NewsBank inc.

Tillis and Budd say active duty military leader should be assigned to Helene response

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Avi Bajpai; Staff Writer | Section: News | 753 Words
Page: 2A
OpenURL Link

RALEIGH U.S. Sens. Thom Tillis and Ted Budd said Friday that an active-duty military leader should be assigned to oversee the rescue and recovery efforts in Western North Carolina.

After President Joe Biden approved up to 1,000 U.S. Army soldiers stationed at Fort Liberty to assist with the response to Hurricane Helene on Wednesday, the first 400 active-duty troops arrived in the region on Friday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said.

In a statement Friday evening, Tillis and Budd said the National Guard along with local, state and federal first responders had been "working tirelessly to respond to this disaster with the resources they have," but added that the response could be aided by an active-duty military leader being assigned to the effort.

"Given the unprecedented extent of the devastation and complexity of search and rescue operations, it would be helpful to assign an active-duty military leader who has extensive experience with operations of this magnitude to lead moving forward," both senators said.

In a post on social media, meanwhile, Budd said that the deployment of the remaining activated troops from Fort Liberty needed to speed up.

The U.S. Department of Defense said Wednesday that the troops it had authorized to assist with the response were "assembling and moving to the affected areas within the next 24 hours."

"It has been two days since President Biden authorized 1,000 troops to aid North Carolinians," Budd wrote on X. "Less than half have been deployed from Fort Liberty to Western NC. There's no time to waste."

400 active-duty troops deployed to Western North Carolina

On Friday, FEMA announced that 400 active-duty soldiers had arrived in the western part of the state to help deliver critical supplies like food and water to distribution sites, and were "prioritizing survivors in hard-to-reach areas along the route."

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, who has been on the ground in Western North Carolina, said in a statement that soldiers from the 18th Airborne Corps, including members of the 82nd Airborne Division and other units from Fort Liberty, were supporting the relief effort, including by providing command and control personnel, transportation, infrastructure support, supplies and services, fuel and other support to people."

The active-duty troops along with National Guard members are under the command of Brig. Gen. Charles Morrison of the North Carolina National Guard, who has been appointed as the dual-status commander for the state, a U.S. Army spokesperson told The News & Observer.

The dual-status commander has authority under law to command both active-duty and National Guard troops, and can serve in federal and state statuses at the same time, the spokesperson said.

Ahead of additional troops arriving on Friday, the N.C. National Guard sent seven heavy-lift CH-47 Chinook helicopters it received from the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Liberty to Western North Carolina.

Capt. Tim Marshburn, a spokesman for the N.C. National Guard,said the helicopters were sent to Asheville, from where they would be directed to other parts of the region as needed.

Marshburn said Friday morning that the helicopters were "engaged in commodity deliveries and rescue and recovery efforts," and said those soldiers "will be activated for as long as the mission requires."

As part of those efforts, the N.C. National Guard said in a social media post that its soldiers and airmen were breaking down and preparing pallets carryingmore than 80,000 pounds of food and water that had been flown to a logistics hub in Asheville by the U.S. Army and Air Force, and would be delivered by troops with the 82nd Airborne Division.

In the week since Helene barreled through the state, more than 1,200 N.C. National Guard soldiers and airmen have responded to Western North Carolina to conduct search and rescue operations and transport critical supplies to the area, Gov. Roy Cooper's office said.

The N.C. National Guard's efforts have included 417 specialized vehicles and 26 aircraft that had been deployed to support those operations as of Friday, his office said.

In the meantime, N.C. National Guard leaders were "actively engaged in planning the best way to use the engineers coming from our active component," and active-duty soldiers that had yet to deploy were "preparing with rehearsals and developing movement and load plans," Marshburn said.

Marshburn had not responded to additional questions about how many active-duty troops remained at Fort Liberty, and what kind of assistance they will be able to provide when deployed, as of Saturday morning.

Avi Bajpai: 919-346-4817, @avibajpai_

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Avi Bajpai, Staff Writer, 'Tillis and Budd say active duty military leader should be assigned to Helene response', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 2A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7205A2BFC0›

NewsBank inc.

Missing after Helene - Torn apart by landslides and floods, families frantic for news

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Virginia Bridges; Staff Writer | Section: News | 1334 Words
Page: 5A
OpenURL Link

John Norwood last saw Julie le Roux around 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 27, the day the storm came.

In Helene's chaos, Norwood and his fiancée took refuge at a neighbor's mountain home in Marion. As they watched water rise around them, a wave of debris and dirt roared into the home, crumbling a chimney beside them.

Norwood stepped to one side. Le Roux stepped to the other. Then the roof collapsed, crashing down on them.

"It happened so fast," said Norwood, 32. "All I remember is a bunch of crashing noises, and then I was underwater, and that was it."

Norwood is one of so many - no one has an exact count - waiting for word on whether missing loved ones survived Helene. With cell phone and internet service still dark in many hardest-hit locations, connecting in the usual ways has been impossible.

More than 115 have been confirmed dead by the state, as of Oct. 4, but an untold number remain unaccounted for. Local officials have been deluged with requests for help finding the missing.

Bulletin boards with notes seeking assistance have cropped up in mountain towns. People are posting cries from the heart on social media and calling into radio stations.

And as each day passed after Helene's historic assault, the worry grows more frantic.

"I'm praying for a miracle," Norwood said in a telephone interview Wednesday from a hospital room in Morganton.

Facebook groups at work

On Wednesday, pleas for help continued to roll in on social media, including in the newly created Hurricane Helene Missing People group.

There, a mother looked for a daughter who was living on the streets of Asheville during the storm. A woman wanted someone to find her sister in the Candler area. A man knew of an elderly couple in Lenoir that someone must check on.

"They need help! Food, water and oxygen. I've posted in multiple areas, but no response," he wrote.

The waiting was torture, said Jasmin Colon, 36, who lives in Cape Coral, Fla. She was looking for her Uncle Billy, a 79-year-old longtime Bakersville resident.

"My biggest fear is that he stayed in his camper and that it got either crushed by a tree or the landslides took it out," she said Wednesday.

Family last spoke with William "Bill" Smith, a retired parachute instructor, on Wednesday. He told Colon's dad by phone that he was keeping an eye on Helene.

But when they followed up after that, Smith did not answer or respond to texts.

They reported him missing to the state and the American Red Cross. And Colon joined a local Facebook community group. She added his name to a spreadsheet she found online of missing people, and checked community lists of people who have been found, including those who were seen getting meals at a local church. Smith's neighbor told Colon Friday her uncle was safe.

"We found him," Colon said Friday evening.

'We need to go'

Norwood, a blacksmith originally from Pittsboro, and le Roux, a 33-year-old artist from Georgia, had dated for three years before he proposed last summer.

Norwood woke up around 6 a.m. Friday and saw a nearby creek creeping close to his place, nestled with about a dozen other homes on the side of a mountain by Pisgah National Forest in McDowell County.

"We need to go," he told le Roux, who helped round up their cats, Ginger and Lily, in a crate. Carrying the bags they packed the night before, they loaded up their Subaru Outback.

First they drove up the mountain. As they rounded a corner, mud and rocks, deposited by a slide, blocked the road. Then they drove down, but were stopped again, by fallen trees laying flat.

Norwood pulled out his chainsaw and tried to clear a path.

"It was so windy and rainy that more and more trees just kept falling all around us, and we just agreed that it was too dangerous to be out here," said Norwood.

The couple drove back to the house in the dark rainfall.

Refuge turned dangerous

Around 8:30 a.m., they walked to a neighbor's with a generator and a Starlink satellite phone.

Norwood texted his mother and his sister to let them know they were OK. As they sat and watched the water rise, they saw it push cars around and knock more trees down.

Then, through a window, he saw a wave of water, tree limbs and rocks sweeping down the mountain. It soon hit them.

"We looked up and there was this wall of water and debris coming towards us, and a split-second later, the whole house was coming down," Norwood said.

And they were swept into a rushing river of mud and debris.

Norwood struggled to keep his head above water as branches, rocks and pieces of houses hit him in the face and pulled him under, pulling off his sandals and shirt.

"I fully kind of accepted that I was going to die there," he said.

In no time, the water took Norwood about a quarter-mile, where he found himself stuck on a growing pile of tangled houses and debris atop something snagged below.

His arms were free and his head was above water, but two large pieces of wood had crushed his legs under the surface. A big log pushed at his back.

Norwood heard his neighbor yelling. But he didn't hear his fiancée.

"I was just screaming, 'Hey, I'm here. Help. Please. Help,'" Norwood said.

