

Greensboro officials brace for impacts from Helene

September 26, 2024 | News & Record (Greensboro, NC) Author: KEVIN GRIFFIN Staff Reporter | Section: Main | 269 Words Page: 2A OpenURL Link

Greensboro officials are making preparations in advance of potential impacts from Hurricane Helene.

The National Weather Service announced Wednesday Helene had been upgraded to a hurricane as the storm approaches the Florida panhandle. The storm is expected to make landfall late today.

Gov. Roy Cooper declared a statewide state of emergency on Wednesday, in part due to the threat of flooding and landslides in parts of central and western North Carolina.

In an email to the mayor and council members, Assistant City Manager Trey Davis said potential impacts to the storm include "moderate to heavy rainfall, tropical storm force wind gusts and threats for isolated tornadoes to much of North Carolina late Thursday into Friday."

Davis outlined the steps departments throughout the city are taking to prepare for the storm.

Crews around the city are readying themselves for possible downed trees or closed roads. The Water Resources Department is undertaking flood mitigation effort, which including ensuring adequate drainage during the storm while stormwater crews have compiled a list of roads in need of particularly close monitoring.

Davis said in an interview Wednesday that fallen trees are one concern with the storm, given how recent rainfall has saturated the ground.

"We know that recently we've had a lot of rain in our area," Davis said, adding: "We're making sure that we do all the things that we can now to mitigate areas that historically are prone to flooding and want to make sure that people are aware to stay away from those areas."

Guilford County residents may also receive emergency updates by visiting readyguilford.org and signing up for the Guilford Emergency Alert Notification and Information system (GEANI).

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Tropical Storm Helene is nearing hurricane strength, expected to bring rain to NC

September 26, 2024 | Herald-Sun, The (Durham, NC) Author: Renee Umsted; Staff Writer | Section: News | 425 Words Page: 3A OpenURL Link

Tropical Storm Helene is predicted to soon be making its way toward the U.S. coast, bringing rain to North Carolina in coming days.

The storm is near-hurricane strength in the Caribbean Sea, just offshorethe Yucatan Peninsula. It's expected to "rapidly intensify" over the Gulf of Mexico and move toward Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Helene is forecast to bring "life-threatening storm surge" and hurricane-force winds to parts of Florida, the NHC said in an advisory early in the morning on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

The United States, including portions of Florida, the Southeast, the Southern Appalachians and the Tennessee Valley, should expect "considerable and potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding."

The center of the storm is predicted to reach landalong the Big Bend area of Florida, late Thursday or Thursday night, according to the NHC.

Helene will likely be upgraded to a major hurricane before reaching Florida, Nick Luchetti, a meteorologist with the U.S. National Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh, told The News & Observer on Sept. 25.

Models show the eye of the storm heading north through Georgia and into Tennessee, near the North Carolina border.

"There is the risk for major flooding in parts of the Southeast late Thursday into Friday, including the Atlanta area as well as the steep terrain of the southern Appalachians, where the flooding risk can be especially elevated as well as the risk for mudslides and rockslides," AccuWeather chief meteorologist Jonathan Porter said in a report.

What are the impacts for Raleigh and central North Carolina?

The Triangle has already been receiving rain this week, and Helene is predicted to add to the total rainfall.

While the heaviest rain will affect areas west of the Triangle, the greatest impacts from the storm will come to Raleigh and central North Carolina on Friday, Sept. 27, NWS Raleigh's Luchetti said. Total rainfall from Helene will be around 1.5 inches in the Raleigh area.

There's also a chance of isolated tornadoes, especially across the western Piedmont, during the evening hours on Sept. 27.

Flash flooding is possible with heavier downpours. The NWS Raleigh office issued a flood warning for the Neuse River near Clayton in Johnston County, in effect through the morning of Thursday, Sept. 26. Other rivers in the area may flood, depending on the rainfall received ahead of and during the storm.

The storm will weaken as it continues to move north after making landfall, but western North Carolina could experience gusty winds.

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD83F2A4002408>



Helene bringing rain, wind to Catawba Valley

September 26, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: DAN CRAWLEY dcrawley@mcdowellnews.com| Section: News | 448 Words OpenURL Link

A tropical storm could bring significant weather to western North Carolina over the next few days, delivering heavy rainfall and gusty winds.

Tropical Storm Helene is expected to move north through the Gulf of Mexico and up toward North Carolina. The National Hurricane Center is forecasting that the storm will become Hurricane Helene as it enters the Gulf of Mexico Wednesday.

The storm is expected to intensify and make a landfall in Florida on Thursday.

After landfall, the National Hurricane Center forecast has Helene moving north toward western North Carolina by Thursday. Current National Weather Service forecasts predict significant fl ood threat for the area beginning Thursday night and continuing through most of Friday.

Should the current forecast hold firm, western North Carolina will be on the more active eastern side of the storm track.

"Heavy rainfall may pile up quickly Thursday night, with excessive rainfall and at least isolated fl ash fl ooding becoming likely," said NWS Greenville-Spartanburg lead Meteorologist Justin Lane on Tuesday morning. "By noon Friday, total rainfall amounts (including anything falling prior to Helene's arrival) are expected to range from 4 to 7 inches across much of the area west of I-77."

Mountainous areas could be at a higher risk as rain is expected to be higher due to strong southeast winds leading to upslope rains which wring out additional moisture, Lane said.

"Locally, higher amounts as high as a foot are expected across southwest North Carolina, especially along the Blue Ridge escarpment," Lane said.

There is potential for gusty wind as the storm moves north early Friday.

"Confidence in winds and wind gusts remains modest at best. However, a consensus of the latest short-term guidance suggests Helene will still be of solid tropical storm intensity as it passes near the area Thursday night," Lane said.

Current estimates are for wind gusts to range from 3550 mph late Thursday night and early Friday.

So far in 2024, the area has seen rain from the remnants of one named system. Hurricane Debby brought 1-4 inches of rain during the first week of August.

Last week, an area of low pressure that wasn't officially classified as a tropical system brought 2-4 inches of rain to most of Burke and McDowell counties.

Local emergency management is already preparing for the potential of impacts from heavy rain and high winds later this week, McDowell County Emergency Services Director Will Kehler said.

