

Burke County schools out all week due to aftermath of Hurricane Helene

September 30, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Virginia Annable | Section: Education | 155 Words OpenURL Link

Burke County Public Schools will be closed through Friday for students, the school system announced on Monday.

The closure includes YMCA before- and after-school sites, a news release from Burke County Public Schools said.

"As emergency crews continue to work to restore power and water throughout the county, we are carefully evaluating the condition of our 24 school campuses," the release said. "Decisions about reopening schools next week will be made based on the status of water, power and the ability to provide meals at our schools."

Thursday and Friday this week will be optional work days for teachers and staff, the school system said.

"We want our staff to know that family and personal situations take precedence," the release said. "We will have separate messaging for staff on facilities that are open for optional work."

Area schools

Caldwell County Schools are off Tuesday, Oct. 1, due to road conditions and power outages, the school system said in a release.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

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Lenoir-Rhyne football stays undefeated with Sunday win over Tusculum

September 30, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Lenoir-Rhyne University Office of Athletic Communications | Section: Lenoir Rhyne | 205 Words OpenURL Link

Playing in a rare Sunday contest due to the effects of Hurricane Helene, the No. 6 Bears took down Tusculum University 37-23 at Shuford Stadium in Salisbury.

With the win, Lenoir-Rhyne moves to 4-0 (2-0 SAC), while Tusculum drops to 0-3 (0-2 SAC).

After falling behind 3-0 in the first quarter, Lenoir-Rhyne scored 21 unanswered points in the second to go into the locker room with a commanding lead. DeAree Rogers notched a receiving touchdown in the decisive period, Alex Boyd scored on the ground and Christian Santana added a pick six.

Tusculum struck first in the third, but LR answered with a Jake Brown field goal and another Boyd touchdown before Tye Roberson iced the game with a 32-yard touchdown run in the fourth.

Quarterback Jalen Ferguson went 23-for-34 with 351 yards and a touchdown. He is second in the South Atlantic Conference, averaging 268.3 passing yards per game.

Boyd set a career high with 77 rushing yards and two scores. Andre Jefferson finished with seven tackles, two tackles for loss and a sack. He now has 33.5 sacks in his career.

The undefeated Bears will visit Emory & Henry University on Saturday. The Wasps are coming off a 37-24 loss to Limestone. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Lenoir-Rhyne University Office of Athletic Communications, 'Lenoir-Rhyne football stays undefeated with Sunday win over Tusculum', *News Herald, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEBD3AD744D538>



Morganton water could be back to normal as early as Tuesday; Several tanks without power Monday

September 30, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Chrissy Murphy| Section: Local | 302 Words OpenURL Link

After a weekend of flooding, the city of Morganton's water system could be back to normal as early as Tuesday, Oct. 1, if water safety testing goes well Monday.

Jonelle Sigmon, public information officer for the city of Morganton, said repairs had been made to the city's pump station after it was flooded during Hurricane Helene's torrential downpour.

Monday morning, Sigmon said the city was waiting on testing for bacteria in the water to be completed before it could call off the city's boil water advisory.

The testing takes at least 24 hours, so it will be at least Tuesday before the boil water advisory in Morganton is canceled, she said.

If there is too much bacteria in the water, the test will be redone until the results are good.

Some areas with water supplied by Morganton were out of water Monday. Pumps at the Oakhill water tank, Lake James water tank and Grandview water tank did not have power, the city said in a Facebook post Monday. The tanks were without water. The city was working to get power to the pumps with generators. Water was expected to be restored by the end of the day on Monday, the city said.

The town of Drexel's water pumps were not operational as of Monday afternoon, the town said in a Facebook post. The town is working to have power to the pumps within a day, the post said.

For city of Morganton electric customers, crews from cities around North Carolina have come to the area to get power restored.

By 4:30 p.m. Sunday, there were 4,500 people in the city without power, according to a press release from the city.

The city asked anyone who is using a generator to turn the main breaker off in the home to make sure no linemen are electrocuted while working on power lines.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Chrissy Murphy, 'Morganton water could be back to normal as early as Tuesday; Several tanks without power Monday', *News Herald, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEBD3ADA277EE0>



WPD to host National Night Out Tuesday

September 30, 2024 | News Reporter, The (Whiteville, NC) Author: NR Staff news@nrcolumbus.com| Section: News| 250 Words OpenURL Link

Whiteville Police Department is inviting the public to get to know its officers better at its annual National Night Out event, scheduled for Tuesday.

National Night Out is a "community-building campaign" meant to promote "neighborhood camaraderie" between police officers and the public, according to the organization's website.

Although the National Night Out event was originally scheduled for Aug. 6, WPD rescheduled it to Tuesday, Oct. 1, due to Tropical Storm Debby.

Tuesday evening's get-together will include games, an inflatable slide, face painting and more — along with free food, according to a WPD Facebook post.

"Come on out, get to know your local law enforcement officers and enjoy an evening full of fun," the Facebook post said.

National Night Out will be held in the Whiteville City Hall parking lot from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. City hall is located at 317 S. Madison St.

CCSO cancels National Night Out

The Columbus County Sheriff's Office won't host a National Night Out event this year.

Like the WPD, the CCSO rescheduled its Aug. 6 event due to Tropical Storm Debby, picking Friday, Sept. 27, as its new date. However, with Hurricane Helene approaching late last week and inclement weather expected in the county, CCSO canceled the event, adding it wouldn't be rescheduled.

"While we are disappointed that we won't be able to gather with our community this time, your safety is our top priority," CCSO said in a Sept. 26 Facebook post. "We appreciate your understanding and support, and we look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event!"

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• Citation (aglc Style)

NR Staff news@nrcolumbus.com, 'WPD to host National Night Out Tuesday', *News Reporter, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFDB8A45934D0



Colletsville, hardest hit by Helene, begins to assess damages

September 30, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com| Section: Archives | 317 Words OpenURL Link

The community of Colletsville, NC, saw the worst of Caldwell County's flooding and storm damage following the impact of Tropical Storm Helene. Here is a brief update on the situation and recovery efforts in the Colletsville community from Caldwell County public information officer Paige Counts.

On Friday, September 27, Counts described Colletsville as an "island," with heavy flooding cutting the area off from the rest of the county. Heavy winds downed trees and power lines, further restricting travel.

As of Monday, September 30, Counts said floodwaters have receded, at least somewhat, and residents of the community are not in immediate danger. County personnel have been able to reach and check in on the majority of residents in and around Wilson Creek. A swiftwater team from Cary, NC, and a National Guard unit with a high water vehicle have made safety and traversal within the area possible, and has assisted with delivering important resources into the community.

Counts said that a significant and continuing challenge for recovery in the community is access to medical oxygen, though Caldwell Emergency Medical Services are making headway at meeting this challenge. Counts said that more people are able to leave the area now than were able to before, if necessary.

Flooding has led to large deposits of mud and debris on public roads and has permanently changed the flow of Wilson Creek, Counts said. Significant assessment will be required to understand what kind of impact that change will have on the area, and more information will be needed to know which roads are safe and which will require repair.

The county presently advises people to continue to avoid the area until further assessment can be made. Additional information will be revealed as those assessments continue.

The county is requesting residents complete a damage assessment survey to assist the county with recovery efforts. The survey, and other information about the county's Helene response, can be found at caldwellcountync.org/494/Helene

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• Citation (aglc Style)

SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com, 'Colletsville, hardest hit by Helene, begins to assess damages', *News-Topic, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFFAF60662C98>



Caldwell County steadily recovers from Helene's destruction

September 30, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com| Section: Archives | 873 Words OpenURL Link

Following widespread devastation in Western North Carolina due to damages from the impact of Tropical Storm Helene, Caldwell County sprung into the recovery process, with county, state and federal resources devoted to mitigating the damage and restoring power and internet access to those who lost it. Here is an update of the recovery process thus far.