As Norwood's neighbor dug him out, pain in his legs set in. He started screaming for le Roux.

"Julie, Julie, Julie," he yelled, he said, for 20 minutes.

But she never answered.

"I kind of just went into shock and panic after that," he said.

'Please, God, let her be somewhere safe'

Unable to walk, Norwood crawled barefoot about 100 feet up the mountain on his hands and knees, getting a bird's eye view of the destruction.

"I see nothing. There's no road anymore. There's no way out of there," he said.

He leaned up against a tree and passed out for an unknown amount of time before the cold woke him up and sent him searching for shelter.

He shimmied down the mountain on his rear and found a woodshed, he said, where he waited for a few hours before seeing a cabin with a hand-made sign that said "Alive inside."

He opened the door and found his neighbors, but not le Roux.

"Please, God, let her be somewhere safe. Let her be OK somewhere," Norwood said he kept saying to himself.

Eventually, they saw people nearby but on the other side of rushing water, which muffled their yells as they tried to communicate.

Rescue teams strung a thick rope across the creek, and pulled Norwood and his neighbors across in metal baskets.

Firefighters carried them to vehicles that drove them about four miles to land clear enough for ambulances to reach those rescued from the mountain, Norwood said.

They took him to the hospital, where he was treated for muscle damage and a staph infection. And where he remained hopeful that le Roux had survived.

But awful news came Friday. Le Roux's family announced, using her nickname, that she had not.

"We feel the prayers, cherish the love and need continued support as Julie went to be with our Lord and Savior yesterday. Our Lulie, our wildflower [will] be greatly missed," read the Facebook post.

Virginia Bridges covers criminal justice in the Triangle and across North Carolina for The News & Observer. Her work is produced with financial support from the nonprofit The Just Trust. The N&O maintains full editorial control of its journalism.

Virginia Bridges: 919-829-8924, @virginiabridges

How to report

a missing person

To report a missing person or request non-emergency support, call NC 211 or 1-888-892-1162 if calling from out-of-state.

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Virginia Bridges, Staff Writer, 'Missing after Helene Torn apart by landslides and floods, families frantic for news', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 5A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7208E64260›

NewsBank inc.

Tropical Storm Helene closed - the most famous road in Western North Carolina

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Richard Stradling; Staff Writer | Section: News | 361 Words
Page: 16A
OpenURL Link

The Blue Ridge Parkway remains closed throughout North Carolina and Virginia after Tropical Storm Helene tore through the mountains last week, and the National Park Service says it doesn't know when the road will reopen.

In North Carolina, the two-lane highway meanders 252 miles from the Virginia line to the entrance of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. All 252 miles are closed, as crews clear fallen trees and debris and assess damage to the roadway.

The park service has brought in outside help. As of Thursday afternoon, about 250 park service employees from 32 states and the District of Columbia were helping Blue Ridge Parkway staff with recovery, said spokesman Mike Litterst.

Litterst said park service teams were still doing initial inspections of the roadway.

"Based on what the teams have seen so far, significant, and in some cases catastrophic, damage has occurred along the parkway," he wrote in an email.

The worst damage, Litterst said, appears to be in a 189-mile stretch from near Grandfather Mountain to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The damage includes places where the road was washed away and where buildings, such as the Linville Falls Visitor Center, were destroyed.

Litterst said it will take weeks for the park service to fully assess the damage and begin to estimate how long it will take to make repairs and how much they might cost. That means the road will likely remain closed through fall foliage season, when traffic is often bumper to bumper.

Completed in 1936, the parkway runs 469 miles between Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina.

The parkway is both a local route for residents and a huge draw for visitors who take in the mountain air and views from numerous overlooks and hiking trails along its route. The park service estimates that nearly 16.8 million people visited the parkway last year, spending nearly $1.4 billion in nearby communities.

The National Park Service has reopened U.S. 441, also known as Newfound Gap Road, which runs through Great Smoky Mountains National Park between Cherokee, North Carolina, and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. As on the parkway, commercial vehicles are prohibited on U.S. 441 through the park.

Richard Stradling: 919-829-4739, @RStradling

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Richard Stradling, Staff Writer, 'Tropical Storm Helene closed the most famous road in Western North Carolina', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 16A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE725B226170›

NewsBank inc.

Asheville's River Arts District washed away after Helene

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Martha Quillin; Staff Writer | Section: Living | 482 Words
Page: 1C
OpenURL Link

Asheville Asheville's River Arts District, where painters, sculptors, potters and others found outlets for their creative wares, took a direct hit as the French Broad River raged through the west side of the city during flooding from Hurricane Helene.

When barricades blocking access to Riverside Drive were removed on Tuesday, local residents ventured into the area where Interstate 240 and a railroad trestle cross the river. Last week, an array of businesses lined the river on the south side of the trestle: White Duck Taco Shop; a music venue called The Salvage Station; an auto parts dealer, a crematorium and a river outfitter.

Upstream, on the other side of the bridge, were galleries and shops.

But when the river came out of its banks, water at least 10 feet deep swept through the buildings, pushing their contents so hard in the current that exterior walls were broken or bulged outward.

It was an eerie scene near sunset. Parking lots were mud plateaus, and power poles, street signs and the remains of small trees were snagged with bits of plastic and ragged fabric that fluttered in the breeze, making the place look like it was occupied by ghosts and bones.

It was nearly incomprehensible to Sonia Pitts of Weaverville, who works for the nonprofit Open Heart Arts Center in Asheville.

Looking at the devastation along Riverside Drive, Pitts was near tears.

"I don't even know how to describe how I feel," she said. "I feel hopeless and helpless, like I need to be doing more to help other people."

Pitts said her family came through the storm safely, though there were tense hours when she couldn't reach her grown children or get word on more distant relatives.

When she was able to travel down Riverside Drive, Pitts got out of her car and pulled on her mud boots to walk around, using her phone to photograph the graffiti on the concrete railroad trestle supports. The bright colors of the art stood out against the tall piles of tangled debris that had jammed against the bridge during the flood.

"These are some of my artists," she said.

During the flood, Pitts had stood on the highway bridge above the water watching the deluge, which looked like it was boiling with huge metal containers and big propane tanks that rolled over and over against the supports before finally passing under the railroad trestle.

From Riverside Drive, Pitts walked up a bank to stand on the rail line, closed by fallen trees and other debris, and gasped at the sight of a black bear lumbering away down the tracks.

Pitts took the bear sighting as a sign of nature's resilience.

Wildlife will bounce back, Pitts said. "And humans will too."

Martha Quillin: 919-829-8989, @MarthaQuillin

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Martha Quillin, Staff Writer, 'Asheville's River Arts District washed away after Helene', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 1C ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7238472E48›

NewsBank inc.

'Civilization is pretty much gone' after Helene tears through Spruce Pine, NC

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Josh Shaffer; Staff Writer | Section: News | 610 Words
Page: 19A
OpenURL Link

SPRUCE PINE With the mud ankle-deep inside her music store, and the water stains climbing 8 feet high on the walls, Angie Buchanan said goodbye to 50 years of teaching music in Spruce Pine.

Then she walked through the stinking sludge of Lower Street and tossed her prized cello on a trash pile.

"My life is in there," she said. "It's hard. Very hard."

The Mitchell County town of 2,000 took a beating from the North Toe River, which destroyed its historic brick riverfront and left neighbors still enduring life without power, water or cell service a week after Hurricane Helene roared through.

"Our water treatment plant washed away," said Sonja Emmett, who was out walking her dog. "All the garbage trucks washed away. Everything civilization is pretty much gone."

Tiny Plumtree's near-impassable roads

Nearby, the community store in tiny Plumtree still served as a Grand Central Station for side-by-sides carrying water, food, diapers and toilet paper up narrow, muddy, near-impassable roads where neighbors sat stranded.

And around midday Thursday, they learned one of their own had been found dead after a week. Nobody wanted to talk about it. They hugged and cried as the relief operation became an outdoor wake powered by generators.

Helicopters flew overhead, National Guard trucks rolled past and a community of 818 kept feverishly looking after each other, keeping a list of who is stuck where and who needs what, sending out side-by-sides like free DoorDash service.

"The main thing we don't want is people to think, 'These poor, old, ignorant Appalachian mountain people,' " said Libby Wise, running to check on her 90-year-old mother. "We have plenty of college-educated people here. We are so appreciative of all the outside people are doing for us. Please don't think you're sending food and water to a log cabin."

Those still 'unaccounted for'

Back in Spruce Pine, a makeshift relief station opened up outside L&L Furniture on the Upper Road, which barely escaped disaster, unlike its riverfront neighbor.