"We are checking to make sure any items that might be needed during the storm are available and we are communicating with community partners about the potential impacts this storm could have on the area," Kehler

said.

For more information on Helene, visit the National Hurricane Center website and for local weather information, visit the National Weather Service website in Greenville-Spartanburg.

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Hurricane Helene upends Catawba County High School football schedules

September 26, 2024 | Hickory Daily Record (NC) Author: From Staff Reports | Section: Football | 119 Words OpenURL Link

As Hurricane Helene churns toward the Hickory area, local high schools are making adjustments to their week six football schedules.

Below are the new dates and times for local football teams.

West Lincoln at Maiden, Saturday at 1 p.m.

West Caldwell at Bunker Hill, Saturday at 2 p.m.

Bandys at East Burke, Saturday at 2 p.m.

West Lincoln at Maiden, Saturday at 2 p.m.

St. Stephens at North Iredell, Saturday at 2 p.m.

North Lincoln at Hickory, Monday. Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

As of Thursday morning, Fred T. Foard was still scheduled to travel to West Iredell on Friday for a 7 p.m. kickoff. Newton-Conover was scheduled to host Lincolnton for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff.

Alexander Central and South Caldwell are not in action this week.

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RAIN, WIND EXPECTED FROM HELENE

September 26, 2024 | McDowell News, The (Marion, NC) Author: DAN CRAWLEY dcrawley@mcdowellnews.com| Section: News | 446 Words OpenURL Link

A tropical storm could bring significant weather to western North Carolina over the next coming days, delivering heavy rainfall and gusty winds.

Tropical Storm Helene is expected to move north through the Gulf of Mexico and up toward North Carolina. The National Hurricane Center is forecasting that the storm will become Hurricane Helene as it enters the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday.

The storm is expected to intensify and make a landfall in Florida on Thursday.

After landfall, the National Hurricane Center forecast has Helene moving north toward western North Carolina by Thursday. Current National Weather Service forecasts predict significant flood threat for the area beginning Thursday night and continuing through most of Friday.

Should the current forecast hold firm, western North Carolina will be on the more active eastern side of the storm track.

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"By noon Friday, total rainfall amounts (including anything falling prior to Helene's arrival) are expected to range from 4 to 7 inches across much of the area west of I-77."

Mountainous areas could be at a higher risk as rain is expected to be higher due to strong southeast winds leading to upslope rains which wrings out additional moisture, Lane said.

"Locally, higher amounts as high as a foot are expected across southwest North Carolina especially along the Blue Ridge escarpment." Lane said.

There is potential for gusty wind as the storm moves north early Friday.

"Confidence in winds and wind gusts remains modest at best. However, a consensus of the latest short-term guidance suggests Helene will still be of solid tropical storm intensity as it passes near the area Thursday night," Lane said.

Current estimates are for wind gusts to range from 35-50 mph late Thursday night and early Friday.

So far in 2024 the area has seen rain from the remnants of one named system. Hurricane Debby brought 1-4 inches of rain range during the first week of August.

Last week, an area of low pressure that wasn't officially classified as a tropical system brought 2-4 inches of rain to most of Burke and McDowell counties.

Local emergency management is already preparing for the potential of impacts from heavy rain and high winds later this week, McDowell County Emergency Services Director Will Kehler said.

"We are checking to make sure any items that might be needed during the storm are available and we are

communicating with community partners about the potential impacts this storm could have on the area," Kehler said.

For more information on Helene visit the National Hurricane Center website and for local weather information visit the National Weather Service website in Greenville-Spartanburg.

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Waynesville isn't sitting Helene out: firefighters at the ready if duty calls

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 437 Words OpenURL Link

While Waynesville doesn't have the Pigeon River to contend with, the town's fire department was hard at work preparing for the worst Thursday should Richland Creek swamp its banks — and preparing to help its neighbors if need be.

Thursday afternoon, Waynesville firefighters backed a brand-new rescue raft into the fire station — just ordered the day before. That, and a whole arsenal of swift water rescue gear.

"The town was nice enough to make this purchase and have it shipped overnight — dry suits, life jackets, throw ropes, helmets, booties, gloves, whistles," said Captain Doug Smith, unzipping the goodie bags and taking inventory of the gear on the concrete floor of the fire station. "The nice thing about the dry suits, if there's any kind of contaminants in the flood water — like raw sewage or diesel fuel — it keeps it off our rescuers."

Meanwhile, the new self-bailing rescue raft — also purchased overnight Wendesday — compliments a swiftwater motor-equipped raft the department purchased after the 2021 floods.

"This self-bailing paddle craft is easier to carry down banks and get into tighter places, and is suited for more shallow water," said Waynesville Firefighter Ben Hooper. "We can place citizens in the raft and walk beside it to take them to dry ground. If we have a small creek that's flooded, we can set up ropes and rigging and ferry people from one side to the other for evacuations."

In addition to the regular crew of firefighters on the overnight shift Thursday, the department had a dedicated fourman team of certified swift water rescue technicians ready to deploy with the boats.

The fire department had been getting ready for the storm all week, Waynesville Fire Chief Joey Webb said.

"Everything is gassed up. Saws are ready. Ropes are ready," Webb said. "Everything has been tested out and ready to go."

Firefighters loaded it up the swift water motor boat and took it to Lake Junaluska on Tuesday to ensure everything was working properly. On Wednesday, firefighters practiced ropes training to ensure their skills were sharp if needed.

But come Thursday, there was nothing to do but wait.

"Right now, we've been riding around and checking," Webb said Thursday afternoon. "They're still in the banks, but they're getting pretty high.

Webb was concerned about the high winds expected to roll in with Helene.

"When the wind starts, we'll have trees down," he said.

Webb encouraged everyone to check on those around them, especially those who are elderly or disabled.

"Make sure people check on their neighbors and make sure they're okay," Webb said. "We've got to look out for each other because there may be elderly folks that need help."

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Emergency responders talk shelters and evacuations as they prep for storm

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: News | 302 Words OpenURL Link

Emergency officials from across Haywood County converged on the Haywood County Sheriff's Office on Thursday morning to discuss evacuation and temporary shelters as Hurricane Helene grew to category 2 status enroute to what could be a category 4 storm.

