

Southeast US reels as storm Helene death toll passes 210

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Ulysse Bellier, with Mandel Ngan in Keaton Beach, Florida Section: National | 652 Words OpenURL Link

More than 210 people are now confirmed dead after Hurricane Helene carved a path of destruction through several US states, officials said Thursday, making it the second deadliest storm to hit the US mainland in more than half a century.

US President Joe Biden made his second straight day of visits to the country's southeast to grieve with residents of a region traumatized by a disaster that has upended life for millions.

The storm flooded towns and cities, made countless roads impassable, knocked out power and water service, and left communities shell-shocked as they grapple with the start of a years-long recovery effort.

A compilation of official figures by AFP confirms 212 fatalities across North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia.

More than half of the deaths were in flood-ravaged North Carolina, which is experiencing an unprecedented disaster described by some as post-apocalyptic.

"I see you, I hear you, I grieve with you -- and I promise you, we have your back," Biden said during a stop at a damaged pecan farm in Ray City, Georgia.

Helene is the deadliest hurricane to hit the US mainland since 2005's Katrina, which killed 1,392 people.

Despite hundreds of rescues across six states and an enormous response including thousands of federal personnel and thousands more National Guard members and active-duty troops assisting local responders, the death toll from the sprawling storm is expected to rise.

Many residents are still unaccounted for in a mountainous region known for its pockets of isolation.

"We are continuing to find survivors," North Carolina's Buncombe County, the epicenter of the tragedy where more than 70 people are confirmed dead, said in its latest update, adding there are residents still cut off from the outside world due to landslides and destroyed bridges.

In Asheville, a city of about 100,000 at the foot of picturesque mountains, and popular with tourists, thick mud covers streets. Buildings and other structures along riverbanks have been washed away.

Authorities are pursuing their desperate search for survivors in remote areas, while downtown, restaurants and aid groups are providing free food and water. Repair crews are struggling to restore power to hundreds of thousands of customers still without electricity.

In the nearby town of Swannanoa, neighbors bound together in misery or despair were looking after one another, cleaning up roads, fixing power lines, distributing gas and sharing meals.

"We're all sticking together. Everybody's helping each other," resident Shelby Holzhauser told AFP.

- Families 'lost everything' -

Biden traveled Thursday to Florida's northern Gulf Coast, where Helene roared ashore last week as a powerful

Category 4 hurricane with wind speeds of 140 miles (225 kilometers) per hour.

He took an aerial tour of the devastation, and then walked past rows of destroyed homes in Keaton Beach, near where the storm made landfall.

Homes were "just wiped away, just an entire island gone," Biden said afterwards while visiting Georgia.

"Families, they lost everything, including loved ones," he added, and pledged the full support of the federal government in helping communities recover.

Researchers say climate change likely plays a role in the rapid intensification of storms, because there is more energy in a warmer ocean for them to feed on.

Biden said Wednesday while touring North Carolina that a person "must be brain-dead" to deny the climate crisis and its impact.

Former president Donald Trump, who is running neck-and-neck against Vice President Kamala Harris in the November election, meanwhile lashed out Thursday with falsehoods about Washington's storm response.

"People are dying all over and they're getting no help from our federal government," Trump said in a dark campaign speech in Michigan, suggesting wrongly that the Biden-Harris administration has no federal funds to help stormbattered states "because they spent it all on illegal migrants."

He has also called climate change a hoax.

The Sierra Club said Helene fed off record warm water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico, supercharging the storm's power.

"Make no mistake: the unimaginable devastation we're seeing across the Southeast is the climate crisis in action," warned executive director Ben Jealous.

mlm/sst

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After Helene's destruction, North Carolina starts to rebuild

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Ulysse BELLIER | Section: National | 694 Words OpenURL Link

When Hurricane Helene roared over the mountains before dawn last week, it brought a maelstrom of water that rose to the mailbox of Shelby Holzhauser's little white house on the banks of the Swannanoa River.

To get food and water, for days she's had to don a backpack and trudge past mounds of debris left by the killer storm as it destroyed everything in its path.

"There's no power, no water," Holzhauser said as her four-year-old son Carter clung to her legs.

Under sunny skies on Thursday, crews in the town of Swannanoa and all over in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina were fixing roads, pipes and electricity lines destroyed by the hurricane.

The death toll stood at more than 200 throughout several southeast states. North Carolina was the hardest hit, recording half of the fatalities.

"Us living on a hill, we thought we were going to be okay. But it got really close enough to where I had to get my son out of the house, and I was scared that we were going to get stuck," the 23-year-old preschool teacher said.

Nearly a week after the storm hit, and the hulks of ruined cars and other detritus have been cleared from the main roads. But life was far from normal.

To flush the toilet, Holzhauser has to use water from the river. As she spoke to AFP, her husband fired up a generator that his employer lent them so they can cook.

Elsewhere in town, men staffed a large stand with basic necessities at a shuttered gas station.

"We're all sticking together. Everybody's helping each other," said Holzhauser.

A lifetime resident of this mountain region, Holzhauser said life before Helene meant working all the time to earn money and get by, and she never really bonded with her neighbors.

But that has changed.

"I guess ever since the disaster happened, I was actually able to get close with my neighbors. They came down to check on us, make sure we had what we needed," she said.

- Escape by kayak -

Harrowing tales are everywhere and a neighbor named Vincent Floriani is no different. He stood outside a house he rents out, the floor of which was covered in six inches (15 centimeters) of muck.

As floodwaters nearly reached the ceiling of the house on the day of the storm, Floriani's tenant wriggled his way out and swam until someone saved him in a kayak.

Floriani could not find him for days and feared the worst, until the man called Wednesday from a hospital.

"It was the happiest phone call I ever had," he told AFP, his house now sporting an ugly brown line marking the

water's height -- at least seven feet (more than two meters).

"It is just utter devastation," said Floriani. "These houses have been here for 100 years, and there's never been a flood like this."

- 'A lot of arief' -

In the parking lot of a closed fast-food restaurant, veterinarians offered free emergency care for pets. Audrey Pace, a veterinary technician, came out to help.

"There's a lot of grief right now, and we know a lot about grief, so come to us. We're going to love you," said Pace.

"Pets are people's unconditional love and their unconditional companions," she added, then stepped away as a car arrived with a dog in the passenger seat.

In a nearby field helicopters took off and landed with a loud whir.

A bit further away, an area of mobile homes -- typical of poor rural spots in the United States -- was swept away.

From one of them, Christmas decorations and a child's Star Wars outfit stuck out through a destroyed wall. There was no one inside.

President Joe Biden toured storm-hit areas on Wednesday and flew over the city of Asheville, which is near Swannanoa.

Biden sent in more soldiers to assist recovery efforts after Donald Trump, seeking re-election in November against Vice President Kamala Harris, accused him of being slow to help hurricane victims.

Holzhauser said the rebuilding effort so far has been "great." Twenty yards (meters) from her house, workers laid new water pipes and heavy equipment repaired damaged roads.

But as she looked out over the activity, Holzhauser knew what lies ahead.

"This is going to take a while to recover," she said.

ube/cyb/dw/acb

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Supercharged storms: how climate change amplifies cyclones

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Issam AHMED| Section: National | 664 Words OpenURL Link

From Hurricane Helene to Typhoon Yagi, powerful storms are battering the globe, and scientists warn that a warming planet is amplifying their destructive force to unprecedented levels.

Here's what the latest research reveals about how climate change is supercharging tropical cyclones -- the generic term for both weather phenomenon.

- Packing more punch -

First, the basics: warmer ocean surfaces release more water vapor, providing additional energy for storms, which intensifies their winds. A warming atmosphere also allows them to hold more water, boosting heavy rainfall.

"On average, the destructive potential of hurricanes has increased about 40 percent due to the 1 degrees Celsius (roughly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) warming that has already taken place," Michael Mann, a climatologist at University of Pennsylvania, told AFP.

In a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Mann added his voice to calls for the Saffir-Simpson scale to be expanded to include a "new class of monster storms" -- Category 6, where sustained winds exceed 192 miles per hour (308 kph).

According to experts, climate change set the stage for Helene, which peaked as a Category 4 hurricane.

"The oceanic heat content was at a record level, providing plenty of fuel and potential for a storm like this to gain strength and become a large and very damaging storm," David Zierden, Florida's state climatologist, told AFP.

- Rapid intensification -

"Rapid intensification," defined as a hurricane speeding up by 30 knots within a 24-hour period, is also becoming more common.

"If intensification happens very close to the coast in the lead up to landfall, it can have a huge effect, which you saw last week in the case of Helene," Karthik Balaguru, a climate scientist at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, told AFP.

Balaguru was the lead author on a paper this year in journal Earth's Future that used decades of satellite data to show "a robust increase in the rates at which storms intensified close to the coast, and this is across the world."

The explanation is two-fold.

Warming climate patterns are reducing wind shear -- changes in wind speed and direction with height -- along both the Atlantic Coast of North America and the Pacific Coast of Asia.

