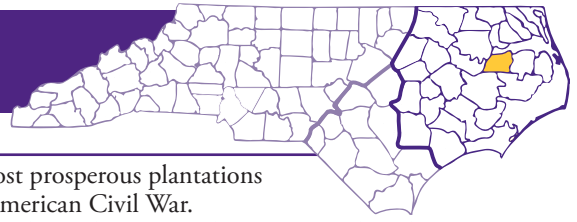


WASHINGTON COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1799 out of Tyrrell County, Washington County was named for the first president of the United States, George Washington. Plymouth serves as the county seat.



Other communities located in Washington County include Creswell, Lake Phelps, Pea Ridge, and Roper. Natural features in the county include the Albemarle Sound, the East Dismal Swamp, and the Roanoke and Scuppernon rivers.


Washington County's economy revolves around manufacturing and agriculture, including corn, livestock, plywood, lumber, sage, and tobacco. The county is home to Somerset Place, one of

the state's most prosperous plantations during the American Civil War. The plantation housed over 800 slaves at its peak and today serves as a reunion place for slave descendants.

Washington County's historical and cultural attractions include Buncombe Hall, the Plymouth Historic District, the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, the Port O' Plymouth Roanoke River Museum, and the Washington County Arts Council.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4} POPULATION: 12,012 NC RANKING: 92nd *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties	BLACK	49%	22%	13%
	WHITE	45%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	6%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	44	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	21%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	13,058	9.4M	335M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 EDUCATION ^{1,2,3} HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 80% NC: 87% US: 83%  THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 40% NC: 58% US: 68%	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$12,676	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	70%	50%	48%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:	None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 HEALTH ^{1,2} PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 2 NC: 25 US: 28	DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	46	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	18	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	16%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	33%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 ECONOMY ^{1,2} MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$33,115 NC RANKING: 86th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties	UNEMPLOYED	7%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	26%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Domtar Paper Company LLC		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

FARMING: A "CULTIVATED" TRADITION



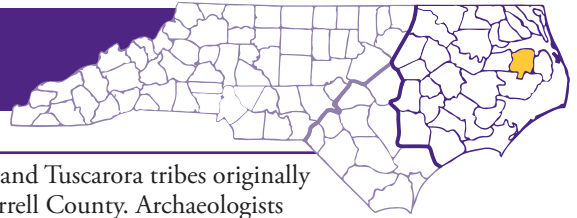
In Washington County, we don't just farm; we FARM, in a BIG way! Virtually anywhere you drive in the area, in any direction you are likely to see a vast panorama of cultivated fields. Crawling around those fields are giant "transformer-like" machines, painted in bright colors with "arms" that articulate to maneuver among crops, and high-tech GPS guidance systems which both navigate and custom-mix soil amendments on the fly. These are the modern-day plow horses and tractors that tend a mind-boggling amount of farmland in eastern North Carolina.

It was not always this easy. The native Algonquin Indians had lived on and farmed this fertile land by hand for thousands of years, as evidenced by artifacts recovered from various locations in the community. Large-scale farming became an integral part of the agrarian lifestyle of Washington County nearly four centuries ago, with the arrival of the first permanent colonial European settlers which migrated south from Virginia and established enormous plantation estates on land grants from the British monarchy and proprietary governors. From this period up to the time of the Civil War, vast amounts of cotton, corn, wheat, tobacco, potatoes and other commodity crops were grown for local use and export. In addition to the vast Plantations such as Somerset Place, small farms appeared by the score which while not as grand, have in many cases remained in the same family for centuries. The farming heritage is one which is treasured and guarded, handed down to successive generations much like a family inheritance, to be cared for and preserved for the future.

The topography and soil of the Roanoke River Delta make for an agricultural paradise, with mostly flat land bordered by waterways and intersected by irrigation canals. Once part of an ancient sea bed, the land has been covered and uncovered by the sea many times, and carved into dunes and ridges by the Roanoke and Scuppernon Rivers. The land around Plymouth is higher, sandier and nutrient-poor, while the "Blacklands", or land in the southern part of the county is extremely rich peat-based soil. During plowing time, black clouds rise above these fields which are often mistaken for smoke. In reality, it is the powdered peat dust stirred up and caught by the breeze. In the past, peat fires were very common in this area, often burning for years at a time underground.

These days, farming is still the mainstay of the local economy, with commercial production of corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts and wheat comprising major commodity crops. Specialty crops are part of a new wave of high-tech farming known as "bio-tech"- currently rice and clary sage are two bio-tech crops being commercially produced here. Livestock production is also key to the agricultural economy, with pork and poultry ranking high on the production scale. Long-recognized as a center for farming technology development and crop science, Washington County is home to the Tidewater Agricultural Research Station and the Vernon James Research and Extension Center.

TYRRELL COUNTY




ABOUT



Established in 1729 out of Bertie, Chowan, Pasquotank, and Currituck counties, Tyrrell County was named for Lord Proprietor Sir John Tyrrell. The county was established to provide those living in the region better access to a courthouse, a jail, and other government buildings. Columbia serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Tyrrell County include Fort Landing, Frying Pan Landing, Gum Neck, Kilkenny, Newfoundland, and Woodley.

The Secotan and Tuscarora tribes originally inhabited Tyrrell County. Archaeologists have discovered Native American artifacts in the county, including pots and weapons from before the colonial era.

Tyrrell County's historical and cultural attractions include the Columbia Historic District, the Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center, the Pocosin Arts School of Fine Craft, and the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge – an 110,000-acre conservation site that serves as one of the largest ecosystems for black bears on the east coast.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 4,052 NC RANKING: 100th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	36%	22%	13%
	WHITE	50%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	9%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	42	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	26%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	15%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	4,565	9.4M	335M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 92% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>  <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 52% NC: 58% US: 68%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$14,716	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	81%	50%	48%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:	None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 0 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	0	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	48	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	22%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	31%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$34,056 NC RANKING: 94th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	8%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	27%	15%	13%
	LARGEST EMPLOYER:	Whitecap Linen		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

COLUMBIA: THE SMALL TOWN THAT'S BIG ON FUN & ADVENTURE



Local art graces the side of a building in downtown Columbia. PHOTOGRAPH BY CORY GODWIN PRODUCTIONS.

Kim Wheeler calls Columbia, N.C. a hidden jewel, and anyone who has spent time in this quaint town just an hour or so away from the Outer Banks would easily agree.

As a member of the Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce and executive director of the Red Wolf Coalition, Wheeler cites the region's amazing waterways, plentiful wildlife, charming community and historic buildings all as reasons to make Columbia a destination rather than just a town to drive through on the way to somewhere else. And she's right. From the Palmetto-Peartree Preserve along the Albemarle Sound to Pocosin Arts in downtown Columbia, this little-known town is brimming with activities and cultural opportunities. And with a population of less than 1,000, those who are lucky enough to spend some time in Columbia can enjoy all of this while getting a taste of small town life in northeastern North Carolina.

Columbia is located on the eastern shore of the Scuppernong River and is known for its hometown feel and welcoming residents. Many community events bring thousands of visitors to this small town to enjoy the downtown area and surrounding natural resources. Two of the largest events are the Scuppernong River Festival and the annual River Town Christmas held every December. While most will drive to Columbia, if you prefer to sail into this riverside community, the municipal docks in the downtown area are a perfect place for boaters to spend the night and take some time in town where they will find plenty of options as far as restaurants, shopping, nature, history and wine all rolled into one small geographic area.

"Columbia's downtown is home to an antique shop, photography gallery, art studio, cultural resources theater, restaurants and businesses to meet your day-to-day needs," Wheeler says. "And our Main Street ends at the docks of the Scuppernong River, offering boaters the chance to dock within walking distance of our downtown area."

The historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and visitors can go on a self-guided walking tour by picking up a tour brochure at the Tyrrell County Visitor's Center adjacent to the Walter B. Jones Center for the Sounds, located on the south side of Highway 64 on the Scuppernong River.

For nature lovers, opportunities in and around Columbia are limitless. The Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce refers to the region as "nature's buffer zone, sprawled between the urban mainland and the popular stretch of North Carolina's Outer Banks."

"Here is where the red wolf howls. Bald eagles and northern harriers soar across the sunset. American alligators live at their northern limits near ancient pocosin forests," boasts the chamber's webpage.

And there are plenty of opportunities for visitors to get out and explore.

The Palmetto-Peartree Preserve, just five miles outside of town, was established in 1999 to protect red-cockaded woodpeckers and is home to more than 100 species of migratory birds. Visitors can walk along a network of boardwalk trails through wetland forests while viewing a wide variety of birds and native plants.



The Highway 64 bridge crosses the Scuppernon River in Columbia.

Kiosks along the way share the history and uniqueness of the 10,000-acre preserve. There are also miles of walking trails, 14 miles of canoe and kayak trails for visitors to explore along the Albemarle Sound and Alligator Creek, as well as primitive camping.

The preserve is open seven days a week during daylight hours.

The Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is another way to get off the beaten track while visiting Columbia. The refuge headquarters is located at the Walter B. Jones, Sr. Center for the Sounds. The center includes exhibits about the refuge and features a 10-minute film about the region and its wildlife. A nature store is also inside the center.

A .75-mile interpretative boardwalk loops behind the center and takes hikers through a cypress swamp to downtown Columbia. Other activities within the refuge include fishing, canoeing and wildlife observation. A picnic shelter is also available. A second trail and observation platform can be found at the Pungo unit of Pocosin Lakes. This half-mile Duck Pen Trail takes hikers to a blind that is perfect for viewing waterfowl in the winter as well as birds that visit the lake while migrating south.

Pocosin Arts on Main Street is a must-see while visiting Columbia. This fall the center will feature three artists in residence, two ceramicists and a metalsmith. Visitors can enjoy the center's gallery that displays current resident artists' work as well as selections from past residents. They can also visit the artists' studios as they work.



Street art in downtown Columbia.

Pocosin Arts' mission is to "connect culture to the environment through the arts." Rotating exhibits as well as classes and retreats ensure that there is always something exciting and new to see here. The gallery is open during the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Don't miss the Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center, built in 1938 and located on Main Street. The center is an environmental and cultural history museum and visitors can learn more about Tyrrell County's long history of forestry, fishing and farming. Here you'll meet "Hunter Jim" and see other artifacts from Tyrrell County.

The Vineyards on the Scuppernon is a perfect place to relax and enjoy some of the finest wine in northeastern North Carolina that comes right from local vines. The winery and tasting room is located in the oldest building in Columbia that once served as the town hall and fire station. Every Thursday through October, visitors can take a tour of the grape fields and winery. Tours by boat leave the docks of the Tyrrell County Visitors Center. The winery is located on South Elm Street.

At Ashbee Dora Vineyards, just 15 minutes from Columbia, visitors can pick their own muscadine grapes in the fall and at Scuppernon Produce they can treat themselves to hoop cheese. And you will step back in time when you visit the oldest Ben Franklin in North Carolina right on Main Street.

While in town, stop by the Southern Dreams Gallery, located right in downtown Columbia on Main Street to view local artists' work. The works of Mark Buckler, Ken Cherry, Jane C. Perry and Currwood Harrison are



Craftsmanship at Pocosin Arts.

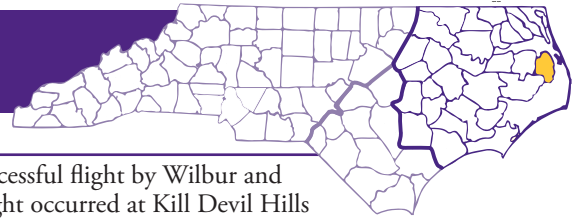
described as being inspired by northeastern North Carolina's natural beauty. The downtown area also has shops featuring local arts and crafts, sweet treats and other specialties.

Visitors to Columbia will find that there are great places to shop and eat while in town. Some favorite restaurants among the locals are Call of the Wild, Hwy. 55 Burgers, Shakes and Fries, Elements Café and Full Circle Crab Company. Guests to Full Circle can watch watermen bring in their catch at the company's loading dock and get some of the area's freshest seafood packed to go.

And if you are planning on staying for more than a day, Columbia offers a variety of lodging options including the waterfront Egret House cottage, the Brickhouse Inn Bed & Breakfast and the Dalton Inn. But whether you visit for a day or spend a few nights, you'll see that Columbia is exactly as Kim Wheeler describes—a hidden jewel.

THIS STORY WAS PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 - WRITTEN BY MICHELLE WAGNER

DARE COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1870 and named after Virginia Dare, America's first English-born child in the colonies, Dare County was established out of Tyrrell, Hyde, and Currituck counties. Manteo serves as the county seat, receiving its name from a Croatoan Indian who helped establish the Roanoke Island Colony.



Other communities located in Dare County include Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, Wanchese, Kill Devil Hills, and Southern Shores.


Dare County, part of North Carolina's Outer Banks, has 85 miles of uninterrupted coastline. The county is also home to the infamous Lost Colony, established in 1585 by Sir Walter Raleigh.

The first successful flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright occurred at Kill Devil Hills in 1903. The brother's accomplishment is memorialized at the Wright Brothers National Memorial.

Historical and cultural attractions in Dare County include the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, the North Carolina Aquarium, and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 36,099 NC RANKING: 66th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	3%	22%	13%
	WHITE	88%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	7%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	44	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	43%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	10%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	31,985	9.4M	335M

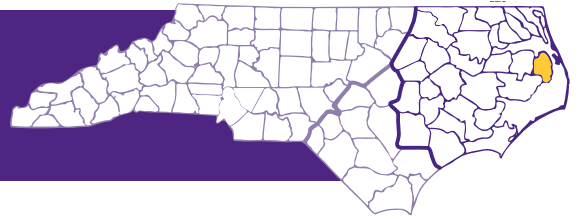
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 95% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>  <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 66% NC: 58% US: 68%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,217	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	44%	50%	48%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: College of the Albemarle - Dare County Campus College of the Albemarle - Roanoke Island Campus			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 7 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	5	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	5	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	47	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	15	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	27%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$55,520 NC RANKING: 11th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	6%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	11%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER: Dare County Schools				

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

DARE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Reide Corbett | corbettd@ecu.edu

Corbett is the dean of the newly established Integrated Coastal Programs and Executive Director of the Coastal Studies Institute at East Carolina University. Corbett earned a BSc in Chemistry and a PhD in Chemical Oceanography from Florida State University. After, Corbett spent a short time as a postdoctoral researcher at Tulane University before arriving at ECU as an assistant professor in the Department of Geology and the first faculty member of the PhD Program in Coastal Resources Management. Corbett specializes in coastal processes, specifically coastal shore zone change and geomorphic evolution, coastal sedimentary and geochemical processes, and the impacts of coastal hazards (e.g., storms, sea level rise). Ultimately, his hope is that information acquired through his research will lead to a clearer understanding of estuarine and coastal processes, providing better management and preservation of these critical environments.



Mike Muglia | mugliam@ecu.edu

Mike Muglia is the assistant director of Science and Research for the NC Ocean Energy Program and a research scientist at the Coastal Studies Institute. Muglia has BS degrees in marine science, biology, and physics, a MS degree in physics, and is currently working toward a PhD in marine science at UNC Chapel Hill. His scientific interests include understanding variability in position and transport of western boundary currents and the complex confluence of different shelf water masses, and meridional overturning circulation linkages between western boundary currents and deep western boundary currents. Muglia also explores the viability of the Gulf Stream as a source of renewable ocean energy for NC. He has extensive experience integrating, deploying, maintaining, and recovering many different types of marine observing systems; collecting and interpreting data, instructing students, and managing field projects with faculty, graduate students, and private industry partners.



John McCord | mccordr@ecu.edu

John McCord is the assistant director of engagement and outreach at the Coastal Studies Institute. McCord earned his BS in natural resource management from UNC Wilmington. McCord joined the Coastal Studies Institute in 2005 and is responsible for communicating the research and activities of the Coastal Studies Institute and ECU Integrated Coastal Programs to a variety of audiences including local government officials, university faculty, teachers, K-12 students, life-long learners and the public. McCord fulfills this mission through a variety of education and outreach methods including workshops, educational programming, publications, press coverage, multi-media development and web-based learning.



Mike Kelly | mikellyobx@earthlink.net

Mr. Mike Kelly is an ECU alumni and former ECU Trustee. Kelly has also served as a Foundation Board Member and serves on the Hospitality Management Advancement Council for ECU. Kelly opened his first restaurant, Kelly's Outer Banks Tavern, in 1985 after many years in the restaurant business working his way up from waiter to general manager and ultimately owner of his own restaurant. Kelly's Outer Banks Tavern was awarded the Entrepreneur and Small Business of the Year for 2017 by the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce. Kelly also owns Pamlico Jacks in Nags Head, Mako Mike's in Kill Devil Hills, and Kelly's OBX catering.

STEM^{*}@StarLight

COLLABORATION IN THE SCIENCES AND BEYOND

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & RESEARCH AT CSI & ECU OUTER BANKS CAMPUS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 5:30 | Gather |
| 5:45 | Welcome - Jay Golden
Vice Chancellor |
| 5:50 | Presentation - Reide Corbett |
| 6:10 | Discussion |
| 6:30 | Event Ends |

sponsored by:

North Carolina Biotechnology Center



ECU

RESEARCH, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

SPEAKER



Reide Corbett

**Dean of Integrated Coastal Programs
Executive Director of the Coastal Studies Institute**

Dr. Corbett is the dean of the newly established Integrated Coastal Programs and Executive Director of the multi-institutional Coastal Studies Institute. Corbett earned a bachelor's in chemistry and a doctorate in chemical oceanography from Florida State University. After, Corbett spent a short time as a postdoctoral researcher at Tulane University before arriving at ECU as an assistant professor in the Department of Geology and the first faculty member of ECU's Coastal Resources Management doctoral program. Corbett specializes in coastal processes, specifically coastal shore zone change and geomorphic evolution, coastal sedimentary and geochemical processes, and the impacts of coastal hazards (e.g., storms, sea level rise). Ultimately, his hope is that information acquired through his research will lead to a clearer understanding of estuarine and coastal processes, providing better management and preservation of these critical environments.

PARTNERS

Malcolm Fearing - Board of Directors, CSI

Wally Overman - Board of Directors, CSI

Mike Remige - Director, Jennette's Pier

Christin Brown - Education Curator, Jennette's Pier

Bob Woodard - Dare County Commissioner, Chair Person

Bobby Outten - Dare County Manager

Donna Creef - Dare County Planner

John Farrelly - Superintendent, Dare County Schools

Arty Tillet - Assistant Superintendent, Dare County Schools

Brian Boutin - Director, Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds Program, The Nature Conservancy

Tim Sweeney - Dean, Dare County Campus, College of the Albemarle

Bobby Owens - Mayor, Manteo

Dave Hallac - Superintendent, National Park Service, Outer Banks Group

COASTAL FOCUS

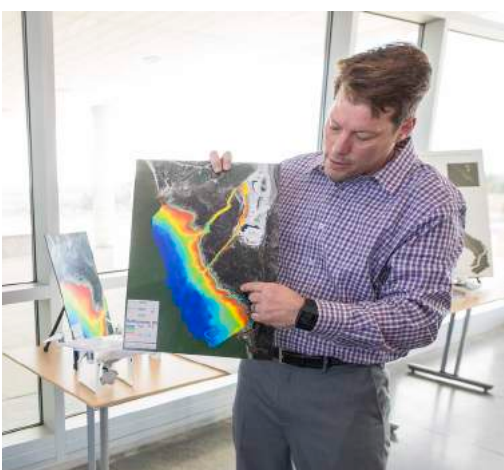
Outer Banks Campus, New Academic Unit Maximize Research, Teaching Resources



East Carolina University has renewed its commitment to coastal science by creating a new academic unit called Integrated Coastal Programs, which encompasses the Department of Coastal Studies and the Coastal Studies Institute, located at ECU's Outer Banks Campus on Roanoke Island. Dr. Reide Corbett, dean of Integrated Coastal Programs, will oversee the unit, which is the product of several years of strategic thinking about how ECU might grow and improve its coastal research and teaching programs. Looking back, on Roanoke Island there was the Coastal Studies Institute operated by the UNC System office, of which ECU was a member institution along with UNC and N.C. State; and at ECU there was the Institute of Coastal Science and Policy.

"So you had these two institutes, both focused on research, education and outreach from a coastal perspective," Corbett said. "The marriage between ECU and CSI became stronger and stronger, and there clearly needed to be a lead institution to help CSI see its vision, and ECU ... stepped up to the plate to take that lead."