Power

According to data from FindEnergy.com, roughly 19,251 of 41,100 county energy customers are without power as of 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 30, with 13,459 of Duke Energy's 24,068 customers and 5,792 of 16,120 Blue Ridge Energy customers without power. As of the same time, Duke estimates power restoration for most county customers by 11:45 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4.

In a press release, Blue Ridge Energy said, "Of the cooperative's 8,500 miles of power line, 6,800 miles are damaged from the storm. That number is rising as damage assessments continue as flooding subsides and crews cut their way into blocked locations critical to power restoration. Line crews are seeing roads that are totally gone—no pavement, gravel or dirt—and are rebuilding power lines and placing poles to get power restored. At the height of the outages on Friday evening, 63,819 members were without power, 80% of Blue Ridge Energy's system. As of Monday 1:30 pm, 34,341 members remain without power after a 24/7 outage restoration effort that is now entering 4th day."

"Crews are working in all counties and must first ensure transmission lines and substations are repaired and energized so that power can flow to distribution lines that power communities and homes," said Renee Walker, director of public relations at Blue Ridge Energy. "Crews are doing an amazing job and we appreciate the support of everyone who has helped feed and house them to keep them going in the field."

The press release also extended thanks to dozens of other line crews and other workers who have appeared to assist the cooperative in recovery efforts.

Caldwell County

Caldwell County public information officer Paige Counts said that main travel routes in the county are primarily open, but side streets and secondary roads still have trees and power lines down, blocking travel. Counts said that businesses are beginning to reopen as power and internet access are restored thanks to the efforts of line crews and internet service workers.

Counts said that the county has been working on recovery ever since Helene landed. First responders and line workers have been ready to respond to emergency situations and outages. The county's emergency shelter stationed at West Caldwell High School is still open for stranded or displaced individuals, and has been used largely for recharging essential medical equipment. Counts said that this service will remain available for the time being. Those entering the shelter should do so from the Cafeteria, where the buses are parked.

Counts said that multiple county events, such as the Fire and Safety Fair and Hazardous Waste Day are canceled or postponed.

The county is developing and implementing a debris removal plan. Residents are asked to place debris by the road for pickup. Debris will need to be separated into three piles, one for leaves and tree branches, one for construction

debris, and one for items like furniture that do not fit neatly into either of the other categories. Debris must not block fire hydrants pathways for water runoff like ditches or storm drains, and must not be placed under overhead power lines. Pickup will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 2, by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The county is requesting residents complete a damage assessment survey to assist the county with recovery efforts. The survey, and other information about the county's Helene response, can be found at caldwellcountync.org/494/Helene

The county is also working on a plan for volunteers and donations to further assist with recovery.

Counts extended thanks to first responders, line crews and other individuals helping to clear roads and restore power and internet access to Caldwell residents. She also extended thanks to North Carolina State Representative Destin Hall for working with the county and advocating for Caldwell in Raleigh and to United States Representative Virginia Foxx for advocating for the area in Washington.

Lenoir

In a press release, the City of Lenoir announced that City Hall was opening on Monday, Sept. 30. The city advised residents to stay off the roads unless necessary to reduce the risk of collision in areas where traffic lights are still without power. Residents were reminded that, without working lights, intersections should be treated as four-way stops.

The city said that the water and wastewater treatment plants are operating normally and that city water is safe to drink. The release said that Monday, September 30's garbage route will be collected on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Lenoir's parks and recreation centers are closed until further notice, until assessments can be made to determine their safety. Public Works and Fire Department personnel are working to clear roads to restore access to multiple Lenoir communities, according to the release. The Lenoir Police Department's National Night Out is canceled, and will not be rescheduled in 2024.

Caldwell County Schools

Classes were canceled for Monday, Sept. 30, and Tuesday, Oct. 1, with optional teachers workdays for teachers who can work safely. The system has not yet made a determination on when school will start back, and has said that safety is its priority.

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UNC Health provides free virtual care visits for Western N.C. residents

September 30, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 379 Words OpenURL Link

UNC Health is providing free virtual care for residents of Western North Carolina hardest hit by Hurricane Helene, according to a press release from the health system.

As counties in Western North Carolina recover and clean up from the storm, adult residents (ages 18+) can see a UNC Health primary care provider for mild symptoms without an appointment – with no fees – through UNC Health Virtual Care Now, according to the press release.

Using a camera- and microphone-enabled phone, tablet or computer, patients can access convenient, secure and flexible care. Patients can get in line for Virtual Care Now through My UNC Chart. If patients do not have a My UNC Chart account, they can easily get one when they register, according to the press release.

Virtual services are available 6 a.m. – 10 p.m., 7 days per week for a wide range of conditions, including fever, cold or flu, insect bites, rash, and more. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please dial 911.

"Our patients and teammates in Western North Carolina are dealing with widespread power outages, extreme flooding, mudslides, road closures and more," said Dr. Wesley Burks, CEO of UNC Health. "We will support our patients, teammates and communities in this time of greatest need. We want to offer free virtual services for those who have stable Internet access – and will continue to provide in-person care at our clinics and hospitals and clinics."

In addition to providing free virtual care, UNC Health is responding to Hurricane Helene recovery in other ways, including:

UNC Health providers from across the state are volunteering to help at the system's hospitals hit hardest by the storm, including UNC Health Appalachian in Boone, UNC Health Pardee in Hendersonville, UNC Health Blue Ridge in Morganton, and UNC Health Caldwell in Lenoir.

UNC Health is sending a wide range of medical supplies to support those hospitals. We are also coordinating donations for teammates affected by the storm.

Our critical care transport team are supporting any patients that require transfers to other hospitals.

Our information technology team is working hard to restore phone and Internet networks at hospitals and clinics.

Several UNC Health Urgent Care clinics in Western North Carolina have reopened and will be able to treat patients this week.

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STAFF REPORTS, 'UNC Health provides free virtual care visits for Western N.C. residents', *News-Topic, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEC2846D7F52D8



Power restoration will last through next week, Blue Ridge Energy says

September 30, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 383 Words OpenURL Link

Blue Ridge Energy line crews are working to repair and replace much of Blue Ridge Energy's 8,000 miles of power line across seven counties following Hurricane Helene, according to a press release from Blue Ridge Energy.

As of 5:30 p.m. Sunday, outages stood at over 37,000 members without power with 7,802 in Caldwell County specifically without power. Damage is widespread across the cooperative's service area, according to the press release.

"Much of our 8,000 miles of power lines and poles, often in very remote areas, are needing to be rebuilt," said Renee Walker, director of public relations. "Crews are actively sawing their way into extremely damaged areas, rebuilding roads and doing everything possible to reach every possible damaged area," she said. "Many areas still flooded or totally inaccessible due to collapsed or washed away roads," Walker added.

Blue Ridge Energy advises members that power restoration will last through next week. At the height of outages on Friday, 63,000 Blue Ridge Energy members were without power.

Many states were impacted by Hurricane Helene and Blue Ridge Energy thanks the following assisting line crews, tree workers and construction crews who have been able to join us in restoration efforts: Halifax EMC, Tri-County EMC, Wake EMC, South River EMC, Roanoke Cooperative, Four County EMC, Caper Hatteras EMC, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, Lee Electric, as well as Treeline Helicopter and tree contractors with Foothills Tree, Lucas Tree Experts, Xylem Tree, and Kendall Vegetation, according to the press release.

