

Person County strong, Person County proud

October 10, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Opinion | 692 Words OpenURL Link

To the editor:

There are not enough words to describe the outpouring of love and generosity our county has shown in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene's destruction in western North Carolina over the last two weeks.

A group of 25 or so successfully dropped three tractor trailers and several truck loads and small trailers full of supplies at two churches in McDowell County and one church in Buncombe County this past Sunday. A special thank you on behalf of Distinguished Young Women to all who contributed at Food Lion North and to Brann's and the Person County Veterans Mafia who volunteered alongside of us to fill an entire tractor trailer in jut a day and a half. The people that donated and that we met Friday and Saturday impacted us in ways that we could not imagine, selflessly giving what they could in the face of disaster, to people that they will likely never meet. Whether you stayed and chatted, dropped and left, or stayed and volunteered to stack, every single one of you touched our hearts and reminded us why there's no place like Person County. It's the people here that make it so special. We also must applaud Chad Kendrick and family for their efforts filling trailers at Lowes as well during those two days.

We appreciate being a part of the convoy that headed west Sunday morning, joining the crew with Kendricks, Branns, members of the Person County Sheriff's Office, Halifax County Sheriff's Office, some of our elected officials and everyday volunteers just looking to make a difference in the lives of others. And we most especially appreciate Dr. David Chambers sending us off in prayer that morning. The group that left Bushy Fork Sunday morning is special, and while I would love to list them by name, I won't, because not one of those individuals were there for the recognition. They were there because they are good people with good hearts just looking to make a difference any time that they can, and what a difference they made.

If you haven't watched the video of the convoy leaving Person County, I hope that it will cross your Facebook feed or TikTok. It's a beautiful testament to what our county and its people are capable of. It proves that the blue-collar towns know when to step up, and how to offer their help. It proves that the people of our community are kind and good, and willing to step up and do God's work when our brothers and sisters need it. Our small town has sent seven tractor trailers west, countless pull behinds and sent many volunteers wanting to do their part to help.

The heartache and despair in the mountains is so real. The people that we met at dropoff locations and just everyday people on the ground in Old Fort and Swannanoa impacted us in ways that we never imagined. People who lost everything, their families, neighbors, every possession, and watched their hopes and dreams be swept away by flood waters in an instant. What we saw, what we felt and what we smelled is something that I hope no one ever has to experience again, but sadly, will happen to another region at some point. The difference your donations made to these individuals is real. I hope that you will continue to pray for these individuals who are starting over, and pray for the ones who don't know where their loved ones are. Pray for the ones that may never know what happened to their friends and families.

Some of our elected officials stepped up in a big way. Small businesses stepped up in a big way. These business owners gave of their time and resources to make this happen. Everyday citizens took vacation time, spent their hard-earned money and made this happen. People all over Roxboro and Person County joined together to make this happen. That is what community is about, that is what our community is about. I am proud every day to be a native of Person County, but never prouder than now.

Roxboro

Co-Chair Distinguished Young Women of Roxboro

EDITOR'S NOTE: The word count was waived for this letter.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

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Food prices jump, inflation rises faster than expected

October 10, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Casey Harper | The Center Square | Section: National | 370 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Prices rose faster than expected last month, putting more pressure on Americans' budgets, federal inflation data shows.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on Thursday released its Consumer Price Index, a key marker of inflation, which showed that CPI rose 0.2% in September.

While inflation rose more than expected last month, the year-over-year inflation of 2.4% in this latest data is much lower than the major spike in inflation in recent years.

The data comes after the U.S. Federal Reserve announced an interest rate cut last month, a sign that the Fed believes inflation is under control enough to lower rates, and thereby boost the economy.

"Disinflation continues, but anyone who thought the Fed was going to lower rates by another .50 basis points in November is dead wrong," Jamie Cox, managing partner at Harris Financial Group in Richmond, said in a statement. "When interest rates aren't high enough to lower growth, they aren't high enough to stifle inflation completely either. The Fed will lower rates, but at a measured pace from here."

Much of the increase was driven by an increase in rent costs.

The data also showed a jump in food prices of 0.4%, the biggest increase since January of this year.

"Five of the six major grocery store food group indexes increased over the month," BLS said. "The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs rose 0.8 percent in September as the index for eggs increased 8.4 percent. The fruits and vegetables index increased 0.9 percent over the month, following a 0.2-percent decline in August. The index for other food at home rose 0.2 percent in September and the index for cereals and bakery products increased 0.3 percent. The dairy and related products index increased 0.1 percent over the month, while the nonalcoholic beverages index was unchanged in September."

Eating out became 3.9% more expensive in the last year.

Meanwhile, experts say the deadly hurricanes hitting the U.S. right now are impacting the job market.

"Initial jobless claims jumped to 258,000 in the week ending October 5, above the 230,000 consensus forecast or Comerica's forecast of 250,000," Bill Adams, Chief Economist for Comerica Bank "This is the first claims report showing the impact of Hurricane Helene, which made landfall on September 26."

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Casey Harper | The Center Square, 'Food prices jump, inflation rises faster than expected', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C20C2040864AE8



500 attend PAL's 12th annual Arts on the Perquimans

October 10, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Vernon Fueston | Section: News | 538 Words OpenURL Link

HERTFORD — About 500 visitors showed up to see the work of 88 artisans and participate in a host of other activities at the Perguimans Arts League's 12th annual Arts on the Perguimans last weekend.

The event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Perquimans Arts League. Final figures on how much the Saturday, Oct. 5, event raised were not available earlier this week.

Tina Fielder, who organized this year's event, said the victims of Tropical Storm Helene in western North Carolina weighed heavily on the arts group and event vendors and visitors.

"With so much going on in the western part of our state, some felt a bit guilty for feeling so much joy there," Fielder said. "Some said they didn't have much extra (money) to spend because they were donating what extra they had to support those in need (in western North Carolina.) We are truly grateful to all who came and supported what we do."

The show donated what would have been its grand package door prize worth \$1,500 to Helene disaster relief efforts in western North Carolina.

Fielder said the Perquimans Arts League uses the money it raises to support its gallery operations and provide art programs that it operates at county schools and its gallery. The programs include summer art camps, performing arts brought to the local schools, as well as scholarships and internships for students.

The Arts League is also trying to renovate its upstairs gallery by installing an elevator in the space. PAL hopes to use the space for classrooms to teach metal, jewelry, pottery, painting, and other art-making skills.

The Perquimans Arts League is best known for its fine arts gallery, where PAL members and others display their paintings, crafts, and sculptures for sale. A local artist can join after submitting samples of their work for a juried review.