The Sheriff's Office has become the heart of the emergency operations center as the county prepares for potential flooding from Hurricane Helene tonight and into tomorrow.

The worst of the rainfall is expected in the Cruso, Dutch Cove and Chestnut Mountain areas, said Travis Donaldson, the county's emergency services director. Weather forecasters estimate the area could receive 10 to 20 inches of rain from the storm, following a day of heavy rain that has already placed waterways near flood stage.

While those areas will get the brunt of the rainfall, it will affect the entire county.

"All that water hits and runs down the mountain," Donaldson said.

The group also spoke briefly about the state of emergency declared in Haywood County on Wednesday evening.

Part of that proclamation included a call for voluntary evacuation in areas near waterways that are prone to flooding.

The voluntary evacuation could become mandatory should the storm require it, County Manager Bryant Morehead said.

The proclamation also activated temporary shelter measures. Currently, the old armory in Clyde has been prepared with 57 cots. There are four additional cots for medical needs, and a few more could be added to a waiting area if needed.

Search and rescue teams are getting ready should they be needed. State emergency management is also requesting an urban search and rescue team to stand by for Haywood County.

Haywood County Sheriff Bill Wilke said his office has set up responder support services and is reaching out to chaplains.

"There's a lot of anxiety around this storm," Wilke said.

The meeting closed out with a prayer from Wilke asking for strength and courage for responders.

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Aarik Long, 'Emergency responders talk shelters and evacuations as they prep for storm', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA66DB3C4CEC0



Waynesville isn't sitting Helene out: firefighters at the ready if duty calls

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: On Premise | 32 Words OpenURL Link

Thursday afternoon, Waynesville firefighters backed a brand-new rescue raft into the fire station — just ordered the day before — along with a whole arsenal of swift water rescue gear overnighted Wednesday.

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New river gauges: how do they work and will they help warn of flooding this time?

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: On Premise | 50 Words OpenURL Link

A better river gauge system to warn of high water moving down the Pigeon River became a top priority after the catastrophic floods of 2021. Last month — on the third anniversary of the flood and just in time for Hurricane Helene — the first of those gauges were installed.

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Hanging in the balance of the storm: Haywood residents hunker down

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara | Section: On Premise | 36 Words OpenURL Link

As folks in Canton and Clyde worked up until the last minutes Thursday trying to prepare for the onslaught of Hurricane Helene, they found themselves in a swirling pool of memories from floods and traumas past.

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New river gauges: how do they work and will they help warn of flooding this time?

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Aarik Long | Section: News | 637 Words OpenURL Link

A better river gauge system to warn of high water moving down the Pigeon River became a top priority after the catastrophic floods of 2021. Last month — on the third anniversary of the flood and just in time for Hurricane Helene — the first of those gauges were installed.

The plan calls for nine new gauges on the Pigeon River and a handful of tributaries in Cruso and Bethel. Currently, five are up and running with the other four still in various stages of installation and testing.

The five new gauges are collecting live data on water levels and can be checked with the online flood gauge site known as FIMAN (fiman.nc.gov).

However, emergency services personnel are keeping an eye on the gauges. If any get to a dangerous level, there is an internal notification that will alert emergency services staff.

That in turn will be pushed out to the public via emergency text, phone and email alerts. Those who have not yet done so should sign up for Haywood Alerts at alerts.haywoodcountync.gov.

If a surge in water levels are detected, the gauges will presumably alert those downstream to high water moving their way. However, if high water is detected in Cruso, it's unknown how quickly it would work its way down river to Canton or Clyde — and thus how much time those downstream would have to respond to such a surge.

That time can vary depending on the volume of rain, sudden cloud bursts and the velocity of the water.

"It depends on how much rain is received and which watershed it goes into," Richmond said.

The alert could come too late, however, if a landslide happens — like it did with Tropical Storm Fred — unleashing a wall of water at once.

"Anytime the earth shifts and creates new patterns, it's possible that something different could happen," Richmond said.

That's why emergency services is advising those who live near creek and river banks to err on the side of caution and not wait for a warning.

"With this amount of rain in this amount of time, there will not be sufficient time to send notifications to let people know they need to get out," Richmond said. "The warning we have now is to say to prepare yourself and be ready to leave."

Those who escaped calamity in 2021 shouldn't count out the chance of a flooding this time.

"There's no promises that the same places will flood again," Richmond said. "People should stay weather aware, even if they don't think it will affect them."

Eventually, the new gauges will be accompanied with a siren system to alert people of potential flooding, but installation has not yet begun and those sirens will not be active for any potential flooding this week.

Currently, river levels are lower than normal due to a lack of rain recently. This may soften the blow of flooding, but

it won't stop it under the right circumstances.

"I don't think it can prevent flooding, but it might lessen the degree it will flood in a given location," Richmond said.

While ell eyes are on the Pigeon River, Richland Creek in Waynesville is another waterway where flooding could arise.

"Downtown Waynesville could have flooding problems if we get enough rain in the right place. We're not out of the woods until the storm passes," Richmond said. "The amount of rain is significant. People need to be thinking about whether they feel safe. If they live in an area that doesn't feel safe when it rains heavily, they should leave now."

Richmond encouraged everyone to be checking readyhaywood.com.

The new river gauges are being mounted to DOT-owned sate bridges. The five that are currently active are located at:

Chinquapin Road bridge over the Pigeon River in Cruso.

Dutch Cove Creek

Wells Road bridge over the Pigeon River off N.C. 110 in Bethel.

Newfound

Little East Fork

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Flood warning and state of emergency: current modeling on river crest

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 664 Words OpenURL Link

While a flood warning was issued for Haywood County Wednesday afternoon, Pigeon River water levels are not expected to rise as high as the devastating floods of 2021 or 2004.

However, this is only a prediction and residents in flood-prone areas are urged to make plans now to seek higher ground before the second wave of rain rolls in Thursday afternoon.