The multi-institutional partnership with UNC and N.C. State, as well as dive and vessel operations, will continue at CSI under the new organizational structure, and Corbett said the new unit will break down barriers between disciplines to allow new approaches to coastal research. "Think about it from a student's perspective," said Dr. Jay Golden, vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement. "If you're in engineering you're trying to come up with new offshore energy designs or coastal engineering designs to address hurricanes, but then you have other faculty who are economists, other faculty who are looking at the social drivers for this. "You really get a holistic approach, an interdisciplinary approach, and it's exciting; you get to take what your innovation or design might be and really ground it in truth in regards to whether it makes economic sense and how the public will perceive it." The university is working to maximize the utilization of the Outer Banks Campus, which is home to the Coastal Studies Institute. The facility was completed in 2012, and the campus spans 213 acres of marshes,

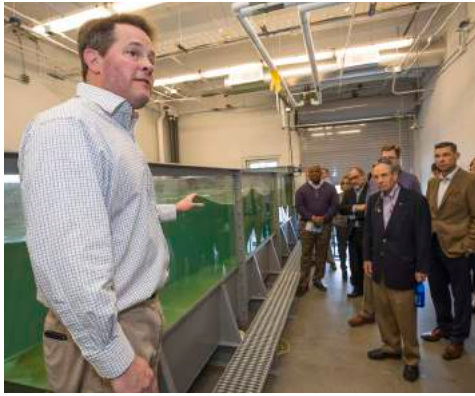


Dr. Reide Corbett displays a satellite image showing erosion around ECU's Outer Banks Campus. Photo by Cliff Hollis

scrub wetlands, forested wetlands and sound ecosystems. Corbett's vision for the Outer Banks Campus includes growth that will allow more students to take advantage of the facility's location and direct access to coastal ecosystems. "Ultimately we want to grow the campus so we can bring more students out there for the entire semester and offer them a full load of courses," he said.

ECU and CSI are currently leading research into renewable ocean energy, investigating ways to harness the power of waves and even the Gulf Stream as energy resources. Maritime history students have brought attention to the importance of maritime history with several discoveries including the identification of the mystery shipwreck at Pappy's Lane.

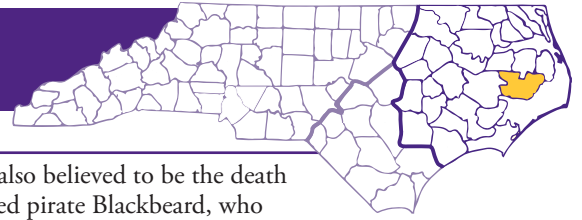
Another major area of research at ECU and its Outer Banks Campus is coastal sustainability, Corbett said. Recent events like Hurricane Florence have brought attention to changing weather patterns and coastal flooding. "It goes beyond what's been in the news for so long



with saltwater intrusion and sea level rise,” Corbett said. “It’s not just sea level rise; it’s changes in climate patterns that are going to lead to increased freshwater inundation and changes that we need to put in place for a more sustainable coastal community.” ECU has long had a focus on the coast in its broadest definition, “from the coastal plain and its rivers and streams to our estuarine systems, as well as the continental shelf,” Corbett said. The university has also focused on the marriage between socioeconomics and the natural sciences, he added. “We have all this incredible marine heritage sitting right off the coast,” he said. “And we have some of the wealthiest and some of the poorest counties just east of ECU.” Integrated Coastal Programs and the Outer Banks Campus are also tied in with ECU’s investment in innovation and entrepreneurship. “Students are interested in developing new micro-enterprises, new types of businesses and industries that leverage the vast resources in the ocean, far greater than we have on land, whether it’s energy or to feed the world, or new types of products that are more sustainable because they’re natural and ocean-based,” Golden said. “Or finding ways for existing businesses on the coast to be more portable, more sustainable financially. That’s going to be something that we want to leverage the campus and the faculty to do.

“How much fun would it be to be a student and be able to go to the Outer Banks and work on developing new microenterprises?” The Outer Banks community is interested and invested in ECU’s commitment to the region, Corbett said. “They’re excited about what we’re doing and the vision for the Outer Banks Campus. And we’ve been engaged and talking with the community about some of our concerns for the growth that we see at the campus.” Golden said Corbett’s understanding of what it means to live in eastern North Carolina and the importance of the Outer Banks are part of what made him the best choice to lead Integrated Coastal Programs. “Reide was born and raised in eastern North Carolina, so it’s in his DNA,” he said. “He had a vision of where he wants to take ECU at the Outer Banks and CSI, for ECU to become a nationally and internationally recognized leader in the sciences. “You’d be hard-pressed to find another program on campus that epitomizes where we want to go and the opportunities for excellence in education, research and outreach that we have at CSI and ECU’s Outer Banks Campus.”

HYDE COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1705 out of Bath County, Hyde County was chartered as Wickham Precinct before becoming Hyde Precinct seven years later. The precinct's name was officially changed to Hyde County in 1739 after Bath County was abolished. Swan Quarter serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Hyde County include Engelhard, Fairfield, Germantown, Last Chance, Nebraska, Ocracoke, Scranton, and Stumpy Point.


While Hyde County's population is just 5,757, the county draws many tourists. Ocracoke hosts the largest number of visitors, as tourists come to see its lighthouse and location on the Outer Banks.

Ocracoke is also believed to be the death place of famed pirate Blackbeard, who used North Carolina's waterways to hide from the British Navy.

The county is also recognized for its four wildlife refuges, including the Alligator River, Mattamuskeet, Pocosin Lakes, and Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge. Fishing, boating, and other recreational activities are prevalent in the county.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 5,757 NC RANKING: 99th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	29%	22%	13%
	WHITE	60%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	9%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	44	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	33%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	21%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	5,505	9.4M	335M

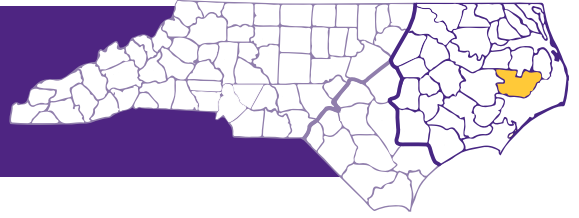
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 95% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$17,719	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	63%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 63% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 2 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	0	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	36	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	17%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	30%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$44,425 NC RANKING: 77th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	9%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	22%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Hyde County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

HYDE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Kris Noble | knoble@hydecountync.gov

Ms. Noble, County Manager for Hyde County and Planner and Economic Development Director is a native of Swan Quarter. Noble obtained her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management and her Master of Business Administration from East Carolina University. She is also a graduate of the North Carolina Rural Center's Rural Economic Development Institute (REDI) and the UNC School of Government's Municipal and County Administration Program. Noble has worked with Hyde County since 2008 and is responsible for attracting new business and nurturing small and start-up businesses while implementing and maintaining economic development programs concerned with retaining existing business and industry.



Mark Williard | mark@wscarchitects.com

Mr. Williard, President of Williard Stewart Architects, has been in charge of the restoration design and structural stabilization of Mattamuskeet Lodge since 2008. He has practiced architecture in North Carolina for 40 years and has developed an extensive portfolio of new and historic preservation public projects. His historic preservation work has included the restoration of the Roanoke River Lighthouse, the James Iredell House, Yates Mill, the Powerhouse at the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer, and the Long Valley Farm retreat of James Stillman Rockefeller. His contemporary public work includes the state headquarters for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, the Transit Operations Center and the Central Operation Center projects for the City of Raleigh, and the A.E. Finley Education and Research Center. Williard has also led projects and renovations at UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State, Wake Forest University, Louisburg College, Chowan University, and Shaw University.

HYDE HEALTH SETS UP BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFERRALS PROGRAM



The Hyde County Health Department has set up Hyde County Behavioral Health (HCBH) to provide referrals for depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, thought disorders, post- traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorder and more.

Available to adults age 18 years and older, the program currently consists of telepsychiatry services through collaboration with ECU Center for Telepsychiatry, on-site mental health and substance abuse counseling services, educational resources and treatment navigation services for those suffering from substance use disorders.

The HCBH team consists of a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed clinical social worker, registered nurse and a substance awareness coordinator. HCBH currently accepts the following insurances: Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medcost, United Healthcare, Cigna, Aetna, Medicaid and Medicare.

For those with no insurance or who are underinsured, services are also offered at a discounted rate according to a sliding scale. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 252- 926-4399.

THE SLEEPING GIANT ON LAKE MATTAMUSKEET

A former hunting lodge at Lake Mattamuskeet symbolizes Hyde County's heyday – and maybe its future.



EDITOR'S NOTE: The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have come together to develop a watershed protection plan for Lake Mattamuskeet. The preservationists are considering privatization of the Mattamuskeet Lodge to raise the funds necessary to restore.

A once-grand hunting lodge perches on the edge of Lake Mattamuskeet. Its garnet-red tile roof and blue-and-white 12-story observation tower, which resembles a lighthouse, hint at its former glory. Kris Noble, who played at the lodge as a child, still gets a little wide-eyed when recalling what it looked like inside. “There were animal heads and stuffed animal furs and big fireplaces,” she says.

Mattamuskeet Lodge was once a hotspot for bird and game hunters, parties, and special guests. Author Rachel Carson, who penned the seminal environmental book *Silent Spring*, stayed here while writing for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some people even got married at the lodge, which had a great dining hall with long tables, fireplaces, and wooden furniture. “It was pretty fabulous,” says Noble, who married here in 2000 and is now the director of planning and economic development for Hyde County. “It was really Old World.”

Yet, Mattamuskeet Lodge embodies both the failure of a man-made experiment and the resilience of nature. With the purpose of draining the lake, the structure was built in 1915 as the world's largest pumping station. When that project was scrapped, it became a hunting lodge in 1937. Now, the local landmark has been largely empty for more than three decades, since it closed to goose hunting in 1974. Yet preservationists are counting on the area's natural beauty to generate interest in restoring the lodge.

“I can tell you, I've hunted all over the North American and South American continents,” says Jamin Simmons, owner of Dare to Hyde Outdoor Adventures, “and I've yet to go to a place where somebody did not know of Mattamuskeet Lodge.” On a map, Lake Mattamuskeet is a bean-shaped, blue patch on a peninsula that juts like a misshapen thumb into

Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. At 18 miles long and seven miles wide, it's North Carolina's largest natural lake, but it was once a forest where Algonquin Indians hunted. They named the area Mattamuskeet, meaning “dry dust.” The lake's origin stories are many. One tells of how fires burning deep within the peat soil might have cleared the area of vegetation, leaving a place for water to drain and fish to thrive. But not much water: The lake has always been shallow — most of its 50,000 acres measures only 18 inches deep — with rain and creeks keeping it fresh.

Maneuvering through the wild celery are the fish: largemouth bass, black crappie, channel catfish, chain pickerel, warmouth, yellow perch, white perch. And blue crabs. Big ones. Some of the biggest on the East Coast. Folks around here will tell you about crabs with shells measuring seven inches



An old pumping station became the Mattamuskeet Lodge, a haven for hunters, in 1937. Preservationists are raising money to restore it. PHOTO BY TODD PUSSER

from point to point. Bisecting the lake is a causeway lined with benches, where you can soak in the view or cast a line. Elmer Cooper, wearing a cap with fish symbols and the words “Hooked on Jesus,” is trying to hook a white perch — or whatever bothers to take the bait. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Plymouth and often drive down to the lake to spend an afternoon.

He makes small talk about bait (worms), the weather (warm and gorgeous), the fishing (pretty good), and the wonder of this knee-deep, dam-free lake that humans didn’t create but nearly destroyed. “All this would be farmland,” he says. “Amazing, isn’t it?” The bed of Lake Mattamuskeet is thought to have some of the richest soil in the world, fed by nutrients from surrounding land, which naturally drain into it. Scientists have compared the lake bed’s importance with the Mississippi Delta and the Nile River delta in Egypt.

Rich soil makes for excellent farming, and in the early 20th century, developers undertook an ambitious endeavor. They began digging miles of canals and built a three-story pumping station to drain the lake. This engineering managed to keep the lake waterless three times during the 1910s and ’20s. But by the 1930s, the scheme was scrubbed. The lake was too resilient and the cost too high to keep it dry. So in 1934, the United States government acquired the lake and turned it into a wildlife refuge.

The pumping station became a world-renowned lodge that attracted hunters until 1974, when bird migratory patterns changed, and the annual Canada goose population nosedived from 20,000 to 6,000. With so few geese, the refuge no longer allowed hunting; the lodge closed to the public, and, over the years, began to crumble.

The lodge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, which saved it from demolition.

Although the lodge has been closed since 2000, Congress transferred it and more than six acres of adjoining land to the State of North Carolina, after the federal government couldn’t afford the repairs.

With its long, spindly legs, ivory feathers, pointed beak, and graceful neck, the great egret is an emblem of coastal North Carolina’s wetlands. It’s one of the more than 240 bird species — including snow geese, Canada geese, Northern pintails, great blue herons, and several species of ducks — that fill the sky around Lake Mattamuskeet, living here as part-time or permanent residents.

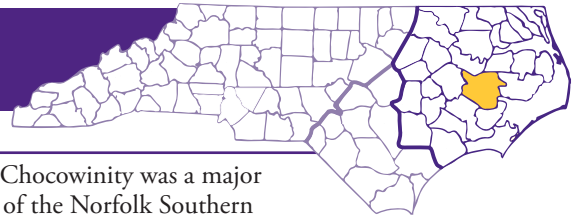
The most famous of the lake’s birds — the tundra swans — sweep in blizzard-like from November through March. Tens of thousands of swans, their plumage white and their beaks black, fly in from the Arctic to spend their winters at Mattamuskeet. Yet there is tension between Lake Mattamuskeet’s role as a wildlife refuge and Hyde County’s search for economic opportunities that rely on the lake as a natural resource. In an odd twist, earlier this year, state wildlife officials announced that they wanted to add water — to raise the lake level — to accommodate bass fishing. However, like the drainage experiment 100 years ago, the intervention could disturb the area’s ecology, halting the migration of fish into and out of Lake Mattamuskeet, and drowning plants that birds feed on in shallow water.



Acres of wetlands near Lake Mattamuskeet attract migratory and water birds, like great blue herons.
PHOTO BY MARK BUCKLER

Lake Mattamuskeet is still a hunter's haven. And because hunting, fishing, and tourism are important to the county, there is interest in restoring the Mattamuskeet Lodge. Ten years ago, the state planned to contribute a few million dollars each year to the project until renovations were complete. The North Carolina Division of Cultural Resources selected a team of architects and engineers, led by Raleigh architect Mark Williard, to renovate the lodge. Over the next three years, they gutted the building and made it structurally sound. But the economy tanked, and money for the project dried up. No significant work has been done on the lodge since 2010. Many preservationists imagine the lodge as a multi-purpose building for special events and retreats. It could house an education center to teach people about the area's vibrant ecosystem. The cost of finishing renovations has ebbed and flowed like the tides, and the revenue stream from the state remains murky. But perched here in this wetland wonderland, a sleeping giant awaits the dawn of a new day.

BEAUFORT COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1705 out of Bath County, Beaufort County received its formal name in 1712 from the Duke of Beaufort, Henry Somerset. Washington, named after President George Washington, serves as the county seat. The county also includes North Carolina's oldest town, Bath, which was established in 1705.


Other communities located in Beaufort County include Aurora, Belhaven, Chocowinity, Pantego, River Road, and Washington Park.



Natural water features, including the Tar and Pamlico rivers and the Pamlico Sound, played key roles in developing Beaufort County's early economy. The county served as an early port during the 18th


century and Chocowinity was a major railroad hub of the Norfolk Southern Railway in the early 1900s.

Beaufort County was also the home of ECU's fifth president, John Decatur Messick. Other notable residents include American Revolutionary War Colonel James Bonner, former NBA player Richard Coffey, and Willie Williams, who served as the Vice President and CIO of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Beaufort County's historical and cultural attractions include the Bath Historic District, the Beaufort County Courthouse, and the Bonner House.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4} POPULATION: 47,088 NC RANKING: 55th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties	BLACK	26%	22%	13%
	WHITE	66%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	8%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	44	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	42%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	13%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	57,602	9.4M	335M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 EDUCATION ^{1,2,3,5} HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 81% NC: 87% US: 83%	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,712	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	68%	50%	48%
	 THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 55% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Beaufort County Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 HEALTH ^{1,2} PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 4 NC: 25 US: 28	DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	43	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	16%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	33%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 ECONOMY ^{1,2} MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$40,671 NC RANKING: 50th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	19%	15%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: Beaufort County Schools		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

AN ECLECTIC MIX IN BELHAVEN

This eastern town along the Pungo River catches an eclectic mix of travelers. Each one adds another line to the curious story of this place.



At the Rack Time pool bar, locals still talk about the time John Ratzenberger floated into town on his yacht and stopped by for a drink in Belhaven.

Nobody calls him Ratzenberger when they tell this story at the friendly watering hole on Pamlico Street, where the actor's picture hangs next to the dartboards.

He's Cliff Craven, the postman from "Cheers." He's Hamm, the pig from the Toy Story movies. He's the voice behind crazy cartoons in Cars, Wall-E, and The Incredibles. And in Belhaven, he's another character who steered a boat up the Pungo River and passed a night in this town full of curiosities, adding his name to its quirky cast list.

"He was so down-to-earth," says bartender Vivian Woolard, pointing to the portrait. "I actually shot that picture with my phone."

Hidden on the back roads between Bath and Swan Quarter, Belhaven likely sees more traffic arrive via outboard motor than over the bridge on N.C. Highway 99.

The town rises and falls with the water, deriving its personality from what washes ashore, offering a colorful stopover to soggy, windburned travelers. In the summer, people just tie their boats together and bob offshore. You knee-board. You fish. You water-ski.

In the winter, you hibernate.

Walter Cronkite used to park his boat in Belhaven. Roy Clark of "Hee Haw" fame was known to cut through, as was Twiggy, the British supermodel.

Woolard remembers serving the man who invented Formula 409 cleaning spray.

Rack Time owner Carlton Smith recalls the couple who always arrived carrying a pet monkey. In this town, the beast hardly turned heads.

"They'd bring him in and set him on the bar," Smith says, "and the monkey would just sit there like, 'Whatever.'"

At Rack Time, you can see where hundreds of sailors have scratched or inked their names on the bar, maybe adding a naked mermaid as a flourish. With the Intracoastal Waterway in sight of downtown, Belhaven serves as a roadside attraction for boats, a riverfront equivalent of a favorite diner along Route 66.

Smith talks about a French yachtsman with boat trouble who motored into Belhaven and spent two weeks here, making repairs. He became a regular, mingling with the Beaufort County folk.

“It’s America in here,” Woolard says. “And we’ve had them from all over the world. France. Lithuania. South Africa. I’ve had these guys from Germany. They’d bought a boat and redid it, painted it black like a pirate ship.”

You understand why the world picks tiny Belhaven for a pit stop once you spend a day here.

You eat crab casserole at Fish Hooks cafe. You gawk at the flea collection and the three-legged pig at The Belhaven Memorial Museum, not to mention the wreath made out of human hair. You visit the grave of Little Eva, a native of Belhaven who taught the world how to do “The Loco-motion.”

You leave town with a dozen stories nobody else has heard, and you carry them with you like gift-shop souvenirs, happy you followed your curiosity.

Shaped by the water

Few people live in Belhaven anymore: just 1,685 at last count, about a third less than the town’s population in 1950.

In its early days, the town made its fortune from lumber, floating tons of logs down from the northeast. River Forest Manor, the grand mansion and marina that drew Cronkite and other luminaries, was originally the property of a timber baron.

Now the manor is for sale.

Belhaven long depended on the shrimp and crabs it pulled from the water, packed or sold fresh. There’s a giant crab sculpture outside the library downtown. Restaurants serve fish sandwiches and shrimp plates. Crab pots sit strewn in people’s yards.

But those industries have slowed down.

Water surrounds Belhaven — not the grand coastal bays too wide to see across, where tourists drive their cars onto ferries for a ride. Belhaven floats on the snaking rivers and creeks that form the finger-shaped Inner Banks. It’s hard to reach, and it feels that way.

The natives who first staked out this land got around in dugout canoes made from cypress trees, which European settlers refined and rode on the rivers until the 1800s. You can see a version of this essential Belhaven mode of transportation parked in front of the Chamber of Commerce, along with a poster advertising the nearby Aurora Fossil Museum.

Then and now, it’s hard to live in Belhaven without a boat — a truth hurricanes regularly demonstrate.