Fielder said PAL tried to step things up and provide a stronger display for the public this year, an effort she believes paid off.

"I talked with many people visiting our event, and the comments were overwhelmingly positive," she said. "Many people drove one to two hours to get here and said it was worth every minute. Several said the event looked very impressive, just walking up on it. Once they came in, it was as amazing as it looked at first.

Besides seeing displays of artists' works, attendees also got to see artisans demonstrate art-making skills like fractal wood burning, pottery and metalwork. There also was a Pumpkin Patch where children could pick out a pumpkin and paint it to take home.

"Among the most impressive things I heard were people who said they had no idea that Hertford was capable of putting on an event of this caliber," Fielder said.

Fielder said she took over managing the show three years ago, promising the Arts League that she would grow it. She credits support from the community for the show's success.

"Hertford cultivates the arts," she said. "The community supports us, and we help support our community. We have

been able to nearly double the size of this event. Our real goal is to put both Arts on the Perquimans and Hertford on the map as one of those 'must go to' annual events. We are well on our way."

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Vernon Fueston, '500 attend PAL's 12th annual Arts on the Perquimans', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C1F27B3B5F2C48



Harris to visit Greenville on campaign stop Sunday

October 10, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Bobby Burns The Daily Reflector | Section: Local | 686 Words OpenURL Link

GREENVILLE — Democratic presidential candidate Vice President Kamala Harris will visit Greenville on Sunday, a campaign official has confirmed.

The visit was first reported Wednesday night by the News & Observer of Raleigh, saying the Harris-Walz campaign told McClatchy newspapers of the visit exclusively. The official confirmed to The Daily Reflector that the report was accurate but provided no further information.

A social media post made late Wednesday by the Pitt County Democratic Party indicated Harris would hold a rally in Greenville between noon and 4 p.m. at a location to be announced later. The post included a link to a site where the public could sign up to attend the event and receive details.

The Harris-Walz campaign said in a press release Thursday that Harris will attend a rally in Greenville on Sunday but said details would be released later on Friday.

The visit comes less than a week before the start of early voting in North Carolina and as the Democratic candidate is locked in a tight race with Republican candidate former President Donald Trump for the state's 16 electoral votes.

Most recent polling shows that Harris is less than 2 percentage points behind Trump among likely voters. The difference in the RealClear average of polls reported Sept. 29 is within the margin of error.

A poll conducted by the ECU Center for Survey Research from Sept. 23-26 showed Trump with a 2 percentage point lead over Harris, 49% to 47%. The poll's margin of error is 3%.

Harris' campaign reported Wednesday the margin was 1 percent in Trump's favor.

Early voting begins across the state at 8 a.m. on Thursday, with seven sites opening in Pitt County. It continues through Nov. 2. Election Day is Nov. 5.

It will be Harris' first visit to Greenville. Her husband, Doug Emhoff, campaigned for Harris' then-running mate, President Joe Biden, in Greenville in 2020 when Biden defeated the incumbent Trump to win the presidency.

Biden earned 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232 in 2020. Biden received more than 81 million votes nationally to Trump's over 74 million.

Biden carried Pitt County in 2020 with 54 percent of the vote to Trump's 45 percent, according to the N.C. State Board of Elections. Trump defeated Biden statewide with 50 percent of the vote to Biden's 49 percent.

Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in 2016 in North Carolina with 50 percent of the vote to Clinton's 46 percent. Clinton carried Pitt County 52 percent to 44 percent.

Trump has stopped in Greenville four times, including during his 2016 campaign and in 2019 as president, when his visit to ECU's Minges Coliseum elicited chants of "send her back" in response to Trump's criticism of U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who came to the United States as a child after fleeing Somalia with her family.

He visited again during his 2020 campaign and in 2021, during the N.C. GOP convention at the Greenville Convention Center, when he called Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson "one of the strongest and bravest new Republicans" in

the nation.

The campaigns are battling while recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene are ongoing in western North Carolina and as Florida recovers from Hurricane Milton.

The storm scrambled Trump's schedule, according to The Associated Press. He put off a virtual event Tuesday night focused on health care and postponed a Univision town hall in Miami. He was in Pennsylvania on Wednesday.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are denouncing misinformation and disinformation surrounding the federal response to Hurricane Helene, which hit last week and killed more than 220 people. Both singled out Trump as driving much of the falsehoods.

Harris plans to head to Nevada and Arizona on Thursday, the Associated Press said.

Early in-person voting has started in Arizona, making it the first of this year's presidential battleground states where all residents can cast a ballot at a traditional polling place ahead of Election Day. The Trump campaign also is planning visits to Arizona.

Each of Arizona's 15 counties is required to open at least one site for in-person voting, which runs until the Friday before the Nov. 5 general election.

In-person voting begins next week in three more presidential swing states — Georgia, Michigan and Nevada. Copyright © 2024 The Daily Advance. All rights reserved.

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Bobby Burns The Daily Reflector, 'Harris to visit Greenville on campaign stop Sunday', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C2461CA1346D60



What's Up

October 10, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Julian Eure | Section: Whats Up | 1432 Words OpenURL Link

TODAY

ECHNA's Ghost Walk

The second night of the Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association's Ghost Walk will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased at Arts of the Albemarle, which will serve as Ghost Walk headquarters during the event, as well as at Muddy Waters Coffeehouse, The Recycled Reader, and the EC Mailbox Center. The latter only accepts cash.

'Trial by Fire' at COA

College of The Albemarle will host "Trial by Fire: Journey Tribute" in the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for military personnel and senior citizens, and \$6 for students and staff.

VFW Oyster Roast

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6060 will host its annual Oyster Roast at 1433 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, from noon to 3 p.m. Doc Perkins will perform live music. Advance all-you-can-eat oyster tickets are \$35; the fried oyster sandwich plate tickets are \$20; and fried chicken plate tickets are \$15. All tickets day of the event will cost \$5 more.

Dismal Day

The 10th annual Dismal Day will be held at Dismal Swamp State Park in Camden County from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Events will include music, nature and heritage exhibits, a bounce house, wagon rides, a scavenger hunt, kids crafts, face painting, live animals from OBX Lizard Land and the Aurora Fossil Museum. A free 5K Fun Run/Walk on the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail starts at 9 a.m. No registration is required.

SUNDAYRed Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host blood drives at Durants Neck Ruritan Club in Hertford, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Camden Middle School auditorium Monday from noon to 5 p.m.; and Fellowship Baptist Church fellowship hall in Moyock, Thursday, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MONDAY

Alzheimer's support

The Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers and Family members meets at Hertford United Methodist Church, 200 Dobbs St., Hertford, at 1 p.m. Contact: 252-404-7090 or 252-333-7774.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Excel Monday; Google Drive on Tuesday; Google Docs on Wednesday; and Word 1 on Thursday. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Donations for western NC

Food Bank of the Albemarle is accepting donations of non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies for delivery to western counties in North Carolina hard hit by Tropical Storm Helene. Items will be accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: 252-335-4035.