"When you have strong wind shear, it tends to tear apart the core of the storm," explained Balaguru.

Climate change is also driving higher humidity along coastlines compared to the open ocean.

This is likely due to a thermal gradient created as land heats faster than water, causing changes in pressure and

wind circulation that push moisture into the mid-troposphere where storms can access it. More data is needed to confirm this hypothesis.

Additionally, rising sea levels -- about a foot over the past century -- mean cyclones are now operating from a higher baseline, amplifying storm surges, said Zierden.

- How often? -

While the impact of climate change on how often cyclones happen is still an active area of research, studies suggest it can either increase or decrease frequency, depending on the region.

Particle pollution generated by industry, vehicles, and the energy sector blocks sunlight, partially offsetting the warming effects of greenhouse gases.

In a Science Advances paper, Hiroyuki Murakami, a physical scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, found that particle emissions from the US and Europe peaked around 1980, and their decline leading to a rise in hurricane frequency in the Atlantic.

Conversely, in Asia, high pollution levels in China and India may be suppressing more frequent storm in the western Pacific, Murakami told AFP.

Another study he led found that human activity has increased tropical cyclone activity off Japan's coast, raising the risk of rare precipitation events in the country's west through frontal rainbands—even when the storms themselves don't make landfall.

This year's North Atlantic hurricane season was initially projected to be highly active. However, various meteorological factors created a lull from August through September, according to Zierden and Murakami.

Now, though "we've seen a dramatic ramp-up over the past week," said Mann. With hurricane season running until November 30, we're not in the clear yet, he stressed.

ia/jgc

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FEMA runs out of money for Helene while spending hundreds of millions on migrants

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Casey Harper | The Center Square | Section: National | 348 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters Wednesday that FEMA does not have enough funding to last the rest of the year even as it has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on migrants under the Biden administration and more hurricanes could be on the way.

DHS oversees FEMA, putting Mayorkas in charge of the emergency relief agency which has recently been focused on helping migrants settle in the U.S.

"We are meeting the immediate needs with the money that we have," Mayorkas told reporters. "We are expecting another hurricane hitting. FEMA does not have the funds to make it through the season."

The startling admission by Mayorkas comes as FEMA grapples with the widespread damage of Hurricane Helene, A Category 4 hurricane that ripped through the southeast costing billions of dollars, causing widespread infrastructure damage, food shortages, and more than 100 deaths. Many are still unaccounted for as well.

President Joe Biden said earlier this week he may call on Congress to pass more funding for FEMA.

In April of this year, FEMA announced \$640 million in new funding, \$300 million for "direct funding" to help immigrants settle in the U.S. while the other \$340 million went to cities via grants for the same purpose.

"Last year, more than \$780 million was awarded through SSP and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program – Humanitarian Awards, which went to organizations and cities across the country," FEMA said in its release.

While funding is allocated by Congress and money can be flexibly funneled through FEMA from other internal sources, Mayorkas' comments still show that FEMA's resources have been focused on migrants while it was left unprepared for this deadly hurricane season.

Illegal immigration has soared under the Biden-Harris administration with millions of migrants entering the U.S. and overwhelming the federal government's ability to process them, let alone catch the millions of illegal immigrants crossing the southern border.

At least 12 million illegal immigrants have entered the U.S. under the Biden-Harris administration, though many experts estimate the figure is actually much higher.

Hurricane season is expected to go through the end of November.

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THE SPICE OF SPORTS: Our neighbors can't afford to think about sports right now

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Ben McCormick bmccormick@roxboro-courier.com | Section: Sports | 556 Words OpenURL Link

Sports are typically our distraction from the troubles of everyday life. But what happens when tragedy destroys those distractions?

That's what our neighbors to the west are facing right now. After Hurricane Helene ravaged communities in western North Carolina, many were left without power, water, or the ability to travel safely. Some even lost their homes. Losing those things makes it difficult to continue a high school or college sports schedule.

And perhaps Friday night football should be the last thing on our minds right now. It seems a bit shallow and disingenuous to think about sports when lives and entire communities have been lost. But, honestly, I don't want to write off the significance of sports so quickly.

I spend most of my days around high school coaches and athletes here in Roxboro. I know how hard they practice and compete. I know how much they love their sports. That's why I know it isn't easy to lose them, even temporarily.

Here in Person County, many games have been postponed or canceled due to the inclement weather. But in the western part of the state, there are schools that can't play sports at all right now — or may not for the rest of the year — and it's unclear when or if that could change.

On Monday, Nick Stevens from High School OT reported that the NCHSAA Board of Directors is set to meet this week to discuss how to continue the fall sports season, but they cannot even begin those discussions until they are able to get in touch with the board members located in western North Carolina.

The Georgia High School Association announced that it would add an additional week to the football season to account for time lost due to Hurricane Helene. The issue with that solution here is that some schools in North Carolina will be fighting to remedy the impacts of the storm for more than one week. Stevens reported that a possible solution could be multiple games in the same week once play resumes.

The NCHSAA should add an additional week, or weeks, to the end of the regular season to allow schools the time to recover. But I also think the reemergence of sports should be handled on a school-by-school basis.

If a school can't recover in time, then that's a decision they will unfortunately have to face. And, teams shouldn't be forced to play more games than they usually do in a given week. If a football team ends the season with seven games played, then the NCHSAA should accept that's the best that could have been done, and evaluate the teams with that in mind.

There should be an incredible amount of leniency granted to the schools impacted by this disaster, because at the end of the day, there are more important things.

Once the season can resume for the western part of the state, I hope that we all take a moment to appreciate it. I was just at Lake Lure and Chimney Rock in mid-July. It breaks my heart to see beautiful communities like those damaged so horribly.

So, yes, sports matter. They help us get through the day. But right now, our neighbors can't afford to lean on sports. They need to lean on us.

You can donate to help those impacted by Hurricane Helene with the American Red Cross by visiting redcross.org/donate.

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Harris rallying with anti-Trump Republican in swing state battle

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Danny KEMP| Section: National | 581 Words OpenURL Link

Democratic US presidential candidate Kamala Harris will rally Thursday with Liz Cheney, a staunch Republican opponent of Donald Trump, as both Harris and former president Trump hit crucial Midwestern swing states.

Trump is on the campaign trail in Michigan hours after his wife Melania added more spice to an already tense race by defending abortion, in stark contrast to her husband's position on the key issue.

Harris is heading to the symbolic birthplace of the Republican Party in Ripon, Wisconsin, with Cheney, the former congresswoman who has switched sides to back Harris along with her father, former vice president Dick Cheney.

Trump has chosen a deeply strategic venue, the rust-belt Michigan county of Saginaw that he won in 2016 and then lost to Joe Biden by a narrow margin in 2020.

The three "Rust Belt" states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania are among seven battleground states that are expected to decide an agonizingly close 2024 election that's just over a month away.

Current vice president Harris will be using her rally to reach out to Republicans whom Democrats hope are turned off by Trump's extreme rhetoric on subjects ranging from abortion to migration and democracy.

The conservative Liz Cheney was one of only 10 Republicans to vote to impeach Trump over the January 6, 2021 attacks on the US Capitol by Trump supporters trying to overturn his 2020 election loss.

Harris said in September she was "honored" by the endorsements of the Cheneys, saying they showed the need to "put country over party."

Liz Cheney was thrown out of the leadership of the US House for her opposition to tycoon Trump.

Dick Cheney's support meanwhile came as a surprise from the former right-hand man to President George W. Bush.

- 'Right to choose' -

Trump will be fighting for votes in Saginaw, one scene of the battle to win over the disaffected and mostly white working class in cities hollowed out by globalization.

Harris has a narrow lead in polls in Michigan but both candidates know that all the swing states could go either way and are hitting them relentlessly with just 33 days until the election.

The Trump campaign said his remarks were expected to focus on the economy, although most of his recent rallies have veered wildly off topic as he attacks favorite targets like illegal migrants.

One subject he may be tempted to avoid is former first lady Melania Trump's new memoir and her comments on the hot-button election issue of abortion.

According to The Guardian, which said it had accessed a copy of the memoir ahead of publication next week, Melania wrote that "restricting a woman's right to choose whether to terminate an unwanted pregnancy is the same as denying her control over her own body." Her opinion diverges from Trump, who often brags that his Supreme Court justice picks paved the way for the end of the national right to abortion in the United States.

The Harris campaign responded that "sadly for the women across America, Mrs Trump's husband firmly disagrees with her."

Trump and Harris remain neck-and-neck ahead of the election, despite historic upheavals including Harris replacing Biden as the Democratic nominee at the last minute in July and two assassination attempts against Trump.

Biden headed to Florida and Georgia on Thursday to view the devastation from Hurricane Helene, which has killed nearly 200 people across a swathe of southeastern states.

