



Your Community-Minded Newspaper

YANCEY COMMON

TIMES JOURNAL

Volume 32, Number 42

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Burnsville, North Carolina 50¢

NCDOT and partners capturing Helene impacts from the sky

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation is using aircraft to capture imagery, assess infrastructure, and assist with disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Helene. A range of aviation resources have been deployed in Western North Carolina, including N.C. National Guard aircraft, NCDOT's aerial imagery planes and drones, and private organizations making air drops of food, water and other emergency supplies.

NCDOT's drone teams and Photogrammetry unit, the Civil Air Patrol and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have flown over 240 missions to capture images that are being used to inform the massive disaster response effort. This real-time data enables NCDOT teams to gather information about difficult to reach areas and prioritize safe response and recovery operations.

"NCDOT's aerial imagery has played a vital role in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, providing critical data that may not be safely visible from the ground," said Becca Gallas, Director of NCDOT Division of Aviation. "The imagery is essential for designing effective solutions to repair and restore damaged infrastructure like roads and bridges, ensuring the safety and efficiency of our transportation networks during recovery efforts."

NCDOT employs three primary types of imagery: rapid situational awareness images, site-specific drone images, and photogrammetry images.

Within 24-hours of Helene impacting North Carolina, NCDOT, in partnership with the Civil Air Patrol, conducted several fixed-wing airplane missions across Western North Carolina to get rapid images of potentially impacted dams and major high-

way corridors. This helped identify necessary road closures and the deployment of crews and resources.

NCDOT drone teams were deployed throughout the region to assess specific sites along road and rail routes. These high-resolution images and videos provide critical insights into the extent of the damage without risking staff safety. The images are then used to assess bridge and road conditions that can be communicated to the public.

Photogrammetry missions involve capturing detailed aerial images, using fixed-wing airplanes equipped with specialized cameras. Photogrammetry staff use the two-dimensional images and flight data to create three-dimensional maps. These models are used by planners and engineers to design solutions for repairing and restoring damaged infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. NCDOT has conducted

a number of photogrammetry missions already and is prioritizing additional corridors for further analysis.

NCDOT will continue to prioritize and fly aerial missions, customizing imaging efforts based on the size, geography and specific data needs of damaged locations. These images will guide NCDOT and its partners in ensuring safe and efficient responses throughout the next phases of Hurricane Helene's recovery.



The damage to roadways due to Helene is immense. Flooding not only took the pavement, but the roadbed underneath. Repairs have begun, but many will remain with one-lane access for many days to come.



Homeowners have begun the cleanup at their homes, with personal belongings saturated with water and dirt and many lawns have been transformed into huge sandpits.

Tedious cleanup after the storm begins

As we enter week three after Helene hit Yancey County, industries, businesses and homeowners have begun the heart-wrenching job of cleaning up.

The receding waters have left behind mounds of mud, sand and debris.

Disaster relief organiza-

tions are here with hundreds of volunteers helping. Traveling around the county, you will find homes with huge stacks of trash sitting outside.

What once were treasured belongs have been turned to items to be discarded. Furniture, appliances, clothing, vehicles --

for some everything they owned -- has either been taken by the raging wind and water or left behind damaged beyond use.

Many will/lose lost the home or business that has been their source of security and income for years. The damage for a large number is to the point of no repair.

The financial loss will sit at a number that is beyond comprehension. For many the rebuild process will happen, sadly for many it will not.

Residents with home damage after Helene do not need to wait for a FEMA home inspection or insurance adjuster before

(continued on page 2)



Numerous businesses and industries have taken a hit from Helene with the temporary loss of utilities, a workforce not able to get to their jobs or actual damage to buildings and equipment making it impossible for them to operate.



Leigh Howell, owner of Pig n Grits restaurant in Burnsville, has suffered water damage. They are working tirelessly to get those damages repaired. They hope to be able to open back up soon and look forward to seeing their loyal customers.

Restaurants impacted by Hurricane Helene can apply to operate under Emergency Operations Plans

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and local health departments are working with restaurants and food establishments impacted by Hurricane Helene to help them reopen and feed their communities.

Local and state public health staff are working to help them reopen safely while infrastructure continues to be repaired or rebuilt in western North Carolina counties.

Restaurants who lack their usual sources of power, drinking water and wastewater treatment can reopen through an Emergency Operations Plan developed with their local health department. More than 70 restaurants'

Emergency Operations Plans have been approved as of October 9, 2024, in addition to those approved at the local level.

Restaurants may need to limit or simplify their menu based on the amount of water available; they may need to switch to take-out service only; or they may need to obtain a porta-potty.

Other important elements include:

- Water is coming from an approved source, such as the municipal water system, an approved and tested community well or water supply company or bottled water. If a water storage truck, tank or other container is used, it should be designed for

potable water.

- Water for employee hand-washing is provided.

- A toilet or porta-potty for employees and customers is available if the restaurant is open for seated customers. If using flushing toilets, either gray water or other non-potable water must be available to flush them.

A flyer with elements of an approved Emergency Operations Plan for Restaurants is available online.

For more information about Hurricane Helene and resources available for people who are impacted, please go to ncdhhs.gov/helene and ncdps.gov/helene.



Helene forced Appalachian Java to moved from their Downtown location to their sister location at 601 East Main Street, Burnsville. They ask their customers to come to this location and help save their business. They currently are working out of a food truck located in the parking lot. They are serving breakfast and lunch -- donations are welcome.

Town of Burnsville water service return information

Water distribution in the Town of Burnsville will begin again soon.

It will begin in phases as crews work to flush distribution pipes of air and debris and re-pressurize the system. The process will go slowly in order to minimize line breaks as service is restored.