TUESDAY

Secure Access Self Storage

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for Secure Access Self Storage at 1100 Megan Drive, Elizabeth City, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Splash Week

Arts of the Albemarle will host the annual Splash Week artists retreat in Elizabeth City's downtown Tuesday through Saturday, Oct. 19. Events will include the first-ever Splash Art Fair on North Poindexter Street on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Artists and artisans are invited to sell their work at the fair. The event will also feature free music, family activities and crafts.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Cats" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday. All classes at 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host an online safety and privacy program at the Pasquotank County Library from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw.

Boo Bowling

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host "Boo Bowling" at Albemarle Lanes from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$100 for team of four people.

FRIDAYMedicare outreach

The North Carolina State Health Plan will host a 2025 open enrollment Medicare outreach event at Museum of the Albemarle from 10 a.m. to noon.

Hertford Ghost Walk

Masonic Lodge 106 and Church of the Holy Trinity will host the Historic Ghost Walk in Hertford Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce Office at 118 W Market St., Hertford; Tommy's Pizza at 309 Ocean S. Hertford; and Church of the Holy Trinity both nights of tour.

UPCOMING

Wings Over Edenton

The Wings over Edenton air show and pilot fly-in will be held at Northeastern Regional Airport in Edenton Saturday, Oct. 19. The free event will feature static displays of historic and current aircraft, an aerobatic demonstration, Young Eagle flights for youngsters, helicopter rides, a car and tractor show, vendor displays, and food trucks. To participate in the fly-in, contact tyler.newman@edenton.nc.gov or call (252) 482-2155, ext. 535.

Red Cross blood drive

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive in the main room at Albemarle Area Association of Realtors in Elizabeth City, Monday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on PowerPoint Monday, Oct. 21; PowerPoint on Tuesday, Oct. 22; Google Docs 2 on Wednesday, Oct. 23; and Word 2 on Thursday, Oct. 24. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Cake" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 22; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 23; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 24. All classes at 10 a.m.

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a program on how to search for trusted online sites at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host blood drives in the Sentara Albemarle Medical Center education rooms Wednesday, Oct. 23 from noon to 5 p.m.; JP Knapp Early College High School gym in Currituck Monday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; the B&M Contractors, Inc. training room in Elizabeth City on Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the City Road United Methodist Church fellowship hall in Elizabeth City Thursday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a program on how to use healthcare online at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. Students will learn how to use telehealth. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

Community Olympics

The Boys & Girls Club will host its Community Olympic Games at 108 East Ward St., Elizabeth City, Thursday, Oct. 24. Contact: ejmitchell@bgc-albemarle.org or call 252-216-5966.

YMCA Golf Classic

The 18th annual YMCA Golf Classic to benefit the Y's All Kids Swim Program will be held at the Pines of Elizabeth City, Friday, Oct. 25. Donations raised by the tournament will allow Albemarle Family YMCA to offer free swim lessons to area children. Check-in is 11 a.m. and shotgun start tee-off is at noon. Team of four costs \$450,

individuals are \$113, and mulligans are \$10 each with a limit of two per player. Register and payment due Oct. 15. Send to Jane Snyder, Albemarle Family YMCA, 1240 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, 27909 or email jsnyder@ymcashr.org.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Google Docs Monday, Oct. 28; mouse and keyboarding on Tuesday, Oct. 29; Google Drive on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and PowerPoint on Thursday, Oct. 31. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Soil and water programs

The Northeast Ag Expo will sponsor a workshop for farmers on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 8 a.m. at the Pasquotank Extension Office in Elizabeth City. Attendees will learn from FSA, Soil and Water and NRCS about various available programs and deadlines as well as the resources these agencies offer area farmers. To register, contact the Perquimans Center of NC Extension at 252-426-5428.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Halloween" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 29; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 31. All classes at 10 a.m.

Landslide to perform

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host its Appreciation & Celebration Extravaganza featuring Landslide, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, at Sagos on the River Nov. 9 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Drew Gregory and Chris Betts will be guest performers. Tickets are \$100, corporate tables are \$900.

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What's Up

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TODAY

EC Morning Rotary

The Elizabeth City Morning Rotary Club will meet at The Pines of Elizabeth City at 8 a.m. Gene Foster, governor of Rotary International District 7720, will be the speaker.

Shrimp by the Bay

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce will host the 23rd annual Shrimp by the Bay fundraiser on the green of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tickets sold only in advance. Call: 252-482-3400.

ECHNA's Ghost Walk

The Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association's Ghost Walk will be held in Elizabeth City Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased at Arts of the Albemarle, which will serve as Ghost Walk headquarters during the event, as well as at Muddy Waters Coffeehouse, The Recycled Reader, and the EC Mailbox Center. The latter only accepts cash.

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Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Cats" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 15; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 16; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 17. All classes at 10 a.m.

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host an online safety and privacy program at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

Medicare outreach

The North Carolina State Health Plan will host a 2025 open enrollment Medicare outreach event at Museum of the Albemarle Friday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Hertford Ghost Walk

Masonic Lodge 106 and Church of the Holy Trinity will host the Historic Ghost Walk in Hertford Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce Office at 118 W Market St., Hertford; Tommy's Pizza at 309 Ocean S. Hertford; and Church of the Holy Trinity both nights of tour.

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YMCA Golf Classic

The 18th annual YMCA Golf Classic to benefit the Y's All Kids Swim Program will be held at the Pines of Elizabeth City, Friday, Oct. 25. Donations raised by the tournament will allow Albemarle Family YMCA to offer free swim lessons to area children. Check-in is 11 a.m. and shotgun start tee-off is at noon. Team of four costs \$450,

individuals are \$113, and mulligans are \$10 each with a limit of two per player. Register and payment due Oct. 15. Send to Jane Snyder, Albemarle Family YMCA, 1240 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, 27909 or email jsnyder@ymcashr.org.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Google Docs Monday, Oct. 28; mouse and keyboarding on Tuesday, Oct. 29; Google Drive on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and PowerPoint on Thursday, Oct. 31. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Soil and water programs

The Northeast Ag Expo will sponsor a workshop for farmers on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 8 a.m. at the Pasquotank Extension Office in Elizabeth City. Attendees will learn from FSA, Soil and Water and NRCS about various available programs and deadlines as well as the resources these agencies offer area farmers. To register, contact the Perquimans Center of NC Extension at 252-426-5428.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Halloween" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 29; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 31. All classes at 10 a.m.

