURL Link

Nearly a month after Hurricane Helene swept through western North Carolina, one of the state's most popular attractions is set to reopen.

After temporarily closing on Sept. 26, Grandfather Mountain will reopen Wednesday, Oct. 23.

"The Grandfather Mountain nature park was extremely fortunate to receive only minor damage. A small number of trees fell during the storm, and only a few washouts or small landslides have been discovered," the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation stated in a release. "The mountain was impacted by the electricity, internet and cell signal outages that were widespread across the region in the weeks following the storm. A few days after Helene, the park was able to confirm that all staff and the mountain's resident habitat animals were safe."

While park operations were on pause, the foundation said its focus has been on supporting local and even international nonprofits working to help those in need in the surrounding communities while the leadership team worked with officials on a reopening plan for the park.

"The decision to reopen Grandfather Mountain following the regional impacts of Hurricane Helene is not a responsibility that we take lightly," said Jesse Pope, president and executive director of the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation. "As some nearby towns open their doors to tourists, our intention is to help the community by giving these visitors an additional place to go and to not put a strain on those areas that can't accommodate outside travelers at this time."

inline link embed: Tweetsie Railroad theme park closed

First phase of Grandfather Mountain reopening

Beginning Oct. 23, the park will be open seven days a week, including the Wilson Center for Nature Discovery, Mildred the Bear Environmental Habitats, Top Shop and Mile High Swinging Bridge, Woods Walk, Bridge Trail, Black Rock Trail and Grandfather Loop.

Weather permitting, park entry will be open to guests from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with trails closing at 5 p.m. and the park closing at 6 p.m., the team said in the reopening announcement.

"We look forward to welcoming guests back to Grandfather Mountain," Pope said. "Our reopening will enable us to keep our entire staff employed this season and will benefit Avery County by way of tax dollars paid on admission tickets to the park. Our staff have worked tirelessly since the storm to help out the community, and I couldn't be more proud of, and thankful for, them."

Grandfather Mountain Reopening Oct. 23\_Photo by Leslie Restivo\_Courtesy of Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation.jpgGrandfather Mountain in Linville, North Carolina, which closed after Hurricane Helene, will reopen Oct. 23.

Helene disaster relief fund

During this time, the park will only be selling a limited number of tickets so guests are encouraged to book online in advance. The foundation is also still running its Hurricane Helene disaster relief fund, which guests can donate to when buying admission tickets online or in the park at the Wilson Center for Nature Discovery, Top Shop and Mildred's Grill.

"A lot of thought and consideration was put into this decision, and we hope that Grandfather Mountain's reopening will provide a sense of hope for our surrounding communities and local businesses," Pope said. "We know firsthand through our Helene relief work that our entire region still has a long road to recovery ahead of them and that there will be a delicate balance to strike throughout this process."

The Grandfather Mountain nature park and preserve is a separate entity from Grandfather Mountain State Park, which has not yet been reopened. Along with the state park portion of Grandfather Mountain, all state parks and recreation areas west of I-77 in Western North Carolina will be closed until at least the end of October.

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#### Tim Moore claims White House never called about Helene response. But it did

October 22, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Mary Ramsey, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north\_carolina | 492 Words OpenURL Link

North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore said during a Monday news conference President Joe Biden hasn't called him since Helene devastated parts of the state. But records show communication between his office and the White House.

Moore appeared alongside former President Donald Trump in Swannanoa on Monday, the Republican presidential candidate's first visit to the hard-hit region of North Carolina since Helene made landfall in late September.

"As the speaker of the state House, I've not gotten a single call from the White House, but this man and his team have been in touch with us from day one," Moore said about Trump.

But White House correspondence obtained by The Charlotte Observer shows Moore's office received two emails on Sept. 30 from a White House staff member offering assistance. A third email from the same White House advisor dated Oct. 4 references a phone call with Moore's office.

"Thanks for chatting on the phone earlier this week! Please let me know if there is anything I can do to support you all. I'm available by phone or email," the White House staffer wrote.

CLT\_TRUMP\_SWANNANOA\_29.JPGTim Moore, the speaker of North Carolina House of Representatives, center, speaks as former President Donald J. Trump, right, listens in Swannanoa, NC on Monday, October 21, 2024.

Moore also received invitations to attend two White House briefings on the federal response to Helene via Zoom, according to correspondence obtained by the Observer.

Moore spokeswoman Demi Dowdy told the Observer Moore "was clearly referring to the fact that neither President Biden nor (Vice President) Harris have reached out to him, not a staffer no one in his district has ever heard of."

"He was drawing a contrast between the calls he has personally received from former President Trump and his team since Day 1 and a couple of emails to our office from a White House staffer, who called and reached our office scheduler once," she said in a statement. "I only wish the White House's hurricane response was as rapid as the liberal media's defense of their communication with our office."

Trump was critical of the federal response in North Carolina during his visit to the Asheville area on Monday, repeating claims that FEMA spent "hundreds of millions" on things it wasn't supposed to, including undocumented immigrants. FEMA says it has not diverted disaster relief money to people living in the country without authorization.

Biden visited North Carolina's Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh in the days after Helene hit and took an aerial tour of Western North Carolina. Harris, Trump's Democratic opponent in the presidential election, visited Charlotte after the storm to get a FEMA briefing alongside state and local officials and meet with volunteers preparing care packages for people displaced by the storm.

Trump said Monday he wanted to visit Western North Carolina sooner but held off his visit to avoid interfering with relief efforts.

"I'm with you, and the American people will continue to be with you all the way," he said.

# Charlotte Reality Check Editors Note embed

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Mary Ramsey, The Charlotte Observer, 'Tim Moore claims White House never called about Helene response. But it did', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6041A74C83118>



# What's open and safe to do in Hendersonville after Helene hit Western North Carolina?

October 22, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Tamia Boyd, The Charlotte Observer | Section: c5\_travel | 1091 Words OpenURL Link

As Hurricane Helene passed through Western North Carolina, Hendersonville experienced some impact, but the community remains resilient.

"Hendersonville is pleased to welcome back visitors," Mayor Barbara Volk said in a news release. "Although we regret some of our businesses are still recovering from Helene's impacts, the majority of shops, restaurants, and attractions are fully open and ready to offer their usual warmth and hospitality. Fall is usually a busy time here and we know how much visitors contribute to our local economy."

Area officials said, right now, the best thing people can do to show their support is to visit the town.

"Every day we are asked, 'How can I help?'" tourism director Michelle Owens said in the release. "The best way to help right now is to visit. Employees at attractions, accommodations and in the service industry need to get back to work to put food on their tables, stabilize their families and repair their homes and cars. An impromptu getaway can make a big difference."

Jeter Mountain Farm 112637a - COURTESY Visit Hendersonville.jpgJeter Mountain Farm is among the Hendersonville businesses open and welcoming visitors.

You can browse our other guides to post-hurricane traveling in Western North Carolina here:

Beech MountainBlowing RockBooneBrevardCherokee

And here is what you need to know about traveling to Hendersonville in the near future.

Is travel to Hendersonville safe?

Hendersonville remains in a state of emergency, however Mayor Barbara Volk amended the State of Emergency to remove the curfew. The City of Hendersonville has also been finding ways to return to normalcy, including Blue Ridge Community College resuming classes.

Tom Wooten, Public Works Director of the City of Hendersonville, said via Instagram that crews are around town trying to cut up trees and get roadways back open.

"We've got the Greenway Trail open back up so folks can get out and walk that. We felt like that was important to get that open back up fast so folks can get back back to a little bit of normalcy," Wooten said.

I-26 through Hendersonville and Henderson County and many rural roads are back open and safe for travel. City and county officials recommend travelers to check in advance for real-time road closures.

With diverse geography, some areas in northeastern Henderson County will take a while to be restored before visitors can come. However, downtown Hendersonville and other places nearby are open.

HVL reopening weekend 2024-10-19a - CREDIT Visit Hendersonville.jpgHenderson is among the Western North Carolina towns welcoming back visitors in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. It's shops and businesses are open

and eager to serve tourists.

How to get to Hendersonville

Hendersonville is accessible from Charlotte via I-85 South to U.S. 74 West and I-26 West. Another option is taking I-85 South to I-26 West. From Raleigh/Durham, you can get there via I-40 West and I-85 South.

Can I stay in Hendersonville?

Numerous hotels and accommodations are open in Hendersonville and Henderson County. As of late October, there were 75 confirmed open post-Helene listings. Here are a few accommodation options to consider staying in:

"Happy Place" Mountain View Home

Location: 308 Forest Bend Drive, Horse Shoe, NC 28742

The "Happy Place" Mountain View Home is near Hendersonville and the Pisgah National Forest, which was recently reopened. Cozy up by the fireplace, or relax in a hammock outside and take in the view.

Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill

Location: 400 Ray Hill Road, Mills River, NC 28759

Bed & Breakfast on Tiffany Hill — which has been featured in Southern Living — is about 15 minutes outside of Hendersonville. Its breakfasts feature a three-course experience that include fruit, a main course and a dessert to finish things off "on a sweet note."

Cascades Mountain Resort

Location: 201 Sugarloaf Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Cascades Mountain Resort, part of the Ascend Hotel Collection, offers amenities such as a fitness center and indoor pool with a waterslide that families can enjoy year-round. One thing to note: The Old Orchard Tavern restaurant on the resort's website has since closed, so you'll want to plan to venture offsite for food.

Econo Lodge Hendersonville

Location: 206 Mitchelle Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28792

If you're looking for a pet-friendly place to stay, the Econo Lodge in Hendersonville is one to check out. Free coffee is available in the lobby each morning, too.