Flooding still plagues this town with a long shoreline. Waterfront development projects help hold the waters back, but in 2011, Hurricane Irene filled the downtown streets with three feet of water. Rack Time hoisted its pool tables up on cinder blocks and reopened two days later.

Here inside the Inner Banks, Belhaven will never be a Nags Head, a Calabash, or a Wilmington. But nobody wants it that way. Woolard speaks of living in Wilmington and being afraid to let her children cross the street because of all the traffic. Here they ride their bikes to the riverfront.

“In Belhaven,” Woolard says, “we all drive with one hand. So we can wave.”

One woman's treasure

This is a town you visit on a wild hair. And its reputation today rests largely on the shoulders of its wildest resident: Mrs. Mary Eva Blount Way.

In 1951, the Daily News of nearby Washington published this description of Belhaven's resident eccentric: "housewife, snake-killer, curator, trapper, dramatic actress, philosopher and preserver of all the riches of mankind."

Those riches started with a collection of buttons, which totaled about 30,000, and grew to include a dolphin skull, an anchor believed to be from the War of 1812, an opium pipe, a stamp-size Bible, a pair of horse goggles, a World War I machine gun, and a human skeleton.

After she died in 1962, her family turned her odd assortment into The Belhaven Memorial Museum, rather than divvying it up among themselves. And so it remains in the old City Hall, tended by Arthur Congleton since 1996.

"Just imagine all of this in one lady's house," Congleton says, gesturing to the warehouse of junk. "That I did not meet her is one of my regrets. I wouldn't have taken much of her time. I would have just asked her, 'Why, Mrs. Way? Why?'"

She lived a life as colorful as her collection. She married a Quaker ship captain. She caught and dissected snakes for schoolchildren to inspect. She wrote poetry, including this line of life advice: "Take one peep every day. Take a good look on Sundays."

She gathered things in the same way Belhaven gathers passing travelers. To walk the cluttered aisles of her museum is to view a history of objects that caught her eye: a piece of a spacecraft pulled from the water off the Bahamas, a prenatal child in a jar, fleas dressed in wedding costumes and arranged under a magnifying glass — a gift from gypsies who stayed on her land.

"This is a prime example of, 100 years ago, if there's not a law against it, why not?" Congleton says. "I guess she ran to the eccentric-old-lady kind of life."

Every year, about 1,000 people troop through the museum, gawking at it all, happy they let curiosity lead them.

Small town, big stars

The town stands out for the people it attracts. But for a tiny spot on the Inner Banks, Belhaven has also produced an outsize share of luminaries.

C.J. Wilson played six positions for the Northside High School Panthers, then started as a defensive lineman for East Carolina University down the road in Greenville. Today his picture hangs in the lobby of Town Hall. In it, he's wearing a Green Bay Packers uniform and holding a Super Bowl trophy.

Eva Narcissus Boyd left Belhaven for Brooklyn, New York, as a young girl — before she took the name Little Eva and scored a No. 1 hit with "The Loco-Motion." She mingled with the likes of Carole King. But she came back home to this river town once her star started to dim, and today her grave stands in the front row at Black Bottom Cemetery, a steam train etched above her name.

The water washes over Belhaven and erases names and places. But it brings a new tide of visitors each year, a fresh set of eyes to see what the water and land create when they bump together — a new collection of wanderers driven by their curiosity.

5 things not to miss in Belhaven

1. Spoon River Artworks

In this downtown gallery space, you'll find art by North Carolina artists; local cheeses, crackers, and craft beers; and a large wine selection. They also serve lunch and dinner. 263 Pamlico Street. (252) 945-3899.

2. Fish Hooks Cafe

Shrimp, crabs, and fish pulled straight from local waters are served here. It's a great spot for meeting locals or boaters stopping off on their worldwide tour. Try the fried fish or soft-shell crab when it's in season. 231 East Main Street. (252) 943-9948.

3. Farm Boys Restaurant

This is a great spot for a fish sandwich outdoors. The patio looks over the water, where you can watch the boats drift past or the whitecaps lapping at the shore. On Friday and Saturday nights, The Front Porch (a recent addition to the facility) offers a complete dinner menu and table service. 216 Pamlico Street. (252) 943-3295.

4. Belhaven Water Street Bed & Breakfast

Innkeepers Andy and Karen Fisher renovated this more-than-100-year-old home and opened it to guests in June 2005. Every bedroom has a view of Belhaven Harbor. 567 East Water Street. (252) 943-2825.

5. Gingerbread Bakery & O'Neals Snack Bar

This place is a local icon for all-day breakfast and Southern lunches. Be sure to save room for a homemade doughnut or slice of cake. 278 East Main Street. (252) 944-0099.

SEAFOOD PROCESSING PLANT WILL CREATE JOBS, INVEST IN BELHAVEN ECONOMY



BELHAVEN — A \$500,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce may help put the Belhaven seafood industry back on the map in 2019, creating 25 jobs and attracting \$1.7 million in private investment in the community.

Through the DOC's Building Reuse Program, the half-million dollars will help fund the renovation of the waterfront building that once housed Seafood Safari. County Road Seafood, an affiliate of the Swan Quarter-based Newman Seafood, plans to install a state-of-the-art seafood processing plant in the building.

For Belhaven Mayor Ricky Credle, bringing the seafood plant to town will restore a piece of the Belhaven economy that he and many others in town experienced firsthand. Credle's mother worked at Seafood Safari, and he picked up shifts there as a teenager to help earn extra money.

"This is what our town was built on, was the seafood industry," Credle said. "To have it come back is great. A lot of the people that are here, their parents or grandparents worked in the seafood industry. At one time, we had four seafood houses."

Credle says that having 25 full-time jobs come to town, plus the seasonal jobs the plant may generate, is tremendous for the town and its residents. At a time when the town's economy has seen ups and downs, the plant promises to provide a shot in the arm to Belhaven's workforce and the commercial fishing industry as a whole.

"It's right here at home," Credle said. "Most people in Belhaven are two-to-five minutes away from the location ... You don't have to drive to Washington or Greenville — you're right here at home like it used to be."

According to Beaufort County Economic Development Director Martyn Johnson, County Road Seafood will seek to provide a 'sea-to-table' market for local seafood to be processed for restaurants.

While the new jobs and investment will be a significant boost for the town's economy, this is not the first time Belhaven has benefitted from an RIA grant in recent memory.

In 2016, the state approved a \$500,000 loan to support the redevelopment of two vacant buildings in downtown Belhaven for expansion of Spoon River Art Works and Market. The loan was a collaborative solution between the Community Development Block Grant program and the Downtown Redevelopment Fund of the North Carolina Main Street Center.

“If you look at that project and this project, that’s a million dollars of public funding into projects right here in Belhaven,” Belhaven Town Manager Lynn Davis said. “That is huge for a town this size that certainly needs that investment. Hopefully, the public money will then spur additional private money as well.”

The effort to secure the grant came through cooperation of many community partners, including the Town of Belhaven, Beaufort County Economic Development, the Mideast Commission, the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, the Small Business Technology Development Center, Tideland EMC, the Region Q Workforce Board, N.C. Works and Beaufort County Community College. In addition to the state grant, Beaufort County will also provide a \$50,000 economic development grant for the project.

“It was really a team effort to work with the project to locate it in eastern Beaufort County,” Johnson said.

Moving forward, Johnson says that once the paperwork is submitted, a letter from the N.C. DOC will give the green light for the project to begin. Construction is expected to start this spring, with a goal of completion sometime in the fall of 2019.

WASHINGTON, NC



The town of Washington is rapidly becoming one of the highlights of North Carolina's Inner Banks due to its small-town charm, incredible location along the Pamlico River, and eclectic blend of boutiques, restaurants, and attractions. This small community of just under 10,000 residents has a maritime culture all its own, with dozens of colorful crab statues lining the downtown streets, hundreds of boats, big and small, lining the waterfront, and miles of open Tar and Pamlico River views, extending in virtually every direction. Quaint and quiet, but with enough activity to keep anyone entertained, Washington is an ideal long weekend retreat for visitors who want to experience the heart and unique culture of coastal Eastern North Carolina.



Boats in the waterfront marina



Kayak fishermen on the Pamlico River

The town of Washington was founded in 1776, and holds the distinction of being the first American city named after George Washington. As a result, it is still known as the "Original Washington" by some older longtime locals, but over the centuries, as another, larger "Washington" became the center of government much further north, the town became known by visitors and locals alike as simply "Little Washington."

The name certainly fits, as the town itself is relatively small compared to big city standards, with just a little over 8 square miles of businesses and residences within the town's limits. That being said, Little Washington packs a lot of maritime culture, heritage and activity within its small waterfront confines, and as such has become a popular tourist destination, and has garnered a unique reputation as the heart of the Inner Banks.

One of the most popular destinations in Washington is the North Carolina Estuarium, a 12,500' square foot center located along the waterfront that features of 200 exhibits dedicated to Pamlico/Tar River estuary, the second largest estuary in the United States. Here, visitors can stroll a boardwalk that hovers over the Pamlico River, take a complimentary pontoon ride along the riverbanks, or enjoy an interactive tour through the many displays, aquariums, theater presentations, and other unique exhibits on site. With a very small admittance fee, and a prime location along the waterfront, a stop at the Estuarium is a must for any Little Washington visitor.



The old Atlantic Coast Line rain station



An Atlantic Coast Line caboose

The other lure to visitors is the thriving downtown, which is rapidly becoming one of the most unique and enticing downtown scenes along the Eastern NC Coast. Along these side streets, visitors can browse through a number of boutiques, coffee houses, antique stores, and fantastic restaurants, many of which feature outdoor seating overlooking the Pamlico River. Locals attest that all visitors must make at least one visit to local Washington institution, Bills Hot Dogs, a bare-bones hot dog joint that has been in operation for over 60 years. A regular star in local and well-known magazines, (which includes a full-page feature in North Carolina's Our State Magazine), visitors will be wowed by both the lightning-quick assembly of the hot dogs, as well as the legendary taste of the dogs themselves.

Just past the busy shop and restaurant filled streets, visitors can take a leisurely driving or walking tour through Washington's historic district, where centuries-old homes that have been meticulously renovated are stationed side by side. An especially attractive visit in the spring and summer months when the private gardens are in full bloom, visitors can even sign up for a historic walking tour for an in-depth look at these amazing residences and their fascinating, and sometimes ghostly stories. The historic Turnage Theater is also located within the downtown area, which hosts a number of seasonal concerts and performances, and visitors are advised to check out the Festival Park, especially in the summer months when the site serves as a venue for festivals, fairs and free concerts on any given weekend.

A stroll along the waterfront, past Havens Park and the long riverside boardwalk is also a must on a sunny day, as visitors can enjoy a wide open view that extends to the other side of the Pamlico River, watch the boats ease in and out of the waterfront docks, or simply take a rest at one of the accommodating benches or Adirondack chairs that are scattered throughout the mile-long riverbanks.

As for accommodations, potential visitors will find a number of chain and locally owned motels and hotels in the area, however many long-time visitors opt to stay at one of the downtown's many Bed and Breakfasts. Located close to all the unique waterfront shops and restaurants, these B&Bs are primarily converted historic homes with walking-distance access to the local attractions, and incredible porches and gardens that define slowed-down southern living. Washington also has several campgrounds, RV parks and riverfront cottages for rustic or extended stays.



Pamlico Riverfront



Riverfront walk

The main part of the city boasts a number of chain and big box stores, giving residents and visitors alike ample shopping opportunities, however, the biggest and best attractions can always be found right along the water. The town is also known for its big, bold community spirit, and is the home to a number of incredible festivals and events, including an annual Summer Festival which attracts thousands of visitors annually, and signs off with an incredible fireworks display right off the docks.

Many long-time visitors advise that the spring, summer and fall months are arguably the best times to visit, as the downtown restaurants have ample outdoor seating and live music, and the Haven Park grounds host regular events, however, virtually any time is a good time to explore the town. The holidays can be an especially unique time to tour, as most of the sailboats and other vessels in the docks are adorned with Christmas lights, creating a cheerful and quintessentially coastal holiday scene.

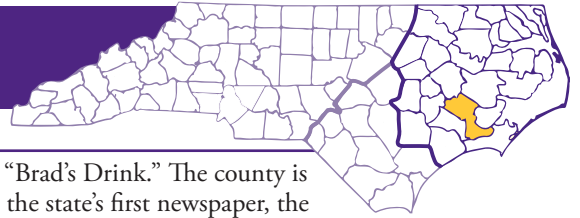
Regardless of when one decides to visit, Little Washington is an essential destination for any North Carolina newcomer who wants to experience the heart of the Inner Banks. Proud of its history, maritime culture, and thriving downtown scene, Washington has become a tourist destination that is unique, surprising, and completely coastal. Plan a trip to the heart of Eastern North Carolina and see why the charming Original Washington surpasses all its latter namesakes.



Downtown Washington, NC

THIS STORY WAS WRITTEN BY MATT DEBNAM

CRAVEN COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1712 out of Bath County, Craven County was named for Carolina Lord Proprietor Earl of Craven. New Bern serves as the county seat. In early North Carolina history, New Bern served as the capital of the state until Raleigh became the permanent center of government in 1788.


Other communities located in Craven County include Cove City, Dover, Havelock, and Vanceboro. The county also includes a number of bodies of water, including Catfish Lake, the Neuse River, and the Palmetto Swamp.


Craven County is the home of Pepsi-Cola. Pepsi was developed in New Bern by pharmacist Caleb Bradham who sold the drink to his

customers as “Brad’s Drink.” The county is also home to the state’s first newspaper, the *North-Carolina Gazette*, which was first printed in 1751.

Craven County’s historical and cultural attractions include the Atlantic Dance Theater, the Fireman’s Museum, the New Bern Civic Theatre, the Tryon Palace historical site, and Union Point Park. The county also hosts the Bridgeton Blueberry Festival, the Chrysanthemum Festival, and the Festival of Colonial Life.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 102,578 NC RANKING: 27th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	22%	22%	13%
	WHITE	66%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	7%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	36	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	44%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	14%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	134,415	9.4M	335M

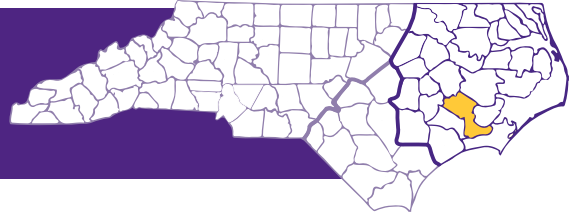
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 85% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$7,800	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	57%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 61% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Craven Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 7 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	5	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	49	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	30%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$47,295 NC RANKING: 24th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	15%	15%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: Department of Defense		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

CRAVEN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Dana Outlaw | outlawd@newbernnc.gov

Mr. Outlaw was elected as New Bern's Mayor in 2013 after serving two consecutive terms as Alderman of New Bern's 6th Ward. The ECU graduate has been involved in many local civic groups in New Bern, including serving as president of the New Bern Rotary Club, a member of the Craven Community College Foundation Board, and past master of St. John's No. 3 Masonic Lodge, to name a few. Outlaw is currently involved in self-storage and real estate consulting and appraisal in the region and is the past chairman of the North Carolina Appraisal Board.



Sabrina Bengel | bengels@newbernnc.gov

A New York native, Ms. Bengel attended East Carolina University where she served as chairman on both the Alumni Association and the Board of Visitors. Bengel is currently the Mayor Pro Tem and Alderman for Ward 1 for the city and also serves as the chairman of the Craven County Tourism Development Authority. She is the owner of the Bakers Kitchen restaurant and New Bern Tours and is the managing partner of The Birthplace of Pepsi. In 2016, Bengel received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the state's most prestigious awards recognizing individuals with a proven record of service to North Carolina.



Tharesa Chadwick Lee | tharesalee@gmail.com

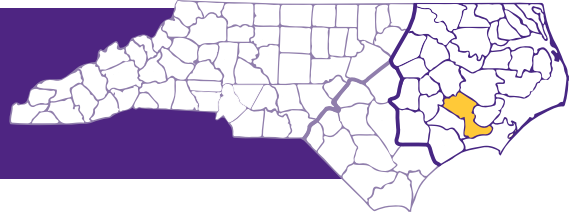
Ms. Lee's love and passion for leadership, community, and people led her to a life of public service in New Bern. Lee serves as the Chairman for New Bern's Redevelopment Commission. The commission was established with the goal to revitalize the city's Greater Duffyfield neighborhood. Lee is also a United Way of N.C. board member, the past president United Way of Coastal Carolina, and the past president of the statewide N.C. Housing Coalition. She has won a number of awards for her community service, including the University of Mount Olive College Hall of Fame Award, Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, City of New Bern Employee of the Year, and Chamber Nonprofit Council of the Year, among others.



Mark Stephens | stephensm@newbernnc.gov

Mr. Stephens has served as the City Manager for New Bern since 2014 after being appointed to the position by the city's mayor and board of aldermen. In his role, Stephens is the chief executive officer of the city and is responsible for implementing policies and services that benefit the residents and visitors of New Bern. As City Manager, Stephens prepares the city's annual budget and advises the board on policy and legislative matters. Before beginning his career in public management, Stephens worked for several regional engineering consulting firms across the state in Morganton, Charlotte, and Hickory.

CRAVEN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Jim Menke | menkej@ecu.edu

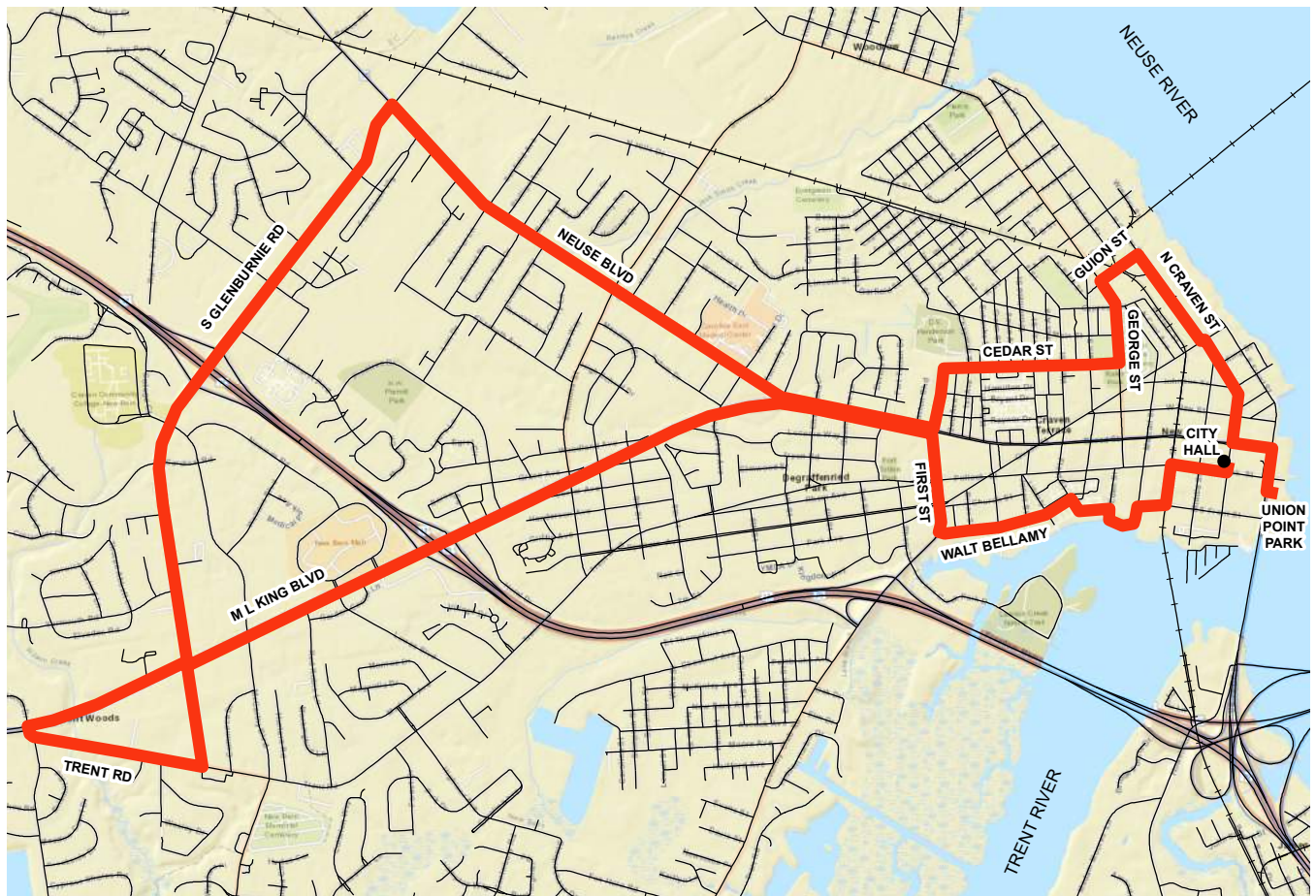
Retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Menke is the Director of National Security Initiatives in the Office of National Security and Industry Initiatives. Menke spent 30 years in the Navy, reaching the branch's highest enlisted rank. He holds both master's and bachelor's degree in health sciences and previously served ECU as the Director of Military Research Partnerships. He is committed to strengthening ECU connections with military and federal partners, increasing research development opportunities and connecting researchers with national security projects. These partnerships allow ECU faculty to examine aspects of U.S. national security, while assisting the university as it introduces new programs and services that help protect the nation from attack.