Landslide to perform

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host its Appreciation & Celebration Extravaganza featuring Landslide, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, at Sagos on the River Nov. 9 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Drew Gregory and Chris Betts will be guest performers. Tickets are \$100, corporate tables are \$900.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Julian Eure, 'What's Up', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C20B16DCAA5160>



Insurance commissioner urges Medicare beneficiaries to check their options for 2025

October 10, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 681 Words OpenURL Link

RALEIGH — Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey reminds Medicare beneficiaries that it's time to compare and evaluate their current plans and make necessary changes during the annual open enrollment period, according to a press release from the N.C. Department of Insurance.

"What worked for you this year may not be the best plan for you in 2025," Commissioner Causey said. "It is important to take advantage of the Open Enrollment Period by contacting local Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors to save money, improve your coverage or both."

The Open Enrollment Period begins on Oct. 15 and runs for eight weeks to give you enough time to review and make changes to your Medicare coverage. Changes must be made by Dec. 7 to guarantee your coverage will begin without interruption on Jan. 1, 2025, according to the press release.

It is important to contact your local SHIIP counselor before deciding about coverage for 2025. This may help you receive a more affordable and better Medicare health and/or drug plan in your area. For example, even if you are satisfied with your current Medicare Advantage or Part D plan, there may be another plan in your area that covers your health care and/or drugs at a better price, according to the press release.

The commissioner also announced that Medicare beneficiaries impacted by Hurricane Helene have been granted an extended Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to sign up for Medicare health and prescription drug coverage.

This extended period gives beneficiaries extra time to make changes to their Medicare coverage due to the unforeseen circumstances that accompany a natural disaster.

"Medicare beneficiaries devastated by Helene may be unable to complete their enrollment process by the Dec. 7 deadline," Commissioner Causey said. "This Special Enrollment Period allows people in affected areas the additional time they need to make sure they have the proper Medicare coverage in 2025."

The regular 2025 Medicare Open Enrollment period runs Oct. 15 – Dec.7 with coverage to take effect Jan. 1, 2025. This SEP allows anyone who missed an election period to make changes for the duration of the disaster plus an additional two months following the declared end date of the disaster. Coverage will begin a month after an enrollment is completed.

The SEP is in effect for the 25 North Carolina counties declared disaster areas as a result of Tropical Storm Helene: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey.

The extension applies to two sets of residents: Those who live in the disaster zones as well as others outside the 25 counties who assist or are assisted by the storm victims.

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. SHIIP counselors can also help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs, according to the press release.

Here are some of the ways to review and compare plans available for 2025:

Get one-on-one help from a local SHIIP office by calling Rutherford County Senior Center at 828-287-6409.

Get one-on-one help from SHIIP by calling 1-855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage with all of the options available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.

Review the Medicare & You handbook. It was mailed to people with Medicare in September.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Contact your trusted licensed insurance agent.

SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents and they do not sell, endorse or oppose any product, plan or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or the insurance company, according to the press release.

For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, call 1-855-408-1212 or visit www.ncshiip.com.

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STAFF REPORTS, 'Insurance commissioner urges Medicare beneficiaries to check their options for 2025', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
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Forest City raises over \$2900 in hurricane relief efforts

October 10, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 280 Words OpenURL Link

FOREST CITY — The town of Forest City is thrilled to announce the success of last weekend's concert at the Pavilion on Park Square (POPS) featuring The Tams. The concert, which was made free and donation-based in response to the recent hurricane devastation, served as a testament to the power of community in challenging times, according to a press release from the town.

From 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5, hundreds gathered at POPS to enjoy an unforgettable evening of great music, fun, and food. In the spirit of unity, the event raised just over \$2900 to be directed to RHI Legacy Foundation's Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Fund for Rutherford County. With this fund, RHI Legacy Foundation has committed to matching each contribution received, doubling the community impact, according to the press release.

In addition to the monetary donations, a trailer full of essential supplies — such as paper products, blankets, clothes, and other essential items — was also donated by concertgoers. These supply donations were graciously accepted by Grace Chapel Foursquare Church to assist with their local hurricane relief efforts. All monetary and supply donations received at the Tams concert will directly aid Rutherford County residents, according to the press release.

The press release stated in part: "The outpour of support shown at the concert perfectly exemplifies Forest City's motto, 'Small Town, Deep Roots.' In the aftermath of a historic storm, the community has remained united in its efforts to support and uplift one another. The town of Forest City would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff, volunteers, concertgoers, and supporters for their roles in making this event a successful Hurricane Helene relief effort for Rutherford County."

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• Citation (aglc Style)

STAFF REPORTS, 'Forest City raises over \$2900 in hurricane relief efforts', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C24673F6E1D1E8



Recovery efforts and precious moments continue

October 10, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: BO WAGNER Columnist | Section: Opinion | 903 Words OpenURL Link

It has been a very long week. What began as a one-day effort to clean up and recover in our area quickly morphed into an every day effort to get supplies and relief to all the affected areas of Western North Carolina. Hurricane Helene ravaged the area in unfathomable ways, but God's people all over have risen to the occasion to bring rescue, relief, and restoration.

I did not know that our church was going to become a local hub, receiving and transporting food, water, and other needed supplies to the mountains. God knew, and he has made it work. Our family life building, The Hope Center, has seen mountains of supplies pass back and forth through its doors, and both our church trailer and many of the personal trailers of our people have headed to Hendersonville, Asheville, Swannanoa, Fair View, and many other places.

It has been pretty eye-opening. In a disaster this large, I would have expected to see large amounts of people and help from state and federal sources, and that has simply not been the case as I write this. It has pretty well exclusively been a huge number of local churches, citizens, and also Samaritan's Purse that have been getting the job done.

Pastor Mike Rogers and Gashes Creek Baptist Church in Asheville particularly stand out to me. We have carried probably eighty% of our supplies up to them and then joined to help them carry them into every community. Pastor Doug Raynes and his sweet people at Progress Baptist in Hendersonville have also done yeoman's work.

Going into some of the affected areas has been breathtaking. We pulled a trailer of supplies down a barely-there mud path that just a week earlier was a paved, two-lane state road. Had my truck not been four-wheel drive, there is no way we could have made it. And what we saw when we got there was amazing. An entire community of mostly older folks, basically cut off since none of them seemed to have four-wheel drives, had banded together to survive. They were using a flat top griddle in the center of the neighborhood to cook for everyone, and then had rigged up a pipe to carry water from a natural spring to provide cleaning and flushing water for everyone.