**Emerald Treehouse** 

Location: 199 Mitchell View Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Nature views surround Emerald Treehouse, where the accommodations include well-equipped kitchens and hot tubs. Outside, there's a twin bed sized porch swing for lounging and a fire pit to roast marshmallows while you enjoy a glass or wine or mug of hot chocolate.

What restaurants are open in Henderson County?

Restaurants in Henderson County and Hendersonville are largely open Here are a few local spots to check out:

Appalachian Mountain Brewery - Mills River

Location: 46 N Mills River Road, Mills River, NC 28759

The Mills River Taproom is Appalachian Mountain Brewery's first location outside of Boone. There is a 32-beer taplist at their tasting room that showcases beers, ciders, seltzers and cocktails.

Binion's Roadhouse

Location: 1565 Four Seasons Boulevard, Hendersonville, NC 28792

This roadhouse serves grilled steaks, chicken, burgers and, of course, BBQ ribs.

**Brooks Tavern** 

Location: 142 3rd Avenue W, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Along with craft beer and "giggle water" as the staff call cocktails, Brooks Tavern offers lunch, dinner and brunch on the weekends. Brooks Tavern offers an upscale taste of casual pub food.

Flat Rock Village Bakery

Location: 2710 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731

Got a sweet tooth? Flat Rock Village Bakery specializing in pastries, cookies, artisan breads, sandwiches and woodfired pizzas.

Harvey's @ The Henderson

Location: 201 3rd Avenue W, Hendersonville, NC 28739

The fine dining experience at Harvey's pays homage to the heyday of classic cuisines and signature cocktails.

Important information for Henderson County travelers

Here are need-to-know points for visiting Hendersonville and Henderson County:

Hurricane Helene damaged the Blue Ridge Parkway, and much of it remains closed until repairs can be made. Many local parks and the Oklawaha Greenway have reopened. Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock Park is closed with no estimated reopen date. Many agritourism and fall activities spots are open like u-pick apple orchards. Visitors can experience fall foliage by checking out Downtown Hendersonville, wineries, orchards, county and municipal parks. Some of the higher elevations have no leaves after Helene, but lower elevations have some good fall color, meteorologist Brad Panovich reported on Sunday, Oct. 20. Hendersonville's color should be visable through the first week of November, tourism officials said.

Resources to check before you go

Storm cleanup is an ever-changing situation, so make sure to get the most up-to-date information you can before you head out.

Visit Hendersonville NCCity of HendersonvilleNorth Carolina Department of TransportationVisitNC.com

Imagn-24497866.JPGPeople view pumpkins for sale at Granddad's Apples in Hendersonville, October 15, 2024.People view pumpkins for sale at Granddad's Apples in Hendersonville, October 15, 2024.

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#### Your ultimate guide for Thanksgiving 2024 preorder meals in the Charlotte area

October 22, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Mari Pressley, The Charlotte Observer | Section: c5\_food\_drink | 2870 Words OpenURL Link

With Thanksgiving 2024 fast approaching, it's time to get started on the most important part of the holiday — figuring out what's for dinner.

Whether you prefer dining out or pre-ordering a meal to enjoy at home, or you can't decide between a prix fixe experience or a la carte selections, there are plenty of Charlotte restaurants open to help you celebrate.

Here are the Charlotte restaurants and meal services serving up meals this Thanksgiving on Nov. 28. Make sure to check back, as we will add on more when information becomes available:

A La Minute

Location: 9545 Pinnacle Dr, Charlotte, NC 28262

A La Minute is offering up two size options: small, which feeds four to six, and large, which feeds eight to 12 for the family feast. As your meal will be delivered fully cooked and ready for reheating, the family feast is delivered in aluminum oven-safe pans. Individual meals will be served in A La Minute's usual service containers.

Note: all items are also available as a la carte options.

The family feast will include:

8 ounces turkey and 8 ounces ham (for each person)Three sides of your choice:Cranberry relishGravyCornbread

More menu options include:

HamTurkey breastSmoked gouda and cheddar macRoasted lemon asparagusSweet potato casseroleMaple glazed butternut squash

Price: The small family feast is \$149.99, and the large size is \$289.99.

Hours: Deliveries will be made between 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and pick-up time will take place between 3:30-7 p.m.

Angeline's

Location: 303 S Church St, Charlotte, NC 28202

Angeline's Thanksgiving meal will be a prix fixe menu, although a limited dinner menu will be available, as well.

The menu will include:

Roasted butternut squash soup and seasonal local greens with local chicories, Asian pear, gorgonzola, fried pecans and thyme vinaigrette Slow-roasted turkey served with herb jus and cranberry marmaladeCrispy Brussels sprouts tossed with pancetta and demi-sec figs Mashed Potatoes with whipped butter and chives Organic carrots with brown butter and sage Brioche stuffingGarden vegetables and herbs Pumpkin pie with caramel, nutmeg and

whipped cream

Price: \$48 per person for prix fixe meal, served family style. A three-course wine pairing is available for \$25.

Hours: 2-8 p.m., with the last reservation at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations: Via OpenTable.com.

The Asbury

Location: 235 North Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202

At The Asbury, expect a "modern Southern feast" with family-style appetizers such as deep fried deviled eggs and sticky biscuits, followed up by classic desserts like warm apple pie.

The menu will include:

Deep fried deviled eggsSticky biscuitsFried turkey with gravyPrime rib with rosemary au jusGarlic mashed potatoesRoasted asparagus with Parmesan cheeseRice pilafWarm caramel apple piePumpkin cheesecake

Price: \$55 for adults, \$25 for children 12 and younger.

Hours: 1-5 p.m.

Reservations: Via OpenTable.com

Buttermilk Sky Pie Shop

Location: 16836 D Birkdale Commons Pkwy, Huntersville, NC 28078

Looking for a dessert to add to to your Thanksgiving dinner? Buttermilk Sky Pie Shop's got you covered with several 9 inch pies and cookies that can be pre-ordered. Special desserts — some of which have gluten-free versions — include:

I-40 pecan pie Nanny's pecan pie Apple pie Key lime pie Spiced pumpkin piePeanut butterChocolate chess pie Thumbprint cookiesCloud cookies.

Price: Varies, as items are a la carte. Most pies are \$33-\$38. Cookies are \$15.

Hours: Order by Nov. 22

How to order: Online at https://order.toasttab.com/online/buttermilk-sky-pie-huntersville-north-carolina

untitled-38.jpgButtermilk Sky Pie pre-orders are available until Nov. 22. After that, prices go up, and selections aren't guaranteed.

The Capital Grille

Location: 201 N Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

The Capital Grille is hosting a Thanksgiving dinner, featuring slow-roasted turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes and more.

The menu will also include:

Brioche sage stuffingFrench green beans with Marcona almondsCranberry-pear chutneySam's Mashed PotatoesPecan-crusted sweet potatoes with hot honeyPumpkin cheesecake

Price: \$50 for adults, \$20 for children.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pre-order is available from Oct. 31 to Nov. 26. Pick-up will be on Nov. 27, from 9 a.m. to

5 p.m. and Nov. 28, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Reservations: www.thecapitalgrille.com

Chef Alyssa's Kitchen

Location: 4001-C Yancey Rd. #100, Charlotte, NC 28217

If you've got your hands full cooking the turkey, Chef Alyssa's Kitchen can handle the sides this year. Items come cold with reheating instructions, and most serve six to eight people.

And there's a bonus this year: Chef Alyssa's Kitchen is also hosting a Thanksgiving sides cooking class on Nov. 19 at 6 p.m.

Items available to order include:

Roasted garlic mashed potatoesMashed sweet potatoesGreen beans with creamy white bean sauce and prosciuttoBrown butter maple carrotsSmoked cauliflower and butternut squashClassic stuffing with cornbread, sage, roasted vegetable stockCranberry sauce with orange juice, thyme, spicesGreat Gravy (gluten-free available)Fresh baked dinner rolls (8) with whipped herb butter and honey butterSpiced apple pie with bourbon caramelPumpkin cheesecakePecan pie bars and vegan pumpkin cheesecake bars

Price: Vary, as items are a la carte, but most sides are \$35, and pies and cake are \$30.

Hours: Order by Nov. 21. Pick up or choose delivery Nov. 26, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Nov. 27, 10 a.m. and 4:30 pm.

How to order: Online at https://chefalyssaskitchen.com/thanksgiving-pre-order-menu/

Stuffing 2023.jpgChef Alyssa's Kitchen's Classic Stuffing is made with cornbread, sage and roasted vegetable stock.

Church & Union

Location: 127 N Tryon St #8, Charlotte, NC 28202

Church and Union is serving a three-course prix-fixe menu adorned with items such as cornbread stuffing, pork belly and whipped potatoes.

The menu will include:

Sweet potato bisqueSouthern saladBrown sugar pork belly Whipped potatoes Cornbread stuffing Roasted & confit turkey Seared salmon 8 ounce butcher's filetAcorn squash Black Forest cheesecakeRaspberry sorbet

Price: \$70 per person, \$30for kids 12 and under.

Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Reservations: Via OpenTable.com

City Barbecue

Location: Various locations in areas such as Matthews, Ballantyne, University Place and Huntersville

City Barbecue is bringing you a menu complete with smoked boneless ham, apple cobbler and sweet potato casserole, available from Nov. 20 to Jan. 1.

You can expect:

Pulled pork Beef brisketTurkey breastGreen beans Cornbread Mac & cheese Black bean burgersVeggie pesto pasta

Price: A small holiday meal (feeding four to six people) starts at \$59.99; the medium meal (feeding eight to ten people) starts at \$99.99 and the large holiday meal (feeding 20 to 24 people) starts at \$179.99.