Many residents couldn't get out of their houses until Sunday, and an army of 100 volunteers has cut them free one-by-one. One of them on Lower Road Thursday said he'd gotten out 15 families since last weekend.

But fears persist of those still "unaccounted for," the term Spruce Pine uses rather than missing.

Much like Plumtree, neighbors keep a tally of who is where, sending volunteers out to check. But when the find empty houses, mostly intact, the communication blackout forces them to guess at whether their friends have taken up with family elsewhere or disappeared down the North Toe.

"I can sometimes get Facebook with a generator and a Starlink," said Shirley Singleton, whose daughter owns L&L. "Kind of that's how we're finding people."

Spruce Pine's living room washed away

Down on Lower Street, David Niven was shoveling the mud out of DT's Blue Ridge Java, also sunk under 8 feet of water.

"It's only $2 million down the drain," he joked. "I've got 40 gallons of gas sitting at my house. I'm blessed."

He and his wife Tricia opened their coffee house 20 years ago, inside a building listed on the National Register.

"I wish you could have seen it," she said. "We were the living room of Spruce Pine. Every church group met here. Everyone and anyone met here. God has kept us for 20 years through fires, through pandemic. On the third day after the flood, God spoke to me and said, 'We're rebuilding.' "

On the day after the storm, before she even saw the ruined guitars, drums and dulcimers, someone broke into Buchanan's music store and stole a harp.

"Kids, probably," she said. "Probably just kids."

Somehow, she thought, in storm or fair weather, she will get Spruce Pine playing music again.

Josh Shaffer: 919-829-4818, @joshshaffer08

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Josh Shaffer, Staff Writer, ''Civilization is pretty much gone' after Helene tears through Spruce Pine, NC', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 19A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7252819068›

NewsBank inc.

Editorial/Opinion

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Section: Editorial/Opinion | 673 Words
Page: 20A
OpenURL Link

When Vermont was hit by Hurricane Irene in 2011, its infrastructure was shattered, just as ours in North Carolina is now. Someone up there had the wisdom to make sure every culvert, bridge and building that was destroyed was replaced by a version that was bigger, stronger and more resilient to flooding. I suggest North Carolina take the same approach, with substantial support from the federal government and our own General Assembly. It may be expensive up front but provides significant savings and much faster recovery from storms down the road.

Ron Sutherland, PhD, Durham

New building codes

The author has a background in urban design.

I am heartbroken about the damage in western North Carolina.

Over the past 15 years, state lawmakers have rejected limits on construction on steep slopes, which might have reduced the number of homes lost to landslides; blocked a rule requiring homes to be elevated above the height of an expected flood; weakened protections for wetlands, increasing the risk of dangerous storm water runoff; and slowed the adoption of updated building codes, making it harder for the state to qualify for federal climate-resilience grants. When appropriate, an independent investigation should be conducted to see how current building codes may have contributed to the loss of homes and to determine if these codes need to be changed or modified. We need to take politics out of building codes when it impacts the safety of our community.

Stephen Berg, Chapel Hill

Republican weather

Let's be clear, Helene was so severe because tropical storm Helene grew into Category 4 Hurricane Helene as it quickly crossed the historically hot Gulf of Mexico, some scientist believe. We've always had hurricanes but never so many so severe ones. This is global warming at work, the global warming climate experts have warned us about for decades, the global warming Republicans first poo pooed (Donald Trump still does) then opposed every step to fight it. This climate, this weather is the result of Republican policy. This is Republican weather.

Neil Stahl, Chapel Hill

Ensure voting

While our eyes, hearts, and resources are focused on the immediate loss and damage sustained by communities in Western North Carolina, our state Board of Elections and legislators must look to the coming elections.

Damage to roads and communications infrastructure, combined with actions by the legislature to require ID for voting and requiring absentee ballots to be delivered by Election Day, together with actions by the state judiciary that have delayed the mailing of absentee ballots, will severely limit the ability to vote of citizens who have lost everything and where postal service, already greatly degraded under Postmaster Louis DeJoy, is likely to be even worse.

The NC Board of Elections, the state legislature, and the governor's office must work together to create emergency rules and put in place an infrastructure to ensure that eligible voters in the affected counties can cast their ballots. Disenfranchisement cannot be added to the burdens already being shouldered by these communities.

Andrew Geller, Durham

Hopeful VP debate

Although the vice presidential debate is unlikely to change the outcome of the 2024 election, I now feel more comfortable with both candidates after watching them discuss the issues facing our country.

As someone who knew little about either individual until recently, I believe Sen. J.D. Vance won the debate, with Gov. Tim Walz coming very close. Looking back at the earlier presidential candidate debates this year, this one offered relief and assurance that Democrats and Republicans can be civil. Seeing both candidates occasionally agree on issues while still respectfully disagreeing on how to address them showed that we can move forward as a nation through meaningful discussion. It's far more productive than the consistent bashing of opponents as we often see former President Trump and Vice President Harris tend to do.

However, not everything during those 90 minutes was positive. Unsurprisingly, both Sen. Vance and Gov. Walz lied and avoided questions from the moderators. Overall, as a first-time voter just starting college, I feel there is still hope for countering the political division and radicalization on both the left and the right.

Luke Basso, Wilmington

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  'Editorial/Opinion', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 20A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7210EA8160›

NewsBank inc.

Country star drops midnight surprise on storm-ravaged NC

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Théoden Janes; Staff Writer | Section: Living | 505 Words
Page: 2C
OpenURL Link

A week ago, North Carolina's Eric Church - the 10-time-Grammy-nominated singer responsible for country-music hits like "Springsteen" and "Drink in My Hand" - had no plans to release new music in 2024.

Then Hurricane Helene swept through his home state, leaving many of the parts he's most familiar with totally devastated.

And in response, at midnight Friday, the 47-year-old native of Granite Falls (a small town northwest of Hickory) released a surprise single he said was dedicated to "the unsung heroes, the people who show up when the world's falling apart."

But Church added an even bigger twist: He signed over all of his publishing royalties for "Darkest Hour," according to a news release, "to the people of North Carolina."

"We've been helping with boots on the ground efforts," the 2000 App State grad said in a statement, "but this is something that will live beyond just the immediate recovery. This is not a quick thing to fix, so hopefully 'Darkest Hour' will be able to contribute to that for a long time to come.

"This song goes to my home, North Carolina, now and forever."

Royalties from "Darkest Hour" will be funneled to and distributed by Church's Chief Cares Fund (which plays on the "Chief" nickname he inherited from his grandfather, a former police chief of Granite Falls).

The charity also will be assisting "in all states and communities affected from Appalachia to the Gulf," the news release said.

"When the night's at its blackest, this is for those who are holding the light, guiding the lost and pulling us through," Church said of "Darkest Hour." "The message of the song specifically in this time is about Hurricane Helene and the people that need help, but in a broader view, it's about any challenging times that we have in our life."

A sampling of the lyrics:

All I really know is I never know

What's coming around the bend

But you should know you're not alone

Hang on and hold my hand

-

In your darkest hour

Baby I'd come runnin'

In your darkest hour

I'd light your way

Baby don't give up

I'll do everything in my power

To take even a minute off your darkest hour

"It's always important to know that in your darkest hour," he explained, "there are people that will come running, there are people that will help. And I think it's also important to be one of the people that go running when other people need help."

The song marks the first new solo release in more than three years from Church, a part-time resident of Banner Elk.

"I've been in the studio for a while," the singer said in his statement, "trying some different things and exploring creativity. ...

"We were going to wait to release music until next year, but it just didn't feel right to wait with this song. Sometimes you give songs their moment and sometimes they find their own moment."

"Darkest Hour" can be streamed here.

Théoden Janes: 704-358-5897, @theodenjanes

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Théoden Janes, Staff Writer, 'Country star drops midnight surprise on storm-ravaged NC', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 2C ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7257901EA8›

NewsBank inc.

Anti-Trump ad hits home for Franklin Graham

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Issac Bailey | Section: Editorial/Opinion | 582 Words
Page: 20A
OpenURL Link

Franklin Graham doesn't like the way a political group advocating for Vice President Kamala Harris is using his iconic father's image and words. The Rev. Billy Graham I grew up with wouldn't like the way his son has politicized the faith to which the senior Graham dedicated his life.

No matter what happens at the ballot box this November, the damage men like Franklin Graham have done to the image of Christianity will be long lasting and not easily repaired. The irony is that the political ads that have so upset the junior Graham makes clear why.