They had a posted list of everyone who has carried supplies in to them; they called it their angel list. We dropped off supplies and carried their trash away for them.

From there, we went into decidedly poorer sections, mostly trailer parks. The biggest of them had been completely flooded, and the residents were gutting everything by hand and piling the innards of the trailers outside onto the ground. Here is what really got me in that one: while we were unloading supplies for them, a young man came out of one of those gutted trailers carrying a box of canned goods, handed them to us, and said, "I have enough of these to last a good while; take these to some others who can use them."

We have gotten calls from as far away as Canada and Hawaii asking how to help. People from 4,500 miles away are touching the lives of people they have never met.

An elderly Hispanic lady smiled from ear to ear when we gave her a pack of paper plates. I never imagined I would ever see anyone show such joy at so small a thing. It kind of puts things in perspective, doesn't it? We often complain about the most trivial things; imagine how much of what you have you would need to lose before you could smile over paper plates.

On Sunday, October 6, our entire church stayed around after the morning service and loaded up a twenty-foot, double axle, enclosed trailer with supplies, mostly water. And then several of our folks hauled them up to Gashes

Creek. Water weighs eight pounds per gallon; it is heavy. And yet, it was not until everything was delivered, unloaded, and our folks with the trailer were all the way back that one of the tires blew and shredded. Please bear with me as I imagine the angel that had his hands around the tire the whole way, keeping it together until he could safely let go.

We have ordered a mountain of sleeping bags to distribute; the post office is going to hate us. Yes, I know all of this is really random; I have a lot of things on my heart and no good way to give them a poetic flow.

We passed a house by the side of the road that did not used to be by the side of the road; the flood water simply picked it up off of its foundation and carried it more than a quarter of a mile away. An old, beat-up vehicle was nearly completely buried on one side of the road, while an expensive BMW was mostly buried on the other. A jeep was on its side in a hole, the door nearly flush with the ground. A tractor-trailer with "Never Forget" on the side was partially inside a home.

No one was complaining. No one was giving up. Every person we talked to was determined to recover and rebuild. As one of my men so aptly put it, "This is Appalachia, Preacher; these people are used to surviving."

I am just glad God has moved on the heart of so many to help them do so.

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Who's to blame for this tragedy?

October 10, 2024 | Daily Dispatch, The (Henderson, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Archives | 510 Words OpenURL Link

At that very time there were some present who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did" (Luke 13: 1-5).

How do we, who believe in a God of unconditional love and grace, make sense of unspeakable tragedy? That's the question in the minds of some in this crowd gathered around Jesus.

Two horrible events have occurred. One a bloody and brutal mass murder by a despotic ruler, who ordered the slaughter of Jews as they worshiped. The other an accident, where a tower collapsed, killing 18 people.

And Jesus knows what they're thinking: "Those who died must have been worse sinners than the rest of us! God must have caused these tragedies to punish them for their sins!" Conspiracy theories are nothing new.

Since Hurricane Helene ravaged Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, I have read a liberal "Christian's" claims that this tragedy was God's punishment against MAGA Republicans, and a conservative "Christian's" claims that God will punish our "tyrannical" government for intentionally withholding aid from the victims. While these folks might claim the label "Christian," they are definitely not faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

A friend of mine, who was deeply troubled by these ridiculous (or even blasphemous) claims, told me he had been struggling with how to respond. But he said he found the answer in the book of Lamentations, where the prophet Jeremiah is grieving, and trying to make sense of the destruction of Jerusalem.

"Although [God] causes grief, he will have compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he will not willingly afflict or grieve anyone" (3: 32-33).

The grief we feel in times of unexplainable tragedy is not punishment from God. God will not willingly afflict or grieve anyone. God shares our grief. God weeps with us. And through God's steadfast love, God will one day transform our grief into compassion for others who suffer.

Jesus says "NO!" God did not cause Pilate to brutally murder the Jews in Galilee, or bring down a tower to kill 18 people in Siloam, as punishment for sin. Those who died were not being punished by God because they were worse sinners than the rest of us. We are all sinners. We all face death. And we all are in danger of perishing.

But there is Good News. We don't have to perish. We can accept the love and grace that God pours out on each one of us. And we can "repent," or turn from, the temptation to blame others for the grief we feel, and allow God to transform our grief into compassion.

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Red Cross blood drive to take place in Swansboro this weekend as need rises following Helene, Milton

October 10, 2024 | Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC) Author: Morgan Starling The Daily News | Section: News | 567 Words OpenURL Link

The town of Swansboro and the Swansboro Rotary are sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive this Saturday to help address the urgent need brought on by Hurricane Helene, and now Milton.

The blood drive will take place at the Swansboro Rotary Civic Center, located at 1104 Main Street Ext., on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

American Red Cross Coordinator Stacey Spencer said that so far, due to the impacts from Helene and Milton, more than 100 blood drives have been canceled. In fact, she said it was just this week that their Asheville staff were all accounted for.

"They are all okay. One of them has experienced a pretty significant loss with their house and things, but physically, they're all okay, thankfully," Spencer said. "Over 100 blood drives being canceled is a killer because that has to be made up. Every donation that is scheduled, a hospital is relying on, and when we lose 100 blood drives, all those donations are gone."

Much of the blood the Red Cross has been able to collect as of late has now been sent down to Florida. So, the need is dire.

"We are always in need," Spencer added. "We actually just came out of a critical need about a month ago, and now we've got this. The Onslow County area, where we did a rally during the shortage, we ended up over collecting, but now, here we are again, dealing with a major crisis."

Part of the problem, Spencer explained, is that many regular donors are not yet eligible to donate again, as there is a 56-day waiting period between donations. That's why Spencer is hoping both young donors and first-time donors will come out to help the effort.

"Our donors are also aging out due to medical conditions and medications they're on, and so far, there's no one to replace them," she added.

For those considering giving blood, or those who may be nervous about doing so, Spencer said they no longer have to give finger pricks before donations. The Red Cross now has what's like a blood pressure cuff that goes around the thumb and measures hemoglobin that way.

To donate, donors must be in good health, at least 16-years-old, and weigh 110 pounds. Those 16 and 17 must have parental consent.

Additionally, there have been recent eligibility changes for those who spent time in Europe regarding the Mad Cow ban, and an elimination of questions based on gender and sexual orientation.

Those who donate also have the chance to track where their blood goes on the donor app. About a week after donating, donors can log-on to the app and view their health charts, blood type, and follow their blood to its final destination.

While most donations stay within the state, a donor's blood can end up anywhere around the country.

For full eligibility requirements, questions, or concerns, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

As for this weekend, the 70th Annual Mullet Festival is also taking place in downtown Swansboro, so keep that in mind when traveling as the main road is expected to be closed until around 10 a.m. Saturday morning.

