

# Rallying to help farmers feed hungry livestock

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Kathy Ross| Section: News| 1265 Words OpenURL Link

Nine days after Helene's flood waters drilled through the Ferguson dairy on Riverside, a caravan of five trucks pulling gooseneck trailers headed up Panther Creek, carrying round bales covered with Bible-verse references spray-painted in red on their white wrappings.

It was a convoluted way to get to the farm, over the mountain via some hairpin turns, but the simple route, a normally easy ride down Riverside Road, had been flooded, muddied, dusted and, in places, shredded by Helene. So they came in the hard way, with gifts of haylage for the dairy farmers who lost much to the flood.

This pilgrimage began with Hunter Pressley and his father, Darren, who live in Jackson County but have deer hunted for years on a farm near Athens, Ga. When they heard of the farms ravaged by Helene, they called the Georgia landowner, who had sold more than 90 percent of his cattle herd. That landowner had 120 rolls of haylage, and he told the Pressleys to take it to the N.C. farmers who had lost winter feed.

A tractor-trailer transported those rolls to Jackson County, where the Pressleys and others gathered with their trailers to unload and re-load for distribution. Some of the haylage arrived at the Western North Carolina Regional Livestock Center near Canton, while five trailer loads were sent straight to the Ferguson farm.

Joining the project were Matthew Brautigam from Sylva and his father, Chris, who drove in from Tennessee to be part of the project. A number of the volunteers came from New Hope Baptist Church in Sylva, including Bill Davis, now public information officer for Jackson County, who had told fellows church members, I've got to do something."

"God gave us the opportunity to serve, and we're here," he said.

A lot of people have taken up that opportunity to serve farmers in Haywood County and other WNC counties stricken by flooding and landslides from Helene. Hay has arrived from South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, along with donations of fencing supplies, feed for goats, rabbits, chickens, cats and dogs.

But were it not for the coordinators at the Western North Carolina Regional Livestock Center (usually referred to as the "Canton stockyard" by locals), many of donations might have stalled.

Dan Messer, operations manager for the center, began those relief efforts two days before Helene's arrival over the mountains, with this Facebook post: "Don't lose your animals to flooding! ... If you have animals in danger of being swept away and have no other options, contact us, and we will try our best to accommodate you."

As soon as they realized that farmers had lost feed, barns and fencing, Messer and his wife, Kendra started recruiting volunteers and donations and working with Yvonne Coburn, coordinator for Civilian Disaster Response, a nonprofit whose focus is on assisting farmers, homesteaders and civilians following natural disasters. Donations were piling up even before the N.C. Department of Agriculture asked Messer to make the livestock market the farm relief center for the stricken western counties.

The result has been a marathon of challenges: how do you store truckloads of hay, organize contributions of fencing, shovels, cleaning supplies and feed for all kinds of livestock, coordinate civilian donations from diapers to food, make sure trucks unloading supplies have room to maneuver even as pickup trucks and farm trailers line up to take hay and feed home to livestock?

Kendra Messer has become the primary face of the relief effort on Facebook, posting almost daily videos updating needs and recruiting help. Dan Messer and Coburn have become the choreographers of an ever-changing cast of donors and recipients.

Those recipients range from folks who need horse hay for a single animal, people in need of chicken feed or wiring for new coops, even beekeepers seeking sugar water, to farmers who have lost an entire winter's feed and need to figure out how to get 50 or 100 cattle through the winter.

Somehow, they're making it all work.

"Honestly, I don't even know how this happened," Messer said a week after the flood, between phone calls and a never-ending barrage of guestions. "God just keeps meeting needs.

"We've emptied that room half a dozen times and it keeps filling back up. We just ran out of water and did you see, the next truck had water on it."

Since that time, the sales arena, used to store non-farm items from pet food to people food, has had every seat filled to tipping-point with supplies. The livestock pens behind the sale room have been filled with pallets of water, bags of feed, fencing and cleaning supplies, and square and round bales of hay. It is an organized effort, as those who drive through with farm needs are directed around the building in a slow route where feed is stored by animal type, including stacks of pet food.

Messer is the third generation of his family to manage livestock markets in these mountains. Those inherited relationships and knowledge of communities has been well utilized in these times, when he and Coburn have coordinated hay convoys to remote communities from Avery to Polk and Buncombe counties, even taking advantage of horse and mule pack teams or all-terrain vehicles to get hay into area where roads have been demolished.

Hay is coming in not only by truck; some of the most popular posts on the livestock center's Facebook page has been those showing Chinook helicopters delivering loads of hay a feed.

The center has become a 24-hour operation, recruiting volunteers to unload trucks at night. To the delight of the Messers and Coburn, the most recent call for help resulted in 50 troops from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne.

As word has spread about the farm relief work, the hay, feed and fencing supplies have dwindled, so that the center is now requesting that those in need make appointments for pickup. Those numbers are posted on the center's Facebook page. The center is also working to distribute items for personal needs to other relief center and scale down that portion of its work, to free up parking and space for farm relief.

The overworked and near-exhausted coordinators – Dan and Kendra have both picked up respiratory ailments — have also found moments of joy and even fun in the grueling efforts that is entering its fourth week. Volunteers are now wearing buttons that declare: "No, I don't know where Dan is," or "I'll find Dan for a \$10 donation." And the Messers have celebrated the generosity of donors and the blessings of faith.

"It's been amazing to see how the Lord has been able to take all of this and bless so many," Kendra said in one of the Facebook posts. Another joyful moment came this week with the arrival of 140 donated generators. "This is one of the most beautiful sights I have seen in a long time," Kendra said.

The volunteers have been another source of joy. Hope Calvert lives in Leicester and showed up to help. Her hometown was hit by tornadoes several years ago, she said. In the rural area where she grew up, "it took people over a year to get back on their feet, because they were the last to get help," she added. "We're not going to let that happen here."

The livestock center is also now coordinating with the Smoky Mountain Farmers Cooperative. The Jonathan Creek

branch of the co-op has established a relief fund for farmers and is also providing some assistance.

And this week, three experts from the Nelson Tractor Company out of Blairsville, Ga. traveled throughout Western North Carolina, including Haywood County, offering to help evaluate and repair farm equipment damaged by the flood, particularly tractors.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Kathy Ross, 'Rallying to help farmers feed hungry livestock', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E2429EB338">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E2429EB338</a>



# HCC Haywood Strong Scholarship expanded for storm victims

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Life | 104 Words OpenURL Link

The Haywood Community College Foundation has expanded the Haywood Strong Scholarship program to support current HCC students who have been impacted by Helene — including help paying for household supplies, gas and transportation, groceries and much more.

The Haywood Strong Scholarship was initially established in 2023 to help mill employees wanting to return to school Now, the HCC Foundation board overwhelmingly agreed to expand it to support for students facing an emergency financial need from storm impacts.

The application is easy to complete and can be found at www.haywood.edu/helene.

For more information or to donate, contact Hylah Birenbaum at hebirenbaum@haywood.edu or call 828-627-4544 or visit www.haywood.edu/foundation/ways-to-donate.php.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'HCC Haywood Strong Scholarship expanded for storm victims', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E1F3A33530">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E1F3A33530</a>



# Door-to-door visits underway to make sure everyone's OK

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: News | 894 Words OpenURL Link

This election season, that knock at the door isn't someone asking for your vote. It's a countywide operation known as canvassing to visit anyone who may have been affected by the devastation of Helene.

"The intention is to identify needs and make sure we get those needs met. We're trying to make sure we're not missing anybody and there's not any gaps in service," said Tori Morgensai of Haywood County Health and Human Services. "Haywood County is a resilient stock of people. We're trying to help them in whatever way possible."

Canvassers wearing high-visibility vests are fanning out across neighborhoods throughout Haywood County. The canvassing began in North Canton last week. On Monday, a new command center was set up in the western end of the county.

Volunteers and county staff will be visiting homes every day between Monday and Saturday. Many of the volunteers are from local churches, so the canvassing operation is skipping over Sundays.

The number of volunteers fluctuates based on the day with as many as 30 on some days and as few as four on others, Morgensai said. They usually work for four to five hours canvassing neighborhoods.

"We could use a lot more volunteers. We've got a lot of addresses to get to," she said.

Canvassers intend to visit every home believed to have been affected by Hurricane Helene. During those visits, canvassers will ask questions about the resident's needs — hitting on seven key lifelines: heating, electricity, communication, food, water, health and transportation.

Volunteers help facilitate resources to fill whatever need an individual is experiencing.

"They've been giving out a lot of blankets," Morgensai said. "We've been giving away a lot of water. Surprisingly, or not surprisingly, not a lot of people are interested in the MREs (meals ready to eat)."

One frequent request has been for dog food.

Volunteers also leave information on resources should someone's needs change.

"There are still people who don't have great cell service or internet, so in the canvassing operation, the volunteers go out with a paper version that has a QR code, but it has all the main information they need and the phone numbers," Morgensai said.

Before they go out in public, volunteers are given a crash training course that includes how to introduce themselves.

"Not everybody is welcome to church volunteers. People are not always welcome to hearing that someone is DSS or HHSA either," Morensai said. "We've had to really make sure we're getting that script to say 'Hey, we're part of the PECO (post-event canvassing operation) team. We're here to make sure your needs are being met.' People were a lot more open to it."

Volunteers are given maps and addresses of homes believed to be affected by the storm.

Those maps were developed using the 100-year flood plain with a large buffer zone to ensure that every affected house is included. Volunteers also check neighboring streets to ensure there's no damage beyond the buffer zone.

"We have blown through the 100-year flood plain," Morgensai said. "We don't have good maps of where the impact is fully. They have a lot of it through damage assessment, but we're still getting that picture."

Local fire chiefs have also helped clue canvassers in on which areas may need additional focus. Those local fire departments have often already been door-to-door in affected areas and have seen the worst of the damage.

"The fire department there (in North Canton) has done a really great job of taking care of their people," Morgensai said. "Our fire chiefs are really taking care of their people."

The information collected during canvassing will help emergency responders better prepare for the next disaster. That includes being able to see what areas could potentially be in the path of flooding during future storms.

"We'll eventually be able to process and analyze that data and put it together on a map and get a fairly accurate picture throughout the entirety of the county of exactly how much damage," said Haywood County Emergency Services Public Information Officer Allison Richmond.

