



# NC TRAVEL NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina General Assembly news relevant to the North Carolina tourism industry

## Appellate Court Rules Against Currituck Co

*The following is excerpted from a Carolina Journal article published on Tuesday, March 19.*

The NC Court of Appeals has ruled against Currituck County in its dispute with residents over spending of occupancy tax money. Tuesday's decision means Currituck cannot spend occupancy tax proceeds on public safety services.

The decision also revives critics' case against other challenged uses of occupancy tax money. Appellate judges reversed a 2021 trial court order favoring the county.

Appeals Court judges cited an amendment to state law in 2004 "narrowing the scope of how the County may use occupancy tax proceeds," according to the majority opinion. The 20-year-old change limited the funds to promoting tourism.

"An application of guiding legal principles and precedent leads us to conclude that significant alterations to the original language contained in the Session Law and additions included in the Amendment convey an intent by the Legislature to narrow the scope of expenditures funded by the net proceeds of levied occupancy tax," wrote Judge Michael Stading.

## Visit NC Conference Wraps Up in Greenville

*The following article was partially excerpted from a Visit Greenville press release on Monday, March 18.*

The 2024 Visit North Carolina Tourism Conference wrapped up in Greenville on Tuesday after three days of celebrating tourism, bestowing awards, breakout sessions, and catching up with old friends.

"We also raised money through our silent auction to benefit the work of the NC Tourism Education Foundation," said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena. "Thank you to everyone who made bids and helped the Foundation raise \$5800 this week to help continue our work of recruiting future leaders to the tourism industry in North Carolina."



At a luncheon on Monday that featured an appearance by Governor Roy Cooper, Mike Butts was inducted into the prestigious Visit North

Carolina Winner's Circle. Butts is the executive director of Visit Charlotte and vice president, sales, at the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority. He is also a past president of NCTIA.



Other Winner's Circle winners included Allen C. Harper and his family, owners of Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in

Bryson City and American Heritage Railways, its Colorado-based parent company; and Sam Jones, co-owner of Sam Jones BBQ in Winterville and Raleigh and the Skylight Inn BBQ in Ayden.

Glenn Patterson Wilson won the prestigious Esse Quam Videri Award for leading a revival of her hometown of Halifax, a Roanoke River town with rich Revolutionary War history.

Also on Monday, NCTIA lobbyist Brian Lewis was featured alongside Lynn Minges (NC Restaurant & Lodging Association) and Kara Weishaar (NC Travel & Tourism Coalition) on a legislative panel moderated by Chris Cavanaugh (Magellan Strategy Group).