You should be aware that outages may re-occur as crews work to fix line breaks that may happen due to water coming back into the distribution system. You should expect pressure issues and all users will be under the boil water advisory for an

undetermined amount of time. The water will not be safe to drink directly from the faucet until the boil water advisory is lifted.

We do have a limited number of portable water filtration bags available for residents. Come by Town Hall to pick one up.

What to do before water service returns:

1. Flip off the breaker to your water heater.
2. Turn off water to your water heater.
3. Turn off hot water under your sinks.

Town of Burnsville informational notice

October 11, 2024

A temporary water intake pump and ½ mile of water line has been installed, providing water to the Water Treatment Plant. The plant is assessing water quality and beginning the process of treating water. Once the plant is ready and begins to slowly phase water into distribution lines, crews are ready to repair potential breaks throughout the system. When water is reestablished the water must be boiled until the system can be flushed and sanitized. The water will still be usable for showering and flushing toilets.

Camera work continues on sewer lines with emergency repairs to any breaks.

Parts of the Wastewater Treatment were underwater and in need of replacement. Temporary equipment is on its way, allowing the plant some capacity to operate once water is reestablished. Town staff is working with FEMA, the State, and insurance adjusters to fund repairs.

A potable water truck is set

up on N. Main Street.

Free water is available on Avery Street, across from Reconciliation House, to fill tanks.

The Living Water Treatment System (LWTS) by Water Mission is set up at Ray Court Park. The system can make up to 10,000 gallons of clean water every day. It pulls water from the creek, removes dirt and germs with specialized filtration, followed by chlorine disinfection to make sure the water is safe for people to drink. Bring your own containers to fill. A similar system has been placed at the former Bald Creek Elementary School, near West Yancey Fire Department.

Port-a-johns and hand washing stations are beginning to show up, with four at the Town Center. More will be located at the Town's public restrooms near the Chamber of Commerce very soon.

Blue Ridge Elementary has shower trailers available.

Burnsville Residential trash pick-up should return to its regular schedule on Friday (10/11).

4. Remove aerator (it typically unscrews) on faucets.
5. Turn off the ice maker.
6. Turn off water to your whole house filter, if you have one.

What to do when your water service returns

1. Flush your home plumbing by running the bathtub's cold water faucet.
2. Your water heater may be turned back on once your home's plumbing has been flushed.
3. It is safe to flush your toilet after completing steps 1 and 2.

as of October 11th

East Yancey and Riverside Convenience Centers will be open from 7am to 4pm. Only household bagged trash will be accepted at this time. The landfill remains closed to the public. Yancey County is actively working on a plan for disposal of construction/storm debris. Do not burn garbage or debris.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for supply and donation receiving and distribution sites, support for emergency shelters, etc. should report to the Burnsville Town Center at 6 S Main Street at 9:15 a.m. or 1 p.m. daily. Partners Aligned Toward Health is organizing "people volunteers" only -- not heavy machinery volunteers.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aids individuals, communities, and local governments affected by disasters, helping them recover and rebuild: FEMA.gov. The SBA provides low-interest loans to businesses or homeowners/individuals for disaster recovery efforts. Apply ASAP: sba.gov

Tedious cleanup after the storm begins

(continued from page 1)
beginning to clean up. Typically, after a survivor applies for disaster assistance, they will be contacted by a FEMA inspector within a few days to schedule an appointment. Before starting any structural work, be sure to get a building permit from your local building authorities.

Before Cleaning Up

- Take photos of damage before you begin the clean-up process. Be sure to include photos or videos of the outside and inside of the building, including damaged personal property, and label them by room before you remove anything.

- Photograph the make, model, and serial number for appliances such as washers, dryers, hot water heaters, kitchen appliances, TVs and computers.

- Save all repair receipts.
- If you have insurance, separate damaged items from undamaged items. The insurance adjuster may need to

document damaged items when conducting an inspection.

- If possible, keep samples of carpet, flooring, wallpaper and drapes.

- After taking photos, immediately throw away flood-damaged items that pose a health risk after coming into contact with floodwaters, such as perishable food, clothing, cushions and pillows.

When Salvaging and Cleaning Up Flood Damaged Property

- Always wear protective clothing. This includes long-sleeved shirts, long pants, rubber or plastic gloves and waterproof boots or shoes.

- If the home needs a tarp to prevent further damage, install the tarp as quickly as possible.

- Take wet items outside. Your home could be contaminated with mold, which may raise the health risk for those with asthma, allergies and breathing conditions. For detailed tips on cleaning mold safely, visit

the Centers for Disease Control's site at Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters | Mold | CDC.

- Clean all hard surfaces and items with bleach. If possible, wash wet fabrics in hot water.

- Use caution when entering your home. Before entering your residence, look around the outside for damaged power lines, gas lines and other structural damage. If able, open doors and windows so your house can air out before spending any length of time inside.

- Watch for sharp objects such as protruding nails and screws, aluminum, and broken glass.

- Turn off main electrical power and water systems. Don't use gas appliances until a professional can inspect them.

- Check all ceilings and floors for signs of sagging or other potentially dangerous structural damage. Remove all drywall and insulation that has been in contact with flood waters.

- Throw out any items that cannot be cleaned. This includes items like mattresses, carpeting and stuffed animals that absorb water and cannot be cleaned or disinfected.