They'll also be able to use the same canvassing model in the future.

"Everything we do now is an evolution for whatever comes next," Richmond said.

The canvassing operation is another example of Haywood County learning from Tropical Storm Fred in 2021.

"One of the ultimate objectives of this is making sure we have coordination," Morgensai said. "There were a lot of canvassing operations happening (after Fred). The churches were getting out there and canvassing, and a lot of the volunteer groups were canvassing. We were getting reports of 'Have you checked in on this family?' from multiple different angles."

This time, the canvassing procedure from Tropical Storm Fred was scaled up and adjusted based on lessons learned three years ago.

Local officials also had help from outside agencies in developing the canvassing plan. A specialist from D.C.'s emergency management agency was requested to help out.

But even his typical plans had to be adjusted for Haywood County.

"This is a first for all of us," Morgensai said. "His (plan) is very D.C.-based — block-by-block."

That city-based plan was adapted for the mountain environment.

"It's taking a very urban model and converting it to a more rural model that we can use here," Richmond said.

Going through the development of the canvassing model allowed emergency personnel to become more prepared for future disasters.

"We've learned a lot," Morgensai said. "There's a lot of data. There's a lot of impact. We're making sure that our processes work — that they're scalable."

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Aarik Long, 'Door-to-door visits underway to make sure everyone's OK', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E2142BECD8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E2142BECD8</a>



# Halloween insider's guide to 30 spooktacular events in Haywood County

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Carol Viau | Section: Life | 2007 Words OpenURL Link

Helene isn't going to sideline Halloween in Haywood County. There are plenty of Halloween happenings on the docket! So, lift your kids' spirits, get costumes ready and enjoy the fun, spooky season of Halloween.

The scene isn't just for the littles though. From the tame and festive and spooky and creepy, the Haywood cauldron is brimming with Halloween activities for everyone.

Adults can get in on the spooktacular action, too, with ghoulish Halloween bashes. Meanwhile, teens and scare seekers can get their fix with a haunted house and haunted corn maze.

Just about everything on the late October calendar has been wrapped in Halloween theming, from friendly-spirited trunk-and-treats to zombies rising on Waynesville's Main Street. Consult area schools and churches for more truck 'n treat fun, too.

Downtown trick-or-treating

Hazelween: 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 in Hazelwood.

"Hazelween Fest" trick-or-treating in is back for a fourth year from along Hazelwood Avenue in Waynesville. Families turn out en masse decked out in costumes, and kids have just as much fun parading around on the street as they do collecting candy.

The Hazelwood Boosters Club pulls out all the stops for trick-or-treating with Hazelwood merchants and residents. Automobiles from the Hazelwood Hot Summer Nights Cruise-in will be parked and giving out candy also. Hazelwood Avenue, from Haywood Urgent Care to Brown Avenue, will be closed to traffic.

Downtown Canton: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31.

The Canton Merchant Partnership hosts a spooktacular night of fun and trick-or-treating on Main Street in downtown Canton, so bring your little ghosts and goblins for this safe, family event. The fun includes bouncy houses, a costume contest, selfie station, random flash mob dances, spooky train rides, hayrides, vintage car show and Ben's Backdraft BBQ food truck.

Plus, swing through the Milltown Farmers Market from 4-7 p.m., the final market of the season, complete with a scavenger hunt for kids. The market will be moved from Sorrells Street Park to the Smathers parking lot off Main Street.

Treats on the Street: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 in Waynesville.

Trick-or-treaters will take over downtown Waynesville for the annual Treats on the Street. Bring your little ones in costumes for candy, music, dancing, a photo booth — and Halloween specialty drinks/food specials at restaurants. Main Street will be closed to traffic, giving costumed children free rein to run in a safe environment.

Not-to-be-missed freaky zombies will rise from the dead when the WNC Flash Mob zombies will walk up Depot Street at 5:30 p.m., then perform the iconic Michael Jackson "Thriller" dance at three different stops along Main Street.

Festivals and treats

Friday, Oct. 25

Monster Mash-Bash: Free spooktacular family Halloween event for all from 5-9 p.m. at the Waynesville Rec Center. Safe and fun Halloween experience for the whole family with snacks, costume contests, hayrides, sweet treats, pumpkin carvings and lighthearted spooky movies. 550 Vance. St., Waynesville.

Saturday, Oct. 26

ScreamFest: An eerie-sistible event from noon-10 p.m. at the Maggie Valley Festival Grounds. See the grounds transformed into a haven of spooky fun with trick or treating, unique vendors, food trucks, live music, fall games, plus a haunted house after dark to chill you to the bone. Be there if you dare. Tix \$10-15. 3340 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley.

Cabbage Rose Trunk or Treat: Kids and kids at heart, enjoy the spookiest, most exciting trunk or treat party 4-6 p.m. at Cabbage Rose's eighth annual Halloween bash in Maggie Valley. Tons of prizes and costume contests for all ages at 6 p.m.; wear your best costume and dress up your pet, too — prizes are bigger than ever this year. Trick out your trunk or vehicle for a chance to win cash \$200 prize to the coolest, creepiest or craziest design. Free admission. 3388 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley.

Motorcycle Halloween Party: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Smoky Mountain Steel Horses' annual Halloween party. Free drinks and chili 12:30 p.m.-until gone. Family fun, bring kids for trick or treating and check out the dealership's bikes. 82 Locust Dr., Waynesville.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Maggie Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation: Enjoy some Halloween fun 6:30-8 p.m. with the residents and staff. The residents love to see kids in costumes and will be handing out candy to anyone in the community. Poppy Joe's Food Truck will be set up to serve all kinds of goodies. 75 Fisher Loop, Maggie Valley.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Mama T's Spooktacular: Join WPTL Radio in Canton from 5-9 p.m., for Mama T's Halloween Spooktacular. Live broadcast by John Anderson cranking in the parking lot, plus food trucks, free cotton candy and fun for everyone. Want to eat real food other than sugar? Four food trucks onsite — Hit the Pit BBQ, Woof St. Bistro, Fat Belly's and Sunburst Coffee. 543 Pisgah Dr., Canton.

Milltown Farmers Market: 4-7 p.m. at Smathers parking lot, downtown Canton. Enjoy the final market of the season, at the Smathers parking lot, with many craft vendors, complete with a scavenger hunt for kids. Great opportunity for the community to come together at the market and the adjoining Canton Treats on Main Street event. 462 Main St., Canton.

Spooks and Chutes: 5:30–8:30 p.m. with the Waynesville Elks Lodge. Kids of all ages welcome; come in costumes (or not). Free hotdogs, chips and bottled water. Event was named in 2020, when candy was sent down a chute to kids for social distancing; the name has stuck. The Lodge has a donation center for items for flood relief items. 510 Dellwood City Rd., Waynesville.

Auburn Park et al Trick-or-Treating: The Auburn Park, Shelton Hills and Hendrix Park neighborhoods have become trick-or-treat legends in Waynesville, with hundreds of kids hitting the streets for a traditional house-to-house Halloween experience, pillow cases and all. Some streets are blocked to traffic so the kids have full run of the place.

Outside the Box

Farmers Market Pumpkin Carving contest: Bring your pre-carved pumpkin creation to Haywood's Historic Farmers Market, Waynesville, by 9:30 a.m. The market's shoppers will vote for the favorite; winner snags some awesome market goodies and major bragging rights. After the contest, carvers take their pumpkins home to enjoy. 250 Pigeon St., Waynesville.

"Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest:" 10-11:30 a.m., join Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation supporters, at Waynesville Historic Courthouse steps. Do something fun and festive for the fur babies; grab a costume for your pup — or make a donation of your choosing at Sarge's Adoption Center and use one of theirs. Funds raised from the \$10 per dog entry fee go to various area missions helping animals with foods, medications, boarding and foster supplies after Helene. 285 N. Main St., Waynesville.

Winchester Creek Farm Halloween tours: Alpacas, llamas and farm animals — oh, my! Oct. 26-27, with goodie bags of candy and treats on seven stops during the farm guided Scavenger Hunt. Wear costumes. Food from Dogsonwheels Sylva, plus Cold Mountain Photography digital photos (add \$20 to tour price). Book tours online. 386 Walker Rd., Waynesville.

"Hocus Pocus" Halloween movie: Beaverdam Community Center holds outdoor movie night 5 p.m. "to give the children of the community a little comfort in this time." Enjoy Halloween favorite "Hocus Pocus." Fat Belly's food truck, plus snacks, balloon animals and surprises for kids. Bring camp chairs and blankets. 1620 N. Canton Rd., Canton.

Spooky Terrarium craft: 5–6 p.m. at the Waypoint, Waynesville. Create a Halloween terrarium, designed to spark creativity and bring a touch of spookiness to any space. Perfect project for all ages. 113 N. Main St., Waynesville.

Sunday, Oct. 27

Cute 'n' Spooky Paint Class: Create some ghostly fun and fall vibes 2-4 p.m. at The Ten Acre Farm's paint class, perfect for all skill levels. Noelani guides attendees painting adorable ghost scene, with pumpkins, flowers and autumn trees. Kids welcome. Event proceeds go to Mountain Projects, benefitting survivors of Hurricane Helene. \$35 per person. 148 Chambers Farm Ln., Canton.

'Frightacular' concert: 4 p.m. Haywood Community Band at FUMC Waynesville; free. Gather for an evening of musical frights and delights. More than 60 band members set the mood for the spooky holiday with a program of ghostly compositions. Donations taken for student musician scholarships in college and band camps. 566 S. Haywood St., Waynesville.

Thursday, Oct. 31

WNC Flash Mob "Zombie Walk:" freaky zombies rise from the dead, starting at 5:30 p.m. staggering up and down Main Street, Waynesville. See the WNC Flash Mob's zombies starting at Depot Street performing the iconic Michael Jackson "Thriller" dance, then follow them along Main Street to Church Street (three different stops). Folks watching the thrilling performance are invited to join in. Not to be missed.

## Ongoing

Pinhead's Graveyard: This sprawling, eerie, century-old downtown Canton warehouse has been ranked the No. 1 haunted attraction in NC. Pinhead's Graveyard is ready to scare at its "Slasher House" indoor haunted house. Make your way through recreated scenes from classic horror movies while being haunted by live costumed, scarers.

