

App State students offering hurricane outreach through ASU Helping Hand

October 1, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Luke Barber luke.barber@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Local | 433 Words OpenURL Link

BOONE—While Hurricane Helene's effects may have been unprecedented, the response to the once-in-a-lifetime natural disaster has been just as extraordinary.

Not long after Hurricane Helene swept through much of Watauga County and the rest of western North Carolina, people throughout the community, including Appalachian State University students, have been pitching in to help those most affected.

Caroline Hughes is one of the admins for ASU Helping Hand, a group of App State students and community members who have been hard at work connecting those in need with local resources ever since the waters began to recede on Friday.

"It started with a group of students on the App Yik Yak who were posting that they wanted to help or needed help and asking who was accepting donations, who had beds, and other things. So we just started a group chat that blossomed into an Instagram account," Hughes said.

Over the past several days, the account has been posting feverishly and connecting those in need with resources such as food, water, shelter and transportation. Early on, Hughes said they were able to help someone get a ride to a friend's house in Raleigh after the person lost their car and their home in the storm.

To request assistance or to offer services, simply fill out the Google form listed on the ASU Helping Hands account on Instagram.

"We try to connect people with resources to donate, volunteer and get them in touch with those who need assistance," Hughes said. "We've had several donations that we have delivered directly to people who were not able to get off the mountain. We're also helping to offer transportation to those who have been displaced."

Hughes said they have also started a group chat with 64 members who are willing to offer their time and resources. Hughes said she has been experiencing the outpouring of support firsthand.

"Personally, I brought a friend some water the other day, and their road was blocked off," Hughes said. "There were power lines down. Once you get out of the valley, it is unfathomable. I don't think I would have ever expected to see this in Boone."

Hughes said they're helping people get in touch with organizations, such as the Red Cross and Samaritan's Purse.

"We go through those submissions, and for those needing immediate help, we direct them to resources that can help them with their needs, or if it's something we can handle ourselves, we'll send them to our massive group chat," Hughes said.

To get connected with ASU Helping Hand, simply give them a follow on Instagram and fill out the Google form to offer help or request assistance.

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WCS focusing on contacting students, staff while closed

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WATAUGA — In response to severe weather conditions and the ensuing aftermath of Hurricane Helene, Watauga County Schools has closed for students and teachers through the end of the week.

While closed, WCS Superintendent Leslie Alexander said they are working to check in on every staff member and student.

"Our priority is locating all of our staff, students, and families to make sure that we can make contact with them so that we know that they're there and safe and to identify any needs that they have currently," Alexander said. "We are working closely with the sheriff's office so that we have a non-emergency dispatch number that we can call if we need a welfare check on individuals."

The school system is also working to make school distribution sites for supplies and food, which will be communicated at a later date.

Alexander said while some schools received minor damage — mainly trees down in the area and some water damage to ceiling tiles — the current Valle Crucis School received the most damage.

"We had significant flooding in that building. So we're assessing what we really need to do to move forward with that," Alexander said. "It flooded in several classrooms where, normally, the water had not gotten into before."

The new Valle Crucis School that's still being built did not have damage.

As far as reopening, Alexander said they are going to take it a week at a time.

"Not only, not only do we have to have the buildings ready, but we have to feel secure that we can safely transport students," Alexander said.

As part of its efforts to respond to the community's needs, the school system has set up Watauga High School as an emergency water distribution site. Water is available in front of the school, and non-perishables are available in the auxiliary gym.

Those who wish to donate can deliver water to Watauga High School, and non-water donations, such as non-perishable items, food, cleaning supplies, toiletries, paper goods and other household items, can be taken to The Summit Pickleball at 278 Industrial Park Drive in Boone.

"This continues to be an amazing community that supports one another in good times and bad," Alexander said.

Appalachian State UniversityAppalachian State University has canceled classes on the Boone and Hickory campuses, in addition to ceasing work for non-faculty employees, through 5 p.m. on Oct. 4 due to adverse weather conditions.

App State advises students, faculty, and staff to limit travel and exercise extreme caution. On campus, residence halls, the central dining hall, campus markets, the student union, student health services, and student recreation remain open for students.

According to the university, no resident halls are structurally compromised, and students are advised to conserve

water on campus.

Moreover, road conditions in the Boone and Watauga County areas are treacherous in many places. Many roads and sidewalks in the Boone area have unstable sections, washed-out areas, or are structurally compromised. A number of trees and tree limbs are down on campus and in the community.

Crews are roping off dangerous areas on the Boone campus. According to the university, anyone entering roped-off areas is subject to disciplinary action and possible arrest for diverting limited emergency resources away from rescue operations.

According to Interim Chancellor Heather Norris, the Boone campus has been able to maintain continuity of power, water and internet with only short interruptions. While the residence halls are largely unaffected, the classroom buildings have not fared as well. In a statement, Norris said that essential university staff should continue to respond and assess the damage.

"Since early in the week, App State staff have been working around the clock to prepare for, and then respond to, Hurricane Helene. The level of devastation it has brought to our region is massive. Some of our staff members have significant damage to their homes, and some haven't seen their families since the storm began — yet, they are focused on serving others. We are operating with a smaller than usual essential staffing team because some — despite wanting to be here — cannot get here to help," Norris said.

University communications stated non-mandatory employees should not come to campus. This includes faculty. Faculty who have questions can contact Academic Affairs at (828) 262-2070 or academicaffairs@appstate.edu.

Off-campus students, faculty and staff in need of shelter should call 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767). The Red Cross is also accepting donations at this same phone number.

The university is working on longer term assistance and support for faculty, staff and students. The university will continue to post updates on its emergency website appstatealert.com.

Due to significant and sustained emergency conditions, all university facilities are closed except Residence Halls, Central Dining Hall, Campus Markets, the Student Union and Student Health Services and Student Recreation.

The ability of the AppalCART to run will depend on road conditions. Visit appalcart.com or use the ETA SPOT mobile app (download instructions at appalcart.com/live-transit).

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF11865273F7F0>



High Country Guide: Information for those who need help and want to help

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There are various ways to help and receive help in the High Country after Hurricane Helene's damage. The following is a compilation of resources for Ashe, Avery, and Watauga counties.

WATAUGA COUNTY

Watauga County Emergency Manager Kristi Pukansky said the county has teamed up with the town of Boone and Appalachian State Universit to push out information online once a day.

"We are a very divided county," she said, explaining some areas are in OK conditions while others are still heavily damaged.

"We are literally still fielding reports of stranded people," she said. "We are still in rescue mode."

Every day, they are updating at https://www.facebook.com/WataugaCountyES

A list of resources can also be found at https://www.townofboone.net/711/Hurricane-Helene-Resources-and-Services

As of Tuesday, the information from Watauga County, Boone, Appalachian State University and others and others includes:

NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:

828-268-6200 Boone Town Hall: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., hours subject to change.

828-263-4178 Appalachian Medical Reserve Corps Non-Emergency Call Center (for non-urgent inquiries and reports related to storm impacts): 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., leave a message after hours.

828-262-2000 Appalachian State University's Main Line: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SHELTER:

Red Cross Emergency Shelter for students and community members, Convocation Center, 111 Rivers St. Food, water and dry beds available now.

Anyone in need of shelter should call 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767).

FOOD: Hot meal sites, serving at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m daily until further notice at.

Foscoe Christian Church: 8834 NC Highway 105 South, Boone

Mountaineer Ruritan Club: 1161 US-321, Sugar Grove

Meat Camp Baptist Church: 236 Meat Camp Baptist Church Road, Boone

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church: 1564 Silverstone Road, Zionville

WATER:

The town of Boone has officially lifted its boil water advisory as of Sept. 30.

