

Florida's Panhandle could see a hurricane landfall Thursday evening after Tropical Storm Helene formed Tuesday morning in the Caribbean.

## Tropical storm forecast to hit Florida as major hurricane

BY RICHARD TRIBOU  
Orlando Sentinel

**ORLANDO, FLA.** Tropical Storm Helene formed Tuesday morning in the Caribbean, and the National Hurricane Center forecasts it to move north and strike Florida as a major Category 3 hurricane on Thursday night.

Earlier Tuesday, the NHC issued hurricane watches for Florida's Gulf Coast and warned storm surge could reach as high as 15 feet near its expected landfall targeting the Big Bend region.

In its 11 a.m. advisory, the system's center was located in the northwest Caribbean Sea about 180 miles east-southeast of Cozumel, Mexico, and 1780 miles south-southeast of the western tip of Cuba with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph as it moved northwest at 12 mph.

Tropical-storm-force winds extend out 140

miles from its center.

Forecasters predict it will become a hurricane by Wednesday in the Gulf of Mexico and then rapidly intensify into Thursday as it moves across the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

The storm's center could target the Big Bend, similar to this year's Hurricane Debby and 2023's Hurricane Idalia, but could also still shift to the east near Tampa or west to the middle of Florida's Panhandle.

"All indications are a significant hurricane impacting the Florida Big Bend, but, and this is a big but, the hazards are going to be well removed from the center and well removed from the cone," said NHC Deputy Director Jaime Rhome. "So I don't want you to look at the cone and say, 'I'm out of the cone,' or 'I'm on the edge of the cone,' because this wind field, with the wind field with this system, is going to be really large - larger than you're used to

seeing with a traditional hurricane."

Gov. Ron DeSantis issued a state of emergency order Monday for 41 of Florida's 67 counties, and increased that to 61 on Tuesday. He said during a press conference Tuesday morning that the state also asked for pre-landfall declaration from FEMA.

He said the NHC has never in its history had a forecast for a major hurricane for a system that has yet to even form. DeSantis said Florida residents still have time Tuesday and early Wednesday to prepare,

pare, fill gas tanks, get water and nonperishable food, clean up yards for potential debris and know evacuation zones.

He said more than 18,000 utility linemen are prepped to respond to expected power outages from the hurricane. There are 3,000 Florida National Guard soldiers ready to assist with post-storm

assistance as well as Florida State Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and county sheriff's office personnel.

Kevin Guthrie, director of the Florida Division of

Emergency Management, said the state expanded its county disaster declaration because of the expected size of the storm.

"This hurricane will have tropical-storm-force winds in excess of 250 miles from the center," Guthrie said. "That will encompass most of the peninsula from the Space Coast all the way through the First Coast and then on the west coast of Florida, the entire coastal portion of the west coast of Florida."

DeSantis urged residents to listen to local evacuation orders, and avoid the tragedy seen in 2022's Hurricane Ian that killed 149 people in Florida, most of whom were caught in major storm surge in southwest Florida. He said evacuation doesn't have to be far, but they do need to get out from the danger zone.

The storm's breadth means much of the state could face dangerous heavy winds and possible tornado warnings starting Wednesday night with a landfall by Thursday evening. The intensity forecast keeps the system a Category 3 hurricane with 115 mph winds and 140 mph gusts in the Gulf of Mexico approaching Florida's coast south of Tallahassee by Thursday afternoon.

The NHC predicts tropical-storm-force winds could arrive to South Florida by 8 a.m. Wednesday and into Central Florida by 8 p.m.

While the Caribbean system develops, a second system in the far eastern Atlantic also has a high chance to develop into a tropical depression or storm, the NHC stated in its 8 a.m. Tuesday tropical

update.

The tropical wave located near the Cape Verde Islands is producing more concentrated shower and thunderstorm activity since Monday.

"Environmental conditions appear favorable for gradual development of this system, and a tropical depression is likely to form in a few days while it moves westward across the eastern and central tropical portion of the west coast of Florida," forecasters said.

The NHC gives it a 30% chance to develop in the next two days and 80% in the next seven.

After Helene, the next name on the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season list is Isaac.

## Obituaries

**Elaine Godfrey Bishop**  
August 1, 1931 - September 17, 2024



**Charlotte, North Carolina** - Another angel entered Heaven on September 17, 2024, with the passing of Elaine Bishop, 93, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Elaine was born in Rome, NY in 1931 to Kenneth and Molly Godfrey. She was raised in Cleveland, NY. She graduated from Central Square High School, went to work at "Ma Bell"/AT&T in Syracuse, NY for 30 years then moved to Tampa, FL and worked for GTE/Verizon for 20 years until retirement.

Elaine is preceded in death by her husband, Harold Bishop, her mother, Molly Godfrey and father, Kenneth Godfrey.

Elaine is survived by her three children, daughters Patricia and Kathleen Bishop and son Michael Bishop.

A Memorial Service will be held at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 2701 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209 at 2 pm on 30 September with Rev. Cat Connolly, Associate Rector presiding.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Animal Shelter in Charlotte, in honor and memory of Elaine.