Open "rain or blood" 7 p.m. Thursdays–Sundays through Oct. 27, plus Oct. 31, Halloween night. Brand new set up for 2024. Victims \$35; kids 6-10 \$20; below age 5 free; active military, veterans, LEO, seniors (65+) \$20; 562 Main St., Canton.

Cold Mountain Corn Maze: Work your way through the Bethel corn maze, in its 20th anniversary year. Enjoy fall-themed, family-friendly activities, pumpkin patch and hayrides. It turns haunted at dusk with costumed scarers roving the stalks. Markers inside the maze pose trivia questions about pop culture, Halloween and American history; with the right answer, it leads in the right direction. This year's design is a wolf emblem, representing a men's cancer support group.

Hours: 4-9 p.m., Wednesday-Friday, 1-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, through October. \$12 admission, including hayride; +\$3 for the elevated scare experience. 4168 Pisgah Dr., Canton.

Pumpkin Patch Hayrides: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at The 10 Acre Farm in Bethel. Head to the garden for a delightful hayride (\$5) through the farm, pick your perfect pumpkin (optional). Enjoy fall's great pumpkins, gourds, squash available for purchase. Order hayride tix online. 148 Chambers Farm Ln., Canton.

Halloween Craft Kits: Get crafty with fun take-and-make kits for purchase at the Arts Council's Haywood Handmade Gallery, Waynesville. Includes seven quality crafts that make the perfect activity or gift this spooky season; \$20. 86 N. Main St., Waynesville.

HART whodunnit mystery: Enjoy HART Theatre's production of Agatha Christie's legendary "The Mousetrap" (weekends through Nov. 17). This suspenseful masterpiece has captivated audiences with gripping mystery and unexpected twists for more than seven decades. Follow characters attempting to uncover the murderer among them before it's too late. 250 Pigeon St., Waynesville.

Halloween for Grown-Ups

(some welcoming kids with adults)

Friday, Oct. 25

Axe & Awl Leatherworks: Awl Hallows Eve bash: 7 p.m. – midnight; spooktacular night of eerie enchantment, terrifyingly tantalizing cocktails, fantastic costumes, in a hair-raising night of revelry with DJ jam. Tix \$10. 21+ only; ID required. 41 Depot St. Waynesville.

Saturday, Oct. 26

Frog Level Halloween Bash: Frog Level Brewing 6-9 p.m., featuring performance from the Tricia Ann Band, costume contest (with prizes) and some bloody brews. Plus, bring the kiddos on Halloween Oct. 31 for free candy. 56 Commerce St., Waynesville.

"Nightmare on Main Street:" Assembly on Main, 7 p.m.-midnight, with spine-chilling Halloween cocktails, blood-curdling shooters, Zombie Punch (brewed for the little monsters) and ghoulish drink specials. Dress to scare for freakishly fun costume prizes for kids, creepy couples and most terrifying overall costume. Eerie tunes, fang-tastic food, spooky decorations. Assembly on Main, 1940 S. Main St., Waynesville.

Thursday, Oct. 31

The Scotsman's "Take Me back to the 90s" Halloween party: 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Downtown Waynesville. Get spooky with the 90s at The Scotsman Public house, with DJ playing favorite songs from the 1990s. Costume prizes and drink specials. 37 Church St., Waynesville.

Halloween Dinner and Spooky Tales: 5 or 7 p.m., by reservation at Valé 243 Southern Italian Restaurant. Join in a spooky Halloween dinner and tales, with dramatic reading of "The Tell Tale Heart" and "The Raven." Prix fixe, spooky menu. Call for reservations/prices. 243 Paragon Pkwy., Clyde.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Carol Viau, 'Halloween insider's guide to 30 spooktacular events in Haywood County', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E3027836EE20">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5E3027836EE20</a>



# Halloween insider's guide to 30 spooktacular events in Haywood County

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Carol Viau | Section: Life | 2007 Words OpenURL Link

Helene isn't going to sideline Halloween in Haywood County. There are plenty of Halloween happenings on the docket! So, lift your kids' spirits, get costumes ready and enjoy the fun, spooky season of Halloween.

The scene isn't just for the littles though. From the tame and festive and spooky and creepy, the Haywood cauldron is brimming with Halloween activities for everyone.

Adults can get in on the spooktacular action, too, with ghoulish Halloween bashes. Meanwhile, teens and scare seekers can get their fix with a haunted house and haunted corn maze.

Just about everything on the late October calendar has been wrapped in Halloween theming, from friendly-spirited trunk-and-treats to zombies rising on Waynesville's Main Street. Consult area schools and churches for more truck 'n treat fun, too.

Downtown trick-or-treating

Hazelween: 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 in Hazelwood.

"Hazelween Fest" trick-or-treating in is back for a fourth year from along Hazelwood Avenue in Waynesville. Families turn out en masse decked out in costumes, and kids have just as much fun parading around on the street as they do collecting candy.

The Hazelwood Boosters Club pulls out all the stops for trick-or-treating with Hazelwood merchants and residents. Automobiles from the Hazelwood Hot Summer Nights Cruise-in will be parked and giving out candy also. Hazelwood Avenue, from Haywood Urgent Care to Brown Avenue, will be closed to traffic.

Downtown Canton: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31.

The Canton Merchant Partnership hosts a spooktacular night of fun and trick-or-treating on Main Street in downtown Canton, so bring your little ghosts and goblins for this safe, family event. The fun includes bouncy houses, a costume contest, selfie station, random flash mob dances, spooky train rides, hayrides, vintage car show and Ben's Backdraft BBQ food truck.

Plus, swing through the Milltown Farmers Market from 4-7 p.m., the final market of the season, complete with a scavenger hunt for kids. The market will be moved from Sorrells Street Park to the Smathers parking lot off Main Street.

Treats on the Street: 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 in Waynesville.

Trick-or-treaters will take over downtown Waynesville for the annual Treats on the Street. Bring your little ones in costumes for candy, music, dancing, a photo booth — and Halloween specialty drinks/food specials at restaurants. Main Street will be closed to traffic, giving costumed children free rein to run in a safe environment.

Not-to-be-missed freaky zombies will rise from the dead when the WNC Flash Mob zombies will walk up Depot Street at 5:30 p.m., then perform the iconic Michael Jackson "Thriller" dance at three different stops along Main Street.

Festivals and treats

Friday, Oct. 25

Monster Mash-Bash: Free spooktacular family Halloween event for all from 5-9 p.m. at the Waynesville Rec Center. Safe and fun Halloween experience for the whole family with snacks, costume contests, hayrides, sweet treats, pumpkin carvings and lighthearted spooky movies. 550 Vance. St., Waynesville.

Saturday, Oct. 26

ScreamFest: An eerie-sistible event from noon-10 p.m. at the Maggie Valley Festival Grounds. See the grounds transformed into a haven of spooky fun with trick or treating, unique vendors, food trucks, live music, fall games, plus a haunted house after dark to chill you to the bone. Be there if you dare. Tix \$10-15. 3340 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley.

Cabbage Rose Trunk or Treat: Kids and kids at heart, enjoy the spookiest, most exciting trunk or treat party 4-6 p.m. at Cabbage Rose's eighth annual Halloween bash in Maggie Valley. Tons of prizes and costume contests for all ages at 6 p.m.; wear your best costume and dress up your pet, too — prizes are bigger than ever this year. Trick out your trunk or vehicle for a chance to win cash \$200 prize to the coolest, creepiest or craziest design. Free admission. 3388 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley.

Motorcycle Halloween Party: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Smoky Mountain Steel Horses' annual Halloween party. Free drinks and chili 12:30 p.m.-until gone. Family fun, bring kids for trick or treating and check out the dealership's bikes. 82 Locust Dr., Waynesville.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Maggie Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation: Enjoy some Halloween fun 6:30-8 p.m. with the residents and staff. The residents love to see kids in costumes and will be handing out candy to anyone in the community. Poppy Joe's Food Truck will be set up to serve all kinds of goodies. 75 Fisher Loop, Maggie Valley.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Mama T's Spooktacular: Join WPTL Radio in Canton from 5-9 p.m., for Mama T's Halloween Spooktacular. Live broadcast by John Anderson cranking in the parking lot, plus food trucks, free cotton candy and fun for everyone. Want to eat real food other than sugar? Four food trucks onsite — Hit the Pit BBQ, Woof St. Bistro, Fat Belly's and Sunburst Coffee. 543 Pisgah Dr., Canton.

Milltown Farmers Market: 4-7 p.m. at Smathers parking lot, downtown Canton. Enjoy the final market of the season, at the Smathers parking lot, with many craft vendors, complete with a scavenger hunt for kids. Great opportunity for the community to come together at the market and the adjoining Canton Treats on Main Street event. 462 Main St., Canton.

Spooks and Chutes: 5:30–8:30 p.m. with the Waynesville Elks Lodge. Kids of all ages welcome; come in costumes (or not). Free hotdogs, chips and bottled water. Event was named in 2020, when candy was sent down a chute to kids for social distancing; the name has stuck. The Lodge has a donation center for items for flood relief items. 510 Dellwood City Rd., Waynesville.

Auburn Park et al Trick-or-Treating: The Auburn Park, Shelton Hills and Hendrix Park neighborhoods have become trick-or-treat legends in Waynesville, with hundreds of kids hitting the streets for a traditional house-to-house Halloween experience, pillow cases and all. Some streets are blocked to traffic so the kids have full run of the place.

Outside the Box

Farmers Market Pumpkin Carving contest: Bring your pre-carved pumpkin creation to Haywood's Historic Farmers Market, Waynesville, by 9:30 a.m. The market's shoppers will vote for the favorite; winner snags some awesome market goodies and major bragging rights. After the contest, carvers take their pumpkins home to enjoy. 250 Pigeon St., Waynesville.

"Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest:" 10-11:30 a.m., join Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation supporters, at Waynesville Historic Courthouse steps. Do something fun and festive for the fur babies; grab a costume for your pup — or make a donation of your choosing at Sarge's Adoption Center and use one of theirs. Funds raised from the \$10 per dog entry fee go to various area missions helping animals with foods, medications, boarding and foster supplies after Helene. 285 N. Main St., Waynesville.