A water distribution center has been set up at Watauga High School. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

PET BOARDING FOR EVACUEES:

Pet Care Clinic of the High Country, at 1614 NC-105, Boone, has received temporary authorization from the USDA to provide the service for dogs and cats.

LIMITED INSULIN:

The Hunger and Health Coalition has insulin for those in need. "Please, if you can, bring a box/vial/anything with directions so HHC can appropriately dispense your insulin," it stated. It is beside the Hospitality House on Brook Hollow Road, 141 Health Center Drive, Suite C. For assistance, call 828-264-5212. It's open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FEMA ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT: Document your damages now! Photograph your damages and items you have to throw away. Homeowners and renters in Watauga County can apply for assistance through FEMA. Individuals may utilize www.disasterassistance.gov, download the FEMA App, or call 1 (800)-621-3362 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily for assistance. More information can be found here.

CURFEW: A curfew remains in place for Watauga County, Town of Blowing Rock and Town of Boone from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. due to severely compromised roads and ongoing emergency operations in Watauga County.

CLEANUP ASSISTANCE:

Baptist on Mission: Tarping and muck out assistance. Call 828-406-1146

Samaritan's Purse: Tarping, tree removal, muck out assistance. Call 833-747-1234

DEBRIS PICKUP/TRASH:

All debris in Boone and Watauga County can be placed on a curb or an accessible NCDOT right-of-way. "Separate debris into vegetative, construction, hazardous, large appliances, and electronics materials," it stated. "If there is a ditch curbside, DO NOT place debris inside the ditch." Place debris close to the curbside, it requested.

Residential trash pickup in Boone is currently unavailable.

The Watauga County Landfill is closed the week of Sept. 30. For more information, visit www.wataugacounty.org.

ROAD CONDITIONS:

Avoid unnecessary travel. Watauga County road closures are at: https://shorturl.at/UmVlc

INTERNET ACCESS:

WiFi access points (asu-visitor) are available on App State's Boone campus:

College Street Parking Deck (Library), 162 College Street, Boone, NC 28608 — top level

Blue Ridge Parking Deck (Stadium), 185 Stadium Heights Drive, Boone, NC 28608 — entire deck

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Samaritan's Purse: Tree work, debris cleanup, roof tarping and mud outs. Sign up at www.spvolunteer.org.

Appalachian Medical Reserve Corps: Coordinating volunteers with state and national emergency response teams. Sign up at https://forms.gle/AaKy78d2pL7V2sNk7

DONATE MONEY:

App State Disaster Relief Recovery Fund at: appstate.edu

Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation at boonechamber.com/foundation

North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund: nc.gov/donate

DONATE SUPPLIES:

The most pressing need is cleaning supply kits like 5 gallon buckets, mops, cleaning supplies and paper towels.

Drop off donations at the Summit Pickleball facility, 278 Industrial Park Drive.

Contact the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce at info@boonechamber.com for more information about after-hours drop-off options.

"This list of resources is subject to change," it stated. "Many organizations and individuals are also providing resources for our community, and we are unable to provide an exhaustive list of all these resources. We, as a community, want to thank everyone for their patience and their willingness to help their neighbors."

THE RED CROSS

North Carolina Red Cross Communications Director Mike DeCinti said the fastest way to donate is to go to www.redcross.com and help out financially that way.

"This response is going to be months and months. We have 600 volunteers already working and those people are going to need a break," he said. "If someone wants to volunteer, they can do that as well."

He said people shouldn't just show to up help. There needs to be an organization to it.

What people can do, he said, is donate blood.

"Because of the storms and ongoing problems, we've had to close blood sites and cancel blood drives," he said.

Anyone in an unaffected area can assist by donating blood that is going to need to be replenished.

He encouraged people to go to the Red Cross website or use its app to locate emergency shelters.

"We are operating our shelters," he said. "We have food, clothing, water, health services, mental health service."

He reiterated it is going to be a longterm situation.

"This is a terrible disaster. This is going to be going on for a long time. But the Red Cross is going to be there."

NONPROFITS

WAMY Community Action
Resources: Redirecting to resources and FEMA navigation
8am - 3pm (Based on Staffing)
Children's Council
Resources: Diapers/Wipes and Formula
M-F 830-4:30
Sat 10-2
OASIS
DV Emergency Line 24/7
Float Spa
Resources: Showers
M 1pm-4pm
W 1pm-4pm
Daniel Boone Inn
Down Home NC
Resources: Water, House Supplies, Non Perishable Goods, Hot Meals
9:30am -6:30pm
Greenway Baptist
Food Pantry
Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm
3:45pm – 6pm
Pet Care Clinic
ER clinic is currently open 24/7
Boarding available for cats and dogs
Free food for dogs and cats
Getting new vaccines soon

Stray animals need to be turned in to the Humane Society Alliance Bible Fellowship Food/water distribution at location Hot meals: lunch 11:00a.m-until / supper 5p.m. - until Wipes, diapers, formula, animal food On 10/4/2024 reassessing needs Samaritan's Purse (located at Alliance Bible Fellowship) Disaster Relief/clean up only 833-747-1234 for Homeowners assistant First Baptist Church - downtown Boone Baptist on Mission located for food distribution 12p-5p (M-Sun) Have MREs other food to distribute to stranded individuals (Emergency Services can pick up to distribute) Watauga High School 2 Areas of campus for Water / 24/7 access to water 8 am - 6 pm Until out of supplies Contact: Scott Strikler 828-577-1625, Principal Being supplied by Summitt Pickleball on Industrial Drive Watauga County Schools Info: Hardin Park will do free childcare at no charge for K - 6 starting 10/02 Soon, Pods will be dropped off at certain school locations for feeding, drive thru, charging and showers once it is

Soon, Pods will be dropped off at certain school locations for feeding, drive thru, charging and showers once it is dropped off by Emergency Management

Summit Pickleball

Taking Any Donations / Drop Off / Distributing as needed

Mainly supplying drop off points - Watauga High School / Wine to Water/

Community Care Clinic

Free Medical Care, for no Insurance, Covid Test, No Vaccines - lost due to power. New on the way

9-12 Monday - Thursday for now Normally 8:30-5:30

Hunger and Health Coalition Monday - Friday 9 till 4 Insulin/ Epi Pens/ Pharmacy open Accepting donations - Distributing to include out of county in Ashe at distribution points mainly at fire departments Pet Food Cornerstone Summit Water ,Food, Diapers, Dry Ice 10 - 7 Monday - Saturday Perkinsville Baptist Church If you would like to volunteer, come to our facility 7:30-5 Mon-Sat. 274 Jefferson Road Boone, NC 28607 or fill out this form: https://baptistsonmission.org/.../Hurricane.../Get-Involved If you have any needs large or small or know of any needs large or small, you can call 828-406-1146 to report these needs to Baptists On Mission who are organizing teams now. **Baptists on Mission Disaster Recovery** 7:30 - 5:00 Monday thru Saturday Site Phone 828-406-1146 Assist homeowners with debris clean up, chainsaw, tree removal, mud outs Have a solar power device to run a community well if needed Boone United Methodist Church Providing child care for Emergency / Essential personnel form 0-10 years old up to 100 children No cost - Lunch and snacks 8:30- 4 pm After 4 child care can be arranged Samaritan Purse is using this as well Breakfast open to community 8 - 9 am Monday thru Friday Everyone and Free Dinner on Thursday from 5:15 - 6:30 free to community Buckets with cleaning supplies open to everyone Future plans will be made on Thursday