James Duncan Riemer

Retired U.S. Marine Col. Riemer has commanded units as a Lieutenant Colonel and a Colonel. During his career, he's flown seven different types of military aircraft while recording more than 4,000 flight hours before retiring from active duty in 2004. As part of his military service, Riemer participated in: four operational tours in A-6E Intruder aircraft squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point; a tour as a Naval Flight Instructor in Beeville, Texas; a staff assignment with 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune; USMC Command and Staff College at Quantico, Va.; a second staff tour with Marine Forces Command in Norfolk, Va.; and graduated from the Army War College in Carlisle, Penn. He was promoted to Director of Operations at MCAS Cherry Point in 2012 after previously serving as an Assistant Training Officer and Deputy Director of Operations.

NEW BERN WALKING & DRIVING TOUR



- Arrival and Greetings from Mayor Dana Outlaw, City Hall
- Bathroom Break, Club House
- Downtown Business District Walking Tour, Alderman Sabrina Bengel
- Board Bus, City Hall
- Driving Tour, City Manager Mark Stephens and Redevelopment Commission Chairman Tharesa Lee
 - » East Front Street, Hurricane Florence Damage
 - » North Craven Street, Waterfront Redevelopment
 - » Oaks Road and Woodrow Neighborhood, Flood Resiliency Efforts
 - » Simmons Street and Neuse Boulevard, Carolina East Medical Center Expansion
 - » Duffyfield Neighborhood, Tax Credit Project and Redevelopment
 - » Stanley White Recreation Center, New Bern Social and Political Climate
 - » Volt Center, Workforce Development and Craven Community College
 - » Trent Court, Public Housing Challenges and Opportunities
- Depart New Bern, City Hall

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT



Authorized in 1941 and commissioned a year later, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point has served the U.S. military for more than 70 years. Named after a tiny 19th century settlement area along the Neuse River, construction began with a \$14.9 million appropriation for an air station covering 8,000 acres of swamp, farm and timberland. Since its construction, MCAS Cherry Point has provided support for every major U.S. military operation, from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MCAS Cherry Point and its associated support locations cover nearly 29,000 acres and serves as one of the best all-weather jet bases in the world. The air station is home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, including sub-squadrons Aircraft Group 14, Aircraft Control Group 28, and 6th Special Security Communications Team; Combat Logistics Company 21; and the Marine Fleet Readiness Center East. The air station's most recognizable feature is its four-point runway system. The system provides multiple approach and departure advantages to aviators. The system's runways are so long that in the past they've been used as alternative emergency landing sites for NASA's space shuttle program.

MCAS Cherry Point's military history has made an impact on U.S. military operations. During World War II, the air station trained units and individual Marines for service in the Pacific theater. The station additionally served as a base for anti-submarine operations.

During the Korean War, MCAS Cherry Point provided trained aviators and air crewmen to the war effort. Three MCAS Cherry Point squadrons were deployed to the Far East during the Vietnam War, providing aircrews and enlisted personnel. Operation Desert Storm saw the air station serve as a major contributor with the deployment of seven different squadrons and headquarter detachments from two aircraft groups and the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. After the September 11 terrorist attacks, the base provided support to combat units involved in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, while hosting training and maintenance for additional combat units and equipment.

Today, more than 53,000 people make up the total MCAS Cherry Point population, including active duty and retired Marines, civilian workers, and family members. The base provides a \$2 billion annual economic impact to the state of North Carolina with nearly 14,000 Marines, Sailors, and civilian employees.

SOURCES: ¹"MCAS Cherry Point History" <https://www.cherrypoint.marines.mil/Unit-Home/Welcome/>

²"Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Base North Carolina" <http://www.usmclife.com/bases/mcas-cherry-point-nc/>

³"Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station" <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/cherry-point.htm>

TRYON PALACE



The impressively grand Tryon Palace is easily one of New Bern's most famous local attractions. With a central location on the outer edges of downtown, and bordering acres of riverfront, this historical recreation of a late 1700s governor's palace caters to visitors with a variety of tastes. Charming and altogether opulent from the gated entryway to the formal hedges and historic homes that border the property, a trip to Tryon Palace is a full immersion into the lavish lifestyle of North Carolina's original movers and shakers.

The site honors Royal Governor William Tryon, a British soldier who was recruited to serve as governor of the then province of North Carolina from 1765 to 1771. Tryon enlisted the help of London architect John Hawkes to design and then oversee the construction of the massive Georgian-style structure and, once completed in 1770, the grand home served as the first capitol of North Carolina and the state's first "Governor's Mansion." During its heyday, Tryon Palace received a multitude of noteworthy visitors – including George Washington – and was the epicenter of state government. Its reign wouldn't last, however. After the city of Raleigh was named the new capitol in 1792 the palace spent the next few years serving as a school, boarding house, and a Masonic lodge.

Unfortunately in 1798, a kitchen fire broke out and burned the entirety of the building, leaving just the kitchen and stables offices. Tryon Palace was essentially forgotten for the next 150 years. The historic home was resurrected in the mid-1900s when New Bern native Mrs. James Edwin Latham discovered John Hawkes' original plans for the home and began recruiting community leaders to rebuild the structure as a historical attraction. It was no small task, as nearly 50 buildings had to be moved to make way for the construction, a new bridge had to be built, and U.S. Highway 70 had to be rerouted. Latham passed away before building was complete, but her overseer role was taken over by her granddaughter, Mae Gordon Kellenberger. After nearly 20 years of planning and construction, Tryon Palace finally opened to the public in 1959.

FAIRFIELD HARBOUR STRIVES TO RISE ABOVE THE STORM

Where two rivers meet, North Carolina's first capital bridges the distance between past and present.



In Fairfield Harbour, they don't have time for the press. They're not unfriendly – they just don't have time.

The unincorporated town was hammered by the flood waters of Hurricane Florence, leaving 20 or more boats on the ground or under water, nearly half the homes facing water damage and 1,700 customers – out of roughly 1800 – without power. And as to the power, it's been a week of families living in RVs and running generators to keep refrigerators running.

The electrical situation has many residents on edge: like the Matrix's Neo choosing between a red and blue pill, residents are being assigned red or green tickets by county building inspectors.

"The most important thing in Fairfield Harbour is a green card," long-time resident Al Asheur said. "A green card means you're going to get power."

Eventually. Hopefully, by the weekend.

Building inspector Steven Pate explained that Tideland Electric is waiting for inspectors to go over every home in affected areas before it will turn on power to much of the community again. The inspectors, he said, are looking to see how high water has gone in each home: if it has reached – and therefore probably compromised – the electrical box, that home receives a red card taped to its mailbox, and the inspectors remove the electric meter.

If the electric box has not been compromised, they receive a green card.

It's all a safety issue: compromised boxes could set homes on fire or otherwise cause hazards.

Owners who are not home when inspectors arrive also receive red cards – "They err on the side of safety," Asheur explained.

Once all the homes are inspected, which Pate said they expected to do today or tomorrow, power will be turned on and green card holders will discover the joys of air conditioning again.

Red card holders will have to find electricians to approve their homes before they will get their meters and their electricity again – and with the number of homes flooded, that could take a while.

Kristen Hansen, account manager for Harbour Point, said things didn't look good at her place, where water had been four and a half feet deep in the garage. "The water came up to my shoulders."

She expected the worst and got it.



PHOTOS BY BILL HAND

“I was just notified I got a red ticket,” she said later, shrugging and adding, “Our new motto is, ‘It is what it is.’”

It’s a curious drive around the community: many homes have anywhere from small piles of insulation or furniture to virtual walls of appliances, mattresses, insulation and other items lining the road in front of their houses.

While most boats are floating in their places at docks, others are piled in fields – in at least one case one boat sets on another. One boat, still on its trailer, set in the midst of trees and a few’s bows poked out of the water while the bulk of the vessel lay below the water line.

Asheur estimated that some 400 water-damaged cars have been towed.

Penny Sullivan’s yard is covered by a three- or four-inch carpet of flotsam pushed in by the storm surge. In her side yard, she points out a piece of her deck – most of the rest of it is lying in her backyard. There’s also a chunk of deck in her front yard but it isn’t hers, she insists. It’s someone else’s.

She said she was fortunate in that only her garage took water. And she said she’s seen some price gouging – the people cleaning the front of her yard are charging twice what the people in back are charging. “Unfortunately, you pay what you’ve got to pay,” she said.

While most companies working in the area are fair, there are others who are also gouging.

Dan Engelhaupt, a boardmember at the Harbour, said residents need to be careful when considering someone to do repairs or cut trees.

Armond Dion told of one tree service that came to his house. “I had one tree that needed to be cut down,” he said. The tree service insisted it needed to cut down two, at \$1,000 each. When Dion emphasized only one tree, he said, the company raised the price on it – and refused to remove the tree from the property if he cut it. “He said he wasn’t making enough here and was going to go to Wilmington,” Dion said. “He hasn’t been back, so maybe he did.”

Looters, at least in a small scale, are also a problem. “I had a lady complain that people were stealing the debris from in front of her house,” Billy Casper, a manager with Harbour Pointe said. “I told her that’s a good thing. She said, no, the adjuster needed to see it.”

Though they’re working by generators the community is already showing signs of recovery. Some garages are already stocked with rolls of new insulation, ready to be installed.

While some yards are still littered in trees and debris, some are actually immaculate.

“People deal with this in so many ways,” Asheur said. “I saw a guy yesterday riding back and forth on his riding mower.”



Carol Haggett was another resident who had her yard mown – despite the fact she was still in the process of recovering from a foot of water in her house.

Haggett stayed through the storm, despite having the water rise around her. “We stayed in the house,” she said. “I went to bed, and I hear gurgling. I could see whater coming up. I thought, ‘this isn’t good.’”

She found her calico cat and put her in bed with her and lay there, listening to the water gurgle as it spread across her house. When her mattress pad got wet, she said, she changed it – the cat fell back into the water and she had to towel her dry again.

“At daylight I saw stuff floating all over the place around the bed,” she said.

She had half-filled a tub with water so she’d be sure it would be clean, but with the ground water rising, her tub water had turned brown, she said.

Another woman, Michele Eyler, reported two feet of water in her house. “It flipped a refrigerator and a big crock,” she said.

Eyler has had a particularly rough time of it – she is recovering from surgery and the family had to put down a sick, 12-year-old pet just before the storm. Among the items lost was antique furniture her husband got from his mother.

“There’s hair growing on the wall,” she said. “It’s just so nasty. We just try get by. It’s been so much.”

But the community hasn’t given up. Alyssa Argentierri, standing by a long row of ruined furniture and drywall in front of her home, noted that, “We just moved in here four months ago.” A newlywed, her husband, Daniel Argentieri, has been working almost nonstop since the storm as general manager of the Harbour Pointe Golf Club – a golf course that will probably not reopen again until next year.

“We’ll get through it,” Alyssa said.

With help pouring in from friends and families, others agree.

“The people are great here,” Eyler said.

Standing in her immaculate lawn, next to her temporary RV home and a stone throw from her piles of ruined furniture, Haggett smiled, “We have truly been blessed by our family.”

TOWN SQUARE: HAVELOCK RELIES ON THE JET SCREAMS



Thunder peals from a clear blue sky over the Neuse River and its labyrinthine tributaries. It rolls over the cul-de-sacs, playgrounds and parking lots of Havelock, raining down from a source faster than the speed of sound itself. At City Park, swingsets and slides are counterpointed by the hangars and red-on-white-checked storage towers a half-mile away. “Pardon our noise,” reads a sign at the sprawling air station with the serene name of Cherry Point. “It’s the sound of freedom.”

The thunder is most likely from an AV-8B Harrier II jet, which has long been Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point’s go-to aircraft. But production of the AV-8B, once manufactured by McDonnell Douglas and now supported by Boeing, ended in 2003; over the next decade, the noise will increasingly emanate from an F-35 Lightning II, a new generation of fighter jet from Lockheed Martin. At roughly \$100 million per plane, the F-35 has short takeoffs, can land vertically and is able to hover. Cherry Point is expected to house 94 of the jets, the largest fleet anywhere in the country. Moreover, the base will be home to a \$43 million vertical lift fan-repair facility for the F-35, the only one of its kind in the world.

But a few tweets in December 2016 came as a thunderbolt. That’s when then-President-elect Donald Trump decreed on Twitter that the cost of the F-35 was “out of control” and vowed to corral it. The mayor of Havelock, a city that is inextricably bound to Cherry Point, felt the afterburn. Will Lewis called a news conference to announce that any reduction in the number of F-35s coming to the air station would have a chilling effect. Not getting F-35s, he said, could shrink the workforce at Cherry Point. After Trump’s criticism, Lockheed Martin trimmed the cost of the program by hundreds of millions of dollars.

Today, the jets are still heading to Cherry Point, according to Lewis. “We need to get some new infrastructure built, some new hangars and stuff like that. But things are moving along at the right speed. Everything looks good.”

Jet thunder isn’t just the sound of freedom, it’s the sound of ka-ching for Havelock, a city of more than 20,000 people nestled in the Croatan National Forest. The air station rolls out across 13,164 acres and is home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, employing upward of 7,700 Marines and civilians. Another tenant is the Fleet Readiness Center East. With a workforce of about 4,000, Lewis says it’s North Carolina’s largest industrial employer east of Interstate 95 (“Up, up and away,” November 2016). All told, Cherry Point, the world’s largest Marine Corps air station, puts more than 14,300 people to work and pumps \$2.2 billion into the region’s economy.

Such a large economic footprint makes Havelock the archetypal military community: neighborhoods of young families with out-of-state license plates in the driveways; consignment shops, barbershops, tattoo parlors and a military surplus outlet; pedestrians in battledress uniforms; a Navy Federal Credit Union; and, most poignant of all, a memorial to sacrifice and heroism.

Outside city hall stands the 9/11 Memorial Plaza, its centerpiece a steel beam from New York City's World Trade Center. On a circular, low-rise wall are the hours and minutes when the four airliners struck on September 11, 2001 — 8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m., 10:03 a.m. — along with a concrete fragment from the Pentagon and a rock from Shanksville, Pa.

It's a moving place to be still and contemplate the ironclad sense of duty among those who wear fatigues and fly supersonic jets. A few feet away, a fighter plane is motionless in midair, perched on a pedestal with a half-circle of American flags beyond its wingtips, its needle nose aimed skyward. A visit to this memorial to one of our nation's darkest hours imparts a newfound sense of gratitude for military towns such as Havelock.

"I think we were destined to become a military community from the very beginning," says Sue Cline, a 36-year resident and an administrative assistant at the Havelock Chamber of Commerce. She stands in the mini-museum at the Havelock Tourism & Event Center, where displays include a model of a Civil War fort that belonged to Union troops until a South Carolina cavalry unit showed up and burned it to the ground. Undeterred, the Yankees would soon reclaim Havelock, never again yielding it to the Confederates.

The railroad came through this part of Craven County in the late 1850s, just before the Civil War when Havelock was known as Slocum's Creek. But locals sought a new name for their railroad whistle-stop, and they found inspiration in a British war hero, Major General Sir Henry Havelock. He gained worldwide acclaim for his exploits in the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Cherry Point came along in 1941, when U.S. Rep. Graham Barden of New Bern relentlessly lobbied the Navy and Marine Corps to build an air base on the south side of the Neuse River.

His efforts proved fruitful: Not only did the Marine Corps establish Cherry Point but also Camp Lejeune near Jacksonville. Turning 8,000 acres of pine forests and swamps — where malaria still posed a threat — into an air base was considered one of the most ambitious construction programs of World War II. Soon after work began, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, lending an urgency to completing the project. Havelock's population swelled: By one estimate, the town had only 100 residents in 1940; by 1960, its population had rocketed to more than 18,000.

Cline and her husband, a former Navy man fresh out of Fresno State with an engineering degree, arrived in Havelock in 1982. He worked for more than 30 years as an engineer at the air station. It's like that in Havelock: Marines, sailors and civilians take jobs at Cherry Point, work a few years (or decades), retire and stay in the area. After all, Morehead City and the Crystal Coast beaches are within 30 miles, and the historic riverfront city of New Bern is a 20-minute drive up U.S. 70.

But it's also like this in Havelock: Marines churning through a revolving door, dictated by reassignment orders and never staying long enough to put down roots. "It's a unique demographic, because you've got people coming in and out every three years, and they're coming from a wide area," says Bruce Fortin, the chamber's executive director. "How do you serve all those people? I don't know what the 100% answer is, but you stay in contact with them and get feedback."

Fortin, a retired Marine, stuck around, giving his school-age kids some stability. "It's a great community to raise kids. I think most people would tell you that." His office is in the tourism center, which houses a free exhibit that displays pictures of planes, models of planes, parts of planes and, outside, entire planes on loan from the National Museum of the Marine Corps near Quantico, Va. The center also hosts banquets, balls and weddings.

Another party goes on every October at the Walter B. Jones Park in the middle of town: the Havelock Chili Festival, with its chili, chicken-wing and salsa cook-off. And on even-numbered years, Cherry Point hosts a popular three-day air show — more than 200,000 attended in 2016. This year's show featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels is scheduled for May 4-6.

All that thunder is the sound of freedom, prowess and patriotism. As long as the thunder rolls, Havelock booms.

CITY PORTRAIT: NEW BERN

Where two rivers meet, North Carolina's first capital bridges the distance between past and present.



Sitting in traffic on one curving concrete tentacle of The Octopus — the sweeping, swooping set of bridges and ramps that carry drivers up and over the Trent and Neuse rivers, and into, out of, or past New Bern — it occurs to me that I've been thinking about bridges all wrong. I've forgotten about the metaphysics of bridges.

I know, I know. I'm wading into abstract territory. Maybe it was the back-to-back podcasts about quantum mechanics (bear with me). But at that moment, watching a pair of boats make their way through the open drawbridge, wishing I could frame the arc of the bridge's bright concrete just right for a photo without getting out of my car, I realized that bridges are more than just physical constructs. They're anchors in space and time. Or maybe they're more like a stitch, a thread tying one landscape to another, drawing them closer, somehow, and doing the same through time.

New Bern exists in a duality. The town is here, in the present, the now, but the fabric is sheer in places, and the past shows through. Where the bridges physically stitch place to place, the past and present connect through more subtle threads.

This twining together of past and present is what I'm thinking about when I pull onto Pollock Street and park in front of Harmony House Inn, which dates back to 1853. It's seen war, occupation by Union forces; it was sawn in half, moved nine feet, and reconnected; it's withstood hurricanes and seen countless owners, and was finally converted to a bed and breakfast. Today, it's in the hands of Gretchen and Tracy Du Peza, who are renovating and ushering the home into a new phase of its life.

Harmony House isn't singular in the story of its rebirth — far from it. On this block of Pollock Street, it seems every other house has a historic plaque, and around town, the past and present converge in four historic districts where hundreds of homes were built, reborn, and reborn again as successive owners found new life in each.

Would you expect anything less from a town with "New" in its name? The original settlers — Swiss immigrants and German Palatine refugees — named the town New Bern in honor of their leader's ancestral home in Switzerland. Just a few years after its founding in 1710, the budding settlement barely escaped destruction in the Tuscarora War and began its own story of rebirth. By 1747, the town had grown in population and stature and was named the capital of the colony. When Gov. William Tryon took his seat at the head of the colony, construction began on the mansion known as Tryon Palace.