Winchester Creek Farm Halloween tours: Alpacas, llamas and farm animals — oh, my! Oct. 26-27, with goodie bags of candy and treats on seven stops during the farm guided Scavenger Hunt. Wear costumes. Food from Dogsonwheels Sylva, plus Cold Mountain Photography digital photos (add \$20 to tour price). Book tours online. 386 Walker Rd., Waynesville.

"Hocus Pocus" Halloween movie: Beaverdam Community Center holds outdoor movie night 5 p.m. "to give the children of the community a little comfort in this time." Enjoy Halloween favorite "Hocus Pocus." Fat Belly's food truck, plus snacks, balloon animals and surprises for kids. Bring camp chairs and blankets. 1620 N. Canton Rd., Canton.

Spooky Terrarium craft: 5–6 p.m. at the Waypoint, Waynesville. Create a Halloween terrarium, designed to spark creativity and bring a touch of spookiness to any space. Perfect project for all ages. 113 N. Main St., Waynesville.

Sunday, Oct. 27

Cute 'n' Spooky Paint Class: Create some ghostly fun and fall vibes 2-4 p.m. at The Ten Acre Farm's paint class, perfect for all skill levels. Noelani guides attendees painting adorable ghost scene, with pumpkins, flowers and autumn trees. Kids welcome. Event proceeds go to Mountain Projects, benefitting survivors of Hurricane Helene. \$35 per person. 148 Chambers Farm Ln., Canton.

'Frightacular' concert: 4 p.m. Haywood Community Band at FUMC Waynesville; free. Gather for an evening of musical frights and delights. More than 60 band members set the mood for the spooky holiday with a program of ghostly compositions. Donations taken for student musician scholarships in college and band camps. 566 S. Haywood St., Waynesville.

Thursday, Oct. 31

WNC Flash Mob "Zombie Walk:" freaky zombies rise from the dead, starting at 5:30 p.m. staggering up and down Main Street, Waynesville. See the WNC Flash Mob's zombies starting at Depot Street performing the iconic Michael Jackson "Thriller" dance, then follow them along Main Street to Church Street (three different stops). Folks watching the thrilling performance are invited to join in. Not to be missed.

## Ongoing

Pinhead's Graveyard: This sprawling, eerie, century-old downtown Canton warehouse has been ranked the No. 1 haunted attraction in NC. Pinhead's Graveyard is ready to scare at its "Slasher House" indoor haunted house. Make your way through recreated scenes from classic horror movies while being haunted by live costumed, scarers.

Open "rain or blood" 7 p.m. Thursdays–Sundays through Oct. 27, plus Oct. 31, Halloween night. Brand new set up for 2024. Victims \$35; kids 6-10 \$20; below age 5 free; active military, veterans, LEO, seniors (65+) \$20; 562 Main St., Canton.

Cold Mountain Corn Maze: Work your way through the Bethel corn maze, in its 20th anniversary year. Enjoy fall-themed, family-friendly activities, pumpkin patch and hayrides. It turns haunted at dusk with costumed scarers roving the stalks. Markers inside the maze pose trivia questions about pop culture, Halloween and American history; with the right answer, it leads in the right direction. This year's design is a wolf emblem, representing a men's cancer support group.

Hours: 4-9 p.m., Wednesday-Friday, 1-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, through October. \$12 admission, including hayride; +\$3 for the elevated scare experience. 4168 Pisgah Dr., Canton.

Pumpkin Patch Hayrides: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at The 10 Acre Farm in Bethel. Head to the garden for a delightful hayride (\$5) through the farm, pick your perfect pumpkin (optional). Enjoy fall's great pumpkins, gourds, squash available for purchase. Order hayride tix online. 148 Chambers Farm Ln., Canton.

Halloween Craft Kits: Get crafty with fun take-and-make kits for purchase at the Arts Council's Haywood Handmade Gallery, Waynesville. Includes seven quality crafts that make the perfect activity or gift this spooky season; \$20. 86 N. Main St., Waynesville.

HART whodunnit mystery: Enjoy HART Theatre's production of Agatha Christie's legendary "The Mousetrap" (weekends through Nov. 17). This suspenseful masterpiece has captivated audiences with gripping mystery and unexpected twists for more than seven decades. Follow characters attempting to uncover the murderer among them before it's too late. 250 Pigeon St., Waynesville.

Halloween for Grown-Ups

(some welcoming kids with adults)

Friday, Oct. 25

Axe & Awl Leatherworks: Awl Hallows Eve bash: 7 p.m. – midnight; spooktacular night of eerie enchantment, terrifyingly tantalizing cocktails, fantastic costumes, in a hair-raising night of revelry with DJ jam. Tix \$10. 21+ only; ID required. 41 Depot St. Waynesville.

Saturday, Oct. 26

Frog Level Halloween Bash: Frog Level Brewing 6-9 p.m., featuring performance from the Tricia Ann Band, costume contest (with prizes) and some bloody brews. Plus, bring the kiddos on Halloween Oct. 31 for free candy. 56 Commerce St., Waynesville.

"Nightmare on Main Street:" Assembly on Main, 7 p.m.-midnight, with spine-chilling Halloween cocktails, blood-curdling shooters, Zombie Punch (brewed for the little monsters) and ghoulish drink specials. Dress to scare for freakishly fun costume prizes for kids, creepy couples and most terrifying overall costume. Eerie tunes, fang-tastic food, spooky decorations. Assembly on Main, 1940 S. Main St., Waynesville.

Thursday, Oct. 31

The Scotsman's "Take Me back to the 90s" Halloween party: 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Downtown Waynesville. Get spooky with the 90s at The Scotsman Public house, with DJ playing favorite songs from the 1990s. Costume prizes and drink specials. 37 Church St., Waynesville.

Halloween Dinner and Spooky Tales: 5 or 7 p.m., by reservation at Valé 243 Southern Italian Restaurant. Join in a spooky Halloween dinner and tales, with dramatic reading of "The Tell Tale Heart" and "The Raven." Prix fixe, spooky menu. Call for reservations/prices. 243 Paragon Pkwy., Clyde.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Carol Viau, 'Halloween insider's guide to 30 spooktacular events in Haywood County', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5FD8C80260E30">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C5FD8C80260E30</a>



# Spooktacular events are "on" for Haywood's Halloween

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Carol Viau | Section: Life | 1927 Words OpenURL Link

While events in Haywood County might be scaled down this Halloween, there are still plenty ready to delight, as the community works toward recovering from the devastation of Helene. So, lift your kids' spirits, get costumes ready and enjoy the fun, spooky spirit of Halloween.

The scene isn't just for the littles though. From the tame and festive and spooky and creepy, the Haywood cauldron is brimming with Halloween activities for everyone.

Adults can get in on the spooktacular action, too, with ghoulish Halloween bashes. Meanwhile, teens and scare seekers can get their fix with a haunted house and haunted corn maze. Just about everything on the late October calendar has been wrapped in Halloween theming, from friendly-spirited trunk-and-treats to zombies rising on Waynesville's Main Street. Consult area schools and churches for more truck 'n treat fun, too.

**Downtown Events** 

Saturday, Oct. 26

Hazelwood

"Hazelween Fest" trick-or-treating in is back for a fourth year 5-7 p.m., along Hazelwood Avenue in Waynesville.

The Hazelwood Boosters Club pulls out all the stops for trick-or-treating with Hazelwood merchants, residents and special guests, the Hazelwood Hot Summer Nights Cruise-in cars. Hazelwood Avenue, from urgent care to Brown Avenue, will be closed to traffic for the fun event.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Canton

The Canton Merchant Partnership hosts a spooktacular night of fun and trick-or-treating 5-7 p.m., on Main Street Downtown Canton, so bring your little ghosts and goblins for this safe, family event. Fun includes bouncy houses, costume contest, selfie station, random flash mob dances, spooky train rides, hayrides, vintage car show and Ben's Backdraft food truck.

Plus, enjoy the Milltown Farmers Market 4-7 p.m., the final market of the season, at the Smathers parking lot, complete with a scavenger hunt for kids.

Waynesville

Trick-or-treaters will take over downtown Waynesville from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 31, for the annual Treats on the Street. Bring your little ones in costumes for safe trick-or-treating at local businesses.

Main Street will be closed to traffic, giving costumed children free rein to run.

Not-to-be-missed freaky zombies will rise from the dead when the WNC Flash Mob zombies will walk up Depot Street at 5:30 p.m., then perform the iconic Michael Jackson "Thriller" dance at three different stops along Main Street.

Festivals and treats

Friday, Oct. 25

Monster Mash-Bash: free spooktacular family Halloween event for all 5-9 p.m. at Waynesville Parks and Rec; safe and fun Halloween experience for the whole family with snacks, costume contests, hayrides, sweet treats, pumpkin carvings and lighthearted spooky movies. 550 Vance. St., Waynesville.

Saturday, Oct. 26

ScreamFest: an eerie-sistible event noon-10 p.m., Maggie Valley Festival Grounds. See the grounds transformed into a haven of spooky fun with trick or treating, unique vendors, food trucks, live music, fall games, plus a haunted house after dark to chill you to the bone. Be there if you dare. Tix \$10-15. 3340 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley.

Cabbage Rose Trunk or Treat: Kids and kids at heart, enjoy the spookiest, most exciting trunk or treat party 4-6 p.m. at Cabbage Rose's eighth annual Halloween bash in Maggie Valley. Tons of prizes and costume contests for all ages at 6 p.m.; wear your best costume and dress up your pet, too — prizes are bigger than ever this year. Trick out your trunk or vehicle for a chance to win cash \$200 prize to the coolest, creepiest or craziest design. Free admission. 3388 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley.

Motorcycle Halloween Party: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Smoky Mountain Steel Horses' annual Halloween party. Free drinks and chili 12:30 p.m.-until gone. Family fun, bring kids for trick or treating and check out the dealership's bikes. 82 Locust Dr., Waynesville.