Dates for pickup: From Nov. 20 to Dec. 1 and Dec. 18 to Jan. 1

Reservations: None

CB-ThanksgivingSpread-0008-FixedBrisket.jpgCity Barbecue is offering holiday meals you can pick up from late November through New Year's.

Cracker Barrel

Location: Multiple locations in Charlotte, Fort Mill, Matthews, Pineville and Rock Hill

Cracker Barrel, open during its normal hours, is serving up a wide range of Thanksgiving dinner options once again this year. And one highlight to note: You can now take home one of its Heat n' Serve feasts, available from Nov. 23 to Dec. 1, made for eight to 10 people.

You can expect:

Homestyle Turkey n' DressingCountry Fried Turkey platesGrandma's Holiday SamplerTurkey breastDressingTurkey gravyCranberry relishSweet potato casserole with pecansGreen beansMacaroni and cheeseDinner rollsFresh baked pies

Price: The Heat n' Serve feast ranges from \$114.99 to \$174.99

Hours: Vary by location

Reservations: None

Cracker Barrel heat and serve jpg.jpgCracker Barrel will be serving Heat n' Serve to-go dinners and will be open normal hours this Thanksgiving.

Eat, Gay, Love 2024

Location: Resident Culture, 332 W Bland St C, Charlotte, NC 28203

At the sixth annual inclusive Thanksgiving dinner, expect to spread the love. The event, led by Queen City Nerve and Brian DuBois in partnership with Resident Culture Brewing, is a free dinner on Thanksgiving, open to any LGBTQIA+ community members.

Price: Free, but you can make a donation here.

Hours: 2 -5 p.m.

Reservations: Via Eventbrite.com

Fern

Location: The Morehead Inn, 122 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28204

Although Fern has recently shut its doors, the restaurant is ready to deliver some vegan Thanksgiving options in partnership with Something Classic Catering.

Its menu will include:

Truffle Mac & CheeseCoconut Curry Pumpkin BisqueDark Chocolate Dipped Bourbon Pecan TrufflesRustic Shepherd's PieYour Mom's Thanksgiving StuffingTarragon gravy Roasted Brussels sproutsCranberry compoteWinter Harvest Salad with vegan gorgonzola

Price: A la carte.

Hours: Pick-up at The Morehead Inn. Delivery is available on Tuesday, Nov. 26, from 1-6 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where to order: Somethingclassic.com

La Belle Helene

Location: 300 S Tryon St Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28202

On La Belle Helene's three-course prix-fixe Thanksgiving menu, the restaurant puts a Parisian twist on the usual holiday classics with roasted turkey served with brioche stuffing, green bean almondine, pommel purée and veloute, as well as a sweet potato financier dessert option with toasted pepitas, roasted sweet potato purée and honey sage chantilly.

You can expect:

Cauliflower soupLittle gem saladBeef tartare Salmon a la plancha Lamb saddle roulade

Price: \$75

Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Reservations: Via OpenTable.com

Mac's Speed Shop

Location: 2511 South Blvd. Charlotte. NC 28203

Location: 2414 Sandy Porter Rd, Charlotte, NC 28273

Location: 142 E John St, Matthews, NC 28105

Location: 8021 Concord Mills Boulevard, Concord, NC 28027

Location: 19601 Liverpool Pkwy, Cornelius, NC 28031

Mac's Speed Shop is offering Family Bundles to celebrate the holidays, along with a la carte side options and addons. Offerings include:

Family Bundle for 4 – turkey, two sides, two pints of gravy Family Bundle for 8 – turkey, two pounds of brisket, three sides, two pints of gravyFamily Bundle for 12 – two turkeys, four sides, four pints of gravy Green bean casseroleGarlic Parmesan mashed potatoesCollard greensCreamed cornMac 'n' cheeseBBQ beansTurkey, one pint of gravy Dozen deviled eggs Two pounds brisketFamily-style banana puddingPecan pie

Hours: Orders placed before Nov. 17 for Thanksgiving come with a \$10 coupon to use for dine-in at any location in December. Pickup Nov. 13-Nov. 27.

Price: Varies, as items are a la carte. Family bundles are \$135-\$250.

Where to order: Online at macspeedshop.com/turkey.

Mac's Speed Shop\_Turkey\_and\_Thanksgiving\_sides\_Photo Courtesy of NiceDay Creative.jpgMac's Speed Shop's turkey and Thanksgiving sides are available in Family Bundles or as a la carte items.

Marlie Q's

Location: Mobile

Marlie Q's can offer a Caribbean take on your Thanksgiving celebrations. Its list of options includes:

Jerk turkeyBaked mac and cheeseFried plantainsSweet potato souffleJamaican greensGarlic green beans

Hours: Place your catering order by Nov. 18.

Price: A la carte.

Where to order: https://www.marlieqs.com/

Metro Diner

Location: 8334 Pineville-Matthews Rd Suite 110, Charlotte, NC 28226

Location: 14211 Reese Boulevard, Huntersville, NC 28078

Location: 10412 E Independence Blvd #400, Matthews, NC 28105

Metro Diner is serving up Heat & Serve Holiday Feasts To-Go, with selections of baked ham or roasted turkey and sides including mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, Hawaiian dinner rolls and savory cornbread stuffing or macaroni and cheese or street corn. The meals come ready to reheat and can be customized to serve a party of one, four or eight.

Hours: Order before midnight Nov. 8 to get a free Pumpkin Bread Pudding. Final deadline is Nov. 26.

Price: A feast for one is \$16.79, for four is \$63.99 and for eight is \$125.49.

Where to order: Online by location.

Midwood Smokehouse

Location: 12410 Johnston Rd, Charlotte, NC 28277

Location: 16710 Birkdale Commons Pkwy, Huntersville, NC 28078

Location: 540 Brandywine Rd, Charlotte, NC 28209

Location: 1401 Central Ave, Charlotte, NC 28205

Midwood Smokehouse is offering a menu of smoked proteins, sides and desserts including Banana Pudding and Pecan Cobbler. Party packs are also available, which come with your choice of pork, chicken or brisket, slider buns and a choice of two sides. All items come cold and ready to reheat.

Sides options are:

Mac and cheeseCollard greensBaked beansColeslawBroccoli casserole

Price: Varies, as items are a la carte. Party packs for four start at \$50, and party packs for 20-24 people are \$185.

Hours: Orders must be placed by Nov. 22, and pickup is on Nov. 26-27.

How to order: Online by location at https://midwoodsmokehouse.com/

Mimosa Grill

Location: 327 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

Mimosa Grill will feature a buffet including classic turkey-day dishes and sides, an array of fresh seafood and a dessert display. Plus, you can order your favorite Thanksgiving dishes ahead of time with the "Turkeys on the Run" option by calling 704-343-0700 by Friday, Nov. 22.

The menu includes:

Whole turkeysPit smoked hamGreen bean casseroleCranberry relishRoasted Brussels sproutsMimosa's signature macaroni and cheeseApple pie

Price: \$55 for adults, \$25 for children 10 and under.

Hours: The buffet is available from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Reservations: Via Resy.com

Renaissance Pâtisserie

Location: 6401 Carnegie Blvd. # 4A, Charlotte, NC 28211

Renaissance Pâtisserie is offering a variety of items for holiday pre-order, including cakes, breads, catering platters, cookies and holiday dinners. The dinners include:

Classic oven roasted turkey breast, Cranberry, raisin and pecan stuffing Mashed sweet potatoes with traditional marshmallow brûlée Haricots verts almondine with roasted shallots Cranberry relish turkey gravy

Price: Varies, as items are a la carte. A holiday dinner for four is \$199+, and for six it's \$279+.

Hours: Order before Nov. 21.

How to order: At https://www.renaissancepatisserienc.com/, call 980-819-8771 or email

RenaissancePatisserie@gmail.com

Salted Melon Market & Eatery

Location: 100 W Worthington Ave Suite 107, Charlotte, NC 28203

Salted Melon's South End location is offering a full slate of Thanksgiving favorites so you can create the holiday

meal of your dreams.

The menu includes:

 ${\tt Cooked\ and\ uncooked\ beef\ tenderloin Breads\ and\ specialty}$ 

itemsSidesSoupsVegetablesDesserts including cakes and pies

Price: A la carte

Hours: Place your order before Nov. 24, 5 p.m. Plckup is at South End location only Nov. 26-27, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where to order: www.saltedmelon.com

[MORE MELON: A second location of this Charlotte restaurant, market is now open.]

Sanctuary Bistro

Location: 6414 Rea Road, Suite c2, Charlotte, NC 28277

You can indulge in a 100% vegan and gluten-free Thanksgiving at Sanctuary Bistro with items such as mushroom

gravy, butternut squash coconut curry, sweet potato casserole and more.

The menu will include:

Artichoke dipMushroom gravy Cranberry sauceMashed potatoesButternut squash coconut curry bisqueSpicy smoky

cheddarSweet potato casseroleLemon peppercorn cashew chevre

Price: A la carte

Hours: Place your order by 9 p.m. on Nov. 12. Pick up will be on Nov. 26 between 8-10:45 a.m.

Where to order: Via SanctuaryBistro.com

IMG\_5303.JPGSanctuary Bistro's Tofu Roast is seasoned Tofu stuffed with oyster mushrooms, butternut squash,

caramlized onions and spinach wrapped with seasoned Yuba Skin and served with a basting sauce and veggies.

STK

Location: 201 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202

STK's Thanksgiving meal is available for pre-order and for holiday dine-in service, with a DJ will be spinning tunes

from noon onward.

The Thanksgiving menu will include roasted free-range turkey and classic holiday sides, along with spiced pumpkin

pie.