The town of Swansboro will also be accepting donations for Hurricane Helene relief efforts during the Mullet Festival. The drop-off location is at the Ward Farm Parking Area, behind the Hampton Inn. Items needed include non-perishable foods, medical supplies, cleaning supplies, toiletries, baby supplies, and pet food/supplies.

To sign-up for a donation time, visit https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time.

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Friday night comedy show at Hooligans in Jacksonville to collect donations for Helene victims

October 10, 2024 | Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC) Author: Morgan Starling The Daily News | Section: Entertainment | 196 Words OpenURL Link

Those looking for something fun to do, or for a way to give back to those in western North Carolina, can do both Friday night in Jacksonville.

Cutthroat Concerts is presenting a live comedy experience, featuring comedians Zach Rushing and Officer Eudy, as well as special guests Adam Kemp and RJ Wooster, at Hooligans in Jacksonville on Friday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m.

Rushing and Eudy have announced they will be collecting donated supplies for Hurricane Helene victims in a U-Haul prior to Friday's show. Those who bring donations will get half-off the cost of meet-and-greets with Rushing and Eudy, and the other half the comedians do collect will be donated to relief efforts.

They're doing the same thing in Greensboro Saturday night, and then plan to wake up Sunday and personally deliver the supplies to WNC.

Cutthroat Concerts Owner Johnny Cutt said Cutthroat Concerts & Events will also be making a contribution with proceeds from the show.

Doors open at seven, show starts at eight, and only those 18 and older are permitted. The show is fully seated, so tickets are limited. They can be purchased at cutthroat.com, hooliganslive.com, zachrushinglive.com, or officereudylive.com.

Reporter Morgan Starling can be reached at mstarling@jdnews.com.

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NCHSAA adjusts fall sports slate

October 10, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: For the Record | Section: Sports | 363 Words OpenURL Link

Unavoidable changes were made to the remaining fall sports schedules, as announced by the state's prep governing body this week.

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Board of Directors approved various adjustments in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene that hit the state as a powerful tropical storm.

Later playoff dates and more games per week are among the biggest changes OK'd by the organization.

"Keeping our student-athletes safe as we try to minimize risk of injury was central to any decisions made," said NCHSAA Commissioner Que Tucker and Dr. Stephen Gainey, the association's president, in a joint statement released Wednesday.

Football

Gridiron teams statewide now have an extra week to play with and state champs won't be crowned until a few days before Christmas.

The final reporting deadline for coaches is Nov. 9, with brackets released the following day. First-round action starts on Nov. 15 and the state championships are played Dec. 20-21.

Another point of order is that a minimum of three calendar days (72 hours) must occur in between contests.

Volleyball

Coaches have an extra three days to report final results, as the deadline is pushed to Oct. 19. Seeding starts the following day, first-round competition starts Oct. 22 and state titles are played Nov. 2.

The weekly limitation was modified to allow teams up to eight matches per week. Daily game limitations remain unchanged.

Soccer

The reporting deadline is pushed back a week and now sits at Nov. 6 before midnight. Seeding is set for the next day, with Round 1 games starting Nov. 9. The state championships are held Nov. 22-23.

Changes to the weekly limitation allow up to four contests. No adjustment was made to the daily limitation.

Cross country

Regionals are scheduled for Oct. 26 and states are held Nov. 2.

Tennis

For individual competitions, regionals run from Oct. 18-19 and state championships are set for Oct. 25-26.

Dual team playoffs begin Oct. 21, with states decided on Nov. 9.

Sunday practices and competitions for all sports are still prohibited.

"We commend the work of the NCHSAA staff in its research, the Board of Directors in making time to consider these changes and the willingness of our host partners to accommodate any changes and make their venues available," said Tucker and Gainey.

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Tips for donating to western NC after Hurricane Helene

October 10, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Better Business Bureau | Section: Local | 622 Words OpenURL Link

After a disaster or public tragedy, such as Hurricane Helene, people want to help in any way possible, often contributing to fundraisers to help the survivors and the victims' families.

Sadly, scammers often take advantage of these moments of vulnerability to deceive donors. In addition, there are often campaigns set up by well-meaning individuals who may not be able to deliver on promised relief activities. Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Carolinas (BBB) urges donors to be cautious about appeals that do not specifically identify the intended use of funds.

To donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate. Eligible nonprofits can seek grants and reimbursement of up to \$10,000 from the NC Disaster Relief Fund for efforts to meet immediate storm recovery needs via the United Way of North Carolina.

There are many road closures going in and out of western NC. You can visit drivenc.gov to check road conditions in the area.

Those affected by the storm can apply for federal assistance through FEMA's website.

What to Look For:

Can the charity get to the impacted area? Not all relief organizations will be positioned to provide relief quickly. Check to see if they are already in the area or will be soon. Be alert to possible social media scams. Scammers recognize the emotional motivation to help in response to emergency situations. Be wary of responding to appeals without taking the opportunity to verify the trustworthiness of the social media source or the specified charity. Consider donating money rather than clothing or food. Local drives to collect clothing and food to send overseas may not be practical as the logistics and timing to deliver and disperse such items will be challenging. Relief organizations are better equipped to obtain what is needed, distribute it effectively and avoid duplication of effort.Is the charity experienced in providing emergency relief? Experienced disaster relief charities are the best bet to help deliver aid as soon as possible. Are you considering crowdfunding appeals? If engaging in crowdfunding, it is safest to give to someone you personally know and trust, keeping in mind that some crowdfunding sites take measures to vet posts, others don't. If the poster claims they will forward funds to a specified charity, consider visiting the charity's website on your own and giving to them directly after having checked them out. Be cautious about "100%" claims in appeals. Charities have fundraising and administrative expenses. If a charity promotion claims that all funds collected will be used for relief, see if there is an explanation about how they are able to do this. Even a credit card donation will have a processing fee.Watch out for charity name confusion. Be alert to questionable groups seeking to confuse donors with names that sound similar to charities you know.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance (BBB's Give.org) is a standards-based charity evaluator that seeks to verify the trustworthiness of nationally soliciting charities by completing rigorous evaluations based on 20 holistic standards that address charity governance, results reporting, finances, fundraising, appeal accuracy and other issues.

National charity reports are produced by BBB's Give.org and local charity reports are produced by local Better Business Bureaus — all reports are available at Give.org.

For more information about BBB, visit BBB.org.