Apply With FEMA

The fastest way to apply is online at DisasterAssistance.gov or via the FEMA app. You may also call 800-621-3362. If you use a relay service, such as video relay, captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

Yancey Co. Farm Bureau annual meeting Oct. 29th

The annual meeting of the members of the Yancey County Farm Bureau, Inc., a North Carolina corporation (the "Corporation") will be held Tuesday October 29, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Yancey County Farm Bureau office, 316 E Main St, Burnsville, NC 28714. During the meeting, the members of the corporation will elect directors, officers, and consider any other business brought before the membership. Due to the recent catastrophic event, this will be a Business Only annual meeting. No meal will be served at this meeting.

Rodeo canceled

Due to the unprecedented impacts of Hurricane Helene across Western North Carolina and the greater Atlantic region, WCRA (World Champions Rodeo Alliance), PBR (Professional Bull Riders) and Tryon International have cancelled the 2024 Rodeo Carolina.

WCRA and its partners look forward to bringing Rodeo Carolina back to the region in Fall 2025. All ticket purchasers will receive a refund from ETIX.com, Tryon International's ticketing partner. All refunds will be processed automatically and appear on your bank statement within 20 business days.

Tropical Storm Helene

A small group of Yancey County residents helped to escort a group of volunteers who had arrived from Georgia on Saturday morning, October 12th into the Bee Log, Little Creek, and communities located along the lower portion of Hwy 19W / Cane River. The Georgia group had arrived with generators to distribute to residents of this rural section of Yancey County. Below are a few photos taken during the group's visit to these communities.



Former location of the Bee Log Elementary School has served as a point of operation for the remote area of Yancey County.



All that remains of the old country store that was located at the intersection of roads that lead into the Bee Log and Little Creek communities.



In the midst of the destruction, volunteers were set up offering what help they could to the members of these communities.



The roadway leading into the Little Creek Community has been 'rebuilt' to a small one-lane dirt and gravel lane sitting precariously on the riverbank of the Cane River.



Low water access across a section of the Cane River has been built.



The group came across this low water bridge which had just been completed the night before, allowing these residents their first roadway access out since Helene hit on Sept. 27th.



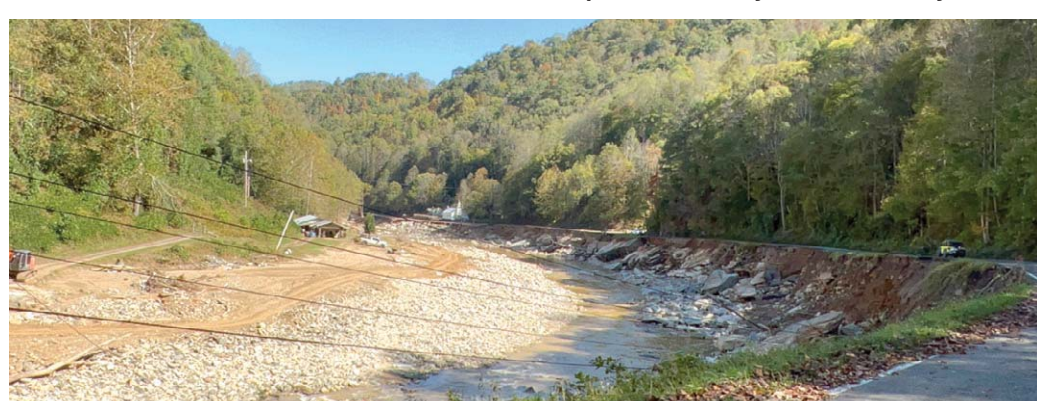
Damaged homes and vehicles can be found throughout every community.



Communities have been cut off due to the destruction of bridges and roadways.



Even though the times are difficult for this mountain community, their determined will to survive continues and they do their best to put a smile on your face when you visit.



Hwy 19W has been a long-time favorite travel route for bicyclists and motorcyclists. The road meanders through Yancey County alongside the Cane River. Those who have chosen this route will now find a landscape that has been stripped clean by the high waters. (You will find this to be the same for many roadways located along waterways throughout our county. Topsoil and vegetation has been replaced with rock beds and massive sand deposits.)

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Emergency response teams/individuals have spent days and nights helping our residents

By Anna Webb

There is not one area or resident in Yancey County that has not been impacted by Helene. Be it through loss of life, flooding, wind damage, loss of electricity and utilities, communication loss or isolation.

Helene came with a destructive cloak and covered our picturesque mountain community and refused to remove that cloak until every one of use felt its presence. We have weathered many storms throughout the years, but nothing like the Storm of 2024.

The fire departments and first responder units located throughout our county are comprised of volunteers. Volunteers who are on-call 24 hours, seven days a week, all year long.

To say the men and women of our volunteer fire departments, rescue teams and law enforcement are heroes, doesn't begin to show the depth of our appreciation for all they have and continue to give the people of Yancey County.

These individuals were manning their stations all night before The Storm of 2024 ever left the first drop of rain or blew the first leaf on a tree in our community.

They left their homes, jobs and their families to "be there" for their hometown communi-

ties. One of our county fire departments had their buildings flooded with major damage, but they continue to provide support to their neighbors.

Help has arrived from teams stationed outside our county and state. An October 1st press release stated, Yancey County Sheriff's Office was operating at full capacity, having implemented a statewide mutual aid plan to bolster local resources. Assistance had arrived from neighboring counties, including Stanly, Catawba, Chatham, Alamance, Wayne, and Stanfield Police Department showcasing a collaborative effort to address the needs in Yancey County.

To assist with response and recovery efforts, Yancey County immediately received a range of specialized resources, including: Type 2 Swiftwater Rescue Team from New York (16 persons); Type 3 Swiftwater Rescue Team from Charlotte Fire Department (9 persons); All Hazards Incident Management Team – NC based (4 persons); Urban Search & Rescue Team from Charlotte Fire Department (17 persons); Communications Unit Leader/Technicians – NC based (2 persons); FEMA – Type 1 USAR Team from Texas (78 persons with 6 K9's); All Hazards Incident Management Team from

Southeast Florida (4 persons); NC Sheriff's Association Mutual Aid Partners; Ambulance Strike Team/Task Force (5 ALS units).