"The Pigeon River is a very flashy watershed and is very sensitive to variations in heavy rainfall. There is a potential for crests to exceed the current forecast crests," according to an alert sent out by Haywood Emergency Services Wednesday evening. "If the forecasted rainfall occurs very quickly or in a much shorter time frame than currently expected, significant flooding along the Pigeon River is possible and may approach the flooding that occurred during Tropical Cyclone Fred in August 2021."

As of Wednesday night, flood modeling predicted the Pigeon River will crest at 11 feet Thursday night, considered minor flooding. However, the modeling calls for the possibility of a 15-foot crest on the upward end, which is considered moderate flooding.

By comparison, the Pigeon River crested at 19.60 feet on August 18, 2021, during Tropical Cyclone Fred, which is above the major flood stage of 19 feet. The river reached the minor flood stage of 11.1 feet during a bout of heavy rain in January of this year.

Here's what the river levels translate to in real life:

At 11 feet, the Pigeon River will overflow its banks and start to flood low-lying areas in Clyde.

At 12 feet, areas on the right bank of the river near Canton will begin to flood. This may include residential yards on Fiberville Road and parts of Valley, North, and Conley Streets.

At 12.5 feet, a trailer park near Old Highway 19 and 23 outside of Clyde may flood. Residential yards along Richland, Hyatt, and Allens creeks in Waynesville will be in danger of flooding.

"It is absolutely imperative that you maintain awareness of the latest forecasts and plan NOW to respond to the worst-case scenario for your area," the emergency alert warned. "Do NOT wait for a warning to take action. Flee areas adjacent to the stream before the stream rises significantly."

State of emergency

Meanwhile, Haywood County has issued a state of emergency. The following proclamation was issued at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The following Proclamation was issued by the Chairman of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners:

"WHEREAS, information from the National Weather Service and other sources have predicted that the current weather patterns in western North Carolina along with Hurricane Helene are likely to cause moderate to heavy impact to the region and a Flash Flood Watch has been issued for our area on September 25th, 2024; andWHEREAS, said weather system has been forecasted to produce heavy rainfall where accumulation of such severity as to cause the potential for widespread landslides and flooding, leading to power outages, damage to

infrastructure and unsafe road conditions; and that such conditions are forecasted to exist in Haywood County; andWHEREAS, the weather conditions associated with flash flooding constitutes an imminent threat of injury and/or loss of life and/or property; andNOW, THEREFORE... Chairman L. Kevin Ensley of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists within Haywood County."

What to do if you encounter rising water

Being in a vehicle is one of the worst places to be in the event of rising water. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.

Turn around, don't drown when encountering flooded roads.

To escape rising water, take the shortest path to higher ground.

Even 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet and a depth of 2 feet will float your car. Never try to walk, swim, or drive through such swift water.

If you come upon flood waters, stop, turn around and go another way.

For detailed information including observed and forecast stages, flood impacts, flood history, FEMA Flood Hazard Layers, and more, visit water.noaa.gov/wfo/GSP

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Hanging in the balance of the storm: Haywood residents hunker down

September 26, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara | Section: News | 1466 Words OpenURL Link

As folks in Canton and Clyde worked up until the last minutes Thursday trying to prepare for the onslaught of Hurricane Helene, they found themselves in a swirling pool of memories from floods and traumas past.

There was way too much to remind them of Tropical Storm Fred, and the way its rains turned the East Fork of the Pigeon River into a liquid fury that swallowed up six lives. But there are differences, and the biggest one is time — this time, unlike with Fred, residents have had several days of warning. And businesses in Canton, Clyde and Bethel have taken no chances — from renting out U-Hauls to assembling teams of volunteers to move inventory.

For a lot of owners, it wouldn't only be a loss of inventory, as Joe Garnace of Primered Black Paint and Body shop said as he hauled out tools from a near-empty auto shop. The loss of his equipment would be "losing our livelihood," he said.

Clyde

Clyde resident Andrew Owen and his son stood outside their parked car looking out at the Pigeon River. They've been making routine stops at Rivers Edge Park in Clyde through Thursday to gauge how high the water has risen.

Owen had been helping neighbors on Thompson Cove Road move belongings from their home, which has been flooded twice, in 2021, then again last year.

"We also helped a neighbor move their truck that wouldn't start so we went and pulled their truck out of the way so they could move it up more," Owen said. "Everybody's getting prepared."

In his most recent trip to the grocery store on Wednesday, he added, crowds were grabbing the essentials until nearly all water was wiped out and there was one lone milk jug.

"The people that live in the house right here across from the bridge, I seen they were moving everything out of their house," Owen said.

Fortunately, Owen and his family live at a higher elevation, but even so, they worry about the impact on their community.

"I'm worried for everybody else, I don't want nobody to lose their home and everything they've worked for," Owen said. "Even people who live above me are stressed about it, and I mean, we're way up. It's the stress of not being able to get out if you need to."

Echoes of Fred

Teresa Bailey, owner of NextHome PaperTown in Clyde, lives nearby and has already witnessed trees falling too close to home.

Bailey said her storefront has been flooded three times; when hurricanes Frances and Ivan hit in 2004, and the during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Fred in 2021.

"We're trying to move all the vehicles and move all the stuff in the garage upstairs," Bailey said. "Last time it was really bad. I mean we had to pressure wash everything down and like I said, we did five or six dump trucks through

here that had to be hauled off, and just a lot of cleanup work."

Across the street, the staff at Smoky Mountain Cremations has been going to work filling their own sandbags, taping doors and moving furniture up until 11 p.m. on Wednesday night.

"It's not the first rodeo," said owner Ronnie Surrett. "It'd be the second flood we've had since we've been here. We came here in 2014."

"We had about three and a half inches of water throughout the building," Surrett said. "And of course, with that, you had the grit and the mud and all that came in."

During that time, they were still serving families whose loved ones had died during Hurricane Fred.

"We had four of them out of the flood," Surrett said. "Plus our normal routine stuff. It was long days."

Surrett said if it weren't for volunteers in the community they have no idea what they would have done.

Standing outside the Clyde courthouse, Tom Frudd was hoping to get some advice on a water bill, whilst keeping an eye on the water coming in. Frudd pointed out where water had risen in 2004 across the street to the train tracks that lined the front of Clyde's downtown.

He said there's a possibility that it could get that high again.