BooneUMC.org/hurricane-helene-resources

Hospitality House
828-264-1237 press 0
At capacity for housing
Food Pantry from 12-4 / 7 days a week
Accepting Donations and distributing supplies
Blankets if needed
Doctor Available on Monday and Wednesday (8-5) at 160 Den Mack Building near Hatchett Coffee
ASHE COUNTY
According to Ashe County Chamber of Commerce, there are a variety of ways to help the community.
Its list is being updating daily and posting it online at https://www.facebook.com/@AsheChamber. The list is subject to change, according to Ashe County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kitty Honeycutt.
"We need help," Honeycutt said Tuesday. "We're proud, proud mountain people but we need help. It's humbling to be in this situationwe're tough, we're grittybut we need help right now."
She said it was hard to describe what she witnessed going into work.
"It's desperate," she said.
It's list hopes to "get as much information out as possible with the resources that have been sent to us," the social media post noted. "If you have updates for this list, please email tourism@ashechamber.com."
According to the Tuesday list:
GENERAL INFORMATION
EMERGENCY SHELTERS
Ashe County High School
SUPPLY HUBS
Westwood Elementary School
Mountain View Elementary School
Ashe Really Cares
Family Central
Fleetwood Fire Dept
Lansing Fire Dept
Warrensville Fire Dept



https://shorturl.at/Z62pH Generations Ashe - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday Todd Fire Dept DAILY MEALS West Jefferson United Methodist Church (9 a.m.-6 p.m daily) Jefferson United Methodist Church (noon daily) The Gathering Church (5-7 p.m. daily) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE Ashe Memorial Hospital: Eight-bed oxygen tent Ashe County High School: Oxygen concentrators **HOT COFFEE** Old Store at Grassy Creek The Venue at Ashe Chamber Florence Thomas Art School **ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES/CHILDREN** Midway Baptist Church- sponsoring "The Wild Robot" on Oct 1, 2pm at Parkway Theater. Free movie, popcorn, drinks Florence Thomas Art School-free drawing supplies for children SUPPLY DROP OFF/PICK UP LOCATIONS Style Depot. To be delivered to Warrensville Fire Department DAV Chapter 80 Ashe County and DAV Chapter 90 Watauga. Supplying generators, extensions cords and gas cans to anyone on oxygen who does not have power. It will be at Tractor Supply when items arrive. Call (828)406-0980 for more information. Third Day Market. Supplies can be donated 9 a.m. -4 p.m. and can include bottled water, batteries, candles and toilet paper SHOWERS/WATER REFILL/ICE Ashe County High School

Jefferson United Methodist Church (showers, non-potable water)

Fleetwood Fire Dept (potable water-bring own containers)

Lansing Fire Dept (potable water-bring own containers)

Cattle Market on Highway 16 (potable water)

Ashe County Arts Council (outside spigots for water refill)

Museum of Ashe County History (water)

Mt. Jefferson Presbyterian Church (water on the front porch)

Upper Mountain Research Station (hot shower trailer)

CLEAN UP/RESTORATION:

Alliance Bible Fellowship. Location for Samaritan's Purse. For church, call (828) 264-8312. For mud outs/clean outs, call (833) 747-1234.

WAYS TO DONATE:

Ashe County Chamber of Commerce at https://tinyurl.com/yc4a24rn

Ashe Food Pantry at https://shorturl.at/fgJEA

GLAD at https://www.glad-nc.org/

Utilities:

Blue Ridge Energy: (336) 846-2086; To report outages, call 1 (800) 448-2383 or text "OUT" to 70216

Carolina West Wireless: (336) 973-5000

Optimum: (866) 950-3278

SkyLine/SkyBest: (336) 877-1350

Tree Services:

Casey Miller & Family Tree Service: (336) 877-7680

Krause Family Arborist: (828) 434-0098

Mountain Advantage LLC: (336) 846-6285

Northwest Tree Service: (336) 846-4343

Santos Lawn Care: (336) 620-0301

Damage Mitigation/Restoration:

Bennett EnviroClean, LLC: (336) 384-2236

Carolina Mold Remediation: (472) 204-7047

SERVPRO of Watauga & Ashe Counties: (828) 616-5866

Spangler Restoration: (828) 578-2087

Roofing:

Ashe High Country Guttering, LLC: (336) 982-8615

Elite Roof and Solar: (828) 333-4818

Sheets Brothers, Inc.: (336) 246-5566

Excavating, Grading, & Paving:

Mountain Advantage LLC: (336) 846-6285

Mountain Field Excavating and Hauling, LLC: (336) 977-1312

PADCO Excavating, Inc.: (336) 982-5550

Riverfront Group, LLC: (336) 982-1848

Shatley Construction & Paving Co. Inc.: (336) 877-8824

Young Landworks LLC: (336) 977-0523

Builders/Licensed Contractors:

Ashe/Alleghany Home Builders Association: ashehomebuilders.com

Elevate Building Company: (828) 358-3993

Frazier Property Services: (828) 260-9030

Honeysuckle Construction, Inc.: honeysuckleconstruction@gmail.com

Joel Carpenter General Contractor: (336) 466-0871

New River Custom Builders, Inc.: (336) 384-1209

PADCO Excavating, Inc.: (336) 982-5550

Riverfront Group, LLC: (336) 982-1848

Spangler Restoration: (828) 578-2087

Home Improvement:

Appalachian Flooring & Tile: (336) 246-2008

Estrada Restore & Solutions, LLC: (828) 773-0435

Shatley Construction & Paving Co. Inc.: (336) 877-8824

Transportation:

Appalachian Delivery & Courier: (336) 340-3366

Ashe County Transportation Authority: (336) 846-2000

Car Rentals of West Jefferson and Uber Services: (336) 467-8885

AVERY COUNTY

Local and outside agencies have banded together to help the affected areas around Avery County. There are currently four active shelters which also act as supply distribution locations in the county. In Newland, the Avery Recreation Center/ Rock Gym serves as a shelter where citizens can sleep and get basic supplies. Frank Volunteer Fire Department in Frank, Temple Baptist Church in the Three Mile/Ingalls area, and the Best Western Mountain Lodge in Banner Elk also serve as shelters where people can sleep and receive a multitude of supplies such as food, water, clothes and more.

Although it's not designated as a shelter, First Baptist Church in Newland is serving as the official food and water drop-off location for Avery County. It is asked that only food and water supplies be brought to this location. Reaching Avery Ministry (RAM) in Newland is serving as the official drop-off for dry goods, as clothes, diapers and more will be received there. Both of the official drop-off locations actively will distribute to the official shelters and other areas to help decrease the amount of traffic on the roadways.

All official shelters are operable 24 hours a day. It is asked by county officials to stay off the roadways unless absolutely necessary as "sightseeing" not only causes the potential diversion of area resources, but also are causing traffic issues and hinders progress being made by emergency and essential workers.

Other local area citizens are helping out as well, some by preparing hot food and also providing supplies. The Spear Country Store on South Hwy. 19E, operated by local business owners Derek and Erin Buchanan of Wheels Construction, is currently offering free hot meals and supplies to the community. Community members there have also began a civilian effort to make welfare checks, as local emergency personnel are inundated with search and rescue efforts across the area. Additionally, the organization is working around the clock to help clear roadways of debris, trees and more. Spear Country Store is operational from 9 a.m. to dusk each day.

Other places in the county are also making hot meals available, such as the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games office in Linville.

For more information and to stay up to date on shelters, drop-offs and ways to help out, residents are urged to check the "Avery County Government" Facebook page.

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Blowing Rock Chamber worries about future

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BLOWING ROCK — Blowing Rock may not have endured the worst of Hurricane Helene, but its impacts may continue this autumn.

Blowing Rock Chamber Vice President of Business Development Cathy Barker said people flock to the town and region to see the leaves change to fall colors.

It is usually a massive economic driver each year.

But seeing as many of those leaves — and trees as well — are already grounded, she worries about this year's financial implications.