Price: Not yet available

How to order/make reservations: https://stksteakhouse.olo.com/

STK Fall2021(154of237).jpgSTK will have Thanksgiving dinner service along with pre-order meals.

Sullivan's Steakhouse

Location: 1928 South Blvd #200, Charlotte, NC 28203

This Thanksgiving, Sullivan's Steakhouse is giving customers options to dine in or pick up one of its Take and Bake Feasts.

At the restaurant, diners can select from its full dinner menu or go with the Sullivan's Roasted Turkey Thanksgiving menu.

The Thanksgiving meal includes:

A selection of starters such as iceberg lettuce wedge, Caesar salad, market fresh greens or shrimp & lobster bisque. Hand-carved roasted turkeySweet onion apple sausage stuffinggGravy Cranberry relishChoice of two sides with options including garlic mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole with pecan crust, roasted Brussels sprouts with applewood smoked bacon or buttered asparagus. Dessert choices are New York-style cheesecake with pumpkin anglaise, key lime pie or berries & cream.

Price: \$51 per adult for dine-in service and \$25 for children; Thanksgiving Take and Bake pricing is not yet available.

How to order/make reservations: https://www.sullivanssteakhouse.com/

Sullivan's Steakhouse\_Thanksgiving 3 Course.jpgSullivan's Steakhouse will offer a three-course Thanksgiving meal.

Table & Twine

Location: 2600 Youngblood St, Charlotte, NC 28203

Table & Twine is serving up a variety of Thanksgiving packages, including a sides and dessert package, a brunch package and an appetizer package.

The menu will include:

Savory brioche stuffing Cranberry chutney Traditional turkey gravyButtermilk mashed potatoesSweet potato casseroleButterscotch apple pie

Price: \$69.99 to \$299.99

Hours: Pickup and delivery will be available on Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, Nov. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

How to order: Via Tableandtwine.com.

Thanksgiving Appetizer Package-1.jpgTable & Twine's appetizer package serves up to eight people.

Thoughtful Baking Co.

Location: 901 Berryhill Rd, Charlotte, NC 28208

Thoughtful Baking Co. is the go-to spot for all-things pie, as you can grab chicken pot pies, pumpkin pies or even a vegan dutch apple pie to satisfy all those post-Thanksgiving dinner cravings. And, get one pot pie and pair it with a dessert pie for \$50 with its Dinner + Dessert meal option.

Pies you can expect:

Brown Butter Apple Crisp (gluten free) Triple layered pumpkin pieDutch apple pie (vegan)Turkey dinner pieMaple pecan pieChocolate cream pieShepherd's pie Veggie pot pie (vegan)Quiche

Price: \$12 to \$30.

Hours: Nov. 26 at Ballantyne Market from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Matthews Market from 4 to 7 p.m.; Nov. 27 at Regional Market and 901 Berryhill Rd. from 12 to 2 p.m.

How to order: Via thoughtfulbakingco.com

TURKEY\_DINNER.jpgThoughtful Baking's turkey dinner pie.

Yafo Kitchen

Location: 1231A East Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28203

Location: 1331 Central Ave #101, Charlotte, NC 28205

Location: 720 Gov Morrison St #120, Charlotte, NC 28211

At Yafo, the pre-order menu of holiday items comes cold with reheating instructions so you're ready for the big day.

The menu includes:

Shawarma spiced rotisserie turkey breast (2 lbs)Shai's holiday brisket (1.5 lbs)Brussels sproutsCreamy mashed potatoesGreek yogurt mac & cheeseFingerling sweet potatoesScratch-made gravyCranberry walnut relishHummus & pita chipsCaramel apple cake

Price: Varies, as items are a la carte.

Hours: Orders must be scheduled for pickup on Nov. 27.

How to order: Online at https://order.toasttab.com/online/yafo-kitchen#!/

Your Farms Your Table

Location: City Kitch, 2200 Thrift Road, Charlotte, NC 28208

Your Farms Your Table is taking holiday orders for heat-and-serve dinners for two to eight people and chef Sam Diminich's lasagnas, which feed 12 people. The holiday menu includes:

Rock shrimp, grilled corn and smoked bacon chowderCountry ham biscuit board with peach and tangerine jam, whole grain mustard, Julian's lettuces, whipped butterArugula cobb salad with creamy Your Farms Your Table buttermilk dressingRoasted Bell & Evans turkey with sage gravy; brioche rolls; Yukon gold smashed potatoes; New

Orleans-style wild rice, andouille and tomatoes; delicata squash, apples and cranberries; vegetable medley with roasted Brussels sprouts, Isaac's potatoes; heirloom carrots and green beansButtermilk bread pudding with maple anglaise and cinnamon; pumpkin five-spice tarts with brown sugar and whipped cream

Menu

Price: Dinner for two is \$175, and dinner for eight is \$500. Lasagnas are \$150.

How to order: www.yourfarmsyourtable.com

Deadline: Nov. 13

Pickup: Nov. 27, 5-6 p.m.
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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Mari Pressley, The Charlotte Observer, 'Your ultimate guide for Thanksgiving 2024 preorder meals in the Charlotte area', Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E8FA469D3108>



#### Edenton council hires firm to perform worker salary study

October 22, 2024 | Chowan Herald, The (NC) Author: Miles Layton Correspondent | Section: Local | 462 Words OpenURL Link

EDENTON — Edenton Town Council has given the go-ahead for a consulting firm to conduct a salary study that will recommend how much town employees should be paid based on comparisons to other towns and other metrics.

Town Council agreed earlier this month to hire the Management Personnel Services Group to conduct the study at a cost of \$22,500. In addition, the town will be billed for the firm's expenses and travel time. The town hired the MAPS group in 2017 to conduct a similar study.

According to town documents, the MAPS group will conduct a comprehensive pay and classification study and update the town's personnel policy. The study's objectives include:

Studying and evaluating all positions covered by the North Carolina Local Government Employees Retirement System for the purpose of determining the proper position classification and salary for each employee.

Conducting a comprehensive salary survey of appropriate public and private sector organizations to determine that the town's salaries, benefits and wages are competitive within the applicable job market.

Preparing or updating class specifications for each position class based upon current job duties and requirements, and outlining appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act information.

Preparing a pay plan for the town to maintain a competitive system of salaries and wages.

Identifying those classes of positions that are "exempt" and "non-exempt" in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Reviewing and making recommendations concerning the effectiveness of the town's overall compensation system, including "compression issues."

Updating the personnel policy to reflect modern and effective staff management and the most recent laws, regulations and court cases.

During Mayor Hackney High's report, he praised Town Manager Corey Gooden and others who recently traveled to western North Carolina to help residents of Old Fort, a town of about 800 residents, bring its water and sewer systems back online in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

"Over the weekend, I received a call by a gentleman named Harlan Culvers (who is) with the Forsyth County Incident Management Team," High said. "He was operations chief there in Old Fort. He wanted to thank the council, me, and the citizens for allowing both of our employees to go to Old Fort. And he said quite simply without them, they would not be up and operational right now."

High said he had spoken with Old Fort Mayor Pam Snipes and she also had been complementary of Gooden.

"Once Corey got there, they basically made him the operations chief for water and sewer," High said. "She indicated that Eric (Hollins) and Corey hit the ground running immediately, identified the problem areas, and immediately came up with a solution. ... We're to make sure that the citizens and town council and Corey and Eric Hollins know that they appreciate you guys being there."

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Miles Layton Correspondent, 'Edenton council hires firm to perform worker salary study', *Chowan Herald, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63E7D4FABD358">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63E7D4FABD358>



# Could North Carolina flip blue? The battleground state's voting record, by the numbers

October 22, 2024 | Chronicle, The (Duke University) (Durham, NC) Author: Ana Despa | Section: News | 1388 Words OpenURL Link

As Election Day approaches, all eyes are on North Carolina. However, the state is no stranger to the political spotlight.

While a Republican presidential candidate has carried the state in every election since 1976 — barring 2008 — the margins of victory have been razor thin, threading under 3.7% in the past four election cycles.

To see how politics have evolved in North Carolina over the years, The Chronicle conducted an independent analysis of the state's voting history using publicly available election data. Our figures were sourced primarily from the North Carolina State Board of Elections, which reports data going back to 2004.

The Chronicle found that voter turnout, shifting demographics and political change from the Trump era will likely be crucial factors influencing the state's decision this November.

How did North Carolina become a battleground state?

From 1856 to 1964, North Carolina voted Democratic in all but three presidential elections, like much of the South. At the time, the Democratic Party stood for a limited federal government and opposed Republican-led Reconstruction efforts after the Civil War.

However, following the Great Depression in the early 1930s, Democratic president Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation shifted the party's platform towards creating a stronger federal government. Despite this change, North Carolina continued to vote Democrat due to its historical ties and its opposition to Reconstruction.

The southern political arena fundamentally changed in the 1960s during the civil rights era.

In contrast to the larger Democratic Party, Southern states expressed opposition to the Civil Rights Movement, particularly after Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Profiting from the rift, the Republican Party launched its "Southern strategy," solidifying their base of support in the region for decades to come.

By the 1976 election, much of the South had turned red. North Carolina stood out as a ballot-splitting exception, regularly voting Democrat in gubernatorial elections but leaning Republican in presidential ones.

Could North Carolina flip blue this year?

Young voters and Black voters could hold the key.

Democrats carried North Carolina twice in the past 12 election cycles — Jimmy Carter in 1976 and Barack Obama in 2008 — also securing the presidency in both instances.

Carter's success was likely influenced by broad dissatisfaction with the Republican Party amid the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal. Obama's win, however, showcased an important trend of high turnout among Black voters and young voters — demographics which have supported Democrats at higher rates in recent years. This same trend was seen when President Joe Biden unexpectedly carried Georgia in the 2020 election.