"Much of our system is on the ground," Walker said. "Downed power lines can still be energized and therefore dangerous or even deadly so the public should stay far away." The cooperative warns that downed lines can be hidden underneath fallen trees, water and other affected structures. Only a trained line technician should ever go near a downed power line. Blue Ridge Energy is assessing damage and members can also report downed lines by calling 1-800-451-5474.

While Blue Ridge Energy is aware of outages and system operators are monitoring conditions, members should only report outages by calling PowerLine at 1-800-448-2383, by using the Blue Ridge Energy mobile app, or, by texting OUT to 70216. Outage reports cannot be accepted over social media. Outage status is available 24/7 on the cooperative's live outage map at www.BlueRidgeEnergy.com and on the mobile app.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

STAFF REPORTS, 'Power restoration will last through next week, Blue Ridge Energy says', *News-Topic, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEC28465761E50



Blue Ridge Energy: Power restoration will last through next week

September 30, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 434 Words OpenURL Link

Blue Ridge Energy line crews are working to repair and replace much of Blue Ridge Energy's 8,000 miles of power line across seven counties following Hurricane Helene, according to a press release from Blue Ridge Energy.

At the height of the outages on Friday evening, 63,819 members were without power — equalling about 80% of Blue Ridge Energy's system. As of Monday at 1:30 p.m., 34,341 members remain without power after a 24/7 outage restoration effort that is now entering fourth day.

At the last total Sunday evening, 7,802 in Caldwell County specifically were without power. Damage is widespread across the cooperative's service area, according to the press release.

"Much of our 8,000 miles of power lines and poles, often in very remote areas, are needing to be rebuilt," said Renee Walker, director of public relations. "Crews are actively sawing their way into extremely damaged areas, rebuilding roads and doing everything possible to reach every possible damaged area," she said. "Many areas still flooded or totally inaccessible due to collapsed or washed away roads," Walker added.

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This story was updated to reflect new numbers from Blue Ridge Energy for Monday.

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STAFF REPORTS, 'Blue Ridge Energy: Power restoration will last through next week', *News-Topic, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFFAF50425698>



Some UNC Health Urgent Care practices reopen following extreme weather in the region

September 30, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: STAFF REPORTS | Section: Archives | 175 Words OpenURL Link

Following the extreme weather, flooding and power outages caused by Hurricane Helene, some UNC Health urgent care practices in western North Carolina have reopened and are seeing patients, according to a press release from UNC Health.

Affiliated with UNC Health Caldwell, the following urgent care practices are reopening Monday, Sept. 30 at 9 a.m.:

Community Pharmacy: 321 Mulberry Street SW in Lenoir, N.C. (located in Caldwell Memorial Hospital with drive-thru access) — Open 7 a.m. — 10 p.m. (until further notice)Hickory PLUS Urgent Care: 36 14th Ave NE, Hickory, N.C. — Open today 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.RiverCrest PLUS Urgent Care: 160 River Bend Drive, Granite Falls, N.C. — Open today 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.Robbins PLUS Urgent Care: 322 Mulberry Street, SW, Lenoir, N.C. — Open today 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.Southfork PLUS Urgent Care: 1731 Connelly Springs Rd, Lenoir, N.C. — Open today 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.The Falls Pediatrics PLUS Urgent Care: 4355 Hickory Blvd, Granite Falls, N.C. — Open today 11 a.m. — 6 p.m. — sees patients newborn to age 18

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STAFF REPORTS, 'Some UNC Health Urgent Care practices reopen following extreme weather in the region', *News-Topic, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEC284683142C8>



Lady Bearcats keep rolling - Regular season wraps up next Thursday

September 30, 2024 | Richmond County Daily Journal (Rockingham, NC)

Section: sports | 342 Words

OpenURL Link

The Anson High School Lady Bearcat Volleyball Team managed to fit in a pair of victories before Hurricane Helene's arrival postponed multiple AHS athletic activities.

Before the impromptu break, the Bearcats picked up a pair of victories over Piedmont and Chesterfield, gathering a bit of momentum in the final week of regular season action.

After wrapping up the previous week with a 3-0 sweep of Forest Hills, the Lady Bearcats got back to work Tuesday with another sweep - this time at the expense of the Piedmont Lady Panthers (5-11). After suffereing a 25-11 blowout in the first set, the Piedmont made a game of it in the second, nearly matching Anson point-for-point until eventually succumbing 25-22. Piedmont did not have the same success in the third, falling 25-17 and dropping their record to 5-10. Anson, meanwhile, improved to 10-4. Anson senior middle blocker Alena Baxter had a team-leading 10 kills, followed by outside hitter Brooklyn Miles and Lauren Lomax, who each had 5. Miles also had a team-leading, followed by libero Hannah Austin's 3, then Baxter and Lomax, who each had a pair. Defensively, middle blocker Eva Hyatt had three blocks while Austin and Allie Steagall finished the night tied for digs with 14 each.

A day later, the Chesterfield Lady Golden Rams (4-4) gave Anson a bit of a scare - taking the first set in extra sets 27025 - before the Lady Bearcats settled in to take the next three sets 25-21, 25-11 and 25-19. Baxter ended the night with a team-leading 14 kills, followed by Miles with 8 and Steagall with 7. Miles also had a team-leading 6 aces, followed by Steagall (3) and Baxter (2). Defensively, Steagall had a team-leading 22 digs, followd by Miles (17) and Austin (12). Hyatt had a pair of blocks. With the win, the Lady Bearcats improved to 11-4.

The Lady Bearcats return to the hardwood Monday, looking to avenge a five-set loss to Parkwood (11-4), then wrap up the week with road games against Monroe (2-8) and Central Academy (6-11) Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

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'Lady Bearcats keep rolling - Regular season wraps up next Thursday', *Richmond County Daily Journal* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEB5AA5D59AFE8



Food bank mobilizes for relief in aftermath of Hurricane Helene

September 30, 2024 | RockinghamNow (NC) Author: JENNY MOORE Second Harvest Food Bank | Section: Rockingham Now | 665 Words OpenURL Link

WINSTON-SALEM—Governor Cooper has requested an Expedited Major Disaster Declaration for 39 North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which will bring much-needed resources to areas of our state impacted by Hurricane Helene, including Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, hazard mitigation, and more.

The state's Feeding America Food Banks, including Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina, in conjunction with their state association, Feeding the Carolinas, are working with emergency management organizations and mobilizing drinking water, food and cleaning supplies to address the immediate needs of families who lives have been upturned by the devastating impacts of this historic storm.

Counties served by Second Harvest Foodbank affected by Hurricane Helene include Alexander,

Alleghany, Ashe, Caldwell, Forsyth, Iredell, Surry, Yadkin, Watauga and Wilkes.

Initial response plan for Second Harvest service area

Second Harvest is contacting its partner food assistance network in communities hit by the storm to assess impacts to operations and other immediate needs.

Second Harvest will be deploying food, including ready-to-eat meals, in collaboration with its partners who are still able to operate, with a focus on the highest need areas.

Financial donations will enable Second Harvest to purchase large quantities of necessary food and supplies for direct distribution to residents impacted by the flooding, food pantries, and shelters.

Across Second Harvest Food Bank's service area, 10 of the organization's 18 service area counties have been severely affected by the storm.

Major road and highway closures caused by flooding, downed trees, and mudslides, particularly in rural and mountainous areas, pose challenges to Second Harvest response efforts. Second Harvest and our collaborating partners ask that the community members avoid driving into affected areas for your safety and to allow emergency response vehicles and our delivery trucks clear access to impacted areas.

Food pantries affected in Second Harvest Food Bank's service area

Early reports are that food assistance organizations within our network are experiencing operational disruptions due to road closures, power outages, and damaged facilities. This has and will continue to affect their ability to distribute food to neighbors in need at a time when our network is already experiencing sustained high requests for help.