Since 1999, the Neuse River Bridge has carried drivers up and over the Trent and Neuse rivers.
PHOTOS BY CHARLES HARRIS

Tryon Palace was reborn, both physically and metaphysically — though, standing in front of it, nothing pulls back the fabric of time to let me peek into the past. The lone original structure is practically indistinguishable from the rebuilt portions. Governor Tryon only ruled from here for a little more than a year before Gov. Josiah Martin took his place. Martin wisely fled at the start of the Revolution, and patriots soon seized the palace and named it their seat of power. When North Carolina became a state, the first few sessions of the general assembly were held here. Then the capital moved to the new city of Raleigh, and the palace was reborn, repurposed, and used for all sorts of things, until 1798, when a fire started in the cellar and burned the central building. The kitchen and stable offices were saved, but the kitchen was razed, and only the stable offices survived, intact but destined for a cycle of rebirth and renewal.

From the rubble of the palace, a neighborhood grew. Streets emerged, a bridge crossed over the Trent River, and the stable offices became apartments. The desire to bridge past and present was strong in several community members, and their work led to a monumental project: moving residents, razing a neighborhood, and rebuilding Tryon Palace on the foundation of its former self.

Over breakfast at Harmony House, I talk history with the Du Pezas, our conversation jumping from the palace to the town to their home. Gretchen excuses herself and returns to the table carrying a bottle labeled “Burnett’s Cocoaine” and a tarnished silver-plated fork.

“We found these when we took down a wall,” she says, handing over the medicine bottle and fork. The bottle’s heavy for its size; the fork, light.

“That bottle,” Tracy says, “we think belonged to one of the Union soldiers occupying the house. Burnett’s Cocoaine was a hair tonic from Massachusetts, and Company K, 45th Regiment out of Massachusetts held the home for a while.”

“And if you look at the fork — it’s tarnished, so it’s hard to see — but if you look close, you can see the initials ‘BEE’ on it. That’s Benjamin and Eliza Ellis, the builders of the house,” Gretchen says.



The Latham Garden at Tryon Palace was named for Maude Moore Latham, who dedicated herself to the mansion’s restoration. PHOTOS BY CHARLES HARRIS



The fiberglass bear outside Mitchell Hardware is one of many around this city, whose name – Bern – means “bear” in Old German. PHOTOS BY CHARLES HARRIS

We set their finds on the table and carry on talking. As if the bottle and fork aren’t enough of a bridge into the past of the home and the town, I learn that the Du Pezas moved to New Bern after living in Europe for 15 years. Where did they live? Switzerland and Germany.

That night, walking to dinner, I don’t listen to any podcasts about quantum mechanics. I just listen to the town, take it in. I pass Fine Art at Baxters Gallery, once a jewelry shop, now an art gallery. I pass the spot where Caleb Bradham invented his new dyspeptic soda, called “Brad’s Drink,” in 1893, and changed the name to Pepsi-Cola in 1898. I pass a graveyard with headstones I can’t read. I pass the C. Foy Tonsorial Parlor, a throwback barbershop if ever there was one. Another half-block and I’m at The Chelsea, just in time for my reservation.

The Chelsea, like every building in New Bern, it seems, used to be something else. The high tin ceiling, aged brick walls, and tall storefront windows tell me the dining room was a shop of sorts. When I see the bar, over which hangs a trio of antique Pepsi light shades, I ask my server about the place. The front was a drugstore (a second shop of a certain druggist, Mr. Bradham); the rear was a fire station. After the abbreviated history lesson, he passes me a menu and asks if I’d like to hear the specials. I do, feeling the past creep into my present as he begins to speak.

“Chef Hoveland has been working with a native New Bern ingredient lately — Pepsi — and tonight we have Caleb Bradham’s Old Fashioned on our cocktail menu, short ribs braised in a Pepsi barbecue sauce as an entrée, and for dessert, Pepsi ice cream. And so you know, the staff, we can’t get enough of the ice cream.”

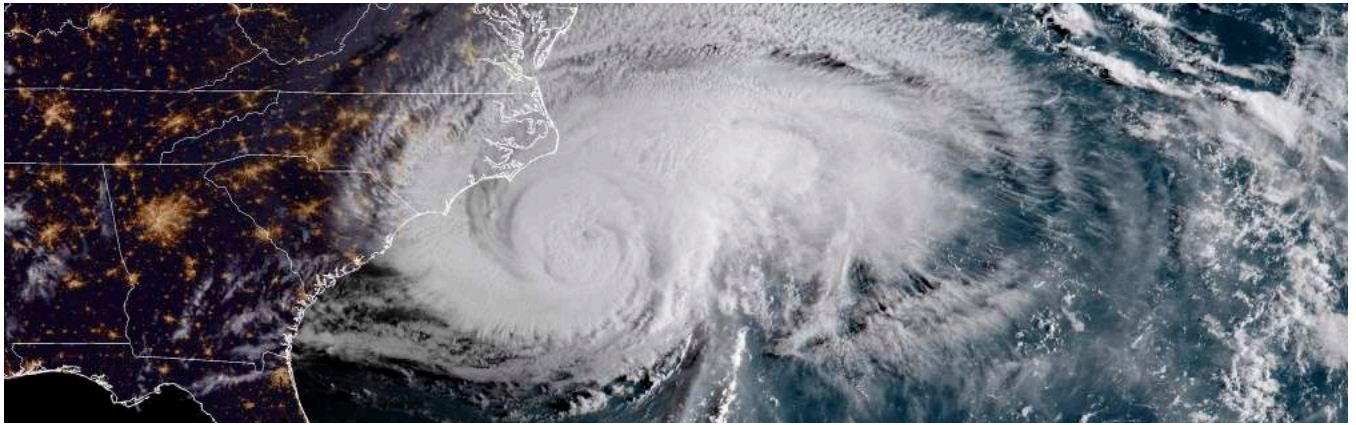
I hand him the menu; somehow, my dinner decision’s already been made.

“I’ll just go ahead and do the Pepsi trio,” I tell him. “Why not? I’m in New Bern.”

A Harbor for Freeman

In the 1700s, New Bern was renowned for its free black community, thriving against all odds in a Southern town. By 1860, free blacks made up 13 percent of New Bern’s population — the greatest number found anywhere in North Carolina at the time. Those born free worked alongside former slaves as seamen, stevedores, peddlers, and craftsmen, building many of the stately homes and public buildings that still stand today. They built another legacy, too: Though less tangible, their political, economic, and cultural influences on the city are every bit as lasting. To learn more, pick up a map of New Bern’s self-guided African-American Walking Tour at the New Bern-Craven County Convention & Visitors Center on Front Street.

HURRICANE FLORENCE



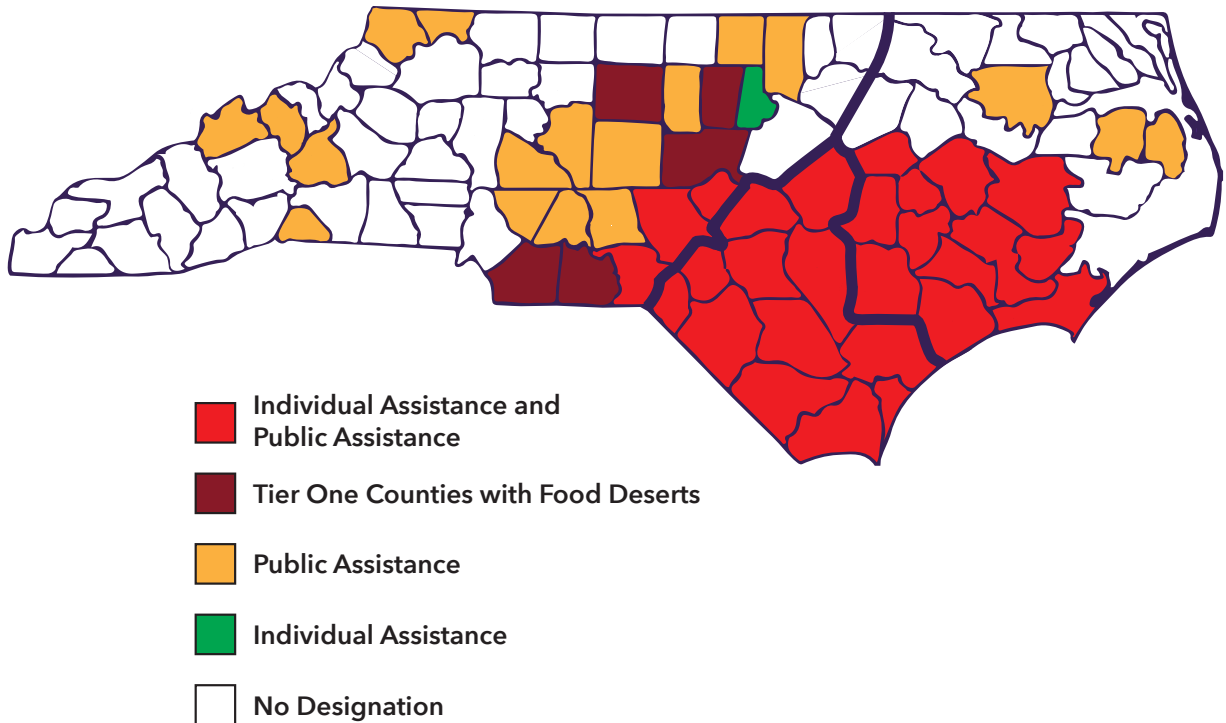
Hurricane Florence, a historic storm that broke 28 flood records in the Carolinas, made landfall Sept. 14 in southeastern North Carolina as a Category 1 storm. The hurricane, which reached wind speeds of 140 miles per hour, dropped more than 30 inches of rain in some regions, causing widespread damage due to storm surge and inland flooding. In total, Hurricane Florence caused an unprecedented amount of damage to the state – \$17 billion in North Carolina and \$22 billion overall — eclipsing the combined total of Hurricane Matthew (\$4.8 billion) and Hurricane Floyd (\$9 billion).

After the storm, 34 counties in North Carolina were declared federal disaster areas, including 13 in ECU's 29-county service area. Three others in the region were provided public assistance support. In total, the Federal Emergency Management Association approved \$127 million in individual assistance and \$24 million for public assistance. Along with structural damage, the storm crippled agriculture production in the state. The agriculture impact totaled \$1.1 billion compared to \$400 million from Hurricane Matthew. More than 3 million chickens and turkeys and 5,500 hogs were lost due to the storm. Vegetable and horticulture losses reached \$27 million and covered much of the same area affected by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

In all, 53 people died due to Hurricane Florence and its after effects, including 40 in North Carolina alone. More than 900,000 were without power in the state, including 325,000 residents reported by Rural Electric in southeastern North Carolina. Nearly 113,000 residents in New Hanover County were without power and 12,000 in New Bern were without access to electricity during the worst of the city's flooding. In New Bern alone there were 455 rescues and 4,200 homes were damaged.

As for the storm itself, weather scientists are in agreement that the storm – and other recent hurricanes like it – have been strengthened by climate change. Forming off Africa's western coast, Hurricane Florence had nearly two weeks to strengthen before reaching North Carolina, taking in more water before growing sluggish. Temperature differences between the Earth's poles and tropics have declined, weakening the steering winds that move hurricanes across the Atlantic Ocean. This keeps storms circulating over water for longer, allowing them to dump more rain when they finally reach land. Hurricanes Harvey and Maria – both recorded in 2017 – are the second and third ranked costliest hurricanes in history, with Irma (2017), Michael (2018), and Florence (2018) ranking in the Top 11 as well.

FEDERAL DISASTER COUNTIES



Counties Declared Federal Disaster Areas

Anson, Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Chatham, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Greene, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pender, Pitt, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Union, Wayne, Wilson

SOURCES: ¹"Hurricane Florence Damage in North Carolina Reaches \$17B" <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southeast/2018/11/02/506414.htm> ²"North Carolina Hurricane Florence (DR-4393)" <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4393> ³"Total NC loss from Hurricane Florence more than \$1.1 billion" <https://www.thepacker.com/article/total-nc-loss-hurricane-florence-more-11-billion> ⁴"Hurricane Florence Is Going to Slow Down. That's Not Good." <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/13/climate/slow-hurricane-florence.html> ⁵"More than 900,000 in NC without power as massive storm Florence pounds the state" <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article218342180.html> ⁶"New Bern flooding: Aerial footage shows extent of Florence's damage" <https://abc11.com/weather/new-bern-flooding-roads-impassable-and-homes-surrounded-by-water/4260755/>

East Carolina University is an institution in which all North Carolinians take great pride - none more so than those of us living in this part of the state. Our university is made up of people who have great experience, resources, expertise, energy and a willingness to step up and share whatever we have with our friends and neighbors.

Chancellor Cecil Staton

ECU has a unique and special bond with the people and communities of eastern North Carolina. This is again evident after the incredible devastation of Hurricane Florence. While ECU, Greenville and our Integrated Coastal Programs campus in the Outer Banks escaped the major impacts of the storm, many members of our Pirate family and region were not so fortunate.

As an institution, we are harnessing the energy and expertise of our faculty, students, staff and alumni to help those in need. Immediately after the hurricane, we activated our Hurricane Recovery Operations Center to coordinate and facilitate an ECU response. The box below helps explain the activities the center is undertaking. One of the key ways that ECU will be different than others who are aiding our communities

is that it's in it for the long haul. The impacts of Hurricane Florence will be felt for a long time and the people in this great part of our state know that they can rely on ECU to be there to help.

While there is no way we can capture and report on all the impactful activities being done every day, this newsletter will highlight some of Pirate Nation's undertakings. We will continue to publish this newsletter to keep you informed and to encourage you to find ways to assist. Please visit our website at FlorenceRecovery.ecu.edu to learn more on how you can help. Together, I am confident we will help eastern North Carolina emerge even stronger than before.

Thank you for making a difference in people's lives.

Dr. Jay Golden, Vice Chancellor

OPERATIONS CENTER ACTIVATED

In addition to activities to prepare our campus for Hurricane Florence, ECU established a Hurricane Recovery Operations Center to coordinate relief and recovery efforts that support our region. Requests for assistance are managed out of the operations center, as well as coordinating volunteering efforts. You can access the operations center at FlorenceRecovery.ecu.edu.



HEALTH SCIENCES

The Brody School of Medicine and Health Sciences Campus have been working to aid communities in the line of Hurricane Florence both before and after the storm. Among the many individuals who volunteered for hurricane relief and recovery efforts are John Hurley, MS4 and other student volunteers from the Health Sciences Campus who worked to staff emergency shelters in Pitt County. Dr. Bobby Portela provided physician oversight for these students. Drs. David Collier and Jaleeka Rudd led and delivered a supply and food drive to shelters in Robeson County. They are now working to organize groups to provide needed medical care to this area.

ECU Athletics will be collecting non-perishable food donations at ALL home events from Sept. 25-30. Admission is FREE to volleyball and soccer games with a donation.

FOOTBALL: SEPT. 29 @ 3:30 P.M.

VOLLEYBALL: SEPT. 25 @ 4 P.M. // SEPT. 28 @ 7 P.M. // SEPT. 30 @ 1 P.M.

SOCCER: SEPT. 27 @ 7 P.M. // SEPT. 30 @ 1 P.M.

To volunteer or donate go to: FlorenceRecovery.ecu.edu

WHAT ECU IS DOING FOR OUR REGION

PHASE 1: DURING THE HURRICANE

- ECU physicians, Brody medical students and nursing students deployed at regional shelters to provide health care assistance

PHASE 2: IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH

- ECU Hurricane Recovery Operations Center activated
- ECU's FlorenceRecovery.ecu.edu website launched
- Communicated with government and community leaders on recovery assistance
- Partnered with UNC system schools to assist with their recovery needs
- Food drives for region launched
- Created recovery funds for impacted students and regional recovery needs

PHASE 3: NEAR-TERM RECOVERY

- Establish regional Business Recovery and Continuity Assistance Center
- Deploy clean-up volunteer teams
- Host food drives at ECU athletic events
- Coordinate requests for assistance with appropriate agencies
- Researchers begin monitoring post-flooding impacts

PHASE 4: MID-RANGE RECOVERY

- Provide counseling and public health assistance to impacted communities
- Connect ECU faculty experts with communities for technical assistance needs
- Continue clean-ups and small business assistance

PHASE 5: LONG-TERM RECOVERY

- Assist individual communities in creating redevelopment plans
- Work with stakeholders to re-envision regional economic development post hurricane
- Continue to monitor community needs



PIRATES IN ACTION

Thirty-four members of the ECU baseball team volunteered with Hurricane Florence recovery efforts on Sept. 22 in New Bern. Peter Buscaino, director of baseball operations, helped organize and lead the work day. During the volunteer effort, the team removed interior debris and tore out drywall, insulation, and flood-soaked contents from three homes. "We were proud to be a very small part of helping out a group of people going through some tough times," head coach Cliff Godwin said.



BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTER

ECU's Small Business Technology & Development Center (SBTDC) joined forces with the U.S. Small Business Administration to open a Business Recovery Center in eastern North Carolina. This is the only such center currently operating in the region. This center provides critical support to help businesses in obtaining federal assistance, while connecting companies to additional ECU resources, including student talent, which can be of significant assistance.

PIRATE IMPACT TO DATE

VOLUNTEERS: 526 // VOLUNTEER HOURS: 658 // DONATED MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT: \$10,100

FOOD, WATER, HYGIENE KITS: 6,282 LBS. // FINANCIAL DONATIONS: \$4,228 // SMALL BUSINESSES ASSISTED: 6

ECU STUDENTS IN MILITARY ACTIVATED FOR RELIEF: 50 // VISITS TO [FLORENCERECOVERY.ECU.EDU](http://FlorenceRecovery.ecu.edu): 29,768

TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE GO TO: FlorenceRecovery.ecu.edu

As Pirates, we're all called to serve. Whether it's through volunteering to help eastern North Carolinians in the storm's immediate aftermath, or through your donations that are directly funding our relief efforts, our Pirates are in action helping our families, friends and communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Chancellor Cecil Staton

GOVERNOR COOPER VISITS CAMPUS

Governor Roy Cooper made a trip to campus Oct. 2, meeting with ECU students, volunteers and recovery workers as part his tour of eastern North Carolina. The governor was introduced to how ECU is helping storm victims, while listening to the challenges that face students, faculty and staff as they return to the classroom after the hurricane. Cooper congratulated ECU's relief efforts and shared his support in helping eastern North Carolinians get back on their feet. Learn more about what **Cooper and North Carolina** are doing to help rural communities recover after the state's latest natural disaster.



ECU VOLUNTEER GROUPS VISIT NEW BERN

ECU volunteer groups have been hard at work across eastern North Carolina helping storm victims rebuild their homes and communities. Volunteers have been busy in New Bern facilitating the city's repair of the nearly 5,000 structures and 750 homes affected by Hurricane Florence. ECU has teamed up with Baptists on Mission to provide relief support, sending teams to help tear down structures. Closer to home, ECU departments and organizations have hosted food collection drives and counseling support opportunities, providing food and care to those in need. Click here to learn more about how you can help at our **Florence Recovery website**.

INSTITUTIONS AWARDED GRANTS

Nearly \$2 million in supplemental funding for students affected by Hurricane Florence has been awarded to 24 higher education institutions across North Carolina. ECU received a portion of these funds to support students adversely affected by Hurricane Florence. Click here to learn more about the grant from the **UNC System Office**.

PIRATE IMPACT TO DATE

VOLUNTEERS: 595 // VOLUNTEER HOURS: 2,089 // DONATED MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT: \$210,100

FOOD DRIVE: >50,000 LBS. // FINANCIAL DONATIONS: \$14,750 // SMALL BUSINESSES ASSISTED: 51

ECU STUDENTS IN MILITARY ACTIVATED FOR RELIEF: 50 // COUNTIES WITH ECU PROJECTS: 10

PIRATES IN ACTION

Our Pirates are out in the field helping eastern North Carolina recover after Hurricane Florence! Take a look at what ECU volunteers are doing around the region to help give back.



ECU ROTC ON GUARD

ECU Army ROTC cadets help stack sandbags during Hurricane Florence relief efforts. ROTC cadets performed relief efforts with their respective national guard or reserve duty units during and after the storm.



STUDENT POINT OF PRIDE

East Carolina University freshman Michael Hinson and a group of friends led a relief drive in Wake Forest, bringing in nearly 40,000 pounds of water, food and household supplies to those impacted by Hurricane Florence. The supplies were distributed by Operation Airdrop to Wilmington, Lumberton and other southeastern North Carolina communities.



ATHLETES ASSIST RELIEF EFFORTS

The East Carolina women's basketball team was on hand to help at the East Carolina Undaunted food drive. Several athletics teams, including baseball, women's lacrosse, soccer, football and volleyball have pitched in to help with relief efforts.