Barker said all businesses will suffer.

The natural beauty on the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway is reliant on tourists and much of it is currently closed, too.

The state of its landscape — along with a lack of leaves — will be felt financially, Barker said.

"Whether you're a restaurant or retail, that affects all of those businesses," she said.

While worrying, the town and other impacted areas have other things to think about.

"A lot of people still don't have water, power, cable or internet," Barker said.

She is not sure how local businesses in town are doing because many are not reachable over the phone or inperson.

Blowing Rock currently has a curfew set. People can only be out from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Watauga County made the decision in coordination with Boone and Blowing Rock due to dangerous roadway conditions.

Blowing Rock was among the least damaged towns in Western North Carolina, according to Barker, but many roads are still damaged and access to Boone is difficult.

"We were pretty lucky here," she said.

The town did have an EF1 tornado that knocked down trees near the the intersection of Birch Drive and Hill Street, she said. Peak winds were estimated between 86 and 90 mph.

Additionally, Barker said, they have been dry in Blowing Rock lately, so the sudden drenching made water elevate "10 times higher" than its usual level.

Still, she said, things could have been even worse.

"Everybody has a story and everyone has been affected," she said. "Asheville is just a disaster."

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NCDOT working to assess road damage, determine timeline for repairs

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WATAUGA — The North Carolina Department of Transportation is working to assess the damage to area roads from Hurricane Helene.

Due to the severity and widespread nature of the damage, crews have not been able to assess every area, as some roadways are impassable.

According to the NCDOT, safety is the department's No. 1 priority, and crews are continuing to determine timelines for all stretches from main interstates to secondary roads.

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF118633239168>



Active rescue efforts continue as emergency services make their way into hardest hit areas

October 1, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Local | 301 Words OpenURL Link

Emergency services personnel are still focused on active rescue missions as they continue to push into some of Watauga County's hardest-hit areas.

As of Monday evening, Helene's devastating path through Watauga County has killed two people and left countless others without homes, power, and cell service.

Emergency services personnel are still actively working on rescue missions in the western part of the county. Multiple families were rescued in Zionville and Cove Creek Monday after being cut off due to flood damage, according to Watauga County Emergency Services Emergency Planner Kristi Pukansky.

"We definitely are still in an active rescue situation," Pukansky said. "We aren't even to damage assessment yet."

There is no timeline for how long rescues will take as some places have not been reached yet during house-to-house checks.

"There are still areas that we are cutting and pushing through (to get) to inaccessible areas," Pukansky said. "We really don't know until we get to the last one how long that's going to take."

Pukansky said some areas in Beaver Dam are not passable as crews continue to work to push in and create access points.

"Check on your neighbors, check on the elderly," Watauga County Fire Marshal Shane Garland said. "We're attempting to get through, but the road infrastructure is lost, and that's going to take some time, but just check on each other."

As of Monday early afternoon, 48 community members were being housed at the Holmes Convocation Center, the official Red Cross shelter during this incident. Pukansky said other places have opened up as shelters, but since the Holmes Convocation Center is the official Red Cross one, they only have numbers for that one.

WCES is continually working to push more resources into the county as agreements are implemented.

A curfew remains in place for Watauga County from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. until further notice.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com, 'Active rescue efforts continue as emergency services make their way into hardest hit areas', *Watauga Democrat, The*(online), 1 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BF11864A9BDDB8>



Trump makes false claims about Helene response - Trump makes false claims about federal response as he campaigns in area ravaged by Hurricane Helene

October 1, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC)
Author: CHRISTINE FERNANDO, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and JEFF AMY Associated Press | Section: A | 953 Words
Page: 7
OpenURL Link

VALDOSTA, Ga. - Donald Trump repeatedly spread falsehoods Monday about the federal response to Hurricane Helene despite claiming not to be politicizing the disaster as he toured hard-hit areas in south Georgia.

The former president and Republican nominee claimed upon landing in Valdosta that President Joe Biden was "sleeping" and not responding to Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, who he said was "calling the president and hasn't been able to get him." He repeated the claim at an event with reporters after being told Kemp said he had spoken to Biden.

During her daily news briefing, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre pushed back against Trump's assertion that Biden was unresponsive, noting that Kemp himself told reporters he spoke to Biden on Sunday and that the president asked him what Georgia needed.

The president's homeland security adviser, Liz Sherwood-Randall, said Biden made clear that he offered Kemp "anything" Georgia needed for its response to the storm and remained available to the governor.

"So, if the governor would like to speak to the president again, of course, the president will take his call," Sherwood-Randall said.

The White House previously announced that Biden spoke by phone on Sunday night with Kemp and North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper, as well as Scott Matheson, mayor of Valdosta, Georgia, and Florida Emergency Management Director John Louk. Kemp confirmed Monday morning that he spoke to Biden the night before.

"The president just called me yesterday afternoon and I missed him and called him right back and he just said 'Hey, what do you need?' And I told him, you know, we've got what we need, we'll work through the federal process," Kemp said. "He offered if there are other things we need just to call him directly, which I appreciate that."

While the White House highlighted Biden's call to Kemp and others, the president faced questions about his decision to spend the weekend at his beach house in Delaware, rather than the White House, to monitor the storm.

"I was commanding it," Biden told reporters after delivering remarks at the White House on the federal government's response. "I was on the phone for at least two hours yesterday and the day before as well. I commanded it. It's called a telephone."

Biden received frequent updates on the storm, the White House said, as did Harris aboard Air Force Two as she made a West Coast campaign swing. The vice president cut short her campaign trip Monday to return to Washington for a briefing from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Trump, writing on his social media platform Monday, also claimed without evidence that the federal government and North Carolina's Democratic governor were "going out of their way to not help people in Republican areas." Asheville, which was devastated by the storm, is solidly Democratic, as is much of Buncombe County, which surrounds it.

The death toll from Helene has surpassed 100 people, with some of the worst damage caused by inland flooding in North Carolina.

At the beginning of a rally in Las Vegas on Sunday, Harris said "we will stand with these communities for as long as it takes to make sure that they are able to recover and rebuild."

Trump, speaking in Erie, Pa., on Sunday, described the storm as "a big monster hurricane" that "hit a lot harder than anyone even thought possible."

Trump said he wanted to stop in North Carolina but was holding off because access and communication were limited in hard-hit communities.

When asked by The Associated Press on Monday if he was concerned that his visit to Georgia was taking away law enforcement resources that could be used for disaster response, Trump said, "No." He said his campaign instead "brought many wagons of resources."

The Trump campaign partnered with the Christian humanitarian aid organization Samaritan's Purse to bring trucks of fuel, food, water and other critical supplies to Georgia, said Karoline Leavitt, the Trump campaign's national press secretary.

Katie Watson, who owns with her husband the home design store Trump visited, said she was told the former president picked that location because he saw shots of the business destroyed with the rubble and said, "Find that place and find those people."

"He didn't come here for me. He came here to recognize that this town has been destroyed. It's a big setback," she said.

"He recognizes that we are hurting and he wants us to know that," she added. "It was a lifetime opportunity to meet the president. This is not exactly the way I wanted to do it."

During Trump's term as president, he visited numerous disaster zones, including the aftermaths of hurricanes, tornadoes and shootings. But the trips sometimes elicited controversy such as when he tossed paper towels to cheering residents in Puerto Rico in 2017 in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

It also took until weeks before the presidential election in 2020 for Trump's administration to release \$13 billion in assistance for the territory. A federal government watchdog found that officials hampered an investigation into delays in aid delivery.

In another 2019 incident, Trump administration officials admonished some meteorologists for tweeting that Alabama was not threatened by Hurricane Dorian, contradicting the then-president. Trump would famously display a map altered with a black Sharpie pen to indicate Alabama could be in the path of the storm.