Severe flooding in Watauga, Ashe, Wilkes, Alexander, Caldwell, Surry, and Yadkin Counties has caused severe damage to some partner pantry facilities, destroying cooling and refrigeration units, is expected to impact their ability to provide assistance for the multiple weeks. In more urban areas, such as Winston-Salem and Statesville, our partner pantries were already struggling to meet increased requests for food assistance. Power outages in some neighborhoods will most certainly have resulted in food spoilage and create a greater burden on these organizations' ability to assist our neighbors.

With the widespread destruction, it is reasonable to expect that food insecurity will further increase across the region due to the storm's impact. This includes families who have lost their homes or access to food, as well as those who will experience job loss due to business closures.

How you can help

Monetary Donations Are Essential. The most effective way to support our efforts right now is by making a financial donation. This allows us to quickly purchase food, water, and other essential supplies for the people who need them most. Please visit Second Harvest Food Bank's website to make a donation today. Local purchases, as possible, will also support local economies.

We do not recommend organizing activities to collect supplies or travel to the impacted areas since first responders – both government and nonprofit – are trained and prepared to execute action plans that create the best results for the communities affected. While such efforts are done out of a desire to help, the reality is that these activities can complicate relief efforts and take time and resources away from the efforts by groups tasked with response responsibilities.

Spread the word

Help us raise awareness of the need in our community by sharing information and updates from our social channels and website. Encourage your neighbors, churches, and community groups to contribute by donating or volunteering. Use the hashtag #HeleneReliefSHFB on social media to amplify our call to action.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

JENNY MOORE Second Harvest Food Bank, 'Food bank mobilizes for relief in aftermath of Hurricane Helene', *RockinghamNow* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view??
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEBDD006527C08>



A lot to be decided in week No. 7 on the gridiron

September 30, 2024 | RockinghamNow (NC) Author: Jim Sands | Section: Sports | 1259 Words OpenURL Link

For Rockingham, first place in the Mid-State 3A Conference is on the line. Meanwhile, Reidsville is looking to remain undefeated with a county rival standing in the way. On the other side of the coin, Morehead and McMichael are just hoping to stay relevant as the second half of the season begins. Let's take a look at what's on deck:

Rockingham (2-0) at Eastern Guilford (2-0, 2-3)

It took the Cougars a few days to dry out after pulling off a 9-6 win over Smith in the torrential, pouring rain from the approach of Hurricane Helene on Sept. 26

Sunny skies are forecast this week, however, as Rockingham gets set to face their toughest Mid-State 3A Conference opponent of the season to-date in Eastern Guilford this Friday night at 7 p.m.

After a losing their first three games of the season to Northern Guilford, Williams and Western Alamance, respectively – all nonconference opponents – the Wildcats have won their last two over Mid-State 3A rivals Northeast Guilford (1-1, 2-3) and High Point Central (0-2, 0-5) in impressive fashion. The Wildcats had a 54-24 road win over Northeast Guilford on Sept. 20, followed by a 64-0 shutout victory over High Point Central last Thursday.

Rockingham, Eastern Guilford and Dudley all enter the week tied for first place in the Mid-State 3A Conference with unblemished league marks. There is a lot on the line for the Cougars and Wildcats in particular, as they try and build post season worthy resumes.

Based on their current trajectories, a win for Rockingham could mean a great season and a shot at a home playoff game, while a loss could mean hitting the road in the postseason to face a top seed or missing the playoffs altogether.

For Eastern Guilford, a loss could mean a bubble spot, whereas a win could mean a showdown for first place.

This is all speculation at this point, however, because there are still several games left to play. Best case scenario for the winner, is a shot at a Mid-State 3A Conference regular season title if both continue the winning track and knock off undefeated Dudley (2-0, 5-0), and that's a tall order.

Rockingham enters the game battle-tested, however, following two consecutive wins.

"It's a big week ... you've got three teams vying for a chance at first, so obviously us and Eastern Guilford is a big game at their place. They are going to be ready to play. They are well-coached, but we are going to be ready to go, too," Rockingham head coach Doug Robertson said.

Ironically, it was Robertson that helped rebuild the Eastern Guilford football program as the Wildcats former head coach. This week, he and the Cougars will focus on beating his former team, a place that still holds a special place in his heart.

"I think what we were able to do over there from 2012 to 2019 was special, and I think if I had anything to do with that, we changed the mindset of what football needed to be there. Football wasn't real important when I got there, but when I left, football became important and it stayed that way with the coaches they hired. It's certainly nice to see their program flourishing. I have a lot of great memories there and love for that place and it's still going. They are doing good things there, and Tim Bagamary is a heck of a head coach and he's got a really good staff. But

we're at Rockingham now and focused on getting ready to go over there and beat an Eastern Guilford team that's going to be really well-coached and are a really good team," said Robertson.

Reidsville (1-0, 5-0) at McMichael (0-2, 1-5)

McMichael is probably not looking forward to this Friday's home game with undefeated Reidsville coming to town fresh off a bye week. The Phoenix (0-2, 1-5) are still smarting following a 59-0 shutout loss at North Forsyth on Sept. 26, a team the Rams defeated 37-0 the previous week.

McMichael is averaging 14 points per game, while allowing 34.1 on average defensively and have been shutout in their last two games.

Meanwhile the Rams (1-0, 5-0) are surging, averaging 40.2 points per game and allowing just nine per contest. They will enter the game supremely confident after the aforementioned win over North Forsyth in week five.

One of the questions for Reidsville entering the 2024 season was who would step into primary leadership positions with the graduation of several prominent seniors from the 2023 NCHSAA state championship team.

Two great ones have emerged, however, in senior running back Jariel Cobb and junior quarterback Dionte Neal.

Cobb emerged as the go-to guy in the 28-18 win over Clinton in the 2023 title game after rushing for 145 yards on 24 carries. That momentum carried over to 2024.

Cobb has already amassed 790 yards rushing on 75 attempts and scored 10 touchdowns. He's a vocal leader a lot of the young guys look up to, and his play on the field sets the example of what is expected of a championship team.

After making the transition from wide receiver last year to quarterback in 2024, Neal is obviously the voice and heart of the offense. He stepped into a difficult situation following the departure of 2023 2A NCHSAA MVP quarterback Al Lee, who broke multiple program passing records during his senior year. But Neal's decision-making has been superb, and he's got the numbers to prove it. He's completed 75 of 95 attempts for 886 yards. Neal has thrown a dozen touchdowns and only one interception this season. He's also spreading the ball around, evidenced by five different Reidsville receivers having scored touchdowns so far this season.

At this point, it looks like a three-horse race for the Mid-State 2A Conference championship with the Rams, West Stokes (2-0, 5-1) and Walkertown (1-0, 4-1) head-and-shoulders above the rest of the league.

History won't be on McMichael's side this Friday night when Reidsville comes to town. The Phoenix have never defeated the Rams since the two teams met for the first time in 1989.

Reidsville has had unprecedented domination within the county lines for nearly two decades.

The last county team to garner a win over Reidsville was Morehead in a 34-28 road loss to the Panthers in 2005 – 18 years ago.

Morehead (1-1, 1-5) at Walkertown (1-0, 4-1)

After finally getting the monkey off of their collective backs with a 27-0 win over county rival McMichael the previous week, Morehead suffered a 24-6 loss at West Stokes (2-0, 5-1) on Sept. 26. The Panthers will have their hands full once again with a very good Walkertown team on deck this Friday.

The Wolfpack is coming off a 14-6 win over High Point Central last Saturday. Walkertown could very well be undefeated after a fourth quarter rally came up just short in a 21-20 road loss to North Davidson on Sept. 13.