The Biden-Harris administration's response to the hurricane has threatened to become a new election issue -- along with a US dockers strike and oil prices rising on fears of a Middle East war.

dk/bgs

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FEMA running out of hurricane relief money while spending hundreds of millions on migrants

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Casey Harper | The Center Square | Section: National | 431 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) – Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters Wednesday that FEMA does not have enough funding to last the rest of the year even as it has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on migrants under the Biden administration and more hurricanes could be on the way.

DHS oversees FEMA, putting Mayorkas in charge of the emergency relief agency which has recently been focused on helping migrants settle in the U.S.

"We are meeting the immediate needs with the money that we have," Mayorkas told reporters. "We are expecting another hurricane hitting. FEMA does not have the funds to make it through the season."

The startling admission by Mayorkas comes as FEMA grapples with the widespread damage of Hurricane Helene, A Category 4 hurricane that ripped through the southeast costing billions of dollars, causing widespread infrastructure damage, food shortages, and more than 100 deaths. Many are still unaccounted for as well.

President Joe Biden said earlier this week he may call on Congress to pass more funding for FEMA.

In April of this year, FEMA announced \$640 million in new funding, \$300 million for "direct funding" to help immigrants settle in the U.S. while the other \$340 million went to cities via grants for the same purpose.

"Last year, more than \$780 million was awarded through SSP and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program – Humanitarian Awards, which went to organizations and cities across the country," FEMA said in its release.

While funding is allocated by Congress and money can be flexibly funneled through FEMA from other internal sources, Mayorkas' comments still show that FEMA's resources have been focused on migrants while it was left unprepared for this deadly hurricane season.

"FEMA has what it needs for immediate response and recovery efforts. As FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell has said, she has the full authority to spend against the President's budget, but we're not out of hurricane season yet so we need to keep a close eye on it," said Director of Public Affairs and FEMA Spokesperson Jaclyn Rothenberg. "We may need to go back into immediate needs funding and we will be watching it closely."

Illegal immigration has soared under the Biden-Harris administration with millions of migrants entering the U.S. and overwhelming the federal government's ability to process them, let alone catch the millions of illegal immigrants crossing the southern border.

Nearly 14 million illegal border crossers and inadmissables have been reported under the Biden-Harris administration, The Center Square exclusively reported. Members of Congress and border security experts estimate the figure is actually much higher.

Hurricane season is expected to go through the end of November.

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US dockworkers to head back to work after tentative deal

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Julie CHABANAS | Section: National | 619 Words OpenURL Link

US dockworkers will return to work after a three-day strike at East and Gulf Coast ports after the union and port operators reached a tentative deal on pay and extended the current contract to January 15, both sides said Thursday.

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) had launched a work stoppage early Tuesday after negotiations with the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), which represents shipping companies and terminal operators, hit an impasse.

The strike -- which involved 45,000 workers, according to the ILA -- paralyzed 36 ports from Maine to Texas, which handle an array of goods from food to electronics.

But Thursday evening, the two sides announced in a joint statement that they had "reached a tentative agreement on wages and have agreed to extend the Master Contract until January 15, 2025 to return to the bargaining table to negotiate all other outstanding issues.

"Effective immediately, all current job actions will cease and all work covered by the Master Contract will resume."

The statement did not offer terms of the deal, but The Wall Street Journal, citing sources close to the matter, said USMX had proposed a 62 percent salary increase over six years, which allowed the deal to be reached.

The strike was the first walkout by the union since 1977 after negotiations stalled over union demands for significant wage increases and protection against automation-related job loss.

US President Joe Biden -- who had been under pressure to intervene in negotiations to keep ports open, but had demurred citing respect for collective bargaining rights -- celebrated the suspension of the strike late Thursday.

"I want to thank the union workers, the carriers, and the port operators for acting patriotically to reopen our ports and ensure the availability of critical supplies for Hurricane Helene recovery and rebuilding," Biden said in a statement.

"Collective bargaining works, and it is critical to building a stronger economy from the middle out and the bottom up."

Outside the White House, Biden added: "They've got the next 90 days, they are going to settle everything."

Republican former president Donald Trump, who is seeking to take back the Oval Office, had blamed Biden for the crisis, saying Tuesday in Milwaukee: "He should have worked out a deal."

- Crisis averted -

Analysts had cautioned that a lengthy strike could pose a major headwind to the US economy as the presidential election grows near on November 5, leading to shortages of some items and lifting costs at a time when inflation has been moderating.

Shipping companies forced to re-route their vessels had planned to apply surcharges for each container: \$1,000 each for German shipping company Hapag-Lloyd, and between \$800 and \$1500 for France's CMA CGM, according

to German logistics platform Container xChange.

Analysts at TD Cowen said Danish giant Maersk was ready to charge up to \$3,780 extra per container to cover its strike-related costs.

Oxford Economics had estimated that the strike would dent US gross domestic product by \$4.5 billion to \$7.5 billion per week, with the overall impact depending on how long the strike lasts.

But Capital Economics said fears about the economic impact of the strike were "overdone," in part because recent shocks to the supply chain have made businesses more aware of the need to bake in precautionary measures.

The strike arrived at a politically precarious time, just one month before the election, but the tentative agreement relieves the political pressure.

National Retail Federation chief Matthew Shay called the tentative deal and the decision to end the current strike "good news for the nation's economy."

"It is critically important that the International Longshoremen's Association and United States Maritime Alliance work diligently and in good faith to reach a fair, final agreement before the extension expires," Shay said in a statement.

"The sooner they reach a deal, the better for all American families."

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Vander Poppen wins TNAC Women's Runner of the Year, Hicks claims Coach of the Year

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Ben McCormick bmccormick@roxboro-courier.com | Section: Sports | 628 Words OpenURL Link

HILLSBOROUGH — Four weeks ago, in the second meet of the season for the Roxboro Community School cross country team, star runner Alexis Vander Poppen injured her foot.

Funny thing is, she won that race. And she won the next one, and the next won. And following the TNAC Conference Championships at Eno River on Tuesday — in which she placed second — Vander Poppen was voted the conference Women's Runner of the Year.

"She's a quiet fighter," RCS head coach Beverly Hicks said. "And she will not quit. She just doesn't give up. And she has worked on her own because she has a lot of schedule conflicts with the other athletic stuff that she does. But she's incredible. And she really put the work in."

In addition to running, Vander Poppen is a competitive ice skater. With that considered, it's safe to say that she is always on her feet. So, when she got injured, that could have majorly altered her performance. But Hicks said Vander Poppen has worked hard and always played it cool. She doesn't complain, she just keeps going.

Vander Poppen said she's glad the injury wasn't too serious. Since it occurred, she has been practicing, but only in a limited capacity, she said. And on Tuesday, that practice was rewarded when the TNAC coaches voted her Runner of the Year.

"It's super rewarding," Vander Poppen said. "Because we put in a lot of hard work, so it's great to have it pay off."

Hicks came home with an award herself Tuesday night. The second-year head coach was named the women's team TNAC Coach of the Year.

"It's incredible," Hicks said. "It's an honor to be recognized by your peers. So that's pretty powerful for me."

Both of Hicks' teams — boys and girls — finished third overall at the TNAC Conference Championships. For the girls, Vander Poppen led the way, finishing second overall (21:38 time), behind only Riley Christensen from Eno River. Christensen is the only runner to place ahead of Vander Poppen in any race this season. She did so twice: in the first meet of the season, and in the championship meet.

Christensen was joined by Eno's Michael Huff as a first place finisher on Tuesday. With the first place finisher for both boys and girls, the Bobats took home the conference championships for both teams.

As for the rest of the Bulldogs, sophomore Katie Mann finished eighth (23:38 time) amongst all girls. That earned Mann an all-conference nod. The top 14 finishers for each race were awarded with all-conference honors. That means Mann and Vander Poppen claimed the recognition.

However, on the boys' side, senior John Turner came up just shy of all-conference, finishing 15th with a time of 22:16. Other notable finishers for RCS included: Christopher Atkins (boys, 19th – 22:59.1), Noah Nobles (boys, 20th – 22:59.8), Garren Mooney (boys, 21st – 23:04), McKenzie Cobb (girls, 18th – 27:08) and Kylie Barker (girls, 20th – 27:31).

The championship meet served as Senior Night for all seven schools as well. The seniors recognized from RCS were Eddie Curran, John Turner, Mooney, Nathan Gardner, Abby Hicks and Cobb.

Now, the Bulldogs' attention shifts to regionals later this month, where Beverly Hicks hopes they can show up and show out. After that, their attention goes to the state competition. It's important to note that the state competition (currently slated for the beginning of November), could be pushed back due to evolving scheduling discussions related to the impact of Hurricane Helene in the western part of the state.

When the state meet does come around, though, Vander Poppen said she hopes she will qualify. She did last year, but wasn't able to compete due to a scheduling conflict with ice skating. This time around Hicks said they made sure to clear the calendar for states.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Ben McCormick bmccormick@roxboro-courier.com, 'Vander Poppen wins TNAC Women's Runner of the Year, Hicks claims Coach of the Year', *Courier-Times, The*(online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFBC4A6B466650>



Board hopefuls take on forum questions Monday

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: George Willoughby gwilloughby@roxboro-courier.com | Section: News | 1586 Words OpenURL Link

Three Board of Commissioners took on questions on their priorities and vision for the future of Person County at a forum Monday night hosted by the Person County NAACP, the Person County Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Sigma Nu Omega Chapter.