One of the ads begins with an old clip of Billy Graham trying to spread the Gospel while standing before the large crowds he was known to routinely attract.

"But you must realize that in the last days, the times will be full of danger," he preached. "Men will become utterly self-centered and greedy for money."

The power of the ad, though, is what comes next. It cuts to a clip of Trump.

"My whole life I've been greedy, greedy, greedy," Trump says. "I grabbed all the money I could get. I'm so greedy."

The ad shows several clips of Graham while juxtaposing them with Trump.

"They will be proud and abusive...," Graham preached in the ad.

"They will be treacherous, reckless, and arrogant... loving what gives them pleasure instead of loving God... maintain a façade of religion, but their lives deny the truth."

Each time, it cuts to Trump declaring he is "the chosen one" or replaying the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape in which he brags about casually sexually assaulting women.

In another ad, Graham preaches about the importance of forgiveness while Trump says he's never asked for God's forgiveness.

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God," another begins before showing Trump bragging that he could shoot someone on Fifth Avenue and not lose support.

It's a damning indictment not only of Trump, but of Franklin Graham, a man who has fallen in line behind the type of charlatan his father warned us about.

Instead of being convicted and learning from his mistakes, Franklin Graham has condemned the producers of the ads. In August, he took to "X," formerly known as Twitter, to berate Evangelicals for Harris, a group that said this week Graham has tried to get the ads pulled.

"Maybe they don't know that my father appreciated the conservative values and policies of President Donald Trump in 2016, and if he were alive today, my father's views and opinions would not have changed," Franklin Graham wrote.

If true, Billy Graham wasn't the man I thought he was, not the man my mama made me and my siblings sit down to watch on TV like millions of others throughout the South.

If true, Billy Graham isn't worthy of the reverence many of us have long had for a man we've believed tried to lead people to God even when we disagreed with some of his teachings.

If true, Billy Graham wasn't as authentic as he presented himself for most of his life.

That's what Franklin Graham doesn't seem to understand, or doesn't care to. His embrace of Trump is denigrating his father's name, and this country's largest religion.

While there are plenty of people involved with his non-profit Samaritan's Purse performing great deeds, including in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, that can't make up for how Franklin Graham has defiled the faith he says he loves by worshiping Trump.

Issac Bailey is a McClatchy opinion writer in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Issac Bailey, 'Anti-Trump ad hits home for Franklin Graham', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 20A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE720F174418›

NewsBank inc.

Pilots fly NC nursing home residents with dementia to safety as medicine runs low

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Julia Coin; Staff Writer | Section: News | 458 Words
Page: 14A
OpenURL Link

More than 100 nursing home residents - most with dementia - were hoisted onto helicopters and flown across 80 miles of North Carolina's damaged interior on Tuesday.

They'd been stuck in Burnsville since Friday, when Helene hit the southeastern United States with a wrath that hasn't been seen in some areas for more than a century.

Volunteer pilots made about 20 trips in their own helicopters - from two-seaters to Black Hawks - flying northwest from Hickory to rescue 76 residents in Yancey House, Mitchell House and a few others nearby.

The U.S. Army - via a Chinook marked by an image of singer Lionel Richie's face, with a troop from Davenport, Iowa, inside - made one trip. It was the last trip.

They had 34 seatbelts on board. Luckily, said Capt. Cody Nolan, there were only 34 residents left.

"That's because I prayed," said Lindsey Duch, the vice president of health policy and innovation at ALG Senior, a company with about 30 nursing homes from Charlotte to Asheville. "We had our own pilots going out and getting people."

She worked with Operation Airdrop, a nonprofit that sends volunteer pilots with personal aircraft into disaster zones. The pilots were set to rescue 100 from an orphanage Tuesday, said Matt McSwain, the organization's Hickory coordinator, but when they heard the kids got replenished food and water, they pivoted.

The seniors would soon run out of resources - namely medicine.

Shana Pitts, another ALG Senior executive, said they'd been waiting for government help since Thursday.

"It was a little frustrating," she said.

But the furrowed, concerned look disappeared from her face when residents wheeled up to the sliding airport doors in Hickory. One held a Bible in her lap, atop of a flowery, ankle-length skirt.

The nurses welcomed patients with chipper smiles.

"Hey, sweet lady! How're you?" one asked as a woman in a pink hummingbird shirt with long gray hair rolled up.

"Alright, now go steal some snacks," another said after checking one diabetic man's sugar.

Inside the terminal, on a table with a leafy fake plant, sat an opened pack of Lance peanut butter crackers, the kind grandma might have at the bottom of her big purse.

Then McSwain got another call. This one was from the N.C. State Highway Patrol.

"They just gave me a mission," he said. "Why is the highway patrol calling me? I should be calling them."

North Carolina Sens. Thom Tillis and Ted Budd stopped in at the Hickory airport early Tuesday. They offered verbal

support, McSwain said, which was more than some parts of the government.

Julia Coin: 7042189350 , @juliamcoin

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Julia Coin, Staff Writer, 'Pilots fly NC nursing home residents with dementia to safety as medicine runs low', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 14A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7259D66910›

NewsBank inc.

They were in the basement frantically preparing for a flood - Then the landslide hit

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Martha Quillin; Staff Writer | Section: News | 736 Words
Page: 10A
OpenURL Link

BARNARDSVILLE Kelli Ball felt the landslide in the bones of her chest before she could see it.

She and her husband, Dakota, were in the basement of their house on Stony Fork Road trying to move stuff out of the way of the rising water. The water was coming from the creek behind the house, normally a little trickle way down the hill, that had climbed the bank Friday morning with all the rain from the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

Their boys, Canaan, 8, and Macon, 4, were upstairs on the couch.

It was around 10 a.m. The family had been awake since 5 a.m., and all morning, the mountains around them had been groaning in the deluge.

"If you've not experienced a flood in the mountains, you just hear these boulders rolling and trees breaking and it just rumbles in the mountains," Kelli said. "It echoes everywhere. We had been hearing that all morning."

The flooding was happening all around Barnardsville, a farming community in Buncombe County north of Asheville along the normally friendly Big Ivy River and laced with creeks that come down from the hills. The Big Ivy itself was coming out of its banks and spreading all over the lowland, snatching double-wide mobile homes and stick-built houses off their foundations and sending them downstream in shards. It emptied out a catfish pond. It blew out a wall of the local diner.

In the Balls' basement, the water was just coming up too fast, and Kelli told Dakota, "We've got to go. We've got to go!" And ran upstairs.

That's when she felt the vibration in her breastbone.

She reached the living room, with its big windows that look across Stony Fork Road at a hay field, then up at a mountain that's part of Pisgah National Forest, just as the mountain turned loose a river of boulders and trees and mud.

It was heading hundreds of yards downhill, coming for the Balls' house, with the potential to also take out Dakota's parents' house, on one side of them, or his grandmother's, on the other.

They had picked this site when they built the home in 2019 because it was on high ground.

"We thought it was the safest place," Dakota said.

When Kelli saw - and felt - the liquified mountain coming at her family, she screamed at Dakota, who was still in the basement: "Landslide!"

She grabbed the boys and went out the front door just as a whole tree slammed into the house, jamming under the porch.

"It was like a runaway freight train coming down that mountain," Kelli said.

The boys jumped from the porch and first the family started to run to the right, "but the slide kept coming," so they

decided to go the other way. By then, Dakota's parents had run outside. Separated by the flow of mud and debris several feet deep running between their two houses, "We formed a human chain and just passed our babies across that river," as rocks and branches ran across their bare feet in the flowing mud.

Dakota Ball said the slide opened up two new springs in the front yard, and he and others had used a track hoe to reroute them into one stream running beside the driveway and toward the creek behind the house. The couple had stripped the drywall in the basement, and with the help of people of Barnardsville, had cut enough of the scattered trees to move around in the yard.

A few miles down the road, in Barnardsville proper, volunteers were sorting donations of canned corn and taco shells and bottled water at the old four-bay building that used to house the volunteer fire department. The community, routed by water, already was rebuilding its washed-out roads using equipment on loan from Brock Mountain, a local construction company.

Owners of ATVs were shuttling residents where they needed to go because cars and pavement had been washed away.

"We're lucky," Kelli Ball said. "We're alive."

Martha Quillin: 919-829-8989, @MarthaQuillin

Copyright (c) 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Martha Quillin, Staff Writer, 'They were in the basement frantically preparing for a flood Then the landslide hit', *News & Observer, The* (online), 6 Oct 2024 10A ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C0CE7218EC4B78›

NewsBank inc.