In 2020, 68% of Black registered voters in North Carolina went to the polls. 92% reported voting for Biden in exit

poll data. This election cycle, however, Black voters' support for the Democratic Party has notably slipped. Cross-Tabs conducted in September by the New York Times and Siena College show that only 84% of N.C. Black likelyvoters would vote for Harris.

North Carolina has a higher number of Black voters than the national average, with Black residents making up 21% of the state's citizen voting age population this election cycle, nine percentage points above the national average. Harris recently announced a plan to provide economic opportunity for Black men, hoping to boost enthusiasm for her campaign among this crucial voting bloc.

Young voter turnout in North Carolina is also above the national average and has been rising over the past several election cycles, though it remains the lowest of any age group. Just 60% of registered voters ages 18 to 25 cast a ballot in the 2020 election, compared to 84.1% of those over the age of 65.

North Carolina's growing population and demographic shifts could tip the scale.

North Carolina's voting map shows concentrated pockets of blue amid a sea of red — notably in cities including Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham and Winston-Salem.

Per The Chronicle's analysis, in the past five election cycles, 16 out of North Carolina's 100 counties have always voted Democratic, while 65 always went Republican. Five out of the six most densely populated counties have voted Democratic since 2008.

Though, the state's shifting demographics may influence the extent to which cities vote blue.

Based on 2022 census data, the state's population has grown 11.7% since 2010, with newcomers disproportionately settling in cities and sprawling into the suburbs. The two most populated counties in the state — Wake and Mecklenburg, which are home to the cities of Raleigh and Charlotte — have seen the largest growth at 29.6% and 24.1%, respectively.

Most newcomers are from Florida, Virginia, South Carolina, New York and California. If these residents vote along traditional urban/rural lines, North Carolina's urban counties could be tallying even more Democratic ballots this year.

Meanwhile, suburban voters have shifted their political support to Democrats this cycle. The September Cross-Tabs data show that 49% of North Carolina's suburban voters would vote for Harris, which is a 10 percentage point increase from the number of voters who reported voting for Biden in 2020 exit poll data.

Some historically blue counties flipped during the Trump era, but Republican support was lost in one crucial city.

Trump narrowly won North Carolina in 2016 and 2020, with margins of victory of 3.70% and 1.35%, respectively.

In his first run for office, three counties that had never voted Republican in elections dating back to 2004 — Gates, Richmond and Robeson — turned red. These counties all voted for Trump again in 2020 alongside Scotland County, which also voted blue in elections prior.

The three counties neighbor each other along the eastern side of North Carolina's border with South Carolina. They are rural counties with shrinking populations that are shifting towards an older demographic. Robeson County — the largest of the three with around 120,000 people — hosts the headquarters of the state-recognized Lumbee tribe, making it a minority-majority county with 38% of its population being Native American. Scotland and Richmond are predominantly white and each have populations of 30,000 to 40,000 people.

Despite significant increases in voter turnout in all three counties, their votes only accounted for 1.51% of all N.C. votes in the 2020 election. Still, in a state projected to be a toss-up, this region's shift towards Trump may be a factor to track on Nov. 5.

Only one county that had historically voted Republican changed its affiliation in the Trump-era: New Hanover, the third most densely populated county in the state.

Home to Wilmington, New Hanover County went blue for the first time since at least 2004. Prior to that election, it was the only major city in the state considered a Republican stronghold. This cycle, it has emerged as a political hotspot, with Second Gentlemen Doug Emhoff, Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance and Trump hosting rallies in the city with the hopes of securing its citizens' votes.

New Hanover has seen steadily increasing voter turnout — which reached nearly 70% — and accounted for 2.4% of all North Carolinian votes in the 2020 election.

Other trends

Three N.C. counties have always voted for the candidate that ended up carrying the state.

Caswell, Hyde and Jackson counties have voted the same as the overall state in every election since at least 2004.

No county has been perfectly aligned with the national outcome in all five most recent election cycles, although 10 out of North Carolina's 100 counties have come close, voting for the overall winner four out of five times.

Party affiliation does not always define North Carolinians' voting habits.

While Republicans have won North Carolina's electoral votes in most presidential elections since 1976, Democrats hold the winning record in N.C. gubernatorial races, with a Democratic governor elected in nine of the last 12 elections.

Voting data provides little explanation for this split outcome. Gubernatorial races in North Carolina occur in the same year as presidential races, and the races receive a nearly identical number of votes. In other words, people are voting for both races on the same day but are splitting their ballot between parties.

These trends could indicate that voters are showing up informed on Election Day, opting to choose candidates on an individual basis rather than based on a party label.

Hurricane Helene could impact voter turnout in Western North Carolina and may be an important trend to track on Election Day. Previous analysis and reporting by The Chronicle on affected voters can be found here.

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Ana Despa | Associate News Editor

Ana Despa is a Pratt sophomore and an associate news editor for the news department.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

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# Helene: Still 26 unaccounted for, 96 fatalities in North Carolina

October 22, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Alan Wooten | The Center Square | Section: State | 222 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Twenty-six remain unaccounted for and 96 are confirmed dead from Hurricane Helene's impact in North Carolina.

The numbers come from Gov. Roy Cooper and the state Department of Health and Human Services, respectively. This is the fourth week of recovery from the storm that arrived in Florida on Sept. 26 as a Category 4 hurricane, then dissipated over the mountains and Tennessee.

The state's 96 fatalities include 42 in Buncombe County, 11 in Yancey, seven in Henderson and five in Haywood.

Some areas are still getting supplies and moving about by horseback. Tuesday morning at 10, the state road closures report at DriveNC.org listed 470 – 398 secondary roads, 39 state roads, 31 federal highways and two on interstates. A release from the governor said 789 closures have been reopened.

The state Department of Transportation, a release says, has about 2,000 personnel and 900 pieces of equipment involved in the recovery process. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration approved \$100 million to North Carolina on Oct. 5; state Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger told The Carolina Journal it helps but "is just a drop in the bucket" of what is needed.

Seven school districts have yet to reopen; 28 have opened.

According to PowerOutage.us, 2,841 were without power in Yancey County on Tuesday morning and 568 in neighboring Mitchell County.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Alan Wooten | The Center Square, 'Helene: Still 26 unaccounted for, 96 fatalities in North Carolina', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C62F28AE8A5268">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C62F28AE8A5268</a>>



#### New poll has Democrats slightly leading Republicans across the ticket

October 22, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Elyse Apel | The Center Square | Section: State | 406 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – With two weeks until Election Day, a new poll found that Vice President Kamala Harris is leading former President Donald Trump by 1% in North Carolina.

In the latest High Point University Poll, Harris received 47% of the vote while Donald Trump got 46%.

The poll was conducted from Thursday through Sunday and surveyed 1,164 registered voters.

Harris wasn't the only Democrat leading in the poll.

In the heated race for governor, the poll found that Democrat Josh Stein received 50% while Republican Mark Robinson got 34%.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, 2% more voters said they planned to vote for the Democratic candidate in their congressional district over the Republican candidate.

This poll shows that North Carolina still firmly holds its position as one of seven consensus battleground states, with Trump leading Project 538's polling average by 1%.

Two other polls from the last week have Harris leading by either 1% or 2%, which is well within the margin of error.

North Carolina has been the focus of both campaigns over the last few months, with Trump appearing Monday on a campaign visit to Greenville and in the mountains to check on Hurricane Helene devastation.

Republicans remain confident of their chances, even as Democrats vie to win the state for the first time since Barack Obama won it in 2008 and only the second time since 1964.

Trump has been steadily increasing his polling lead in the last few weeks. He also outperformed the polls here both four and eight years ago, winning the state twice.

For example, in 2020, Biden was polling 1.8% ahead of Trump going into Election Day and lost by 1.3%. The Democrat never trailed in the final months, and was 1.2% ahead at this same time.

The High Point University Poll found that the majority (60%) of those polled believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. Nearly that many also stated they disapprove of President Joe Biden's job as president.

Interestingly enough, some voters do not seem to think of Biden and Harris as the same administration. While 57% said they disapprove of Biden, only 48% said they disapprove of Harris' job.

While it is unclear who it will benefit, early in-person voting has been very high in North Carolina since first beginning last week. Absentee by mail ballots went out in September.

So far, nearly 20% of all registered voters in the state have already cast their ballots. Republicans have turned in ballots at record percentages.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

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# Average Car Insurance Rates as of October 2024 | Insurify

October 22, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: National | 969 Words OpenURL Link

The overall average cost of car insurance per month stuck at \$150 in September, buoyed by a slight decrease in the average cost of full-coverage car insurance, according to Insurify data.

The national average cost of liability-only car insurance also remained steady in September at \$104 per month. But the full-coverage monthly average fell from \$196 in August to \$195 by the end of September. Across the states, averages were a mixed bag, with some states seeing noteworthy decreases in rates and others experiencing substantial increases.

For example, Connecticut drivers saw the biggest decrease in the state's average full-coverage rate — down \$96 in September. Meanwhile, New York had the greatest increase in the full-coverage average, up \$136 per month.

Average cost of car insurance by state as of Oct. 1, 2024

Insurance rates can vary greatly based on location, which influences factors like exposure to extreme weather, traffic congestion, and vehicle crime rates.

Liability car insurance rates climbed in most states, with the greatest spikes occurring in New York, where the average increased by \$160, and Maryland, where the average rose by \$29. Full-coverage rates, however, dropped in most states. Connecticut and Washington experienced the greatest declines in full-coverage costs — \$96 and \$69, respectively.