Present Monday night were Republican candidate Derrick Sims and Democrats Antoinetta Cash Royster and Mark Clayton.

Republican candidates Sherry Wilborn and Tracy Ellixson did not attend.

Wilborn told The Courier-Times she had a previous commitment and Ellixson said he could not attend as he would be traveling to western North Carolina with his job to assist with recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene.

Royster said her goal as a commissioner would be the same that it was when she was a social worker with the county Department of Social Services.

"I'm a social worker, so I look at what I'm doing for my county as if it's a family and do what I used to do for families – serve them with transparency and integrity and being respectful and I plan to do that as your next commissioner," Royster said. "I am honored to be here because I never thought I'd be doing anything like this, but knowing the needs of this community, serving this community with Person County DSS over 15 years as a social worker for this county, I know what's needed and I've seen families at their best and their worst, and I plan to continue to serve Person County as your next county commissioner."

Asked about her vision for the future of the county, Royster reiterated her commitment to transparency and said she wants to be a commissioner who is willing to listen to the concerns of the county.

"As a social worker, I was transparent in serving the families that I had to serve. I was a child abuse investigator and that's a hard job – it's dangerous and folks don't like you," she said. "As a commissioner, what I envision for Person County is to bring those same leadership skills to the Board of Commissioners, for citizens or residents here in this county to see that they have a board that is listening to what they have to say, they have a board that's going to respect them and they feel supported by their board. I feel that Person County will be able to move forward and get past a lot of things that seem to be holding progress back by us doing the same thing – being transparent, being leaders that folks will want to say, 'yes, these are my leaders of my county,' so that we can get things done and being able to work together no matter what your political background is, being able to work together so that we can move forward to keep Person County number one and we're not left behind and moving forward for the things that need to happen here, whether it's economic development, education or or the overall well-being of this county."

On what changes need to be made, Royster said she would advocate for increasing the school board's budget and would want to look into solving the county's drug problem, which she said would also help solve other local issues.

"As a social worker, I've seen it," Royster said of the local drug problem. "I've taken people to treatment who are going through withdrawals and I know that money has been put up or given to the counties to address these issues. I want to know exactly what we are doing with those things, because once we get some of these things under control or try to tackle some of these things, then some of the issues we have we'll be able to work go further for some positive outcomes for families. We look at jobs – people are losing jobs because of addiction at times. If we could just address the root causes and use the monies that have been made available to this county in the right way, then we'll be able to move forward as a county."

In introducing himself, Sims highlighted his years of involvement with local organizations.

That involvement includes more than 20 years as a member of the Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce, including serving as the chamber board's chairman and receiving the 2016 Chamber Champion award.

Sims currently serves and has been on the Uptown Roxboro Group board for 15 years, including serving as the board's president for five of those years.

Sims' other involvement includes chairing the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and the Kerr-Tar Council of Governments.

Sims is a former member of the Economic Development Commission [EDC] and Person County Business Industrial Center [PCBIC] and is a board member of the Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department.

"During the past years I have supported economic development, workforce development, emergency medical services, volunteer fire departments, veterans and the Department of Social Services," Sims said. "During the past years, I've attended several meetings with Duke Energy, working to find options to keep our power plants open, saving as many jobs as possible. I supported the purchase of a building located on Crown Boulevard for PCC to use for advanced training technology and will enhance our workforce in Person County and surrounding areas. For the past 10 years, I've been involved with getting a company to locate at our Mega Park. I've supported the EDC and PCBIC in working toward obtaining certifications and getting grant money to make the property more marketable. I feel very positive about getting a buyer for this property."

When asked about policy changes needed for broader employment in the county, Sims pointed to the Mega Park.

"A couple of things I've supported are workforce development, investing in our training and investing in our workforce for future jobs," Sims said. "We are really close to having a company in our Mega Park. There's going to be hundreds of jobs and I think it's important for our infrastructure – we need to be prepared for that. ... The thing that I really look forward to in the next few years it's seeing what happens at the Mega Park and watching our young people – it's not gonna help me. It's going to help our young people, our grandkids and our kids with employment and opportunity for jobs. There's a lot of other things that are happening in this country right now. There are companies looking at us and when you talk to some of them, they say, why are we coming? It's because of the people. It's because of us, and we need to keep that going."

When asked what area he sees that needs additional resources, Sims said he would like to look at what the commissioners could do to enhance school security.

Clayton highlighted his history in the state's textile industry.

Growing up on the Orange County side of Hurdle Mills, Clayton got his industrial engineering degree from N.C. State, then worked in the textile industry eventually becoming a weave plant manager.

"It's been a lot of experiences with people," Clayton said. "I do not have any political experience, but I'll tell you what: I've worked with people in every area and looked at problems and worked out problems since that time."

The last 15 years of his career, Clayton worked in pharmaceuticals.

"We shipped pharmaceutical drugs all over the world – and I mean all over the world – to Russia, China, Japan, wherever and it had to be done with the utmost quality. When we had a problem, I was going to my supervisors and the people on the floor and saying, 'what can we do differently to solve these issues?' That's what I do – we solve problems and we do it with people's interest in mind and that's what I'm running for."

Asked about his vision for the future, Clayton said he wants to foster sustainable growth and enhance citizens'

quality of life.

"We all need to respect our residents," he said. "They are our people of the county. This includes investment in infrastructure, promoting the growth of local businesses and our current small businesses. I envision a vibrant community that embraces innovation while preserving our rich heritage. By prioritizing these needs, we can create a more resilient and interconnected Person County that can be a place for generations to grow."

Clayton also highlighted the need for better broadband connectivity in the county.

"I had to work from home some during COVID and after I had some minor surgeries done and it took me hours longer at home to connect and read the emails I had from work, which was like 400 a day. I stayed up till 9 o'clock at night when I'd be done by 4 o'clock in the afternoon at work. I worked in Durham and the internet in the city was great, but can you imagine what our kids are going through? They had to work from home and try to do homework and lessons. That needs to be one of the main things for us to look at is creating and getting broadband access all through the rural areas, not just in the town but to all the rural areas where so many people are. This will help us to create new jobs where people can stay here in this county and work from home with broadband access that they can reach anybody that they need to. I think you'll see a lot of strength and growth in our county with that."

Election day is Nov. 5.

Voters will be able to elect three of five candidates to seats on the Person County Board of Elections.

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Travel to NC mountains sharply restricted

October 3, 2024 | Courier-Tribune, The (Asheboro, NC) Author: SHARON MYERS PAXTON MEDIA GROUP| Section: Local | 264 Words OpenURL Link

Anyone who wants to bring relief supplies to the flood-ravaged communities of western North Carolina may not be allowed into the region if they don't check in with state officials before they leave, the N.C. Department of Emergency Management said.

Officials with the department's Business Operations Emergency Center say that most roads west of Hickory remain closed except to emergency vehicles and registered volunteer organizations, and people will not be allowed into the area if they haven't notified officials in advance about what they are bringing and where it is going.

"We must secure these routes for responders and critical partner assets needed for response and recovery efforts," a notice from the center said. "There is a high likelihood that your teams will be turned away at various checkpoints."

Anyone wishing to travel to the area to drop off donations can email requests to BEOC@ncdps.gov with the subject line "Logistics support." The emails should include what is being moved and why special access is needed. It should also include where you are traveling to and from, as well as the expected arrival time.

The N.C. Department of Public Safety said the most-needed donation at this time is money, which can be sent to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund at www.nc.gov/disaster-relief-fund-fags.

There are also many churches, businesses and other organizations that are registered Volunteer Organization Active in a Disaster that are collecting donations to be delivered. A list can be found at www.ncvoad.org/members/

Those wishing to volunteer in person can sign up with a Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at https://www.ncvoad.org/volunteer/.

NCDPS also has a list of resources at www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/emergency-management/hurricane-helene. Copyright 2024 The Courier-Tribune, All Rights Reserved.

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SHARON MYERS PAXTON MEDIA GROUP, 'Travel to NC mountains sharply restricted', *Courier-Tribune, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFF7B799431E08



'They've lost everything': VFW Post 6060 collects supplies for Helene flood victims

October 3, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Chris Day | Section: Local | 884 Words OpenURL Link

Area veterans rolled out Thursday with a trailer filled with much-needed supplies for residents of storm-stricken western North Carolina.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6060 in Elizabeth City held a supplies drive this week for the victims devastated by widespread flooding in the western part of the state.

On Wednesday, the parking lot at VFW was busy as residents stopped by to drop off donations. Helping to oversee the collection was Navy veteran and VFW Post 6060 Commander Allen Coatney.

Nothing non-perishable was being turned down, Coatney said.