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'The hardest times' - Boone begins to dig out and set off on a long road to recovery

October 1, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC)

Author: SCOTT SEXTON STAFF REPORTER | Section: A | 1357 Words

Page: 1 OpenURL Link

Town officials in Boone have lifted its boil water advisory for their residents amid the floodwater in the town from Tropical Storm Helene.

Boone officials took water samples from many locations throughout the town's water system, the town said in a statement. The tests on those samples came back absent or negative for contamination. The town's water is safe for human consumption, the town said.

"This event has been unprecedented in the Boone's modern history," the town said. "The combination of rapid flooding and high winds from Hurricane Helene created washouts and ground shifting that produced roadway failure, sinkholes, mudslides and down trees all of which contributed to numerous water main breaks ..."

The town's water treatment plant is operating, and the water system storage capacity has been restored, the town said.

"However, the full extent of damage is still being assessed and evaluated and will continue," the town said.

The town imposed its boil-water advisory Friday because of multiple broken water pipes throughout Boone, the town said.

- John Hinton

BOONE - Little by little, one shovel and armful of debris at a time, stunned residents and business owners continued Monday the arduous, heartbreaking task of digging out from the devastation left by Tropical Storm Helene.

Some, such as James Simmons, the owner of the Penn Station East Coast Sandwich Shop on U.S. 321, knew what had happened and what it was going to take to rebuild.

"I was in the store the whole time," he said of the worst of the flooding. "If I had any idea, I wouldn't have stayed. I would have jumped ship."

Others knew what likely had happened but didn't realize the extent of the damage until they saw it for the first time Monday morning.

"I don't think a lot of people understand how widespread this is," said Dan Stewart, the owner of the Dolbier Floor Care and Restoration company.

Helene dumped more than a foot of rain in some parts of the North Carolina mountains in a few hours Friday. Rainfall estimates in some areas topped more than 2 feet since last week.

Flash flooding and swollen creeks and rivers killed at least 60 in NC, some who drowned and others crushed by falling trees. The overall death toll across the U.S. Southeast has reached at least 121 people across six states.

More than 200,000 lost power and water service in the state. Tens of thousands were cut off from loved ones by floodwaters, downed trees and roadways completely washed away.

In and around Boone, surrounding communities in Ashe, Avery and Alleghany counties were still trying to get out.

Heavy-duty trucks hauling skid-steers, tractors and backhoes moved up U.S. 421 and 321 alongside electric company crews from all over the United States.

Churches and students from Appalachian State University - those who remained behind - stepped in to help whenever possible.

"We had kids from App who belong to our church walk over this morning to see what they could do," said Pastor John Mark Brown of the Brushy Mountain Baptist Church just outside town limits. "God does things for us even through the hardest times."

While Brown spoke - he was assembling a brand new generator pump to try and move standing water - two men, random strangers from Concord, pulled in.

"Could you use a skid steer?" Chuck Griffin asked the pastor. "We got one down the road. We'll bring it up to you."

A few minutes later, Griffin explained that he and a few coworkers loaded the heavy earth mover up and drove to Boone knowing that people could use help.

That was evident all over town Monday. Traffic lights, electric service and water appeared to have been restored to a lot of the town by mid-morning.

A water distribution center had been set up at Watauga County High School and Samaritan's Ministries set up a large tent filled with oxygen machines so people who require assistance breathing would have somewhere to go if they lost power.

"The support from the community has been amazing," Stewart said. "I'm thankful for the safety of our people.

"But the news, for the next week or two, will not be as nice. We're going to see the ugly side of it."

Simmons, while stranded in his store, saw some of the ugliness firsthand - first from what Mother Nature had wrought and then from mankind.

Stormwater, he said, rapidly filled a creek branched off from the Watauga River nearby.

It quickly flooded the parking lot, pooled in low spots and created eddies and a swift current capable of moving large objects.

Indeed, the water swept an industrial dumpster behind his restaurant into the creek and smashed it against the concrete supports supporting a bridge on US 321.

A few minutes later, a shipping container the size of a railroad car floated into his parking lot from a Wal-Mart at least 100 yards away.

"See the scrapes there?" he said, pointing to gouges in the metal a foot from its top. "It crashed into my building. I'm lucky it only hit the corner."

At one point during the night Friday, Simmons said he watched something more sinister: Several people smashed the lock off the container to rifle through its contents like scavenging hyenas.

And despite - or perhaps because of - witnessing firsthand the craven opportunism of common thieves, he nonetheless considered himself fortunate.

"We're blessed," he said. "A lot of people lost homes or loved ones. This can be fixed. People can't (be replaced)."

Stewart echoed that sentiment. One of his sons, he said, was trapped in his Avery County home for the better part of the day Saturday, caught behind a road filled with broken trees and downed power lines.

It took several hours and a small army of men with chainsaws to cut a way through.

"It's closer when it's personal family, " he said.

Further down in a small strip of shops and offices tucked into one of Boone's main commercial arteries, State Farm agent Adam Jackson set up a pair of laptops and phone chargers under a red popup tent.

Jackson, despite having to move sodden carpet and furniture from his own office, knew he had to find a way to answer calls from distressed homeowners that he knew would occupy the coming days and weeks ahead.

"I want to be helping other people as fast as I can," he said. "I have to fix myself a little before I can really do that.

"You have to put your own oxygen mask on first."

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Tuesday's letters: Climate change's costs to our kids and grandkids is staggering

October 1, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Section: A| 700 Words Page: 5 OpenURL Link

THE READERS' FORUM

Climate costs

In Helene's aftermath, a 2024 report commissioned by Consumer Reports should grab our attention. It finds that if humanity does not act swiftly to limit it, climate change will cost a typical child born in 2024 at least \$500,000 over his or her lifetime - and up to \$1 million - through a combination of cost-of-living increases and reduced earnings (in 2024 dollars, not adjusted for inflation).

Here's the increased-cost breakdown in 2024 dollars: \$200,000 in taxes; \$125,000 for housing; \$92,000 in energy costs; \$33,000 for food; \$25,000 in lost wages; and \$5,000 for health/transportation.

Add the loss of investment income increases as retirement savings shrink to cover climate costs, and the total climate cost reaches \$1 million.

Climate change really is about the economy. And we are just starting to feel the pain of inaction. Increased insurance rates and food prices are tied to recent extreme-weather events.

Can we afford not to act? Vote for candidates who support climate action.

Cynthia Raynor

Winston-Salem

Helene and the election

Hurricane Helene, which has devastated western North Carolina, was most likely made worse by global warming, which is changing Earth's climate. Climate change causes rapid intensification of hurricanes and increases their wind speeds and rainfall.

The human and economic toll to North Carolina's economy caused by Helene will be staggering. Hurricanes fueled by climate change are very bad for the economy. Homes and businesses have been destroyed. Lives have been lost.

Donald Trump says climate change is a hoax. He rejects decades of peer-reviewed science and data showing that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are causing increased temperatures and more severe storms. On the other hand, Mr. Trump has accepted as fact some nonsense posted on Facebook that Haitian immigrants are eating dogs and cats in Springfield, Ohio. By contrast, Kamala Harris recognizes the importance of enacting policies to combat climate change and sees the story about Haitian immigrants for the nonsense it is.

An important qualification for president is the ability to distinguish hoaxes from real problems. Mr. Trump is apparently unable to do that. Addressing climate change, and a host of other problems, requires a president who can tell fact from fiction.

On this important point, Harris is clearly far more qualified to be president.