First-year Walkertown head coach Tripp Honeycutt is quickly climbing the coaching ranks, rebuilding the Wolfpack program after two seasons as the coach at South Davidson. Another win for Honeycutt and Walkertown puts him in serious consideration for Mid-State 2A Conference Coach of the Year, if he hasn't already done so.

Wolfpack sophomore quarterback Santana Garcia has thrown 8 TDs and completed 62% of his passes so far this season, while his number one target senior wide receiver Mitrend Curry has caught seven of those touchdown throws. Walkertown has put big numbers on the board with their running game, led by senior back Cam Kelly who has scored 11 touchdowns.

No matter who emerges victorious the week in the three county games, the playoff picture will certainly become more clear.

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Schools, businesses, churches collect items for Helene victims

September 30, 2024 | Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: David Cruz | Section: School News | 431 Words
OpenURL Link

Area schools, businesses and churches are working together to help people in the western part of state hit hard by Hurricane Helene last week.

Elite Overhead Garage Doors and ClearVue Window Cleaning are leading one such supply and food drive effort.

Jet Hatu, owner of Elite Overhead Garage Doors, said that she will be accepting donations at her business, located at 415 S. Wesleyan Blvd. in Rocky Mount, throughout the week.

"Please help us help our friends in the western part of the state," she said.

Rocky Mount Academy is pitching in by accepting donations from the student body and parents that can be dropped off before or after school at the carpool line.

Items requested include bottled water, sports drinks, baby wipes, diapers for adults and children, baby formula, bug spray, sunscreen, plastic utensils, paper plates, napkins and paper towels.

Manual can openers, non-perishable foods, trash bags, cleaning supplies, dental hygiene items, toiletries, pet food, hand sanitizer and wipes, feminine hygiene items, work gloves, new socks and gift cards are also being accepted.

Gift cards should be placed in envelopes with the amount written on the front of the envelope.

Other schools and businesses are teaming up with the United Methodist Church to get donated items into the hands of people in need.

At Rocky Mount High School, its Fellowship of Student Athletes organization is teaming up with First United Methodist Church in downtown Rocky Mount to collect items for flood victims to clean their homes.

Items requested for the "flood buckets" drive include clean five-gallon buckets with lids, a scrub brush, a 32- to 64-ounce bottle liquid of laundry detergent, a 16- to 40-ounce bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner, a 16- to 34-ounce bottle of dish soap, a 4-to 8-ounce of pump spray air freshener and either a 6-to 14-ounce of pump spray of insect repellent or a pack of 10-20 insect repellant towelettes.

Other requested items for the flood buckets include 18 reusable cleaning wipes, five scouring pads (without soap), 36 to 50 clothespins, 50-100 feet of clothesline, five N95 particulate respirator masks, a roll of heavy-duty trash bags, two pairs of kitchen gloves and a pair of work gloves.

Those wishing to stock flood buckets for this drive can drop them off at the front office of the high school, said Alyson Girouard, a member of the faculty there and a member of First United Methodist. Completed buckets and items also can be dropped off at the church Monday-Thursday or on Sunday.

Rocky Mount High School is located at 1400 Bethlehem Road in Rocky Mount. First United Methodist is located at 100 S. Church St. in Rocky Mount.

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MLB: Braves, Mets make playoffs

September 30, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC) Author: Post Sports | Section: High School Sports | 979 Words OpenURL Link

MLB: Braves, Mets make playoffs

Published 9:14 pm Monday, September 30, 2024

By Post Sports

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — A final day that wasn't on the schedule and won't soon be forgotten.

An improbable comeback by the New York Mets in the opening game of a makeup doubleheader to secure their playoff berth. A gritty recovery by the Atlanta Braves in the nightcap, stamping their postseason ticket, as well.

And all the Arizona Diamondbacks could do was watch hopelessly from the desert, their hopes snuffed out by two games on the other side of the country.

"You're just focused on getting into the postseason," said Braves first baseman Matt Olson, soaked in champagne as he celebrated a 3-0 win in the last game of the regular season. "Whatever it took. If we had to play four games today, we would have done it."

The regular season went to extra innings after the Mets and Braves had a pair of games rained out last week by Hurricane Helene. They controlled their own fates, with each holding a tiebreaker edge over the defending NL champion Diamondbacks.

Arizona needed one team to sweep, so they were pulling for the Mets after they overcame deficits of 3-0 in the eighth inning and 7-6 in the ninth to win the opener, going ahead for good on Francisco Lindor's two-run homer.

"That was one of the craziest games I've ever been a part of," said Carlos Mendoza, the Mets rookie manager. "Just the meaning of it. Coming back in the game and then losing the lead and then coming back again in the ninth. It was unbelievable, like you should write a book."

The Braves, to their credit, bounced back to get the win they had to have. Even after ace Chris Sale was scratched because of back spasms, journeyman Grant Holmes stepped in to lead off a three-hitter spread among six pitchers.

At the end, in the perfect capper to a wacky day, there were champagne-spraying celebrations in both clubhouses at Truist Park.

Holmes found out he was starting about a half-hour before the first pitch.

"I was about to go get some food," he said. "They came up to me and said, 'Hey, you're going to start this one off today.' And I was like, 'Oh, OK, here we go.'"

With their postseason berth locked up, the Mets added left-hander Joey Lucchesi to the roster to start the second game. The 31-year-old left-hander spent most of the season at Triple-A Syracuse, giving up five runs in 4 1/3 innings in his lone big league appearance before Monday,

He was a totally different pitcher against the Braves, who might've still been a bit shellshocked after the way they lost the opener. Lucchesi (0-2) allowed just three hits, including a run-scoring single to Gio Urshela, in a six-inning, 111-pitch outing.

But Marcell Ozuna gave the Braves some breathing room with a two-run single in the seventh. Daysbel Hernandez (3-0) earned the win and Raisel Iglesias finished it off for his 34th save in 37 chances.

The Braves also got a scoreless inning from starter Reynaldo López, who had pitched six innings just two days earlier.

"I'm so proud of all those guys," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "It takes the whole building to make something like this happen."

The Mets were already in celebration mode after Lindor's 33rd homer.

Trailing 3-0 after managing just three singles through seven innings against rookie Spencer Schwellenbach, New York's offense came to life in the eighth.

The Mets surged ahead with a six-run outburst, capped by Brandon Nimmo's two-run homer. The Braves stormed back with four runs in the bottom half, as Ozzie Albies delivered a bases-loaded double with two outs for a 7-6 lead.

But New York delivered the final blow with Lindor's drive into the Braves bullpen off Pierce Johnson (7-5).

"I got the pitch that I wanted and you never know if the ball is going to go out or not," Lindor said. "But I feel like I got it 100% and all I kept saying was, 'Thank you, Jesus.' We're one step closer, we got to finish it. Finish, finish, finish."

Edwin Díaz (6-4) earned the win with a season-high 40 pitches despite giving up Albies' go-ahead hit, which came after the Mets closer failed to cover first on a play that allowed Jarred Kelenic to reach on a two-out infield hit.

Díaz demanded to return to the mound for the ninth.

"I don't care what you say, I'm going back out," he told Mendoza.

New York had lost 77 straight games when trailing by three runs in eighth inning or later since May 17, 2023. Díaz slammed his glove to the ground and the Mets celebrated briefly behind the mound after earning their 11th postseason berth in 63 seasons, and the first since 2022.

"I've never seen a game like that," Mets owner Steve Cohen said.

Or a final day like that?

SALE'S STATUS

Atlanta had been holding back Sale since his scheduled start last week was rained out, saying they wanted to use him in an elimination game.

But the left-hander wasn't able to pitch because of back spasms, which Braves general manager Alex Anthopoulos said only cropped up after a throwing session Sunday but Snitker conceded had been an issue for some time.