"We're taking everything," said the retired chief petty officer. "Water, dog supplies, dog food, any non-perishable goods — we're taking. They've asked for all of it: masks, gloves, gas cans — because you know we can get them filled down there. Any yard equipment that people can spare."

The flood victims are in need of all sorts of items, Coatney said.

"A lot of those — you know all those people they lost everything, their whole houses and everything just swept away with the flood," he said.

One person who stopped by with a car filled with donated items was Sheila Glasscock, a fifth-grade teacher at Camden Intermediate School. Her students helped assemble about 100 bags filled with different items. The supplies were collected by two of her students, another teacher and herself, said Glasscock, who is known to her students as "Mrs. G."

"My homeroom class gathered all the supplies; we sorted them into Ziploc bags and they are all labeled with a sticker that says, 'Thinking of you, love Mrs. G's fifth-grade class, Camden Intermediate School, Camden, North Carolina,'" Glasscock said.

The bags contain a variety of food items, facial products, snacks, brushes, toothbrushes, deodorant, baby wipes, sanitizing wipes, coloring books and more, she said.

"I ran out of stickers, actually," Glasscock said. "I printed 60 stickers at home this morning and then we had to go back to print two more pages."

The students were excited to be involved in helping fellow North Carolinians, Glasscock said.

"We are studying weather in our science curriculum," she said. "So, I have been showing them videos of the hurricane damage and the flooding and showing them how to be compassionate and to show sympathy" for other students and their families.

Glasscock said after her students had finished packing all the items, they realized the importance of their involvement.

"They were like, 'Wow, this is a lot of stuff, this is going to help a lot of families,'" Glasscock said.

The teacher said she hopes her students are learning the importance of helping fellow citizens, "because one day you're probably going to need some help along the way as well."

Around 10 a.m. Thursday, a platoon-sized group of veterans departed Elizabeth City in a pickup truck that was pulling a large trailer filled with bottled water, household cleaning supplies, toiletries, clothes, bags of charcoal, medical supplies, toys and coloring books for children and pet supplies, such as dog and cat food and litter, and other essentials.

Coatney said about 10 to 15 VFW post members were going to Kernersville.

"And we'll be down there the whole weekend working, too, with those people," he said.

The VFW has a large facility in Kernersville which the group is using as a central supplies collection and distribution point. From Kernersville, veterans and other volunteers will fan out to the affected areas of western North Carolina to deliver supplies to weary flood victims.

The supplies drive was coordinated by the state chapter of the VFW, with involvement from the national chapter, too. The VFW chose Kernersville because the town is far enough away where power is still available but close enough to make day trips into western North Carolina. Kernersville is located off N.C. Highway 421 between Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

According to VFW 6060 member Scott Seddon, the local chapter, including its auxiliary members, raised \$11,000 to give to the VFW disaster fund.

The massive flooding occurred after remnants of Hurricane Helene passed over Asheville and other surrounding parts of western North Carolina on Thursday and Friday, dumping an estimated two feet of rain and causing rivers to overflow. The storm knocked out power throughout the region and has accounted for nearly 200 deaths.

VFW Post 6060 will continue to accept donations beyond this week, because members will be making another trip to Kernersville next week, Coatney said. The Post can be reached by phone at 252-338-2828.

Other local agencies accepting donations include Food Bank of the Albemarle and Perquimans County Emergency Services.

The food bank, along with six other regional food banks in the state, is accepting non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies for transport to Helene victims. Items will be accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: 252-335-4035.

Perquimans County Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon noted Monday that residents of Rutherford County have great need for toilet paper; paper towels; plastic forks, knives and spoons; disposable plates; disinfectant wipes; prepackaged "nabs"; Granola bars; and Pop-tarts.

Nixon noted that Rutherford "holds a special link" to Perquimans because the county serves as a backup for the Perquimans-Gates 911 Center during emergencies.

Nixon asked residents to consider dropping donated items at either the Perquimans County Emergency Services at 159 Creek Drive, Hertford, or Perquimans County High School at Perquimans County High School at 305 S Edenton Road Street in Hertford.

He noted that the initial delivery to Rutherford County will be Monday, Oct. 7.

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100-plus tour Hertford's historic sites during PCRA's Jollification!

October 3, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Kesha Williams | Section: Local | 1011 Words OpenURL Link

After days of rain had drenched the area ahead of Tropical Storm Helene's arrival in North Carolina, last weekend's dry and 87-degree weather came as a bit of surprise for both organizers of the Perquimans County Restoration Association's annual Jollification! historic sites tour and visitors taking it.

Sandy Stevenson, president of the PCRA, didn't seem to mind the unseasonably warm temperatures as he greeted visitors entering the fellowship hall at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to pick up their guidebooks for the tour of 13 historic sites in Hertford.

"We've got great weather," he said. "We were a bit nervous that Hurricane Helene was coming in but it swept out just in time."

When meteorologists determined Sept. 25th that Helene wouldn't twirl up the North Carolina coastline from Florida, PCRA members began finalizing preparations for this year's Jollification! tour and dinner.

That 13-site tour included stops at the Craftsman-style Sears Home, two historic homes on North Front Street — one a Colonial Revival, the other a Georgian Colonial Revival — and the Phelps Point/Edmundson Fox Monument at the corner of Church and Newby streets.

Jollification! attendees had the option of paying \$25 for just for the home tours, or \$25 for a dinner scheduled later in the evening at the Newbold-White House. A number paid \$40 to attend both. Stevenson said the entire event had been a success.

"We had 100 people who came here to pick up their home tour guidebooks," he said. "We sold 20 extra tickets today just for people who wanted to take the tour. The dinner was sold out."

Stevenson said Jollification! chair Clair Flaugher had done a "fantastic job" of putting together the 13 stops on this year's historic site tour.

Among the tour attendees were Vickie and Gary Page of Farmville, Virginia. As the author of "Freedom's Water," a new historical novel set in 1752 Onslow County, Vickie Page said she was enjoying seeing some Hertford's historic homes.

Actually, the Pages had visited Hertford some months back for Vickie to conduct some research for "Freedom's Water." The book's plot follows the journey of three characters fleeing Onslow County by periauger — an 18th century two-masted, flat-bottomed sailing vessel — in the wake of a hurricane.

The PCRA maintains a replica of a periauger, known as the "Lady P," and Vickie Page said she wanted to "make sure my book descriptions of the boat and the characters' journey aboard it were historically accurate."

"When we heard about Jollification! held this weekend and the raffle I said to my husband, 'We have to come back,'" Page said.

The raffle Page was referring to was a raffle at Saturday's dinner for artist Robin Dahl Sams' original oil painting of the Lady P donated by Dr. and Mrs. R.E. Lane.

Page, who along with her husband was taking in the view of the Perquimans River from the porch of the James

Rogers Stokes House, said the home tour was "absolutely delightful."

"The dedication to historical accuracy and the renovations of the buildings and homes is astonishing," she said.

She also was happy that owners of homes on the tour "were gracious to allow us to tromp through their homes." At one house, they went inside and talked to "a lovely couple" who explained the renovations they had made to their home and "what brought them to Hertford," Page said.

Tour-goers also met Father Whit Stroud, the new rector at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, which was built between 1849 and 1850. Stroud is a Washington, N.C., native who just began serving at the church in September.

Stroud welcomed visitors to the church, where each tour began, and explained a little about the church's architecture and furnishings, which include an organ acquired in 1854.

"The church is a traditional, Colonial Episcopal church, and its Gothic (Revival) style is shown in the high arch ceilings and the style of woodwork that we have," he said. "A lot of what you see here is original. Our biggest piece, the organ, is a wonderful instrument. It's a really historic church."

Hertford Mayor Ashley Hodges and his daughters, 10th-grader Mahalia and 8th-grader Laciana, also welcomed tourgoers to their home, the Dr. Thomas Preston Brinn House.

The Georgian Colonial Revival structure built in 1938 sits on on oversized riverfront lot. The Hodges purchased the home in 2018 and began restoring it.

According to Hodges, the house had sustained extensive moisture damage over the years from the area's humid climate and numerous storm events. Large trees near the foundation and overgrown garden elements also had to be removed.

"When we bought the house you couldn't see it from the street," he said. "We tried to cut it (overgrowth) back to have a big front lawn like the Brinns had."

Saturday was the first time the Hodges had participated in the historic site tour. The mayor said he agreed to have the home included after a neighbor suggested his family do so.

"We have a great picture of when we were looking (to purchase) the house. She (his wife) is taking a picture and looking at the front of the house. I'm standing behind her in the photo looking downward and shaking my head," Hodges joked.

"I liked the house, too, but I was thinking 'this is going to take so much work,'" Hodges continued. The renovations did take a lot of work "but it's been worth it," he said.

According to Flaugher, final figures on how much this year's Jollification! raised for the PCRA's work aren't available yet. Approximately 150 people attended the Jollification! dinner at the Newbold-White House. Eleven cakes and pies donated by local bakers that were auctioned off for between \$200 and \$500 each also boosted the event's bottom line, she said.