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Maggie Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation: Enjoy some Halloween fun 6:30-8 p.m. with the residents and staff. The residents love to see kids in costumes and will be handing out candy to anyone in the community. Poppy Joe's Food Truck will be set up to serve all kinds of goodies. 75 Fisher Loop, Maggie Valley.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Milltown Farmers Market: 4-7 p.m. at Smathers parking lot, downtown Canton. Enjoy the final market of the season, at the Smathers parking lot, with many craft vendors, complete with a scavenger hunt for kids. Great opportunity for the community to come together at the market and the adjoining Canton Treats on Main Street event. 462 Main St., Canton.

Spooks and Chutes: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. with the Waynesville Elks Lodge. Kids of all ages welcome; come in costumes (or not). Free hotdogs, chips and bottled water. Event was named in 2020, when candy was sent down a chute to kids for social distancing; the name has stuck. The Lodge has a donation center for items for flood relief items. 510 Dellwood City Rd., Waynesville.

Mama T's Spooktacular: Join WPTL Radio in Canton from 5-9 p.m., for Mama T's Halloween Spooktacular. Live broadcast by John Anderson cranking in the parking lot, plus food trucks, free cotton candy and fun for everyone. Want to eat real food other than sugar? Four food trucks onsite — Hit the Pit BBQ, Woof St. Bistro, Fat Belly's and Sunburst Coffee. 543 Pisgah Dr., Canton.

Auburn Park et al Trick-or-Treating: The Auburn Park, Shelton Hills and Hendrix Park neighborhoods have become trick-or-treat legends in Waynesville, with hundreds of kids hitting the streets for a traditional house-to-house Halloween experience, pillow cases and all. Some streets are blocked to traffic so the kids have full run of the place.

Outside the Box

Farmers Market Pumpkin Carving contest: Bring your pre-carved pumpkin creation to Haywood's Historic Farmers Market, Waynesville, by 9:30 a.m. The market's shoppers will vote for the favorite; winner snags some awesome market goodies and major bragging rights. After the contest, carvers take their pumpkins home to enjoy. 250 Pigeon St., Waynesville.

"Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest:" 10-11:30 a.m., join Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation supporters, at Waynesville Historic Courthouse steps. Do something fun and festive for the fur babies; grab a costume for your pup — or make a donation of your choosing at Sarge's Adoption Center and use one of theirs. Funds raised from the \$10 per dog entry fee go to various area missions helping animals with foods, medications, boarding and foster supplies after Helene. 285 N. Main St., Waynesville.

Winchester Creek Farm Halloween tours: Alpacas, llamas and farm animals — oh, my! Oct. 26-27, with goodie bags of candy and treats on seven stops during the farm guided Scavenger Hunt. Wear costumes. Food from Dogsonwheels Sylva, plus Cold Mountain Photography digital photos (add \$20 to tour price). Book tours online. 386 Walker Rd., Waynesville.

"Hocus Pocus" Halloween movie: Beaverdam Community Center holds outdoor movie night 5 p.m. "to give the children of the community a little comfort in this time." Enjoy Halloween favorite "Hocus Pocus." Fat Belly's food truck, plus snacks, balloon animals and surprises for kids. Bring camp chairs and blankets. 1620 N. Canton Rd., Canton.

Spooky Terrarium craft: 5 – 6 p.m. at the Waypoint, Waynesville. Create a Halloween terrarium, designed to spark creativity and bring a touch of spookiness to any space. Perfect project for all ages. 113 N. Main St., Waynesville.

"Nightmare on Main Street:" at the Assembly on Main, 7 p.m.-midnight, with spine-chilling Halloween cocktails, blood-curdling shooters, Zombie Punch (brewed for the little monsters) and ghoulish drink specials. Dress to scare for freakishly fun costume prizes for kids, creepy couples and most terrifying overall costume. Eerie tunes, fangtastic food, spooky decorations. Assembly on Main, 1940 S. Main St., Waynesville.

Sunday, Oct. 27

Cute 'n' Spooky Paint Class: Create some ghostly fun and fall vibes 2-4 p.m. at The Ten Acre Farm's paint class, perfect for all skill levels. Noelani guides attendees painting adorable ghost scene, with pumpkins, flowers and autumn trees. Kids welcome. Event proceeds go to Mountain Projects, benefitting survivors of Hurricane Helene. \$35 per person. 148 Chambers Farm Ln., Canton.

'Frightacular' concert: 4 p.m. Haywood Community Band at FUMC Waynesville; free. Gather for an evening of musical frights and delights. More than 60 band members set the mood for the spooky holiday with a program of ghostly compositions. Donations taken for student musician scholarships in college and band camps. 566 S. Haywood St., Waynesville.

Thursday, Oct. 31

Halloween Dinner and Spooky Tales: 5 or 7 p.m., by reservation at Valé 243 Southern Italian Restaurant. Join in a spooky Halloween dinner and tales, with dramatic reading of "The Tell Tale Heart" and "The Raven." Prix fixe, spooky menu. Call for reservations/prices. 243 Paragon Pkwy., Clyde.

WNC Flash Mob "Zombie Walk:" freaky zombies rise from the dead, starting at 5:30 p.m. staggering up and down Main Street, Waynesville. See the WNC Flash Mob's zombies starting at Depot Street performing the iconic Michael Jackson "Thriller" dance, then follow them along Main Street to Church Street (three different stops). Folks watching the thrilling performance are invited to join in. Not to be missed.

The Scotsman's "Take Me back to the 90s" Halloween party: 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Downtown Waynesville. Get spooky with the 90s at The Scotsman Public house, with DJ playing favorite songs from the 1990s. Costume prizes and drink specials. 37 Church St., Waynesville.

## Ongoing

Pinhead's Graveyard: This sprawling, eerie, century-old downtown Canton warehouse has been ranked the No. 1 haunted attraction in NC. Pinhead's Graveyard is ready to scare at its "Slasher House" indoor haunted house, in a haunted building. Open "rain or blood" 7 p.m. Thursdays – Sunday through Oct. 27, plus Oct. 31, Halloween night. Brand new set up for 2024; Victims \$35; kids 6-10 \$20; below age 5 free; active military, veterans, LEO, seniors (65+) \$20; 562 Main St., Canton.

Cold Mountain Corn Maze: Work your way through the Bethel corn maze, in its 20th anniversary year. Enjoy fall-themed, family-friendly activities, pumpkin patch and hayrides. It turns haunted at dusk with costumed scarers roving the stalks. Markers inside the maze pose trivia questions about pop culture, Halloween and American history; with the right answer, it leads in the right direction. This year's design is a wolf emblem, representing a men's cancer support group. Hours: 4-9 p.m., Wednesday-Friday, 1-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, through October. \$12 admission, including hayride; +\$3 for the elevated scare experience. 4168 Pisgah Dr., Canton.

Pumpkin Patch Hayrides: 11a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at The 10 Acre Farm, Canton. Head to the garden for a delightful hayride (\$5) through the farm, pick your perfect pumpkin (optional). Enjoy fall's great pumpkins, gourds, squash available for purchase. Order hayride tix online. 148 Chambers Farm Ln., Canton.

Halloween Craft Kits: Get crafty with fun take-and-make kits for purchase at the Arts Council's Haywood Handmade Gallery, Waynesville. Includes seven quality crafts that make the perfect activity or gift this spooky season; \$20. 86 N. Main St., Waynesville.

HART whodunnit mystery: Enjoy HART Theatre's production of Agatha Christie's legendary "The Mousetrap" (weekends through Nov. 17). This suspenseful masterpiece has captivated audiences with gripping mystery and unexpected twists for more than seven decades. Follow characters attempting to uncover the murderer among them before it's too late. 250 Pigeon St., Waynesville.

Halloween for Grown-Ups

(some welcoming kids with adults)

Friday, Oct. 25

Axe & Awl Leatherworks: Awl Hallows Eve bash: 7 p.m. – midnight; spooktacular night of eerie enchantment, terrifyingly tantalizing cocktails, fantastic costumes, in a hair-raising night of revelry with DJ jam. Tix \$10. 21+ only; ID required. 41 Depot St. Waynesville.

Saturday, Oct. 26

Frog Level Halloween Bash: Frog Level Brewing 6-9 p.m., featuring performance from the Tricia Ann Band, costume contest (with prizes) and some bloody brews. Plus, bring the kiddos on Halloween Oct. 31 for free candy. 56 Commerce St., Waynesville.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Carol Viau, 'Spooktacular events are "on" for Haywood's Halloween', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E20A749AF0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E20A749AF0</a>



# Liquid gold: Waynesville water becomes hot commodity in Asheville

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 493 Words OpenURL Link

As the dire lack of water in Asheville dragged on, convoys of tanker trucks have been tapping Waynesville's pristine and plentiful water supply.

"Within two to three days after the flood, we started getting inquiries," said Waynesville Public Services Director Jeff Stines. "There are numerous tankers from different companies coming in and collecting our water."

More than 380,000 gallons of Waynesville water had been hauled to Asheville as of Thursday. The water made its way to restaurants, dentist offices, medical practices and even a FEMA encampment in Candler.

Tanker trucks fill up at a town fire hydrant, carry it down I-40, offload it into an onsite tank at its destination, then return for another trip.

When a tanker truck pulls up, Waynesville water guys scurry out to meet it.

"That one right there is 6,000 gallons, and it will take about 30 minutes to fill up," said Wayne Bolin, head of the Waynesville water and sewer department. "They pull up to the hydrant, we hook a hose from our hydrant to their tanker truck, and fill it up to the top."

The operation isn't quite as easy as he makes it sound though. There's lot of special wrenches involved, plus scaling the tanker's ladder to peer in the hatch and make sure it's filling.

This day, a tanker bound for the Asheville FEMA camp was being piloted by Josh Hernandez of South Texas, who got a call that WNC needed water haulers. And he's been burning up I-40 between Buncombe and Haywood ever since.

The haulers offload the water to onsite tanks at their destination before making a return trip.

For now, the town has been giving the water away. But the town clocks how much water is going out to be reimbursed down the road.

"There's a meter keeping track of how much water we are giving away,"said Waynesville Town Manager Rob Hites.

Rather than charge entities for water upfront, the town will submit a single bill to FEMA for reimbursement based on a wholesale water rate, Hites explained.

Ample supply

Luckily, Waynesville is well-endowed with water.

"We have plenty of surplus water," Hites said, "We are incredibly fortunate to have our own reservoir fed by a protected 8,000-acre watershed."