"And more outages on the lights and stuff. My lights were out last night," Frudd said. "They finally got them back on, they were out for about five hours."

Bethel

At JukeBox Junction in Bethel, owner Mike Graham worries about the electricity going out; the food in his freezer has about a 12-hour span before thawing.

"We had equipment and stuff stored in the basement and we've got all that and put it on the porch over there. I had my dumpsters moved up to the parking lot — last flood they were floating around like (on) a lake," Graham said. "I screened off the door to my basement, I had to keep it open to equalize the pressure, because if I don't let the water in, the pressure will collapse the building."

"We just pray that it's not going to be as bad as they say it is because I'm not sure JukeBox will be here," Graham said.

Graham lives on Lake Logan Road in Bethel. During hurricane Ivan in 2004, he and his wife were told to evacuate. This time, he and his wife are one step ahead and plan to stay with relatives. They're doing so "simply because of the 60-miles (per hour) winds, because if you have to evacuate there might be trees down in the road and stuff like that," he said. "We're not even going to question it. We live in an older home, built in 1933, and it can hold up to wind gusts of that much but when you say sustained winds of 60 miles an hour, it's better to evacuate. If it was during daytime, we might hang by and watch, but you can't dodge trees at night."

Canton

In Canton, businesses were keeping pace with the forecast, nearing the end of relocating their inventories.

BearWaters Brewing was toting their final valuables after three long days of heavy lifting, including moving 400 beer kegs — weighing in at 130 pounds each.

"The basement's all empty, all the beer is in big cooler trucks headed to Budweiser," said BearWaters employee

Justin Furman, Jr. "I mean, all we're really trying to get out now is just stuff with motors and of importance and hope for the best. We're going to take a lot of this to Furman's in Canton, put it in storage up there and then the rest of it upstairs."

Furman said it helped having all hands on deck, though a lot of people he's spoken to were in a panic.

"A lot of people are wanting to get out," Furman said. "They say this is once every 20 years but now it's once every two years."

'All we can do'

Around the corner, Chris Watkins, owner of Riverview Farm & Garden, said he is "preparing for the worst by hoping for the best."

Watkins had just completed clearing out both the outside and inside of his store.

"It takes at least three days at the minimum. I've had people bring tractor trailer trucks, and they've hauled out three tractor trailer box trailers this morning," Watkins said. ""Mother Nature's going to do what she does, and you're either prepared or you're not."

Next to the door frame, Watkins points to three strips of duct tape on the wall, each marked with the names of the past three hurricanes and where the flood waters rose.

"What do you do? Do you want someone to buy you out? Do you want help relocating? I don't know what the answer is," Watkins said. "We're not the only river in the world this happens to, so there's got to be something that can be done to slow or stop, I don't know."

Watkins has been watching the weather since last weekend.

"As the week progressed, I was in contact with (Canton Mayor) Zeb (Smathers) this last Sunday and he was like 'be prepared' and I said we are. And that's all we can do," Watkins said. "I've been watching the weather but also checking on the new flood gauges they've put in which has been very helpful."

On Main Street, Phillip Messer, owner of Messer Milltown Furniture, finished loading up his second U-Haul truck full of furniture from the basement.

"I can't afford to lose this," Messer said. "The only flood that we've experienced was this last one we got. It didn't get in, thank God, but I hate not to do it. If it flooded, then I would lose all this and we'd be done, that'd be the end of it because there's no way we can recover from that."

Despite his building not being flooded by Tropical Storm Fred, Messer saw firsthand the impacts on his fellow business owners and said the stakes are too high to contemplate.

"The way they are talking, this is gonna be pretty bad," Messer said.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Brionna Dallara, 'Hanging in the balance of the storm: Haywood residents hunker down', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA66DC82BF310



Hurricane Helene forces schedule changes for local teams

September 26, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: Cory Smith | Section: Sports | 312 Words OpenURL Link

The arrival of Hurricane Helene has forced numerous schedule changes for local high school sports teams.

Below is a list of games that have either been cancelled, rescheduled or postponed with a makeup date to be determined.

As of 5 p.m. Thursday, one local varsity football game, East Surry at West Wilkes, is still scheduled to take place on Friday, Sept. 27. School officials will provide an update by Friday afternoon.

UPDATE: East Surry announced Friday afternoon that its varsity football game at West Wilkes was being rescheduled with a date to be determined.

Originally scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 26

Surry Central tennis vs East Surry — Moved to Monday, Sept. 30

 ${\color{blue} \textbf{Mount Airy tennis vs North Lincoln - Postponed, reschedule date to be determined} \\$

East Surry volleyball at Wilkes Central — Postponed, reschedule date to be determined

East Surry tennis at Wilkes Central — Postponed, reschedule date to be determined

Mount Airy volleyball at Starmount — Postponed, reschedule date to be determined

North Surry volleyball at Forbush — Moved to Monday, 9/30

North Surry tennis at Forbush — Moved to Monday, 10/7

Mount Airy JV football vs Starmount — Moved to Thursday, Oct. 10

North Surry JV football at Forbush — Postponed, reschedule date to be determined

East Surry JV football vs West Wilkes — Moved to Monday, Sept. 30

Surry Central JV football at Alleghany — Cancelled

Foothills 2A Conference Cross Country Meet at West Wilkes — Postponed, reschedule date to be determined

Originally Scheduled for Friday, Sept. 27

East Surry varsity football at West Wilkes — Still planned for Friday, Sept. 27, but a final decision will be made by Friday afternoon

UPDATE: East Surry varsity football at West Wilkes is postponed, reschedule date to be determined

North Surry varsity football vs Forbush — Moved to Saturday, Sept. 28 (2 p.m. start)

Mount Airy varsity football at Starmount — Moved to Saturday, Sept. 28 (7 p.m. start)

 $\label{lem:mount_Airy} \begin{tabular}{ll} Mount Airy soccer vs Surry Central — Postponed, reschedule date to be determined \\ @ 2024 The Mt. Airy News. All Rights Reserved. \\ \end{tabular}$

• Citation (aglc Style)

Cory Smith, 'Hurricane Helene forces schedule changes for local teams', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA767B162AF58



Schools closing early, out Friday for storm

September 26, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: John Peters jpeters@mtairynews.com| Section: News| 287 Words OpenURL Link

Area schools will be closed Friday, after having closed early Thursday, because of heavy rains on Thursday and expected continued rains and floods through Thursday night and through the day on Friday.