"He's had it off and on all year," Snitker said. "Everybody in that room's got aches and pains at this time of year."

The Braves aren't sure if Sale will be able to pitch in the playoffs.

UP NEXT

Mets: Head back to Milwaukee, where they just played a weekend series, for the best-of-three Wild Card Series that begins Tuesday.

Braves: Were set to fly to San Diego for their Wild Card Series, also starting Tuesday.

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Helene leaves 'overwhelming' destruction - Stunned residents of Fla. town assess the damage

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STEINHATCHEE, Fla. – For nearly two decades, Scott Peters poured his heart and soul into his Crabbie Dad's bar just across the road from the Steinhatchee River on Florida's Big Bend coast.

He's weathered storms and floods, the ups and downs of the tourist trade, the overall economy and pretty much anything else the world has thrown at him. And for a long time, hurricanes have been a fact of life – and usually mild enough to ride out in town.

Locals threw hurricane parties, cracking open beers and howling defiance at the wind. But after 2016, when Hurricane Hermine trashed the small town he calls home, they started taking the storms more seriously.

"We're basically at sea level," Peters said Wednesday.

That was before Hurricane Helene roared ashore pushing a wall of water. Helene's eye hit the coast a few miles away, and Steinhatchee got hit maybe harder than almost anywhere else.

And Peters' bar maybe got hit the hardest.

He rode out the storm in Gainesville, about 70 miles away, and hadn't yet made it home to assess the damage.

His friends and neighbors texted him photos and videos of the bar, but he worried the small bridge to his house was gone, and maybe the house itself.

"It's total devastation," he said by phone Friday, while sheriff's deputies blocked entry to the town. "I've got to start completely over."

Helene shoved a wall of water estimated at least 10 feet high into the lowest-lying areas of Steinhatchee, including where the bar sat. The iconic sign is gone, and only a few of the dollar bills once stuck to the rafters remained to flutter in the wind.

Also gone are the pieces of plywood workers carefully but hastily fastened over the windows. And the windows are gone, too. And the jaunty peach-colored walls.

Mostly what's left are the concrete steps, the back patio and the partially collapsed tiled floor.

"This is overwhelming," Steinhatchee resident Jamie Lee said as she surveyed the damage. "I don't think it's sunk in."

For days leading up to the storm, Peters and his staff moved out the beer coolers and liquor bottles.

"The thing's coming so damn fast, we didn't have time to prepare much," Peters said before the storm.

Anything small enough to haul away, they moved to higher ground. Peters checked and rechecked to make sure his insurance policy would cover damage from a named storm.

"We're taking everything I can lift and move and things I didn't take out last time that I learned a lesson from," he

said Wednesday. "You take every storm as serious as you can, because this is such a low-lying area."

On Friday, stunned residents shuffled though the town's muddy streets or bumped around on golf carts and pickups as a Coast Guard helicopter clattered overhead.

The storm surge piled more than a foot-thick mat of sea grass onto some low-lying areas, shoved docks and boats across Riverside Drive and left sticky mud in other areas.

"We've got somebody's freezer in the yard," said Pamela Keen, 62, as she stood on her deck looking at scattered packages of shrimp, green peppers, soda cans and a tub of shucked oysters nestled amid the seagrass covering their front yard. Down the road, plates, beer cans and a paring knife lay on the pavement.

Keen and her husband, Gary, rode out the storm in a motel a few miles inland, counting themselves lucky to get a room at the last minute. Unfortunately, she said, it was also infested with roaches.

"I'm thankful we had a room, even if we did have a lot of company," Keen said with a laugh, before kissing her husband and chiding their grandchildren to watch out for snakes.

Driving with his wife around town in a golf cart, retiree John Kujawski pointed out damage still lingering from past storms, including last summer's Hurricane Idalia, which also whacked Steinhatchee.

A longtime resident of the Naples area, Kujawski had been visiting Steinhatchee for nearly 20 years when they decided to move here permanently, drawn by the sense of community and small-town feel.

Navigating their bumpy way along muddy Riverside Drive, the couple pointed out guest houses that had been flattened, docks tossed ashore, and boats overturned and jammed into pilings near the Sea Hag Marina.

They noted which new roofs were destroyed all over again and mourned the damage to the recently opened Vargo's Buffalo Style Pizza restaurant.

From Gainesville, Peters was still grappling with the loss of his bar and possibly his house. He does some scallop fishing and hoped that might be enough to tide him over while waiting for insurance and any possible government assistance.

He said he has previously turned down offers of government aid but this time is ready to accept whatever help he can get.

"I'm going to jump through all the hoops," he said. "I have to. I don't just want to just take a huge loss and sell a blank slate piece of property. I'm not one to give up that easy. But it all depends on the insurance."

And he said that if it takes him years to rebuild, adding back on piece by piece as he gets the money, that's what he'll do.

"Over the years, I'll keep building on when I can afford it," he said. "At least I saved the liquor. But now I don't have anywhere to put it."

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'A lot of devastation' - Widespread outages, downed trees, flooding hit Cleveland County

September 30, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Diane Turbyfill; Shelby Star | Section: News | 590 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

As dawn broke in Cleveland County Friday, the full devastation of Hurricane Helene was revealed.

Heavy rainfall throughout the day Thursday and into Friday morning coupled with intense wind brought down trees and powerlines all around the county. Downed trees blocked roadways and were collapsed in yards, on cars and houses.

Widespread power outages kept most of the county in the dark and traffic lights were out all along U.S. 74., in Kings Mountain and Shelby.

Cleveland County Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook that the Lake Lure dam was about to fail Friday afternoon and asked residents in the Waterway Drive, parts of Abes Mountain Road and Broad River area to evacuate.

A woman posted on What's Up Shelby stating Mooresboro area outside of Boiling Springs was being evacuated because of the dam failure and said law enforcement told her that all the houses in area would be gone.

The bridge over the Broad River at the edge of Boiling Springs on Highway 150 was nearly flooded with the water reaching a few feet from the top of the bridge.

The few restaurants and gas stations in Shelby that had power were slammed. Lines stretched out of the McDonald's parking lot near Cleveland Mall and down the road. Before Chick-fil-A opened in the mall at 11:30 a.m., people were crowded in the restaurant and waiting in line.

Emergency Management Director Perry Davis said the disaster was nearly on the same scale as Hurricane Hugo which slammed the region in September of 1989 and inflicted widespread destruction across the northeastern Caribbean and the Southeastern United States.

"This is close to Hugo," he said. "Very close. We had a lot of devastation during that and we're ranking it right up there. It's not quite Hugo, but I would put it really close."

He said around 32,000 Duke Energy customers were without power Friday morning.

"Restoration won't begin until crews are safe to get out in it. They're waiting for wind to die down," Davis said.

The city of Shelby announced on Facebook around 9 a.m. that crews were waiting to assess damages and begin restoration as soon as it was safe to do so.

Davis said crews with the fire department are attempting to remove trees from roadways but are hindered by the downed powerlines.

He said so far as he knew, there were no serious injuries or deaths as a result of the storm.

He said North Lafayette Street, which is prone to flooding, was underwater and had been closed, and he had heard reports of a bridge on Sandy Run Creek that was under water.

Oak Grove Road was closed near the bridge.

"We appear to be on the backside of it now, and it's moving through," he said.

The city of Kings Mountain announced on Facebook around 10 a.m. that all non-essential offices were closed.

"Please stay safe," the post read. "Also, as lines and trees are down throughout the city, we understand the frustration but know that our teams are working in these conditions to make sure that you're safe and that all of your utilities are restored as soon as possible."

The city posted that repairs for outages began at 2 a.m. Friday.

People posted photos on Facebook of flooded yards and trees down on homes, roads and powerlines.