After Helene, a Baptist congregation looks for answers and solace and ways to help

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Adam Wagner, News & Observer | Section: north carolina | 778 Words
OpenURL Link

First Baptist Church returned to its pews Sunday morning for the first time since Helene devastated Western North Carolina.

Before the service, parishioners gathered in small groups, checking in on each other, asking how they'd fared.

"Did you lose power?" one woman asked another.

"Four days," came the response.

At the door, Bill Teague told a pair of newcomers that his farm had largely done all right but that he'd spent the last week tossing everything from a neighbor's flooded home - clothes, furniture, appliances - before starting in on the drywall.

About 100 people attended service at First Baptist in Waynesville on Sunday. A week before, with cell service and the power grid still hindered, First Baptist held a prayer service in the parking lot.

The power may have been back on Sunday - the microphones worked, and the lights, and the screens showing the words of hymns - but the air conditioning for the worship hall and many of the church's other spaces was still out, damaged when the power went out during Helene. And the company that services the systems for the church can't even access its offices yet.

RAL_100624-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-01.JPGCongregants gather at the First Baptist Church in Waynesville on Sunday morning, Oct. 6, 2024. Waynesville is among the communities in western North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Helene that caused catastrophic flooding.

At the beginning of Sunday's service, the Rev. Robert Prince, First Baptist's lead pastor, called those who wanted to the front to say a prayer for those impacted by the storm. About 25 people came to the front of the chapel, some kneeling on one knee, others on two. Some worshipers shrouded their eyes with their hands.

"In the midst of our devastation, we turn towards you. We do wait for you, Lord, we do seek you. There's been so much loss, so much grief in our area and across this whole part of the state, in other states. And God, in this moment, we humbly turn to you. We need your power, we need your strength, we need your perseverance," Prince said.

Those praying were seeking help from God to grapple with the shock of witnessing Helene's destruction and with the emotions that come in the aftermath, Prince said. They were also seeking guidance as a congregation to provide aid to those in need in Western North Carolina.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100524-RTWa_4.jpgMembers of IChurch from Hickory, N.C. pray with Bob Smith, center, a Trustee of the Old Fort United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 5, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C. More than four feet of water from Mill Creek flooded the building during Hurricane Helene. IChurch members volunteered their time on Saturday to shovel mud, and salvage items from the building.

As Prince gave his sermon Sunday he leaned forward, braced on his right arm and gesturing with his left hand. He addressed uncertainties, ranging from why the storm happened in Western North Carolina, to why it was so devastating, to why certain people died.

“When people ask us why, I think the word from the Lord is, we don’t really know,” Prince said.

At the same time, Prince said, he is sure that God is present in Western North Carolina, working through the people who are responding to the storm.

“God is here, God is with you and God is going to bring us through this,” Prince said.

Photos: Western NC flood victims turn to faith in the face of disaster

First Baptist is also trying to help its neighbors, including efforts to help people grapple with the scope of the disaster and participating in countywide disaster relief efforts.

Nina Atwood, First Baptist’s pastor for community engagement, told the parishioners that the church is planning to open its chapel from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every weekday to afford people a place to pray as they try to understand the disaster.

“There are folks who just need a way to pray,” Atwood said.

When First Baptist did that Wednesday, six people came in. Four of those prayed by themselves, two needed someone to pray with them.

“Let them feel what they feel, let them think what they think and just be there with them through it,” Atwood said.

RAL_100624-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-08.JPGCongregants pray at the First Baptist Church in Waynesville on Sunday morning, Oct. 6, 2024. Waynesville is among the communities in western North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Helene that caused catastrophic flooding.

This story was produced with financial support from the Hartfield Foundation and Green South Foundation, in partnership with Journalism Funding Partners, as part of an independent journalism fellowship program. The N&O maintains full editorial control of the work. If you would like to help support local journalism, please consider signing up for a digital subscription, which you can do here.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Adam Wagner, News & Observer, 'After Helene, a Baptist congregation looks for answers and solace and ways to help', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027CEF37B520›

NewsBank inc.

Photos: Rescue turns to grim recovery in the mountains of Western North Carolina

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Travis Long and Robert Willett, News & Observer | Section: weather news | 486 Words
OpenURL Link

Search and rescue teams from across the country have converged on Western North Carolina in the wake of devastating flooding from Helene.

Their work is transitioning into the grim task of Search and Recovery more than a week after the storm hit the mountains.

Teams are using dogs, drones, heavy equipment, chainsaws and their bare hands to search hard-hit areas filled with mud and debris.

Photojournalist Travis Long followed one of those teams in Swannanoa, N.C., Sunday afternoon, Oct,. 6, 2024.

In Helene’s aftermath, FEMA search-and-rescue teams know they now search for victims

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-015.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from Maryland search for human remains in debris from a structure in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-013.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from Maryland search for human remains in debris from a structure in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-017.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from Maryland search for human remains in debris from a structure in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-009.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from California search for flood victims using a human remains dog named “Rubble” in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-011.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from California search for flood victims using a human remains dog named “Rubble” in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-030.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from California search for flood victims using a human remains dog named “Rubble” in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-026.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from Maryland search for human remains in car in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-024.JPGA FEMA search and rescue team from Maryland search for human remains in car in Swannanoa on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024 after Tropical Storm Helene flooded the Swannanoa River. North Carolina officials have confirmed 76 deaths from Tropical Storm Helene.

In Helene’s aftermath, rescue turns to grim recovery in the mountains of Western North CarolinaMore than 1,200

FEMA search and rescue personnel from across the country have converged on Western North Carolina in the wake of devastating flooding from Helene. Their work is transitioning into the grim task of recovery more than a week after the storm hit the mountains.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Travis Long and Robert Willett, News & Observer, 'Photos: Rescue turns to grim recovery in the mountains of Western North Carolina', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027CFAEBADE0›

NewsBank inc.

Photos: Western NC flood victims turn to faith and church in the face of disaster

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Robert Willett and Travis Long, News & Observer | Section: north carolina | 462 Words
OpenURL Link

Victims of Helene and the volunteers who have gathered to help them gathered in churches and parking lots for prayer and services Saturday and Sunday, a week after the disastrous storm's initial impact on Western North Carolina.

See photos from some of those services and prayer circles here:

RAL_100624-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-01.JPGCongregants gather at the First Baptist Church in Waynesville on Sunday morning, Oct. 6, 2024. Waynesville is among the communities in western North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Helene that caused catastrophic flooding.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100624-RTW_5.JPGPastor Austin Bullock presides over services in the parking lot at Salem Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday, October 6, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C. Still without power more than a week after Hurricane Helene, they gathered outside to sing, read scripture and comfort each other.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100624-RTW_2 (1).JPGKathy Ricker prays for those in need at Salem Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday, October 6, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C. Still without power more than a week after Hurricane Helene passed through the region, they gathered outside in the church parking lot.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100624-RTW.JPGWorshipers pray against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains at Salem Free Will Baptist Church on Sunday, October 6, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C.

RAL_100624-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-04.JPGCongregants pray at the First Baptist Church in Waynesville on Sunday morning, Oct. 6, 2024. Waynesville is among the communities in western North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Helene that caused catastrophic flooding.

RAL_100624-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-08.JPGCongregants pray at the First Baptist Church in Waynesville on Sunday morning, Oct. 6, 2024. Waynesville is among the communities in western North Carolina impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Helene that caused catastrophic flooding.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100524-RTW_3.JPGJohnny Bolick, a member of IChurch from Hickory, N.C., pushes a wheel barrow of debris from the sanctuary of Old Fort United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 5, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C. More than four feet of water from Mill Creek flooded the building during Hurricane Helene.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100524-RTW_6 (1).JPGRandall Sigmon of Old Fort, moves salvaged items from the flooded sanctuary of Old Fort United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 5, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C. More than four feet of water from Mill Creek flooded the building during Hurricane Helene.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100524-RTW_2.JPGA speck of wet mud is highlighted by the evening sun on a portrait of Jesus, salvaged from the sanctuary of Old Fort United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 5, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C. More than four feet of water from Mill Creek flooded the building during Hurricane Helene.

RAL_OLDFORT-NE-100524-RTW_10.JPGMembers of IChurch from Hickory, N.C. pray with Bob Smith, center, a Trustee of the Old Fort United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 5, 2024 in Old Fort, N.C. More than four feet of water from Mill Creek flooded the building during Hurricane Helene. IChurch members volunteered their time on Saturday to shovel mud, and salvage items from the building.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Robert Willett and Travis Long, News & Observer, 'Photos: Western NC flood victims turn to faith and church in the face of disaster', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6F4A135618ED0›

NewsBank inc.