With storms associated with Hurricane Helene traversing through the area, and dumping anywhere from 4 to 10 inches in the region — Surry County, Mount Airy schools and Elkin schools are closed Friday, after having sent students home early Thursday so students and staff were able to get home and avoid potential flooding.

In Mount Airy. pre-kindergarten classes dismissed at 12:45, other B.H Tharrington students along with Jones Elementary School students dismissed from classes at 1 p.m. Mount Airy Middle School and High School dismissed at 2 p.m.

"All after-school events and activities will be cancelled for today," said Carrie Venable, chief officer of communications and technology, Thursday morning when the city schools announced plans.

In Surry County, all classes were dismissed at 2 p.m., and all after-school events and activities were canceled, according to Hollie Lyons, Surry County Schools communications coordinator.

"Due to the hazardous weather outlook for tomorrow, which could impact student drivers, bus routes, and overall safety, Friday, Sept. 27, will be a remote learning day for students and staff. Students should check their learning management system for assignments and instructions from their teachers," she said late Thursday morning.

"Safety is the top priority for Surry County Schools, and we believe this decision to be in the best interest of our students, staff, and families."

Officials in Elkin said schools also closed at 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

Area officials cautioned residents and travelers to take normal precautions — stay off of roads covered by standing water, prepare for situations such as power outages, and to take care when traveling.

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John Peters jpeters@mtairynews.com, 'Schools closing early, out Friday for storm', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD6CD8369BE778



Under construction: Young brains and the impact of marijuana

September 26, 2024 | Mt. Airy News, The (NC) Author: Ryan Kelly | Section: News | 950 Words OpenURL Link

Sitting at the front of Andy Jessup's Health and Physical Education class at East Surry High School Thursday morning with a gigantic bag of assorted candy on the desk was Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery Prevention and Administrative Services Manager Charlotte Reeves. She was speaking to East Surry Cardinals all week about the dangers of substance abuse on the developing adolescent brain.

"We have a new drug education effort for all ninth grade health and physical education classes in Surry County, Elkin, and Mount Airy City schools. I named it 'Resist the Influence' and the first classes are being done this week at East Surry," she explained.

Each day this week there was a different topic to discuss with four periods worth of students. The week kicked off with mental health, on Tuesday the kids discussed the impacts of alcohol, and cannabis was the topic Thursday. Hurricane Helene preempted Friday's lesson on deadly polysubstances.

Reeves discussed cannabis in its many forms from traditional leaf marijuana to hash based oils and vape pens, showing photos of tobacco and marijuana vapes side-by-side to show how similar that can appear.

She told the kids her mission was, "To talk to you in a non-judgmental and fact-based way... The goal here is not to preach and present the typical just say no. The goal is to give you that information that will help you guys when you're in a situation you can think of it, you can remember what we talked about."

The class gave reasons like stress relief, a desire to look cool, or a curious nature leading to experimentation as reasons they felt their peers may have used cannabis. "Experimental use is a great answer and you all know you have a lot of natural risky behavior because you want to try new things. You hear a lot about it, maybe you all want to try and see what it's like," Reeves concurred.

As their brains are still developing until the age of 25, Reeves tried to hit home that simple experimentation can have negative results. "There is actually scientific evidence to support this and the evidence showing that using cannabis at your age, your developmental period you're at, you're more likely to have lower grades and less likely to graduate."

Whether the students knew they were going to get a lesson on the inner workings of the brain, they got one, nonetheless.

"The chances of addiction are higher the earlier you start because of what we keep on talking about: brain development. What this can do is overstimulate the nucleus accumbens, which is our reward center, and that is highly susceptible to addiction," she said.

She introduced the hippocampus as the body's memory gateway. "It's a structure in our brain that is important in forming new memories. It allows you to turn short-term memories into long-term ones, and it allows you to access the long-term memory when you need it. But it also gets rid of the memories that we don't need, that, you know, details throughout the day."

"When THC (the psychoactive component in cannabis) is introduced into this system, it would make it more difficult for us to learn new information since it really just makes the hippocampus sluggish and lazy. It makes it difficult to remember information because it's harder to access your long-term memory."

She went on, "Studies on rats demonstrated negative impacts on certain types of learning and memory exercises later in life, when the hippocampus was exposed to THC in adolescence. That means even though we use it as a teenager, we still see some negative effects of how it affected our developing brain."

"THC affects the cerebellum which controls your motor system and basal ganglia which is responsible for turning intention into instruction. The cerebellum fine-tunes your actions and even controls the internal and external coordination of your body. THC affects both by diminishing any spontaneous activity, meaning you have slower reactions," she said.

"I'm not saying it's going to cause brain damage; however, we wouldn't be our best self," Reeves said encouraging the students to consider what the impact to experimentation with cannabis could entail.

About half the class said they participated in sports so Reeves asked them to consider the number of calculations that go on in an outfielder's brain. "The ball is flying your way, and your basal ganglia would turn the intention of catching the ball into instructions. Then what your cerebellum does is it will calculate the angle where your glove needs to go; it's a pretty sophisticated system of calculations we go through to be able to do that."

She explained that performance would be inhibited. "THC affects the basal ganglia and the cerebellum by diminishing that spontaneous activity, leading to a slower reaction. One step can make a big difference in the game."

"Continued use of cannabis can hijack the brain's natural reward center. This occurs through reductions in the brain's dopamine production and eventually it leads to a dulling of the pleasure center," which Reeves said could lead to seeking behaviors.

"Because dopamine is a part of our reward system, the brain is fooled into believing that it's critical for survival...

Then you start trying to seek it out and may start doing some things you wouldn't normally do to get it."

Teens may be confused, she said, by the nebulous set of laws across the country regarding marijuana, "You know in some places it's legal, so it's understandable how you can become confused. If it's so bad, why is it legal?"

To alleviate any confusion on that legality she told the students, "One thing I want you to know is, in the states that it is legal, it is a requirement for those who use it to be 21 or older."