In the following days, other teams joined those already

stationed in Yancey County. Yancey County residents with medical training were out providing help as soon as the waters began to recede on Friday, Sept. 27th. These members of our community have been

joined by individuals and medical organizations from outside our county, providing help through the field medical units, shelters, as well as traveling throughout the county checking on individuals still able to remain in their homes.

As stated before, the list of the groups or individuals who have stepped up, left their home and families to lend a helping hand to the citizens of Yancey County would take hundreds of pages.

The one-to-one stories of these "heroes" being there for

a person in need would reach the thousands. For some it may have been medical help, for others just the need of reassurance that the Storm of 2024 has been a battle for survival not being fought alone.

Entering the third week after Helene hit Yancey County, these heroes are tired, but unwavering in their continued service.

We extend a gigantic THANK YOU to you each and every one for every act of caring -- small or large. May God Bless You!

Statement from Yancey County Sheriff Shane Hilliard

October 12, 2024

Fifteen days ago, when Hurricane Helene hit, I sounded the alarm for help, and sheriffs and their teams from across the state came running. These deputies have been nothing short of heroes, working alongside us day and night. They've rescued those in need, cleared trees, delivered supplies, and stepped up in ways too numerous to count.

While we've made great strides, there is still plenty of work to do, and these deputies

will continue to stand by us as we rebuild and recover. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and service. Yancey County is stronger because of them, and we are deeply grateful.

Let's continue supporting one another and working toward full recovery. If you see these out-of-county deputies around, please thank them for all they've done. We are forever in their debt.

— Sheriff Shane Hilliard,
Yancey County, NC



FARM BUREAU
YANCEY COUNTY

Yancey County Farm Bureau will hold it's Annual **BUSINESS MEETING** Tuesday, October 29th at the Yancey County Farm Bureau Office at 5:30 p.m.

This will be a business-only annual meeting. No meal will be served at this meeting.

All Yancey County Farm Bureau Members are invited to attend!



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE / COST

DEADLINE for classified ads and news copy is 12:00 noon on Friday for Wednesday's publication.

COST is \$7.00 for the first 20 words, 25 ¢ for each word over 20, 50 word limit.

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Michelle Boone, Office Manager

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Author of "Roaming Around Yancey" column

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Volunteers needed

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals weekdays from 10:30 to noon. Call the Senior Center at 682-6011.

FOR RENT: Now accepting applications for housing, 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or disable to qualify. Section 8 Housing. Equal Housing Opportunity. Mountain Village Apartments, 200 West Main Street, Burnsville, NC 28714. 828-682-7411.

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WANTED: PORCH SWING: Text or phone 954-496-9000.

LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE
THE GREAT STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE COUNTY OF
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IN THE GENERAL COURT
OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT
DIVISION, BEFORE THE
CLERK
24 E 232**

**In the Matter of the Estate of
GERALD HONEYCUTT,
Deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
HAVING QUALIFIED** as Executor of the Estate of GERALD HONEYCUTT, deceased, of YANCEY COUNTY, NC, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before 10TH day of January 2025, or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 2ND Day of October 2024
SYLVIA JOYCE
HONEYCUTT, Executor
2000 Shoal Creek Road
Burnsville, NC 28714
DONNY J. LAWS, Attorney
P. O. Box 397
Burnsville, NC 28714
Published: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
ADMINISTRATOR'S
NOTICE**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of James R. Shuford of Yancey County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons and corporations having claims against the Estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of January, 2025 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of October, 2024.

Larry Shuford, Administrator

7282 Hwy 80, South Burnsville, NC 28714
Charlie A. Hunt, Jr.
Attorney at Law
PO Box 509
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Telephone: (828) 765-2062

Published October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2024

Volunteers needed

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals. any weekday from 10:30 to noon to Yancey County's shut-ins.

For information call the Senior Center at 682-6011.

DMV offers the following tips for customers

While DMV continues work to address its staffing shortage, the division offers the following tips for an improved customer experience:

NCDMV sends a reminder card to the address on file sixty days before the expiration date.

Renew early - your NC driver license or ID card can be renewed up to six months before the expiration date.

Renew online - In most cases, unless they renewed online last time, customers can renew their credential online.

Make an appointment - If you must go to a driver license office in-person, DMV recommends making an appointment.

Appointments can be scheduled up to 90 days in advance at skiptheline.ncdot.gov.

Be prepared - Check the DMV website to make sure you bring the required documentation for your desired service. One frequently forgotten item is a printed document proving liability insurance.

REAL ID - Customers have more time to get their REAL ID as the federal implementation date requiring a REAL ID to fly commercially or to visit federal, military, and nuclear facilities has been extended to May 7, 2025.

The Burnsville, Spruce Pine and Newland offices remain with a single examiner.



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DEADLINE / COST**

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HOPSON MASONRY: Concrete pouring & finishing rock, block & brick laying. Fireplaces - sidewalks - driveways - foundations - retaining walls. 35 years experience. Cotton Hopson (828)675-5455, Matt Hopson (828)675-0724. Pd12-12un

LUBE-N-SUDZ: Oil changes, brake service, hand car washes & vacuuming. Free in-town pick-up and delivery. 628 Pine Swamp Road, Burnsville. 678-9611. Pd2-16un

FOX BROTHERS PAVING & TRUCKING - Locally owned and operated. Paving, mulch, dirt, hauling, gravel, trucking. 50 years experience. Max Fox II 828-284-4069, and Shane Johnson 828-284-4756. #2540/pd2-24-10un

FENCING - Split rail Locust, barbed wire, woven wire, privacy or others. 20 years experience. Free estimate. Call 284-1232.