Better Business Bureau serving Eastern Carolinas is a not-for-profit corporation serving 48 counties in North and

South Carolina. The organization is funded primarily by BBB Accredited Business fees from over 5,200 local businesses and professional firms. BBB promotes integrity, consumer confidence and business ethics through business self-regulation in the local marketplace. Services provided by BBB include reports on companies and charitable organizations, general monitoring of advertising in the marketplace, consumer/business education programs and dispute resolution services. All services are provided at no cost to the public, with the occasional exception of mediation and arbitration. Visit BBB.org.

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Letter: Massive help for Helene's victims

October 10, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Letters | 149 Words OpenURL Link

It has become obvious that Helene's devastation is too great for the resources of government and relief agencies alone. Thousands are in urgent, immediate need of shelter, food, water, medical care, bathing and clothes. Countless are homeless and jobless.

A massive neighbors-helping-neighbors initiative can be launched under the governor's leadership.

Towns unaffected by the storm can "adopt" suffering towns. Each town's administration can marshal resources to open churches and other places for temporary shelter, meals, health care, clothing and job networking. Buses can be sent to designated areas to transport those wishing to avail themselves of these services.

A list of suffering towns can be published for "adoption" by a municipality or by a consortium of churches. Perhaps an ad hoc agency can be established immediately to coordinate this work.

In closing, an observation by Bruce Lee: "If every man would help his neighbor, no man would be without help."

Suzanne Munson

Henrico, VA

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Harris set to visit Greenville on Sunday

October 10, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Bobby Burns Staff Writer | Section: Local | 661 Words OpenURL Link

Vice President Kamala Harris will visit Greenville on Sunday, a campaign official confirmed, although few details have been released.

The visit was first reported Wednesday night by the News & Observer of Raleigh, saying the Harris-Walz campaign told McClatchy newspapers of the visit exclusively. The official confirmed to The Daily Reflector that the report was accurate but provided no further information.

A social media post made late Wednesday by the Pitt County Democratic Party indicated Harris would hold a rally in Greenville between noon and 4 p.m. at a location to be announced later. The post included a link to a site where the public could sign up to attend the event and receive details.

The visit comes less than a week before the start of early voting in North Carolina and as the Democratic campaign is in a tight battle for the state in its bid for the U.S. presidency against former Republican president Donald Trump.

Most recent polling shows that Harris is less than 2 percentage points behind Trump among likely voters. The difference in the RealClear average of polls reported Sept. 29 is within the margin of error.

A poll conducted by the ECU Center for Survey Research from Sept. 23-26 showed Trump with a 2 percentage point lead over Harris, 49% to 47%. The poll's margin of error is 3%.

Harris' campaign reported Wednesday the margin was 1 percent in Trump's favor.

Early voting begins across the state at 8 a.m. on Thursday, with seven sites opening in Pitt County. It continues through Nov. 2. Election Day is Nov. 5.

It will be Harris' first visit to Greenville. Her husband, Doug Emhoff, campaigned for Harris' then-running mate, President Joe Biden, in Greenville in 2020 when Biden defeated the incumbent Trump to win the presidency.

Biden earned 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232 in 2020. Biden received more than 81 million votes nationally to Trump's over 74 million.

Biden carried Pitt County in 2020 with 54 percent of the vote to Trump's 45 percent, according to the N.C. State Board of Elections. Trump defeated Biden statewide with 50 percent of the vote to Biden's 49 percent.

Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in 2016 in North Carolina with 50 percent of the vote to Clinton's 46 percent. Clinton carried Pitt County 52 percent to 44 percent.

Trump has stopped in Greenville four times, including during his 2016 campaign and in 2019 as president, when his visit to ECU's Minges Coliseum elicited chants of "send her back" in response to Trump's criticism of U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who came to the United States as a child after fleeing Somalia with her family.

He visited again during his 2020 campaign and in 2021, during the N.C. GOP convention at the Greenville Convention Center, when he called Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson "one of the strongest and bravest new Republicans" in the nation.

The campaigns are battling while recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene are ongoing in western North Carolina and

as Hurricane Milton is pummeling Florida.

The storm scrambled Trump's schedule, according to the Associated Press. He put off a virtual event Tuesday night focused on health care and postponed a Univision town hall in Miami. He was in Pennsylvania on Wednesday.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are denouncing misinformation and disinformation surrounding the federal response to Hurricane Helene, which hit last week and killed more than 220 people. Both singled out Trump as driving much of the falsehoods.

Harris plans to head to Nevada and Arizona on Thursday, the Associated Press said.

Early in-person voting has started in Arizona, making it the first of this year's presidential battleground states where all residents can cast a ballot at a traditional polling place ahead of Election Day. The Trump campaign also is planning visits to Arizona.

Each of Arizona's 15 counties is required to open at least one site for in-person voting, which runs until the Friday before the Nov. 5 general election.

 $In-person\ voting\ begins\ next\ week\ in\ three\ more\ presidential\ swing\ states\ --\ Georgia,\ Michigan\ and\ Nevada.$

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Bobby Burns Staff Writer, 'Harris set to visit Greenville on Sunday', *Daily Reflector, The* (online), 10 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C20A4E00072420



Election Board and state legislature poised to ensure voting continues

October 10, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: Elyse Apel The Center Square | Section: Local | 572 Words OpenURL Link

With only a few weeks left until Election Day, the North Carolina State Board of Elections and staff are poised to ensure that voting continues and voters are assisted as needed, even in the midst of unprecedented damage from Hurricane Helene.

"This storm is like nothing we've seen in our lifetime in North Carolina," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the board.

The counties in western North Carolina were particularly hard hit, but Bell said the board will do everything in its power so voting continues.

"Mountain people are strong and the election people who serve them are tough and resilient too," she said. "We've battled through hurricanes and tropical storms and still held safe and secure elections."

Last week, the board voted unanimously to allow counties affected by the disaster to delay absentee voting board meetings, which were supposed to start Tuesday.

In a press conference, Bell said the meeting was likely the first of many.

"This will be an ongoing process," she said.

As of last week, 12 election offices remain closed. The priority of the board is to ensure the safety of election and poll voters and that everyone who is eligible to vote is able to, Bell said.

Across the state, nearly 250,000 absentee ballots have already been requested. The board is working with the U.S. Postal Service to make sure mail-in ballots are secure and will stay in communication with the agency to see if there are other steps that are necessary to ensure the mail-in voting process continues.

For those voters who are displaced, the board advises that absentee ballots can be redelivered to a new location, if necessary.

Bell said that special emergency kits will be deployed to election offices that are having internet and cell service issues, which are in four or five counties. The state election board has 10 of the kits available.

Not only is the board partnering with the postal service, but it is also working with emergency management and federal authorities to determine what counties are most at risk and in need of assistance.

Bell said she hopes voters will continue to have confidence in the security of the election, even with the disruptions.