DONATIONS POUR IN FROM PARTNERS

East Carolina Undaunted's food drive, in partnership with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, saw tremendous support from its university partners this week. Donations poured in from the University of Houston, Gaston College and Old Dominion University, including food, water and household supplies. As of Oct. 8, the drive collected more than 50,000 pounds of supplies.



CLEAN THE WORLD

Social enterprise Clean the World provided 20,000 hygiene kits to help in ECU's recover efforts. The kits will be distributed throughout communities in eastern North Carolina, helping provide essential hygiene products to those in need.



brainSTORM: ENTREPRENEURSHIP MEETS INNOVATION FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

On Oct. 4, ECU hosted brainSTORM, a "make-a-thon" exhibition aimed at bringing innovative ideas to disaster relief efforts. Student teams came together at ECU's Innovation Design Lab to design products that could potentially help communities recover after disasters. Students explored problems encountered by families, businesses and first responders during disasters, discussed possible solutions, and developed prototypes to combat these issues.

When we think of ECU, we think of a community that is far broader than our Greenville campus. Before Hurricane Florence even touched down on North Carolina's coast, our Pirates went into action to ensure that members of our region-wide community were safe. That work continues through the volunteer service of ECU students, faculty and staff who are engaged with many different initiatives that are central to full recovery from the storm.

Chancellor Cecil Staton

VISIT TRANSFORMATIVE FOR HONORS COLLEGE

Honors College staff and student employees spent the day in New Bern on Oct. 17 as part of East Carolina Undaunted's hurricane recovery efforts. The team went house to house in the region to assist with debris removal and clean up in Craven County. "It was an eye-opening experience," said Guy Pittman, a graduate assistant with the college's alumni relations team. "When our group arrived to the first relief site, I was extremely saddened by the destruction around me. But, I left overwhelmed with a sense of hope and encouragement from the outpouring of community support we witnessed." You can still volunteer through East Carolina Undaunted. Visit our [Florence Recovery website](#) to learn ways you can help.



ECU SUPPORTS LUMBEE TRIBE

ECU's anthropology and history departments in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences joined forces with the East Carolina Native American Organization to organize a supply drive for shelters serving members of the Lumbee Tribe affected by Hurricane Florence. Robeson County, home of the tribe, was devastated by flooding after Hurricane Matthew. Many of the same people were displaced again after Hurricane Florence damaged a levee on the Lumbee River. Many members of the ECU community donated items to the drive, including nine boxes of 1,000 sanitation kits provided to ECU by Clean the World. ECU faculty, staff and students delivered the items to the Lumbee Central Hurricane Distribution Center and to two smaller shelters near Lumberton. Tribal officials and aid workers said they were very appreciative of these critically needed supplies and pleased to know that the ECU community cared about their situation.



PIRATE IMPACT TO DATE

VOLUNTEERS: 604 // VOLUNTEER HOURS: 5,241 // FOOD DRIVE: 80,366 LBS.

FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND DONATIONS: \$370,131 // SMALL BUSINESSES ASSISTED: 65

ECU STUDENTS IN MILITARY ACTIVATED FOR RELIEF: 50 // COUNTIES WITH ECU PROJECTS: 10

PIRATES IN ACTION

Our Pirates are out in the field helping eastern North Carolina recover after Hurricane Florence! Take a look at what ECU volunteers are doing around the region to help give back.



EQUIPMENT ARRIVES IN PENDER COUNTY

A group of ECU volunteers delivered respirators and other safety equipment to a distribution center in Burgaw. Floodwaters reached 11 feet in Burgaw and many of the homes affected by Hurricane Florence took longer to assist because of the town's proximity to Wilmington, which saw the Cape Fear River crest at more than 22 feet.



ATHLETICS LENDS A HAND

ECU athletic teams continue to support communities across eastern North Carolina. The Pirates' women's cross country team visited New Bern to help clean up homes and debris, bringing a group of more than 20 athletes to assist in recovery efforts.



FOOD DRIVE WRAPS UP

The East Carolina Undaunted food drive officially wrapped up at the end of October, bringing in 58,000 pounds of food, water and household goods. Combined with other relief drives held by the university, ECU donated a total of 80,366 pounds of goods to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.



VOLUNTEERS VISIT POLLOCKSVILLE

A team of ECU volunteers visited Pollocksville in Jones County to help a family recover after its home was damaged by floodwaters from the Trent River. The group included ECU faculty, residents, students and staff from the Brody School of Medicine, Coastal and Marine Interdisciplinary Studies, the Department of Construction Management, ECU's Living Learning Communities, the College of Business, Thomas Harriet College of Arts and Sciences, the Honors College, and members of Peace Presbyterian Church in Greenville. The team helped strip the home to prevent the growth of mold after four feet of water flooded the area during the storm.



DRIVE HELPS STUDENTS

A relief drive for Duplin County school students, led by ECU's Healthier Lives at School and Beyond Telemedicine Program, collected and distributed more than \$7,000 worth of school supplies, baby formula, diapers, water, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and individually-wrapped snacks. Duplin County was among the hardest hit counties in North Carolina during Hurricane Florence and many students and staff were displaced by the storm. Duplin County students were able to return to school Oct. 24 thanks in part to the generosity of those that donated to the supply drive.

SBTDC, SBA AIDS SMALL BUSINESSES

ECU's Small Business and Technology Development Center and the Small Business Administration have provided assistance for 65 clients in nine eastern North Carolina counties totaling 150 hours of service. The SBTDC partnered with the SBA to help storm victims in Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico, Pitt, and Wayne counties. The SBTDC can help small business owners affected by Hurricane Florence with loan assistance and business counseling. Visit the **SBTDC** and **SBA** to learn more.

USGS: FLORENCE LIKELY TO CAUSE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM BEACH EROSION

Initial effect will probably be erosion on 75 percent of North Carolina beaches, experts say.



Hurricane Florence, a dangerous Category 4 hurricane, is very likely to cause beach erosion along about three-quarters of the North Carolina coast as it makes landfall, and to overwash about 15 percent of that state's dunes, with less extensive erosion in nearby states, say coastal change experts at the U.S. Geological Survey. However, the storm may cause continuing damage to Mid-Atlantic beaches and dunes if it moves very slowly after landfall, as forecasters expect.

The USGS Coastal Change Hazards storm team is making two types of coastal erosion forecasts that, taken together, describe the range of effects that Florence may have on the coast. The first approach uses a computer model that analyzes coast-wide beach impacts to predict the probabilities of dune erosion and overwash for a wide area. The second approach, the Total Water Level and Coastal Change Forecast Viewer, is an experimental model that focuses on specific locations over longer periods, forecasting the timing and magnitude of elevated water levels at the shoreline.

“Our forecast is for Florence to cause a long-lasting coastal erosion process with more than one set of impacts to the Mid-Atlantic beaches,” said research oceanographer Kara Doran, leader of the USGS Coastal Change Hazards Storm Team based in St. Petersburg, Florida.

“As Florence makes landfall its storm surge will cause some erosion at the base of the dunes from Georgia through Virginia. In most places it is not likely to overtop that protective row of dunes and cause damage to the communities and natural areas behind them – at least not at first,” Doran said. “But if the storm lingers, and if high surge, higher than normal tides and strong waves persist over a period of days, the likelihood increases that the dunes could be overtopped and flooding could occur behind them.”

US Atlantic coast map 3 levels of forecast beach effects Hurricane Florence

The Coastal Change Forecast model predicts coast-wide levels of beach erosion, inundation and overwash based on Hurricane Florence's expected path and landfall and detailed information about beach elevation and structure. Credit: USGS. Public domain.

The USGS Coastal Change Hazards storm team is making two types of coastal erosion forecasts that, taken together, describe the range of effects that Florence may have on the coast. The first approach predicts the probabilities of dune erosion and overwash for a wide area. The second approach forecasts the timing and magnitude of elevated water levels at the shoreline in the Total Water Level and Coastal Change Forecast Viewer.



The prediction of Florence's effects at landfall are based on results of the USGS Coastal Change Forecast model, which has been in use since 2011, and is continually being improved. The Coastal Change Forecast model starts with the National Hurricane Center's storm surge predictions and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration wave forecast models as input. The USGS model then adds detailed information about the beach slope and dune height to predict how high waves and surge will move up the beach, and whether the protective dunes will be overtopped, at high resolution for all the areas likely to be affected by storm-tides from Hurricane Florence. Because the projections are based on storm-surge forecasts, they change each time the storm surge forecast is updated.

On Tuesday, the model forecast that as Florence crosses the coast, erosion at the bases of protective sand dunes is very likely to occur on 75 percent of North Carolina's beaches, 53 percent of Virginia's beaches, 36 percent of Georgia's beaches, 29 percent of South Carolina's beaches and 4 percent of Maryland's beaches.

Beach erosion is only the first level of damage a major storm can cause. As waves and surge reach higher than the top of the dune, overwash occurs, often transporting large amounts of sand across coastal environments, depositing sand inland and causing significant changes to the landscape. Overwash is currently predicted as very likely for 20 percent of beaches in Virginia, 15 percent in North Carolina, 12 percent in South Carolina, and three percent in Georgia.



Inundation, the most severe impact, occurs when beaches and dunes are completely and continuously submerged by surge. Inundation is forecast as very likely for one percent of North Carolina beaches.

The public can view a real-time map of these estimates on the USGS' Coastal Change Hazards Portal. Emergency managers can use the coastal change forecast to help identify locations where coastal impacts might be the most severe, such as where roads will be overwashed by sand or where it's roads might go underwater because of storm surge and large waves.

The most up-to-date forecasts for potential coastal change predictions are available on the National Assessment of Storm-Induced Coastal Change Hazards – Hurricane Florence page.

The Total Water Level and Coastal Change Forecast Viewer is a new predictive tool and is considered experimental. For that reason, it is not meant as a guide to making important decisions about protecting lives and property. However, its time-dependent outlook gives a fuller view of a storm's long-range effects on coastal resources.

PIRATES PITCH IN FOLLOWING FLORENCE



Days before Hurricane Florence touched land, East Carolina University leaders knew they needed to act. Instead of waiting for skies to clear, multiple ECU divisions mobilized quickly to direct resources to areas of need inside and outside the university.

Out of the planning process came East Carolina Undaunted, a recovery response team named after the university's spirit of helping others in the face of great challenges.

The team, directed by Jay Golden, vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement, began with an operations center that coordinated partnerships across ECU and with civic and community organizations.

"Our university is made of people who have great experience, resources, expertise and energy," Golden said. "We wanted to offer them a platform with East Carolina Undaunted to share those qualities while letting our students, faculty, staff, community leaders and local organizations know that ECU is here to help in the recovery process."

In the past, individual ECU divisions, offices and support groups assisted after natural disasters in a one-off nature – filling sandbags, cleaning up debris or offering skills and expertise for recovery research projects. Never before had the university taken coordinated steps to enact a continuous, multiphase recovery plan to leverage assets across North Carolina.

Medical student Hayley Stowe stacks water bottles in Duplin County as part of an ECU relief effort following the hurricane.

East Carolina Undaunted tackled the challenge of hurricane recovery in five phases – during the storm, immediate aftermath, near-term recovery, midrange recovery and longterm recovery.

ECU faculty and staff from information systems, creative services and REDE teamed up to establish the Hurricane Florence recovery website as the storm dropped 6 inches of rain across Pitt County. The site featured hurricane preparation information before the storm hit and nonemergency care and assistance resources during the event.

Afterward, the effort focused on recovery needs. Through the website, those affected by the hurricane were able to request nonemergency assistance. Students, faculty, staff and community members used it to register to volunteer and donate funds to ECU's Hurricane Florence relief efforts.

Through October, 604 people had offered to help, recording 5,473 volunteer hours. More than \$370,131 in financial and in-kind donations have been raised for Hurricane Florence relief.

"Even during the storm our Pirates were willing to put their own needs aside to help others," said Sharon Paynter, assistant vice chancellor for community engagement and research. "While Greenville and much of Pitt County was fortunate not to feel the full force of Hurricane Florence, ECU was ready to assist those in need."



Relief drive yields results

Two projects the East Carolina Undaunted team spearheaded were ECU's relief drive and storm debris removal teams

The relief drive, held in partnership with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, collected nearly 58,000 pounds of food, water and household goods during its two-week run. The drive received major donations from the University of Houston athletic department, Old Dominion University, Gaston College and Clean the World, a service organization that donated 20,000 hygiene kits to those affected by the storm.

Lt. Chris Sutton of the ECU Police Department unloads donated relief supplies

Combined with other campus relief drives, ECU in total donated 80,366 pounds of goods to the food bank. "I think the people of Greenville are appreciative of what they've been through in the past," said George Young, eastern regional director for the food bank. "They missed the bullseye of the storm this time, but they realized families and friends in other areas were in need."

In New Bern, the hurricane damaged more than 5,000 structures and 750 homes. By teaming up with Baptists on Mission, East Carolina Undaunted was able to coordinate cleanup days for individual volunteers and teams. Teams removed debris and cleaned up damaged homes, discarding siding, walls and insulation while helping families deal with mold and other contaminants.

Around the state

Junior business major Davis Basden and Sharon Paynter and Brandon Morrison of the Division of Research, Engagement and Economic Development unload donated food Sept. 18 at the Willis Building. Todd Burdick '96 of Affinity Group, a Raleigh food marketer, donated the food.

Junior business major Davis Basden and Sharon Paynter and Brandon Morrison of the Division of Research, Engagement and Economic Development unload donated food Sept. 18 at the Willis Building. Todd Burdick '96 of Affinity Group, a Raleigh food marketer, donated the food.

ECU's hurricane recovery response wasn't limited to Greenville and New Bern. Additional ECU efforts reached 10 counties in total.

Locally, a relief drive for Duplin County school students, led by the Healthier Lives at School and Beyond Telemedicine Program, collected and distributed more than \$7,000 worth of school supplies, baby formula, diapers, water, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and individually wrapped snacks.

The ECU Police Department sent officers to assist UNC Pembroke and UNC Wilmington, allowing first responders in those areas to take time off after more than a week of 12-hour shifts.

Efforts also went toward helping those affected by the storm in Robeson County. A group of faculty and student volunteers from the Brody School of Medicine drove a trailer full of donations – estimated at approximately \$8,000 – to the region where they stayed overnight and provided medical care to flood victims in shelters. The ECU Department of Anthropology collected goods that were donated to the Lumbee Tribe.

Additionally, 50 ECU students who are either Army National Guard or Reserve members were called to duty during and after Hurricane Florence.

NC CHAMBER 'WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO' — HURRICANE FLORENCE COST NC SCHOOLS MORE THAN \$50 MILLION



White Oak High School in Jacksonville, North Carolina, was battered by rain and wind from Hurricane Florence.
By White Oak High School

North Carolina's public schools have suffered more than \$50 million in damage and lost revenue from Hurricane Florence as efforts continue to get schools repaired so that thousands of students can return to classes.

State education officials painted a grim picture Wednesday of the conditions facing schools in the southeastern part of the state as families slowly recover from the damage sustained from Florence. Amid the ongoing recovery efforts, the repeated message at the State Board of Education meeting is that it will take a joint ongoing effort to help return things back to normal.

"We have much work to do to take care of each other" said Eric Davis, chairman of the state board.

Florence caused schools throughout the state to close during last month's storm, but southeastern North Carolina was particularly hard hit. Some school districts remain closed three weeks later.

Eileen Townsend, section chief of the school insurance fund at the state Department of Public Instruction, said they've reserved \$40 million to deal with the claims that are still coming in. She said the amount is higher than the \$14 million in losses after Hurricane Matthew in 2016 because of all the wind and flooding damage from Florence.

"It's amazing that some of the counties are still there on the coast because it was just so bad and so much rain and so much devastation," Townsend said.

The closure of schools means an estimated \$14 million in lost revenue for school child nutrition programs, according to Lynn Harvey, section chief of DPI child nutrition services. State lawmakers agreed to provide \$6.5 million to cover some of the losses.

Harvey praised the child nutrition staff at area schools who came in and served meals to evacuees who were using schools as emergency shelters.

"They attended to tired, weary, anxious, scared evacuees while their own personal households were in peril," Harvey said. "These men and woman are truly unsung heroes in their local communities."

Once the remaining schools reopen, districts will have enough buses to resume providing transportation, according to Kevin Harrison, section chief of DPI transportation services. He said remaining challenges include dealing with road closures and providing service for students who've been left homeless due to the storm.

CONTINUING RESPONSE TO HURRICANE FLORENCE

ECU Department of Geological Sciences awarded four NSF RAPID grants



Dr. Alex K. Manda (center, red hat) directs a research group at a Hyde County field site for his RAPID grant. Manda's team is researching how Hurricane Florence and previous storms may be impacting eastern North Carolina farmers and their crops.

Even before Hurricane Florence hit North Carolina in September 2018, East Carolina University was preparing to respond. Four ECU research groups, led by faculty in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of Geological Sciences, have received funding to research the effects of Florence.

A combined \$266,018 is coming from the National Science Foundation's RAPID program, designed to allow for rapid response research related to natural disasters.

According to Dr. Stephen J. Culver, professor and chair of the department of geological sciences, there is a limit to the amount of funding that can be received through a RAPID grant.

"For one department to get four of these RAPID grants for one particular environmental event is really impressive — quite surprising — and reflects well on our department and on ECU," Culver said.

The NSF tries to be very responsive to science needs associated with natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, oil spills and landslides, he said. Therefore, NSF RAPID submissions and funding is higher during disaster years, and according to the ECU researchers, RAPID grants fund the critical work that has to be done right now.

"The idea of these proposals is to get out and get data," said Dr. David Mallinson, professor of geological sciences and primary investigator on one of the funded projects. "Another interesting thing is the broad spectrum of environments we are looking at, going from terrestrial, coastal and offshore — across the shelf and into the Gulf Stream — it's pretty amazing we have the whole system covered."

Mallinson submitted his research proposal just a couple of days after Florence made landfall and was informed only one day later that his research would be funded.

Mallinson and Culver, his co-investigator, are expanding upon research conducted by former graduate student Nina Shmorhun. Shmorhun mapped, collected and examined sediments along the shoreline around Hammocks Beach State Park. The objective of her thesis was to use the sediments and microfossils collected to identify specific types of environments and show the evolution of the coastal system, which is often used in oil and gas exploration.

Now, with the help of current coastal geoscience graduate student Cody Allen, Mallinson and Culver are using Shmorhun's seafloor maps and identification of microfossils and sediments to compare against data being collected by Allen after Hurricane Florence.

"I am very lucky to have the opportunity to work under Dr. Mallinson," Allen said. "I am currently gaining experience in using geophysical equipment, micropaleontology and putting this information into context as it relates to my thesis."

Mallinson's team is going back to investigate how the coastline changed and how the storm impacted the inner shelf and beaches. They are looking to see if they can still identify the different environments based on previously collected samples, or if they were completely disrupted, which may give them equally important information on identifying past storm records.

"I think the most interesting aspect of the project is understanding the influence of high-energy events on sediment transport and how the data can be used in broader impacts to assist coastal communities with understanding sediment resources," Allen said. "The scope of this project lends itself to various areas within geoscience and provides a broad range of experiences."

Disappearing sand

Another part of Mallinson's project includes examining the movement of sand along the shoreline.

"We know, along the beach at Hammocks Beach State Park, the shoreline receded — eroded — about 40-45 meters (130-145 feet). We lost a tremendous amount of sand, and it's not clear where that sand went," Mallinson said. "Did it move offshore? Did it move down the beach? Did it just get pushed through the inlets behind the islands?"

Water quality

Hurricane Florence hit at an opportune time for a new researcher at ECU. Not even one month after coming to ECU, Dr. Stephen Moysey, geological sciences professor and director of the recently established ECU Water Resources Center, gathered a team to look at the hydrological responses of the storm, particularly flooding impacts.

Along with co-investigators Dr. Hannah Cooper, assistant professor of geography, planning and environment; Dr. Michael O'Driscoll, associate professor with the Coastal Studies Institute; and Dr. Charlie Humphrey, associate professor of health education and promotion, Moysey flew in a researcher from Las Vegas, Nevada, who helped create maps depicting the extent of the flooding from Florence.

Moysey and his team also led a group of students who went out and collected water samples from the Tar, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers.

"They are examining the water quality from the different rivers, seeing how these watersheds are responding differently and why," Moysey said. "We are hoping to grow this into an ongoing project where students will continue sampling water quality across this part of the state."

"I love filtering the water and seeing all of the sediments that can be pulled out of one small sample of river water. Seeing the changes that the rivers have gone through over time has also been very exciting and interesting," said Shannon Briles, senior geological sciences major and the lead coordinator for Moysey's water sampling project. "This is giving me a lot of lab experience that can be used on a resume when I start to look for jobs. I also like that I am able to use a lot of the new knowledge that I gain in my classes day-to-day."