ROBERTSON

Funeral and Cremation Service

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## Obituaries

### OBITUARY INDEX

View and place obituaries at charlotteobserver.com

NAME	AGE	CITY	DEATH	ARRANGEMENTS
Abraham, Roosevelt, 88	Charlotte	Sep 20	Roseboro's Mortuary & Crematory	
Ashford, George, 84	Charlotte	Sep 21	Long & Son Mortuary Service, Inc.	
<b>Bishop, Elaine Godfrey, 93</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>Sep 17</b>	<b>Robertson F&amp;Cs</b>	
Craig, Ray Reid, 83	Monroe	Sep 21	Gordon Funeral Service and Crematory	
Hamel, Charlene, 61	Charlotte	Sep 22	Roseboro's Mortuary & Crematory	
Hensley, Joanne, 90	Gastonia	Sep 19	Carothers Funeral Home At Gaston Memorial Park	
<b>Lawson, David L., 87</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>McEwen Funeral Service-Pineville Chapel</b>	
Malcolm, Jacqueline Love, 85	Waxhaw	Sep 20	Gordon Funeral Service and Crematory	
Moore, Tommy Floyd, 83	Monroe	Sep 22	Gordon Funeral Service and Crematory	
Rogers, Raymond Wilson, 80	<b>Wilmington</b>	<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>Andrews Mortuary</b>	
<b>Shields, Barbara Joy, 90</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>McEwen Funeral Service-Pineville Chapel</b>	
Taylor, Thomas, 93	Gastonia	Sep 19	Carothers Funeral Home At Gaston Memorial Park	
Trausneck, Patricia "Trish", 73	Waxhaw	Sep 20	Gordon Funeral Service and Crematory	
Wojtkowski, Margaret "Marge", 89	Mooresville	Sep 20	Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory	

**Bold Listings Indicate expanded obituaries**

**David L. Lawson**  
February 22, 1937 - September 18, 2024



through the love and guidance he provided to his two children, who were the pride and joy of his life.

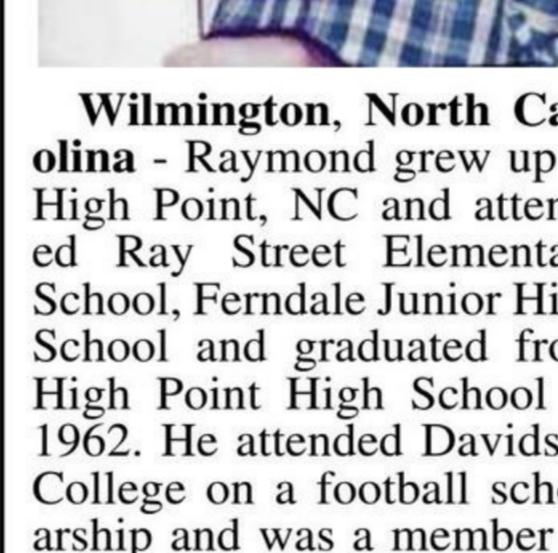
David was known for his dual persona as a father—alternating between the fun dad who would teach you to ski and play games, and the grumpy dad who expected nothing but the best from his kids. This unique blend of warmth and discipline shaped his children into the remarkable individuals they are today, and they will forever carry their lessons in their hearts.

David's presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves behind a legacy of laughter, love, and connection that will resonate in our community for years to come.

David was known for his larger-than-life personality and his knack for making friends wherever he went. For years, he graced the stools at John's Place every afternoon, where he could tell bad dad jokes and immerse himself in everyone's business. He had an extraordinary talent for selling everything from cotton to concrete, a testament to his charm and determination.

In addition to his sales prowess, David was a devoted husband and caregiver to his beloved wife, Rita, before her passing. His unwavering love and dedication during her illness were a reflection of the deep bond they shared. After her passing, David continued to honor her memory

**Raymond Wilson Rogers**  
April 12, 1944 - September 18, 2024



through the love and guidance he provided to his two children, who were the pride and joy of his life.

David was known for his dual persona as a father—alternating between the fun dad who would teach you to ski and play games, and the grumpy dad who expected nothing but the best from his kids. This unique blend of warmth and discipline shaped his children into the remarkable individuals they are today, and they will forever carry their lessons in their hearts.

David's presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves behind a legacy of laughter, love, and connection that will resonate in our community for years to come.

A celebration of David's life will be held at McEwen Funeral Home (Pineville) on Saturday, September 28th from 2 to 4 p.m., where friends and family are invited to share their favorite memories and stories. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the local hospice care, in honor of the compassionate care David received during his wife's illness.

Rest in peace, David. Your spirit will live on in our hearts and through the stories we share.

Condolences may be offered at [www.McEwen-PinevilleChapel.com](http://www.McEwen-PinevilleChapel.com).

**McEwen**  
**Pineville**  
**Chapel**

**Raymond Wilson Rogers**  
April 12, 1944 - September 18, 2024



Ray was a natural athlete and after his football playing days were over, enjoyed cycling, exercising, water skiing and for a brief time was aavid sailor on his sun fish in the ocean at Long Beach. In between watching a NASCAR race or Tar Heel football games, he was very fond of napping at his beach house. He was an active member at Wesley Memorial United Methodist church, served on the board of High Point Country Club as well as serving on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater High Point. Raymond was always an engaging personality and enjoyed getting to know and care for everyone that he met.

Ray is survived by his wife Elisabeth Rives Rogers (Liz), son Hill and wife Kendall Trull, daughter Ryves and grandsons Jackson Hill and Alston Holt, sister Judy Rogers Hockenberry, Barbara Rogers Lockard and brother James McHenry Rogers, and wife Jeni.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Lower Cape Fear Lifecare for their tremendous support and care during Ray's final days.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Lower Cape Fear Lifecare in Wilmington, NC or First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC.

The family will greet visitors at Cape Fear County Club in Wilmington, NC on Friday October 4, 2024 from 2-4pm. A memorial service will be held at First United Methodist Church in High Point, NC on Saturday October 5, 2024 at 2pm.