Around 4:30 p.m., Thursday, FEMA issued a news release declaring a state of emergency in North Carolina and announced that federal disaster assistance would be available to supplement response efforts due to emergency conditions from the hurricane.

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Hundreds still without power locally

September 30, 2024 | Stokes News, The (Walnut Cove, NC) Author: Ryan Kelly ryan.kelly@mtairynews.com| Section: Mtairy| 1015 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene made her presence felt as she passed through North Carolina and dumped months' worth of rain across the region. In anticipation of the storm, schools had closed on Friday which alleviated one major headache that would have hampered emergency responses or worse, created more by having school busses on the road.

By Friday evening, many locales were seeing the sun but the storms impact on a normal Friday, to say nothing of Mayberry Days, was already complete.

Some of the most severe local impact from the storm was found in Elkin. Clean-up efforts there got underway quickly in downtown Elkin in the wake of flooding caused by heavy rains. Standard Street and Bridge Street had been closed on Friday as flood waters from the Yadkin River blocked access to the Gwyn McNeil Bridge.

On Saturday morning bridge access was reopened but Standard Street in front of the Heritage and Trails Center remained closed due to flooding. There were reports from local business owners of damage to buildings from the flooding and the Yadkin Valley Pumpkin Festival had to be cancelled.

Surry County Emergency Services Chief Eric Southern said Monday that the county stands by to assist neighbors in need to the west, "As the efforts in Western North Carolina continue, Surry County will continue to send resources and assets."

He shared data from N.C. Emergency Management's Monday morning update where officials reported 182 roads closed in Western North Carolina. "All- access to the area is closed to the public because of trees and washed-out roads." The report said that communication in the mountains is still limited in many areas and that no donations are being accepted at this time as there is not collection point available.

Crews from Mount Airy Rescue Squad and Elkin rescue squads were sent to assist in Ashe County, Surry County telecommunicators were sent to aid Avery County, and Surry County Emergency Manager Byron Isaacs was deployed to the area as well. On Monday, the Surry County morgue trailer was sent to the Black Mountain to assist.

Southern said he knows that people are looking for a way to help in any way they can but urges residents to heed the advisories from the department of transportation and resist the urge to just drive west looking for ways to pitch in. "Very grateful for the desire to help but the state has closed all roadways into Western North Carolina, and they will be turned away at the checkpoints. Search and recovery efforts are still on-going," he said.

The Surry County Emergency Services Department provided an update to residents before the storm had moved completed moving through the area. Surry EMS reported 332 calls related to the storm since Thursday night into Friday morning.

They reported there had been no injuries during Friday's extreme weather incident.

The most pressing issue for the majority of Surry County residents during the storm were a lack of power and downed trees and limbs blocking roadways.

Even Monday morning there were still calls being received by Surry County Central Communications about downed trees on power lines including in the 800 block of East Pine Street in Mount Airy. Resident Cindy Martin observed online that there had been limbs dangling above power lines in that area all weekend, "Just glad they didn't fall on anyone while driving."

The majority of local schools were closed to students for class on Monday but Surry County Schools and Mount Airy City Schools both announced meal service would be available. Some county schools even opened up access to locker rooms for those without power who may have needed access to a hot shower following the storm.

ReadyNC.gov reported Surry County still had 633 outages as of 11 a.m. Monday while Wilkes County was reporting 8,351. Stokes and Yadkin counties were both reported to have under 20 outages each.

Duke Energy said there were approximately 40 outages in Surry County keeping some 450 customers in the dark as of late Monday morning. The company's website gave an estimated time of restoration to services in Surry County as 7:30 p.m. Monday. Their data concurred with state info stating under 20 customers each in both Stokes and Yadkin counties were still affected.

Wilkes County still bore the brunt of the regional damage with over 5,600 customers still with power due to 1765 active outages. The estimated time to restoration for residents of Wilkes County is 11:45 p.m. Monday.

Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation reported 173 customers without power in Surry County and 783 in Wilkes County.

Blue Ridge Energy said in Alleghany County that 2,484 of their 9,835 served customers, or 25.25 percent, are waiting for their power to be restored following Helene.

Statewide there were still 463,087 outages reported across the state with Buncombe County, where hard hit Asheville is found, reporting the highest total of outages with 98,559. The website PowerOutage.us reported Monday that South Carolina still had over 760,000 customers without power, Georgia had 571,000, and Virginia had nearly 100,000.

Appalachian Power told its customers the utility is bringing in crews from outside the area to work to get service restored but as of 9 a.m. Monday, 117,500 customers remain without electric service.

Given the number of outages Appalachian Power is facing, they have released a rolling schedule of restoration estimates adding that as power is restored in their services areas, crews are moving over to the next area in need.

In Carroll County alone the company reported 227 outages affecting 11,154 customers including 2,093 in the area around Cana which has an estimated restoration time of 11 p.m. on Tuesday. Appalachian Power said, "Most customers without service will have power restored before the above estimates."

Nationally there have been over 100 deaths reported as a result of Hurricane Helene; 35 of those were reported in Buncombe County, home of Asheville. Areas of North Carolina's mountain communities saw record amounts of rainfall, some experts estimated that nearly four to five months of rain fell in some mountain communities in the 72 hours Helene's impact was felt.

The National Weather Service office based in Greenville-Spartanburg, South Carolina, offered a sobering assessment of the storm calling it, "the worst event in our office's history."

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Ryan Kelly ryan.kelly@mtairynews.com, 'Hundreds still without power locally', *Stokes News, The* (online), 30 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFA6E5C43B7C0



Mayberry parade provides respite

September 30, 2024 | Stokes News, The (Walnut Cove, NC) Author: Tom Joyce tjoyce@mtairynews.com | Section: Mtairy | 723 Words OpenURL Link

MOUNT AIRY — If ever folks needed an escape from reality, it was this past weekend in storm-battered Mount Airy — where the notion of retreating to the earlier, simpler time of Mayberry proved more than a tourism promotional pitch.

As makeshift signs posted outside downtown businesses communicated a common refrain of "Closed — no power," people sat in lawn chairs just feet away Saturday to enjoy a pleasant diversion: a parade of sights and characters associated with "The Andy Griffith Show."

It was a classic what-a-difference-a-day-makes situation. Just 24 hours before, this area was in the midst of a storm that produced heavy rains and high winds.

That combination was devastating to trees and utility lines, leaving an estimated three-fourths of the city without electrical service and parts of Surry County and Virginia equally battered.

Welcome weather

But the fabled new day dawned Saturday as the annual Mayberry Days Parade went on as scheduled to the delight of crowds certainly needing a break.

"You couldn't ask for a brighter day, I suppose," Trey Baucom of Chesterfield, South Carolina, said just before the event while making his way along North Main Street with wife Wendy as sunlight peeked through the clouds.

They were attending Mayberry Days for the first time although the couple had visited Mount Airy previously.

The two rode out the Hurricane Helene-induced storm in a camper while staying at a local campground.

Meanwhile, another couple, Jason and Betsy Helms of Abbottsburg, near Lumberton, had gotten up at 3:30 a.m. Saturday to drive to Mount Airy for the parade with their children Jason III and Staci.

"I'm surprised you can have it," the elder Jason commented in view of the bad weather.

But the annual procession of all things Mayberry always goes on despite whatever climatic conditions are hurled its way, including one year during a vicious rainstorm that drenched streets equally saturated with crowds.

Once here, the Helms family soaked up the Mayberry atmosphere.

"It's got good family values — it gives you that hometown feel," Jason observed. "We're from a small town, too."

Like many attendees, Jason and Betsy were wearing T-shirts paying homage to "The Andy Griffith Show." Jason's fashion choice was one bearing a phrase often emitted by Barney, "Nip it in the bud."