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Ryan Kelly, 'Under construction: Young brains and the impact of marijuana', *Mt. Airy News, The* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDA767AAF91170



Tropical Storm Helene is nearing hurricane strength, expected to bring rain to NC

September 26, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Renee Umsted; Staff Writer | Section: News | 425 Words Page: 3A OpenURL Link

Tropical Storm Helene is predicted to soon be making its way toward the U.S. coast, bringing rain to North Carolina in coming days.

The storm is near-hurricane strength in the Caribbean Sea, just offshorethe Yucatan Peninsula. It's expected to "rapidly intensify" over the Gulf of Mexico and move toward Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Helene is forecast to bring "life-threatening storm surge" and hurricane-force winds to parts of Florida, the NHC said in an advisory early in the morning on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

The United States, including portions of Florida, the Southeast, the Southern Appalachians and the Tennessee Valley, should expect "considerable and potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding."

The center of the storm is predicted to reach landalong the Big Bend area of Florida, late Thursday or Thursday night, according to the NHC.

Helene will likely be upgraded to a major hurricane before reaching Florida, Nick Luchetti, a meteorologist with the U.S. National Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh, told The News & Observer on Sept. 25.

Models show the eye of the storm heading north through Georgia and into Tennessee, near the North Carolina border.

"There is the risk for major flooding in parts of the Southeast late Thursday into Friday, including the Atlanta area as well as the steep terrain of the southern Appalachians, where the flooding risk can be especially elevated as well as the risk for mudslides and rockslides," AccuWeather chief meteorologist Jonathan Porter said in a report.

What are the impacts for Raleigh and central North Carolina?

The Triangle has already been receiving rain this week, and Helene is predicted to add to the total rainfall.

While the heaviest rain will affect areas west of the Triangle, the greatest impacts from the storm will come to Raleigh and central North Carolina on Friday, Sept. 27, NWS Raleigh's Luchetti said. Total rainfall from Helene will be around 1.5 inches in the Raleigh area.

There's also a chance of isolated tornadoes, especially across the western Piedmont, during the evening hours on Sept. 27.

Flash flooding is possible with heavier downpours. The NWS Raleigh office issued a flood warning for the Neuse River near Clayton in Johnston County, in effect through the morning of Thursday, Sept. 26. Other rivers in the area may flood, depending on the rainfall received ahead of and during the storm.

The storm will weaken as it continues to move north after making landfall, but western North Carolina could experience gusty winds.

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Helene will add to soaked ground in the Triangle. What that means for power outages

September 26, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Renee Umsted and Martha Quillin, News & Observer Section: weather news 628 Words OpenURL Link

Many parts of North Carolina, including the Triangle, have received rain in recent days. And Hurricane Helene hasn't reached the state yet.

The storm, which was upgraded to a Category 3 major hurricane during the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 26, is expected to bring strong winds and rain with it.

Western North Carolina will receive much heavier rainfall, but forecasts as of Sept. 26 predict up to 2 inches of rain in the Triangle.

Saturated ground may make it easier for some trees and power poles to be knocked over by gusty winds, resulting in power outages.

Photos: Hurricane Helene begins to pound the Southeast US

What is soil saturation?

The ground has pockets that allow it to easily absorb average amounts of rainfall, The News & Observer previously reported.

But during periods of heavy or extended rain, water fills all of those voids, leaving no room to hold additional rainfall. It takes 2 to 2.5 inches of rain to saturate soil to a depth of about 8 inches, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The resulting saturated soil is muddy and pliable, and it doesn't hold together as well as unsaturated soil.

Strong winds can shake trees, which may slide through the waterlogged ground, become uprooted and fall.

IMG_0570.jpgCrews work to remove a large tree that fell, taking down power lines and blocking Wade Avenue near Dixie Trail, Friday morning, August 9, 2024 in Raleigh.

How much rain will Helene bring?

The hurricane is expected to bring heavy rain to the Southeast. In Florida, where Helene will likely make landfall, the National Hurricane Center is warning of "a catastrophic and deadly storm surge." The NHC is also predicting "catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding" and landslides across portions of the southern Appalachians.

In North Carolina, Helene is expected to bring:

Between 9 and 14 inches of rainfall across the mountains and foothills, with some areas receiving up to 20 inches of rainfall 2 to 3 inches of rainfall in the Charlotte area 1 to 2 inches of rain in the Triangle

NWS Raleigh Helene rainfall

How strong are Helene's winds?

Parts of the Triangle could see sustained winds of 15 to 25 mph, with gusts of up to 30 to 40 mph, Nick Luchetti, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh told The N&O the morning of Sept. 26.

Because the ground is soft from the recent rainfall, some gustier winds could bring down trees and power lines, which could cause power outages, ABC11 chief meteorologist Don "Big Weather" Schwenneker told The N&O. (ABC11 is a newsgathering partner of The N&O.) However, the outages will likely not be widespread, Schwenneker said.

fallen tree secondary.JPGA tree blocks Lutz Ave. in Raleigh, N.C., Tuesday morning, August 8, 2023. Strong winds and saturated soil may cause trees and power lines to fall.

How is Duke Energy responding to Helene?

The provider has placed more than 10,000 lineworkers, tree trimmers, damage assessors and support personnel throughout the Carolinas so that teams are ready to respond to potential outages whenever it's safe to do so.

"Our workers will be ready to begin assessing damage and restoring power as soon as the storm passes and conditions are safe," Jason Hollifield, Duke Energy's storm director in the Carolinas, said in a news release. "In the meantime, we continue to monitor weather conditions and encourage customers to have a plan in place in case they experience an outage."

Duke Energy customers can sign up for Outage Alerts to stay informed about outages and restoration. Outages may be reported using the company's app or website, by texting OUT to 57801 or by calling 800-POWERON (800-769-3766).

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

How strong will Hurricane Helene winds be in the Triangle & how much rain will we see?