WATSON PAINTING - Affordable quality residential painting service. Deck staining & sealing, log homes siding, pressure washing. When neatness counts. References. Insured. Call cell 284-5676.

Volunteers needed Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals weekdays from 10:30 to noon. Call the Senior Center at 682-6011.

YANCEY GRAPHICS - For all your quick copy, full color copy, fax, laminating, binding, graphic design and commercial printing needs, call Yancey Graphics at 828-682-6620. M-F 8:30-4:30, across from TD Bank. Here for you since 1973. 1-18un

RAY'S TREE SERVICE - Certified Arborist, insured, hazardous tree removal, view clearing, round-overs, bucket truck service, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid treatment, pressure washing, landscape design & installation, gutter cleaning. Stump grinding. Free estimates. 828-467-1113. Pd3-9un

PRESSURE WASHING 828-467-6398. pd4-24

HOUSE'S ELECTRIC - Commercial. Residential. Licensed on burglar alarms & cameras. Dealer and service tech on Generac stand by units L.P Gas. All types of electrical services. Licensed & insured. Keith House, cell 208-0184. #3160/12-25-23un

WHITE FALLS CATERING: Amelia Hoilman 828-682-6768 (home) or 828-208-0044 cell white.falls@yahoo.com. Weddings, reunions, parties, anniversaries, special occasions, business events. Call for consultation & prices. #7631/9-9un

WILSON HOME IMPROVEMENTS: bathroom remodeling, custom showers, handicap showers, tile laying, decks, deck repairing, handicap ramps and pressure washing. Free estimate. Call anytime, 828-682-1496, 828-284-8256. pd7-31

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CASTAWAY TRASH, Roll-off dumpster rental. Junk removal and clean-out service. 828-678-5198 or 828-284-1544. www.castaway-trash.com. pd9-18

EAST YANCEY CONSTRUCTION LLC Roofing, drywall, decks, siding and paint, remodeling and more, insured. Eastyanceyconstruction@gmail.com, 828-448-1404. pd11-27

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FOR SALE: John Deere 690A Trackhoe, runs good, 10K, 772-285-8060. pd10-16

FOR SALE: Church pews, benches, and pulpit, from 1 - 20, make any offer 772-285-8060. pd10-9

Times Journal Deadline
Deadline for news copy, pictures, classified advertisements is 12:00 on Friday for Wednesday's publication. Copy should be brought by the office located at 22 North Main Street or mailed to Times Journal, 22 North Main Street, Burnsville, N.C. 28714.

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Rebecca Honeycutt, Office Manager

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Obituaries



Marvin Alton King

Marvin Alton King, age 66, of the Green Mountain Community, passed away at his home on Friday, October 11, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. A native of Yancey County, he was a son of the late Gudger King and Ethel Ingle Williams. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his best friend and former wife, Martha Cashion who passed away in 2022; granddaughter, Jasmine Lee; grandson Aiden Seth; and several other brothers and sisters. Marvin loved camping and fishing. He also enjoyed sitting on his front porch and listening to gospel CD's.

Surviving is his daughters: Erica King and Amanda King; 8 grandchildren: Skyler, Shane, Daniel, Malachi, Ariel, Josh, Bella, and Aurora; sister-in-law, Mary Ingle and her husband, Bill; and nephews, Steven and Chris.

An at home memorial service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to Yancey Funeral Service online at www.yancey-funeralservice.com or in person at 378 Charlie Brown Road Burnsville, NC 28714. To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Food Pantry

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church will have their food pantry open Oct. 18, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. This will be operating as a drive thru service. Please call 1-828-536-0130 when you arrive at the church to check in and let them know that you are there. Someone will bring the food to your car. This service is for anyone who is in need of food. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church is located at 151 Scronce Creek Road, just off Highway 19 E in Burnsville.



Cleo Junior Davis

Cleo Junior Davis, age 85, of the Penland Community, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at Smoky Ridge Health and Rehabilitation. A native of Mitchell County, he was a son of the late Charles and Thelma Cook Davis. He was also preceded in death by a brother, James Davis; grandson, Kameron Wilson and sons-in-law: David Randall Wilson and Johnny Wayne Duckett. Cleo loved to loafer, feeding all kinds of animals, especially his cat, Tiger, watching westerns on TV and spending time with his grandchildren.

Surviving is his loving wife of 52 years, Rebecca Ann Davis; daughters: Ann Davis Wilson and Jennifer Williams; sister, Margie Davis; brother, Howard Davis; grandchildren: Jacob Duckett (Marquita), Joni Huffman, Kaelen Wilson (Shannah) and Kurtis Wilson; great-grandchildren: Anthony Kevin Wilson, Theodore Wilson, Braylin Silvers and Madeline Hope Duckett and nephews: Gregory Davis and Andy Davis.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 13th in the Chapel of Yancey Funeral Services. Pastor Lance Riddle officiated. Burial followed in the Fork Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mitchell County Animal Rescue at 2492 US-19E, Spruce Pine, NC 28777.

We need your stuff!

The Barkin' Basement is a thrift store in downtown Burnsville. All profits from sales support the Yancey Humane Society. We gratefully accept gently used furnishings, appliances, clothing, books, linens, and other household goods. All donations are tax deductible and we offer pickup for larger items! Please call with questions and to schedule pickups. 682-1200.