A dam at the top of Allens Creek captures headwater streams flowing down the mountain from the unspoiled, bowl-shaped watershed. The lake level spiked by 17 feet during Helene, but still had 12 feet to go before reaching the emergency spillway, Stines said.

"We had no worries of flooding," Stines said,

Along with an ample supply, Waynesville's water plant at the reservoir has plenty of treatment capacity. It's capable of treating 7 million gallons a day, but only does about half that, Hites said.

The town of Clyde also began getting water from Waynesville after Helene. Clyde historically got its water from Canton, which is taken from the Pigeon River upstream of town. As Canton was plagued by a series of boil water advisories after the flood, Clyde switched to getting its water from Waynesville via Junaluska Sanitary District.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Becky Johnson, 'Liquid gold: Waynesville water becomes hot commodity in Asheville', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E232153E48">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E232153E48</a>



# Haywood won't let Helene cancel Halloween

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Life | 213 Words OpenURL Link

Some Halloween events might be scaled down this year, but there will still be plenty of candy and costumes to go

The signature trick-or-treating events in downtown Hazelwood, Waynesville and Canton are all still on — even though merchants are struggling from physical losses from the flood and economic losses from fewer shoppers.

In Hazelwood, where there was a bit of both, the Hazelwood Boosters club went back and forth, trying to decide whether to still hold "Hazelween" in the wake of the flood.

"After talking to people in the community while cleaning, we realized that we had to try to return to normal after everything we had all just been through," said Alex McKay with the Hazelwood Boosters.

Hazelwood has seen setback before, including multiple factory shutdowns, major fires, the the flood of 1940 and the town going bankrupt.

"Getting our community cleaned up and back to business is all we know to do. Hazelween is something the kids here look forward to and we'd hate to let them down," McKay said.

Across Haywood County, similar decisions have been made that the Halloween show must go on. There are plenty of spooktacular events on the docket for adults also — with some kicking off as early as this weekend.

See the comprehensive round-up of Halloween events below.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Haywood won't let Helene cancel Halloween', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E1F1964660">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E1F1964660</a>



# School board approves additional pay for those who worked during Helene

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: On Premise | 40 Words OpenURL Link

Haywood County Schools employees who showed up and put in work during flood recovery are going to be rewarded for their efforts. That will come in the form of emergency pay, which was approved by the Haywood County School Board.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Aarik Long, 'School board approves additional pay for those who worked during Helene', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E24461FA90">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E24461FA90</a>



# Volunteers, flood victims, first responders all under one roof at Central United Methodist in Clyde

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara| Section: On Premise| 43 Words OpenURL Link

Central United Methodist Clyde has embraced a new role amidst the response to Hurricane Helene. Among opening their doors as a community kitchen, they have turned their facilities into a temporary dorm for the Clyde Fire Department, strike teams from outside the county.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Brionna Dallara, 'Volunteers, flood victims, first responders all under one roof at Central United Methodist in Clyde', Mountaineer, The (online), 19 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/19C4E7E248FE6610>



# From rescue to recon: after waters receded, firefighters' mission was far from over

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: On Premise | 45 Words OpenURL Link

As soon as the skies cleared from Helene, a massive undertaking was launched to knock on the door of every home in Haywood County impacted by flooding and landslides. Firefighters led the charge, fanning out in their communities to check on the wellbeing of residents.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Becky Johnson, 'From rescue to recon: after waters receded, firefighters' mission was far from over', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E245F183D0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E245F183D0</a>



# Tetanus: Precautions now can prevent agony, event death, later

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Kathy Ross| Section: Health | 597 Words

OpenURL Link

There is a reason medical clinics are posting signs about tetanus vaccinations in these days following the floods of Helene.

While exposure to flood water technically does not increase the risk of tetanus, the risk does rise during rescue efforts and cleanup, because that is when folks are more likely to experience cuts while are handling shattered building materials, shredded metal, wood debris and flooded household items. Any of those items might have soil containing the spores that causes the disease.

Tetanus is caused by a bacteria, clostridium tetani, whose spores are commonly found in soil. When those spores enter the body through a cut, they become a bacteria that produces toxin. While it can be transmitted by stepping on a rusty nail or by a cut with rusty metal, the rust is only one of several potential carriers. The bacteria also can be carried on soil, feces or saliva. So while floodwater itself is not the cause, flooding creates the potential for injuries, and the soil or waste in that water can carry tetanus spores.

Tetanus is rare in the United States, with only about 30 cases reported per year, thanks to vaccine protection. While children whose vaccines are up to date are well protected from the disease, adults need a booster every 10 years to ensure they maintain that protection. And that's where it gets tricky.

It is easy to lose track of time, to let those 10 years between tetanus boosters extend beyond that limit. And when you're engaged in cleanup or rescue work, whether helping a friend clear out a business or trying to remove wood and metal from your own property, you may believe you're too busy to worry with that extra step.

But tetanus, or "lockjaw," is scary stuff. Statistically, one in 10 people who get it will die from the infection. It is painful and terrifying, causing intense muscle spasms or contractions, including around the jaw, giving the disease its nickname. In many cases the contractions start around the face, followed by spasms in the neck and progressing downward in the body.

According to the Mayor Clinic, "usually, the neck and back arch, the legs become rigid, the arms are drawn up to the body, and the fists are clenched. Muscle rigidity in the neck and abdomen may cause breathing difficulties." These spells can last for several minutes. Other symptoms can include extreme blood pressure, either high or low, fever and rapid heart rate.

In other words, it's agonizing. Sometimes deadly.

The best precaution, if you haven't already done so, is to make sure your tetanus vaccine is up to date. The Haywood County Health Department has tetanus vaccines available, as do some of the temporary medical clinics established after the flood. Health department immunization clinic hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call 452-6675 to schedule an appointment.

A second precaution is an immediate cleaning and disinfection of any puncture of the skin. The Mayo Clinic offers the following advice:

"If you have a simple, clean wound — and you've had a tetanus shot within 10 years — you can care for your wound at home.

"Seek medical care in the following cases:

You've not had a tetanus shot within 10 years. You are unsure of when you last had a tetanus shot. You have a puncture wound, a foreign object in your wound, an animal bite or a deep cut. Your wound is contaminated ... or you have any doubt about whether you've cleaned a wound sufficiently after such exposure. Contaminated wounds require a vaccination booster if it's been five or more years since your last tetanus shot."

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Kathy Ross, 'Tetanus: Precautions now can prevent agony, event death, later', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4FF3D12A4BC50">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4FF3D12A4BC50</a>



# From rescue to recon: after waters receded, firefighters' mission was far from over

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 763 Words OpenURL Link

As soon as the skies cleared from Helene's ferocious storm, a massive undertaking was launched to knock on the door of every home in Haywood County impacted by flooding and landslides.

Firefighters from the county's 13 fire departments led the charge, fanning out in their communities to check on the wellbeing of residents. Fresh off a harrowing 12 hours of life-saving rescue missions, they pivoted quickly into reconnaissance mode.

Dozens of landslides and scores of washed-out roads and bridges had trapped and isolated people in their homes.

"You had places blocked in where they could only get out by foot," said Maggie Valley Fire Chief Scott Sutton. "We cut a lot of trees out of roads just to gain access. We wound up with 26 landslides."

And time was of essence. With no cell, phone or internet, these trapped residents had no way to call for help.

"We wanted to make sure we didn't miss anybody, so we checked and double checked," Sutton said. "We just divided it up."

The operation ran around the clock, assessing who was trapped, who needed evacuation and who need supplies. Police officers worked in tandem with firefighters to check on folks and ferry supplies to homes during the ensuring days.

"We were probably averaging 75 welfare checks a day," Sutton said.

During the height of the storm, the Maggie fire department had conducted one swift-water rescue after another, saving two dozen people in all. But that was only the beginning as the rescue operations shifted to the higher elevations.

"Most of our people stayed here through the whole thing. They all just laid in there and worked," Sutton said.

And in proper Southern fashion, people showed up at the fire department in droves bearing food to keep the first responders fed. Cataloochee Ranch even brought a food truck.

"It was a big community effort," Sutton said.

The Saturday morning after the storm, the fire department went to Best Buy to get a Starlink, a satellite-based internet service. They then connected their phone system to Wi-Fi, and the calls started rolling in.

"People wanting to know where to bring supplies, people needing help, people wanting to know if their vacation homes were going to be OK to come at Christmas," Sutton said.

In addition to Jonathan Creek swamping its banks, every little branch carrying water down the mountainside became a raging torrent. When the water reached the valley, culverts along Soco Road spilled over.

"The water overwhelmed it, and the drains just couldn't handle it, so the five-lane became a pond. It was impassable in places," Sutton said.

Foot and rope rescues in Camp Branch

Maggie firefighters weren't alone. In every fire district across the county, a similar operation played out.

In Waynesville, firefighters hiked through the woods and scrambled over landslide rubble to conduct door-to-door recon in the decimated Camp Branch area as soon as day broke the Saturday after the storm.

"People couldn't get out, and there was no cell service. So they didn't have any communication with the outside world. When they saw us, we were their lifeline," said Waynesville Fire Captain Doug Smith.

Some were evacuated on foot, some on ATVs. One elderly couple was even lowered to safety using ropes, known as a high-angle rescue.

"We went as far as we could go in vehicles, but there were four to five major landslides. Roads are just gone. The damage is massive," Waynesville firefighter Gabe Burch said of the Camp Branch area.

One woman had injured her leg while trying to hike out herself before firefighters arrived. With roads impassable, rescuers had to go cross country.

"We took her across the mountain, through the woods and met our UTV (utility terrain vehicle) that came up Lickstone through Browning Branch to evac her out," Burch said.

Meanwhile, Waynesville firefighters were also systematically working their way along the path of flooding in town.

"We tore apart bundles of debris, we went inside structures, we searched vehicles — looking for somebody that may have been missed. We don't want to leave anyone out there that may have been hurt or injured or worse," Smith said.

Teams started at the Waynesville Rec Park and searched both sides of the creek bank, working their way upstream along Richland Creek, Allens Creek and Browning Branch, all the way through town.

"We did it systematically to make sure we hit every residence and every building, shed and vehicle," Smith said.

They gained entry any way they could — sometimes wriggling through holes busted out by the flooding.