Hurricane Helene expected to make landfall in US soon. What that means for Raleigh area Copyright 2024 The News and Observer

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Renee Umsted and Martha Quillin, News & Observer, 'Helene will add to soaked ground in the Triangle. What that means for power outages', *News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 26 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD7E27B7DB9B38



Photos: Hurricane Helene pounds the Southeast US

September 26, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Scott Sharpe, News & Observer | Section: weather news | 597 Words OpenURL Link

High winds, heavy surf and storm surge along with heavy rain are hitting Florida, Georgia, NC and SC as Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 storm, moved toward landfall, Thursday evening, Sept. 26, 2024.

Historic flooding is expected into North Carolina and Tennessee as the storm moves north.

Here are photos from the storm:

rescue.jpgUS Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater saved a man and his dog, Thursday, during Hurricane Helene after his 36-ft sailboat became disabled and started taking on water approximately 25 miles off Sanibel Island, Florida.

USATSI_24333148.jpgTwo men brave the winds and heavy surf to try and secure a boat along the seawall in Cocoas Lee Wenner Park Thursday, September 26, 2024

USATSI_24333160.jpgSpectators take photos as two men brave the winds and heavy surf to try and secure a boat along the seawall Thursday, September 26, 2024.

USATSI_24333157.jpgTwo men brave the winds and heavy surf to try and secure a boat along the seawall Thursday, September 26, 2024.

USATSI_24332610.jpgPeople check out a boat a boat pinned against the seawall in Cocoa,Äôs Riverfront Park Thursday, September 26, 2024.

USATSI_24331251.jpgFort Myers Beach sees flooding for a second time as the outer bands of Hurricane Helene pass by on Fort Myers Beach, Fla. on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.

Imagn-24330061.JPGStrong winds and some partial flooding were visible in areas of Sanibel Thursday, September 26, 2024 as residents experienced some of the effects from Hurricane Helene.

USATSI_24331249.jpgFort Myers Beach sees flooding for a second time as the outer bands of Hurricane Helene pass by on Fort Myers Beach, Fla. on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.

TOS-L-HurricaneHeleneLinemanTrucks35354JPG.JPGCharles Starling, a lineman with Team Fishel, is pelted with rain as he walks by a row of electrical line trucks staged in a field in The Villages, Florida, on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. Thousands of the trucks are staged by Duke Energy in preparation for damage from Hurricane Helene.

USATSI_24331225.jpgFort Myers Beach, Fla. floods for the second time as Hurricane Helene passes by on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.

USATSI_24332981.jpgBald Eagle Drive in Marco Island, Florida, was under water about two hours before high tide Thursday night. Roads were flooded throughout the largest of the Ten Thousand Islands as Hurricane Helene started to come ashore north in Big Bend, about 165 miles north.

USATSI_24331236.jpgKathy Cronley and her daughter, Erin take in the outerbands of Hurricane Helent on Fort Myers Beach, Fla. as it passes by on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. They are on vacation from Indiana and were staying in a family members home.

USATSI_24331181 (1).jpgFort Myers Beach sees flooding for a second time as the outer bands of Hurricane Helene pass by on Fort Myers Beach, Fla. on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.

linville falls picnic.jpgA National Park Service photo shows flooding at the Linville Falls, N.C. picnic area, Sept. 26, 2024.

USATSI_24327751.jpgThe streets under the Fort Myers Beach bridge flooded as Hurricane Helene passed by on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. Hurricane Helene is expected to pass SWFL on the way to the big bend area. SWFL is preparing for possible storm surge from the Hurricane.

rain thurs 3.jpgA University of South Carolina student attempts to leap over a wide and deep puddle as Hurricane Helene hits Columbia, South Carolina on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

Imagn-24326275.JPGA motorist drives through saltwater on John Ringling Blvd. in Sarasota Thursday morning, Sept. 26, 2024. The storm surge from Hurricane Helene arrived early in Sarasota, covering the road from St. Armands Key to Lido Key.

Imagn-24325691.JPGThe Times Square area of Fort Myers Beach, FI, flooded as Hurricane Helene passes on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. Hurricane Helene is expected to pass SWFL on the way to the big bend area. SWFL is preparing for possible storm surge from the Hurricane.

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How strong will Helene winds be in the Triangle & how much rain will we see?

September 26, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Renee Umsted, News & Observer | Section: weather news | 379 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene is projected to make its way across the Southeast, eventually reaching western North Carolina.

Though the Triangle isn't on the direct path, the effects of the storm are widespread, and the Raleigh area is expected to receive rainfall and strong winds as a result.

"This could be the storm that 2024 is remembered for," ABC11 chief meteorologist Don "Big Weather" Schwenneker told The News & Observer.

The News & Observer spoke with Schwenneker about what the Triangle should expect from Helene. (Note: ABC11 is a newsgathering partner of The News & Observer.)

Helene-NWSRaleigh

When will the Raleigh area get rain from Helene and how much?

The Raleigh area won't see the effects of the storm until around daybreak Friday, Sept. 27.

Helene is predicted to drop about 1 to 2 inches of rain in the Triangle, Schwenneker said. The bulk of the rainfall will come between morning and around 3 p.m. Sept. 27.

Depending on where and how much it rains west of the Triangle, there could be some river flooding in the Raleigh area. However, those effects wouldn't be seen for several days after the storm passes through the state, Schwenneker said.

Helene-rainfall.jpgThis graphic, created around mid-day Thursday, Sept. 26, shows predicted rainfall totals as a result of Hurricane Helene. The Triangle is expected to receive 1-2 inches of rain.

How strong will winds be in the Triangle? Will we have power outages?

From daybreak Sept. 27 through mid-afternoon, the Triangle could see sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph.

Photos: Hurricane Helene begins to pound the Southeast US

Gusts could be as high as 45 mph, Schwenneker told The N&O in an afternoon update on Sept. 26, which incorporated new data acquired since earlier in the day.

Because the ground is soft from the recent rainfall, some gustier winds could bring down trees and power lines, leading to outages. However, the outages will likely not be widespread, Schwenneker said.

There's also a chance for isolated tornadoes on Sept. 27 because the Triangle is on the right side of the storm, Schwenneker said.

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

Hurricane Helene expected to make landfall in US soon. What that means for Raleigh area

Hurricane Helene could be 'historic storm' for the Southeast. What to expect in NC

Hurricane F-bombs: Why many in NC twitch when storm names reach 'F' in the alphabet

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