Bill Blancato
Winston-Salem
The True Path
Everyone on this Earth is born free of any biases; how can we develop our True Paths to be like this throughout life?
The current state of our True Paths is not as it should be. How do we get there?
The world is a vast place with many cultures, religions, races and sexual identities. Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity. We must educate our youth about the world around us. We must be empathetic and receptive to things we may disagree with. One's religion does not rule over another or one who does not choose a religion.
Book bans are mostly the result of one group saying some books are offensive, and that they want to protect the children. This cannot be true because alienating the world around them is not educating them.
Our humanitarian efforts have been a tremendous means for us to show our support for others. The border keeps coming up as an issue. But until we eliminate our biases, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives will be needed. In the workplace they should include older folks and others to ensure opportunities for all. Eliminating these efforts only maintains the biases we need to eliminate.
To reach our True Paths we must eliminate our biases, which leads to being empathetic and receptive to all.
Rick Johnson
Winston-Salem
Missing 'Pickles'
My husband and I enjoy reading the comics, especially "Pickles," because it always makes us laugh. And because we can relate to it.
Please put "Pickles" and the other comics back into the Journal. The ones you publish now do not have any laughter

Cleo Kimbrough

Winston-Salem

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at all. Bring back "Pickles." Thank you .

• Citation (aglc Style)

'Tuesday's letters: Climate change's costs to our kids and grandkids is staggering', *Winston-Salem Journal* (online), 1 Oct 2024 5 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEF32CC867E6B8



How to help hurricane victims in Western N.C. - Ask SAM: How to help hurricane victims in Western North Carolina

October 1, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Section: A 488 Words Page: 2 OpenURL Link

Q: After seeing pictures and videos from western North Carolina of the damage from Hurricane Helene, how can people help? - C.C.

Answer: After last week's catastrophic damage from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene, the state of North Carolina has set up a way for people to donate to help in recovery efforts.

Reports say that in the Southeast more than 100 people have been killed. In Buncombe County, at least 30 people have been killed and officials say that number is likely to increase.

According to an AP story Monday, food, water, and supplies were being airlifted to the area around Asheville.

Gov. Roy Cooper asked people not to travel to or within western North Carolina to keep roads open for emergency vehicles.

Interstate 40 from Statesville to the Tennessee state line is closed, as are all roads in western North Carolina, according to the N.C. Department of Transportation.

"Our top priority is everyone's safety and well-being," said state Transportation Secretary Joey Hopkins.

"People should still consider roads in western North Carolina to be closed and avoid travel unless it is absolutely necessary. Priority must be given to all the emergency responders, utility and transportation crews, and others who are working hard to help with what will be a lengthy response and recovery effort," said NCDOT in a press release.

"Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said Monday that hundreds of roads were closed across western North Carolina and that shelters across the area were housing more than 1,000 people," the AP story said.

There are more than 50 search teams throughout the area looking for stranded people.

To help the region and the people who live there, state officials set up the N.C. Disaster Relief Fund to help those affected by the hurricane/tropical storm recover from the damage.

To donate to the N.C. Disaster Relief Fund, visit nc.gov/donate.

Donations can also be mailed to:

- NC Disaster Relief Fund, 20312 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0312; or
- NC Disaster Relief Fund, c/o United Way of NC, 1130 Kildaire Farm Road, Suite 100, Cary NC 27511.

All the donations will go to disaster relief. The funds will be used by nonprofit groups helping meet the immediate needs of those affected by the storm. Those needs include food, water, cleaning supplies and other supplies.

When disasters strike, the scammers aren't far behind

Sandra Hairston, the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, had these tips for avoiding donation fraud:

If you get an email, instant message, text, or other type of unsolicited message seeking donations for disaster relief, check out the charities using a recognized charity information website such as charitynavigator.org, www.give.org or charitywatch.org.

Not all online charity solicitations are legitimate.

Don't click on any links in the message.

Use checks, credit or debit cards for the donation, avoid cash donations. Don't make donations out to a specific person.

Charities don't request donations using electronic fund or wire transfers.

Email: AskSAM@wsjournal.comWrite: Ask SAM, 418 N. Marshall St., #100, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 © Copyright 2024, Winston-Salem Journal, Winston-Salem, NC

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEF32CA4634ECO>



Help comes by air, mule - Help comes by air, mule

October 1, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Author: JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press | Section: A | 372 Words Page: 4 OpenURL Link

TROPICAL WEATHER

ASHEVILLE, N.C. - Desperate residents isolated by washed-out roads and the lack of power and cellular service in western North Carolina lined up Monday for fresh water and a chance to message loved ones that they were alive, days after Hurricane Helene tore through the Southeastern U.S. and killed more than 100 people.

Government officials and aid groups worked to bring basic supplies by airlift, truck and mule to the hard-hit tourism hub of Asheville and its surrounding towns.

At least 121 deaths in six states are attributed to the storm - a toll that climbed Monday as a clearer picture emerged of the devastation it inflicted on an area stretching from Florida's Gulf Coast northward to the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia. The North Carolina county that includes Asheville reported at least 35 deaths, while dozens were also killed in Georgia and South Carolina.

North Carolina's governor, Roy Cooper, predicted the toll would rise as rescuers and other emergency workers reached areas isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread flooding.

Many main routes into Asheville were washed away or blocked by mudslides, including Interstate 40, and the city's water system was severely damaged, forcing residents to scoop creek water into buckets so they could flush toilets.

Officials warned that rebuilding from the widespread loss of homes and property would be lengthy and difficult. The storm upended life throughout the Southeast, where deaths were also reported in Florida and Virginia.

Helene roared ashore in northern Florida late Thursday as a Category 4 hurricane and quickly moved through Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee with torrential rains that flooded waterways.

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said Monday that hundreds of roads were closed across western North Carolina and that shelters housed more than 1,000 people.

The storm unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. Rainfall estimates in some areas topped more than 2 feet since Wednesday.

President Joe Biden said Monday that the federal government would be with survivors and others affected by Helene "as long as it takes." FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell surveyed damage with North Carolina's governor Monday.

He expected to ask Congress for additional money for disaster assistance and intends to travel to North Carolina this week when his presence wouldn't divert from live-saving search-and-rescue missions.

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Triad plays early relief roles - Triad plays early public-safety relief roles in western NC

October 1, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC)

Author: RICHARD CRAVER Staff Reporter | Section: A | 815 Words

Page: 1 OpenURL Link

NC Flooding

Winston-Salem and Greensboro law enforcement officers and first responders have been mobilized to assist with rescue and public safety efforts in parts of western North Carolina flooded by the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

During Monday's Dogwood awards ceremony that honored several Triad public-safety officials, departments and educators, Attorney General Josh Stein shared the deployment efforts and the potential for Winston-Salem and Statesville to play key supply chain distribution channels.

Firefighters from both cities already are assisting in the region, along with 36 Greensboro Police Department personnel. Winston-Salem Police Department personnel is being deployed this weekend.

Stein said among the local efforts includes the Guilford County 911 response system providing assistance to the region.

"They are lending support to their overburdened and over-demanded colleagues, keeping people safe in a treacherous time," Stein said. "The loss of life and property have been devastating, and it will be a long while before we'll be able to understand its full extent. We know (the damage) will be without precedent in western North Carolina.

"There are desperate people in the region, and we need to move to get to them the supplies they need for their daily living and to recovery."

Stein, the 2024 Democratic nominee for governor, said whoever is the next governor will be challenged to help secure the state and federal funds necessary to rebuild western N.C. for several years.

"We're going to have to step up as a state in a meaningful way, and get the federal government to step up," Stein said. "We'll need to administer those dollars as efficiently as we possibly can, so that folks can get back on with their lives."

Stein said it's too early to determine whether western N.C. will experience a population exodus - at least temporarily - similar to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

While acknowledging the Triad could gain population from such an exodus, "our hope is that everyone who wants to stay in western North Carolina post-recovery can do so."