"Some doors were unlocked, but you might have washers and driers and refrigerators washed up against them, so you have to push that stuff clear and then crawl in there," Smith said.

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Becky Johnson, 'From rescue to recon: after waters receded, firefighters' mission was far from over', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E2243F4818">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E2243F4818</a>



# Road to recovery: Pete Buttigieg among latest entourage to visit Canton

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara | Section: News | 739 Words OpenURL Link

The vacant Riverview Farm & Garden storefront in Canton — a business battered by floodwaters four times in the past two decades — was a fitting assembly point when Mayor Zeb Smathers meet with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and other governmental figures to point out the domino effect of impassable routes on local businesses and economy.

"We have roads and infrastructure that need the help — and that's the state, that's federal. Having the focus of I-40 open is not just good for Haywood County, but for our friends in Asheville, Biltmore Estate, the whole region. We want people to come back," Smathers said. "Let's use our roads, trains, whatever it takes to get here to support these small businesses and get people back to western North Carolina."

Business owners in Canton are no strangers to economic hardships, repeatedly picking themselves up and pushing forward after their livelihoods have been washed to the waywide.

"These are all small businesses, and they have lasted throughout a flood, a mill closing. They still believed, they're still hopeful that they'll come back," Smathers said. "When we saw this storm coming, we warned our people. For example, this business behind us, the feed and seed, they got their inventory out, so if they choose to rebuild it's going to be easier."

Joining Buttigieg's convoy were U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-NC, and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper.

An unprecedented disaster calls for an unprecedented response, Cooper said.

The governor said he wants to work with federal authorities who've got "bigger pockets than we do."

He believes small businesses will need more than just loans, especially with their livelihoods at stake.

"We know the importance of the economy to North Carolina, of the people here in the mountains and the small businesses here. So I think that the legislature is going to need to look at some kind of small business grant program to help them get on their feet, to encourage them to stay here," Cooper said.

Tillis recalled that after Tropical Storm Fred devastated Canton in 2021, he spoke with the owners of BearWaters brewery about paycheck protection for employees. He said there needs to be a consolidated approach to structuring the available relief, and federal funding will be crucial for rebuilding businesses.

"It may not be enough for some of the businesses to come back as strong as we hope that they will, so we've got to work together," Tillis said.

The federal government has advanced \$100 million to the North Carolina Department of Transportation and \$32 million to the Tennessee Department of Transportation as repairs are underway on Interstate 26 and Interstate 40, Buttigieg said. Congress will need to pitch in to ensure there are adequate funds in the Transportation Department's emergency relief program, he added.

"We're working to make sure that everything from those major interstates to roads and bridges that are only really known to the communities that count on them, but are vital, are getting the support they need," Buttigieg said. "With literally hundreds of closures, we know that that's not something that can be done overnight, but we have been working with North Carolina's DOT with TDOT and others, to help make sure we have whatever workarounds

and temporary fixes are possible in the immediate term, while providing the support that's going to be needed for the meeting in the long term to get back to normal — including a normal that might be a little bit different than how that infrastructure worked before this storm."

Smathers described the damage of Helene as "apocalyptic."

"The last time a flood hit Canton like this, I looked it up. It was in the book of Genesis, that's how far we had to go back," Smathers said.

State, towns and businesses must rebuild with the most resiliency as possible, as the impacts of climate change up the ante of natural disaster, the governor said.

"We've got to stop this nonsense of trying to weaken building codes and understand that we are living in an environment influenced by climate change, where these storms are going to be more ferocious and more frequent," Cooper said. "We have already seen some of the benefits of the resiliency that we built in from the recovery down east from Matthew and Florence. When Hurricane Debbie came through, a number of those properties got water and were able to survive because of this resilience that we built into that, so, that's got to be a part of this process."

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Brionna Dallara, 'Road to recovery: Pete Buttigieg among latest entourage to visit Canton', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E22C5ACC20">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C4E7E22C5ACC20</a>



# Sen. Tillis praises FEMA and climate data agency during Canton visit

October 19, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Vicki Hyatt vhyatt@themountaineer.com| Section: News| 412 Words OpenURL Link

CANTON — When U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis visited Canton in August of last year, he had some sage advice.

"Weather events will keep happening, and we have got to be better prepared," he said.

In part, that visit was to check on the town's recovery from Tropical Storm Fred, which had torn through Cruso, Bethel, Canton and Clyde two years before.

Tillis had no idea how prophetic those words would be, that 14 months later he would return to assess damage from the worst flooding on record for the same region.

This visit, the senator was quick to praise federal resources that were in place both before Hurricane Helene hit and immediately afterward, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Homeland Security and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Tillis said both FEMA and Homeland Security were ahead of the game thanks to forecasting showing a major storm was headed directly toward Western North Carolina.

"They were preparing for a 500-year event and that says a lot about their planning," Tillis said.

Much of that preparation was possible because of forecasts provided by NOAA, a federal agency that seeks to understand and predict changes in climate. It's a federal function that has a target on its back from more than 100 conservative think tank groups that have collaborated to produce Project 2025 — with many calling for it to be dismantled.

Tillis dismissed such an idea, saying it doesn't have a "lot of legs" among Senate members of either party.

What does have legs, however, is a bill that would streamline disaster recovery.

"We have to get money into communities sooner with less red tape and solid accountability. We're using data we're getting out of NOAA and forecasting as the primary reason we should be moving forward," Tillis said.

Tillis said he understands people get frustrated, but he sees a lot of good work that comes from the federal efforts.

"Like FEMA," he said. "Are they perfect? No, but nobody in this parking lot is, either."

Tillis attributed the misinformation being circulated primarily on social media as "garbage from folks that haven't set foot in Western North Carolina" who are taking advantage of people at a most vulnerable time.

"There's no place for that," he said. "What we have to do is debunk all that and focus on the main things right now — rescuing as many victims as we can, recovering those who aren't going to make it and rebuilding these communities. Anybody not focused on those three things, I don't have any patience with."

Copyright, 2024, Mountaineer, The, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)



# Surry declared eligible for FEMA Helene aid

October 19, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: Tom Joyce tjoyce@mtairynews.com| Section: News | 431 Words OpenURL Link

Local residents trying to recover from Helene are getting a boost from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), according to an announcement Friday.

"Surry County is now eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance," agency spokeswoman BrianaSummer Fenton told The Mount Airy News.

This opens the door for homeowners and renters in the county who had uninsured damage or losses caused by Tropical Storm Helene to apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

FEMA might be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property losses or other disaster-caused needs, according to information from Fenton.

Mount Airy Mayor Jon Cawley explained Friday that a requirement for Surry becoming eligible for the FEMA Individual Assistance was a local government disaster declaration.

This occurred on Sept. 27, the Friday when the storm hit.

"The county did it and that included the city of Mount Airy," the mayor said.

"So we would ask that our citizens be responsible to take advantage of this opportunity with integrity," he mentioned on behalf of city government.

In addition to Surry, residents of Yadkin, Forsyth, Cabarrus, Cherokee, Graham, Iredell, Lee, Nash, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties are included in the latest disaster assistance declaration.

Previously, Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes, Watauga, Alexander, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians were authorized for assistance to households.

Instructions for residents

The quickest way to apply for the aid is to go online at DisasterAssistance.gov, according to details from Fenton.

Residents also can apply using the FEMA App for mobile devices or calling toll-free 800-621-3362.

The telephone line is open every day and help is available in most languages. Those using a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, should give FEMA their number for that service.

A video on how to participate also can be accessed by visiting "Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance" via YouTube.

When applying, residents will need to provide a current phone number where they can be contacted, their address at the time of the disaster and the one where they are now staying, their Social Security number, a general list of damage and losses, banking information for those choosing direct deposit and, if insured, the policy number or agent and/or the company name.

Persons with homeowners, renters or flood insurance are advised to file a claim as soon as possible.

FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If a policy does not meet all of one's disaster expenses, he or she could be eligible for federal assistance.

© 2024 The Mt. Airy News. All Rights Reserved.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Tom Joyce tjoyce@mtairynews.com, 'Surry declared eligible for FEMA Helene aid', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C53B97A353E260">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C53B97A353E260</a>



# NC will have a new state superintendent next year. See which candidates want your vote.

October 19, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: T. Keung Hui, News & Observer | Section: voter guide | 309 Words OpenURL Link

North Carolina voters will pick a new state superintendent to lead the public school system.

Current State Superintendent Catherine Truitt lost her reelection bid in the Republican primary to Michele Morrow. Now Morrow will take on Democrat Maurice "Mo" Green.

The superintendent of public instruction is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the state Department of Public Instruction. This includes the \$11 billion in state funding for public schools that DPI distributes to local school districts and charter schools.

The superintendent advocates and informs the state on issues in education, makes recommendations for policy changes to the legislature and governor and works with the State Board of Education.

Truitt was elected in 2020. During her tenure, she pushed for higher pay for teachers, changes in how reading and math are taught, overhauling how schools are graded by the state and harsher penalties for teachers who have sex with students.

Now a new superintendent will have to deal with issues such as helping Western North Carolina schools recover from Hurricane Helene and helping schools make up for pandemic learning losses.

Green and Morrow came out ahead in their respective March primaries to face off this fall.

Green is the former superintendent of Guilford County Schools, which is the state third-largest school district. He is the former executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a group that funds progressive causes.

Morrow is a registered nurse, conservative activist, homeschool parent and former Christian missionary.

The race has gotten national attention due to CNN reports about Morrow's past social media posts. Those include talking about killing Democrats such as former President person value="APIN:2148844264">Barack Obama, and encouraging President Donald Trump to use the military to stay in power in 2021.

Candidate questionnaires

The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer asked Green and Morrow to fill out a candidate questionnaire. Only Green responded. Read Green's response and other questionnaires at newsobserver.com/voter-guide.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

## • Citation (aglc Style)

T. Keung Hui, News & Observer, 'NC will have a new state superintendent next year. See which candidates want your vote.', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 19 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/19C90661C8AE4658>



# Newton writer: In aftermath of Helene, Hickory was hub of hope

October 19, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Tammy Wilson | Section: Column | 810 Words OpenURL Link

I never lost power during Hurricane Helene.

When friends and family called me about the hurricane, I had to tell them I was extremely lucky.