"We have amazing bakers in the county. I won't know (the final figures) until our meeting but we probably made a couple of thousand (dollars) on cakes and pies," Flaugher said.

She also believes the PCRA raised between \$2,000 and \$3,000 from raffle tickets sold for Sams' painting of the Lady P.

Jollification is held each year to fund the Perquimans County Restoration Association's historic preservation efforts, which include operating the Newbold-White House in Hertford, North Carolina's oldest brick home.

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What's Up

October 3, 2024 | Daily Advance, The (Elizabeth City, NC) Author: Julian Eure | Section: Whats Up | 1826 Words OpenURL Link

TODAY

Rhythm & Brews

Arts of the Albemarle will host the ninth annual River City Rhythm & Brews fundraiser on Poindexter Street, next to AoA, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$30. Tickets for AoA members and military service personnel are \$25. Tickets the day of the event are \$35. Designated drivers get in free. Visit https://our.show/arts-of-the-albemarle/98729.

Arts on the Perquimans

The Perquimans Arts League will host its 12th annual Arts on the Perquimans at the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Center at 310 Granby St., Hertford, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5, but kids 12 and younger get in free.

Jeep Jam

The Elizabeth City Jeep Jam will be held across from Carolina Chrysler Jeep at 1001 Halstead Blvd., Elizabeth City, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will include a Jeep Show & Shine Contest and Awards, 50/50 prize raffles, live music and food trucks. Tickets are \$20 donation per Jeep. Ticket and Show & Shine entry is \$40 donation per Jeep.

Friends of Poor Walk/Run

The Friends of the Poor Walk/Run will be held through historic Edenton. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and the walk/run starts at 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.

Race on the Runway

Race on the Runway will be held at Currituck Regional Airport in Maple. A Tarmac 10K starts at 8:30 a.m.; the First Flight 5K starts at 9 a.m.; and a one-mile Taxi Trot Fun Run will follow at 10 a.m.

Planes and Plows

Currituck County's "Planes and Plows" will be held at 11 a.m. The event will feature agricultural and aviation exhibits, interactive displays, contests, music, food trucks, and other activities. It will be followed at 5:30 p.m. by the Currituck County Sheriff's Community Night Out event.

MONDAY

EC Rotary Club

The Elizabeth City Rotary Club will meet in the Parish House of Christ Episcopal Church at 1 p.m. Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Keith Parker will be the speaker.

Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive in the Edenton Baptist Church fellowship hall Monday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and in the Family Life Center at Holy Family Catholic Church in Elizabeth City Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on PowerPoint Monday; Word 2 on Tuesday; one-on-one computer help on Wednesday; and Excel 2 on Thursday. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Donations for western NC

Food Bank of the Albemarle is accepting donations of non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies for delivery to western counties in North Carolina hard hit by Tropical Storm Helene. Items will be accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: 252-335-4035.

TUESDAY

NEAAAT ground breaking

The Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies will host a ground breaking ceremony for its new aviation, advanced manufacturing and fabrication labs at 1413 W. Ehringhaus St., Elizabeth City, at 10 a.m.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Dance, Dance, Dance" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday. All classes at 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a basic computer skills class at the Pasquotank County Library from 10 a.m. to noon. Students will learn how to use the basics of a computer, word documents, and how to set up email. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw.

FRIDAY

Shrimp by the Bay

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce will host the 23rd annual Shrimp by the Bay fundraiser on the green of the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Tickets sold only in advance. Call: 252-482-3400.

ECHNA's Ghost Walk

The Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association's Ghost Walk will be held in Elizabeth City Friday and Saturday, Oct. 12 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased at Arts of the Albemarle, which will serve as Ghost Walk headquarters during the event, as well as at Muddy Waters Coffeehouse, The Recycled Reader, and the EC Mailbox Center. The latter only accepts cash.

UPCOMING

'Trial by Fire' at COA

College of The Albemarle will host "Trial by Fire: Journey Tribute" in the Performing Arts Center Saturday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for military personnel and senior citizens, and \$6 for students and staff.

VFW Oyster Roast

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6060 will host its annual Oyster Roast at 1433 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, Saturday, Oct. 12, from noon to 3 p.m. Doc Perkins will perform live music. Advance all-you-can-eat oyster tickets are \$35; the fried oyster sandwich plate tickets are \$20; and fried chicken plate tickets are \$15. All tickets day of the event will cost \$5 more.

Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host blood drives at Durants Neck Ruritan Club in Hertford, Sunday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Camden Middle School auditorium Monday, Oct. 14, from noon to 5 p.m.; and Fellowship Baptist Church fellowship hall in Moyock, Thursday, Oct. 17, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Alzheimer's support

The Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers and Family members meets at Hertford United Methodist Church, 200 Dobbs St., Hertford, Monday, Oct. 14, at 1 p.m. Contact: 252-404-7090 or 252-333-7774.

Secure Access Self Storage

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for Secure Access Self Storage at 1100 Megan Drive, Elizabeth City, Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Excel Monday, Oct. 14; Google Drive on Tuesday, Oct. 15; Google Docs on Wednesday, Oct. 16; and Word 1 on Thursday, Oct. 17. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Cats" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 15; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 16; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 17. All classes at 10 a.m.

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host an online safety and privacy program at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

Medicare outreach

The North Carolina State Health Plan will host a 2025 open enrollment Medicare outreach event at Museum of the Albemarle Friday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Hertford Ghost Walk

Masonic Lodge 106 and Church of the Holy Trinity will host the Historic Ghost Walk in Hertford Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce Office at 118 W Market St., Hertford; Tommy's Pizza at 309 Ocean S. Hertford; and Church of the Holy Trinity both nights of tour.

Red Cross blood drive

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive in the main room at Albemarle Area Association of Realtors in Elizabeth City, Monday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on PowerPoint Monday, Oct. 21; PowerPoint on Tuesday, Oct. 22; Google Docs 2 on Wednesday, Oct. 23; and Word 2 on Thursday, Oct. 24. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Cake" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 22; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 23; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 24. All classes at 10 a.m.

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a program on how to search for trusted online sites at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will host blood drives in the Sentara Albemarle Medical Center education rooms Wednesday, Oct. 23 from noon to 5 p.m.; JP Knapp Early College High School gym in Currituck Monday, Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; the B&M Contractors, Inc. training room in Elizabeth City on Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and the City Road United Methodist Church fellowship hall in Elizabeth City Thursday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Programming Room

The East Carolina Digital Literacy Program will host a program on how to use healthcare online at the Pasquotank County Library Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. Students will learn how to use telehealth. To register, call the library at 252-335-7536 or visit https://bit.ly/47CNVIw. Each participant who completes the pre-test and post-test will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad. Light refreshments will be served.

Community Olympics

The Boys & Girls Club will host its Community Olympic Games at 108 East Ward St., Elizabeth City, Thursday, Oct. 24. Contact: ejmitchell@bgc-albemarle.org or call 252-216-5966.

YMCA Golf Classic

The 18th annual YMCA Golf Classic to benefit the Y's All Kids Swim Program will be held at the Pines of Elizabeth City, Friday, Oct. 25. Donations raised by the tournament will allow Albemarle Family YMCA to offer free swim

lessons to area children. Check-in is 11 a.m. and shotgun start tee-off is at noon. Team of four costs \$450, individuals are \$113, and mulligans are \$10 each with a limit of two per player. Register and payment due Oct. 15. Send to Jane Snyder, Albemarle Family YMCA, 1240 N. Road St., Elizabeth City, 27909 or email jsnyder@ymcashr.org.

Computer help

The Pasquotank County Library will host computer assistance program on Google Docs Monday, Oct. 28; mouse and keyboarding on Tuesday, Oct. 29; Google Drive on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and PowerPoint on Thursday, Oct. 31. All programs at 4 p.m. and require pre-registration by calling Mike at 335-7536.

Soil and water programs

The Northeast Ag Expo will sponsor a workshop for farmers on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 8 a.m. at the Pasquotank Extension Office in Elizabeth City. Attendees will learn from FSA, Soil and Water and NRCS about various available programs and deadlines as well as the resources these agencies offer area farmers. To register, contact the Perquimans Center of NC Extension at 252-426-5428.

Library storytime

The Pasquotank County Library will host a storytime program on the theme "Halloween" for kids ages 3-5 with an adult on Tuesday, Oct. 29; kids ages 1-2 on Wednesday, Oct. 30; and kids 1 and younger on Thursday, Oct. 31. All classes at 10 a.m.

Landslide to perform

The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host its Appreciation & Celebration Extravaganza featuring Landslide, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band, at Sagos on the River Nov. 9 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Drew Gregory and Chris Betts will be guest performers. Tickets are \$100, corporate tables are \$900.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Julian Eure, 'What's Up', *Daily Advance, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C00F55ED5600B8>



Hurricane Helene and helping hands

October 3, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: BO WAGNER Columnist | Section: Opinion | 864 Words OpenURL Link

Where to even begin, with a column like this...