5 states with the highest car insurance rates as of October 2024

Maryland had the highest overall average at \$266, and the highest full-coverage average at \$331 per month. Here are the states with the highest overall averages in September.

5 states with the lowest car insurance rates as of October 2024

North Carolina's overall average rate was the lowest of all the states in September, at just \$83 per month. But the Tarheel State was one of a handful of states that saw full-coverage averages edge up in September. And as Hurricane Helene's impact on the state becomes more evident in the coming months, it's possible the state will continue to see its average car insurance rates increase.

Here are the five states with the lowest overall average car insurance rates in September.

Factors that affect car insurance rates

Car insurance rates can vary significantly among drivers based on many factors that insurers use to estimate risk. Some common rating factors include:

Driving history: Insurers consider whether a driver has a clean record or infractions such as speeding, driving under the influence, or causing an accident. Age: Driving experience and accident risks closely correlate with age, actuarial data shows. Gender: Statistically, women are less likely to cause accidents and engage in risky behaviors like aggressive driving. Location: Where a policyholder lives and drives affects their exposure to risk factors such as extreme weather, vehicle crime rates, and accident rates. Credit history: Actuarial data indicates drivers with better credit are less likely to file car insurance claims than those with poor credit. Vehicle make and model: Vehicles that

are less expensive or that have multiple safety features cost less to insure. Vehicle usage: Driving fewer miles per year reduces a vehicle's exposure to the day-to-day risks of driving. Vehicle equipment: Safety features like lane-keeping assist and blind-spot warning can help decrease the risk of accidents. Coverage type: Generally, liability-only coverage costs less than full-coverage car insurance. Coverage limits: The amount of coverage you buy affects annual premiums; minimum coverage is typically the cheapest but doesn't offer enough financial protection for most drivers. Deductible: A higher collision and comprehensive coverage deductible (liability coverage has no deductible) reduces rates since the insurer assumes less risk for the cost of repairs.

How to save on car insurance

Every state except New Hampshire requires drivers to carry at least a minimum amount of liability coverage. Insurance professionals recommend buying more coverage for greater financial protection in at-fault accidents. And if a driver leases or finances a vehicle, the leasing company or lender will require them to buy full-coverage car insurance.

Drivers can take steps to reduce the cost of car insurance, including:

Drive safely. Avoid speeding, hard braking, distracted driving, and other risky driving behaviors that could cause a claim. Look for discounts. Most insurers offer discounts, such as good student or multi-car discounts, that can help reduce premiums. Increase the deductible. A higher collision/comprehensive deductible typically leads to lower rates. Adjust coverages. Liability-only coverage is the cheapest insurance available, and minimum coverage is the cheapest liability option. But drivers should be careful and buy enough coverage to adequately protect them financially. Comparison shop. Drivers should compare rates from multiple companies every time their policy comes up for renewal.

#### Methodology

Insurify data scientists analyzed more than 97 million rates from car insurance applications in Insurify's proprietary database to calculate the premium averages displayed on this page. These premiums are real quotes that come directly from Insurify's 50+ partner insurance companies in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. All premium averages reflect the cost of car insurance for drivers between the ages of 20 and 70 with a clean driving record and average or better credit.

For most states, full-coverage premium prices represent two-year rolling medians in order to manage extreme market volatility seen over the past few years as insurance companies have sought substantial rate increase approvals and deprioritized writing new policies in the face of rapidly rising costs.

Liability-only premium prices — as well as full-coverage prices in Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont — represent one-year rolling medians.

Liability-only premium averages correspond to policies with the following coverage limits:

Bodily injury limits between state-minimum rates and \$50,000 per person, \$100,000 per accidentProperty damage limits between \$10,000 and \$50,000No additional coverage

Full-coverage premium averages correspond to the same bodily injury and property damage limits in addition to:

Comprehensive coverage with a \$1,000 deductible Collision coverage with a \$1,000 deductible

For full-coverage historical data, please visit Insurify's Auto Insurance Data Center. Data housed in the Data Center dates back to 2021 and represents the median yearly cost of full coverage for drivers between the ages of 20 and 70 with a clean driving record and average or better credit.

Related articles

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Average Car Insurance Rates as of October 2024 | Insurify', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C62F274F7F6C28">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C62F274F7F6C28</a>



# **Community Calendar**

October 22, 2024 | Courier-Tribune, The (Asheboro, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Entertainment | 484 Words OpenURL Link

#### Community Calendar

The information listed is what was provided to the Courier-Tribune. If details, including dates and times, change please contact the newspaper to update the listing.

Thursday, Oct. 247 p.m.: "Scream" (R) screening in Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. Tickets, \$5: www.SunriseTheater.com, Sunrise office or at the doors.

12:55 p.m.: Metropolitan Opera live stream of Jeanine Tesori's "Grounded" at Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. Tickets: \$29.50; sunrisetheater.com, 910-692-3611 or at box office starting at 12:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 25

8 p.m.: "Rocky Horror" (R) outdoor screening at Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. Guest with best costume will win a Sunrise bundle. Tickets, \$10: www.sunrisetheater.com/movies.

Saturday, Oct. 26

11 a.m.-3 p.m.: "Spectacle: Experience the extraordinary" benefit at Starworks, 100 Russell Drive, Star. "Raise the paddle" to support artists affected by Hurricane Helene, theatrics, special guest artists, luncheon, live jazz and silent and live auctions. Tickets: General, \$150; couples, \$250; and Starworks alumni, \$50. Live-auction absentee bidding: support@starworksnc.org. Info and tickets: StarworksNC.org/spectacle or Starworks' School House Gallery.

8 p.m.: "Rocky Horror" (R) outdoor screening at Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. Guest with best costume will win a Sunrise bundle. Tickets, \$10: www.sunrisetheater.com/movies.

Sunday, Oct. 27

2-4 p.m.: "Come Sunday" jazz with the Onyx Club Boys at Weymouth Center, 555 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. Bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic. Cash bar. Tickets start at \$27.50; free for kids under 12. Register: weymouthcenter.org/event-calendar.

Monday, Oct. 28

4 p.m.: Talk by film professor Kara Andersen on social commentary in horror films, at Asheboro library, 201 Worth St. Open to the public, but geared to teens and their families. Info: 336-318-6803.

6-8 p.m.: Auditions for "Time and a Half" radio play at Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. One man, four women and one flexible role. Bring headshot and acting resume.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

6 p.m.: Asheboro City Council meeting in Public Works main conference room, 1312 N. Fayetteville St., about capital improvement plan for water and wastewater treatment, water distribution and sewer collection infrastructure.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

6-8 p.m.: Auditions for "Time and a Half" radio play at Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. One man, four women and one flexible role. Bring headshot and acting resume.

Thursday, Oct. 31

6 p.m.: Malloween at Asheboro Mall, 1437 E. Dixie Drive. Trick-or-treating at participating stores while supplies last. Costumes encouraged. QR codes in mall can be scanned for a chance at a \$100 gift card giveaway. Info: Asheboro Mall Facebook page.

7 p.m.: "Halloween" (R) screening in Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. Tickets, \$5: www.SunriseTheater.com, Sunrise office or at the doors.

Saturday, Nov. 2

5 p.m.: Trunk or Treat by Randolph County Sheriff's Office and friends, in courthouse parking lot, 176 E. Salisbury St., Asheboro. Info: 336-318-6698.

Wednesday, Nov. 6

10 a.m.: "Van Gogh: Poets and Lovers" showing at Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. Cost: Adults, \$15; students, \$10. Tickets: www.SunriseTheater.com, Sunrise office or at the door.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Community Calendar', *Courier-Tribune, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C65517D0ED30E0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C65517D0ED30E0</a>



# PAL donates \$1,500 to help victims of Helene in WNC

October 22, 2024  $\mid$  Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Julian Eure  $\mid$  Section: Local  $\mid$  201 Words

OpenURL Link

The Perquimans Arts League has donated \$1,500 to help victims of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina.

PAL made the donation last week to the North Carolina Arts Council's Arts Disaster Relief Fund, according to a press release.

The funds were raised during PAL's annual Arts on the Perquimans event on Oct 5. The event featured a raffle that included more than \$1,000 worth of art, jewelry, gift certificates, and services donated by companies and individuals, according to the release.

"We are heartbroken to see the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene and wanted to do our part to help the artists and arts organizations in western North Carolina during this difficult time," said Tom Brennan, PAL president. "Our community came together to raise these much-needed funds, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed."

The NC Arts Disaster Relief Fund provides financial assistance to artists and arts organizations affected by natural disasters, helping them rebuild and recover. PAL said its donation will directly support relief efforts for Helene victims "who need immediate help to restore their workspaces, replace materials, and begin the long road to recovery."

For more information about how to support the NC Arts Disaster Relief Fund, visit https://perquimansarts.org or contact president@perquimansarts.org.

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# • Citation (aglc Style)

Julian Eure, 'PAL donates \$1,500 to help victims of Helene in WNC', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63A8344750590">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63A8344750590</a>



# Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers

October 22, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat | Section: Across Carolina | 814 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — After driving eight hours leading a convoy of more than 50 tractor-trailers of hay to Watauga County, it didn't take Kelton Keller but a minute to hop from his truck and begin unloading the hay for local farmers recovering from Hurricane Helene.

The convoy set off from Keller Farms near Litchfield, Ohio, at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15, before finally arriving in Watauga County around 2:30 p.m. According to Alyssa Keller, wife of Kelton Keller, the immense support from Ohio farmers started with a simple social media post.

"Last time something like this happened, there were some fires out in Colorado. He and a buddy loaded up some trucks and trailers and took some hay out there. When this happened here, he said let's try it again but make a Facebook post and see who would be interested in helping, and it exploded," Alyssa Keller said.