Dogwood awards

The annual Dogwood awards are presented by the state attorney general "to honor North Carolinians who are dedicated to keeping people safe, healthy and happy in communities across our state."

"Today's recipients epitomize the Dogwood awards," Stein said. "They devote their time and talents to help keep the Triad and North Carolina safer, stronger, happier and healthier. They shape and guide our children's education. They provide treatment to people who are struggling, and they deliver justice to North Carolinians." The Winston-Salem Police Department and Police Chief William Penn were honored for their efforts in completing the testing of 900 older untested sexual assault kits.

"The Winston-Salem Police Department has worked tirelessly on behalf of victims and survivors of sexual assault," Stein said.

Stein said the department's efforts "helped the state officially end the backlog of sexual assault kits in April."

"Law enforcement is sending a clear message in North Carolina: we will never give up on cold cases."

Greensboro Police Chief John Thompson was honored for his efforts in recruiting and retaining "public-spirited law enforcement officers," Stein said.

The B.E.A.R (Behavioral Evaluation and Response) team of Winston-Salem Fire Department was recognized for its trained crisis counselors' efforts with people experiencing drug addiction and mental health crises.

The Reidsville Police Department was honored for its efforts in making "a huge fentanyl bust to help get this dangerous drug off our streets and protect their community," Stein said.

"The fentanyl crisis continues to devastate North Carolina, but officers at the Reidsville Police Department are attacking the issue head-on."

Also honored were: Will Marrs, a career and technical education teacher at Davie County High School; Donna Bledsoe, principal of Cedar Ridge Elementary School in Lowgap; and retired N.C. Rep. John Faircloth, R-Guilford, for his legislative efforts involving law enforcement.

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High school football rankings: Week 7 - The usual Triad powerhouses stay atop this week's high school football rankings

October 1, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC)

Author: BRYANT ROCHE Staff Reporter | Section: B | 856 Words

Page: 1 OpenURL Link

Dominant showings by top teams confirm previous rankings.

With Hurricane Helene impacting schedules, rankings are based on results through Sunday and do not account for Monday games.

1. East Forsyth (5-0, 2-0)

In Thursday's rainy conditions, the Eagles proved they could produce differently offensively when needed. They scored a season-high seven rushing touchdowns and scored touchdowns on their first seven possessions in a dominant 55-0 win over Davie County, which had scored 76 points over its last two games. East limited Davie to a season-low 104 passing yards and were the first defense to not allow a rushing touchdown to the War Eagles this season. Davie's top weapon, Ethan Driver, entered with an average of 154.8 receiving yards per game but was held to a miniscule 15 yards on three catches. Previous: No. 1. Next: at Mount Tabor.

2. Grimsley (5-0, 2-0)

The Whirlies had a muffed punt on Northwest Guilford's first possession, but after getting a stop, seized the momentum from there as they reached a 27-0 lead (four touchdowns) on just five offensive plays in the 47-7 victory. Northwest entered averaging 25.8 points and 8.3 points allowed per game. The Whirlies pass defense held Vikings' top target Rakem Hammock to just two receptions for 43 yards and forced their pass offense into a season-high three interceptions. Previous: No. 2. Next: at Western Guilford.

3. Dudley (5-0, 2-0)

Of the three top teams, the Panthers have had the easiest schedule but they've also been the most dominant. So far, they have outscored opponents 256-7, with four straight shutouts sinceallowing seven points to Page in week one. The offense is completing 82.6% of its passes with 13.1 yards per attempt while rushing for 10.1 yards per carry. The defense already has 102 TFLs and 37 sacks, even with all five games being mercy-rule margins. Previous: No. 3. Next: at Smith.

4. Mount Tabor (3-1, 1-0)

The Spartans are scheduled to face rival Reynolds on Monday after press time. As of this writing, since losing 34-12 to Grimsley in week one, the defense has only allowed 23 points, despite not recording any interceptions in those games. Previous: No. 4. Next: vs. East Forsyth.

5. Reidsville (5-0, 1-0)

The Rams were idle this past week, but before that, the NCHSAA 2A school defeated four teams in higher classifications, prior to a 37-0 win over North Forsyth in their Mid-State 2A Conference opener. Early-season results indicate county rival McMichael should be a tune-up game ahead of what could be a conference championship game on Oct. 11 against West Stokes. Previous: No. 5. Next: at McMichael.

West's weaknesses of penalties and missed scoring opportunities in the red zone against Mount Tabor carried over against Parkland. However, in the 22-19 victory, the Titans did capitalize on a low Parkland punt snap and overcame a penalty with a 16-yard touchdown run that gave them a 22-13 lead midway through the fourth quarter. Previous: No. 6. Next: at Glenn.

7. Northern Guilford (5-0, 2-0)

The weather was bad when they played Thursday night, but even so, it feels difficult to raise them higher in the rankings as they narrowly defeated Southeast Guilford, 6-0, which lost 49-0 to Dudley and 49-7 to Grimsley. However, Kobe Guardado made the field goals when it mattered and the defense made stops. Previous: No. 7. Next: at Ragsdale.

8. Northwest Guilford (4-1, 1-1)

Grimsley and maybe even the weather exposed Northwest Guilford on Thursday. Overall, they are who we thought they were, and so is Grimsley. Am I letting them off the hook? Previous: No. 8. Next: vs. Page.

9. High Point Christian (5-0, 1-0)

Didn't play their originally scheduled game against Harrells Christian, so they got an unexpected by week ahead of South Wake. Previous: No. 9. Next: vs. South Wake.

10. Oak Grove (4-1, 0-0)

The Grizzlies begin conference play after having an idle week. Their results have largely demonstrated a strong defense, with opponents only scoring 33 combined points on them. Meanwhile, only West has shut down their normally good ground game and their passing attack has an effective 69% completion rate. Previous: No. 10. Next: at Asheboro.

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BRYANT ROCHE; Staff Reporter, 'High school football rankings: Week 7 The usual Triad powerhouses stay atop this week's high school football rankings', *Winston-Salem Journal* (online), 1 Oct 2024 1 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEF32C77D56560



Active rescue efforts continue as emergency services make their way into hardest hit areas

October 1, 2024 | Yadkin Ripple, The (Yadkinville, NC) Author: Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Apg Sister Paper | 303 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — Emergency services personnel are still focused on active rescue missions as they continue to push into some of Watauga County's hardest-hit areas.

As of Monday evening, Helene's devastating path through Watauga County has killed two people and left countless others without homes, power, and cell service.

Emergency services personnel are still actively working on rescue missions in the western part of the county. Multiple families were rescued in Zionville and Cove Creek Monday after being cut off due to flood damage, according to Watauga County Emergency Services Emergency Planner Kristi Pukansky.

"We definitely are still in an active rescue situation," Pukansky said. "We aren't even to damage assessment yet."

There is no timeline for how long rescues will take as some places have not been reached yet during house-to-house checks.

"There are still areas that we are cutting and pushing through (to get) to inaccessible areas," Pukansky said. "We really don't know until we get to the last one how long that's going to take."

Pukansky said some areas in Beaver Dam are not passable as crews continue to work to push in and create access points.

"Check on your neighbors, check on the elderly," Watauga County Fire Marshal Shane Garland said. "We're attempting to get through, but the road infrastructure is lost, and that's going to take some time, but just check on each other."

As of Monday early afternoon, 48 community members were being housed at the Holmes Convocation Center, the official Red Cross shelter during this incident. Pukansky said other places have opened up as shelters, but since the Holmes Convocation Center is the official Red Cross one, they only have numbers for that one.

WCES is continually working to push more resources into the county as agreements are implemented.

A curfew remains in place for Watauga County from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. until further notice.