Hurricane Helene. The impact has been pretty devastating and over a massive area. The mountains of Western North Carolina, just a short drive up the road from me, seem to have been the hardest hit. Chimney Rock Village, an iconic little town I have enjoyed since my childhood, is simply gone. Other areas are cut off entirely as I write this, accessible only by air. Our area was hit, but not nearly so hard. Trees are down everywhere, and power to my town, the church I pastor, and my house is expected to be out for more than a week.

There have been reasons to smile through it all. We live on the Broad River, which flooded to a historic level. It did not reach our house. It did put my barn halfway underwater. We parked our vehicles at the top of our road so we could hopefully get out if needed — a massive oak tree from way across the road decided to kamikaze it. Our driveway ended up under a six-foot deep, sixty-foot wide flood of water from what is normally a tiny creek running under it and into the river. We used kayaks to get back and forth across it. My son, the perfect dog dad, kayaked himself and his full-grown German Shepherd across the water. Seeing that dog sit in his lap as he paddled across is a sight I will not soon forget.

Our twenty-year-old generator has performed like a champ. We can't run much off of it, but we have been able to have a few lights, internet, periodically run the fridge and freezer to hopefully save what we can, and charge phones and flashlights.

Sunday, September 29, though, was a banner day. With no power at the church, we nonetheless met at 10:00 AM and, using propane-powered griddles, made a pancake breakfast for anyone who came, which included a lot of folks from the community who had not been able to get a decent meal for a while. Then we worshiped the Lord; that is always appropriate. From there, we divided up into several different teams and headed out into the community with chainsaws, cases of water, and other supplies. At least two other churches had sent people down to help with this effort, which we had announced only the night before. We went to eight different homes and started cutting and removing trees from roofs and driveways and bringing supplies to those who needed them.

I had not even thought of lunch; it simply never occurred to me. But our ladies had. By about 1:00, when the first wave of work was done, we started heading back to the church to regroup. When we arrived, we found lunch ready and waiting for us. Then it was back out to other locations. One group of us went to a Children's Home to deal with two massive downed trees. Another headed for Hendersonville for a similar task.

I had not thought of supper, either. How is it possible to miss things like that? Our ladies, though, were way, way ahead of me. Not only had they thought of it, they had also put out a notice on social media that they would be serving supper to anyone in the community who needed a meal. By the time we got back, they had served more than 250 meals to our town and those from neighboring communities.

I am blessed; I have incredibly good people.

As I write this, other churches are gathering supplies to send our way for us both to use here and to forward on to areas harder hit than our own. People we know, and even people we do not know, have been sending money for relief efforts. And please pay close attention to what I say next because it is one of the main things I want to convey: we are not the only ones doing things like this. Churches all over the place are doing things like this. Some, in fact, are dwarfing our best efforts.

And this is why I so deeply love God's people in local churches all over the place. They are the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. They give selflessly, love unconditionally, and do so without seeking fanfare or applause. In all of the work done yesterday, I never saw a single person take a selfie; they just worked like dogs for others, not caring about the fact that they themselves would be going home to darkened houses with no power.

So, to churches and pastors everywhere who are both holding the line on Biblical truth and ministering to the daily needs of people around you, I say thank you. Both sides of that coin are part and parcel of what it means to be a Christian. James 1:27 put it this way, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Keep preaching the truth, keep spreading the gospel, keep doing right, keep serving and loving others, and know that I am for you, and I appreciate you.

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BO WAGNER Columnist, 'Hurricane Helene and helping hands', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BFA413A624F038



Rutherford County Schools and churches help community with storm relief

October 3, 2024 | Daily Courier, The (Forest City, NC) Author: ETHAN BENFIELD ebenfield@thedigitalcourier.com| Section: Archives | 521 Words OpenURL Link

RUTHERFORD COUNTY — In the wake of Hurricane Helene, many members of the community have come together in efforts to help those in need following the devastating storm, many schools and churches have set up donation areas and have served hot food to those still waiting for power to be restored.

Floyd's Creek Baptist Church is just one example of the many churches that have pitched in with relief efforts. The church has been receiving donations since Monday from members of the community and surrounding areas including food, paper products and diapers.

"We asked people from our church to give their time, and we started by getting hotdogs to serve, and then our pastor contacted an airport and all of sudden we got an outpouring of items," said Cheryl Lake, a member of the church who was helping organize donations. "We started Monday and ever since then we have been receiving items from people we don't even know. It is amazing to see these people just giving out of their hearts, this isn't anything to do with government, it has all been just regular people wanting to love us and our community."

Local high schools have also been used over the week as areas for people to gather supplies and help distribute them. R-S Central High-School has been functioning as a shelter for several days, and on Thursday Students and staff from CHASE and East Rutherford gathered to give out supplies from the front office of the school to those in need.

"Some of the items are donated by people in the community and staff from the different schools, but we also had materials that were distributed through Secondhand Harvest," said Priscilla Warren, Principal of East Rutherford Middle school, who was spending the morning helping with supply deliveries at East Rutherford High school. "We decided to combine both (East Rutherford Middle and High-School) together since the High-School has power and both staffs could get here."

Warren said paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels, and nonperishable food are the items that people have been most in need of over the week. East Rutherford also gave out ice Thursday. According to Ava Torvinen, a student at East Rutherford helping to give out ice, at least 200 bags were ready to be given away to people in need.

At CHASE, students and staff set up in the cafeteria to give away items as well, including diapers, nonperishable food, water, Gatorade, and toiletries such as soap, shampoo, baby wipes and feminine care products.

"Everything here is donated by the Rutherford County Education foundations, as well as from a church in Lexington," CHASE principal Tony Wall said. "We did a sign-up sheet for all our staff, but by the time we got here this morning there were students and other people from the community here and wanting to help, at times like this it is good to see so many people putting in work."

Wall said the CHASE staff has been assessing the needs of everyone coming in today and is planning to organize another drive in the coming days based on how many supplies are left over after Thursday.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

ETHAN BENFIELD ebenfield@thedigitalcourier.com, 'Rutherford County Schools and churches help community with storm relief', *Daily Courier, The* (online), 3 Oct 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?

p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C00D7032E524F0>



Local Battle of the Badges blood drive exceeds expectations: 'We all won today'

October 3, 2024 | Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids, NC) Author: Richard Holm rholm@rrdailyherald.com| Section: Local| 1377 Words OpenURL Link

ROANOKE RAPIDS — For two days, many in the area turned out for the Battle of the Badges blood drive, exceeding expectations for a greater purpose.

On Tuesday, the American Red Cross set up its Battle of the Badges blood drive inside the Kirkwood Adams Community Center in Roanoke Rapids, taking appointments and walk-ins. During the check-in process, donors could place a red or blue chip into a container representing either the Roanoke Rapids Police or the Roanoke Rapids Fire departments.

The winner of the blood drive would lay claim to a championship belt.

One of the first to donate blood was Ervin Griffin Sr., who was pre-registered and said he often contributes to the cause whenever the opportunity arises. Griffin said he had donated about six gallons of blood in his lifetime and gave a reason why it was important to him.

"Some years ago, when my mother had an operation, I and my fraternity brothers had to go out to the hospital to give blood, and I found out how important it was, and I've just been doing it ever since," he said. "I also like to do it because a lot of African Americans have sickle cell. My blood is O positive, so it'll almost mix with any of them."

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, sickle cell disease is an inherited genetic disorder that mutates some red blood cells into a sickle or crescent shape instead of a disc shape, preventing the hemoglobin molecule's flexibility to move easily through blood vessels. The disease blocks blood flow, causing pain, a stroke, lung issues, eye problems, infections, and kidney disease. Sickle cell affects 8 million people worldwide, more than 100,000 in the U.S., including 9 of 10 people of African ancestry, according to NHLBI.

Rita Tromans of Roanoke Rapids, another donor, said she gives blood every two months, but this time, she is making the Power Red donation.

According to the American Red Cross, a Power Red donation requires a particular machine to allow a donor to safely contribute two units of red blood cells during one donation while returning their plasma and platelets to them. Donors must wait 56 days before they can donate blood again and 112 days if they make a Power Red donation.

"I'm thankful I can donate and to help others," Tromans said.

Donor Melissa Hale said she typically donates blood, especially knowing the need for blood supply in the wake of the deadly Hurricane Helene last week.

According to Buddy Wrenn, Halifax County emergency management coordinator, as of Thursday, 215 people have died as a result of the storm, and at least 105 in North Carolina. Wrenn said reports suggest there are people still missing and, as of Friday morning, 229,000 power outages.

"We already said that we were going to partake because of the Battle of the Badges because it is just something to bring the community together," Hale said. "But the need in the western part of the state was really a priority."

Hale had brought her aunt, Kellie Munn, who said it was her first time donating blood.

"I've never done it before, and my granddaughter is donating," Munn said. "I figured, if she can do it, I can do it, and it helps. Every little bit helps. After she got the needle in, I kind of calmed down a little bit. It was not as bad as I thought it was going to be. It took me 56 years to get here, but I'll do it again."