In about a week, the post had garnered the support of farmers across Ohio. While some included friends and family members of the Kellers, the vast majority were strangers who simply wanted to help in whatever way they could.

In addition to square bales, round bales and small bales, the donations that flowed in for the ag community on Tuesday also included feed for horses, chickens, goats and other farm animals, and dry goods, tarps, baby supplies, posts and barbed wire fencing, and dozens upon dozens of donated goods.

"It's a significant amount, and we hope it helps a lot of people," Keller said.

Keller said they first heard about the first-hand effects of Hurricane Helene from a family friend who was from the Boone area. A couple of phone calls later, they were able to contact Wine to Water and other community members.

She added that helping one's fellow neighbors is simply a matter of putting oneself in another person's shoes after seeing everything they've worked for suddenly vanish.

"There was a dairy farm in southern Ohio where their milk parlor caught fire," Keller said. "So my husband was part of a bunch of people who were able to haul out close to 1,500 milk cows that needed to be dispersed to different farms throughout Ohio and West Virginia. In the agriculture community, if someone needs something, they're going. They don't want anything back. They just want to help."

Watauga Extension Director Jim Hamilton estimated that the donated hay will last many livestock farmers through the month of December. Fortunately, work continues to ensure farmers do not go without. Nevertheless, Hamilton said the ongoing effort remains significant.

"We were looking for locations to store hay. We had hay coming in from different sources across the state. When we first heard this was coming in, we heard 25 trucks, then 40, then it got over 50. That's when logistical planning had to come into play," Hamilton said.

The ag extension began providing hay distribution to local farmers on Thursday, Oct. 17. The distributions, affectionately known as "Hay Days," are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. Farmers must call ahead of time to make reservations to pick up.

On Thursday, Hamilton said 30 to 40 local farmers showed up to pick up the hay delivered from Ohio and expects most of it will be claimed within the next week or so. He described the efforts thus far as a "good start."

"It was an enormous response from the ag community across the state and really from east of the Mississippi. There are also other warehouse spaces in western NC where hay will continue to be brought to, and we will coordinate with those larger places when the need arises," Hamilton said. "We've been blessed with an enormous outpouring of support from other farmers who recognize how dire the situation is."

Kendra Phipps, livestock agent with the Watauga County Agricultural Extension, said the immediate needs for livestock producers in the county after the hurricane hit were fencing and containing animals. She added that hay will continue to be a priority as winter sets in.

"Hay is going to be a need, probably through February and maybe even into March. There are people that have lost 300 to 500 bails of hay. Everything they were going to feed their cattle with this winter is gone," Phipps said.

As work continues to keep livestock farmers supplied throughout the winter, Phipps said recovery will be a long, sustained effort.

"These donations are coming from farmers across the country and across the state. They're not pity donations. They're agricultural community donations — farmers helping farmers. And I truly believe in my heart that if something like this happened anywhere else, we would be the ones helping. I know it's true because during the wildfires in Texas, we sent hay from North Carolina to Texas. That's just what we do. We help each other," Phipps said.

Call the Watauga County ag center's hay hotline at (828) 319-2543 to make a reservation to pick up hay. Copyright © 2024 The Daily Advance. All rights reserved.

### • Citation (aglc Style)

Luke Barber The Watauga Democrat, 'Ohio hay convoy supplies Watauga County farmers', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63A8331DCE868">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C63A8331DCE868</a>>



# Tom Campbell: Be prepared for misinformation, violence this election season

October 22, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News | 799 Words OpenURL Link

The County Compass is a tabloid-sized weekly publication distributed free to Pamlico, Beaufort, Craven, Jones and Carteret Counties. It claims to offer "360 degrees of thorough and honest news coverage — furnished FREE to thousands of loyal readers every week." The truth is that it is about 90 percent ads and any editorial content is so far to the right as to make Attila the Hun look liberal.

The issue for Sept. 12-16 caught our attention. On page 15 and bleeding over to page 16 is a big article for the 2nd Amendment Patriots of North Carolina. We assume it was a paid ad, however it is not identified as such.

There is a slug in a box within the message showing the County Compass logo. The group further identifies itself with the Pamlico County GOP and the ad was published within the Pamlico GOP website.

In a big bold box heading the ad is the slogan, "If you want peace, prepare for war."

The message attempts to connect the modern-day group to colonial militiamen, reminding readers that men between 16 and 60 were required to train regularly. It urges gun owners to stock up on ammo, get to the range and practice, claiming that protecting freedom is their job today.

Unwritten, but implied, is the message that if this election doesn't turn out right, with Trump winning, there will be violence and bloodshed.

In 2023, the Southern Poverty Law Center identified 50 hate and anti-government groups in our state. Twelve have a statewide footprint. But there is only one legal militia in North Carolina: the North Carolina National Guard.

"Be prepared" appears to be a common theme of these groups. All North Carolinians would be well advised to heed this warning.

The misinformation campaign since Hurricane Helene struck our state has grown to such proportions that federal officials have joined Governor Cooper and leaders from both political parties in warning people not to listen to the lies. Trump has been the genesis of many of the lies about disaster response. Marjorie Taylor Greene is posting garbage saying the National Weather Service and meteorologists can control the weather. Because of malicious and fallacious social media posts, federal officials who are trying to help have received threats in at least two counties.

Already we see attempts trying to discredit and disrupt our elections. The state GOP filed a lawsuit trying to get 225,000 registered voters thrown off the rolls. Another lawsuit from them claims the state is not canceling the voting registration of persons who refuse to serve on a jury because they aren't a citizen. The State Board of Elections vehemently denies this claim. Republicans are challenging absentee ballots that aren't sealed in the proper envelope (there are two envelopes enclosed with the ballot). They are also challenging ballots of overseas voters born in our state but who aren't living in our state. And the most preposterous of their claims is that Helene was merely an attempt to steal the election.

Some of the polling places in the western part of the state no longer exist and the State Board of Elections is doing all they can to ensure western voters are able to cast their ballots. It could only benefit Republicans if they helped instead of trying to disrupt. A close look at voting trends shows these western counties are almost solid red Republican.

And we need to be prepared for interference in polling places.

We're told outcomes might be learned later than Election Night this year to assure votes are accurately reported. It might take a week before the final presidential outcome is known. Our State Board of Elections has implemented rigorous procedures to ensure votes are recorded and tallied accurately, however they are also preparing for a barrage of expected challenges.

Donald Trump has intimated that if he doesn't win there might be bedlam. In an April Time magazine article, Trump, when asked about possible violence, said, "If we don't win, you know, it depends." In another interview he said, "If everything's honest, I'll gladly accept the results. If it's not, you have to fight for the right of the country."

Trump has never thought any election he was involved in was honest. He's never accepted the results. Not with Hilary Clinton. Not with Joe Biden. And he won't with Kamala Harris. He is still claiming the 2020 contest was rigged.

Are we so gullible, so partisan and mistrustful, that truth no longer matters? Can we not understand that these deliberate misinformation campaigns are designed to cause us to lose faith in all institutions? What happens when we no longer trust anyone?

Is it too late to stand up for the values that we once held dear? I cannot believe that lies and misinformation, that authoritarians who divide us and that fairness and justice no longer matter.

### What has happened to us?

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Tom Campbell: Be prepared for misinformation, violence this election season', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E99067EEDEB0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E99067EEDEB0</a>



# Edenton council hires firm to perform worker salary study

October 22, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Miles Layton Correspondent | Section: Local | 462 Words OpenURL Link

EDENTON — Edenton Town Council has given the go-ahead for a consulting firm to conduct a salary study that will recommend how much town employees should be paid based on comparisons to other towns and other metrics.

Town Council agreed earlier this month to hire the Management Personnel Services Group to conduct the study at a cost of \$22,500. In addition, the town will be billed for the firm's expenses and travel time. The town hired the MAPS group in 2017 to conduct a similar study.

According to town documents, the MAPS group will conduct a comprehensive pay and classification study and update the town's personnel policy. The study's objectives include:

Studying and evaluating all positions covered by the North Carolina Local Government Employees Retirement System for the purpose of determining the proper position classification and salary for each employee.

Conducting a comprehensive salary survey of appropriate public and private sector organizations to determine that the town's salaries, benefits and wages are competitive within the applicable job market.

Preparing or updating class specifications for each position class based upon current job duties and requirements, and outlining appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act information.

Preparing a pay plan for the town to maintain a competitive system of salaries and wages.

Identifying those classes of positions that are "exempt" and "non-exempt" in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Reviewing and making recommendations concerning the effectiveness of the town's overall compensation system, including "compression issues."

Updating the personnel policy to reflect modern and effective staff management and the most recent laws, regulations and court cases.

During Mayor Hackney High's report, he praised Town Manager Corey Gooden and others who recently traveled to western North Carolina to help residents of Old Fort, a town of about 800 residents, bring its water and sewer systems back online in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

"Over the weekend, I received a call by a gentleman named Harlan Culvers (who is) with the Forsyth County Incident Management Team," High said. "He was operations chief there in Old Fort. He wanted to thank the council, me, and the citizens for allowing both of our employees to go to Old Fort. And he said quite simply without them, they would not be up and operational right now."

High said he had spoken with Old Fort Mayor Pam Snipes and she also had been complementary of Gooden.

"Once Corey got there, they basically made him the operations chief for water and sewer," High said. "She indicated that Eric (Hollins) and Corey hit the ground running immediately, identified the problem areas, and immediately came up with a solution. ... We're to make sure that the citizens and town council and Corey and Eric Hollins know that they appreciate you guys being there."