The third part of Moysey's project includes citizen science, where people in the community contribute information about the impacts of the storm they witness in their areas. Moysey's team began to reach out through social media immediately after Florence hit in an effort to gather data from the local community.

Sound sampling

Further out in the sound and into the Gulf Stream is where associate professor of geological sciences Dr. Siddhartha Mitra and his co-investigators are conducting their RAPID research. Mitra's team consists of Dr. Erin Field, assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Reide Corbett, professor and director of the Coastal Studies Institute.

Mitra's team was aware of Moysey's river sampling and mapping project, and they wanted to examine how much material — sediment, and dissolved carbon and nutrients — was entering the Pamlico Sound and how much was escaping through the inlets, possibly affecting the Gulf Stream.



Graduate student Cody Allen (center) collects samples along the shoreline at Hammocks Beach State Park. Allen is working on Mallinson's team to investigate how the coastline has changed after Hurricane Florence. Also pictured are ECU student Taylor Miller (left) and Dr. Steve Culver (right).

According to Mitra, the reason this is important is that the Gulf Stream, which is a huge conduit for energy and materials from the tropics to the poles, comes closest to land directly adjacent to North Carolina and the Outer Banks.

“Our goal is to find out how much of the Carolina watershed and organic matter are making it into the Gulf Stream and affecting the ecosystem,” Mitra said. “If there is going to be any type of conduit and connection between sediment and dissolved material, it was going to happen adjacent to North Carolina.”

His team's hypothesis is that nutrients, organic matter and bacteria from land were pulsing through the sound and inlets, and if they got into the Gulf Stream, they may potentially be switching the Gulf Stream from a net autotrophic system (taking in carbon dioxide) to a net heterotrophic system (pushing out carbon dioxide).

“Essentially, you are taking a system where microbes are used to processing material. Now you are giving them a feeding frenzy of new material. You are putting in microbes that are very hyperactive and used to breaking down terrestrial materials, and you are giving them this juicy food in the Gulf Stream. So it's possible you are sending restoration through the roof making carbon dioxide,” Mitra said.

“Dr. Mitra has trained us well and makes sure we have a comprehensive understanding of the work we are doing and its impact,” said Anne Marie Lindley, junior geological sciences major and one of Mitra's student researchers. “After graduation, I want to go into hydrology. This research has helped me better understand water chemistry as well as how water is impacted by major meteorological and terrestrial events.”

Mitra's team has gone out on three cruises. They plan to compare this information to baseline conditions once the rougher winter season passes.

Farmland impacts

Circling back to the mainland, associate professor of geological sciences Dr. Alex K. Manda is researching how Florence and previous storms may be impacting eastern North Carolina farmers and their crops.

According to Manda, the state extension office had been receiving calls from farmers in eastern North Carolina complaining about potential intrusion in their fields. The farmers were seeing patches in the fields that were not growing or leading to poor crop yield. The extension office would sample the soil and were identifying high salt content.

This is where Manda initially got involved.

“It’s a big problem for the farmers. We need to figure out what to do. In order to do this, they need to understand how and why the problem is occurring in the first place,” Manda said.

Manda and his student researchers are trying to determine what is driving the process of increased salinity in the soil. Is it coming from the sound, through groundwater, from surface waters (canals, drainage ditches), or storm surge events created by hurricanes? If it is coming from storm surge, why is it that some farms are showing effects months or years later?

Manda’s goal is to test the soil and determine which of these are more likely to be the cause of the increased salinity in patches of land, and Hurricane Florence has given him the perfect opportunity to test whether storm surge and hurricanes are causing an effect.

“After a hurricane there is an immediate need to sample these sites so we can track the movement or potential movement of and concentration of salts in the subsurface,” Manda said.

The exact number of farmers who have been affected by this is not known, but in terms of counties, Manda said a lot on the east coast has been affected, including Hyde, Pasquotank and Camden counties — the three sites he and his students are investigating — but others have reported adverse effects.

“I am elated to have the opportunity to assist Dr. Manda with this research, especially knowing that the process we complete and the data we compile can better serve the needs of the local farmers who are impacted,” said Jon Gullet, a graduate student majoring in geological sciences with a concentration in hydrogeology. “I get to go out to the field and collect real-time data by multiple observational methods, record it and then bring it back to the lab to be analyzed. The experience I have attained from this has been invaluable in helping me mature as a hydrogeologist.”

All four ECU teams were pleased that their research was funded by the NSF RAPID program, and they are excited to continue their work and assist others.

“Everyone has been very collaborative and eager to exchange information related to this natural disaster,” Mitra said.

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AGRICULTURE LOSSES FROM HURRICANE FLORENCE WILL TOP \$1.1 BILLION, AND THAT'S JUST IN NC



North Carolina farmers and livestock growers will suffer more than \$1.1 billion in losses as a result of Hurricane Florence, the state Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

The largest losses will be among farmers who grow crops such as corn, soybeans and tobacco. The state estimates the value of damaged and destroyed row crops at nearly \$987 million.

Hurricane Florence came ashore just as farmers were beginning their fall harvests and lingered for several days, dropping record amounts of rain on Southeastern North Carolina.

“We knew the losses would be significant because it was harvest time for so many of our major crops and the storm hit our top six agricultural counties especially hard,” Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said in a statement Wednesday. “These early estimates show just what a devastating and staggering blow this hurricane leveled at our agriculture industry.”

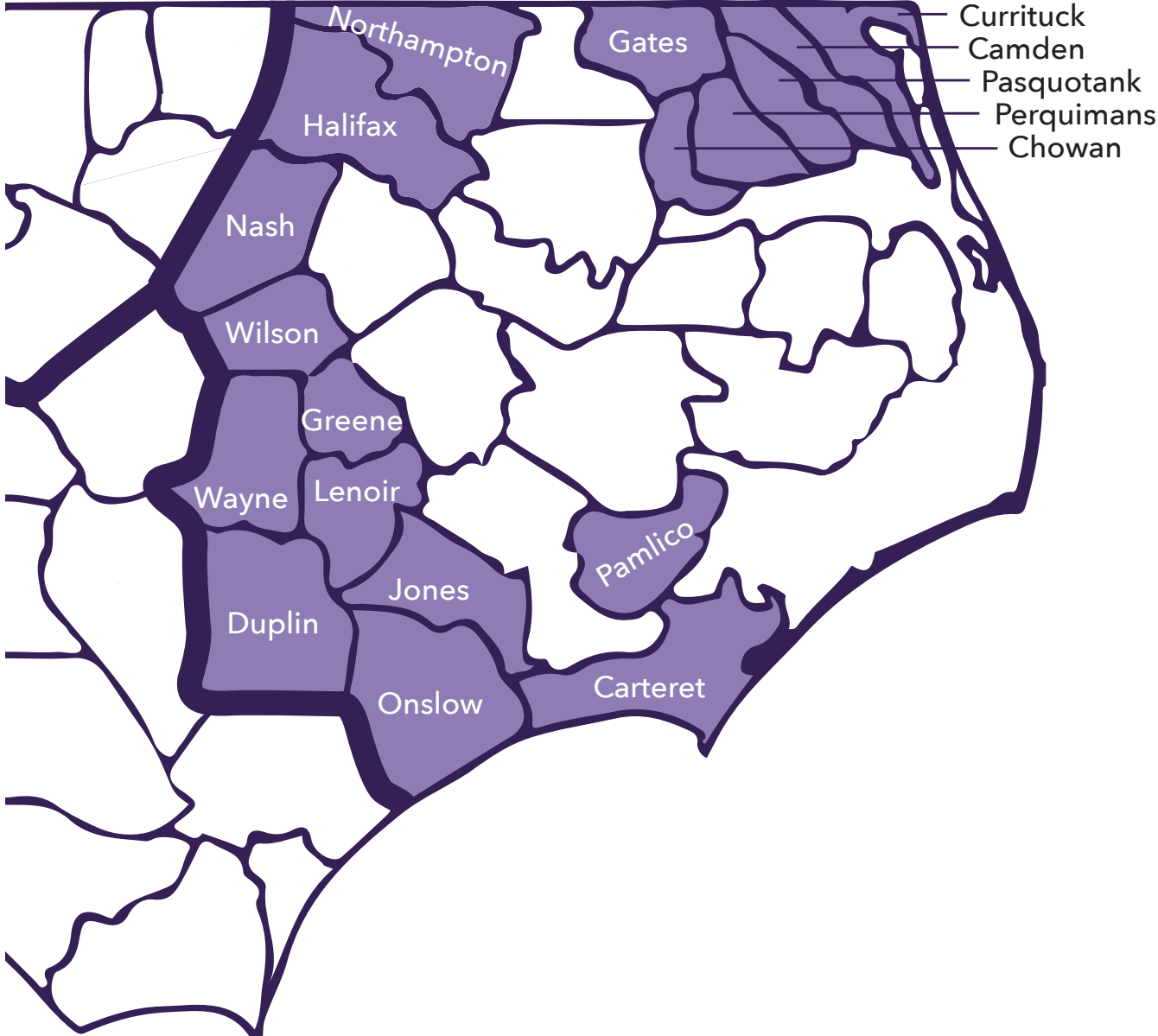
In addition to row crops, the state estimates losses of nearly \$70 million to commercial forests; \$30 million for lawn and landscaping growers; nearly \$27 million for vegetables and horticulture crops, and about \$23 million for livestock, poultry and aquaculture growers.

Livestock producers have reported that the storm killed an estimated 5,500 hogs and 4.1 million chickens and turkeys.

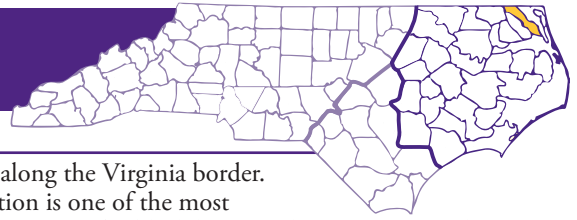
The state based its estimates on the portion of crops remaining in the field in the 35 counties hit hardest by the storm. They also looked at the average crop production in those counties over the last five years and the current prices of commodities.

The losses to agriculture from Florence will far exceed those of Hurricane Matthew two years ago, even though the flooding after that storm was as bad or worse in many areas. That’s because Matthew hit in October, after far more of the harvest had taken place. The state says Matthew did an estimated \$400 million in damage to agriculture.

ENC-29 COUNTIES NOT ON THE TOUR



CAMDEN COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1777 out of Pasquotank County, Camden County was named for Charles Pratt, First Lord Camden. The city of Camden serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Camden County include Old Trap, Shiloh, and South Mills.


Camden County is an attractive destination for naturalists, featuring a variety of activities for boaters, fishers, and swimmers. The county is home to the Great Dismal Swamp, which covers 175


square miles along the Virginia border.

The preservation is one of the most important sanctuaries for black bears in the eastern United States and serves as a breeding ground for migratory song birds.

Camden County's historical and cultural attractions include the Camden County Courthouse, the Milford Historic House, the Sanderlin-Prichard House, and the Shiloh Baptist Church.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 10,581 NC RANKING: 96th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	12%	22%	13%
	WHITE	80%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	3%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	41	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	40%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	14%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	11,200	9.4M	335M

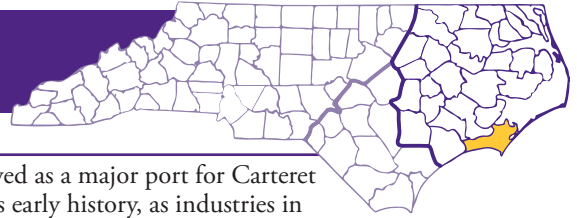
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 85% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,387	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	33%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 77% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 0 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	0	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	0	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	42	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	20	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	12%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	31%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$62,194 NC RANKING: 4th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	9%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Camden County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

CARTERET COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1772 out of Craven County, Carteret County is named in honor of the Earl of Granville and Lord Proprietor of North Carolina, Sir John Carteret. Beaufort, the third oldest town in North Carolina, serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Carteret County include Atlantic Beach, Cedar Point, Emerald Isle, Morehead City, Newport, and Pine Knoll Shores.


Carteret County had a diverse group of early inhabitants, including the native Tuscarora, as well as German, French, Quaker, and Scotch-Irish settlers.


Beaufort served as a major port for Carteret County in its early history, as industries in the county produced tobacco, meat, and fish.

The county also produced pitch, rosin, tar, and turpentine for shipbuilding. In 1858, Morehead City was established as a railroad town, creating the county's greatest economic draw that remains the same today – tourism.

Carteret County's historical and cultural attractions include Cape Lookout National Seashore, Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge, Croatan National Forest, and Fort Macon State Park.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4} POPULATION: 68,881 NC RANKING: 38th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties	BLACK	6%	22%	13%
	WHITE	87%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	4%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	46	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	40%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	12%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	81,652	9.4M	335M

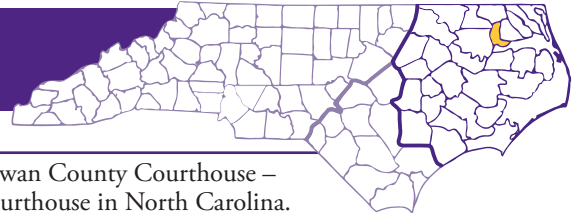
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 EDUCATION ^{1,2,3} HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 86% NC: 87% US: 83%	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,722	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	47%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 67% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Carteret Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 HEALTH ^{1,2} PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 25 US: 28	DENTISTS PER 10,000	5	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	49	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	26%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 ECONOMY ^{1,2} MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$47,179 NC RANKING: 16th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	12%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Carteret County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

CHOWAN COUNTY



ABOUT


Chowan County, established in 1681, is one of the oldest in North Carolina. It was formed out of the Albemarle Precinct and land that was originally settled by the Weapemeoc tribe. Edenton serves as the county seat and was the site of the Edenton Tea Party – one of the earliest organized political actions by women in United States history.



Other communities located in Chowan County include Hancock, Rockyhock, Ryland, Selwin, Tyner, and Valhalla.


Chowan County's historical and cultural attractions include numerous historical home sites that stand at over 200 years old

and the Chowan County Courthouse – the oldest courthouse in North Carolina. The county is also home to the second oldest church building in North Carolina, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1736.

The county boasts scenic attractions including Bear Swamp, Bluff Point, Cherry Point, Dillard Millpond, and Edenton Bay. Chowan County also hosts the Edenton Christmas Candlelight Tour, the Edenton Peanut Festival, and the Edenton Tea Party Celebration.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 14,105 NC RANKING: 89th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	35%	22%	13%
	WHITE	60%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	4%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	45	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	43%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	17%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	12,962	9.4M	335M

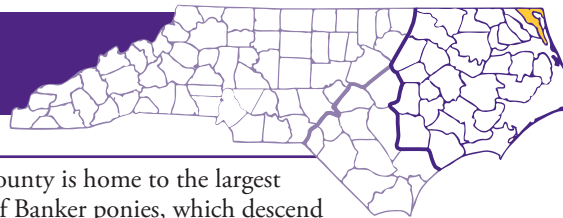
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 84% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,635	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	65%	50%	48%
 <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 55% NC: 58% US: 68%</p>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: College of the Albemarle Edenton - Chowan Campus			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 8 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	3	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	47	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	34%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$37,154 NC RANKING: 59th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	6%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	19%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Edenton-Chowan Schools		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

CURRITUCK COUNTY




ABOUT


Established in 1668 as precinct of Albemarle County, Currituck County is named for the Native American word “Coratank,” which means wild geese. The city of Currituck serves as the county seat. Currituck County is the northeastern-most county of North Carolina and was one of the state’s first colonial ports.


Other communities located in Currituck County include Coinjock, Corolla, Knotts Island, Sligo, and Tulls Creek.

Currituck County is home to the largest population of Banker ponies, which descend from Spanish mustangs. Historians believe the mustangs were brought to North Carolina in the 1500s on a Spanish expedition.

The county is also home to the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and is an important vacation spot for sportsmen and outdoor admirers.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 26,331 NC RANKING: 74th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	6%	22%	13%
	WHITE	88%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	4%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	42	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	46%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	10%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	24,202	9.4M	335M

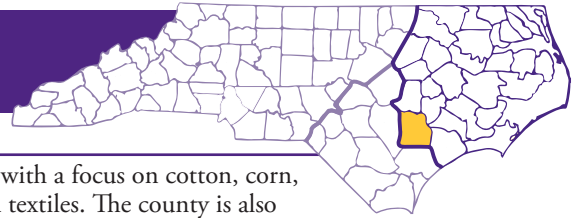
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 91% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,639	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	38%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 62% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: College of the Albemarle's Regional Aviation and Technical Training Center		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 3 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	40	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	21	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	14%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	29%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$58,676 NC RANKING: 3rd *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	10%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Currituck County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

DUPLIN COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1750 out of New Hanover County, Duplin County was named for Sir Thomas Hay, Viscount of Dupplin, who served on the Board of Trade and Plantations. Kenansville serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Duplin County include Beulaville, Calypso, Magnolia, Rose Hill, Wallace, and Warsaw. The county is known for its water features, including the Cape Fear River, Maxwell Millpond, Muddy Creek, and Picadilly Bay.


The county's early economy revolved around its tar and pitch industries. Today, Duplin County's agricultural industry sustains

its economy with a focus on cotton, corn, tobacco, and textiles. The county is also home to North Carolina's oldest winery – Duplin Winery – which was established in the 1970s and sells 450,000 cases of wine annually.

Duplin County's historical and cultural attractions include the Cowan Museum, Dickson Farm, Liberty Hall Plantation, and the Kenansville Historic District. The county hosts an annual beach music festival.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 59,039 NC RANKING: 48th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	26%	22%	13%
	WHITE	51%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	23%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	38	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	40%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	14%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	72,748	9.4M	335M

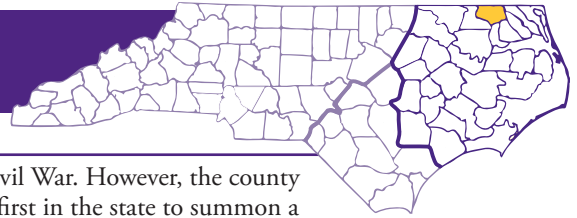
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 81% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,248	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	77%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 40% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: James Sprunt Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 3 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	42	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	25%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	32%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$34,787 NC RANKING: 71st *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	21%	15%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: Butterball LLC		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

GATES COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1779 out of Chowan, Hertford, and Perquimans counties, Gates County was named for Revolutionary War hero General Horatio Gates. Gatesville serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Gates County include Hall, Haslett, Holly Grove, Hunters Mill, Mintonville, and Reynoldson.


Gates County is known for its religious history, including Middle Swamp Baptist Church and Savage's United Methodist Church – two churches that preached to integrated congregations until the

American Civil War. However, the county was also the first in the state to summon a military company to aid the Confederates after North Carolina seceded from the Union.

Gates County's historical and cultural attractions include the Gates County Courthouse, the Great Dismal Swamp Canal, Merchants Millpond State Park — which is famous for its cypress trees — and Reid's Grove School, a historic Rosenwald school.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 11,544 NC RANKING: 93rd <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	32%	22%	13%
	WHITE	63%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	2%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	43	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	38%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	15%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	14,911	9.4M	335M

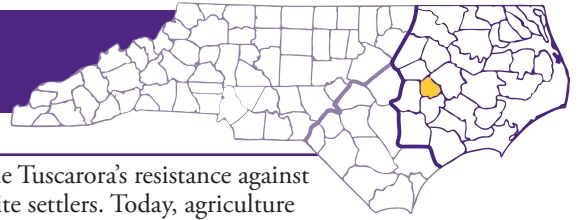
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 90% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,569	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	57%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 49% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 0 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	36	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	15	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	14%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	33%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$49,894 NC RANKING: 28th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	15%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Gates County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

GREENE COUNTY



ABOUT


Originally named Glasgow County after Secretary of State James Glasgow, Greene County was established in 1791 out of Dobbs County, honoring General Nathanael Greene after Glasgow was charged with making fraudulent land grants. Snow Hill serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Greene County include Hookerton, Maury, and Walstonburg.


The main assault of the Tuscarora War occurred in modern day Greene County, as Colonel Maurice Moore set fire to the Tuscarora's Fort Neheroka (or Nooherooka) in 1713. The fall of the fort led to

the end of the Tuscarora's resistance against invading white settlers. Today, agriculture remains the largest industry in Greene County, along with livestock production.