Hospitals brace for IV, dialysis fluid shortages after Helene shuts down NC producer

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Mary Helen Moore, News & Observer | Section: north carolina | 554 Words
OpenURL Link

As a key IV fluid manufacturer in the North Carolina mountains works to rebuild after Hurricane Helene, medical facilities around the country are bracing for shortages.

A McDowell County plant, operated by Baxter Healthcare Corp., is closed due to flooding. Heavy equipment can't reach the site because of a bridge failure that may take weeks to repair.

Until then, Baxter is limiting what its customers can order according to available inventory and medical necessity.

IV products that will be rationed include:

Saline: Used to rehydrate patients and replace electrolytes.Dextrose: A sugar solution used when patients are dehydrated or have low blood sugar. (Saline and dextrose are also used in combination with other drugs that need to administered by IV.)Dialysis solutions: Used to treat patients with kidney failure.

Baxter, which opened its North Carolina plant in 1972, says it is the largest manufacturer of these solutions in the United States.

The American Hospital Association says before the storm, the plant produced 1.5 million bags of IV fluid daily - 60% of the nation's supply.

Gregory Pauly, president of Duke University Hospital, said on Friday that teams across the university's health system are impacted by the shortage.

"Our teams have been working to assess inventory, deploy conservation strategies, and triage future distribution in an equitable manner across the health system," Pauly said in a statement shared with The News & Observer.

"At this time, we are making case-by-case assessments of our ability to safely perform certain surgeries and procedures going into the weekend and next week.".

The Food and Drug Administration said last week it was monitoring the situation and working with Baxter to try to increase production at its other facilities as well as trying to find other sources of the fluids. But as of Sunday, the FDA had not declared a shortage.

1 foot of rain fell on NC health care plant

Baxter's IV manufacturing plant is located in the North Cove township near Marion, a heavily damaged area that was lashed with rain when the remnants of Hurricane Helene swept through Sept. 27.

The state climate office reports more than 12 inches of rain fell on the area in just three days.

Baxter said a levee breach allowed water to permeate its plant.

Roads leading to the site are damaged, but Baxter said Thursday that 500 workers were already at the plant working on repairs.

"We expect this number to double in the week ahead," the company said in a news release.

A bridge failure has prevented heavy equipment from reaching the plant, and made it impossible to deliver inventory that wasn't damaged in the storm.

"We expect a permanent bridge will be installed by the Army Corps of Engineers and North Carolina Department of Transportation in the coming weeks," the company said in the Thursday update.

Baxter reports it's been able to contact most of its 2,500 employees, and that it's established assistance center a few miles from the plant. There, staff can take showers, wash clothes, charge devices and receive food, water and other basic supplies.

"We will spare no resource - human or financial - to resume production and help ensure patients and providers have the products they need," president and CEO José Almeida said in a news release the morning after the storm.

The company said it will work with the FDA to "leverage Baxter's global manufacturing network" until the Marion facility is back operating at 100% capacity."

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Mary Helen Moore, News & Observer, 'Hospitals brace for IV, dialysis fluid shortages after Helene shuts down NC producer', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027CF7DE6DE0›

NewsBank inc.

NC governor's race: What candidates say about business, and Robinson skips Helene vote

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan, News & Observer | Section: politics government | 700 Words
OpenURL Link

Welcome to the governor's race edition of our Under the Dome politics newsletter. I'm Dawn Vaughan, The News & Observer's Capitol bureau chief. I've been writing the governor's race newsletter every Sunday for months now, and focus on the two major party candidates: Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein and Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson.

But they're not the only ones running. There are three third-party candidates on your ballots, too: Libertarian Mike Ross, Michael Wayne Turner of the Green Party and Vinny Smith of the Constitution Party.

I sent all five candidates our governor's race questionnaire for our News & Observer and Charlotte Observer Voter Guide. Robinson and Ross have not responded as I write this on Friday afternoon, but the three other candidates did, and we've already published their answers. We asked all the gubernatorial candidates the same questions, which include their biography, policy positions and how they'll work with other statewide elected officials.

Candidates' answers about NC business

Here's a sample of their answers to our question about maintaining or improving North Carolina's business climate:

Josh Stein, Democratic Party: "I believe in the promise of North Carolina that if you work hard, where you come from should never limit how far you can go. Instead of waging job-killing culture wars like my opponent, I'll keep fighting to invest in our people. I will ensure small businesses are set up for success and strengthen career and technical education, especially in our state's growing, high-demand industries. Finally, I will prioritize infrastructure investments like broadband, roads and railroads."

Democratic candidate for NC governor, Josh Stein, answers our questions

Michael Wayne Turner, Green Party: "A business climate should be tailored to attract businesses that (1) pay their employees a living wage and benefits; (2) do not degrade the environment; and (3) do not siphon profits away from the state. Such businesses will produce long-term economic and social benefits to the people. To attract businesses that can meet these requirements, my administration would emphasize the production of a widely educated and politically conscious workforce."

Green Party candidate for NC governor, Michael Wayne Turner, answers our questions

Vinny Smith, Constitution Party: "Work towards less government regulations and come up with a phased approach to end property tax, which will encourage business owners/corporations to establish their business in N.C. because owners, and executives/employees would pay less in tax and actually own their homes."

Constitution Party candidate for NC governor, Vinny Smith, answers our questions

You can read their answers to all our questions, plus questionnaires from candidates in other races, in our Voter Guide.

Robinson didn't vote on Helene emergency

Multiple new polls were released this past week about the governor's race, including the first one conducted after the CNN report that tied Robinson to pornographic, racist and antisemitic comments, which he denies. East Carolina

University’s poll showed a significant drop for Robinson, who is far behind Stein.

Robinson was back out on the campaign trail Friday, meeting with voters and posting photos of himself on social media criticizing the government’s response to Hurricane Helene. As a member of the Council of State, Robinson was expected to vote with the other nine members, including Gov. Roy Cooper, to declare a state of emergency to respond to Hurricane Helene. But Robinson did not vote, CBS 17 reported, and posted on social media that his vote “didn’t matter” because it would have passed regardless.

One of the few responsibilities of the lieutenant governor is to attend Council of State meetings and vote on statewide declarations like the one he skipped. Council of State members receive six figure salaries from the taxpayers.

Stay informed about #ncpol

Don’t forget to follow our Under the Dome tweets and listen to our Under the Dome podcast to stay up to date. Our new episode posts Monday morning, and I’m joined by News & Observer environment and climate change reporter Adam Wagner to talk about Helene. If you want to learn more about how political polling works, catch up on this past week’s episode, too, when I interviewed Jason Husser of Elon University Poll.

You can sign up to receive the Under the Dome newsletter at newsobserver.com/newsletters. Want your friends to get our email, too? Forward them this newsletter so they can sign up.

Under The Dome embed (2022)

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Dawn Baumgartner Vaughan, News & Observer, 'NC governor’s race: What candidates say about business, and Robinson skips Helene vote', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6F4A1234D0878›

NewsBank inc.

‘Heartbreaking’ landslides reshape Cruso, NC, landscape, leaving destruction and doubt

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: Adam Wagner, News & Observer | Section: north carolina | 1532 Words
OpenURL Link

Arlen Heatherly walked up the mountainside, using a walking stick to pick his way through mud and boulders and uprooted trees.

This land, in the unincorporated community of Cruso, North Carolina, had been in his family for 65 years. This past week it was the site of one of the 326 landslides triggered by Tropical Storm Helene that had been detected by the U.S. Geological Survey as of late Saturday. Of those, 231 had impacted homes or infrastructure like roads.

The Cruso landslide carved a 150-foot swath through what had been forest. Full-grown trees were downed and caked in mud as the side of the mountain flowed downhill. Michael Heatherly, Arlen’s son, estimated that the slide had started near the top of the mountain, and had run all the way to the bottom.

“It’s just devastating,” Michael Heatherly said.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-011.JPGAn aerial view of a landslide in Cruso on Saturday, October. 5, 2024 The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

As Arlen stood near a huge downed tree, the home he’d grown up in was downhill. Now owned by a Raleigh family, it was partially ringed by a 2-foot-deep layer of mud still settling from squishy to a dry cake.

Mud nearly reached the seat of a rocking chair on the back porch. As the landslide slammed against the building, some of the mud had splattered across its yellow paint. Still, there wasn’t any obvious structural damage.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-019.JPGSplattered mud from a landslide sticks to the exterior of a home in Cruso. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

Uphill from where Arlen stood was largely ruins. An aging silo and barn had been wiped out, crumpled roofs and building materials and sheet metals lying where the mud had taken them.

