



Reynolds biggest mover in Week 5

SPORTS, 1B

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Mount Mitchell State Park, which has been closed for nearly a year since Tropical Storm Helene, and the section of Blue Ridge Parkway leading to the park, reopened Sept. 15. JOSH BELL/CITIZEN TIMES

Section of Blue Ridge Parkway reopens

Asheville to Mt. Mitchell has been cleared for continued use

Karen Chávez
Asheville Citizen Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHEVILLE – Another round of good news for leaf lookers, sightseers and anyone who loves the outdoors — a major section of road on the Blue Ridge Parkway is now complete, and Mount Mitchell State Park has reopened.

On Sept. 15, the National Park Service announced completion of two landslide

repair projects at mileposts 375 and 380 and reopened a section of the parkway from MP 382, in Asheville to MP 355.3 at the Ridge Junction Overlook, near N.C. 80 and the entrance to Mount Mitchell State Park, according to a Sept. 15 news release.

This section of the parkway includes popular locations in the Craggy Gardens area, near MP 364, including the Craggy Gardens Visitor Center, Craggy Pinnacle Trail, and short sections of the Moun-

tains-to-Sea Trail. Closed areas include the Craggy Gardens Picnic Area and sections of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail from the Craggy Trail Shelter to the Snowball Mountain Trail.

The parkway once again provides access to Mount Mitchell State Park, according to N.C. Parks spokesperson Kris Anne Bonifacio.

Most trails within Mount Mitchell

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Gov. Stein asks Congress for \$13.5B Helene aid

George Fabe Russell
Hendersonville Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

HENDERSONVILLE – North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein says he’s requesting billions in new assistance from Congress to go towards aiding small businesses and rebuilding homes, roads and infrastructure damaged nearly a year ago in Tropical Storm Helene.

He is asking for nearly \$13.5 billion in federal funds, he announced at a news conference Sept. 15 at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock, joined by Asheville Mayor or Esther Manheimer and North Carolina State Sen. Kevin Corbin, among many other local officials.



Mayor Manheimer

Corbin and Manheimer are co-chairs of the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery, which met soon afterwards for a Helene recovery update.

“We are grateful for every federal dollar that we have received because it brings us closer to recovery, but we need more help,” Stein said.

“The next stage of recovery is going to require a new commitment from Congress and from the administration to not forget the people of Western North Carolina,” he said.

To date, North Carolina has received federal money worth around 9% of total Helene damage, compared to a median average of 40%-50% of total damage in comparable past weather disasters across the country. States impacted by 2012’s Hurricane Sandy, for example, received 78% of the total storm damage, he said.

“These are the amounts for the entirety of those recoveries, but keep in

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Legendary actor, icon, Robert Redford dies at 89

Legendary actor supported indie films

Brian Truitt
USA TODAY

Robert Redford, the legendary leading man with boyish good looks and charm who used his star power to advocate for independent filmmaking, environmentalism and LGBTQ+ rights, has died. He was 89.

Redford died Sept. 16, at his home at Sundance, Utah, “the place he loved, surrounded by those he loved. He will be missed greatly,” his representative, Cindi Berger, told USA TODAY in a statement. “The family requests privacy.”

During an acting career lasting more than 60 years, Redford became a Hollywood icon with an uncanny knack for

finding the perfect scene partner.

He saddled up with Paul Newman in the 1969 Western buddy adventure “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” and 1973’s hit con-man caper “The Sting” (which snagged Redford a best actor Oscar nomination); starred with Barbra Streisand in the 1973 romance “The Way We Were”; and teamed with Dustin Hoffman for 1976’s journalism thriller “All the President’s Men.”

Redford also found great success off screen and behind the scenes.

In 1981, he won a best director Academy Award for the family drama “Ordinary People.”

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More on Robert Redford
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Robert Redford founded the Sundance Institute to foster the works of indie directors, theater artists and composers. Out of that organization came the popular Sundance Film Festival. EVAN AGOSTINI/GETTY IMAGES FILE



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