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Miles Layton Correspondent, 'Edenton council hires firm to perform worker salary study', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6037BB29EC168">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6037BB29EC168</a>



# It's time to consider purchasing flood insurance

October 22, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: Mike Causey Insurance Commissioner | Section: Archives | 410 Words OpenURL Link

As I visit many of the western North Carolina communities devastated by Hurricane Helene, I'm heartbroken by the destruction I see. I'm also disturbed that many people whose homes were damaged or lost by floodwaters during Helene, which had tropical storm force winds when it passed through western North Carolina, did not have flood insurance.

While mobile homeowners and comprehensive (other than collision) automobile insurance policies do cover damage from flooding, standard homeowners' insurance does not cover damages from floods. Dwelling insurance and renters' insurance policies also do not cover damages from flooding.

Most flood insurance policies are written by the federal government through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There is also a private insurance flood program offered in North Carolina.

To get flood insurance through the NFIP, you need to go to their website at www.floodsmart.gov or call them at 800-427-4661. Don't wait for another hurricane to head to North Carolina to sign up. There's a 30-day waiting period between the time you sign up for coverage to begin.

Most North Carolina homeowners do not have flood insurance. While mortgage companies usually require standard homeowners' insurance as a condition of getting a loan, many do not require flood insurance unless they're located in a high-risk flood zone.

NFIP statistics show that about 139,000 people have flood insurance through NFIP statewide, with most of those located in the coastal areas of North Carolina. Only about 0.7% of homeowners in the 25 counties falling under the Hurricane Helene disaster declaration had flood insurance.

I've said on many occasions, if it rains at your house, you need flood insurance. Since Hurricane Florence cause a lot of flood damage in 2018, I've initiated efforts to inform North Carolinians about the need to purchase flood insurance. We have flood insurance classes, where insurance agents, adjusters, real estate agents, engineers and others can get continuing education credit

by attending the classes. We remind homeowners many times during the year of the need to buy flood insurance.

We've made some progress, but obviously not enough progress.

Many people may not buy flood insurance because they think they don't need it or that it's expensive. I'm sure there are a lot of people in western North Carolina who wish they'd bought it. If you live in a low-risk flood zone, a flood insurance policy may be quite affordable.

I encourage you, while it's fresh on your mind, to consider purchasing flood insurance. Buying it can help put your mind at ease as future storms approach.

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Mike Causey Insurance Commissioner, 'It's time to consider purchasing flood insurance', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EE6E2CF85828">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EE6E2CF85828</a>



# **Community Calendar**

October 22, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Archives | 660 Words OpenURL Link

Ongoing events

Distinguished Young Women of Rutherford County scholarship

The Distinguished Young Women of Rutherford County scholarship program is accepting applications for the Class of 2026. Interested young ladies must be current juniors in high school and residents of Rutherford County.

Please register at www.distinguishedyw.org by Oct. 31. Additional details will be emailed to those who register.

We Care Wednesdays

The Chick-fil-A in Forest City is holding We Care Wednesdays from 6-10 a.m. for seniors ages 55 and up.

Seniors can get a free coffee with a purchase of any menu item.

The General Store at Cherry Mountain updated information

The cost of our tours has increased! It is now \$10 for 4 people or less, and \$8 for 5-12. Please contact us for information on larger groups, 954-410-2892.

Fly Fishing outfitter is no longer available.

Ellenboro Train Depot Museum

The Ellenboro Train Depot Museum is open each Saturday 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Free Tutoring

Team NC Tutoring, will offer free tutoring in reading, for Rutherford County students in grades 1-7. The location is McBrayer Office Building, 132 E. Main Street, Forest City.

Slots available Sept. 9-Dec. 20, one hour sessions, twice per week.

For more information, call 828 202 5593, or visit online, teamnctutoring. org.

Serene Haven Relief Program

Serene Haven Apartments is waiving half of the rent deposit due to Hurricane Helene. For people 55 and up that lost their home due to the hurricane, Serene Haven is waiving half of the rent deposit for people looking to live at Serene Haven Apartments.

For more information, call 828-380-4766.

Thursday, Oct. 24

60-year reunion

East Rutherford High School Class of '64 will hold its 60-year reunion on Oct. 24 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Spindale House in Spindale, N.C. \$22 per person.

Make checks payable to The Class of '64. Send to Richard Champion 361 Lincoln Rd. Forest City, NC 28043 Call Richard at 828-429-6752.

If you have a community or charity event you would like to put in the Daily Courier's events calendar, email the event information to vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com

Saturday, Oct. 26

Saturday, Oct. 26, from 12-5 p.m., there will be a fall festival for the entire community so people have just a few moments to relax, have a little fun and feel loved from people in surrounding communities. There will be BBQ, live music, cars for trunk or treat plus the candy, popcorn machines, bouncy houses, games, etc.

Cane Creek Baptist Church

151 Cane Creek Mountain Rd

Union Mills, NC

Free to attend. There will be prizes as well.

Monday, Oct. 28

The descendants of Bryant Homer Womack — a native of Rutherford County's Green Hill Community — will be reunited with his original Medal of Honor certificate and some related memorabilia at an October ceremony. The event will be held at Isothermal's Performing Arts and Conference Center on Monday, Oct. 28, at 1 p.m. The free event is open to the public.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief

When: Thursday, Oct. 31 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Crestview Baptist Church, 630 S Church St, Forest City, NC

What: Benefit Concert for Hurricane Helene Relief

Who: Jackson Smith, Charlie Griffin, Pine Ridge Boys, Perry's

More Information: 704-374-5910

A Love Offering will be received. All proceeds will go toward the relief efforts.

Saturday, Nov. 2

Open house and fly-in

Rutherford County Airport is holding an open house and fly-in community event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All welcome. Flights offered by Jaars Aviation, but flight age limit is 2 years old and above. Helicopter rides \$45. Aircraft rides

\$40. There is free admission and parking. Aircraft, motorcycles and classic cars will be on display. 110 Marchman Field Dr., Rutherfordton, NC 28139 Info: 828-287-0800

BBQ Chicken dinner

Piedmont-Pleasant Hill Community Club will have a BBQ Chicken dinner Saturday, Nov.r 2 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. \$10. 1761 Maple Creek Road, Rutherfordton.

Thursday, Nov. 14

The Rutherford County Democratic Party will have its monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at party headquarters, 142 W Main St, Forest City.

If you have an update on a community event in the calendar or a new event, email it to vyoung@thedigitalcourier.com.

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Staff Writer, 'Community Calendar', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 22 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EE6E2175BC20">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5EE6E2175BC20</a>



# Enjoy the apples, remember the farmers

October 22, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: ARLENE NEAL Columnist | Section: Archives | 656 Words OpenURL Link

Last weekend my daughter sent me pictures of an apple festival where she photographed a table filled with dozens of heritage apples. Those old timey apples reminded me of my grandfather's orchard in my childhood, memories my children have heard many times with descriptions of apples that I have never seen anywhere else.

That orchard was already old when I was growing up, and after Grandpa died no one was able or interested in maintaining the trees. One by one they started dying out with diseased limbs and woodpecker damage. One ancient-looking tree that stood beside our dirt road bore the blackest apples I have ever seen, their texture tough and leathery.

Mama didn't like those apples. She said the settlers had used them to make dried apples since the apple didn't seem to have much moisture. Another small tree bore little red apples so tart they made my mouth pucker. The sweetest apples came from a Stark Delicious tree—not the Red Delicious common today. The Stark variety, yellowish with red streaks, was grown in lowa back in the 1800s. At one time, it was considered the best tasting apple in the country.

When the state paved our road, the apple trees in the right of way fell to the bulldozer. Later on the rest of the orchard was cleared to turn into pasture, and that was the end of apples on our family's property. If we had apples after that, someone else grew them. If we had the money, orchards near us and over in Virginia would have plenty of apples most years.

I thought about the dependence we have on others for apples, when I learned that Henderson County produces 80% of the apples grown in North Carolina. NC State Extension reports that "if Henderson County was a state, it would rank No. 8 in the nation for apple production. Currently, North Carolina ranks No. 7 in the US." That's impressive!

It's unfortunate that Henderson County, with approximately 100 apple growers, was among the hardest hit counties in the catastrophic wind and flooding from Hurricane Helene. I watched videos of the destruction of orchards where raging flood waters uprooted trees and washed them into piles. Hilltop Farm showed their flooded orchard with downed trees and a sea of apples floating in the muddy water. Jeff Nix's orchards lost thousands of young Gala and Granny Smith apple trees which had just started to produce. The flood washed over his heavy machinery like toys in a mudpuddle.

"Apple Alley," as part of Highway 64 is called over there, will not have the usual fall tourist season as the farmers try to dig out and recover. The extent of damage to the county's farms will take months to assess, not only apples but strawberries, raspberries, and other fruit and vegetable crops.

I've never been so aware of how fragile our food production system can be. We take for granted the abundance of foods that appear on grocery store shelves, in produce bins, meat and dairy coolers, and freezers, with little thought of where the stuff is grown and processed. If I have apples today, a farmer somewhere grew them. (If you have trees and produce your own, you are fortunate.)

I do love apples and try to keep the traditional apple recipes from my growing up years—apple dumplings with drop biscuit dough, Mama's grated apple pie, fried apples, and attempts a few times at making fried apple pies. Today, we also enjoy apple crisp, apple cake, apple butter, and applesauce. Such gifts of God!

If you're privileged this fall season to hold an apple in your hands, one straight from an orchard or from a store,

pause to reflect on the marvel you possess, a treasure made of sunshine, water, and soil, subject to nature's insects, deer, freezing temperatures, droughts, storms and floods, while dependent on bees for pollination. And thank the farmers past and present who keep apple culture alive. We depend on them.

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