Kelly Traynham, city manager for Roanoke Rapids, also said it was her first time donating blood. Traynham said donating helped her face her fears since she has fainted in medical settings since second grade.

"The most difficult part was exposing my vulnerability in front of people I know rather than the privacy of a doctor's office," she said. "Now that I know what to expect, I believe I would consider donating again."

Mayor Emery Doughtie of Roanoke Rapids also donated blood and remarked on the turnout.

"I'm mighty glad to see all these people coming out for something that is definitely needed in our community, as well as across the state," Mayor Doughtie said.

On Wednesday, the blood drive continued at The Vault, located on Roanoke Avenue.

Toni Jernigan, account manager in the Donor Recruitment Department of the ARC, provided statistics on the blood drive.

Day one had a goal of 80 donors, had registered 125 donors, collected 105 and 28 were first-time donors. Day two had a goal of 30 donors, with 46 registered donors, collected 42 and 12 new donors. The goal was a total of 120 donors.

"An impressive number of blood donors attended the two-day Battle of the Badges," Jernigan said about the event.
"I felt a great deal of enthusiasm. The two chiefs utilized social media to challenge each other to a blood drive,
fostering a competitive spirit and encouraging greater participation. Additionally, the destruction caused by
Hurricane Helene led to an upsurge in volunteers."

Chief C. Shane Guyant of the Roanoke Rapids Police Department said Jernigan approached him and Fire Chief Jason Patrick of the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department about doing a Battle of the Badges blood drive in the city.

"She said she has tried for a few years to get this going in Roanoke Rapids," Guyant said. "Chief Patrick and I didn't blink. We said heck yeah."

In the end, RRFD won the competition and took home a championship belt.

Both chiefs donated blood on the second day of the event.

"I'm extremely satisfied with it," Patrick said. "We didn't expect this many. So, we're extremely excited about the participation of the community and everybody turning out to help out supporting this project that Chief Guyant and myself have been trying to get extra people to come donate. I think the majority of it is people trying to help support out west. I feel like that's really what probably got a lot of the people turning out. This is a way they can help and it's not costing them anything. They can just come and donate the gift of life, which is blood. And so even after this is over, they need to continue to try to do this."

Chief Guyant said Roanoke Rapids blood drives normally average 50 to 60 donors.

"We had some people turned away because they couldn't give because of blood pressure and other kind of screening issues and stuff," he said. "But we had a huge turnout. We had a lot of walk-ins, and we had a phenomenal turnout. Everybody in this area surpassed anything we had hoped for."

Guyant said that the area has a benevolent community and that people step up when it is needed.

"And you couldn't ask for any more out of a community than that," he said. "It just says a lot about the people that live here, and the heart that they have and the compassion for their fellow man. So, whether it's the Battle of the Badges or the western North Carolina flooding, you look at one pint of blood saves three people. So, despite who wins? Red or blue? We all won today."

Jernigan provided notes on the blood supply:

The American Red Cross is amplifying the need for donors of all blood types to give now to help keep the blood supply stable this fall. Hurricane Helene has caused significant devastation, and, in the days after landfall, has also disrupted the ability to collect lifesaving blood products throughout the Southeast.

The Red Cross is working to restock critically needed blood products after the cancellation of dozens of blood drives, which caused more than 1,500 blood donations to go uncollected.

For so many people living with urgent medical care needs, the need for blood doesn't stop for disasters of any kind. The Red Cross urges those in unaffected areas to make an appointment to give blood or platelets in the days and weeks ahead.

Through a national inventory, the Red Cross is able to move blood wherever and whenever it is needed most.

The threat of hurricanes persists in October. Because blood has a short shelf life and can only come from volunteer blood donors, any disruptions in the ability to collect lifesaving blood can have serious consequences for hospitals and patients.

To see any upcoming blood drives, visit redcross.org/give-blood.html.

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New River All American Speedway teams with United Way of Onslow for hurricane relief at finale

October 3, 2024 | Daily News, The (Jacksonville, NC) Author: Andy Marquis New River All American Speedway | Section: Sports | 504 Words OpenURL Link

New River All American Speedway is joining forces with the United Way of Onslow County to collect needed supplies to send to areas of Western North Carolina hit hard by Hurricane Helene.

Helene's catastrophic flooding caused widespread devastation from Florida, where the storm made landfall as a category four hurricane, all the way into Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

Entire towns was wiped away in the flooding. As of Thursday morning, search and rescue efforts were still ongoing, though with little hope of finding any more survivors as hundreds, possibly thousands, remain unaccounted for.

The United Way of Onslow County will have a truck at New River All American Speedway and is looking for donations of non-perishable food, personal and feminine hygiene products, baby food and formula, diapers, bottled water, and pet food.

Fans and competitors who attend Saturday's Gary Rochelle Memorial and bring donations for United Way will receive a voucher for a free hot dog or burger at the concession stands.

For more information about the United Way of Onslow County, visit their website at uwonslow.org.

Four more champions to be crowned in Gary Rochelle Memorial

Kyle Lynch and Curtis Lanier enter Saturday night's Gary Rochelle Memorial separated by just one point in the Street Stock division standings, setting up a head-to-head showdown.

Lanier is hoping to pick up a division championship for the third consecutive season at New River. In 2022 and 2023, he won the championship in the U-CAR (now called Rumbler) division and has more wins at the Onslow County track than any other driver in the New River era.

Both Lynch and Lanier picked up wins on June 1.

Lanier was the fastest qualifier that night, netting him an extra bonus point, while later in the season, Lynch finished two positions better than Lanier. That third place finish on July 4 is all the difference so far as he leads by just one point.

In the Rumbler division, Cornell Williams holds a 23-point advantage over Brian Gooden. If Williams starts on Saturday night, he should take home the division championship. The same math holds true for Aiden McConnaughey in the Legends division who holds a 24-point advantage over Brody Rhodes. Dustin Phillips also appears destined for championship glory holding a 22-point advantage over Miles Rochelle in the Champ Kart division. Kristin Drum, meanwhile, has a five-point lead over Taryn Swistek and Hollee Hanshaw in the Powder Puff standings.

To date, five of New River's division champions have been crowned: Paul Williamson (Late Model), Gator Williams (Charger), Travis Miller (Mini Stock), Brady Price (Bomber) and Jay Hemenway (Bandolero).

While the Bomber division has been settled, positions two through five remain up for grabs, with Robert Drum in second over T.J. Medeiros, Dominic Baez and Jonathan Thompson.

The Gary Rochelle Memorial, which was originally scheduled for August, is run in the memory of the 2022 Street Stock division champion who passed away in August, 2023.

For more information about New River All-American Speedway, check out the speedway's website, like/follow "New River Speedway" on Facebook and/or follow @newriverswy on X (formerly known as Twitter).

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Midway football lends helping hand

October 3, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: From staff reports | Section: Sports | 191 Words OpenURL Link

As the state, region and entire country grapples with the aftermath left behind by Tropical Storm Helene, a local high school football program is doing its part to help.

Midway is using its rivalry matchup at home Friday to assist Western North Carolina residents in need. Fans coming to see the program take on Sampson County foe Clinton are encouraged to bring donations, which will be collected at the entrance gate.

pic.twitter.com/MjBWA8rp6L— Midway Raiders Athletics (@MHS___Athletics) September 30, 2024

Helene dumped unprecedented amounts of rain on the region, with some areas receiving as much as 31 inches through three days, according to the North Carolina State Climate Office.

Emergency management coordinators in the state say more than a million were left without power and thousands were stranded in homes with no clean water and other basic essentials. Meanwhile, dozens of roads in the area are still impassable as of Thursday.

In connection with Sampson County Football and Salemburg Baptist Church, the Raiders are asking Friday's patrons to drop off items like water, non-perishable food, baby wipes, diapers, trash bags, toiletries and more.

For more information regarding the donation drive, contact Midway High School by calling 910-567-6664.

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Mama Moses delivers aid to WNC

October 3, 2024 | Daily Record, The (Dunn, NC) Author: For the Record | Section: Local | 152 Words OpenURL Link

Mama Moses and The Underground Railroad raised \$10,250 for Kingstown, North Carolina, near Shelby in Cleveland County, to help the town of about 650 people recover from Hurricane Helene's severe impacts. The storm left many residents without power or communication.

Melanie Stewart, of The Underground Railroad, collaborated with Kingstown Mayor Janet Lynch Gerald to facilitate the prompt delivery of vital supplies and funds, outpacing local donations.

"Providing direct support to affected communities by streamlining relief efforts and bypassing red tape is incredibly fulfilling," Stewart said. Funds will support those most affected, with additional donations and relief trips planned by The Underground Railroad.

"This is what it means to do church and to keep plowing!" Stewart said.

The Underground Railroad is a registered nonprofit. It operates an emergency food pantry and successfully stopped almost 180 court evictions since January, preventing families from becoming homeless. Those in need of assistance or wanting to donate, can text 910-514-8808.

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