In addition to ones from the Carolinas and Virginia, license plates spotted on parked vehicles lining the central business district were from such states as Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Missouri, Illinois and more.

Comments from many locals positioned along the street seemed to be centered on continuing to be without power more than 24 hours after the brunt of the storm hit.

Plentiful parade

The Mayberry Days Parade offered a welcome diversion that was upbeat and full of good cheer, similar to that served up on the long-running television show.

Saturday's procession featured actors who had appeared on the 1960s-era program, along with those dressed as its various characters.

Ronnie Schell, better known as Duke Slater in the "Gomer Pyle.. U.S.M.C." sitcom that spun off from Griffith's show, was among those actors, with Schell occupying his usual perch in local resident Randy Moore's Army Jeep.

Also there were Margaret Teele, who played a character named Agnes Jean Parker, a member of a crime family Barney encounters while in Raleigh. Teele also has "Gomer Pyle" and "Batman" episodes to her credit.

Keith Thibodeaux (aka Richard Keith), who appeared as Opie's pal Johnny Paul in 12 episodes, was another Mayberry notable in the parade.

Daniel Roebuck, a regular on Griffith's later TV series "Matlock," also was a familiar face participating.

Others there were Dreama Denver, wife of Bob Denver, and Don Knotts' daughter Karen.

Those visitors occupied convertibles, generally older-model vehicles befitting the "Andy Griffith Show" period, who waved to admiring onlookers the length of North Main Street.

A group portraying the Darling family rode in a battered truck one might associate with the clan, while golf carts were the preferred means of travel for others.

Mayberry replica squad cars were spotted frequently Saturday.

The procession also was filled with costumed characters walking along the street impersonating Barney, Sheriff Andy, Ernest T. Bass, Floyd the barber, Otis the town drunk and others, who were duplicates in some cases.

Elements of humor further enhanced the much-needed joyous occasion, such as members of the crowd being asked by one of the costumed characters what Otis' favorite part of a baseball game is at one point during the parade.

The answer: The bottom of the fifth.

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Craven County rallies to support victims of Helene in WNC. Here's how to donate relief supplies

September 30, 2024 | Sun Journal (New Bern, NC) Author: Caramia Valentin The Sun Journal | Section: News | 995 Words OpenURL Link

Many businesses and organizations in the Craven County area have started efforts to address health and safety needs in western North Carolina following Hurricane Helene's devastation.

A crisis unfolded in WNC over the weekend after Helene ripped through the southeast with high winds and historic flooding.

The death toll has reached the triple digits, according to reporting by the Associated Press, with at least 120 people in six states killed thus far, North Carolina's Buncombe County reporting 35 alone.

According to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, as of Monday morning, there are still hundreds of road closures across the western part of the state, with I-40 still impassable in multiple locations and I-26 closed at the Tennessee state line.

As residents in eastern North Carolina continue to learn about the damage out west and the dire need for more water, food, and other supplies, some have stepped up to help by collecting donations.

Small Batch Specialty Gifts on Trent Road partnered with another Trent Road business, Coastal Craftsmen, to collect essential relief items.

Items needed include powdered sports drink packets and hydration packs, baby wipes, adult and child diapers, baby formula, bug spray, sunscreen, plastic utensils, manual can openers, trash bags, non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, tarps, toiletries, pet food, feminine hygiene products, heavy-duty work gloves, socks, and prepackaged meals.

Any of the relief items listed above can be dropped off at Coastal Craftsmen or Small Batch Specialty gifts through Oct. 4.

Coastal Craftsmen will accept drop-offs at 2216 Trent Road, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., while Small Batch will accept drop-offs at 3315 Trent Road, Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Front Street Fish Company is collecting relief items as well, which can be dropped off at 520 S. Front Street, Tuesday-Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. They are also accepting Amazon orders, which should be shipped to 520 S. Front Street, New Bern, NC, 28560.

Front Street Fish Company is accepting the same relief items listed for Small Batch Specialty Gifts and Coastal Craftsmen. Items that cannot be accepted include used clothes, water, most chemicals (including bleach), fuel, and anything flammable.

They'll be accepting items through Oct. 4.

New Bern's Number 7 Township Fire-Rescue and Women's Auxiliary have partnered to collect specific relief items for flood victim support.

They will be collecting cleaning products, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, household cleaning gloves, disinfectant sprays, diapers, pet food, personal hygiene products, and more.

Monetary donations will also be accepted by contacting Nancy Williams at 252-671-9982 or Buddy Williams at 252-671-3592.

Relief items listed above can be dropped off at 1705 Old Cherry Point Road, only during collection times. Sunday collection times are between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., and collection times Monday-Thursday are between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., and 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Students and staff at New Bern High School (NBHS) can bring relief items to school through Oct. 4 to help with hurricane relief.

NBHS will collect drinking water, non-perishable foods, pet food, baby formula, diapers, wipes, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, disposable dinnerware, toiletries, flashlights, blankets, and pillows.

Items can be dropped off at the front office during school hours and on the front porch after hours.

The Neuse River Region Association of Realtors and Affiliates has various collection sites set up in the Craven County area.

Century 21 Zaytoun-Raines is accepting donations at 312 S. Front Street and 1433 S. Glenburnie Road, while Keller Williams New Bern is accepting donations at 1320 McCarthy Boulevard and 520 S. Front Street. NorthGroup is accepting donations at 3308 Trent Road, Rate is accepting donations at 220 S. Front Street, and Realty ONE Group East is accepting donations at the Pamlico County Sheriff's Office, located at 220 Main Street.

The city of New Bern also has various collection sites set up.

The city will accept non-perishable foods, bottled water, sports drinks, heavy-duty trash bags, tarps, heavy-duty work gloves, toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, wipes, cleaning supplies, toiletries, baby food, adult and child diapers, feminine hygiene products, bug spray, and sunscreen.

The city cannot accept any clothing or bedding items, expired food, medications, flammable items, or furniture. Donations will be accepted at City Hall, located at 300 Pollock Street, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

West New Bern Recreation Center, located at 1225 Pine Tree Drive, will accept donations Monday-Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pleasant Hill Community Center, located at 424 NC 55 Highway, will accept donations Monday-Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The New Bern Farmer's Market, located at 421 S. Front Street, will accept donations Tuesday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Donations will also be accepted during the National Night Out event from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Union Point Park, 210 E. Front Street.

The North Carolina Community Foundation is collecting donations for their Disaster Relief Fund, which supports mid- to long-term recovery efforts when North Carolina faces a disaster.

Monetary donations can be made by visiting nccommunityfoundation.org/helene or by mailing a check to NCCF at 3737 Glenwood Ave., Suite 460, Raleigh, NC, 27612 with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line of the check.

Golds Gym in New Bern is also setting up a donation table beginning Monday and running through Oct. 7.

Helpful supplies include cases of water, non-perishable food items, first aid goods, diapers, baby food and clothes, shovels, gloves, portable fans with batteries, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, flashlights with batteries, trash bags, blankets, dog and cat food, cleaning supplies.

Freshwater Beer Co., 904 Pollock St., and Black's Tire and Auto Service, 3003 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

teamed up for a disaster relief drive.

The immediate needs they are looking to fulfill include water, sports drinks, non-perishable food, baby supplies, hand sanitizer, wipes, trash bags, work gloves, paper towels, flashlights, batteries, toiletries, pet food, tools, and tool kits.

They are also accepting donations of hydration powder packs, children and adult diapers, bug spray, sunscreen, manual can openers, socks, tarps, and cleaning supplies.

If there are any local Hurricane Helene relief collection sites we missed, please email cvalentin@newbernsj.com Copyright, 2024, Sun Journal, All Rights Reserved.

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