Saturday, a small mountain stream gurgled down the middle of that path, its gentleness as it flowed through a ravine carved into the hillside a reminder by contrast of how violent the thunderous landslide that reshaped the mountainside must have been.

Many of the landslides associated with Helene took place in Western North Carolina, with clusters east of Asheville near places like Bat Cave, Bear Hollow and Summerhaven. They have taken 11 lives, according to the state Department of Health and Human Services.

In Cruso, a pair of landslides fell - one on the north side of a mountain and one on the south. Neither was fatal.

The one on the northern side is the slide that reshaped the Heatherly land.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-012.JPGAn aerial view of a landslide in Cruso on Saturday, October. 5, 2024 The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

‘Pretty heartbreaking’ landslide

Arlen Heatherly, now 81 years old, was the first member of the family to see the mudslide that had effectively split

their land in half.

“All I could think of was my dad. He worked so hard. And I did, too,” Arlen said.

The Heatherleys had grown potatoes, tobacco and tomatoes on the land. They’d raised livestock.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-025.JPGArlen Heatherly, 81, surveys damage caused by a landslide on his family’s property in Cruso. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

Michael had also worked on that land. For the last 20 years, he’s been clearing old logging roads that run up the mountain, making it possible for he and his sister to have small cabins in the forest, with a pizza oven at Michael’s.

“I had it looking really good,” Michael said Saturday as he stood in the middle of the landslide’s scar.

The landslide cut many of those logging roads in half. Sections of them are buried under what Michael estimates are 12 to 15 feet of mud. The cabins are now only accessible by hiking up the mountainside

In the days since the landslide, Michael has tried to count how many trees fell in a forest he’s played and worked in since he was a child. He hasn’t come close to an answer.

“To see it like this, it’s pretty heartbreaking,” he said.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-022.JPGMichael Heatherly, 54, and his mother Linda, 77, survey damage caused by a landslide on their family’s property in Cruso. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

He wants to know what to do next.

He’s worried about what will happen if another heavy rain comes - will it trigger another landslide? And in the meantime, will water carry high levels of sediment into the Pigeon River?

When Tropical Storm Fred hit Western North Carolina in August 2021, it killed six people in Cruso. Linda Heatherly, Michael’s mother, said that storm also left debris in the Pigeon River, including a red Chevy Suburban that was clearly visible from the access road to their property.

A private citizen finally got the permits for and finished removing that car from the river, Linda Heatherly said - about two weeks before Helene arrived.

Michael and Linda, who is retired from the U.S. Forest Service, expressed interest in planting grass seed to try to stabilize the landscape.

“I’m just trying to figure out what to to do,” Michael Heatherly said.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-006.JPGDale Smith, 71, of Cruso surveys damage caused by a landslide on his property in Cruso on Saturday, October. 5, 2024. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

Creek becomes a ‘meat grinder’

On the southern side of the Cruso mountain, Roger Largent knew a landslide had happened shortly after 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 27 - the day the storm arrived.

As he watched the stream that runs past his Cabin Creek Road home rise, Largent heard a roar that sounded like thunder coming from somewhere up the mountain.

Then the rushing water changed color.

What had been a muddy firehose stream became black, almost the color of oil. And the consistency changed, with the water so full of dirt that it almost seemed to become a dangerous, dancing solid.

As the water gushed downstream, Largent filmed on his phone.

In one video, he can be heard shouting that the creek has become “a meat grinder.”

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-016.JPGMichael Heatherly, 54, left, and his father Arlen, 81, survey damage caused by a landslide on their family’s property in Cruso. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

As the thick water rushed down the hill, it took out a five-foot culvert and road that Largent and his neighbor Dale Smith used to access their properties.

Largent nearly froze at the sight.

“It landlocked me,” Largent said. “I couldn’t freaking move.”

He jumped into his Jeep and floored the gas pedal, sluicing across the yard to get away from the raging creek. He leaned on the horn, trying to get the attention of Smith, who had headed up the the creekside road not 10 minutes before.

Unbeknownst to Largent, Smith had come back down after seeing that a normally calm tributary to the creek had turned angry.

“I guess it was just the Lord telling me to get out,” Smith said Saturday as he picked his way through the creek bed, jumping from bolder to boulder and clambering over fallen trees, many of them still coated in the mud that had carried them down the side of the mountain.

Smith has lived in the area for 71 years. During Frances and Ivan, he heard the sound of boulders being carried down the creek. He also rebuilt the culvert to reach his and Largent’s homes after Fred.

“This one was a lot worse because we had the slide up through there,” Smith said.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-020.JPGFrom left, Linda, Arlen and Michael Heatherly survey damage caused by a landslide on their family’s property in Cruso. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused more than 300 landslides, many in North Carolina.

The mudslide started in Pisgah National Park’s Shining Rock Wilderness, Smith said, rushing downhill before hitting the creek that is part of his property line, carrying the mud and trees with it.

Some of those trees snarled together across the creek, the logs and rootballs creating a dam. When the next storm comes, Smith worries, the heavy flow of water will eat away at the land on the southern edge of the creek. That will imperil the road leading to his property.

He hopes the National Park Service will help remove the logs and chop them up before another storm causes the creek to swell and the gushing water to wear out everything holding the road up.

“The government needs to get up here with something and fix it before that happens,” Smith said.

He walked through his own landslide and crossed the creek via a makeshift bridge he’d made out of two fallen logs,

heading to the bottom of the mountain.

There, he jumped on a compact excavator to help the Heatherly family rebuild the culvert they all need to reach their property.

RAL_100524-HELENE-TEL-002.JPGFree relief supplies sit on a creek bank in Cruso on Saturday, October. 5, 2024 after the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding and landslides in the community.

This story was produced with financial support from the Hartfield Foundation and Green South Foundation, in partnership with Journalism Funding Partners, as part of an independent journalism fellowship program. The N&O maintains full editorial control of the work. If you would like to help support local journalism, please consider signing up for a digital subscription, which you can do here.

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Adam Wagner, News & Observer, ''Heartbreaking' landslides reshape Cruso, NC, landscape, leaving destruction and doubt', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6027D01F70958›

NewsBank inc.

Rebuild stronger infrastructure now so NC can save later - Opinion

October 6, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC)
Author: From our readers, News & Observer | Section: letters to the editor | 674 Words
OpenURL Link

When Vermont was hit by Hurricane Irene in 2011, its infrastructure was shattered, just as ours in North Carolina is now. Someone up there had the wisdom to make sure every culvert, bridge and building that was destroyed was replaced by a version that was bigger, stronger and more resilient to flooding. I suggest North Carolina take the same approach, with substantial support from the federal government and our own General Assembly. It may be expensive up front but provides significant savings and much faster recovery from storms down the road.

Ron Sutherland, PhD, Durham

New building codes

The author has a background in urban design.

I am heartbroken about the damage in western North Carolina.

Over the past 15 years, state lawmakers have rejected limits on construction on steep slopes, which might have reduced the number of homes lost to landslides; blocked a rule requiring homes to be elevated above the height of an expected flood; weakened protections for wetlands, increasing the risk of dangerous storm water runoff; and slowed the adoption of updated building codes, making it harder for the state to qualify for federal climate-resilience grants. When appropriate, an independent investigation should be conducted to see how current building codes may have contributed to the loss of homes and to determine if these codes need to be changed or modified. We need to take politics out of building codes when it impacts the safety of our community.

Stephen Berg, Chapel Hill

Republican weather

Let’s be clear, Helene was so severe because tropical storm Helene grew into Category 4 Hurricane Helene as it quickly crossed the historically hot Gulf of Mexico, some scientist believe. We’ve always had hurricanes but never so many so severe ones. This is global warming at work, the global warming climate experts have warned us about for decades, the global warming Republicans first poo pooed (Donald Trump still does) then opposed every step to fight it. This climate, this weather is the result of Republican policy. This is Republican weather.

Neil Stahl, Chapel Hill

Ensure voting

While our eyes, hearts, and resources are focused on the immediate loss and damage sustained by communities in Western North Carolina, our state Board of Elections and legislators must look to the coming elections.

Damage to roads and communications infrastructure, combined with actions by the legislature to require ID for voting and requiring absentee ballots to be delivered by Election Day, together with actions by the state judiciary that have delayed the mailing of absentee ballots, will severely limit the ability to vote of citizens who have lost everything and where postal service, already greatly degraded under Postmaster Louis DeJoy, is likely to be even worse.