"I hope this helps them have more faith in the results and what we do," Bell said. "We might have to do it a little differently," but she is confident that the results will be accurate.

In initial reports, all county election offices are believed to be intact, Bell said. The board has also confirmed that essential voting materials like ballots and voting machines are secure.

They are not as sure about polling centers, but Bell said they are poised to look into alternatives, including temporary polling centers, if necessary.

Though the situation remains fluid, Bell says the board has processes in place ready to address any and all needs of counties.

"We feel it doesn't matter if it's this type of storm ... there are many things that can be disruptive, but we still figure out how to proceed," she said.

Voter registration will continue as normal, as the main objective for the state board is to get county boards of elections up and running.

She encourages voters to use local media, radio stations, and ncsbe.gov to keep up with the latest voting information.

While the election is coming up, Bell assures voters that the board and the state Legislature will continue to monitor the situation and what steps are necessary over the next few weeks.

"We do have some time still," Bell said.

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Locals organize efforts to help Western NC

October 10, 2024 | Daily Reflector, The (Greenville, NC) Author: John Foley | Section: Local | 483 Words

OpenURL Link

Efforts have been mounting across the state and locally to provide necessary essentials to citizens in western North Carolina devastated by Hurricane Helene.

Those efforts are now underway in Martin County and two separate individuals are organizing them.

Shaw's BBQ owner Gary Manning is organizing a food caravan for the folks in Asheville and western North Carolina, which is leaving Sunday. Manning plans on setting up early Monday morning and begin feeding people by 10:30 a.m. Manning also wants to provide food for home.

"We've partnered with Gashes Creek Baptist Church in Asheville to provide lunch and meals for those in need in the Asheville Community. The need is like never seen before in that area and we want to contribute in any way we can. Our plan is to serve lunch and pass out take home meals on Monday, Oct. 14," said Manning.

Manning made the connection with Gashes Creek Baptist Church through a friend from his masonry business days that attends the church.

While Manning is organizing this effort on his own, there are ways residents can help other residents in need.

Manning is accepting monetary donations and is also looking for assistance in serving.

"If you want to travel up and help to pass out meals, we would love for you to come along with us. Just reach out to us and let someone here at Shaw's know of your intent and if you will be providing your own transportation or if you would like to ride with us," encouraged Manning.

Manning is also accepting perishable donations such as meat, cabbage and hamburger buns. Manning makes his own coleslaw and is particular about the ingredients, hence his need for cabbage.

The chef is also encouraging anyone that would like to add to the amount of food they will be carrying can donate as well.

Currently a box has been provided at Shaw's for cash donations. All funds collected this week will be used to buy products to bring west.

Manning has also reached out to local suppliers who have agreed to donate items and discounted prices in support of Shaw's BBQ efforts.

"Pray for our safe travels and most of all continue to pray for our neighbors to the west that have suffered so much," said Manning.

Those interested in helping or donating can call Shaw's and ask to speak to Gary in regards to any details.

Williamston resident David Richmond is also organizing an event in downtown Williamston focused on entertainment and donations.

Music for the Mountains will be an effort to collect winter items for the needy. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26. Plans are still underway, and Richmond is planning a lineup of entertainment.

The event is scheduled at Walter Whitfield's park and the Community Stage. Food trucks will be available from noon throughout the day. Donations will be accepted all day. Richmond is looking for new winter clothes, jackets, socks, boots and gloves.

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Tips for donating to western NC after Hurricane Helene

October 10, 2024 | Duplin Times, The (NC) Author: Better Business Bureau| Section: Local | 622 Words OpenURL Link

After a disaster or public tragedy, such as Hurricane Helene, people want to help in any way possible, often contributing to fundraisers to help the survivors and the victims' families.

Sadly, scammers often take advantage of these moments of vulnerability to deceive donors. In addition, there are often campaigns set up by well-meaning individuals who may not be able to deliver on promised relief activities. Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Carolinas (BBB) urges donors to be cautious about appeals that do not specifically identify the intended use of funds.

To donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate. Eligible nonprofits can seek grants and reimbursement of up to \$10,000 from the NC Disaster Relief Fund for efforts to meet immediate storm recovery needs via the United Way of North Carolina.

There are many road closures going in and out of western NC. You can visit drivenc.gov to check road conditions in the area.

Those affected by the storm can apply for federal assistance through FEMA's website.

What to Look For:

Can the charity get to the impacted area? Not all relief organizations will be positioned to provide relief quickly. Check to see if they are already in the area or will be soon. Be alert to possible social media scams. Scammers recognize the emotional motivation to help in response to emergency situations. Be wary of responding to appeals without taking the opportunity to verify the trustworthiness of the social media source or the specified charity. Consider donating money rather than clothing or food. Local drives to collect clothing and food to send overseas may not be practical as the logistics and timing to deliver and disperse such items will be challenging. Relief organizations are better equipped to obtain what is needed, distribute it effectively and avoid duplication of effort.Is the charity experienced in providing emergency relief? Experienced disaster relief charities are the best bet to help deliver aid as soon as possible. Are you considering crowdfunding appeals? If engaging in crowdfunding, it is safest to give to someone you personally know and trust, keeping in mind that some crowdfunding sites take measures to vet posts, others don't. If the poster claims they will forward funds to a specified charity, consider visiting the charity's website on your own and giving to them directly after having checked them out. Be cautious about "100%" claims in appeals. Charities have fundraising and administrative expenses. If a charity promotion claims that all funds collected will be used for relief, see if there is an explanation about how they are able to do this. Even a credit card donation will have a processing fee.Watch out for charity name confusion. Be alert to questionable groups seeking to confuse donors with names that sound similar to charities you know.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance (BBB's Give.org) is a standards-based charity evaluator that seeks to verify the trustworthiness of nationally soliciting charities by completing rigorous evaluations based on 20 holistic standards that address charity governance, results reporting, finances, fundraising, appeal accuracy and other issues.

National charity reports are produced by BBB's Give.org and local charity reports are produced by local Better Business Bureaus — all reports are available at Give.org.

For more information about BBB, visit BBB.org.

Better Business Bureau serving Eastern Carolinas is a not-for-profit corporation serving 48 counties in North and

South Carolina. The organization is funded primarily by BBB Accredited Business fees from over 5,200 local businesses and professional firms. BBB promotes integrity, consumer confidence and business ethics through business self-regulation in the local marketplace. Services provided by BBB include reports on companies and charitable organizations, general monitoring of advertising in the marketplace, consumer/business education programs and dispute resolution services. All services are provided at no cost to the public, with the occasional exception of mediation and arbitration. Visit BBB.org.

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