

# THE NEWS HERALD

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HURRICANE HELENE UPDATE

## STORM DEATH REPORTED IN BURKE



WALT UNKS, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Cars were submerged in the parking lot of Mimosa Hills shopping center at the intersection of U.S. 64 bypass and Carbon City Road in Morganton on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, from the Catawba River and remnants of Hurricane Helene.

### Power restored to most customers

**SARAH JOHNSON AND BILLY CHAPMAN**  
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One death attributed to Hurricane Helene was reported in Catawba County and one was reported in Burke County.

Alexander, Caldwell and Iredell counties have reported no deaths attributed to the storm.

Ten days after the storm, thousands remain without power. Hundreds of thousands of customers were without power in the immediate aftermath of the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

#### Burke County

One fatality in Burke County was reported after a driver hit a tree on Summers Road, according to Burke County Emergency Communications Assistant Director Chris White.

Burke County emergency crews also conducted 31 water rescues, responded to 37 structure collapses and conducted 322 welfare checks.

“None of those turned up to be missing people or anything like that,” White said. “So to our knowledge, we don’t have anybody missing.”

White said areas along the Catawba River, Johns River, Linville River, Lake James and Lake Rhodhiss were most heavily impacted by Helene.

White said the Catawba River spread 100 to 150 yards in some places from its banks.

The county received 4,722 emergency calls for service Thursday and Friday. An additional 315 calls were routed to Catawba County while emergency service lines were down in Burke County.

Thirty swift water rescues have been

conducted in Burke County.

Last week, Burke County water systems reported power outages and boil water advisories. This week, White said no public water systems are under a boil water advisory. White said test kits for private wells have been ordered but not received yet.

Over 1,800 customers were without power Monday afternoon in Burke County, the majority of which receive service from Rutherford EMC.

Seven roads were closed on Monday in Burke County due to Helene damage, according to DriveNC.gov.

#### Catawba County

Approximately 100 homes in the Look-out Shoals Lake area were flooded during Hurricane Helene.

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### Controlling a hurricane’s path, power? No way, scientists say

Geoengineers still looking to reverse humans’ damage to global climate, however

**MELINA WALLING AND SETH BORENSTEIN**  
Associated Press

Hurricanes are humanity’s reminder of the uncontrollable, chaotic power of Earth’s weather.

Milton’s powerful push toward Florida just days after Helene devastated large parts of the Southeast likely has some in the region wondering if they are being targeted. In some corners of the Internet, Helene has already sparked conspiracy theories and disinformation suggesting the government somehow aimed the hur-

ricane at Republican voters.

Besides discounting common sense, such theories disregard weather history that shows the hurricanes are hitting many of the same areas they have for centuries. They also presume an ability for humans to quickly reshape the weather far beyond relatively puny efforts such as cloud seeding.

“If meteorologists could stop hurricanes, we would stop hurricanes,” Kristen Corbosiero, a professor of atmospheric and environmental sciences at the University at Albany.

“If we could control the weather, we would not want the kind of death and destruction that’s happened.”

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MIKE STEWART, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A damaged 100-year-old home is seen after an oak tree landed on it after Hurricane Helene moved through the area Sept. 27 in Valdosta, Ga.