Stephen Dwight Ayers

Stephen Dwight Ayers, age 38, of Green Mountain, passed away on Friday, September 27, 2024 due to the flood caused by Hurricane Helene. A native of Yancey County, he was a son of Danny and Miriam Huskins Ayers of Green Mountain. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents: Ott and Jo Ann Higgins Ayers and maternal grandparents: Fred and Virginia Rice Huskins.

Stephen had previously worked with Glen Raven Mills in Burnsville, but was currently a Machine Technician with Ohio Electric in Barnardsville. He loved to hunt and fish. In addition, he loved to draw and enjoyed art.

Left to cherish his memory in addition to his parents, Danny and Miriam, is his wife, Alena Sharpe Ayers; daughters: Olivia, Eden, Bridgett; brother, Tony Ayers (Katie) of Green Mountain; sister, Kandias Honeycutt and (Nick) of Jacks Creek; mother-in-law, Tammy Presnell (Randy); father-in-law, Sam Sharpe (Donna) and sister-in-law, Jessica Sharpe. Numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family also survive.

Funeral Services were held at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 14th in the chapel of Yancey Funeral Services. Rev. Philip Hughes and Rev. Andrew Thomas officiated. Burial followed in the Zion Community Cemetery on Long Branch.

Memorial donations may be made to help his daughters by donating toward the funeral on our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com or by sending the donations to his parents, Danny and Miriam Ayers at 35 Shady Pine Lane, Green Mountain, NC 28740.

Volunteers needed

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals weekdays from 10:30 to noon. Call the Senior Center at 682-6011.



Maxine Towe Tipton

Maxine Towe Tipton, age 74, of the Mine Fork Community, went Home to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at Mission Hospital. A native of Yancey County, she was a daughter of the late Ralph and Ruth Arrowood Towe. She was also preceded in death by two brothers-in-law: Paul Tipton (Nancy Fox Tipton) and Ronnie Tipton (Sandy Grindstaff Tipton).

Maxine was a hairdresser with Helen Phoenix until she started her own business in 1990. For many years, she was also the hairdresser for our local nursing home. She was one of the most giving souls, distributing hundreds of cakes she baked throughout the years to friends and communities. Often at Christmastime, many would find a mini-loaf cake in their mailbox. Maxine was known for her tender steaks and her fresh vegetables out of her garden, again giving most away to family and friends. She read her Bible every night and would stay up until her son, Brian, would come home from work and read to him before bed. She had a deep fondness for gates, as well as red roses. Every Tuesday, Brian would bring her red roses and if red ones weren't available, he gave her yellow roses. She attended both Red Hill Presbyterian Church and Prices Creek Union Church.

Surviving is her loving husband of almost 54 years, Roger Tipton; son, Brian Tipton and wife, Darlene, of Blankenship Creek; her little dog, Sam; cousins: John Arrowood of Charlotte, Dwight Towe of Florida, and Janie Fender of Prices Creek; and sisters-in-law: Diane Banks (Bud) of Erwin, TN, Darlene Wise (Mike) of Bakersville and Carolyn Elkins (Gerald) of Indian Creek. Many friends and church family also survive.

A private burial will be held.

Memorial donations may be made to Gideons International at P.O. Box 264, Burnsville, NC 28714. To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.yanceyfuneralservice.com.

Marine Corps League Mt. Mitchell Detachment #1266

Meeting Notice Located at the Western Sizzler Restaurant, 11961 S Hwy 226, Spuce Pine, NC 28777

Meeting the 3rd Thursday of Every Month at 7:00 p.m.

All branches are welcome and families!

Mt Mitchell Community Fund

The Mount Mitchell Community Fund started as a volunteer, grassroots effort to supply a few new winter coats for school children. The foundation has now broadened to a much greater scale.

The Mission of the Foundation is to help alleviate circumstances associated with child poverty in Yancey County. Yancey County is one of the poorest counties in North Carolina, where 27% of the children live in severe poverty. They do not receive regular nutritious meals nor appropriate clothing.

A few of the Foundation's donations include: over 5,000 meals for youth in Yancey County, 502 sturdy new winter coats, 120 new hats and gloves, 494 new pairs of pants, 300 new pairs of shoes and 192 new school backpacks filled with supplies. Along with numerous other personal necessities. 100% of donations are



Barbara Jean Allen

Barbara Jean Allen, age 84, of the Crabtree Community, walked into the arms of Jesus, on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at home, surrounded by her loving family. A native of Mitchell County, in the Altapass Community, she was a daughter of the late John Wesley and Carrie Snyder Hall. She was also preceded in death by infant siblings, Frank and Evelyn Hall, as well as two brothers: Bill Hall (Pearl) and Cecil Hall (Ardella) and six sisters: Mildred Hall, Velma Castle (M.H.), Ruth Lowery (Arnold), Helen Byrd (Herman), Bea Renfro (Dallas) and Wanda Reeves (Robert).

Barbara was a member of Crabtree Chapel Baptist Church, but she dearly loved the Altapass Community that she grew up in and was so proud of the history of the area. She never met a stranger and loved helping people! She was everyone's prayer warrior and secret keeper. Her favorite pastime was talking on the phone, and always had time to listen, cry or laugh with you, and never missed an opportunity to pray with you. Barbara, or Aunt Bobo, had many nieces and nephews who each wholeheartedly believed they were her favorite, because that's how special she made each individual one feel. She was loved by all who met her and will be missed dearly, especially by her family.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 60 years, Charles Eugene Allen; a daughter, Wendy Allen (Mitchell); son, Gene Allen (Christy), all of Crabtree; four grandchildren: Bethany Boyd (Jordan) of Ellenboro, Elijah Allen of Crabtree, Brittany Allen (Anthony) of Bakersville and Jon Allen (Amber) of Spruce Pine; three great-grandchildren: Jadynd Pendley, Larkin Allen and Emma Allen and brother-in-law, Dallas Renfro of Crabtree. She is survived as well by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 12th at Crabtree Chapel Baptist Church. Rev. Daniel Whetstine, Rev. Dallas Renfro and Rev. Jason Kritz officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

The family would like to thank Hospice and Palliative Care of the The Blue Ridge and especially to Samantha Canipe for her wonderful and loving care.