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Starmount's comeback falls short vs. Mount Airy

October 1, 2024 | Yadkin Ripple, The (Yadkinville, NC) Author: Cory Smith csmith@mtairynews.com| Section: Game | 1299 Words OpenURL Link

BOONVILLE — Mount Airy fended off a late comeback effort to defeat Starmount 17-14 in a battle of undefeated teams

The Sept. 27 game, which was moved back one day due to Hurricane Helene, lived up to the hype and went down to the final possession.

Starmount cut Mount Airy's lead to three points by scoring with just 2:20 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Rams attempted an onside kick that was recovered by the Granite Bears' Fletcher Gallimore. With Starmount out of timeouts, Taeshon Martin ran twice to move the chains and put the visitors in victory formation.

Saturday's game marked Mount Airy's 800th win all-time and extended the program's winning streak to 36-consecutive games — the longest active streak in North Carolina.

Starmount (4-1, 1-1 Northwest 1A Conference) limited Mount Airy to just 18 yards of offense in the fourth quarter, and 12 of those came on Martin's final two carries. The Rams, who struggled to combat the Bears' defense for most of the night, got some momentum going on their first drive of the quarter before Luke Collins was sacked by DJ Joyce. Collins lost another eight yards on the following play, then was intercepted by Martin near midfield.

Kevon Propst and Corey Armstrong led the Rams defense as they forced a three-and-out to set up the home team's best drive of the night. Starmount covered 59 yards on the eight-play drive that spanned 1:56 of game time. The drive ended with Collins connecting with KJ Allen for a 2-yard touchdown, but the score was too little too late as Mount Airy was able to run the clock out by moving the chains after recovering the onside kick.

Mount Airy (6-0, 2-0 NW1A) used the clock to its advantage throughout Saturday's game with a time of possession of nearly 32 minutes.

Defensively, the Bears shut down the run and held the Rams in the negative. Starmount failed to score a rushing touchdown for the first time since 2022. Instead, the home team scored both of its touchdowns in the air. This included a 52-yard pass from Collins to LT Adams on the first play of the game. Following the touchdown Starmount completed just two of its next 13 passes for 9 yards and two interceptions. Collins finished the game 10-of-20 for 146 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions.

Mount Airy utilized its passing game some as Landon Gallimore threw for 74 yards and the team's first touchdown, a 31-yard strike to Zach Goins, but stuck mostly to the ground game. Goins' touchdown served as the first points surrendered by Starmount all season.

Martin served as the Bears' workhorse on offense. The junior rushed for 175 yards and a touchdown on a career-high 31 carries. Martin is the first Granite Bear to record at least 30 carries in a single game since Johnathon Smith in 2019.

Four other Bears combined for 38 rushing yards on nine carries.

The Rams initially contained the Granite Bears offense. Mount Airy went three-and-out on its first drive after two negative rushes and an incomplete pass. Mount Airy forced a turnover-on-downs after Third Floyd made a big fourth-down stop on Starmount's next possession, but then the home team forced a fumble that was recovered by Kinston Crater.

Starmount started on the Mount Airy 31-yard line but quickly faced fourth-and-10 following pressure from Joyce and a swatted pass by Ethan Clabo. Floyd halted the Rams' Crater on a fake punt to set up the Bears' first scoring drive. Collins looked to counter the Bears touchdown in the air but had a pass tipped by Goins and intercepted by Bryson Taylor.

Starmount didn't record another first down until midway through the third quarter.

Mount Airy forced the game's only lead change when Martin scored a 35-yard rushing touchdown as time expired in the first quarter. The touchdown was the longest rush by either team and it more than doubled Mount Airy's rushing yards to that point in the game.

The teams traded punts across the next two possessions, then Joyce forced and recovered a fumble for the Bears. This sparked an 8-play drive that spanned 4:18 of game time during which the Rams' Savian Billips and Kevon Probst each recorded tackles for a loss; Probst led the visitors with six tackles for a loss and 17 total tackles. The Rams' bend-don't-break defense held Mount Airy to a 27-yard field goal from Clabo.

The Bears got another shot at scoring when Kylan Mason recovered a squib kick, but the Rams defense held strong and forced another field goal attempt. The second attempt missed the mark as Mount Airy attempted to get it off before the halftime whistle.

Starmount, which became the first team since 2022 to hold Mount Airy to fewer than 20 points, stood tall as its defense stayed on the field for nearly nine minutes of game time in the third quarter. The defense set the offense up nicely when Cody Hernandez picked off Landon Gallimore and returned it to the Bears' 13-yard line. Collins found Allen for a 9-yard gain on the first play of the red zone drive, then a penalty on Mount Airy moved the home team to the 2-yard line.

Mount Airy stopped Starmount at the line of scrimmage on back-to-back plays before Crater made it to the 1. The Rams lined up for fourth-and-goal, but a false start penalty moved them back to the 6. The Rams instead attempted a 23-yard field goal that sailed wide of the uprights.

Starmount found itself up against the clock after the missed field goal with 4:32 left in the quarter. Mount Airy maintained possession through the end of the quarter but only moved forward 27 yards due to four holding penalties. The Bears' drive continued into the first 1:59 of the fourth quarter before punting. Martin regained possession for Mount Airy with the interception before the visitors punted back to Starmount.

Even with their late surge of offense Starmount couldn't overcome Mount Airy's advantage.

Mount Airy has won its past five meetings against Starmount and 10 of the past 11.

ScoringMount Airy -14, 3, 0, 0 -17

Starmount -7, 0, 0, 7 - 14

1Q11:40 ST 7-0 — LT Adams 52-yard TD reception on Luke Collins pass, Yahir Angulo PAT

3:24 MA 7-7 — Zach Goins 31-yard TD reception on Landon Gallimore pass, Ethan Clabo PAT

0:00 MA 7-14 — Taeshon Martin 35-yard TD run, Ethan Clabo PAT

2Q1:33 MA 7-17 — Ethan Clabo 27-yard field goal

3QNo scoring

4Q2:20 ST 14-17 — KJ Allen 2-yard TD reception on Luke Collins pass, Yahir Angulo PAT

Offensive Stats

Mount Airy Granite Bears

TEAM74 passing yards and one touchdown on five completions, one interception

213 rushing yards and one touchdown on 40 carries, one fumble

287 total yards

INDIVIDUALPassing: Landon Gallimore 5-of-16 for 74 yards, one touchdown, one interception

Receiving: Zach Goins three receptions for 54 yards, one touchdown; Saul Oakley two receptions for 21 yards; Zach Goins one reception for -1 yard

Rushing: Taeshon Martin 31 carries for 175 yards, one touchdown; Landon Gallimore six carries for 42 yards, one fumble; DJ Joyce one carry for 5 yards; John Martin 1 carry for 1 yard; Zach Goins one carry for -10 yards

Kicking: Ethan Clabo 2-of-2 PATs, 1-of-2 field goals (made from 27 yards, missed from 24 yards)

Starmount RamsTEAM146 passing yards and two touchdowns on 10 completions, two interceptions

-1 rushing yards on 17 carries, one fumble

145 total yards

INDIVIDUALPassing: Luke Collins 10-of-20 for 146 yards, two touchdowns, two interceptions

Receiving: LT Adams one reception for 52 yards, one touchdown; KJ Allen four receptions for 25 yards, one touchdown; Kinston Crater one reception for 23 yards; Jymir Billips one reception for 21 yards; Colton Allen one reception for 13 yards; Aamir Adams two receptions for 12 yards

Rushing: Kinston Crater seven carries for 9 yards, one fumble; Jymir Billips two carries for 4 yards; Luke Collins eight carries for -14 yards

Kicking: Yahir Angulo 2-of-2 PATs, 0-of-1 field goals (22 yards)

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