The storm was bad. A lot of North Carolinians lost family and friends, their home, their cherished belongings, their pets. Some saw their real estate literally washed away.

But I can't claim any of those stories.

I've tried to imagine the terror of seeing a wall of water crashing toward me, sweeping away my home and neighbors, pets, virtually everything I own.

Being a near miss — or even a far miss — leaves its mark. Last week a Facebooker from Louisiana said she understood. She lived through Katrina, and could relate to the relief of being spared, but, at the same time, the overwhelming feeling of anxiety, numbness and profound sadness.

That's how it is with trauma. It takes different forms, and in one way or another, we've all been traumatized by being so close to destruction. In the end, I don't know why we were spared and why the folks west of here were not.

Perhaps TV's Mister Rogers responded best when he explained disasters in a way kids could understand. When there are scary things in the news, he said, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

In the wake of Helene, ordinary people dropped everything to come to North Carolina's rescue. Men and women, young and old, helped turn Hickory into a hub of hope. Private pilots, many of them ex-military, arrived with their helicopters to make air drops to hard-hit areas. Community members rallied to organize places to bring necessary supplies and cash to support the effort.

On my way to the collection point in the parking lot of Appalachian State University in Hickory, I found myself behind a horse trailer and a flatbed. On the flatbed was a generator and power tools. In the trailer were cases of bottled water, packages of diapers, toilet paper and more. Obviously, he was on a relief mission. Had I not been caught by a traffic light I would have given the driver a thumbs up.

Surely Helene will be one of those calamities by which we mark time.

Two days after Helene's wretched visit, I opened my T-shirt drawer to see, neatly folded, my shirt from Lake Lure. I remember the day I bought it. Cousin Renee was visiting from Illinois and wanted to see where "The Last of the Mohicans" was filmed. She's a Daniel Day-Lewis fan and wanted to tour the famous waterfall.

We enjoyed a sandwich lunch, poked around the Lake Lure Inn, and browsed the gift shop.

Later, we took the boat ride of the lake with its narration of how the lake was formed in Hickory Nut Gorge into a place where "summer" is a verb. The Morse family, who founded Carolina Mountain Power Company, paid to build a dam on the Broad River to create the lake back in 1927.

Our boat captain indulged us in movie lore, too, including spots used to shoot "Dirty Dancing," the film that made stars of Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. We drifted past Firefly Cove and the stone steps where Jennifer Grey

practiced her dance steps in cutoff shorts.

It's not that I have spent that much time at Lake Lure, but I've made enough visits to envy those who have. It had cottagey surroundings, stunning views, and laid-back ambiance. It was a place lost in time, a poignant reminder of a time and place that's been erased.

Lake Lure sprouted up as a tourist attraction with a striped awning vibe. The affluent built lakeside cottages with screened porches and walls of windows. They pondered the looking glass water and lore about the outline of the mountain ridge that looks like a sleeping lady.

My first visit to Lake Lure was about 30 years ago, when I attended a conference at the Inn. I remember imagining how the hotel would have appeared during the Gatsby era. In fact, Gatsby's creator, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and wife Zelda stayed there back in the day.

A recent attraction was the Flowering Bridge. When it became known that the state would decommission the 1925 bridge, a group of citizens with green thumbs urged the structure to be saved and used as a garden space. They called it the Flowering Bridge. They say it attracted as many as 18,000 visitors a year.

Two years ago, the garden was expanded for pet owners and their furry friends to snatch a chewable from the Doggie Stick Library and enjoy a drink of water. Pet owners, wracked in grief, would visit the Rainbow Bridge, and pay tribute to departed pets, placing collars on the bannisters. People came from far and wide to memorialize pets that had passed on.

No one could imagine that a monster storm could churn its way northward and demolish the Flower Bridge, much less Lake Lure itself.

© Copyright 2024, The News Herald, Morganton, NC

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Tammy Wilson, 'Newton writer: In aftermath of Helene, Hickory was hub of hope', *News Herald, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C502D8898D5000">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C502D8898D5000</a>



# Give Cheese A Chance rescheduled

October 19, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: SHARON MCBRAYER smcbrayer@morganton.com| Section: News| 523 Words OpenURL Link

Give Cheese a Chance, an annual fundraiser for Meeting Place Mission, has been rescheduled to Nov. 17 after the event was postposed after the remnants of Hurricane Helene hit Burke County.

The event brings teams together to compete to make grilled cheese sandwiches, which are judged by event attendees.

The date change is aimed to avoid financial burdens on competitors and allow for city cleanup from Hurricane Helene, said Suzy Fitzgerald, board member of Meeting Place Mission. The fundraiser, which will take place on the Historic Burke County Courthouse square, was originally scheduled for Oct. 6, about a week after the storm impacted the area.

"We really just felt like Oct. 6 was just way too soon to try to do that (the event)," Fitzgerald said.

Meeting Place Mission works to end homelessness in Burke County and it operates two emergency homeless shelters, one for men and one for women and children.

Fitzgerald said the nonprofit contacted all of the competitors for the event to check what date would be best to reschedule.

"So we really tried to work with them," Fitzgerald said. "Because, I mean, they put all the work and the labor into it. It's their cheesy goodness that makes the whole event worthwhile."

Fitzgerald said all of the tickets that have already been sold will still be valid and there are still tickets available for \$25. There are also spaces available for competitors.

This year, a ticket will allow attendees to try every single grilled cheese sandwich and get three judging tickets to pick three favorites. The winning top three competitors will receive a trophy and a gift certificate from Fonta Flora Brewery, Fitzgerald said.

For the first time, family tickets are available online at www.meetingplacemission.org or on the Meeting Place Mission Facebook page. A family ticket is for two adults and two children, Fitzgerald said.

Paper tickets for the event can be purchased from board members or Toner's Irish Pub.

Halloween party in Morganton

Later this month, the Meeting Place Mission's annual Halloween party fundraiser will be held on Oct. 26 at CoMMA in Morganton.

Those attending can dress up for the holiday, or not, dance the night away to a DJ and enjoy some food. Those who dress up will have a chance to enter a costume contest, Fitzgerald said.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased on the nonprofit's website. Some VIP tickets are still available, she said.

"A ticket gets you a really good time," Fitzgerald said. "Some people dress up and some people don't, but everybody has a really good time. It's a lot of fun."

Fitzgerald said the fundraisers come at an important time because she believes there will be more pressure on organizations like the Meeting Place Mission due to the damage left by Hurricane Helene.

"You know, and they're going to be displaced for a little while," Fitzgerald said. "I don't think we have too many quick fixes for people who lost housing and things like that."

Fitzgerald suspects the number of people the organization serves will increase.

"We serve people who are either at imminent risk of homelessness or who are homeless," Fitzgerald said. "The reasoning behind why people are homeless doesn't determine whether or not we help them."

© Copyright 2024, The News Herald, Morganton, NC

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

SHARON MCBRAYER smcbrayer@morganton.com, 'Give Cheese A Chance rescheduled', *News Herald, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C502D9508EA9A8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C502D9508EA9A8</a>



## Schools' fall semester will end after Christmas

October 19, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: SHARON MCBRAYER smcbrayer@morganton.com| Section: News| 596 Words OpenURL Link

The Burke County Public Schools' fall semester will now end in January, after the Christmas break.

That decision came Tuesday night during a special-called Burke County Board of Education meeting, where the board revised the school system calendar for the year due to the days missed because of the impact of Hurricane Helene. The storm caused the school system to have to shut down schools due to power losses.

Karen Auton, deputy school superintendent, said changes to the school calendar were allowed by a state bill.

The school board changed the fall semester end date to Jan. 17, rather than the original Dec. 20, which will become a holiday. Auton said the school system lost nine school days with students (58 instructional hours) due to the storm. She said the lost time takes the semester from 78 days to 69 instructional days.

Moving the fall semester end date will help balance out the two semesters, Auton told the school board. She proposed adding the additional days to give the fall semester 89 days and spring semester would get 83 days.

The fall semester originally had 94 days in it before Helene.

Making the change also will preserve holiday breaks and keep the last day of school the same, Auton said.

Auton said the change may impact some mid-year students and those who also attend community college. The schools system can work with individual students to make it work, Auton said.

Board member Wendi Craven, who also is principal of Hickory High School, said it's imperative to get those extra nine days because the semester would be too short, otherwise. It would be too hard for high school teachers to complete courses, Craven said.

Board member Leslie Taylor suggested making Dec. 20 a halfday in the amended calendar, which is what it was in the original calendar.

Jan. 21-22 will become work days for staff and the spring semester will start Jan. 23, according to the changes.

Auton said Sept. 26 and 27 were originally remote learning days, while Sept. 30 and Oct. 1-2 classes were out and Oct. 3-4 and Oct. 7-8 were optional teacher work days.

The change to the calendar will keep Sept. 26 as a remote learning day, but change the other days to regular student instructional days.

With the potential for bad weather later this school year, Auton said they want to preserve the remote learning days.

The board also agreed to move the March 4 and 14 work days to March 20-21. May 30 will be a half day for students.

In addition to making calendar changes, the board approved employee compensation for the period of the storm's impact, which is allowed by the state.

Keith Lawson, finance director for Burke County Public Schools, said all eligible employees will be credited for a full 7.5 or 8 hours a day for a total of eight days Sept. 27 through Oct. 8.

Actual hours worked during those days by classified staff such as custodians, teacher assistants, maintenance and school office staff will be credited compensatory time for the days and hours staff were able to work, he said.

Lawson said it was everyone's intent for those who were able to assist during Hurricane Helene and recovery to be recognized and compensated. Work by staff such as teachers, instructional coaches, media coordinators, guidance counselors, instructional technology facilitators, nurses, speech services and others will be managed at the school level by the principals, Lawson said.

Permanent employees, school nutrition employees, temporary employees, some contracted employees, bus drivers, retirees and substitute teachers who were scheduled to work and some others are all eligible, he said.

Board member Don Hemstreet was absent from the meeting.

© Copyright 2024, The News Herald, Morganton, NC

#### • Citation (aglc Style)

SHARON MCBRAYER smcbrayer@morganton.com, 'Schools' fall semester will end after Christmas', *News Herald, The* (online), 19 Oct 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C502D8D92C3E90">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C502D8D92C3E90</a>