Greene County's historical and cultural attractions include the Greene County Courthouse, the Neoheroke Fort Site, and the Zachariah School, a historic Rosenwald School.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 21,015 NC RANKING: 80th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	37%	22%	13%
	WHITE	47%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	15%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	39	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	43%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	17%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	21,382	9.4M	335M

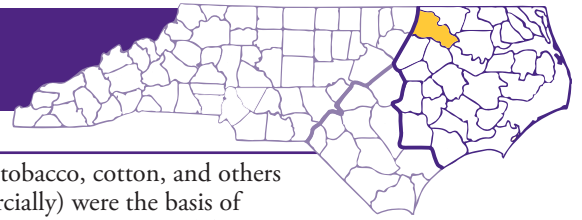
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 95% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,247	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	80%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 44% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	44	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	23%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	36%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$39,498 NC RANKING: 87th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	24%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER: NC Dept of Public Safety				

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

HALIFAX COUNTY




ABOUT


Established in 1758, Halifax County was named for the Earl of Halifax and President of the British Board of Trade and Plantations, George Montagu-Dunk. The town of Halifax serves as the county seat. Halifax County is best known as the home of the 1776 Halifax Resolves, which allowed North Carolina delegates at the Second Continental Congress to work with other colonial delegates in their efforts to break free from British rule.


Other communities located in Halifax County include Brinkleyville, Butterwood, Conoconnara, Enfield, Faucett, Littleton, Palmyra, Roanoke Rapids, Roseneath, Scotland Neck, and Weldon.

Cash-crops (tobacco, cotton, and others sold commercially) were the basis of a once-thriving economy in Halifax County. Industrialization and advances in transportation, including the railroad, decreased reliance on moving goods by rivers, like the Roanoke, which runs through Halifax County.

Halifax County's historical and cultural sites include natural attractions such as Lake Gaston and Medoc Mountain State Park. Halifax County also hosts Halifax Day, which is a celebration of the Halifax Resolves.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4} POPULATION: 51,310 NC RANKING: 54th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties	BLACK	54%	22%	13%
	WHITE	38%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	3%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	42	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	50%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	23%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	51,014	9.4M	335M

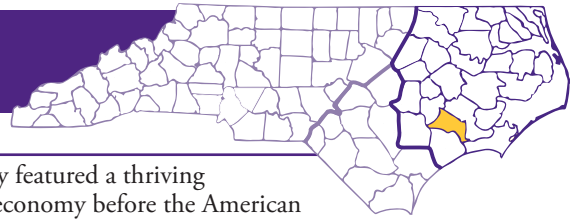
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 EDUCATION ^{1,2,3} HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 75% NC: 87% US: 83%	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,550	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	74%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 38% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Halifax Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 HEALTH ^{1,2} PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 25 US: 28	DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	4	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	47	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	18	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	17%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	39%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 ECONOMY ^{1,2} MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$32,834 NC RANKING: 100th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties	UNEMPLOYED	7%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	27%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Halifax Regional Medical Center		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

JONES COUNTY




ABOUT


Established in 1779 out of Craven County, Jones County was named for aristocrat and anti-federalist Willie Jones. Trenton serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Jones County include Maysville, Pleasant Hill, and Pollocksville. The county is also known for the Trent River, named after the Trent River in England; the Great Dover Swamp, which covers much of the northern portion of the county; and Hofmann Forest, the nation's largest forest laboratory.

Jones County featured a thriving agricultural economy before the American Civil War, but many farms and plantations were destroyed during the war. Tobacco and lumber farmers carry on Jones County's farming tradition today.

Jones County's historical and culture attractions include the Foscue Plantation House, the Grace Episcopal Church, the John Franck House, and the Lavender-Barrus House.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 9,597 NC RANKING: 97th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	30%	22%	13%
	WHITE	62%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	5%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	45	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	44%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	14%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	10,202	9.4M	335M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 95% NC: 87% US: 83%</p> <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 75% NC: 58% US: 68%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$13,061	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	62%	50%	48%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:	None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 6 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	44	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	21	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	16%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	34%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$37,288 NC RANKING: 66th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	22%	15%	13%
	LARGEST EMPLOYER:	Jones County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

LENOIR COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1791 out of Dobbs County, Lenoir County was named for Speaker of the Senate and Revolutionary War soldier William Lenoir. Kinston serves as the county seat.



Other communities located in Lenoir County include Deep Run, Dawson, Institute, Graingers, La Grange, and Pink Hill.


Lenoir County played a significant role in the history of the American Civil War, hosting the Battle of Kinston in 1862 and the Battle of Wyse Fork in 1865. Artifacts from the CSS Neuse,

a Confederate ironclad gunboat that was purposely sunk in the Neuse River to avoid Union capture, are also available to tour in Kinston.

Lenoir County's historical and cultural attractions include the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot, the La Grange Presbyterian Church, and the Lenoir County Courthouse. Minor League Baseball's Down East Wood Ducks, a Class-A affiliate of the Texas Rangers, plays home games at Grainger Stadium in Kinston.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 56,883 NC RANKING: 49th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	41%	22%	13%
	WHITE	49%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	8%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	41	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	43%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	19%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	60,659	9.4M	335M

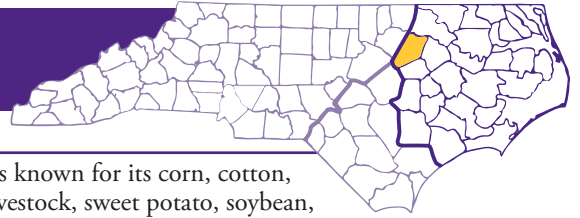
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 82% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,149	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	56%	50%	48%
 <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 48% NC: 58% US: 68%</p>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Lenoir Community College			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	3	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	49	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	20	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	18%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	37%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$35,678 NC RANKING: 76th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	21%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Sanderson Farms Inc		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

NASH COUNTY




ABOUT



Established in 1777 from Edgecombe County, Nash County was named for Francis Nash, a general who served under George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Nash was killed in the Battle of Germantown in 1777 before the county was officially created. Nashville serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Nash County include Bailey, Castalia, Middlesex, Red Oak, and Spring Hope. The county shares three towns with other counties, including Rocky Mount (Edgecombe), Sharpsburg (Edgecombe and Wilson), and Zebulon (Wake). Other natural features in the county include the Tar River, the White Oak Swamp, and the Moccasin, Swift, and Deer Branch creeks.

The county is known for its corn, cotton, cucumber, livestock, sweet potato, soybean, and tobacco production. Nash County is also the home of North Carolina Wesleyan College, which was established in 1956 and serves 1,500 students.

Nash County's historical and cultural attractions include the Country Doctor Museum, the Nash County Historical Association, The Imperial Center for the Arts and Sciences, and the Tank Theatre.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4} POPULATION: 93,991 NC RANKING: 30th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties	BLACK	41%	22%	13%
	WHITE	50%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	7%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	41	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	16%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	114,548	9.4M	335M

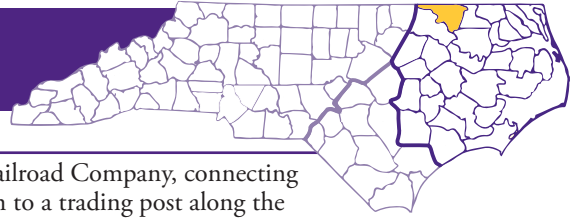
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 EDUCATION ^{1,2,3} HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 84% NC: 87% US: 83%  THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 41% NC: 58% US: 68%	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,276	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	67%	50%	48%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Nash Community College North Carolina Wesleyan College			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 HEALTH ^{1,2} PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 6 NC: 25 US: 28	DENTISTS PER 10,000	5	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	44	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	18	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	31%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 ECONOMY ^{1,2} MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$43,341 NC RANKING: 39th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties	UNEMPLOYED	6%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	17%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER: Hospira Inc				

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1741 out of Bertie County, Northampton County was created for travelers' convenience. Those living in the area needed better access to a courthouse. Northampton County was created to serve that need. It received its name from James Compton, Earl of Northampton.

Jackson has served as the county seat since its incorporation in 1823. Jackson was named after the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson. Other communities located in Northampton County include Gaston, Garysburg, Margarettsville, Rich Square, Seaboard, Severn, and Vulture.

Northampton County was home to the first railroad to cross into the state. The track was constructed in 1833 by the

Petersburg Railroad Company, connecting Northampton to a trading post along the Roanoke River. The county is also known for its horse racing and breeding. Mowfield Plantation in Jackson sheltered the state's greatest thoroughbred horse, Sir Archie, who went on to sire racing greats Boston, Lexington, Man O'War, and Timoleon.

Northampton County's historical and cultural attractions include the Cedar Grove Quaker Meetinghouse, the Jackson Museum, the Lee-Grant Farm, the Northampton Memorial Library, and the Peebles House. The county hosts the annual Northampton County Farm Festival.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}



POPULATION:
19,862
NC RANKING:
83rd

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	58%	22%	13%
WHITE	39%	63%	77%
HISPANIC	2%	10%	17%
MEDIAN AGE	47	38	38
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	44%	47%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	23%	13%	19%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	24,091	9.4M	335M

EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: **76%**
NC: 87% | US: 83%



THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: **30%**
NC: 58% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$13,866	\$8,898	\$11,800
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	75%	50%	48%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
None

HEALTH ^{1,2}



PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: **2**
NC: 25 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	3	15	13
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	41	47	45
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	16
UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
OBESITY	39%	32%	37%

ECONOMY ^{1,2}

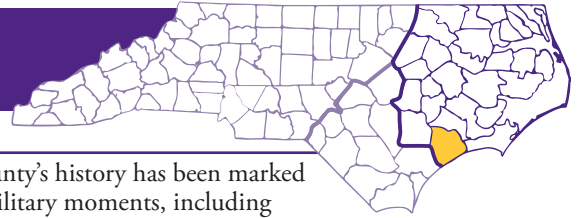


MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: **\$31,468**
NC RANKING: **89th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	6%	5%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	22%	15%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Lowes Home Centers Inc**

ONSHOW COUNTY




ABOUT


Established in 1734 out of Carteret and New Hanover counties, Onslow County was named for Speaker of the British House of Commons Sir Arthur Onslow. The area was settled by Europeans after the Tuscarora War of 1711. Jacksonville serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Onslow County include Holly Ridge, North Topsail Beach, Richlands, Sneads Ferry, and Swansboro. The county is also home to Camp Lejeune – a U.S. Marine Corps Base that spans 150,000 acres and has an approximate population approaching 114,000.

Onslow County's history has been marked by several military moments, including county residents participating in quelling a Tory uprising in 1776 in Wilmington, N.C.; an 1820s slave rebellion that saw eight slaves attempt to seek freedom in the Onslow County swamps; the manufacturing of ships for the War of 1812; and the growth of Camp Lejeune during World War II.

Onslow County's historical and cultural attractions include two large antebellum plantation homes – the Palo Alto and Avirett-Stephens plantations – and Alum Spring, a historic sulfur spring located at Catherine Lake.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4} POPULATION: 193,893 NC RANKING: 13th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small>	BLACK	16%	22%	13%
	WHITE	66%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	13%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	26	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	45%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	13%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	268,291	9.4M	335M

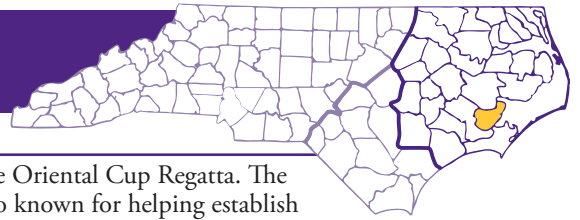
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 EDUCATION ^{1,2,3} HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 90% <small>NC: 87% US: 83%</small>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$8,391	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	46%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 60% <small>NC: 58% US: 68%</small>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Coastal Carolina Community		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 HEALTH ^{1,2} PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 4 <small>NC: 25 US: 28</small>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	1	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	53	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	13%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	30%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 ECONOMY ^{1,2} MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$46,141 NC RANKING: 29th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	14%	15%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: Department of Defense		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

PAMLICO COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1872 out of Craven and Beaufort counties, Pamlico County was named for the Pamlico Sound which borders the county to the east. Bayboro serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Pamlico County include Arapahoe, Hobucken, Mesic, Oriental, and Vandemere. Other natural features in Pamlico County include Bay City Pocosin, Cedar Island, and Dawson Creek.


Fishing and sailing helped grow Pamlico County as a tourist destination, with Oriental earning the "Sailing Capital of North Carolina" moniker. The county hosts numerous boat races each year,

including the Oriental Cup Regatta. The county is also known for helping establish the North Carolina Public Schools transportation system, becoming one of the first counties to offer motorized bus transportation.

Pamlico County's historic and cultural attractions include the Grist Mill, the Pamlico County Drama Club, and Reel Cotton Gin. The county also hosts the annual Pamlico County Croaker Festival in honor of the region's fishers.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4} POPULATION: 12,689 NC RANKING: 91st <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small>	BLACK	19%	22%	13%
	WHITE	74%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	4%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	49	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	39%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	10%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	13,792	9.4M	335M

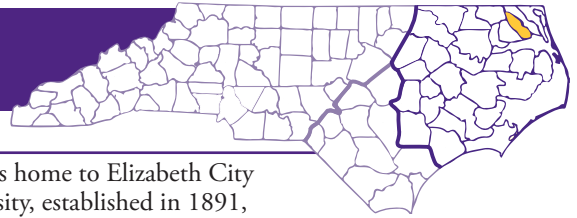
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 EDUCATION ^{1,2,3} HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 94% <small>NC: 87% US: 83%</small>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$12,858	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	44%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 48% <small>NC: 58% US: 68%</small>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Pamlico Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 HEALTH ^{1,2} PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 <small>NC: 25 US: 28</small>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	3	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	57	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	16%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	32%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 ECONOMY ^{1,2} MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$44,762 NC RANKING: 58th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	19%	15%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: YMCA		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

PASQUOTANK COUNTY




ABOUT



Established in 1668 from the Albemarle Precinct, Pasquotank County gets its name from the Native American word “pask-e-tan-ki” meaning “where the current divides the fork.” The county is defined by its waterways and is bordered by the Pasquotank and Little rivers.


Elizabeth City serves as the county seat. Other communities located in Pasquotank County include Morgans Corner, Nixonton, and Weeksville.

The county is home to Elizabeth City State University, established in 1891, which enrolls about 1,350 students per year.

Pasquotank County is known for its shipping, boating, fishing, and diving industries, while serving as an Intracoastal Waterway hub. Local attractions include the Arts of the Albemarle Center, the Dixie Land Speedway in Elizabeth City, and the Elizabeth City State University Khan Planetarium.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 39,743 NC RANKING: 62nd *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	37%	22%	13%
	WHITE	55%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	5%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	37	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	49%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	17%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	40,820	9.4M	335M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 86% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,704	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	67%	50%	48%
 <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 48% NC: 58% US: 68%</p>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: College of the Albemarle - Elizabeth City Campus Elizabeth City State University			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 8 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	48	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	25	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	36%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$45,664 NC RANKING: 46th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	6%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	17%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Pasquotank County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

PERQUIMANS COUNTY



ABOUT


Established as a precinct from Albemarle Precinct in 1668, Perquimans County was first settled by the Yeopim and Weapemeoc tribes.


In 1662, English settler George Durant struck a land deal with the chief of the Yeopim tribe, allowing him to settle land in the county between the Little River and Albemarle Sound. The document is one of the oldest surviving land deeds in North Carolina. The county has also been part of many early political disputes, including Culpeper's Rebellion in 1677 and Cary's Rebellion in 1711.


Other communities located in Perquimans County include Chapanoke, Belvidere, Durants Neck, Snug Harbor, and Winfall.

The town of Hertford serves as the county seat.

Perquimans County's historical and cultural attractions include the Alfred Moore House, the Newbold-White House, the Piney Woods Friends Meetinghouse, and the Thomas Nixon Plantation. Local festivals include the Hearth and Harvest Festival, the Perquimans County Indian Summer Festival, and the Spring Fling and Old-Timers Game.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 13,474 NC RANKING: 90th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	23%	22%	13%
	WHITE	73%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	3%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	47	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	57%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	11%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	15,560	9.4M	335M

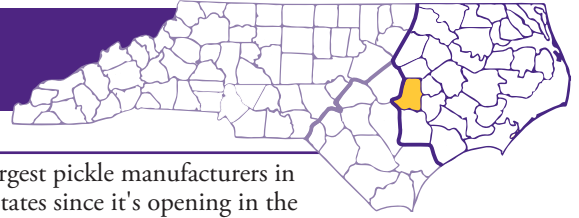
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 91% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,089	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	64%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 59% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 2 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	42	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	33%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$45,391 NC RANKING: 45th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	6%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	17%	15%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: Perquimans County Schools		

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

WAYNE COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1779 from Dobbs County, Wayne County is named after one of George Washington's most respected generals, "Mad Anthony" Wayne. Goldsboro has served as the county seat after the first county seat, Waynesboro, was dissolved after the American Civil War.



Other communities located in Wayne County include Dobbersville, Dudley, Eureka, Mount Olive, Seven Springs, Pikeville, and Walnut Creek.


The county is home to the Mount Olive Pickle Company and the University of Mount Olive. The Mount Olive Pickle Company is

one of the largest pickle manufacturers in the United States since it's opening in the 1920s. The University of Mount Olive serves 3,250 undergraduates.

Wayne County's historic and cultural attractions include the birthplace of Governor Charles B. Aycock, Goldsboro City Hall, Goldsboro Civic Ballet, and the Wayne County Museum. The county hosts annual festivals such as the Fremont Daffodil Festival, the North Carolina Pickle Festival, and the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 124,172 NC RANKING: 25th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	32%	22%	13%
	WHITE	54%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	12%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	37	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	45%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	18%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	135,372	9.4M	335M

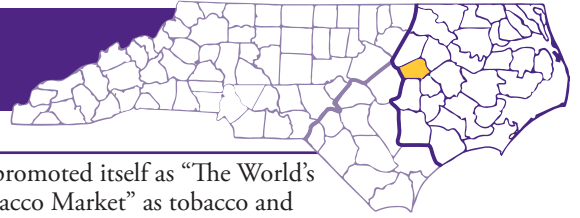
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 84% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>  <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 48% NC: 58% US: 68%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$8,894	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	60%	50%	48%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Wayne Community College University of Mount Olive			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 6 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	48	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	19%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	34%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$41,172 NC RANKING: 56th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	21%	15%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER: Wayne County Board of Education				

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

WILSON COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1855 out of Edgecombe, Johnston, Nash, and Wayne counties, Wilson County was named after Colonel Louis D. Wilson, a former soldier and legislator who died during the Mexican-American War. The city of Wilson serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Wilson County include Black Creek, Elm City, Lucama, Saratoga, and Stantonsburg.


Wilson County was the home of the Wilson Female Academy, which was founded in 1859 and then converted into the Wilson Collegiate Institute until its closing in the 1890s. Barton College, a four-year, private, liberal arts college, is located in Wilson.

The county promoted itself as “The World’s Greatest Tobacco Market” as tobacco and cotton played a key role in its early industrial history. Wilson is the original home of BB&T, which was founded in the 19th century. After World War II, the county attracted other industries, including pharmaceutical plants, to the region. Pharmaceutical companies include Sandoz, Merck, and Fresenius Kabi USA.

Wilson County’s historical and cultural attractions include the Branch Banking building, the North Carolina Museum of the Coastal Plains, and the Wilson Central Business-Tobacco Warehouse Historical District.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2,4}</p> <p>POPULATION: 81,671 NC RANKING: 35th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	41%	22%	13%
	WHITE	47%	63%	77%
	HISPANIC	11%	10%	17%
	MEDIAN AGE	40	38	38
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	44%	47%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	18%	13%	19%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	92,575	9.4M	335M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{1,2,3}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 76% NC: 87% US: 83%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$8,822	\$8,898	\$11,800
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	56%	50%	48%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 51% NC: 58% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Wilson Community College Barton College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,2}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 6 NC: 25 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
	GROCERY STORES PER 10,000	2	15	13
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000	45	47	45
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	16
	UNINSURED ADULTS	17%	15%	9%
	OBESITY	37%	32%	37%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,2}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$39,332 NC RANKING: 54th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	7%	5%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	22%	15%	13%
	LARGEST EMPLOYER: BB&T			

SOURCES: ¹ NC Health Data Explorer ² NCIOM ³ NC School Report Cards ⁴ NC Office of State Budget and Management ⁵ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project