Memorial donations may be made to Samaritan's Purse at 801 Bamboo Road, Boone, NC 28607.

Men's Bible Study on Revelation

Bible Study Fellowship meets weekly on Tuesday at the Family Life Center at Higgins Methodist Church, located at 101 N Main Street in Burnsville. Bible Study begins at 7 p.m. Call 828-284-6901 for more information.

Guardian ad Litem volunteers needed

The NC Guardian ad Litem Program is seeking volunteer advocates to represent abused and neglected children in Yancey, Mitchell and Madison.

Training session are held periodically for volunteers with this program to advocate for local children.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the local Guardian ad Litem program, please call Erica Edwards at 828-682-4754 or visit volunteerforgal.org.

Blue Cross NC Foundation commit \$2.5 million to Helene Relief

In the wake of destruction caused by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) is taking action.

Blue Cross NC is working with local organizations, as well as state, federal and local officials, to understand the needs of our communities and determine how we can best support them with immediate relief, recovery, and long-term rebuilding. As part of this work, Blue Cross NC and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation (Blue Cross NC Foundation) are donating more than \$2.5 million to local, regional and statewide relief and recovery efforts, including support for food, shelter, and supplies.

"Our family, friends and neighbors in western North Carolina are facing unbelievable loss, and we are here for them – making it easier to get the health care they need and providing immediate relief and supplies," said Blue Cross NC CEO Dr. Tunde Sotunde. "We will continue to be there for our customers, employees, and communities as we navigate the challenges ahead together. This is how we take care of each other in North Carolina."

SECU Foundation donates \$3.75 million in disaster relief to aid Western North Carolina

In response to the catastrophic flooding, landslides, and widespread destruction in Western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene, the SECU Foundation Board of Directors approved a \$3.75 million disaster relief package to assist communities affected. Funding will be awarded to five organizations that have operations underway to immediately provide water, food, supplies, shelter, and other emergency services to those in need. Grantees include:

- \$1 million to Feeding the Carolinas
- \$1 million to The Salvation Army of the Carolinas
- \$1 million to Baptists on Mission
- \$500,000 to the American Red Cross North Carolina
- \$250,000 to Meals on Wheels North Carolina

These funds are designated as general purpose to give the organizations the maximum flexibility to serve their communities.

"The impacts of Hurricane Helene will be felt for a long time and the needs of those affected are many," said SECU Foundation Board Chair Chris Ayers. "The Foundation grants will provide some much-needed relief to help address the increased demand for services as these organizations respond to community needs. We are grateful for the unwavering commitment of these non-profits and their volunteers."

"The devastation that Hurricane Helene brought to our Western North Carolina family, friends, and neighbors is tremendous," said SECU Foundation Executive Director Jama Campbell. "North Carolina faces unbelievable challenges, and we need each other now more than ever. Our Foundation will continue to monitor relief efforts and help our communities on this long path of recovery."

Attention All Veterans

The Sgt. E. L. Randolph Chapter 57 Disabled American Veterans is in need of some Veterans volunteering to join our Honor Guard. If you are interested please contact Jerry Miller between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 828-208-2486.

Church Directory

To have your church information included in the Church Directory contact Pat Randolph at pat@yanceypaper.com for publication costs

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Summit Street, Burnsville

Rev. Anthony Mbanefo

Sundays 11:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. Misa en Espanol

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Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

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email: messiahofthemountains@gmail.com

Pastor Naomi Sease Carrier

Pensacola United Methodist Church

Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.

9255 Hwy 197S Burnsville, NC

Contact: contact.pumc@gmail.com

Pastor: Kent Smith

West Burnsville Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship Service 6:00p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m. TeamKid Youth 6:00 p.m. Special Studies 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Chris Fox Church Office 682-3990

222 West Burnsville Church Road

HOPE FELLOWSHIP WNC

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Pastor: Jack Sielaff

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www.hopefellowshipwnc.org

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available in North Carolina

Residents in designated areas of North Carolina who lost income due to Tropical Storm Helene may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

DUA Availability and Eligibility Requirements

DUA is available to individuals in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

People, including self-employed, or business owners may be eligible for DUA if:

- You lived, worked or were scheduled to work in an area designated under the major disaster declaration.
- You lost employment or had your employment interrupted as a direct result of the disaster; and
- You have exhausted or are not eligible for state unemployment benefits.

To qualify for DUA benefits, you must be out of work as a direct result of Tropical Storm Helene.

How to File a Claim

The fastest way to file a claim is online at the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Division of Employment Security webpage: des.nc.gov. You may also file over the phone by calling 888-737-0258.

Apply for Disaster Assistance

Homeowners and renters in the designated counties can apply for FEMA assistance online at disasterassistance.gov, by calling 800-621-3362 or by using the [FEMA mobile app](#). If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA the number for that service.

For the latest information on North Carolina recovery from Tropical Storm Helene please visit [Hurricane Helene | NC DPS](#) or fema.gov/disaster/4827. Follow FEMA on X, formerly called Twitter, at twitter.com/femaregion4 and at facebook.com/fema.