The NC Board of Elections, the state legislature, and the governor’s office must work together to create emergency

rules and put in place an infrastructure to ensure that eligible voters in the affected counties can cast their ballots. Disenfranchisement cannot be added to the burdens already being shouldered by these communities.

Andrew Geller, Durham

Hopeful VP debate

Although the vice presidential debate is unlikely to change the outcome of the 2024 election, I now feel more comfortable with both candidates after watching them discuss the issues facing our country.

As someone who knew little about either individual until recently, I believe Sen. J.D. Vance won the debate, with Gov. Tim Walz coming very close. Looking back at the earlier presidential candidate debates this year, this one offered relief and assurance that Democrats and Republicans can be civil. Seeing both candidates occasionally agree on issues while still respectfully disagreeing on how to address them showed that we can move forward as a nation through meaningful discussion. It’s far more productive than the consistent bashing of opponents as we often see former President Trump and Vice President Harris tend to do.

However, not everything during those 90 minutes was positive. Unsurprisingly, both Sen. Vance and Gov. Walz lied and avoided questions from the moderators. Overall, as a first-time voter just starting college, I feel there is still hope for countering the political division and radicalization on both the left and the right.

Luke Basso, Wilmington

Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  From our readers, News & Observer, 'Rebuild stronger infrastructure now so NC can save later Opinion', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C6F4A120D5F5C8›

NewsBank inc.

Food Lion donates $1.5M to support Helene disaster relief

October 6, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC)
Author: Chandler Inions | Section: Business | 346 Words
OpenURL Link

Food Lion donates $1.5M to support Helene disaster relief

Published 12:00 am Sunday, October 6, 2024

By Chandler Inions

SALISBURY — Food Lion is donating $1.5 million to support the communities impacted by Hurricane Helene as part of its commitment to the towns and cities it serves. Through Oct. 30, customers can join this effort to support their neighbors by donating at the register. The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Food Lion, will distribute the funds to partner feeding organizations to address recovery and rebuilding efforts as a result of Hurricane Helene.

As part of the contribution, funds have been directed to support an initial emergency donation to American Red Cross in providing food, emergency shelter, relief supplies and comfort, as well as the World Central Kitchen in their efforts to provide meals to those affected by the devastation. To help address the most critical needs, Food Lion is collaborating with local disaster relief and response teams, hospitals, government agencies and community feeding partners to provide nonperishable snacks, water, gift cards and other supplies to shelters and emergency support service areas. To date, Food Lion Feeds has donated more than 280,000 pounds of food and water to community partners. Food Lion Feeds was founded in 2014 by Food Lion to address food insecurity in the towns and cities it serves.

"Caring for our neighbors and the towns and cities we serve is an integral part of our Food Lion culture," Food Lion President Meg Ham said. "Our hearts go out to those devastated by Hurricane Helene, and we want our neighbors and communities to know they can count on Food Lion, especially those who need us most during this time. By joining forces with our customers, we are reminded of the strength and resiliency of our communities to come together to support those impacted by the effects of the storm."

Established in 2001, the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to eliminating hunger. The foundation annually awards more than $1 million in grants benefitting more than 500 local feeding partners.

Copyright 2024 Salisbury Post, All Rights Reserved.

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Chandler Inions, 'Food Lion donates $1.5M to support Helene disaster relief', *Salisbury Post* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C090AF01E84418›

NewsBank inc.

The way we were, are, and should be

October 6, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC)
Author: Elisabeth Strillacci | Section: Opinion | 722 Words
OpenURL Link

The way we were, are, and should be

Published 12:00 am Sunday, October 6, 2024

By Elisabeth Strillacci

Saturday after Hurricane Helene hit, the hubs and I were traveling on I-85 south coming to Salisbury, and in the right hand lane, we passed no fewer than a dozen utility trucks from another state, clearly heading out to help restore power to one of our hard-hit areas.

Sunday, I saw a line of ambulances on the same highway.

I admit, it brought me to tears. Because it reminded me of something very basic.

This is who we are, who we have been, and who we should always be.

We had an article this week about the numerous first responders across Rowan County who have deployed to western North Carolina to help with search and rescue, provisions and recovery. People have come from far and wide, inside and outside of the state, to help. Sure, the government is helping, and has been, but the bottom line is we, who are living lives that but for the grace of God could suffer what others have, are the ones who go to help.

And not one of those first responders, line crews or volunteers is stopping to ask any questions of those calling for help. Because nothing matters beyond the fact that they have called on us. We go.

I know it's political season. I also know I steer clear of political columns. That is not my forte.

But I also know that politics has no place in this situation. This is basic human need — people needing each other. And we are answering. With love, compassion, kindness, generosity and strength, we are helping.

At any time, this disaster could affect any one of us. At any time, Rowan County could one day be hit with a disaster like Helene, and I have faith that if that ever happens, others will come to our aid. And continue to come until we can stand on our own again.

And so I am reassured seeing those trucks, watching firefighters depart for northern parts, getting photos from police and deputies, having friends describe to me their supply trains they are working, knowing that whatever else is happening, this remains who we are.

I hope we can hold on to this. I hope that as the days, and the months, and yes even the years that it is going to take to recover and restore, we can hold on to this. The idea that we don't have to agree on everything, we don't have be exactly alike. Our differences are what make us individuals. And those differences should not keep us away from, or apart from, one another. They should be celebrated and enjoyed, or at the very least tolerated, because every one of us is unique. There isn't one of us, even in twins, that are exactly alike. (I do know, we have a set of identical twins.)

I am heartbroken for our state, for our beautiful mountains, for what we have lost and what individuals have lost — family and friends, homes, businesses. I grieve because in my heart I do know some things will take ages to come

back, and others won't come back at all. And some folks will have left us because of this storm and its aftermath.

But I am also celebrating our coming together, our determined efforts to help one another, to get to the unreachable places, to collate lists of people who have been located to let family members know they are OK. I celebrate the ongoing collections at more and more locations, the lists of most needed items updated several times a day, the offers on social media of help from those with a wide range of expertise.

The images we are seeing are sometimes unreal. It's hard to believe they reflect the true devastation, and yet I know the reality is worse than what a camera can capture. But I also see the images of the helpers, and there are more and more with each picture, each video I see. And I know we will get through this.

We are human beings, every one of us, and at the end of the day, we are all we have. Each other.

And man, look at us go. To all of you — well done indeed.

Elisabeth Strillacci covers crime, courts, Spencer, East Spencer and Kannapolis for the Salisbury Post.

Copyright 2024 Salisbury Post, All Rights Reserved.

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Elisabeth Strillacci, 'The way we were, are, and should be', *Salisbury Post* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C090AF108B7170›

NewsBank inc.

Every bit helps: Autumn Care resident takes charge in Hurricane relief

October 6, 2024 | Salisbury Post (NC)
Author: Chandler Inions | Section: News | 292 Words
OpenURL Link

Every bit helps: Autumn Care resident takes charge in Hurricane relief

Published 12:05 am Sunday, October 6, 2024

By Chandler Inions

1 of 2

SALISBURY — When Jatana Richardson saw the destruction wrought in western North Carolina by Hurricane Helene, she knew she had to do something.

Richardson is 86 and she lives at Autumn Care of Salisbury but she was determined to try and make a difference.

"I was laying in the bed thinking what can I do to help," Richardson said. "I got the idea, oh, if I can just raise $20."

So Richardson started soliciting contributions from her fellow residents.

"I knew there were a lot of good people and I just asked for a dollar," she said. "I figured that people could afford that."

Richardson, who is from Kannapolis, has been an active fundraiser for her church, Trinity Methodist, in the past, so she knows a thing or two about drumming up donations.

"Ninety-nine percent, I went up to each one of them and I said, I am going to ask for a dollar donation. If you can do that, it's for the people in the mountain that has been destroyed the hurricane. I said if you would like to help I would appreciate it. They all said yes. I want to help," she said. "Some gave two dollars and some gave to three dollars. Some gave their quarters that they won playing bingo."

In no time at all, Richardson's collection efforts surpassed her initial goal.

"I'm up to $180," she said.

A nurse at Autumn Care of Salisbury is affiliated with Samaritan's Purse and was heading up into the devastated region of the state on Friday. Thanks to Richardson and her fellow Autumn Care residents she was going with a few more dollars to help those people in need.

Copyright 2024 Salisbury Post, All Rights Reserved.

- **Citation (aglc Style)**
  Chandler Inions, 'Every bit helps: Autumn Care resident takes charge in Hurricane relief', *Salisbury Post* (online), 6 Oct 2024 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19C090AF0BD60780›