###

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters.

FEMA is committed to ensuring disaster assistance is accomplished equitably, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status. Any disaster survivor or member of the public may contact the FEMA Office of Civil Rights if they feel that they have a complaint of discrimination.

FEMA's Office of Civil Rights can be contacted at FEMA-OCR@fema.dhs.gov or toll-free at 833-285-7448.



Don't Wait to Clean Up or Make Repairs

Residents with home damage after Helene do not need to wait for a FEMA home inspection or insurance adjuster before beginning to clean up. Typically, after a survivor applies for disaster assistance, they will be contacted by a FEMA inspector within a few days to schedule an appointment. Before starting any structural work, be sure to get a building permit from your local building authorities.

Before Cleaning Up

- Take photos of damage before you begin the clean-up process. Be sure to include photos or videos of the outside and inside of the building, including damaged personal property, and label them by room before you remove anything.
- Photograph the make, model, and serial number for appliances such as washers, dryers, hot water heaters, kitchen appliances, TVs and computers.
- Save all repair receipts.
- If you have insurance, separate damaged items from undamaged items. The insurance adjuster may need to document damaged items when conducting an inspection.
- If possible, keep samples of carpet, flooring, wallpaper and drapes.
- After taking photos, immediately throw away flood-damaged items that pose a health risk after coming into contact with floodwaters, such as perishable food, clothing, cushions and pillows.

When Salvaging and Cleaning Up Flood Damaged Property

- Always wear protective clothing. This includes long-sleeved shirts, long pants, rubber or plastic gloves and waterproof boots or shoes.
- If the home needs a tarp to prevent further damage, install the tarp as quickly as possible.
- Take wet items outside. Your home could be contaminated with mold, which may raise the health risk for those with asthma, allergies and breathing conditions. For detailed tips on cleaning mold safely, visit the Centers for Disease Control's site at [Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters | Mold | CDC](#).
- Clean all hard surfaces and items with bleach. If possible, wash wet fabrics in hot water.

Most anyone living in western North Carolina can qualify for immediate \$750 #FEMA assistance as well as \$629 towards reimbursement of generator and \$219 for chain saw:

FEMA has declared Individual Assistance (IA) for Hurricane Helene. What does this mean for you? It means you can apply for disaster assistance from FEMA to help offset your disaster-related expenses.

You can apply online at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/> or by telephone at (800) 621-3362.

Otherwise, you can download the FEMA weather app from Google PlayStore or the Apple Store and you can apply for assistance on the app and upload receipts. Whichever method you choose, the form has a few questions that are tricky. To avoid delay, please follow the following tips:

- One of the questions that FEMA will ask when you register is "Do You Have Emergency Needs"? This means during your evacuation or since staying at home during the disaster, do you need help with Gas, Medication, Food (meals, water, had no power and everything spoils), Shelter (you are staying with friends, family or in a hotel); Clothing; or Durable Medical Equipment (oxygen, walkers, cane, glasses, all major equipment, etc). If this is true, say "YES" to this question. This will result in you receiving Displacement / Critical Needs Assistance, which is \$750.
- When asked if your home is/was accessible, answer "NO" if there was debris, tree branches, continued flooding, loss of power, damage or destruction that prevented you from staying there after Helene. This question is asking whether you can stay at your home or apartment and will trigger the ability for you to receive assistance to pay for hotels or provide funding to use while you stay with family or friends.
- When asked if utilities are out, say "YES" even if your utilities were out for a few days. This triggers assistance \$ to stay somewhere other than your home or to buy fuel to power a generator.
- When asked "Are you willing to relocate" say "YES" if you cannot live in your home due to damage, loss of power, etc. This question means you are willing to stay in a hotel or apartment temporarily, and triggers that funding for you. It is not asking if you are willing to move away from your home permanently.
- If you bought or buy a generator, FEMA will reimburse you up to \$629, but you must submit the receipt. If you bought a chainsaw, FEMA will reimburse you up to \$219. Again, you need to provide the receipt. Save your receipts.

North Carolina Helene Recovery

Oct. 12, 2024

Three Disaster Recovery Centers Now Open

Three Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) have opened in Buncombe, McDowell and Caldwell counties to help North Carolinians in disaster affected counties. Hours are from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Sunday. More centers will be opening soon. Find a center nearest you at [FEMA.gov/drc](https://fema.gov/drc).

The **Buncombe County DRC** is located at: A.C. Reynolds High School, 1 Rocket Dr., Asheville, N.C. 28803.

The **McDowell County DRC** is located at: McDowell County Senior Center, 100 Spaulding Rd., Marion, N.C. 28752.

The **Caldwell County DRC** is located at: Caldwell County Health & Human Services Center, 2345 Morganton Blvd SW, Lenoir, N.C. 28645.

Disaster Survivors Assistance Teams

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) Teams go door-to-door or are stationed at locations like a grocery stores, schools or parks to help residents apply for federal assistance and assess other disaster needs. Team members are engaging with survivors today in the following counties:

Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey.

Ongoing Response

FEMA has approved **\$84 million** in housing and other types of individual assistance for more than **66,000** households. Additionally, the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program supporting more than **1,800** families. Through TSA, survivors who cannot return home may be eligible to receive help from FEMA to find a safe and clean place to stay while they make their long-term housing plans.

Fifteen shelters are housing just over **500 occupants**. Mass feeding sites are delivering meals to approximately **20** mobile sites across **12** counties. FEMA has provided more than **7.8 million meals** and **10 million liters of water** to the state.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing in western North Carolina.



DSA Teams assist survivors in Lake Lure, N.C.